

STABILIZATION OF A DEGENERATE BEAM ON AN ELASTIC FOUNDATION WITH AXIAL FORCE UNDER FRACTIONAL DERIVATIVE-TYPE DELAYED BOUNDARY FEEDBACK

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ABSTRACT. In this article, we investigate the exponential stabilization of a degenerate Euler-Bernoulli beam on an elastic foundation with axial force. The control input at the boundary features a fractional derivative-type delay. We construct a tailored Lyapunov functional, specifically designed to offset the effects of time delay and capture the intrinsic internal dynamics of the degenerate beam, thereby rigorously establishing the exponential stability of the system.

1. INTRODUCTION

This article investigates a degenerate Euler-Bernoulli beam equation for the form

$$\begin{aligned} u_{tt}(x, t) + (au_{xx})_{xx}(x, t) - (bu_x)_x(x, t) + cu(x, t) &= 0, \quad (x, t) \in Q, \\ Bu(0, t) &= 0, \quad u_{xx}(1, t) = 0, \quad t > 0, \\ (au_{xx})_x(1, t) - (bu_x)(1, t) &= r_1 u_t(1, t) + r_2 \partial_t^{\alpha, \eta} u(1, t - s), \quad t > 0, \\ u(x, 0) &= u_0(x), \quad u_t(x, 0) = u_1(x), \quad x \in [0, 1], \\ u_t(1, t - s) &= f_0(t - s), \quad t \in (0, s), \end{aligned} \quad (1.1)$$

where $Q := (0, 1) \times (0, +\infty)$, u_0 , u_1 and f_0 are the initial data given in suitable function spaces. $a \in C^0[0, 1]$, with $a > 0$ on $(0, 1]$ and $a(0) = 0$, the constant $s > 0$ represents the time delay. r_1 and r_2 are positive real numbers such that

$$\eta^{\alpha-1} r_2 < r_1 < b_0 \left(\max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, 2 \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, \frac{1}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\} \right\} \max \left\{ \frac{3}{b_0}, \frac{2}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\} \right)^{-1}. \quad (1.2)$$

In particular,

$$Bu := \begin{cases} u(0, t) = 0, \\ u_x(0, t) = 0, & \text{if } a \text{ is weakly degenerate (WD),} \\ (au_{xx})(0, t) = 0 & \text{if } a \text{ is strongly degenerate (SD),} \end{cases} \quad (1.3)$$

The notation $\partial_t^{\alpha, \eta}$ stands for the generalized Caputo's fractional derivative of order α , $\alpha > 0$, with respect to the time variable. It is defined as follows

$$\partial_t^{\alpha, \eta} u(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \int_0^t (t-\tau)^{-\alpha} e^{-\eta(t-\tau)} \frac{d}{d\tau} u(\tau) d\tau, \quad \eta \geq 0. \quad (1.4)$$

First, we provide a brief explanation of the definition of the Caputo's fractional derivative $\partial_t^{\alpha, \eta} u(t-s)$. Let us define $v(t) = u(t-s)$. Then, $\frac{d}{dt} v(t) = \frac{d}{dt} u(t-s)$. Thus, the form of the

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Caputo's fractional derivative can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t^{\alpha,\eta} v(t) &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \int_0^t (t-\tau)^{-\alpha} e^{-\eta(t-\tau)} \frac{d}{d\tau} v(\tau) d\tau \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \int_0^t (t-\tau)^{-\alpha} e^{-\eta(t-\tau)} \frac{d}{d\tau} u(\tau-s) d\tau,\end{aligned}\tag{1.5}$$

i.e.,

$$\partial_t^{\alpha,\eta} u(t-s) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \int_0^t (t-\tau)^{-\alpha} e^{-\eta(t-\tau)} \frac{d}{d\tau} u(\tau-s) d\tau.\tag{1.6}$$

The degeneracy of (1.1) at $x = 0$ is measured by the parameter

$$K_a := \sup_{x \in (0,1]} \frac{xa'(x)}{a(x)}.\tag{1.7}$$

And, we say that

$$\begin{aligned}a \text{ is weakly degenerate (WD) if } a &\in C^0[0,1] \cap C^1(0,1] \text{ and } K_a \in [0,1), \\ a \text{ is Strongly degenerate (SD) if } a &\in C^1(0,1] \text{ and } K_a \in [1,2).\end{aligned}\tag{1.8}$$

The condition $K_a < 2$ is essential for the ensuing analysis. The axial force disturbance function b and foundation's stiffness coefficient c ($c > 0$) satisfy the following conditions

$$\begin{aligned}b, c &\in W^{1,\infty}(0,1), \\ 0 < b_0 \leq b(x) \leq b_1, \quad 0 < c_0 \leq c(x) \leq c_1, \quad \forall x \in [0,1], \\ |b'(x)| &\leq b_2, \quad |c'(x)| \leq c_2, \quad \forall x \in [0,1],\end{aligned}\tag{1.9}$$

where $b_0, b_1, b_2, c_0, c_1, c_2$ are positive constants satisfying

$$\frac{4c_0c_1 + 3c_1c_2}{2c_0b_0} < 2 - K_{a,b,c},\tag{1.10}$$

where the constant $K_{a,b,c}$ is given by (4.25) below.

The control of flexible structures - typified by Euler-Bernoulli beams (e.g., [18]) - stands as a foundational component of modern engineering, with pivotal applications spanning aerospace structures [28], robotic manipulators [13, 17], long-span bridges [4], and precision instruments [27]. In these application domains, the structure interacts with its environment being mounted on an elastic foundation or subjected to significant axial loads [19]. This interaction is typically modeled by two key terms: a distributed restoring term, cu , representing the elastic foundation, and a geometric term, $(bu_x)_x$, representing the axial force. The cu term represents an elastic restoring force (elastic foundation) proportional to the transverse displacement u , where $c > 0$ is the foundation's stiffness coefficient. The $(bu_x)_x$ term captures the geometric stiffness induced by the axial load. Collectively, these terms critically influence the system's vibrational dynamics and stability.

Consequently, a particularly challenging scenario arises when the beam exhibits material degradation or geometric tailoring, leading to a loss of stiffness at a boundary. This degeneracy, mathematically characterized by a flexural rigidity coefficient $a(x)$ that vanishes (e.g., $a(0) = 0$), renders classical analysis tools ineffective and demands a formulation in weighted Sobolev spaces, see [7, 8]. In [7], the authors considered the following viscoelastic beam

$$\begin{aligned}u_{tt}(x,t) + (au_{xx})_{xx}(x,t) &= 0, \quad (x,t) \in (0,1) \times (0,T), \\ u(0,t) &= 0, \quad t > 0, \\ u_x(0,t) &= 0, \quad \text{if } a \text{ is (WD)}, \quad t \in (0,T) \\ (au_{xx})(0,t) &= 0, \quad \text{if } a \text{ is (SD)}, \quad t \in (0,T), \\ \beta u(1,t) - (au_{xx})_x(1,t) + u_t(1,t) &= 0, \quad t \in (0,T), \\ \gamma u_x(1,t) + (au_{xx})(1,t) + u_{tx}(1,t) &= 0, \quad t \in (0,T), \\ u(x,0) = u_0(x), \quad u_t(x,0) = u_1(x), \quad x &\in (0,1),\end{aligned}$$

where $\beta, \gamma \geq 0$. Within the framework of weighted spaces, they examined the boundary stability of above system.

While the stabilization of non-degenerate beams is well-established (see for example [9, 10, 24, 25]), research on controlling degenerate systems, particularly under the combined effects of an elastic foundation and axial force, remains considerably limited. A further layer of practical complexity is introduced by time delays, which are invariably present in sensor and actuator signals and can destabilize an otherwise stable system [11]. Consequently, the stabilization of time-delay systems has garnered significant attention and remains an active area of research in both mathematical control theory and engineering applications (*e.g.*, [15, 16, 21, 26]). Notably, the fractional derivative-type delayed feedback (see for example [3, 1]), which incorporates the system's state history through fractional calculus, provides a powerful framework for modeling complex memory effects and hereditary properties in both materials and control systems. The preceding analysis substantiates the necessity of this investigation.

This paper is organized as follows: In section 2, we introduce the functional framework and reframe the system (1.1) into an augmented system, followed by relevant preliminary lemmas and key preparatory work. In Section 3, we establish the well-posedness of the augmented system by employing the semigroup theory. Finally, we derive the exponential stability result via the method proposed by Komornik [14], and this stability result is closely associated with the order of the fractional derivative in Section 4.

2. PRELIMINARY AND AUGMENTED MODEL

This section is devoted to defining the functional spaces employed throughout the paper and reformulating the problem (1.1) into an augmented system. We start with the following lemmas.

Lemma 2.1 ([20]). *Let*

$$\mu(\xi) := |\xi|^{\frac{(2\alpha-1)}{2}}, \quad \xi \in \mathbb{R}, \quad 0 < \alpha < 1.$$

Then the relationship between the “input” U and “output” O of the system

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_t(\xi, t) + (\xi^2 + \eta)\phi(\xi, t) - U(t)\mu(\xi) &= 0, \quad \xi \in \mathbb{R}, \quad t > 0, \quad \beta \geq 0, \\ \phi(\xi, 0) &= 0, \end{aligned} \tag{2.1}$$

$$O(t) = (\pi)^{-1} \sin(\alpha\pi) \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \phi(\xi, t)\mu(\xi)d\xi$$

is given by

$$O := I^{1-\alpha, \eta} U,$$

where

$$I^{\alpha, \eta} u(t) := \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^t (t-\tau)^{\alpha-1} e^{-\eta(t-\tau)} u(\tau) d\tau.$$

Lemma 2.2 ([1]). *If $\lambda \in D = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} : \operatorname{Re} \lambda + \eta > 0\} \cup \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} : \operatorname{Im} \lambda \neq 0\}$, then*

$$D_\mu := \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\mu^2(\xi)}{\lambda + \eta + \xi^2} d\xi = \frac{\pi}{\sin(\alpha\pi)} (\lambda + \eta)^{\alpha-1}.$$

From now on, we restrict D_μ so that $D_\mu < 2$, which is crucial for the proof of our conclusion.

Lemma 2.3 ([2]). *Let $\alpha \in (0, 1)$, $\eta \geq 0$, then the following integrals*

$$S_0(\eta, \alpha) = \kappa(\alpha) \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{|\xi|^{2\alpha-1}}{1 + \xi^2 + \eta} d\xi, \quad S_1(\eta, \alpha) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{|\xi|^{2\alpha-1}}{(1 + \xi^2 + \eta)^2} d\xi, \quad S_2(\eta, \alpha) = \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{\xi^{2\alpha+1}}{(1 + \xi^2 + \eta)^2} d\xi$$

are well defined.

As in [22], we introduce the new variable

$$z(x, \rho, t) = u_t(1, t - s\rho), \quad x \in (0, 1), \quad \rho \in (0, 1), \quad t > 0. \tag{2.2}$$

Then, we deduce that

$$sz_t(x, \rho, t) + z_\rho(x, \rho, t) = 0, \quad x \in (0, 1), \quad \rho \in (0, 1), \quad t > 0. \tag{2.3}$$

Therefore, by (2.2), (2.3), Lemma 2.1 and (1.2), system (1.1) is recast into the augmented model

$$\begin{aligned}
 u_{tt}(x, t) + (au_{xx})_{xx}(x, t) - (bu_x)_x(x, t) + cu(x, t) &= 0, \quad (x, t) \in Q, \\
 \phi_t(x, \xi, t) + (\xi^2 + \eta)\phi(x, \xi, t) - z(x, 1, t)\mu(\xi) &= 0, \quad (x, t) \in Q, \quad \xi \in \mathbb{R}, \\
 sz_t(x, \rho, t) + z_\rho(x, \rho, t) &= 0, \quad (x, t) \in Q, \quad \rho \in (0, 1), \\
 Bu(0, t) &= 0, \quad t > 0, \\
 u_{xx}(1, t) &= 0, \quad t > 0, \\
 (au_{xx})_x(1, t) - (bu_x)(1, t) &= r_1 z(x, 0, t) + \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mu(\xi)\phi(\xi)d\xi, \quad t > 0, \quad \xi \in \mathbb{R}, \\
 \phi(x, \xi, 0) &= 0, \quad x \in (0, 1), \quad \xi \in \mathbb{R}, \\
 z(x, 0, t) &= u_t(1, t) \quad (x, t) \in Q, \\
 u(x, 0) &= u_0(x), \quad u_t(x, 0) = u_1(x), \quad x \in [0, 1], \\
 z(x, \rho, 0) &= f_0(x, -\rho s), \quad x \in (0, 1), \quad \rho \in (0, 1),
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.4}$$

where

$$\gamma := (\pi)^{-1} \sin(\alpha\pi)r_2. \tag{2.5}$$

Here, we claim that

$$\gamma D_\mu = r_2 \eta^{\alpha-1}. \tag{2.6}$$

We define the energy associated with the solution of the system (2.4) as

$$E(t) := \frac{1}{2} \|u_t\|_2^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\sqrt{a}u_{xx}\|_2^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\sqrt{b}u_x\|_2^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\sqrt{c}u\|_2^2 + \frac{\gamma}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |\phi(\xi)|^2 d\xi + \frac{\delta}{2} \int_0^1 |z(\rho)|^2 d\rho, \tag{2.7}$$

where δ is a positive constant satisfying

$$s\gamma D_\mu < \delta < s[2r_1 - \gamma D_\mu] \tag{2.8}$$

and D_μ is defined in Lemma 2.2.

Lemma 2.4. *Let (u, ϕ, z) be a regular solution of (2.4). Then, the energy functional defined by (2.7) satisfies*

$$\frac{dE(t)}{dt} \leq -C_e [z^2(x, 0, t) + z^2(x, 1, t)] \tag{2.9}$$

where $C_e := \min \left\{ \left(\frac{\delta}{2s} - \frac{\gamma}{2} D_\mu \right), \left(r_1 - \frac{\gamma}{2} D_\mu - \frac{\delta}{2s} \right) \right\}$.

Proof. Multiplying the first equation in (2.4) by u_t , integrating by parts over $(0, 1)$, we obtain

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \|u_t\|_2^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\sqrt{a}u_{xx}\|_2^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\sqrt{b}u_x\|_2^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\sqrt{c}u\|_2^2 \right\} = -r_1 u_t^2(1) - \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mu(\xi)\phi(\xi)d\xi u_t(1). \tag{2.10}$$

Multiplying the second equation in (2.4) by $\gamma\phi$, and integrating by parts over $(-\infty, +\infty)$, we obtain

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left\{ \frac{\gamma}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |\phi(\xi)|^2 d\xi \right\} + \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta) |\phi(\xi)|^2 d\xi - \gamma z(x, 1, t) \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mu(\xi)\phi(\xi)d\xi = 0. \tag{2.11}$$

Multiplying the third equation in (2.4) by $\frac{\delta}{s}z$, and integrating by parts over $(0, 1)$, we have

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left\{ \frac{\delta}{2} \int_0^1 |z(\rho)|^2 d\rho \right\} = -\frac{\delta}{2s} \int_0^1 \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} z^2(\rho) d\rho = -\frac{\delta}{2s} [z^2(x, 1, t) - z^2(x, 0, t)]. \tag{2.12}$$

From (2.10), (2.11), (2.12) and using $z(x, 0, t) = u_t(1, t)$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{dE(t)}{dt} &= -r_1 z^2(x, 0, t) - \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mu(\xi)\phi(\xi)d\xi u_t(1) - \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta) |\phi(\xi)|^2 d\xi \\
 &\quad + \gamma z(x, 1, t) \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mu(\xi)\phi(\xi)d\xi - \frac{\delta}{2s} [z^2(x, 1, t) - z^2(x, 0, t)].
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.13}$$

By using Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, Young inequality, (2.8) and Lemma 2.2, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{dE(t)}{dt} \\
& \leq -r_1 z^2(x, 0, t) + \frac{\gamma}{2} D_\mu z^2(x, 0, t) + \frac{\gamma}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta) |\phi(\xi)|^2 d\xi + \frac{\gamma}{2} D_\mu z^2(x, 1, t) \\
& \quad + \frac{\gamma}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta) |\phi(\xi)|^2 d\xi - \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta) |\phi(\xi)|^2 d\xi - \frac{\delta}{2s} [z^2(x, 1, t) - z^2(x, 0, t)] \quad (2.14) \\
& = -\left(\frac{\delta}{2s} - \frac{\gamma}{2} D_\mu\right) z^2(x, 1, t) - \left(r_1 - \frac{\delta}{2s} - \frac{\gamma}{2} D_\mu\right) z^2(x, 0, t) \\
& \leq -C_e [z^2(x, 1, t) + z^2(x, 0, t)].
\end{aligned}$$

The proof is complete. $\square$

As in [7], we introduce the following weighted Hilbert spaces:

$$\begin{aligned}
V_a^2(0, 1) &:= \{u \in H^1(0, 1) : u_x \text{ is absolutely continuous in } [0, 1], \sqrt{a}u_{xx} \in L^2(0, 1) \text{ if } a \text{ is (WD)}\}, \\
V_a^2(0, 1) &:= \{u \in H^1(0, 1) : u_x \text{ is locally absolutely cont. in } (0, 1], \sqrt{a}u_{xx} \in L^2(0, 1) \text{ if } a \text{ is (SD)}\}, \\
\langle u, v \rangle_a &:= \int_0^1 u v dx + \int_0^1 u_x v_x dx + \int_0^1 a u_{xx} v_{xx} dx, \text{ for every } u, v \in V_a^2.
\end{aligned} \quad (2.15)$$

The previous inner products induces the related norm

$$\|u\|_{2,a}^2 := \|u\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2 + \|u_x\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2 + \|\sqrt{a}u_{xx}\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2, \quad \forall u \in V_a^2(0, 1). \quad (2.16)$$

Also, we define the weighted space

$$H_a^2(0, 1) := \{u \in V_a^2(0, 1) : u(0) = 0\}, \quad (2.17)$$

endowed with the inner product defined by (2.15).

Proposition 2.5 ([7]). *Assume a is weakly or strongly degenerate. For all $u \in H_a^2$, we have*

$$\|u\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2 \leq \|u_x\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2 \leq \frac{1}{b_0} \|\sqrt{b}u_x\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2, \quad (2.18)$$

$$|u_x(1)|^2 \leq 2 \left(\frac{1}{b_0} \|\sqrt{b}u_x\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2 + \frac{\|\sqrt{a}u_{xx}\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2}{a(1)(2 - K_a)} \right). \quad (2.19)$$

We can find the proofs of (2.18) and (2.19) in [7]. We set

$$K(0, 1) := \{u \in H_a^2(0, 1) : au_{xx} \in H^2(0, 1)\}. \quad (2.20)$$

Next, we introduce the functional spaces

$$\begin{aligned}
H_{a,0}^2(0, 1) &:= \{u \in H_a^2(0, 1) : u_x(0) = 0 \text{ if } a \text{ is (WD)}\}, \\
H_{a,0}^2(0, 1) &:= \{H_a^2(0, 1) \text{ if } a \text{ is (SD)}\}, \\
K_0(0, 1) &:= \{u \in K(0, 1) : u_x(0) = 0 \text{ if } a \text{ is (WD)}\}, \\
K_0(0, 1) &:= \{u \in K(0, 1) : (au_{xx})(0) = 0 \text{ if } a \text{ is (SD)}\}.
\end{aligned} \quad (2.21)$$

3. WELL-POSEDNESS

In this section, we aim to establish the well-posedness of system (2.4) through semigroup theory. We consider $v(x, t) = u_t(x, t)$. Let $U = (u, v, \phi, z)^\top$, then (2.4) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}
U_t - \mathcal{A}U &= 0, \\
U_0 &= (u_0, u_1, 0, f_0(-\rho s))^\top,
\end{aligned} \quad (3.1)$$

where the operator $\mathcal{A}$ is defined by

$$\mathcal{A}U := \begin{pmatrix} v \\ -(au_{xx})_{xx} + (bu_x)_x - cu \\ -(\xi^2 + \eta)\phi(\xi) + z(1)\mu(\xi) \\ -\frac{1}{s}z_\rho(\rho) \end{pmatrix} \quad (3.2)$$

with domain $D(\mathcal{A})$ as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} U \in \mathcal{H} : & u \in K_0(0, 1), v \in H_{a,0}^2(0, 1), \\ & z_\rho \in L^2(0, 1), v = z(\cdot, 0), \\ & \phi, |\xi|\phi \in L^2(-\infty, +\infty), \\ & (\xi^2 + \eta)\phi(\xi) - z(1)\mu(\xi) \in L^2(-\infty, +\infty), \\ & (au_{xx})_x(1) - bu_x(1) - r_1u_t(1) - \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mu(\xi)\phi(\xi)d\xi = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

where the Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}$ is

$$\mathcal{H} := H_{a,0}^2 \times L^2(0, 1) \times L^2(-\infty, +\infty) \times L^2(0, 1) \quad (3.4)$$

equipped with the inner product

$$\langle U, \tilde{U} \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} := \int_0^1 v\tilde{v}dx + \int_0^1 au_{xx}\tilde{u}_{xx}dx + \int_0^1 bu_x\tilde{u}_xdx + \int_0^1 cu\tilde{u}dx + \delta \int_0^1 z\tilde{z}dx + \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \phi^2d\xi, \quad (3.5)$$

where r_1, r_2 satisfy (1.2), and δ satisfies (2.8).

Proposition 3.1. *Assume a is weakly or strongly degenerate. Then the operator $(\mathcal{A}, D(\mathcal{A}))$ is nonpositive with dense domain and generates a contraction C_0 -semigroup $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$.*

Proof. We proceed in the following two steps.

Step 1. We prove that $\mathcal{A}$ is dissipative: let $U = u, v, \phi, z \in D(\mathcal{A})$. We have

$$\Re(\langle \mathcal{A}U, U \rangle_{\mathcal{H}}) \leq -C_e[z^2(x, 1, t) + z^2(x, 0, t)] \leq 0. \quad (3.6)$$

Then, $\mathcal{A}$ is dissipative.

Step 2. We show that $I - \mathcal{A}$ is surjective: given $F = (f, g, h, l)^\top \in \mathcal{H}$. We need to prove the existence of $U = u, v, \phi, z \in D(\mathcal{A})$ unique solution of the equation

$$(I - \mathcal{A})U = F, \quad (3.7)$$

which is equivalent to the system

$$\begin{aligned} u - v &= f, \\ v + (au_{xx})_{xx} - (bu_x)_x + cu &= g, \\ \phi + (\xi^2 + \eta)\phi - z(1)\mu(\xi) &= h, \\ z + \frac{1}{s}z_\rho &= l. \end{aligned} \quad (3.8)$$

From (3.8)₃, we have

$$\phi = \frac{h}{\xi^2 + \eta + 1} + \frac{\mu(\xi)z(1)}{\xi^2 + \eta + 1}. \quad (3.9)$$

Combining (3.8)₁ and (3.8)₄, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} z &= (u(1) - f(1))e^{-s\rho} + s \int_0^\rho e^{s(r-\rho)}l(r)dr, \quad \rho \in (0, 1), \\ v &= u - f, \end{aligned} \quad (3.10)$$

which satisfies $z(x, 0, t) = u(1, t) - f(1, t)$. Then, from (3.8)₂, it can be deduced that

$$(au_{xx})_{xx} - (bu_x)_x + cu + u = f + g. \quad (3.11)$$

Let $\psi \in H_{a,0}^2(0,1)$. Multiplying (3.11) by ψ and integrating over $(0,1)$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_0^1 (f+g)\psi \, dx \\
&= \int_0^1 [(au_{xx})_{xx} - (bu_x)_x + (c+1)u]\psi \, dx \\
&= \int_0^1 [au_{xx}\psi_{xx} + bu_x\psi_x + (c+1)u\psi] \, dx + r_1v \\
&\quad + \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mu(\xi) \frac{h}{\xi^2 + \eta + 1} d\xi \psi(1) + \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\mu^2(\xi)}{\xi^2 + \eta + 1} d\xi z(x,1)\psi(1) \\
&= \int_0^1 [au_{xx}\psi_{xx} + bu_x\psi_x + (c+1)u\psi] \, dx + r_1v \\
&\quad - r_1f(1) + \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mu(\xi) \frac{h}{\xi^2 + \eta + 1} d\xi \psi(1) + \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\mu^2(\xi)}{\xi^2 + \eta + 1} d\xi u(1)e^{-s\rho}\psi(1) \\
&\quad - \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\mu^2(\xi)}{\xi^2 + \eta + 1} d\xi f(1)e^{-s\rho}\psi(1) + \gamma s \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\mu^2(\xi)}{\xi^2 + \eta + 1} d\xi \int_0^\rho e^{s(r-\rho)} l(r) dr \psi(1).
\end{aligned} \tag{3.12}$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_0^1 [(au_{xx})_{xx} - (bu_x)_x + (c+1)u]\psi \, dx + \left(r_1 + \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\mu^2(\xi)}{\xi^2 + \eta + 1} d\xi e^{-s\rho}\right) u(1)\psi(1) \\
&= \int_0^1 (f+g)\psi(1) \, dx + \left[r_1f(1) + \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\mu^2(\xi)}{\xi^2 + \eta + 1} d\xi f(1)e^{-s\rho} \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \gamma s \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\mu^2(\xi)}{\xi^2 + \eta + 1} d\xi \int_0^\rho e^{s(r-\rho)} l(r) dr - \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mu(\xi) \frac{h}{\xi^2 + \eta + 1} d\xi\right] \psi(1).
\end{aligned} \tag{3.13}$$

So, the preceding equation can be written as

$$\mathcal{L}(u, \psi) = \mathcal{M}(\psi), \quad \forall \psi \in H_{a,0}^2(0,1), \tag{3.14}$$

where the bilinear form $\mathcal{L}(u, \psi) : H_{a,0}^2(0,1) \times H_{a,0}^2(0,1) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is defined by

$$\mathcal{L}(u, \psi) := \int_0^1 [(au_{xx})_{xx} - (bu_x)_x + (c+1)u]\psi \, dx + A_1 u(1)\psi(1), \tag{3.15}$$

and the linear form $\mathcal{M}(\psi) : H_{a,0}^2(0,1) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$\mathcal{M}(\psi) := \int_0^1 (f+g)\psi(1) \, dx + A_2 \psi(1), \tag{3.16}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
A_1 &:= r_1 + \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\mu^2(\xi)}{\xi^2 + \eta + 1} d\xi e^{-s\rho}, \\
A_2 &:= A_1 f(1) - \gamma s \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\mu^2(\xi)}{\xi^2 + \eta + 1} d\xi \int_0^\rho e^{s(r-\rho)} l(r) dr - \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mu(\xi) \frac{h}{\xi^2 + \eta + 1} d\xi \psi(1).
\end{aligned} \tag{3.17}$$

It is clear that $\mathcal{L}$ is a continuous and coercive form on $H_{a,0}^2(0,1) \times H_{a,0}^2(0,1)$, and $\mathcal{M}$ is continuous form on $H_{a,0}^2(0,1)$. Hence, according to the Lax-Milgram theorem, the variational problem (3.14) has a unique solution $u \in H_{a,0}^2(0,1)$. In particular, for any $\psi \in \mathcal{D}(0,1)$ ($\mathcal{D}(0,1)$ is dense in $L^2(0,1)$) in (3.14), we obtain

$$\int_0^1 [(au_{xx})_{xx} - (bu_x)_x + (c+1)u]\bar{\psi} \, dx = \int_0^1 (f+g)\bar{\psi}(1) \, dx \text{ in } \mathcal{D}'(0,1). \tag{3.18}$$

As $(f+g) \in L^2(0,1)$, from (3.14), we deduce that

$$(au_{xx})_{xx} - (bu_x)_x + (c+1)u = f+g \text{ in } L^2(0,1). \tag{3.19}$$

Because $u \in H_{a,0}^2(0,1)$, and $au_{xx} \in H^2(0,1)$. Thus, $u \in K_0(0,1)$ and solves (3.14).

Setting $v := u - f$, we obtain $v \in H_{a,0}^2(0,1)$. It remains to prove that $U \in D(\mathcal{A})$ and solves (3.7). To this end, we need the following arguments. We define

$$\phi = \frac{h}{\xi^2 + \eta + 1} + \frac{\mu(\xi)z(1)}{\xi^2 + \eta + 1}. \quad (3.20)$$

We need to prove $\phi, |\xi|\phi \in L^2(-\infty, +\infty)$. From (3.9), using Lemma 2.3 and the fact that $h \in L^2(-\infty, +\infty)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |\phi|^2 d\xi &\leq 2 \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{h^2}{(\xi^2 + \eta + 1)^2} d\xi + \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\mu^2(\xi)z^2(1)}{(\xi^2 + \eta + 1)^2} d\xi \\ &\leq 2 \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{h^2}{(\xi^2 + \eta + 1)^2} d\xi + 2S_1 z^2(1) < \infty \end{aligned} \quad (3.21)$$

and

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |\xi\phi|^2 d\xi \leq 2 \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\xi^2 h^2}{(\xi^2 + \eta + 1)^2} d\xi + \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\xi^{2\alpha+1} z^2(1)}{(\xi^2 + \eta + 1)^2} d\xi < \infty. \quad (3.22)$$

Then, we deduce that $\phi, |\xi|\phi \in L^2(-\infty, +\infty)$. From (3.20), we have

$$-(\xi^2 + \eta)\phi + \mu(\xi)z(1) = \phi - h \in L^2(-\infty, +\infty). \quad (3.23)$$

Also, (3.14) holds for every $\psi \in H_{a,0}^2(0,1)$ and integrating by parts, we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} &-(au_{xx})_x(1) + (bu_x)(1) + r_1 u(1) + \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\mu^2(\xi)}{\xi^2 + \eta + 1} d\xi e^{-s\rho} u(1) \\ &= r_1 f(1) + \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\mu^2(\xi)}{\xi^2 + \eta + 1} d\xi e^{-s\rho} f(1) - \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mu(\xi) \frac{h}{\xi^2 + \eta + 1} d\xi \\ &\quad + \gamma s \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\mu^2(\xi)}{\xi^2 + \eta + 1} d\xi \int_0^\rho e^{s(r-\rho)} l(r) dr \end{aligned} \quad (3.24)$$

Combining (3.20), we deduce that

$$-(au_{xx})_x(1) + (bu_x)(1) + r_1 v(1) + \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mu(\xi)\phi(\xi) d\xi = 0. \quad (3.25)$$

Therefore,

$$U \in D(\mathcal{A}). \quad (3.26)$$

And the operator $I - \mathcal{A}$ is surjective. Then, $\mathcal{A}$ is densely defined in $\mathcal{H}$. According to Lümer-Phillips theorem, $\mathcal{A}$ generates a C_0 -semigroup of contractions (see, e.g. [12]). $\square$

Building upon Proposition 3.1 and following the approach in [5], we first establish the existence theorem of the solution. To further achieve higher regularity of the solution in the time domain, we apply the Hille-Yosida theorem [23], with the specific conclusions detailed as follows:

Theorem 3.2. *Assume a is weakly or strongly degenerate. If $U_0 \in \mathcal{H}$, then problem (2.4) admits a unique weak solution satisfying*

$$U(t) \in C^0(\mathbb{R}^+; \mathcal{H}).$$

Moreover, if $U_0 \in D(\mathcal{A})$, (2.4) admits a unique strong solution U satisfying

$$U(t) \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^+, \mathcal{H}) \cap C^0(\mathbb{R}^+, D(\mathcal{A})).$$

4. STABILITY RESULT

In this section, we consider the exponential stability of problem (2.4), we will present this result based on the Lyapunov functional method. At the beginning of this section, we study the degenerate elliptic equation associated to problem (2.4), which is crucial to obtain the stability result of problem (2.4).

Proposition 4.1. *Assume a is weakly or strongly degenerate. Define*

$$\|y\|^2 := \int_0^1 a(y_{xx})^2 dx + \int_0^1 b(y_x)^2 dx + \int_0^1 cy^2 dx \quad (4.1)$$

for all $y \in K_0(0, 1)$. Then the norm $\cdot$ and $\|\cdot\|_{2,a}$ are equivalent on $K_0(0, 1)$. In addition, for all $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathbb{R}$, the variational problem

$$\int_0^1 ay_{xx}\varphi_{xx}dx + \int_0^1 by_x\varphi_xdx + \int_0^1 cy\varphi dx = \lambda_1\varphi(1) + \lambda_2\varphi_x(1), \quad \forall \varphi \in K_0(0, 1) \quad (4.2)$$

admits a unique solution $y \in K_0(0, 1)$, which satisfies the following estimates:

$$\|y\|^2 \leq C_{\lambda,\mu,b_0,K_a,a}^2 \quad \text{and} \quad \|y\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2 \leq \frac{1}{b_0} C_{\lambda,\mu,b_0,K_a,a}^2, \quad (4.3)$$

with the constant

$$C_{\lambda,\mu,b_0,K_a,a} := |\lambda| \sqrt{\frac{1}{b_0}} + |\mu| \sqrt{2 \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, \frac{1}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\}}. \quad (4.4)$$

Moreover $y \in D(\mathcal{A}_a) := K_0(0, 1)$ satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}_a y &:= (ay_{xx})_{xx} - (by_x)_x + cy = 0, \\ (by_x)(1) - (ay_{xx})_x(1) &= \lambda_1, \\ a(1)y_{xx}(1) &= \lambda_2. \end{aligned} \quad (4.5)$$

Proof. From (2.16) and (4.1), we directly obtain the estimates

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 a(y_{xx})^2 dx + \int_0^1 b(y_x)^2 dx + \int_0^1 cy^2 dx &\leq \int_0^1 a(y_{xx})^2 dx + b_1 \int_0^1 (y_x)^2 dx + c_1 \int_0^1 y^2 dx \\ &\leq \max\{c_1, b_1\} \|y\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2 \end{aligned} \quad (4.6)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 a(y_{xx})^2 dx + \int_0^1 b(y_x)^2 dx + \int_0^1 cy^2 dx &\geq \int_0^1 a(y_{xx})^2 dx + b_0 \int_0^1 (y_x)^2 dx + c_0 \int_0^1 y^2 dx \\ &\geq \min\{c_0, b_0\} \|y\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2. \end{aligned} \quad (4.7)$$

Thus, the first part of Proposition 4.1 holds in $K_0(0, 1)$.

Now, we consider the bilinear and symmetric form $\Lambda : K_0(0, 1) \times K_0(0, 1) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\Lambda(y, \varphi) := \int_0^1 ay_{xx}\varphi_{xx}dx + \int_0^1 by_x\varphi_xdx + \int_0^1 cy\varphi dx. \quad (4.8)$$

It is straight forward to prove that Λ is coercive and continuous. Now, consider the linear functional

$$\mathfrak{L}(\varphi) := \lambda_1\varphi(1) + \lambda_2\varphi_x(1), \quad (4.9)$$

with $\varphi \in K_0(0, 1)$ and $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathbb{R}$. The functional $\mathfrak{L}$ is continuous and linear. Thus, by the Lax-Milgram theorem, there exists a unique solution $y \in K_0(0, 1)$ of

$$\Lambda(y, \varphi) = \mathfrak{L}(\varphi) \quad (4.10)$$

for all $\varphi \in K_0(0, 1)$. Then, we obtain

$$|y(1)|^2 \leq \frac{1}{b_0} \|\sqrt{b}y_x\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2 \leq \frac{1}{b_0} \|y\|^2, \quad (4.11)$$

and

$$|y_x(1)|^2 \leq 2 \left(\frac{1}{b_0} \|\sqrt{b}y_x\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2 + \frac{\|\sqrt{a}y_{xx}\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right) \leq 2 \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, \frac{1}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\} \|y\|^2. \quad (4.12)$$

Combining the above results, we have

$$\|y\|^2 = \lambda_1 \varphi(1) + \lambda_2 \varphi_x(1) \leq \left(|\lambda| \sqrt{\frac{1}{b_0}} + |\mu| \sqrt{2 \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, \frac{1}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\}} \right) \|y\|. \quad (4.13)$$

Thus

$$\|y\| \leq |\lambda| \sqrt{\frac{1}{b_0}} + |\mu| \sqrt{2 \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, \frac{1}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\}}. \quad (4.14)$$

Moreover, by (2.18), we have

$$\|y\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2 \leq \frac{1}{b_0} \|y\|^2 \leq \frac{1}{b_0} C_{\lambda, \mu, b_0, K_a, a}^2. \quad (4.15)$$

Now, we prove that y belongs to $D(\mathcal{A}_a)$ and solves (4.5). To this aim, consider (4.10) again. It is clear that (4.10) holds for every $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(0,1)$, so that

$$\int_0^1 [(ay_{xx})_{xx} - (by_x)_x + cy] \varphi dx = 0, \quad (4.16)$$

then $(ay_{xx})_{xx} - (by_x)_x + cy = 0$ a.e. in $(0,1)$, in particular, for $y \in K_0(0,1)$, we have $\mathcal{A}_a := (ay_{xx})_{xx} - (by_x)_x + cy \in L^2(0,1)$, which implies that $ay_{xx} \in H^2(0,1)$, then we deduce that $y \in K_0(0,1)$. Moreover, let $\varphi \in K_0(0,1)$, combining (4.5) and (4.16), we deduce that

$$\int_0^1 ay_{xx} \varphi_{xx} dx + \int_0^1 by_x \varphi_x dx + \int_0^1 cy \varphi dx = \lambda_1 \varphi(1) + \lambda_2 \varphi_x(1)$$

if and only if

$$((by_x)_x(1) - (ay_{xx})_x(1) - \lambda_1) \varphi(1) + (a(1)y_{xx}(1) - \lambda_2) \varphi_x(1) = 0,$$

and $y_x(0) = 0$ in the weakly degenerate case and

$$\int_0^1 ay_{xx} \varphi_{xx} dx + \int_0^1 by_x \varphi_x dx + \int_0^1 cy \varphi dx = \lambda_1 \varphi(1) + \lambda_2 \varphi_x(1)$$

if and only if

$$((by_x)_x(1) - (ay_{xx})_x(1) - \lambda_1) \varphi(1) + (a(1)y_{xx}(1) - \lambda_2) \varphi_x(1) - (ay_{xx})(0) \varphi_x(0) = 0$$

in the strongly degenerate case. Thus,

$$(by_x)_x(1) - (ay_{xx})_x(1) = \lambda_1, \quad a(1)y_{xx}(1) = \lambda_2 \quad (4.17)$$

and $(ay_{xx})(0) = 0$ in the strongly degenerate case. To sum up, the proof is complete. $\square$

From now and on, We focus on the stability result of the system. The main result of this paper is based on the following theorem presented in Kormonik' work in [14].

Theorem 4.2. *Suppose that $E : [0, +\infty)$ is a non-increasing function and that there exists $N > 0$ such that*

$$\int_t^\infty E(s) ds \leq NE(t), \quad \forall t \in [0, +\infty). \quad (4.18)$$

Then we have

$$E(t) \leq e^{1-\frac{t}{N}} E(0), \quad \forall t \in [N, +\infty). \quad (4.19)$$

We consider the Lyapunov functional

$$L(t) := ME(t) + I_1 + M_1 I_2 + I_3. \quad (4.20)$$

Here,

$$I_1 := \int_0^1 u_t \left(2xu_x + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} u \right) dx, \quad (4.21)$$

$$I_2 := \frac{\delta}{2} \int_0^1 e^{-2s\rho} z^2(\rho) d\rho, \quad (4.22)$$

$$I_3 := \frac{\gamma}{4} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta) \left[\int_0^t \phi(x, \xi, \tau) + F \right]^2 d\xi + \frac{\gamma}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \phi^2(x, \xi, t) d\xi, \quad (4.23)$$

where

$$F := -\frac{s\mu(\xi)}{\xi^2 + \eta} \int_0^1 f_0(x, -\rho s) d\rho + \frac{\mu(\xi)u_0(1)}{\xi^2 + \eta}, \quad (4.24)$$

$$K_{a,b,c} := \max \left\{ K_a, \frac{b_2}{b_0}, \frac{c_2}{c_0} \right\} < 2, \quad (4.25)$$

and M, M_1 are positive real numbers to be chosen appropriately later.

Lemma 4.3. *Assume a is weakly or strongly degenerate, and (1.2) and (2.8) hold. Let (u, ϕ, z) be a regular solution of the problem (2.4). Then, the functional I_1 in (4.21) satisfies*

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dI_1}{dt} &\leq -2(au_{xx})_x(1)u_x(1) + b(1)u_x^2(1) - c(1)u^2(1) + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2}(bu_x)(1)u(1) \\ &\quad - \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2}(au_{xx})_x(1)u(1) + u_t^2(1) \\ &\quad - \left(3 - \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2}\right) \int_0^1 au_{xx}^2 dx - \left(1 - \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} - \frac{4c_0b_0 + 3c_1c_2}{2c_0b_0}\right) \int_0^1 bu_x^2 dx \\ &\quad - \left(-\frac{c_2}{4c_0} + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2}\right) \int_0^1 cu^2 dx - \left(1 - \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2}\right) \int_0^1 u_t^2 dx \end{aligned} \quad (4.26)$$

where $K_{a,b,c}$ is defined by (4.25).

Proof. By taking the time derivative of (4.21), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dI_1}{dt} &= 2 \int_0^1 xu_{tt}u_x dx + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} \int_0^1 u_{tt}u dx + 2 \int_0^1 xu_tu_{xt} dx + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} \int_0^1 u_t^2 dx \\ &= 2 \underbrace{\int_0^1 \left[-(au_{xx})_{xx} + (bu_x)_x - cu \right] \cdot (xu_x) dx}_{I_{1-1}} \\ &\quad + \underbrace{\frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} \int_0^1 \left[-(au_{xx})_{xx} + (bu_x)_x - cu \right] \cdot u dx}_{I_{1-2}} \\ &\quad + \underbrace{x(u_t^2)_x dx + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} \int_0^1 u_t^2 dx}_{I_{1-3}}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.27)$$

Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned} I_{1-1} &= \left[-2(au_{xx})_x \cdot (xu_x) \right]_0^1 + 2 \int_0^1 (au_{xx})_x (u_x + xu_{xx}) dx + \left[2(bu_x) \cdot (xu_x) \right]_0^1 \\ &\quad - 2 \int_0^1 (bu_x)(u_x + xu_{xx}) dx - \left[xcu^2 \right]_0^1 + \int_0^1 (c + xc')u^2 dx \\ &= -2(au_{xx})_x(1)u_x(1) + b(1)u_x^2(1) - c(1)u^2(1) + \int_0^1 (-3a + xa')u_{xx}^2 dx \\ &\quad + \int_0^1 (-b + xb')u_x^2 dx + \int_0^1 (c + xc')u^2 dx, \end{aligned} \quad (4.28)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
I_{1-2} &= \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} \left[- (au_{xx})_x u \right]_0^1 + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} \int_0^1 (au_{xx})_x u_x dx \\
&\quad + \left[\frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} bu_x u \right]_0^1 - \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} \int_0^1 bu_x^2 dx - \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} \int_0^1 cu^2 dx \\
&= -\frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} \int_0^1 au_{xx}^2 dx - \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} \int_0^1 bu_x^2 dx - \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} \int_0^1 cu^2 dx \\
&\quad + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} (bu_x)(1)u(1) - \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} (au_{xx})_x(1)u(1),
\end{aligned} \tag{4.29}$$

and

$$I_{1-3} = \left[xu_t^2 \right]_0^1 - \int_0^1 u_t^2 dx + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} \int_0^1 u_t^2 dx = \left(\frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} - 1 \right) \int_0^1 u_t^2 dx + u_t^2(1). \tag{4.30}$$

Substituting (4.28), (4.29) and (4.30) into (4.27), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{dI_1}{dt} &= -2(au_{xx})_x(1)u_x(1) + b(1)u_x^2(1) - c(1)u^2(1) + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} (bu_x)(1)u(1) \\
&\quad - \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} (au_{xx})_x(1)u(1) + u_t^2(1) + \int_0^1 \left(-3a + xa' - \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} a \right) u_{xx}^2 dx \\
&\quad + \int_0^1 \left(-b + xb' - \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} b \right) u_x^2 dx + \int_0^1 \left(c + xb' - \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} c \right) u^2 dx \\
&\quad + \int_0^1 \left(\frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} - 1 \right) u_t^2 dx.
\end{aligned} \tag{4.31}$$

Using (2.18), (1.10) and (4.25), we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{dI_1}{dt} &\leq -2(au_{xx})_x(1)u_x(1) + b(1)u_x^2(1) - c(1)u^2(1) + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} (bu_x)(1)u(1) \\
&\quad - \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} (au_{xx})_x(1)u(1) + u_t^2(1) - \left(3 - K_{a,b,c} + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} \right) \int_0^1 au_{xx}^2 dx \\
&\quad - \left(1 - K_{a,b,c} + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} - \frac{4c_0b_0 + 3c_1c_2}{2c_0b_0} \right) \int_0^1 bu_x^2 dx \\
&\quad - \left(-\frac{c_2}{4c_0} + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} \right) \int_0^1 cu^2 dx - \left(1 - \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} \right) \int_0^1 u_t^2 dx
\end{aligned} \tag{4.32}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{c_2}{4c_0} - \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} &\leq \frac{3K_{a,b,c}}{4} \leq 0, \quad -2 + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} \leq 0, \\
-1 + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} + \frac{4c_0b_0 + 3c_1c_2}{2c_0b_0} &\leq 0, \quad -1 + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} \leq 0.
\end{aligned} \quad \square$$

Lemma 4.4. Assume a is weakly or strongly degenerate. Let (u, ϕ, z) be a regular solution of the problem (2.4), then, the functional I_2 in (4.22) satisfies

$$\frac{dI_2}{dt} \leq -I_2 - \frac{C_{s,\delta}}{2s} z^2(1) + \frac{\delta}{2s} z^2(0) \tag{4.33}$$

where $C_{s,\delta}$ is defined by (4.35).

Proof. Differentiating (4.22) with respect to t and using the third equation in (2.4), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dI_2}{dt} &= \frac{\delta}{2} \left[-\frac{2}{s} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\int_0^1 e^{-2s\rho} z z_\rho d\rho \right) \right] \\ &= \frac{\delta}{2} \left[-\frac{1}{s} \left(\int_0^1 e^{-2s\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (z^2) d\rho \right) \right] \\ &= \frac{\delta}{2} \left[-\frac{1}{s} e^{-2s} z^2(1) + \frac{1}{s} z^2(0) + 2 \int_0^1 e^{-2s\rho} (z^2) d\rho \right] \\ &\leq -I_2 - \frac{C_{s,\delta}}{2s} z^2(1) + \frac{\delta}{2s} z^2(0) \end{aligned} \quad (4.34)$$

where

$$C_{s,\delta} := \frac{\delta e^{-2s}}{2s}. \quad (4.35)$$

□

Lemma 4.5. *Assume a is weakly or strongly degenerate. Let (u, ϕ, z) be a regular solution of the problem (2.4). Then, the functional I_3 in (4.23) satisfies*

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dI_3}{dt} &\leq \frac{s^2 r_2}{4\varepsilon_1} \int_0^1 z^2(\rho) d\rho + \frac{r_2 D_\mu}{4\varepsilon_1} u^2(1) + \frac{r_2 D_\mu}{4\varepsilon_1} z^2(1) - \frac{\gamma}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \phi^2(\xi) d\xi \\ &\quad - \left[\gamma - \frac{2r_2 \eta^{\alpha-1} \sin(\pi\alpha) \varepsilon_1}{4D_\mu \pi} - \frac{\sin(\pi\alpha) \varepsilon_1 r_2 \eta^{\alpha-1}}{4\pi} \right] \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta) \phi^2(\xi) d\xi, \end{aligned} \quad (4.36)$$

where ε_1 is a suitable positive constant.

Proof. By taking the time derivative of (4.23), we have

$$\frac{dI_3}{dt} = \frac{\gamma}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta) \left(\int_0^t \phi(x, \xi, \tau) d\tau + F \right) \phi(x, \xi, t) d\xi + \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \phi(\xi) \phi_t(\xi) d\xi. \quad (4.37)$$

Using the second equation in (2.4), we have

$$\int_0^t \phi_t(x, \xi, \tau) d\tau + (\xi^2 + \eta) \int_0^t \phi(x, \xi, \tau) d\tau = \mu(\xi) \int_0^t z(1) d\tau. \quad (4.38)$$

Then, we obtain

$$\int_0^t \phi(x, \xi, \tau) d\tau = \frac{\mu(\xi)}{\xi^2 + \eta} \int_0^t z(1) d\tau - \frac{\phi(x, \xi, t)}{\xi^2 + \eta}. \quad (4.39)$$

Using the third equation in (2.4), we obtain

$$s \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_0^1 z(\rho) d\rho + z(x, 1, t) - z(x, 0, t) = 0, \quad (4.40)$$

$$s \int_0^t \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_0^1 z(\rho) d\rho d\tau = s \left[\int_0^1 z d\rho \right]_0^t = s \int_0^1 z(x, \rho, t) d\rho - s \int_0^1 z(x, \rho, 0) d\rho. \quad (4.41)$$

Observe that

$$\int_0^t z(1) d\tau = s \int_0^1 z d\rho + s \int_0^1 f_0(x, -s\rho) d\rho + u(1, t) - u(1, 0). \quad (4.42)$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_0^t \phi(x, \xi, \tau) d\tau \\ &= -\frac{s\mu(\xi)}{\xi^2 + \eta} \int_0^1 z(\rho) d\rho + \frac{s\mu(\xi)}{\xi^2 + \eta} \int_0^1 f_0(x, -s\rho) d\rho + \frac{s\mu(\xi)u(1)}{\xi^2 + \eta} + \frac{s\mu(\xi)u_0(1)}{\xi^2 + \eta} - \frac{\phi(x, \xi, t)}{\xi^2 + \eta}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.43)$$

Substituting (4.43) into (4.37), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dI_3}{dt} = & -\frac{\gamma}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} s\mu(\xi) \int_0^1 z(\rho)\phi(\xi)d\rho d\xi + \frac{\gamma}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mu(\xi)u(1)\phi(\xi)d\xi \\ & + \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} z(1)\mu(\xi)\phi(\xi)d\xi - \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta)\phi^2(\xi)d\xi - \frac{\gamma}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \phi^2(\xi)d\xi. \end{aligned} \quad (4.44)$$

Now, we will estimate the term on the right side of (4.44). Using the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, Young's inequality, (1.2) and (2.6), the first three items on the right can be written as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\gamma}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} s\mu(\xi) \int_0^1 z(\rho)\phi(\xi)d\rho d\xi \\ & \leq \frac{s^2 r_2}{4\varepsilon_1} \int_0^1 z^2(\rho)d\rho + \frac{\gamma^2 D_\mu \varepsilon_1}{4} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta)\phi^2(\xi)d\xi \\ & = \frac{s^2 r_2}{4\varepsilon_1} \int_0^1 z^2(\rho)d\rho + \frac{\sin(\pi\alpha)\varepsilon_1 r_2 \eta^{\alpha-1}}{4\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta)\phi^2(\xi)d\xi, \end{aligned} \quad (4.45)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\gamma}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mu(\xi)u(1)\phi(\xi)d\xi & \leq \frac{r_2 D_\mu}{4\varepsilon_1} u^2(1) + \frac{\gamma^2 \varepsilon_1}{4r_2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta)\phi^2(\xi)d\xi \\ & \leq \frac{r_2 D_\mu}{4\varepsilon_1} u^2(1) + \frac{r_2 \eta^{\alpha-1} \sin(\pi\alpha)\varepsilon_1}{4D_\mu \pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta)\phi^2(\xi)d\xi, \end{aligned} \quad (4.46)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\gamma}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mu(\xi)z(1)\phi(\xi)d\xi & \leq \frac{r_2 D_\mu}{4\varepsilon_1} z^2(1) + \frac{\gamma^2 \varepsilon_1}{4r_2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta)\phi^2(\xi)d\xi \\ & \leq \frac{r_2 D_\mu}{4\varepsilon_1} z^2(1) + \frac{r_2 \eta^{\alpha-1} \sin(\pi\alpha)\varepsilon_1}{4D_\mu \pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta)\phi^2(\xi)d\xi \end{aligned} \quad (4.47)$$

where γ and D_μ are defined in (2.5) and Lemma 2.2. Then, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dI_3}{dt} \leq & \frac{s^2 r_2}{4\varepsilon_1} \int_0^1 z^2(\rho)d\rho + \frac{r_2 D_\mu}{4\varepsilon_1} u^2(1) + \frac{r_2 D_\mu}{4\varepsilon_1} z^2(1) - \frac{\gamma}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \phi^2(\xi)d\xi \\ & - \left[\gamma - \frac{2r_2 \eta^{\alpha-1} \sin(\pi\alpha)\varepsilon_1}{4D_\mu \pi} - \frac{\sin(\pi\alpha)\varepsilon_1 r_2 \eta^{\alpha-1}}{4\pi} \right] \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta)\phi^2(\xi)d\xi, \end{aligned} \quad (4.48)$$

where $\varepsilon_1 \in (0, \frac{4\pi}{\sin(\alpha\pi)(2-D_\mu)})$. □

Next, we estimate $L(t)$ and $L'(t)$. Before estimating $L(t)$, we present the following lemma.

Lemma 4.6. *Assume a is weakly or strongly degenerate. Let (u, ϕ, z) be a regular solution of the problem (2.4). Then*

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \frac{\gamma}{4} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta) \left[\int_0^t \phi(x, \xi, \tau) + F \right]^2 d\xi \right| \\ & \leq \frac{3\gamma}{4\eta} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \phi^2(\xi)d\xi + \frac{3\gamma}{4} D_\mu u^2(1, t) + \left(\frac{\gamma}{4} + \frac{\gamma}{2} s^2 D_\mu \right) \int_0^1 z^2(\rho)d\rho. \end{aligned} \quad (4.49)$$

Proof. Using the second equation in (2.4), as in (4.43), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \frac{\gamma}{4} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta) \left[\int_0^t \phi(x, \xi, \tau) + F \right] d\xi \right| \\ & \leq \left| \frac{\gamma}{4} \phi(x, \xi, t) + u(1, t)\mu(\xi) - s\mu(\xi) \int_0^1 z(\rho)d\rho \right|. \end{aligned} \quad (4.50)$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left| \frac{\gamma}{4} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta) \left[\int_0^t \phi(x, \xi, \tau) + F \right]^2 d\xi \right| \\
& \leq \frac{\gamma}{4} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\phi^2(\xi)}{\xi^2 + \eta} d\xi + \frac{\gamma}{4} D_\mu u^2(1, t) + \frac{\gamma}{4} s^2 D_\mu \int_0^1 z^2(\rho) d\rho \\
& \quad + \frac{\gamma}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\phi(\xi) \mu(\xi) u(1, t)}{\xi^2 + \eta} \int_0^1 z(\rho) d\rho d\xi \\
& \quad + \frac{\gamma}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\phi(\xi) \mu(\xi) u(1, t)}{\xi^2 + \eta} d\xi + \frac{\gamma}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} s \mu(\xi) \phi(\xi) \frac{\int_0^1 z(\rho) d\rho}{\xi^2 + \eta} d\xi.
\end{aligned} \tag{4.51}$$

Using Cauchy-Schwarz, Young's, Cauchy-Schwarz, Höder's inequality and the fact that $\frac{1}{\xi^2 + \eta} \leq \frac{1}{\eta}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left| \frac{\gamma}{4} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta) \left[\int_0^t \phi(x, \xi, \tau) + F \right]^2 d\xi \right| \\
& \leq \frac{\gamma}{4\eta} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \phi^2(\xi) d\xi + \frac{\gamma}{4} D_\mu u^2(1, t) + \frac{\gamma}{4} s^2 D_\mu \int_0^1 z^2(\rho) d\rho + \frac{\gamma}{4} D_\mu u^2(1, t) + \frac{\gamma}{4} \int_0^1 z^2(\rho) d\rho \\
& \quad + \frac{\gamma}{4} D_\mu u^2(1, t) + \frac{\gamma}{4\eta} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \phi^2(\xi) d\xi + \frac{\gamma s^2 D_\mu}{4} \int_0^1 z^2(\rho) d\rho + \frac{\gamma}{4\eta} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \phi^2(\xi) d\xi.
\end{aligned} \tag{4.52}$$

By organizing the above inequalities, we obtain (4.49). $\square$

Lemma 4.7. Assume that a is weakly or strongly degenerate. For $M > 0$ large enough, there exist two positive constants l_1 and l_2 such that

$$l_1 E(t) \leq L(t) \leq l_2 E(t), \quad \forall t > 0, \tag{4.53}$$

where

$$l_1 := M - C_{a,b,c}, \quad l_2 := M + C_{a,b,c}. \tag{4.54}$$

Proof. Recalling the definition (4.20) of $L(t)$ and setting

$$G(t) := I_1 + M_1 I_2 + I_3, \tag{4.55}$$

where I_1, I_2, I_3 are given in (4.21)-(4.23), and M_1 is a suitable constant defined in (4.67). From (4.21), (4.22) and (4.23), using Young's inequality and Poincaré inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
|G(t)| & \leq \left| \int_0^1 u_t \left(2xu_x + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} u \right) dx \right| + \left| \frac{\delta}{2} \int_0^1 e^{-2s\rho} z^2(\rho) d\rho \right| \\
& \quad + \left| \frac{\gamma}{4} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta) \left[\int_0^t \phi(x, \xi, \tau) + F \right]^2 d\xi + \frac{\gamma}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \phi^2(x, \xi, t) d\xi \right| \\
& \leq \left(1 + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{4} \right) \|u_t\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2 + \frac{1}{b_0} \|\sqrt{b}u_x\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2 + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{4c_0} \|\sqrt{c}u\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2 + \frac{\delta}{2} \int_0^1 z^2(\rho) d\rho \\
& \quad + \left| \frac{\gamma}{4} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta) \left[\int_0^t \phi(x, \xi, \tau) + F \right]^2 d\xi + \frac{\gamma}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \phi^2(x, \xi, t) d\xi \right|.
\end{aligned} \tag{4.56}$$

Then, by using Lemma 4.6, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& |G(t)| \\
& \leq \left(1 + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{4} \right) \|u_t\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2 + \frac{1}{b_0} \|\sqrt{b}u_x\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2 + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{4c_0} \|\sqrt{c}u\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2 + \frac{\delta}{2} \int_0^1 z^2(\rho) d\rho \\
& \quad + \frac{3\gamma}{4\eta} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \phi^2(\xi) d\xi + \frac{3\gamma}{4} D_\mu u^2(1, t) + \left(\frac{\gamma}{4} + \frac{\gamma}{2} s^2 D_\mu \right) \int_0^1 z^2(\rho) d\rho + \frac{\gamma}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \phi^2(x, \xi, t) d\xi \\
& \leq C_{a,b,c} E(t)
\end{aligned} \tag{4.57}$$

where $C_{a,b,c} := \max\{2 + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2}, \frac{2}{b_0}, \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2c_0}, 1 + \frac{3\gamma}{2\eta}, 1 + \frac{\gamma(1+2s^2D_\mu)}{2\delta}\}$. Therefore,

$$|L(t) - ME(t)| \leq C_{a,b,c}E(t) \quad (4.58)$$

So, we can choose M large enough such that $l_1 := M - C_{a,b,c} > 0$ and $l_2 := M + C_{a,b,c} > 0$. Then, we deduce the desired result. $\square$

Based on the previous lemma, we give the following proposition, which is crucial for our main result.

Proposition 4.8. *Assume that a is weakly or strongly degenerate. Let (u, ϕ, z) be a regular solution of problem (2.4), for $M > 0$ large enough. Then*

$$\frac{dL(t)}{dt} \leq -2C_1E(t) + C_2(u^2(1) + u_x^2(1)) \quad (4.59)$$

where C_1, C_2 are defined in (4.63), (4.64), and M satisfies (4.68).

Proof. Combining Lemmas 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & -(au_{xx})_x(1)u_x(1) \\ &= \left[-(bu_x)(1) - r_1u_t(1) - \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mu(\xi)\phi(\xi)d\xi \right] u_x(1) \\ &\leq -\frac{1}{2}b(1)u_x^2(1) + \frac{r_1^2}{2b(1)}u_t^2(1) + \frac{r_2D_\mu}{\varepsilon_2} + \frac{r_2\eta^{\alpha-1}\sin(\alpha\pi)\varepsilon_2}{4D_\mu\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta)\phi^2(\xi)d\xi \end{aligned} \quad (4.60)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & [-(au_{xx})_x(1) + (bu_x)(1)] \left(\frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2}u(1) + u_x(1) \right) \\ &= -\gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mu(\xi)\phi(\xi)d\xi \left(\frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2}u(1) + u_x(1) \right) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2}b(1)u_x^2(1) + \frac{r_1^2}{2b(1)}u_t^2(1) + \frac{b(1)K_{a,b,c}}{2\varepsilon_2}u^2(1) + \frac{r_1^2\varepsilon_2}{2b(1)}u_t^2(1) + \frac{K_{a,b,c}D_\mu}{4\varepsilon_2}u^2(1) \\ &\quad + \frac{K_{a,b,c}\gamma^2\varepsilon_2}{4} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta)\phi^2(\xi)d\xi + \frac{1}{\varepsilon_2}b(1)u_x^2(1) + \frac{D_\mu\gamma^2\varepsilon_2}{4b(1)} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta)\phi^2(\xi)d\xi \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{\varepsilon_2} \right) b(1)u_x^2(1) + \frac{b(1)K_{a,b,c}}{2\varepsilon_2}u^2(1) + \frac{r_1^2\varepsilon_2}{2b(1)}u_t^2(1) \\ &\quad + \frac{K_{a,b,c}D_\mu}{4\varepsilon_2}u^2(1) + \left(\frac{K_{a,b,c}r_2\eta^{\alpha-1}\gamma\varepsilon_2}{4} + \frac{r_2\eta^{\alpha-1}\gamma\varepsilon_2}{4b(1)} \right) \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta)\phi^2(\xi)d\xi. \end{aligned} \quad (4.61)$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dL(t)}{dt} &\leq -2C_1E(t) + C_2(u^2(1) + u_x^2(1)) + \left(\frac{\delta M_1}{2s} + \frac{r_1^2(1 + \varepsilon_1)}{2b(1)} \right) z^2(0) \\ &\quad + \left(\frac{C_{s,\delta}}{2s} + \frac{r_2D_\mu}{4\varepsilon_1} \right) z^2(1) \\ &\quad - \left[\gamma - \frac{\eta^{\alpha-1}r_2\sin(\alpha\pi)(2 + K_{a,b,c})(\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2)}{4\max\{1, D_\mu, b(1)\}\pi} \right] \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta)\phi^2(\xi)d\xi \\ &\leq -2C_1E(t) + C_2(u^2(1) + u_x^2(1)) - \left(MC_e - \frac{\delta M_1}{2s} - \frac{r_1^2(1 + \varepsilon_1)}{2b(1)} \right) z^2(0) \\ &\quad - \left(MC_e - \frac{C_{s,\delta}}{2s} - \frac{r_2D_\mu}{4\varepsilon_1} \right) z^2(1), \end{aligned} \quad (4.62)$$

where

$$C_1 := \min \left\{ 3 - \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2}, 1 - \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2} - \frac{4c_0b_0 + 3c_2c_1}{4c_0b_0}, -\frac{c_2}{4c_0} + \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2}, 1 - \frac{K_{a,b,c}}{2}, 1, M_1 - \frac{s^2r_2}{2\varepsilon_1\delta} \right\}, \quad (4.63)$$

$$C_2 := \max \left\{ \frac{r_2 D_\mu}{4\varepsilon_1} + \frac{b(1)K_{a,b,c}}{2\varepsilon_2} + \frac{K_{a,b,c}D_\mu}{4\varepsilon_2}, \frac{b(1)}{\varepsilon_2} \right\}, \quad (4.64)$$

$$\max \left\{ \frac{s^2 r_2}{2\delta M_1}, \frac{r_2 D_\mu}{4(MC_e - \frac{C_{s,\delta}}{2s})} \right\} \leq \varepsilon_1 \leq \min \left\{ \frac{4\pi}{\sin(\alpha\pi)(2 - D_\mu)}, \frac{4 \max\{1, D_\mu, b(1)\}}{\eta^{\alpha-1}(2 + K_{a,b,c})} - \varepsilon_2, \frac{(MC_e - \frac{C_{s,\delta}}{2s})2b(1) - r_1^2}{r_1^2} \right\}, \quad (4.65)$$

$$\varepsilon_2 \leq \frac{4 \max\{1, D_\mu, b(1)\}}{\eta^{\alpha-1}(2 + K_{a,b,c})}, \quad (4.66)$$

$$\frac{s^2 r_2}{2\varepsilon_1 \delta} \leq M_1 \leq \frac{2sMC_e}{\delta}. \quad (4.67)$$

where $C_e, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2$ and M_1 are given in Lemma 2.4, (4.65), (4.66) and (4.67). We choose M large enough such that

$$MC_e - \frac{\delta M_1}{2s} > 0, \quad MC_e - \frac{C_{s,\delta}}{2s} > 0. \quad (4.68)$$

Then, we obtain (4.59). $\square$

Based on Proposition 4.8, we have the following lemma.

Lemma 4.9. *Assume that a is weakly or strongly degenerate. Let (u, ϕ, z) be a regular solution of the problem (2.4), for any $r \in (0, T)$, then*

$$2C_1 \int_r^T E(t)dt \leq L(r) - L(T) + C_2 \int_r^T (u^2(1) + u_x^2(1))dt \quad (4.69)$$

where C_1 and C_2 are defined in (4.63) and (4.64), respectively.

Proof. Using Proposition 4.8, and integrating (4.59) over (r, T) , we obtain the estimate (4.69). $\square$

Next, we estimate $u^2(1) + u_x^2(1)$.

Lemma 4.10. *Assume a weakly or strongly degenerate. Let (u, ϕ, z) be a regular solution of the problem (2.4). Then*

$$\int_r^T (u^2(1) + u_x^2(1))dt \leq C_3 \left[\varepsilon_4 \int_r^T E(t)dt + C_{b_0}(E(r) + E(T)) + C_{\delta, b_0}(E(r) - E(T)) \right], \quad (4.70)$$

where C_{b_0} , C_{δ, b_0} and C_3 are defined by (4.81), (4.82) and (4.83).

Proof. Multiplying the first equation in (2.4) by y and the first equation in (4.5) by u , then integrating over $(r, T) \times (0, 1)$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \int_r^T \int_0^1 [u_{tt} + (au_{xx})_{xx} - (bu_x)_x + cu]y \, dx \, dt \\ &= \left[\int_0^1 u_t y \, dx \right]_r^T + \int_r^T [(au_{xx})_x(1) - (bu_x)(1)]y(1) \, dt - \int_r^T \int_0^1 u_t y_t \, dx \, dt \\ &\quad + \int_r^T \int_0^1 au_{xx} y_{xx} \, dx \, dt + \int_r^T \int_0^1 bu_x y_x \, dx \, dt + \int_r^T \int_0^1 cu y \, dx \, dt \end{aligned} \quad (4.71)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \int_r^T \int_0^1 [(ay_{xx})_{xx} - (by_x)_x + cy]u \, dx \, dt \\ &= \int_r^T \int_0^1 ay_{xx} u_{xx} \, dx \, dt + \int_r^T \int_0^1 by_x u_x \, dx \, dt + \int_r^T \int_0^1 cu y \, dx \, dt \\ &\quad + \int_r^T \left((by_x)(1) - (ay_{xx})_x(1) \right) u(1) \, dt - \int_r^T (ay_{xx})(1) u_x(1) \, dt. \end{aligned} \quad (4.72)$$

Let $\lambda_1 = u(1)$, $\lambda_2 = u_x(1)$, and using the boundary condition (2.4)₄₋₆ and (4.5)₂₋₃, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_r^T \int_0^1 u_t y_t dt - \left[\int_0^1 u_t y dx \right]_r^T \\ &= \int_r^T \left(r_1 u_t(1, t) + \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mu(\xi) \phi(\xi) d\xi \right) y(1) dt + \int_r^T (u^2(1) + u_x^2(1)) dt. \end{aligned} \quad (4.73)$$

Integrating (2.13) over (r, T) , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} E(T) - E(r) &= \int_r^T -r_1 u_t^2(1) dt \\ &\quad - \int_r^T \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mu(\xi) \phi(\xi) d\xi u_t(1) dt - \int_r^T \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta) |\phi(\xi)|^2 d\xi dt \\ &\quad + \int_r^T \gamma z(1) \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mu(\xi) \phi(\xi) d\xi dt - \int_r^T \frac{\delta}{2s} [z^2(1) + z^2(0)] dt, \end{aligned} \quad (4.74)$$

where $z(x, 0, t) = u_t(1, t)$. Using Cauchy-Schwarz and Young's inequality, combining (1.2), (2.6), (2.8) and (4.74), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_r^T (u^2(1) + u_x^2(2)) dt \leq \int_r^T \int_0^1 u_t y_t dx dt - \left[\int_0^1 u_t y dx \right]_r^T + \frac{r_1 D_\mu}{\varepsilon_3} \int_r^T u_t^2(1) dt + \frac{r_1 \varepsilon_3}{4} \int_r^T y^2(1) dt \\ &+ \frac{\gamma}{2} \int_r^T \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta) \phi^2(\xi) d\xi dt + \frac{\gamma D_\mu}{2} \int_r^T y^2(1) dt \\ &= E(r) - E(T) - \int_r^T \gamma \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mu(\xi) \phi(\xi) d\xi u_t(1) dt + \int_r^T \gamma z(x, 1, t) \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mu(\xi) \phi(\xi) d\xi dt \\ &\quad - \int_r^T \frac{\delta}{2s} [z^2(1) + z^2(0)] dt + \frac{r_1 \varepsilon_3}{4} \int_r^T y^2(1) dt + \frac{\gamma D_\mu}{2} \int_r^T y^2(1) dt \\ &\quad - \frac{\gamma}{2} \int_r^T \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (\xi^2 + \eta) \phi^2(\xi) d\xi dt + \left(\frac{r_1 D_\mu}{\varepsilon_3} - r_1 \right) \int_r^T z^2(0) dt + \int_r^T \int_0^1 u_t y_t dx dt - \left[\int_0^1 u_t y dx \right]_r^T \\ &\leq \int_r^T \int_0^1 u_t y_t dx dt - \left[\int_0^1 u_t y dx \right]_r^T + \left(\frac{r_1 D_\mu}{\varepsilon_3} - r_1 \right) \int_r^T z^2(0) dt + \left(\frac{r_1 \varepsilon_3}{4} + \frac{\gamma D_\mu}{2} \right) \int_r^T y^2(1) dt \\ &\quad + E(r) - E(T) + \gamma D_\mu \int_r^T z^2(0) dt + \gamma D_\mu \int_r^T z^2(1) dt - \int_r^T \frac{\delta}{2s} [z^2(1) + z^2(0)] dt \\ &\leq \int_r^T \int_0^1 u_t y_t dx dt - \left[\int_0^1 u_t y dx \right]_r^T + \left(\frac{r_1 D_\mu}{\varepsilon_3} - r_1 \right) \int_r^T z^2(0) dt + \left(\frac{r_1 \varepsilon_3}{4} + \frac{r_1}{2} \right) \int_r^T y^2(1) dt \\ &\quad + E(r) - E(T) + r_1 \int_r^T z^2(0) dt + r_1 \int_r^T z^2(1) dt - \int_r^T \frac{\delta}{2s} [z^2(1) + z^2(0)] dt \\ &\leq \int_r^T \int_0^1 u_t y_t dx dt - \left[\int_0^1 u_t y dx \right]_r^T + E(r) - E(T) + \left(\frac{r_1 \varepsilon_3}{4} + \frac{r_1}{2} \right) \int_r^T y^2(1) dt \\ &\quad + \left(-\frac{\delta}{2s} + r_1 \right) \int_r^T z^2(1) dt + \left(-\frac{\delta}{2s} + \frac{r_1 D_\mu}{\varepsilon_3} \right) \int_r^T z^2(0) dt \\ &\leq \int_r^T \int_0^1 u_t y_t dx dt - \left[\int_0^1 u_t y dx \right]_r^T + E(r) - E(T) + \left(\frac{r_1 \varepsilon_3}{4} + \frac{r_1}{2} \right) \int_r^T y^2(1) dt \\ &\quad + \max \left\{ -\frac{\delta}{2s} + r_1, -\frac{\delta}{2s} + \frac{r_1 D_\mu}{\varepsilon_3} \right\} \int_r^T (z^2(1) + z^2(0)) dt, \end{aligned}$$

where $\varepsilon_3 \leq \frac{2sr_1 D_\mu}{\delta}$. Using Lemma 2.4, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int_r^T (u^2(1) + u_x^2(2)) dt \\
 & \leq \int_r^T \int_0^1 u_t y_t dx dt - \left[\int_0^1 u_t y dx \right]_r^T + E(r) - E(T) + \left(\frac{r_1 \varepsilon_3}{4} + \frac{r_1}{2} \right) \int_r^T y^2(1) dt \\
 & \quad + \max \left\{ -\frac{\delta}{2s} + r_1, -\frac{\delta}{2s} + \frac{r_1 D_\mu}{\varepsilon_3} \right\} \int_r^T -\frac{1}{C_e} \frac{dE(T)}{dt} dt \\
 & \leq \int_r^T \int_0^1 u_t y_t dt - \left[\int_0^1 u_t y dx \right]_r^T + E(r) - E(T) + \left(\frac{r_1 \varepsilon_3}{4} + \frac{r_1}{2} \right) \int_r^T y^2(1) dt \\
 & \quad + \frac{\max \left\{ -\frac{\delta}{2s} + r_1, -\frac{\delta}{2s} + \frac{r_1 D_\mu}{\varepsilon_3} \right\}}{C_e} (E(r) - E(T)).
 \end{aligned} \tag{4.75}$$

Now, we estimate the term $\int_r^T \int_0^1 u_t y_t dx dt$. Differentiating (4.5) with respect to t yields

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{A}_a y &:= (a(y_t)_{xx})_{xx} - (b(y_t)_x)_x + cy_t = 0, \\
 b(y_t)_x(1) - (a(y_t)_{xx})_x(1) &= \lambda_1, \\
 a(1)(y_t)_{xx}(1) &= \lambda_2.
 \end{aligned} \tag{4.76}$$

Then, y_t satisfies the conditions of Proposition 4.1, so

$$\|y_t\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2 \leq \frac{1}{b_0} \|y\|^2 \leq \frac{2}{b_0} \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, 2 \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, \frac{1}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\} \right\} \int_r^T (u^2(1) + u_x^2(2)) dt. \tag{4.77}$$

where the norm $\cdot$ is given in (4.1). Thus, for $\varepsilon_4 > 0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_r^T \int_0^1 u_t y_t dx dt & \leq \frac{\varepsilon_4}{2} \int_r^T \int_0^1 u_t^2 dx dt + \frac{1}{2\varepsilon_4} \int_r^T \int_0^1 y_t^2 dx dt \\
 & \leq \varepsilon_4 \int_r^T E(t) dt + \frac{\max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, 2 \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, \frac{1}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\} \right\}}{b_0 \varepsilon_4} \int_r^T (u^2(1) + u_x^2(2)) dt \\
 & \leq \varepsilon_4 \int_r^T E(t) dt + \frac{\max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, 2 \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, \frac{1}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\} \right\}}{C_e b_0 \varepsilon_4} (E(r) - E(T)).
 \end{aligned} \tag{4.78}$$

Combining Proposition 2.5 and (4.77), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left[\int_0^1 u_t y dx \right]_r^T & \leq \max \left\{ 1, \frac{2}{b_0} \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, 2 \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, \frac{1}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\} \right\} \right\} \\
 & \quad \times \max \left\{ \frac{3}{b_0}, \frac{2}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\} (E(r) + E(T)).
 \end{aligned} \tag{4.79}$$

By a similar process, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left(\frac{r_1 \varepsilon_3}{4} + \frac{r_1}{2} \right) \int_r^T y^2(1) dt \\
 & \leq \frac{2}{b_0} \left(\frac{r_1 \varepsilon_3}{4} + \frac{r_1}{2} \right) \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, 2 \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, \frac{1}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\} \right\} \\
 & \quad \times \max \left\{ \frac{3}{b_0}, \frac{2}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\} \int_r^T (u^2(1) + u_x^2(1)) dt.
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, (4.75) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int_r^T (u^2(1) + u_x^2(2)) dt \\
 & \leq \varepsilon_4 \int_r^T E(t) dt + \max \left\{ 1, \frac{2}{b_0} \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, 2 \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, \frac{1}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\} \right\} \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \times \max \left\{ \frac{3}{b_0}, \frac{2}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\} \} (E(r) + E(T)) \\
& + \frac{2}{b_0} \left(\frac{r_1 \varepsilon_3}{4} + \frac{r_1}{2} \right) \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, 2 \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, \frac{1}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\} \right\} \\
& \times \max \left\{ \frac{3}{b_0}, \frac{2}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\} \int_r^T (u^2(1) + u_x^2(1)) dt \\
& + \left(1 + \frac{\max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, 2 \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, \frac{1}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\} \right\}}{C_e b_0 \varepsilon_4} + \frac{\max \left\{ -\frac{\delta}{2s} + r_1, \frac{\delta}{2s} - \varepsilon_3 D_\mu \right\}}{C_e} \right) (E(r) - E(T)).
\end{aligned}$$

Recalling (1.2) and choosing

$$\begin{aligned}
\varepsilon_3 \leq \min & \left\{ \frac{2sr_1 D_\mu}{\delta}, \frac{2b_0}{r_1} \left(\max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, 2 \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, \frac{1}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\} \right\} \right. \right. \\
& \left. \left. \times \max \left\{ \frac{3}{b_0}, \frac{2}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\} \right)^{-1} - 2 \right\},
\end{aligned} \quad (4.80)$$

$$C_{b_0} := \max \left\{ 1, \frac{2}{b_0} \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, 2 \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, \frac{1}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\} \right\} \max \left\{ \frac{3}{b_0}, \frac{2}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\} \right\}, \quad (4.81)$$

$$C_{\delta, b_0} := \left(1 + \frac{\max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, 2 \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, \frac{1}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\} \right\}}{C_e b_0 \varepsilon_4} + \frac{\max \left\{ -\frac{\delta}{2s} + r_1, \frac{\delta}{2s} - \varepsilon_3 D_\mu \right\}}{C_e} \right), \quad (4.82)$$

$$C_3 := \left[1 - \frac{2}{b_0} \left(\frac{r_1 \varepsilon_3}{4} + \frac{r_1}{2} \right) \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, 2 \max \left\{ \frac{1}{b_0}, \frac{1}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\} \right\} \max \left\{ \frac{3}{b_0}, \frac{2}{a(1)(2-K_a)} \right\} \right]^{-1}, \quad (4.83)$$

we obtain the desired estimate (4.70). $\square$

Theorem 4.11. Assume a is weakly or strongly degenerate. Let (u, ϕ, z) be a regular solution of the problem (2.4), we have

$$E(t) \leq e^{1-\frac{t}{N}} E(0), \quad \forall t \in [N, +\infty), \quad (4.84)$$

where $N > 0$ is given by (4.88).

Proof. Using Proposition 4.8, Lemma 4.9 and Lemma 4.10, we have

$$(2C_1 - \varepsilon_4 C_3) \int_r^T E(t) dt \leq L(r) - L(T) + C_2 C_3 C_{b_0} (E(r) + E(T)) + C_2 C_3 C_{\delta, b_0} (E(r) - E(T)) \quad (4.85)$$

By choosing $\varepsilon_4 \in (0, \frac{2C_1}{C_3})$, we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_r^T E(t) dt & \leq (2C_1 - \varepsilon_4 C_3)^{-1} [L(r) - L(T) + C_2 C_3 C_{b_0} (E(r) + E(T)) \\
& + C_2 C_3 C_{\delta, b_0} (E(r) - E(T))].
\end{aligned} \quad (4.86)$$

Combining this with (4.53), we have $l_1 E(r) - l_2 E(T) \leq L(r) - L(T) \leq l_2 E(r) - l_1 E(T)$. Then

$$\int_r^T E(t) dt \leq (2C_1 - \varepsilon_4 C_3)^{-1} (l_2 + C_2 C_3 C_{b_0} + 2C_2 C_3 C_{\delta, b_0}) E(r), \quad (4.87)$$

where

$$N := (2C_1 - \varepsilon_4 C_3)^{-1} (l_2 + C_2 C_3 C_{b_0} + 2C_2 C_3 C_{\delta, b_0}), \quad (4.88)$$

and N is related to M_1, α, a, b, c . $\square$

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