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# Pullback attractor for $N$ -dimensional thermoelastic coupled structure equations

Danxia Wang<sup>1\*</sup> and Yinzhu Wang<sup>2</sup>

\*Correspondence:

danxia.wang@163.com

<sup>1</sup>Department of Mathematics,  
Taiyuan University of Technology,  
Taiyuan, 030024, P.R. China  
Full list of author information is  
available at the end of the article

## Abstract

In this paper, proving the pullback asymptotic compactness of processes by the aid of a contractive function in space  $X_0$ , we prove the existence of a pullback attractor for  $N$ -dimensional nonautonomous thermoelastic coupled structure equations

$$u_{tt} + \alpha \Delta^2 u - \left[ \beta + \sigma \left( \int_{\Omega} (\nabla u)^2 dx \right) \right] \Delta u + \gamma \Delta \theta + g(u) + \eta u_t = h(x, t),$$

in  $\Omega \times [\tau, \infty)$ ,

$$\theta_t - \Delta \theta - \gamma \Delta u_t = q(x, t) \quad \text{in } \Omega \times [\tau, \infty),$$

with the lateral load distribution function  $h(x, t)$  and the external heat supply function  $q(x, t)$  unnecessarily bounded. The nonlinear source term  $g(u)$  is essentially  $k_1(u + \frac{|u|^{\rho-1} u}{\rho+1})$  ( $k_1 > 0$ ) with  $1 < \rho \leq \frac{N}{N-2}$  if  $N \geq 3$  and  $1 < \rho < \infty$  if  $N = 1, 2$ .

**Keywords:** pullback attractor; pullback asymptotically compact; contractive function; thermoelastic coupled structure equations

## 1 Introduction

In this paper, we consider the pullback asymptotic behavior of the following nonautonomous thermoelastic coupled structure equations:

$$u_{tt} + \alpha \Delta^2 u - \left[ \beta + \sigma \left( \int_{\Omega} (\nabla u)^2 dx \right) \right] \Delta u + \gamma \Delta \theta + g(u) + \eta u_t = h(x, t) \quad \text{in } \Omega \times [\tau, \infty), \quad (1.1)$$

$$\theta_t - \Delta \theta - \gamma \Delta u_t = q(x, t) \quad \text{in } \Omega \times [\tau, \infty), \quad (1.2)$$

in a bounded domain  $\Omega \subset R^N$  with smooth boundary. Here  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \eta$  are all positive constants, which arise from a model of the nonlinear thermoelastic coupled vibration structure with clamped ends for simultaneously considering the medium damping, the viscous effect, and the nonlinear constitutive relation and thermoelasticity based on a theory of non-Fourier heat flux. The system is supplemented with the boundary conditions

$$u(x, t)|_{\partial\Omega} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu}(x, t)|_{\partial\Omega} = 0, \quad \theta(x, t)|_{\partial\Omega} = 0, \quad t \geq \tau, \quad (1.3)$$

for every  $t > 0$ , and the initial conditions

$$u(x, \tau) = u_0(x), \quad u_t(x, \tau) = v_0(x), \quad \theta(x, \tau) = \theta_0(x), \quad x \in \Omega, \quad (1.4)$$

where  $u_0(x)$ ,  $v_0(x)$  and  $\theta_0(x)$  are assigned initial value functions.

Here the unknown variables  $u(x, t)$  and  $\theta(x, t)$  represent the vertical deflection of the structure and vertical component of the temperature gradient, respectively. The subscript  $t$  denotes the derivative with respect to  $t$ ,  $\sigma(\cdot)$  is the nonlinearity of the material and continuous nonnegative nonlinear real function,  $g(u)$  is the source term,  $h(x, t)$  is the lateral load distribution, and  $q(x, t)$  is the external heat supply. Moreover, the source term  $g(u)$  is essentially  $k_1(u + \frac{|u|^{\rho-1}u}{\rho+1})$  ( $k_1 > 0$ ) with  $1 < \rho \leq \frac{N}{N-2}$  if  $N \geq 3$  and  $1 < \rho < \infty$  if  $N = 1, 2$ . Assumptions on nonlinear functions  $\sigma(\cdot)$ ,  $g(\cdot)$  and the external force function  $h(x, t)$ ,  $q(x, t)$  will be specified later.

It is well known the global attractor on autonomous thermoelastic coupled structure equations has been considered in many papers. We refer the reader to [1–4] and the references therein.

However, in the actual life, the real systems are mostly nonautonomous. Recently, the nonautonomous infinite-dimensional dynamical system attracted attention of many people. For example, Chepyzhov and Vishik [5] firstly extended the notion of global attractor in the autonomous case to the nonautonomous case, which led to the concept of a uniform attractor. But the uniform attractor [6] was not applicable to nonautonomous systems with possibly unbounded trajectories as time increases to infinity (see [7–12]). To handle such problems, some new concepts and theories were brought up for nonautonomous case, and thus the pullback attractors were developed in [13–17], and they are a useful tool in understanding the dynamics of nonautonomous dynamical systems.

In this paper, we use the concept of pullback asymptotic compactness given in [7], and we prove the pullback asymptotic compactness by the method in [14] for nonautonomous system (1.1)-(1.4). Our fundamental assumptions on  $\sigma(\cdot)$ ,  $g(\cdot)$ ,  $h(x, t)$ , and  $q(x, t)$  are given as follows.

**Assumption 1** *We assume that  $\sigma(\cdot) \in C^1(R)$  satisfy*

$$\sigma(z)z \geq \hat{\sigma}(z) \geq 0, \quad \forall z \geq 0, \quad (1.5)$$

where  $\hat{\sigma}(z) = \int_0^z \sigma(z) dz$ . This condition is promptly satisfied if  $\sigma(\cdot)$  is nondecreasing with  $\sigma(0) = 0$ .

**Assumption 2** *The nonlinear term  $g(\cdot)$  is a  $C^1(R, R)$  function satisfying the following assumptions:*

(H<sub>1</sub>) *There exists a constant  $k_2$  such that*

$$|g(u) - g(v)| \leq k_2|u - v|(1 + |u|^{\rho-1} + |v|^{\rho-1}). \quad (1.6)$$

(H<sub>2</sub>) *If  $\hat{g}(s)$  is the primitive of  $g(s)$ , that is,  $\hat{g}(s) = \int_0^s g(\tau) d\tau$ , then*

$$\liminf_{|s| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\hat{g}(s)}{s^2} \geq 0, \quad (1.7)$$

and there exists a constant  $k_3$  such that

$$|\hat{g}(u) - \hat{g}(v)| \leq k_3(u + v + |u|^\rho + |v|^\rho)|u - v|, \quad \forall u, v \in R. \quad (1.8)$$

(H<sub>3</sub>) There exists a constant  $C_0 \geq 1$  such that

$$\liminf_{|s| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{sg(s) - C_0\hat{g}(s)}{s^2} \geq 0. \quad (1.9)$$

**Assumption 3** Functions  $h(x, t)$  and  $q(x, t)$  for  $t \in R, x \in \Omega$  are locally square integrable in time, that is,  $h(x, t), q(x, t) \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(R, L^2(\Omega))$ , and for any  $t \in R$ ,

$$\int_{-\infty}^t e^{\delta s} \|h(x, s)\|^2 ds < \infty \quad (1.10)$$

and

$$\int_{-\infty}^t e^{\delta s} \|q(x, s)\|^2 ds < \infty, \quad (1.11)$$

where  $\delta > 0$  is a small real number, which will be characterized later.

Under these assumptions, we prove the existence of a pullback attractor for nonautonomous thermoelastic coupled structure equation system (1.1)-(1.4).

## 2 Preliminaries

We first introduce the following abbreviations:

$$H = L^2(\Omega), \quad \|\cdot\| = \|\cdot\|_{L^2(\Omega)}.$$

Let  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  denote the  $H$ -inner product, and let  $\|\nabla \cdot\|$  and  $\|\Delta \cdot\|$  be the norms of  $H_0^1(\Omega)$  and  $H_0^2(\Omega)$ , respectively.

We denote the space

$$X_0 = H_0^2(\Omega) \times L^2(\Omega) \times L^2(\Omega)$$

equipped with the norm

$$\|\cdot\|_{X_0}^2 = \|\Delta u\|^2 + \|v\|^2 + \|\theta\|^2.$$

The sign  $H_1 \hookrightarrow \hookrightarrow H_2$  denotes compact embedding of  $H_1$  into  $H_2$ . For brevity, we use the same letter  $C$  to denote different positive constants.

## 3 Abstract results

In this section, we recall some definitions and results concerning the pullback attractor for nonautonomous dynamical systems. These definitions and results can be found in [11–15] and the references therein.

Let  $(X_0, d)$  be a complete metric space, and let  $(Q, \rho)$  be a metric space which is called the parameter space. We define a nonautonomous dynamical system by a cocycle mapping

$\Phi : R_+ \times Q \times X_0 \rightarrow X_0$ , which is driven by an autonomous dynamical system  $\theta$  acting on a parameter space  $Q$ . Specifically,  $\theta = \{\theta_t\}_{t \in R}$  is a dynamical system on  $Q$ , that is, it is a group of homeomorphisms under composition on  $Q$  with the properties that:

- (1)  $\theta_0(q) = q$  for all  $q \in Q$ ;
- (2)  $\theta_{t+\tau}(q) = \theta_t(\theta_\tau(q))$  for all  $t, \tau \in R$ ;
- (3) The mapping  $(t, q) \rightarrow \theta_t(q)$  is continuous.

**Definition 3.1** ([13–18]) A mapping  $\Phi$  is said to be a cocycle on  $X_0$  with respect to group  $\theta$  if

- (1)  $\Phi(0, q, x) = x$  for all  $(q, x) \in Q \times X_0$ ;
- (2)  $\Phi(t+s, q, x) = \Phi(s, \theta_t(q), \Phi(t, q, x))$  for all  $s, t \in R_+$  and all  $(q, x) \in Q \times X_0$ ;
- (3) the mapping  $\Phi(t, q, \cdot) : X_0 \rightarrow X_0$  is continuous for all  $(t, q) \in R^+ \times Q$ .

**Definition 3.2** ([13–18]) A family of nonempty compact sets  $A = \{A_q\}_{q \in Q}$  is said to be a pullback (or cocycle) attractor if, for each  $q \in Q$ , it satisfies

- (1)  $\Phi(t, q, A_q) = A_{\theta_t(q)}$  for all  $t \in R^+$  ( $\Phi$ -invariance);
- (2)  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \text{dist}(\Phi(t, \theta_{-t}(q), B), A_q) = 0$  for any bounded subset  $B \subset X$  (pullback attracting).

**Definition 3.3** ([13–18]) A family  $D = \{D_q\}_{q \in Q} \in K$  is said to be pullback absorbing if for each  $q \in Q$  and any bounded subset  $B$  of  $X_0$ , there exists  $t_0(q, B) \geq 0$  such that

$$\Phi(t, \theta_{-t}(q), B_{\theta_{-t}(q)}) \subset D_q \quad \text{for all } t \geq t_0. \quad (3.1)$$

**Definition 3.4** ([13]) Let  $(\theta, \Phi)$  be a nonautonomous dynamical system on  $Q \times X_0$ , and let  $D = \{D_q\}_{q \in Q}$  be a family of bounded subsets of  $X_0$ . The cocycle  $\Phi$  is said to be pullback  $D$ -asymptotically compact if for any sequences  $t_n \rightarrow \infty$  and  $x_n \in D_{\theta_{-t_n}(q)}$ , the sequence  $\Phi(t_n, \theta_{-t_n}(q), x_n)$  is precompact in  $X_0$ .

**Lemma 3.1** ([17]) Let  $(\theta, \Phi)$  be a nonautonomous dynamical system on  $Q \times X_0$ . Assume that the family  $D = \{D_q\}_{q \in Q}$  is pullback absorbing for  $\Phi$  and  $\Phi$  is pullback  $D$ -asymptotically compact. Then  $\Phi$  possesses attractor  $A = \{A_q\}_{q \in Q}$ , and

$$A_q = \overline{\bigcap_{t \geq 0} \bigcup_{s \geq t} \Phi(s, \theta_{-s}(q), D_{\theta_{-s}(q)})}, \quad q \in Q.$$

For this matter, first we give the following concept and lemma.

**Definition 3.5** ([17]) Let  $X_0$  be a Banach space, and let  $B$  be a bounded subset of  $X_0$ . We call a function  $\phi(\cdot, \cdot)$  defined on  $X_0 \times X_0$  a contractive function on  $B \times B$  if for any sequence  $\{x_n\}_{n \in N} \subset B$ , there exists a subsequence  $\{x_{n_k}\}_{k \in N} \subset \{x_n\}_{n \in N}$  such that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{l \rightarrow \infty} \phi(x_{n_k}, x_{n_l}) = 0. \quad (3.2)$$

**Lemma 3.2** ([17]) Let  $(\theta, \Phi)$  be a nonautonomous dynamical system on  $Q \times X_0$ . Suppose that bounded families  $D = \{D_q\}_{q \in Q}$  and  $\tilde{D} = \{\tilde{D}_q\}_{q \in Q}$  are such that, for any  $q \in Q$ , there

exists  $t_q = t(q, D, \tilde{D}) \geq 0$  such that

$$\Phi(t, \theta_{-t}(q), D_{\theta_{-t}(q)}) \subset \tilde{D}_q \quad \text{for all } t \geq t_q. \quad (3.3)$$

Assume that, for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $q \in Q$ , there exist  $t = t(\varepsilon, \tilde{D}, q) \geq 0$  and a contractive function  $\phi_{t,q}(\cdot, \cdot)$  defined on  $\tilde{D}_{\theta_{-t}(q)} \times \tilde{D}_{\theta_{-t}(q)}$  such that

$$\|\Phi(t, \theta_{-t}(q), x) - \Phi(t, \theta_{-t}(q), y)\|_{X_0} \leq \varepsilon + \phi_{t,q}(x, y) \quad \text{for all } x, y \in \tilde{D}_{\theta_{-t}(q)},$$

where  $\phi_{t,q}$  depends on  $t, q$ . Then  $\Phi$  is pullback  $D$ -asymptotically compact in  $X_0$ .

#### 4 Global solutions and pullback attracting set

Using the classical Galerkin method, we can establish our main theorem of this section on the existence and uniqueness of a global solution to problem (1.1)-(1.4).

**Theorem 4.1** Assume that  $h(x, t), q(x, t) \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(R, L^2(\Omega))$  and that assumptions (H<sub>1</sub>)-(H<sub>3</sub>) on the function  $g(\cdot)$  hold. Then for any  $(u_0, v_0, \theta_0) \in X_0$ , problem (1.1)-(1.4) has a unique solution  $(u, u_t, \theta)$  satisfying  $(u, u_t, \theta) \in C^0(R_\tau; X_0)$ , where  $R_\tau = [\tau, \infty)$ .

For simplicity, we write  $y(r) = (u(r), \partial_r u(r), \theta(r)) = (u(r), v(r), \theta(r))$ ,  $y_0 = (u_0, v_0, \theta_0)$ . We denote by  $X_0$  the space of vector functions  $y(r) = (u(r), v(r), \theta(r))$  with the norm  $\|y\|_{X_0}^2 = \|\Delta u\|^2 + \|v\|^2 + \|\theta\|^2$ .

We can construct the nonautonomous dynamical system generated by problem (1.1)-(1.4) in  $X_0$ . We consider  $Q = R$  and  $\theta_t \tau = \tau + t$ . Then we define

$$\Phi(t, \tau, y_0) = y(t + \tau; \tau, y_0) = (u(t + \tau), v(t + \tau), \theta(t + \tau)), \quad \tau \in R, t \geq 0, y_0 \in X_0. \quad (4.1)$$

The uniqueness of a solution to problem (1.1)-(1.4) implies that

$$\Phi(t + s, \tau, y_0) = \Phi(t, s + \tau, \Phi(s, \tau, y_0)), \quad \tau \in R, t, s \geq 0, y_0 \in X_0,$$

and, for all  $\tau \in R, t \geq 0$ , the mapping  $\Phi(t, \tau, \cdot) : X_0 \rightarrow X_0$  defined by (4.1) is continuous. Consequently, for any  $(t, \tau) \in R^+ \times R$ , the mapping  $\Phi(t, \tau, \cdot)$  defined by (4.1) is a continuous cocycle on  $X_0$ .

Another main result of this section is as follows.

**Theorem 4.2** Suppose  $\alpha > 3\gamma$ ,  $h(x, t)$  and  $q(x, t) \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(R; H)$  satisfy (1.10) and (1.11) with  $\delta$  satisfying  $0 < \delta < \varepsilon_0$  ( $0 < \varepsilon_0 \leq \min\{\frac{\sqrt{1+4\mu^2}-1}{2}, \frac{4\alpha\lambda^2}{6\eta+5}, \frac{\alpha}{3}, \sqrt{9+3\eta}-3, \frac{\alpha\lambda^2}{\eta}\}$ ). Then there exist a family of bounded sets  $D = \{D_q\}_{q \in Q}$  in  $X_0$  which is pullback absorbing for  $\Phi$  defined by (4.1) and a family of bounded sets  $\tilde{D} = \{\tilde{D}_q\}_{q \in Q}$  satisfying (3.3).

*Proof* Let  $t_0 \in R$ ,  $\tau \geq 0$ , and  $y_0 = (u_0, v_0, \theta_0) \in X_0$  be fixed. Define

$$u(r) = u(r, t_0 - \tau, u_0), \quad v(r) = u'(r, t_0 - \tau, v_0), \quad \text{and}$$

$$\theta(r) = \theta(r, t_0 - \tau, \theta_0) \quad \text{for } r \geq t_0 - \tau$$

and

$$(u(r), v(r), \theta(r)) = \Phi(r - t_0 + \tau, t_0 - \tau, y_0) \quad \text{for } r \geq t_0 - \tau.$$

Multiplying equations (1.1) and (1.2) by  $p = u_t + \varepsilon_0 u$  and  $\theta$ , respectively, and then summing, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dr} [\|p\|^2 + \alpha \|\Delta u\|^2 - \eta \varepsilon_0 \|u\|^2 + \beta \|\nabla u\|^2 + \hat{\sigma}(\|\nabla u\|^2) + \|\theta\|^2] \\ & - \varepsilon_0 \|p\|^2 + \varepsilon_0 \alpha \|\Delta u\|^2 + \eta \|p\|^2 - \eta \varepsilon_0^2 \|u\|^2 + \varepsilon_0 \beta \|\nabla u\|^2 + \varepsilon_0 \sigma(\|\nabla u\|^2) \|\nabla u\|^2 \\ & + \varepsilon_0 \gamma(\Delta u, \theta) + \|\nabla \theta\|^2 + \varepsilon_0^2(u, p) + (g(u), p) \\ & = (h, p) + (q, \theta). \end{aligned} \quad (4.2)$$

For simplicity, define  $\phi(u) = \int_{\Omega} \hat{g}(u) dx$ . By assumption (1.7) on  $g(\cdot)$  it is obvious that  $\phi(u) \geq 0$ . By assumption (1.9) on  $g(\cdot)$  we have

$$(g(u), u) - C_0 \phi(u) + \frac{\varepsilon_0}{4} \|u\|^2 \geq -M,$$

where  $C_0 \geq 1$ . So

$$\begin{aligned} (g(u), p) &= (g(u), u_t) + \varepsilon_0 (g(u), u) \\ &\geq \int_{\Omega} \frac{d}{dr} \hat{g}(u) dx + \varepsilon_0 C_0 \phi(u) - \frac{\varepsilon_0^2}{4} \|u\|^2 - \varepsilon_0 M \\ &\geq \frac{d}{dr} \phi(u) + \varepsilon_0 C_0 \phi(u) - \frac{\varepsilon_0^2}{4} \|u\|^2 - \varepsilon_0 M. \end{aligned} \quad (4.3)$$

By Young's inequality we have

$$|(h, p)| \leq \frac{1}{\eta} \|h\|^2 + \frac{\eta}{4} \|p\|^2 \quad (4.4)$$

and

$$|(q, \theta)| \leq \frac{\lambda_0^2}{2} \|\theta\|^2 + \frac{1}{2\lambda_0^2} \|q\|^2 \leq \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla \theta\|^2 + \frac{1}{2\lambda_0^2} \|q\|^2, \quad (4.5)$$

where  $\lambda_0$  is the first eigenvalue of  $\nabla$  in  $L^2(\Omega)$ .

By (4.3)-(4.5) from (4.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dr} [\|p\|^2 + \alpha \|\Delta u\|^2 - \eta \varepsilon_0 \|u\|^2 + \beta \|\nabla u\|^2 + \hat{\sigma}(\|\nabla u\|^2) + \|\theta\|^2 + 2\phi(u)] \\ & - \varepsilon_0 \|p\|^2 + \varepsilon_0 \alpha \|\Delta u\|^2 + \frac{3\eta}{4} \|p\|^2 - \eta \varepsilon_0^2 \|u\|^2 + \varepsilon_0 \beta \|\nabla u\|^2 + \varepsilon_0 \sigma(\|\nabla u\|^2) \|\nabla u\|^2 \\ & + \varepsilon_0 \gamma(\Delta u, \theta) + \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla \theta\|^2 + \varepsilon_0^2(u, p) + \varepsilon_0 C_0 \phi(u) - \frac{\varepsilon_0^2}{4} \|u\|^2 \\ & \leq \frac{1}{\eta} \|h\|^2 + \frac{1}{2\lambda_0^2} \|q\|^2 + \varepsilon_0 M. \end{aligned} \quad (4.6)$$

By Young's inequality we have

$$\varepsilon_0 \gamma(\Delta u, \theta) \geq -\frac{\varepsilon_0 \gamma}{2} \|\Delta u\|^2 - \frac{\varepsilon_0 \gamma}{2} \|\theta\|^2 \quad (4.7)$$

and

$$\varepsilon_0^2(u, p) \geq -\varepsilon_0^2 \left( \|u\|^2 + \frac{1}{4} \|p\|^2 \right). \quad (4.8)$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \frac{3\eta}{4} - \varepsilon_0 \right) \|p\|^2 + \varepsilon_0 \alpha \|\Delta u\|^2 - \eta \varepsilon_0^2 \|u\|^2 + \varepsilon_0 \beta \|\nabla u\|^2 + \varepsilon_0 \sigma(\|\nabla u\|^2) \|\nabla u\|^2 \\ & + \varepsilon_0 \gamma(\Delta u, \theta) + \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla \theta\|^2 + \varepsilon_0^2(u, p) + \varepsilon_0 C_0 \phi(u) - \frac{\varepsilon_0^2}{4} \|u\|^2 \\ & \geq \left( \frac{3\eta}{4} - \varepsilon_0 - \frac{\varepsilon_0^2}{4} \right) \|p\|^2 + \left( \varepsilon_0 \alpha - \frac{\varepsilon_0 \gamma}{2} \right) \|\Delta u\|^2 + \left( -\eta \varepsilon_0^2 - \frac{5\varepsilon_0^2}{4} \right) \|u\|^2 \\ & + \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla \theta\|^2 - \frac{\varepsilon_0 \gamma}{2} \|\theta\|^2 + \varepsilon_0 \beta \|\nabla u\|^2 + \varepsilon_0 \sigma(\|\nabla u\|^2) \|\nabla u\|^2 + \varepsilon_0 C_0 \phi(u) \\ & \geq \left( \frac{3\eta}{4} - \varepsilon_0 - \frac{\varepsilon_0^2}{4} \right) \|p\|^2 + \left( \frac{2\varepsilon_0 \alpha}{3} - \frac{\varepsilon_0 \gamma}{2} \right) \|\Delta u\|^2 + \left( \frac{\varepsilon_0 \alpha \lambda^2}{3} - \eta \varepsilon_0^2 - \frac{5\varepsilon_0^2}{4} \right) \|u\|^2 \\ & + \left( \frac{\lambda_0^2}{2} - \frac{\varepsilon_0 \gamma}{2} \right) \|\theta\|^2 + \varepsilon_0 \beta \|\nabla u\|^2 + \varepsilon_0 \sigma(\|\nabla u\|^2) \|\nabla u\|^2 + \varepsilon_0 C_0 \phi(u), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\lambda$  is the first eigenvalue of  $\Delta$  in  $L^2(\Omega)$ . Let

$$L(u, p, \theta) = \frac{1}{2} (\|p\|^2 + \alpha \|\Delta u\|^2 - \eta \varepsilon_0 \|u\|^2 + \beta \|\nabla u\|^2 + \hat{\sigma}(\|\nabla u\|^2) + \|\theta\|^2 + 2\phi(u)) \geq 0$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} Y(u, p, \theta) &= \left( \frac{3\eta}{4} - \varepsilon_0 - \frac{\varepsilon_0^2}{4} \right) \|p\|^2 + \left( \frac{2\varepsilon_0 \alpha}{3} - \frac{\varepsilon_0 \gamma}{2} \right) \|\Delta u\|^2 \\ &+ \left( \frac{\varepsilon_0 \alpha \lambda^2}{3} - \eta \varepsilon_0^2 - \frac{5\varepsilon_0^2}{4} \right) \|u\|^2 + \left( \frac{\lambda_0^2}{2} - \frac{\varepsilon_0 \gamma}{2} \right) \|\theta\|^2 \\ &+ \varepsilon_0 \beta \|\nabla u\|^2 + \varepsilon_0 \sigma(\|\nabla u\|^2) \|\nabla u\|^2 + \varepsilon_0 C_0 \phi(u). \end{aligned}$$

Then considering  $0 < \varepsilon_0 \leq \min\{\frac{\lambda_0^2}{\gamma+1}, \frac{4\alpha\lambda^2}{6\eta+15}, \sqrt{9+3\eta}-3, \frac{\alpha\lambda^2}{\eta}\}$ ,  $\alpha > 3\gamma$ , and  $C_0 \geq 1$ , from (1.5) we get

$$\begin{aligned} & Y(u, p, \theta) - \varepsilon_0 L(u, p, \theta) \\ & \geq \left( \frac{3\eta}{4} - \frac{3\varepsilon_0}{2} - \frac{\varepsilon_0^2}{4} \right) \|p\|^2 + \left( \frac{2\varepsilon_0 \alpha}{3} - \frac{\varepsilon_0 \gamma}{2} - \frac{\varepsilon_0 \alpha}{2} \right) \|\Delta u\|^2 \\ & + \left( \frac{\varepsilon_0 \alpha \lambda^2}{3} - \frac{\eta \varepsilon_0^2}{2} - \frac{5\varepsilon_0^2}{4} \right) \|u\|^2 + \left( \frac{\lambda_0^2}{2} - \frac{\varepsilon_0 \gamma}{2} - \frac{\varepsilon_0}{2} \right) \|\theta\|^2 \\ & + \varepsilon_0 \sigma(\|\nabla u\|^2) \|\nabla u\|^2 - \varepsilon_0 \hat{\sigma}(\|\nabla u\|^2) + \varepsilon_0 (C_0 - 1) \phi(u) \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

From (4.6) we have

$$\frac{d}{dr}L(u, p, \theta) + \varepsilon_0 L(u, p, \theta) \leq \frac{1}{\eta} \|h\|^2 + \frac{1}{2\lambda_0^2} \|q\|^2 + \varepsilon_0 M. \quad (4.9)$$

Note that

$$\frac{d}{dr}e^{\delta r}L(u, p, \theta) = \delta e^{\delta r}L(u, p, \theta) + e^{\delta r} \frac{d}{dr}L(u, p, \theta),$$

so by (4.9) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dr}[e^{\delta r}L(u, p, \theta)] &\leq (\delta - \varepsilon_0)e^{\delta r}L(u, p, \theta) \\ &+ e^{\delta r}\left(\frac{1}{\eta} \|h\|^2 + \frac{1}{2\lambda_0^2} \|q\|^2 + \varepsilon_0 M\right). \end{aligned} \quad (4.10)$$

By integrating (4.10) over the interval  $[t_0 - \tau, t_0]$ , with  $L(u, p, \theta) \geq 0$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} e^{\delta t_0}L(u(t_0), p(t_0), \theta(t_0)) &\leq e^{\delta(t_0-\tau)}L(u(t_0 - \tau), p(t_0 - \tau), \theta(t_0 - \tau)) \\ &+ (\delta - \varepsilon_0) \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\delta s}L(u(s), p(s), \theta(s)) ds \\ &+ \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\delta s}\left(\frac{1}{\eta} \|h\|^2 + \frac{1}{2\lambda_0^2} \|q\|^2\right) ds \\ &+ \frac{\varepsilon_0 M}{\delta}(e^{\delta t_0} - e^{\delta(t_0-\tau)}). \end{aligned} \quad (4.11)$$

Since  $\delta < \varepsilon_0$ , from (4.11) we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\|p(t_0)\|^2 + \alpha \|\Delta u(t_0)\|^2 - \eta \varepsilon_0 \|u(t_0)\|^2 + \beta \|\nabla u(t_0)\|^2 \\ &+ \hat{\sigma}(\|\nabla u(t_0)\|^2) + \|\theta(t_0)\|^2 + 2\phi(u(t_0)) \\ &\leq e^{-\delta\tau}(\|p(t_0 - \tau)\|^2 + \alpha \|\Delta u(t_0 - \tau)\|^2 - \eta \varepsilon_0 \|u(t_0 - \tau)\|^2 + \beta \|\nabla u(t_0 - \tau)\|^2 \\ &+ \hat{\sigma}(\|\nabla u(t_0 - \tau)\|^2) + \|\theta(t_0 - \tau)\|^2 + 2\phi(u(t_0 - \tau))) \\ &+ e^{-\delta t_0} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\delta s}\left(\frac{2}{\eta} \|h\|^2 + \frac{1}{\lambda_0^2} \|q\|^2\right) ds + \frac{2\varepsilon_0 M}{\delta}(1 - e^{-\delta\tau}). \end{aligned} \quad (4.12)$$

If we take  $C_1 = \max\{2, 1 + \frac{2\varepsilon_0^2}{\lambda^2}\}$ , then since  $\|u\|^2 \leq \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \|\Delta u\|^2$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\|\Delta u(t_0)\|^2 + \|v(t_0)\|^2 + \|\theta(t_0)\|^2 \\ &\leq \|\Delta u(t_0)\|^2 + \|v(t_0) + \varepsilon_0 u(t_0) - \varepsilon_0 u(t_0)\|^2 + \|\theta(t_0)\|^2 \\ &\leq \|\Delta u(t_0)\|^2 + 2\|p(t_0)\|^2 + 2\varepsilon_0^2 \|u(t_0)\|^2 + \|\theta(t_0)\|^2 \\ &\leq \left(1 + \frac{2\varepsilon_0^2}{\lambda^2}\right) \|\Delta u(t_0)\|^2 + 2\|p(t_0)\|^2 + \|\theta(t_0)\|^2 \\ &= C_1(\|\Delta u(t_0)\|^2 + \|p(t_0)\|^2 + \|\theta(t_0)\|^2). \end{aligned} \quad (4.13)$$

On the other hand, setting  $C_2 = \min\{1, \alpha - \frac{\eta\varepsilon_0}{\lambda^2}\}$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & L(u(t_0), p(t_0), \theta(t_0)) \\ & \geq \left( \|p(t_0)\|^2 + \left( \alpha - \frac{\eta\varepsilon_0}{\lambda^2} \right) \|\Delta u(t_0)\|^2 + \beta \|\nabla u(t_0)\|^2 \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \hat{\sigma}(\|\nabla u(t_0)\|^2) + \|\theta(t_0)\|^2 + 2\phi(u(t_0)) \right) \\ & \geq C_2(\|p(t_0)\|^2 + \|\Delta u(t_0)\|^2 + \|\theta(t_0)\|^2). \end{aligned} \quad (4.14)$$

So from (4.13)-(4.14) we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\Delta u(t_0)\|^2 + \|v(t_0)\|^2 + \|\theta(t_0)\|^2 \\ & \leq C_1(\|\Delta u(t_0)\|^2 + \|p(t_0)\|^2 + \|\theta(t_0)\|^2) \\ & \leq \frac{C_1}{C_2} L(u(t_0), p(t_0), \theta(t_0)) \\ & \leq \frac{C_1}{C_2} \left\{ e^{-\delta\tau} (\|p(t_0 - \tau)\|^2 + \alpha \|\Delta u(t_0 - \tau)\|^2 - \eta\varepsilon_0 \|u(t_0 - \tau)\|^2 + \beta \|\nabla u(t_0 - \tau)\|^2 \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \hat{\sigma}(\|\nabla u(t_0 - \tau)\|^2) + \|\theta(t_0 - \tau)\|^2 + 2\phi(u(t_0 - \tau))) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + e^{-\delta t_0} \int_{t_0 - \tau}^{t_0} e^{\delta s} \left( \frac{2}{\eta} \|h\|^2 + \frac{1}{\lambda_0^2} \|q\|^2 \right) ds + \frac{2\varepsilon_0 M}{\delta} (1 - e^{-\delta\tau}) \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.15)$$

Let  $\hat{D}_{\delta, X_0}$  ( $\hat{D}_{\delta, X_0}$  denotes the class of all families  $D = \{D_t\}_{t \in R}$ ) be given. For all  $y(t_0 - \tau) = y_0 \in D(t_0 - \tau)$ ,  $t \in R$ , and  $\tau \geq 0$ , from assumption (1.8) on  $\hat{g}(\cdot)$  we know that  $\phi(u(t_0 - \tau))$  is bounded. Using the midvalue theorem of integration, from the assumption that  $\sigma(\cdot) \in C^1(R)$  we have that  $\hat{\sigma}(\|\nabla u(t_0 - \tau)\|^2)$  is bounded, too. So from (4.15) we easily obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\Phi(\tau, t_0 - \tau, y_0)\|_{X_0}^2 \\ & \leq \frac{C_1}{C_2} \left\{ e^{-\delta\tau} (\|p(t_0 - \tau)\|^2 + \alpha \|\Delta u(t_0 - \tau)\|^2 - \eta\varepsilon_0 \|u(t_0 - \tau)\|^2 + \beta \|\nabla u(t_0 - \tau)\|^2 \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \hat{\sigma}(\|\nabla u(t_0 - \tau)\|^2) + \|\theta(t_0 - \tau)\|^2 + 2\phi(u(t_0 - \tau))) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + e^{-\delta t_0} \int_{-\infty}^{t_0} e^{\delta s} \left( \frac{2}{\eta} \|h\|^2 + \frac{1}{\lambda_0^2} \|q\|^2 \right) ds + \frac{2\varepsilon_0 M}{\delta} (1 - e^{-\delta\tau}) \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (4.16)$$

for all  $y_0 \in D(t_0 - \tau)$ ,  $t_0 \in R$ , and  $\tau \geq 0$ . Set

$$(R_t)^2 = 2 \frac{C_1}{C_2} e^{-\delta t_0} \int_{-\infty}^t e^{\delta s} \left( \frac{2}{\eta} \|h(s)\|^2 + \frac{1}{\lambda_0^2} \|q(s)\|^2 \right) ds + \frac{4C_1\varepsilon_0 M}{C_2\delta} \quad (4.17)$$

and consider the family  $D$  of closed balls in  $X_0$  defined by  $D_t = \{y \in X_0, \|y\|_{X_0} \leq R_t\}$ . It is easy to check the family  $D = \{D_t\}_{t \in R}$  is a bounded family of pullback absorbing sets in  $X_0$ .

Choose a number  $\tilde{\delta}$  such that

$$\tilde{\delta} < \min \left\{ \frac{\eta}{2}, 2\lambda_0^2, \frac{\eta - \varepsilon'}{2 + 5\varepsilon'}, \delta, \right\}, \quad (4.18)$$

where  $0 < \varepsilon' < \min\{\frac{\sqrt{(9+\lambda_0^2)^2+40\eta\lambda_0^2-(9+\lambda_0^2)}}{20}, \eta\}$ . Then, reasoning as before, (4.16) is also true if we replace  $\delta$  by  $\tilde{\delta}$ .

Now, we letting  $y_0 \in D(t_0 - \tau)$ , we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\Phi(\tau, t_0 - \tau, y_0)\|_{X_0}^2 \\ & \leq \frac{C_1}{C_2} \left\{ e^{-\tilde{\delta}\tau} C(R_{t_0-\tau}^2 + R_{t_0-\tau}) + e^{-\tilde{\delta}t_0} \int_{-\infty}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}s} \left( \frac{2}{\eta} \|h\|^2 + \frac{1}{\lambda_0^2} \|q\|^2 \right) ds \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \frac{2\varepsilon_0 M}{\delta} (1 - e^{-\tilde{\delta}\tau}) \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.19)$$

If we set

$$(\tilde{R}_t)^2 = 2 \frac{C_1}{C_2} e^{-\tilde{\delta}t} \int_{-\infty}^t e^{\tilde{\delta}s} \left( \frac{2}{\eta} \|h(s)\|^2 + \frac{1}{\lambda_0^2} \|q(s)\|^2 \right) ds + \frac{4C_1\varepsilon_0 M}{C_2\delta}$$

and

$$\tilde{D}_t = \{y \in X_0, \|y\|_{X_0} \leq \tilde{R}_t\},$$

then the family  $\tilde{D} = \{\tilde{D}_t\}_{t \in R}$  satisfies (3.3). The proof is finished.  $\square$

## 5 The pullback attractor in $X_0$

In this section, we prove the pullback attractor in  $X_0$ .

**Theorem 5.1** Assume that assumptions (H<sub>1</sub>)-(H<sub>3</sub>) of  $g(\cdot)$  hold and that  $h(x, t), q(x, t) \in L_{loc}^2(R, H)$  satisfy (1.10) and (1.11) with some  $\tilde{\delta}$  satisfying  $0 < \tilde{\delta} < \min\{\frac{\eta}{2}, 2\lambda_0^2, \frac{\eta-\varepsilon'}{2+5\varepsilon'}, \delta\}$  ( $0 < \varepsilon' < \min\{\frac{\sqrt{(9+\lambda_0^2)^2+40\eta\lambda_0^2-(9+\lambda_0^2)}}{20}, \eta\}$ ). Then there exists a pullback attractor  $A = \{A_t\}_{t \in R}$  in  $X_0$  for the nonautonomous dynamical system  $(\theta, \Phi)$  defined by (4.1).

*Proof* Fix  $t_0 \in R$ . Let  $y_i(t) = (u_i(t), v_i(t), \theta_i(t))$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) be the corresponding weak solution to  $y_0^i = (u_0^i, v_0^i, \theta_0^i) \in \tilde{D}_{t_0-\tau}$ , where  $\tau \geq 0$ , and let  $w(t) = u_1(t) - u_2(t), \tilde{\theta}(t) = \theta_1(t) - \theta_2(t)$ . Then  $(w, \tilde{\theta})$  satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} & w_{tt} + \alpha \Delta^2 w - \beta \Delta w - \left( \sigma \left( \int_{\Omega} (\nabla u_1)^2 dx \right) \Delta u_1 - \sigma \left( \int_{\Omega} (\nabla u_2)^2 dx \right) \Delta u_2 \right) \\ & \quad + \gamma \Delta \tilde{\theta} + \Delta g + \eta w_t = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (5.1)$$

$$\tilde{\theta}_t - \Delta \tilde{\theta} - \gamma \Delta w_t = 0 \quad (5.2)$$

with the initial condition  $(w(0), w_t(0), \tilde{\theta}(0)) = (u_0^1, v_0^1, \theta_0^1) - (u_0^2, v_0^2, \theta_0^2)$ , where  $\Delta g = g(u_1) - g(u_2)$ .

Define

$$E_u(t) = \frac{1}{2} (\|u_t\|^2 + \|\Delta u\|^2 + \|\theta\|^2) = \frac{1}{2} \|\phi(t - t_0 + \tau, t_0 - \tau, y_0)\|_{X_0}^2$$

and

$$F(t) = \frac{1}{2} (\|w_t\|^2 + \alpha \|\Delta w\|^2 + \beta \|\nabla w\|^2 + \sigma (\|\nabla u_1\|^2) \|\nabla w\|^2 + \|\tilde{\theta}\|^2).$$

First, we have

$$\begin{aligned} F(t) &\geq \frac{1}{2}(\|w_t\|^2 + \alpha\|\Delta w\|^2 + \|\tilde{\theta}\|^2) \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2}C^1(\|w_t\|^2 + \|\Delta w\|^2 + \|\tilde{\theta}\|^2) \\ &= C^1 E_w(t), \end{aligned} \quad (5.3)$$

where  $C^1 = \min\{1, \alpha\}$ .

Multiplying (5.1) by  $e^{\tilde{\delta}t}w_t$  and (5.2) by  $e^{\tilde{\delta}t}\tilde{\theta}$  and then summing, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}[e^{\tilde{\delta}t}F(t)] &+ e^{\tilde{\delta}t}(\eta\|w_t\|^2 + \|\nabla\tilde{\theta}\|^2) \\ &= \tilde{\delta}e^{\tilde{\delta}t}F(t) \\ &- e^{\tilde{\delta}t}\left(\int_{\Omega}\Delta gw_t dx - \sigma'(\|\nabla u_1\|^2)\int_{\Omega}\nabla u_1 \nabla u_{1t} dx\|\nabla w\|^2 - \int_{\Omega}\Delta\sigma w_t dx\right), \end{aligned} \quad (5.4)$$

where  $\Delta\sigma = \sigma(\|\nabla u_1\|^2) - \sigma(\|\nabla u_2\|^2)$ , and  $\tilde{\delta}$  satisfies (4.18).

Integrating (5.4) from  $s$  to  $t_0$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} e^{\tilde{\delta}t_0}F(t_0) - e^{\tilde{\delta}s}F(s) &+ \int_s^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}(\eta\|w_t\|^2 + \|\nabla\tilde{\theta}\|^2)d\xi \\ &= \tilde{\delta}\int_s^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}F(\xi)d\xi - \int_s^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}\left(\int_{\Omega}\Delta gw_t dx\right)d\xi \\ &+ \int_s^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}\left(\sigma'(\|\nabla u_1\|^2)\int_{\Omega}\nabla u_1 \nabla u_{1t} dx\|\nabla w\|^2 + \int_{\Omega}\Delta\sigma w_t dx\right)d\xi. \end{aligned} \quad (5.5)$$

Integrating (5.5) from  $t_0 - \tau$  to  $t_0$  with respect to  $s$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \tau e^{\tilde{\delta}t_0}F(t_0) - \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\delta}s}F(s)ds &+ \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}\int_s^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}(\eta\|w_t\|^2 + \|\nabla\tilde{\theta}\|^2)d\xi ds \\ &= \tilde{\delta}\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}\int_s^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}F(\xi)d\xi ds - \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}\int_s^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}\left(\int_{\Omega}\Delta gw_t dx\right)d\xi ds \\ &+ \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}\int_s^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}\left(\sigma'(\|\nabla u_1\|^2)\int_{\Omega}\nabla u_1 \nabla u_{1t} dx\|\nabla w\|^2 + \int_{\Omega}\Delta\sigma w_t dx\right)d\xi ds. \end{aligned} \quad (5.6)$$

Similarly, multiplying (5.1) by  $e^{\tilde{\delta}t}w$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}[e^{\tilde{\delta}t}(w_t, w)] &+ e^{\tilde{\delta}t}(\alpha\|\Delta w\|^2 + \beta\|\nabla w\|^2 + \sigma(\|\nabla u_1\|^2)\|\nabla w\|^2) \\ &= (\tilde{\delta} - \eta)e^{\tilde{\delta}t}(w_t, w) + e^{\tilde{\delta}t}\|w_t\|^2 \\ &- e^{\tilde{\delta}t}\left(\int_{\Omega}\Delta gw dx - \gamma\int_{\Omega}\Delta\tilde{\theta}w dx - \int_{\Omega}\Delta\sigma\Delta u_2 w dx\right). \end{aligned} \quad (5.7)$$

First, integrating (5.7) over  $[s, t_0]$ , we get that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} (\alpha \|\Delta w\|^2 + \beta \|\nabla w\|^2 + \sigma(\|\nabla u_1\|^2) \|\nabla w\|^2) d\xi + e^{\tilde{\delta}t_0}(w_t(t_0), w(t_0)) \\ &= e^{\tilde{\delta}s}(w_t(s), w(s)) + (\tilde{\delta} - \eta) \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} (w_t, w) d\xi + \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w_t\|^2 d\xi \\ &\quad - \int_s^{t_0} \int_{\Omega} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \Delta g w dx d\xi - \gamma \int_s^{t_0} \int_{\Omega} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \Delta \tilde{\theta} w dx d\xi \\ &\quad - \int_s^{t_0} \int_{\Omega} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \Delta \sigma \Delta u_2 w dx d\xi. \end{aligned} \quad (5.8)$$

Then integrating (5.8) over  $[t_0 - \tau, t_0]$  with respect to  $s$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \tilde{\delta} \int_{t_0 - \tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} (\alpha \|\Delta w\|^2 + \beta \|\nabla w\|^2 + \sigma(\|\nabla u_1\|^2) \|\nabla w\|^2) d\xi ds \\ &= -\tilde{\delta} \tau e^{\tilde{\delta}t_0}(w_t(t_0), w(t_0)) + \tilde{\delta} \int_{t_0 - \tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}s}(w_t(s), w(s)) ds \\ &\quad + \tilde{\delta}(\tilde{\delta} - \eta) \int_{t_0 - \tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} (w_t, w) d\xi ds + \tilde{\delta} \int_{t_0 - \tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w_t\|^2 d\xi ds \\ &\quad - \tilde{\delta} \int_{t_0 - \tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} \int_{\Omega} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \Delta g w dx d\xi ds - \gamma \tilde{\delta} \int_{t_0 - \tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} \int_{\Omega} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \Delta \tilde{\theta} w dx d\xi ds \\ &\quad - \tilde{\delta} \int_{t_0 - \tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} \int_{\Omega} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \Delta \sigma \Delta u_2 w dx d\xi ds. \end{aligned} \quad (5.9)$$

Substituting (5.9) into (5.6), we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} & \tau e^{\tilde{\delta}t_0} F(t_0) - \int_{t_0 - \tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}s} F(s) ds + \int_{t_0 - \tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} (\eta \|w_t\|^2 + \|\nabla \tilde{\theta}\|^2) d\xi ds \\ &= \tilde{\delta} \int_{t_0 - \tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \frac{1}{2} (\|w_t\|^2 + \alpha \|\Delta w\|^2 + \beta \|\nabla w\|^2 + \sigma(\|\nabla u_1\|^2) \|\nabla w\|^2 + \|\tilde{\theta}\|^2) d\xi ds \\ &\quad - \int_{t_0 - \tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \left( \int_{\Omega} \Delta g w_t dx - \sigma'(\|\nabla u_1\|^2) \int_{\Omega} \nabla u_1 \nabla u_{1t} dx \|\nabla w\|^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \int_{\Omega} \Delta \sigma w_t dx \right) d\xi ds \\ &= \tilde{\delta} \int_{t_0 - \tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \frac{1}{2} (\|w_t\|^2 + \|\tilde{\theta}\|^2) d\xi ds - \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\delta} \tau e^{\tilde{\delta}t_0}(w_t(t_0), w(t_0)) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\delta} \int_{t_0 - \tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}s}(w_t(s), w(s)) ds + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\delta}(\tilde{\delta} - \eta) \int_{t_0 - \tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} (w_t, w) d\xi ds \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\delta} \int_{t_0 - \tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w_t\|^2 d\xi ds - \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\delta} \int_{t_0 - \tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} \int_{\Omega} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \Delta g w dx d\xi ds \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2} \gamma \tilde{\delta} \int_{t_0 - \tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} \int_{\Omega} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \Delta \tilde{\theta} w dx d\xi ds - \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\delta} \int_{t_0 - \tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} \int_{\Omega} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \Delta \sigma \Delta u_2 w dx d\xi ds \\ &\quad - \int_{t_0 - \tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \left( \int_{\Omega} \Delta g w_t dx - \sigma'(\|\nabla u_1\|^2) \int_{\Omega} \nabla u_1 \nabla u_{1t} dx \|\nabla w\|^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \int_{\Omega} \Delta \sigma w_t dx \right) d\xi ds. \end{aligned} \quad (5.10)$$

Second, integrating (5.7) from  $t_0 - \tau$  to  $t_0$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} (\|w_t\|^2 + \alpha \|\Delta w\|^2 + \beta \|\nabla w\|^2 + \sigma(\|\nabla u_1\|^2) \|\nabla w\|^2 + \|\tilde{\theta}\|^2) d\xi \\
&= e^{\tilde{\delta}(t_0-\tau)} (w_t(t_0 - \tau), w(t_0 - \tau)) - e^{\tilde{\delta}t_0} (w_t(t_0), w(t_0)) \\
&\quad + (\tilde{\delta} - \eta) \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} (w_t, w) d\xi + \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w_t\|^2 d\xi \\
&\quad - \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_{\Omega} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \Delta g w dx d\xi - \gamma \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_{\Omega} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \Delta \tilde{\theta} w dx d\xi \\
&\quad - \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_{\Omega} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \Delta \sigma \Delta u_2 w dx d\xi + \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} (\|w_t\|^2 + \|\tilde{\theta}\|^2) d\xi. \tag{5.11}
\end{aligned}$$

Substituting (5.11) into (5.10) and noting that  $\tilde{\delta} < \frac{\eta}{2}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \tau e^{\tilde{\delta}t_0} F(t_0) + \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}s} F(s) ds + \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|\nabla \tilde{\theta}\|^2 d\xi ds \\
&\leq \frac{\tilde{\delta}}{2} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|\tilde{\theta}\|^2 d\xi ds - \left( \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\delta} \tau + 1 \right) e^{\tilde{\delta}t_0} (w_t(t_0), w(t_0)) \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\delta} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}s} (w_t(s), w(s)) ds + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\delta} (\tilde{\delta} - \eta) \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} (w_t, w) d\xi ds \\
&\quad - \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\delta} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} \int_{\Omega} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \Delta g w dx d\xi ds - \frac{1}{2} \gamma \tilde{\delta} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} \int_{\Omega} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \Delta \tilde{\theta} w dx d\xi ds \\
&\quad - \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\delta} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} \int_{\Omega} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \Delta \sigma \Delta u_2 w dx d\xi ds + \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \left( \int_{\Omega} \Delta g w_t dx \right) d\xi ds \\
&\quad - \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \left( \sigma'(\|\nabla u_1\|^2) \int_{\Omega} \nabla u_1 \nabla u_{1t} dx \|\nabla w\|^2 + \int_{\Omega} \Delta \sigma w_t dx \right) d\xi ds \\
&\quad + e^{\tilde{\delta}(t_0-\tau)} (w_t(t_0 - \tau), w(t_0 - \tau)) + (\tilde{\delta} - \eta) \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} (w_t, w) d\xi + \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w_t\|^2 d\xi \\
&\quad - \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_{\Omega} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \Delta g w dx d\xi - \gamma \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_{\Omega} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \Delta \tilde{\theta} w dx d\xi \\
&\quad - \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_{\Omega} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \Delta \sigma \Delta u_2 w dx d\xi + \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} (\|w_t\|^2 + \|\tilde{\theta}\|^2) d\xi. \tag{5.12}
\end{aligned}$$

(I) Using the Schwarz and Young inequalities, for  $t_0 - \tau \leq s < t_0$ , we have

$$\frac{1}{2} \tilde{\delta} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}s} (w_t(s), w(s)) ds \leq \frac{\tilde{\delta}^2}{8\varepsilon'} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}s} \|w(s)\|^2 ds + \varepsilon' \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}s} \|w_t(s)\|^2 ds, \tag{5.13}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\delta} (\tilde{\delta} - \eta) \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} (w_t, w) d\xi ds \\
&\leq \frac{1}{2} \tau \tilde{\delta} (\tilde{\delta} - \eta) \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w_t\| \|w\| d\xi \\
&\leq \frac{[\frac{1}{2} \tau \tilde{\delta} (\tilde{\delta} - \eta)]^2}{4\varepsilon'} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w\|^2 d\xi + \varepsilon' \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w_t\|^2 d\xi, \tag{5.14}
\end{aligned}$$

$$-\frac{1}{2}\gamma\tilde{\delta}\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}\int_s^{t_0}\int_{\Omega}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}\Delta\tilde{\theta}wdx d\xi ds \leq \frac{\varepsilon'}{\lambda_0^2}\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}\|\nabla\tilde{\theta}\|^2d\xi + \frac{(\tau\frac{1}{2}\gamma\tilde{\delta})^2}{4\varepsilon'}\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}\|\nabla w\|^2d\xi, \quad (5.15)$$

$$(\tilde{\delta}-\eta)\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}(w_t,w)d\xi \leq \frac{(\tilde{\delta}-\eta)^2}{8\varepsilon'}\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\sigma}\xi}\|w\|^2d\xi + 2\varepsilon'\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\sigma}\xi}\|w_t\|^2d\xi, \quad (5.16)$$

and

$$-\gamma\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}\int_{\Omega}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}\Delta\tilde{\theta}wdx d\xi \leq \frac{\varepsilon'}{\lambda_0^2}\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}\|\nabla\tilde{\theta}\|^2d\xi + \frac{\lambda_0^2\gamma^2}{4\varepsilon'}\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}\|\nabla w\|^2d\xi, \quad (5.17)$$

where  $0 < \varepsilon' < \min\{\frac{\sqrt{(9+\lambda_0^2)^2+40\eta\lambda_0^2-(9+\lambda_0^2)}}{20}, \eta\}$ .

(II) By assumption (1.6) on  $g(\cdot)$ , the Hölder inequality, and the embedding theorem combined with (4.19), for  $t_0 - \tau \leq s < t_0$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2}\tilde{\delta}\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}\int_s^{t_0}\int_{\Omega}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}\Delta gw dx d\xi ds \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2}\tilde{\delta}\tau\left(\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}\int_{\Omega}|g(u_2)-g(u_1)|^2dx d\xi\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\left(\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}\|w\|^2d\xi\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2}\tilde{\delta}C\tau\left(\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}\int_{\Omega}(1+|u_1|^{2\rho-2}+|u_2|^{2\rho-2})|w|^2dx d\xi\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ & \quad \times \left(\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}\|w\|^2d\xi\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2}\tilde{\delta}C\tau\left(\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}\int_{\Omega}(|u_1|^2+|u_2|^2+|u_1|^{2\rho}+|u_2|^{2\rho})dx d\xi\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ & \quad \times \left(\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}\|w\|^2d\xi\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2}\tilde{\delta}C\tau\left(\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}(\|\nabla u_1\|^2+\|\nabla u_2\|^2+\|\nabla u_1\|^{2\rho}+\|\nabla u_2\|^{2\rho})d\xi\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ & \quad \times \left(\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}\|w\|^2d\xi\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ & \leq C_{t_0,\tau}\left(\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}\|w\|^2d\xi\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \end{aligned} \quad (5.18)$$

and similarly we also have

$$-\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}\int_{\Omega}e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi}\Delta gw dx d\xi \leq C_{t_0,\tau}\left(\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0}e^{\tilde{\sigma}\xi}\|w\|^2d\xi\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}. \quad (5.19)$$

(III) By the value theorem, (4.18), the continuity of  $\sigma(\cdot)$ , and the Schwarz inequality, for  $t_0 - \tau \leq s < t_0$ , we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} & -\frac{1}{2}\tilde{\delta} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} \int_{\Omega} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \Delta\sigma \Delta u_2 w dx d\xi ds \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2}\tilde{\delta}\tau \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \sigma'(\xi_1) (\|\Delta u_1\|^2 - \|\Delta u_2\|^2) \|\Delta u_2\| \|w\| d\xi \\ & \leq C_{t_0,\tau} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w\|^2 d\xi, \end{aligned} \quad (5.20)$$

where  $\xi_1$  is between  $\|\nabla u_1\|^2$  and  $\|\nabla u_2\|^2$ . Similarly, we have

$$\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_{\Omega} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \Delta\sigma \Delta u_2 w dx d\xi \leq C_{t_0,\tau} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w\|^2 d\xi, \quad (5.21)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & -\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \sigma'(\|\nabla u_1\|^2) \int_{\Omega} \nabla u_1 \nabla u_{1t} dx \|\nabla w\|^2 d\xi ds \\ & \leq C\tau C_{t_0,\tau} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|\nabla w\|^2 d\xi, \end{aligned} \quad (5.22)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & -\int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \int_{\Omega} \Delta\sigma w_t dx d\xi ds \\ & \leq \tau C_{t_0,\tau} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w\| \|w_t\| d\xi \\ & \leq \frac{(\tau C_{t_0,\tau})^2}{4\varepsilon'} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w\|^2 d\xi + \varepsilon' \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w_t\|^2 d\xi. \end{aligned} \quad (5.23)$$

(IV) Since  $\tilde{\delta} \leq 2\lambda_0^2$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|\nabla \tilde{\theta}\|^2 d\xi ds \geq \lambda_0^2 \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|\tilde{\theta}\|^2 d\xi ds \\ & \geq \frac{\tilde{\delta}}{2} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|\tilde{\theta}\|^2 d\xi ds. \end{aligned} \quad (5.24)$$

So, substituting (5.13)-(5.23) into (5.12), by (5.24) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \tau e^{\tilde{\delta}t_0} F(t_0) + \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}s} F(s) ds \\ & \leq \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|\tilde{\theta}\|^2 d\xi - \left( \frac{1}{2}\tilde{\delta}\tau + 1 \right) e^{\tilde{\delta}t_0} (w_t(t_0), w(t_0)) \\ & \quad + \left( \frac{\tilde{\delta}^2}{8\varepsilon'} + \frac{[\frac{1}{2}\tau\tilde{\delta}(\tilde{\delta}-\eta)]^2}{4\varepsilon'} + \frac{(\tau C_{t_0,\tau})^2}{4\varepsilon'} + \frac{(\tilde{\delta}-\eta)^2}{8\varepsilon'} + 2C_{t_0,\tau} \right) \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w\|^2 d\xi \\ & \quad + (2+5\varepsilon') \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w_t\|^2 d\xi + 2C_{t_0,\tau} \left( \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w\|^2 d\xi \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \frac{2\varepsilon'}{\lambda_0^2} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|\nabla \tilde{\theta}\|^2 d\xi \\
& + \left( \frac{(\tau \frac{1}{2} \gamma \tilde{\delta})^2}{4\varepsilon'} + \frac{\lambda_0^2 \gamma^2}{4\varepsilon'} + C\tau C_{t_0,\tau} + \tau C_{t_0,\tau} \right) \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|\nabla w\|^2 d\xi \\
& + \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \int_{\Omega} \Delta g w_t dx d\xi ds + e^{\tilde{\delta}(t_0-\tau)} (w_t(t_0 - \tau), w(t_0 - \tau)). \quad (5.25)
\end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, integrating (5.4) over  $[t_0 - \tau, t_0]$ , we get that

$$\begin{aligned}
& e^{\tilde{\delta}t_0} F(t_0) - e^{\tilde{\delta}(t_0-\tau)} F(t_0 - \tau) + \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} (\eta \|w_t\|^2 + \|\nabla \tilde{\theta}\|^2) d\xi \\
& = \tilde{\delta} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} F(\xi) d\xi - \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \int_{\Omega} \Delta g w_t dx d\xi \\
& - \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \left( \sigma'(\|\nabla u\|^2) \int_{\Omega} \nabla u_1 \nabla u_{1t} dx \|\nabla w\|^2 - \int_{\Omega} \Delta \sigma w_t dx \right) d\xi. \quad (5.26)
\end{aligned}$$

By the continuity of  $\sigma'(\cdot)$  combined with (4.19) we get

$$- \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \sigma'(\|\nabla u_1\|^2) \int_{\Omega} \nabla u_1 \nabla u_{1t} dx \|\nabla w\|^2 d\xi \leq C_{t_0,\tau} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|\nabla w\|^2 d\xi. \quad (5.27)$$

By the value theorem and (4.19) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& - \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \int_{\Omega} \Delta \sigma w_t dx d\xi \leq C_{t_0,\tau} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w\| \|w_t\| d\xi \\
& \leq \frac{C_{t_0,\tau}^2}{4\varepsilon'} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w\|^2 d\xi + \varepsilon' \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w_t\|^2 d\xi. \quad (5.28)
\end{aligned}$$

From (5.26) combined with (5.27)-(5.28) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& (2 + 5\varepsilon') \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w_t\|^2 d\xi \\
& \leq \frac{(2 + 5\varepsilon')}{\eta - \varepsilon'} e^{\tilde{\delta}(t_0-\tau)} F(t_0 - \tau) + \frac{(2 + 5\varepsilon')\tilde{\delta}}{\eta - \varepsilon'} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} F(\xi) d\xi \\
& - \frac{(2 + 5\varepsilon')}{\eta - \varepsilon'} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \int_{\Omega} \Delta g w_t dx d\xi + \frac{(2 + 5\varepsilon')}{\eta - \varepsilon'} C_{t_0,\tau} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|\nabla w\|^2 d\xi \\
& + \frac{(2 + 5\varepsilon')}{\eta - \varepsilon'} \frac{C_{t_0,\tau}^2}{4\varepsilon'} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w\|^2 d\xi - \frac{(2 + 5\varepsilon')}{\eta - \varepsilon'} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|\nabla \tilde{\theta}\|^2 d\xi. \quad (5.29)
\end{aligned}$$

Substituting (5.29) into (5.25), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \tau e^{\tilde{\delta}t_0} F(t_0) + \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}s} F(s) ds \\
& \leq \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|\tilde{\theta}\|^2 d\xi - \left( \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\delta} \tau + 1 \right) e^{\tilde{\delta}t_0} (w_t(t_0), w(t_0)) + C_{t_0,\tau}^2 \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w\|^2 d\xi \\
& + \frac{(2 + 5\varepsilon')}{\eta - \varepsilon'} e^{\tilde{\delta}(t_0-\tau)} F(t_0 - \tau) + \frac{(2 + 5\varepsilon')\tilde{\delta}}{\eta - \varepsilon'} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} F(\xi) d\xi
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& - \frac{(2+5\varepsilon')}{\eta-\varepsilon'} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \int_{\Omega} \Delta g w_t dx d\xi - \frac{(2+5\varepsilon')}{\eta-\varepsilon'} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|\nabla \tilde{\theta}\|^2 d\xi \\
& + 2C_{t_0,\tau} \left( \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w\|^2 d\xi \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{2\varepsilon'}{\lambda_0^2} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|\nabla \tilde{\theta}\|^2 d\xi + C_{t_0,\tau}^3 \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|\nabla w\|^2 d\xi \\
& + \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \int_{\Omega} \Delta g w_t dx d\xi ds + e^{\tilde{\delta}(t_0-\tau)} (w_t(t_0-\tau), w(t_0-\tau)), \tag{5.30}
\end{aligned}$$

where  $C_{t_0,\tau}^2 = \frac{\tilde{\delta}^2}{8\varepsilon'} + \frac{[\frac{1}{2}\tau\tilde{\delta}(\tilde{\delta}-\eta)]^2}{4\varepsilon'} + \frac{(\tau C_{t_0,\tau})^2}{4\varepsilon'} + \frac{(\tilde{\delta}-\eta)^2}{8\varepsilon'} + 2C_{t_0,\tau} + \frac{(2+5\varepsilon')}{\eta-\varepsilon'} \frac{C_{t_0,\tau}^2}{4\varepsilon'} + \frac{\lambda_0^2\gamma^2}{4\varepsilon'} + C\tau C_{t_0,\tau} + \tau C_{t_0,\tau} + \frac{(2+5\varepsilon')}{\eta-\varepsilon'} C_{t_0,\tau}$  and  $C_{t_0,\tau}^3 = \frac{(\tau\frac{1}{2}\gamma\tilde{\delta})^2}{4\varepsilon'} + \frac{\lambda_0^2\gamma^2}{4\varepsilon'}$ . Since  $0 < \varepsilon' < \min\{\frac{\sqrt{(9+\lambda_0^2)^2+40\eta\lambda_0^2}-9+\lambda_0^2}{20}, \eta\}$ , we have

$$-\frac{(2+5\varepsilon')}{\eta-\varepsilon'} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|\nabla \tilde{\theta}\|^2 d\xi + \frac{2\varepsilon'}{\lambda_0^2} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|\nabla \tilde{\theta}\|^2 d\xi + \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|\tilde{\theta}\|^2 d\xi \leq 0.$$

So from (5.30) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \tau e^{\tilde{\delta}t_0} F(t_0) + \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}s} F(s) ds \\
& \leq -\left(\frac{1}{2}\tilde{\delta}\tau + 1\right) e^{\tilde{\delta}t_0} (w_t(t_0), w(t_0)) + C_{t_0,\tau}^2 \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w\|^2 d\xi \\
& + \frac{(2+5\varepsilon')}{\eta-\varepsilon'} e^{\tilde{\delta}(t_0-\tau)} F(t_0-\tau) + \frac{(2+5\varepsilon')\tilde{\delta}}{\eta-\varepsilon'} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} F(\xi) d\xi \\
& - \frac{2(2+5\varepsilon')}{\eta-\varepsilon'} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \int_{\Omega} \Delta g w_t dx d\xi \\
& + 2C_{t_0,\tau} \left( \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w\|^2 d\xi \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} + C_{t_0,\tau}^3 \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|\nabla w\|^2 d\xi \\
& + \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \int_{\Omega} \Delta g w_t dx d\xi ds + e^{\tilde{\delta}(t_0-\tau)} (w_t(t_0-\tau), w(t_0-\tau)). \tag{5.31}
\end{aligned}$$

Since  $\tilde{\delta} \leq \frac{\eta-\varepsilon'}{2+5\varepsilon'}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\tau e^{\tilde{\delta}t_0} F(t_0) & \leq -\left(\frac{1}{2}\tilde{\delta}\tau + 1\right) e^{\tilde{\delta}t_0} (w_t(t_0), w(t_0)) + C_{t_0,\tau}^2 \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w\|^2 d\xi \\
& + \frac{(2+5\varepsilon')}{\eta-\varepsilon'} e^{\tilde{\delta}(t_0-\tau)} F(t_0-\tau) - \frac{(2+5\varepsilon')}{\eta-\varepsilon'} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \int_{\Omega} \Delta g w_t dx d\xi \\
& + 2C_{t_0,\tau} \left( \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|w\|^2 d\xi \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} + C_{t_0,\tau}^3 \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|\nabla w\|^2 d\xi \\
& + \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \int_{\Omega} \Delta g w_t dx d\xi ds + e^{\tilde{\delta}(t_0-\tau)} (w_t(t_0-\tau), w(t_0-\tau)). \tag{5.32}
\end{aligned}$$

By (5.3) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
E_w(t_0) \leq & -\frac{1}{C^1} \left( \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\delta} + \frac{1}{\tau} \right) (w_t(t_0), w(t_0)) + \frac{1}{C^1 \tau} C_{t_0, \tau}^2 e^{-\tilde{\delta} t_0} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta} \xi} \|w\|^2 d\xi \\
& + \frac{(2+5\varepsilon')}{C^1(\eta-\varepsilon')\tau} e^{\tilde{\delta}(-\tau)} F(t_0-\tau) - \frac{(2+5\varepsilon')}{C^1(\eta-\varepsilon')\tau} e^{-\tilde{\delta} t_0} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta} \xi} \int_{\Omega} \Delta g w_t dx d\xi \\
& + 2C_{t_0, \tau} \left( \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta} \xi} \|w\|^2 d\xi \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{1}{C^1 \tau} C_{t_0, \tau}^3 e^{-\tilde{\delta} t_0} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta} \xi} \|\nabla w\|^2 d\xi \\
& + \frac{1}{C^1 \tau} e^{-\tilde{\delta} t_0} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta} \xi} \int_{\Omega} \Delta g w_t dx d\xi ds + \frac{1}{C^1 \tau} e^{-\tilde{\delta} \tau} (w_t(t_0-\tau), w(t_0-\tau)). 
\end{aligned} \tag{5.33}$$

We set

$$\begin{aligned}
& \phi_{t_0, \tau}((u_0^1, v_0^1, \theta_0^1), (u_0^2, v_0^2, \theta_0^2)) \\
& = -\frac{1}{C^1} \left( \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\delta} + \frac{1}{\tau} \right) (w_t(t_0), w(t_0)) + \frac{1}{C^1 \tau} e^{-\tilde{\delta} t_0} C_{t_0, \tau}^2 \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta} \xi} \|w\|^2 d\xi \\
& \quad - \frac{(2+5\varepsilon')}{C^1 \lambda^2 \tau} e^{-\tilde{\delta} t_0} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta} \xi} \int_{\Omega} \Delta g w_t dx d\xi + 2C_{t_0, \tau} \left( \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta} \xi} \|w\|^2 d\xi \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
& \quad + \frac{1}{C^1 \tau} C_{t_0, \tau}^3 e^{-\tilde{\delta} t_0} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta} \xi} \|\nabla w\|^2 d\xi + \frac{1}{C^1 \tau} e^{-\tilde{\delta} t_0} \int_{t_0-\tau}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta} \xi} \int_{\Omega} \Delta g w_t dx d\xi ds. 
\end{aligned} \tag{5.34}$$

Since  $\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} e^{-\tilde{\delta} \tau} \tilde{R}_{t_0-\tau}^2 = 0$ , for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , we can find  $\tau_0 = \tau_0(\varepsilon, \tilde{D}, t_0) \geq 0$  such that

$$\frac{(2+5\varepsilon')}{C^1 \lambda^2 \tau} e^{\tilde{\delta}(-\tau)} F(t_0-\tau) + \frac{1}{C^1 \tau} e^{-\tilde{\delta} \tau} (w_t(t_0-\tau), w(t_0-\tau)) \leq \varepsilon.$$

Thus we have

$$E_w(t_0) \leq \varepsilon + \phi_{t_0, \tau}((u_0^1, v_0^1, \theta_0^1), (u_0^2, v_0^2, \theta_0^2)) \quad \text{for all } (u_0^i, v_0^i, \theta_0^i) \in \tilde{D}_{t_0-\tau_0}.$$

By Lemma 3.1 we only need to show that  $\phi_{t_0, \tau_0}(\cdot, \cdot)$  defined by (5.34) is a contractive function on  $\tilde{D}_{t_0-\tau_0} \times \tilde{D}_{t_0-\tau_0}$ . Let  $(u_n, u_{nt}, \theta_n)$  be the corresponding solutions of  $(u_0^n, v_0^n, \theta_0^n) \in \tilde{D}_{t_0-\tau_0}$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ . Since  $\tilde{D}_{t_0-\tau_0}$  is a bounded subset in  $X_0$ , by (4.16) we know that

$$\| (u_n(s), u_{nt}(s), \theta_n(s)) \|_{X_0} \leq C'_{t_0, \tau_0} < +\infty \quad \text{for all } s \in [t_0 - \tau_0, t_0] \text{ and } n \in N, \tag{5.35}$$

where  $C'_{t_0, \tau_0}$  depends on  $t_0, \tau_0$ .

Now, we will deal with the right terms in (5.34) one by one.

Without loss of generality, assuming first that

$$u_n \rightarrow u \quad \text{weak-star in } L^\infty(t_0 - \tau_0, t_0; H_0^2(\Omega))$$

and considering that compact embeddings  $H_0^2(\Omega) \hookrightarrow \hookrightarrow H_0^1(\Omega)$ , we have

$$u_n \rightarrow u \quad \text{strongly in } L^2(t_0 - \tau_0, t_0; H_0^1(\Omega)),$$

so we obtain

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{t_0 - \tau_0}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|\nabla u_n(\xi) - \nabla u_m(\xi)\|^2 d\xi = 0. \quad (5.36)$$

Second, similarly assuming that

$$u_n \rightarrow u \quad \text{weak-star in } L^\infty(t_0 - \tau_0, t_0; H_0^1(\Omega))$$

and considering compact embeddings  $H_0^1(\Omega) \hookrightarrow \hookrightarrow L^2(\Omega)$ , we also get

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{t_0 - \tau_0}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|u_n(\xi) - u_m(\xi)\|^2 d\xi = 0, \\ & \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_{t_0 - \tau_0}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \|u_n(\xi) - u_m(\xi)\|^2 d\xi \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (5.37)$$

Finally, with

$$\begin{aligned} u_n & \rightarrow u \quad \text{weak-star in } L^\infty(t_0 - \tau_0, t_0; L^2(\Omega)), \\ u_{nt} & \rightarrow u_t \quad \text{weak-star in } L^\infty(t_0 - \tau_0, t_0; L^2(\Omega)), \end{aligned}$$

we have

$$u_n \rightarrow u \quad \text{strongly in } C(t_0 - \tau_0, t_0; L^2(\Omega)).$$

So, it is easy to obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} (u_{nt}(t_0) - u_{mt}(t_0))(u_n(t_0) - u_m(t_0)) dx \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} (u_{nt}(t_0) - u_{mt}(t_0))(u_n(t_0) - u(t_0) + u(t_0) - u_m(t_0)) dx \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} (u_{nt}(t_0) - u_{mt}(t_0))(u_n(t_0) - u(t_0)) dx \\ &+ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} (u_{nt}(t_0) - u_{mt}(t_0))(u(t_0) - u_m(t_0)) dx \\ &\leq \|u_{nt}(t_0) - u_{mt}(t_0)\|_{L^\infty(L^2(\Omega))} \|u_n(t_0) - u(t_0)\| \\ &+ \|u_{nt}(t_0) - u_{mt}(t_0)\|_{L^\infty(L^2(\Omega))} \|u(t_0) - u_m(t_0)\| \\ &\leq C [\|u_n(t_0) - u(t_0)\| + \|u(t_0) - u_m(t_0)\|] \\ &\rightarrow 0. \end{aligned} \quad (5.38)$$

By assumptions (1.6) on  $g(\cdot)$ , using the embedding theorem combined with (5.35), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{t_0 - \tau_0}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \int_{\Omega} (u_{nt}(\xi) - u_{mt}(\xi))(g(u_n(\xi)) - g(u_m(\xi))) dx d\xi \\
 & \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{t_0 - \tau_0}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \int_{\Omega} (u_{nt}(\xi) - u_{mt}(\xi)) k_2(u_n(\xi) - u_m(\xi)) \\
 & \quad \times (1 + |u_n(\xi)|^{\rho-1} + |u_m(\xi)|^{\rho-1}) dx d\xi \\
 & \leq C'_{t_0, \tau_0} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_{t_0 - \tau_0}^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \| (u_n(\xi) - u_m(\xi)) \|^2 d\xi \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
 & = 0. \tag{5.39}
 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, since  $\int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \int_{\Omega} (u_{nt}(\xi) - u_{mt}(\xi))(g(u_n(\xi)) - g(u_m(\xi))) dx d\xi$  is bounded for each  $s \in [\tau, t_0]$ , by (5.39) and the Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{t_0 - \tau_0}^{t_0} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \int_{\Omega} (u_{nt}(\xi) - u_{mt}(\xi))(g(u_n(\xi)) - g(u_m(\xi))) dx d\xi ds \\
 & = \int_{t_0 - \tau_0}^{t_0} \left( \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_s^{t_0} e^{\tilde{\delta}\xi} \int_{\Omega} (u_{nt}(\xi) - u_{mt}(\xi))(g(u_n(\xi)) - g(u_m(\xi))) dx d\xi \right) ds \\
 & = \int_{t_0 - \tau_0}^{t_0} 0 ds \\
 & = 0. \tag{5.40}
 \end{aligned}$$

Combining (5.36)-(5.40), we get that  $\Phi_{t_0, \tau_0}(\cdot, \cdot)$  is a contractive function on  $\tilde{D}_{t_0 - \tau_0} \times \tilde{D}_{t_0 - \tau_0}$ . The proof is finished by Lemma 3.1.  $\square$

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#### Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

#### Authors' contributions

This paper was mainly completed by DX. YZ gave the exact conditions of the source term  $g(u)$  and deal with it through the paper. YZ also deal with the right terms in (5.34). All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

#### Author details

<sup>1</sup>Department of Mathematics, Taiyuan University of Technology, Taiyuan, 030024, P.R. China. <sup>2</sup>Department of Mathematics, Taiyuan University of Science and Technology, Taiyuan, 030024, P.R. China.

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