

## ROBUST OBSERVABILITY FOR REGULAR LINEAR SYSTEMS UNDER NONLINEAR PERTURBATION

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ABSTRACT. In this article, we consider the admissibility and exact observability of a class of semilinear systems obtained by nonlinear perturbation for regular linear systems. We obtain the well-posedness of the semilinear system and the admissibility of the observation operator for the nonlinear semigroup, the solution semigroup of the semilinear system. Further, we obtain the robustness of the exact observability with respect to nonlinear perturbations when the Lipschitz constant is small enough. Finally, we give two examples to illustrate the obtained results.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Many control systems described by partial differential equations can be rewritten as a regular linear system (see e.g. [4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13])

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}(t) &= Ax(t) + Bu(t), \\ y(t) &= Cx(t) + Du(t),\end{aligned}\tag{1.1}$$

where  $A$  generates a  $C_0$ -semigroup  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  on Hilbert  $X$ , input operator  $B : U \rightarrow X$  and output operator  $C : X \rightarrow Y$  are linear operator (maybe unbounded), here  $U$  and  $Y$  are other Hilbert spaces, and  $D \in \mathcal{L}(U, Y)$  is the feedthrough operator. For the definition of regular linear system, we refer to [30, 31]; also we introduce the definition in Section 2. In this work we take nonlinear state-feedback for (1.1) with  $D = 0$ , that is,  $u(t) = F(x(t))$ , where  $F : X \rightarrow U$  is a nonlinear continuous function. Then we obtain the following closed-loop system

$$\dot{x}(t) = Ax(t) + BF(x(t)), \quad u(0) = x_0 \in X, \quad t \geq 0\tag{1.2}$$

with output

$$y(t) = Cx(t).\tag{1.3}$$

We first consider the well-posedness of (1.2), that is, we prove that (1.2) admits a unique mild solution  $u(t, x_0)$  for all  $x_0 \in X$ . Moreover, by  $S(t)x_0 = u(t, x_0)$  we define a nonlinear semigroup  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$ . Then we consider the admissibility and observability of  $C$  for  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$ .

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The problem of admissibility of unbounded observation operator has been studied by many authors. In the case of linear systems, Salamon [26] and Weiss [29] introduce the definition of admissibility, and many authors gave the different conditions for admissibility, see e.g. [6, 7, 8, 14, 17, 18]. Moreover, many authors considered the problem of robustness of admissibility under different linear perturbations, see e.g. [15, 21, 28, 30]. In addition, the problem of observability of unbounded observation operator is well studied for linear systems, see e.g. [1, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 28, 35]. Recently, Baroun and Jacob [2] extended the definition of admissibility and observability of the observation operator  $C$  for semilinear systems in the case that the nonlinear function is globally Lipschitz continuous, and they obtained the conditions guaranteeing that the semilinear system is exactly observable if and only if the linearized system has this property. In addition, Baroun, Jacob et al. [3] considered the same problem in the case that the nonlinear function is locally Lipschitz continuous.

In the spirit of [2, 3], we consider the admissibility and observability of the semilinear system (1.2) and (1.3) in the case that the nonlinear function  $F$  is globally Lipschitz continuous, and obtain the admissibility of  $C$  for the nonlinear semigroup  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$ , and prove that the semilinear system (1.2) and (1.3) is exactly observable if and only if the linearized system has this property when the Lipschitz constant for  $F$  is small enough. The results in this work can be applied to some control systems with nonlinear boundary perturbations.

This article is organized as follows. In Section 2, we introduce the concepts of the regular linear system and the admissible state feedback, and their some properties. In Section 3 we obtain the well-posedness of (1.2), and introduce a nonlinear semigroup  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$  by the solution of (1.2). In Section 4 we obtain the admissibility of  $C$  for  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$ , and prove that the semilinear system (1.2) and (1.3) is exactly observable if and only if the linearized system has this property when the Lipschitz constant for  $F$  is small enough. Finally, in Section 5, we illustrate the results in this work by two examples.

## 2. REGULAR LINEAR SYSTEM

In this section, we introduce the concepts of the regular linear system and the admissible state feedback, and their some properties in state-space framework. We refer the reader to [26, 27, 30, 31] for more details.

Throughout this paper,  $X$ ,  $U$  and  $Y$  are Hilbert spaces.  $A : D(A) \rightarrow X$  is the infinitesimal generator of  $C_0$ -semigroup  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  (with  $\|T(t)\| \leq Me^{\omega t}$  for some constants  $M > 0$  and  $\omega$ ) on  $X$ . The Hilbert space  $X_1$  is  $D(A)$  with the graph norm. The Hilbert space  $X_{-1}$  is the completion of  $X$  with respect to the norm  $\|(\alpha I - A)^{-1} \cdot\|$ , where  $\alpha \in \rho(A)$  (the resolvent set of  $A$ ) is fixed. We have

$$X_1 \subset X \subset X_{-1}$$

with continuous and dense embeddings.  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  restricts to a  $C_0$ -semigroup on  $X_1$  and extends to a  $C_0$ -semigroup on  $X_{-1}$  denoted by the same symbol.

$B \in \mathcal{L}(U, X_{-1})$  (the set of all bounded and linear operators from  $U$  to  $X_{-1}$ ) is called an admissible control operator for  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  if there exist some  $t > 0$  (and hence for all  $t > 0$ ) and  $\alpha_t = \alpha(t)$  such that

$$\int_0^t T(t-s)Bu(s)ds \in X,$$

and

$$\left\| \int_0^t T(t-s)Bu(s)ds \right\|_X \leq \alpha_t \|u(\cdot)\|_{L^2(0,t;U)} \text{ for all } u(\cdot) \in L^2(0,t;U). \quad (2.1)$$

$C \in \mathcal{L}(X_1, Y)$  is called an admissible observation operator for  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  if there exist some  $t > 0$  (and hence for all  $t > 0$ ) and  $\beta_t = \beta(t)$  such that

$$\|CT(\cdot)x\|_{L^2(0,t;Y)} \leq \beta_t \|x\|_X, \text{ for all } x \in X_1. \quad (2.2)$$

We can choose  $\alpha(t)$  and  $\beta(t)$  such that they are nondecreasing functions. It is clear from (2.2) that  $CT(\cdot)$  can be extended to a bounded linear operator from  $X$  to  $L^2(0,t;Y)$ , denoted by the same symbol. For the admissible observation operator  $C$ , define its  $\Lambda$ -extension  $C_\Lambda$  as follows

$$C_\Lambda x = \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow +\infty} C\lambda(\lambda I - A)^{-1}x \quad (2.3)$$

with  $x \in D(C_\Lambda) = \{x \in X : \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow +\infty} C\lambda(\lambda I - A)^{-1}x \text{ exists}\}$ .

The system  $\Sigma(A, B, C, D)$  is called a regular linear system if  $A, B, C$  and  $D$  satisfy

- (a)  $A$  generates a  $C_0$ -semigroup  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  on  $X$ ;
- (b)  $B$  is an admissible control operator for  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$ ;
- (c)  $C$  is an admissible observation operator for  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$ ;
- (d)  $C_\Lambda(sI - A)^{-1}B$  makes sense for some  $s \in \rho(A)$ , i.e.,  $(sI - A)^{-1}Bu \in D(C_\Lambda)$  for all  $u \in U$ ;
- (e) The function  $s \rightarrow \|C_\Lambda(sI - A)^{-1}B + D\|$  is uniformly bounded in some right half-plane, where  $D \in \mathcal{L}(U, Y)$ .

In [31], the definition of regular linear system is given by the time-domain way while the above definition is given by the equivalent conditions (see [31, 34] for details).

$F \in \mathcal{L}(X_1, U)$  is called an admissible state-feedback operator for the pair  $(A, B)$  if  $(A, B, F)$  is a regular linear system with state space  $X$ , input space  $U$  and output space  $U$ , and  $I - F_\Lambda(sI - A)^{-1}B$  is invertible on the right half-plane  $\mathbb{C}_\alpha^+ = \{s : \text{Res} > \alpha\}$ , where  $\alpha$  is some real number, and this inverse is uniformly bounded.

We summarize the results about admissible state-feedback operators as follows and refer to [32, 33, 34, 36] for details:

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $F$  be an admissible state-feedback operator for the pair  $(A, B)$ . Then the following statements hold:*

- (i) *The operator  $A_F := A + BF_\Lambda$  with domain  $D(A_F) = \{x \in D(F_\Lambda) : (A + BF_\Lambda)x \in X\}$  generates a  $C_0$ -semigroup  $(T_F(t))_{t \geq 0}$  on  $X$ . Moreover,  $(T_F(t))_{t \geq 0}$  is described by*

$$\begin{aligned} T_F(t)x_0 &= T(t)x_0 + \int_0^t T(t-\tau)BF_\Lambda T_F(\tau)x_0 d\tau \\ &= T(t)x_0 + \int_0^t T_F(t-\tau)BF_\Lambda T(\tau)x_0 d\tau, \quad x_0 \in X; \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

- (ii)  *$B$  is an admissible control operator for  $(T_F(t))_{t \geq 0}$ ;*
- (iii)  *$F^1$  defined as  $F_\Lambda$  restricted to  $D(A_F)$  is an admissible observation operator for  $(T_F(t))_{t \geq 0}$ ;*
- (iv) *if  $F_\Lambda^1$  denotes the  $\Lambda$ -extension of  $F^1$  with respect to  $(T_F(t))_{t \geq 0}$ , i.e.,*

$$F_\Lambda^1 x = \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow +\infty} F^1 \lambda(\lambda I - A_F)^{-1}x, \quad x \in D(F_\Lambda^1),$$

then  $F_\Lambda^1 = F_\Lambda$ , in particular,  $D(F_\Lambda^1) = D(F_\Lambda)$ ;  
 (v)  $\Sigma(A_F, B, F^1)$  is a regular linear system.

### 3. WELL-POSEDNESS AND NONLINEAR SEMIGROUP

In this section, we show the well-posedness of the system

$$\frac{dx(t)}{dt} = Ax(t) + BF(x(t)), \quad x(0) = x_0, \quad t \geq 0, \quad x_0 \in X, \quad (3.1)$$

where  $A$  generates a  $C_0$ -semigroup  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  on Hilbert  $X$ ,  $B \in \mathcal{L}(U, X_{-1})$  is an admissible control operator for  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$ , and  $F(\cdot) : X \rightarrow U$  is a globally Lipschitz continuous function, that is, there exists a positive constant  $L$  such that

$$\|F(x) - F(y)\| \leq L\|x - y\|, \quad (3.2)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ , and  $F(0) = 0$ .

**Theorem 3.1.** *Assume that  $B$  is an admissible control operator for  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  generated by  $A$ , and that  $F(\cdot) : X \rightarrow U$  is a globally Lipschitz continuous function. Then, for any  $x_0 \in X$ , (3.1) has a unique mild solution given by*

$$x(t) = T(t)x_0 + \int_0^t T(t-\sigma)BF(x(\sigma))d\sigma. \quad (3.3)$$

*Proof.* Given  $t_0 \geq 0$ . Define a function  $G$  on  $C(0, t_0; X)$  (the set of all continuous functions from  $[0, t_0]$  to  $X$ ) as follows:

$$G(x(t)) = T(t)x_0 + \int_0^t T(t-\sigma)BF(x(\sigma))d\sigma, \quad x(\cdot) \in C(0, t_0; X). \quad (3.4)$$

Firstly, we show that  $G(x(\cdot)) \in C(0, t_0; X)$  for all  $x(\cdot) \in C(0, t_0; X)$ .

For  $t \in [0, t_0]$  and  $h$  small enough such that  $t+h \in [0, t_0]$ . Without loss of generality, we assume that  $h > 0$  (the case of  $h < 0$  can be proved by the same method). It follows from (3.4) that

$$\begin{aligned} G(x(t+h)) - G(x(t)) &= T(t+h)x_0 + \int_0^{t+h} T(t+h-\sigma)BF(x(\sigma))d\sigma \\ &\quad - T(t)x_0 - \int_0^t T(t-\sigma)BF(x(\sigma))d\sigma. \end{aligned} \quad (3.5)$$

Changing  $\sigma$  into  $\sigma+h$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_0^{t+h} T(t+h-\sigma)BF(x(\sigma))d\sigma \\ &= \int_{-h}^0 T(t-\sigma)BF(x(\sigma+h))d\sigma + \int_0^t T(t-\sigma)BF(x(\sigma+h))d\sigma. \end{aligned} \quad (3.6)$$

It follows from (3.5) and (3.6) that

$$\begin{aligned} G(x(t+h)) - G(x(t)) &= (T(h) - I)T(t)x_0 \\ &\quad + \int_0^t T(t-\sigma)B(F(x(\sigma+h)) - F(x(\sigma)))d\sigma \\ &\quad + \int_{-h}^0 T(t-\sigma)BF(x(\sigma+h))d\sigma \\ &= I_1 + I_2 + I_3. \end{aligned} \quad (3.7)$$

For  $I_1$ , using the strong continuity of  $C_0$ -semigroup  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$ , we have

$$\|I_1\| = \|(T(h) - I)T(t)x_0\| \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } h \rightarrow 0. \quad (3.8)$$

For  $I_2$ , it follows from (2.1) and (3.2) that

$$\begin{aligned} \|I_2\| &\leq \alpha(t) \left( \int_0^t \|F(x(\sigma+h)) - F(x(\sigma))\|^2 d\sigma \right)^{1/2} \\ &\leq L\alpha(t) \left( \int_0^t \|x(\sigma+h) - x(\sigma)\|^2 d\sigma \right)^{1/2}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.9)$$

In addition,  $x(\cdot)$  is uniformly continuous in  $[0, t]$  since  $x(\cdot)$  is continuous. Then

$$\|I_2\| \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } h \rightarrow 0. \quad (3.10)$$

For  $I_3$ , changing  $\sigma + h$  into  $\sigma$  and using (2.1), and that  $\alpha(t)$  is nondecreasing, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|I_3\| &= \left\| \int_0^h T(t+h-\sigma)BF(x(\sigma))d\sigma \right\| \\ &\leq \|T(t)\| \left\| \int_0^h T(h-\sigma)BF(x(\sigma))d\sigma \right\| \\ &\leq \alpha(t_0)\|T(t)\| \left( \int_0^h \|F(x(\sigma))\|^2 d\sigma \right)^{1/2}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.11)$$

It follows from (3.11) and the continuity of  $F(x(\cdot))$  that

$$\|I_3\| \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } h \rightarrow 0. \quad (3.12)$$

It follows from (3.7), (3.8), (3.10) and (3.12) that

$$\|G(x(t+h)) - G(x(t))\| \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } h \rightarrow 0,$$

and consequently,  $G : C(0, t_0; X) \rightarrow C(0, t_0; X)$ .

Secondly, we show the existence of mild solution of (3.1). For any  $x_1(\cdot), x_2(\cdot) \in C(0, t_0; X)$ , note that  $\alpha(t)$  is a nondecreasing function, it follows from (2.1) and (3.2) that

$$\begin{aligned} \|G(x_1(t)) - G(x_2(t))\| &= \left\| \int_0^t T(t-\sigma)B(F(x_1(\sigma)) - F(x_2(\sigma)))d\sigma \right\| \\ &\leq \alpha(t_0) \left( \int_0^t \|F(x_1(\sigma)) - F(x_2(\sigma))\|^2 d\sigma \right)^{1/2} \\ &\leq \alpha(t_0)L \left( \int_0^t \|x_1(\sigma) - x_2(\sigma)\|^2 d\sigma \right)^{1/2} \\ &\leq \alpha(t_0)Lt^{1/2}\|x_1 - x_2\|_{C(0, t_0; X)}, \end{aligned}$$

By induction on  $n$ , we have

$$\|G^n(x_1(t)) - G^n(x_2(t))\| \leq \alpha^n(t_0)L^n \left(\frac{t_0^n}{n!}\right)^{1/2} \|x_1 - x_2\|_{C(0, t_0; X)},$$

where  $G^n$  represents the  $n$ -time iteration of  $G$ , that is,  $G^n = G(G(\cdots G))$ . So

$$\|G^n(x_1) - G^n(x_2)\|_{C(0, t_0; X)} \leq \alpha^n(t_0)L^n \left(\frac{t_0^n}{n!}\right)^{1/2} \|x_1 - x_2\|_{C(0, t_0; X)}.$$

It is clear that  $\alpha^n(t_0)L^n \left(\frac{t_0^n}{n!}\right)^{1/2} \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Then it follows from a well known existence of the contraction principle that  $G$  has a unique fixed point  $x(\cdot)$  in  $C(0, t_0; X)$ . The fixed point is the desired mild solution of (3.1).

Finally, we show the uniqueness of mild solution of (3.1), and the Lipschitz continuity of the map  $x_0 \rightarrow x(\cdot)$ . Let  $y(\cdot)$  be a mild solution of (3.1) with the initial value  $y_0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \|x(t) - y(t)\| &\leq \|T(t)(x_0 - y_0)\| + \left\| \int_0^t T(t - \sigma)B(F(x(\sigma)) - F(y(\sigma)))d\sigma \right\| \\ &\leq Me^{\omega t}\|x_0 - y_0\| + \alpha(t)\left(\int_0^t \|F(x(\sigma)) - F(y(\sigma))\|^2 d\sigma\right)^{1/2} \\ &\leq Me^{\omega t}\|x_0 - y_0\| + \alpha(t_0)L\left(\int_0^t \|x(\sigma) - y(\sigma)\|^2 d\sigma\right)^{1/2}, \end{aligned}$$

and consequently,

$$\|x(t) - y(t)\|^2 \leq 2M^2 e^{2\omega t}\|x_0 - y_0\|^2 + 2\alpha^2(t_0)L^2 \int_0^t \|x(\sigma) - y(\sigma)\|^2 d\sigma,$$

which implies, by Gronwall's inequality, that

$$\|x(t) - y(t)\|^2 \leq 2M^2 e^{2\omega t} e^{2\alpha^2(t_0)L^2 t}\|x_0 - y_0\|^2.$$

That is,

$$\|x(t) - y(t)\| \leq \sqrt{2}Me^{\omega t} e^{\alpha^2(t_0)L^2 t}\|x_0 - y_0\|.$$

Then

$$\|x(t) - y(t)\|_{C(0,t_0;X)} \leq \sqrt{2}Me^{|\omega|t_0} e^{\alpha^2(t_0)L^2 t_0}\|x_0 - y_0\|,$$

which yields both the uniqueness of mild solution of (3.1), and the Lipschitz continuity of the map  $x_0 \rightarrow x(\cdot)$ .  $\square$

Let  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$  be the family of nonlinear operators defined in  $X$  by

$$S(t)x_0 = x(t), \quad t \geq 0, \tag{3.13}$$

where  $x_0 \in X$  and  $x(t)$  is the mild solution of (3.1) with the initial value  $x_0$ .

**Proposition 3.2.** *Let  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$  be defined by (3.13). Then  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$  is a nonlinear semigroup on  $X$ .*

*Proof.* It is sufficient to prove that the following two properties hold:

- (P1)  $S(0)x_0 = x_0$  and  $S(s+t)x_0 = S(t)S(s)x_0$  for  $s, t \geq 0$  and  $x_0 \in X$ ;
- (P2)  $S(\cdot)x_0$  is continuous over  $[0, +\infty)$  for each  $x_0 \in X$ .

Firstly, we prove that the property (P1) holds. It is clear that  $S(0)x_0 = x_0$  for all  $x_0 \in X$ . In addition, using the definition of  $S(t)$  and changing  $\sigma$  into  $s + \sigma$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 S(t+s)x_0 &= T(t+s)x_0 + \int_0^{t+s} T(t+s-\sigma)BF(x(\sigma))d\sigma \\
 &= T(t+s)x_0 + \int_0^{t+s} T(t+s-\sigma)BF(S(\sigma)x_0)d\sigma \\
 &= T(t)T(s)x_0 + \int_0^s T(t+s-\sigma)BF(S(\sigma)x_0)d\sigma \\
 &\quad + \int_s^{t+s} T(t+s-\sigma)BF(S(\sigma)x_0)d\sigma \\
 &= T(t)T(s)x_0 + \int_0^s T(t+s-\sigma)BF(S(\sigma)x_0)d\sigma \\
 &\quad + \int_0^t T(t-\sigma)BF(S(s+\sigma)x_0)d\sigma.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.14}$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned}
 S(t)S(s)x_0 &= T(t)S(s)x_0 + \int_0^t T(t-\sigma)BF(S(\sigma)S(s)x_0)d\sigma \\
 &= T(t)(T(s)x_0 + \int_0^s T(s-\sigma)BF(S(\sigma)x_0)d\sigma) \\
 &\quad + \int_0^t T(t-\sigma)BF(S(\sigma)S(s)x_0)d\sigma \\
 &= T(t)T(s)x_0 + \int_0^s T(t+s-\sigma)BF(S(\sigma)x_0)d\sigma \\
 &\quad + \int_0^t T(t-\sigma)BF(S(\sigma)S(s)x_0)d\sigma.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.15}$$

Then it follows from (3.14) and (3.15) that

$$S(t+s)x_0 - S(t)S(s)x_0 = \int_0^t T(t-\sigma)B(F(S(s+\sigma)x_0) - F(S(\sigma)S(s)x_0))d\sigma,$$

and consequently, by (2.1) and (3.2), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\|S(t+s)x_0 - S(t)S(s)x_0\|^2 \\
 &= \left\| \int_0^t T(t-\sigma)B(F(S(s+\sigma)x_0) - F(S(\sigma)S(s)x_0))d\sigma \right\|^2 \\
 &\leq \alpha^2(t) \int_0^t \|F(S(s+\sigma)x_0) - F(S(\sigma)S(s)x_0)\|^2 d\sigma \\
 &\leq \alpha^2(t_0)L^2 \int_0^t \|S(s+\sigma)x_0 - S(\sigma)S(s)x_0\|^2 d\sigma.
 \end{aligned}$$

By Gronwall's inequality, we have

$$\|S(t+s)x_0 - S(t)S(s)x_0\|^2 \leq 0,$$

and consequently,  $S(t+s)x_0 = S(t)S(s)x_0$ .

Property (P2) follows from the fact that the solution  $x(\cdot)$  is continuous.  $\square$

**Proposition 3.3.** *Let  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$  be defined by (3.13). Then, for every  $x_0, y_0 \in X$  and  $t \geq 0$ , we have*

$$\|S(t)x_0 - S(t)y_0\| \leq \sqrt{2}Me^{(\omega + \alpha^2(t)L^2)t}\|x_0 - y_0\|, \quad (3.16)$$

$$\|S(t)x_0\| \leq \sqrt{2}Me^{(\omega + \alpha^2(t)L^2)t}\|x_0\|. \quad (3.17)$$

*Proof.* Let  $x_0, y_0 \in X$ . It follows from (2.1) and (3.2) that

$$\begin{aligned} & \|S(t)x_0 - S(t)y_0\| \\ & \leq \|T(t)x_0 - T(t)y_0\| + \left\| \int_0^t T(t-\sigma)B(F(S(\sigma)x_0) - F(S(\sigma)y_0))d\sigma \right\| \\ & \leq Me^{\omega t}\|x_0 - y_0\| + \alpha(t) \int_0^t \|F(S(\sigma)x_0) - F(S(\sigma)y_0)\|d\sigma \\ & \leq Me^{\omega t}\|x_0 - y_0\| + \alpha(t)L \left( \int_0^t \|S(\sigma)x_0 - S(\sigma)y_0\|^2 d\sigma \right)^{1/2}, \end{aligned}$$

and consequently,

$$\|S(t)x_0 - S(t)y_0\|^2 \leq 2M^2e^{2\omega t}\|x_0 - y_0\|^2 + 2\alpha^2(t)L^2 \int_0^t \|S(\sigma)x_0 - S(\sigma)y_0\|^2 d\sigma,$$

By Gronwall's inequality, we have

$$\|S(t)x_0 - S(t)y_0\| \leq \sqrt{2}Me^{(\omega + \alpha^2(t)L^2)t}\|x_0 - y_0\|.$$

Writing  $y_0 = 0$  in (3.16), we get the assertion (3.17).  $\square$

**Remark 3.4.** If  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  is exponentially stable, then  $\alpha(t)$  can be chosen a constant  $\alpha > 0$ . So  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$  is also exponentially stable if  $\omega < -\alpha^2L^2$ .

**Remark 3.5.** By the definition of  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$ , we have, for any  $x_0 \in X$ ,

$$S(t)x_0 = T(t)x_0 + \int_0^t T(t-\sigma)BF(S(\sigma)x_0)d\sigma. \quad (3.18)$$

Note that  $\Sigma(A, B, C)$  is a regular linear system, it follows from [31, Theorem 2.3] that  $S(t)x_0 \in D(C_\Lambda)$  for any  $x_0 \in D(A)$  and almost every  $t \geq 0$ . In addition, it follows from the boundedness of input/output operator of regular linear system  $\Sigma(A, B, C)$  that there exists a constant  $M_1 > 0$  such that, for all  $x \in X$ ,

$$\int_0^{t_0} \left\| C \int_0^t T(t-\sigma)BF(S(\sigma)x)d\sigma \right\|^2 dt \leq M_1 \int_0^{t_0} \|F(S(\sigma)x)\|^2 d\sigma, \quad (3.19)$$

and consequently,  $CS(\cdot)x \in L^2(0, t_0; Y)$  for all  $x \in X$ .

#### 4. ADMISSIBILITY AND ROBUST OBSERVABILITY

We start this section with the definition of admissibility of output operator  $C$  for nonlinear semigroup  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$  given by (3.13). The reader is referred to see [2] for more details on this definition.

**Definition 4.1.** Let  $\Sigma(A, B, C)$  be a regular linear system,  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$  nonlinear semigroup given by (3.13). We say that  $C$  is a finite-time admissible observation

operator for  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$ , if there exist some  $t > 0$  (and hence for all  $t > 0$ ), and  $\gamma(t) > 0$  such that

$$\int_0^t \|CS(\sigma)x - CS(\sigma)y\|^2 d\sigma \leq \gamma(t)\|x - y\|^2, \text{ for all } x, y \in D(A). \quad (4.1)$$

**Definition 4.2.** Let  $\Sigma(A, B, C)$  be a regular linear system,  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$  nonlinear semigroup given by (3.13). We say that  $C$  is an infinite-time admissible observation operator for  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$ , if there is some  $\gamma > 0$  such that

$$\int_0^\infty \|CS(\sigma)x - CS(\sigma)y\|^2 d\sigma \leq \gamma\|x - y\|^2, \text{ for all } x, y \in D(A). \quad (4.2)$$

**Remark 4.3.** (i) For a linear operator semigroup, equation (4.1) is equivalent to equation (2.2).

(ii) It follows from (4.1) (resp. (4.2)) that the mapping  $x \mapsto CS(\cdot)x$  has a continuous extension from  $X$  to  $L^2(0, t; Y)$  for every  $t > 0$  (resp.  $L^2(0, \infty; Y)$ ).

(iii) If  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$  is exponentially stable, then the notion of finite-time admissibility and infinite-time admissibility are equivalent.

The following theorem is one of main results of this article.

**Theorem 4.4.** Assume that  $\Sigma(A, B, C)$  is a regular linear system and that  $F(\cdot) : X \rightarrow U$  is a globally Lipschitz continuous function. Then  $C$  is a finite-time admissible observation operator for  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$  given by (3.13).

*Proof.* Because  $\Sigma(A, B, C)$  is a regular linear system,  $C$  is a finite-time admissible observation operator for  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$ . That is, there exist some  $t_0 > 0$  and  $K_{t_0}$  such that

$$\int_0^{t_0} \|CT(\sigma)x\|^2 d\sigma \leq K_{t_0}\|x\|^2, \text{ for all } x \in D(A). \quad (4.3)$$

In addition, for  $x, y \in D(A)$ , it follows from (3.18) that

$$\begin{aligned} & \|CS(t)x - CS(t)y\| \\ & \leq \|CT(t)x - CT(t)y\| + \|C \int_0^t T(t - \sigma)B(F(S(\sigma)x) - F(S(\sigma)y))d\sigma\|. \end{aligned} \quad (4.4)$$

It follows from (3.2), (3.16), (3.19), (4.3) and (4.4) that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^{t_0} \|CS(t)x - CS(t)y\|^2 dt \\ & \leq 2 \int_0^{t_0} \|CT(t)x - CT(t)y\|^2 dt \\ & \quad + 2 \int_0^{t_0} \|C \int_0^t T(t - \sigma)B(F(S(\sigma)x) - F(S(\sigma)y))d\sigma\|^2 dt \\ & \leq 2K_{t_0}\|x - y\|^2 + 2M_1L^2 \int_0^{t_0} \|S(\sigma)x - S(\sigma)y\|^2 d\sigma \\ & \leq 2K_{t_0}\|x - y\|^2 + 4M_1L^2M^2 \int_0^{t_0} e^{2(\omega + \alpha(t)L^2)t}\|x - y\|^2 d\sigma \\ & \leq 2(K_{t_0} + 2M_1L^2M^2e^{2(\omega + \alpha(t_0)L^2)t_0})\|x - y\|^2, \end{aligned}$$

and consequently,  $C$  is finite-time admissible for  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$ .  $\square$

From Remark 4.3, we have the following result.

**Corollary 4.5.** *Suppose that the assumptions of Theorem 4.4 are satisfied. If  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  and  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$  are exponentially stable, then  $C$  is infinite-time admissible for  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$ .*

We consider the exact observability of  $C$  for the nonlinear semigroup  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$ . We start by giving the definition of exact observability.

Let  $(A, C)$  denote the linear system

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}(t) &= Ax(t), \quad t > 0, \quad x(0) = x_0, \\ y(t) &= Cx(t). \end{aligned} \quad (4.5)$$

**Definition 4.6.** Let  $C \in \mathcal{L}(D(A), Y)$  be an admissible observation operator for  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$ . We call  $(A, C)$  is exactly observable if there is some constant  $K > 0$  such that

$$\left( \int_0^{+\infty} \|CT(t)x\|^2 dt \right)^{1/2} \geq K\|x\|, \quad x \in D(A), \quad (4.6)$$

and  $(A, C)$  is  $\tau$ -exactly observable if there is some  $K_\tau > 0$  such that

$$\left( \int_0^\tau \|CT(t)x\|^2 dt \right)^{1/2} \geq K_\tau\|x\|, \quad x \in D(A). \quad (4.7)$$

**Definition 4.7.** Suppose that the assumptions of Theorem 4.4 are satisfied. We call  $(S(t), C)$  is exactly observable if there is some constant  $K > 0$  such that

$$\left( \int_0^{+\infty} \|CS(t)x - CS(t)y\|^2 dt \right)^{1/2} \geq K\|x - y\|, \quad x, y \in D(A), \quad (4.8)$$

and  $(S(t), C)$  is  $\tau$ -exactly observable if there is some  $K_\tau > 0$  such that

$$\left( \int_0^\tau \|CS(t)x - CS(t)y\|^2 dt \right)^{1/2} \geq K_\tau\|x - y\|, \quad x, y \in D(A). \quad (4.9)$$

Next, we state the main result of this section.

**Theorem 4.8.** *Suppose that the assumptions of Theorem 4.4 are satisfied and that  $\tau > 0$ .*

(i) *If  $(A, C)$  given by (4.5) is  $\tau$ -exactly observable, then there exists a constant  $L_0 > 0$  such that  $(S(t), C)$  is also  $\tau$ -exactly observable when the Lipschitz constant  $L$  in (3.2) satisfies  $L < L_0$ .*

(ii) *If  $(S(t), C)$  is  $\tau$ -exactly observable, then there exists a constant  $L_1 > 0$  such that  $(A, C)$  is also  $\tau$ -exactly observable when the Lipschitz constant  $L$  in (3.2) satisfies  $L < L_1$ .*

*Proof.* (i) It follows from (3.18) that, for all  $x, y \in D(A)$  and almost every  $t \geq 0$ ,

$$CS(t)x - CS(t)y = CT(t)(x - y) + C \int_0^t T(t - \sigma) B (F(S(\sigma)x) - F(S(\sigma)y)) d\sigma. \quad (4.10)$$

We may rewrite (4.10) as

$$CT(t)(x - y) = CS(t)x - CS(t)y - C \int_0^t T(t - \sigma) B (F(S(\sigma)x) - F(S(\sigma)y)) d\sigma. \quad (4.11)$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} & \|CT(t)(x - y)\|^2 \\ & \leq 2\|CS(t)x - CS(t)y\|^2 + 2\|C \int_0^t T(t - \sigma)B(F(S(\sigma)x) - F(S(\sigma)y))d\sigma\|^2. \end{aligned} \quad (4.12)$$

It follows from (3.2), (3.19), (4.7) and (4.12) that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^\tau \|CS(t)x - CS(t)y\|^2 dt \\ & \geq \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\tau \|CT(t)(x - y)\|^2 dt \\ & \quad - \int_0^\tau \|C \int_0^t T(t - \sigma)B(F(S(\sigma)x) - F(S(\sigma)y))d\sigma\|^2 dt \\ & \geq \frac{1}{2}K_\tau \|x - y\|^2 - M_1^2 \int_0^\tau \|F(S(t)x) - F(S(t)y)\|^2 dt \\ & \geq \frac{1}{2}K_\tau \|x - y\|^2 - M_1^2 L^2 \int_0^\tau \|S(t)x - S(t)y\|^2 dt \\ & \geq \frac{1}{2}K_\tau \|x - y\|^2 - M_1^2 L^2 \int_0^\tau 2M^2 e^{2(\omega + \alpha^2(t)L^2)t} \|x - y\|^2 dt \\ & \geq \frac{1}{2}K_\tau \|x - y\|^2 - 2M_1^2 L^2 M^2 \tau e^{2(\omega + \alpha^2(\tau)L^2)\tau} \|x - y\|^2 \\ & = J_\tau \|x - y\|^2, \end{aligned} \quad (4.13)$$

where  $J_\tau = \frac{1}{2}K_\tau - 2M_1^2 L^2 M^2 \tau e^{2(\omega + \alpha^2(\tau)L^2)\tau}$ .

Let  $L \leq 1$ . Then

$$J_\tau = \frac{1}{2}K_\tau - 2M_1^2 L^2 M^2 \tau e^{2(\omega + \alpha^2(\tau)L^2)\tau} \geq \frac{1}{2}K_\tau - 2M_1^2 L^2 M^2 \tau e^{2(\omega + \alpha^2(\tau))\tau}.$$

Take

$$L_0 = \min\left\{1, \frac{\sqrt{\tau K_\tau}}{2M_1 M \tau e^{2(\omega + \alpha^2(\tau))\tau}}\right\},$$

and therefore,  $J_\tau > 0$  when  $L < L_0$ . So  $(S(t), C)$  is also  $\tau$ -exactly observable.

Statement (ii) can be proved by the same method as above.  $\square$

**Corollary 4.9.** *Suppose that the assumptions of Theorem 4.4 are satisfied, and that  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  and  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$  are exponentially stable.*

(i) *If  $(A, C)$  given by (4.5) is exactly observable, then there exists a constant  $L_0 > 0$  such that  $(S(t), C)$  is also exactly observable when the Lipschitz constant  $L$  in (3.2) satisfies  $L < L_0$ .*

(ii) *If  $(S(t), C)$  is exactly observable, then there exists a constant  $L_1 > 0$  such that  $(A, C)$  is also exactly observable when  $L < L_1$ .*

## 5. EXAMPLES

**Example 5.1.** Consider the beam equation with boundary control

$$\begin{aligned} w_{tt}(x, t) + w_{xxxx}(x, t) &= 0, \\ w(0, t) = w_x(0, t) = w_{xx}(1, t) &= 0, \\ w_{xxx}(1, t) &= u(t), \end{aligned} \quad (5.1)$$

with the output function

$$y(t) = w_t(1, t). \quad (5.2)$$

Guo and Luo [9] proved that the system (5.2) can be rewritten as a regular linear system  $\Sigma(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C})$  with well-defined operators  $\mathcal{A}$ ,  $\mathcal{B}$  and  $\mathcal{C}$  on  $(H, U, U)$ , and system state  $x(t) = (w, w_t)$ , where  $H = D(A^{1/2}) \times L^2(0, 1)$  and  $U = \mathbb{C}$ . In addition, in the same paper, they also proved that the observation system  $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{C})$  is exactly observable on some  $[0, T], T > 0$ .

System (5.1) and (5.2) with  $u = f(w_t(1, t))$ , where  $f(\cdot)$  is a globally Lipschitz continuous function with Lipschitz constant  $L$ , can be rewritten as the abstract form (1.2) and (1.3) with  $F(x(t)) = f(w_t(1, t))$ . It is clear that  $F$  is a globally Lipschitz continuous function with Lipschitz constant  $L$ . Therefore, by Theorems 4.4 and 4.8,  $\mathcal{C}$  is an admissible observation operator for nonlinear Semigroup  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$ , the solution semigroup of (5.1) with  $u = f(w_t(1, t))$ , and the semilinear problem (5.1) and (5.2) with  $u = f(w_t(1, t))$  is exactly observable in time  $T > 0$  when the Lipschitz constant  $L$  is small enough.

**Example 5.2.** Consider the Schrödinger equation with nonlinear boundary perturbation described by

$$\begin{aligned} w_t(x, t) + i\Delta w(x, t) &= 0, & x \in \Omega, t > 0, \\ w(x, t) &= 0, & x \in \Gamma_1, t \geq 0, \\ w(x, t) &= u(x, t), & x \in \Gamma_0, t \geq 0, \\ y(x, t) &= i \frac{\partial(\Delta^{-1}w)}{\partial\nu} & x \in \Gamma_0, t \geq 0, \end{aligned} \quad (5.3)$$

where  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n \geq 2$  is an open bounded region with smooth  $C^3$ -boundary  $\partial\Omega = \overline{\Gamma_0} \cup \overline{\Gamma_1}$ .  $\Gamma_0$  and  $\Gamma_1$  are disjoint parts of the boundary relatively open in  $\partial\Omega$  and  $\text{int}(\Gamma_0) \neq \emptyset$ .  $\nu$  is the unit normal vector of  $\Gamma_0$  pointing towards the exterior of  $\Gamma$ .  $u$  is the input function and  $y$  is the output function. Let  $H = H^{-1}(\Omega)$  be the state space and  $U = L^2(\Gamma_0)$  the input or output space. Guo and Shao [12] proved that the system (5.3) can be rewritten as a regular linear system  $\Sigma(A, B, C)$  with well-defined operators  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  on  $(H, U, U)$ . In addition, Lasiecka and Triggiani [16] proved that the system (5.3) with  $u = 0$  is exactly observable at some  $\tau > 0$ .

System (5.3) with  $u = F(w(x, t))$ , where  $F(\cdot)$  is a globally Lipschitz continuous function with Lipschitz constant  $L$ , can be rewritten as the abstract form (1.2) and (1.3). Therefore, by Theorems 4.4 and 4.8,  $\mathcal{C}$  is an admissible observation operator for nonlinear semigroup  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$ , where  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$  is the solution semigroup of (5.3) with  $u = F(w(x, t))$ , and the semilinear problem (5.3) with  $u = F(w(x, t))$  is exactly observable in some time  $\tau > 0$  when the Lipschitz constant  $L$  is small enough.

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