

Boundary controllability of a one-dimensional phase-field system with one control force

We use the moment method to present a controllability result for nonlinear phase-field systems of Caginalp type when the scalar control force v acts on the temperature equation of the system.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \tilde{\theta}_t - \xi \tilde{\theta}_{xx} + \frac{1}{2} \rho \xi \tilde{\phi}_{xx} + \frac{\rho}{\tau} \tilde{\theta} = -\frac{\rho}{4\tau} (\tilde{\phi} - \tilde{\phi}^3) & \text{in } Q_T := (0, \pi) \times (0, T), \\ \tilde{\phi}_t - \xi \tilde{\phi}_{xx} - \frac{2}{\tau} \tilde{\theta} = \frac{1}{2\tau} (\tilde{\phi} - \tilde{\phi}^3) & \text{in } Q_T, \\ \tilde{\theta}(0, \cdot) = v, \tilde{\phi}(0, \cdot) = c, \tilde{\theta}(\pi, \cdot) = 0, \tilde{\phi}(\pi, \cdot) = c & \text{on } (0, T), \\ \tilde{\theta}(\cdot, 0) = \tilde{\theta}_0, \tilde{\phi}(\cdot, 0) = \tilde{\phi}_0 & \text{in } (0, \pi). \end{array} \right.$$

Our objective is to prove the null controllability result at time T for the temperature $\tilde{\theta}$ but keeping the material in solid state ($c = 1$), or liquid state, ($c = -1$) at time T , that is to say, proving that there exists a control $v \in L^2(0, T)$ such that system above has a solution $\tilde{y} = (\tilde{\theta}, \tilde{\phi})$ (in an appropriate space) such that

$$\tilde{\theta}(\cdot, T) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{\phi}(\cdot, T) = c \quad \text{in } (0, \pi).$$