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ANALYSIS OF NON SCALAR CONTROL PROBLEMS FOR PARABOLIC SYSTEMS BY THE BLOCK MOMENT METHOD*

FRANCK BOYER[†] AND MORGAN MORANCEY[‡]

Abstract. This article deals with abstract linear time invariant controlled systems of parabolic type. In [*Annales Henri Lebesgue*, **3** (2020), pp. 717–793], with A. Benabdallah, we introduced the block moment method for scalar control operators. The principal aim of this method is to compute the minimal time needed to drive an initial condition (or a space of initial conditions) to zero, in particular in the case when spectral condensation occurs. The purpose of the present article is to push forward the analysis to deal with any admissible control operator. The considered setting leads to applications to one dimensional parabolic-type equations or coupled systems of such equations.

With such admissible control operator, the characterization of the minimal null control time is obtained thanks to the resolution of an auxiliary vectorial block moment problem (*i.e.* set in the control space) followed by a constrained optimization procedure of the cost of this resolution. This leads to essentially sharp estimates on the resolution of the block moment problems which are uniform with respect to the spectrum of the evolution operator in a certain class. This uniformity allows the study of uniform controllability for various parameter dependent problems. We also deduce estimates on the cost of controllability when the final time goes to the minimal null control time.

We illustrate how the method works on a few examples of such abstract controlled systems and then we deal with actual coupled systems of one dimensional parabolic partial differential equations. Our strategy enables us to tackle controllability issues that seem out of reach by existing techniques.

Key words. Control theory, parabolic partial differential equations, minimal null control time, block moment method

AMS subject classifications. 93B05, 93C20, 93C25, 30E05, 35K90, 35P10

1. Introduction.

1.1. Problem under study and state of the art.

In this paper we study the controllability properties of the following linear control system

$$(1.1) \quad \begin{cases} y'(t) + \mathcal{A}y(t) = \mathcal{B}u(t), \\ y(0) = y_0. \end{cases}$$

The assumptions on the operator \mathcal{A} (see Section 2.1) will lead to applications to linear parabolic-type equations or coupled systems of such equations mostly in the one dimensional setting. In all this article the Hilbert space of control will be denoted by U and the operator \mathcal{B} will be a general admissible operator.

The question we address is the characterization of the minimal null control time (possibly zero or infinite) from y_0 that is: for a given initial condition y_0 , what is the minimal time $T_0(y_0)$ such that, for any $T > T_0(y_0)$, there exists a control $u \in L^2(0, T; U)$ such that the associated solution of (1.1) satisfies $y(T) = 0$. A more precise definition of the minimal null control time is given in Definition 2.1 in Section 2.1.1.

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39 For a presentation of null controllability of parabolic control problems as well as
 40 the possible existence of a positive minimal null control time for such equations we
 41 refer to [4] or [9, Section 1.1] and the references therein. Such a positive minimal
 42 null control time is due either to insufficient observation of eigenvectors, or to con-
 43 densation of eigenvalues or to the geometry of generalized eigenspaces, or even to a
 44 combination of all those phenomena. Let us underline that this phenomenon is com-
 45 pletely unrelated to the minimal control time arising from constraints on the state
 46 or on the control as studied for instance in [31], or to the one arising in hyperbolic
 47 problems due to intrinsic finite speed of propagation in the equation.

48 Under the considered assumptions on \mathcal{A} , the problem of characterizing the mini-
 49 mal null control time has been solved for scalar controls ($\dim U = 1$) in [9] where the
 50 *block moment method* has been introduced in that purpose. The aim of the present
 51 article is to push forward the analysis of [9] to extend it to any admissible control
 52 operator. The new difficulties come from the interplay between spectral condensation
 53 phenomena and the particular geometry of the control operator.

54 To present the general ideas, let us assume for simplicity that the operator \mathcal{A}^*
 55 has a sequence of real and positive eigenvalues Λ and that the associated eigenvectors
 56 ϕ_λ , for $\lambda \in \Lambda$, form a complete family of the state space (the precise functional setting
 57 is detailed in Section 2.1). Then, the solution of system (1.1) satisfies $y(T) = 0$ if and
 58 only if the control $u \in L^2(0, T; U)$ solves the following moment problem

$$59 \quad (1.2) \quad \int_0^T e^{-\lambda t} \langle u(T-t), \mathcal{B}^* \phi_\lambda \rangle_U dt = -e^{-\lambda T} \langle y_0, \phi_\lambda \rangle, \quad \forall \lambda \in \Lambda.$$

60 • *Solving moment problems associated with a scalar control operator.*

61 In the scalar case ($U = \mathbb{R}$), provided that $\mathcal{B}^* \phi_\lambda \neq 0$, the moment problem reduces
 62 to

$$63 \quad (1.3) \quad \int_0^T e^{-\lambda t} u(T-t) dt = -e^{-\lambda T} \left\langle y_0, \frac{\phi_\lambda}{\mathcal{B}^* \phi_\lambda} \right\rangle, \quad \forall \lambda \in \Lambda.$$

64 This problem is usually solved by the construction of a biorthogonal family $(q_\lambda)_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$
 65 to the exponentials

$$66 \quad \{t \in (0, T) \mapsto e^{-\lambda t}; \lambda \in \Lambda\}$$

67 in $L^2(0, T; U)$, *i.e.*, a family $(q_\lambda)_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$ such that

$$68 \quad \int_0^T q_\lambda(t) e^{-\mu t} dt = \delta_{\lambda, \mu}, \quad \forall \lambda, \mu \in \Lambda.$$

69 From [36], the existence of such biorthogonal family is equivalent to the summability
 70 condition

$$71 \quad (1.4) \quad \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \frac{1}{\lambda} < +\infty.$$

72 **REMARK 1.1.** *This condition (which will be assumed in the present article) is the*
 73 *main restriction to apply the moment method. Indeed, due to Weyl's law it imposes*
 74 *on many examples of partial differential equations of parabolic-type a restriction to the*
 75 *one dimensional setting. However, in some particular multi-dimensional geometries,*
 76 *the controllability problem can be transformed into a family of parameter dependent*
 77 *moment problems, each of them satisfying such assumption (see for instance [8, 3, 15]*
 78 *among others).*

79 With such a biorthogonal family, a formal solution of the moment problem (1.3)
 80 is given by

$$81 \quad u(T-t) = - \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} e^{-\lambda T} \left\langle y_0, \frac{\phi_\lambda}{\mathcal{B}^* \phi_\lambda} \right\rangle q_\lambda(t), \quad t \in (0, T).$$

82 Thus if, for any y_0 , the series defining u converges in $L^2(0, T; U)$ one obtains null
 83 controllability of system (1.1) in time T . To do so, it is crucial to prove upper bounds
 84 on $\|q_\lambda\|_{L^2(0, T)}$.

85 Suitable bounds on such biorthogonal families were provided in the pioneering
 86 work of Fattorini and Russell [21] in the case where the eigenvalues of \mathcal{A}^* are well
 87 separated *i.e.* satisfy the classical gap condition: $\inf \{|\lambda - \mu|; \lambda, \mu \in \Lambda, \lambda \neq \mu\} > 0$.
 88 When the eigenvalues are allowed to condensate we refer to the work [5] for almost
 89 sharp estimates implying the condensation index of the sequence Λ . A discussion on
 90 other references providing estimates on biorthogonal families is detailed below. These
 91 results have provided an optimal characterization of the minimal null control time
 92 when the eigenvectors of \mathcal{A}^* form a Riesz basis of the state space (and thus do not
 93 condensate).

94 However, as analyzed in [9], there are situations in which the eigenvectors also
 95 condensate and for which providing estimates on biorthogonal families is not sufficient
 96 to characterize the minimal null control time. In [9], it is assumed that the spectrum
 97 Λ can be decomposed as a union \mathcal{G} of well separated groups of bounded cardinality.
 98 Then, the control u is sought in the form

$$99 \quad u(T-t) = \sum_{G \in \mathcal{G}} v_G(t),$$

100 where, for any $G \in \mathcal{G}$, the function $v_G \in L^2(0, T; U)$ solves the block moment problem

$$101 \quad (1.5) \quad \begin{cases} \int_0^T e^{-\lambda t} v_G(t) dt = e^{-\lambda T} \left\langle y_0, \frac{\phi_\lambda}{\mathcal{B}^* \phi_\lambda} \right\rangle, & \forall \lambda \in G, \\ \int_0^T e^{-\lambda t} v_G(t) dt = 0, & \forall \lambda \notin G. \end{cases}$$

102 This enables to deal with the condensation of eigenvectors: the eigenvectors $(\phi_\lambda)_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$
 103 are only assumed to form a complete family of the state space.

104 • *Solving moment problems associated with a non scalar control operator.*

105 When the control is not scalar there are less available results in the literature. Here
 106 again, these results rely on the existence of a biorthogonal family to the exponentials
 107 with suitable bounds. For instance, in [6], null controllability in optimal time is proved
 108 using a subtle decomposition of the moment problem into two families of moment
 109 problems. In a more systematic way, one can take advantage of the biorthogonality
 110 in the time variable to seek for a solution u of the moment problem (1.2) in the form

$$111 \quad u(T-t) = - \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} e^{-\lambda T} \langle y_0, \phi_\lambda \rangle q_\lambda(t) \frac{\mathcal{B}^* \phi_\lambda}{\|\mathcal{B}^* \phi_\lambda\|_U^2}.$$

112 This strategy was introduced by Lagnese in [25] for a one dimensional wave equation
 113 and used in the parabolic context for instance in [17, 2, 18, 3].

114 In the present article we deal with such general admissible control operators.
 115 As the eigenvectors will only be assumed to form a complete family, for each initial

116 condition y_0 , we study its null control time for system (1.1) by solving block moment
 117 problems of the following form

$$118 \quad (1.6) \quad \begin{cases} \int_0^T \langle V_G(t), e^{-\lambda t} \mathcal{B}^* \phi_\lambda \rangle_U dt = \langle y_0, e^{-\lambda T} \phi_\lambda \rangle, & \forall \lambda \in G, \\ \int_0^T \langle V_G(t), e^{-\lambda t} \mathcal{B}^* \phi_\lambda \rangle_U dt = 0, & \forall \lambda \notin G. \end{cases}$$

119 Let us recall that, for pedagogical purposes, we have restricted this first introductory
 120 subsection to the case of real simple eigenvalues. The general form of block moment
 121 problems under study in this article is detailed in Section 2.2.

122 The strategy to solve such block moment problem and estimate its solution is
 123 presented on an example in Section 1.3. Let us already notice that the geometry of
 124 the finite dimensional space $\text{Span}\{\mathcal{B}^* \phi_\lambda; \lambda \in G\}$ is crucial.

125 For instance, if this space is one dimensional, say generated by some $b \in U$, the
 126 strategy of Lagnese can be adapted if one seeks for V_G solution of the block moment
 127 problem (1.6) in the form

$$128 \quad V_G(t) = v_G(t)b,$$

129 where $v_G \in L^2(0, T; \mathbb{R})$ solves a scalar block moment problem of the same form
 130 as (1.5).

131 If, instead, the family $(\mathcal{B}^* \phi_\lambda)_{\lambda \in G}$ is composed of linearly independent vectors
 132 then it admits a biorthogonal family in U denoted by $(b_\lambda^*)_{\lambda \in G}$. Then, one can for
 133 instance seek for V_G solution of the block moment problem (1.6) in the form

$$134 \quad V_G(t) = v_G(t) \left(\sum_{\lambda \in G} b_\lambda^* \right).$$

135 where v_G solves a scalar block moment problem of the form (1.5). An upper bound
 136 of the minimal control time can then be obtained thanks to an estimate of the family
 137 $(b_\lambda^*)_{\lambda \in G}$, but without guarantee of optimality.

138 In the general setting, taking into account the geometry of the observations of
 139 eigenvectors to solve block moment problems of the form (1.6) is a more intricate
 140 question that we solve in this article, still under the summability condition (1.4).

141 Let us mention that we not only solve block moment problems of the form (1.6)
 142 but we also provide estimates on their solutions to ensure that the series defining the
 143 control converges. These estimates will lead to an optimal characterization of the
 144 minimal null control time for each given problem.

145 We pay particular attention to these estimates so that they do not directly depend
 146 on the sequence Λ but are uniform for classes of such sequences. This is an important
 147 step to tackle uniform controllability for parameter dependent control problems. Esti-
 148 mates of this kind have already proved their efficiency in various contexts such as: nu-
 149 merical analysis of semi-discrete control problems [2], oscillating coefficients [32], anal-
 150 ysis of degenerate control problems with respect to the degeneracy parameter [17, 18],
 151 analysis of higher dimensional controllability problems by reduction to families of one
 152 dimensional control problems [8, 1, 3, 15] or analysis of convergence of Robin-type
 153 controls to Dirichlet controls [11].

154 Another important feature of the estimates we obtain is to track the dependency
 155 with respect to the final time T when T goes to the minimal null control time. As pre-
 156 sented in Remark 2.8, this allows applications in higher dimensions (with a cylindrical
 157 geometry) or applications to nonlinear control problems.

- *An overview of some estimates on biorthogonal families.*

Finally, let us recall some classical results providing estimates for biorthogonal families to a sequence of exponentials.

Under the classical gap condition, uniform estimates for biorthogonal families were already obtained in [22] and sharp short-time estimates were obtained in [8]. In this setting, bounds with a detailed dependency with respect to parameters were given in [19]. In this work, the obtained bounds take into account the fact that the gap property between eigenvalues may be better in high frequencies. Similar results were also obtained in [26].

Under a weak-gap condition of the form (2.4), that is when the eigenvalues can be gathered in blocks of bounded cardinality with a gap between blocks (which is the setting of the present article), uniform estimates on biorthogonal sequences follow from the uniform estimates for the resolution of block moment problems proved in [9]. Similar estimates, but where the sharp dependency with respect to T of the different constants is tracked, were obtained in [24]. Using the strategy detailed in [12], the estimates of [9] can also be supplemented with such dependency with respect to T (see Theorem A.1). Let us mention that similar results were also obtained in [16] with stronger assumptions, namely with a weak-gap assumption on the square roots of the eigenvalues.

In the absence of any gap-type condition, estimates on biorthogonal families were first proved in [5] involving the condensation index and then later in [3] involving a local measure of the gap.

1.2. Structure of the article.

To ease the reading, let us give here the detailed outline of this article.

In Section 1.3 we detail, for a simple example, the obtained results as well as our strategy of proof. This allows to explain the contents of this article without introducing too many notations.

In Section 2.1, we detail the framework, assumptions and notations that will be used throughout this article. The main results concerning the resolution of block moment problems with a non scalar control are stated in Section 2.2. The application of these results to the characterization of the minimal null control time is stated in Section 2.3. We provide in Section 2.4 more explicit formulas to compute the minimal null control time. We also deduce from our study some estimates on the cost of controllability that are given in Section 2.5.

The results concerning the resolution of block moment problems are proved in Section 3. The application of these results to the characterization of the minimal null control time and the study of the cost of null controllability are then proved in Section 4. More explicit formulas for the computation of the minimal null control time are proved in Section 5.

Finally we apply these results to different examples. First we deal in Section 6 with academic examples. For these examples the computations are rather simple and this allows to highlight the different phenomena at stake in this minimal null control time study. We end this article with the analysis of null controllability for systems of coupled linear partial differential equations of parabolic type in Section 7.

1.3. Our analysis on a toy system.

To highlight the ideas we develop in this article (without drowning them in technicalities or notations), let us present our strategy of analysis of null controllability on an abstract simple example.

206 We consider $X = L^2(0, 1; \mathbb{R})^2$ and $\omega \subset (0, 1)$ a non empty open set. For a given
 207 $a > 0$ we define

$$208 \quad \Lambda = \left\{ \lambda_{k,1} := k^2, \lambda_{k,2} := k^2 + e^{-ak^2}; k \geq 1 \right\},$$

209 and take $(\varphi_k)_{k \geq 1}$ a Hilbert basis of $L^2(0, 1; \mathbb{R})$ such that

$$210 \quad \inf_{k \geq 1} \|\varphi_k\|_{L^2(\omega)} > 0.$$

211 Let $\phi_{k,1} := \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_k \\ \varphi_k \end{pmatrix}$ and $\phi_{k,2} := \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \varphi_k \end{pmatrix}$. We define the operator \mathcal{A}^* in X by

$$212 \quad \mathcal{A}^* \phi_{k,1} = \lambda_{k,1} \phi_{k,1}, \quad \mathcal{A}^* \phi_{k,2} = \lambda_{k,2} \phi_{k,2},$$

213 with

$$214 \quad \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A}^*) = \left\{ \sum_{k \geq 1} a_{k,1} \phi_{k,1} + a_{k,2} \phi_{k,2}; \sum_{k \geq 1} \lambda_{k,1}^2 a_{k,1}^2 + \lambda_{k,2}^2 a_{k,2}^2 < +\infty \right\}.$$

215 The control operator \mathcal{B} is defined by $U = L^2(0, 1; \mathbb{R})$ and

$$216 \quad \mathcal{B} : u \in U \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \mathbf{1}_\omega u \end{pmatrix} \in X.$$

217 The condition $\inf_{k \geq 1} \|\varphi_k\|_{L^2(\omega)} > 0$ yields

$$218 \quad (1.7) \quad \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{k,1} = \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{k,2} = \mathbf{1}_\omega \varphi_k \neq 0, \quad \forall k \geq 1.$$

219 This ensures approximate controllability of system (1.1).

220 We insist on the fact that the goal of this article is not to deal with this particular
 221 example but to develop a general methodology to analyze the null controllability of
 222 system (1.1). The general assumptions that will be considered in this article are
 223 detailed in Section 2.1.

224 • Let $y_0 \in X$. From Proposition 2.1 and the fact that $\{\phi_{k,1}, \phi_{k,2}; k \geq 1\}$ forms a
 225 complete family of X , system (1.1) is null controllable from y_0 at time T if and only
 226 if there exists $u \in L^2(0, T; U)$ such that for any $k \geq 1$ and any $j \in \{1, 2\}$,

$$227 \quad \int_0^T e^{-\lambda_{k,j}t} \langle u(T-t), \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{k,j} \rangle_U dt = -e^{-\lambda_{k,j}T} \langle y_0, \phi_{k,j} \rangle_X.$$

228 Following the idea developed in [9], we seek for a control u of the form

$$229 \quad (1.8) \quad u(t) = - \sum_{k \geq 1} v_k(T-t)$$

230 where, for each $k \geq 1$, $v_k \in L^2(0, T; U)$ solves the block moment problem

$$231 \quad (1.9) \quad \begin{cases} \int_0^T e^{-\lambda_{k,j}t} \langle v_k(t), \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{k,j} \rangle_U dt = e^{-\lambda_{k,j}T} \langle y_0, \phi_{k,j} \rangle_X, & \forall j \in \{1, 2\}, \\ \int_0^T e^{-\lambda_{k',j}t} \langle v_k(t), \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{k',j} \rangle_U dt = 0, & \forall k' \neq k, \forall j \in \{1, 2\}. \end{cases}$$

232 • To solve (1.9), for a fixed k , we consider the following auxiliary block moment
 233 problem in the space U

$$234 \quad (1.10) \quad \begin{cases} \int_0^T e^{-\lambda_{k,j}t} v_k(t) dt = \Omega_{k,j}, & \forall j \in \{1, 2\}, \\ \int_0^T e^{-\lambda_{k',j}t} v_k(t) dt = 0, & \forall k' \neq k, \forall j \in \{1, 2\}, \end{cases}$$

235 where $\Omega_{k,j} \in U$ have to be precised. If we impose that $\Omega_{k,1}$ and $\Omega_{k,2}$ satisfy the
 236 constraints

$$237 \quad (1.11) \quad \langle \Omega_{k,j}, \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{k,j} \rangle_U = e^{-\lambda_{k,j}T} \langle y_0, \phi_{k,j} \rangle_X, \quad \forall j \in \{1, 2\},$$

238 we obtain that the solutions of (1.10) also solve (1.9). The existence of $\Omega_{k,1}$ and
 239 $\Omega_{k,2}$ satisfying the constraints (1.11) is ensured by the approximate controllabil-
 240 ity condition (1.7); however there exist infinitely many choices. A crucial point
 241 is that, by orthogonal projection, there exists $\Omega_{k,1}$ and $\Omega_{k,2}$ in the space $U_k =$
 242 $\text{Span}\{\mathcal{B}^* \phi_{k,1}, \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{k,2}\}$ satisfying the constraints (1.11).

243 Then, for any $\Omega_{k,1}, \Omega_{k,2} \in U_k$, since the space U_k is of finite dimension, applying
 244 the scalar results of [9] component by component leads to the existence of $v_k \in$
 245 $L^2(0, T; U)$ satisfying (1.10). It also gives the following estimate

$$246 \quad (1.12) \quad \|v_k\|_{L^2(0, T; U)}^2 \leq C_{T, \varepsilon} e^{\varepsilon \lambda_{k,1}} F(\Omega_{k,1}, \Omega_{k,2}),$$

247 with

$$248 \quad F : (\Omega_{k,1}, \Omega_{k,2}) \in U^2 \mapsto \|\Omega_{k,1}\|_U^2 + \left\| \frac{\Omega_{k,2} - \Omega_{k,1}}{\lambda_{k,2} - \lambda_{k,1}} \right\|_U^2.$$

249 Using (1.12) and minimizing the function F under the constraints (1.11) we obtain
 250 that there exists $v_k \in L^2(0, T; U)$ solution of the block moment problem (1.9) such
 251 that

$$252 \quad (1.13) \quad \|v_k\|_{L^2(0, T; U)}^2 \leq C_{T, \varepsilon} e^{\varepsilon \lambda_{k,1}} \inf \{F(\Omega_{k,1}, \Omega_{k,2}) ; \Omega_{k,1}, \Omega_{k,2} \text{ satisfy (1.11)}\}.$$

253 The corresponding general statements of the resolution of block moment problems
 254 are detailed in Section 2.2 (see Theorem 2.4) and proved in Section 3. Actually using
 255 a refined version of the results in [9] (see Theorem A.1) we obtain sharper results
 256 including dependency with respect to T .

257 • Now that we can solve the block moment problems (1.9), a way to characterize the
 258 minimal null control time is to estimate for which values of T the series (1.8) defining
 259 the control u converges in $L^2(0, T; U)$.

260 To achieve this goal, we isolate in the estimate (1.13) the dependency with respect
 261 to T . Notice that the function F does not depend on T but that the constraints (1.11)
 262 do.

263 For any $k \geq 1$ and any $\Omega_{k,1}, \Omega_{k,2} \in U_k$ we set

$$264 \quad \tilde{\Omega}_{k,j} := e^{\lambda_{k,j}T} \Omega_{k,j}, \quad \forall j \in \{1, 2\}.$$

265 Then, there is equivalence between the constraints (1.11) and the new constraints

$$266 \quad (1.14) \quad \left\langle \tilde{\Omega}_{k,j}, \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{k,j} \right\rangle_U = \langle y_0, \phi_{k,j} \rangle_X, \quad \forall j \in \{1, 2\}.$$

267 Now these constraints are independent of the variable T . From the mean value theo-
 268 rem we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 269 \quad F(\Omega_{k,1}, \Omega_{k,2}) &= \left\| e^{-\lambda_{k,1}T} \tilde{\Omega}_{k,1} \right\|_U^2 + \left\| \frac{e^{-\lambda_{k,2}T} \tilde{\Omega}_{k,2} - e^{-\lambda_{k,1}T} \tilde{\Omega}_{k,1}}{\lambda_{k,2} - \lambda_{k,1}} \right\|_U^2 \\
 270 \quad &\leq e^{-2\lambda_{k,1}T} \left\| \tilde{\Omega}_{k,1} \right\|_U^2 + 2e^{-2\lambda_{k,2}T} \left\| \frac{\tilde{\Omega}_{k,2} - \tilde{\Omega}_{k,1}}{\lambda_{k,2} - \lambda_{k,1}} \right\|_U^2 \\
 271 \quad &\quad + 2 \left(\frac{e^{-\lambda_{k,2}T} - e^{-\lambda_{k,1}T}}{\lambda_{k,2} - \lambda_{k,1}} \right)^2 \left\| \tilde{\Omega}_{k,1} \right\|_U^2 \\
 272 \quad &\leq 2(1 + T^2) e^{-2\lambda_{k,1}T} F(\tilde{\Omega}_{k,1}, \tilde{\Omega}_{k,2}).
 \end{aligned}$$

274 The general statement of this estimate is given in Lemma 4.1.

275 Plugging this estimate into (1.12) and optimizing the function F under the con-
 276 straints (1.14) yields

$$277 \quad (1.15) \quad \|v_k\|_{L^2(0,T;U)}^2 \leq C_{T,\varepsilon} e^{\varepsilon\lambda_{k,1}} e^{-2\lambda_{k,1}T} \mathcal{C}_k(y_0)$$

278 where $\mathcal{C}_k(y_0)$ is the quantity, independent of T , given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 280 \quad (1.16) \quad \mathcal{C}_k(y_0) &:= \inf \left\{ \left\| \tilde{\Omega}_1 \right\|_U^2 + \left\| \frac{\tilde{\Omega}_2 - \tilde{\Omega}_1}{\lambda_{k,2} - \lambda_{k,1}} \right\|_U^2 ; \tilde{\Omega}_1, \tilde{\Omega}_2 \in U_k \text{ satisfy} \right. \\
 281 \quad &\quad \left. \left\langle \tilde{\Omega}_j, \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{k,j} \right\rangle_U = \langle y_0, \phi_{k,j} \rangle_X, \forall j \in \{1, 2\} \right\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

283 Estimate (1.15) proves that for any time $T > 0$ such that

$$284 \quad T > \limsup_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln \mathcal{C}_k(y_0)}{2\lambda_{k,1}}$$

285 the series (1.8) defining the control u converges in $L^2(0, T; U)$. Thus, null controlla-
 286 bility of (1.1) from y_0 holds for such T .

287 We also prove that the obtained estimate (1.15) is sufficiently sharp so that it
 288 characterizes the minimal null control time from y_0 as

$$289 \quad (1.17) \quad T_0(y_0) = \limsup_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln \mathcal{C}_k(y_0)}{2\lambda_{k,1}}.$$

290 The corresponding general statements regarding the minimal null control time
 291 together with bounds on the cost of controllability are detailed in Section 2.2 (see
 292 Theorem 2.5) and proved in Section 4.

293 • At this stage we have characterized the minimal null control time as stated in (1.17).
 294 However to be able to estimate the actual value of $T_0(y_0)$ one should be able to
 295 estimate the quantity $\mathcal{C}_k(y_0)$ as defined in (1.16). This formula is not very explicit
 296 and it does not get better in the general setting.

297 However, we notice that (1.16) is a finite dimensional optimization problem that
 298 we explicitly solve in terms of the eigenelements of \mathcal{A}^* and their observations through
 299 \mathcal{B}^* .

300 Indeed the minimization problem (1.16) has a unique solution characterized by
 301 the existence of multipliers $m_1, m_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ such that for any $H_1, H_2 \in U_k$ we have
 (1.18)

$$302 \quad \left\langle H_1, \tilde{\Omega}_1 \right\rangle_U + \left\langle \frac{\tilde{\Omega}_2 - \tilde{\Omega}_1}{\lambda_{k,2} - \lambda_{k,1}}, \frac{H_2 - H_1}{\lambda_{k,2} - \lambda_{k,1}} \right\rangle_U = m_1 \langle H_1, \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{k,1} \rangle_U + m_2 \langle H_2, \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{k,2} \rangle_U.$$

303 Setting $H_1 = H_2 = H$ for any $H \in U_k$ implies

$$304 \quad \tilde{\Omega}_1 = m_1 \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{k,1} + m_2 \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{k,2}.$$

305 Setting $H_1 = 0$ and $H_2 = (\lambda_{k,2} - \lambda_{k,1})H$ for any $H \in U_k$ implies

$$306 \quad \tilde{\Omega}_2 = m_1 \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{k,1} + m_2 \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{k,2} + m_2 (\lambda_{k,2} - \lambda_{k,1})^2 \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{k,2}.$$

307 Getting back to the constraints (1.14) we obtain

$$308 \quad (1.19) \quad \begin{pmatrix} \langle y_0, \phi_{k,1} \rangle_X \\ \langle y_0, \phi_{k,2} \rangle_X \end{pmatrix} = M \begin{pmatrix} m_1 \\ m_2 \end{pmatrix},$$

309 where the 2×2 matrix M is defined by

$$310 \quad M = \text{Gram}_U(\mathcal{B}^* \phi_{k,1}, \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{k,2}) + \text{Gram}_U(0, (\lambda_{k,2} - \lambda_{k,1}) \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{k,2}).$$

311 Setting $H_1 = \tilde{\Omega}_1$ and $H_2 = \tilde{\Omega}_2$ in (1.18) and using (1.19) imply

$$312 \quad \mathcal{C}_k(y_0) = \left\| \tilde{\Omega}_1 \right\|_U^2 + \left\| \frac{\tilde{\Omega}_2 - \tilde{\Omega}_1}{\lambda_{k,2} - \lambda_{k,1}} \right\|_U^2 = \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} \langle y_0, \phi_{k,1} \rangle_X \\ \langle y_0, \phi_{k,2} \rangle_X \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} m_1 \\ m_2 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle \\ 313 \quad \quad \quad = \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} \langle y_0, \phi_{k,1} \rangle_X \\ \langle y_0, \phi_{k,2} \rangle_X \end{pmatrix}, M^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \langle y_0, \phi_{k,1} \rangle_X \\ \langle y_0, \phi_{k,2} \rangle_X \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle. \\ 314$$

315 Thus, after computations, for the particular example we are considering here, the
 316 obtained formula reads

$$317 \quad \mathcal{C}_k(y_0) = \frac{1}{\|\varphi_k\|_{L^2(\omega)}^2} \left\langle y_0, \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_k \\ \varphi_k \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle_X^2 + \frac{e^{2ak^2}}{\|\varphi_k\|_{L^2(\omega)}^2} \left\langle y_0, \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_k \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle_X^2.$$

318 Then, from (1.17), it comes that the minimal null control time from X of this example
 319 is given by

$$320 \quad T_0(X) = a.$$

321 Notice, for instance, that this expression also gives that for a given y_0 if the set

$$322 \quad \left\{ k \in \mathbb{N}^* ; \left\langle y_0, \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_k \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle_X \neq 0 \right\}$$

323 is finite, then null controllability from y_0 holds in any positive time, *i.e.* $T_0(y_0) = 0$.

324 We obtain different explicit formula depending on the configuration for the multi-
 325 plicity of the eigenvalues of the considered block. The general statements of an explicit
 326 solution of the corresponding optimization problem are detailed in Section 2.4 (see
 327 Theorem 2.8 and Theorem 2.10) and proved in Section 5.

328 **2. Main results.**

329 We state in this section the main results of this article concerning the resolution
 330 of block moment problems and the application to the characterization of the minimal
 331 null control time. We start by giving the functional setting and assumptions we use.

332 **2.1. Framework, spectral assumptions and notations.**

333 **2.1.1. Functional setting.**

334 The functional setting for the study of system (1.1) is the same as in [9]. For the
 335 sake of completeness, let us briefly detail it. Unless explicitly stated, all the spaces
 336 are assumed to be complex vector spaces.

337 We consider X a Hilbert space, whose inner product and norm are denoted by
 338 $\langle \bullet, \bullet \rangle_X$ and $\|\bullet\|_X$ respectively. The space X is identified to its anti-dual through the
 339 Riesz theorem. Let $(\mathcal{A}, D(\mathcal{A}))$ be an unbounded operator in X such that $-\mathcal{A}$ generates
 340 a C^0 -semigroup in X . Its adjoint in X is denoted by $(\mathcal{A}^*, D(\mathcal{A}^*))$. Up to a suitable
 341 translation, we can assume that 0 is in the resolvent set of \mathcal{A} .

342 We denote by X_1 (resp. X_1^*) the Hilbert space $D(\mathcal{A})$ (resp. $D(\mathcal{A}^*)$) equipped
 343 with the norm $\|x\|_1 := \|\mathcal{A}x\|_X$ (resp. $\|x\|_{1^*} := \|\mathcal{A}^*x\|_X$) and we define X_{-1} as the
 344 completion of X with respect to the norm

$$\|y\|_{-1} := \sup_{z \in X_1^*} \frac{\langle y, z \rangle_X}{\|z\|_{1^*}}.$$

346 Notice that X_{-1} is isometrical to the topological anti-dual of X_1^* using X as a pivot
 347 space (see for instance [38, Proposition 2.10.2]). The corresponding duality bracket
 348 will be denoted by $\langle \bullet, \bullet \rangle_{-1,1^*}$ and satisfies

$$\langle y, cz \rangle_{-1,1^*} = \bar{c} \langle y, z \rangle_{-1,1^*}, \quad \forall y \in X_{-1}, \forall z \in X_1^*, \forall c \in \mathbb{C}.$$

350 The control space U is a Hilbert space (that we will identify to its anti-dual). Its inner
 351 product and norm are denoted by $\langle \bullet, \bullet \rangle_U$ and $\|\bullet\|_U$ respectively. Let $\mathcal{B} : U \rightarrow X_{-1}$ be
 352 a linear continuous control operator and denote by $\mathcal{B}^* : X_1^* \rightarrow U$ its adjoint in the
 353 duality described above.

354 Let $(X_\diamond^*, \|\cdot\|_{\diamond^*})$ be a Hilbert space such that $X_1^* \subset X_\diamond^* \subset X$ with dense and
 355 continuous embeddings. We assume that X_\diamond^* is stable by the semigroup generated by
 356 $-\mathcal{A}^*$. We also define $X_{-\diamond}$ as the subspace of X_{-1} defined by

$$X_{-\diamond} := \left\{ y \in X_{-1}; \|y\|_{-\diamond} := \sup_{z \in X_1^*} \frac{\langle y, z \rangle_{-1,1^*}}{\|z\|_{\diamond^*}} < +\infty \right\},$$

358 which is also isometrical to the anti-dual of X_\diamond^* with X as a pivot space. The cor-
 359 responding duality bracket will be denoted by $\langle \bullet, \bullet \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond^*}$. Thus, we end up with the
 360 following five functional spaces

$$X_1^* \subset X_\diamond^* \subset X \subset X_{-\diamond} \subset X_{-1}.$$

362 We say that the control operator \mathcal{B} is an admissible control operator for (1.1) with
 363 respect to the space $X_{-\diamond}$ if for any $T > 0$ there exists $C_T > 0$ such that

$$(2.1) \quad \int_0^T \left\| \mathcal{B}^* e^{-(T-t)\mathcal{A}^*} z \right\|_U^2 dt \leq C_T \|z\|_{\diamond^*}^2, \quad \forall z \in X_1^*.$$

365 Notice that if (2.1) holds for some $T > 0$ it holds for any $T > 0$. The admissibility
 366 condition (2.1) implies that, by density, we can give a meaning to the map

$$367 \quad (t \mapsto \mathcal{B}^* e^{-(T-t)\mathcal{A}^*} z) \in L^2(0, T; U),$$

368 for any $z \in X_\diamond^*$. Then, we end up with the following well-posedness result (see [9,
 369 Proposition 1.2]).

370 **PROPOSITION 2.1.** *Assume that (2.1) holds. Then, for any $T > 0$, any $y_0 \in X_{-\diamond}$,
 371 and any $u \in L^2(0, T; U)$, there exists a unique $y \in C^0([0, T]; X_{-\diamond})$ solution to (1.1)
 372 in the sense that it satisfies for any $t \in [0, T]$ and any $z_t \in X_\diamond^*$,*

$$373 \quad \langle y(t), z_t \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} - \langle y_0, e^{-t\mathcal{A}^*} z_t \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} = \int_0^t \langle u(s), \mathcal{B}^* e^{-(t-s)\mathcal{A}^*} z_t \rangle_U ds.$$

374 Moreover there exists $C_T > 0$ such that

$$375 \quad \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \|y(t)\|_{-\diamond} \leq C_T (\|y_0\|_{-\diamond} + \|u\|_{L^2(0, T; U)}).$$

376 **REMARK 2.1.** *By analogy with the semigroup notation, when $u = 0$, we set for
 377 any $t \in [0, T]$, $e^{-t\mathcal{A}^*} y_0 := y(t)$. This extends the semigroup $e^{-\bullet\mathcal{A}^*}$ defined on X to $X_{-\diamond}$
 378 and implies that for any $z \in X_{-\diamond}$,*

$$379 \quad (2.2) \quad \langle e^{-T\mathcal{A}^*} z, \phi \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} = \langle z, e^{-T\mathcal{A}^*} \phi \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}, \quad \forall \phi \in X_\diamond^*.$$

380 With this notion of solution at hand, we finally define the minimal null control
 381 time from a subspace of initial conditions Y_0 .

382 **DEFINITION 2.1.** *Let Y_0 be a closed subspace of $X_{-\diamond}$ and let $T > 0$. The sys-
 383 tem (1.1) is said to be null controllable from Y_0 at time T if for any $y_0 \in Y_0$, there
 384 exists a control $u \in L^2(0, T; U)$ such that the associated solution of (1.1) satisfies
 385 $y(T) = 0$.*

386 *The minimal null control time $T_0(Y_0) \in [0, +\infty]$ is defined by*

- 387 • for any $T > T_0(Y_0)$, system (1.1) is null controllable from Y_0 at time T ;
- 388 • for any $T < T_0(Y_0)$, system (1.1) is not null controllable from Y_0 at time T .

389 To simplify the notations, for any $y_0 \in X_{-\diamond}$, we define $T_0(y_0) := T_0(\text{Span}\{y_0\})$.

390 **2.1.2. Spectral assumptions.**

391 In all this article we assume that the operators \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} satisfy the assumptions
 392 of Section 2.1.1. Moreover to solve the control problem we will need some additional
 393 spectral assumptions.

394 *★ Behavior of eigenvalues.*

395 We assume that the spectrum of \mathcal{A}^* , denoted by Λ , is only composed of (countably
 396 many) eigenvalues. Moreover, we assume that the eigenvalues lie in a suitable sector
 397 of the complex plane, i.e., there exists $\tau > 0$ such that

$$398 \quad (2.3) \quad \Lambda \subset S_\tau$$

399 where

$$400 \quad S_\tau := \{z \in \mathbb{C} ; \Re z > 0 \text{ and } |\Im z| < (\sinh \tau) \Re z\}.$$

401 REMARK 2.2. In [9], the assumption on Λ was stronger. Namely, in that article
 402 it was assumed that $\Lambda \subset (1, +\infty)$. The fact that $\min \Lambda \geq 1$ was only used in the
 403 lower bound on the solution of scalar block moment problems (see estimate (A.3)).
 404 The extension to complex eigenvalues satisfying (2.3) was done in [12] and is stated
 405 in Appendix A.

406 If necessary, one can replace the operator \mathcal{A} by $\mathcal{A} + \sigma$ without modifying the
 407 controllability properties. Then, in the different estimates, the behavior with respect
 408 to σ can be carefully tracked if needed.

409 As in the case of a scalar control (see [9]) we assume that this spectrum satisfies
 410 a weak-gap condition. Namely, there exists $p \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and $\varrho > 0$ such that

$$411 \quad (2.4) \quad \#(\Lambda \cap D(\mu, \varrho/2)) \leq p, \quad \forall \mu \in \mathbb{C},$$

412 where $D(\mu, \varrho/2)$ denotes the open disk in the complex plane with center μ and radius
 413 $\varrho/2$. This means that the eigenvalues are allowed to condensate by groups but the
 414 cardinality of these groups should be bounded. To precise this, let us recall the notion
 415 of groupings used in [9, Definition 1.6, Proposition 7.1] and extended to the complex
 416 setting in [12, Proposition V.5.26].

417 PROPOSITION 2.2. Let $p \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and $\varrho > 0$. Let $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{C}$ be such that the weak-gap
 418 condition (2.4) holds. Then, there exists a countable family \mathcal{G} of disjoint subsets of Λ
 419 satisfying

$$420 \quad (2.5) \quad \Lambda = \bigcup_{G \in \mathcal{G}} G$$

421 and each $G \in \mathcal{G}$ satisfies

$$422 \quad (2.6) \quad \text{diam } G \leq \varrho,$$

423

$$424 \quad (2.7) \quad \#G \leq p,$$

425 and

$$426 \quad (2.8) \quad \text{dist}(\text{Conv } G, \Lambda \setminus G) \geq \frac{\varrho}{2 \times 4^{p-1}}.$$

427 Let us mention that the results do not depend on the particular construction done
 428 in [12, Proposition V.5.26] and remain valid for any grouping \mathcal{G} satisfying (2.5)-(2.8).

429 Concerning the asymptotic behavior of the spectrum we will use the counting
 430 function associated to Λ defined by

$$431 \quad N_\Lambda : r > 0 \mapsto \#\{\lambda \in \Lambda ; |\lambda| \leq r\}.$$

432 We assume that there exists $\kappa > 0$ and $\theta \in (0, 1)$ such that

$$433 \quad (2.9) \quad N_\Lambda(r) \leq \kappa r^\theta, \quad \forall r > 0$$

434 and

$$435 \quad (2.10) \quad |N_\Lambda(r) - N_\Lambda(s)| \leq \kappa \times (1 + |r - s|^\theta), \quad \forall r, s > 0.$$

436 Notice that this condition is slightly stronger than the classical summability condi-
 437 tion (1.4) used for instance in [22, 5, 9] and many other works.

438 REMARK 2.3. *Let us underline that if we do not assume (2.10) to hold all the*
439 *results of the present article still hold with a slight change in the estimates. To lighten*
440 *the writing we only detail this change for Theorem A.1 concerning the resolution of*
441 *block moment problems with a scalar control (see Remark A.1). However, as proved*
442 *in Section 7, the assumption (2.10) holds for many examples.*

443 Notice also that (2.9), with $r = \inf |\Lambda|$, implies the following lower bound on the
444 bottom of the spectrum

$$445 \quad \inf |\Lambda| \geq \kappa^{-\theta}.$$

446 Our goal is not only to study the controllability properties of our system but also to
447 obtain estimates that are uniform in a way to be precised. To do so, we define the
448 following class of sequences: let $p \in \mathbb{N}^*$, $\varrho, \tau, \kappa > 0$, $\theta \in (0, 1)$ and consider the class

$$449 \quad (2.11) \quad \mathcal{L}_w(p, \varrho, \tau, \theta, \kappa) := \{\Lambda \subset S_\tau ; \Lambda \text{ satisfies (2.4), (2.9) and (2.10)}\}.$$

450 *★ Multiplicity of eigenvalues.*

451 In our study we allow both algebraic and geometric multiplicities for the eigenval-
452 ues. We assume that these multiplicities are finite and that the algebraic multiplicity
453 is globally bounded. More precisely, we assume that

$$454 \quad (2.12) \quad \gamma_\lambda := \dim \text{Ker}(\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda) < +\infty, \quad \forall \lambda \in \Lambda,$$

455 and that there exists $\eta \in \mathbb{N}^*$ such that

$$456 \quad (2.13) \quad \text{Ker}(\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda)^\eta = \text{Ker}(\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda)^{\eta+1}, \quad \forall \lambda \in \Lambda.$$

457 For any $\lambda \in \Lambda$ we denote by α_λ the smallest integer such that

$$458 \quad \text{Ker}(\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda)^{\alpha_\lambda} = \text{Ker}(\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda)^{\alpha_\lambda+1}$$

459 and set

$$460 \quad E_\lambda := \text{Ker}(\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda)^{\alpha_\lambda}.$$

461 *★ (Generalized) eigenvectors.*

462 To study null-controllability, we assume that the Fattorini-Hautus criterion is
463 satisfied

$$464 \quad (2.14) \quad \text{Ker}(\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda) \cap \text{Ker} \mathcal{B}^* = \{0\}, \quad \forall \lambda \in \Lambda.$$

465 It is a necessary condition for approximate controllability. Note that, under additional
466 assumptions on \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} it is also a sufficient condition for approximate controllability
467 (see for instance [20, 34]). However, when studying null controllability of system (1.1)
468 for initial conditions in a closed strict subspace Y_0 of $X_{-\diamond}$ the condition (2.14) can be
469 too strong, see for instance Sections 7.1.2 and 7.1.3.

470 We assume that the family of generalized eigenvectors of \mathcal{A}^*

$$471 \quad \Phi = \{\phi \in E_\lambda ; \lambda \in \Lambda\} = \bigcup_{\lambda \in \Lambda} E_\lambda$$

472 is complete in X_\diamond^* i.e. for any $y \in X_{-\diamond}$,

$$473 \quad (2.15) \quad \left(\langle y, \phi \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} = 0, \quad \forall \phi \in \Phi \right) \implies y = 0.$$

474 In the following, to simplify the writing, we gather these assumptions and say
 475 that the operators \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} satisfy (H) if there exists $p \in \mathbb{N}^*$, $\varrho, \tau, \kappa > 0$ and $\theta \in (0, 1)$
 476 such that

$$477 \quad (\text{H}) \quad \begin{cases} \mathcal{A} \text{ and } \mathcal{B} \text{ satisfy the assumptions of Section 2.1.1;} \\ \Lambda = \text{Sp}(\mathcal{A}^*) \text{ belongs to } \mathcal{L}_w(p, \varrho, \tau, \theta, \kappa) \text{ and satisfies (2.12) and (2.13);} \\ \text{the associated (generalized) eigenvectors satisfy (2.14) and (2.15).} \end{cases}$$

478 2.1.3. Notation.

479 We give here some notation that will be used throughout this article.

- 480 • For any $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, we define the following subsets of \mathbb{N} :

$$481 \quad [a, b] := [a, b] \cap \mathbb{N}, \quad \llbracket a, b \llbracket := [a, b) \cap \mathbb{N}.$$

- 482 • In all the present paper, $\langle \bullet, \bullet \rangle$ denotes the usual inner product in finite di-
 483 mension i.e.

$$484 \quad \langle f, g \rangle = {}^t f \bar{g}.$$

- 485 • For any $t \in \mathbb{R}$ we denote by e_t the exponential function

$$486 \quad \begin{aligned} e_t : \mathbb{C} &\rightarrow \mathbb{C} \\ z &\mapsto e^{-tz}. \end{aligned}$$

- 487 • We shall denote by $C_{\nu_1, \dots, \nu_l} > 0$ a constant possibly varying from one line to
 488 another but depending only on the parameters ν_1, \dots, ν_l .
- 489 • For any non empty subset $\Gamma \subset \Lambda$, we set

$$490 \quad (2.16) \quad r_\Gamma := \inf_{\lambda \in \Gamma} \Re \lambda.$$

491 Notice that assumptions (2.3) and (2.4) imply that $r_\Gamma > 0$ for any $\Gamma \subset \Lambda$.

- 492 • For any multi-index $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^n$, we denote its length by $|\alpha| = \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j$ and its
 493 maximum by $|\alpha|_\infty = \max_{j \in \llbracket 1, n \rrbracket} \alpha_j$.
- 494 For $\alpha, \mu \in \mathbb{N}^n$, we say that $\mu \leq \alpha$ if and only if $\mu_j \leq \alpha_j$ for any $j \in \llbracket 1, n \rrbracket$.
- 495 • In all this article the notation $f[\dots]$ stands for (generalized) divided dif-
 496 ferences of a set of values (x_j, f_j) . Let us recall that, for pairwise distinct
 497 $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{C}$ and f_1, \dots, f_n in any vector space, the divided differences are
 498 defined by

$$499 \quad f[x_j] = f_j, \quad f[x_1, \dots, x_j] = \frac{f[x_2, \dots, x_j] - f[x_1, \dots, x_{j-1}]}{x_j - x_1}.$$

500 The two results that will be the most used in this article concerning divided
 501 differences are the Leibniz formula

$$502 \quad (gf)[x_1, \dots, x_j] = \sum_{k=1}^j g[x_1, \dots, x_k] f[x_k, \dots, x_j],$$

503 and Jensen inequality stating that, when $f_j = f(x_j)$ for an holomorphic
 504 function f , we have

$$505 \quad |f[x_1, \dots, x_j]| \leq \frac{|f^{(j-1)}(z)|}{(j-1)!},$$

506 with $z \in \text{Conv}\{x_1, \dots, x_j\}$. For more detailed statements and other useful
507 properties as well as their generalizations when x_1, \dots, x_n are not assumed to
508 be pairwise distinct we refer the reader to [12, Appendix A.2] This general-
509 ization is used in the present article whenever there are algebraically multiple
510 eigenvalues.
511 • For any closed subspace Y of $X_{-\diamond}$ we denote by P_Y the orthogonal projection
512 in $X_{-\diamond}$ onto Y . We denote by $P_Y^* \in L(X_\diamond^*)$ its adjoint in the duality $X_{-\diamond}$,
513 X_\diamond^* .

514 2.2. Resolution of block moment problems.

515 ★ *Definition of block moment problems.*

516 Using the notion of solution given in Proposition 2.1 and the assumption (2.15),
517 null controllability from y_0 in time T reduces to the resolution of the following problem:
518 find $u \in L^2(0, T; U)$ such that

$$519 \quad (2.17) \quad \int_0^T \langle u(t), \mathcal{B}^* e^{-(T-t)\mathcal{A}^*} \phi \rangle_U dt = - \langle y_0, e^{-T\mathcal{A}^*} \phi \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}, \quad \forall \phi \in E_\lambda, \forall \lambda \in \Lambda.$$

520 Following the strategy initiated in [9] for scalar controls, we decompose this problem
521 into block moment problems. Hence we look for a control of the form

$$522 \quad (2.18) \quad u = - \sum_{G \in \mathcal{G}} v_G(T - \bullet)$$

523 where \mathcal{G} is a grouping (as stated in Proposition 2.2) and, for every $G \in \mathcal{G}$, $v_G \in$
524 $L^2(0, T; U)$ solves the moment problem in the group G i.e.

$$525 \quad (2.19a) \quad \int_0^T \langle v_G(t), \mathcal{B}^* e^{-t\mathcal{A}^*} \phi \rangle_U dt = \langle y_0, e^{-T\mathcal{A}^*} \phi \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}, \quad \forall \phi \in E_\lambda, \forall \lambda \in G,$$

$$526 \quad (2.19b) \quad \int_0^T \langle v_G(t), \mathcal{B}^* e^{-t\mathcal{A}^*} \phi \rangle_U dt = 0, \quad \forall \phi \in E_\lambda, \forall \lambda \in \Lambda \setminus G.$$

528 In fact it is sufficient to solve the following block moment problem

$$529 \quad (2.20a) \quad \int_0^T \langle v_G(t), \mathcal{B}^* e^{-t\mathcal{A}^*} \phi \rangle_U dt = \langle e^{-T\mathcal{A}} y_0, \phi \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}, \quad \forall \phi \in E_\lambda, \forall \lambda \in G,$$

$$530 \quad (2.20b) \quad \int_0^T v_G(t) t^l e^{-\bar{\lambda} t} dt = 0, \quad \forall \lambda \in \Lambda \setminus G, \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \eta \rrbracket$$

532 where $e^{-T\mathcal{A}} y_0$ is defined in (2.2).

533 Indeed, for any $\phi \in E_\lambda$, from [9, (1.22)], it comes that

$$534 \quad (2.21) \quad e^{-t\mathcal{A}^*} \phi = e^{-\lambda t} \sum_{r \geq 0} \frac{(-t)^r}{r!} (\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda)^r \phi = \sum_{r \geq 0} e_t \left[\lambda^{(r+1)} \right] (\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda)^r \phi,$$

535 where the sums are finite (and contains at most the first α_λ terms). Thus, every
536 solution of (2.20) solves (2.19). The orthogonality condition (2.20b) is more restrictive
537 than (2.19b) but leads to negligible terms in the estimates.

538 \star *Resolution of block moment problems.*

539 In our setting, the block moment problem (2.20) is proved to be solvable for any
 540 $T > 0$. The resolution will follow from the scalar study done in [9] and refined in [12]
 541 (see Theorem A.1).

542 Due to (2.18), the main issue to prove null controllability of (1.1) is thus to sum
 543 those contributions to obtain a solution of (2.17). This is justified thanks to a precise
 544 estimate of the cost of the resolution of (2.20) for each group G which is the quantity

$$545 \quad \inf \left\{ \|v_G\|_{L^2(0,T;U)} ; v_G \text{ solution of (2.20)} \right\}.$$

546 To state this result, we introduce some additional notation.

547 To solve the moment problem (2.20) we propose to lift it into a ‘*vectorial block*
 548 *moment problem*’ of the following form (see (3.1))

$$549 \quad \begin{cases} \int_0^T v_G(t) \frac{(-t)^l}{l!} e^{-\bar{\lambda}t} dt = \Omega_{\bar{\lambda}}^l, & \forall \lambda \in G, \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \alpha_\lambda \rrbracket, \\ \int_0^T v_G(t) t^l e^{-\bar{\lambda}t} dt = 0, & \forall \lambda \in \Lambda \setminus G, \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \eta \rrbracket, \end{cases}$$

550 where $\Omega_{\bar{\lambda}}^l$ belongs to U . Following (2.21), to recover a solution of (2.20), we need
 551 to impose some constraints on the right-hand side that are given in the following
 552 definition.

553 **DEFINITION 2.2.** *For any $\lambda \in \Lambda$ and any $z \in X_{-\diamond}$, we set*

554

$$555 \quad (2.22) \quad \mathcal{O}(\lambda, z) = \left\{ (\Omega^0, \dots, \Omega^{\alpha_\lambda - 1}) \in U^{\alpha_\lambda} ; \right.$$

$$556 \quad \left. \sum_{l=0}^{\alpha_\lambda - 1} \langle \Omega^l, \mathcal{B}^*(\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda)^l \phi \rangle_U = \langle z, \phi \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}, \quad \forall \phi \in E_\lambda \right\}.$$

557

558 *For a given group G , we set*

$$559 \quad (2.23) \quad \mathcal{O}(G, z) = \prod_{\lambda \in G} \mathcal{O}(\lambda, z) \subset U^{|\alpha|}$$

560 *where α is the multi-index of the algebraic multiplicities of the eigenvalues.*

561 Consider any sequence of multi-indices $(\mu^l)_{l \in \llbracket 0, |\alpha| \rrbracket}$ such that

$$562 \quad (2.24) \quad \begin{cases} \mu^{l-1} \leq \mu^l, & \forall l \in \llbracket 1, |\alpha| \rrbracket, \\ |\mu^l| = l, & \forall l \in \llbracket 0, |\alpha| \rrbracket, \\ \mu^{|\alpha|} = \alpha. \end{cases}$$

563 To measure the cost associated to the group $G = \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_g\}$ let us define the fol-
 564 lowing functional

$$565 \quad (2.25) \quad F : \Omega = (\Omega_1^0, \dots, \Omega_1^{\alpha_1 - 1}, \dots, \Omega_g^0, \dots, \Omega_g^{\alpha_g - 1}) \in U^{|\alpha|} \mapsto \sum_{l=1}^{|\alpha|} \left\| \Omega \left[\bar{\lambda}^{\bullet(\mu^l)} \right] \right\|_U^2$$

566 with the convention

$$567 \quad \Omega \left[\bar{\lambda}_j^{(l+1)} \right] = \Omega_j^l, \quad \forall j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket, \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \alpha_j \rrbracket.$$

568 The use of such functional to measure the cost comes from the analysis conducted for
 569 scalar controls in [9] (see Proposition 3.3). It appears in the following lower bound
 570 for solutions of block moment problems.

571 PROPOSITION 2.3. Assume that the operators \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} satisfy the assumption (H)
 572 (see Section 2.1.2). Let $T \in (0, +\infty)$, and $G \subset \Lambda$ be a group satisfying (2.7).

573 There exists $C_{p,\eta,r_\Lambda} > 0$ such that, for any $z \in X_{-\diamond}$, any $v_G \in L^2(0, T; U)$ solving

$$574 \quad \int_0^T \left\langle v_G(t), \mathcal{B}^* e^{-t\mathcal{A}^*} \phi \right\rangle_U dt = \langle z, \phi \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}, \quad \forall \phi \in E_\lambda, \forall \lambda \in G$$

575 satisfies

$$576 \quad (2.26) \quad \|v_G\|_{L^2(0, T; U)}^2 \geq C_{p,\eta,r_\Lambda} \mathcal{C}(G, z)$$

577 where

$$578 \quad (2.27) \quad \mathcal{C}(G, z) := \inf \{F(\Omega) ; \Omega \in \mathcal{O}(G, z)\}$$

579 with F defined in (2.25) and $\mathcal{O}(G, z)$ defined in Definition 2.2.

580 The first main result of this article concerns the resolution of block moment
 581 problems of the form (2.20). It roughly states that, up to terms that turns out to be
 582 negligible, the lower bound obtained in Proposition 2.3 is optimal.

583 THEOREM 2.4. Assume that the operators \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} satisfy the assumption (H)
 584 (see Section 2.1.2). Let $T \in (0, +\infty)$, and $G \subset \Lambda$ be a group satisfying (2.6)–(2.8).

585 For any $z \in X_{-\diamond}$, there exists $v_G \in L^2(0, T; U)$ solution of

$$586 \quad (2.28a) \quad \int_0^T \left\langle v_G(t), \mathcal{B}^* e^{-t\mathcal{A}^*} \phi \right\rangle_U dt = \langle z, \phi \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}, \quad \forall \phi \in E_\lambda, \forall \lambda \in G,$$

$$587 \quad (2.28b) \quad \int_0^T v_G(t) t^l e^{-\bar{\lambda}t} dt = 0, \quad \forall \lambda \in \Lambda \setminus G, \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \eta \rrbracket,$$

588 satisfying the following estimate

$$590 \quad (2.29) \quad \|v_G\|_{L^2(0, T; U)}^2 \leq C \exp\left(\frac{C}{T^{1-\theta}}\right) \exp(r_G T) \exp(Cr_G^\theta) \mathcal{C}(G, z).$$

591 In this estimate, $\mathcal{C}(G, z)$ is defined in (2.27) and r_G is defined in (2.16). The constant
 592 $C > 0$ appearing in the estimate only depends on the parameters $\tau, p, \varrho, \eta, \theta$ and κ .

593 Before giving the application of this resolution of block moment problems to the
 594 null controllability of our initial system (1.1), let us give some comments.

- 595 • As it was the case in [9], the considered setting allows for a wide variety
 596 of applications. In (2.15) the generalized eigenvectors are only assumed to
 597 form a complete family (and not a Riesz basis as in many previous works)
 598 which is the minimal assumption to use a moment method-like strategy. The
 599 weak gap condition (2.4) is also well adapted to study systems of coupled one
 600 dimensional parabolic equations (see Section 7).
- 601 • The main restriction is the assumption (2.9). As detailed in Section 1.1, this
 602 assumption is common to most of the results based on a moment-like method.
 603 Though restrictive, let us underline that the moment method is, to the best
 604 of our knowledge, the most suitable method to capture very sensitive features
 605 such as a minimal null control time for parabolic control problems without
 606 constraints.

- 607 • The main novelty of this theorem is to ensure solvability of block moment
608 problems coming from control problems with control operators that are only
609 assumed to be admissible. In particular, the space U can be of infinite di-
610 mension. Results concerning block moment problems with more general right-
611 hand sides, that is not necessarily coming from a controllability problem, are
612 stated in Appendix C
- 613 • The estimate (2.29) does not explicitly depend on the sequence of eigenval-
614 ues Λ but rather on some parameters such as the weak-gap parameters and
615 the asymptotic of the counting function. As presented in Section 1.1, the
616 uniformity of such bounds can be used to deal with parameter dependent
617 problems.
- 618 • Let us also underline that the obtained estimate (2.29) tracks the depen-
619 dency of the constants with respect to the controllability time T . This will
620 be crucial to estimate the cost of controllability in Proposition 2.11. We re-
621 fer to Remark 2.8 for possible applications of such estimates of the cost of
622 controllability.
- 623 • Though quite general and useful for the theoretical characterization of the
624 minimal null control time, the obtained estimate (2.29) still requires to be able
625 to evaluate quantities of the form $\mathcal{C}(G, z)$, which can be intricate. We provide
626 in Section 2.4 some explicit formulas that makes this estimation possible in
627 many actual examples.

628 2.3. Determination of the minimal null control time.

629 The resolution of block moment problems stated in Theorem 2.4 allows to obtain
630 the following characterization of the minimal null control time of our abstract control
631 problem from a given initial condition.

632 THEOREM 2.5. *Assume that the operators \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} satisfy the assumption (H)
633 (see Section 2.1.2) and let \mathcal{G} be an associated grouping as stated in Proposition 2.2.
634 Then, for any $y_0 \in X_{-\diamond}$, the minimal null control time of (1.1) from y_0 is given by*

$$635 \quad (2.30) \quad T_0(y_0) = \limsup_{G \in \mathcal{G}} \frac{\ln^+ \mathcal{C}(G, y_0)}{2r_G}$$

636 where $\mathcal{C}(G, y_0)$ is defined in (2.27).

637 In this statement we have used the notation $\ln^+ s = \max(0, \ln s)$, for any $s \geq 0$.

638 If one considers a space of initial conditions (instead of a single initial condition),
639 the characterization of the minimal null control time is given in the following corollary.

640 COROLLARY 2.6. *Let Y_0 be a closed subspace of $X_{-\diamond}$. Then, under the assump-
641 tions of Theorem 2.5, the minimal null control time from Y_0 is given by*

$$642 \quad T_0(Y_0) = \limsup_{G \in \mathcal{G}} \frac{\ln^+ \mathcal{C}(G, Y_0)}{2r_G}$$

643 with

$$644 \quad \mathcal{C}(G, Y_0) := \sup_{\substack{y_0 \in Y_0 \\ \|y_0\|_{-\diamond} = 1}} \mathcal{C}(G, y_0).$$

645 **2.4. More explicit formulas.**

646 Assume that the operators \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} satisfy the assumption (H). Let $G \subset \Lambda$ be
 647 such that $\sharp G \leq p$ and $\text{diam } G \leq \varrho$. We have seen in Theorem 2.5 that the key quantity
 648 to compute the minimal null control time from y_0 is

$$649 \quad \mathcal{C}(G, y_0) = \inf \{F(\Omega) ; \Omega \in \mathcal{O}(G, y_0)\}.$$

650 where the function F is defined in (2.25) and the constraints $\mathcal{O}(G, y_0)$ are defined
 651 in (2.23). Let us give more explicit formulas to compute such costs.

652 Notice that, for any $z \in X_{-\diamond}$, the quantity $\mathcal{C}(G, z)$ can be expressed as a finite
 653 dimensional constrained problem. Indeed, for a given group G we consider the finite
 654 dimensional subspace

$$655 \quad (2.31) \quad U_G = \mathcal{B}^* \text{Span} \{\phi \in E_\lambda ; \lambda \in G\}$$

656 and P_{U_G} the orthogonal projection in U onto U_G . Then, for any $\Omega \in \mathcal{O}(G, z)$ it
 657 comes that $P_{U_G} \Omega \in \mathcal{O}(G, z)$ and $F(P_{U_G} \Omega) \leq F(\Omega)$. Thus, the optimization problem
 658 defining $\mathcal{C}(G, z)$ reduces to

$$659 \quad \mathcal{C}(G, z) = \inf \left\{ F(\Omega) ; \Omega \in \mathcal{O}(G, z) \cap U_G^{|\alpha|} \right\},$$

660 which is a finite dimensional optimization problem. From [9, Proposition 7.15], the
 661 function F is coercive which implies that the infimum is actually attained:

$$662 \quad (2.32) \quad \mathcal{C}(G, z) = \min \left\{ F(\Omega) ; \Omega \in \mathcal{O}(G, z) \cap U_G^{|\alpha|} \right\}.$$

663 In this section, solving the optimization problem (2.32), we provide more explicit
 664 formulas for this cost for some particular configurations for the multiplicities of the
 665 eigenvalues in the group G (and only in that particular group).

666 *★ A group G of geometrically simple eigenvalues.*

667 First, assume that the eigenvalues in $G = \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_g\}$ are all geometrically simple
 668 *i.e.* $\gamma_\lambda = 1$ for every $\lambda \in G$ where γ_λ is defined in (2.12).

669 For any $j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket$ we denote by ϕ_j^0 an eigenvector of \mathcal{A}^* associated to the eigen-
 670 value λ_j and by $(\phi_j^l)_{l \in \llbracket 0, \alpha_j \rrbracket}$ an associated Jordan chain *i.e.*

$$671 \quad (\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda_j) \phi_j^l = \phi_j^{l-1}, \quad \forall l \in \llbracket 1, \alpha_j \rrbracket.$$

672 To simplify the writing, we set

$$673 \quad b_j^l := \mathcal{B}^* \phi_j^l \in U, \quad \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \alpha_j \rrbracket, \forall j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket.$$

674 Recall that the sequence of multi-index $(\mu^l)_{l \in \llbracket 0, |\alpha| \rrbracket}$ satisfy (2.24) and let

$$675 \quad (2.33) \quad M := \sum_{l=1}^{|\alpha|} \Gamma_\mu^l$$

676 with

$$677 \quad \Gamma_\mu^l := \text{Gram}_U \left(\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{l-1}, b \left[\lambda_\bullet^{(\mu^l - \mu^{l-1})} \right], \dots, b \left[\lambda_\bullet^{(\mu^{|\alpha|} - \mu^{l-1})} \right] \right)$$

678 where for every $u_1, \dots, u_n \in U$, $\text{Gram}_U(u_1, \dots, u_n)$ denotes the Gram matrix whose
679 entry on the i -th row and j -th column is $\langle u_j, u_i \rangle_U$. To explicit the cost $\mathcal{C}(G, y_0)$, we
680 will use the inverse of this matrix. Its invertibility is guaranteed by the following
681 proposition which is proved in Section 5.2.

682 PROPOSITION 2.7. *Under condition (2.14), the matrix M defined in (2.33) is in-*
683 *vertible.*

684 The matrix M plays a crucial role in the computation of the cost $\mathcal{C}(G, y_0)$. Let us
685 give some comments. It is a sum of Gram matrices whose construction is summarized
686 in Figure 1 on an example with $G = \{\lambda_1, \lambda_2\}$ with $\alpha_1 = 3$ and $\alpha_2 = 2$. Each of these
687 matrices is of size $|\alpha|$ which is the number of eigenvalues (counted with their algebraic
688 multiplicities) that belong to the group G . Thus, on actual examples (see Section 7),
689 the size of these matrices is usually reasonably small.

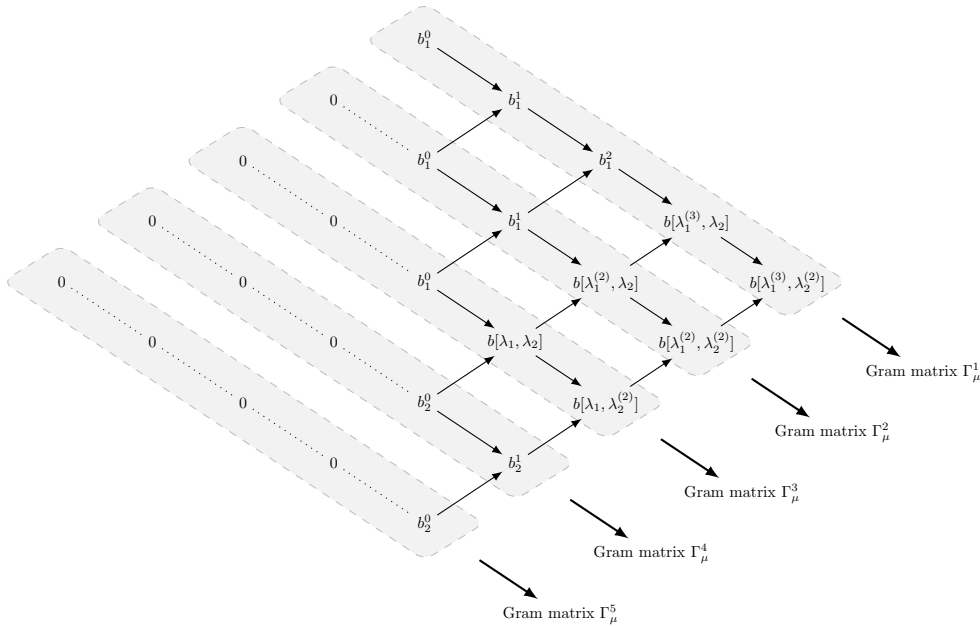


FIGURE 1. Construction of the Gram matrices Γ_μ^l in the case of a group $G = \{\lambda_1, \lambda_2\}$ with multiplicities $\alpha = (3, 2)$ and the sequence of multi-indices $\mu = ((0, 0), (1, 0), (2, 0), (3, 0), (3, 1), (3, 2))$

690 Then, we obtain the following formula for the cost of a group of geometrically
691 simple eigenvalues.

692 THEOREM 2.8. *Assume that the operators \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} satisfy the assumption (H)*
693 *(see Section 2.1.2). Let $G = \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_g\} \subset \Lambda$ be such that $\sharp G \leq p$ and $\text{diam } G \leq \rho$*
694 *and assume that $\gamma_\lambda = 1$ for every $\lambda \in G$. Then, for any $y_0 \in X_{-\diamond}$, we have*

$$695 \quad \mathcal{C}(G, y_0) = \langle M^{-1}\xi, \xi \rangle, \quad \text{where } \xi = \begin{pmatrix} \left\langle y_0, \phi \left[\lambda_{\bullet}^{(\mu^1)} \right] \right\rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \\ \vdots \\ \left\langle y_0, \phi \left[\lambda_{\bullet}^{(\mu^{|\alpha|})} \right] \right\rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^{|\alpha|}$$

696 and M is defined in (2.33).

697 Moreover, if Y_0 is a closed subspace of $X_{-\diamond}$,

$$698 \quad (2.34) \quad \mathcal{C}(G, Y_0) = \rho(\text{Gram}_{X_{-\diamond}^*}(\psi_1, \dots, \psi_{|\alpha|})M^{-1})$$

699 where $\psi_j := P_{Y_0}^* \phi \left[\lambda_{\bullet}^{(\mu^j)} \right]$ and, for any matrix M , the notation $\rho(M)$ denotes the
700 spectral radius of the matrix M .

701 **REMARK 2.4.** Notice that we do not choose any particular eigenvector or Jordan
702 chain. To compute explicitly the cost $\mathcal{C}(G, y_0)$ on actual examples, we will often choose
703 them to satisfy

$$704 \quad \|b_j^0\|_U = 1, \quad \langle b_j^0, b_j^l \rangle_U = 0, \quad \forall l \in \llbracket 1, \alpha_j \rrbracket,$$

705 to simplify the Gram matrices. Obviously, as the quantity $\mathcal{C}(G, y_0)$ is independent of
706 this choice, we can choose any other specific Jordan chains or eigenvectors that are
707 more suitable to each problem.

708 **REMARK 2.5.** In the case where the eigenvalues of the considered group G are
709 also algebraically simple, then the expression of M given in (2.33) reduces to

$$710 \quad (2.35) \quad M = \sum_{l=1}^g \Gamma^l \quad \text{with} \quad \Gamma^l = \text{Gram}_U \left(\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{l-1}, b[\lambda_l], \dots, b[\lambda_l, \dots, \lambda_g] \right)$$

711 and the expression of ξ reduces to

$$712 \quad \xi = \begin{pmatrix} \langle y_0, \phi[\lambda_1] \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \\ \vdots \\ \langle y_0, \phi[\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_g] \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \end{pmatrix}.$$

713 \star A group G of semi-simple eigenvalues.

714 We now assume that all the eigenvalues in G are semi-simple i.e. for any $\lambda \in G$
715 we have $\alpha_\lambda = 1$ where α_λ is defined in (2.13).

716 For any $j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket$, we denote by $(\phi_{j,i})_{i \in \llbracket 1, \gamma_j \rrbracket}$ a basis of $\text{Ker}(\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda_j)$. To simplify
717 the writing, we set

$$718 \quad b_{j,i} := \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{j,i}, \quad \forall j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket, \forall i \in \llbracket 1, \gamma_j \rrbracket$$

719 and $\gamma_G := \gamma_1 + \dots + \gamma_g$.

720 For any $i \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket$, we set $\delta_1^i := 1$ and

$$721 \quad (2.36) \quad \delta_j^i := \prod_{k=1}^{j-1} (\lambda_i - \lambda_k), \quad \forall j \in \llbracket 2, g \rrbracket.$$

722 Notice that $\delta_j^i = 0$ as soon as $j > i$.

723 Let

$$724 \quad (2.37) \quad M = \sum_{l=1}^g \Gamma^l \quad \text{with} \quad \Gamma^l = \text{Gram}_U (\delta_l^1 b_{1,1}, \dots, \delta_l^1 b_{1,\gamma_1}, \dots, \delta_l^g b_{g,1}, \dots, \delta_l^g b_{g,\gamma_g}).$$

725 Here again, to explicit the cost $\mathcal{C}(G, y_0)$ we will use the inverse of this matrix. Its
726 invertibility is guaranteed by the following proposition which is proved in Section 5.3.

727 PROPOSITION 2.9. Under condition (2.14), the matrix M defined in (2.37) is in-
 728 vertible.

729 Notice that the square matrix Γ^l is of size γ_G and can be seen as a block matrix where
 730 the block (i, j) with γ_i rows and γ_j columns is

$$731 \begin{pmatrix} \langle \delta_l^j b_{j,1}, \delta_l^i b_{i,1} \rangle_U & \cdots & \langle \delta_l^j b_{j,\gamma_j}, \delta_l^i b_{i,1} \rangle_U \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \langle \delta_l^j b_{j,1}, \delta_l^i b_{i,\gamma_i} \rangle_U & \cdots & \langle \delta_l^j b_{j,\gamma_j}, \delta_l^i b_{i,\gamma_i} \rangle_U \end{pmatrix}.$$

732 Thus, the block (i, j) of Γ^l is identically 0 for $i, j \in \llbracket 1, l \rrbracket$.

733 Then, we obtain the following formula for the cost of a group made of semi-simple
 734 eigenvalues.

735 THEOREM 2.10. Assume that the operators \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} satisfy the assumption (H)
 736 (see Section 2.1.2). Let $G = \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_g\} \subset \Lambda$ be such that $\sharp G \leq p$ and $\text{diam } G \leq \rho$
 737 and assume that $\alpha_\lambda = 1$ for every $\lambda \in G$. Then, for any $y_0 \in X_{-\diamond}$, we have

$$738 \mathcal{C}(G, y_0) = \langle M^{-1} \xi, \xi \rangle$$

739 where

$$740 \xi = \begin{pmatrix} \langle y_0, \phi_{1,1} \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \\ \vdots \\ \langle y_0, \phi_{1,\gamma_1} \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \\ \vdots \\ \langle y_0, \phi_{g,1} \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \\ \vdots \\ \langle y_0, \phi_{g,\gamma_g} \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \end{pmatrix}$$

741 and M is defined in (2.37).

742 Moreover, if Y_0 is a closed subspace of $X_{-\diamond}$,

$$743 (2.38) \quad \mathcal{C}(G, Y_0) = \rho \left(\text{Gram}_{X_\diamond^*}(\psi_{1,1}, \dots, \psi_{1,\gamma_1}, \dots, \psi_{g,1}, \dots, \psi_{g,\gamma_g}) M^{-1} \right)$$

744 where $\psi_{j,i} := P_{Y_0}^* \phi_{j,i}$ and, for any matrix M , the notation $\rho(M)$ denotes its spectral
 745 radius.

746 REMARK 2.6. When the eigenvalues of the group G are geometrically and alge-
 747 braically simple, Theorem 2.10 gives a characterization of the cost of the block $\mathcal{C}(G, y_0)$
 748 which is different from the one coming from Theorem 2.8 and detailed in Remark 2.5.
 749 A direct proof of this equivalence (stated in Proposition D.3) using algebraic manipu-
 750 lations is given in Appendix D.

751 *★ Dealing simultaneously with geometric and algebraic multiplicity.*

752 Combining Theorems 2.8 and 2.10, we can deal with operators \mathcal{A}^* which have
 753 both groups of geometrically simple eigenvalues and groups of semi-simple eigenval-
 754 ues. However, for technical reasons, in the case where both algebraic and geometric
 755 multiplicities need to be taken into account into a group G we do obtain a general
 756 formula for the cost of this group $\mathcal{C}(G, y_0)$. Nevertheless, if this situation occurs in
 757 actual examples, computing this cost is a finite dimensional constrained optimization

758 problem which can be solved ‘by hand’. We present in Section 5.4 an example of such
 759 resolution for a group G that does not satisfies the assumptions of Theorem 2.8 nor
 760 of Theorem 2.10.

761 **2.5. Estimate of the cost of null controllability.**

762 When system (1.1) is null controllable, we obtain the following bound on the cost
 763 of controllability.

764 PROPOSITION 2.11. *Assume that the operators \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} satisfy the assumption (H)
 765 (see Section 2.1.2) and let \mathcal{G} be an associated grouping a as stated in Proposition 2.2.*

766 *Let $y_0 \in X_{-\diamond}$ and let $T > T_0(y_0)$. There exists a control $u \in L^2(0, T; U)$ such
 767 that the associated solution of (1.1) initiated from y_0 satisfies $y(T) = 0$ and*

$$768 \quad \|u\|_{L^2(0, T; U)}^2 \leq C \exp\left(\frac{C}{(T - T_0(y_0))^{\frac{\theta}{1-\theta}}}\right) (1+T)^{2\eta} \sum_{G \in \mathcal{G}} e^{-\frac{T-T_0(y_0)}{2} r_G} e^{-2r_G T_0(y_0)} \mathcal{C}(G, Y_0).$$

769 *The constant $C > 0$ appearing in the estimate only depends on the parameters τ , p ,
 770 ϱ , η , θ and κ .*

771 Though quite general the above formula is not very explicit. More importantly,
 772 it is proved in [29, Theorem 1.1] that, with a suitable choice of \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} satisfying
 773 our assumptions, any blow-up of the cost of controllability can occur. We give below
 774 a setting (inspired from [29, Theorem 1.2]) in which this upper bound on the cost of
 775 controllability is simpler and can have some applications (see Remark 2.8).

776 COROLLARY 2.12. *Assume that the operators \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} satisfy the assumption (H)
 777 (see Section 2.1.2) and let \mathcal{G} be an associated grouping as stated in Proposition 2.2.
 778 Let $\beta > 0$. For any $y_0 \in X_{-\diamond}$ satisfying,*

$$779 \quad (2.39) \quad \mathcal{C}(G, y_0) \leq \beta e^{2r_G T_0(y_0)} \|y_0\|_{-\diamond}^2, \quad \forall G \in \mathcal{G},$$

780 *for any $T > T_0(y_0)$ close enough to $T_0(y_0)$, there exists a control $u \in L^2(0, T; U)$ such
 781 that the associated solution of (1.1) satisfies $y(T) = 0$ and*

$$782 \quad \|u\|_{L^2(0, T; U)} \leq C \exp\left(\frac{C}{(T - T_0(y_0))^{\frac{\theta}{1-\theta}}}\right) \|y_0\|_{-\diamond},$$

783 *where the constant $C > 0$ only depends on the parameters β , τ , p , ϱ , η , θ and κ .*

784 REMARK 2.7. *In the setting of Corollary 2.12, replacing the assumption (2.39)
 785 by*

$$786 \quad \mathcal{C}(G, y_0) \leq \beta e^{\beta r_G^\sigma} e^{2r_G T_0(y_0)} \|y_0\|_{-\diamond}^2, \quad \forall G \in \mathcal{G},$$

787 *with $\sigma \in (0, 1)$ leads to the following estimate*

$$788 \quad \|u\|_{L^2(0, T; U)} \leq C \exp\left(\frac{C}{(T - T_0(y_0))^{\frac{\max(\theta, \sigma)}{1-\max(\theta, \sigma)}}}\right) \|y_0\|_{-\diamond}.$$

789 REMARK 2.8. *Giving the best possible estimate on the cost of small time null
 790 controllability is a question that has drawn a lot of interest in the past years.*

791 *In classical cases, for instance for heat-like equations, null controllability holds
 792 in any positive time and the cost of controllability in small time behaves like $\exp\left(\frac{C}{T}\right)$
 793 (see for instance [37]). There are two main applications of such estimate.*

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- *Controllability in cylindrical domains.*
It is proved in [8] that null controllability of parabolic problems in cylindrical geometries (with operators compatible with this geometry) with a boundary control located on the top of the cylinder can be proved thanks to null controllability of the associated problem in the transverse variable together with suitable estimates of the cost of controllability. Their proof relies on an adaptation of the classical strategy of Lebeau and Robbiano [28] and thus uses an estimate of the cost of controllability in small time of the form $\exp\left(\frac{C}{T}\right)$. These ideas were already present in [10] and later generalized in an abstract setting in [1].

- *Nonlinear control problems.*
The source term method has been introduced in [30] to prove controllability of a nonlinear fluid-structure system (see also [7, Section 2] for a general presentation of this strategy). Roughly speaking it amounts to prove null controllability with a source term in suitable weighted spaces and then use a fixed point argument. The null controllability with a source term is here proved by an iterative process which strongly uses that the cost of controllability of the linearized system behaves like $\exp\left(\frac{C}{T}\right)$.

Notice that from the upper bound given in Corollary 2.12, the cost of controllability in small time can explode faster than $\exp\left(\frac{C}{T}\right)$. Yet, as studied in [33] and in [35, Chapter 4], the arguments of the two previous applications can be adapted with an explosion of the cost of the form $\exp\left(\frac{C}{T^{1-\theta}}\right)$ with $\theta \in (0, 1)$.

However, these two applications uses a decomposition of the time interval $[0, T]$ into an infinite number of sub-intervals (which explains the use of the asymptotic of the cost of controllability when the time goes to zero). Thus their extension in the case of a minimal null control time is an open problem.

3. Resolution of block moment problems.

In this section we prove Theorem 2.4 that is we solve the block moment problem (2.28). To do so, we first consider a vectorial block moment problem (see (3.1) below) which is proved to be equivalent to the block moment problem (2.28) in Proposition 3.1. This equivalence strongly relies on the constraints (2.22). Then we prove the lower bound for solutions of block moment problems stated in Proposition 2.3.

Finally, in Section 3.2, we solve the vectorial block moment problem (3.1) which will conclude the proof of Theorem 2.4.

3.1. An auxiliary equivalent vectorial block moment problem.

Let $\Lambda \subset S_\tau$, $G = \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_g\} \subset \Lambda$, $\eta \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_g) \in \mathbb{N}^g$ with $|\alpha|_\infty \leq \eta$. For any

$$\Omega = (\Omega_1^0, \dots, \Omega_1^{\alpha_1-1}, \dots, \Omega_g^0, \dots, \Omega_g^{\alpha_g-1}) \in U^{|\alpha|},$$

we consider the following auxiliary vectorial block moment problem : find $v_G \in L^2(0, T; U)$ such that

$$\int_0^T v_G(t) \frac{(-t)^l}{l!} e^{-\bar{\lambda}_j t} dt = \Omega_j^l, \quad \forall j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket, \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \alpha_j \rrbracket,$$

$$\int_0^T v_G(t) t^l e^{-\bar{\lambda} t} dt = 0, \quad \forall \lambda \in \Lambda \setminus G, \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \eta \rrbracket.$$

837 This block moment problem is said to be *vectorial*: the right-hand side Ω belongs
838 to $U^{|\alpha|}$ and its solution $v_G(t)$ belongs to the control space U for almost every t . Its
839 resolution with (almost) sharp estimates is given in Proposition 3.3.

840 Through (2.21), when the right-hand side Ω of (3.1) satisfy the constraints (2.23),
841 solving this vectorial block moment problem provides a solution of the original block
842 moment problem (2.28). More precisely we have the following proposition

843 PROPOSITION 3.1. *Let $T > 0$ and $z \in X_{-\diamond}$. The following two statements are*
844 *equivalent:*

- 845 *i. there exists $\Omega \in \mathcal{O}(G, z)$ such that the function $v_G \in L^2(0, T; U)$ solves (3.1);*
- 846 *ii. the function $v_G \in L^2(0, T; U)$ solves (2.28).*

847 *Proof.* Assume first that there exists $\Omega \in \mathcal{O}(G, z)$ and let $v \in L^2(0, T; U)$ be such
848 that (3.1) holds.

849 Then, using (2.21), for any $j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket$ and any $\phi \in E_{\lambda_j}$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}
850 \quad \int_0^T \left\langle v(t), \mathcal{B}^* e^{-t\mathcal{A}^*} \phi \right\rangle_U dt &= \int_0^T \left\langle v(t), e^{-\lambda_j t} \sum_{l=0}^{\alpha_j-1} \frac{(-t)^l}{l!} \mathcal{B}^* (\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda_j)^l \phi \right\rangle_U dt \\
851 &= \sum_{l=0}^{\alpha_j-1} \left\langle \int_0^T v(t) \frac{(-t)^l}{l!} e^{-\bar{\lambda}_j t} dt, \mathcal{B}^* (\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda_j)^l \phi \right\rangle_U \\
852 &= \sum_{l=0}^{\alpha_j-1} \langle \Omega_j^l, \mathcal{B}^* (\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda_j)^l \phi \rangle_U. \\
853
\end{aligned}$$

854 Since $(\Omega_j^0, \dots, \Omega_j^{\alpha_j-1}) \in \mathcal{O}(\lambda_j, z)$ (see (2.22)), this leads to

$$855 \quad \int_0^T \left\langle v(t), \mathcal{B}^* e^{-t\mathcal{A}^*} \phi \right\rangle_U dt = \langle z, \phi \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}, \quad \forall j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket, \forall \phi \in E_{\lambda_j},$$

856 which proves that v solves (2.28).

857 Assume now that $v \in L^2(0, T; U)$ solves (2.28). Setting

$$858 \quad \Omega_j^l := \int_0^T v(t) \frac{(-t)^l}{l!} e^{-\bar{\lambda}_j t} dt$$

859 we obtain that v solves (3.1). As in the previous step, the identity (2.21) implies that
860 $\Omega \in \mathcal{O}(G, z)$. \square

861 Using this vectorial block moment problem allows to prove the lower bound stated
862 in Proposition 2.3.

863 *Proof (of Proposition 2.3).* Let $v_G \in L^2(0, T; U)$ be any solution of (2.28a). Let

$$864 \quad \Omega_j^l := \int_0^T v_G(t) \frac{(-t)^l}{l!} e^{-\bar{\lambda}_j t} dt = \int_0^T v_G(t) e_t \left[\bar{\lambda}_j^{(l+1)} \right] dt, \quad \forall j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket, \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \alpha_j \rrbracket.$$

865 As in the proof of Proposition 3.1, the use of (2.21) implies that

$$866 \quad \Omega = (\Omega_1^0, \dots, \Omega_1^{\alpha_1-1}, \dots, \Omega_g^0, \dots, \Omega_g^{\alpha_g-1}) \in \mathcal{O}(G, z).$$

867 Thus,

$$868 \quad (3.2) \quad \mathcal{C}(G, z) \leq F(\Omega) = \sum_{l=1}^{|\alpha|} \left\| \Omega \left[\bar{\lambda}^{(\mu^l)} \right] \right\|_U^2.$$

869 Notice that

$$870 \quad \Omega \left[\bar{\lambda}_{\bullet}^{(\mu^l)} \right] = \int_0^T v_G(t) e_t \left[\bar{\lambda}_{\bullet}^{(\mu^l)} \right] dt, \quad \forall l \in \llbracket 0, |\alpha| \rrbracket.$$

871 Using Jensen inequality [9, Proposition 6.1] yields,

$$872 \quad \left| e_t \left[\bar{\lambda}_{\bullet}^{(\mu^l)} \right] \right| = \left| e_t \left[\lambda_{\bullet}^{(\mu^l)} \right] \right| \leq \frac{t^{l-1} e^{-r_G t}}{(l-1)!}.$$

873 Together with Cauchy-Schwarz inequality this implies

$$874 \quad \left\| \Omega \left[\bar{\lambda}_{\bullet}^{(\mu^l)} \right] \right\|_U \leq \left(\int_0^{+\infty} \frac{t^{l-1} e^{-r_G t}}{(l-1)!} dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \|v_G\|_{L^2(0,T;U)}.$$

875 Then, as $r_G \geq r_\Lambda$ and $|\alpha| \leq p\eta$, estimate (3.2) ends the proof of Theorem 2.4. \square

876 3.2. Solving the original moment problem.

877 In view of Proposition 3.1, to solve (2.28), we prove that there exists at least one
878 Ω satisfying the constraints (2.22).

879 PROPOSITION 3.2. *Let $\lambda \in \Lambda$ and $z \in X_{-\diamond}$. Then, under assumption (2.14), we
880 have*

$$881 \quad \mathcal{O}(\lambda, z) \neq \emptyset.$$

882 *Proof.* Let $T > 0$. The finite dimensional space E_λ is stable by the semi-
883 group $e^{-\bullet \mathcal{A}^*}$ (see for instance (2.21)). Using the approximate controllability assump-
884 tion (2.14) we have that

$$885 \quad \phi \in E_\lambda \mapsto \left\| \mathcal{B}^* e^{-\bullet \mathcal{A}^*} \phi \right\|_{L^2(0,T,U)}$$

886 is a norm on E_λ . Then, the equivalence of norms in finite dimension implies that the
887 following HUM-type functional

$$888 \quad J : \phi \in E_\lambda \mapsto \frac{1}{2} \left\| \mathcal{B}^* e^{-\bullet \mathcal{A}^*} \phi \right\|_{L^2(0,T,U)}^2 - \Re \langle z, \phi \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}$$

889 is coercive. Let $\tilde{\phi} \in E_\lambda$ be such that

$$890 \quad J(\tilde{\phi}) = \inf_{\phi \in E_\lambda} J(\phi)$$

891 and $v := \mathcal{B}^* e^{-\bullet \mathcal{A}^*} \tilde{\phi}$. The optimality condition gives (paying attention to the fact that
892 E_λ is a complex vector space)

$$893 \quad (3.3) \quad \int_0^T \left\langle v(t), \mathcal{B}^* e^{-t \mathcal{A}^*} \phi \right\rangle_U dt = \langle z, \phi \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}, \quad \forall \phi \in E_\lambda.$$

894 Finally, we set $\Omega := (\Omega^0, \dots, \Omega^{\alpha_\lambda - 1})$ with

$$895 \quad \Omega^l := \int_0^T v(t) \frac{(-t)^l}{l!} e^{-\bar{\lambda} t} dt, \quad \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \alpha_\lambda \rrbracket.$$

896 Using (3.3) and following the computations of Proposition 3.1 we obtain that $\Omega \in$
897 $\mathcal{O}(\lambda, z)$. \square

898 We now turn to the resolution of the vectorial block moment problem (3.1).

899 PROPOSITION 3.3. Let $p \in \mathbb{N}^*$, $\varrho, \tau, \kappa > 0$ and $\theta \in (0, 1)$. Assume that

900
$$\Lambda \in \mathcal{L}_w(p, \varrho, \tau, \theta, \kappa).$$

901 Let $G = \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_g\} \subset \Lambda$ be a group satisfying (2.6)–(2.8). Let $T \in (0, +\infty)$ and
 902 $\eta \in \mathbb{N}^*$. For any multi-index $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^g$ with $|\alpha|_\infty \leq \eta$ and any

903
$$\Omega = (\Omega_1^0, \dots, \Omega_1^{\alpha_1-1}, \dots, \Omega_g^0, \dots, \Omega_g^{\alpha_g-1}) \in U^{|\alpha|},$$

904 there exists $v_G \in L^2(0, T; U)$ solution of (3.1) such that

905
$$\|v_G\|_{L^2(0, T; U)}^2 \leq C \exp\left(\frac{C}{T^{1-\theta}}\right) \exp(r_G T) \exp(Cr_G^\theta) F(\Omega),$$

906 where F is defined in (2.25) and r_G is defined in (2.16). The constant $C > 0$ appearing
 907 in the estimate only depends on the parameters $\tau, p, \varrho, \eta, \theta$ and κ .

908 *Proof.* Let $(e_j)_{j \in \llbracket 1, d \rrbracket}$ be an orthonormal basis of the finite dimensional subspace
 909 of U given by

910
$$\text{Span} \left\{ \Omega_j^l ; j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket, l \in \llbracket 0, \alpha_j \rrbracket \right\}.$$

911 Then, for any $j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket$ and $l \in \llbracket 0, \alpha_j \rrbracket$, there exists $\left(a_i \left[\overline{\lambda_j}^{(l+1)} \right] \right)_{i \in \llbracket 1, d \rrbracket} \in \mathbb{C}^{|\alpha|}$ such
 912 that the decomposition of Ω_j^l reads

913
$$\Omega_j^l = \sum_{i=1}^d a_i \left[\overline{\lambda_j}^{(l+1)} \right] e_i.$$

914 From Theorem A.1, for any $i \in \llbracket 1, d \rrbracket$, there exists $v_i \in L^2(0, T; \mathbb{C})$ such that

915
$$\begin{cases} \int_0^T v_i(t) \frac{(-t)^l}{l!} e^{-\overline{\lambda_j} t} dt = a_i \left[\overline{\lambda_j}^{(l+1)} \right], & \forall j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket, \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \alpha_j \rrbracket, \\ \int_0^T v_i(t) t^l e^{-\overline{\lambda} t} dt = 0, & \forall \lambda \in \Lambda \setminus G, \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \eta \rrbracket, \end{cases}$$

916 and

917
$$\|v_i\|_{L^2(0, T; \mathbb{C})}^2 \leq C e^{CT^{-\frac{\theta}{1-\theta}}} e^{Cr_G^\theta} \max_{\substack{\mu \in \mathbb{N}^g \\ \mu \leq \alpha}} \left| a_i \left[\overline{\lambda_1}^{(\mu_1)}, \dots, \overline{\lambda_g}^{(\mu_g)} \right] \right|^2.$$

918 Setting

919
$$v := \sum_{i=1}^d v_i e_i,$$

920 we get that v solves (3.1) and using [9, Proposition 7.15]

$$\begin{aligned}
921 \quad \|v\|_{L^2(0,T;U)}^2 &= \sum_{i=1}^d \|v_i\|_{L^2(0,T;\mathbb{C})}^2 \\
922 \quad &\leq C e^{CT^{-\frac{\theta}{1-\theta}}} e^{r_G T} e^{Cr_G^\theta} \sum_{i=1}^d \max_{\substack{\mu \in \mathbb{N}^g \\ \mu \leq \alpha}} |a_i [\bar{\lambda}_1^{(\mu_1)}, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_g^{(\mu_g)}]|^2 \\
923 \quad &\leq C_{p,\varrho,\eta} C e^{CT^{-\frac{\theta}{1-\theta}}} e^{r_G T} e^{Cr_G^\theta} \sum_{p=1}^{|\alpha|} \left(\sum_{i=1}^d |a_i [\bar{\lambda}_\bullet^{(\mu^p)}]|^2 \right) \\
924 \quad &= C e^{CT^{-\frac{\theta}{1-\theta}}} e^{r_G T} e^{Cr_G^\theta} \sum_{p=1}^{|\alpha|} \left\| \Omega [\bar{\lambda}_\bullet^{(\mu^p)}] \right\|^2. \\
925
\end{aligned}$$

926 This ends the proof of Proposition 3.3. \square

927 We now have all the ingredients to prove Theorem 2.4.

928 *Proof (of Theorem 2.4).* From Proposition 3.2, we have $\mathcal{O}(G, z) \neq \emptyset$. Recall
929 that, from (2.32), the optimization problem defining $\mathcal{C}(G, z)$ can be reduced to a
930 finite dimensional optimization problem for which the infimum is attained. Thus, let
931 $\Omega \in \mathcal{O}(G, z)$ be such that

$$932 \quad F(\Omega) = \mathcal{C}(G, z).$$

933 Let $v_G \in L^2(0, T; U)$ be the solution of (3.1) given by Proposition 3.3 with Ω as right-
934 hand side. As $\Omega \in \mathcal{O}(G, z)$, from Proposition 3.1 we deduce that v_G solves (2.28).
935 The upper bound (2.29) on $\|v_G\|_{L^2(0,T;U)}$ is given by Proposition 3.3. \square

936 4. Application to the determination of the minimal null control time.

937 This section is dedicated to the consequences of Theorem 2.4 on the null control-
938 lability properties of system (1.1).

939 From Theorem 2.4, the resolution of block moment problems (2.20) associated
940 with null controllability of (1.1) will involve the quantity $\mathcal{C}(G, e^{-TA}y_0)$. To formulate
941 the minimal null control time we isolate the dependency with respect to the variable
942 T leading to quantities involving $\mathcal{C}(G, y_0)$. The comparison between these two costs
943 is detailed in Section 4.1.

944 Then, this leads to the formulation of the minimal null control time stated in
945 Theorem 2.5. We then prove the estimates on the cost of null controllability stated
946 in Proposition 2.11 and Corollary 2.12. This is detailed in Section 4.2.

947 4.1. Relating the different costs.

948 Let us prove that the cost $\mathcal{C}(G, e^{-TA}z)$ appearing in Theorem 2.4 roughly behaves
949 like $e^{-2r_G T} \mathcal{C}(G, z)$. More precisely, we have the following estimates.

950 LEMMA 4.1. *Assume that the operators \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} satisfy the assumption (H) (see*
951 *Section 2.1.2). There exists $C_{p,\varrho,\eta} > 0$ such that for any $G \subset \Lambda$ with $\sharp G \leq p$ and*
952 *diam $G \leq \varrho$, for any $T > 0$ and any $z \in X_{-\varrho}$,*

$$953 \quad (4.1) \quad \mathcal{C}(G, e^{-TA}z) \leq C_{p,\varrho,\eta} (1+T)^{2|\alpha|} e^{-2r_G T} \mathcal{C}(G, z)$$

954 and

$$955 \quad (4.2) \quad e^{-2r_G T} \mathcal{C}(G, z) \leq C_{p,\varrho,\eta} (1+T)^{2|\alpha|} e^{2\varrho T} \mathcal{C}(G, e^{-TA}z).$$

956 *Proof.* Recall that from (2.2) we have

$$957 \quad \left\langle y_0, e^{-T\mathcal{A}^*} \phi \right\rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} = \left\langle e^{-T\mathcal{A}} y_0, \phi \right\rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}, \quad \forall \phi \in X_\diamond^*.$$

958 We set $G = \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_g\}$.

959 • We start with the proof of (4.1).

960 From (2.32), let $\tilde{\Omega} \in \mathcal{O}(G, z)$ be such that $F(\tilde{\Omega}) = \mathcal{C}(G, z)$. We define Ω by

$$961 \quad \Omega_j^l := (e_T \tilde{\Omega}) \left[\overline{\lambda_j^{(l+1)}} \right], \quad \forall j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket, \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \alpha_j \rrbracket,$$

962 with the convention

$$963 \quad \tilde{\Omega} \left[\overline{\lambda_j^{(l+1)}} \right] = \tilde{\Omega}_j^l, \quad \forall j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket, \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \alpha_j \rrbracket.$$

964 Let us prove that $\Omega \in \mathcal{O}(G, e^{-T\mathcal{A}}z)$. For any $j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket$ and any $\phi \in E_{\lambda_j}$, using [9,
965 Definition 7.12] we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} 966 \quad \sum_{l \geq 0} \left\langle \Omega_j^l, \mathcal{B}^*(\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda_j)^l \phi \right\rangle_U &= \sum_{l \geq 0} \sum_{r=0}^l e_T \left[\overline{\lambda_j^{(r+1)}} \right] \left\langle \tilde{\Omega}_j^{l-r}, \mathcal{B}^*(\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda_j)^l \phi \right\rangle_U \\ 967 &= \sum_{r \geq 0} e_T \left[\overline{\lambda_j^{(r+1)}} \right] \sum_{l \geq r} \left\langle \tilde{\Omega}_j^{l-r}, \mathcal{B}^*(\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda_j)^l \phi \right\rangle_U \\ 968 &= \sum_{r \geq 0} e_T \left[\overline{\lambda_j^{(r+1)}} \right] \sum_{l \geq 0} \left\langle \tilde{\Omega}_j^l, \mathcal{B}^*(\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda_j)^{l+r} \phi \right\rangle_U. \end{aligned}$$

970 Since $\tilde{\Omega} \in \mathcal{O}(G, z)$ and $e_T \left[\overline{\lambda_j^{(r+1)}} \right] = \overline{e_T \left[\lambda_j^{(r+1)} \right]}$ for any $r \geq 0$, using (2.21) this
971 yields

$$\begin{aligned} 972 \quad \sum_{l \geq 0} \left\langle \Omega_j^l, \mathcal{B}^*(\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda_j)^l \phi \right\rangle_U &= \sum_{r \geq 0} \overline{e_T \left[\lambda_j^{(r+1)} \right]} \left\langle z, ((\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda_j)^r \phi) \right\rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \\ 973 \quad (4.3) \quad &= \left\langle z, e^{-T\mathcal{A}^*} \phi \right\rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} = \left\langle e^{-T\mathcal{A}} z, \phi \right\rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}. \end{aligned}$$

975 This proves the claim.

976 Applying Leibniz formula [9, Proposition 7.13] and Jensen inequality [9, Propo-
977 sition 6.1] we obtain,

$$\begin{aligned} 978 \quad \left\| \Omega \left[\overline{\lambda_\bullet^{(\mu^l)}} \right] \right\|_U &= \left\| \sum_{q=1}^l e_T \left[\overline{\lambda_\bullet^{(\mu^l - \mu^{q-1})}} \right] \tilde{\Omega} \left[\overline{\lambda_\bullet^{(\mu^q)}} \right] \right\| \\ 979 &\leq C_{p, \varrho, \eta} (1+T)^{|\alpha|} e^{-r_G T} \left(\sum_{q=1}^l \left\| \tilde{\Omega} \left[\overline{\lambda_\bullet^{(\mu^q)}} \right] \right\|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}. \end{aligned}$$

981 Thus,

$$982 \quad F(\Omega) \leq C_{p, \varrho, \eta} (1+T)^{2|\alpha|} e^{-2r_G T} F(\tilde{\Omega}) = C_{p, \varrho, \eta} (1+T)^{2|\alpha|} e^{-2r_G T} \mathcal{C}(G, z).$$

983 As $\Omega \in \mathcal{O}(G, e^{-T\mathcal{A}}z)$, this proves (4.1).

984 • The proof of (4.2) uses the same ingredients.
 985 From (2.32), let $\Omega \in \mathcal{O}(G, e^{-T\mathcal{A}}z)$ be such that $F(\Omega) = \mathcal{C}(G, e^{-T\mathcal{A}}z)$. For any
 986 $j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket$ and any $l \in \llbracket 0, \alpha_j \rrbracket$, let

$$987 \quad \tilde{\Omega}_j^l := (e_{-T}\Omega) \left[\bar{\lambda}_j^{(l+1)} \right]$$

988 where

$$989 \quad \Omega \left[\bar{\lambda}_j^{(l+1)} \right] := \Omega_j^l.$$

990 As previously, applying Leibniz formula [9, Proposition 7.13] and Jensen inequality [9,
 991 Proposition 6.1], since λ_j satisfies $\Re \lambda_j \leq r_G + \varrho$ for any $j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket$, we obtain

$$992 \quad \left\| \tilde{\Omega} \left[\bar{\lambda}_{\bullet}^{(\mu^l)} \right] \right\|_U \leq C_{p,\varrho,\eta} (1+T)^{2|\alpha|} e^{(r_G+\varrho)T} \left(\sum_{q=1}^l \left\| \Omega \left[\bar{\lambda}_{\bullet}^{(\mu^q)} \right] \right\|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

993 The same computations as in (4.3) give that $\Omega \in \mathcal{O}(G, z)$. Thus

$$994 \quad \mathcal{C}(G, z) \leq F(\tilde{\Omega}) \leq C_{p,\varrho,\eta} (1+T)^{2|\alpha|} e^{2(r_G+\varrho)T} F(\Omega) \\
 995 \quad = C_{p,\varrho,\eta} (1+T)^{2|\alpha|} e^{2(r_G+\varrho)T} \mathcal{C}(G, e^{-T\mathcal{A}}z)$$

997 and (4.2) is proved. \square

998 4.2. The minimal null control time.

999 This section is dedicated to the proof of Theorem 2.5 and Corollary 2.6 concerning
 1000 the minimal null control time. Proposition 2.11 and Corollary 2.12 concerning the
 1001 cost of null controllability will follow from the estimates obtained in the proof of
 1002 Theorem 2.5. This is discussed at the end of the current section.

1003 *Proof (of Theorem 2.5).*

1004 • We start with the proof of null controllability in time $T > T_0(y_0)$.

1005 We set $\varepsilon = T - T_0(y_0) > 0$. Let $G \in \mathcal{G}$ and let $v_G \in L^2(0, \varepsilon; U)$ be the solution
 1006 of the block moment problem (2.28) in time ε associated with $z = e^{-T\mathcal{A}}y_0$ given by
 1007 Theorem 2.4 *i.e.*

$$1008 \quad \int_0^\varepsilon \left\langle v_G(t), \mathcal{B}^* e^{-t\mathcal{A}^*} \phi \right\rangle_U dt = \langle e^{-T\mathcal{A}}y_0, \phi \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}, \quad \forall \phi \in E_\lambda, \forall \lambda \in G,$$

$$1009 \quad \int_0^\varepsilon v_G(t) t^l e^{-\bar{\lambda}t} dt = 0, \quad \forall \lambda \in \Lambda \setminus G, \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \eta \rrbracket.$$

1011 We still denote by $v_G \in L^2(0, T; U)$ the extension of v_G by 0. Thus, v_G satisfies

$$1012 \quad \int_0^T \left\langle v_G(t), \mathcal{B}^* e^{-t\mathcal{A}^*} \phi \right\rangle_U dt = \langle e^{-T\mathcal{A}}y_0, \phi \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}, \quad \forall \phi \in E_\lambda, \forall \lambda \in G,$$

$$1013 \quad \int_0^T v_G(t) t^l e^{-\bar{\lambda}t} dt = 0, \quad \forall \lambda \in \Lambda \setminus G, \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \eta \rrbracket.$$

1015 From (2.21), this implies that v_G solves (2.19). Thus, the only point left is to prove
 1016 that the series (2.18) defining the control u converges in $L^2(0, T; U)$.

1017 From Theorem 2.4 we have that

$$1018 \quad \|v_G\|_{L^2(0, T; U)}^2 = \|v_G\|_{L^2(0, \varepsilon; U)}^2 \leq C e^{C\varepsilon^{-\frac{\theta}{1-\theta}}} e^{\varepsilon r_G} e^{Cr_G^\theta} \mathcal{C}(G, e^{-T\mathcal{A}}y_0).$$

1019 Studying the maximum of the function $x \in [0, +\infty) \mapsto Cx^\theta - \frac{\varepsilon}{2}x$ it comes that

$$1020 \quad e^{Cr_G^\theta} \leq e^{C\varepsilon^{-\frac{\theta}{1-\theta}}} e^{\frac{\varepsilon}{2}r_G}$$

1021 where in the right-hand side the constant $C > 0$ has changed but still depend on the
1022 same parameters. Thus,

$$1023 \quad \|v_G\|_{L^2(0,T;U)}^2 \leq C e^{C\varepsilon^{-\frac{\theta}{1-\theta}}} e^{\frac{3}{2}\varepsilon r_G} \mathcal{C}(G, e^{-T\mathcal{A}}y_0).$$

1024 Using (4.1) we obtain

$$1025 \quad \|v_G\|_{L^2(0,T;U)}^2 \leq C e^{C\varepsilon^{-\frac{\theta}{1-\theta}}} (1+T)^{2|\alpha|} e^{-\frac{\varepsilon}{2}r_G} e^{-2r_G(T-\varepsilon)} \mathcal{C}(G, y_0).$$

1026 Recalling that $\varepsilon = T - T_0(y_0)$ this gives
1027 (4.4)

$$1027 \quad \|v_G\|_{L^2(0,T;U)}^2 \leq C \exp\left(\frac{C}{(T - T_0(y_0))^{\frac{\theta}{1-\theta}}}\right) (1+T)^{2|\alpha|} e^{-\frac{T-T_0(y_0)}{2}r_G} e^{-2r_G T_0(y_0)} \mathcal{C}(G, y_0).$$

1028 Recall that in (2.30) we have defined $T_0(y_0)$ by

$$1029 \quad T_0(y_0) = \limsup_{G \in \mathcal{G}} \frac{\ln^+ \mathcal{C}(G, y_0)}{2r_G}.$$

1030 Thus, when r_G is sufficiently large, we have

$$1031 \quad e^{-2r_G T_0(y_0)} \mathcal{C}(G, y_0) \leq \exp\left(\frac{T - T_0(y_0)}{4} r_G\right).$$

1032 Together with (4.4) this implies, for r_G sufficiently large,

$$1033 \quad \|v_G\|_{L^2(0,T;U)}^2 \leq C \exp\left(\frac{C}{(T - T_0(y_0))^{\frac{\theta}{1-\theta}}}\right) (1+T)^{2|\alpha|} \exp\left(-\frac{T - T_0(y_0)}{4} r_G\right)$$

1034 and proves that the series

$$1035 \quad (4.5) \quad u = \sum_{G \in \mathcal{G}} v_G(T - \bullet)$$

1036 converges in $L^2(0, T; U)$. This proves null controllability of (1.1) from y_0 in any time
1037 $T > T_0(y_0)$.

1038 • We now end the proof of Theorem 2.5 by proving that null controllability does not
1039 hold in time $T < T_0(y_0)$. The proof mainly relies on the optimality of the resolution
1040 of the block moment problems given in Proposition 2.3 (see (2.26)).

1041 Let $T > 0$. Assume that problem (1.1) is null controllable from y_0 in time T .
1042 Thus there exists $u \in L^2(0, T; U)$ such that $y(T) = 0$ and

$$1043 \quad \|u\|_{L^2(0,T;U)} \leq C_T \|y_0\|_{-\diamond}.$$

1044 Let $v := -u(T - \bullet)$. Then, for any $G \in \mathcal{G}$, v satisfies (2.28a) with $z = e^{-T\mathcal{A}}y_0$.
1045 From (2.26), this implies

$$1046 \quad (4.6) \quad C_T^2 \|y_0\|_{-\diamond}^2 \geq \|u\|_{L^2(0,T;U)}^2 = \|v\|_{L^2(0,T;U)}^2 \geq C_{p,\eta,r_\Lambda} \mathcal{C}(G, e^{-T\mathcal{A}}y_0).$$

1047 Applying (4.2) we obtain

$$1048 \quad \mathcal{C}(G, y_0) \leq C_{T,p,\varrho,\eta} e^{2r_G T} \mathcal{C}(G, e^{-TA} y_0).$$

1049 Together with (4.6) this implies

$$1050 \quad (4.7) \quad \mathcal{C}(G, y_0) \leq C_{T,p,\varrho,\eta,r_\Lambda} \|y_0\|_{-\infty}^2 e^{2r_G T}.$$

1051 Getting back to the definition of $T_0(y_0)$ given in (2.30), this implies that $T \geq T_0(y_0)$
 1052 and ends the proof of Theorem 2.5. \square

1053 **REMARK 4.1.** *It is worth noticing that the control v_G constructed is only active on*
 1054 *the time interval $(0, T - T_0(y_0))$. Thus, whenever $T_0(y_0) > 0$, the series (4.5) defining*
 1055 *the control u proves that it is possible to control y_0 to 0 in any time $T > T_0(y_0)$ with*
 1056 *a control that is identically vanishing on the time interval $(0, T_0(y_0))$.*

1057 We now turn to the proof of Corollary 2.6.

1058 *Proof (of Corollary 2.6).* By definition, we have $T_0(Y_0) = \sup_{y_0 \in Y_0} T_0(y_0)$. Using
 1059 the definition of $\mathcal{C}(G, Y_0)$ and Theorem 2.5, it directly comes that

$$1060 \quad T_0(Y_0) \leq \limsup_{G \in \mathcal{G}} \frac{\ln^+ \mathcal{C}(G, Y_0)}{2r_G}.$$

1061 We now focus on the converse inequality. Let $T > 0$ such that

$$1062 \quad T < \limsup_{G \in \mathcal{G}} \frac{\ln^+ \mathcal{C}(G, Y_0)}{2r_G}$$

1063 and let us prove that $T \leq T_0(Y_0)$.

1064 There exists $\varepsilon > 0$ and a sequence of groups $(G_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \in \mathcal{G}^{\mathbb{N}}$ such that for any
 1065 $k \in \mathbb{N}^*$, there exists $y_{0,k} \in Y_0$ with $\|y_{0,k}\|_{-\infty} = 1$ satisfying

$$1066 \quad (4.8) \quad T + \varepsilon < \frac{\ln \mathcal{C}(G_k, y_{0,k})}{2r_{G_k}}.$$

1067 By contradiction, assume that for any $y_0 \in Y_0$, we have $T > T_0(y_0)$. Thus,
 1068 from (4.7), there exists $C_{T,p,\varrho,\eta,r_\Lambda} > 0$ such that for any $k \in \mathbb{N}^*$

$$1069 \quad \frac{\ln \mathcal{C}(G_k, y_{0,k})}{2r_{G_k}} \leq \frac{\ln C_{T,p,\varrho,\eta,r_\Lambda}}{2r_{G_k}} + T.$$

1070 Taking k sufficiently large, this is in contradiction with (4.8). \square

1071 We end this section with the proof of Proposition 2.11 and Corollary 2.12 concern-
 1072 ing the cost of null controllability.

1073 A careful inspection of the proof of null controllability in time $T > T_0(y_0)$ detailed
 1074 in Section 4.2 allows to give a bound on the cost of controllability.

1075 *Proof (of Proposition 2.11 and Corollary 2.12).* The proof of Proposition 2.11 fol-
 1076 lows directly from (2.18) and (4.4).

1077 The proof of Corollary 2.12 then follows directly from Proposition 2.11, assump-
 1078 tion (2.39) and the estimate

$$1079 \quad \sum_{G \in \mathcal{G}} e^{-r_G x} \leq \frac{C_{\theta,\kappa}}{x^\theta}, \quad \forall x > 0,$$

1080 proved in [12, Proposition A.5.32]. \square

1081 **5. Computation of the cost of a block.**

1082 In this section we prove more explicit formulas to estimate the cost $\mathcal{C}(G, y_0)$
 1083 of the resolution of a block moment problem depending on the assumptions on the
 1084 eigenvalues in the group G . More precisely, we prove here Theorems 2.8 and 2.10.
 1085 For pedagogical purpose, we start in Section 5.1 with Theorem 2.8 for algebraically
 1086 (and geometrically) simple eigenvalues *i.e.* when $\alpha_\lambda = \gamma_\lambda = 1$ for any $\lambda \in G$. Then,
 1087 in Section 5.2, we prove the general statement of Theorem 2.8 that is when all the
 1088 eigenvalues in the group are geometrically simple *i.e.* $\gamma_\lambda = 1$ for any $\lambda \in G$.

1089 The formula for the cost $\mathcal{C}(G, y_0)$ when all the eigenvalues in the group G are
 1090 semi-simple (*i.e.* $\alpha_\lambda = 1$ for any $\lambda \in G$) stated in Theorem 2.10 is then proved in
 1091 Section 5.3. The extension to spaces of initial conditions (2.34) and (2.38) does not
 1092 depend on the matrix M and follows directly from Lemma B.1. Thus, their proofs
 1093 are not detailed here.

1094 When both algebraic and geometric multiplicities appear in the same group we
 1095 do not get a general formula but describe the procedure on an example in Section 5.4.

1096 Recall that from (2.32), computing $\mathcal{C}(G, y_0)$ is a finite dimensional optimization
 1097 problem given by

$$1098 \quad \mathcal{C}(G, y_0) = \min \left\{ F(\Omega) ; \Omega \in \mathcal{O}(G, y_0) \cap U_G^{|\alpha|} \right\}$$

1099 where the function F is defined in (2.25), the constraints associated with $\mathcal{O}(G, y_0)$ are
 1100 defined in (2.23) and U_G is defined in (2.31).

1101 **5.1. The case of simple eigenvalues.**

1102 In all this section, we consider the simpler case where $\alpha_\lambda = \gamma_\lambda = 1$ for every
 1103 $\lambda \in G$. Thus, in the rest of this section, we drop the superscript 0 associated to
 1104 eigenvectors.

1105 We start with the proof of the invertibility of the matrix M stated in Proposi-
 1106 tion 2.7.

1107 *Proof.* Recall that, as $\alpha_\lambda = \gamma_\lambda = 1$, the positive semi-definite matrix M is defined
 1108 in (2.35). Let $\tau \in \mathbb{C}^g$ be such that $\langle M\tau, \tau \rangle = 0$. Then, for each $l \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket$, we have

$$1109 \quad \langle \Gamma^l \tau, \tau \rangle = 0.$$

1110 We prove that $\tau = 0$. By contradiction let

$$1111 \quad l = \max\{j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket ; \tau_j \neq 0\}.$$

1112 Then from (2.35) this leads to $\langle \Gamma^l \tau, \tau \rangle = \|b[\lambda_l]\|_U^2 |\tau_l|^2$. Using (2.14) implies $\tau_l = 0$.
 1113 This is in contradiction with the definition of l which proves the invertibility of M . \square

1114 We now prove Theorem 2.8.

1115 *Proof.* First of all, notice that the function F to minimize reduces to

$$1116 \quad F(\Omega) = \sum_{j=1}^g \|\Omega[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_j]\|^2$$

1117 and, as $\gamma_\lambda = \alpha_\lambda = 1$, the constraints defining the set $\mathcal{O}(\lambda_j, y_0)$ reduce to

$$1118 \quad \langle \Omega_j, b_j \rangle_U = \langle y_0, \phi_j \rangle_{-\infty, \infty}.$$

1119 Thus, the minimization problem reduces to

1120

1121 (5.1) $\mathcal{C}(G, y_0) = \min \left\{ F(\Omega) ; \Omega = (\Omega_1, \dots, \Omega_g) \in U_G^g \text{ such that} \right.$

1122
1123

$$\left. \langle \Omega_j, b_j \rangle_U = \langle y_0, \phi_j \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}, \forall j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket \right\}.$$

1124 For the sake of generality, let us consider for this proof any $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_g \in \mathbb{C}$ and the
1125 more general constraints

1126 (5.2)
$$\langle \Omega_j, b_j \rangle_U = \omega_j, \quad \forall j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket.$$

1127 Using the formalism of divided differences, this is equivalent to the family of con-
1128 straints

1129 (5.3)
$$\langle \Omega, b \rangle_U [\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_j] = \omega [\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_j], \quad \forall j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket.$$

1130 We consider the constrained complex minimization problem

1131
$$\min \{ F(\Omega) ; \Omega = (\Omega_1, \dots, \Omega_g) \in U_G^g \text{ such that (5.3) holds} \}.$$

1132 It has a unique solution, which is characterised by the existence of multipliers $(m_j)_{j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket} \subset$
1133 \mathbb{C} such that

1134 (5.4)
$$\sum_{j=1}^g \langle H[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_j], \Omega[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_j] \rangle_U = \sum_{j=1}^g \bar{m}_j \langle H, b \rangle_U [\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_j],$$

1135 for any $H_1, \dots, H_g \in U_G$.

1136 Then, for a given $q \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket$, using Leibniz formula [12, Proposition A.2.11], the
1137 constraints (5.3) can be rewritten as

1138 (5.5)
$$\omega [\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_q] = \langle \Omega, b \rangle_U [\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_q] = \sum_{j=1}^q \langle \Omega[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_j], b[\lambda_j, \dots, \lambda_q] \rangle_U$$

1139 To relate (5.5) and (5.4), we look for $H_1, \dots, H_g \in U_G$ such that, for a given $q \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket$
1140 we have

1141
$$H[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_j] = \begin{cases} b[\lambda_j, \dots, \lambda_q], & \text{for } j \leq q, \\ 0, & \text{for } j > q. \end{cases}$$

1142 This can be done by setting $H_1 = b[\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_q]$ and, from the interpolation formula [9,
1143 Proposition 7.6], by defining H_j by the formula

1144
$$H_j = \sum_{i=1}^j \left(\prod_{k=1}^{j-1} (\bar{\lambda}_i - \bar{\lambda}_k) \right) H[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_i], \quad \forall j \in \llbracket 2, g \rrbracket.$$

1145 Then, from (5.5) we obtain

1146
$$\omega [\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_q] = \sum_{j=1}^g \langle \Omega[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_j], H[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_j] \rangle_U.$$

1147 Now relation (5.4) leads, after conjugation, to

$$1148 \quad \overline{\omega[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_q]} = \sum_{j=1}^g \bar{m}_j \langle H, b \rangle_U [\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_j].$$

1149 The application of Leibniz formula [12, Proposition A.2.11] yields

$$1150 \quad \overline{\omega[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_q]} = \sum_{j=1}^g \bar{m}_j \left(\sum_{l=1}^j \langle H[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_l], b[\lambda_l, \dots, \lambda_j] \rangle_U \right)$$

$$1151 \quad = \sum_{j=1}^g \bar{m}_j \left(\sum_{l=1}^{\min(j,q)} \langle b[\lambda_l, \dots, \lambda_q], b[\lambda_l, \dots, \lambda_j] \rangle_U \right).$$

1152

1153 Conjugating this relation leads to

$$1154 \quad \omega[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_q] = \sum_{j=1}^g m_j \left(\sum_{l=1}^{\min(j,q)} \langle b[\lambda_l, \dots, \lambda_j], b[\lambda_l, \dots, \lambda_q] \rangle_U \right)$$

$$1155 \quad = \sum_{l=1}^g \sum_{j=1}^g m_j \Gamma_{q,j}^l = (Mm)_q,$$

1156

1157 where Γ^l and M are defined in (2.35).

1158 Let

$$1159 \quad \xi := \begin{pmatrix} \omega[\bar{\lambda}_1] \\ \vdots \\ \omega[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_g] \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^g.$$

1160 We have just proved that $m = M^{-1}\xi$. Getting back to (5.4) with $H = \Omega$ together
1161 with the constraints (5.3), we obtain

$$1162 \quad F(\Omega) = \sum_{j=1}^g \bar{m}_j \langle \Omega, b \rangle_U [\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_j] = \langle M^{-1}\xi, \xi \rangle.$$

1163 With the specific choice, $\omega_j = \langle y_0, \phi_j \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}$, this ends the proof of Theorem 2.8 with
1164 the extra assumption that $\alpha_\lambda = 1$ for all $\lambda \in G$. Indeed, by anti-linearity we have

$$1165 \quad \omega[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_j] = \langle y_0, \phi[\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_j] \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}, \quad \forall j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket. \quad \square$$

1166 **REMARK 5.1.** As mentioned in Remark 2.4, estimate (5.1) implies that the cost
1167 of the block G (i.e. the quantity $\langle M^{-1}\xi, \xi \rangle$) can be estimated using any eigenvectors:
1168 there is no normalization condition.

1169 **REMARK 5.2.** Rewriting the constraints in the form (5.3) is not mandatory but,
1170 as the function to minimize involves divided differences, it leads to more exploitable
1171 formulas and will ease the writing when dealing with algebraic multiplicity of eigen-
1172 values. Dealing directly with (5.2) would lead to the expression (D.9) for the cost of
1173 the block G as it will appear in the proof of Theorem 2.10.

1174 **5.2. The case of geometrically simple eigenvalues.**

1175 The proof of Proposition 2.7 and Theorem 2.8 under the sole assumption $\gamma_\lambda = 1$
 1176 for any $\lambda \in G$ follows closely the proof done in Section 5.1. The main difference is the
 1177 use of generalized divided differences (see [9, Section 7.3]) instead of classical divided
 1178 differences as detailed below.

1179 *Proof (of Proposition 2.7).* Due to (2.24), for any $l \in \llbracket 1, |\alpha| \rrbracket$ the multi-index
 1180 $\mu^l - \mu^{l-1}$ is composed of only one 1 and $g - 1$ zeros. Thus,

1181
$$b \left[\lambda_{\bullet}^{(\mu^l - \mu^{l-1})} \right] = b_j^0$$

1182 for a certain $j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket$. From (2.14) it comes that

1183
$$b \left[\lambda_{\bullet}^{(\mu^l - \mu^{l-1})} \right] \neq 0, \quad \forall l \in \llbracket 1, |\alpha| \rrbracket.$$

1184 The rest of the proof follows as in Section 5.1. □

1185 *Proof (of Theorem 2.8).* As $\gamma_\lambda = 1$, the constraints defining the set $\mathcal{O}(\lambda_j, y_0)$
 1186 reduce to

1187
$$\sum_{r=0}^l \langle \Omega_j^r, b_j^{l-r} \rangle_U = \sum_{r=0}^l \langle \Omega_j^r, \mathcal{B}^*(\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda_j)^r \phi_j^l \rangle_U$$

 1188
$$= \langle y_0, \phi_j^l \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}, \quad \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \alpha_j \rrbracket.$$

 1189

1190 By definition of $\langle \Omega, b \rangle_U \left[\bar{\lambda}_j^{(l+1)} \right]$, this is equivalent to

1191
$$\langle \Omega, b \rangle_U \left[\bar{\lambda}_j^{(l+1)} \right] = \langle y_0, \phi_j^l \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}, \quad \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \alpha_j \rrbracket.$$

1192 Thus,

1193 (5.6)
$$\mathcal{C}(G, y_0) = \min \left\{ F(\Omega); \Omega = (\Omega_1^0, \dots, \Omega_1^{\alpha_1-1}, \dots, \Omega_g^0, \dots, \Omega_g^{\alpha_g-1}) \in U_G^{|\alpha|} \right.$$

 1194
$$\left. \text{such that } \langle \Omega, b \rangle_U \left[\bar{\lambda}_j^{(l+1)} \right] = \langle y_0, \phi_j^l \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}, \quad \forall j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket, \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \alpha_j \rrbracket \right\}.$$

1197 For the sake of generality, let us consider for this proof any

1198
$$(\omega_1^0, \dots, \omega_1^{\alpha_1-1}, \dots, \omega_g^0, \dots, \omega_g^{\alpha_g-1}) \in \mathbb{C}^{|\alpha|}$$

1199 and the more general constraints

1200
$$\langle \Omega, b \rangle_U \left[\bar{\lambda}_j^{(l+1)} \right] = \omega_j^l, \quad \forall j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket, \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \alpha_j \rrbracket.$$

1201 From (2.24), this is equivalent to the family of constraints

1202
$$\langle \Omega, b \rangle_U \left[\bar{\lambda}_{\bullet}^{(\mu^p)} \right] = \omega \left[\bar{\lambda}_{\bullet}^{(\mu^p)} \right], \quad \forall p \in \llbracket 1, |\alpha| \rrbracket,$$

1203 and we proceed as in Section 5.1. The only difference is the use of generalized divided
 1204 differences. For instance, the equation (5.4) now reads

1205
$$\sum_{l=1}^{|\alpha|} \left\langle H \left[\bar{\lambda}_{\bullet}^{(\mu^l)} \right], \Omega \left[\bar{\lambda}_{\bullet}^{(\mu^l)} \right] \right\rangle_U = \sum_{l=1}^{|\alpha|} \bar{m}_l \langle H, b \rangle_U \left[\bar{\lambda}_{\bullet}^{(\mu^l)} \right], \quad \forall H = (H_j^l) \in U_G^{|\alpha|}.$$

1206 The rest of the proof remains unchanged. □

1207 REMARK 5.3. As mentioned in Remark 2.4, estimate (5.6) implies that the cost
 1208 of the block G (i.e. the quantity $\langle M^{-1}\xi, \xi \rangle$) can be estimated using any eigenvectors
 1209 and any associated Jordan chains.

1210 5.3. The case of semi-simple eigenvalues.

1211 We start with the proof of Proposition 2.9.

1212 *Proof (of Proposition 2.9).* Recall that the positive semi-definite matrix M is
 1213 defined in (2.37). Let $\tau \in \mathbb{C}^{\gamma_G}$ be such that $\langle M\tau, \tau \rangle = 0$. Then, for any $l \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket$,
 1214 $\langle \Gamma^l \tau, \tau \rangle = 0$. We prove that $\tau = 0$. By contradiction let

$$1215 \quad \tilde{l} = \max\{j \in \llbracket 1, \gamma_G \rrbracket ; \tau_j \neq 0\}$$

1216 and $l \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket$ be such that

$$1217 \quad \gamma_1 + \dots + \gamma_{l-1} < \tilde{l} \leq \gamma_1 + \dots + \gamma_l$$

1218 with the convention that $l = 1$ when $\tilde{l} \leq \gamma_1$. We denote by $\sigma \in \mathbb{C}^{\gamma_l}$ the l^{th} block of τ
 1219 i.e.

$$1220 \quad \sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \tau_{\gamma_1 + \dots + \gamma_{l-1} + 1} \\ \vdots \\ \tau_{\gamma_1 + \dots + \gamma_l} \end{pmatrix}.$$

1221 From (2.36) we have $\delta_i^i = 0$ when $i < l$. Thus all the blocks (i, j) of Γ^l are equal to 0
 1222 when $i, j \in \llbracket 1, l \rrbracket$. This leads to

$$1223 \quad \langle \Gamma^l \tau, \tau \rangle = |\delta_l^l|^2 \langle \text{Gram}_U(b_{l,1}, \dots, b_{l,\gamma_l}) \sigma, \sigma \rangle.$$

1224 As the eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_g$ are distinct it comes that $\delta_l^l \neq 0$ (see (2.36)) which
 1225 implies

$$1226 \quad \langle \text{Gram}_U(b_{l,1}, \dots, b_{l,\gamma_l}) \sigma, \sigma \rangle = 0.$$

1227 From (2.14), we have that $b_{l,1}, \dots, b_{l,\gamma_l}$ are linearly independent. This proves the
 1228 invertibility of $\text{Gram}_U(b_{l,1}, \dots, b_{l,\gamma_l})$ and gives $\sigma = 0$. This is in contradiction with
 1229 the definition of \tilde{l} which proves the invertibility of M . \square

1230 We now turn to the proof of Theorem 2.10.

1231 *Proof (of Theorem 2.10).* First of all, notice that the function F to minimize
 1232 reduces to

$$1233 \quad F(\Omega) = \sum_{j=1}^g \|\Omega[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_j]\|^2$$

1234 and, as $\alpha_\lambda = 1$, the constraints defining the set $\mathcal{O}(\lambda_j, y_0)$ reduce to

$$1235 \quad \langle \Omega_j, \mathcal{B}^* \phi \rangle_U = \langle y_0, \phi \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}, \quad \forall \phi \in \text{Ker}(\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda_j).$$

1236 To simplify the writing, let us consider the linear maps

$$1237 \quad B_j := \begin{pmatrix} \langle \bullet, \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{j,1} \rangle_U \\ \vdots \\ \langle \bullet, \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{j,\gamma_j} \rangle_U \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{L}(U, \mathbb{C}^{\gamma_j}).$$

1238 Then the constraints defining $\mathcal{O}(\lambda_j, y_0)$ can be rewritten as the equality

$$1239 \quad (5.7) \quad B_j \Omega_j = \begin{pmatrix} \langle y_0, \phi_{j,1} \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \\ \vdots \\ \langle y_0, \phi_{j,\gamma_j} \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \end{pmatrix}.$$

1240 Thus,

1241

$$1242 \quad (5.8) \quad \mathcal{C}(G, y_0) = \min \left\{ F(\Omega) ; \Omega = (\Omega_1, \dots, \Omega_g) \in U_G^g \right.$$

1243
1244

such that (5.7) holds for any $j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket$ }.

1245 For the sake of generality, let us consider for this proof, for any $j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket$, any $\omega_j \in \mathbb{C}^{\gamma_j}$
1246 and the more general constraints

$$1247 \quad (5.9) \quad B_j \Omega_j = \omega_j, \quad \forall j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket.$$

1248 As the ω_j 's have different sizes we avoid in this proof the use of divided differences
1249 to rewrite the constraints. This is why we end up with the formula (2.37) rather than
1250 an adaptation of (2.35) (see also the discussion in Remark 5.2).

1251 Arguing as before, the solution of our optimisation problem satisfies

$$1252 \quad (5.10) \quad \sum_{j=1}^g \langle H[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_j], \Omega[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_j] \rangle_U = \sum_{j=1}^g \langle B_j H_j, m_j \rangle, \quad \forall H_1, \dots, H_g \in U_G,$$

1253 for some $m_j \in \mathbb{C}^{\gamma_j}, j = 1, \dots, g$.

1254 Recall that in (2.36) we defined the numbers

$$1255 \quad \delta_j^i = \prod_{k \in \llbracket 1, j \llbracket} (\lambda_i - \lambda_k), \quad \forall j \in \llbracket 2, g \rrbracket.$$

1256 Then, from the interpolation formula [9, Proposition 7.6], we obtain that

$$1257 \quad (5.11) \quad \Omega_i = \sum_{l=1}^i \delta_l^i \bar{\delta}_l^i \Omega[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_l].$$

1258 For any $H \in U_G$ and $i \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket$, let us design $H_1^{(i)}, \dots, H_g^{(i)} \in U_G$ such that

$$1259 \quad (5.12) \quad H^{(i)}[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_l] = \delta_l^i H, \quad \forall l \in \llbracket 1, i \rrbracket.$$

1260 To do so, we set $H_1^{(i)} = H$ then, using the interpolation formula [9, Proposition 7.6],
1261 we define recursively

$$1262 \quad H_j^{(i)} = \sum_{l=1}^j \bar{\delta}_l^j H^{(i)}[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_l] = \left(\sum_{l=1}^j \delta_l^i \bar{\delta}_l^j \right) H = a_j^{(i)} H$$

1263 with

$$1264 \quad (5.13) \quad a_j^{(i)} := \sum_{l=1}^g \delta_l^i \bar{\delta}_l^j = \sum_{l=1}^{\min(i,j)} \delta_l^i \bar{\delta}_l^j.$$

1265 This ensures (5.12). Plugging this set of values $H_j^{(i)}, j = 1, \dots, g$ in (5.10) and taking
 1266 into account (5.11), leads to

$$\begin{aligned}
 1267 \quad \sum_{j=1}^g a_j^{(i)} \langle B_j H, m_j \rangle &= \sum_{j=1}^g \langle B_j H_j^{(i)}, m_j \rangle \\
 1268 &= \sum_{j=1}^g \delta_j^i \langle H, \Omega[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_j] \rangle_U \\
 1269 &= \left\langle H, \sum_{j=1}^g \bar{\delta}_j^i \Omega[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_j] \right\rangle_U \\
 1270 &= \langle H, \Omega_i \rangle_U.
 \end{aligned}$$

1272 This being true for any $H \in U_G$, we end up with

$$1273 \quad (5.14) \quad \Omega_i = \sum_{j=1}^g \overline{a_j^{(i)}} B_j^* m_j.$$

1274 Together with (5.9), using (5.13), we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned}
 1275 \quad \omega_i &= \sum_{j=1}^g \overline{a_j^{(i)}} B_i B_j^* m_j \\
 1276 &= \sum_{l=1}^g \sum_{j=1}^g (\bar{\delta}_l^i B_i) (\bar{\delta}_l^j B_j)^* m_j \\
 1277 &= (Mm)_i
 \end{aligned}$$

1279 where M is defined in (2.37) and $(Mm)_i \in \mathbb{C}^{\gamma_i}$ denotes the i^{th} block of $Mm \in \mathbb{C}^{\gamma_G}$.

1280 Finally, if we set

$$1281 \quad \xi := \begin{pmatrix} \omega_1 \\ \vdots \\ \omega_g \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^{\gamma_G},$$

1282 we have proved that the multiplier is given by $m = M^{-1}\xi$. Applying (5.10) with
 1283 $H_j = \Omega_j$ and using the constraints (5.7) leads to

$$1284 \quad F(\Omega) = \sum_{j=1}^g \|\Omega[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_j]\|^2 = \langle M^{-1}\xi, \xi \rangle,$$

1285 which proves the claim. \square

1286 **REMARK 5.4.** As mentioned in Remark 2.4, estimate (5.8) implies that the cost
 1287 of the block G (i.e. the quantity $\langle M^{-1}\xi, \xi \rangle$) can be estimated using any basis of
 1288 eigenvectors.

1289 **5.4. Dealing simultaneously with algebraic and geometric multiplici-** 1290 **ties.**

1291 The proof of Theorem 2.8 strongly relies on the use of divided differences to rewrite
 1292 the constraints whereas the proof of Theorem 2.10 is based on the vectorial writing

1293 of the constraints through the operators $B_j \in \mathcal{L}(U; \mathbb{C}^{\gamma_j})$. As the target spaces of
 1294 these operators do not have the same dimension, one cannot directly compute divided
 1295 differences. Thus, the setting we developed to compute the cost of a given block does
 1296 not lead to a general formula when both kind of multiplicities need to be taken into
 1297 account in the same group. However, for actual problems, the computation of this
 1298 cost is a finite dimensional constrained optimization problem which can be explicitly
 1299 solved.

1300 Let us give an example of such a group that does not fit into Theorem 2.8 nor
 1301 into Theorem 2.10 but for which we manage to compute the cost *by hand*. To simplify
 1302 a little the presentation, we give this example in the case of real Hilbert spaces and
 1303 real eigenvalues.

1304 We consider a group $G = \{\lambda_1, \lambda_2\}$ of two distinct eigenvalues such that $\gamma_{\lambda_1} =$
 1305 $\alpha_{\lambda_1} = 2$ and $\gamma_{\lambda_2} = \alpha_{\lambda_2} = 1$. Let $(\phi_{1,1}^0, \phi_{1,2}^0)$ be a basis of $\text{Ker}(\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda_1)$ and $\phi_{2,1}^0$ be
 1306 an eigenvector of \mathcal{A}^* associated to the eigenvalue λ_2 . Assume that the generalized
 1307 eigenvector $\phi_{1,1}^1$ is such that

$$1308 \quad (\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda_1)\phi_{1,1}^1 = \phi_{1,1}^0,$$

1309 and that $\{\phi_{1,1}^0, \phi_{1,1}^1, \phi_{1,2}^0\}$ forms a basis of $\text{Ker}(\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda_1)^2$.

1310 For this group, in the same spirit as in Theorems 2.8 and 2.10, we obtain the
 1311 following result.

1312 PROPOSITION 5.1. *For any $y_0 \in X_{-\diamond}$, we have*

$$1313 \quad C(G, y_0) = \langle M^{-1}\xi, \xi \rangle \quad \text{where} \quad \xi = \begin{pmatrix} \langle y_0, \phi_{1,1}^0 \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \\ \langle y_0, \phi_{1,2}^0 \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \\ \langle y_0, \phi_{1,1}^1 \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \\ \langle y_0, \phi_{2,1}^0 \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \end{pmatrix}$$

1314 and M is the invertible matrix defined by

$$1315 \quad M = \text{Gram}_U(b_{1,1}^0, b_{1,2}^0, b_{1,1}^1, b_{2,1}^0) \\
 1316 \quad + \text{Gram}_U(0, 0, b_{1,1}^0, \delta b_{2,1}^0) \\
 1317 \quad + \text{Gram}_U(0, 0, 0, \delta^2 b_{2,1}^0)$$

1319 with $\delta = \lambda_2 - \lambda_1$.

1320 *Proof.* Let

$$1321 \quad (\omega_{1,1}^0, \omega_{1,2}^0, \omega_{1,1}^1, \omega_{2,1}^0)^t \in \mathbb{R}^4.$$

1322 As in the proofs of Theorems 2.8 and 2.10, the goal is to compute the minimum of
 1323 the function

$$1324 \quad F : (\Omega_1^0, \Omega_1^1, \Omega_2^0) \in U_G^3 \mapsto \|\Omega_1^0\|^2 + \|\Omega_1^1\|^2 + \|\Omega[\lambda_1^{(2)}, \lambda_2]\|^2,$$

1325 under the 4 constraints

$$1326 \quad \langle \Omega_j^0, b_{j,i}^0 \rangle_U = \omega_{j,i}^0, \quad \forall i \in \llbracket 1, \gamma_j \rrbracket, \forall j \in \llbracket 1, 2 \rrbracket, \\
 1327 \quad \langle \Omega_1^0, b_{1,1}^1 \rangle_U + \langle \Omega_1^1, b_{1,1}^0 \rangle_U = \omega_{1,1}^1.$$

1329 Then, the Lagrange multipliers $m_{1,1}^0, m_{1,2}^0, m_{1,1}^1$ and $m_{2,1}^0$ satisfy the equations

1330

$$1331 \quad (5.15) \quad \langle \Omega_1^0, H_1^0 \rangle_U + \langle \Omega_1^1, H_1^1 \rangle_U + \left\langle \Omega[\lambda_1^{(2)}, \lambda_2], H[\lambda_1^{(2)}, \lambda_2] \right\rangle_U = m_{1,1}^0 \langle H_1^0, b_{1,1}^0 \rangle_U \\ 1332 \quad + m_{1,2}^0 \langle H_1^0, b_{1,2}^0 \rangle_U + m_{1,1}^1 \left(\langle H_1^0, b_{1,1}^1 \rangle_U + \langle H_1^1, b_{1,1}^0 \rangle_U \right) + m_{2,1}^0 \langle H_2^0, b_{2,1}^0 \rangle_U,$$

1333
1334 for every $H_1^0, H_1^1, H_2^0 \in U_G$. Considering successively

$$1335 \quad H_1^0 = b_{1,1}^0, \quad H_1^1 = 0, \quad H_2^0 = b_{1,1}^0,$$

1336

$$1337 \quad H_1^0 = b_{1,2}^0, \quad H_1^1 = 0, \quad H_2^0 = b_{1,2}^0,$$

1338

$$1339 \quad H_1^0 = b_{1,1}^1, \quad H_1^1 = b_{1,1}^0, \quad H_2^0 = b_{1,1}^1 + (\lambda_2 - \lambda_1) b_{1,1}^0,$$

1340 and

$$1341 \quad H_1^0 = b_{2,1}^0, \quad H_1^1 = (\lambda_2 - \lambda_1) b_{2,1}^0, \quad H_2^0 = (1 + (\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)^2 + (\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)^4) b_{2,1}^0,$$

1342 and plugging it into (5.15), we obtain that $\begin{pmatrix} \omega_{1,1}^0 \\ \omega_{1,2}^0 \\ \omega_{1,1}^1 \\ \omega_{2,1}^0 \end{pmatrix} = M \begin{pmatrix} m_{1,1}^0 \\ m_{1,2}^0 \\ m_{1,1}^1 \\ m_{2,1}^0 \end{pmatrix}$. Then, the same

1343 argument as in the proofs of Theorems 2.8 and 2.10 ends the proof. \square

1344 6. Application to the study of null controllability of academic exam- 1345 ples.

1346 In this section we provide examples to illustrate how to use the formulas obtained
1347 in Theorems 2.5, 2.8 and 2.10 in order to compute the minimal null control time.

1348 We start with academic examples for which computations are simpler. Then, in
1349 Section 7, we study coupled systems of actual partial differential equations of parabolic
1350 type.

1351 6.1. Setting and notations.

1352 Let A be the unbounded Sturm-Liouville operator defined in $L^2(0, 1; \mathbb{R})$ by

$$1353 \quad (6.1) \quad D(A) = H^2(0, 1; \mathbb{R}) \cap H_0^1(0, 1; \mathbb{R}), \quad A = -\partial_x(\gamma \partial_x \bullet) + c \bullet,$$

1354 with $c \in L^\infty(0, 1; \mathbb{R})$ satisfying $c \geq 0$ and $\gamma \in C^1([0, 1]; \mathbb{R})$ satisfying $\inf_{[0,1]} \gamma > 0$.

1355 The operator A admits an increasing sequence of eigenvalues denoted by $(\nu_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}^*}$.
1356 The associated normalized eigenvectors $(\varphi_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}^*}$ form a Hilbert basis of $L^2(0, 1; \mathbb{R})$.

1357 **REMARK 6.1.** *The assumption $c \geq 0$ ensures that for any $k \geq 1$, the eigenvalues*
1358 *satisfies $\nu_k > 0$. From Remark 2.2, the controllability results proved in the present*
1359 *article still hold when the function c is bounded from below.*

1360 To lighten the notations, for any $I \subset (0, 1)$ we set $\|\bullet\|_I = \|\bullet\|_{L^2(I)}$.

1361 Let $f : \text{Sp}(A) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a bounded function. Associated to this function we consider
1362 the operator $f(A)$ defined on $D(A)$ by the spectral theorem by

$$1363 \quad (6.2) \quad f(A) = \sum_{k \geq 1} f(\nu_k) \langle \bullet, \varphi_k \rangle_{L^2(0,1;\mathbb{R})} \varphi_k.$$

1364 **6.2. Spectral properties of Sturm-Liouville operators.**

1365 Let A be the Sturm-Liouville operator defined in (6.1). All the examples studied
 1366 in this article are based on this operator. We recall here some spectral properties that
 1367 will be used in our study.

1368 From [2, Theorem 1.1 and Remark 2.1], there exist $\varrho > 0$ and $C > 0$ such that

1369 (6.3)
$$\varrho < \nu_{k+1} - \nu_k, \quad \forall k \geq 1,$$

1370
 1371 (6.4)
$$\frac{1}{C}\sqrt{\nu_k} \leq |\varphi'_k(x)| \leq C\sqrt{\nu_k}, \quad \forall x \in \{0, 1\}, \forall k \geq 1,$$

1372 and, for any non-empty open set $\omega \subset (0, 1)$,

1373 (6.5)
$$\inf_{k \geq 1} \|\varphi_k\|_\omega > 0.$$

1374 Moreover, using [12, Theorem IV.1.3], the associated counting function satisfies

1375 (6.6)
$$N_{(\nu_k)_k}(r) \leq C\sqrt{r}, \quad \forall r > 0,$$

1376 and

1377 (6.7)
$$|N_{(\nu_k)_k}(r) - N_{(\nu_k)_k}(s)| \leq C \left(1 + \sqrt{|r - s|}\right), \quad \forall r, s > 0.$$

1378 We also recall the classical Lebeau-Robbiano spectral inequality

1379 (6.8)
$$\left\| \sum_{k \leq K} a_k \varphi_k \right\|_\Omega \leq C e^{C\sqrt{\nu_K}} \left\| \sum_{k \leq K} a_k \varphi_k \right\|_\omega, \quad \forall K \geq 1, \forall (a_k)_k \subset \mathbb{R}.$$

1380 Indeed, as detailed for instance in [12, Theorem IV.2.19], the proof of this spectral
 1381 inequality given in [27] directly extends to the low regularity coefficients considered
 1382 here.

1383 **6.3. Perturbation of a 2x2 Jordan block.**

1384 Let $\omega \subset (0, 1)$ be a non-empty open set and $U = L^2(\omega)$. Let A be the Sturm-
 1385 Liouville operator defined in (6.1) and $f(A)$ be the operator defined in (6.2) with
 1386 $f : \text{Sp}(A) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfying

1387
$$|f(\nu_k)| < \frac{\varrho}{2}, \quad \forall k \geq 1.$$

1388 We consider the operator \mathcal{A} on $X = L^2(0, 1; \mathbb{R})^2$ defined by

1389 (6.9)
$$\mathcal{A} = \begin{pmatrix} A & I \\ 0 & A + f(A) \end{pmatrix}, \quad D(\mathcal{A}) = D(A) \times D(A),$$

1390 and

1391 (6.10)
$$\mathcal{B} : u \in U \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \mathbf{1}_\omega u \end{pmatrix}.$$

1392 Then,

1393
$$\mathcal{B}^* : \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_1 \\ \varphi_2 \end{pmatrix} \in X \mapsto \mathbf{1}_\omega \varphi_2.$$

1394 It is easy to see that $(-\mathcal{A}, D(\mathcal{A}))$ generates a \mathcal{C}_0 -semigroup on X and that $\mathcal{B} : U \rightarrow X$
 1395 is bounded. Thus we consider for this example that $X_\diamond^* = X = X_{-\diamond}$.

1396 PROPOSITION 6.1. *Let us consider the control system (1.1) with \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} given*
 1397 *by (6.9)-(6.10). Then, null-controllability from $X_{-\diamond}$ holds in any time i.e. $T_0(X_{-\diamond}) =$*
 1398 *0.*

1399 *Proof.* The spectrum of $(\mathcal{A}^*, D(\mathcal{A}))$ is given by

$$1400 \quad \Lambda = \{\nu_k ; k \geq 1\} \cup \{\nu_k + f(\nu_k) ; k \geq 1\}.$$

1401 Recall that $(\nu_k)_{k \geq 1}$ satisfies (6.3), (6.6) and (6.7). From [12, Lemma V.4.20] it comes
 1402 that there exists $\kappa > 0$ such that $\Lambda \in \mathcal{L}_w(2, \frac{\kappa}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \kappa)$.

1403 An associated grouping is given by

$$1404 \quad \begin{cases} G_k := \{\lambda_{k,1} := \nu_k, \lambda_{k,2} := \nu_k + f(\nu_k)\}, & \text{if } f(\nu_k) \neq 0, \\ G_k := \{\lambda_{k,1} := \nu_k\}, & \text{if } f(\nu_k) = 0. \end{cases}$$

1405 If $f(\nu_k) \neq 0$ the eigenvalues $\lambda_{k,1}$ and $\lambda_{k,2}$ are simple and we consider the associated
 1406 eigenvectors

$$1407 \quad \phi_{k,1}^0 = \begin{pmatrix} -f(\nu_k) \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \varphi_k, \quad \phi_{k,2}^0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \varphi_k.$$

1408 If $f(\nu_k) = 0$ the eigenvalue $\lambda_{k,1}$ is algebraically double and we consider the associated
 1409 Jordan chain

$$1410 \quad \phi_{k,1}^0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \varphi_k, \quad \phi_{k,1}^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \varphi_k.$$

1411 From (6.5) it comes that (2.14) and (2.15) are satisfied. Thus, from Theorem 2.5, we
 1412 obtain that for any $y_0 \in X_{-\diamond}$,

$$1413 \quad T_0(y_0) = \limsup_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln^+ \mathcal{C}(G_k, y_0)}{2 \min G_k}.$$

1414 Let us now conclude by estimating $\mathcal{C}(G_k, y_0)$.

1415 • Consider first that $f(\nu_k) \neq 0$. Then, $\phi[\lambda_{k,1}, \lambda_{k,2}] = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \varphi_k$ and

$$1416 \quad b[\lambda_{k,1}, \lambda_{k,2}] = \mathcal{B}^* \phi[\lambda_{k,1}, \lambda_{k,2}] = \frac{\mathbf{1}_\omega \varphi_k - \mathbf{1}_\omega \varphi_k}{f(\nu_k)} = 0.$$

1417 From Theorem 2.8 it comes that

$$1418 \quad \mathcal{C}(G_k, y_0) = \langle M^{-1} \xi, \xi \rangle$$

1419 with

$$1420 \quad M = \text{Gram}(b[\lambda_{k,1}], b[\lambda_{k,1}, \lambda_{k,2}]) + \text{Gram}(0, b[\lambda_{k,2}]) = \begin{pmatrix} \|\varphi_k\|_\omega^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \|\varphi_k\|_\omega^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

1422 and

$$1423 \quad \xi = \begin{pmatrix} \langle y_0, \phi[\lambda_{k,1}] \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \\ \langle y_0, \phi[\lambda_{k,1}, \lambda_{k,2}] \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \left\langle y_0, \begin{pmatrix} -f(\nu_k) \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \varphi_k \right\rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \\ \left\langle y_0, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \varphi_k \right\rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \end{pmatrix}.$$

1424 Thus,

$$1425 \quad \mathcal{C}(G_k, y_0) = \left\langle y_0, \begin{pmatrix} -f(\nu_k) \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \frac{\varphi_k}{\|\varphi_k\|_\omega} \right\rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}^2 + \left\langle y_0, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \frac{\varphi_k}{\|\varphi_k\|_\omega} \right\rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}^2.$$

1426 • Consider now that $f(\nu_k) = 0$. Then, $b[\lambda_{k,1}^{(2)}] = 0$. From Theorem 2.8 it comes
 1427 that

$$1428 \quad \mathcal{C}(G_k, y_0) = \langle M^{-1}\xi, \xi \rangle$$

1429 with

$$1430 \quad M_k = \text{Gram}(b[\lambda_{k,1}], b[\lambda_{k,1}^{(2)}]) + \text{Gram}(0, b[\lambda_{k,1}]) = \begin{pmatrix} \|\varphi_k\|_\omega^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \|\varphi_k\|_\omega^2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

1432 and

$$1433 \quad \xi = \begin{pmatrix} \langle y_0, \phi[\lambda_{k,1}] \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \\ \langle y_0, \phi[\lambda_{k,1}^{(2)}] \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \left\langle y_0, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \varphi_k \right\rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \\ \left\langle y_0, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \varphi_k \right\rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \end{pmatrix}.$$

1434 As previously,

$$1435 \quad \mathcal{C}(G_k, y_0) = \left\langle y_0, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \frac{\varphi_k}{\|\varphi_k\|_\omega} \right\rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}^2 + \left\langle y_0, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \frac{\varphi_k}{\|\varphi_k\|_\omega} \right\rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}^2.$$

1436 Gathering both cases and using estimate (6.5) we obtain, for any $y_0 \in X_{-\diamond}$,

$$1437 \quad \mathcal{C}(G_k, y_0) \leq C \|y_0\|_{-\diamond}^2, \quad \forall k \geq 1.$$

1438 Thus,

$$1439 \quad T_0(y_0) = \limsup_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln^+ \mathcal{C}(G_k, y_0)}{2 \min G_k} = 0. \quad \square$$

1440 6.4. Competition between different perturbations.

1441 Let $\omega_1, \omega_2 \subset (0, 1)$ be two open sets with $\omega_1 \neq \emptyset$ and $U = L^2(\Omega)^2$. Let $B_1, B_2 \in$
 1442 \mathbb{R}^3 . To simplify the computations, we assume that

$$1443 \quad B_i = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ B_{i,2} \\ B_{i,3} \end{pmatrix}.$$

1444 Let $\alpha, \beta > 0$ with $\alpha \neq \beta$ and $f, g : \text{Sp}(A) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be defined by

$$1445 \quad f(\nu_k) = \frac{\varrho}{2} e^{-\alpha\nu_k}, \quad g(\nu_k) = \frac{\varrho}{2} e^{-\beta\nu_k}.$$

1446 As previously, we consider the associated operators $f(A)$ and $g(A)$ defined by the
 1447 spectral theorem and we define the evolution operator \mathcal{A} on $X = L^2(0, 1; \mathbb{R})^3$ by

$$1448 \quad (6.11) \quad \mathcal{A} = \begin{pmatrix} A & I & 0 \\ 0 & A + f(A) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & A + g(A) \end{pmatrix}, \quad D(\mathcal{A}) = D(A)^3,$$

1449 and the control operator by

$$1450 \quad (6.12) \quad \mathcal{B} : \begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{pmatrix} \in U \mapsto \mathbf{1}_{\omega_1} u_1 B_1 + \mathbf{1}_{\omega_2} u_2 B_2.$$

1451 Then, the observation operator reads

$$1452 \quad \mathcal{B}^* : \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_1 \\ \varphi_2 \\ \varphi_3 \end{pmatrix} \in X \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1}_{\omega_1} (B_{1,2}\varphi_2 + B_{1,3}\varphi_3) \\ \mathbf{1}_{\omega_2} (B_{2,2}\varphi_2 + B_{2,3}\varphi_3) \end{pmatrix}.$$

1453

1454 PROPOSITION 6.2. *Let us consider the control system (1.1) with \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} given*
 1455 *by (6.11)-(6.12).*

1456 *i. If $\omega_2 = \emptyset$, we assume that*

$$1457 \quad (6.13) \quad B_{1,2}B_{1,3} \neq 0.$$

1458 *Then,*

$$1459 \quad T_0(X_{-\diamond}) = \beta + \min\{\alpha, \beta\}.$$

1460 *ii. If $\omega_2 \neq \emptyset$, we assume that*

$$1461 \quad (6.14) \quad (B_{1,2}^2 + B_{2,2}^2) (B_{1,3}^2 + B_{2,3}^2) \neq 0.$$

1462 *(a) If B_1 and B_2 are linearly independent, then,*

$$1463 \quad T_0(X_{-\diamond}) = 0.$$

1464 *(b) If B_1 and B_2 are not linearly independent, then,*

$$1465 \quad T_0(X_{-\diamond}) = \beta + \min\{\alpha, \beta\}.$$

1466 *Proof.* It is easy to see that $(-\mathcal{A}, D(\mathcal{A}))$ generates a \mathcal{C}_0 -semigroup on X and that
 1467 $\mathcal{B} : U \rightarrow X$ is bounded. Thus we consider for this example that $X_\diamond^* = X = X_{-\diamond}$ and
 1468 $Y_0 = X_{-\diamond}$.

1469 The spectrum of $(\mathcal{A}^*, D(\mathcal{A}))$ is given by $\Lambda = \bigcup_{k \geq 1} G_k$ where

$$1470 \quad G_k := \{\lambda_{k,1} := \nu_k, \lambda_{k,2} := \nu_k + f(\nu_k), \lambda_{k,3} := \nu_k + g(\nu_k)\}.$$

1471 Again, since $(\nu_k)_{k \geq 1}$ satisfies (6.3), (6.6) and (6.7), the application of [12, Lemma
 1472 V.4.20] yields the existence of $\kappa > 0$ such that $\Lambda \in \mathcal{L}_w(3, \frac{\kappa}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \kappa)$. The sequence
 1473 $(G_k)_{k \geq 1}$ is an associated grouping.

1474 The eigenvalues are simple and the corresponding eigenvectors are given by

$$1475 \quad \phi_{k,1}^0 = \begin{pmatrix} -f(\nu_k) \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \varphi_k, \quad \phi_{k,2}^0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \varphi_k, \quad \phi_{k,3}^0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \varphi_k.$$

1476 Thus, the assumption (2.15) hold. Moreover,

$$1477 \quad (6.15) \quad b_1 = b_2 = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1}_{\omega_1} \varphi_k B_{1,2} \\ \mathbf{1}_{\omega_2} \varphi_k B_{2,2} \end{pmatrix}, \quad b_3 = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1}_{\omega_1} \varphi_k B_{1,3} \\ \mathbf{1}_{\omega_2} \varphi_k B_{2,3} \end{pmatrix}$$

1478 From (6.5) and (6.13) or (6.14) (depending on the assumption on ω_2) it comes
 1479 that (2.14) is satisfied. Thus, from Theorem 2.5, it comes that for any $y_0 \in X_{-\diamond}$,

$$1480 \quad T_0(y_0) = \limsup_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln^+ \mathcal{C}(G_k, y_0)}{2 \min G_k}.$$

1481 Let us now estimate $\mathcal{C}(G_k, y_0)$. From Theorem 2.8 it comes that

$$1482 \quad \mathcal{C}(G_k, y_0) = \langle M^{-1}\xi, \xi \rangle$$

1483 with

$$1484 \quad M = \text{Gram}(b[\lambda_{k,1}], b[\lambda_{k,1}, \lambda_{k,2}], b[\lambda_{k,1}, \lambda_{k,2}, \lambda_{k,3}]) \\ 1485 \quad + \text{Gram}(0, b[\lambda_{k,2}], b[\lambda_{k,2}, \lambda_{k,3}]) + \text{Gram}(0, 0, b[\lambda_{k,3}])$$

1487 and

$$1488 \quad \xi = \begin{pmatrix} \langle y_0, \phi[\lambda_{k,1}] \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \\ \langle y_0, \phi[\lambda_{k,1}, \lambda_{k,2}] \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \\ \langle y_0, \phi[\lambda_{k,1}, \lambda_{k,2}, \lambda_{k,3}] \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \end{pmatrix}.$$

1489 Explicit computations yield

$$1490 \quad \phi[\lambda_{k,1}] = \begin{pmatrix} -f(\nu_k) \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \varphi_k, \quad \phi[\lambda_{k,1}, \lambda_{k,2}] = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \varphi_k,$$

1491 and

$$1492 \quad \phi[\lambda_{k,1}, \lambda_{k,2}, \lambda_{k,3}] = \frac{1}{g(\nu_k)(g(\nu_k) - f(\nu_k))} \begin{pmatrix} f(\nu_k) - g(\nu_k) \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \varphi_k.$$

1493 i. Assume that $\omega_2 = \emptyset$.

1494 After the change of variables

$$1495 \quad z = \text{diag} \left(\frac{1}{B_{1,2}}, \frac{1}{B_{1,2}}, \frac{1}{B_{1,3}} \right) y,$$

1496 the system under study reads

$$1497 \quad \begin{cases} \partial_t z + \begin{pmatrix} A & I & 0 \\ 0 & A + f(A) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & A + g(A) \end{pmatrix} z = \mathbf{1}_{\omega_1} u_1(t, x) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ z(t, 0) = z(t, 1) = 0. \end{cases}$$

1498 This leads to

$$1499 \quad b[\lambda_{k,1}] = b[\lambda_{k,2}] = b[\lambda_{k,3}] = \mathbf{1}_{\omega_1} \varphi_k.$$

1500 Thus, $M = \|\varphi_k\|_{\omega_1}^2 I_3$ and

$$1502 \quad \mathcal{C}(G_k, y_0) = \left\langle y_0, \begin{pmatrix} -f(\nu_k) \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \frac{\varphi_k}{\|\varphi_k\|_{\omega_1}} \right\rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}^2 + \left\langle y_0, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \frac{\varphi_k}{\|\varphi_k\|_{\omega_1}} \right\rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}^2 \\ 1503 \quad + \left(\frac{1}{g(\nu_k)(g(\nu_k) - f(\nu_k))} \right)^2 \left\langle y_0, \begin{pmatrix} f(\nu_k) - g(\nu_k) \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \frac{\varphi_k}{\|\varphi_k\|_{\omega_1}} \right\rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond}^2. \\ 1504$$

1505 From (6.5), we obtain for any $y_0 \in X_{-\diamond}$,

$$1506 \quad \mathcal{C}(G_k, y_0) \leq C \|y_0\|_{-\diamond}^2 \left(1 + \left(\frac{1}{g(\nu_k)(g(\nu_k) - f(\nu_k))} \right)^2 \right).$$

1507 This leads to

$$1508 \quad T_0(X_{-\diamond}) \leq \limsup_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{-\ln^+ |g(\nu_k)(g(\nu_k) - f(\nu_k))|}{\nu_k}.$$

1509 Conversely, with the particular choice

$$1510 \quad y_0 = \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{\nu_k} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \varphi_k,$$

1511 we have

$$1512 \quad \mathcal{C}(G_k, y_0) = \frac{1}{\nu_k^2 \|\varphi_k\|_{\omega_1}^2} \left(\frac{1}{g(\nu_k)(g(\nu_k) - f(\nu_k))} \right)^2.$$

1513 Thus, from (6.5), we obtain

$$1514 \quad T_0(X_{-\diamond}) \geq T_0(y_0) = \limsup_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{-\ln |g(\nu_k)(g(\nu_k) - f(\nu_k))|}{\nu_k}$$

1515 which gives

$$1516 \quad T_0(X_{-\diamond}) = \limsup_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{-\ln |g(\nu_k)(g(\nu_k) - f(\nu_k))|}{\nu_k}.$$

1517 Then, the same computations as [9, Section 5.1.3] yield

$$1518 \quad T_0(X_{-\diamond}) = \beta + \min\{\alpha, \beta\}.$$

1519 ii. We now consider the case $\omega_2 \neq \emptyset$.

1520 (a) Assume that B_1 and B_2 are linearly independent. If necessary, we con-
 1521 sider smaller control sets so that $\omega_1 \cap \omega_2 = \emptyset$. As we will prove that
 1522 $T_0(X_{-\diamond}) = 0$, this is not a restrictive assumption.

1523 To ease the reading we drop the index k in what follows. As previ-
 1524 ously, the vector ξ is not bounded. Let us consider the dilatation
 1525 $D_\epsilon = \text{diag}(1, 1, \epsilon)$ with

$$1526 \quad \epsilon = g(\nu)(g(\nu) - f(\nu))$$

1527 and $\tilde{\xi} = D_\epsilon \xi$. Then, from Section D.1, it comes that

$$1528 \quad \mathcal{C}(G, y_0) = \left\langle \tilde{M}^{-1} \tilde{\xi}, \tilde{\xi} \right\rangle$$

1529 with

$$1530 \quad \tilde{M} = \text{Gram}(b[\lambda_1], b[\lambda_1, \lambda_2], \epsilon b[\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3]) \\ 1531 \quad + \text{Gram}(0, b[\lambda_2], \epsilon b[\lambda_2, \lambda_3]) + \text{Gram}(0, 0, \epsilon b[\lambda_3]).$$

1533 As $\|\tilde{\xi}\|$ is bounded, we simply give a lower bound on the smallest eigen-
 1534 value of \tilde{M} . Using (6.15), it comes that

$$1535 \quad b[\lambda_1, \lambda_2] = 0, \quad b[\lambda_2, \lambda_3] = \frac{b_3 - b_1}{g(\nu) - f(\nu)}, \quad b[\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3] = \frac{1}{\epsilon}(b_3 - b_1).$$

1536

Thus,

1537

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{M} = & \text{Gram}(b_1, 0, b_3 - b_1) + \text{Gram}(0, b_1, g(\nu)(b_3 - b_1)) \\ & + \text{Gram}(0, 0, \epsilon b_3). \end{aligned}$$

~~1538~~

1540

This gives that, for any $\tau \in \mathbb{R}^3$, we have

1541

1542

$$(6.16) \quad \left\langle \widetilde{M}\tau, \tau \right\rangle = \|\tau_1 b_1 + \tau_3(b_3 - b_1)\|_U^2 + \|\tau_2 b_1 + g(\nu)\tau_3(b_3 - b_1)\|_U^2 \\ + \epsilon^2 \|\tau_3 b_3\|_U^2.$$

~~1543~~

1545

To obtain a lower bound on this quantity we use the following lemma.

1546

LEMMA 6.3. *There exists $C > 0$ (independent of k) such that for any $\theta_1, \theta_3 \in \mathbb{R}$,*

1547

1548

$$\|\theta_1 b_1 + \theta_3 b_3\|_U^2 \geq C(\theta_1^2 + \theta_3^2).$$

1549

Proof. As $\omega_1 \cap \omega_2 = \emptyset$,

1550

$$\begin{aligned} \|\theta_1 b_1 + \theta_3 b_3\|_U^2 = & (B_{1,2}\theta_1 + B_{1,3}\theta_3)^2 \|\varphi_k\|_{\omega_1}^2 \\ & + (B_{2,2}\theta_1 + B_{2,3}\theta_3)^2 \|\varphi_k\|_{\omega_2}^2. \end{aligned}$$

~~1551~~

1553

Using (6.5) it comes that

1554

$$\begin{aligned} \|\theta_1 b_1 + \theta_3 b_3\|_U^2 \geq & C \left((B_{1,2}\theta_1 + B_{1,3}\theta_3)^2 + (B_{2,2}\theta_1 + B_{2,3}\theta_3)^2 \right) \\ = & \left\| \begin{pmatrix} B_{1,2} & B_{1,3} \\ B_{2,2} & B_{2,3} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \theta_1 \\ \theta_3 \end{pmatrix} \right\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

1555

1556

1557

Since B_1 and B_2 are linearly independent, this ends the proof. \square

1558

Applying this lemma twice to (6.16) yield

1559

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle \widetilde{M}\tau, \tau \right\rangle \geq & C \left((\tau_1 - \tau_3)^2 + \tau_3^2 + (\tau_2 - g(\nu)\tau_3)^2 + g(\nu)^2 \tau_3^2 + \epsilon^2 \tau_3^2 \right) \\ \geq & C \left((\tau_1 - \tau_3)^2 + \tau_3^2 + (\tau_2 - g(\nu)\tau_3)^2 \right). \end{aligned}$$

~~1560~~

1562

Taking into account that $0 < g(\nu) < \frac{1}{2}$ for ν large enough, the study of this quadratic form in \mathbb{R}^3 leads to

1563

1564

$$\left\langle \widetilde{M}\tau, \tau \right\rangle \geq C(\tau_1^2 + \tau_2^2 + \tau_3^2).$$

1565

Thus the smallest eigenvalue of \widetilde{M} is bounded from below. This leads to the boundedness of $\left\langle \widetilde{M}^{-1}\widetilde{\xi}, \widetilde{\xi} \right\rangle$ which concludes the proof of case ii (a).

1566

1567

(b) Assume now that B_1 and B_2 are not linearly independent. Then, there exist $x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

1568

1569

$$\begin{cases} x_1 B_{1,2} + x_2 B_{1,3} = 0 \\ x_1 B_{2,2} + x_2 B_{2,3} = 0. \end{cases}$$

1570

Up to a change of normalization of the eigenvectors (independent of k) we obtain

1571

1572

$$b_1 = b_2 = b_3 = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1}_{\omega_1} \varphi_k x_1 B_{1,2} \\ \mathbf{1}_{\omega_2} \varphi_k x_1 B_{2,2} \end{pmatrix}$$

1573

and this amounts to case i. \square

1574 **7. Analysis of controllability for systems of partial differential equa-**
 1575 **tions.**

1576 We now turn to the analysis of null controllability of actual partial differential
 1577 equations. We consider here coupled systems of two linear one dimensional parabolic
 1578 equations.

1579 **7.1. Coupled heat equations with different diffusion coefficients.**

1580 In this application, we consider the Sturm-Liouville operator A defined in (6.1)
 1581 and we define in $X = L^2(0, 1; \mathbb{R})^2$ the operator

1582
$$\mathcal{A} = \begin{pmatrix} A & I \\ 0 & dA \end{pmatrix}, \quad D(\mathcal{A}) = D(A)^2,$$

1583 with $d > 0$. We will assume $d \neq 1$, since the case $d = 1$ is much simpler and already
 1584 studied in the literature: see the computations of Section 6.3 in the case $f = 0$ or, for
 1585 instance, [23] for a more general study based on Carleman estimates.

1586 We will consider two cases : the case where two boundary controls are applied to
 1587 the system, and the case where we consider the same distributed control in the two
 1588 equations of the system.

1589 **7.1.1. Spectrum of \mathcal{A}^* .** Let $\Lambda_1 := \text{Sp}(A) = \{\nu_k ; k \geq 1\}$ and $\Lambda_2 := d\Lambda_1$.

1590 The spectrum of \mathcal{A}^* is given by $\Lambda = \Lambda_1 \cup \Lambda_2$ which belongs to $\mathcal{L}_w(2, \varrho, \frac{1}{2}, \kappa)$ for
 1591 some $\varrho, \kappa > 0$ (see [12, Lemma V.4.20]).

1592 For any $\lambda \in \Lambda$, there are two non mutually exclusive cases:

- 1593
 - If $\lambda = \nu_k \in \Lambda_1$, then we can associate an eigenvector given by

1594
$$\phi_{\lambda,1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \varepsilon_k \end{pmatrix} \varphi_k,$$

1595 with $\varepsilon_k = \frac{1}{\nu_k(1-d)}$. Note that ε_k tends to zero when k goes to infinity.

- 1596
 - If $\lambda = d\nu_l \in \Lambda_2$, then we can associate an eigenvector given by

1597
$$\phi_{\lambda,2} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \varphi_l.$$

1598 It clearly appears that the elements in $\Lambda_1 \cap \Lambda_2$ (if this set is not empty) are ge-
 1599 ometrically double eigenvalues of \mathcal{A}^* , since in that case $\phi_{\lambda,1}$ and $\phi_{\lambda,2}$ are linearly
 1600 independent.

1601 Note that (2.15) holds for the choices of X_\diamond^* that we will make in the sequel, since
 1602 $(\varphi_k)_{k \geq 1}$ is a Hilbert basis of $L^2(0, 1; \mathbb{R})$.

1603 **7.1.2. Two boundary controls.** In this section, we study the following bound-
 1604 ary control system

1605 (7.1)
$$\begin{cases} \partial_t y + \mathcal{A}y = 0, & t \in (0, T), \\ y(t, 0) = B_0 u_0(t), \quad y(t, 1) = B_1 u_1(t), & t \in (0, T), \end{cases}$$

1606 with

1607 (7.2)
$$B_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad B_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

1608 The control operator \mathcal{B} is defined in a weak sense as in [38]. The expression of its
 1609 adjoint is given by

$$1610 \quad \mathcal{B}^* : \begin{pmatrix} f \\ g \end{pmatrix} \in X_1^* \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} -B_0^* \begin{pmatrix} f'(0) \\ g'(0) \end{pmatrix} \\ B_1^* \begin{pmatrix} f'(1) \\ g'(1) \end{pmatrix} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -(f'(0) + g'(0)) \\ g'(1) \end{pmatrix}.$$

1611 Considering $X_\diamond^* = H_0^1(0, 1; \mathbb{R})^2$, we obtain that \mathcal{B} is admissible with respect to $X_{-\diamond} =$
 1612 $H^{-1}(0, 1; \mathbb{R})^2$.

1613 PROPOSITION 7.1. *For any $d \neq 1$, there exists Y_0 a closed subspace of $H^{-1}(0, 1; \mathbb{R})^2$*
 1614 *of finite codimension such that*

- 1615 • for any $y_0 \notin Y_0$, system (7.1) is not approximately controllable;
- 1616 • for any $y_0 \in Y_0$, system (7.1) is null controllable in any time $T > 0$.

1617 REMARK 7.1. *The situation with a single control is quite different. Indeed, con-*
 1618 *sidering $B_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $B_1 = 0$, it is proved in [5] that, when A is the Dirichlet*
 1619 *Laplace operator, approximate controllability holds if and only if $\sqrt{d} \notin \mathbb{Q}$ and in this*
 1620 *case that*

$$1621 \quad T_0(X_{-\diamond}) = \limsup_{\substack{\lambda \rightarrow \infty \\ \lambda \in \Lambda}} \frac{\ln^+ \left(\frac{1}{\text{dist}(\lambda, \Lambda \setminus \{\lambda\})} \right)}{\lambda}.$$

1622 *With this formula the authors prove that, for any $\tau \in [0, +\infty]$, there exists a diffusion*
 1623 *ratio $d > 0$ such that the minimal null control time of system (7.1) satisfies $T_0(X_{-\diamond}) =$*
 1624 *τ .*

1625 REMARK 7.2. *From the definition of Y_0 in the following proof, we directly obtain*
 1626 *that in the case where \mathcal{A} is the Dirichlet Laplace operator on the interval $(0, 1)$, then*
 1627 *$Y_0 = H^{-1}(0, 1; \mathbb{R})^2$.*

1628 REMARK 7.3. *The particular choice of B_0 and B_1 is done to simplify the com-*
 1629 *putations. Notice that with this choice, it is not possible to steer to zero the second*
 1630 *equation and then control the first equation. This would be the case with the simpler*
 1631 *choice*

$$1632 \quad B_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad B_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

1633 *Proof.* Let us compute the observations associated to the eigenvectors of \mathcal{A}^* .

1634 For any $k \geq 1$, we define $s_k \in \mathbb{R}$ be such that $\varphi'_k(1) = s_k \varphi'_k(0)$. From (6.4), there
 1635 exists $C > 0$ such that

$$1636 \quad (7.3) \quad \frac{1}{C} \leq |s_k| \leq C, \quad \forall k \geq 1.$$

- 1637 • For any $\lambda = \nu_k \in \Lambda_1$, we have

$$1638 \quad (7.4) \quad \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{\lambda,1} = -\varphi'_k(0) \begin{pmatrix} 1 + \varepsilon_k \\ -s_k \varepsilon_k \end{pmatrix}.$$

- 1639 • For any $\lambda = d\nu_l \in \Lambda_2$, we have

$$1640 \quad (7.5) \quad \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{\lambda,2} = -\varphi'_l(0) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -s_l \end{pmatrix}.$$

1641 Due to (6.4) and (7.3), it comes that (2.14) holds for any simple eigenvalue $\lambda \in$
 1642 $(\Lambda_1 \setminus \Lambda_2) \cup (\Lambda_2 \setminus \Lambda_1)$.

1643 However, for a geometrically double eigenvalue $\lambda \in \Lambda_1 \cap \Lambda_2$, there can be non-
 1644 observable modes. Indeed, let k and l such that $\lambda = \nu_k = d\nu_l$. Then, the condition

$$1645 \quad \text{Ker}(\mathcal{A}^* - \lambda) \cap \text{Ker} \mathcal{B}^* \neq \{0\}$$

1646 is equivalent to the fact that $\mathcal{B}^* \phi_{\lambda,1}$ and $\mathcal{B}^* \phi_{\lambda,2}$ given by (7.4)-(7.5) are linearly
 1647 independent, which is itself equivalent to the condition

$$1648 \quad (7.6) \quad s_k \varepsilon_k = s_l (1 + \varepsilon_k).$$

1649 Due to the asymptotics $\varepsilon_k \xrightarrow[k \rightarrow +\infty]{} 0$ it turns out that the set

$$1650 \quad \Theta := \{ \lambda = \nu_k = d\nu_l \in \Lambda_1 \cap \Lambda_2 ; (7.6) \text{ holds} \},$$

1651 is finite.

1652 For any $\lambda \in \Theta$, we can find $\psi_\lambda \in \text{Span}(\phi_{\lambda,1}, \phi_{\lambda,2})$ such that $\mathcal{B}^* \psi_\lambda = 0$ and $\psi_\lambda \neq 0$,
 1653 that is a non observable mode.

1654 Finally, we introduce the set

$$1655 \quad Y_0 := \left\{ y_0 \in X_{-\diamond} ; \langle y_0, \psi_\lambda \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} = 0, \forall \lambda \in \Theta \right\}$$

1656 which is, by construction, of finite codimension. For $y_0 \in Y_0$, the associated moment
 1657 problem reduces to the one where the geometrically double eigenvalues $\lambda \in \Theta$ are now
 1658 considered as simple eigenvalues with associated eigenvector $\phi_{\lambda,2}$, since the moment
 1659 equation is automatically satisfied for the other eigenvector ψ_λ .

1660 We consider now a grouping \mathcal{G} as given by Proposition 2.2, with $p = 2$ and $\varrho > 0$
 1661 small enough such that for $i \in \{1, 2\}$ we have

$$1662 \quad (7.7) \quad |\lambda - \mu| > \varrho, \quad \forall \lambda, \mu \in \Lambda_i, \lambda \neq \mu.$$

1663 Hence, Theorem 2.5 gives the formula

$$1664 \quad T_0(y_0) = \limsup_{G \in \mathcal{G}} \frac{\ln^+ \mathcal{C}(G, y_0)}{2r_G}.$$

1665 We will prove in the sequel, analyzing the different possible blocks, that

$$1666 \quad (7.8) \quad \sup_{G \in \mathcal{G}} \mathcal{C}(G, y_0) < +\infty,$$

1667 which will let us conclude the claim, that is $T_0(y_0) = 0$.

1668 • Blocks of a simple eigenvalue.

We immediately obtain

$$\mathcal{C}(G, y_0) = \begin{cases} \frac{\left| \langle y_0, \phi_{\lambda,1} \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \right|^2}{((1 + \varepsilon_k)^2 + s_k^2 \varepsilon_k^2) |\varphi'_k(0)|^2} & , \text{ if } \lambda = \nu_k, \\ \frac{\left| \langle y_0, \phi_{\lambda,2} \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \right|^2}{(1 + s_l^2) |\varphi'_l(0)|^2} & , \text{ if } \lambda = d\nu_l. \end{cases}$$

1669 Using again (6.4) the estimate (7.3) and the fact that $(\varepsilon_k)_k$ goes to 0 as k goes
 1670 to infinity, we observe that the blocks consisting of a single simple eigenvalue
 1671 do not contribute to the minimal time: the quantity $\mathcal{C}(G, y_0)$ is bounded
 1672 independently of G .

1673 Moreover, by the discussion above, the blocks consisting of a single double
 1674 eigenvalue belonging to Θ do not contribute either.

- Blocks of two simple eigenvalues: $G = \{\lambda_1 := \nu_k\} \cup \{\lambda_2 := d\nu_l\}$.
 From Theorem 2.10 we obtain

$$1677 \quad \mathcal{C}(G, y_0) = \langle M^{-1}\xi, \xi \rangle$$

1678 with

$$1679 \quad M = \text{Gram}(b[\lambda_1], b[\lambda_2]) + \text{Gram}(0, (\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)b[\lambda_2])$$

1680 and

$$1681 \quad \xi = \begin{pmatrix} \langle y_0, \phi_{\lambda_1,1} \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \\ \langle y_0, \phi_{\lambda_2,2} \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \end{pmatrix}.$$

1682 To ease the reading, we use the following change of normalization for the
 1683 eigenvectors

$$1684 \quad \tilde{\phi}_{\lambda_1} := \frac{\phi_{\lambda_1,1}}{-\varphi'_k(0)}, \quad \tilde{\phi}_{\lambda_2} := \frac{\phi_{\lambda_2,2}}{-\varphi'_l(0)},$$

1685 and we denote by \tilde{M} and $\tilde{\xi}$ the associated quantities. Notice that, due to (6.4),
 1686 the quantity $\|\tilde{\xi}\|$ is bounded. Thus, to estimate $\mathcal{C}(G, y_0)$ we give a lower bound
 1687 on the smallest eigenvalue of \tilde{M} . We have

$$1688 \quad \begin{aligned} \tilde{M} &= \text{Gram}(\tilde{b}[\lambda_1], \tilde{b}[\lambda_2]) + \text{Gram}(0, (\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)\tilde{b}[\lambda_2]) \\ 1689 \quad &= \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_k^2 s_k^2 + (1 + \varepsilon_k)^2 & 1 + \varepsilon_k + \varepsilon_k s_k s_l \\ 1 + \varepsilon_k + \varepsilon_k s_k s_l & 1 + s_l^2 \end{pmatrix}}_{=\Gamma^1} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & (\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)^2(1 + s_l^2) \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

1690 For any $\tau \in \mathbb{R}^2$, $\langle \tilde{M}\tau, \tau \rangle \geq \langle \Gamma^1\tau, \tau \rangle$. Then,

$$1692 \quad \min \text{Sp}(\Gamma^1) \geq \frac{\det(\Gamma^1)}{\text{tr}(\Gamma^1)} = \frac{((1 + \varepsilon_k)s_l - \varepsilon_k s_k)^2}{1 + (1 + \varepsilon_k)^2 + \varepsilon_k^2 s_k^2 + s_l^2}$$

1693 From (7.3), it comes that, for k large enough, $\min \text{Sp}(\Gamma^1)$ is bounded from
 1694 below by a positive constant independent of G .

- Blocks made of a geometrically double eigenvalue which does not belong to Θ :

1695 Consider $G = \{\lambda\}$ with $\lambda = \nu_k = d\nu_l \in \Lambda_1 \cap \Lambda_2$. With the same notations as
 1696 previously, Theorem 2.10 implies that

$$1699 \quad \mathcal{C}(G, y_0) = \langle \tilde{M}^{-1}\tilde{\xi}, \tilde{\xi} \rangle$$

1700 where

$$1701 \quad \tilde{\xi} = \begin{pmatrix} \left\langle y_0, \frac{\phi_{\lambda,1}}{-\varphi'_k(0)} \right\rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \\ \left\langle y_0, \frac{\phi_{\lambda,2}}{-\varphi'_l(0)} \right\rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \end{pmatrix}$$

1702 and

$$1703 \quad \widetilde{M} = \text{Gram} \left(\begin{array}{c} \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{\lambda,1} \\ -\varphi'_k(0) \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{\lambda,2} \\ -\varphi'_l(0) \end{array} \right) = \Gamma^1. \\ 1704$$

1705 Notice that since $\lambda \notin \Theta$, we have $\det(\Gamma^1) = ((1 + \varepsilon_k)s_l - \varepsilon_k s_k)^2 > 0$.

1706 Thus, the study of the previous item proves that, for λ large enough, $\min \text{Sp}(\Gamma^1)$
1707 is bounded from below by a positive constant independent of λ .

1708 Gathering all cases, we deduce (7.8) and the proof is complete. \square

1709 **7.1.3. Simultaneous distributed control.** Let us now consider the following
1710 control problem

$$1711 \quad (7.9) \quad \begin{cases} \partial_t y + \mathcal{A}y = \mathbf{1}_\omega \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} u(t, x), & t \in (0, T), \\ y(t, 0) = y(t, 1) = 0, & t \in (0, T). \end{cases}$$

1712 In that case, the observation operator \mathcal{B}^* is given by

$$1713 \quad \mathcal{B}^* : \begin{pmatrix} f \\ g \end{pmatrix} \in X_1^* \mapsto \mathbf{1}_\omega(f + g),$$

1714 and is clearly admissible with respect to the pivot space X . Our result concerning
1715 this example is very similar to Proposition 7.1 and reads as follows.

1716 **PROPOSITION 7.2.** *For any $d \neq 1$, there exists Y_0 a closed subspace of $H^{-1}(0, 1; \mathbb{R})^2$
1717 of codimension less or equal than 1 such that*

- 1718 • for any $y_0 \notin Y_0$, system (7.9) is not approximately controllable;
- 1719 • for any $y_0 \in Y_0$, system (7.9) is null controllable in any time $T > 0$.

1720 **REMARK 7.4.** *During the proof it will appear that there exists a countable set
1721 $D \subset (1, +\infty)$ such that for any $d \notin D \cup \{1\}$, we have $Y_0 = H^{-1}(0, 1; \mathbb{R})^2$, which
1722 means that our system is null-controllable at any time $T > 0$ for any initial data. In
1723 particular, it is noticeable that this property holds for any $d < 1$, that is in the case
1724 where the diffusion coefficient is lower in the second equation (the one which does not
1725 contain coupling terms).*

1726 *Proof.* We start by computing the observations related to the eigenelements of
1727 \mathcal{A}^*

- 1728 • For any $\lambda = \nu_k \in \Lambda_1$, we have

$$1729 \quad (7.10) \quad \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{\lambda,1} = (1 + \varepsilon_k) \varphi_k \mathbf{1}_\omega.$$

- 1730 • For any $\lambda = d\nu_l \in \Lambda_2$, we have

$$1731 \quad (7.11) \quad \mathcal{B}^* \phi_{\lambda,2} = \varphi_l \mathbf{1}_\omega.$$

If for some k we have $1 + \varepsilon_k = 0$, then we clearly get that (2.14) does not hold. We
can thus introduce the set

$$\Theta := \{\lambda = \nu_k ; 1 + \varepsilon_k = 0\},$$

1732 which is of cardinal less or equal than 1 (by definition of the sequence $(\varepsilon_k)_k$, see
1733 Section 7.1.1). Note also that for $d < 1$, we always have $\varepsilon_k > 0$, so that $\Theta = \emptyset$, see
1734 Remark 7.4.

1735 We notice however that, for any $\lambda = d\nu_l$, we have $\mathcal{B}^*\phi_{\lambda,2} \neq 0$ and that if $\lambda =$
 1736 $\nu_k = d\nu_l \in \Lambda_1 \cap \Lambda_2$, with $\lambda \notin \Theta$, then $\mathcal{B}^*\phi_{\lambda,1}$ and $\mathcal{B}^*\phi_{\lambda,2}$ are linearly independent.

Let us introduce

$$Y_0 := \{y_0 \in X; \text{ s.t. } \langle y_0, \phi_{\lambda,1} \rangle_X = 0, \forall \lambda \in \Theta\}.$$

1737 By definition of this set, for any initial data in Y_0 , the moment equation (1.2) related
 1738 to the eigenvector $\phi_{\lambda,1}$ for $\lambda \in \Theta$ is automatically satisfied for any control since both
 1739 members are equal to zero.

1740 As in the proof of Proposition 7.1, we consider a grouping \mathcal{G} as given by Propo-
 1741 sition 2.2, with $p = 2$ and $\varrho > 0$ small enough such that for $i \in \{1, 2\}$ we have

$$1742 \quad |\lambda - \mu| > \varrho, \quad \forall \lambda, \mu \in \Lambda_i, \lambda \neq \mu.$$

1743 Hence, Theorem 2.5 gives the formula

$$1744 \quad T_0(y_0) = \limsup_{G \in \mathcal{G}} \frac{\ln^+ \mathcal{C}(G, y_0)}{2r_G}.$$

1745 Let us now evaluate the quantities $\mathcal{C}(G, y_0)$ for every possible block.

- 1746 • Blocks made of a simple eigenvalue that does not belong to Θ .
 We immediately obtain

$$\mathcal{C}(G, y_0) = \begin{cases} \frac{|\langle y_0, \phi_{\lambda,1} \rangle_X|^2}{(1 + \varepsilon_k)^2 \|\varphi_k\|_\omega^2}, & \text{if } \lambda = \nu_k, \\ \frac{|\langle y_0, \phi_{\lambda,2} \rangle_X|^2}{\|\varphi_l\|_\omega^2}, & \text{if } \lambda = d\nu_l, \end{cases}$$

1747 which is a bounded quantity thanks to (6.5) and the fact that $(\varepsilon_k)_k$ tends to
 1748 zero at infinity.

- 1749 • Blocks made of two eigenvalues: $G = \{\lambda_1 := \nu_k\} \cup \{\lambda_2 := d\nu_l\}$. Note that
 1750 the proof below works exactly the same in the case where $\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$, that is if
 1751 the two eigenvalues are simple, or in the case where $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2$, that is if there
 1752 is only a geometrically double eigenvalue.

1753 By the discussion above, we can assume that λ_1 does not belong to Θ (if
 1754 not, this block has to be considered as a block containing only the simple
 1755 eigenvalue λ_2).

Thanks to Theorem 2.10 we have $\mathcal{C}(G, y_0) \leq \langle \widetilde{M}^{-1}\xi, \xi \rangle$ where

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{M} &= \text{Gram}(\mathbf{1}_\omega \varphi_k, \mathbf{1}_\omega \varphi_l), \\ \xi &= \begin{pmatrix} \langle y_0, \phi_{\lambda_1,1} \rangle_X \\ 1 + \varepsilon_k \\ \langle y_0, \phi_{\lambda_2,2} \rangle_X \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

By using the Lebeau-Robbiano inequality (6.8), and the fact that $|\lambda_1 - \lambda_2| \leq$
 ϱ , we have that

$$\langle \widetilde{M}^{-1}\xi, \xi \rangle \leq C_1 e^{C_1 \sqrt{r_G}} \|\xi\|^2 \leq C_2 e^{C_1 \sqrt{r_G}} \|y_0\|_X^2,$$

1756 where C_1, C_2 only depends on ϱ, ω and on the operator \mathcal{A} .

All in all, we have obtained that

$$\ln^+ \mathcal{C}(G, y_0) \leq C (1 + \sqrt{r_G}).$$

1757 Gathering all cases, we conclude that $T_0(y_0) = 0$. □

1758 **7.2. Other applications.**

1759 Let us consider the following control system

(7.12)

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t y + \begin{pmatrix} -\partial_{xx} + c_1(x) & 1 \\ 0 & -\partial_{xx} + c_2(x) \end{pmatrix} y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \mathbf{1}_\omega u(t, x) \end{pmatrix}, & (t, x) \in (0, T) \times (0, 1), \\ y(t, 0) = y(t, 1) = 0, & t \in (0, T), \\ y(0, x) = y_0(x), \end{cases}$$

1760

1761 where $c_1, c_2 \in L^2(0, 1; \mathbb{R})$.

1762 With the technics developed in this article, one can prove the following control-
1763 lability result.

1764 **PROPOSITION 7.3.** *For any non-negative potentials c_1, c_2 , system (7.12) is null*
1765 *controllable in any time $T > 0$ from $L^2(0, 1; \mathbb{R})^2$.*

1766 The proof follows closely the computations done for the same system with a boundary
1767 control in [9, Section 5.2.1]. The only difference is that the contributions of terms of
1768 the form $\|\mathcal{B}^* \bullet\|_U = \|\bullet\|_\omega$ are estimated using (6.5).

1769 As the result stated in Proposition 7.3 is already known (it is for instance an
1770 application of [23] with a proof based on Carleman estimates), we do not detail the
1771 proof here to lighten this article.

1772 With the technics developed in this article we can also analyze null controllability
1773 for the following control system

(7.13)

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t y + \begin{pmatrix} A & q(x) \\ 0 & A \end{pmatrix} y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \mathbf{1}_\omega u(t, x) \end{pmatrix}, & (t, x) \in (0, T) \times (0, 1), \\ y(t, 0) = y(t, 1) = 0, & t \in (0, T), \\ y(0, x) = y_0(x), \end{cases}$$

1774

1775 where the coupling function q belongs to $L^\infty(0, 1; \mathbb{R})$ and $\omega \subset (0, 1)$ is a non empty
1776 open set. We manage to characterize the value of the minimal null-control time
1777 without any other assumption on q and ω .

1778 This analysis extends previous results of [14] where approximate controllability
1779 was studied and those of [6] where null controllability was studied in the particular
1780 case where \mathcal{A} is the Dirichlet Laplace operator and ω is an interval disjoint of $\text{Supp } q$.
1781 Our formalism also allows us to recover null controllability in any time when q has a
1782 strict sign on a subdomain of ω as proved in [23] by means of Carleman estimates.

1783 Since the analysis of this example makes use of refined spectral properties of
1784 the underlying operator whose proofs are rather intricate, we will develop it in the
1785 forthcoming paper [13].

1786 **Appendix A. Some refinements in the case of scalar controls.**

1787 In [9], the block moment method was introduced to solve null controllability
1788 problems with scalar controls ($U = \mathbb{R}$). With respect to block moment problems, the
1789 main result of this paper is [9, Theorem 4.1]. In this work there were no assumptions
1790 on the counting function. The spectrum Λ was only assumed to satisfy $\Lambda \subset [1, +\infty)$
1791 and

1792

$$\sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \frac{1}{\lambda} < +\infty.$$

1793 Using the slightly more restrictive condition (2.9) on the asymptotics of the count-
1794 ing function we allow the eigenvalues to be complex valued and we obtain sharper

1795 estimates together with the explicit dependency of the constants with respect to the
 1796 final time T (see Remark 2.8 for possible applications of such estimates). This im-
 1797 proved resolution of scalar block moment problems reads as follow and is proved in [12,
 1798 Theorem V.4.25].

1799 **THEOREM A.1.** *Let $p \in \mathbb{N}^*$, $\varrho, \tau, \kappa > 0$ and $\theta \in (0, 1)$. Assume that*

1800
$$\Lambda \in \mathcal{L}_w(p, \varrho, \tau, \theta, \kappa).$$

1801 *Let $G = \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_g\} \subset \Lambda$ be a group satisfying (2.6)–(2.8). Let $T \in (0, +\infty)$ and*
 1802 *$\eta \in \mathbb{N}^*$. For any multi-index $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^g$ with $|\alpha|_\infty \leq \eta$ and any*

1803
$$\omega = (\omega_1^0, \dots, \omega_1^{\alpha_1-1}, \dots, \omega_g^0, \dots, \omega_g^{\alpha_g-1}) \in \mathbb{C}^{|\alpha|},$$

1804 *there exists $v_G \in L^2(0, T; \mathbb{C})$ satisfying*

1805 (A.1a)
$$\int_0^T v_G(t) \frac{(-t)^l}{l!} e^{-\bar{\lambda}_j t} dt = \omega_j^l, \quad \forall j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket, \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \alpha_j \rrbracket,$$

1806 (A.1b)
$$\int_0^T v_G(t) \frac{(-t)^l}{l!} e^{-\bar{\lambda} t} dt = 0, \quad \forall \lambda \in \Lambda \setminus G, \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \eta \rrbracket.$$

 1807

1808 *The solution v_G satisfies the following estimate*

1809 (A.2)
$$\|v_G\|_{L^2(0, T; U)} \leq C \exp\left(\frac{C}{T^{\frac{\theta}{1-\theta}}}\right) \exp\left(r_G \frac{T}{2}\right) \exp(Cr_G^\theta) \max_{\substack{\mu \in \mathbb{N}^g \\ \mu \leq \alpha}} \left| \omega \left[\bar{\lambda}_\bullet^{(\mu)} \right] \right|,$$

1810 *where r_G is defined in (2.16) and with the convention*

1811
$$\omega \left[\bar{\lambda}_j^{(l+1)} \right] = \omega_j^l, \quad \forall j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket, \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \alpha_j \rrbracket.$$

1812 *The constant $C > 0$ appearing in the estimate only depends on the parameters $\tau, p,$
 1813 ϱ, η, θ and κ .*

1814 *Moreover, there exists a constant $C_{p, \eta, r_\Lambda} > 0$ such that any $v_G \in L^2(0, T; U)$
 1815 *solution of (A.1a) satisfy**

1816 (A.3)
$$\|v_G\|_{L^2(0, T; \mathbb{C})} \geq C_{p, \eta, r_\Lambda} \max_{\substack{\mu \in \mathbb{N}^g \\ \mu \leq \alpha}} \left| \omega \left[\bar{\lambda}_\bullet^{(\mu)} \right] \right|.$$

1817 **REMARK A.1.** *If every assumption hold except (2.10) in the definition of the class*
 1818 *$\mathcal{L}_w(p, \varrho, \tau, \theta, \kappa)$, Theorem A.1 remains valid replacing θ in estimate (A.2) by any*
 1819 *$\theta' \in (\theta, 1)$ (see [12, Theorem V.4.25]).*

1820 *Since every estimate on the resolution of block moment problems proved in this*
 1821 *paper follows from (A.2), this remark holds in the whole current paper. Notably it*
 1822 *applies to Theorem 2.4 and to the estimates of the cost of controllability stated in*
 1823 *Proposition 2.11 and Corollary 2.12.*

1824 *The application of this theorem to the resolution of scalar block moment problems*
 1825 *can be found in [12, Section V.5.3]. Notice that in the estimate (A.2) the term $e^{r_G T/2}$*
 1826 *can seem to be annoying. In [12, Corollary V.5.29], it is dealt with solving scalar*
 1827 *block moment problems in small time T . The same strategy is used in the present*
 1828 *paper to prove Theorem 2.5 in Section 4.2.*

1829 **Appendix B. An auxiliary optimization argument.**

1830 LEMMA B.1. Let Y be a closed subspace of $X_{-\diamond}$. Let $g \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and $\psi_1, \dots, \psi_g \in$
 1831 $P_Y^* X_{\diamond}^*$. For any $y \in Y$, let

$$1832 \quad \xi_y = \begin{pmatrix} \langle y, \psi_1 \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \\ \vdots \\ \langle y, \psi_g \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \end{pmatrix}.$$

1833 Then, for any positive semi-definite hermitian square matrix $M \in \mathcal{M}_g(\mathbb{C})$, we have

$$1834 \quad (\text{B.1}) \quad \sup_{\substack{y \in Y \\ \|y\|_{-\diamond} = 1}} \langle M \xi_y, \xi_y \rangle = \rho(\mathbf{G}_\psi M)$$

1835 with $\mathbf{G}_\psi = \text{Gram}_{X_{\diamond}^*}(\psi_1, \dots, \psi_g)$.

In the course of the proof we will use that there exists an isometric linear bijection $I : X_{-\diamond} \mapsto X_{\diamond}^*$ such that

$$\langle y, \varphi \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} = (Iy, \varphi)_{\diamond^*}, \quad \forall y \in X_{-\diamond}, \forall \varphi \in X_{\diamond}^*.$$

Note that it satisfies

$$(Iy, \varphi)_{\diamond^*} = (y, I^{-1}\varphi)_{-\diamond}, \quad \forall y \in X_{-\diamond}, \forall \varphi \in X_{\diamond}^*.$$

Proof. Let S be the value of the supremum in the left-hand side of (B.1). By assumption on the $(\psi_i)_i$, we first observe that the supremum can be taken on the whole space $X_{-\diamond}$ instead of Y without changing its value. Then, for any $1 \leq i \leq g$, we have

$$\langle y, \psi_i \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} = (y, I^{-1}\psi_i)_{-\diamond},$$

and therefore the value of S does not change if we take the supremum over the set

$$\tilde{\Psi} = \text{Span}(\tilde{\psi}_1, \dots, \tilde{\psi}_g) \subset X_{-\diamond},$$

1836 with

$$1837 \quad (\text{B.2}) \quad \tilde{\psi}_i = I^{-1}\psi_i.$$

We write any element $y \in \tilde{\Psi}$ as follows $y = \sum_{i=1}^g x_i \tilde{\psi}_i$, with $x = (x_j)_{j \in [1, g]} \in \mathbb{C}^g$ so that we can compute

$$\left(y, \tilde{\psi}_i \right)_{-\diamond} = \sum_{j=1}^g x_j \left(\tilde{\psi}_j, \tilde{\psi}_i \right)_{-\diamond} = (\mathbf{G}_{\tilde{\psi}} x)_i, \quad \forall i \in [1, g],$$

$$(y, y)_{-\diamond} = \sum_{i=1}^g \sum_{j=1}^g \bar{x}_i x_j \left(\tilde{\psi}_j, \tilde{\psi}_i \right)_{-\diamond} = \left\langle \mathbf{G}_{\tilde{\psi}} x, x \right\rangle,$$

where $\mathbf{G}_{\tilde{\psi}}$ is the Gram matrix in $X_{-\diamond}$ of the family $\{\tilde{\psi}_1, \dots, \tilde{\psi}_g\}$. Using that I is an isometry from $X_{-\diamond}$ onto X_{\diamond}^* it actually appears that

$$\mathbf{G}_{\tilde{\psi}} = \mathbf{G}_\psi.$$

Finally, we have proved that

$$\xi_y = \mathbf{G}_\psi x, \quad \text{and} \quad \|y\|_{-\diamond}^2 = \langle \mathbf{G}_\psi x, x \rangle.$$

The supremum we are looking for thus reads

$$S = \sup_{\substack{x \in \mathbb{C}^g \\ \langle \mathbf{G}_\psi x, x \rangle = 1}} \langle M \mathbf{G}_\psi x, \mathbf{G}_\psi x \rangle.$$

- By compactness, we know that this supremum is actually achieved at some point $x_0 \in \mathbb{C}^g$, that is

$$\langle MG_\psi x_0, G_\psi x_0 \rangle = S, \quad \text{and} \quad \langle G_\psi x_0, x_0 \rangle = 1.$$

1838 The Lagrange multiplier theorem gives that there exists $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ such that

$$1839 \quad (\text{B.3}) \quad \langle MG_\psi x_0, G_\psi h \rangle = \lambda \langle G_\psi x_0, h \rangle, \quad \forall h \in \mathbb{C}^g.$$

Taking $h = x_0$ in this equation, we get

$$\langle MG_\psi x_0, G_\psi x_0 \rangle = \lambda \langle G_\psi x_0, x_0 \rangle = \lambda,$$

1840 and thus $\lambda = S$, in particular λ is a non negative real number.

From (B.3), we deduce

$$G_\psi M G_\psi x_0 = \lambda G_\psi x_0.$$

and since $G_\psi x_0 \neq 0$ (we recall that $\langle G_\psi x_0, x_0 \rangle = 1$), we conclude that λ is an eigenvalue of $G_\psi M$ and therefore

$$S = \lambda \leq \rho(G_\psi M).$$

We have thus proved that

$$S \leq \rho(G_\psi M).$$

- If $\rho(G_\psi M) = 0$, the claim is proved. If not, we set

$$\lambda = \rho(G_\psi M) = \rho(MG_\psi) = \rho\left(G_\psi^{\frac{1}{2}} M G_\psi^{\frac{1}{2}}\right),$$

which is a positive number which is an eigenvalue of the three matrices above. In particular, there exists $x_0 \in \mathbb{C}^g \setminus \{0\}$ such that

$$M G_\psi x_0 = \lambda x_0.$$

Taking the inner product with $G_\psi x_0$ we obtain

$$\langle M G_\psi x_0, G_\psi x_0 \rangle = \lambda \langle x_0, G_\psi x_0 \rangle,$$

and since $\langle x_0, G_\psi x_0 \rangle = \left\| G_\psi^{\frac{1}{2}} x_0 \right\|^2$ cannot be equal to zero, we deduce that

$$\lambda \leq S,$$

1841 and the proof is complete. \square

1842 **Appendix C. Solving general block moment problems.**

1843 As this paper is oriented towards control theory we do not deal with the most
 1844 general block moment problems. Indeed, in Theorem 2.4, the considered block mo-
 1845 ment problems have a specific right-hand side which is a linear form. This formalism
 1846 is chosen in order to avoid exhibiting a particular basis of the generalized eigenspaces.
 1847 The price to pay is this restriction on the considered right-hand sides. However the
 1848 proofs detailed in Sections 3 and 5 directly lead to the following more general results.

1849 The study with a group composed of geometrically simple eigenvalues (see Sec-
 1850 tions 5.1 and 5.2) leads to the following theorem.

1851 THEOREM C.1. Let $p \in \mathbb{N}^*$, $\varrho, \tau, \kappa > 0$ and $\theta \in (0, 1)$. Assume that

1852
$$\Lambda \in \mathcal{L}_w(p, \varrho, \tau, \theta, \kappa).$$

1853 Recall that this class of sequences is defined in (2.11). Let $G = \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_g\} \subset \Lambda$ be
 1854 a group satisfying (2.6)–(2.8). Let $T \in (0, +\infty)$ and $\eta \in \mathbb{N}^*$. For any multi-index
 1855 $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^g$ with $|\alpha|_\infty \leq \eta$, any

1856
$$\omega = (\omega_1^0, \dots, \omega_1^{\alpha_1-1}, \dots, \omega_g^0, \dots, \omega_g^{\alpha_g-1}) \in \mathbb{C}^{|\alpha|},$$

1857 and any $b \in U^{|\alpha|}$ with

1858
$$b_j^0 \neq 0, \quad \forall j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket,$$

1859 there exists $v_G \in L^2(0, T; U)$ satisfying

1860 (C.1a)
$$\int_0^T \left\langle v_G(t), (e_t b) \left[\bar{\lambda}_j^{(l+1)} \right] \right\rangle_U dt = \omega_j^l, \quad \forall j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket, \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \alpha_j \rrbracket,$$

1861 (C.1b)
$$\int_0^T v_G(t) t^l e^{-\bar{\lambda} t} dt = 0, \quad \forall \lambda \in \Lambda \setminus G, \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \eta \rrbracket.$$

 1862

1863 The solution v_G satisfies the following estimate

1864
$$\|v_G\|_{L^2(0, T; U)} \leq C \exp\left(\frac{C}{T^{1-\theta}}\right) \exp\left(r_G \frac{T}{2}\right) \exp(C r_G^\theta) \langle M^{-1} \xi, \xi \rangle,$$

1865 where

1866
$$\xi := \begin{pmatrix} \omega \left[\bar{\lambda}_\bullet^{(\mu^1)} \right] \\ \vdots \\ \omega \left[\bar{\lambda}_\bullet^{(\mu^{|\alpha|})} \right] \end{pmatrix},$$

1867 the sequence $(\mu^p)_{p \in \llbracket 0, |\alpha| \rrbracket}$ is defined in (2.24), the associated matrix M is defined
 1868 in (2.33), r_G is defined in (2.16) and with the convention

1869
$$\omega \left[\bar{\lambda}_j^{(l+1)} \right] = \omega_j^l, \quad \forall j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket, \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \alpha_j \rrbracket.$$

1870 The constant $C > 0$ appearing in the estimate only depends on the parameters $\tau, p,$
 1871 ϱ, η, θ and κ .

1872 Moreover, there exists a constant $C_{p, \eta, r_\Lambda} > 0$ such that any $v_G \in L^2(0, T; U)$
 1873 solution of (C.1a) satisfy

1874
$$\|v_G\|_{L^2(0, T; U)} \geq C_{p, \eta, r_\Lambda} \langle M^{-1} \xi, \xi \rangle.$$

1875 REMARK C.1. As detailed in Remark 2.5, when the eigenvalues in G are also
 1876 algebraically simple, i.e. $\alpha_\lambda = \gamma_\lambda = 1$ for any $\lambda \in G$, the expression of ξ reduces to

1877
$$\xi := \begin{pmatrix} \omega \left[\bar{\lambda}_1 \right] \\ \vdots \\ \omega \left[\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_g \right] \end{pmatrix},$$

1878 and the expression of M reduces to the one given in (2.35).

1879 The study with a group composed of semi-simple eigenvalues (see Section 5.3)
 1880 leads to the following theorem.

1881 **THEOREM C.2.** *Let $p \in \mathbb{N}^*$, $\varrho, \tau, \kappa > 0$ and $\theta \in (0, 1)$. Assume that*

1882
$$\Lambda \in \mathcal{L}_w(p, \varrho, \tau, \theta, \kappa).$$

1883 *Recall that this class of sequences is defined in (2.11). Let $G = \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_g\} \subset \Lambda$ be a*
 1884 *group satisfying (2.6)–(2.8). Let $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_g \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and $\gamma_G = \gamma_1 + \dots + \gamma_g$. Let $\eta \in \mathbb{N}^*$*
 1885 *and $T \in (0, +\infty)$.*

1886 *For any $(\omega_{j,i})_{j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket, i \in \llbracket 1, \gamma_j \rrbracket} \in \mathbb{C}^{\gamma_G}$ and any $(b_{j,i})_{j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket, i \in \llbracket 1, \gamma_j \rrbracket} \in U^{\gamma_G}$ such*
 1887 *that $b_{j,1}, \dots, b_{j,\gamma_j}$ are linearly independent for every $j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket$, there exists $v_G \in$*
 1888 *$L^2(0, T; U)$ satisfying*

1889 (C.2a)
$$\int_0^T \left\langle v_G(t), e^{-\bar{\lambda}_j t} b_{j,i} \right\rangle_U dt = \omega_{j,i}, \quad \forall j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket, \forall i \in \llbracket 1, \gamma_j \rrbracket,$$

1890 (C.2b)
$$\int_0^T v_G(t) t^l e^{-\bar{\lambda} t} dt = 0, \quad \forall \lambda \in \Lambda \setminus G, \forall l \in \llbracket 0, \eta \rrbracket.$$

 1891

1892 *The solution v_G satisfies the following estimate*

1893
$$\|v_G\|_{L^2(0, T; U)} \leq C \exp\left(\frac{C}{T^{1-\theta}}\right) \exp\left(r_G \frac{T}{2}\right) \exp(Cr_G^\theta) \langle M^{-1} \xi, \xi \rangle,$$

1894 *where $\xi \in \mathbb{C}^{\gamma_G}$ is defined by blocks with*

1895
$$\xi_j := \begin{pmatrix} \omega_{j,1} \\ \vdots \\ \omega_{j,g} \end{pmatrix},$$

1896 *the associated matrix M is defined in (2.37) and r_G is defined in (2.16). The constant*
 1897 *$C > 0$ appearing in the estimate only depends on the parameters $\tau, p, \varrho, \eta, \theta$ and κ .*

1898 *Moreover, there exists a constant $C_{p,\eta,r_\Lambda} > 0$ such that any $v_G \in L^2(0, T; U)$*
 1899 *solution of (C.2a) satisfy*

1900
$$\|v_G\|_{L^2(0, T; U)} \geq C_{p,\eta,r_\Lambda} \langle M^{-1} \xi, \xi \rangle.$$

1901 **Appendix D. Post-processing formulas.**

1902 The minimal null control time given in Theorem 2.5, together with the compu-
 1903 tation of the contribution of each group given in Theorems 2.8 and 2.10, allow to
 1904 answer the question of minimal null control time for a wide variety of one dimensional
 1905 parabolic control problems. However, for a given problem, the precise estimate of the
 1906 quantity of interest $\langle M^{-1} \xi, \xi \rangle$ can remain a tricky question.

1907 There is no normalization condition on the eigenvectors and no uniqueness of
 1908 the considered Jordan chains. Thus, it happens that there are choices for which the
 1909 quantity of interest $\langle M^{-1} \xi, \xi \rangle$ is easier to compute (see for instance Remark 2.4). We
 1910 gather here some results that are used in Sections 6 and 7 to estimate such quantities.

1911 We will make an intensive use of the following reformulation. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and let
 1912 $T, M \in \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{C})$. For any $\xi \in \mathbb{C}^n$, let $\tilde{\xi} := T\xi$. Then,

1913 (D.1)
$$\langle M^{-1} \xi, \xi \rangle = \left\langle M^{-1} T^{-1} \tilde{\xi}, T^{-1} \tilde{\xi} \right\rangle = \left\langle \widetilde{M}^{-1} \tilde{\xi}, \tilde{\xi} \right\rangle$$

1914 where

$$1915 \quad (D.2) \quad \widetilde{M} := TMT^*.$$

1916 As the matrix M is a sum of Gram matrices we will also use the following lemma.

1917 **LEMMA D.1.** *Let X be a Hilbert space. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and $e = (e_1, \dots, e_n) \in X^n$.*
 1918 *Let $T \in \mathcal{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$. Then,*

$$1919 \quad T\text{Gram}_X(e_1, \dots, e_n)T^* = \text{Gram}_X((\overline{T}e)_1, \dots, (\overline{T}e)_n)$$

1920 where, for any $i \in \llbracket 1, n \rrbracket$, $(\overline{T}e)_i$ is defined by

$$1921 \quad (\overline{T}e)_i := \sum_{j=1}^n \overline{T_{i,j}} e_j.$$

1922 *Proof.* For any $\omega \in \mathbb{C}^n$, it comes that

$$1923 \quad (D.3) \quad \langle T\text{Gram}_X(e_1, \dots, e_n)T^*\omega, \omega \rangle = \langle \text{Gram}_X(e_1, \dots, e_n)(T^*\omega), (T^*\omega) \rangle$$

$$1924 \quad (D.4) \quad = \left\| \sum_{i=1}^n (T^*\omega)_i e_i \right\|^2$$

$$1925 \quad (D.5) \quad = \left\| \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \overline{T_{j,i}} \omega_j e_i \right\|^2$$

$$1926 \quad (D.6) \quad = \left\| \sum_{j=1}^n \omega_j (\overline{T}e)_j \right\|^2$$

$$1927 \quad (D.7) \quad = \langle \text{Gram}_X((\overline{T}e)_1, \dots, (\overline{T}e)_n)\omega, \omega \rangle. \quad \square$$

1929 Depending on the phenomenon at stake on actual examples, with a suitable choice of
 1930 $\tilde{\xi}$ (i.e. of T), the quantity $\langle \widetilde{M}^{-1}\tilde{\xi}, \tilde{\xi} \rangle$ can be easier to estimate than $\langle M^{-1}\xi, \xi \rangle$.

1931 **D.1. Dilatations.**

1932 Notice that

$$1933 \quad \langle \widetilde{M}^{-1}\tilde{\xi}, \tilde{\xi} \rangle \leq \|\widetilde{M}^{-1}\| \|\tilde{\xi}\|^2.$$

1934 When the minimal null control time can be estimated with rough estimates (this can
 1935 only characterize the minimal time when $T_0 = 0$), it can simplify the computations
 1936 to have a bounded $\|\tilde{\xi}\|$. To do so, it is convenient to consider dilatations of ξ .

1937 Let X be a Hilbert space. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and $e_1, \dots, e_n \in X$. Let $\xi \in \mathbb{C}^n$ and $\beta \in \mathbb{C}^n$
 1938 with non-zero entries. Let

$$1939 \quad T = D_\beta := \text{diag}(\beta) \in \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{C}), \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{\xi} = T\xi.$$

1940 Then, from Lemma D.1, it comes that

$$1941 \quad T\text{Gram}_X(e_1, \dots, e_n)T^* = \text{Gram}_X(\overline{\beta}_1 e_1, \dots, \overline{\beta}_n e_n).$$

1942 **D.2. Invariance by scale change.**

1943 In our assumptions there is no normalization condition on the eigenvectors (see
 1944 Remark 2.4). This allows to have simpler expressions for these eigenvectors. Actually,
 1945 the computation of $\langle M^{-1}\xi, \xi \rangle$ can be done with a different scale change on every
 1946 generalized eigenvector as detailed in the following proposition.

1947 PROPOSITION D.2. *Let M and ξ be as defined in Theorem 2.8. Let $\beta \in \mathbb{C}^{|\alpha|}$ be
 1948 such that $\beta_j^0 \neq 0$ for all $j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket$. Set*

$$\tilde{\xi} = \begin{pmatrix} \langle y_0, (\beta\phi) [\lambda^{\mu^1}] \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \\ \vdots \\ \langle y_0, (\beta\phi) [\lambda^{\mu^{|\alpha|}}] \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \end{pmatrix}$$

1950 Then,

$$\langle M^{-1}\xi, \xi \rangle = \langle \widetilde{M}^{-1}\tilde{\xi}, \tilde{\xi} \rangle$$

1952 where

$$(D.8) \quad \widetilde{M} := \sum_{l=1}^{|\alpha|} \text{Gram}_U \left(\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{l-1}, (\beta b) [\lambda^{\mu^l - \mu^{l-1}}], \dots, (\beta b) [\lambda^{\mu^{|\alpha|} - \mu^{l-1}}] \right).$$

1954 *Proof.* From Leibniz formula [9, Proposition 7.13], it comes that for any $p \in$
 1955 $\llbracket 1, |\alpha| \rrbracket$,

$$(\beta\phi) [\lambda^{\mu^p}] = \sum_{q=1}^{\mu^p} \beta [\lambda^{\mu^p - \mu^{q-1}}] \phi [\lambda^{\mu^q}].$$

1957 Thus, $\tilde{\xi} = T\xi$ where T is the following lower triangular matrix

$$T = \left(\mathbf{1}_{q \leq p} \overline{\beta} [\lambda^{\mu^p - \mu^{q-1}}] \right)_{p, q \in \llbracket 1, |\alpha| \rrbracket}.$$

1959 The diagonal entries of this lower triangular matrix are $\overline{\beta_j^0}$ and thus $T \in \text{GL}_{|\alpha|}(\mathbb{C})$.
 1960 From (D.2), the associated matrix is

$$\widetilde{M} := \sum_{l=1}^{|\alpha|} T \text{Gram}_U \left(\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{l-1}, b [\lambda^{\mu^l - \mu^{l-1}}], \dots, b [\lambda^{\mu^{|\alpha|} - \mu^{l-1}}] \right) T^*.$$

1962 Let $l \in \llbracket 1, |\alpha| \rrbracket$ and

$$\begin{aligned} e_1 &= \dots = e_{l-1} = 0, \\ e_p &= b [\lambda^{\mu^p - \mu^{l-1}}], \quad \forall p \in \llbracket l, |\alpha| \rrbracket. \end{aligned}$$

1966 Then, for any $p \in \llbracket 1, |\alpha| \rrbracket$,

$$(\overline{T}e)_p = \sum_{q=1}^{|\alpha|} \mathbf{1}_{q \leq p} \beta [\lambda^{\mu^p - \mu^{q-1}}] e_q.$$

1968 Thus, $(\bar{T}e)_1 = \dots = (\bar{T}e)_{l-1} = 0$ and, for any $p \in \llbracket l, |\alpha| \rrbracket$,

$$1969 \quad (\bar{T}e)_p = \sum_{q=1}^{|\alpha|} \mathbf{1}_{q \leq p} \beta \left[\lambda^{(\mu^p - \mu^{q-1})} \right] e_q = \sum_{q=l}^p \beta \left[\lambda^{(\mu^p - \mu^{q-1})} \right] b \left[\lambda^{(\mu^q - \mu^{l-1})} \right].$$

1970 Then, using again Leibniz formula [9, Proposition 7.13], we obtain

$$1971 \quad (\bar{T}e)_p = (\beta b) \left[\lambda^{(\mu^p - \mu^{l-1})} \right].$$

1972 Finally, applying (D.1) and Lemma D.1 ends the proof of Proposition D.2. \square

1973 **REMARK D.1.** *As there is no normalization condition on the eigenvectors a sim-*
1974 *ilar statement automatically holds with M and ξ defined in Theorem 2.10.*

1975 **D.3. An equivalent formula for simple eigenvalues.**

1976 In this section, we consider the case of a group of simple eigenvalues *i.e.* $\alpha_\lambda =$
1977 $\gamma_\lambda = 1$ for every $\lambda \in G$. In that case, the cost of the group G can be computed either
1978 using the formula of Theorem 2.8 for geometrically simple eigenvalues or the formula
1979 of Theorem 2.10 for semi-simple eigenvalues. Even though these theorems imply that
1980 those two formulas coincide (as they are both the cost of the group) we give a direct
1981 proof of this statement.

1982 **PROPOSITION D.3.** *Let M and ξ be the matrix and the vector given in Theorem 2.8*
1983 *i.e.*

$$1984 \quad M := \sum_{l=1}^g \text{Gram}_U \left(\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{l-1}, b[\lambda_l], \dots, b[\lambda_l, \dots, \lambda_g] \right)$$

1985 *and*

$$1986 \quad \xi = \begin{pmatrix} \langle y_0, \phi[\lambda_1] \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \\ \vdots \\ \langle y_0, \phi[\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_g] \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \end{pmatrix}.$$

1987 *Let \widetilde{M} and $\widetilde{\xi}$ be the matrix and the vector given in Theorem 2.10 i.e.*

$$1988 \quad (\text{D.9}) \quad \widetilde{M} := \sum_{l=1}^g \text{Gram}_U (\delta_l^1 b[\lambda_1], \dots, \delta_l^g b[\lambda_g]) \quad \text{and} \quad \widetilde{\xi} := \begin{pmatrix} \langle y_0, \phi[\lambda_1] \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \\ \vdots \\ \langle y_0, \phi[\lambda_g] \rangle_{-\diamond, \diamond} \end{pmatrix}.$$

1989 *Then,*

$$1990 \quad \langle M^{-1} \xi, \xi \rangle = \langle \widetilde{M}^{-1} \widetilde{\xi}, \widetilde{\xi} \rangle$$

1991 *Proof.* The usual interpolation formula [9, Proposition 7.6] gives

$$1992 \quad (\text{D.10}) \quad \phi[\lambda_i] = \sum_{j=1}^i \left(\prod_{k=1}^{j-1} (\lambda_i - \lambda_k) \right) \phi[\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_j].$$

1993 Recall that the notation δ_j^i has been introduced in (2.36). With these notations,
 1994 $\tilde{\xi} = T\xi$ where T is the following lower triangular matrix

$$1995 \quad T = \left(\overline{\delta_j^i} \right)_{i,j \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket} \in \text{GL}_g(\mathbb{C}).$$

1996 From (D.2), we define

$$1997 \quad \widehat{M} := \sum_{l=1}^g T \text{Gram}_U \left(\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{l-1}, b[\lambda_l], \dots, b[\lambda_l, \dots, \lambda_g] \right) T^*,$$

1998 so that we have $\langle M^{-1}\xi, \xi \rangle = \langle \widehat{M}^{-1}\tilde{\xi}, \tilde{\xi} \rangle$. We will now prove that $\widehat{M} = \widetilde{M}$.

1999 Let $l \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket$ and

$$2000 \quad e_1 = \dots = e_{l-1} = 0,$$

$$2001 \quad e_j = b[\lambda_l, \dots, \lambda_j], \quad \forall j \in \llbracket l, g \rrbracket.$$

2003 Then, $(\overline{T}e)_1 = \dots = (\overline{T}e)_{l-1} = 0$ and for $i \in \llbracket l, g \rrbracket$, using again the interpolation
 2004 property [9, Proposition 7.6], we obtain

$$2005 \quad (\overline{T}e)_i = \sum_{j=l}^g \delta_j^i b[\lambda_l, \dots, \lambda_j]$$

$$2006 \quad = \sum_{j=l}^i \delta_j^i b[\lambda_l, \dots, \lambda_j]$$

$$2007 \quad = \delta_l^i \sum_{j=l}^i \left(\prod_{k=l}^{j-1} (\lambda_i - \lambda_k) \right) b[\lambda_l, \dots, \lambda_j]$$

$$2008 \quad = \delta_l^i b[\lambda_i].$$

2010 Recalling that $\delta_l^1 = \dots = \delta_l^{l-1} = 0$, we thus obtain

$$2011 \quad (\overline{T}e)_i = \delta_l^i b[\lambda_i], \quad \forall i \in \llbracket 1, g \rrbracket.$$

2012 Finally, from Lemma D.1, we deduce that $\widehat{M} = \widetilde{M}$ which ends the proof of Proposi-
 2013 tion D.3. \square

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