

The Pennsylvania State University

The Graduate School

Department of Mathematics

An Initial Value Control Problem

For The Burgers Equation

A Thesis in

Mathematics

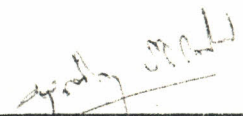
by

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ABSTRACT

In this thesis, we consider an initial value control problem governed by the Burgers equation.

The cost functional is

$$\text{Min.}_{u_c} J = \text{Min.}_{u_c} \iint_{\Omega} g(x, t, u(x, t, u_c)) dx dt$$

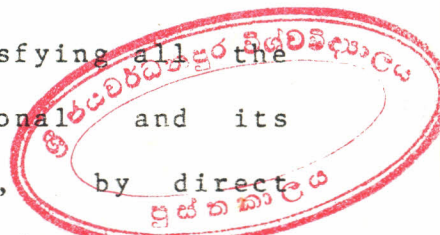
where Ω is a given domain in the upper half plane and u is the solution to the Burgers equation with initial condition

$$u(x, 0) = \begin{cases} u_l & ; x < 0 \\ u_c & ; 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ u_r & ; x > 1 \end{cases}$$

By imposing certain conditions on g , we establish the differentiability of J with respect to u_c and also prove a theorem providing upper and lower bounds for the controller u_c .

We then compute the distributional derivative of the cost functional J with respect to u_c , by representing the solution to the Burgers equation using Heaviside-Delta functions. We use this derivative to find the minimizing u_c .

We choose u^2 as the functional g satisfying all the assumptions and compute the cost functional and its derivative for some representative cases, by direct integration and do the same thing using the distributional



derivative as well. By comparing the numerical results, we conclude the validity of our distributional approach.

Possible extensions for more general cases are also mentioned.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract.....	iii
List of Tables.....	vii
List of Figures.....	viii
Acknowledgement.....	xi
Chapter I Introduction.....	1
1.1 Statement of the problem.....	2
1.1 Physical motivations.....	3
1.3 Results of this dissertation.....	4
Chapter II Hyperbolic Conservation Laws.....	3
2.1 Weak solutions of conservation laws.....	8
2.2 Riemann problem.....	10
2.3 Rankine-Hugoniot condition.....	11
2.4 Burger's equation.....	15
2.5 Previous work related to the problem.....	23
Chapter III Differentiability of the Cost Functional J with respect to the Scalar Controller u_c	25
3.1 Investigation of differentiability.....	25

Chapter IV	Determination of Optimal u_c Using Distributinal Derivative.....	41
4.1	Heaviside-Delta representation of u^2	41
4.2	Verification of the validity of differentiation under the integral sign.....	48
4.3	Utilization of the validity of differentiation under the integral sign.....	51
Chapter V	A Bound for the Control u_c	54
5.1	Theorem (5.1).....	54
Chapter VI	Calculation of the Cost Functional by Direct Integration and Evaluation of its Derivative.....	63
Chapter VII	Numerical Computations and Results.....	94
7.1	Numerical Computation of the cost functional.....	94
7.2	Verification of the correctness of the distributinal derivative of $J(u_c)$	95
7.3	Computation of the optimal control using Newton's method.....	96
	Bibliography.....	103
Appendix I	Generalization of the Theorem (5.1).....	105