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STABILITY WITH RESPECT TO THE DOMAIN OF A NONLINEAR VARIATIONAL INEQUALITY

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ABSTRACT. In this paper we investigate the stability with respect to the domain perturbations of a class of nonlinear variational inequality.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The mathematical theory of shape optimization benefits of a vast literature; the optimal shape design for systems governed by PDEs was studied in a great many papers, see for example [1], [2], [3]. Also, problems where variational or hemivariational inequalities appear were treated in [1], [4], [5], [6] and others.

A problem of shape optimization for a system described by a variational inequality can be looked at as a problem of optimal control in which the role of the control is played by sets from a class of admissible domains and the variational inequality appears as the state equation. In this context it is interesting to study the behavior of solutions to the variational inequality when the domain is perturbed.

The purpose of this paper is to study the stability with respect to the domain perturbations of a nonlinear variational inequality of the form

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Find } u_\Omega \in K(\Omega) \text{ such that} \\ &\langle \mathcal{A}(\Omega, u_\Omega), v - u_\Omega \rangle \geq 0, \quad \forall v \in K(\Omega), \end{aligned}$$

where Ω is a bounded open subset of \mathbb{R}^N , $K(\Omega)$ is a closed, convex set in the Sobolev space $H^1(\Omega)$ and \mathcal{A} is a nonlinear operator of a special form, $\mathcal{A}(\Omega, u) \in (H^1(\Omega))^*$. If Ω_0 is fixed in the class of the admissible domains and u_0 is the solution of $(VI)_{\Omega_0}$, the following problem arises: Is there a neighborhood V_0 of Ω_0 (in a sense that will be specified) and a mapping θ defined on this, continuous at Ω_0 , with $\theta(\Omega_0) = u_0$ and such that $\theta(\Omega)$ is a solution of $(VI)_\Omega$ for each $\Omega \in V_0$?

General stability results for parametric variational inequalities under small perturbations of the parameter have been given in [7], [8]. One of these results is presented in Section 3 and used in the paper.

In order to define the topological space of the parameters as a space of functions we use the mapping method (Section 2) for which the basic results were established by Murat and Simon in [3].

Finally, in Section 4 we present the main result of the paper and an example for a linear variational inequality.

2. THE MAPPING METHOD

The mapping method consists in defining the class of admissible domains as images of a fixed set. The main notions and properties were established in [3]; we present some of them following [4], [2].

Let $C \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ be a bounded, open set, with ∂C of class $W^{i,\infty}$, $i \geq 1$ and such that $\text{int}\bar{C} = C$.

We consider the following spaces:

$$\begin{aligned} W^{k,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^N)^N &= \{\phi \mid D^\alpha \phi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N)^N \forall \alpha \text{ with } 0 \leq |\alpha| \leq k\} \\ \mathcal{F}^{k,\infty} &= \{S : \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N \mid S \text{ bijective, } S - I, S^{-1} - I \in W^{k,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^N)^N\} \\ \mathcal{O}^{k,\infty} &= \{\Omega \mid \Omega = S(C), S \in \mathcal{F}^{k,\infty}\} \end{aligned}$$

and the norm in $W^{k,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^N)^N$:

$$\|S\|_{k,\infty} = \text{ess sup}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^N} \left(\sum_{0 \leq |\alpha| \leq k} |D^\alpha S|_N^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

$\|\cdot\|_N$ represents the norm on \mathbb{R}^N . The norm on $L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N)$ (or $L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N)^{N^2}$) will be denoted by $\|\cdot\|_\infty$.

$\mathcal{O}^{k,\infty}$ consists in a family of bounded and open sets. If ∂C is of class $W^{k,\infty}$, $k \geq 1$ then $\partial\Omega$ is of class $W^{k,\infty}$ also.

We define on $\mathcal{O}^{k,\infty} \times \mathcal{O}^{k,\infty}$ a function

$$\delta_{k,\infty}(\Omega_1, \Omega_2) = \inf_{S \in \mathcal{F}^{k,\infty}, S(\Omega_1) = \Omega_2} (\|S - I\|_{k,\infty} + \|S^{-1} - I\|_{k,\infty}).$$

It can be proved (see [4], [2]) that there exists a positive constant μ_k such that

$$d_{k,\infty}(\Omega_1, \Omega_2) = (\min\{\delta_{k,\infty}(\Omega_1, \Omega_2), \mu_k\})^{1/2}$$

is a complete metric on $\mathcal{O}^{k,\infty}$.

Remark 1. It is known (see [3]) that $\Omega_n \rightarrow \Omega$ in $\mathcal{O}^{k,\infty}$ if and only if there exist $S_n, S \in \mathcal{F}^{k,\infty}$ such that $\Omega_n = S_n(C)$, $\Omega = S(C)$ and $S_n \rightarrow S$, $S_n^{-1} \rightarrow S^{-1}$ in $W^{k,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^N)^N$.

The next Lemma (see [4]) summarizes some properties used in the paper:

Lemma 1. (a) If $S \in \mathcal{F}^{k,\infty}$, $\Omega = S(C)$, then $u \in H^1(\Omega)$ if and only if $u \circ S \in H^1(C)$. If $u_n \rightarrow u$ in $H^1(\Omega)$ (or in $H^1(C)$) then $u_n \circ S \rightarrow u \circ S$ in $H^1(C)$ (or $u_n \circ S^{-1} \rightarrow u \circ S^{-1}$ in $H^1(\Omega)$).

(b) Let $k \geq 1$, $u \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$. The mapping $S \mapsto u \circ S$ is continuous from $\mathcal{F}^{k,\infty}$ to $H^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$.

(c) Let $k \geq 1$. The mappings $S \mapsto JS^{-1}$ and $S \mapsto \det JS$ are continuous from $\mathcal{F}^{k,\infty}$ to $W^{k-1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ (with JS we denoted the Jacobian matrix of S).

(d) If $u, v \in H^1(\Omega)$ and $\Omega = S(C)$ we have:

$$\|u \circ S - v \circ S\|_{H^1(C)} \leq (\|\det JS^{-1}\|_\infty)^{1/2} (\|JS\|_\infty + 1) \|u - v\|_{H^1(\Omega)}.$$

3. PARAMETRIC VARIATIONAL INEQUALITIES

Let H be a real, reflexive Banach space and denote with H^* its dual. Let W be a topological space, let $T : W \times H \rightarrow H^*$ and let $K : W \rightarrow 2^H$ be a set-valued map. For a given parameter $w \in W$ we consider the variational inequality:

$(VIP)_w$ Find an element $x(w) \in K(w)$ such that

$$\langle T(w, x(w)), y - x(w) \rangle \geq 0, \quad \forall y \in K(w).$$

For a fixed $w_0 \in W$ (the initial value of the parameter), suppose that $x_0 \in K(w_0)$ is the solution of the corresponding problem $(VIP)_{w_0}$. We say that the problem $(VIP)_{w_0}$ is *stable under perturbations* if there exists a neighborhood W_0 of w_0 and a mapping $x : W_0 \rightarrow H$, continuous at w_0 , with $x(w_0) = x_0$ and such that, for each $w \in W_0$, $x(w)$ is a solution of $(VIP)_w$.

Definition 1. The map $T : W \times H \rightarrow H^*$ is called consistent in w at (w_0, x_0) if, for each $0 < r \leq 1$, there exists a neighborhood W_r of w_0 and a function $\beta : W_r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, continuous at w_0 , with $\beta(w_0) = x_0$ such that for each $w \in W_r$, there exists $y_w \in K(w)$ such that

$$\|y_w - x_0\| \leq \beta(w)$$

and

$$\langle T(w, y_w), z - y_w \rangle + \beta(w) \|z - y_w\| \geq 0,$$

for each $z \in K(w)$ such that $r < \|z - y_w\| \leq 2$.

Definition 2. The maps $T(w, \cdot) : H \rightarrow H^*$ are called uniformly strongly monotone on $W_0 \subset W$ if there exists a positive constant α such that for all $w \in W_0$ and $x, y \in H$, $x \neq y$ we have :

$$\langle T(w, x) - T(w, y), x - y \rangle \geq \alpha \|x - y\|^2.$$

The following Theorem is a particular case of a Theorem proved in [7].

Theorem 1. In the above notations, let the set $K(w)$ be closed and convex for each $w \in W$. Consider $w_0 \in W$ and $x_0 \in K(w_0)$ fixed. Suppose that:

- (i) x_0 is a solution of $(VIP)_{w_0}$;
- (ii) T is consistent in w at (w_0, x_0) ;

(iii) there exists a neighborhood V of w_0 such that the maps $T(w, \cdot)$ are uniformly strongly monotone, continuous from the line segments of H to the weak topology of H^* , for all $w \in V$ and $x \in K(w)$.

Then the problem $(VIP)_{w_0}$ is stable under perturbations.

4. STABILITY WITH RESPECT TO THE DOMAIN OF PERTURBATIONS

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ be a bounded and open set. We consider the problem:

$(VI)_\Omega$ Find $u_\Omega \in K(\Omega)$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} A(x, \nabla u_\Omega(x)) \cdot (\nabla v(x) - \nabla u_\Omega(x)) dx \\ & + \int_{\Omega} a(x, u_\Omega(x))(v(x) - u(x)) dx \geq 0, \quad \forall v \in K(\Omega) \end{aligned}$$

in the following notations and hypotheses:

(H₁) $K(\Omega) \subset H^1(\Omega)$ is a closed, convex, nonempty set,

(H₂) $A = (a_1, \dots, a_N)$ with $a_j : \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $a : \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ having the properties:

(P1) $a_j(\cdot, \cdot)$, $j = 1, \dots, N$ and $a(\cdot, \cdot)$ are measurable with respect to the first variable and continuous with respect to the second one,

(P2) $|a_j(x, \xi)| \leq c(k(x) + \|\xi\|_N)$ and $|a(x, \eta)| \leq c_1(k_1(x) + |\eta|)$ a.e. $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$, for all $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^N$, for all $\eta \in \mathbb{R}$, with c, c_1 positive constants and k, k_1 functions in $L^2(D)$ (for any bounded and open set D).

$$(P3) \sum_{j=1}^N a_j(x, \xi) \xi_j \geq c_2 \|\xi\|_N^2 - c_3, \text{ a.e. } x \in \mathbb{R}^N, \text{ for all } \xi \in \mathbb{R}^N,$$

$$(P4) \sum_{j=1}^N (a_j(x, \xi) - a_j(x, \tilde{\xi}))(\xi_j - \tilde{\xi}_j) \geq \gamma_1 \|\xi - \tilde{\xi}\|_N^2, \text{ a.e. } x \in \mathbb{R}^N, \text{ for all } \xi, \tilde{\xi} \in \mathbb{R}^N$$

$$\text{and } (a(x, \eta) - a(x, \tilde{\eta}))(\eta - \tilde{\eta}) \geq \gamma_2 |\eta - \tilde{\eta}|^2, \text{ a.e. } x \in \mathbb{R}^N, \text{ for all } \eta, \tilde{\eta} \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Theorem 2. *In the conditions stated above, the variational inequality $(VI)_\Omega$ has at least one solution (see [9], p. 74).*

Let $S \in \mathcal{F}^{k, \infty}$ such that $\Omega = S(C)$. Making the transform $x = S(X)$ in $(VI)_\Omega$ we get an equivalent problem on the fixed set C :

Find $u_S \in K_S \subset H^1(C)$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_C A(S(X), JS^{-t}(X) \nabla u_S(X)) \cdot JS^{-t}(X) (\nabla v(X) - \nabla u_S(X)) \det JS(X) dX \\ & + \int_C a(S(X), u_S(X))(v(X) - u_S(X)) \det JS(X) dX \geq 0, \quad \forall v \in K_S, \end{aligned}$$

where $K_S = S K(\Omega) = \{u \circ S \mid u \in K(\Omega)\}$ is closed and convex.

We define the operator $\mathcal{A} : \mathcal{F}^{k,\infty} \times H^1(C) \rightarrow (H^1(C))^*$ as

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathcal{A}(S, u), v \rangle &= \int_C A(S(X), JS^{-t}(X) \nabla u(X)) \cdot JS^{-t}(X) \nabla v(X) \det JS(X) dX \\ &\quad + \int_C a(S(X), u(X)) v(X) \det JS(X) dX, \quad \forall v \in H^1(C). \end{aligned}$$

Then the variational inequality can be written:

$$(VI)_S \quad \text{Find } u_S \in K_S \text{ such that } \langle \mathcal{A}(S, u_S), v - u_S \rangle \geq 0, \quad \forall v \in K_S.$$

We will apply Theorem 1 to this family of variational inequalities, considering $S \in \mathcal{F}^{k,\infty}$ as the parameter.

Other hypotheses that we impose are:

(H₃) $|a_j(x, \xi) - a_j(\tilde{x}, \tilde{\xi})| \leq \psi(x, \tilde{x})(\|\xi\|_N + \|\tilde{\xi}\|_N) + \phi(x, \tilde{x})\|\xi - \tilde{\xi}\|_N + \sigma(x, \tilde{x})$, for all $j = 1, \dots, N$, $x, \tilde{x}, \xi, \tilde{\xi} \in \mathbb{R}^N$; where $\psi(\cdot, \cdot)$, $\phi(\cdot, \cdot)$, $\sigma(\cdot, \cdot)$ are nonnegative functions belonging to $C(\mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{R}^N) \cap L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{R}^N)$ and $\psi(x, \tilde{x}) = \psi(\tilde{x}, x)$, $\psi(x, x) = \sigma(x, x) = 0$.

(H₄) $|a(x, \eta) - a(\tilde{x}, \tilde{\eta})| \leq \chi(x, \tilde{x})(|\eta| + |\tilde{\eta}|) + \mu(x, \tilde{x})|\eta - \tilde{\eta}|$, where χ has the same properties as ψ and μ has the same properties as ϕ .

Lemma 2. *Suppose that the hypotheses (H₁)-(H₄) take place. If $\psi \in C(\mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{R}^N) \cap L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{R}^N)$ and $S_n, S_0 \in \mathcal{F}^{k,\infty}$ with $S_n \rightarrow S_0$, $S_n^{-1} \rightarrow S_0^{-1}$ in $W^{k,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^N)^N$, then*

$$\|\psi(S_n(\cdot), S_0(\cdot)) - \psi(S_0(\cdot), S_0(\cdot))\|_{L^\infty(C)} \rightarrow 0$$

when $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Proof. We have that ψ is uniformly continuous on every bounded set of $\mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{R}^N$, which implies:

For each $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that for each $x_1, \tilde{x}_1, x_2, \tilde{x}_2 \in D$ (a bounded closed subset of \mathbb{R}^N), with $\|x_1 - x_2\|_N < \delta$ and $\|\tilde{x}_1 - \tilde{x}_2\|_N < \delta$ we have

$$|\psi(x_1, \tilde{x}_1) - \psi(x_2, \tilde{x}_2)| < \varepsilon.$$

$S_n \rightarrow S_0$ in $L^\infty(C)$, that is $\inf_{E \subset C, |E|=0} \sup_{X \in C \setminus E} \|S_n(X) - S_0(X)\|_N \rightarrow 0$.

For $\delta > 0$ there exists $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for $n > n_0$

$$\inf_{E \subset C, |E|=0} \sup_{X \in C \setminus E} \|S_n(X) - S_0(X)\|_N < \delta.$$

This implies that, for $n > n_0$, there exists a set $E_n \subset C$, $|E_n| = 0$ such that

$$\|S_n(X) - S_0(X)\|_N < \delta \text{ for each } X \in C \setminus E_n.$$

Using the uniform continuity and the fact that $S_n(C)$ and $S_0(C)$ are in a bounded set of \mathbb{R}^N , we get: There exists $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for all $n > n_0$, exists $E_n \subset C$, $|E_n| = 0$ with

$$|\psi(S_n(X), S_0(X)) - \psi(S_0(X), S_0(X))| < \varepsilon, \quad \forall X \in C \setminus E_n$$

Denote $E = \cup_{n>n_0} E_n$, $|E| = 0$, $C \setminus E \subset C \setminus E_n$, so

$$\begin{aligned} & \sup_{X \in C \setminus E} |\psi(S_n(X), S_0(X)) - \psi(S_0(X), S_0(X))| \\ & \leq \sup_{X \in C \setminus E_n} |\psi(S_n(X), S_0(X)) - \psi(S_0(X), S_0(X))| < \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

for all $n > n_0$. Finally, for $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for all $n > n_0$ we have

$$\inf_{E \subset C, |E|=0} \sup_{X \in C \setminus E} |\psi(S_n(X), S_0(X)) - \psi(S_0(X), S_0(X))| \leq \varepsilon,$$

which completes the proof. \square

Suppose that the next hypothesis is satisfied in all the paper:

(H₅) There exists a neighborhood V_0 of S_0 and a positive constant δ such that for all $S_1, S_2 \in V_0$ and $u_1 \in K_{S_1}$, there exists $u_2 \in K_{S_2}$ such that

$$\|u_1 - u_2\|_{H^1(C)} \leq \delta(\|S_1 - S_2\|_{k,\infty} + \|S_1^{-1} - S_2^{-1}\|_{k,\infty}).$$

Example 1. Let $K(\Omega) = \{v \in H_0^1(\Omega) \mid \nabla v = 0, v(x) \geq \varphi(x) \text{ a.e. } x \in \Omega\}$, with $\varphi \in H_0^1(\Omega) \cap C(\Omega)$ a Lipschitz function with $\nabla \varphi = 0$ on Ω .

We have:

$$K_S = \{\check{v} \circ S \mid \check{v} \in K(\Omega)\} = \{v \in H_0^1(C) \mid \nabla v = 0, v(X) \geq \varphi(S(X)) \text{ a.e. } X \in C\}$$

Let $S_1, S_2 \in \mathcal{F}^{k,\infty}$, $u_1 \in K_{S_1}$. This means $\nabla u_1 = 0$ and $u_1 \geq \varphi(S_1(X))$ a.e. on C . We define u_2 as:

$$u_2(X) = \begin{cases} u_1(X), & \text{if } u_1(X) \geq \varphi(S_2(X)) \\ \varphi(S_2(X)), & \text{if } u_1(X) < \varphi(S_2(X)). \end{cases}$$

We have $u_2 \in K_{S_2}$. Obviously $|u_1(X) - u_2(X)| \leq |\varphi(S_1(X)) - \varphi(S_2(X))|$. Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned} \|u_1 - u_2\|_{H^1(C)}^2 &= \int_C |u_1(X) - u_2(X)|^2 dX \leq \int_C |\varphi(S_1(X)) - \varphi(S_2(X))|^2 dX \\ &\leq L^2 \int_C |S_1(X) - S_2(X)|^2 dX \leq L^2 \|S_1 - S_2\|_{k,\infty}^2 |C|^{1/2} \end{aligned}$$

which shows that **(H₅)** is satisfied.

Example 2. A special case when **(H₅)** is trivially satisfied is the case when $K = K_S$ is independent of $S \in \mathcal{F}^{k,\infty}$, for all $k \geq 1$. For example (see [4]), this happens for

$$K(\Omega)_1 = \{v \in H^1(\Omega) \mid v|_{\partial\Omega} = c, v \geq d \text{ a.e. in } \Omega\}$$

$$K(\Omega)_2 = \{v \in H^1(\Omega) \mid v \geq f \text{ a.e. in } \Omega\},$$

where c, d, f are constants. Then:

$$SK(\Omega)_1 = \{v \in H^1(C) \mid v|_{\partial C} = c, v \geq d \text{ a.e. in } C\}$$

$$SK(\Omega)_2 = \{v \in H^1(C) \mid v \geq f \text{ a.e. in } C\},$$

which do not depend on S .

We fix now an initial value $S_0 \in \mathcal{F}^{k,\infty}$, $u_0 \in K$ a solution of $(VI)_{S_0}$ and we prove the main theorem of the paper.

(In order to prove the main theorem, we suppose that:

(**H₆**) $|a_j(x, \xi) - a_j(x, \tilde{\xi})| \leq L_1 \|\xi - \tilde{\xi}\|_N$ and $|a(x, \eta) - a(x, \tilde{\eta})| \leq L_2 |\eta - \tilde{\eta}|$, a.e. $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$, for all $\xi, \tilde{\xi} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ and $\eta, \tilde{\eta} \in \mathbb{R}$, with L_1, L_2 positive constants.)

Theorem 3. *Suppose that (**H₁**)-(**H₅**) are satisfied. Let $S_0 \in \mathcal{F}^{k,\infty}$ and $u_0 \in K_{S_0}$ fixed. If u_0 is a solution of the variational inequality $(VI)_{S_0}$, then $(VI)_{S_0}$ is stable under perturbations, that is: there exists a neighborhood W_0 of S_0 and a mapping $\theta : W_0 \rightarrow H^1(C)$ such that for each $S \in W_0$, $\theta(S) = u_S$ is a solution of $(VI)_S$, $\theta(S_0) = u_0$ and θ is continuous in S_0 .*

Proof. We use Theorem 1 with $W := \mathcal{F}^{k,\infty}$, $H = H^1(C)$, $K : W \rightarrow 2^H$, $K(S) = K_S$ a set-valued map and $T : W \times H \rightarrow H^*$, $T(S, u) = \mathcal{A}(S, u)$. We check the hypotheses of Theorem 1.

(i) is obvious.

We prove now (iii), that is we show that there exists a neighborhood V of S_0 such that the mappings $\mathcal{A}(S, \cdot)$ are uniformly strongly monotone for each $S \in V$.

We have:

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \mathcal{A}(S, v) - \mathcal{A}(S, u), v - u \rangle \\ &= \int_{\Omega} [A(x, \nabla(v \circ S^{-1})(x)) - A(x, \nabla(u \circ S^{-1})(x))] \cdot \nabla(v \circ S^{-1} - u \circ S^{-1})(x) dx \\ &+ \int_{\Omega} [a(x, (v \circ S^{-1})(x)) - a(x, (u \circ S^{-1})(x))](v \circ S^{-1} - u \circ S^{-1})(x) dx \\ &\geq \int_{\Omega} \{\gamma_1 \|\nabla(v \circ S^{-1})(x) - \nabla(u \circ S^{-1})(x)\|_N^2 + \gamma_2 |(v \circ S^{-1})(x) - (u \circ S^{-1})(x)|^2\} dx \\ &\geq \gamma \|v \circ S^{-1} - u \circ S^{-1}\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2 \geq \frac{\gamma}{\|\det JS^{-1}\|_{\infty} (1 + \|JS\|_{\infty})^2} \|v - u\|_{H^1(C)}^2 \\ &\geq \tilde{\gamma} \|v - u\|_{H^1(C)}^2. \end{aligned}$$

In this evaluation we made use of the transform $X = S^{-1}(x)$, the hypothesis (P4) and of the continuity of the mappings $S \mapsto JS$ and $S \mapsto \det JS^{-1}$ (see Lemma 1, c).

Next the continuity of $\mathcal{A}(S, \cdot)$ from $H^1(C)$ with the strong topology to $(H^1(C))^*$ with the weak topology will be proved.

Let $u_n \rightarrow u$ in $H^1(C)$ and let $v \in H^1(C)$. We get:

$$\begin{aligned} & |\langle \mathcal{A}(S, u_n), v \rangle - \langle \mathcal{A}(S, u), v \rangle| \\ &\leq \|\det JS\|_{\infty} \{\|\phi(S(\cdot), S(\cdot))\|_{\infty} \|JS^{-1}\|_{\infty}^2 \\ &+ \|\mu(S(\cdot), S(\cdot))\|_{\infty}\} \|u_n - u\|_{H^1(C)} \|v\|_{H^1(C)} \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

There is still to be proved (ii) from Theorem 1, that is the consistency of T .

Let $0 < r \leq 1$. We consider $S \in V_0$ and in (\mathbf{H}_5) we put $S_1 := S_0$, $S_2 := S$, $u_1 := u_0$. Then there exists $u_S \in K_S$ such that

$$\|u_S - u_0\|_{H^1(C)} \leq \delta(\|S - S_0\|_{k,\infty} + \|S^{-1} - S_0^{-1}\|_{k,\infty}).$$

We define

$$\beta(S) = \max \{ \sqrt{\delta(\|S - S_0\| + \|S^{-1} - S_0^{-1}\|)}, 2\|\mathcal{A}(S, u_S) - \mathcal{A}(S_0, u_0)\|_{(H^1(C))^*} \}.$$

Obviously $\beta(S_0) = 0$ (we take $u_{S_0} = u_0$). We prove next that β is continuous at S_0 .

For $\sqrt{\delta(\|S - S_0\| + \|S^{-1} - S_0^{-1}\|)}$ this is obvious.

For the second term, we consider $S_n \rightarrow S_0$ in $\mathcal{F}^{k,\infty}$. Then, according to (\mathbf{H}_5) , $u_{S_n} \rightarrow u_0$ in $H^1(C)$.

We evaluate $|\langle \mathcal{A}(S_n, u_{S_n}) - \mathcal{A}(S_0, u_0), v \rangle|$ for $v \in H^1(C)$.

We have

$$|\langle \mathcal{A}(S_n, u_{S_n}) - \mathcal{A}(S_0, u_{S_n}), v \rangle| \leq (\alpha_{1n} + \alpha_{2n} + \alpha_{3n} + \alpha_{4n})\|v\|_{H^1(C)}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_{1n} &= \|\det JS_n\|_\infty N \{ \|\psi(S_n(\cdot), S_0(\cdot))\|_\infty \|JS_n^{-t}\|_\infty (\|JS_n^{-t}\|_\infty + \|JS_0^{-t}\|_\infty) \\ &\quad + \|\phi(S_n(\cdot), S_0(\cdot))\|_\infty \|JS_n^{-t}\|_\infty \|JS_n^{-t} - JS_0^{-t}\|_\infty \} \|u_{S_n}\|_{H^1(C)} \\ &\quad + \|\det JS_n\|_\infty N \|\sigma(S_n(\cdot), S_0(\cdot))\|_\infty |C|^{1/2} \|JS_n^{-t}\|_\infty \\ &\quad + \|\det JS_n\|_\infty \|JS_n^{-t} - JS_0^{-t}\|_\infty c N \{ (\int_C |k(S_0(X))|^2 dX)^{1/2} + \|JS_0^{-t}\|_\infty \} \|u_{S_n}\|_{H^1(C)}, \\ \alpha_{2n} &= \|\det JS_n - \det JS_0\|_\infty \|JS_0^{-t}\|_\infty c N \{ (\int_C |k(S_0(X))|^2 dX)^{1/2} \\ &\quad + \|JS_0^{-t}\|_\infty \|u_{S_n}\|_{H^1(C)} \}, \\ \alpha_{3n} &= \|\det JS_n\|_\infty \|\chi(S_n(\cdot), S_0(\cdot))\|_\infty 2 \|u_{S_n}\|_{H^1(C)}, \\ \alpha_{4n} &= \|\det JS_n - \det JS_0\|_\infty c_1 \{ (\int_C |k_1(S_0(X))|^2 dX)^{1/2} + \|u_{S_n}\|_{H^1(C)} \} \end{aligned}$$

Next, as in the proof of (iii), one can obtain

$$|\langle \mathcal{A}(S_0, u_{S_n}) - \mathcal{A}(S_0, u_0), v \rangle| \leq \alpha_{5n} \|v\|_{H^1(C)}$$

where

$$\alpha_{5n} = \|\det JS_0\|_\infty \{ \|\phi(S_0(\cdot), S_0(\cdot))\|_\infty \|JS_0^{-t}\|_\infty^2 + \|\mu(S_0(\cdot), S_0(\cdot))\|_\infty \} \|u_{S_n} - u_0\|_{H^1}$$

From the hypotheses imposed it is clear that $\alpha_n = \sum_{i=1}^5 \alpha_{in} \rightarrow 0$ when $n \rightarrow 0$. So we get:

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\mathcal{A}(S_n, u_{S_n}) - \mathcal{A}(S_0, u_0)\|_{(H^1(C))^*} \\ &= \sup \{ |\langle \mathcal{A}(S_n, u_{S_n}) - \mathcal{A}(S_0, u_0), v \rangle| : v \in H^1(C), \|v\|_{H^1(C)} \leq 1 \} \\ &\leq \sup \{ \alpha_n \|v\|_{H^1(C)} : v \in H^1(C), \|v\|_{H^1(C)} \leq 1 \} \leq \alpha_n \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

From this the continuity of β at S_0 is clear.

Let $W_r \subset V_0$ be a neighbourhood of S_0 such that for each $S \in W_r$

$$\beta(S) \leq 1 \quad \text{and} \quad r - 4\beta(S)\|\mathcal{A}(S_0, u_0)\|_{(H^1(C))^*} \geq 0.$$

Let $v \in K_S$ with $r \leq \|v - u_S\|$. We have:

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \mathcal{A}(S, u_S), v - u_S \rangle + \beta(S)\|v - u_S\| \\ &= \langle \mathcal{A}(S, u_S) - \mathcal{A}(S_0, u_0), v - u_S \rangle + \langle \mathcal{A}(S_0, u_0), v - u_S \rangle + \beta(S)\|v - u_S\| \\ &\geq -\|\mathcal{A}(S, u_S) - \mathcal{A}(S_0, u_0)\|\|v - u_S\| + \langle \mathcal{A}(S_0, u_0), v - u_S \rangle + \beta(S)\|v - u_S\| \\ &\geq -\frac{1}{2}\beta(S)\|v - u_S\| + \beta(S)\|v - u_S\| + \langle \mathcal{A}(S_0, u_0), v - u_0 \rangle + \langle \mathcal{A}(S_0, u_0), u_0 - u_S \rangle \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2}\beta(S)\|v - u_S\| + \langle \mathcal{A}(S_0, u_0), v - v_0 \rangle + \langle \mathcal{A}(S_0, u_0), v_0 - u_0 \rangle \\ &\quad - \|\mathcal{A}(S_0, u_0)\|\|u_0 - u_S\| \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2}\beta(S)\|v - u_S\| - \|v - v_0\|\|\mathcal{A}(S_0, u_0)\| - \|u_0 - u_S\|\|\mathcal{A}(S_0, u_0)\| \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2}\beta(S)[r - 4\beta(S)\|\mathcal{A}(S_0, u_0)\|] \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

(Here we considered $v_0 \in K_{S_0}$ such that $\|v - v_0\| \leq \delta(\|S - S_0\| + \|S^{-1} - S_0^{-1}\|)$).

On the other hand we have $\|u_S - u_0\| \leq \beta^2(S) \leq \beta(S)$, which concludes the proof. \square

Example 3. We present a linear variational inequality for which all the previous hypotheses are satisfied. Consider the problem:

$$\text{Find } u_\Omega \in K(\Omega) \text{ such that } a_\Omega(u_\Omega, v - u_\Omega) \geq 0, \quad \forall v \in K(\Omega),$$

where

$$a_\Omega(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} [B(x)\nabla u(x) \cdot \nabla v(x) + b(x)u(x)v(x)]dx$$

with $B \in C(\mathbb{R}^N)^{N^2} \cap L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N)^{N^2}$, $b \in C(\mathbb{R}^N) \cap L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N)$, $b(x) \geq \tilde{b} > 0$ and

$$\sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^N b_{jk}(x) \xi_k \xi_j \geq \alpha \|\xi\|_N^2$$

a.e. $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$, for all $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^N$. It can be easily shown that, with

$$a_j(x, \xi) = \sum_{k=1}^N b_{jk}(x) \xi_k = B_j(x) \cdot \xi \text{ and } a(x, \eta) = b(x) \eta$$

the hypotheses (H_1) – (H_4) are satisfied.

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