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Submitted on 14 Mar 2011

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Global Carleman estimate on a network for the wave equation and application to an inverse problem.

Lucie Baudouin∗, Emmanuelle Crépeau† and Julie Valein ‡

March 14, 2011

Abstract

We are interested in an inverse problem for the wave equation with potential on a star-shaped network. We prove the Lipschitz stability of the inverse problem consisting in the determination of the potential on each string of the network with Neumann boundary measurements at all but one external vertices. Our main tool, proved in this article, is a global Carleman estimate for the network.

Keywords: networks, wave equation, inverse problem, Carleman estimate.

AMS subject classifications: 35R30, 93C20, (34B45)

1 Introduction and main result

In this paper we consider a star-shaped network $\mathcal{R}$ of $n + 1$ edges $e_j$, of length $l_j > 0$, $j \in \{0, \ldots, n\}$, connected at one vertex that we assume to be the origin 0 of all the edges (see Figure 1). For any function $f : \mathcal{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ we set

$$f_j = f \mid_{e_j}$$

the restriction of $f$ to the edge $e_j$,

$$[f]_0 = \sum_{j=0}^{n} f_j(0)$$

the transmission bracket at the vertex 0.

More precisely we consider on this plane 1-D network a wave equation with a different potential on each string, given by the following system

$$\begin{cases}
  u_{j,tt}(x, t) - u_{j,xx}(x, t) + p_j(x)u_j(x, t) = g_j(x, t), & \forall j \in \llbracket 0, n \rrbracket, (x, t) \in (0, l_j) \times (0, T), \\
  u_j(l_j, t) = 0, & \forall j \in \llbracket 0, n \rrbracket, t \in (0, T), \\
  u(x, 0) = u^0(x), u_t(x, 0) = u^1(x), & x \in \mathcal{R},
\end{cases}$$

(1)

under the assumptions of continuity and of Kirchhoff law at the vertex 0, given by

$$u_j(0, t) = u_i(0, t) =: u(0, t), \quad \forall i, j \in \{0, \ldots, n\}, 0 < t < T,$$

(2)

$$[u_x(t)]_0 := \sum_{j=0}^{n} u_{j,x}(0, t) = 0, \quad 0 < t < T.$$  

(3)

In the sequel, we shall use the following notations:

$$L^2(\mathcal{R}) = \{ f : \mathcal{R} \to \mathbb{R}, f_j \in L^2(0, l_j), \forall j \in \{0, \ldots, n\} \},$$

$$H^1_0(\mathcal{R}) = \{ f : \mathcal{R} \to \mathbb{R}, f_j \in H^1(0, l_j), f_j(l_j) = 0, f_j(0) = f_i(0), \forall i, j \in \{0, \ldots, n\} \}.$$

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For shortness, for \( f \in L^1(\mathbb{R}) = \{ f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}, f_j \in L^1(0, l_j), \forall j \in \{0, ..., n\} \} \) we often write,
\[
\int_{\mathbb{R}} f \, dx = \sum_{j=0}^{n} \int_{0}^{l_j} f_j(x) \, dx.
\]
Then the norms of the Hilbert spaces \( L^2(\mathbb{R}) \) and \( H^1_0(\mathbb{R}) \) are defined by
\[
\| f \|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} = \int_{\mathbb{R}} |f|^2 \, dx \quad \text{and} \quad \| f \|_{H^1_0(\mathbb{R})} = \int_{\mathbb{R}} |f_x|^2 \, dx.
\]
First of all, assuming that \( u^0 \in H^1_0(\mathbb{R}), u^1 \in L^2(\mathbb{R}), p \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}) \) and \( g \in L^1(0, T; L^2(\mathbb{R})) \) are known, the Cauchy problem is well-posed and one can also prove that
\[
u \in C([0, T], H^1_0(\mathbb{R})) \cap C^1([0, T], L^2(\mathbb{R})).
\]
This result can be deduced from [21] for instance.

We are interested in the inverse problem of the determination of the potential \( p \) on each of the \( n+1 \) strings of the network from only \( n \) boundary measurements: \( (u_{i,x}(l_i, \cdot))_{i=1..n} \) on \((0, T)\). We will prove the well-posedness of this problem, giving the appropriate stability estimate. The proof will mainly rely on a global Carleman estimate for this network of wave equations, result given in section 2 also interesting by itself.

**Statement of the inverse problem:** Is it possible to retrieve the potential \( p = p(x) \), for \( x \in \mathcal{R} \) from the \( n \) measurements \( (u_{i,x}(l_i, \cdot))_{i=1..n} \) on \((0, T)\) where \( u \) is the solution to \([1]\)?

We will actually give local answer to this question. If we denote by \( u[p] \) the weak solution of \([1]\), assuming that \( p \in L^\infty(\mathcal{R}) \) is a given potential, we are concerned with the stability around \( p \). That is to say \( p \) and \( u[p] \) are known while \( q \) is unknown and we prove the following local lipschitz stability result.

To precisely state the results we will prove in this article, we needs to introduce, for \( m \geq 0 \), the set
\[
L^\infty_{\leq m}(\mathcal{R}) = \{ q : \mathcal{R} \to \mathbb{R}, q_j \in L^\infty(0, l_j), \forall j \in \{0, ..., n\}, \text{ s.t. } \| q \|_{L^\infty(\mathcal{R})} \leq m \}.
\]
Theorem 1 There exists $T_0 > 0$ such that for all $T \geq T_0$, $p \in L^\infty(\mathcal{R})$, $u^0 \in H^1_0(\mathcal{R})$, $u^1 \in L^2(\mathcal{R})$ and $g \in L^1(0,T;L^2(\mathcal{R}))$, if we assume
\[
 u[p] \in H^1(0,T;L^\infty(\mathcal{R})) \quad |u^0(x)| \geq r > 0, \ a.e \ in \ \mathcal{R},
\]
then there exists a constant $C = C(T, p, u^0, u^1, m, l_0, \ldots, l_n) > 0$ such that for all $q \in L^\infty_{\leq m}$:
\[
 ||q - p||_{L^2(\mathcal{R})} \leq C \sum_{j=1}^n ||u_{j,x}[p](l_j) - u_{j,x}[q](l_j)||_{H^1(0,T)}.
\]

Remark 1 One should notice that we can guarantee $u[p] \in H^1(0,T;L^\infty(\mathcal{R}))$ with more constraints on the hypothesis on the data $u^0, u^1, g$ in equation (1). For example, $u^0 \in H^2(\mathcal{R}) \cap H^1_0(\mathcal{R})$, $u^1 \in H^1_0(\mathcal{R})$ and $g \in W^{1,1}(0,T;L^2(\mathcal{R}))$ works in that case.

In the field of inverse problems in partial differential equations (pde), where the question is to determine some parameter(s) from measurement(s) of the solution of the pde, the main concern is the well-posedness of the problem. The notion of well-posed problem, introduced by Hadamard, relies on the existence, uniqueness and stability of the solution of the problem. Concerning pde’s, the main issue is often that the inverse problem is ill-posed.

In order to give a non-exhaustive state of the art concerning the problem we consider in this paper, one should expect some information about inverse problems for hyperbolic equations and about 1-D networks of strings.

On the one hand, the book of V. Isakov [14] addresses some techniques linked to the study of inverse problems for several pde’s. Historically, the first answers concerned the uniqueness of solution for inverse problems and on this topic, the article of L. Bukhgeim and M. V. Klibanov [8] is the first to give a method using Carleman estimates to prove the uniqueness of a one measurement inverse problem for hyperbolic equations. Uniqueness results for some inverse source problem have been proved by M. V. Klibanov in [15] and a stability result from M. Yamamoto for the wave equation, deriving from it, can be read in [28]. It is indeed possible to obtain local Lipschitz stability around a single known solution, provided that this solution is regular enough and contains enough information, as it can also be read in [7, 16].

Many other related inverse results for hyperbolic equations use the same strategy. A complete list is too long to be given here. To cite some of them see the articles of J.-P. Puel, M. Yamamoto and O. Yu. Imanuvilov with for instance, [24] and [28] where the pde is given with Dirichlet boundary data and the inverse problem is studied from Neumann measurements and [15] for the reverse case. One should also quote for instance [29] for a case of two unknowns to recover and [8] that concerns the determination of potential but for an hyperbolic equation where the principal part of the operator has a discontinuity on an interface. These references are all based upon the use of local or global Carleman estimates. Related to this, there are also general pointwise Carleman estimates that can be useful in similar inverse problems [17].

Global Carleman estimates and applications to one-measurement inverse problems were also obtained in the case of variable but still regular coefficients, as in [12, 19] and [5] for instance.

On the other hand, the control, observation and stabilization problems of networks have been the object of intensive research (see [11, 18, 31] and the references therein). These works use results from several domains: non-harmonic Fourier series, Diophantine approximations, graph theory, wave propagation techniques.

In [11] and in [9, 10], controllability results for the wave equation on networks are proved by showing observability inequalities and under assumptions about the irrationality properties of the ratios of the lengths of the string. One should mention that in these works, the control is only applied at one single end of the network.

Stabilization results for the wave equation on networks have been considered by several authors in some particular situations. We refer, for instance, to [11], where explicit decay rates are obtained for networks with some special structures. We also refer to [22] where the
In this section, we will establish a Carleman estimate for the wave operator $L = \partial_t - \partial_{xx} + p$ defined on a star-shaped network $\mathcal{R}$ and applied to a function $v : \mathcal{R} \times (-T, T) \to \mathbb{R}$ satisfying $v_j(t) = 0$ for all $j \in [0, n]$ and $t \in (-T, T)$ and $v(x, \pm T) = 0$ for all $x \in \mathcal{R}$.

Let $\lambda > 0$. We define the weight function $\varphi = \varphi(x, t)$ for all $(x, t) \in \mathcal{R} \times (-T, T)$ by
\[
\varphi(x, t) = e^{\lambda \phi(x, t)},
\]

where $\phi$ satisfies the following lemma.

**Lemma 1** We define the weight function $\phi$ on each edge $e_j$ of the network as follows:
For all $j \in [0, n]$, $x \in (0, l_j)$ and $t \in \mathbb{R}$,
\[
\phi|_{e_j}(x, t) := \phi_j(x, t) = (x - x_j)^2 - \beta t^2 + M_j.
\]

There exist $(x_0, x_1, ..., x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times (\mathbb{R}^-)^n$, $\beta \in (0, 1)$ and $T > 0$ such that $\beta T \leq \frac{\min_{i \in [1, n]} |x_i|}{2}$ and there exists $M_0, M_1, ..., M_n > 0$, such that for all $i, j \in [0, n]$, $t \in (-T, T)$, $x \in (0, l_j)$,
\[
\phi_i(0, t) = \phi_j(0, t),
\]
\[
\phi_j(x, t) \geq 1
\]
and such that the following $(n + 1) \times (n + 1)$ symmetric matrix is definite positive, thus,
\[
\exists \alpha > 0, \forall t \in [-T, T], \forall \xi \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}, (A_\phi(t)\xi, \xi) \geq \alpha|\xi|^2,
\]
with \( A_\phi(t) \) :=
\[
\begin{pmatrix}
\phi_{0,z}(0) + \phi_{1,z}(0) & \phi_{0,z}(0) & \cdots & \phi_{0,z}(0) & -\phi_{0,z}(0)[\phi_z]_0 \\
\cdot & \cdot & \cdots & \cdot & \cdot \\
\cdot & \cdot & \cdots & \cdot & \cdot \\
\phi_{0,z}(0) + \phi_{n,z}(0) & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdot \\
-\phi_{0,z}(0)[\phi_z]_0 & \cdot & \cdots & \cdot & -\phi_{0,z}(0)[\phi_z]_0 \\
\cdot & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdot \\
\cdot & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdot \\
\phi_{0,z}(0)[\phi_z]^2 + [\phi_z]_0^2 - \phi_2^2(0, t)[\phi_z]_0 \\
\end{pmatrix}.
\]

Moreover, one has directly that for all \( j \in [0, n] \) and for all \( x \in (0, l_j) \),
\[
\phi_j(x, 0) > M_j
\]
and if we denote \( \rho := \max_{i \in [0,n], x \in [0,l_i]} |x - x_i| \), then if \( T > \frac{2\rho^2}{\min_{i \in [1,n]} |x_i|} \), one can choose \( \beta > \frac{\rho^2}{T^2} \) such that
\[
\phi_j(x, \pm T) < M_j,
\]
and there exists \( \eta > 0 \) so that for all \( t \in [-T, -T + \eta] \cup [T - \eta, T] \),
\[
\phi_j(x, t) \leq M_j.
\]

**Remark 2** The use of a more natural weight function satisfying continuity and Kirchhoff laws at the central node does not allow to satisfy the required inequalities for the Carleman estimate in view of a \( n \) measurements inverse problem. Thus, we propose in this article this type of weight function \( \phi \) with a matrix \( A_\phi \) coming directly from the proof of the Carleman estimates below. This kind of weight function has been introduced first by Benabdallah, Dermenjian and Le Rousseau in [2] for the heat equation with a discontinuous coefficient.

**Proof.** The matrix \( A_\phi \) is definite positive if and only if all of its leading principal minors are positive. Using the definition \( [5] \), we get \( \phi_{i,x}(0, t) = -2x_i \). We choose \( x_0 > l_0 > 0 \) and \( x_i = x_1 < 0 \), \( \forall i \geq 1 \) thus the symmetric matrix \( A_\phi(t) \) becomes
\[
A_\phi(t) = -2 \begin{pmatrix}
x_0 + x_1 & x_0 & \cdots & x_0 & 2x_0(x_0 + nx_1) \\
\cdot & \cdot & \cdots & \cdot & 2x_0(x_0 + nx_1) \\
\cdot & \cdot & \cdots & \cdot & \cdot \\
x_0 & \cdot & \cdots & \cdot & 2x_0(x_0 + nx_1) \\
x_0 + x_1 & \cdot & \cdots & \cdot & a_{n+1,n+1}
\end{pmatrix}
\]
where \( a_{n+1,n+1} = 4x_0(x_0 + nx_1)^2 + 4(x_0^2 + nx_1^2) - 4x_1^2 - x_1 \), and we actually need
\[
(-2)(-2x_1)^{{i-1}}(ix_0 + x_1) > 0, \forall i \in [1, n]
\]
\[
\text{Det}(A_\phi(t)) > 0, \forall t \in [-T, T].
\]

On the one hand, choosing \( x_1 < -nx_0 \) satisfies \([12]\). On the other hand, the function \( \text{Det}(A_\phi(t)) = P(x_0, x_1, \beta^2 t^2) \) is a polynomial in \( x_1 \) of degree \( n + 3 \). More precisely, since \( a_{n+1,n+1} \) is of maximum order in \( x_1 \) in the matrix \( A_\phi(t) \), then the leading order term in \( x_1 \) of \( \text{Det}(A_\phi(t)) \) comes from the product of the diagonal terms. Therefore, taking \( \beta T = \frac{|x_1|}{2} \), the polynomial \( P(x_0, x_1, x_1^2/4) \) has a leading order term in \( x_1 \) given by
\[
(-2x_1)^{n+3} n(1 - 1/4)
\]
and choosing \( x_1 \) sufficiently large negative gives \( P(x_0, x_1, x_1^2/4) > 0 \) and is compatible with \([12]\). Hence, let \( \beta > 0 \) and \( T > 0 \) be such that \( \beta T \leq \frac{|x_1|}{2} \), and then, for all \( t \in [-T, T] \),
\[
\text{Det}(A_\phi(t)) = P(x_0, x_1, \beta^2 t^2) \geq P(x_0, x_1, x_1^2/4) > 0
\]
which proves \([13]\).

In order to have the continuity \([6]\) at the central node 0 and the positiveness \([7]\) of the weights \( \phi_j \), it suffices to choose \( M_j > 0 \) large enough for all \( j \) and such that
\[
x_1^2 + M_i = x_1^2 + M_j, \forall i, j \in [0, n].
\]
Finally let $T$ such that $T > \frac{2\rho^2}{\min_{i \in [1,n]} |x_i|}$. Then $\frac{\rho^2}{T^2} < \frac{\min_{i \in [1,n]} |x_i|}{2T}$ and we can choose $\beta \in (0,1)$ such that $\frac{\rho^2}{T^2} < \beta \leq \frac{\min_{i \in [1,n]} |x_i|}{2T}$. Then the proof of (10)-(11) relies on the fact that with $\beta > \frac{\rho^2}{T^2}$

$$\phi_j(x, \pm T) - M_j = (x - x_j)^2 - \beta T^2 < 0, \forall j \in [0, n], \forall x \in (0, l_j).$$

\[ \square \]

**Remark 3** This lemma gathers all the properties on the weight function $\phi$ defined by (5) we will need in this article. But we want to underline that they are of two kinds. On the one hand, (6), (7) and (8) are needed for the proof of the Carleman estimate and this means that there is no constraint on the time $T$. On the other hand, (9), (10) and (11) are strongly needed for the proof of the stability of the inverse problem and therefore, the observation time $T$ has to be large enough. The proof of Lemma 7 was not meant to give an optimal minimal time $T$.

The main result of this section is the following global Carleman inequality.

**Theorem 2** Let $p \in L^\infty(\mathcal{R})$ such that $\|p\|_{L^\infty(\mathcal{R})} \leq m$. Assume that $L$ is the partial differential operator defined by $L = \partial_t - \Delta_x + p$ on the star-shaped network $\mathcal{R}$ as in equation (1) and $\varphi = e^{\lambda x}$ with $\phi$ satisfying Lemma 7. There exists $s_0 > 0$, $\lambda_0 > 0$ and a constant $M = M(s_0, \lambda_0, \mathcal{R}, T, m, \beta, x_0, \ldots, x_n) > 0$ such that:

$$s\lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathcal{R}} \varphi (v_j^2 + v_{j}^2) e^{2s\varphi} \, dxdt + s^3 \lambda^3 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathcal{R}} \varphi^3 v_j^2 e^{2s\varphi} \, dxdt$$

$$\leq M \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathcal{R}} |L\varphi|^2 e^{2s\varphi} \, dxdt + M s\lambda \sum_{j=1}^{n} \int_{-T}^{T} v_{j,x}^2 (l_j) e^{2s\varphi(l_j)} \, dt,$$  \hspace{1cm} (14)

for all $s > s_0$, $\lambda > \lambda_0$ and $v$ satisfying the internal node conditions (2) and (3) and

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l}
L v \in L^2(\mathcal{R} \times (-T,T)), \\
v \in H^1(-T,T; H^1_0(\mathcal{R})), \\
v(\pm T) = \partial_x v(\pm T) = 0 \text{ in } \mathcal{R}.
\end{array} \right.$$

**Proof.** Let $s > 0$, $\lambda > 0$ and the weight function $\varphi$ be defined by $\varphi(x,t) = e^{\lambda \psi(x,t)}$ where $\phi$ is given by (5) and satisfies (6), (7) and (8). We set $w = e^{s\varphi} v$ and $Pw = e^{s\varphi} L(e^{-s\varphi} w)$. After computing $Pw$ we split the terms as follows:

$$Pw = P_1w + P_2w + Rw$$

where, for a constant $C > 0$ to be chosen later,

$$\begin{align*}
P_1w &= w_{tt} - w_{xx} + s^2 \lambda^2 \varphi^2 (\varphi_t^2 - \varphi_x^2) w, \\
P_2w &= (C - 1)s\lambda \varphi (\phi_t - \phi_x) w - s \lambda^2 \varphi (\phi_t^2 - \phi_x^2) w - 2s \lambda \varphi (\phi_t w_t - \phi_x w_x), \\
Rw &= pw - C s\lambda \varphi (\phi_t - \phi_x) w.
\end{align*}$$

Therefore, $P_1w + P_2w = Pw - Rw$ and

$$\begin{align*}
\int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathcal{R}} |Pw - Rw|^2 \, dxdt &= \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathcal{R}} |P_1w|^2 \, dxdt + \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathcal{R}} |P_2w|^2 \, dxdt \\
&\quad + 2 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathcal{R}} P_1w P_2w \, dxdt.
\end{align*}$$

The main goal of the proof will be to minimize the cross-term in $P_1w P_2w$ by positive and dominant terms looking similar to the one of the left hand side of (14) and negative boundary terms that will be moved to the right hand side of the estimate. In the sake of clarity, we will devide the proof in several steps.
Step 1. Main calculations

We set $(P_1 w, P_2 w)_{L^2(\mathbb{R} \times (-T,T))} = \sum_{i,k=1}^{3} I_{i,k}$ where $I_{i,k}$ is the integral of the product of the $i$th-term in $P_1 w$ and the $k$th-term in $P_2 w$. Therefore after some integrations by parts,

$$I_{1,1} = (C - 1)s\lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi w_{tt}(\phi_{tt} - \phi_{xx}) w dx dt$$

$$= (1 - C)s\lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi w_{t}^2 (\phi_{tt} - \phi_{xx}) dx dt$$

$$+ \frac{C - 1}{2}s\lambda^3 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi w_{t}^2 \phi_{tt}^{2} (\phi_{tt} - \phi_{xx}) dx dt$$

$$+ \frac{C - 1}{2} s\lambda^2 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi w_{t}^2 (\phi_{tt} - \phi_{xx}) dx dt;$$

$$I_{1,2} = -s\lambda^2 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi w_{tt}(\phi_{t}^2 - \phi_{x}^2) w dx dt$$

$$= s\lambda^2 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi w_{t}^2 (\phi_{t}^2 - \phi_{x}^2) dx dt$$

$$- s\lambda^2 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi w_{t}^2 \phi_{tt}^{2} dx dt - \frac{s\lambda^4}{2} \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi w_{t}^2 (\phi_{t}^2 - \phi_{x}^2) dx dt$$

$$- \frac{5s\lambda^3}{2} \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi w_{t}^2 \phi_{tt}^{2} \phi_{xx} dx dt + \frac{s\lambda^3}{2} \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi w_{t}^2 \phi_{tt}^{2} \phi_{xx} dx dt;$$

$$I_{1,3} = -2s\lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi w_{tt}(\phi_{t} w_{t} - \phi_{x} w_{x}) dx dt$$

$$= s\lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi w_{t}^2 \phi_{tt} dx dt - 2s\lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi w_{t} \phi_{t} \phi_{x} dx dt$$

$$+ s\lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi w_{t}^2 \phi_{tt} dx dt + s\lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi w_{t}^2 \phi_{tt} dx dt$$

$$+ s\lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi w_{t}^2 \phi_{tt} dx dt + s\lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi (0, t) w_{t}^2 (0, t) [\phi_{tt}]_{0} dt$$

since $\phi_{j}(0, t) = \varphi_{j}(0, t) =: \varphi(0, t)$ and $w_{j,t}(0, t) = w_{j,t}(0, t) = w_{j}(0, t)$ for all $i, j \in \{0, \ldots, n\}$.

Using the same tricks, we have

$$I_{2,1} = (1 - C)s\lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi w w_{xx}(\phi_{tt} - \phi_{xx}) dx dt$$

$$= (C - 1)s\lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi w_{x}^2 (\phi_{tt} - \phi_{xx}) dx dt$$

$$+ \frac{1 - C}{2}s\lambda^3 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi w_{x}^2 \phi_{tt}^{2} (\phi_{tt} - \phi_{xx}) dx dt$$

$$+ \frac{1 - C}{2}s\lambda^2 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi w_{x}^2 (\phi_{tt} - \phi_{xx}) dx dt$$

$$+ \frac{1 - C}{2}s\lambda^2 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi (0, t) w_{x}^2 (0, t) [\phi_{tt} - \phi_{xx}]_{0} dt$$

$$+ (C - 1)s\lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi (0, t) w_{t} (0, t) [w_{x} (\phi_{tt} - \phi_{xx})]_{0} dx dt.$$
\[ I_{2,3} = 2s\lambda^2 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{R} \varphi w_{xx}(\phi_t - \phi_x) dt dx \]
\[ = -2s\lambda^2 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{R} \varphi w_{x} \phi_t dt dx + s\lambda^2 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{R} \varphi w_{x} \phi_t^2 dt dx \]
\[ + s\lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{R} \varphi w_{x} \phi_t dt + s\lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{R} \varphi w_{x} \phi_{xx} dt dx \]
\[ - s\lambda \sum_{j=0}^{m} \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi(j, t) w_{j, x}(j, t) \phi_{j, x}(j, t) dt \]
\[ + s\lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi(0, t) [\phi_{x}^2]_0 dx \]
\[ - 2s\lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi(0, t) w_{x}(0, t) [\phi_{x}]_0 dx \]
\[ I_{3,1} = (C - 1)s^3 \lambda^3 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{R} \varphi^3 w^2(\phi_{tt} - \phi_{xx})(\phi_t^2 - \phi_x^2) dx dt \]
\[ I_{3,2} = -s^3 \lambda^4 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{R} \varphi^3 w^2(\phi_t^2 - \phi_x^2)^2 dx dt \]
\[ I_{3,3} = -2s^3 \lambda^3 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{R} \varphi^3 w(\phi_t w_t - \phi_x w_x)(\phi_t^2 - \phi_x^2) dx dt \]
\[ = s^3 \lambda^3 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{R} \varphi^3 w^2(\phi_{tt} - \phi_{xx})(\phi_t^2 - \phi_x^2) dx dt \]
\[ + 3s^3 \lambda^4 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{R} \varphi^3 w^2(\phi_t^2 - \phi_x^2)^2 dx dt \]
\[ + 2s^3 \lambda^3 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{R} \varphi^3 w^2(\phi_t^2 \phi_{tt} + \phi_{xx} \phi_x^2) dx dt \]
\[ - s^3 \lambda^3 \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi^3 (0, t) w^2(0, t) [\phi_{x}^2(\phi_t^2 - \phi_x^2)]_0 dt. \]
We obtain thus,

\[ \langle P_1(w), P_2(w) \rangle_{L^2(\mathbb{R} \times (-T,T))} = 2s\lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} w^2 \varphi_{tt} \, dx \, dt \\
- C s \lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi w^2_t (\phi_{tt} - \phi_{xx}) \, dx \, dt \\
+ 2s \lambda^2 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi (w_t^2 \phi_t^2 - 2w_tw_x \phi_t \phi_x + w_x^2 \phi_x^2) \, dx \, dt \\
+ 2s \lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi w_x^2 \phi_{xx} \, dx \, dt \\
+ C s \lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi w_x^2 (\phi_{tt} - \phi_{xx}) \, dx \, dt \\
+ 2s^3 \lambda^3 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi^3 w^2 (\phi_t^2 - \phi_x^2)^2 \, dx \, dt \\
+ 2s^3 \lambda^3 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi^3 w^2 (\phi_t^3 \phi_{tt} + \phi_x^3 \phi_{xx}) \, dx \, dt \\
+ C s^3 \lambda^3 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi^3 w^2 (\phi_{tt} - \phi_{xx})(\phi_t^2 - \phi_x^2) \, dx \, dt \\
- s \lambda \sum_{j=0}^{n} \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi(l_j, t) w^2_{j,x} (l_j, t) \phi_{j,x} (l_j, t) \, dt + X + B \] (18)

where \( B \) is the sum of the trace term at the central node and \( X \) is the sum of the remaining interior terms, in such a way that

\[ |X| \leq M s \lambda^3 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} w^2 \varphi^3 \, dx \, dt \]

for some suitable constant \( M > 0 \) since \( \phi \geq 1 \) gives \( \lambda \leq \varphi = e^{\lambda \phi} \). Let us denote \( A_k, k = 1..8 \) the first eight interior integrals in the product of \( P_1 w \) by \( P_2 w \). Thus we have,

\[ \langle P_1 w, P_2 w \rangle_{L^2(\mathbb{R} \times (-T,T))} = \sum_{k=1}^{8} A_k - s \lambda \sum_{j=0}^{n} \int_{-T}^{T} w^2_{j,x} (l_j, t) \varphi(l_j, t) \phi_{j,x} (l_j, t) \, dt + X + B. \] (19)

From now on, \( M > 0 \) will be a generic constant depending only on the network \( \mathcal{R} \), the time \( T \) and on \( m, \beta, x_0, ..., x_n \) but independent of \( s \) and \( \lambda \).

**Step 2. Boundary terms at the central node.**

**Lemma 2** Under the hypothesis of Lemma \[\text{[15]}\] for the weight function, the sum of the trace terms \( B \) at the central node 0 in \[\text{[15]}\] is positive for \( s \) and \( \lambda \) sufficiently large.

**Proof.** Gathering all the terms at the central node 0, we get

\[ B = B_{1,3} + B_{2,1} + B_{2,2} + B_{2,3} + B_{3,3} \]

where

\[ B_{1,3} = s \lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi(0, t) w_t^2(0, t) [\phi_x]_0 \, dt, \]

\[ B_{2,1} = (C - 1) s \lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi(0, t) w(0, t) [(\phi_{tt} - \phi_{xx}) w_x]_0 \, dt \]

\[ + \frac{(1 - C)}{2} s \lambda^2 \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi(0, t) w^2(0, t) [\phi_x (\phi_{tt} - \phi_{xx})]_0 \, dt, \]

\[ + B_{2,2} + B_{2,3} + B_{3,3} \]
\[ B_{2,2} = -s \lambda^2 \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi(0, t) w(0, t) [w_x (\varphi^2_t - \varphi^2_x)]_0 dt \\
+ \frac{s \lambda^2}{2} \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi(0, t) w^2(0, t) [\varphi_x (\varphi^2_t - \varphi^2_x)]_0 dt \\
- s \lambda^2 \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi(0, t) w^2(0, t) [\varphi_x w_x]_0 dt, \]
\[ B_{2,3} = -2s \lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi(0, t) w_z(0, t) \phi_z(0, t) [w_z]_0 dt + s \lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi(0, t) [\varphi_x w^2_z]_0 dt. \]
\[ B_{3,3} = -s \lambda^3 \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi^3(0, t) w^2(0, t) [\varphi^2_x]_0 + s \lambda^3 \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi^3(0, t) w^2(0, t) [\varphi^3_x]_0 dt. \]

We denote by \( \mu \) the sum of \( B_{1,3} \), \( B_{2,3} \), and of the second term in \( B_{2,3} \) i.e.
\[ \mu := s \lambda^3 \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi^3(0, t) w^2(0, t) [\varphi^2_x]_0 + s \lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi(0, t) [\varphi_x w^2_z]_0 dt + s \lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi(0, t) w^2(0, t) [\varphi_x]_0 dt. \]

Since \( w = e^{s \rho u} \) gives \( w_x = s \lambda \varphi \phi_x w + e^{s \rho u} w_x \), then \([w_z]_0 = \sum_{j=1}^{n} w_{j,z}(0) = s \lambda \varphi(0) w(0) [\varphi_x]_0 \)
and we can write \( w_{0,z}(0) = s \lambda \varphi(0) w(0) [\varphi_x]_0 - \sum_{j=1}^{n} w_{j,z}(0) \). Using this expression, we thus obtain
\[ [\varphi_x w^2_z]_0 = \phi_{0,z}(0) \left( s \lambda \varphi(0) w(0) [\varphi_x]_0 - \sum_{j=1}^{n} w_{j,z}(0) \right)^2 + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \phi_{j,z}(0) w_{j,z}^2(0) \]
\[ = s \lambda^2 \varphi^2(0, t) w^2(0, t) [\varphi_x]_0^2 - 2s \lambda \varphi(0) w(0) \phi_{0,z}(0) [\varphi_x]_0 \sum_{j=1}^{n} w_{j,z}(0) \]
\[ + \phi_{0,z}(0) \left( \sum_{j=1}^{n} w_{j,z}(0) \right)^2 + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \phi_{j,z}(0) w_{j,z}^2(0) \]
\[ = s \lambda^2 \varphi^2(0, t) w^2(0, t) [\varphi_x]_0^2 - 2s \lambda \varphi(0) w(0) \phi_{0,z}(0) [\varphi_x]_0 \sum_{j=1}^{n} w_{j,z}(0) \]
\[ + \sum_{j=1}^{n} (\phi_{0,z}(0) + \phi_{j,z}(0)) w_{j,z}^2(0) + 2 \phi_{0,z}(0) \sum_{i,j=1, \ldots, n, i \neq j} w_{i,z}(0) w_{j,z}(0). \]

Therefore,
\[ \mu = s \lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi(0, t) (A_\phi(t) W(t), W(t)) dt + s \lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi(0, t) w^2(0, t) [\varphi_x]_0 dt, \]
with \( W(t) = (w_{j,z}(0), t)_{j=1, \ldots, n}, s \lambda \varphi(0) w(0, t) \). Using Lemma 1, we get
\[ \mu \geq \alpha s \lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi(0, t) \sum_{j=1}^{n} w_{j,z}^2(0, t) dt + \alpha s^3 \lambda^3 \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi^3(0, t) w^2(0, t) dt \]
\[ + s \lambda [\varphi_x]_0 \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi(0, t) w^2(0, t) dt, \]
(20)
with \([\varphi_x]_0 = -2 \sum_{j=0}^{n} x_j > 0\), because from Lemma 1 \( (x_1, \ldots, x_n) \in (\mathbb{R}^+)^n \) and \( A_\phi \) is definite positive, which gives \( x_0 + x_1 < 0 \) (from the first leading principal minor).
Moreover, since $\phi_{tt} = -2\beta, \phi_{xx} = 2$ and $[w_z]_0 = s\lambda \varphi(0,t)w(0,t)\varphi_z]_0$, we have
\[
|B_{2,1}| = \left| 2(C - 1)(1 + \beta)s^2\lambda^2[\varphi_z]_0 \int_{-T}^T \varphi^2(0,t)w^2(0,t)dt \\
+ (1 - C)(1 + \beta)s\lambda^2[\varphi_z]_0 \int_{-T}^T \varphi(0,t)w^2(0,t)dt \right| 
\leq M(s^2\lambda^2 + s\lambda^2) \int_{-T}^T \varphi^3(0,t)|w(0,t)|^2 dt
\tag{21}
\]
since $\varphi(0,t) \geq 1$.

As we have $\phi_t^2 = 4\beta^2 t^2$, $[\phi_x^2]_0 = -8 \sum_{j=0}^n x_j^3 > 0$ and
\[
[w_z \varphi_x^2]_0 = 4 \left( x^2_0 [w_z]_0 + \sum_{j=1}^n (x_j^2 - x_0^2)w_{j,x}(0,t) \right) \\
= 4 \left( s\lambda[\varphi_x]_0 x_0^2\varphi(0,t)w(0,t) + \sum_{j=1}^n (x_j^2 - x_0^2)w_{j,x}(0,t) \right),
\]
we obtain
\[
|B_{2,2}| = \left| -2s\lambda^2[\varphi_z]_0 \int_{-T}^T \varphi(0,t)w^2(0,t)dt - 4\beta^2 s^3\lambda^3[\varphi_z]_0 \int_{-T}^T \varphi^2(0,t)w^2(0,t)t^2 dt \\
+ 4s\lambda^2 \int_{-T}^T w(0,t)\varphi(0,t) \left( s\lambda[\varphi_z]_0 x_0^2\varphi(0,t)w(0,t) + \sum_{j=1}^n (x_j^2 - x_0^2)w_{j,x}(0,t) \right) dt \\
+ 2\beta^2 s^3\lambda^3[\varphi_z]_0 \int_{-T}^T w^2(0,t)\varphi(0,t)t^2 dt - \frac{s\lambda^2}{2} \int_{-T}^T w^2(0,t)\varphi(0,t)[\varphi_x^2]_0 dt \right| \\
\leq M(s\lambda^2 + s\lambda^3 + s^2\lambda^3) \int_{-T}^T \varphi^3(0,t)|w(0,t)|^2 dt \\
+ M s\lambda^2 \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{-T}^T \varphi(0,t)|w(0,t)||w_{j,x}(0,t)| dt \\
\leq M(s\lambda^2 + s\lambda^3 + s^2\lambda^3) \int_{-T}^T \varphi^3(0,t)|w(0,t)|^2 dt \\
+ M \left( s^{3/2}\lambda^3 \int_{-T}^T \varphi(0,t)|w(0,t)|^2 dt + s^{1/2}\lambda \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{-T}^T \varphi(0,t)|w_{j,x}(0,t)|^2 dt \right)
\]
what gives
\[
|B_{2,2}| \leq M(s\lambda^2 + s\lambda^3 + s^2\lambda^3 + s^{3/2}\lambda^3) \int_{-T}^T \varphi^3(0,t)|w(0,t)|^2 dt \\
+ M s^{1/2}\lambda \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{-T}^T \varphi(0,t)|w_{j,x}(0,t)|^2 dt
\tag{22}
\]
Finally with an integration by parts we have
\[
|B_{2,3}(1)| = \left| 4\beta s^2\lambda^2 \int_{-T}^T \varphi^2(0,t)w(0,t)w_t(0,t)[\varphi_z]_0 \right| \\
= \left| -2\beta s^2\lambda^2[\varphi_z]_0 \int_{-T}^T \varphi^2(0,t)w^2(0,t)dt + 8\beta^2 s^3\lambda^3[\varphi_z]_0 \int_{-T}^T t^2\varphi^2(0,t)w^2(0,t)dt \right| \\
\leq M(s^2\lambda^2 + s^3\lambda^3) \int_{-T}^T \varphi^3(0,t)|w(0,t)|^2 dt
\tag{23}
\]
As \( \mu = B_{1,3} + B_{3,3} + B_{2,3}(2) = B - (B_{2,1} + B_{2,2} + B_{2,3}(1)) \) and gathering (20), (21), (22) and (23), we then obtain for \( s \geq 1, \lambda \geq 1 \)

\[
\alpha s \sum_{j=1}^{n} \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi(0, t)|w_{j,x}(0, t)|^2 dt + \alpha s^3 \lambda^3 \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi^3(0, t)|w(0, t)|^2 dt + s \lambda |\varphi_x|_0 \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi(0, t)|w_1(0, t)|^2 dt \leq B + M s^2 \lambda^3 \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi^3(0, t)|w(0, t)|^2 dt + M s^{3/2} \lambda \sum_{j=1}^{n} \int_{-T}^{T} \varphi(0, t)|w_{j,x}(0, t)|^2 dt.
\]

Consequently by taking \( s \) and \( \lambda \) sufficiently large we get \( B \geq 0 \).

**Step 3. Interior terms.**

**Lemma 3** There exists \( s_0 > 0, \lambda_0 > 0 \) and a constant \( M(s_0, \lambda_0, R, T, m, \beta, x_0, \ldots, x_n) > 0 \) such that for all \( s > s_0, \lambda > \lambda_0 \)

\[
M \sum_{k=1}^{n} A_k \geq s \lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{R} \varphi(w_1^2 + w_x^2) \, dx dt + s^3 \lambda^3 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{R} \varphi^3 w^2 \, dx dt.
\]

**Proof.** First of all, let \( C \in (0, 1) \) be such that

\[
2(-2\beta + C(1 + \beta)) = \delta_1 > 0 \\
2(2 - C(1 + \beta)) = \delta_2 > 0.
\]

This means \( \frac{2\beta}{\beta + 1} < C < \frac{2}{\beta + 1} \) and explains why \( \beta \) is chosen in \((0, 1)\).

Therefore, one can observe that since \( \phi_{tt} = -2\beta \) and \( \phi_{xx} = 2 \),

\[
A_1 + A_2 = 2s\lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{R} \varphi w_1^2(-2\beta + C(1 + \beta)) \, dx dt = \delta_1 s\lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{R} \varphi w_1^2 \, dx dt
\]

\[
A_3 = 2s\lambda^3 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{R} \varphi (w_1 \phi_t - w_x \phi_x)^2 \, dx dt \geq 0
\]

\[
A_4 + A_5 = 2s\lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{R} \varphi w_x^2(2 - C(1 + \beta)) \, dx dt = \delta_2 s\lambda \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{R} \varphi w_x^2 \, dx dt
\]

and

\[
A_6 + A_7 + A_8 = 2s^3 \lambda^3 \int_{-T}^{T} \int_{R} \varphi^3 w^2 F_\lambda(\phi) \, dx dt
\]

where

\[
F_\lambda(\phi_j) = \lambda(\phi_j^2 - \phi_{j,x}^2)^2 + (\phi_j^2 + \phi_{j,tt}) + \phi_j^2 \phi_{j,x,x} + \frac{C}{2}(\phi_{j,tt} - \phi_{j,x}) \phi_{j,x}^2
\]

\[
= 16\lambda ((x - x_j)^2 - \beta^2 \phi_j^2) + 4(C(\beta + 1) + 2\beta) ((x - x_j)^2 - \beta^2 \phi_j^2) + 8(1 - \beta)(x - x_j)^2.
\]

As \( 8(1 - \beta)(x - x_j)^2 \geq K > 0 \) for all \( j \in [0, n] \), then for \( \lambda \) sufficiently large, one has \( F_\lambda(\phi_j) \geq \kappa > 0 \) which ends the proof of Lemma 3. 

\( \square \)
Combining equation (19), Lemma 2 and Lemma 3 we get

$$\langle P_1(w), P_2(w) \rangle_{L^2(R \times (-T,T))} \geq -s^3 \sum_{j=0}^n \int_{-T}^T \varphi(l_j) w_{j,x}^2(l_j) \phi_j(l_j, t) dt$$

$$+ M s^3 \int_{-T}^T \int_R \varphi (w_t^2 + w_x^2) \ dx dt$$

$$+ M s^3 \int_{-T}^T \int_R \varphi^2 w_{x}^2 \ dx dt$$

$$\geq -2s \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{-T}^T \varphi(l_j, t) w_{j,x}^2(l_j, t)(l_j - x_j) dt$$

$$+ M s \int_{-T}^T \int_R \varphi (w_t^2 + w_x^2) \ dx dt$$

$$+ M s^3 \int_{-T}^T \int_R \varphi^2 w_{x}^2 \ dx dt$$

(24)

since $x_0 > t_0$ implies $\phi_{0,x}(l_0, t) = 2(l_0 - x_0) < 0$.

Moreover

$$\int_{-T}^T \int_R |Pw - R w|^2 \ dx dt \leq 2 \int_{-T}^T \int_R |P(w)|^2 \ dx dt + 2 \int_{-T}^T \int_R |Rw|^2 \ dx dt$$

$$\leq 2 \int_{-T}^T \int_R |Pw|^2 \ dx dt + 4m \int_{-T}^T \int_R |w|^2 \ dx dt + M s^3 \int_{-T}^T \int_R \varphi^2 |w|^2 \ dx dt.$$ 

Thus, for $s$ and $\lambda$ sufficiently large, the two last terms of the right hand side can be absorbed by the dominant term $s^3 \int_{-T}^T \int_R \varphi^2 w_{x}^2 \ dx dt$ of (24) and, we have proved the following result:

**Theorem 3** Assume that $P$ is the conjugate operator defined by $Pw = e^{s \varphi} L(e^{-s \varphi} w)$ where the partial differential operator $L = \partial_{tt} - \partial_{xx} + p$ is defined on the star-shaped network $R$ as in equation (11) (meaning that we assume homogeneous Dirichlet boundary conditions at external nodes and continuity and Kirchhoff laws at the internal node), and $\varphi = e^{\lambda \phi} \phi$ satisfying Lemma 2 with $s, \lambda > 0$. Assume also that

$$P_1 w = w_{tt} - w_{xx} + s^2 \lambda^2 \varphi(w_t^2 - w_x^2)$$

$$P_2 w = K s \lambda \varphi(w_{tt} - w_{xx}) w - s \lambda^2 \varphi(w_t^2 - w_x^2) w - 2s \lambda \phi \phi \phi_{tt} - \phi_{xx} w_x,$$

where

$$\frac{\beta - 1}{\beta + 1} < K < \frac{1 - \beta}{\beta + 1}.$$ 

There exists $s_0 > 0$, $\lambda_0 > 0$ and a constant $M = M(s_0, \lambda_0, R, T, m, \beta, x_0, ..., x_n) > 0$ such that:

$$s \lambda \int_{-T}^T \int_R \varphi (w_t^2 + w_x^2) \ dx dt + s^3 \lambda^3 \int_{-T}^T \int_R \varphi^2 w_{x}^2 \ dx dt + \int_{-T}^T \int_R |P_1 w|^2 \ dx dt$$

$$+ \int_{-T}^T \int_R |P_2 w|^2 \ dx dt$$

$$\leq M \int_{-T}^T \int_R |Pw|^2 \ dx dt + M s \lambda \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{-T}^T w_{j,x}(l_j) \ dx dt,$$

(25)

for all $s > s_0$, $\lambda > \lambda_0$ and $w$ satisfying

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l}
Pw \in L^2(R \times (-T,T)) , \\
w \in H^1((-T,T,H^2_0(R))) , \\
w(\pm T) = \partial_t w(\pm T) = 0 \text{ in } R.
\end{array} \right.$$
Step 4. Return to the variable $v$.
Using $\varphi = e^{\lambda \sigma} \geq 1$ and the fact that $w = ve^{\varphi}$ gives for all $x \in \mathcal{R}$ and $t \in (-T, T)$

$$e^{2\lambda \varphi} v_t^2 \leq 2w_t^2 + 2\lambda \varphi^2 w^2,$$

$$e^{2\lambda \varphi} v_t^2 \leq 2w_t^2 + 2\lambda \varphi^2 w^2,$$

$$e^{2\lambda \varphi(t)} v_{j,x}^2(l_j) = w_{j,x}^2(l_j) \quad \forall j \in [0, n],$$

we easily obtain (14) and the proof of Theorem 2 is complete.

**Remark 4** We can extend this result to the case of tree-shaped networks with Neumann boundary measurements at all but one external vertices (that we can assume to be the root of the tree). Indeed, in this case, the integrations by parts give the “internal” boundary terms of each edge, and then $B$ defined above is the sum of each interior node of the sum of the trace term. More precisely, we obtain instead of one matrix $A_\phi$ defined in Lemma 7 several matrices of the same kind, corresponding to each interior node. By choosing appropriate coefficients $x_j$ for the weights $\phi_j$ (which is possible), we prove that these matrices are definite positive. The proof of the Carleman estimate does not change except for these keypoints. The difficulty here is just to use clear and understandable notations for vertices, edges, to orient the graph...

However for general networks which may contain closed circuits, the choice of appropriate weights $\phi_j$ (in particular appropriate $x_j$) is not clear and some difficulties appear. It is still an open problem regarding the carleman estimate and one could also know that the exact controllability of such general networks is also an open question.

### 3 Stability of the inverse problem

Before giving the proof of Theorem 4 we will begin this section by a stability theorem for the following inverse source problem. Let $y$ be the solution of

$$\begin{cases}
y_t - y_{xx} + p(x)y = f(x)R(x, t), & \text{in } \mathcal{R} \times (0, T), \\
y_j(l_j, t) = 0, & \text{in } (0, T), \forall j \in [0, n], \\
y_j(0, t) = y_j(0, t), & \text{in } (0, T), \forall j \in [0, n], \\
y_j(t)|_{t=0} := \sum_{j=0}^{n} y_{j,x}(0, t) = 0, & \text{in } (0, T), \\
y(0) = 0, & \text{in } \mathcal{R},
\end{cases} \quad (26)$$

**Statement of the source inverse problem:** Is it possible to retrieve the time independent source $f = f(x)$, for $x \in \mathcal{R}$ from the $n$ measurements $y_{j,x}(l_j, t), j \in [1, n]$ on $(0, T)$ where $y$ is the solution to (26)?

The following answer is obtained using the global Carleman estimate given in Section 2.

**Theorem 4** Assume that $f \in L^2(\mathcal{R}), R \in H^1(0, T; L^\infty(\mathcal{R}))$ with

$$\|R_t\|_{L^2(0, T; L^\infty(\mathcal{R}))} \leq r$$

and

$$|R(x, 0)| \geq r_0 \geq 0, \quad \text{ae in } \mathcal{R}. \quad (27)$$

Then there exists a constant $C = C(T, \mathcal{R}, m, r, ...) > 0$ such that $\forall p \in L^\infty_{\leq m}$:

$$\|f\|_{L^2(\mathcal{R})} \leq C \sum_{j=1}^{n} \|y_{j,x}(l_j, t)\|_{H^1(0, T)}.$$
Proof. We will apply the Carleman estimate given in Theorem 3 by 25 to $w = \partial_t y$ where $\chi$ is a cutoff function to be detailed later. We divide the proof in several steps.

Step 1. Let us first work on the equation satisfied by $z = \partial_y$:

\[
\begin{aligned}
&\begin{cases}
  z_{tt} - z_{xx} + p(x)z = f(x)R_t(x, t), & \text{in } \mathcal{R} \times (0, T), \\
  z_j(l_j, t) = 0, & \text{in } (0, T), \forall j \in [0, n], \\
  z(0, t) = z_i(0, t), & \text{in } (0, T), \forall i, j \in [0, n], \\
  z_x(t)|_{0} = 0, & \text{in } (0, T), \\
  z(0) = 0, & \text{in } \mathcal{R}.
  
\end{cases}
\end{aligned}
\tag{28}
\]

We will need some energy estimates for the solution of this equation, that motivates the recalling of the following classical result.

Lemma 4 Let $\mathcal{R}$ be a general network and assume that $p \in L^\infty(\mathcal{R})$ with $\|p\|_{L^\infty(\mathcal{R})} \leq m$, $g \in L^1(0, T; L^2(\mathcal{R}))$, $u^0 \in H^1_0(\mathcal{R})$ and $u^1 \in L^2(\mathcal{R})$. We consider the wave equation

\[
\begin{aligned}
&\begin{cases}
  u_{tt} - u_{xx} + p(x)u = g(x, t), & \text{in } \mathcal{R} \times (0, T), \\
  u_j(l_j, t) = 0, & \text{in } (0, T), \forall j \in [0, n], \\
  u(0, t) = u_i(0, t), & \text{in } (0, T), \forall i, j \in [0, n], \\
  u_x(t)|_{0} = 0, & \text{in } (0, T), \\
  u(0) = u^0, & \text{in } \mathcal{R}.
  
\end{cases}
\end{aligned}
\tag{29}
\]

Therefore, the Cauchy problem is well-posed and equation (29) admits a unique weak solution $u \in C([0, T], H^1_0(\mathcal{R})) \cap C^1([0, T], L^2(\mathcal{R}))$ and there exists a constant $C = C(\mathcal{R}, T, m) > 0$ such that for all $t \in (0, T)$, the energy $E_u(t) = \|u(t)\|_{L^2(\mathcal{R})}^2 + \|u_x(t)\|_{L^2(\mathcal{R})}^2$ of the system satisfy

\[
E_u(t) \leq C \left( |u^0|^2_{H^1_0(\mathcal{R})} + \|u^1\|^2_{L^2(\mathcal{R})} + \|g\|^2_{L^1(0, T; L^2(\mathcal{R}))} \right)
\tag{30}
\]

and we also have the following trace estimate

\[
\sum_{j=0}^{n} \|u_{j,x}(l_j, t)\|_{L^2(0, T)}^2 \leq C \left( |u^0|^2_{H^1_0(\mathcal{R})} + \|u^1\|^2_{L^2(\mathcal{R})} + \|g\|^2_{L^1(0, T; L^2(\mathcal{R}))} \right).
\tag{31}
\]

We refer to 21 (Chapter 3) for the proof of the existence and uniqueness of solution to equation (29). Estimate (30) can be also deduced from reference 21. It is a classical result which can be formally obtained by multiplying (29) by $u_{j,x}$, summing up for $j \in \{0, ..., n\}$ the integral of this equality on $(0, T) \times (0, l_j)$ and using some integrations by parts. Concerning estimate (31), we refer to 20 (Chapter 1). This estimate is a hidden regularity result which can be obtained by multipliers technique. Formally, it comes from the multiplication of (29) by $m(x)u_{j,x}$, where $m \in C^1(\mathcal{R})$ with $m(0) = 0$ and $m(l_j) = 1$, summing up for $j \in \{0, ..., n\}$ the integral of this equality on $(0, T) \times (0, l_j)$ and using some integrations by parts.

We can apply this result to equation (28) since $f \in L^2(\mathcal{R})$ and $R \in H^1(0, T; L^\infty(\mathcal{R}))$ and denoting the corresponding energy by

\[
E_z(t) = \|z(t)\|^2_{H^1_0(\mathcal{R})} + \|z_x(t)\|^2_{L^2(\mathcal{R})}
\]

we get for all $t \in (0, T)$:

\[
\begin{aligned}
E_z(t) & \leq CE_z(0) + C\|fR_t\|^2_{L^1(0, T; L^2(\mathcal{R}))} \\
& \leq C\|f\|^2_{L^2(\mathcal{R})} \left( |R(0)|^2_{L^\infty(\mathcal{R})} + |R|^2_{H^1(0, T; L^\infty(\mathcal{R}))} \right),
\end{aligned}
\tag{32}
\]

that will be useful later, and

\[
\sum_{j=0}^{n} \|z_{j,x}(l_j, t)\|^2_{L^2(0, T)} \leq C\|f\|^2_{L^2(\mathcal{R})} \left( |R(0)|^2_{L^\infty(\mathcal{R})} + |R|^2_{H^1(0, T; L^\infty(\mathcal{R}))} \right),
\]

which implies that for all $j \in \{0, n\}$, $z_{j,x}(l_j, t) \in L^2(0, T).$
Remark 5 One should notice that this last estimate gives finally \( y_{j,x}(l_j, t) \in H^1(0, T) \) for all \( j \in [0, n] \), giving at the same time a meaning to the measurement we make in our inverse problem. At the end of the proof of Theorem 4, we could indeed write the two-sided estimate

\[
C^{-1} ||f||_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} \leq C \sum_{j=1}^{n} ||y_{j,x}(l_j, t)||_{H^1(0, T)} \leq C||f||_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}.
\]

Step 2. Let us now extend the problem (28) on \((-T, T)\), setting \( z(x, t) = z(x, -t) \) for all \((x, t) \in \mathbb{R} \times (-T, 0)\). We also extend \( R_t \) on an even way and keep the same notations for the new problem. Therefore, we have

\[
z \in C([-T, T], H^1_0(\mathbb{R})) \cap C^1((-T, T], L^2(\mathbb{R})) \text{ and } R_t \in L^2(-T, T; L^\infty(\mathbb{R})).
\]

Moreover, from the properties of the weight function \( \phi \) that were given in Lemma 1 and using the parameter \( \eta \) introduced there, we define the cut-off function \( \chi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}; [0, 1]) \) such that

\[
\begin{align*}
\chi(\pm T) &= \chi'(\pm T) = 0, \\
\chi(t) &= 1, \quad \forall t \in [-T + \eta, T - \eta].
\end{align*}
\]

Therefore, we set \( v = \chi z \) that satisfies the following equation:

\[
\begin{align*}
\begin{cases}
v_t - v_{xx} + p(x)v &= \chi f R_t + \chi''z + 2\chi'z_t, & \text{in } \mathbb{R} \times (-T, T), \\
v_j(l_j, t) &= 0, & \text{in } (-T, T), \forall j \in [0, n], \\
v_j(0, t) &= v_i(0, t), & \text{in } (-T, T), \forall i, j \in [0, n], \\
v_x(t)|_0 &= 0, & \text{in } (-T, T), \\
v(0) &= v(0) = f(x) R(x, 0), & \text{in } \mathbb{R}, \\
v(\pm T) &= 0, & \text{in } \mathbb{R}.
\end{cases}
\end{align*}
\]

Henceforth, \( M > 0 \) will correspond to a generic constant depending on \( s_0, \varepsilon, \lambda, T, \mathbb{R}, x_0, ..., x_n, \beta, \chi, r, r_0, \) and \( \eta \) but independent of \( s > s_0 \).

Step 3. We use now the same notations as in Section 2 for the proof of the Carleman estimate. For \( v \) solution of (34), we set

\[
w = e^{sv}v, \quad P_t w = w_t - w_{xx} + s^2\lambda^2\varphi^2(\phi_t^2 - \phi_x^2)w,
\]

and we then have for all \( x \in \mathbb{R}, w(x, \pm T) = \partial_t w(x, \pm T) = 0 \) and \( w(x, 0) = 0 \).

Inspired from an idea of O. Yu. Imanuvilov and M. Yamamoto [13], we consider the integral

\[
\int_{-T}^{0} \int_{\mathbb{R}} P_t w(x, t).w(x, t) \, dx \, dt.
\]

On the one hand, using the properties of \( w \), we can make the following calculation:

\[
\begin{align*}
\int_{-T}^{0} \int_{\mathbb{R}} P_t w.w_t \, dx \, dt &= \int_{-T}^{0} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (w_t - w_{xx} + s^2\lambda^2\varphi^2(\phi_t^2 - \phi_x^2)w).w_t \, dx \, dt \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} |w_t(0)|^2 \, dx - \frac{s^2\lambda^2}{2} \int_{-T}^{0} \int_{\mathbb{R}} w^2(\varphi^2(\phi_t^2 - \phi_x^2))_t \, dx \, dt \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} |w_t(0)|^2 \, dx - 2s^2\lambda^2 \sum_{j=0}^{n} \int_{-T}^{0} \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_j^2(\varphi_j^2(\beta^2 t^2 - |x - x_j|^2))_t \, dx \, dt \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{2sv(0)}|f R(0)|^2 \, dx + 8s^2\lambda^3 \sum_{j=0}^{n} \int_{-T}^{0} \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_j^2 \varphi_j^2 \beta t(\beta^2 t^2 - |x - x_j|^2) \, dx \, dt \\
&\quad - 4s^2\lambda^2 \int_{-T}^{0} \int_{\mathbb{R}} w^2 \varphi^2 \beta^2 t \, dx \, dt.
\end{align*}
\]
On the other hand, from this equality and a Cauchy-Schwarz estimate,
\[
\int_R e^{2\varphi(0)} |f R(0)|^2 \, dx \\
= 2 \int_{-T}^T \int_R P_t w_j \, dx dt + 8s^2 \lambda^2 \int_{-T}^T \int_R w^2 \varphi^2 \beta^2 t \, dx dt \\
-16s^2 \lambda^3 \sum_{j=0}^n \int_{-T}^T \int_0^{l_j} w_j^2 \varphi_j^2 \beta t (\beta^2 t^2 - |x - x_j|^2) \, dx dt \\
\leq 2 \sum_{j=0}^n \left( \int_{-T}^T \int_0^{l_j} |P_t w_j|^2 \, dx dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \int_{-T}^T \int_0^{l_j} |w_j|^2 \, dx dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
+ Ms^2 \lambda^3 \sum_{j=0}^n \int_{-T}^T \int_0^{l_j} w_j^2 \varphi_j^2 \beta t (\beta^2 t^2 - |x - x_j|^2) \, dx dt.
\]
Using now the “intermediate” Carleman estimate (25) of Theorem 3 for a fixed \( \lambda > \lambda_0 \) that we omit, choosing \( s \) large enough to absorb the last term in the right hand side (35), we obtain
\[
\int_R e^{2\varphi(0)} |f R(0)|^2 \, dx \\
\leq 2 \sum_{j=0}^n \left( \int_{-T}^T \int_0^{l_j} |P_t w_j|^2 \, dx dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \int_{-T}^T \int_0^{l_j} |w_j|^2 \, dx dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
+ Ms^2 \lambda^3 \sum_{j=0}^n \int_{-T}^T \int_0^{l_j} w_j^2 \varphi_j^2 \beta t (\beta^2 t^2 - |x - x_j|^2) \, dx dt.
\]
the \( \varphi_j \)'s being bounded from above and below.

One should now notice that from (9) and (11) of Lemma 1 we can deduce that
\[
\varphi(x, t) \leq e^{\lambda C_0} < e^{\lambda \varphi(x, 0)} = \varphi(x, 0), \quad \forall (x, t) \in R \times [-T, -T + \eta] \cup [T - \eta, T],
\]
(37)
\[
\varphi(x, t) \leq \varphi(x, 0), \quad \forall (x, t) \in R \times [-T, T].
\]
(38)
From equation (34) and the properties (33) of the cut-off function \( \chi \) and that of the weight \( \varphi \) given in (37) and (38), one gets that
\[
\int_{-T}^T \int_R e^{2\varphi} |L v|^2 \, dx dt \\
\leq M \int_{-T}^T \int_R e^{2\varphi} |f R(t)|^2 \, dx dt + M \left( \int_{-T}^T \int_R e^{2\varphi} \left( |\varphi'| z_t|^2 + |\varphi''| z_t^2 \right) \, dx dt \right) \\
\leq M \int_{-T}^T \int_R e^{2\varphi} |f(t)|^2 |R(t)|^2 \, dx dt + M \left( \int_{-T}^{T + \eta} + \int_{T - \eta}^T \right) \int_R e^{2\varphi} \left( z_t^2 + z^2 \right) \, dx dt \\
\leq M \| R \|_{L^2([-T, T]; L^\infty(R))} \int_R e^{2\varphi(0)} |f|^2 \, dx \\
+ Me^{2\varphi C_0} \left( \int_{-T}^{T + \eta} + \int_{T - \eta}^T \right) \int_R \left( z_t^2 + z^2 \right) \, dx dt.
\]
Using the energy estimate given in (32), and again the property (37) of the weight $\varphi$, one gets
\[
\int_{-T}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{2\varphi} |Lv|^2 \, dx \, dt \leq M \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{2\varphi} |f|^2 \, dx + M e^{2sC_0} \left( \int_{-T}^{T-T+\eta} + \int_{T-\eta}^{T} \right) E_\varphi(t) \, dt
\]
\[
\leq M \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{2\varphi} |f|^2 \, dx
\]
\[
+ M \eta \left( \|R(0)\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \|R\|_{H^1(0,T; L^\infty(\mathbb{R}))}^2 \right) e^{2sC_0} \int_{\mathbb{R}} |f|^2 \, dx
\]
\[
\leq M \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{2\varphi} |f|^2 \, dx.
\]

Gathering this last estimate with (36), we have proved
\[
\int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{2\varphi} |fR(0)|^2 \, dx \leq \frac{M}{\sqrt{s}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{2\varphi} |f|^2 \, dx + M \sqrt{s} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \int_{-T}^{T} v_{j,x}^2 (l_j) \, dt.
\]

Therefore, the assumption (27) made on $R$ allow to obtain
\[
\int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{2\varphi} |f|^2 \, dx \leq \frac{M}{\sqrt{s}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{2\varphi} |f|^2 \, dx + M \sqrt{s} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \int_{-T}^{T} v_{j,x}^2 (l_j) \, dt,
\]
and the choice of $s$ large enough gives
\[
\int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{2\varphi} |f|^2 \, dx \leq M \sqrt{s} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \int_{-T}^{T} v_{j,x}^2 (l_j) \, dt
\]
\[
\leq M \sqrt{s} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \int_{-T}^{T} y_{j,x}^2 (l_j) \, dt.
\]

The proof of Theorem 4 is then complete. \hfill \square

We will end this section by the proof of Theorem 1 which is a direct consequence of Theorem 4. Indeed, if we set $\tilde{y} = u[q] - u[p]$, where $u[p]$ is solution of (1), $f = p - q$ and $R = u[p]$, then $\tilde{y}$ is the solution of
\[
\begin{cases}
\tilde{y}_t - \tilde{y}_{xx} + q(x)\tilde{y} = f(x)R(x,t), & \text{in } \mathbb{R} \times (0,T), \\
\tilde{y}_j(l_j,t) = 0, & \text{in } (0,T), \forall j \in [0,n], \\
\tilde{y}_j(0,t) = y_j(0,t), & \text{in } (0,T), \forall i, j \in [0,n], \\
[\tilde{y}_x(t)]_0 = 0, & \text{in } (0,T), \\
\tilde{y}(0) = 0, \quad \tilde{y}_c(0) = 0, & \text{in } \mathbb{R}.
\end{cases}
\]

where $q = f + p \in L^\infty_m(\mathbb{R})$. The key point is that in the proof of Theorem 4 all the constants $M$ depend on the bound $m$ of the $L^\infty$-norm of the potential as stated in Theorem 2.

Thus, with $q \in L^\infty_m(\mathbb{R})$, we are actually, with equation (39), in a situation similar to the linear inverse problem related to equation (26) and we then obtain the desired result.

Acknowledgements: The authors wish to thank Institut Henri Poincaré (Paris, France) for providing a very stimulating environment during the “Control of Partial and Differential Equations and Applications” program in the Fall 2010. This works has also been partially supported by ANR EPOQ2.

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