

Uniqueness in nonlinearly coupled PDE systems

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Consider in $\Omega \times (0, T)$, $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$, the system

$$(1) \quad \theta_t - \Delta \theta = r(\theta, c)$$

$$(2) \quad c_t - \operatorname{div}(D(\theta, c)\nabla c) = 0$$

of heat balance and carbon diffusion equations, complemented with nonhomogeneous boundary conditions on $\partial\Omega$

$$(3) \quad \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \nu} + h(x)(\theta - \theta_\Gamma(x, t)) = 0$$

$$(4) \quad -D(\theta, c)\frac{\partial c}{\partial \nu} = b(x, t),$$

and initial conditions for θ and c , as a model problem arising in steel hardening processes. Here, θ represents the absolute temperature, c is the carbon concentration, and $r(\theta, c)$, $D(\theta, c)$, $h(x)$, $\theta_\Gamma(x, t)$, and $b(x, t)$ are given functions. We mainly focus on the proof of uniqueness and Lipschitz continuous data dependence, which is based on a variant of the “ L^p -Gronwall” inequality (joint work with Lucia Panizzi).