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We consider perturbations  $u$  (starting at  $t = 0$ ) in general and concrete systems  $S$ , caused by rapidly varying boundary inputs. We study boundary controls starting at  $t = t_1 > 0$  having as objective to obtain either:

- (i) total stabilization in finite time  $\tau$  steering  $u$  into  $u_1$  after  $t_1$ , with  $u_1 = 0$  after  $t_1 + \tau$ ;
- (ii) “high order” exponential decay after  $t_1 + \tau$ , estimating  $\tau$  needed to bring maximum amplitudes below  $\epsilon > 0$  given with preassigned order of exponential decay, for  $u_1$  after  $t_1 + \tau$ .

We show that together with regular functions, distributions and hyperfunctions can be used to obtain “instantaneous” stabilizing effects.

In (i) and (ii) (besides PDE and semigroups methods), Laplace transforms  $\mathcal{L}\psi$  of regular or generalized functions  $\psi$ , and their behavior on the spectra of operators  $A$  associated to systems  $S$  as mentioned above, play an essential role. (Received September 24, 2000)