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Inverse Parameter Identification for a Diffusion Equation with Ventcel Boundary Conditions

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Authors:

Mohamed Aiman RBAH ^{1,2}
Lekbir AFRAITES ¹
Fabien CAUBET ²
Aissam HADRI ³
Charles PIERRE ²

¹ FST Béni-Mellal, Béni-Mellal,
Morocco

² Université de Pau et des Pays
de l'Adour, Pau, France

³ Faculté Polydisciplinaire de
Ouarzazate, Ouarzazate,
Morocco

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Abstract

In this work, we investigate an inverse problem for elliptic equations with Ventcel boundary conditions, where two unknown parameters we aim to identify appear on the boundary, which are generalized impedance operators involving tangential derivatives. We formulate the inverse parameter identification problem in a regularized least-square optimization problem. We adopt a functional framework in nonstandard Sobolev spaces to accommodate the higher-order boundary operator in order to ensure the well-posedness of the forward problem. We establish the existence of minimizers for the optimization problem, derive continuity and differentiability of the parameter-to-observation map, and obtain explicit adjoint-based gradient expressions enabling efficient gradient-based optimization. Moreover, we prove conditional strict convexity of the cost functional for sufficiently large regularization and one fixed parameter, which ensures uniqueness of the identified solution. We introduce a modified Morozov discrepancy principle to select the regularization level in the presence of noisy data. We conclude by some numerical simulations which prove accurate and stable reconstructions for constant and spatially varying parameters under noise-free and noisy measurements.

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