

# A semilinear control problem involving homogenization \*

Carlos Conca, Axel Osses, & Jeannine Saint Jean Paulin

## Abstract

We consider a control problem involving a semilinear elliptic equation with a uniformly Lipschitz non-linearity and rapidly oscillating coefficients in a bounded domain of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . The control is distributed on a compact subset interior to the domain. Given an  $N - 1$  dimensional hypersurface at the interior of the domain not intersecting the control zone, the trace of the solution on the curve has to be controlled. We prove that there exists a limit control as the homogenization parameter converges to zero, which results as the limit of fixed points for controllability problems. We link this limit control with the corresponding homogenized problem.

## 1 Introduction

Let  $\Omega$  be a connected and open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^N$  with smooth boundary  $\Gamma$ . Let  $\omega \subset\subset \Omega$  be a non-empty open subset with indicatrix set  $1_\omega$  and let  $S$  be a  $N - 1$  dimensional manifold strictly included in  $\Omega$  and not intersecting  $\omega$ . Consider the following control problem. Given  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $\alpha > 0$  and  $y_1 \in L^2(S)^N$  find a control function  $v^\varepsilon$  with support in  $\omega$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} -\operatorname{div}(A^\varepsilon \nabla y^\varepsilon) + f(y^\varepsilon) &= 1_\omega v^\varepsilon & \text{in } \Omega \\ y^\varepsilon &= 0 & \text{on } \Gamma \end{aligned} \tag{1.1}$$

and

$$\|y^\varepsilon|_S - y_1\|_{0,S} \leq \alpha, \tag{1.2}$$

where  $y^\varepsilon|_S$  is the trace of  $y^\varepsilon$  on  $S$  and  $\|\cdot\|_{0,S}$  denotes the standard  $L^2$ -norm on  $S$ . The nonlinear function  $f$  is such that

$$f \in C^0, \quad f(0) = 0, \tag{1.3}$$

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and uniformly Lipschitz, that is

$$\exists \gamma > 0 \text{ such that } \forall s \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}, 0 \leq \frac{f(s)}{s} \leq \gamma. \quad (1.4)$$

The coefficients of the symmetric matrix  $A^\varepsilon$  are real and piecewise  $C^1$  in  $\bar{\Omega}$ . We assume the condition

$$\exists \alpha_m, \alpha_M > 0 \text{ such that } \forall \xi \in \mathbb{R}^N, |\xi| = 1, \alpha_m \leq \sum_{i,j=1}^N A_{ij}^\varepsilon(x) \xi_i \xi_j \leq \alpha_M, \quad (1.5)$$

for a.e.  $x \in \Omega$ . The following result can be established as in [7, 8] using a fixed point technique introduced in [2].

**Theorem 1.1** *Assume that each point  $x_0$  on  $S$  can be connected by an arc included in  $\Omega$  to some point in  $\omega$  without intersecting  $S \setminus \{x_0\}$ . Then, under the hypotheses (1.3), (1.4) and (1.5), there exists a control  $v^\varepsilon \in L^2(\omega)^N$  satisfying (1.1) and (1.2).*

Moreover a control  $v_*^\varepsilon$  of minimal norm and solution of (1.1)-(1.2) can be constructed as follows. Using a density argument, we can assume  $f \in C^1$ . Define the real function

$$g(s) = \begin{cases} f(s)/s & \text{if } s \neq 0 \\ f'(0) & \text{if } s = 0. \end{cases}$$

For each  $z \in L^2(\Omega)^N$  consider the following auxiliary control problem. Given  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $\alpha > 0$  and  $y_1 \in L^2(S)^N$  find a control function  $v^\varepsilon$  supported in  $\omega$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} -\operatorname{div}(A^\varepsilon \nabla y^\varepsilon) + g(z)y^\varepsilon &= 1_\omega v^\varepsilon & \text{in } \Omega \\ y^\varepsilon &= 0 & \text{on } \Gamma \end{aligned} \quad (1.6)$$

and

$$\|y^\varepsilon(z)|_S - y_1\|_{0,S} \leq \alpha. \quad (1.7)$$

For the existence of these controls see [7]. Among the controls satisfying (1.6) and (1.7) we choose as an optimal the minimizer of the functional (see [4, 5])

$$I_z^\varepsilon(v) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} \|v\|_{0,\omega}^2 & \text{if (1.7) is satisfied} \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (1.8)$$

We denote by  $v_*^\varepsilon(z)$  the point of minimum value, which depends on  $z$  and  $\varepsilon$  of course. Associated to this control we have the solution of (1.6) that we denote by  $y_*^\varepsilon(z)$ . Now we define the mapping

$$\mathcal{F}^\varepsilon : z \in L^2(\Omega)^N \rightarrow y_*^\varepsilon(z) \in L^2(\Omega)^N. \quad (1.9)$$

We will show that it has a fixed point  $\bar{z}^\varepsilon$ , that is to say

$$\mathcal{F}^\varepsilon(\bar{z}^\varepsilon) = \bar{z}^\varepsilon. \quad (1.10)$$

An admissible control for the semilinear control problem (1.1) and (1.2) is simply

$$v_*^\varepsilon = v_*^\varepsilon(\bar{z}^\varepsilon). \quad (1.11)$$

Our main goal is to study the behavior of  $v_*^\varepsilon$  as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ .

**Notation.** We will denote by  $y^\varepsilon$  (or  $y^\varepsilon(v^\varepsilon)$ ) the solution of the original problem (1.1) and by  $y^\varepsilon(z)$  (or  $y^\varepsilon(z, v^\varepsilon)$ ) the solution of the auxiliary problem (1.6).

## 2 Dual context

For each  $z \in L^2(\Omega)^N$ ,  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $\alpha > 0$  and  $y_1 \in L^2(S)^N$  the optimal control  $v_*^\varepsilon(z)$  minimizing (1.8) and satisfying simultaneously (1.6) and (1.7) can be expressed in a dual context. Indeed, we have the relationship [7]

$$v_*^\varepsilon(z) = \varphi_*^\varepsilon(z)|_\omega, \quad (2.1)$$

where  $\varphi_*^\varepsilon(z)$  is the solution of the following dual problem associated to (1.6) ( $\delta_S$  is a Dirac mass concentrated on  $S$ )

$$\begin{aligned} -\operatorname{div}({}^t A^\varepsilon \nabla \varphi^\varepsilon) + g(z)\varphi^\varepsilon &= \delta_S \varphi_1 \quad \text{in } \Omega \\ \varphi^\varepsilon &= 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

for

$$\varphi_1 = \varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z), \quad (2.3)$$

where  $\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z)$  is the point of minimum in  $L^2(S)^N$  of the following dual functional of (1.8)

$$J_z^\varepsilon(\varphi_1) = \frac{1}{2} \int_\omega |\varphi^\varepsilon|^2 dx + \alpha \|\varphi_1\|_{0,S} - \int_S y_1 \varphi_1 ds \quad (2.4)$$

in the sense of Fenchel-Rockafellar [1, 5]. Note that in order to evaluate this dual functional we have to solve the dual problem (2.2) for each  $\varphi_1 \in L^2(S)^N$ .

**Notation.** We will denote by  $\varphi^\varepsilon(z)$  (or  $\varphi^\varepsilon(z, \varphi_1)$ ) the solution of the auxiliary dual problem (2.2).

## 3 Main result

Our main result can be summarized as follows (the definition of  $H$ -convergence can be found in [6]).

**Theorem 3.1** *Assume that  $A^\varepsilon$  H-converges to  $A^0$  and that the hypotheses of Theorem 1.1 are satisfied, then up to a subsequence*

$v_*^\varepsilon \rightharpoonup v_*^0$  in  $L^2(\omega)^N$  – weakly and  $y(v_*^\varepsilon) \rightharpoonup y_*^0$  in  $H_0^1(\Omega)$  – weakly as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ ,

where  $v_*^0$  has minimal norm among all controls  $v$  satisfying

$$\|y_*^0(v)|_S - y^1\|_{0,S} \leq \alpha.$$

Moreover  $y_*^0$  is solution of the system

$$\begin{aligned} -\operatorname{div}(A^0 \nabla y_*^0) + f(y_*^0) &= 1_\omega \varphi_*^0 \quad \text{in } \Omega \\ y_*^0 &= 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega \\ -\operatorname{div}({}^t A^0 \nabla \varphi^0) + g(y_*^0) \varphi^0 &= \delta_S \varphi_1 \quad \text{in } \Omega \\ \varphi^0 &= 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

$$\varphi_{1*} = \operatorname{argmin} \left( \frac{1}{2} \int_\omega |\varphi^0|^2 dx + \alpha \|\varphi_1\|_{0,S} - \int_S y_1 \varphi_1 ds \right),$$

where  $\varphi_*^0$  is the solution of (3.1c,d) associated to  $\varphi_{1*}$ . In terms of this dual variable,

$$v_*^0 = \varphi_*^0|_\omega. \tag{3.2}$$

The proof of this theorem is developed in the rest of the paper and uses the following Lemma. The proof of this Lemma is similar to the one in [2] (see also [7]) taking care of the  $\varepsilon$  dependence in bounds and the regularity of  $A^\varepsilon$ .

**Lemma 3.1** *Assume that the coefficients of  $A^\varepsilon$  are piecewise  $C^1$  in  $\overline{\Omega}$ . Then, under the hypotheses of Theorem 1.1, we have*

$$\liminf_{\|\varphi_1\|_{0,S} \rightarrow \infty} \frac{J_z^\varepsilon(\varphi_1)}{\|\varphi_1\|_{0,S}} \geq \alpha > 0. \tag{3.3}$$

**Proof.** We have

$$\frac{J_z^\varepsilon(\varphi_1)}{\|\varphi_1\|_{0,S}} = \frac{1}{2} \int_\omega \frac{1}{\|\varphi_1\|_{0,S}} |\varphi^\varepsilon|^2 dx + \alpha - \int_S y_1 \frac{\varphi_1}{\|\varphi_1\|_{0,S}} ds.$$

Let

$$\widehat{\varphi}^\varepsilon = \frac{\varphi^\varepsilon}{\|\varphi_1\|_{0,S}} \quad \text{and} \quad \widehat{\varphi}_1 = \frac{\varphi_1}{\|\varphi_1\|_{0,S}}.$$

Then

$$\frac{J_z^\varepsilon(\varphi_1)}{\|\varphi_1\|_{0,S}} = \frac{\|\varphi_1\|_{0,S}}{2} \int_\omega |\widehat{\varphi}^\varepsilon|^2 dx + \alpha - \int_S y_1 \widehat{\varphi}_1 ds. \tag{3.4}$$

We write that for a sequence  $\varphi_{1,n}$  such that  $\|\varphi_{1,n}\|_{0,S} \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Since  $\|\widehat{\varphi}_{1,n}\|_{0,S} = 1$  it is easy to see using (1.4) and (1.5) that the associated solutions of (2.2) satisfy

$$\|\widehat{\varphi}_n^\varepsilon\|_{1,\Omega} \leq C$$

where the constant  $C$  does not depend on  $n$  nor  $\varepsilon$  and only depends on  $\alpha_m, \gamma$  and the norm of the trace operator from  $H^1(\Omega)$  into  $L^2(S)$ . For a fixed  $\varepsilon$  up to a sequence (in  $n$ ), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{\varphi}_{1,n} &\rightharpoonup \widetilde{\varphi}_1 && \text{in } L^2(S) - \text{weakly} \\ \widehat{\varphi}_n^\varepsilon &\rightharpoonup \widetilde{\varphi}^\varepsilon && \text{in } H^1(\Omega) - \text{weakly.} \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\liminf_{\|\varphi_1\|_{0,S} \rightarrow \infty} \frac{J_z^\varepsilon(\varphi_1)}{\|\varphi_1\|_{0,S}} = \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{J_z^\varepsilon(\varphi_{1,n})}{\|\varphi_{1,n}\|_{0,S}}.$$

We consider two cases. Firstly, if

$$\lim_n \int_\omega |\widehat{\varphi}_n^\varepsilon|^2 dx = \int_\omega |\widetilde{\varphi}^\varepsilon|^2 dx > 0,$$

then

$$\|\varphi_{1,n}\|_{0,S} \int_\omega |\widehat{\varphi}_n^\varepsilon|^2 dx \rightarrow +\infty$$

and since  $\int_S y_1 \widehat{\varphi}_{1,n} \rightarrow \int_S y_1 \widetilde{\varphi}_1$ , from (3.4) we obtain (3.3). Secondly, if

$$\lim_n \int_\omega |\widehat{\varphi}_n^\varepsilon|^2 dx = \int_\omega |\widetilde{\varphi}^\varepsilon|^2 dx = 0$$

then  $\widetilde{\varphi}^\varepsilon = 0$  in  $\omega$ . Next, our aim is to prove that  $\widetilde{\varphi}^\varepsilon = 0$  in the whole of  $\Omega$ . The fact that we have supposed the coefficients of  $A^\varepsilon$  piecewise  $C^1$ , implies that  $\widetilde{\varphi}^\varepsilon = 0$  till  $S$ . Indeed, the classical Holmgren's unique continuation property [3] shows that  $\widetilde{\varphi}^\varepsilon$  is zero in the regions intersecting  $\omega$  where  $A^\varepsilon$  is regular and the transmission conditions allow to extend  $\widetilde{\varphi}^\varepsilon$  by zero to the contiguous regions till  $S$ . This gives the desired result if  $S$  is an open curve. Conversely, if  $S$  is closed, the geometrical hypothesis on  $S$  and  $\omega$  introduced in Theorem 1.1 implies that  $\widetilde{\varphi}^\varepsilon$  is zero in the whole  $\Omega$ . This implies that  $\widetilde{\varphi}_1 = 0$  on  $S$ , therefore

$$\liminf_n \frac{J_z^\varepsilon(\varphi_{1,n})}{\|\varphi_{1,n}\|_{0,S}} \geq \alpha + \liminf_n \left( \|\varphi_{1,n}\|_{0,S} \int_\omega |\widehat{\varphi}_n^\varepsilon|^2 dx \right) - 0 \geq \alpha,$$

which completes the proof of the lemma.

## 4 Step 1. Fixed point

We will establish that the operator  $\mathcal{F}^\varepsilon$  defined in (1.9) has a fixed point using Schauder's theorem. We follow the ideas in [2] and [7], taking care of the  $\varepsilon$  dependence.

Let us prove that  $\mathcal{F}^\varepsilon$  is continuous and maps  $L^2(\Omega)^N$  into a relatively compact subset of  $L^2(\Omega)^N$ . Take

$$z_n \rightarrow z_0 \quad \text{in } L^2(\Omega)^N$$

and in order to simplify notations let us set

$$\varphi_n^\varepsilon = \varphi^\varepsilon(z_n)$$

the solution of (2.2) associated to  $z_n$  and to a fixed  $\varphi_1 \in L^2(S)^N$ . Now, taking  $\varphi_n^\varepsilon$  as a function test in (2.2) the following estimate is easily obtained

$$\|\varphi_n^\varepsilon\|_{1,\Omega} \leq C \|\varphi_1\|_{0,S}, \quad (4.1)$$

where the constant  $C$  depends only on the  $A^\varepsilon$ -ellipticity constant  $\alpha_m$ , and on trace and Poincaré constants, but is independent on  $\varepsilon$  (we also use hypothesis (1.4) about  $f$ ). Thanks to (4.1) we have up to a subsequence

$$\varphi_n^\varepsilon \rightharpoonup \varphi_0^\varepsilon \quad \text{in } H_0^1(\Omega) - \text{weakly.}$$

In order to pass to the limit in a variational formulation of (2.2), note that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} g(z_n) \varphi_n^\varepsilon \varphi \, dx - \int_{\Omega} g(z_0) \varphi_0^\varepsilon \varphi \, dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} g(z_n) (\varphi_n^\varepsilon - \varphi_0^\varepsilon) \varphi \, dx + \int_{\Omega} (g(z_n) - g(z_0)) \varphi_0^\varepsilon \varphi \, dx, \end{aligned}$$

but  $g(z_n)$  is bounded in  $L^\infty(\Omega)$  and since  $z_n$  converges to  $z_0$  a.e. then

$$g(z_n) \rightharpoonup g(z_0) \quad \text{in } L^\infty(\Omega) - \text{weakly}^*. \quad (4.2)$$

Therefore

$$\int_{\Omega} g(z_n) \varphi_n^\varepsilon \varphi \, dx \rightarrow \int_{\Omega} g(z_0) \varphi_0^\varepsilon \varphi \, dx \quad \forall \varphi \in H_0^1(\Omega).$$

**Remark 4.1** Convergence (4.2) implies weak but not strong convergence in  $H^{-1}(\Omega)$ .

Nevertheless, a technical argument allows to obtain the strong convergence in  $H^{-1}(\Omega)$ . Indeed, for all  $\varphi \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \int_{\Omega} g(z_n) \varphi_n^\varepsilon \varphi \, dx - \int_{\Omega} g(z_0) \varphi_0^\varepsilon \varphi \, dx \right| \leq \\ & \leq \left| \int_{\Omega} g(z_n) (\varphi_n^\varepsilon - \varphi_0^\varepsilon) \varphi \, dx \right| + \left| \int_{\Omega} (g(z_n) - g(z_0)) \varphi_0^\varepsilon \varphi \, dx \right|. \end{aligned}$$

On the one hand

$$\left| \int_{\Omega} g(z_n) (\varphi_n^\varepsilon - \varphi_0^\varepsilon) \varphi \, dx \right| \leq \|g(z_n)\|_{L^{p_1}} \|\varphi_n^\varepsilon - \varphi_0^\varepsilon\|_{L^{p_2}} \|\varphi\|_{L^{p_3}}.$$

Choosing  $p_1 = N$ ,  $p_2 = p_3 = \frac{2N}{N-1}$  if  $N \geq 2$  otherwise  $p_1 = p_3 = 4$  and  $p_2 = 2$ , thanks to this choice of  $p_2$ , the injection from  $H^1(\Omega)$  to  $L^{p_2}(\Omega)$  is compact and then

$$\|\varphi_n^\varepsilon - \varphi_0^\varepsilon\|_{L^{p_2}} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Note that  $g$  is bounded and

$$\|g(z_n)\|_{L^{p_1}} \leq \gamma \text{meas}(\Omega)^{1/p_1}.$$

Finally, the injection from  $H_0^1(\Omega)$  to  $L^{p_3}(\Omega)$  is continuous so

$$\|\varphi\|_{L^{p_3}} \leq \|i\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_0^1(\Omega); L^{p_3}(\Omega))} \|\varphi\|_{1,\Omega}. \quad (4.3)$$

On the other hand

$$\left\| \int_{\Omega} (g(z_n) - g(z_0)) \varphi_0^\varepsilon \varphi \, dx \right\| \leq \|g(z_n) - g(z_0)\|_{L^{q_1}} \|\varphi_0^\varepsilon\|_{L^{q_2}} \|\varphi\|_{L^{q_3}}$$

with  $q_1 = \frac{N}{2}$ ,  $q_2 = q_3 = \frac{2N}{N-2}$  for  $N \geq 3$ , otherwise  $q_1 = 2$ ,  $q_2 = q_3 = 4$ . Thanks to this choice the injection from  $H^1(\Omega)$  into  $L^{q_3}(\Omega)$  is continuous and a bound can be obtained as in (4.3). In virtue of dominated convergence theorem and bounds on  $g(z_n)$  we have

$$\|g(z_n) - g(z_0)\|_{L^{q_1}} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

From the above convergences we see that

$$g(z_n) \varphi_n^\varepsilon \rightarrow g(z_0) \varphi_0^\varepsilon \quad \text{in } H_0^1(\Omega) - \text{strongly} \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Let us continue with our problem. Multiplying (2.2) by  $\phi \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  and integrating by parts we obtain

$$\int_{\Omega} A^\varepsilon \nabla \varphi_n^\varepsilon \cdot \nabla \phi \, dx + \int_{\Omega} g(z_n) \varphi_n^\varepsilon \phi \, dx = \int_S \varphi_1 \phi \, d\sigma,$$

for a fixed  $\varepsilon$  and we take  $n \rightarrow \infty$  to obtain

$$\int_{\Omega} A^\varepsilon \nabla \varphi_0^\varepsilon \cdot \nabla \phi \, dx + \int_{\Omega} g(z_0) \varphi_0^\varepsilon \phi \, dx = \int_S \varphi_1 \phi \, d\sigma,$$

and this shows that  $\varphi_0^\varepsilon = \varphi^\varepsilon(z_0)$ . Let us now show that

$$\varphi_n^\varepsilon \rightarrow \varphi_0^\varepsilon \quad \text{in } H_0^1(\Omega) - \text{strongly}. \quad (4.4)$$

Take  $\varphi_n^\varepsilon$  as a test function in the problem

$$\begin{aligned} -\text{div}({}^t A^\varepsilon \nabla \varphi_n^\varepsilon) + g(z_n) \varphi_n^\varepsilon &= \delta_S \varphi_1 \quad \text{in } \Omega \\ \varphi_n^\varepsilon &= 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma. \end{aligned}$$

Passing to the limit, we obtain

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} {}^t A^\varepsilon \nabla \varphi_n^\varepsilon \cdot \nabla \varphi_n^\varepsilon \, dx = \int_S \varphi_1 \varphi_0^\varepsilon \, d\sigma - \int_{\Omega} g(z_0) \varphi_0^\varepsilon \varphi_0^\varepsilon \, dx.$$

Now, taking  $\varphi_0^\varepsilon$  as a test function in

$$\begin{aligned} -\operatorname{div}({}^t A^\varepsilon \nabla \varphi_0^\varepsilon) + g(z_0) \varphi_0^\varepsilon &= \delta_S \varphi_1 \quad \text{in } \Omega \\ \varphi_0^\varepsilon &= 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma, \end{aligned}$$

we obtain

$$\int_{\Omega} A^\varepsilon \nabla \varphi_0^\varepsilon \cdot \nabla \varphi_0^\varepsilon \, dx = \int_S \varphi_1 \varphi_0^\varepsilon \, d\sigma - \int_{\Omega} g(z_0) \varphi_0^\varepsilon \varphi_0^\varepsilon \, dx.$$

By comparison

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} {}^t A^\varepsilon \nabla \varphi_n^\varepsilon \cdot \nabla \varphi_n^\varepsilon \, dx = \int_{\Omega} {}^t A^\varepsilon \nabla \varphi_0^\varepsilon \cdot \nabla \varphi_0^\varepsilon \, dx.$$

We conclude (4.4) since  $(\int_{\Omega} {}^t A^\varepsilon \nabla v \cdot \nabla v \, dx)^{1/2}$  is equivalent to the standard norm in  $H_0^1(\Omega)$ .

By a method analogous to the one that yields (4.4) from (4.1), we show that

$$\|\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon\|_{0,S} \leq C \quad (4.5)$$

with  $C$  independent of  $n$  and of  $\varepsilon$ , that is

$$\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n) \rightharpoonup \xi^\varepsilon \quad \text{in } L^2(S) - \text{weakly}$$

and

$$\varphi^\varepsilon(z_n, \varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n)) \rightarrow \varphi^\varepsilon(z_0, \xi^\varepsilon) \quad \text{in } H_0^1(\Omega) - \text{strongly.} \quad (4.6)$$

Let us show by contradiction that (4.5) holds. Otherwise, there exists a sequence  $\{\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n)\}_{n \geq 0}$  such that

$$\|\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n)\|_{0,S} \rightarrow +\infty \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty, \quad (4.7)$$

but for each  $z_n$ , the function  $\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n)$  minimizes  $J_{z_n}^\varepsilon$  and consequently

$$J_{z_n}^\varepsilon(\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n)) \leq J_{z_n}^\varepsilon(\varphi_1) \quad \forall \varphi_1 \in L^2(S). \quad (4.8)$$

At the same time, we see that

$$J_{z_n}^\varepsilon(\varphi_1) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\omega} |\varphi^\varepsilon(z_n)|^2 \, dx + \alpha \|\varphi_1\|_{0,S} - \int_S y_1 \varphi_1 \, d\sigma$$

converges as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  to

$$J_{z_0}^\varepsilon(\varphi_1) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\omega} |\varphi^\varepsilon(z_0)|^2 \, dx + \alpha \|\varphi_1\|_{0,S} - \int_S y_1 \varphi_1 \, d\sigma.$$

Therefore from (4.8), for each fixed  $\varphi_1$

$$J_{z_n}^\varepsilon(\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n)) \leq C$$

with  $C$  independent of  $n$  (and of  $\varepsilon$ ). This last upper bound contradicts (4.7) since

$$\liminf_{\|\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n)\|_{0,S} \rightarrow \infty} \frac{J_{z_n}^\varepsilon(\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n))}{\|\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n)\|_{0,S}} \geq \alpha > 0. \quad (4.9)$$

Proof of (4.9) is similar to the proof of Lemma 3.1 since

$$\|\varphi_*^\varepsilon(z_n, \varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n))\|_{1,\Omega} \leq C \|\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n)\|_{0,S}$$

with a constant  $C$  independent of  $n$  (and of  $\varepsilon$ ). Since (4.7) does not hold, we have up to a subsequence

$$\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n) \rightharpoonup \xi^\varepsilon \quad \text{in } L^2(S) - \text{weakly as } n \rightarrow \infty. \quad (4.10)$$

It remains to identify the limit. Let us show that  $\xi^\varepsilon$  minimizes  $J_{z_0}^\varepsilon$ , that is to say

$$J_{z_0}^\varepsilon(\xi^\varepsilon) \leq J_{z_0}^\varepsilon(\varphi_1) \quad \forall \varphi_1 \in L^2(S)^N. \quad (4.11)$$

First, note that  $\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n)$  is optimal for  $J_{z_n}^\varepsilon$ , that is

$$J_{z_n}^\varepsilon(\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n)) \leq J_{z_n}^\varepsilon(\varphi_1) \quad \forall \varphi_1 \in L^2(S)^N$$

hence

$$\liminf_n J_{z_n}^\varepsilon(\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n)) \leq \liminf_n J_{z_n}^\varepsilon(\varphi_1) = J_{z_0}^\varepsilon(\varphi_1) \quad \forall \varphi_1 \in L^2(S)^N.$$

In order to get (4.11) it remains to proof that

$$J_{z_0}^\varepsilon(\xi^\varepsilon) \leq \liminf_n J_{z_n}^\varepsilon(\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n)). \quad (4.12)$$

Let us recall that

$$J_{z_n}^\varepsilon(\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n)) = \frac{1}{2} \int_\omega |\varphi^\varepsilon(z_n, \varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n))|^2 dx + \alpha \|\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n)\|_{0,S} - \int_S y_1 \varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n) d\sigma,$$

so from (4.10) we have

$$\liminf_n \alpha \|\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n)\|_{0,S} - \int_S y_1 \varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n) d\sigma \geq \liminf_n \alpha \|\xi^\varepsilon\|_{0,S} - \int_S y_1 \xi^\varepsilon d\sigma$$

and from (4.6)

$$\liminf_n \int_\omega |\varphi^\varepsilon(z_n, \varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n))|^2 dx \geq \int_\omega |\varphi^\varepsilon(z_0, \xi^\varepsilon)|^2 dx.$$

In this way, we obtain (4.12) and consequently (4.11), in other words

$$\xi^\varepsilon = \varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_0).$$

With this relation, convergence in (4.6) becomes

$$\varphi^\varepsilon(z_n, \varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n)) \rightarrow \varphi^\varepsilon(z_0, \varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_0)) \quad \text{in } H_0^1(\Omega) - \text{strongly.} \quad (4.13)$$

The rest of the proof is straightforward since

$$\begin{aligned} v_*^\varepsilon(z_n) &= \varphi^\varepsilon(z_n, \varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_n))|_\omega \\ v_*^\varepsilon(z_0) &= \varphi^\varepsilon(z_0, \varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z_0))|_\omega \end{aligned}$$

and it is clear from (4.13) that  $v_*^\varepsilon(z_n) \rightarrow v_*^\varepsilon(z_0)$  in  $H^1(\omega)$  - strongly. An analogous proof as for the adjoint problem shows that

$$y^\varepsilon(z_n, v_*^\varepsilon(z_n)) \rightarrow y^\varepsilon(z_0, v_*^\varepsilon(z_0)) \quad \text{in } H^1(\Omega) - \text{strongly,}$$

proving the continuity of the map  $\mathcal{F}^\varepsilon$  for a fixed  $\varepsilon > 0$ .

Next we show that  $\mathcal{F}^\varepsilon$  is compact (uniformly in  $\varepsilon$ ). Let  $z \in L^2(\Omega)^N$  since

$$\|g(z)\|_{\infty, \Omega} \leq \gamma$$

then

$$\|\varphi^\varepsilon(z, \varphi_1)\|_{1, \Omega} \leq C \|\varphi_1\|_{0, S}$$

with  $C$  independent of  $z$  (and of  $\varepsilon$ ). This implies that  $|J_z^\varepsilon(\varphi_1)| \leq C(\varphi_1)$ , therefore

$$|J_z^\varepsilon(\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(z))| \leq C(\varphi_1).$$

Using again the coercitivity of  $J_z^\varepsilon$  we see that  $\|\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon\|_{0, S}$  is bounded independently of  $z$  (and  $\varepsilon$ ). Then  $\|\varphi^\varepsilon(z, \varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon)\|_{1, \Omega}$  is bounded independently of  $z$  (and  $\varepsilon$ ) and consequently the same is true for  $v_*^\varepsilon(z) = \varphi^\varepsilon(z, \varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon)|_\omega$  and  $y^\varepsilon(z, v_*^\varepsilon(z))$ .  $\diamond$

## 5 Step 2. H-convergence

We first consider the  $H$ -convergence in the original problem (1.1) with fixed control  $v \in L^2(\omega)^N$ , that is the  $H$ -convergence in the problem

$$\begin{aligned} -\operatorname{div}(A^\varepsilon \nabla y^\varepsilon) + f(y^\varepsilon) &= 1_\omega v \quad \text{in } \Omega \\ y^\varepsilon &= 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma, \end{aligned} \quad (5.1)$$

under the hypotheses (1.3) and (1.4) on  $f$ . To have *a priori* estimates, we multiply (5.1) by  $y^\varepsilon$  and we integrate in  $\Omega$  to obtain

$$\int_\Omega A^\varepsilon \nabla y^\varepsilon \cdot \nabla y^\varepsilon \, dx + \int_\Omega f(y^\varepsilon) y^\varepsilon \, dx = \int_\omega v y^\varepsilon \, dx,$$

but from (1.3)

$$f(y^\varepsilon) y^\varepsilon = \frac{f(y^\varepsilon)}{y^\varepsilon} |y^\varepsilon|^2 \geq 0$$

and it is true also in the case  $y^\varepsilon(x) = 0$ . Hence  $\|y^\varepsilon\|_{1,\Omega} \leq C \|v\|_{0,\omega}$  with  $C$  independent of  $\varepsilon$ . Up to a subsequence

$$y^\varepsilon \rightharpoonup y^0 \quad \text{in } H_0^1(\Omega) - \text{weakly.}$$

Now let us see which is the limit of  $f(y^\varepsilon)$ . Take  $\varphi \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_{\Omega} (f(y^\varepsilon)\varphi - f(y^0)\varphi) dx \right| &= \left| \int_{\Omega} (g(y^\varepsilon)y^\varepsilon\varphi - g(y^0)y^0\varphi) dx \right| \leq \\ &\leq \left| \int_{\Omega} (g(y^\varepsilon)(y^\varepsilon - y^0)\varphi) dx \right| + \left| \int_{\Omega} ((g(y^\varepsilon) - g(y^0))y^0\varphi) dx \right|. \end{aligned} \quad (5.2)$$

Starting from this and reasoning as in Remark 4.1 we can show that

$$f(y^\varepsilon) = g(y^\varepsilon)y^\varepsilon \rightarrow g(y^0)y^0 = f(y^0) \quad \text{in } H^{-1}(\Omega) - \text{strongly.}$$

Thanks to the  $H$ -convergence definition, we immediately deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} -\operatorname{div}(A^0 \nabla y^0) + f(y^0) &= 1_\omega v \quad \text{in } \Omega \\ y^0 &= 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma, \end{aligned} \quad (5.3)$$

where  $A^0$  is the  $H$ -limit of  $A^\varepsilon$  (and  $A^\varepsilon \nabla y^\varepsilon \rightharpoonup A^0 \nabla y^0$  in  $L^2(\Omega)^N$ -weakly).

Consider now the  $H$ -convergence with the optimal control  $v_*^\varepsilon = v_*^\varepsilon(\bar{z}^\varepsilon)$  satisfying (1.6)-(1.11) where  $\bar{z}^\varepsilon$  is the fixed point of  $\mathcal{F}^\varepsilon$ . We have already seen at the end of the previous section that  $\|v_*^\varepsilon(z)\|_{0,\omega}$  is bounded independently of  $z \in L^2(\Omega)$  and  $\varepsilon$ . In particular

$$\|v_*^\varepsilon\|_{0,\omega} \leq C$$

with  $C$  independent of  $\varepsilon$ . Hence there exists  $v^0 \in L^2(\omega)^N$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} v_*^\varepsilon &\rightharpoonup v^0 \quad \text{in } L^2(\omega) - \text{weakly} \\ 1_\omega v_*^\varepsilon &\rightarrow 1_\omega v^0 \quad \text{in } H^{-1}(\Omega) - \text{strongly.} \end{aligned} \quad (5.4)$$

The same proof as in the case of a fixed  $v$  shows that the solution  $y_*^\varepsilon$  of

$$\begin{aligned} -\operatorname{div}(A^\varepsilon \nabla y_*^\varepsilon) + f(y_*^\varepsilon) &= 1_\omega v_*^\varepsilon \quad \text{in } \Omega \\ y_*^\varepsilon &= 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma \end{aligned}$$

converges weakly to  $y_0$ , i.e.,

$$y_*^\varepsilon \rightharpoonup y^0 \quad \text{in } H_0^1(\Omega) - \text{weakly} \quad (5.5)$$

where  $y^0$  is a solution of

$$\begin{aligned} -\operatorname{div}(A^0 \nabla y^0) + f(y^0) &= 1_\omega v^0 \quad \text{in } \Omega \\ y^0 &= 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma, \end{aligned} \quad (5.6)$$

and  $A^0$  is the  $H$ -limit of  $A^\varepsilon$ .

**Notation.** In the following sections  $v^0$  stands for the  $L^2$ -weak limit of the control in (5.4) and  $y^0$  (or  $y^0(v^0)$ ) stands for the weak  $H^1$ -limit of the solution in (5.5), which is solution of the limit problem (5.6).

## 6 Step 3. Limit of optimal controls

The objective is now to identify  $v^0$ . Is it an optimal solution? First at all, note that

$$\|y_*^\varepsilon(v_*^\varepsilon)|_S - y_1\|_{0,S} \leq \alpha.$$

Since weak convergence in (5.5) implies

$$y_*^\varepsilon \rightharpoonup y^0_{|_S} \quad \text{in } H^{1/2}(S)^N - \text{weakly } (L^2(S)^N - \text{strongly}),$$

we conclude that  $v^0$  satisfies the approximate controllability inequality

$$\|y^0(v^0)|_S - y_1\|_{0,S} \leq \alpha.$$

Also from (5.5), since  $\bar{z}^\varepsilon$  is a fixed point (see (1.9), (1.10)), we have

$$\bar{z}^\varepsilon = y_*^\varepsilon \rightharpoonup y^0 \quad \text{in } H_0^1(\Omega) - \text{weakly}.$$

Let  $v_*^0$  be the minimizer in  $L^2(\omega)^N$  of the functional

$$I(v) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} \|v\|_{0,\omega}^2 & \text{if } \|y^0(v)|_S - y_1\|_{0,S} \leq \alpha \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad (6.1)$$

where for each  $v \in L^2(S)^N$ , we denote  $y^0(v)$  the solution of

$$\begin{aligned} -\operatorname{div}(A^0 \nabla y^0) + f(y^0) &= 1_\omega v \quad \text{in } \Omega \\ y^0 &= 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma. \end{aligned} \quad (6.2)$$

We will establish that

$$v^0 = v_*^0. \quad (6.3)$$

In virtue of Fenchel-Rockafellar duality, the minimum  $v_*^0$  can be characterized as follows. Let us consider the dual problem associated to (6.2), that is, for each  $\varphi_1 \in L^2(S)$ , find  $\varphi^0 \in L^2(\Omega)^N$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} -\operatorname{div}({}^t A^0 \nabla \varphi^0) + g(y^0) \varphi^0 &= \delta_S \varphi_1 \quad \text{in } \Omega \\ \varphi^0 &= 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma \end{aligned} \quad (6.4)$$

and let us define the respective dual functional of (6.1) as

$$J^0(\varphi_1) = \frac{1}{2} \int_\omega |\varphi^0|^2 dx + \alpha \|\varphi_1\|_{0,S} - \int_S y_1 \varphi_1 ds. \quad (6.5)$$

If  $\varphi_{1*}^0$  is the point of minimum of  $J^0$  in  $L^2(S)^N$ , and if  $\varphi_*^0$  is the solution of (6.4) associated to it, then the duality theory gives the relationship

$$v_*^0 = \varphi_{*|\omega}^0. \quad (6.6)$$

We will pass to the limit in (2.1), (2.2), (2.3), (2.4) with  $z = \bar{z}^\varepsilon$  as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ . An argument similar to the one used for obtaining (5.3) shows that if we pass to the limit in (2.2) with  $z = \bar{z}^\varepsilon$  as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  then

$$\varphi^\varepsilon(\bar{z}^\varepsilon) \rightharpoonup \varphi^0 \quad \text{in } H_0^1(\Omega) - \text{weakly}$$

where  $\varphi^0$  is the solution of

$$\begin{aligned} -\operatorname{div}({}^t A^0 \nabla \varphi^0) + g(y^0) \varphi^0 &= \delta_S \varphi_1 \quad \text{in } \Omega \\ \varphi^0 &= 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{aligned} \quad (6.7)$$

Taking the limit in (2.4) with  $\varphi_1$  fixed,

$$J_{\bar{z}^\varepsilon}^\varepsilon(\varphi_1) \rightarrow J^0(\varphi_1).$$

Let us consider now the sequence  $\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(\bar{z}^\varepsilon)$ . From the uniform coconvexity of  $J_{\bar{z}^\varepsilon}^\varepsilon$  with respect to  $\varepsilon$  (an analogous to Lemma 3.1 with  $z = \bar{z}^\varepsilon$ ), we deduce that  $\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(\bar{z}^\varepsilon)$  is bounded in  $L^2(S)^N$  then, up to a subsequence

$$\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(\bar{z}^\varepsilon) \rightharpoonup \varphi_1^0 \quad \text{in } L^2(S)^N - \text{weakly.}$$

Then (see the proof of (4.12)) for each  $\varphi_1 \in L^2(S)$

$$J^0(\varphi_1^0) \leq \liminf_\varepsilon J_{\bar{z}^\varepsilon}^\varepsilon(\varphi_{1*}^\varepsilon(\bar{z}^\varepsilon)) \leq \liminf_\varepsilon J_{\bar{z}^\varepsilon}^\varepsilon(\varphi_1) = J^0(\varphi_1).$$

Therefore  $\varphi_1^0 = \varphi_{1*}^0$  and consequently  $\varphi^0 = \varphi_*^0$ . Finally, passing to the limit as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  in (2.1), we obtain

$$v_*^\varepsilon = \varphi_{*|\omega}^\varepsilon \rightarrow \varphi_{*|\omega}^0 = v_*^0 \quad \text{in } L^2(\omega) - \text{strongly.}$$

This, together with (5.4), implies (6.3).

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CARLOS CONCA & AXEL OSSES  
Departamento de Ingeniería Matemática,  
CMM, UMR 2071 CNRS-Uchile,  
Universidad de Chile, Casilla 170/3 - Correo 3,  
Santiago, Chile  
e-mail: cconca@dim.uchile.cl, axosses@dim.uchile.cl

JEANNINE SAINT JEAN PAULIN  
Département de Mathématiques, Université de Metz,  
Ile du Saulcy, 57045 Metz Cedex 01, France  
e-mail: sjpaulin@poncelet.sciences.univ-metz.fr