

## Research Article

# Approximate Boundary Controllability for Semilinear Delay Differential Equations

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This paper considers the approximate controllability for a class of semilinear delay control systems described by a semigroup formulation with boundary control. Sufficient conditions for approximate controllability are established provided the approximate controllability of corresponding linear systems.

## 1. Introduction

In this paper, we consider the boundary control system described by the following delay differential equation:

$$y'(t) = \sigma y(t) + f(t, y_t), \quad \tau y(t) = B_1 u(t) \quad \text{for } t \in I = [0, T], \quad y_0 = \xi, \quad (1.1)$$

where system state  $y(t)$  takes values in a Banach space  $E$ ; control function  $u(t)$  takes values in another Banach space  $U$  and  $u(\cdot) \in L^p(I; U)$  for  $p \geq 1$ ;  $\sigma : D(\sigma) \rightarrow E$  is a closed, densely defined linear operator;  $\tau : E \rightarrow X$  is a linear operator from  $E$  to a Banach space  $X$ ;  $B_1 : U \rightarrow X$  is a linear bounded operator;  $f : I \times C \rightarrow E$  is a nonlinear perturbation function, where  $C := C([-\Delta, 0]; E)$  is the Banach space of all continuous functions from  $[-\Delta, 0]$  to  $E$  endowed with the supremum norm. For any  $y \in C([-\Delta, b]; E)$  and  $t \in I$ ,  $y_t \in C$  is defined by  $y_t(\theta) = y(t + \theta)$  for  $\theta \in [-\Delta, 0]$ .

In most applications, the state space  $E$  is a space of functions on some domain  $\Omega$  of the Euclidean space  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\sigma$  is a partial differential operator on  $\Omega$ , and  $\tau$  is a partial differential operator acting on the boundary  $\Gamma$  of  $\Omega$ .

Several abstract settings have been developed to describe control systems with boundary control; see Barbu [1], Fattorini [2], Lasiecka [3], and Washburn [4]. In this paper, we use the setting developed in [2] to discuss the approximate controllability of system (1.1).

The norms in spaces  $E$  and  $C$  are denoted by  $\|\cdot\|$  and  $|\cdot|$ , respectively. In other spaces, we use the norm notation with a space name in the subindex such as  $\|\cdot\|_U$ ,  $\|\cdot\|_X$ , and  $\|\cdot\|_{L^p}$ .

Let  $A : E \rightarrow E$  be the linear operator defined by

$$D(A) = \{y \in D(\sigma) : \tau y = 0\}, \quad Ay = \sigma y, \quad \forall y \in D(A). \quad (1.2)$$

We impose the following assumptions throughout the paper.

- (H1)  $D(\sigma) \subset D(\tau)$  and the restriction of  $\tau$  to  $D(\sigma)$  is continuous relative to the graph norm of  $D(\sigma)$ .
- (H2) The operator  $A$  is the infinitesimal generator of an analytic semigroup  $S(t)$  for  $t \geq 0$  on  $E$ .
- (H3) There exists a linear continuous operator  $B : U \rightarrow E$  and a positive constant  $K$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma B &\in L(U, E), \quad \tau(Bu) = B_1u, \quad \forall u \in U, \\ \|Bu\|_E &\leq K\|B_1u\|_X, \quad \forall u \in U. \end{aligned} \quad (1.3)$$

- (H4) For each  $t \in (0, T]$  and  $u \in U$ , one has  $S(t)Bu \in D(A)$ . Also, there exists a positive function  $\gamma(\cdot) \in L^q(I)$  with  $1/p + 1/q = 1$  such that

$$\|AS(t)B\|_{L(U, E)} \leq \gamma(t) \quad \text{a.e. } t \in (0, T]. \quad (1.4)$$

- (H5) There exists a positive number  $L$  such that

$$\|f(t, \eta_1) - f(t, \eta_2)\| \leq L|\eta_1 - \eta_2| \quad (1.5)$$

for all  $\eta_1, \eta_2 \in C$  and  $t \in I$ .

Based on the discussions in [2], system (1.1) can be reformulated as

$$\begin{aligned} y(t) &= S(t)\xi(0) + \int_0^t S(t-s)[\sigma Bu(s) + f(s, y_s)]ds + \int_0^t AS(t-s)Bu(s)ds, \quad t \in I, \\ y_0 &= \xi. \end{aligned} \quad (1.6)$$

The following system is called the corresponding linear system of (1.6)

$$y(t) = S(t)\xi(0) + \int_0^t S(t-s)\sigma Bu(s)ds + \int_0^t AS(t-s)Bu(s)ds. \quad (1.7)$$

Approximate controllability for semilinear control systems with distributed controls has been extensively studied in the literature under different conditions; see Fabre et al. [5], Fernandez and Zuazua [6], Li and Yong [7], Mahmudov [8], Naito [9], Seidman [10], Wang [11, 12], and many other papers. However, only a few papers dealt with approximate boundary controllability for semilinear control systems, in particular, semilinear delay control systems; the main difficulty is encountered in the construction of suitable integral equation to apply for different versions of fixed-point theorem. Balachandran and Anandhi [13] considered the controllability of boundary control integrodifferential system, Han and Park [14] studied the boundary controllability of nonlinear systems with nonlocal initial condition. MacCamy et al. [15] discussed the approximate controllability for the heat equations. The purpose of this paper is to study the approximate controllability for a class of semilinear delay systems with boundary control.

## 2. Mild Solutions

By solutions of system (1.6) we mean mild solutions, that is, solutions in the space  $C([-Δ, b]; E)$ . In the following, we provide an existence and uniqueness theorem for (1.6).

**Theorem 2.1.** *If (H1)–(H5) are satisfied, then system (1.6) has a unique solution for each control  $u(\cdot) \in L^p(I; U)$ .*

*Proof.* Define

$$\widehat{\xi}(t) = \begin{cases} S(t)\xi(0), & t \in I, \\ \xi(t), & t \in [-\Delta, 0], \end{cases} \quad (2.1)$$

and define  $y(t) = x(t) + \widehat{\xi}(t)$ . It is easy to know that  $x$  satisfies

$$x(t) = \int_0^t S(t-s) [\sigma Bu(s) + f(s, x_s + \widehat{\xi}_s)] ds + \int_0^t AS(t-s)Bu(s)ds, \quad t \in I, \quad (2.2)$$

$$x_0 = 0.$$

Let  $Y = \{x \in C([-Δ, b]; E) : x(t) = 0, \forall t \in [-Δ, 0]\}$ . Then,  $Y$  is a Banach space with supremum norm. For any  $u(\cdot) \in L^p(I; U)$ , define an operator  $J : Y \rightarrow Y$  as follows:

$$(Jx)(t) = \begin{cases} \int_0^t S(t-s) [\sigma Bu(s) + f(s, x_s + \widehat{\xi}_s)] ds + \int_0^t AS(t-s)Bu(s)ds, & t \in I, \\ 0, & t \in [-\Delta, 0]. \end{cases} \quad (2.3)$$

We need to show that  $J$  is well defined. First, we show that  $(Jx)(t) \in E$  for any  $x \in Y$  and  $t \in I$ . Indeed, we have from (H5) that  $\|f(t, \eta)\| \leq L\|\eta\| + M_1$ , where  $M_1 = \sup_{t \in I} \|f(t, 0)\|$ . For any  $s \in I$  and  $\theta \in [-Δ, 0]$ , we have

$$\|x(s + \theta)\| \leq \sup_{t \in [-\Delta, T]} \|x(t)\| \leq \|x\|_Y, \quad (2.4)$$

and  $\|\widehat{\xi}(s + \theta)\| \leq \max(\|\xi\|, M\|\xi(0)\|)$ , where  $M = \max_{t \in I} \|S(t)\|$ .

Note that

$$\left\| \int_0^t AS(t-s)Bu(s)ds \right\| \leq \left( \int_0^t \|AS(t-s)B\|^q \right)^{1/q} \left( \int_0^t \|u(s)\|^p \right)^{1/p} \leq \|\gamma\|_{L^q} \|u\|_{L^p}, \quad (2.5)$$

and that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| \int_0^t S(t-s) \left[ \sigma Bu(s) + f(s, x_s + \widehat{\xi}_s) \right] ds \right\| \\ & \leq M \int_0^t \left[ \|\sigma Bu(s)\| + L|x_s + \widehat{\xi}_s| + M_1 \right] ds \\ & \leq M \|\sigma B\|_{L(U,E)} \sqrt[q]{T} \|u\|_{L^p} + MM_1T + MLT(\max(|\xi|, M\|\xi(0)\|) + \|x\|_Y). \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

Combining (2.5) and (2.6), we prove that  $(Jx)(t) \in E$  for any  $x \in Y$  and  $t \in I$ .

Next, we show that  $J$  maps  $Y$  into  $Y$ , in other words,  $Jx \in Y$  for any  $x \in Y$ . Taking  $t, t + \delta \in I$  with  $\delta > 0$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} & \|(Jx)(t + \delta) - (Jx)(t)\| \\ & = \left\| \int_0^{t+\delta} S(t + \delta - s) \left[ \sigma Bu(s) + f(s, x_s + \widehat{\xi}_s) \right] ds + \int_t^{t+\delta} AS(t + \delta - s)Bu(s)ds \right. \\ & \quad \left. - \int_0^t S(t - s) \left[ \sigma Bu(s) + f(s, x_s + \widehat{\xi}_s) \right] ds - \int_0^t AS(t - s)Bu(s)ds \right\| \\ & \leq \left\| \int_0^t [S(t + \delta - s) - S(t - s)] \left[ \sigma Bu(s) + f(s, x_s + \widehat{\xi}_s) \right] ds \right\| \\ & \quad + \left\| \int_0^t [AS(t + \delta - s)Bu(s) - AS(t - s)Bu(s)] ds \right\| \\ & \quad + \left\| \int_t^{t+\delta} S(t + \delta - s) \left[ \sigma Bu(s) + f(s, x_s + \widehat{\xi}_s) \right] ds \right\| \\ & \quad + \left\| \int_t^{t+\delta} AS(t + \delta - s)Bu(s)ds \right\| \\ & := I_1 + I_2 + I_3 + I_4. \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

Since  $S(t)$  is an analytic semigroup, (2.6) implies that as  $\delta \rightarrow 0$

$$I_1 = (S(\delta) - I) \int_0^t S(t-s) \left[ \sigma Bu(s) + f(s, x_s + \widehat{\xi}_s) \right] ds \rightarrow 0. \quad (2.8)$$

Also, from (2.5), we have

$$I_2 = (S(\delta) - I) \int_0^t AS(t-s)Bu(s)ds \longrightarrow 0. \quad (2.9)$$

Notice that  $I_3 \rightarrow 0$  and  $I_4 \rightarrow 0$  as  $\delta \rightarrow 0$  follow from estimates

$$\begin{aligned} I_3 &\leq M \int_t^{t+\delta} \left( \|\sigma B\| \|u(s)\| + L \left| x_s + \widehat{\xi}_s \right| + M_1 \right) ds \\ &\leq M \|\sigma B\|_{L(U,E)} \sqrt[q]{\delta} \|u\|_{L^p} + ML(\max(|\xi|, M\|\xi(0)\|) + \|x\|_Y) \delta + MM_1 \delta, \\ I_4 &\leq \left( \int_t^{t+\delta} \gamma^q(s) ds \right)^{1/q} \|u\|_{L^p}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.10)$$

We have  $\|(Jx)(t+\delta) - (Jx)(t)\| \rightarrow 0$  as  $\delta \rightarrow 0$  and, hence,  $Jx \in Y$ .

Now, we prove that  $J^n$  is a contraction mapping for sufficiently large  $n$ . In fact, for any  $x_1, x_2 \in Y$ ,

$$|x_{1s} - x_{2s}| = \sup_{\theta \in [-\Delta, 0]} \|x_1(s+\theta) - x_2(s+\theta)\| \leq \|x_1 - x_2\|_Y. \quad (2.11)$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \|(Jx_1)(t) - (Jx_2)(t)\| &= \left\| \int_0^t S(t-s) \left[ f(s, x_{1s} + \widehat{\xi}_s) - f(s, x_{2s} + \widehat{\xi}_s) \right] ds \right\| \\ &\leq ML \int_0^t |x_{1s} - x_{2s}| ds \leq MLt \|x_1 - x_2\|_Y, \\ |(Jx_1)_s - (Jx_2)_s| &= \sup_{\theta \in [-\Delta, 0]} \|(Jx_1)(s+\theta) - (Jx_2)(s+\theta)\| \leq MLs \|x_1 - x_2\|_Y. \end{aligned} \quad (2.12)$$

Similarly,

$$\left\| (J^2x_1)(t) - (J^2x_2)(t) \right\| \leq ML \int_0^t |(Jx_1)_s - (Jx_2)_s| ds \leq \frac{M^2L^2t^2}{2} \|x_1 - x_2\|_Y. \quad (2.13)$$

By mathematical induction, we have

$$\|(J^n x_1)(t) - (J^n x_2)(t)\| \leq \frac{(MLT)^n}{n!} \|x_1 - x_2\|_Y. \quad (2.14)$$

Hence,

$$\|J^n x_1 - J^n x_2\|_Y \leq \frac{(MLT)^n}{n!} \|x_1 - x_2\|_Y, \quad (2.15)$$

and  $J^n$  is a contraction mapping for sufficiently large  $n$ . The contraction mapping principle implies that  $J$  has a unique fixed-point in  $Y$ , which is the unique solution of (1.6). The proof of the theorem is complete.  $\square$

### 3. Approximate Controllability

The solution of (1.6) is denoted by  $y(t; t_0, \xi, u)$  to emphasize the initial time  $t_0$ , initial state  $\xi \in C$ , and control function  $u(\cdot)$ .  $y(t_1; t_0, \xi, u)$  is called the system state at time  $t_1$  corresponding to initial pair  $(t_0, \xi)$  and the control function  $u$ . The set

$$R(t_1; t_0, \xi)(N) = \{y(t_1; t_0, \xi, u) : u(\cdot) \in L^p(t_0, T; U)\} \quad (3.1)$$

is called the reachable set of system (1.6) at time  $t_1$  corresponding to initial pair  $(t_0, \xi)$ .  $\overline{R(t_1; t_0, \xi)(N)}$  is the closure of  $R(t_1; t_0, \xi)(N)$  in  $E$ .

*Definition 3.1.* System (1.6) is said to be approximately controllable on  $[t_0, t_1]$  if  $\overline{R(t_1; t_0, \xi)(N)} = E$  for any  $\xi \in C$ .

*Definition 3.2.* System (1.6) is said to be approximately null controllable on  $[t_0, t_1]$  if for any  $\xi \in C$  and  $\epsilon > 0$ , there is a control function  $u(\cdot) \in L^p(t_0, t_1; U)$  such that  $\|y(t_1; t_0, \xi, u)\| < \epsilon$ .

Similar to nonlinear system (1.6), we define the reachable set of system (1.7) at time  $t_1$  corresponding to the initial pair  $(t_0, y_0)$  as  $R(t_1; t_0, y_0)(L)$ . The approximate controllability and approximate null controllability for system (1.7) can also be defined similarly.

To consider the approximate controllability of system (1.6), we need two new operators. For any  $t_1, t_2 \in I$  with  $t_2 > t_1$ ,  $E(t_1, t_2) : L^p(t_1, t_2; U) \rightarrow E$ , and  $N(t_1, t_2) : L^p(t_1, t_2; U) \rightarrow E$  are defined as:

$$\begin{aligned} E(t_1, t_2)u &= \int_{t_1}^{t_2} S(t_2 - s)\sigma Bu(s)ds + \int_{t_1}^{t_2} AS(t_2 - s)Bu(s)ds, \\ N(t_1, t_2)u &= \int_{t_1}^{t_2} S(t_2 - s)f(s, y_s)ds, \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

where  $y(t; u)$  is the solution of (1.6) with the initial pair  $(t_1, \xi)$  and control function  $u(\cdot) \in L^p(t_1, t_2; U)$  in the definition of  $N(t_1, t_2)$ .

The following result provides sufficient conditions for the approximate controllability of system (1.6).

**Theorem 3.3.** Assume that system (1.7) is approximately controllable on the interval  $[b, T]$  for any  $b \geq 0$ . If there exists a function  $Q(\cdot) \in L^1(I)$  such that

$$\|f(t, z)\| \leq Q(t), \quad \forall (t, z) \in I \times C, \quad (3.3)$$

then system (1.6) is approximately controllable on  $I$ .

*Proof.* We need to show that the reachable set of system (1.6) at time  $T$  is dense in Banach space  $E$ , in other words,

$$\overline{R(T; 0, \xi)(N)} = E \quad (3.4)$$

for any  $\xi \in C$ . To this end, given any  $\epsilon > 0$  and  $\bar{x} \in E$ . Since (1.7) is approximately controllable on  $[0, T]$ , there exists a control function  $v_0(\cdot) \in L^p(0, T; U)$  such that

$$\|S(T)\xi(0) + E(0, T)v_0 - \bar{x}\| < \frac{\epsilon}{2}. \quad (3.5)$$

Note that  $Q(\cdot) \in L^1(I)$ , we can select a sequence  $t_n \in I$  such that  $t_n > t_{n-1}$  and

$$\int_{t_n}^T Q(t)dt \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty. \quad (3.6)$$

Let  $y_1 := y(t_1; 0, \xi, v_0)$ . Again, the approximate controllability of (1.7) on  $[t_1, T]$  implies that a control  $v_1(\cdot) \in L^p(t_1, T; U)$  exists such that

$$\|S(T - t_1)y_1 + E(t_1, T)v_1 - \bar{x}\| < \frac{\epsilon}{2}. \quad (3.7)$$

Define

$$u_1(t) = \begin{cases} v_0(t), & 0 \leq t \leq t_1, \\ v_1(t), & t_1 < t \leq T. \end{cases} \quad (3.8)$$

Then  $u_1(\cdot) \in L^p(0, T; U)$ . Repeating the procedure, we have three sequences  $y_n$ ,  $v_n$ , and  $u_n$  such that  $v_n(\cdot) \in L^p(t_n, T; U)$ ,  $u_n(\cdot) \in L^p(0, T; U)$ ,

$$u_n(t) = \begin{cases} u_{n-1}(t), & 0 \leq t \leq t_n, \\ v_n(t), & t_n < t \leq T, \end{cases} \quad (3.9)$$

$$y_n = y(t_n; 0, \xi, u_{n-1}), \quad \|S(T - t_n)y_n + E(t_n, T)v_n - \bar{x}\| < \frac{\epsilon}{2}.$$

The solution of (1.6) under the control function  $u_n(\cdot)$  is

$$\begin{aligned} y(t; 0, \xi, u_n) &= S(t - t_n)[S(t_n)\xi(0) + E(0, t_n)u_n + N(0, t_n)u_n] + E(t_n, t)u_n + N(t_n, t)u_n \\ &= S(t - t_n)[S(t_n)\xi(0) + E(0, t_n)u_{n-1} + N(0, t_n)u_{n-1}] + E(t_n, t)u_n + N(t_n, t)u_n \\ &= S(t - t_n)y_n + E(t_n, t)v_n + N(t_n, t)u_n. \end{aligned} \quad (3.10)$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
\|y(T; 0, \xi, u_n) - \bar{x}\| &\leq \|S(T - t_n)y_n + E(t_n, T)v_n - \bar{x}\| + \|N(t_n, T)u_n\| \\
&< \frac{\epsilon}{2} + \int_{t_n}^T \|S(T - s)f(s, y_s)\| ds \\
&\leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} + M \int_{t_n}^T Q(s) ds < \epsilon
\end{aligned} \tag{3.11}$$

for a sufficient large  $n$  such that  $M \int_{t_n}^T Q(s) ds < \epsilon/2$ . Hence, (3.4) follows, and the proof is complete.  $\square$

The next theorem is about the approximate null controllability of system (1.6).

**Theorem 3.4.** *Assume that system (1.7) is approximately null controllable on the interval  $[b, T]$  for any  $b \geq 0$ , and (3.3) is satisfied. Then system (1.6) is approximately null controllable on  $I$ .*

*Proof.* For any  $\epsilon > 0$  and  $\xi \in C$ , we need to show that there exists a control function  $u(\cdot) \in L^p(I; U)$  such that  $\|S(T)\xi(0) + E(0, T)u + N(0, T)u\| < \epsilon$ . Since system (1.7) is approximately null controllable on  $[0, T]$ , there is a control function  $v_0(\cdot) \in L^p(0, T; U)$  such that  $\|S(T)\xi(0) + E(0, T)v_0\| < \epsilon/2$ . Select a sequence  $t_n$  as in the proof of Theorem 3.3. Let  $y_1 := y(t_1; 0, \xi, v_0)$ . There exists a control function  $v_1(\cdot) \in L^p(t_1, T; U)$  such that

$$\|S(T - t_1)y_1 + E(t_1, T)v_1\| < \frac{\epsilon}{2} \tag{3.12}$$

due to the assumption that (1.7) is approximately null controllable on  $[t_1, T]$ .

Similar to the proof of Theorem 3.3, we obtain three sequences  $y_n$ ,  $v_n$ , and  $u_n$  such that  $v_n(\cdot) \in L^p(t_n, T; U)$ ,  $u_n(\cdot) \in L^p(I; U)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
u_n(t) &= \begin{cases} u_{n-1}(t), & 0 \leq t \leq t_n, \\ v_n(t), & t_n < t \leq T, \end{cases} \\
y_n = y(t_n; 0, \xi, u_{n-1}), & \quad \|S(T - t_n)y_n + E(t_n, T)v_n\| < \frac{\epsilon}{2}.
\end{aligned} \tag{3.13}$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned}
y(t; 0, \xi, u_n) &= S(t)\xi(0) + E(0, t)u_n + N(0, t)u_n \\
&= S(t - t_n)y_n + E(t_n, t)v_n + N(t_n, t)u_n,
\end{aligned} \tag{3.14}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\|y(T; 0, \xi, u_n)\| &\leq \|S(T - t_n)y_n + E(t_n, T)v_n\| + \|N(t_n, T)u_n\| \\
&< \frac{\epsilon}{2} + M \int_{t_n}^T Q(s) ds < \epsilon.
\end{aligned} \tag{3.15}$$

The proof of the theorem is complete.  $\square$

#### 4. Example

In this section, we provide an example to illustrate the application of the results established in Section 3.

*Example 4.1.* Consider the following heat control system:

$$\begin{aligned} y_t(t, x) &= \Delta y(t, x) + f(t, y(t, x), y(t - \Delta, x)), \quad t \in I, x \in \Omega, \\ y(t, x) &= u(t), \quad t \in I, x \in \Gamma, \\ y(t, x) &= \xi(t, x), \quad t \in [-\Delta, 0], x \in \Omega, \end{aligned} \tag{4.1}$$

where  $\Omega$  is a bounded and open subset of the Euclidean space  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with a sufficiently smooth boundary  $\Gamma$ .

To formulated this system as a boundary control system (1.1), we let  $E = L^2(\Omega)$ ,  $X = H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)$ ,  $U = L^2(\Gamma)$ ,  $B_1 = I$ ,  $D(\sigma) = \{y \in L^2(\Omega) : \Delta y \in L^2(\Omega)\}$ , and  $\sigma = \Delta$ . The operator  $A$  is given by  $D(A) = H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega)$ ,  $A = \Delta$ . Then  $A$  generates an analytic semigroup  $S(t)$  in  $E$ . The operator  $\tau$  is the trace operator  $\gamma_0 y$  which is well defined and belongs to  $H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)$  for each  $y \in D(\sigma)$ . Clearly, assumptions (H1) and (H2) are satisfied. Define the linear operator  $B : L^2(\Gamma) \rightarrow L^2(\Omega)$  by  $Bu = w_u$ , where  $w_u \in L^2(\Omega)$  is the unique solution to the Dirichlet boundary-value problem

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta w_u &= 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega, \\ w_u &= u \quad \text{on } \Gamma. \end{aligned} \tag{4.2}$$

It is proved in [1] that for every  $u \in H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)$ , (4.2) has a unique solution  $w_u \in L^2(\Omega)$  satisfying  $\|Bu\|_{L^2(\Omega)} = \|w_u\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \leq C_1 \|u\|_{H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)}$ . This shows that (H3) is satisfied. It is proved in [4] that there exists a positive constant  $K_1$  independent of  $u$  and  $t$  such that

$$\|AS(t)Bu\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \leq K_1 t^{-3/4} \|u\|_{L^2(\Gamma)} \tag{4.3}$$

for all  $u \in L^2(\Gamma)$  and  $t > 0$ . In other words, (H4) holds with  $\gamma(t) = K_1 t^{-3/4}$ . Therefore, system (4.1) can be formulated to the form (1.6). Since the corresponding linear system of (4.1)

$$\begin{aligned} y_t(t, x) &= \Delta y(t, x), \quad t \in I, x \in \Omega, \\ y(t, x) &= u(t), \quad t \in I, x \in \Gamma, \\ y(0, x) &= \xi(0, x), \quad x \in \Omega \end{aligned} \tag{4.4}$$

is approximately controllable on any interval  $[b, T]$  with  $b \geq 0$ ; see [15]. It follows from Theorem 3.3 that system (4.1) is approximately controllable on  $I$  if the nonlinear perturbation function  $f$  satisfies (H5).

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