

A GENERALIZATION OF THE KALMAN RANK CONDITION FOR TIME-DEPENDENT COUPLED LINEAR PARABOLIC SYSTEMS

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Abstract. In this paper we present a generalization of the Kalman rank condition for linear ordinary differential systems to the case of systems of n coupled parabolic equations (posed in the time interval $(0, T)$ with $T > 0$) where the coupling matrices A and B depend on the time variable t . To be precise, we will prove that the Kalman rank condition $\text{rank } [A|B](t_0) = n$, with $t_0 \in [0, T]$, is a sufficient condition (but not necessary) for obtaining the exact controllability to the trajectories of the considered parabolic system. In the case of analytic matrices A and B (and, in particular, constant matrices), we will see that the Kalman rank condition characterizes the controllability properties of the system. When the matrices A and B are constant and condition $\text{rank } [A|B] = n$ holds, we will be able to state a Carleman inequality for the corresponding adjoint problem.

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