A GENERALIZED CONSERVED PHASE-FIELD SYSTEM
BASED ON TYPE III HEAT CONDUCTION

By
ALAIN MIRANVILLE

Université de Poitiers Laboratoire de Mathématiques et Applications UMR CNRS 7348 - SP2MI
Boulevard Marie et Pierre Curie - Téléport 2 F-86962 Chasseneuil Futuroscope Cedex, France

Abstract. In this paper, we are interested in the study of the asymptotic behavior, in terms of finite-dimensional attractors, of a generalization of the conserved phase-field system proposed by G. Caginalp. This model is based on a heat conduction law recently proposed in the context of thermoelasticity and known as type III law. In particular, we prove the existence of exponential attractors and, thus, of finite-dimensional global attractors.

1. Introduction. G. Caginalp introduced in [6] (see also [7]) the following phase-field system:

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \Delta^2 u - \Delta f(u) &= -\Delta \theta, \\
\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} - \Delta \theta &= -\frac{\partial u}{\partial t},
\end{align*}
\]

where \( u \) is the order parameter and \( \theta \) is the (relative) temperature. These equations model phase transition processes such as melting/solidification and have been studied, e.g., in [3], [4] and [22]; see also, e.g., [1], [11], [12], [18], [34] and [35] for a similar phase-field model with a memory term. Equations (1.1)-(1.2) consist of the coupling of the Cahn-Hilliard equation introduced in [8] and [9] with the heat equation.

These equations are known as the conserved phase-field model in the sense that, when endowed with Neumann boundary conditions, the spatial average of the order parameter is a conserved quantity. Indeed, in that case, integrating (1.1) over the spatial domain \( \Omega \) (we assume, throughout this paper, that \( \Omega \) is a bounded and regular domain of \( \mathbb{R}^n \), \( n = 2 \) or 3), we have the conservation of mass,

\[
\langle u(t) \rangle = \langle u(0) \rangle, \quad t \geq 0,
\]

Received February 7, 2012 and, in revised form, April 25, 2012.
2010 Mathematics Subject Classification. Primary 35K55, 35J60.
Key words and phrases. Conserved phase-field model, type III heat conduction, well-posedness, exponential attractor, global attractor.
E-mail address: Alain.Miranville@math.univ-poitiers.fr

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where
\[ \langle . \rangle = \frac{1}{\text{Vol}(\Omega)} \int_{\Omega} \cdot \, dx \] (1.4)
denotes the spatial average. Furthermore, integrating (1.2) over \( \Omega \), we obtain
\[ \langle H(t) \rangle = \langle H(0) \rangle, \quad t \geq 0, \] (1.5)
where
\[ H = u + \theta \] (1.6)
is the enthalpy, which also yields, owing to (1.3), the conservation of the temperature,
\[ \langle \theta(t) \rangle = \langle \theta(0) \rangle, \quad t \geq 0. \] (1.7)
We note that the generalized heat equation (1.2) is based on the usual Fourier law for heat conduction. Indeed, we can rewrite this equation as
\[ \frac{\partial H}{\partial t} = -\text{div}q, \] (1.8)
where \( q \) is the thermal flux vector and, assuming the Fourier law
\[ q = -\nabla \theta, \] (1.9)
we recover (1.2).

Now, one drawback of the Fourier law is that it predicts that thermal signals propagate with an infinite speed, which violates causality (see, e.g., [10]).

Therefore, several alternative laws have been proposed and studied in [25], [26], [27], [28], [29], [30] and [31]; one essential feature of these alternative models is that one ends up with a second-order (in time) equation for the temperature. We note that these references deal with the (nonconserved) Caginalp model introduced in [5],
\[ \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \Delta u + f(u) = \theta, \] (1.10)
\[ \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} - \Delta \theta = -\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}, \] (1.11)
We consider in this paper the following generalization of the conserved Caginalp phase-field system:
\[ \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \Delta^2 u - \Delta f(u) = -\Delta \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}, \] (1.12)
\[ \frac{\partial^2 \alpha}{\partial t^2} - \Delta \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t} - \Delta \alpha = -\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}, \] (1.13)
associated with Neumann boundary conditions
\[ \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} = \frac{\partial \Delta u}{\partial \nu} = \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial \nu} = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma, \] (1.14)
where \( \Gamma \) is the boundary of \( \Omega \) and \( \nu \) is the unit outer normal to \( \Gamma \), with initial conditions
\[ u|_{t=0} = u_0, \quad \alpha|_{t=0} = \alpha_0, \quad \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}|_{t=0} = \alpha_1. \] (1.15)
In these equations, \( \alpha \) is the thermal displacement variable, defined by
\[ \alpha = \int_0^t \theta \, d\tau + \alpha_0 \left( \theta = \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t} \right) \] (1.16)
(here, \( \alpha_0 \) is a priori chosen arbitrarily).

Furthermore, they are obtained by considering the following heat conduction law:
\[
q = -k \nabla \alpha - k^* \nabla \theta, \quad k, \; k^* > 0. \tag{1.17}
\]

This law was derived in the context of an alternative treatment for a thermomechanical theory of deformable media proposed by A. E. Green and P. M. Naghdi in [23] and [24]. In particular, (1.13) follows from (1.8) and (1.17), taking \( k \) and \( k^* \) equal to one (recall that \( \theta = \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t} \)).

**Remark 1.1.** Actually, this system still has an infinite propagation speed, due to the parabolic nature of (1.12). A fully hyperbolic model, i.e., a hyperbolic relaxation of the equation for the order parameter, is considered in [26] in the nonconserved case for the Maxwell-Cattaneo law
\[
\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (q + \frac{\partial q}{\partial t}) = -\nabla \theta. \tag{1.18}
\]

However, the hyperbolic relaxation of the Cahn-Hilliard equation is a particularly difficult problem in space dimensions greater than one (see, e.g., [19], [20] and [21]).

Integrating (1.12) over \( \Omega \), we again have the conservation of mass,
\[
\langle u(t) \rangle = \langle u_0 \rangle, \; t \geq 0 \tag{1.19}
\]

and, integrating (1.13) over \( \Omega \), we recover the conservation of the enthalpy,
\[
\langle H(t) \rangle = \langle u(t) + \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}(t) \rangle = \langle H(0) \rangle = \langle u_0 + \alpha_1 \rangle, \; t \geq 0, \tag{1.20}
\]

and we have the conservation of the thermal displacement variable,
\[
\langle \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}(t) \rangle = \langle \alpha_1 \rangle, \; t \geq 0, \tag{1.21}
\]

which also yields
\[
\langle \alpha(t) \rangle = \langle \alpha_0 \rangle + t\langle \alpha_1 \rangle, \; t \geq 0. \tag{1.22}
\]

In particular, it follows from (1.22) that the variable \( \alpha \) is not dissipative in the sense that it is not bounded, independently of the initial conditions, for \( t \) large; we also note that, for every \( c \neq 0 \), \( (u, \alpha) = (0, ct) \) is solution to (1.12)-(1.14).

Our aim in this paper is to study the asymptotic behavior in terms of finite-dimensional attractors of the dynamical system associated with (1.12)-(1.15). In particular, we prove the existence of exponential attractors and, thus, of finite-dimensional global attractors.

**2. Setting of the problem.** We rewrite, in view of (1.19) and (1.20), the problem in the following (at least formally) equivalent form:
\[
\frac{\partial \bar{\pi}}{\partial t} + \Delta^2 \bar{\pi} - \Delta (f(u) - \langle f(u) \rangle) = -\Delta \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}, \tag{2.1}
\]
\[
\frac{\partial^2 \bar{\pi}}{\partial t^2} - \Delta \frac{\partial \bar{\pi}}{\partial t} - \Delta \bar{\pi} = -\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}, \tag{2.2}
\]
\[
\frac{\partial \bar{\pi}}{\partial \nu} = \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial \nu} = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma, \tag{2.3}
\]
\[
\bar{u}|_{t=0} = \bar{u}_0, \; \bar{\alpha}|_{t=0} = \bar{\alpha}_0, \; \frac{\partial \bar{\alpha}}{\partial t}|_{t=0} = \bar{\alpha}_1, \tag{2.4}
\]
where
\[ v = v - \langle v \rangle, \]
and we have
\[ u = \overline{u} + \langle u_0 \rangle, \quad \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial \overline{\alpha}}{\partial t} + \langle \alpha_1 \rangle, \]
\[ \alpha = \overline{\alpha} + \langle \alpha_0 \rangle + t \langle \alpha_1 \rangle. \]

As far as the nonlinear term is concerned, we make the following assumptions:
\[ f \text{ is of class } C^2, \quad f(0) = 0, \]
\[ f'(s) \geq -c_0, \quad c_0 \geq 0, \quad s \in \mathbb{R}, \]
\[ f(s) \geq c_1 F(s) - c_2, \quad F(s) \geq -c_3, \quad c_1, c_2, c_3 \geq 0, \quad s \in \mathbb{R}, \]
\[ |f(s)| \leq \epsilon F(s) + c_4, \quad \forall \epsilon > 0, \quad s \in \mathbb{R}, \]
where \( F(s) = \int_0^s f(\tau) d\tau \).

Remark 2.1. In particular, these assumptions are satisfied by polynomials of degree \( 2p + 1 \) with a strictly positive leading coefficient, \( p \geq 1 \) (and, of course, by the usual cubic nonlinear term \( f(s) = s^3 - s \)).

Remark 2.2. We can also endow (1.12)-(1.13) with Dirichlet boundary conditions,
\[ u = \Delta u = \alpha = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma. \]
In that case, we do not need assumption (2.11).

We denote by \( \| \cdot \| \) the usual \( L^2 \)-norm with associated scalar product \((\cdot, \cdot)\), and we note that
\[ v \mapsto (\|v\|_{-1}^2 + \langle v \rangle^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \]
where \( \| \cdot \|_{-1} = \|(-\Delta)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \| \), \( -\Delta \) denoting the minus Laplace operator with Neumann boundary conditions and acting on functions with null average, is a norm in \( H^{-1}(\Omega) = H^1(\Omega)' \) which is equivalent to the usual \( H^{-1} \)-one; it is understood here that
\[ \langle \cdot \rangle = \frac{1}{\text{Vol}(\Omega)} (\langle \cdot, 1 \rangle)_{H^{-1}(\Omega), H^1(\Omega)}. \]

We also note that
\[ v \mapsto (\|v\|^2 + \langle v \rangle^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \]
\[ v \mapsto (\|\nabla v\|^2 + \langle v \rangle^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \]
and
\[ v \mapsto (\|\Delta v\|^2 + \langle v \rangle^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \]
are norms in \( L^2(\Omega), \ H^1(\Omega) \) and \( H^2(\Omega) \), respectively, which are equivalent to the usual ones. We further have the generalized Poincaré inequality
\[ \|v\| \leq c \|\nabla v\|, \quad \forall v \in H^1(\Omega). \]

Finally, we denote by \( \| \cdot \|_X \) the norm in the Banach space \( X \).

Throughout this paper, the same letter \( c \) (and, sometimes, \( c', c'' \) and \( c''' \)) denotes constants which may vary from line to line, or even in the same line. Similarly, the same letter \( Q \) denotes monotone increasing (with respect to each argument) functions which may vary from line to line, or even in the same line.
3. A priori estimates. We assume that
\[ |\langle u_0 \rangle| \leq M_1, \ |\langle \alpha_1 \rangle| \leq M_2 \] (3.1)
for fixed positive constants \( M_1 \) and \( M_2 \), which yields, owing to (1.19), (1.21) and (1.22),
\[ |\langle u(t) \rangle| \leq M_1, \ |\langle \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t} \rangle| \leq M_2, \ t \geq 0 \] (3.2)
and
\[ |\langle \alpha(t) \rangle| \leq |\langle \alpha_0 \rangle| + tM_1, \ t \geq 0. \] (3.3)
We rewrite (2.1) in the following equivalent form:
\[ (-\Delta)^{-1} \frac{\partial \varpi}{\partial t} - \Delta \varpi + f(u) - \langle f(u) \rangle = \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}. \] (3.4)
We multiply (3.4) by \( \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \) and have, integrating over \( \Omega \) and by parts,
\[ \frac{d}{dt} (\|\nabla u\|^2 + 2 \int_{\Omega} F(u) \, dx) + 2 \|\nabla \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|_{-1}^2 = 2 (\langle \frac{\partial \varpi}{\partial t}, \frac{\partial \varpi}{\partial t} \rangle). \] (3.5)
We then multiply (2.2) by \( \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t} \) and obtain
\[ \frac{d}{dt} (\|\nabla \alpha\|^2 + \|\nabla \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2) + 2 \|\nabla \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2 = -2 (\langle \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}, \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \rangle). \] (3.6)
Summing (3.5) and (3.6), we find
\[ \frac{dE_1}{dt} + 2 (\|\nabla \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|_{-1}^2 + \|\nabla \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2) = 0, \] (3.7)
where
\[ E_1 = \|\nabla u\|^2 + 2 \int_{\Omega} F(u) \, dx + \|\nabla \alpha\|^2 + \|\nabla \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2. \] (3.8)
We now multiply (3.4) by \( \varpi \) and have, owing to (2.10), (2.11) and (2.12),
\[ \frac{d}{dt} \|\varpi\|_{-1}^2 + \|\nabla u\|^2 + c \int_{\Omega} F(u) \, dx \leq c' \|\nabla \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2 + c_{M_1}', \ c > 0. \] (3.9)
Summing (3.7) and \( \delta_1 \) times (3.9), where \( \delta_1 > 0 \) is small enough, we obtain
\[ \frac{dE_2}{dt} + c (\|\nabla u\|^2 + 2 \int_{\Omega} F(u) \, dx + \|\nabla \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|_{-1}^2 + \|\nabla \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2) \leq c_{M_1}', \ c > 0, \] (3.10)
where
\[ E_2 = E_1 + \delta_1 \|\varpi\|_{-1}^2. \] (3.11)
We multiply (2.2) by \( \alpha \) and find, owing to (2.12),
\[ \frac{d}{dt} (\|\nabla \alpha\|^2 + 2 (\langle \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}, \alpha \rangle)) + \|\nabla u\|^2 \leq \|\nabla \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|_{-1}^2 + c \|\nabla \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2. \] (3.12)
We sum (3.10) and \( \delta_2 \) times (3.12), where \( \delta_2 > 0 \) is small enough, and we get
\[ \frac{dE_3}{dt} + c (E_3 + \|\nabla \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|_{-1}^2 + \|\nabla \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2) \leq c_{M_1}', \ c > 0, \] (3.13)
where
\[ E_3 = E_2 + \delta_2 (\|\nabla \alpha\|^2 + 2 (\langle \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}, \alpha \rangle)). \] (3.14)
We finally multiply (2.1) by \( \overline{u} \) to obtain, owing to (2.8), (2.9) and (2.12),
\[
\frac{d}{dt} \|u\|^2 + \|\Delta u\|^2 \leq c(\|\nabla u\|^2 + \|\nabla \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|^2). \tag{3.15}
\]
We now multiply (2.1) by \( \delta_3 \) times (3.23), where \( \delta_3 > 0 \) is small enough, and find, setting
\[
E_4 = E_3 + \delta_3 \|\overline{u}\|^2 + \langle u \rangle^2 + \langle \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t} \rangle^2,
\]
an inequality of the form
\[
\frac{dE_4}{dt} + c(E_4 + \|u\|^2_{H^2(\Omega)} + \|\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|^2_1 + \|\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)}) \leq c'M_{1,M_2}, \quad c > 0,
\]
where \( E_4 \) satisfies
\[
c(\|u\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)} + \int_{\Omega} F(u) \, dx + \|\overline{u}\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)} + \|\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)}) \leq E_4 \tag{3.18}
\]
\[
\leq c''(\|u\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)} + \int_{\Omega} F(u) \, dx + \|\overline{u}\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)} + \|\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)}) + c'M_{1,M_2}, \quad c, \quad c' > 0.
\]
In particular, we deduce from (3.17) and (3.18) the dissipative inequality
\[
E_4(t) \leq ce^{-c't}(\|u_0\|^2_{H^2(\Omega)} + \int_{\Omega} F(u_0) \, dx + \|\overline{u_0}\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)} + \|\alpha_1\|^2) + c'M_{1,M_2}, \quad c' > 0, \quad t \geq 0.
\]
Furthermore,
\[
\int_{t}^{t+1} (\|u\|^2_{H^2(\Omega)} + \|\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|^2_1 + \|\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)}) \, d\tau \tag{3.20}
\]
\[
\leq ce^{-c't}(\|u_0\|^2_{H^2(\Omega)} + \int_{\Omega} F(u_0) \, dx + \|\overline{u_0}\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)} + \|\alpha_1\|^2) + c'M_{1,M_2}, \quad c' > 0, \quad t \geq 0.
\]
We now multiply (2.1) by \( \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t} \) and have, owing to (2.8) and the continuous embedding \( H^1(\Omega) \subset C(\Omega) \),
\[
\frac{d}{dt} \|\Delta u\|^2 + \|\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|^2 \leq Q(\|u\|_{H^2(\Omega)}) + 2((\nabla \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}, \nabla \frac{\partial u}{\partial t})). \tag{3.21}
\]
Multiplying then (2.2) by \( -\Delta \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t} \), we obtain
\[
\frac{d}{dt} (\|\Delta \alpha\|^2 + \|\nabla \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2) + \|\Delta \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2 = -2((\nabla \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}, \nabla \frac{\partial u}{\partial t})). \tag{3.22}
\]
Summing finally (3.21) and (3.22), we find
\[
\frac{d}{dt} (\|\Delta u\|^2 + \|\Delta \alpha\|^2 + \|\nabla \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2 + \|\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|^2 + \|\Delta \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2 \leq Q(\|u\|_{H^2(\Omega)}). \tag{3.23}
\]
In particular, setting
\[
y = \langle u \rangle^2 + \|\Delta u\|^2 + \|\Delta \alpha\|^2 + \|\nabla \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2 + \langle \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t} \rangle^2,
\]
we deduce from (3.23) an inequality of the form
\[
y' \leq Q_{M_1,M_2}(y). \tag{3.25}
\]
Let \( z \) be the solution to the ordinary differential equation
\[
z' = Q_{M_1,M_2}(z), \quad z(0) = y(0). \tag{3.26}
\]
It follows from the comparison principle that there exists $T_0 \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$ such that
\[ y(t) \leq z(t), \quad t \leq T_0, \]  
which yields
\[ y(t) \leq Q_{M_1, M_2}(\|u_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\sigma_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\alpha_1\|_{H^1(\Omega)}), \quad t \leq T_0, \]  
and hence
\[ \|u(t)\|_{H^2(\Omega)} + \|\sigma(t)\|_{H^2(\Omega)} + \|\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}(t)\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \]  
\[ \leq Q_{M_1, M_2}(\|u_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\sigma_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\alpha_1\|_{H^1(\Omega)}), \quad t \leq T_0. \]

We differentiate (3.4) with respect to time and have, owing to (2.2),
\[ (\Delta)^{-1} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \Delta \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + f'(u) \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - (f'(u) \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}) = \Delta \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t} + \Delta \alpha - \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}. \]  
We multiply (3.30) by $t \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}$ and obtain, owing to (2.4),
\[ \frac{d}{dt}(t \|\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|_{L^2}^2) + \frac{3}{2} \int \nabla \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \|^2 \leq c(t)(\|\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|^2 + \|\nabla \alpha\|^2 + \|\nabla \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2) + \|\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|_{L^2}^2, \]  
which yields, owing to the interpolation inequality
\[ \|\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|^2 \leq c\|\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|_{L^2} \|\nabla \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|, \]  
the following inequality:
\[ \frac{d}{dt}(t \|\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|_{L^2}^2) + \int \nabla \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \|^2 \leq c(t)(\|\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\nabla \alpha\|^2 + \|\nabla \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2) + \|\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|_{L^2}^2. \]  
We then deduce from (3.19), (3.20), (3.32) and Gronwall’s lemma that
\[ \|\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(t)\|^2 \leq \frac{1}{t} Q_{M_1, M_2}(\|u_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\sigma_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\alpha_1\|_{H^1(\Omega)}), \quad 0 < t \leq T_0. \]  
We now multiply (3.30) by $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}$ and find, proceeding as above,
\[ \frac{d}{dt}(\|\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|_{L^2}^2) + \int \nabla \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \|^2 \leq c(\|\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\nabla \alpha\|^2 + \|\nabla \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2), \]  
which yields, owing again to (3.19), (3.20) and Gronwall’s lemma,
\[ \|\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(t)\|^2 \leq e^{ct} Q_{M_1, M_2}(\|u_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\sigma_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\alpha_1\|_{H^1(\Omega)}) \|\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(T_0)\|^2, \quad t \geq T_0. \]  
Hence, in view of (3.33),
\[ \|\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(t)\|^2 \leq e^{ct} Q_{M_1, M_2}(\|u_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\sigma_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\alpha_1\|_{H^1(\Omega)}), \quad t \geq T_0. \]  
We rewrite, for $t \geq T_0$ fixed, (3.4) in the form
\[ -\Delta \pi + f(u) - \langle f(u) \rangle = h_u(t), \quad \frac{\partial \pi}{\partial \nu} = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma, \]  
where
\[ h_u(t) = -(-\Delta)^{-1} \frac{\partial \pi}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t} \]  
satisfies, owing to (3.19) and (3.35),
\[ \|h_u(t)\| \leq e^{ct} Q_{M_1, M_2}(\|u_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\sigma_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\alpha_1\|_{H^1(\Omega)}), \quad t \geq T_0. \]
We multiply (3.37) by $\overline{u}$ and have, owing to (2.10), (2.11) and (2.12),
\begin{equation}
\|\nabla u\|^2 + c \int_\Omega F(u) \, dx \leq c' \|h_u(t)\|^2 + c'_M, \quad c > 0.
\end{equation}
We then multiply (3.37) by $-\Delta\overline{u}$ and obtain, owing to (2.9),
\begin{equation}
\|\Delta u\|^2 \leq c(\|h_u(t)\|^2 + \|\nabla u\|^2).
\end{equation}

It thus follows from (3.39), (3.40) and (3.41) that
\begin{equation}
\|\Delta u(t)\|^2 \leq e^{ct} Q_{M_1,M_2}(\|u_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\overline{\alpha}_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\alpha_1\|_{H^1(\Omega)}), \quad t \geq T_0,
\end{equation}
and hence
\begin{equation}
\|u(t)\|_{H^2(\Omega)} \leq e^{ct} Q_{M_1,M_2}(\|u_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\overline{\alpha}_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\alpha_1\|_{H^1(\Omega)}), \quad t \geq T_0.
\end{equation}

We come back to (3.22), from which it follows that
\begin{equation}
\frac{d}{dt}(\|\Delta\alpha\|^2 + \|\nabla (\frac{\partial\alpha}{\partial t})\|^2) + \|\Delta (\frac{\partial\alpha}{\partial t})\|^2 \leq \|\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|^2.
\end{equation}
Noting that it follows from (3.19), (3.20), (3.34) and (3.36) that
\begin{equation}
\int_{T_0}^t \|\nabla (\frac{\partial\alpha}{\partial t})\|^2 \, d\tau \leq e^{ct} Q_{M_1,M_2}(\|u_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\overline{\alpha}_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\alpha_1\|_{H^1(\Omega)}), \quad t \geq T_0,
\end{equation}
we deduce from (3.44) and (3.45) that
\begin{equation}
\|\Delta\alpha(t)\|^2 + \|\nabla (\frac{\partial\alpha}{\partial t}(t))\|^2 \leq e^{ct} Q_{M_1,M_2}(\|u_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\overline{\alpha}_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\alpha_1\|_{H^1(\Omega)}),
\end{equation}
\begin{equation}
+ \|\Delta\alpha(T_0)\|^2 + \|\nabla (\frac{\partial\alpha}{\partial t}(T_0))\|^2, \quad t \geq T_0;
\end{equation}
hence, owing to (3.29),
\begin{equation}
\|\overline{\alpha}(t)\|_{H^2(\Omega)} + \|\frac{\partial\alpha}{\partial t}(t)\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq e^{ct} Q_{M_1,M_2}(\|u_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\overline{\alpha}_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\alpha_1\|_{H^1(\Omega)}), \quad t \geq T_0.
\end{equation}
We finally deduce from (3.29), (3.43) and (3.46) that
\begin{equation}
\|u(t)\|_{H^2(\Omega)} + \|\overline{\alpha}(t)\|_{H^2(\Omega)} + \|\frac{\partial\alpha}{\partial t}(t)\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq e^{ct} Q_{M_1,M_2}(\|u_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\overline{\alpha}_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\alpha_1\|_{H^1(\Omega)}), \quad t \geq 0.
\end{equation}
We then note that it follows from (3.20) that
\begin{equation}
\int_0^1 (\|u\|^2_{H^2(\Omega)} + \|\frac{\partial\alpha}{\partial t}\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)}) \, d\tau \leq c(\|u_0\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)} + \int_\Omega F(u_0) \, dx + \|\overline{\alpha}_0\|^2_{H^2(\Omega)} + \|\alpha_1\|^2) + c'_M,M_2.
\end{equation}
Therefore, there exists $T \in (0,1)$ such that
\begin{equation}
\|u(T)\|_{H^2(\Omega)} + \|\frac{\partial\alpha}{\partial t}(T)\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq c(\|u_0\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)} + \int_\Omega F(u_0) \, dx + \|\overline{\alpha}_0\|^2_{H^2(\Omega)} + \|\alpha_1\|^2) + c'_M,M_2.
\end{equation}
Actually, proceeding similarly but starting from \( t = T \) instead of \( t = 0 \), we can see that (3.19) holds for \( t = 1 \):

\[
\|u(1)\|^2_{H^2(\Omega)} + \|\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}(1)\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq Q(\|u_0\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)} + \int_{\Omega} F(u_0) \, dx + \|\overline{\alpha}_0\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)} + \|\alpha_1\|^2) + c'_{M_1,M_2}. \tag{3.50}
\]

We can now repeat the same calculations to find

\[
\|u(t)\|^2_{H^2(\Omega)} + \|\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}(t)\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq Q(\|u(t-1)\|^2_{H^2(\Omega)} + \int_{\Omega} F(u(t-1)) \, dx + \|\overline{\alpha}(t-1)\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)} + \|\partial \alpha(t-1)\|^2) + c'_{M_1,M_2}, \quad t \geq 1,
\]

where the constants are independent of \( t \); hence, owing to (3.19),

\[
\|u(t)\|^2_{H^2(\Omega)} + \|\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}(t)\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq e^{-ct}Q_{M_1,M_2}(\|u_0\|^2_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\overline{\alpha}_0\|^2_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\alpha_1\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)}) + c'_{M_1,M_2}, \quad t \geq 1.
\tag{3.51}
\]

We now note that it follows from (3.23) and (3.53) that

\[
\frac{d}{dt}(\|\partial \alpha\|^2 + \|\Delta \alpha\|^2 + \|\nabla \partial \alpha\|^2) + \|\partial \alpha\|^2 + \|\Delta \partial \alpha\|^2 \leq e^{-ct}Q_{M_1,M_2}(\|u_0\|^2_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\overline{\alpha}_0\|^2_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\alpha_1\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)}) + c'_{M_1,M_2}, \quad c > 0, \quad t \geq 0.
\tag{3.52}
\]

Multiplying then (2.2) by \(-\Delta \overline{\alpha}\), we have

\[
\frac{d}{dt}(\|\Delta \alpha\|^2 + 2\|\Delta \alpha\| + \|\nabla \partial \alpha\|^2) + \|\Delta \partial \alpha\|^2 \leq \|\partial \alpha\|^2 + 2\|\nabla \partial \alpha\|^2.
\tag{3.53}
\]

Summing (3.18), (3.54) and \( \delta_4 \) times (3.55), where \( \delta_4 > 0 \) is small enough, we finally obtain

\[
\frac{dE_5}{dt} + c(E_5 + \|\partial \alpha\|^2 + \|\nabla \partial \alpha\|^2) \leq e^{-ct}Q_{M_1,M_2}(\|u_0\|^2_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\overline{\alpha}_0\|^2_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\alpha_1\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)}) + c'_{M_1,M_2}, \quad c, \quad c' > 0, \quad t \geq 0,
\tag{3.56}
\]

where

\[
E_5 = E_4 + \|\Delta u\|^2 + \|\Delta \alpha\|^2 + \|\nabla \partial \alpha\|^2 + \delta_4(\|\Delta \alpha\|^2 + 2\|\Delta \alpha\| + \|\nabla \partial \alpha\|^2)
\tag{3.57}
\]

satisfies

\[
\|u\|^2_{H^2(\Omega)} + \int_{\Omega} F(u) \, dx + \|\overline{\alpha}\|^2_{H^2(\Omega)} + \|\partial \alpha\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq E_5 \tag{3.58}
\]

\[
\leq e^{-ct}Q_{M_1,M_2}(\|u_0\|^2_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\overline{\alpha}_0\|^2_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\alpha_1\|^2_{H^1(\Omega)}) + c''_{M_1,M_2}, \quad c, \quad c'' > 0.
\]
Noting that, in (3.56), we can choose the constant $c'$ such that $c' > c$, we finally deduce from (3.56) the dissipative estimate

$$
\|u(t)\|_{H^2(\Omega)}^2 + \|\overline{\alpha}(t)\|_{H^2(\Omega)}^2 + \|\partial^\alpha_\partial t(t)\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2 \leq e^{-ct}Q_{M_1,M_2}(\|u_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\overline{\alpha}_0\|_{H^2(\Omega)}, \|\alpha_1\|_{H^1(\Omega)}) + c'M_1,M_2, \ c > 0, \ t \geq 0.
$$

(3.59)

4. The dissipative semigroup. We introduce the following spaces:

$$
\Phi = H^1_0(\Omega) \times H^1_0(\Omega) \times L^2(\Omega),
$$

$$
\Psi = (H^2(\Omega) \cap H^1_0(\Omega)) \times (H^2(\Omega) \cap H^1_0(\Omega)) \times H^1_0(\Omega),
$$

$$
\Phi_{M_1,M_2} = \{(\varphi, \psi, \theta) \in \Phi, \ |\langle \varphi \rangle| \leq M_1, \ |\langle \psi \rangle| \leq M_2\},
$$

$$
\Psi_{M_1,M_2} = \{(\varphi, \psi) \in \Phi_{M_1,M_2}, \langle \psi \rangle = 0\},
$$

where $M_1$ and $M_2$ are fixed positive constants. We have

**Theorem 4.1.** We assume that $(u_0, \alpha_0, \alpha_1) \in \Psi_{M_1,M_2}$. Then, (1.12)-(1.15) possesses a unique solution such that $(u(t), \alpha(t), \partial^\alpha_\partial t(t)) \in \Psi_{M_1,M_2}, \forall t \geq 0$.

**Proof.** The proof of existence is based on (2.7), (3.59) and, e.g., a standard Galerkin scheme.

Let now $(u^{(1)}(t), \alpha^{(1)}(t), \partial^\alpha_{(1)}_\partial t(t))$ and $(u^{(2)}(t), \alpha^{(2)}(t), \partial^\alpha_{(2)}_\partial t(t))$ be two solutions to (1.12)-(1.14) with initial data $(u_{0,1}, \alpha_{0,1}, \alpha_{1,1})$ and $(u_{0,2}, \alpha_{0,2}, \alpha_{1,2})$, respectively. We set

$$
(u, \alpha, \partial^\alpha_\partial t) = (u^{(1)}(t), \alpha^{(1)}(t), \partial^\alpha_{(1)}_\partial t(t)) - (u^{(2)}(t), \alpha^{(2)}(t), \partial^\alpha_{(2)}_\partial t(t))
$$

and

$$
(u_0, \alpha_0, \alpha_1) = (u_{0,1}, \alpha_{0,1}, \alpha_{1,1}) - (u_{0,2}, \alpha_{0,2}, \alpha_{1,2}).
$$

We have

$$
(-\Delta)^{-1}\partial^\alpha_\partial t - \Delta u + f(u^{(1)}) - f(u^{(2)}) - (f(u^{(1)}) - f(u^{(2)})) = \partial^\alpha_\partial t, \quad (4.1)
$$

$$
\partial^2^\alpha_\partial t^2 - \Delta \partial^\alpha_\partial t - \Delta \overline{\alpha} = -\partial^\alpha_\partial t, \quad (4.2)
$$

$$
\partial_\nu u = \partial^\alpha_\nu = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma, \quad (4.3)
$$

$$
u|t=0 = u_0, \overline{\alpha}|t=0 = \overline{\alpha}_0, \partial^\alpha_\partial t|t=0 = \alpha_1. \quad (4.4)
$$

We multiply (4.4) by $\partial^\alpha_\partial t$ and obtain

$$
\frac{d}{dt}\|\nabla u\|^2 + \|\partial^\alpha_\partial t\|^2 - 2((f(u^{(1)}) - f(u^{(2)}), \partial^\alpha_\partial t) = (\partial^\alpha_\partial t, \overline{\alpha}_0, \partial^\alpha_\partial t|t=0) = \alpha_1. \quad (4.5)
$$

We then multiply (4.2) by $\partial^\alpha_\partial t$ and find

$$
\frac{d}{dt}(\|\nabla \alpha\|^2 + \|\partial^\alpha_\partial t\|^2) + \|\nabla \partial^\alpha_\partial t\|^2 = -(\partial^\alpha_\partial t, \overline{\alpha}_0, \partial^\alpha_\partial t|t=0). \quad (4.6)
$$
Summing (4.5) and (4.6), we have
\[
\frac{d}{dt}(\|\nabla u\|^2 + \|\nabla \alpha\|^2 + \|\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2) + \|\nabla \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|^2 - \|\nabla \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2 \leq \|\nabla(f(u^{(1)}) - f(u^{(2)}))\|^2.
\]  
(4.7)
Noting that, owing to (3.59) and H"{o}lder’s inequality,
\[
\frac{d}{dt}(\|\nabla u\|^2 + \|\nabla \alpha\|^2 + \|\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2) + \|\nabla \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|^2 \leq \|\nabla(f(u^{(1)}) - f(u^{(2)}))\|^2.
\]  
(4.8)
we finally obtain, setting where we have omitted the arguments of the function
\[
\frac{d}{dt}(\|\nabla u\|^2 + \|\nabla \alpha\|^2 + \|\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2) = \|\nabla(f(u^{(1)}) - f(u^{(2)}))\|^2.
\]  
(4.9)
\[E_5 = (u)^2 + \|\nabla \alpha\|^2 + \|\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2 + \|\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|^2 + \|\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|^2.
\]
(4.10)
we deduce from (4.11) and (4.12) the uniqueness as well as the continuous dependence with respect to the initial data.

\textbf{Remark 4.2.} We note that, even though it is hyperbolic, (1.13) exhibits some partial regularization effect. Indeed, it follows from (4.17) and (3.59) that the variable \(\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\) is regularizing. Note that this is expected, since rewriting (1.13) in the form
\[
\frac{\partial \beta}{\partial t} - \Delta \beta - \Delta \alpha = -\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}, \beta = \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t},
\]
we have a parabolic equation.
In particular, it follows from Theorem 4.1 that we can define the family of solving operators
\[ S(t) : \Psi \to \Psi, \quad (u_0, \alpha_0, \alpha_1) \mapsto (u(t), \alpha(t), \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}(t)), \quad t \geq 0, \]
which forms a continuous (for the topology of \( \Phi \)) semigroup (i.e., \( S(0) = I, \ S(t + s) = S(t) \circ S(s), \ t, \ s \geq 0 \)).

Now, as mentioned in the introduction, the variable \( \alpha \) is not dissipative, so that \( S(t) \) is also not dissipative. However, introducing the family of operators
\[ \overline{S}(t) : (u_0, \alpha_0, \alpha_1) \mapsto (u(t), \alpha(t), \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}(t)), \quad t \geq 0, \]
we deduce from (3.59) the following

**Theorem 4.3.** The family of operators \( \overline{S}(t) \) forms a continuous and dissipative semigroup in \( \Psi_{M_1, M_2} \).

We also recall

**Definition 4.4.** The semigroup \( \overline{S}(t) \) is dissipative in the Banach space \( X \) if there exists a bounded set \( B_0 \subset X \) (called an absorbing set) such that, for every \( B \subset X \) bounded, there exists \( t_0 = t_0(B) \) such that \( t \geq t_0 \) implies \( \overline{S}(t)B \subset B_0 \).

**Remark 4.5.** It is easy to see that we can assume, without loss of generality, that \( B_0 \) is positively invariant by \( S(t) \); i.e., \( S(t)B_0 \subset B_0, \ \forall t \geq 0 \).

**Remark 4.6.** It follows from (1.22) that the semigroup \( S(t) \) is continuous and dissipative in
\[ \Psi_{M_1, M_2} = \{ (\varphi, \psi, \theta) \in \Psi, \ |\langle \varphi \rangle| \leq M_1, \ |\langle \psi \rangle| \leq M_2, \ \langle \theta \rangle = 0 \} \]
for fixed constants \( M_1 \) and \( M_2 \).

**5. Existence of exponential attractors.** We first derive an asymptotic smoothing property on the difference of two solutions that is one of the key tools to construct exponential attractors (see [14], [15], [16], [17], [32] and [33]).

Let \( (u^{(1)}, \alpha^{(1)}, \frac{\partial \alpha^{(1)}}{\partial t}) \) and \( (u^{(2)}, \alpha^{(2)}, \frac{\partial \alpha^{(2)}}{\partial t}) \) be two solutions to (1.12)-(1.14) with initial data \( (u_{0,1}, \alpha_{0,1}, \alpha_{1,1}) \) and \( (u_{0,2}, \alpha_{0,2}, \alpha_{1,2}) \), respectively. We set
\[ (u, \alpha, \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}) = (u^{(1)}, \alpha^{(1)}, \frac{\partial \alpha^{(1)}}{\partial t}) - (u^{(2)}, \alpha^{(2)}, \frac{\partial \alpha^{(2)}}{\partial t}) \]
and
\[ (u_0, \alpha_0, \alpha_1) = (u_{0,1}, \alpha_{0,1}, \alpha_{1,1}) - (u_{0,2}, \alpha_{0,2}, \alpha_{1,2}). \]
We note that, owing to the transitivity of the exponential attraction (see [17]), it suffices to take \( (u_0, \alpha_0, \alpha_1) \) in the bounded absorbing set \( B_0 \) constructed in the previous section. We have
\[ (-\Delta)^{-1} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \Delta u + f(u^{(1)}) - f(u^{(2)}) - \langle f(u^{(1)}) - f(u^{(2)}) \rangle = \frac{\partial \overline{\alpha}}{\partial t}, \quad (5.1) \]
\[ \frac{\partial^2 \overline{\alpha}}{\partial t^2} - \Delta \frac{\partial \overline{\alpha}}{\partial t} - \Delta \overline{\alpha} = -\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}, \quad (5.2) \]
\[ \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} = \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial \nu} = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma, \quad (5.3) \]
We write \((u, \alpha, \partial \alpha / \partial t) = (v, a, \partial a / \partial t) + (w, b, \partial w / \partial t)\), where \((v, a, \partial a / \partial t)\) and \((w, b, \partial w / \partial t)\) are solutions to

\[
(-\Delta)^{-1} \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} - \Delta v = \frac{\partial a}{\partial t},
\]

\[
\frac{\partial^2 a}{\partial t^2} - \Delta \frac{\partial a}{\partial t} - \Delta a = -\frac{\partial v}{\partial t},
\]

\[
\frac{\partial v}{\partial \nu} = \frac{\partial b}{\partial \nu} = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma,
\]

\[
v|_{t=0} = u_0, \quad a|_{t=0} = \alpha_0, \quad \frac{\partial b}{\partial t}|_{t=0} = \alpha_1,
\]

and

\[
(-\Delta)^{-1} \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} - \Delta u + f(u^{(1)}) - f(u^{(2)}) - \langle f(u^{(1)}) - f(u^{(2)}) \rangle = \frac{\partial b}{\partial t},
\]

\[
\frac{\partial^2 b}{\partial t^2} - \Delta \frac{\partial b}{\partial t} - \Delta b = -\frac{\partial w}{\partial t},
\]

\[
\frac{\partial w}{\partial \nu} = \frac{\partial b}{\partial \nu} = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma,
\]

\[
w|_{t=0} = 0, \quad b|_{t=0} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial b}{\partial t}|_{t=0} = 0.
\]

First, repeating the estimates performed in Section 3 for \(f \equiv 0\), we easily obtain an inequality of the form

\[
\frac{dE_6}{dt} + cE_6 \leq 0, \quad c > 0,
\]

where

\[
c(\|v\|_{H^2(\Omega)}^2 + \|a\|_{H^2(\Omega)}^2 + \|\frac{\partial a}{\partial t}\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2) \leq E_6 \leq c'(\|v\|_{H^2(\Omega)}^2 + \|a\|_{H^2(\Omega)}^2 + \|\frac{\partial a}{\partial t}\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2), \quad c, \ c' > 0,
\]

which yields

\[
E_6(t) \leq e^{-ct} E_6(0), \quad c > 0, \quad t \geq 0.
\]

Next, we note that, proceeding exactly as in the previous section, we have

\[
\|f(u^{(1)}) - f(u^{(2)}) - \langle f(u^{(1)}) - f(u^{(2)}) \rangle\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq c\|\nabla u\|,
\]

where the constant \(c\) only depends on \(B_0\).

Similarly, rewriting \(5.9\) in the form

\[
(-\Delta)^{-1} \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} - \Delta u = \frac{\partial b}{\partial t} + g,
\]

where

\[
g = -\langle f(u^{(1)}) - f(u^{(2)}) - \langle f(u^{(1)}) - f(u^{(2)}) \rangle \rangle,
\]

we have, performing again the same estimates as in Section 3 (with \(f \equiv 0\) and \(g\) acting as a forcing term; note that \(\langle g \rangle = 0\)), we obtain an inequality of the form

\[
\frac{dE_7}{dt} \leq c\|g\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2,
\]
where
\[ c(\|w\|_{H^2(\Omega)}^2 + \|b\|_{H^2(\Omega)}^2 + \|\frac{\partial b}{\partial t}\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2) \leq E_7 \]  \hspace{1cm} (5.20)
\[ \leq c'(\|w\|_{H^2(\Omega)}^2 + \|b\|_{H^2(\Omega)}^2 + \|\frac{\partial b}{\partial t}\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2), \]  
c, \ c' > 0,
which yields, noting that \( E_7(0) = 0 \) and employing (4.11),
\[ E_7(t) \leq ce^{c_1m_1m_2}(\|u_0\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2 + \|\alpha_0\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2 + \|\alpha_1\|^2), \]  
t \geq 0, \hspace{1cm} (5.21)
where the constants only depend on \( \mathcal{B}_0 \). We now derive a Hölder (both with respect to space and time) estimate. Actually, owing to (4.11), it suffices to prove the Hölder continuity with respect to time.

We have
\[ \|u(t_1) - u(t_2)\|_{H^1(\Omega)} + \|\bar{\alpha}(t_1) - \bar{\alpha}(t_2)\|_{H^1(\Omega)} + \|\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}(t_1) - \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}(t_2)\| \leq c|t_1 - t_2|^\frac{1}{2} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \left( \|\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2 + \|\frac{\partial \bar{\alpha}}{\partial t}\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2 + \|\frac{\partial^2 \alpha}{\partial t^2}\| \right) \, d\tau \]  \hspace{1cm} (5.22)
\[ \leq c|t_1 - t_2|^\frac{1}{2} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \left( \|\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2 + \|\frac{\partial \bar{\alpha}}{\partial t}\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2 + \|\frac{\partial^2 \alpha}{\partial t^2}\| \right) \, d\tau \]  \hspace{1cm} (5.23)
where the constant \( c \) only depends on \( \mathcal{B}_0 \) and \( T \geq T_0 \) such that \( t_1, t_2 \in [T_0, T] \); actually, replacing \( \mathcal{B}_0 \) by \( \mathcal{S}(1)\mathcal{B}_0 \), we see that we can take \( T_0 = 0 \).

Then, it follows from (3.20) that
\[ \left| \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \|\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2 \, d\tau \right| \leq c, \]  \hspace{1cm} (5.24)
where the constant \( c \) only depends on \( \mathcal{B}_0 \) and \( T \) such that \( t_1, t_2 \in [0, T] \).

Finally, recalling that
\[ \frac{\partial^2 \alpha}{\partial t^2} = \Delta \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t} + \Delta \alpha - \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}, \]
it follows from (3.56) and (3.59) that
\[ \left| \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \|\frac{\partial^2 \alpha}{\partial t^2}\| \, d\tau \right| \leq c, \]  \hspace{1cm} (5.25)
where the constant \( c \) only depends on \( \mathcal{B}_0 \) and \( T \) such that \( t_1, t_2 \in [0, T] \).

We thus deduce from (5.22), (5.23), (5.24) and (5.25) that
\[ \|u(t_1) - u(t_2)\|_{H^1(\Omega)} + \|\bar{\alpha}(t_1) - \bar{\alpha}(t_2)\|_{H^1(\Omega)} + \|\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}(t_1) - \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t}(t_2)\| \leq c|t_1 - t_2|^\frac{1}{2}, \]  \hspace{1cm} (5.26)
where the constant \( c \) only depends on \( \mathcal{B}_0 \) and \( T \) such that \( t_1, t_2 \in [0, T] \).

It now follows from (4.11), (5.15), (5.21), (5.26) and the transitivity of the exponential attraction that we have the following result (see, e.g., [13] and [17]).
Theorem 5.1. The semigroup $\mathcal{S}(t)$ possesses an exponential attractor $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{B}_0$; i.e.,
(i) $\mathcal{M}$ is compact in $\Phi$;
(ii) $\mathcal{M}$ is positively invariant, $\mathcal{S}(t)\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{M}$, $\forall t \geq 0$;
(iii) $\mathcal{M}$ has finite fractal dimension in $\Phi$;
(iv) $\mathcal{M}$ attracts the bounded subsets of $\Psi_{M_1, M_2}$ exponentially fast,
$$\forall B \subset \Psi_{M_1, M_2} \text{ bounded}, \quad \text{dist}_\Phi(\mathcal{S}(t)B, \mathcal{M}) \leq Q(\|B\|_\Phi)e^{-ct}, \quad c > 0, \quad t \geq 0,$$
where the constant $c$ is independent of $B$ and $\text{dist}_\Phi$ denotes the Hausdorff semidistance between sets, defined by
$$\text{dist}_\Phi(A, B) = \sup_{a \in A} \inf_{b \in B} \|a - b\|_\Phi.$$

Since $\mathcal{M}$ is a compact attracting set, we deduce from Theorem 5.1 and standard results (see, e.g., [2], [33] and [36])

Corollary 5.2. The semigroup $\mathcal{S}(t)$ possesses the finite-dimensional global attractor $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{B}_0$.

Remark 5.3. We recall that the global attractor $\mathcal{A}$ is the smallest (for the inclusion) compact set of the phase space which is invariant by the flow (i.e., $\mathcal{S}(t)\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}$, $\forall t \geq 0$) and attracts all bounded sets of initial data as time goes to infinity; it thus appears to be a suitable object in view of the study of the asymptotic behavior of the system. Furthermore, the finite dimensionality means, roughly speaking, that even though the initial phase space is infinite dimensional, the reduced dynamics is, in some proper sense, finite dimensional and can be described by a finite number of parameters. We refer the reader to [2], [33] and [36] for more details and discussions on this.

Remark 5.4. Compared to the global attractor, an exponential attractor is expected to be more robust under perturbations. Indeed, the rate of attraction of trajectories to the global attractor may be slow, and it is very difficult, if not impossible, to estimate this rate of attraction with respect to the physical parameters of the problem in general. As a consequence, global attractors may change drastically under small perturbations. We refer the reader to [13] and [33] for discussions on this subject.

References

A. MIRANVILLE


