

Optimal Control

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER, CONTROL, AND
MANAGEMENT ENGINEERING ANTONIO RUBERTI



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

Lecture 4

Prof. Daniela Iacoviello

THESE SLIDES ARE NOT SUFFICIENT
FOR THE EXAM:
YOU MUST STUDY ON THE BOOKS

Part of the slides has been taken from the References
indicated below

Course outline

- Introduction to optimal control
- Nonlinear optimization
- Dynamic programming
- Calculus of variations
- Calculus of variations and optimal control
- LQ problem
- Minimum time problem

R.F.Hartl, S.P.Sethi. R.G.Vickson, *A Survey of the Maximum Principles for Optimal Control Problems with State Constraints*, SIAM Review, Vol.37, No.2,

Pontryagin

Lev Semenovich **Pontryagin** (3 September 1908 – 3 May 1988) was a Soviet Russian mathematician. He was born in Moscow and lost his eyesight in a stove explosion when he was 14. Despite his blindness he was able to become a mathematician due to the help of his mother who read mathematical books and papers to him.

He made major discoveries in a number of fields of mathematics, including the geometric parts of topology.

The Pontryagin principle

Problem 1: Consider the dynamical system:

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

with:

$$x(t) \in R^n, \quad u(t) \in U \subset R^p \quad f, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} \in C^0(R^n \times U), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

Assume fixed the initial control instant and the initial and final values :

$$x(t_i) = x^i \quad x(t_f) = x^f$$

Define the performance index :

$$J(x, u, t_f) = \int_{t_i}^{t_f} L(x(\tau), u(\tau)) d\tau.$$

with

$$L, \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_i} \in C^0(R^n \times U), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

Determine:

- the value $t_f \in (t_i, \infty)$,
- the control $u^o \in \overline{C}^0(R)$
- the state $x^o \in \overline{C}^1(R)$

that satisfy:

- ✓ the dynamical system,
- ✓ the constraint on the control,
- ✓ the initial and final conditions
- ✓ and minimize the cost index



Hamiltonian function

$$H(x, u, \lambda_0, \lambda) = \lambda_0 L(x, u) + \lambda^T(t) f(x, u)$$

The Pontryagin principle

Theorem 1 (necessary condition):

Assume the admissible solution (x^*, u^*, t_f^*) is a minimum

➡ there exist a constant $\lambda_0 \geq 0$

and a n-dimensional vector $\lambda^* \in \overline{C}^1[t_i, t_f^*]$

not simultaneously null such that :

$$\dot{\lambda}^* = - \left. \frac{\partial H}{\partial x} \right|^{*T}$$

$$H|^{*} = 0$$

$$H(x^*(t), \omega, \lambda_0^*, \lambda^*(t)) \geq H(x^*(t), u^*(t), \lambda_0^*, \lambda^*(t)), \\ \forall \omega \in U$$

The Pontryagin principle

Remark- If t_f is fixed, the condition

$$H|^{*} = 0$$

Is substituted by

$$H|^{*} = k, \quad \forall t \in [t_i, t_f]$$

The Pontryagin principle

Problem 2: Consider the dynamical system: $\dot{x} = f(x, u)$
with:

$$x(t) \in R^n, \quad u(t) \in U \subset R^p \quad f, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} \in C^0(R^n \times U), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

Assume fixed the initial control instant and the initial state $x(t_i) = x^i$
while **for final values assume:** $\mathfrak{N}(x(t_f)) = 0$
where \mathfrak{N} is a function of dimension $\sigma_f \leq n$ of C^1 class.
Define the performance index :

$$J(x, u, t_f) = \int_{t_i}^{t_f} L(x(\tau), u(\tau)) d\tau + G(x(t_f))$$

with

$$L, \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_i} \in C^0(R^n \times U), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad G \in C^2$$

Determine:

- the value $t_f \in (t_i, \infty)$
- the control $u^o \in \bar{C}^0(R)$
- and the state $x^o \in \bar{C}^1(R)$

that satisfy

- ✓ the dynamical system,
 - ✓ the constraint on the control,
 - ✓ the initial and final conditions
-
- ✓ and minimize the cost index .

Theorem 2 (necessary condition):

Consider an admissible solution (x^*, u^*, t_f^*) such that

$$\text{rank} \left\{ \left. \frac{d\mathfrak{N}}{dx(t_f)} \right| \right\}^* = \sigma_f$$

If it is a minimum 

there exist a constant $\lambda_0 \geq 0$ and an n -dimensional vector $\lambda^* \in \overline{C}^1[t_i, t_f^*]$ *not simultaneously null* such that :

$$\dot{\lambda}^* = - \left. \frac{\partial H}{\partial x} \right|^{*T}$$

$$H|^{*} = 0$$

$$H(x^*(t), \omega, \lambda_0^*, \lambda^*(t)) \geq H(x^*(t), u^*(t), \lambda_0^*, \lambda^*(t)), \\ \forall \omega \in U$$

Moreover there exists a vector $\zeta \in R^{\sigma_f}$ such that:

$$\lambda(t_f) = \left. \frac{d\mathfrak{N}}{dx(t_f)} \right|^{*T} \zeta$$

The Pontryagin principle

Remark- If t_f is fixed condition

$$H|^{*} = 0$$

Is substituted by

$$H|^{*} = k, \quad \forall t \in [t_i, t_f]$$

The Pontryagin principle

Problem 3: Consider the dynamical system: $\dot{x} = f(x, u, t)$

with:

$$x(t) \in R^n, \quad u(t) \in U \subset R^p \quad f, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} \in C^0(R^n \times U), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

Assume fixed the initial control instant and the initial state $x(t_i) = x^i$

while for final values assume: $\mathfrak{N}(x(t_f), t_f) = 0$ where \mathfrak{N}

is a function of dimension $\sigma_f \leq n+1$ of C^1 class.

Define the performance index :

$$J(x, u, t_f) = \int_{t_i}^{t_f} L(x(\tau), u(\tau), \tau) d\tau$$

with

$$L, \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_i}, \frac{\partial L}{\partial t} \in C^0(R^n \times U \times R), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

Determine:

- the value $t_f \in (t_i, \infty)$
- the control $u^o \in \bar{C}^0(R)$
- and the state $x^o \in \bar{C}^1(R)$

that satisfy

the dynamical system,


the constraint on the control,

the initial and final conditions

and minimize the cost index .

Theorem 3: Consider an admissible solution (x^*, u^*, t_f^*) such that

$$\text{rank} \left\{ \left. \frac{\partial \mathfrak{N}}{\partial (x(t_f), t_f)} \right| \right\}^* = \sigma_f$$

IF it is a minimum  there exist a constant $\lambda_0 \geq 0$ and an

n-dimensional vector $\lambda^* \in \overline{C}^1[t_i, t_f^*]$ not simultaneously null

such that :

$$\dot{\lambda}^* = - \left. \frac{\partial H}{\partial x} \right|^{*T},$$

$$H|_{t_f}^* + \int_t^{t_f^*} \left. \frac{\partial H}{\partial \tau} \right|^{*T} d\tau = k, \quad k \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$H(x^*(t), \omega, \lambda_0^*, \lambda^*(t)) \geq H(x^*(t), u^*(t), \lambda_0^*, \lambda^*(t)), \quad \forall \omega \in U$$

Moreover there exists a vector $\zeta \in \mathbb{R}^{\sigma_f}$ such that:

$$\lambda^*(t_f) = \left. \frac{\partial \mathfrak{N}}{\partial x(t_f)} \right|^{*T} \zeta \quad H|_{t_f}^* = - \left. \frac{\partial \mathfrak{N}}{\partial t_f} \right|^{*T} \zeta$$

The Pontryagin principle

Problem 4: Consider the dynamical system: $\dot{x} = f(x, u, t)$

with: $x(t) \in R^n$, $u(t) \in U \subset R^p$ $f, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} \in C^0(R^n \times U \times R)$

and initial instant and state fixed $x(t_i) = x^i$

For the final values assume: $\aleph(x(t_f), t_f) = 0$ where \aleph is a function of dimension $\sigma_f \leq n+1$ of C^1 class.

Assume the constraint $\int_{t_i}^{t_f} h(x(\tau), u(\tau), \tau) d\tau = k$ with

$$h, \frac{\partial h}{\partial x(t)}, \frac{\partial h}{\partial t} \in C^0(R^n \times U \times R), i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

Define the **performance index** :

with $L, \frac{\partial L}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial L}{\partial t} \in C^0(R^n \times U \times R)$

$$J(x, u, t_f) = \int_{t_i}^{t_f} L(x(\tau), u(\tau), \tau) d\tau$$

Determine

- the value $t_f \in (t_i, \infty)$
- the control $u^o \in \bar{C}^0(R)$
- and the state $x^o \in \bar{C}^1(R)$

that satisfy

- ✓ the dynamical system,
- ✓ the constraint on the control,
- ✓ the initial and final conditions
- ✓ and minimize the cost index .



Hamiltonian function

$$H(x, u, \lambda_0, \lambda) = \lambda_0 L(x, u) + \lambda^T(t) f(x, u) + \rho^T h(x(t), u(t), t)$$

Theorem 4 (necessary condition):

Consider an admissible solution (x^*, u^*, t_f^*) such that

$$\text{rank} \left\{ \left. \frac{\partial \mathfrak{N}}{\partial (x(t_f), t_f)} \right| \right\}^* = \sigma_f$$

IF it is a local minimum



there exist a constant $\lambda_0 \geq 0$, $\rho^* \in R^\sigma$, $\lambda^* \in \overline{C}^{-1}[t_i, t_f^*]$

not simultaneously null such that :

$$\dot{\lambda}^* = - \left. \frac{\partial H}{\partial x} \right|^{*T},$$

$$H(x^*(t), \omega, \lambda_0^*, \lambda^*(t)) \geq H(x^*(t), u^*(t), \lambda_0^*, \lambda^*(t)), \\ \forall \omega \in U$$

$$H|^{*} + \int_t^{t_f^*} \left. \frac{\partial H}{\partial \tau} \right|^{*} d\tau = k, \quad k \in R$$

Moreover there exists a vector $\zeta \in R^{\sigma_f}$ such that:

$$\lambda^*(T) = \left. \frac{\partial \mathfrak{N}}{\partial x(t_f)} \right|^{*T} \zeta \quad H|_{t_f^*}^* = - \left. \frac{\partial \mathfrak{N}}{\partial t_f} \right|^{*T} \zeta$$

The discontinuities of $\dot{\lambda}^*$ may occur only in the instants in which u has a discontinuity and in these instants the Hamiltonian is continuous



Remark

If the set U coincides with \mathbb{R}^p the minimum condition reduces to :

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial u} = 0$$

The Pontryagin principle - convex case

Problem 5: Consider the dynamical **linear system**:

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

with A and B of function of C^1 class; assume fixed the initial and final instants and the initial state, and

$$x(t_f) = x_f \text{ fixed or } x(t_f) \in R^n$$

Assume $u(t) \in U \subset R^p \quad \forall t \in [t_i, t_f]$

where U is a **convex set**.

Define the **performance index** :

$$J(x, u) = \int_{t_i}^{t_f} L(x(\tau), u(\tau), \tau) d\tau + G(x(t_f))$$

with

$$L, \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_i}, \frac{\partial L}{\partial t} \in C^0\left(R^n \times U \times [t_i, t_f]\right), i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

L **convex function** with respect to $x(t), u(t)$ in $R^n \times U$

per ogni $t \in [t_i, t_f]$

G is a scalar function of C^2 class and **convex with respect to $x(t_f)$.**

Determine:

the control $u^o \in \bar{C}^0[t_i, t_f]$

and the state $x^o \in \bar{C}^1[t_i, t_f]$

that satisfy

the dynamical system,

the constraint on the control,

the initial and final conditions

and minimize the cost index .



Theorem 5 (necessary and sufficient condition):

Consider an admissible solution (x^o, u^o) such that

$$\text{rank} \left\{ \left. \frac{\partial \mathfrak{K}}{\partial (x(t_f), t_f)} \right| \right\}^o = \sigma_f$$

It is a minimum **normal** (i.e. $\lambda_0 = 1$)

if and only if there exists an n-dimensional vector $\lambda^o \in \bar{C}^1[t_i, t_f]$

such that : $\dot{\lambda}^o = - \left. \frac{\partial H(x, u, \lambda, t)}{\partial x} \right|^{oT}$

$$H(x^o(t), \omega, \lambda^o(t)) \geq H(x^o(t), u^o(t), \lambda^o(t)), \quad \forall \omega \in U$$

Moreover, if $x(t_f) \in R^n$ $\lambda^o(t_f) = \left. \frac{dG}{dx(t_f)} \right|^{oT}$

Example 3 (from L.C.Evans)

Control of production and consumption

Consider a factory whose output can be controlled.

Let's set:

$x(t)$ the amount of output produced at time t , $0 \leq t$.

Assume we consume some fraction of the output at each time and likewise reinvest the **remaining fraction $u(t)$** .

It is our control, subject to the constraint

$$0 \leq u(t) \leq 1$$

The corresponding dynamics are:

$$\dot{x}(t) = ku(t)x(t), \quad k > 0$$

$$x(0) = x_0$$

The positive constant k represents the *growth rate* of our reinvestment. We will chose $K=1$.

Assume as cost index the function:

$$J(u(\cdot)) = \int_0^{t_f} (1 - u(t))x(t)dt$$

The aim is to maximize the total consumption of the output

We apply the Pontryagin Principle; the Hamiltonian is:

$$H(x, u, \lambda) = (1 - u)x + \lambda xu$$

The necessary conditions are:

$$\dot{\lambda}(t) = -1 - u(t)(\lambda(t) - 1) \quad \lambda(t_f) = 0$$

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

$$H(x(t), u(t), \lambda(t)) = \max_{0 \leq u \leq 1} \{x(t) + u(t)x(t)(\lambda(t) - 1)\}$$



$$x(t) + u(t)x(t)\lambda(t) - u(t)x(t) \geq x(t) + \omega(t)x(t)\lambda(t) - \omega(t)x(t), \quad \forall \omega \in [0, 1]$$



$$u(t)[\lambda(t) - 1] \geq \omega(t)[\lambda(t) - 1], \quad \forall \omega \in [0, 1] \quad \text{since } x(t) > 0$$



$$u(t)[\lambda(t) - 1] \geq \omega(t)[\lambda(t) - 1], \forall \omega \in [0, 1]$$



$$u(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \lambda(t) > 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } \lambda(t) \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

From the equation of the costate, since $\lambda(t_f) = 0$,
by continuity we deduce for $t < t_f$, t close to t_f that $\lambda(t) \leq 1$
thus $u(t) = 0$ for such values of t .

Therefore $\dot{\lambda}(t) = -1$ and consequently: $\lambda(t) = t_f - t$

More precisely $\lambda(t) = t_f - t$ so long as $\lambda(t) \leq 1$
and this holds for: $t_f - 1 \leq t \leq t_f$

For times $t \leq t_f - 1$ with t near t_f we have $u(t) = 1$

Therefore the costate equation yields:

$$\dot{\lambda}(t) = -1 - (\lambda(t) - 1) = -\lambda(t)$$

Since $\lambda(t_f - 1) = 1$ we have for all $t \leq t_f - 1$

$$\lambda(t) = e^{t_f - 1 - t} > 1$$

and over this time interval **there are no switchings**

Therefore:

$$u^*(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } 0 \leq t \leq t_s \\ 0 & \text{if } t_s \leq t \leq t_f \end{cases}$$

For the switching time $t_s = t_f - 1$

Homework: find the switching time

Optimal solution: we should reinvest all the output
(and therefore consume nothing)
up to time t_s and afterwards we should consume everything
(and therefore reinvest nothing)

Bang-bang control

