On the controllability of sub-elliptic systems of Grushin type

Roman Vanlaere 1

¹CEREMADE, Université Paris-Dauphine PSL, Paris, France

Workshop on PDEs and Control 2025 (PKM-60)

3-5 September, 2025

The system of interest

Let T > 0.

$$\begin{cases}
\partial_t f - \Delta_x f - |x|^{2\gamma} \Delta_y f + \frac{\nu^2 - H}{|x|^2} f &= 0, & (t, x, y) \in (0, T) \times \Omega, \\
f(t, x, y) &= 0, & (t, x, y) \in (0, T) \times \partial \Omega, \\
f(0, x, y) &= f_0(x, y), & (x, y) \in \Omega,
\end{cases}$$
(1)

where

- $\Omega = \Omega_x \times \Omega_y$, with $0_{\mathbb{R}^{d_x}} \in \Omega_x \subset \mathbb{R}^{d_x}$, and Ω_y is a compact Riemannian manifold of dimension d_v , with metric σ and volume form $dvol_{\sigma}$,
- Δ_{ν} is the Laplace-Beltrami operator on Ω_{ν} ,
- $f_0 \in L^2(\Omega, dx \operatorname{dvol}_{\sigma})$,
- $\gamma \geq 1$ and $\nu > 0$,
- H is the Hardy constant that depends on the geometric setting for Ω_{\times} (i.e. best constant such that),

$$H\int_{\Omega_x} \frac{|u|^2}{|x|^2} dx \le \int_{\Omega_x} |\nabla_x u|^2 dx, \quad \text{for every } u \in H^1_0(\Omega_x). \tag{2}$$

Workshop on PDEs and Control 2025 (PKM-60) 3 Roman Vanlaere (CEREMADE, Université Paris-DauOn the controllability of sub-elliptic systems of Grushir 1/33

The system of interest

Let T > 0,

$$\begin{cases}
\partial_t f - \Delta_x f - |x|^{2\gamma} \Delta_y f + \frac{\nu^2 - H}{|x|^2} f &= 0, & (t, x, y) \in (0, T) \times \Omega, \\
f(t, x, y) &= 0, & (t, x, y) \in (0, T) \times \partial \Omega, \\
f(0, x, y) &= f_0(x, y), & (x, y) \in \Omega.
\end{cases} (3)$$

Definition

We say that system (3) is observable in time T>0 from $\omega\subset\Omega$ if there exists a constant C>0 such that, for every $f_0\in L^2(\Omega, dx\operatorname{dvol}_\sigma)$, the associated solution f of system (3) satisfies

$$\int_{\Omega} |f(T,x,y)|^2 dx \operatorname{dvol}_{\sigma} \leq C \int_{0}^{T} \int_{\omega} |f(t,x,y)|^2 dx \operatorname{dvol}_{\sigma} dt. \tag{4}$$

 \iff null-controllability: for every $f_0 \in L^2(\Omega)$, there exists $u \in L^2((0,T) \times \Omega)$ such that the solution of $\left(\partial_t - \Delta_x - |x|^{2\gamma} \Delta_y + \frac{\nu^2 - H}{|x|^2}\right) f = \mathbf{1}_\omega u$ satisfies f(T) = 0.

Workshop on PDEs and Control 2025 (PKM-60) 3

Roman Vanlaere (CEREMADE, Université Paris-DauOn the controllability of sub-elliptic systems of Grushir 2/33

Outline of the talk

- Motivations
- 2 Known results and presented results
- Sketch of proofs
- Comparison with the non-singular Grushin equation
- Comments and applications to manifolds

Table of Contents

- Motivations
- 2 Known results and presented results

Motivation: a general subelliptic system

- M is a (smooth, connected, oriented) compact n-dimensional manifold.
- $X = (X_1, ..., X_m)$ is an *m*-tuple of vector fields on \mathcal{M} , not necessarily linearly independent.
- Denoting $D^1 = \operatorname{Span}(X)$, $D^{k+1} = D^k + [D, D^{k-1}]$, there exists k such that $D^k(p) = T_n \mathcal{M}$.
- μ is a smooth measure on \mathcal{M} .
- \bullet Δ is the associated sub-Laplacian

$$\Delta = \sum_{i=1}^{m} X_i^* X_i, \tag{5}$$

where X_i^* is the formal adjoint of X_i in $L^2(\mathcal{M}, \mu)$.

We are motivated by the study of the observability properties of

$$\begin{cases}
\partial_t f - \Delta f &= 0, & (t, p) \in (0, T) \times \mathcal{M}, \\
f(t, p) &= 0, & (t, p) \in (0, T) \times \partial \mathcal{M}, & \text{if } \partial \mathcal{M} \neq \emptyset, \\
f(0, p) &= f_0(p), & p \in \mathcal{M},
\end{cases} (6)$$

when $D^1(p) \neq T_p \mathcal{M}$ for some $p \in \mathcal{M}$.

Motivation: Grushin as a toy model

- $\Omega = (0, L) \times \Omega_y$, for some L > 0 and Ω_y is a compact Riemannian manifold.
- On Ω , we consider the (sub-Riemannian) metric $dx^2 + x^{-2\gamma}\sigma$, where σ is a Riemannian metric on Ω_{ν} .

The associated Laplace-Beltrami (sub-Laplacian for the measure taken as the Popp's measure associated to the metric) operator is given by

$$\Delta_{\gamma} = -\partial_{x}^{2} - x^{2\gamma} \Delta_{y} + \frac{\gamma d_{y}}{x} \partial_{x} f, \tag{7}$$

where Δ_y is the Laplace-Beltrami on Ω_y , and Δ_γ acts on $L^2(\Omega, x^{-\gamma d_y} dx \operatorname{dvol}_\sigma)$. The change of variable $f = x^{\gamma d_y/2} g$ leads to

$$G_{\gamma}g = -\partial_{x}^{2}g - x^{2\gamma}\Delta_{y}g + \frac{\gamma d_{y}}{2}\left(\frac{\gamma d_{y}}{2} + 1\right)\frac{g}{x^{2}},$$
(8)

that acts on $L^2(\Omega, dx \operatorname{dvol}_{\sigma})$.

Our system generalizes the dimension in x, and the considerations for the singular term.

Table of Contents

- Motivations
- 2 Known results and presented results
- Sketch of proofs
- 4 Comparison with the non-singular Grushin equation
- 5 Comments and applications to manifolds

Some known results of observability for $\gamma=1$

$$\begin{cases}
 \partial_{t}f - \Delta_{x}f - |x|^{2}\Delta_{y}f + \frac{\nu^{2} - H}{|x|^{2}}f & = 0, & (t, x, y) \in (0, T) \times \Omega, \\
 f(t, x, y) & = 0, & (t, x, y) \in (0, T) \times \partial\Omega, \\
 f(0, x, y) & = f_{0}(x, y), & (x, y) \in \Omega.
\end{cases} (9)$$

Theorem (P. Cannarsa - R. Guglielmi, 2014)

Consider system (9) with $\Omega = (0,1) \times (0,1)$, and H = 1/4 is the Hardy constant.

For every $\nu > 0$, for every $\omega = (a,b) \times (0,1)$, $0 < a < b \le 1$, there exists a time $T^* > 0$ such that system (9) is observable from ω in any time $T > T^*$.

Theorem (CT. Anh - VM. Toi, 2016)

Consider system (9) with $\Omega = \Omega_x \times \Omega_y \subset \mathbb{R}^{d_x} \times \mathbb{R}^{d_y}$ a bounded domain such that $d_x \geq 3$, $d_y \geq 1$, $0_{\mathbb{R}^{d_x}} \in \Omega_x$, and $H = (d_x - 2)^2/4$ is the Hardy constant.

For every $\nu > 0$, for every $\omega = \omega_x \times \Omega_y$ such that $0_{\mathbb{R}^{d_x}} \notin \omega_x$, there exists a time $T^* > 0$ such that system (9) is observable from ω in any time $T > T^*$.

A unique continuation result

Set $\Omega = (-1,1) \times (0,1)$. Let T > 0,

$$\begin{cases}
\partial_{t}f - \partial_{x}^{2}f - x^{2\gamma}\partial_{y}^{2}f + \frac{\nu^{2} - 1/4}{x^{2}}f &= 0, & (t, x, y) \in (0, T) \times \Omega, \\
f(t, x, y) &= 0, & (t, x, y) \in (0, T) \times \partial\Omega, \\
f(0, x, y) &= f_{0}(x, y), & (x, y) \in \Omega.
\end{cases} (10)$$

NB: particular choice of domain for $-\partial_x^2 - x^{2\gamma}\partial_y^2 + \frac{\nu^2 - 1/4}{x^2}$ (transmission conditions across $\{x = 0\}$).

Theorem (M. Morancey, 2015)

Consider system (10) with $\omega \subset \Omega$ and $\nu \in (0,1)$. If the solution f of (10) with $f_0 \in L^2(\Omega)$ vanishes on $\omega \times (0,T)$, then $f_0 = 0$.

Our results

Recall our system of interest,

$$\begin{cases} \partial_{t}f - \Delta_{x}f - |x|^{2\gamma}\Delta_{y}f + \frac{\nu^{2} - H}{|x|^{2}}f & = 0, & (t, x, y) \in (0, T) \times \Omega, \\ f(t, x, y) & = 0, & (t, x, y) \in (0, T) \times \partial\Omega, & (11) \\ f(0, x, y) & = f_{0}(x, y), & (x, y) \in \Omega. \end{cases}$$

We assume that

(H₁) if
$$d_x=1$$
, then $\Omega_x=(0,L)$ for some $L>0$,

(H₂) if
$$d_x \ge 3$$
, then $0 \in \Omega_x$.

We denote by $T(\omega)$ the minimal time observability from ω .



Our results

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \partial_t f - \Delta_x f - |x|^{2\gamma} \Delta_y f + \frac{\nu^2 - \mathsf{H}}{|x|^2} f & = & 0, \\ \text{Dirichlet boundary conditions,} & (\mathsf{H}_1) \text{ if } d_x = 1, \text{ then } \Omega_x = (0, L), \\ f_0 \in L^2(\Omega). & (\mathsf{H}_2) \text{ if } d_x \geq 3, \text{ then } 0 \in \Omega_x. \end{array} \right.$$

Theorem (V., 2025)

Let $\gamma=1.$ For every u>0 and $\omega=\omega_{\mathsf{x}} imes\Omega_{\mathsf{y}}\subset\Omega$ an open set,

$$T(\omega) = \frac{\mathsf{dist}(\omega_{\mathsf{x}}, 0)^2}{4(1+\nu)}.\tag{12}$$

Theorem (V., 2025)

Let $\gamma>1$. For every $\nu>0$ and $\omega\subset\Omega$ an open set such that $0\notin\overline{\omega}$,

$$T(\omega) = +\infty. \tag{13}$$

Table of Contents

- 2 Known results and presented results
- Sketch of proofs

Sketch of proofs: Fourier decomposition

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t f - \Delta_x f - |x|^{2\gamma} \Delta_y f + \frac{\nu^2 - H}{|x|^2} f &= 0, \qquad (t, x, y) \in (0, T) \times \Omega, \\ f(t, x, y) &= 0, \qquad (t, x, y) \in (0, T) \times \partial \Omega, \\ f(0, x, y) &= f_0(x, y), \quad (x, y) \in \Omega. \end{cases}$$

Fourier decomposition in
$$y$$
, $f(t, x, y) = \sum_{n \ge 1} f_n(t, x) \phi_n(y)$

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t f_n - \Delta_x f_n + \xi_n^2 |x|^{2\gamma} f_n + \frac{\nu^2 - \mathsf{H}}{|x|^2} f_n &=& 0, & (t, x) \in (0, T) \times \Omega_x, \\ f_n(t, x) &=& 0, & (t, x) \in (0, T) \times \partial \Omega_x, \\ f_n(0, x) &=& f_{0,n}(x, y), & x \in \Omega_x. \end{cases}$$

Sketch of proofs: uniform observability

Let T>0, and $\omega=\omega_x\times\Omega_y$. There exists C>0 such that for every $f_0\in L^2(\Omega)$, the associated solution satisfies

$$\int_{\Omega} |f(T,x,y)|^2 dx \operatorname{dvol}_{\sigma} \le C \int_{0}^{T} \int_{\omega} |f(t,x,y)|^2 dx \operatorname{dvol}_{\sigma} dt.$$
 (14)

 \uparrow Fourier decomposition in y

Let T>0. There exists C>0 such that for every $n\geq 1$, for every $f_{0,n}\in L^2(\Omega_x)$, the associated solution satisfies

$$\int_{\Omega_{n}} |f_{n}(T,x)|^{2} dx \le C \int_{0}^{T} \int_{\Omega_{n}} |f(t,x)|^{2} dx dt.$$
 (15)

We therefore study the uniform observability.

Sketch of proofs: uniform observability

Study of the existence of a uniform cost C > 0 of observability with respect to n,

$$\int_{\Omega_{\nu}} |f_n(T,x)|^2 \ dx \leq C \int_0^T \int_{\omega_{\nu}} |f_n(t,x)|^2 \ dx \ dt,$$

for the solutions of

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t f_n - \Delta_x f_n + \xi_n^2 |x|^{2\gamma} f_n + \frac{\nu^2 - H}{|x|^2} f_n &=& 0, & (t, x) \in (0, T) \times \Omega_x, \\ f_n(t, x) &=& 0, & (t, x) \in (0, T) \times \partial \Omega_x, \\ f_n(0, x) &=& f_{0,n}(x, y), & x \in \Omega_x. \end{cases}$$

Sketch of proofs: uniform observability for $\gamma=1$

We use an interplay between the cost of small time observability and dissipation speed, for large n.

Let $T_0 > 0$, there exists C, d > 0 such that

$$\int_{\Omega_x} |f_n(T_0,x)|^2 \ dx \le C e^{d\xi_n} \int_0^{T_0} \int_{\omega_x} |f_n(t,x)|^2 \ dx \ dt.$$

Let $T > T_0 > 0$, the dissipation speed is

$$\int_{\Omega_x} |f_n(T,x)|^2 \ dx \le e^{-4\xi_n(1+\nu)(T-T_0)} \int_{\Omega_x} |f_n(T_0,x)|^2 \ dx.$$

The dissipation speed beats the cost of small time observability as long as

$$T\geq \frac{d}{4(1+\nu)}+T_0.$$

The constant d depends on ω_x and arbitrary small parameters, and we assume first that $0 \notin \omega_x$. The case $0 \in \omega_x$ then follows as a limit-case.

Sketch of proofs: observability via Carleman estimates

Carleman estimates for solutions of

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t f - \Delta_x f + \xi^2 |x|^{2\gamma} f + \frac{\nu^2 - \mathsf{H}}{|x|^2} f &=& \mathsf{F}, & (t,x) \in (0,T) \times \Omega_x, \\ f(t,x) &=& 0, & (t,x) \in (0,T) \times \partial \Omega_x, \\ f(0,x) &=& f_0(x,y), & x \in \Omega_x. \end{cases}$$

We observe that the Carleman weight of [K. Beauchard - J. Dardé - S. Ervedoza '20] in the non-singular case is well suited for our operator

$$\varphi_{\xi}(t,x) = \frac{\xi}{2}(L^2 - |x|^2) \coth(2\xi t), \quad \text{where } L = \sup\{|x|, \ x \in \Omega_x\}.$$

Two reasons:

- Inspired from the heat kernel of the non-singular operator on the real line, which
 resembles very much the one of the singular operator on the half-line (both show
 roughly the same dynamic).
- (ii) Spatial part of the weight is well-suited to deal with inverse square potentials for the heat equation (see e.g. [S. Ervedoza '08])

Sketch of proofs: observability via Carleman estimates

$$\begin{cases}
\partial_{t}f - \Delta_{x}f + \xi^{2}|x|^{2\gamma}f + \frac{\nu^{2} - H}{|x|^{2}}f &= F, & (t,x) \in (0,T) \times \Omega_{x}, \\
f(t,x) &= 0, & (t,x) \in (0,T) \times \partial \Omega_{x}, \\
f(0,x) &= f_{0}(x,y), & x \in \Omega_{x}.
\end{cases}$$
(16)

$$\varphi_{\xi}(t,x) = \frac{\xi}{2} (L^2 - |x|^2) \coth(2\xi t), \quad \text{where } L = \sup\{|x|, \ x \in \Omega_x\}.$$
 (17)

Proposition (Boundary Carleman estimate)

Let φ_{ξ} be defined by (17). For any solution f of system (16), the function $g=fe^{-\varphi_{\xi}}$ satisfies

$$\int_{\Omega_{x}} |\nabla_{x} g(T, x)|^{2} - \frac{\xi^{2} L^{2}}{\sinh(2\xi t)^{2}} |g(T, x)|^{2} + \frac{\nu^{2} - H_{d_{x}}}{|x|^{2}} |g(T, x)|^{2} dx$$

$$\leq \int_{0}^{T} \int_{\Omega_{x}} |F|^{2} e^{-2\varphi_{\xi}} dx dt + \xi L \int_{0}^{T} \frac{\sinh(4\xi t)}{\sinh(2\xi t)^{2}} \int_{\Gamma_{x}} |\nabla_{x} g \cdot \eta|^{2} dS dt, (18)$$

where $\Gamma_+ = \{x \in \partial \Omega_x, x \cdot \eta > 0\}$, and η is the normal outward pointing unit vector at the boundary.

Workshop on PDEs and Control 2025 (PKM-60) 3 Roman Vanlaere (CEREMADE, Université Paris-DauOn the controllability of sub-elliptic systems of Grushir 18/33

Sketch of proofs: observability via Carleman estimates

Proposition (Internal observability)

Let $x_0 \in \Omega_x \setminus \{0\}$. For any $\epsilon, \epsilon' > 0$ such that $0 \notin B(x_0, \epsilon) \subset\subset \Omega_x$, there exists C > 0, $\xi_0 > 0$, such that for every $\xi \geq \xi_0$, for every u_ξ solution of system (16) with $f_\xi = 0$, we have

$$\int_{\Omega_{x}} |u_{\xi}(T,x)|^{2} dx \leq C\xi^{2} e^{\xi(1+\epsilon')M} \int_{0}^{T} \int_{B(x_{0},\epsilon)} |u_{\xi}(t,x)|^{2} dx dt,$$
 (19)

where $M := \max\{|x|^2, x \in B(x_0, \epsilon)\}.$

Sketch of proofs: non-observability

We assume that $0 \notin \omega_x$. We use an interplay between exponential decay of eigenfunctions and dissipation speed.

Denote by u_{ε} the first eigenfunction of

$$-\Delta_{\mathsf{x}}f + \xi^{2}|\mathsf{x}|^{2\gamma}f + \frac{\nu^{2} - \mathsf{H}}{|\mathsf{x}|^{2}}f = \lambda_{\xi}u_{\xi}.$$

For any $\delta>0$ sufficiently small, and $\xi>0$ sufficiently large,

$$\int_{\omega_x} u_\xi(x)^2 \ dx \leq C e^{-d(\delta)\xi(1-\delta)}, \quad d(\delta) \underset{\delta \to 0^+}{\longrightarrow} \operatorname{dist}(\omega_x,0)^2.$$

Let T > 0, the dissipation speed for $u_{\varepsilon}(t, \cdot)$ is

$$\int_{\Omega_x} \left|u_\xi(T,x)\right|^2 \ dx \geq \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} e^{(-4\xi(1+\nu)+o(\xi))T} \int_{\Omega_x} \left|u_\xi(x)\right|^2 \ dx & \text{if } \gamma=1, \\ \\ e^{-2c\xi^{2/(\gamma+1)}T} \int_{\Omega_x} \left|u_\xi(x)\right|^2 \ dx & \text{for some } c>0 \text{ if } \gamma\geq 1. \end{array} \right.$$

Workshop on PDEs and Control 2025 (PKM-60) 3

Roman Vanlaere (CEREMADE, Université Paris-DauOn the controllability of sub-elliptic systems of Grushir 20 / 33

Sketch of proofs: non-observability

$$\int_{\omega_x} u_\xi(x)^2 \ dx \le C e^{-2d(\delta)\xi(1-\delta)}, \quad d(\delta) \underset{\delta \to 0^+}{\longrightarrow} \operatorname{dist}(\omega_x, 0)^2. \tag{ED}$$

$$\int_{\Omega_x} \left| u_\xi(T,x) \right|^2 \, dx \geq \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} e^{(-4\xi(1+\nu)+o(\xi))T} \int_{\Omega_x} \left| u_\xi(x) \right|^2 \, dx & \text{ if } \gamma = 1, \\ \\ e^{-2c\xi^2/(\gamma+1)\,T} \int_{\Omega_x} \left| u_\xi(x) \right|^2 \, dx & \text{ for some } c > 0 \text{ if } \gamma \geq 1. \end{array} \right. \tag{DS}$$

We test the uniform observability against $e^{-\lambda_{\xi}t}u_{\xi}$:

$$e^{-2\lambda_{\xi}T} \le C \int_{\omega_{x}} |u_{\xi}(x)|^{2} dx.$$
 (20)

When $\gamma=1$, in (20), the dissipation speed cannot beat the exponential decay as $\xi \to +\infty$ if

$$T \leq (1-\delta) \frac{d(\delta)}{4(1+\nu)}.$$

When $\gamma>1$, the exponential decay is stronger than the dissipation as $\xi\to+\infty$, in any time. So (20) never holds.

Table of Contents

- 2 Known results and presented results
- Comparison with the non-singular Grushin equation

Comparison with the non-singular Grushin equation ($\nu^2 = H$, $\gamma = 1$)

$$\begin{cases}
\partial_t f - \Delta_x f - |x|^2 \Delta_y f &= 0, & (t, x, y) \in (0, T) \times \Omega, \\
f(t, x, y) &= 0, & (t, x, y) \in (0, T) \times \partial \Omega, \\
f(0, x, y) &= f_0(x, y), & (x, y) \in \Omega.
\end{cases}$$
(21)

Theorem (K. Beauchard - J. Dardé - S. Ervedoza, 2020)

(i) In the case $\Omega_x = (-L_-, L_+)$ for some $L_-, L_+ > 0$, the minimal of time (boundary) observability of system (21) is

observability of system (21) is
$$T\left((\{-L_-\}\cup\{L_+\})\times\Omega_y\right)=\min\left(\frac{L_-^2}{2},\frac{L_+^2}{2}\right).$$

(ii) In the case $\Omega_X = B(0,L) \subset \mathbb{R}^{d_X}$, the minimal of time (boundary) observability of system (21) is

$$T\left(\partial\Omega_{x}\times\Omega_{y}\right)=\frac{L^{2}}{2d_{x}}.\tag{23}$$

(22)

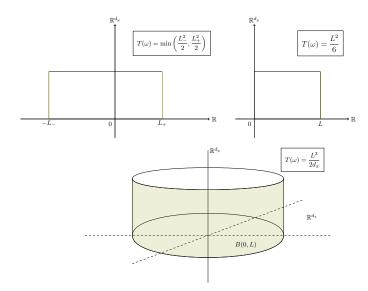
(iii) In the case $\Omega_x = (0, L)$ for some L > 0, the minimal of time (boundary) observability of system (21) is

$$T(\{L\} \times \Omega_{y}) = \frac{L^{2}}{\epsilon}.$$
 (24)

Workshop on PDEs and Control 2025 (PKM-60)

Roman Vanlaere (CEREMADE, Université Paris-DauOn the controllability of sub-elliptic systems of Grushir 23 / 33

Comparison with the non-singular Grushin equation ($\nu^2 = H$)



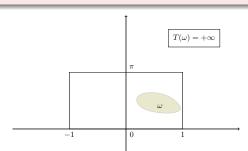
Comparison with the non-singular Grushin equation $(u^2 = H, \ \gamma > 1)$

Set
$$\Omega=(-1,1)\times(0,\pi)$$
. Let $T>0$,

$$\begin{cases}
\partial_{t}f - \Delta_{x}f - x^{2\gamma}\Delta_{y}f &= 0, & (t, x, y) \in (0, T) \times \Omega, \\
f(t, x, y) &= 0, & (t, x, y) \in (0, T) \times \partial\Omega, \\
f(0, x, y) &= f_{0}(x, y), & (x, y) \in \Omega,
\end{cases}$$
(25)

Theorem (K. Beauchard - P. Cannarsa - R. Guglielmi (2012)

Let $\gamma > 1$. For every $\omega \subset \Omega$ such that $(\{0\} \times (0,\pi)) \cap \overline{\omega} = \emptyset$, system (25) is never observable, i.e. $T(\omega) = +\infty$.



Workshop on PDEs and Control 2025 (PKM-60) 3

Roman Vanlaere (CEREMADE, Université Paris-DauOn the controllability of sub-elliptic systems of Grushin 25/33

Table of Contents

- 2 Known results and presented results

- 6 Comments and applications to manifolds

The previous non-singular equations correspond to the sub-Laplacian associated to $X_i=\partial_{x_i},\ Y_j=|x|^\gamma\partial_{y_i}$, and the Lebesgue measure. Namely,

$$-\partial_x^2 f - |x|^{2\gamma} \Delta_y f$$

The Laplace-Beltrami operator ($d_x=1$ and $d_y\geq 1$) will correspond to our singular operator with $\nu^2=(\gamma d_y+1)^2/4$. Namely,

$$-\partial_x^2 f - |x|^{2\gamma} \Delta_y f + \frac{\gamma d_y}{2} \left(\frac{\gamma d_y}{2} + 1 \right) \frac{f}{x^2}.$$

When $\gamma = 1$, the minimal time of observability depends on,

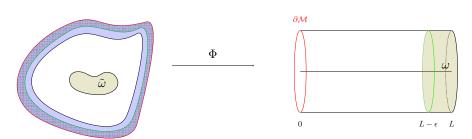
- in the non-singular case \rightarrow dependence on d_x but not on d_y ,
- in the singular case \to dependence on $\nu > 0$ but not (explicitly) on d_x , and if $d_x = 1$ and $\nu^2 = (\gamma d_y + 1)^2/4$, we have dependence on d_y since

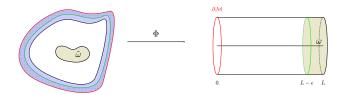
$$T(\omega) = \frac{\operatorname{dist}(\omega_x, 0)^2}{4(1+\nu)} = \frac{\operatorname{dist}(\omega_x, 0)^2}{6+2d}.$$

We can infer a result on compact (n+1)-dimensional manifolds. Let T > 0,

$$\begin{cases}
\partial_t f - \Delta f &= 0, & (t, p) \in (0, T) \times \mathcal{M}, \\
f(t, p) &= 0, & (t, p) \in (0, T) \times \partial \mathcal{M}, & \text{if } \partial \mathcal{M} \neq \emptyset, \\
f(0, p) &= f_0(p), & p \in \mathcal{M}.
\end{cases} (26)$$

We use a reduction process





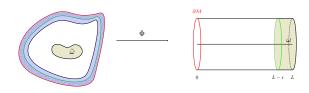
Under suitable assumptions, the blue neighborhood $\mathcal U$ of the boundary $\partial \mathcal M$ in red can be constructed to be diffeomorphic to $[0,L) \times \partial \mathcal M$, and such that in coordinates, the metric is of the form

$$dx^2 + x^{-\gamma}\sigma(x)$$
.

where $\sigma(x)$ is a family of smooth Riemannian metrics on $\partial \mathcal{M}$ that depends continuously on x.

We assume that $\sigma(x)=\sigma$ in $\mathcal U$, so that in coordinates we recover (a particular case of) our singular Grushin operator,

$$-\partial_x^2 - |x|^{2\gamma} \Delta_y + \frac{\gamma d_y}{2} \left(\frac{\gamma d_y}{2} + 1 \right) \frac{\mathrm{Id}}{x^2}. \tag{27}$$



In \mathcal{U} (in blue), the metric is $dx^2 + x^{-\gamma}\sigma$

Theorem (V., 2025)

Under some some suitable geometric assumptions, we have the following lower bounds if $\overline{\omega}\cap\partial\mathcal{M}=\emptyset$.

(i) If $\gamma=1$, there exists L>0 such that the (possibly infinite) minimal time of observability satisfies

$$T(\omega) \ge \frac{L^2}{6+2n}.\tag{28}$$

(ii) If $\gamma > 1$, we have $T(\omega) = +\infty$.

Theorem (V., 2025)

Under some suitable geometric assumptions, we have the following lower bounds if $\overline{\omega}\cap\partial\mathcal{M}=\emptyset$.

(i) If $\gamma = 1$, there exists L > 0 such that the (possibly infinite) minimal time of

$$T(\omega) \geq \frac{L^2}{6+2n}$$
.

(ii) If $\gamma > 1$, we have $T(\omega) = +\infty$.

observability satisfies

The lower bound $\frac{L^2}{6+2n}$ is sharp for some well-chosen ω .

If one asks the measure μ on $\mathcal M$ to write in $\mathcal U$ like $\mu=d{\sf x}\,{\sf dvol}_\sigma$, then the lower bound becomes

$$T(\omega) \geq \frac{L^2}{6}$$

which is also sharp for some well-chosen ω .

Workshop on PDEs and Control 2025 (PKM-60) 3

(29)

Thank you for your attention!

Some references

- Piermarco Cannarsa, Roberto Guglielmi. "Null controllability in large time for the parabolic Grushin operator with singular potential". In: Springer (2014)
- Cung The Anh and Vu Manh Toi. "Null controllability in large time of a parabolic equation involving the Grushin operator with an inverse-square potential". In: Nonlinear Differential Equations and Applications (2016)
- Karine Beauchard, Piermarco Cannarsa, and Roberto Guglielmi. "Null controllability of Grushin-type operators in dimension two". In: Journal of the European Mathematical Society 16.1 (2014)
- Karine Beauchard, Jérémi Dardé, and Sylvain Ervedoza. "Minimal time issues for the observability of Grushin-type equations". In: Annales de l'Institut Fourier 70.1 (2020)
- Morgan Morancey. "Approximate controllability for a 2D Grushin equation with potential having an internal singularity". In: Annales de l'Institut Fourier (2015)
- Sylvain Ervedoza. "Control and stabilization properties for a singular heat equation with an inverse-square potential". In: Communications in Partial Differential Equations (2008)
- V. "Observability properties of the singular Grushin equation" (2025) (soon on arXiv)