Evolutionary variational–hemivariational inequalities with applications to dynamic viscoelastic contact mechanics

Jiangfeng Han, Liang Lu and Shengda Zeng

Abstract. The purpose of this work is to introduce and investigate a complicated variational–hemivariational inequality of parabolic type with history-dependent operators. First, we establish an existence and uniqueness theorem for a first-order nonlinear evolution inclusion problem, which is driven by a convex subdifferential operator for a proper convex function and a generalized Clarke subdifferential operator for a locally Lipschitz superpotential. Then, we employ the fixed point principle for history-dependent operators to deliver the unique solvability of the parabolic variational–hemivariational inequality. Finally, a dynamic viscoelastic contact problem with the nonlinear constitutive law involving a convex subdifferential inclusion is considered as an illustrative application, where normal contact and friction are described, respectively, by two nonconvex and nonsmooth multi-valued terms.

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1. Introduction

The contact processes between deformable bodies around in industry and our real-life and, for this reason, a considerable effort for modeling, mathematical analysis, numerical simulation and optimal control of various frictional contact problems are quite interesting and important.

The theory of variational inequalities can be used to describe the principles of virtual work and power which was initially proposed by Fourier in 1823. The prototypes, which lead to a class of variational inequalities, are the problems of Signorini–Fichera and frictional contact in elasticity. However, the first complete proof of unique solvability to Signorini Problem was provided by Signorini’s student Fichera in 1964. The solution of the Signorini Problem coincides with the birth of the field of variational inequalities. For more on the initial developments of elasticity theory and variational inequalities, cf. e.g., [1]. With the gradual improvement of the theory of variational inequalities, there are numerous monographs dedicated to solving various complex phenomena in contact problems with different bodies and foundations, see for instance [7, 8, 12, 32] and others. As the generalization of variational inequalities, the theory of hemivariational inequalities was first introduced and studied by Panagiotopoulos in [30]. The mathematical theory of hemivariational inequalities has been of great interest recently, which is due to the intensive development of applications of hemivariational inequalities in contact mechanics, control theory, games and so forth. Some comprehensive references are [4, 13, 15–19, 21, 24–27, 29, 31].

Recently, Han–Migórski–Sofonea [11], Migórski–Ogorzaly [22] and Migórski–Bai [23] studied the history-dependent variational–hemivariational inequality of parabolic type as follows

\[
\begin{cases}
\text{find } w \in \mathcal{W} \text{ such that for a.e. } t \in [0, T] \text{ and all } v \in V, \\
\langle w'(t) + A(t, w(t)) + (S_1 w)(t) - f(t), v - w(t) \rangle_{V^* \times V} + \phi^0(t, (S_3 w)(t), w(t); v - w(t)) \\
+ \varphi(t, (S_2 w)(t), v) - \varphi(t, (S_2 w)(t) w(t)) \geq 0, \\
w(0) = w_0.
\end{cases}
\] (1.1)
It is worth mentioning that problem (1.1) cannot able to be a mathematical model to handle with the following problem with constraints
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{find } w \in \mathcal{W} \text{ with } w(t) &\in K \text{ for a.e. } t \in [0, T] \text{ such that for a.e. } t \in [0, T] \text{ and all } v \in K, \\
&\langle w'(t) + A(t, w(t)) + (S_1 w)(t) - f(t), v - w(t) \rangle_{V^*, V} + \varphi(v) - \varphi(w(t)) \\
&\qquad + \varphi'(t, (S_2 w)(t), w(t); v - w(t)) \geq 0, \\
&\quad w(0) = w_0.
\end{align*}
\] (1.2)

However, we know that the problem (1.2) can be used as a powerful mathematical tool to describe precisely various mechanical contact phenomena, such as unilateral constraint models. Based on this motivation, in the present paper, we are interested in the study of Problem 4.1, which expresses a generalized formulation of problem (1.2).

More precisely, the intention of the current work contains twofold. The first goal of the paper is to explore a generalized existence and uniqueness theorem to Problem 4.1. Our approach is based on the surjectivity theorem for the sum of operators together with the theory of nonsmooth and nonconvex analysis. However, the second purpose of the work is to apply the theoretical results established previously to investigate a complicated and new dynamic viscoelastic contact problem, in which the nonlinear constitutive law is characterized by a convex subdifferential inclusion. Also, the boundary conditions are described by two Clarke subdifferential terms for two locally Lipschitz potentials, which are nonconvex in general.

We arrange our paper in the following way. In Sect. 2, some preliminary materials of mathematics and mechanics are provided. Section 3 is devoted to treat a first-order nonlinear evolution inclusion problem involving a convex subdifferential operator and a generalized Clarke subgradient term within the framework of an evolution triple of spaces, and to prove a new existence and uniqueness result. Section 4 explores the unique solvability of the variational–hemivariational inequality of parabolic type under consideration by using the fixed point principle for history-dependent operators. In Sect. 5, a dynamic viscoelastic contact problem with the nonlinear constitutive law involving a convex subdifferential inclusion is considered as an illustrative application, where normal contact and friction are described, respectively, by two nonconvex and nonsmooth multi-valued terms.

2. Preliminaries

In this section, we briefly review basic notation and some results which are needed in the sequel. For more details, we refer to monographs [4–6, 21].

Throughout the paper, we denote by \( \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{X^* \times X} \) the duality pairing between a Banach space \( X \) and its dual \( X^* \). A single-valued mapping \( A: X \rightarrow X^* \) is called to be demicontinuous, if for all \( w \in X \), the functional \( u \rightarrow \langle Au, w \rangle_{X^* \times X} \) is continuous. Let \( K \) be a nonempty subset of \( X \). In what follows, by the notation \( 2^K \), we represent the so-called power set of \( K \), i.e., the set of all of its subsets. The domain, image and graph of a multi-valued operator \( B: X \rightarrow 2^{X^*} \) are defined by \( D(B) = \{ x \in X \mid Bx \neq \emptyset \} \),
\[
R(B) = \bigcup_{x \in X} Bx \quad \text{and} \quad Gr(B) = \{ (x, x^*) \in X \times X^* \mid x^* \in Bx \},
\]
respectively. Recall that a multi-valued mapping \( B: X \rightarrow 2^{X^*} \) is said to be
(i) bounded, if it maps bounded sets of \( X \) into bounded sets of \( X^* \).
(ii) strongly quasi-bounded, if for each \( M > 0 \), there exists \( K_M > 0 \) satisfying if \( u \in D(B) \) and \( u^* \in Bu \) are such that
\[
\langle u^*, u \rangle_{X^* \times X} \leq M \quad \text{and} \quad \| u \|_X \leq M,
\]
then we have \( \| u^* \|_{X^*} \leq K_M \).
(iii) maximal monotone, if it is monotone such that \((y, y^*) \in X \times X^*\) satisfying
\[
\langle x^* - y^*, x - y \rangle_{X^* \times X} \geq 0 \quad \text{for all } (x, x^*) \in \text{Gr}(B),
\]
implies that \(x_2^* \in B(x_2)\).
(iv) coercive, if it holds
\[
\lim\inf_{\|u\| \to \infty, u \in D(B)} \frac{\inf\{\langle u^*, u \rangle_{X^* \times X} \mid u^* \in Bu\}}{\|u\|_X} = +\infty.
\]

We now recall the definition of \(L\)-pseudomonotonicity of multi-valued operators.

**Definition 2.1.** Let \(L: D(L) \subset X \to X^*\) be a linear maximal monotone operator and \(B: X \to 2^{X^*}\). We say that \(B\) is \(L\)-pseudomonotone (or \(B\) is pseudomonotone with respect to \(L\)), if the following conditions are satisfied

(a) for each \(u \in X\), \(Bu\) is nonempty, bounded, convex and closed in \(X\);
(b) \(B\) is upper semicontinuous from each finite-dimensional subspace of \(X\) to \(X^*\) endowed with the weak* topology;
(c) \(\{u_n\} \subset D(L), u_n^* \in Bu_n\) with \(u_n \to u\) weakly in \(X\), \(Lu_n \to Lu\) weakly in \(X^*\), \(u_n^* \to u^*\) weakly in \(X^*\) and
\[
\limsup_{n \to \infty} \langle u_n^*, u_n - u \rangle_{X^* \times X} \leq 0,
\]
entail that \(u^* \in Bu\) and \(\langle u_n^*, u_n \rangle_{X^* \times X} \to \langle u^*, u \rangle_{X^* \times X}\).

In general, it is difficult to verify that an operator is strongly quasi-bounded by using its definition. Fortunately, the following proposition provides a useful criterion to guarantee an operator is strongly quasi-bounded, where its proof can be found in [2, Proposition 14].

**Proposition 2.2.** Assume that \(B: D(B) \subset X \to 2^{X^*}\) is a monotone operator such that \(0 \in \text{int}(D(B))\), then \(B\) is strongly quasi-bounded.

Let \(\varphi: X \to \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}\) be a proper, convex and lower semicontinuous function. We denote the (convex) subdifferential operator \(\partial c \varphi: X \to 2^{X^*}\) of \(\varphi\) by
\[
\partial c \varphi(u) := \{u^* \in X^* \mid \varphi(v) - \varphi(u) \geq \langle u^*, v - u \rangle_{X^* \times X} \quad \text{for all } v \in X\}
\]
for all \(u \in D(\varphi)\).

**Proposition 2.3.** Let \(\varphi: X \to \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}\) be a proper, convex and lower semicontinuous function. Then, \(\partial c \varphi: X \to 2^{X^*}\) is a maximal monotone operator.

Let \(h: X \to \mathbb{R}\) be a locally Lipschitz function. The (Clarke) generalized directional derivative of \(h\) at \(u \in X\) in the direction \(v \in X\) is defined by
\[
h^0(u; v) = \limsup_{y \to u, \lambda \downarrow 0} \frac{h(y + \lambda v) - h(y)}{\lambda}.
\]
In the meantime, the Clarke subdifferential operator \(\partial h: X \to 2^{X^*}\) of \(h\) is given by
\[
\partial h(u) = \{\zeta \in X^* \mid h^0(u; v) \geq \langle \zeta, v \rangle_{X^* \times X} \quad \text{for all } v \in X\} \quad \text{for all } u \in X.
\]
The generalized gradient and generalized directional derivative of a locally Lipschitz function enjoy many nice properties and rich calculus. Here we just collect below some basic and crucial results, see for instance, [21, Proposition 3.23].

**Proposition 2.4.** Let \(h: X \to \mathbb{R}\) be a locally Lipschitz function, then the following statements are true
(i) for each \(x \in X\), \(\partial h(x)\) is nonempty, convex and weakly compact in \(X^*\).
operators given by $V \subset X$ inclusion problem, which is driven by a generalized Clarke subdifferential of a locally Lipschitz function $F$.

This section is devoted to explore the existence and uniqueness for a generalized first-order evolution inclusion problems with nonsmooth and nonconvex potentials.

3. First-order nonlinear evolution inclusion problems with nonsmooth and nonconvex potentials

This section is devoted to explore the existence and uniqueness for a generalized first-order evolution inclusion problem, which is driven by a generalized Clarke subdifferential of a locally Lipschitz function and a subdifferential operator of a convex potential, within the framework of an evolution triple of spaces $V \subset H \subset V^*$ (see, e.g., [21, Definition 1.52]).
Given $0 < T < +\infty$, in what follows, we adopt the following function spaces in the evolution triple of spaces $V \subset H \subset V^*$

$$V = L^2(0, T; V), \quad \dot{H} = L^2(0, T; H), \quad V^* = L^2(0, T; V^*)$$

and $\mathcal{W} = \{v \in V | v' \in V^*\}$, where the time derivative $v' = \partial v/\partial t$ is understood in the sense of vector-valued distributions. It is not difficult to prove that the space $\mathcal{W}$ endowed with the norm

$$\|v\|_\mathcal{W} = \|v\|_V + \|v'\|_V^*$$

is a separable and reflexive Banach space, and the embeddings $\mathcal{W} \subset V \subset \dot{H} \subset V^*$ are continuous. Besides, it follows from [21, Proposition 2.54(ii)] that the embedding $\mathcal{W} \subset C(0, T; H)$ is continuous as well. Throughout the paper, we denote by

$$\langle u^*, u \rangle_{V^* \times V} = \int_0^T \langle u^*(t), u(t) \rangle_{V^* \times V} \, dt \quad \text{for all} \quad (u^*, u) \in V^* \times V,$$

the duality pairing of $V^*$ and $V$.

Before proving the main problem, it should be mentioned that all of the convex and Clarke subdifferentials which are appeared in the sequel of the present paper are always understood with respect to the last variable of the corresponding functions.

The abstract evolution inclusion problem of parabolic type under the consideration is formulated as follows.

**Problem 3.1.** Find $w \in \mathcal{W}$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}
&(w'(t) + A(t, w(t)) + \zeta(t) + \xi(t) = f(t) \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in [0, T], \\
&\zeta(t) \in \partial\varphi(t, w(t)) \text{ and } \xi(t) \in \partial c\psi(w(t)) \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in [0, T], \\
&w(0) = w_0,
\end{aligned}$$

(3.1)

where the function $f$ and initial data $w_0$ are assumed to satisfy the following regularities

$$f \in V^*, \quad w_0 \in V.$$  \hspace{1cm} (3.2)

To deliver the existence and uniqueness of solution to Problem 3.1, we make the following assumptions. The nonlinear function $A : [0, T] \times V \rightarrow V^*$ satisfies the following conditions.

$$H(A) : \begin{cases}
(i) \ t \mapsto A(t, w) \text{ is measurable on } [0, T] \text{ for all } w \in V. \\
(ii) \ A(t, \cdot) \text{ is demicontinuous on } V \text{ for a.e. } t \in [0, T]. \\
(iii) \text{ there exist a function } a_1 \in L^2_{+}(0, T) \text{ and a positive constant } a_2 > 0 \text{ such that} \\
\|A(t, w)\|_{V^*} \leq a_1(t) + a_2\|w\|_V \text{ for all } w \in V \text{ and a.e. } t \in [0, T]. \\
(iv) \text{ for a.e. } t \in [0, T], u \mapsto A(t, u) \text{ is strongly monotone, i.e.,} \\
\langle A(t, w_1) - A(t, w_2), w_1 - w_2 \rangle_{V^* \times V} \geq \alpha\|w_1 - w_2\|^2_V \\
\text{with } \alpha > 0 \text{ for all } w_1, w_2 \in V.
\end{cases}$$
The functions $\varphi: [0,T] \times V \to \mathbb{R}$ and $\psi: V \to \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$, respectively, read the next assumptions $H(\varphi)$ and $H(\psi)$.

\[ H(\varphi): \begin{cases} 
(i) \varphi(\cdot, w) \text{ is measurable on } [0,T] \text{ for all } w \in V. \\
(ii) \varphi(t, \cdot) \text{ is locally Lipschitz continuous on } V \text{ for a.e. } t \in [0,T]. \\
(iii) \text{there exist a function } c_1 \in L^2_+(0,T) \text{ and a constant } c_2 > 0 \\
\quad \text{such that for all } w \in V, \text{ a.e. } t \in [0,T], \text{ and all } \zeta(t) \in \partial \varphi(t, w) \\
\quad \|\zeta(t)\|_{V^*} \leq c_1(t) + c_2\|w\|_V. \\
(iv) \text{there exists a constant } \beta \geq 0 \text{ such that} \\
\quad \langle \zeta_1(t) - \zeta_2(t), w_1 - w_2 \rangle_{V^*,V} \geq -\beta\|w_1 - w_2\|^2_V \\
\quad \text{for all } w_1, w_2 \in V, \text{ a.e. } t \in [0,T] \text{ with } \zeta_i(t) \in \partial \varphi(t, w_i), i = 1, 2.
\end{cases} \]

\[ H(\psi): \begin{cases} 
(i) \psi(\cdot) \text{ is proper, convex and l.s.c. on } V. \\
(ii) w_0 \in \text{int}D(\psi) \text{ and } 0 \in \partial \psi(w_0).
\end{cases} \]

The main result of the section concerning the existence and uniqueness for Problem 3.1 is provided as follows.

**Theorem 3.2.** Under the assumptions of $H(A), H(\varphi), H(\psi)$ and (3.2), and if, in addition, the inequality
\[ \max\{\beta, 2c_2\} < \alpha \tag{3.3} \]
holds, then Problem 3.1 admits a unique solution $w \in W$.

We shall employ the surjectivity result, Theorem 2.5, to obtain the desired conclusion in Theorem 3.2, by formulating Problem 3.1 to an abstract operator inclusion problem. To the end, we define an operator $A: V \to V^*$ by
\[ \langle Aw, v \rangle_{V^* \times V} = \int_0^T \langle A(t, w(t)), v(t) \rangle_{V^* \times V} \, dt \quad \text{for all } w, v \in V, \]
and introduce a convex function $\Phi: V \to \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ by
\[ \Phi(v) = \int_0^T \psi(v(t)) \, dt \quad \text{for all } v \in V. \tag{3.4} \]

For any $v \in V$ and $t \in [0,T]$ fixed, we may restate Problem 3.1 to the inequality problem, by multiplying the first equation of (3.1) with $\langle v(t) - w(t) \rangle$ and integrating the resulting over $[0, T]$
\[ \begin{cases} 
\text{find } w \in W \text{ such that} \\
\quad \langle w' + Aw + \zeta - f, v - w \rangle_{V^* \times V} + \Phi(v) - \Phi(w) \geq 0 \text{ for all } v \in V, \\
\quad \zeta(t) \in \partial \varphi(t, w(t)) \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in [0,T], \\
\quad w(0) = w_0.
\end{cases} \tag{3.5} \]

In the meantime, consider the functions $A_{w_0}: V \to V^*$, $F_{w_0}: V \to 2^{V^*}$, and $\Phi_{w_0}: V \to \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ by
\[ \begin{cases} 
A_{w_0}w = A(w + w_0), \\
F_{w_0}(w)(t) = \{ \hat{\zeta} \in V^* | \hat{\zeta}(t) \in \partial \varphi(t, w(t) + w_0) \} \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in [0,T], \\
\Phi_{w_0}(w) = \Phi(w + w_0)
\end{cases} \tag{3.6} \]
for all $w \in V$, and introduce the operator $L: D(L) \subset V \to V^*$ by

$$Lw = w' \quad \text{for all } w \in D(L) := \{w \in W \mid w(0) = 0\}. \quad (3.7)$$

Then, under the above definitions, it is easy to see that $u \in W$ is a solution to problem (3.5), if and only if, $z := u - w_0 \in D(L)$ solves the following operator inclusion problem

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{find } z \in D(L) \text{ such that } \\
Lz + A_{w_0}z + F_{w_0}z + \partial_c \Phi_{w_0}(z) \ni f.
\end{aligned} \quad (3.8)$$

**Proof of Theorem 3.2.** With respect to the existence of solutions to Problem 3.1, the proof will be based on Theorem 2.5.

Invoking [21, Lemma 3.64], it is well-known that the operator $L$ defined in (3.7) is densely defined, linear, and maximal monotone. We assert that the mapping $Q_{w_0}: V \to 2^{V^*}$ defined by

$$Q_{w_0}z = A_{w_0}z + F_{w_0}z \quad \text{for } z \in V$$

is coercive and bounded.

By virtue of hypotheses $H(A)(\text{iii}), (\text{iv}),$ Hölder inequality and the element inequality $(a + b)^2 \geq (a^2/2) - b^2 (a, b \in \mathbb{R})$, we have that, for all $z \in V,$

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle A_{w_0}z, z \rangle_{V^* \times V} &= \int_0^T \langle A(t, z(t) + w_0) - A(t, 0), z(t) + w_0 \rangle_{V^* \times V} dt \\
&+ \int_0^T \langle A(t, 0), z(t) + w_0 \rangle_{V^* \times V} dt - \int_0^T \langle A(t, z(t) + w_0), w_0 \rangle_{V^* \times V} dt \\
&\geq \alpha \int_0^T \|z(t) + w_0\|^2_{V} dt - \int_0^T a_1(t) \|z(t) + w_0\|_V dt - \int_0^T a_1(t) \|w_0\|_V dt \\
&\quad - a_2 \int_0^T \|z(t) + w_0\|_V \|w_0\|_V dt \geq \frac{\alpha}{2} \|z\|^2_V - (\alpha + a_2)T \|w_0\|^2_V \\
&\quad - (\|a_1\|_{L^2(0,T)} + a_2 \sqrt{T} \|w_0\|_V) \|z\|_V - 2\sqrt{T} \|a_1\|_{L^2(0,T)} \|w_0\|_V.
\end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, $H(\varphi)(\text{iii})$ and Hölder inequality deduce

$$\begin{aligned}
|\langle F_{w_0}z, z \rangle_{V^* \times V}| &\leq \int_0^T |\langle \partial \varphi(t, z(t) + w_0), z(t) \rangle_{V^* \times V}| dt \\
&\leq \int_0^T (c_1(t) + c_2 \|z(t) + w_0\|_V) \|z(t)\|_V dt \\
&\leq \int_0^T \left( c_2 \|z(t)\|^2_V + (c_1(t) + c_2 \|w_0\|_V) \|z(t)\|_V \right) dt \\
&\leq c_2 \|z\|^2_V + (\|c_1\|_{L^2(0,T)} + c_2 \sqrt{T} \|w_0\|_V) \|z\|_V
\end{aligned}$$

for all $z \in V,$ hence,

$$\langle F_{w_0}z, z \rangle_{V^* \times V} \geq -c_2 \|z\|^2_V - (\|c_1\|_{L^2(0,T)} + c_2 \sqrt{T} \|w_0\|_V) \|z\|_V.$$
for all \( z \in V \). Notice that
\[
\langle Q_{w_0} z, z \rangle_{V^* \times V} = \langle A_{w_0} z + F_{w_0} z, z \rangle_{V^* \times V} \geq \left( \frac{\alpha}{2} - c_2 \right) \|z\|_V^2
\]
\[- (\|a_1\|_{L^1(0,T)} + \|c_1\|_{L^2(0,T)} + a_2 \sqrt{T} \|w_0\|_V + c_2 \sqrt{T} \|w_0\|_V) \|z\|_V
\]
\[- (\alpha + a_2) T \|w_0\|_V^2 - 2 \sqrt{T} \|a_1\|_{L^2(0,T)} \|w_0\|_V \quad \text{for all } z \in V,
\]
we are now in a position to utilize the smallness condition (3.3) to conclude that \( Q_{w_0} \) is coercive.

Applying conditions \( H(A)(iii) \), \( H(\varphi)(iii) \), it yields that, for all \( z \in V \),
\[
\|Q_{w_0} z\|_{V^*}^2 \leq 2 \|A_{w_0} z\|_{V^*}^2 + 2 \|F_{w_0} z\|_{V^*}^2 \leq 2 \int_0^T \|A(t, z(t) + w_0)\|_{V^*}^2 \, dt
\]
\[+ 2 \int_0^T \|\partial \varphi(t, z(t) + w_0)\|_{V^*}^2 \, dt \leq 2(a_2^2 + c_2^2) \|z\|_V^2
\]
\[+ 4(a_2^2 \|a_1\|_{L^2(0,T)} + c_2 \|c_1\|_{L^2(0,T)} + a_2^2 \sqrt{T} \|w_0\|_V + c_2^2 \sqrt{T} \|w_0\|_V) \|z\|_V
\]
\[+ 2T(a_2^2 + c_2^2) \|w_0\|_V^2 + 4 \sqrt{T} \|w_0\|_V (a_2 \|a_1\|_{L^2(0,T)} + c_2 \|c_1\|_{L^2(0,T)})
\]
\[+ 2(\|a_1\|_{L^2(0,T)} + c_1 \|Z\|_{L^2(0,T)})
\]
i.e.,
\[
\|Q_{w_0} z\|_{V^*} \leq r_1 \|z\|_V + r_2 \sqrt{\|z\|_V} + r_3 \quad \text{for all } z \in V,
\]
where the constants \( r_1, r_2, r_3 \geq 0 \) are all independent of \( z \). Therefore, \( Q_{w_0} \) is a bounded mapping.

Next, we shall demonstrate that \( Q_{w_0} \) is \( L \)-pseudomonotone in the sense of Definition 2.1. To the end of this, we make the following three claims.

**Claim 1.** The set \( Q_{w_0} z \) is nonempty, bounded, closed and convex in \( V^* \) for every \( z \in V \).

Let \( z \in V \) be fixed. Proposition 2.4(i) implies that the set \( F_{w_0} z \) is a nonempty and convex in \( V^* \), so does \( Q_{w_0} z \). However, the inequality (3.9) guarantees the boundedness of \( Q_{w_0} z \). To illustrate that the set of \( Q_{w_0} z \) is closed, let \( \{z_n\} \subset Q_{w_0} z \) be such that \( z_n \to z \) in \( V^* \), as \( n \to \infty \). So, there exists a sequence \( \{\eta_n\} \subset F_{w_0} z \) such that \( \eta_n = \zeta_n + A_{w_0} z \) and \( \zeta_n \to \eta - A_{w_0} z \) in \( V^* \), as \( n \to \infty \). Then, passing to a subsequence if necessary, we assume that \( \zeta_n(t) \to \eta(t) - A_{w_0}(z(t)) \) in \( V^* \) for a.e. \( t \in [0, T] \). In accordance with Proposition 2.4(ii), it finds that the set of \( \eta - A_{w_0} z \in F_{w_0} z \). Therefore, the set \( Q_{w_0} z \) is also closed.

**Claim 2.** \( Q_{w_0} \) is upper semicontinuous from \( V \) to \( V^* \) endowed with the weak topology.

From [21, Proposition 3.8], it is enough to verify that for each weakly closed set \( C \) in \( V^* \), the set
\[
Q^{-}_{w_0}(C) = \{ z \in V | Q_{w_0} z \cap C \neq \emptyset \}
\]
is closed in \( V \).

We now show that \( A_{w_0} : V \to V^* \) is demicontinuous. Let \( \{z_n\} \subset V \) be such that \( z_n \to z \) in \( V \), as \( n \to \infty \). By passing to a subsequence if necessary, we may say
\[
z_n(t) \to z(t) \quad \text{in } V \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in [0, T].
\]
In view of the condition \( H(A)(ii) \), it reads
\[
\langle A(t, z_n(t) + w_0), w(t) \rangle_{V^* \times V} \to \langle A(t, z(t) + w_0), w(t) \rangle_{V^* \times V}
\]
for all \( w \in \mathcal{V} \) and a.e. \( t \in [0, T] \). The latter combined with hypothesis \( H(A)(ii) \) and Lebesgue-dominated convergence theorem implies

\[
\lim_{n \to \infty} \int_0^T \langle A(t, z_n(t) + w_0), w(t) \rangle_{V^* \times V} \, dt = \int_0^T \langle A(t, z(t) + w_0), w(t) \rangle_{V^* \times V} \, dt
\]

for all \( w \in \mathcal{V} \), which means

\[
\mathcal{A}_{w_0} z_n \to \mathcal{A}_{w_0} z \quad \text{weakly in } \mathcal{V}^*,
\]

so, \( \mathcal{A}_{w_0} \) is demicontinuous. In addition, we shall prove that \( \mathcal{F}_{w_0} : \mathcal{V} \to 2^{\mathcal{V}^*} \) has a closed graph in \( \mathcal{V} \times (w - \mathcal{V}^*) \). Let \( z_n \to z \) in \( \mathcal{V} \) and \( \hat{\zeta}_n \to \hat{\zeta} \) weakly in \( \mathcal{V}^* \) with

\[
\hat{\zeta}_n(t) \in \partial \varphi(t, z_n(t) + w_0) \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in [0, T],
\]

Invoking Proposition 2.4 and [21, Theorem 3.13] indicates

\[
\hat{\zeta}(t) \in \partial \varphi(t, z(t) + w_0) \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in [0, T],
\]

hence \( \hat{\zeta} \in \mathcal{F}_{w_0} z \). Therefore, \( \mathcal{F}_{w_0} \) is closed in the topology of \( \mathcal{V} \times (w - \mathcal{V}^*) \).

Let \( \{w_n\} \subset Q_{w_0}^-(C) \) be a sequence such that \( w_n \to w \) in \( \mathcal{V} \), as \( n \to \infty \); thus, there is \( \hat{\zeta}_n = \mathcal{A}_{w_0} w_n + \hat{\zeta}_n \) with \( \hat{\zeta}_n \in \mathcal{F}_{w_0} w_n \). From the boundedness of \( \mathcal{F}_{w_0} \), we may assume that \( \hat{\zeta}_n \to \hat{\zeta} \) weakly in \( \mathcal{V} \), as \( n \to \infty \), whereas by the demicontinuity of \( \mathcal{A}_{w_0} \) and the fact, operator \( \mathcal{F}_{w_0} \) is closed in \( \mathcal{V} \times (w - \mathcal{V}^*) \) topology, it finds

\[
\hat{\zeta} = \mathcal{A}_{w_0} w + \hat{\zeta} \in Q_{w_0} w 	ext{ with } \hat{\zeta} \in \mathcal{F}_{w_0} w.
\]

(3.11)

Furthermore, recall that the subset \( C \subset \mathcal{V}^* \) is weakly closed, so it holds \( w \in C \). Therefore, we have that \( w \in Q_{w_0}^-(C) \). This proves that \( Q_{w_0}^-(C) \) is closed in \( \mathcal{V} \). Consequently, \( Q_{w_0} \) is u.s.c. from \( \mathcal{V} \) to \( \mathcal{V}^* \) endowed with the weak topology.

**Claim 3.** \( Q_{w_0} \) is \( L \)-pseudomonotone.

Let \( \{z_n\} \subset D(L), \hat{\zeta}_n \in Q_{w_0} z_n \) with \( z_n \to z \) weakly in \( \mathcal{V} \), \( L z_n \to L z \) and \( \hat{\zeta}_n \to \hat{\zeta} \) both weakly in \( \mathcal{V}^* \), be such that

\[
\limsup_{n \to \infty} \langle \hat{\zeta}_n, z_n - z \rangle_{\mathcal{V}^* \times \mathcal{V}} \leq 0.
\]

(3.12)

We are going to show \( \hat{\zeta} \in Q_{w_0} z \) and

\[
\langle \hat{\zeta}_n, z_n \rangle_{\mathcal{V}^* \times \mathcal{V}} \to \langle \hat{\zeta}, z \rangle_{\mathcal{V}^* \times \mathcal{V}}.
\]

(3.13)

We now assert the convergence holds

\[
z_n \to z \quad \text{strongly in } \mathcal{V}.
\]

(3.14)

Let \( \hat{\zeta}_n \in \mathcal{F}_{w_0} z_n \) be such that \( \hat{\zeta}_n = \hat{\zeta}_n + \mathcal{A}_{w_0} z_n \). For any \( \hat{\zeta} \in \mathcal{F}_{w_0} z, H(\varphi)(iv) \) turns out

\[
\langle \hat{\zeta}_n - \hat{\zeta}, z_n - z \rangle_{\mathcal{V}^* \times \mathcal{V}} = \int_0^T \langle \hat{\zeta}_n(t) - \hat{\zeta}(t), z_n(t) - z(t) \rangle_{\mathcal{V}^* \times \mathcal{V}} \, dt \geq - \beta \|z_n - z\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2.
\]

The latter together with the strongly monotonicity of \( A \) (see \( H(A)(iv) \)) deduces

\[
\langle \hat{\zeta}_n - \hat{\zeta}, z_n - z \rangle_{\mathcal{V}^* \times \mathcal{V}} \geq (\alpha - \beta) \|z_n - z\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2
\]

...
for all $\tilde{z} \in Q_{w_0}z$ and all $z \in \mathcal{V}$. Then, if for the above inequality, passing to the upper limit, as $n \to \infty$, and using (3.12), we derive

$$(\alpha - \beta) \limsup_{n \to \infty} \|z_n - z\|_\mathcal{V}^2 \leq \limsup_{n \to \infty} \langle \tilde{\zeta}_n - \tilde{\zeta}, z_n - z \rangle_{\nu^* \times \nu}$$

$$= \limsup_{n \to \infty} \langle \tilde{\zeta}_n, z_n - z \rangle_{\nu^* \times \nu} - \lim_{n \to \infty} \langle \tilde{\zeta}, z_n - z \rangle_{\nu^* \times \nu} \leq 0.$$  

But, the smallness condition (3.3) indicates that $\alpha - \beta > 0$, namely (3.13) is satisfied.

Recall that $w \not\equiv 0$. Moreover, we also admit that $\Phi_{w_0}$ is lower semicontinuous on $\mathcal{V}$. Invoking Proposition 2.3 indicates that $\partial_\nu \Phi_{w_0} : \mathcal{V} \to 2^{\nu^*}$ is maximal monotone.

Additionally, we shall demonstrate that $\partial_\nu \Phi_{w_0}$ is strongly quasi-bounded on $\mathcal{V}$ with $0 \in \partial_\nu \Phi_{w_0}(0)$. For any $M > 0$ fixed, let $z \in D(\partial_\nu \Phi_{w_0})$ and $\xi \in \partial_\nu \Phi_{w_0}(z)$ be such that

$$\|z\|_\mathcal{V} \leq M, \quad \langle \xi, z \rangle_{\nu^* \times \nu} \leq M. \tag{3.15}$$

Recall that $w_0 \in \text{int}D(\psi)$, there exist an $\varepsilon > 0$ and $K_\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\psi(y) \leq K_\varepsilon < +\infty$ for all $y \in \mathcal{V}$ with $\|x - w_0\|_\mathcal{V} < \varepsilon$ (since $\psi$ is locally Lipschitz continuous in $\text{int}D(\psi)$). Define the open neighborhood $O_\varepsilon := \{z^* \in \mathcal{V} : \|z^*(t) - w_0\|_\mathcal{V} < \varepsilon \text{ for a.e. } t \in [0, T]\}$ of $\mathcal{V}$. It is obvious that $\Phi(u) \leq T|K_\varepsilon| < +\infty$ for all $u \in O_\varepsilon$, namely $0 \in \text{int}D(\Phi_{w_0})$. The latter together with the fact $\text{int}D(\Phi_{w_0}) \subset D(\partial_\nu \Phi_{w_0})$ implies $0 \in \text{int}D(\partial_\nu \Phi_{w_0})$. Therefore, by using Proposition 2.2, we conclude that $\partial_\nu \Phi_{w_0}$ is strongly quasi-bounded on $\mathcal{V}$. On the other hand, the estimates

$$\Phi_{w_0}(u) - \Phi_{w_0}(0) = \int_0^T \psi(u(t) + w_0) - \psi(w_0) \, dt \geq \int_0^T \langle \xi, u(t) \rangle_{\nu^* \times \nu} \, dt$$

for all $\xi \in \partial_\nu \psi(w_0)$ and all $u \in \mathcal{V}$. But, condition $H(\psi)$ ensures $0 \in \partial_\nu \Phi_{w_0}(0)$.

To conclude, we have verified all conditions of Theorem 2.5. Using this theorem, we conclude that $L + Q_{w_0} + \partial_\nu \Phi_{w_0}$ is onto; thus, the inclusion (3.8) has a solution $z \in D(L)$. Consequently, $w = z + w_0 \in \mathcal{W}$ solves Problem 3.1.
We illustrate that Problem 3.1 is unique solvability. Let \( w_1, w_2 \in W \) be two solutions to Problem 3.1, i.e., for \( i = 1, 2 \),
\[
\begin{align*}
\begin{cases}
   w'_i(t) + A(t, w_i(t)) + \zeta_i(t) + \xi_i(t) = f(t) & \text{for a.e. } t \in [0, T], \\
   \zeta_i(t) \in \partial \varphi(t, w_i(t)), \, \xi_i(t) \in \partial \psi(w_i(t)) & \text{for a.e. } t \in [0, T], \\
   w_i(0) = w_0.
\end{cases}
\end{align*}
\]

A simple calculation gives
\[
\langle w'_i(t) - w'_2(t) + A(t, w_1(t)) - A(t, w_2(t)), w_1(t) - w_2(t) \rangle_{V^* \times V} \\
+ \langle \zeta_1(t) - \zeta_2(t) + \xi_1(t) - \xi_2(t), w_1(t) - w_2(t) \rangle_{V^* \times V} = 0
\]
for a.e. \( t \in [0, T] \). Then, integrating the above equality over on \([0, t]\) with \( t \in [0, T]\), and using \( H(A)(iv), H(\varphi)(iv) \) and \( H(\psi) \), we have
\[
\frac{1}{2} \| w_1(t) - w_2(t) \|^2_H + (\alpha - \beta) \int_0^t \| w_1(s) - w_2(s) \|^2_V \, ds \leq 0
\]
for all \( t \in [0, T] \), whereas the smallness condition (3.3) indicates \( w_1 = w_2 \). This concludes the proof of the theorem. \( \square \)

4. History-dependent variational–hemivariational inequalities

In this section, we are interesting in the study of existence and uniqueness of solution to a generalized variational–hemivariational inequality involving history-dependent operators, in which the history-dependent operators are, respectively, acted on the elastic operator and locally Lipschitz function. In what follows, let \( Y_i \) for \( i = 1, 2, 3 \) be Banach spaces. The problem under investigation reads as follows.

**Problem 4.1.** Find \( w \in W \) such that for a.e. \( t \in [0, T] \) and all \( v \in V \),
\[
\begin{align*}
\begin{cases}
   \langle w'(t) + A(t, (S_iw)(t)), v(t) \rangle_{V^* \times V} - f(t), v - w(t) \rangle_{V^* \times V} + \phi^0(t, (S_2w)(t), (S_3w)(t), w(t); v - w(t)) + \psi(v) - \psi(w(t)) \geq 0, \\
   w(0) = w_0.
\end{cases}
\end{align*}
\]
\[ (4.1) \]

To establish main results on Problem 4.1, we now impose the following assumptions on its data.

\( H(S_i) \) : \( S_1 : V \to L^2(0, T; Y_1), \ S_2 : V \to L^2(0, T; Y_2) \), and \( S_3 : V \to L^2(0, T; Y_3) \) are three history-dependent operators, i.e., there exist constants \( L_{S_1}, L_{S_2}, L_{S_3} > 0 \) such that for all \( w_1, w_2 \in V \) and a.e. \( t \in [0, T] \),
\[
\begin{align*}
\begin{cases}
   (a) \| (S_1w_1)(t) - (S_1w_2)(t) \|_{Y_1} \leq L_{S_1} \int_0^t \| w_1(s) - w_2(s) \|_V \, ds, \\
   (b) \| (S_2w_1)(t) - (S_2w_2)(t) \|_{Y_2} \leq L_{S_2} \int_0^t \| w_1(s) - w_2(s) \|_V \, ds, \\
   (c) \| (S_3w_1)(t) - (S_3w_2)(t) \|_{Y_3} \leq L_{S_3} \int_0^t \| w_1(s) - w_2(s) \|_V \, ds.
\end{cases}
\end{align*}
\]
\[ (4.2) \]
Theorem 4.2. Assume that (3.2), \( H(\psi), H(S), H(A), \) and \( H(\phi) \) hold. If, in addition, the smallness condition (3.3) is fulfilled, then Problem 4.1 has a unique solution \( w \in W \).

Proof. For \((\eta, \theta, \varsigma) \in L^2(0,T;Y_1 \times Y_2 \times Y_3)\) fixed, first, we consider the intermediate problem:

\[
\begin{aligned}
&\text{find } w_{\eta\theta\varsigma} \in W \text{ such that } \\
&w'_{\eta\theta\varsigma}(t) + A(t, \eta(t), w_{\eta\theta\varsigma}(t)) + \zeta(t) + \xi(t) = f(t), \\
&\zeta(t) \in \partial \phi(t, \theta(t), \varsigma(t), w_{\eta\theta\varsigma}(t)), \\
&\xi(t) \in \partial \psi(w_{\eta\theta\varsigma}(t)), \\
&w_{\eta\theta\varsigma}(0) = w_0,
\end{aligned}
\]

for a.e. \( t \in [0,T] \). We shall use Theorem 3.2 to show that problem (4.5) has a unique solution.

Consider the functions \( A(t, w) = A(t, \eta(t), w) \) and \( \phi(t, w) = \phi(t, \theta(t), \varsigma(t), w) \), respectively, for all \( w \in V \) and a.e. \( t \in [0,T] \). By virtue of hypotheses (4.3)(a)–(c) and (4.4)(a)–(d), it is not difficult to verify that the operator \( A \) and the function \( \phi \) defined in (4.6) enjoy the conditions of \( H(A) \) and \( H(\phi)(i)–(iii) \), respectively. Besides, hypothesis (4.4)(c) and the following estimates
\[ \langle \zeta_1(t) - \zeta_2(t), w_1(t) - w_2(t) \rangle_{V^* \times V} \]
\[ \geq -\varphi^0(t, w_1(t); w_2(t) - w_1(t)) - \varphi^0(t, w_2(t); w_1(t) - w_2(t)) \]
\[ = -\phi^0(t, \theta(t), \varsigma(t), w_1(t); w_2(t) - w_1(t)) - \phi^0(t, \theta(t), \varsigma(t), w_2(t); w_1(t) - w_2(t)) \]
\[ \geq -\beta\|w_1(t) - w_2(t)\|^2_V \]

for all \( \zeta_1(t) \in \partial \varphi(t, w_1(t)) \), all \( \zeta_2(t) \in \partial \varphi(t, w_2(t)) \), and a.e. \( t \in [0, T] \), ensure the validity of \( H(\varphi)(iv) \). Therefore, from the conditions (3.2) and (3.3), we are able to employ Theorem 3.2 to obtain that for each \( (\eta, \theta, \varsigma) \in L^2(0, T; Y_1 \times Y_2 \times Y_3) \) fixed, problem (4.5) admits a unique solution \( w_{\eta\theta\varsigma} \in W \).

Observe that for every \( (\eta, \theta, \varsigma) \in L^2(0, T; Y_1 \times Y_2 \times Y_3) \) fixed, if \( w_{\eta\theta\varsigma} \in W \) is a solution to problem (4.5), then it solves the following problem too

\[
\begin{cases}
\text{find } w_{\eta\theta\varsigma} \in W \text{ such that } \\
\langle w_{\eta\theta\varsigma}^{t+}, (t, \eta(t), w_{\eta\theta\varsigma}(t)) - f(t), v - w_{\eta\theta\varsigma}(t) \rangle_{V^* \times V} \\
+ \phi^0(t, \theta(t), \varsigma(t), w_{\eta\theta\varsigma}(t); v - w_{\eta\theta\varsigma}(t)) + \psi(v) - \psi(w_{\eta\theta\varsigma}(t)) \geq 0, \\
\quad w_{\eta\theta\varsigma}(0) = w_0,
\end{cases}
\tag{4.7}
\]

for all \( v \in V \) and a.e. \( t \in [0, T] \). We assert that problem (4.7) is unique solvable. Let \( w_{\eta\theta\varsigma 1}, w_{\eta\theta\varsigma 2} \in W \) be two solutions to problem (4.7). A simple calculation gives

\[
\langle w_{\eta\theta\varsigma 1}^{t+}, (t, \eta(t), w_{\eta\theta\varsigma 1}(t)) - f(t), v - w_{\eta\theta\varsigma 1}(t) \rangle_{V^* \times V} \\
+ \langle A(t, \eta(t), w_{\eta\theta\varsigma 1}(t)) - A(t, \eta(t), w_{\eta\theta\varsigma 2}(t)), w_{\eta\theta\varsigma 1}(t) - w_{\eta\theta\varsigma 2}(t) \rangle_{V^* \times V} \\
\leq \phi^0(t, \theta(t), w_{\eta\theta\varsigma 1}(t); w_{\eta\theta\varsigma 2}(t) - w_{\eta\theta\varsigma 1}(t)) + \phi^0(t, \theta(t), w_{\eta\theta\varsigma 2}(t); w_{\eta\theta\varsigma 1}(t) - w_{\eta\theta\varsigma 2}(t))
\]

for a.e. \( t \in [0, T] \). Integrating the above inequality over \([0, t]\) for \( t \in [0, T] \) and using hypotheses \( H(A)(e) \) and \( H(\phi)(e) \), it reads

\[
\frac{1}{2}\|w_{\eta\theta\varsigma 1}(t) - w_{\eta\theta\varsigma 2}(t)\|^2_H + (\alpha - \beta) \int_0^t \|w_{\eta\theta\varsigma 1}(s) - w_{\eta\theta\varsigma 2}(s)\|^2_V \, ds \leq 0
\]

for all \( t \in [0, T] \). But, the smallness condition (3.3) indicates \( w_{\eta\theta\varsigma 1} = w_{\eta\theta\varsigma 2} \). So, (4.7) is unique solvability.

Additionally, let us introduce the mapping \( \Upsilon: L^2(0, T; Y_1 \times Y_2 \times Y_3) \to L^2(0, T; Y_1 \times Y_2 \times Y_3) \) by

\[
\Upsilon(\eta, \theta, \varsigma) = (S_1 w_{\eta\theta\varsigma}, S_2 w_{\eta\theta\varsigma}, S_3 w_{\eta\theta\varsigma})
\tag{4.8}
\]

for all \( (\eta, \theta, \varsigma) \in L^2(0, T; Y_1 \times Y_2 \times Y_3) \), in which \( w_{\eta\theta\varsigma} \) is the unique solution to problem (4.7) corresponding to \( (\eta, \theta, \varsigma) \). Indeed, \( \Upsilon \) has a unique fixed point in \( L^2(0, T; Y_1 \times Y_2 \times Y_3) \).

For any \( (\eta_1, \theta_1, \varsigma_1), (\eta_2, \theta_2, \varsigma_2) \in L^2(0, T; Y_1 \times Y_2 \times Y_3) \), let \( w_1 = w_{\eta_1\theta_1\varsigma_1} \) and \( w_2 = w_{\eta_2\theta_2\varsigma_2} \) be the unique solutions of (4.7) associated with \( (\eta_1, \theta_1, \varsigma_1) \) and \( (\eta_2, \theta_2, \varsigma_2) \), respectively. Carrying out an analogous procedure as the proof of the uniqueness of solution to problem (4.7), one has

\[
\frac{1}{2}\|w_1(t) - w_2(t)\|^2_H + (\alpha - \beta)\|w_1 - w_2\|^2_{L^2(0, t; V)} - \alpha\|\eta_1 - \eta_2\|_{L^2(0, t; Y_1)} \|w_1 - w_2\|_{L^2(0, t; V)}
\]
\[
\leq \int_0^t \phi^0(s, \theta_1(s), \varsigma_1(s), w_1(s); w_2(s) - w_1(s)) + \phi^0(s, \theta_2(s), \varsigma_2(s), w_2(s); w_1(s) - w_2(s)) \, ds
\]

for all \( t \in [0, T] \). The latter combined with hypothesis \( H(\phi)(e) \) and the Hölder inequality finds

\[
\frac{1}{2}\|w_1(t) - w_2(t)\|^2_H + (\alpha - \beta)\|w_1 - w_2\|^2_{L^2(0, t; V)}
\]
\[
\leq \alpha\|\eta_1 - \eta_2\|_{L^2(0, t; Y_1)} \|w_1 - w_2\|_{L^2(0, t; V)} + \beta(\|\theta_1 - \theta_2\|_{L^2(0, t; Y_2)} + \|\varsigma_1 - \varsigma_2\|_{L^2(0, t; Y_3)}) \|w_1 - w_2\|_{L^2(0, t; V)}.
\]
Hence,
\[ \|w_1 - w_2\|_{L^2(0,t;V)} \leq c\|\eta_1 - \eta_2\|_{L^2(0,t;Y_1)} + c(\|\theta_1 - \theta_2\|_{L^2(0,t;Y_2)} + \|\varsigma_1 - \varsigma_2\|_{L^2(0,t;Y_3)}) \]  \hspace{1cm} (4.9)
for all \( t \in [0,T] \) with \( c = \max\{\alpha/(\alpha - \beta), \beta/(\alpha - \beta)\} > 0 \). Combining the definition of \( \Upsilon \) with hypotheses \( H(S) \), inequality (4.9) and Hölder inequality, we conclude
\[
\|\Upsilon(\eta_1, \theta_1, \varsigma_1)(t) - \Upsilon(\eta_2, \theta_2, \varsigma_2)(t)\|_{V_1 \times V_2 \times Y_3}^2 \\
\leq \|(S_1 w_1)(t) - (S_1 w_2)(t)\|_{Y_1}^2 + \|(S_2 w_1)(t) - (S_2 w_2)(t)\|_{Y_2}^2 + \|(S_3 w_1)(t) - (S_3 w_2)(t)\|_{Y_3}^2 \\
\leq (L_{S_1}^2 + L_{S_2}^2 + L_{S_3}^2) \left( \int_0^t \|w_1(s) - w_2(s)\|_V \, ds \right)^2 \\
\leq 3c^2T(L_{S_1}^2 + L_{S_2}^2 + L_{S_3}^2) \int_0^t \|(\eta_1, \theta_1, \varsigma_1)(s) - (\eta_2, \theta_2, \varsigma_2)(s)\|_{V_1 \times V_2 \times Y_3}^2 \, ds
\]
for all \( t \in [0,T] \), where we have used the elementary inequality \((a + b + d)^2 \leq 3(a^2 + b^2 + d^2)\) for all \( a, b, d \in \mathbb{R} \). We are now in a position to invoke fixed point theorem [14, Lemma 7] to get that \( \Upsilon \) has a unique fixed point in \( L^2(0,T;Y_1 \times Y_2 \times Y_3) \).

Let \((\eta^*, \theta^*, \varsigma^*)\) be the unique fixed point of \( \Upsilon \), and \( w_{\eta^* \theta^* \varsigma^*} \) be the unique solution to problem (4.7) corresponding to \((\eta^*, \theta^*, \varsigma^*)\). It is obvious that \( w := w_{\eta^* \theta^* \varsigma^*} \in \mathcal{W} \) is the unique solution to Problem 4.1. \( \square \)

We end the section by providing the following particular cases of Problem 4.1. Let \( K \) be a nonempty, closed and convex subset of \( V \) such that \( w_0 \in \text{int}(K) \neq \emptyset \), consider the function \( \psi: V \to \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\} \) by
\[
\psi(v) = \varphi(v) + I_K(v) \quad \text{for all } v \in V, \hspace{1cm} (4.10)
\]
where \( \varphi: V \to \mathbb{R} \) is a convex and lower semicontinuous function, and \( I_K: V \to \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\} \) is the indicator function of \( K \) given by
\[
I_K(v) = \begin{cases} 
0, & \text{if } v \in K, \\
+\infty, & \text{if } v \notin K.
\end{cases}
\]

Obviously, we can see that the function \( \psi \) defined in (4.10) satisfies conditions \( H(\psi) \). In this case, we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 4.3.** Let \( K \) be a nonempty, closed and convex subset of \( V \) such that \( w_0 \in \text{int}(K) \neq \emptyset \). Assume that (3.2), (3.3), (4.2), \( H(S) \), \( H(\mathcal{A}) \), and \( H(\phi) \) hold. If \( \varphi: V \to \mathbb{R} \) is a convex and l.s.c. function, then the problem
\[
\begin{align*}
\begin{cases} 
\text{find } w \in \mathcal{W} \text{ with } w(t) \in K \text{ for a.e. } t \in [0,T] \text{ such that for a.e. } t \in [0,T] \text{ and all } v \in K, \\
\langle w'(t) + \mathcal{A}(t, (S_1 w)(t), w(t)) - f(t, v - w(t)) \rangle_{V^* \times V} + \varphi(v) - \varphi(w(t)) + \phi^0(t, (S_2 w)(t), (S_3 w)(t), w(t); v - w(t)) \geq 0, \\
w(0) = w_0,
\end{cases}
\end{align*}
\hspace{1cm} (4.11)
\]
has a unique solution \( w \in \mathcal{W} \).

Indeed, under the suitable assumptions, this corollary, Corollary 4.3, can imply that problem (1.2) has a unique solution.
5. A dynamic viscoelastic contact problem

In the present section, we are concerned with the applicability of the results obtained in Sect. 4 to a new dynamic contact model for a viscoelastic material with the constitutive law involving a convex subdifferential inclusion, and multi-valued boundary conditions with nonconvex contact and friction potentials.

The physical setting of the model is described as follows. Assume a viscoelastic body occupies a bounded and connected domain \( \Omega \) in \( \mathbb{R}^d \) \( \big( d = 2, 3 \big) \) such that its boundary \( \Gamma = \partial \Omega \) is Lipschitz continuous. The boundary also is considered to be composed of three mutually disjoint and measurable parts \( \Gamma_D, \Gamma_N \) and \( \Gamma_C \) with \( \text{meas}(\Gamma_D) > 0 \) \( \big( \text{i.e., the measure of } \Gamma_D \text{ is positive} \big) \). In the meanwhile, we adopt the standard notation and function spaces \( Q \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d \) and \( Q = \Omega \times [0, T], \Sigma = \Gamma \times [0, T], \Sigma_D = \Gamma_D \times [0, T], \Sigma_N = \Gamma_N \times [0, T] \) and \( \Sigma_C = \Gamma_C \times [0, T] \).

The classical formulation of the contact problem is stated as follows.

Problem 5.1. Find a displacement field \( u : Q \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d \) and a stress field \( \sigma : Q \rightarrow S^d \) such that

\[
\begin{align*}
\sigma(t) &\in A(t, \varepsilon(u(t)), \varepsilon(u'(t))) + \partial_c \varphi(\varepsilon(u'(t))) \quad \text{in } Q, \tag{5.1} \\
u''(t) &= \text{Div} \sigma(t) + f_0(t) \quad \text{in } Q, \tag{5.2} \\
u(t) &= 0 \quad \text{on } \Sigma_D, \tag{5.3} \\
\sigma(t) &\nu = f_N(t) \quad \text{on } \Sigma_N, \tag{5.4} \\
-\sigma_\nu(t) &\in \partial f_\nu(t, u_\nu(t), u_\nu'(t)), \tag{5.5} \\
-\sigma_\tau(t) &\in \partial f_\tau(t, \int_0^t ||u_\tau(s)||_{S^d} ds, u_\tau'(t)) \quad \text{on } \Sigma_C, \tag{5.6} \\
u(0) &= u_0, \quad u'(0) = w_0 \quad \text{in } \Omega.
\end{align*}
\]

We now provide a brief description on the equations, conditions and relations appeared in Problem 5.1. Inclusion \( (5.1) \) is a nonlinear viscoelastic constitutive law, where \( \varphi : S^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\} \) is a proper convex and lower semicontinuous function, and \( A : Q \times S^d \times S^d \rightarrow S^d \) presents a viscoelasticity operator (see for example, \( [34] \)), which is considered to be the following conditions.

\[
\begin{align*}
(a) \quad &A(\cdot, \cdot, \varepsilon, \eta) \text{ is measurable on } Q, \text{ for all } \varepsilon, \eta \in S^d. \\
(b) \quad &\text{there exists } L_A > 0 \text{ such that } \|A(x, t, \varepsilon_1, \eta_1) - A(x, t, \varepsilon_2, \eta_2)\|_{S^d} \leq L_A(\|\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2\|_{S^d} + \|\eta_1 - \eta_2\|_{S^d}) \\
&\text{for a.e. } (x, t) \in Q \text{ and all } \varepsilon_i, \eta_i \in S^d \text{ for } i = 1, 2. \\
(c) \quad &\text{there exists } \alpha_A > 0 \text{ such that } \|A(x, t, \varepsilon_1, \eta_1) - A(x, t, \varepsilon_2, \eta_2)\|_{S^d} \geq \alpha_A(\|\eta_1 - \eta_2\|_{S^d} - \|\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2\|_{S^d}) \\
&\text{for all } \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \eta_1, \eta_2 \in S^d \text{ and a.e. } (x, t) \in Q. \\
(d) \quad &A(x, t, 0, 0) = 0 \text{ for a.e. } (x, t) \in Q.
\end{align*}
\]

As a special case, \( A \) can be specialized by the sum of a viscosity operator \( \mathcal{P} \) and an elasticity operator \( \mathcal{B} \), i.e., \( A(x, t, \varepsilon, \eta) := \mathcal{P}(t, x, \varepsilon(u'(t))) + \mathcal{B}(t, x, \varepsilon(u(t))) \). In this moment, when \( \partial_c \varphi \equiv 0 \), the constitutive law \( (5.1) \) reduces to the nonlinear Kelvin–Voigt constitutive law, thus,

\[
\sigma(t) = \mathcal{P}(t, x, \varepsilon(u'(t))) + \mathcal{B}(t, x, \varepsilon(u(t))) \quad \text{for a.e. } (x, t) \in Q,
\]

which has been frequently used to study various dynamic or quasi-static contact problems, see for instance, \( [23, 35, 36] \).
Equation (5.2) is derived directly by the fundamental principle of momentum conservation which describes the evolution of the mechanical state of the viscoelastic body; without loss of generality, the mass density of the body is assumed to be one in (5.2), where the time-dependent volume forces of density \( f_0 \) act in \( Q \) and fulfills the following regularity

\[
f_0 \in L^2(0, T; H).
\] (5.7)

Conditions (5.3) and (5.4) reveal the phenomena that the body is clamped on \( \Gamma_D \), but it is subjected to the surface tractions of density \( f_N \) on \( \Gamma_N \), where the function \( f_N \) satisfies the condition

\[
f_N \in L^2(0, T; L^2(\Gamma_N; \mathbb{R}^d)).
\] (5.8)

The multi-valued relations (5.5) characterize a generalized normal contact condition and a frictional law, where the superpotential functions \( j_\nu : \Sigma_C \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R} \) and \( j_r : \Sigma_C \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R} \) are locally Lipschitz, which are nonconvex in general, and fulfill the assumptions:

\[
H(j_\nu) : \begin{align}
(\text{a}) \ j_\nu(\cdot, \cdot, r, s) \text{ is measurable on } \Sigma_C \text{ for all } r, s \in \mathbb{R} \text{ and there exists a function } \\
& \quad e \in L^2(\Sigma_C) \text{ such that for all } w \in L^2(\Sigma_C), \text{ it holds } j_\nu(\cdot, \cdot, w, e) \in L^1(\Sigma_C). \\
(\text{b}) \ j_\nu(x, t, \cdot, s) \text{ is continuous on } \mathbb{R} \text{ for a.e. } (x, t) \in \Sigma_C \text{ and all } s \in \mathbb{R}. \\
(\text{c}) \ j_\nu(x, t, r, \cdot) \text{ is locally Lipschitz for a.e. } (x, t) \in \Sigma_C \text{ and all } r \in \mathbb{R}. \\
(\text{d}) \ there \ exist \ c_{0\nu} \in L^2(\Sigma_C) \text{ and a constant } c_{1\nu} \geq 0 \text{ such that } \\
& \quad |\partial j_\nu(x, t, r, s)| \leq c_{0\nu}(x, t) + c_{1\nu}(|r| + |s|) \\
& \quad \text{for a.e. } (x, t) \in \Sigma_C \text{ and all } r, s \in \mathbb{R}. \\
(\text{e}) \ there \ is \ a \ constant \ \beta_{j_\nu} \geq 0 \ \text{such that } \\
& \quad j_\nu^0(x, t, r_1, s_1; s_2 - s_1) + j_\nu^0(x, t, r_2, s_2; s_1 - s_2) \\
& \quad \leq \beta_{j_\nu}(|r_1 - r_2| + |s_1 - s_2|)|s_1 - s_2| \\
& \quad \text{for all } r_1, r_2, s_1, s_2 \in \mathbb{R} \text{ and a.e. } (t, x) \in \Sigma_C.
\end{align}
\]

\[
H(j_r) : \begin{align}
(\text{a}) \ j_r(\cdot, \cdot, q, z) \text{ is measurable on } \Sigma_C \text{ for all } q \in \mathbb{R}_+ \text{ and all } z \in \mathbb{R}^d \\
& \quad \text{and there exists a function } e \in L^2(\Sigma_C; \mathbb{R}^d) \text{ such that for all } \\
& \quad \eta \in L^2(\Sigma_C), \text{ we have } j_r(\cdot, \cdot, \eta(\cdot), e(\cdot)) \in L^1(\Sigma_C). \\
(\text{b}) \ j_r(x, t, \cdot, z) \text{ is continuous on } \mathbb{R} \text{ for a.e. } (x, t) \in \Sigma_C \text{ and all } z \in \mathbb{R}^d. \\
(\text{c}) \ j_r(x, t, q, \cdot) \text{ is locally Lipschitz for a.e. } (x, t) \in \Sigma_C \text{ and all } q \in \mathbb{R}. \\
(\text{d}) \ there \ exist \ c_{0r} \in L^2(\Sigma_C) \text{ and } c_{1r} \geq 0 \text{ such that } \\
& \quad |\partial j_r(x, t, q, z)|_{\mathbb{R}^d} \leq c_{0r}(x, t) + c_{1r}(|q| + \|z\|_{\mathbb{R}^d}) \\
& \quad \text{for all } q \in \mathbb{R}, \text{ all } z \in \mathbb{R}^d, \text{ and a.e. } (x, t) \in \Sigma_C. \\
(\text{e}) \ there \ exists \ \beta_{j_r} \geq 0 \ \text{such that } \\
& \quad j_r^0(x, t, q_1, z_1; z_2 - z_1) + j_r^0(x, t, q_2, z_2; z_1 - z_2) \\
& \quad \leq \beta_{j_r}(|q_1 - q_2| + \|z_1 - z_2\|_{\mathbb{R}^d})\|z_1 - z_2\|_{\mathbb{R}^d} \\
& \quad \text{for all } (q_1, z_1), (q_2, z_2) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d \text{ and a.e. } (x, t) \in \Sigma_C.
\end{align}
\]

In fact, as we know, many typical laws in various mechanical contact phenomena could be formulated by the special forms of (5.5); for the detailed explanation, one can refer the monographs [21, Chapter 6.3] and [10,11,33].
Condition (5.6) presents the initial displacement and velocity fields, which entail the following condition
\[
\mathbf{u}_0, \mathbf{w}_0 \in V \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{w}_0 \in \text{int}D(\psi) \quad \text{and} \quad 0 \neq \mathbf{e}(\mathbf{w}_0(\mathbf{x})) \quad \text{for a.e.} \quad \mathbf{x} \in \Omega, \tag{5.9}
\]
where \(\psi: V \to \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}\) is defined by
\[
\psi(\mathbf{v}) := \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{e}(\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x})) \, d\mathbf{x} \quad \text{for all} \quad \mathbf{v} \in V, \tag{5.10}
\]
and \(V\) is a closed subspace of \(H_1\) given by
\[
V = \{ \mathbf{v} \in H_1 \mid \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0} \ \text{on} \ \Gamma_D \}.
\]
Let \(V^\ast\) be the dual space of \(V\). Recall that \(\text{meas}(\Gamma_D) > 0\), it follows from Korn’s inequality that the space \(V\) is a real Hilbert space equipped with the inner product
\[
\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle_{V^\ast \times V} = \langle \mathbf{e}(\mathbf{u}), \mathbf{e}(\mathbf{v}) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} \quad \text{for all} \quad \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in V
\]
and the associated norm \(\| \cdot \|_V\). However, by the Sobolev trace theorem, we have
\[
\| \mathbf{v} \|_{L^2(\Gamma_D; \mathbb{R}^d)} \leq C_0 \| \mathbf{v} \|_V \quad \text{for all} \quad \mathbf{v} \in V \tag{5.11}
\]
for some \(C_0 > 0\), which only depends on the domain \(\Omega\), \(\Gamma_D\) and \(\Gamma_C\).

To deliver the variational formulation of Problem 5.1, we now assume that there are the displacement field \(\mathbf{u}\) and the stress field \(\sigma\) sufficiently smooth which satisfy (5.1)–(5.6). Denote \(\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u}'\) the velocity field. Also, we introduce the operator \(S: L^2(0, T; V) \to L^2(0, T; V)\) defined by
\[
(S\mathbf{w})(t) := \mathbf{u}_0 + \int_0^t \mathbf{w}(s) \, ds \quad \text{for all} \quad t \in [0, T] \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{w} \in L^2(0, T; V). \tag{5.12}
\]
Employing the Green’s formula (see for example, [21, Theorem 2.25]), it is not difficult to obtain the following variational formulation of Problem 5.1 in terms of velocity.

**Problem 5.2.** Find a velocity field \(\mathbf{w}: [0, T] \to V\) such that for a.e. \(t \in [0, T]\) and all \(\mathbf{v} \in V\),
\[
\langle \mathbf{w}'(t), \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{w}(t) \rangle_{V^\ast \times V} + \langle A(t, \mathbf{e}((S\mathbf{w})(t)), \mathbf{e}(\mathbf{w}(t))), \mathbf{e}(\mathbf{v}) - \mathbf{e}(\mathbf{w}(t)) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} + \int_{\Omega} \varphi(\mathbf{v}) \, d\mathbf{x}
\]
\[
- \int_{\Omega} \varphi(\mathbf{w}(t)) \, d\mathbf{x} + \int_{\Gamma_C} j_1^0(t, (S\mathbf{w})_{\nu}(t), w_{\nu}(t); v_{\nu} - w_{\nu}(t)) \, d\Gamma
\]
\[
+ \int_{\Gamma_C} j_2^0(t, \| (S\mathbf{w})_\tau(s) \|_{\mathbb{R}^d} ds, w_\tau(t); v_\tau - w_\tau(t)) \, d\Gamma \geq \langle f(t), \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{w}(t) \rangle_{V^\ast \times V} \tag{5.13}
\]
with \(\mathbf{w}(0) = \mathbf{w}_0\), where \(\mathbf{f}: [0, T] \to V^\ast\) is such that
\[
\langle \mathbf{f}(t), \mathbf{v} \rangle_{V^\ast \times V} = \langle \mathbf{f}_0(t), \mathbf{v} \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} + \langle \mathbf{f}_N(t), \mathbf{v} \rangle_{L^2(\Gamma_N; \mathbb{R}^d)} \quad \text{for all} \quad \mathbf{v} \in V. \tag{5.14}
\]

**Remark 5.3.** It should be underlined that if \(\mathbf{w}\) is a solution to Problem 5.2, then by using the equality \(\mathbf{u} = S\mathbf{w}\) and taking a suitable function \(\xi: Q \to S^d\) with \(\xi(t) \in \partial_c \psi(\mathbf{e}(\mathbf{u}'(t)))\) for a.e. \((\mathbf{x}, t) \in Q\), such that \(\mathbf{\sigma}(t) = A(t, \mathbf{e}(\mathbf{u}(t)), \mathbf{e}(\mathbf{u}'(t))) + \xi(t)\) for a.e. \((\mathbf{x}, t) \in Q\) (see the viscoelastic constitutive law (5.1)), we can see that the couple of functions \((\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{\sigma})\) also solves problem (5.1)–(5.6), which is called a weak solution to problem (5.1)–(5.6). In the meantime, it is easy to see that
\[
\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{V}, \mathbf{u}' \in \mathcal{W}, \mathbf{u}'' \in \mathcal{V}^\ast, \mathbf{\sigma} \in L^2(0, T; \mathcal{H}) \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Div} \mathbf{\sigma} \in \mathcal{V}^\ast.
\]

The existence and uniqueness theorem to Problem 5.2 is given as follows.
**Theorem 5.4.** Let $\varphi : S^d \to \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ be a proper, convex and lower semicontinuous function. Assume that $H(A), H(j_\nu), H(j_r), (5.7), (5.8), (5.9)$ hold. If, in addition, the inequality holds

$$\alpha_A > \max \{ (\beta_\nu + \beta_r) \max \{ C_0, C_0^2 \}, 2C_0 \text{meas}(\Gamma_C)(1 + C_0)(c_{1r} + c_{1r}) \},$$

then Problem 5.2 has a unique solution $w \in \mathcal{W}$.

We define the operators $S_1 : \mathcal{V} \to \mathcal{V}, S_2, S_3 : \mathcal{V} \to L^2(0,T;L^2(\Gamma_C))$ and $A : [0,T] \times V \times V \to V^*$ by

$$(S_1w)(t) = (Sw)(t), \quad (S_2w)(t) = (Sw)_\nu(t), \quad (S_3w)(t) = \int_0^t \| (S_\nu)_\tau(s) \|_{\mathbb{R}^d} \, ds,$$  

for all $u,v,w \in V$ and a.e. $t \in [0,T]$. Also, consider the function $\phi : [0,T] \times L^2(\Gamma_C) \times L^2(\Gamma_C) \times V \to \mathbb{R}$ as follows

$$\phi(t,z,q,w) = \int_{\Gamma_C} \left( j_\nu(t,z(t),w_\nu(t)) + j_r(t,q(t),w_r(t)) \right) \, d\Gamma$$

for all $z,q \in L^2(\Gamma_C)$, all $w \in V$ and a.e. $t \in [0,T]$. Next, we shall prove that the problem: find $w \in \mathcal{W}$ such that

$$\langle w'(t) + A(t,(Sw)(t),w(t)), v - w(t) \rangle_{V^* \times V} + \psi(v) - \psi(w(t))$$

$$+ \phi^0(t,(S_2w)(t),(S_3w)(t),w(t);v-w(t)) \geq \langle f(t),v-w(t) \rangle_{V^* \times V}$$

for all $v \in V$ and a.e. $t \in [0,T]$ with $w(0) = w_0$, has a unique solution. The proof of the assertion is mainly based on the theoretical result, Theorem 4.2. Hence, the current goal is to illustrate that all of conditions presented in Theorem 5.4 are valid.

Let $Y_1 = V, Y_2 = Y_3 = L^2(\Gamma_C)$. From the formulations of $S_i, i = 1, 2, 3$, we have the lemma.

**Lemma 5.5.** The operators $S_i(i = 1, 2, 3)$ defined in (5.16) are history-dependent, i.e., condition (4.2) is satisfied with

$$L_{S_1} = 1, \quad L_{S_2} = C_0, \quad \text{and} \quad L_{S_3} = C_0 T.$$

The following lemma indicates that $A$ defined in (5.17) reads conditions $H(A)$.

**Lemma 5.6.** If the hypotheses $H(A)$ hold, then the operator $A$ defined in (5.17) satisfies the conditions (4.3) with $\alpha = \alpha_A$.

**Proof.** It follows from hypotheses $H(A)(a), (b), (d)$, Hölder’s inequality, Fubini’s theorem and Pettis measurability theorem that condition (4.3)(a) is fulfilled (for more details, one may also refer to the proof of [21, Theorem 8.3]).

By virtue of hypotheses $H(A)(b), (d)$, and Hölder inequality, we obtain

$$| \langle A(t,y,w),v \rangle_{V^* \times V} | \leq \int_\Omega \| A(t,\varepsilon(y),\varepsilon(w)) \| \| \varepsilon(v) \| \, d\, x$$

$$\leq L_A \left( \int_\Omega \left( \| \varepsilon(y) \| + \| \varepsilon(w) \| \right)^2 \, d\, x \right)^{1/2} \| v \|_V$$

$$\leq \sqrt{2} L_A (\| y \|_V + \| w \|_V) \| v \|_V$$

for all $y,w,v \in V$ and a.e. $t \in [0,T]$, namely

$$\| A(t,y,w) \|_{V^*} \leq \sqrt{2} L_A (\| y \|_V + \| w \|_V) \quad \text{for all } y,w \in V \text{ and a.e. } t \in [0,T].$$
This means that the condition (4.3)(d) holds with $a_1 = 0$ and $a_2 = \sqrt{2L_A}$.

To verify the conditions (4.3)(b) and (4.3)(c), let sequences $\{y_n\}$ and $\{w_n\}$ be such that $y_n \to y$ and $w_n \to w$ in $V$, as $n \to \infty$. Then, it may say
\[
\varepsilon(y_n) \to \varepsilon(y), \quad \varepsilon(w_n) \to \varepsilon(w) \text{ in } L^2(\Omega; S^d), \quad \text{as } n \to \infty.
\]

By converse-Lebesgue-dominated convergence theorem, we are able to find two subsequences $\{y_{n_k}\}$, $\{w_{n_k}\}$ of $\{y_n\}$, $\{w_n\}$ satisfying
\[
\varepsilon(y_{n_k})(x) \to \varepsilon(y)(x), \quad \varepsilon(w_{n_k})(x) \to \varepsilon(w)(x) \text{ in } S^d \text{ as } n_k \to \infty
\]
for a.e. $x \in \Omega$. The latter combined with the continuity of $A$, see $H(A)(b)$, implies
\[
\|A(t,x_\nu y_{n_k}(x),\varepsilon(w_{n_k}))(x) - A(t,x_\nu y(x),\varepsilon(w)(x))\|_{S^d} \to 0
\]
as $n_k \to \infty$ for a.e. $(x,t) \in Q$. However, from assumptions $H(A)(b)$, (d), and Lebesgue-dominated convergence theorem, it yields
\[
\|A(t,x_\nu y_{n_k}),\varepsilon(w_{n_k})) - A(t,x_\nu y ,\varepsilon(w))\|_{H} \to 0
\]
as $n_k \to \infty$, for a.e. $t \in [0,T]$.

Notice that
\[
\left| \langle A(t,y_{n_k},w_{n_k}) - A(t,y,w),v \rangle_{V^* \times V} \right|
= \left| \langle A(t,x_\nu y_{n_k},\varepsilon(w_{n_k})),\varepsilon(v) \rangle_{H} \right|
\leq \|A(t,x_\nu y_{n_k},\varepsilon(w_{n_k})) - A(t,x_\nu y ,\varepsilon(w))\|_{H} \|\varepsilon(v)\|_{H}
= \|A(t,x_\nu y_{n_k},\varepsilon(w_{n_k})) - A(t,x_\nu y ,\varepsilon(w))\|_{H} \|v\|_{V}
\]
for all $v \in V$.

It deduces $A(t,y_{n_k},w_{n_k}) \to A(t,y,w)$ in $V^*$ for a.e. $t \in [0,T]$. In accordance with [21, Proposition 1.14], we directly obtain $A(t,y_{n_k},w_{n_k}) \to A(t,y,w)$ in $V^*$ for a.e. $t \in [0,T]$, which implies (4.3)(b) and (c).

Finally, condition (4.3)(c) is ensured directly by applying hypothesis $H(A)(c)$, which ends the proof.

**Lemma 5.7.** Assume that $H(j_\nu)$ and $H(j_\tau)$ hold. Then, the function $\phi$ defined in (5.18) satisfies conditions (4.4) and
\[
\phi^0(t,z,q,w;v) \leq \int_{\Gamma_C} j_\nu^0(t,z,w;v) d\Gamma + \int_{\Gamma_C} j_\tau^0(t,q,w;v) d\Gamma
\]
for all $z,q \in L^2(\Gamma_C)$ all $w,v \in V$ and a.e. $t \in [0,T]$.

**Proof.** From the assumptions, the conditions (4.4)(a)–(c) are the direct consequences of [20, Lemma 5] (or [21, Corollary 4.18]).

We show the condition (4.4)(d) by using the hypotheses $H(j_\nu)(d)$ and $H(j_\tau)(d)$. Invoking [20, Lemma 5], it has
\[
\partial j(x,t,z,q,\xi) \subseteq \partial j_\nu(x,t,z,\xi)\nu + \partial j_\tau(x,t,q,\xi) \quad \text{for all } z,q \in \mathbb{R}, \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d \text{ and a.e. } (x,t) \in \Sigma_C,
\]
where $j$ is defined by
\[
j(x,t,z,q,w) = j_\nu(x,t,z,\xi) + j_\tau(x,t,q,\xi) \quad \text{for all } z,q \in \mathbb{R}, \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d \text{ and a.e. } (x,t) \in \Sigma_C.
\]

But, hypotheses $H(j_\nu)(d)$ and $H(j_\tau)(d)$ ensure
\[
\|\partial j(x,t,z,q,\xi)\|_{\mathbb{R}^d} \leq \|\partial j_\nu(x,t,z,\xi)\|_{\mathbb{R}^d} + \|\partial j_\tau(x,t,q,\xi)\|_{\mathbb{R}^d}
\leq c_{0\nu}(x,t) + c_{0\tau}(x,t) + c_{1\nu}|z| + |\xi| + c_{1\tau}|q| + \|\xi\|_{\mathbb{R}^d}
\]
for
for all $z, q \in \mathbb{R}$, $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and a.e. $(x, t) \in \Sigma_C$. The above inequality together with [21, Theorem 3.47 (v)], (5.18), and Hölder inequality deduces

$$\|\partial \phi(t, z, q, w)\|_{V'} \leq C_0 \int_{\Gamma_C} \|\partial j(x, t, z, q, w)\|_{\mathbb{R}^d} d\Gamma$$

$$\leq C_0 \text{meas}(\Gamma_C)(c_{0\nu}(t) + c_{0\tau}(t)) + C_0 c_{1\nu} \sqrt{\text{meas}(\Gamma_C)} \|z\|_{L^2(\Gamma_C)}$$

$$+ C_0 c_{1\tau} \sqrt{\text{meas}(\Gamma_C)} \|q\|_{L^2(\Gamma_C)} + C_0^2 (c_{1\nu} + c_{1\tau}) \sqrt{\text{meas}(\Gamma_C)} \|w\|_V$$

for all $z, q \in L^2(\Gamma_C)$, $w \in V$ and a.e. $t \in [0, T]$. This means that (4.4)(d) is valid with

$$c_1(t) = C_0 \text{meas}(\Gamma_C)(c_{0\nu}(t) + c_{0\tau}(t)) \quad \text{and} \quad c_2 = C_0 \text{meas}(\Gamma_C)(1 + C_0)(c_{1\nu} + c_{1\tau}) \quad (5.22)$$

for a.e. $t \in [0, T]$.

It remains to verify the validity of (4.4)(e) and (5.20). Employing [20, Proposition 2] and conditions $H(j_\nu)(e)$ as well as $H(j_\tau)(e)$, we find

$$j^0(x, t, z, q, \xi; \eta) \leq j_\nu^0(x, t, z, q, \xi; \eta_\nu) + j_\tau^0(x, t, q, \xi; \eta_\tau) \quad (5.23)$$

for all $z, q \in \mathbb{R}$, $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and a.e. $(x, t) \in \Sigma_C$, and

$$j_\nu^0(x, t, z_1, q_1, \xi_1, \xi_2; \xi_1 - \xi_2) + j_\nu^0(x, t, z_2, q_2, \xi_2; \xi_1 - \xi_2) \leq j_\nu^0(x, t, z_1, q_1, \xi_1, \xi_2; \xi_1 - \xi_2) + j_\nu^0(x, t, z_2, q_2, \xi_2; \xi_1 - \xi_2)$$

$$+ j_\tau^0(x, t, q_1, \xi_1; \xi_2 - \xi_1) + j_\tau^0(x, t, q_2, \xi_2; \xi_1 - \xi_2) \leq (\beta_{j_\nu} + \beta_{j_\tau})(|z_1 - z_2| + |q_1 - q_2| + \|\xi_1 - \xi_2\|_{\mathbb{R}^d}) \|\xi_1 - \xi_2\|_{\mathbb{R}^d}$$

for all $z_1, z_2, q_1, q_2 \in \mathbb{R}$, $\xi_1, \xi_2 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and a.e. $(x, t) \in \Sigma_C$. So, we conclude the inequality (5.20), see (5.23) and [21, Theorem 3.47 (iv)]. Nevertheless, from [21, Theorem 3.47 (iv)], we immediately get

$$\phi^0(t, z_1, q_1, w_1; w_2 - w_1) + \phi^0(t, z_2, q_2, w_2; w_1 - w_2) \leq (\beta_{j_\nu} + \beta_{j_\tau}) \int_{\Gamma_C} \left(|z_1 - z_2| + |q_1 - q_2| + \|w_1 - w_2\|_{\mathbb{R}^d}\right) \|w_1 - w_2\|_{\mathbb{R}^d} d\Gamma$$

$$\leq C_0 (\beta_{j_\nu} + \beta_{j_\tau})(|z_1 - z_2|_{L^2(\Gamma_C)} + |q_1 - q_2|_{L^2(\Gamma_C)}) \|w_1 - w_2\|_V + C_0^2 \beta_{j_\nu} + \beta_{j_\tau} \|w_1 - w_2\|^2$$

and all $(z_1, q_1, w_1), (z_2, q_2, w_2) \in L^2(\Gamma_C) \times L^2(\Gamma_C) \times V$ and a.e. $t \in [0, T]$. Therefore, the condition (4.4)(e) holds with

$$\beta = (\beta_{j_\nu} + \beta_{j_\tau}) \max\{C_0, C_0^2\}. \quad (5.24)$$

This completes the proof of the lemma. \hfill \Box

Under the above analysis, we are now in a position to apply Theorem 4.2 to prove Theorem 5.4.

**Proof of Theorem 5.4.** In fact, Lemmas 5.5–5.7 guarantee the validity of the conditions (4.2), (4.3), (4.4). Besides, from regularity conditions (5.9), it is not difficult to prove that the function $\psi$ defined in (5.10) reads $H(\psi)$ (see [3, p. 875]). The smallness condition (3.3) and condition (3.2) can be obtained directly by using (5.15), (5.7), (5.8) and (5.9).

So, Theorem 4.2 is applicable. Employing the theorem, we conclude that Problem 5.19 has a unique solution $w \in W$. However, inequality (5.20) implies that Problem 5.2 has at least one solution in $W$. 


Let $w_1, w_2 \in \mathcal{W}$ be two solutions to Problem 5.2. A simple computing finds a constant $M_0 > 0$ such that

$$
\frac{1}{2} \|w_1(t) - w_2(t)\|_H^2 + \alpha \|w_1 - w_2\|_{L^2(0,t;V)}^2 - \alpha \|w_1 - w_2\|_{L^2(0,t;V)} \| (Sw_1) - (Sw_2) \|_{L^2(0,t;Y)} \\
\leq \int_0^t \int_{\Gamma_c} j^{0}_\nu(t, (Sw_1)_\nu(s), w_{1,\nu}(s); w_{2,\nu}(s) - w_{1,\nu}(s)) \, d\Gamma \, dt \\
+ \int_0^t \int_{\Gamma_c} j^{0}_\nu(t, (Sw_2)_\nu(s), w_{2,\nu}(s); w_{1,\nu}(s) - w_{2,\nu}(s)) \, d\Gamma \, dt \\
+ \int_0^t \int_{\Gamma_c} \left( \int_0^s \| (Sw_1)_\tau(\eta) \|_{\mathbb{R}^d} \, d\eta \right) \|w_{1,\tau}(s) - w_{2,\tau}(s)\| \, d\Gamma \, ds \\
+ \int_0^t \int_{\Gamma_c} \left( \int_0^s \| (Sw_2)_\tau(\eta) \|_{\mathbb{R}^d} \, d\eta \right) \|w_{1,\tau}(s) - w_{2,\tau}(s)\| \, d\Gamma \, ds \\
\leq \beta \|w_1 - w_2\|_{L^2(0,t;V)}^2 + M_0 \|w_1 - w_2\|_{L^2(0,t;V)} \| (Sw_1) - (Sw_2) \|_{L^2(0,t;Y)}
$$

for all $t \in [0,T]$. Hence, we have

$$
\|w_1 - w_2\|_{L^2(0,t;V)} \leq \frac{M_0 + \alpha}{\alpha - \beta} \| (Sw_1) - (Sw_2) \|_{L^2(0,t;Y)}
$$

for all $t \in [0,T]$. However, from the Gronwall’s inequality, we conclude that $w_1 = w_2$, so Problem 4.1 has a unique solution $w \in \mathcal{W}$.

\[ \square \]

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Jiangfeng Han and Liang Lu
Guangxi Key Laboratory Cultivation Base of Cross-border E-commerce Intelligent Information Processing
Guangxi (ASEAN) Research Center of Finance and Economics
Nanning 530003 Guangxi
People’s Republic of China
e-mail: hanjiangfeng2014@hotmail.com

Liang Lu
e-mail: gxluliang@163.com

Shengda Zeng
Guangxi Colleges and Universities Key Laboratory of Complex System Optimization and Big Data Processing
Yulin Normal University
Yulin 537000
People’s Republic of China
e-mail: zengshengda@163.com

Shengda Zeng
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science
Jagiellonian University in Krakow
ul. Lojasiewicza 6
30348 Kraków
Poland

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