EN530.603 Applied Optimal Control Lecture 7: Constrained Optimal Control

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We will consider optimal control problems subject to constraints of the form

$$c(x,u,t) \leq 0$$
. inequalities constraints

Such constraints occur in many practical applications. Control constraints on u arise due to e.g. maximum current available in a motor, maximum thrust in a rocket, maximum power produced by an engine, maximum purchasing power in a financial transaction, etc... State constraints on x generally describe forbidden regions in state space that are unsafe, or simply invalid for the system, such as obstacles in the environment.

For instance, consider a the dynamics of a simple car with state (x, y, θ, v, ϕ) given by

$$\dot{x} = \cos \theta v,\tag{1}$$

$$\dot{y} = \sin \theta v,\tag{2}$$

$$\dot{\theta} = \frac{\tan \phi}{l} v,\tag{3}$$

$$\dot{v} = u_1, \tag{4}$$

$$\dot{\phi} = u_2,\tag{5}$$

where ϕ is the steering angle and the inputs are the forward acceleration and steering angle rate. We have various constraints such as

inequalities constraints

 $\begin{aligned} a_{min} &\leq u_1 \leq a_{max}, & \text{maximum engine power in forward and reverse} \\ |u_2| &\leq u_2^{max} & \text{maximum steering rate,} \\ v_{min} &\leq v \leq v_{max}, & \text{maximum speed in forward and reverse} \\ |\phi| &\leq \phi_{max}, & \text{maximum steering angle (e.g. } \phi_{max} = \pi/6) \\ \|(x,y) - (x_o,y_o)\| &\geq r_o, & \text{stay at least } r_o \text{ meters away from obstacle at } (x_o,y_o). \end{aligned}$

1 Pontryagin's Minimum Principle

Let $u = u^* + \delta u$ be the value resulting after perturbing the optimal control u^* by a small variation δu . Recall that at a minimum we have

$$\Delta J(u^*, \delta u) \triangleq J(u) - J(u^*) \geq 0$$
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and the variation δJ is defined to satisfy the relationship

$$\Delta J(u^*,\delta u) = \delta J(u^*,\delta u) + o(\|\delta u\|),$$
1 | St order

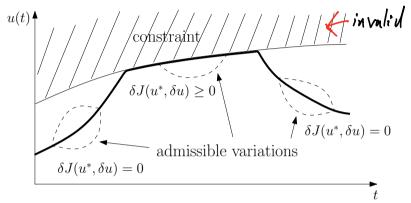
i.e. δJ encodes the first-order terms in ΔJ . The necessary conditions without constraints were that for arbitrary variations δu

$$\delta J(u^*, \delta u) \ge 0$$
, and $\delta J(u^*, -\delta u) \ge 0$

which holds only when the necessary condition

$$\delta J(u^*, \delta u) = 0$$

holds. But when u^* is at the boundary of the admissible controls, then if the control $u + \delta u$ is admissible, then $u - \delta u$ is not admissible.



Hence, at a boundary the necessary condition is

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$$\delta J(u^*, \delta u) > 0,$$

for admissible variations δu , i.e. such that $u + \delta u$ does not violate the constraint.

With this definition, let's look at the actual variations for the augmented cost functional

$$J_{a} = \phi(x(t_{f}), t_{f}) + \int_{t_{0}}^{t_{f}} \underbrace{[L(x, u, t) + \lambda^{T}(f(x, u, t) - \dot{x})]} dt \qquad \text{from lecs} \qquad = \not p + \not p +$$

Now assume that the state dynamics is satisfied, and $\lambda(t)$ is selected to satisfy the conditions due to variations $\delta x(t)$, and it the boundary conditions (for variations δx_f and δt_f) are satisfied.

$$\delta J_a(u^*,\delta u) = \int_{t_0}^{t_f} \partial_u H(x^*(t),u^*(t),\lambda^*(t),t) \cdot \delta u(t) dt$$
 ate by

This can be approximate by

$$\delta J_a(u^*,\delta u) = \int_{t_0}^{t_f} \left[H(x^*(t),u^*(t)+\delta u(t),\lambda^*(t),t) - H(x^*(t),u^*(t),\lambda^*(t),t) \right] dt + o(\|\delta u\|)$$

$$|H(u+\delta u) - H(u) \approx VH \cdot \delta u. \quad \text{(st. order approximation)}$$

只有自己H+O且我H>O对核用到见H来确定U*

Taking $\delta u \to 0$ since $\delta J(u^*, \delta u) \ge 0$ we must have

$$\int_{t_0}^{t_f} \left[H(x^*(t), u^*(t) + \delta u(t), \lambda^*(t), t) - H(x^*(t), u^*(t), \lambda^*(t), t) \right] dt \geq 0,$$

$$\text{Pontryagin's Minimum Principle}$$

$$\text{For all admissible } \delta u(t) \text{ which can only happen if}$$

$$H(x^*(t), u^*(t) + \delta u(t), \lambda^*(t), t) \geq H(x^*(t), u^*(t), \lambda^*(t), t)$$

$$H(x^*(t), u^*(t) + \delta u(t), \lambda^*(t), t) \geq H(x^*(t), u^*(t), \lambda^*(t), t)$$

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$$H(x^*(t), u^*(t) + \delta u(t), \lambda^*(t), t) \ge H(x^*(t), u^*(t), \lambda^*(t), t)$$

for all admissible $\delta u(t)$ and for all $t \in [t_0, t_f]$. The relationship (6) is known as the *Pontryagin's* minimum principle. It states that an optimal control must minimize the Hamiltonian.

Here, u^* must be the global absolute minimum that minimizes H. Pontryagin's principle works for any bounds on u which is not the case for the condition $\partial_u H = 0$. Yet, it is still only a necessary condition.

The sufficient conditions for a local minimum require that

is positive definite.

Example 1. Consider

 $\dot{x} = f(x, u, t)$

with cost

$$J(u) = \int_{t_0}^{t_f} \frac{1}{2} [x_1^2 + u^2] dt$$

with t_f given and final state $x(t_f)$ free. The Hamiltonian is

 $H = \frac{1}{2}x_1^2 + \frac{1}{2}u^2 + \frac{\lambda_1 x_2 + \lambda_2 (-x_2 + u)}{\lambda_f}$ $\lambda(t_f) = \nabla_x \phi(x(t_f), t_f) + \nabla_x \psi(x(t_f), t_f) \cdot \nu,$ $(\partial_t \phi + \nu^T \partial_t \psi + L + \lambda^T f)_{t=t_f} = 0,$

$$\lambda = -\nabla_x H = -\nabla_x f \cdot \lambda - \nabla_x L,$$

$$\nabla_u H = \nabla_u f \cdot \lambda + \nabla_u L = 0,$$

$$\lambda(t_f) = \nabla_x \phi(x(t_f), t_f) + \nabla_x \psi(x(t_f), t_f) \cdot$$

The necessary conditions are

$$\dot{\lambda}_1 = -x_1 \tag{7}$$

$$\dot{\lambda}_2 = -\lambda_1 + \lambda_2$$
 (8)

have

and, if the controls are unconstrained we have

$$\partial_u H = u + \lambda_2 = 0$$

Since $\partial_u^2 H = 1 > 0$ then $u^* = -\lambda_2$ is in fact the minimum of H. The boundary condition is

Now if the control was bounded by

$$-1 \le u(t) \le 1$$
, for all $t \in [t_0, t_f]$

then we must select u to minimize H subject to the bounds on u.

The terms in H depending on u are

$$\frac{1}{2}u^2 + \lambda_2 u.$$

When the optimal control is not saturated we have $u^* = -\lambda_2$ which will occur when $|\lambda_2| \leq 1$. When $|\lambda_2| > 1$ the minimizing control must be

$$u = -1$$
, for $\lambda_2 > 1$

$$u=1$$
, for $\lambda_2<-1$

In summary we have



$$u=-1, \text{ for } \lambda_2>1$$

$$u=1, \text{ for } \lambda_2<-1$$

$$v=1, \text{ for } \lambda_2<-1$$

Note that, in genera, it will not be the case that bounds are handled by simply computing the unbounded solution and then saturating it as above.

$\mathbf{2}$ Minimum-time problems

Consider the linear system

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu, \qquad x(0) = x_0,$$

with a single control input u constrained by

$$|u(t)| - 1 \le 0$$

which is required to reach to origin $x(t_f) = 0$ in minimum time defined by the cost

$$J = \int_{t_0}^{t_f} (1) dt.$$
 this then

The Hamiltonian is

$$H = 1 + \lambda^T (Ax + Bu)$$

while the adjoint equations become

$$\dot{\lambda} = -\nabla_x H = -A^T \lambda.$$

The first and second derivatives of H are

$$abla_u H = B^T \lambda, \qquad
abla_u^2 H = 0, \text{ is not p. d.}$$

Since u does not appear in $\nabla_u H$ these equations cannot be used to find the optimal u, and furthermore H is not convex since $\nabla_n^2 H = 0$.

According to the minimum principle though, H is minimized with respect to u when we have

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$$u = +1, \text{ if } \lambda^T B < 0,$$

$$u = -1, \text{ if } \lambda^T B > 0,$$

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where $\lambda^T B$ is called the *switching function*.

It turns out that $\nabla_u H$ is zero only at the *switching points* i.e. when the control reverses sign. This is an example of *hang-bang* control or "maximum-effort" since the control is always at its max or min.

In addition, to ensure smoothness in the trajectory during transition between constraints it is necessary to enforce the constraints

$$\lambda(t_1^-) = \lambda(t_1^+),$$

 $H(t_1^-) = H(t_1^+),$

where t_1 is the time of transition, t_1^- is the time infinitesimally before t_1 and t_1^+ infinitesimally after t_1 . These conditions are called Weierstrass-Erdmann conditions and are related to well-definedness of the action integral used in the variational formulation.

In other words, λ , H, and ∂H_u must be continuous despite that u is discontinuous. Note that even when the control is discontinuous the state remains continuous since only \dot{x} (the rate-of-change of state) "jumps" while

$$x(t_1^-) = x(t_1^+).$$

Example 2. Consider computing the optimal trajectory reaching the origin in minimum time t_f of the double integrator

$$\dot{x}_1 = x_2$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = u.$$

starting at an arbitrary state $x(t_0) = x_0$.

We have

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \qquad B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\lambda^{\mathsf{T}} \beta = \lambda_{\mathsf{T}}$$

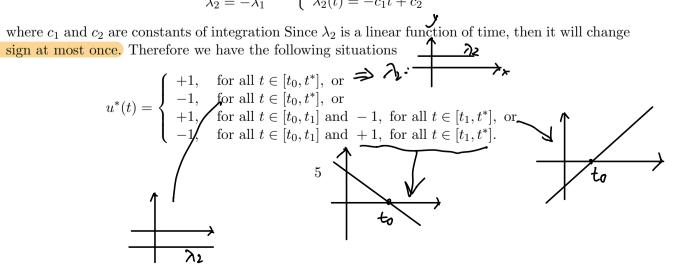
the necessary conditions become

$$u = +1$$
, if $\lambda_2 < 0$, $u = -1$, if $\lambda_2 > 0$.

The adjoint equations require that

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7.是一条直线



$$A = \left[\begin{array}{cc} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{array} \right], \qquad B = \left[\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 1 \end{array} \right]$$

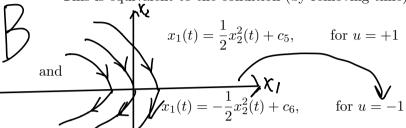
Thus, since $u = \pm 1$ in any case, we have

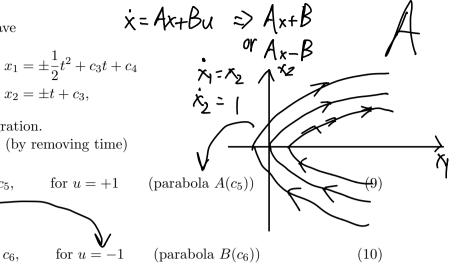
$$x_1 = \pm \frac{1}{2}t^2 + c_3t + c_4$$

$$x_2 = \pm t + c_3,$$

where c_3 and c_4 are constants of integration.

This is equivalent to the condition (by removing time)





where c_5 and c_6 are constants determined by the initial conditions.

Now if $u^*(t) = +1$ for all t then we must have $c_5 = 0$ and the motion is completely determined by the parabola A(0) defined in (9). Now if $u^*(t) = -1$ for all t then we must have $c_6 = 0$ the motion is completely determined by the parabola B(0) defined in (10).

If the system is guided by $u^*(t) = +1$ for $t \in [t_0, t_1]$ and then by $u^*(t) = -1$ for $t \in [t_1, t_f]$ then it must be that the second arc lies on B(0). The first arc is one of the parabolas $A(c_6)$. Note that only curves with $c_5 < 0$ and that start underneath B(0) will actually intersect B(0).

With the same reasoning, if the system starts with $u^*(t) = -1$ for $t \in [t_0, t_1]$ and then by $u^*(t) = +1$ for $t \in [t_1, t_f]$ then it must be that the second arc lies on A(0). The first arc is one of the parabolas $B(c_5)$. Note that only curves with $c_6 < 0$ and that start above A(0) will actually intersect A(0).

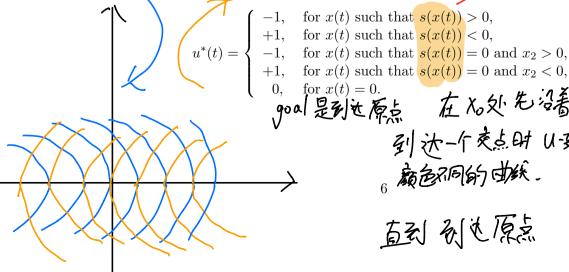
We see that the curves A(0) and B(0) act as switching curves. In particular, combining the conditions above results in the curve defined by

$$x_1(t) = -\frac{1}{2}x_2(t)|x_2(t)|$$

as the combined switching curve (we can also denote it by AB(0)). To state the actual control law we define the *switching function*

$$s(x(t)) \equiv x_1(t) + \frac{1}{2}x_2(t)|x_2(t)|$$

and the control law is summarized according to



$$-1$$
, for $x(t)$ such that $s(x(t)) > 0$,

$$+1$$
, for $x(t)$ such that $s(x(t)) < 0$,

$$-1$$
, for $x(t)$ such that $s(x(t)) = 0$ and $x_2 > 0$,

$$+1$$
, for $x(t)$ such that $s(x(t)) = 0$ and $x_2 < 0$

0, for x(t) = 0.
goal 是到达原点 在 Xo处 先沿着进 Xo的曲 线走。
到 法一个交点的 U 安符号, 转到另个 6 藏色洞的曲纸.

直到到达原点

3 Minimum Control Effort Problems

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Consider a nonlinear system with affine controls defined by

$$\dot{x} = a(x(t), t) + B(x(t), t)u(t),$$

where B is an $n \times m$ matrix. The cost function is

$$J = \int_{t_0}^{t_f} \left[\sum_{i=1}^m |u_i(t)| \right] dt$$

subject to

$$-1 \le u_i(t) \le 1, \qquad i = 1, \dots, m.$$

The Hamiltonian is

$$H(x, u, \lambda, t) = \sum_{i=1}^{m} |u_i| + \frac{\lambda^T a + \lambda^T B u}{\lambda \cdot f}$$

and the minimum principle requires that

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m} |u_i^*| + \lambda^{*T} B u^* \le \sum_{i=1}^{m} |u_i| + \lambda^{*T} B u$$

for all admissible u(t). If B is expressed as

$$B = [b_1 \mid b_2 \mid \dots \mid b_n]$$

If we assume that the components of u are independent of one another we have

 $|u_i^*| + \lambda^{*T} b_i u_i^* \le |u_i| + \lambda^{*T} b_i u_i$ $|u_i| + \lambda^{*T} b_i u_i = [1 + \lambda^{*T} b_i] u_i, \text{ for } u_i \ge 0,$ (11)

and

Note that

$$|u_i| + \lambda^{*T} b_i u_i = [-1 + \lambda^{*T} b_i] u_i, \text{ for } u_i \le 0,$$
 (12)

If $\lambda^{*T}b_i > 1$ then the minimum of (11) is 0 for $u \ge 0$ while the minimum of (12) is attained at $u_i = -1$.

If $\lambda^{*T}b_i = 1$ then the minimum of (11) is attained at $u_i = 0$ while the minimum of (12) is attained for any $u_i \leq 0$.

If $0 \le \lambda^{*T} b_i < 1$ the minimum of (11) and (12) is attained at $u_i = 0$. In summary, the optimal control is

$$u_i^* = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{for } \lambda^{*T} b_i < -1 \\ 0, & \text{for } -1 < \lambda^{*T} b_i < -1 \\ -1, & \text{for } 1 < \lambda^{*T} b_i \\ & \text{undetermined nonnegative value if } \lambda^{*T} b_i = -1 \\ & \text{undetermined nonpositive value if } \lambda^{*T} b_i = 1 \end{cases}$$

Min; mun control estore. ex. objective XCefy = 0 $X=\begin{pmatrix} P \\ V \end{pmatrix}$ to given $J=\int_{t_0}^{t_1} |u(t)| dt$ ||u|| < |v : V $H = |u| + \lambda_{1} \cdot v + \lambda_{2} u.$ $M : \Lambda = |u| + \lambda_{1} \cdot v + \lambda_{2} u.$ $M : \Lambda = |u| + \lambda_{2} \cdot u = \begin{cases} u(4+\lambda_{2}), & u > 0 \\ u(\lambda_{2}-1), & u \leq 0 \end{cases} \xrightarrow{\lambda_{2} > 1} \Rightarrow u = 0$ $\lambda_{2} > 1 \Rightarrow u = 1$ H= |u/ + 2, v+ 2, u. ->=-PxH=>>1=0 => >==($\dot{\lambda}_2 = -\lambda_1 \Rightarrow \lambda_2(\epsilon) = -\zeta_1 + \zeta_2$ o 3 seqs u=tOf constant control $St_{ij}=t_i-t_i$ $St_{ij}=t_j-t$ VCt1)= Votato P(E1)= Potatoi Vut Jatoi V(t2): V(t1) P(t2)= P(t1) f st12 tot2. V(t2) V(tp) = V(tr) - stag. P(t4)= P(t2) + stef = V(t2) - - 1 stef

2 equations to solve to, te

Singular (untral Zing optimality cond 的東 也不定在control boundary (constraint)

Singular Controls. 4

The example above illustrates the possibility of singular controls, i.e. controls which cannot be directly determined by neither the optimality conditions (away from constraints) nor the minimum principle (at the control boundary). Intervals during which the control is singular are called singular

In the unconstrained case this generally occurs when $\nabla_u H = 0$ cannot be solved for u which is caused by the conditions

$$\nabla_u^2 H = 0,$$

i.e. when the Hamiltonian is not convex. To illustrate the situation consider the LQR setting in which $\nabla^2_u H = R$, and consider the case R = 0. (The same reasoning will apply for any singular R) The first order condition is

$$\nabla_u H = Ru + B^T \lambda = B^T \lambda = 0,$$

which does not provide information about u. The solution is to consider higher-order derivative of H_u until u appears explicitly:

$$\frac{d}{dt}\nabla_u H = B^T \dot{\lambda} = -B^T (Qx + A^T \lambda) = 0,$$

and one more time

$$\frac{d^2}{dt}V_uH = B \quad \lambda = -B \quad (Qx + A \quad \lambda) = 0,$$

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2}H_u = -B^T[Q(Ax + Bu) + A^T(Qx + A^T\lambda)] = 0,$$
Singular (intro) U

which now provides enough information to obtain the singular control u.

General Constraints 5

Now consider general constraints $c(x, u, t) \leq 0$. The Hamiltonian is defined by

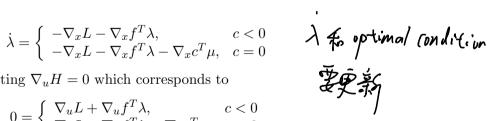
$$H = L + \lambda^T f + \mu^T c, \quad \text{where } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mu = 0 \text{ if } c < 0 \cdots \text{ nst withe} \\ \mu \geq 0 \text{ if } c = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

The adjoint equations are

$$\dot{\lambda} = \begin{cases} -\nabla_x L - \nabla_x f^T \lambda, & c < 0 \\ -\nabla_x L - \nabla_x f^T \lambda - \nabla_x c^T \mu, & c = 0 \end{cases}$$

The control is found by setting $\nabla_u H = 0$ which corresponds to

$$0 = \begin{cases} \nabla_u L + \nabla_u f^T \lambda, & c < 0 \\ \nabla_u L + \nabla_u f^T \lambda + \nabla_u c^T \mu, & c = 0. \end{cases}$$



Note that when the constraints are not active the conditions reduce to the standard unconstrained case. In some cases the condition above cannot be used directly to compute the optimal u^* and one must apply the more general Pontryagin's principle. The main problem in dealing with such constraints is to determine when the constraint becomes active.

To reiterate, the difficulty is that there are many problems in which H cannot be directly minimized by setting $\partial_u H = 0$ and assuming that H is locally convex. In such cases, the control is found by the minimum principle.

Inequality constraints on the state only. Note that control-independent constraints in the form

$$c(x(t), t) \leq 0$$

are more difficult to handle and require differentiation until the control appears explicitly. For instance, $c(x(t),t) \leq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \dot{c} = c_x \cdot \dot{x} = c_x \cdot f(x,u,t) \leq 0,$

and if u appears, then we will employ $\dot{c} \leq 0$ in the Hamiltonian and also require that before and after the constrained is active the original relationship $c \leq 0$ still holds.

In general, the constrained is differentiated q times until u shows up explicitly and the Hamiltonian

$$H = L + \lambda^T f + \mu^T c^{(q)}$$

is employed. In addition, the tangency constraints

$$\begin{pmatrix} c(x,t) \\ \dot{c}(x,t) \\ \vdots \\ c^{(q-1)}(x,t) \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

are enforced at times t when c(x,t) becomes active and then unactive.

6 Corner Conditions.

More generally, path constraints that become active at a particular time t cause a discontinuity in the controls, which in turn corresponds to a change in the slope of the state trajectory $x(\cdot)$. Such points x(t) are called *corners*. For problems with control bounds the corner conditions are

Control bound
$$\Rightarrow$$

$$\lambda(t^-) = \lambda(t^+), \qquad \text{U.E.}$$

$$H(t^-) = H(t^+), \qquad H_u(t^-) = H_u(t^+), \qquad \text{U.E.}$$

where t^- and t^+ denote the time immediately before and after the constraint becomes active. For problems with state inequality constraints we have

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