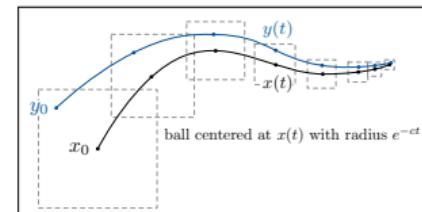
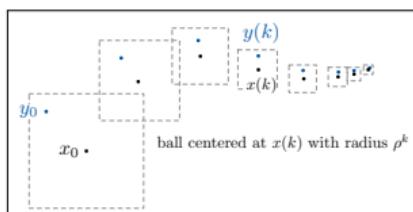


Contracting Dynamical Systems: A Tutorial on Theory and Applications

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<https://fbullo.github.io/ctds>

Tutorial (based on lectures @ SSM in Napoli Nov '22, ACC @ San Diego Jun '23). This version: 2023/09/13

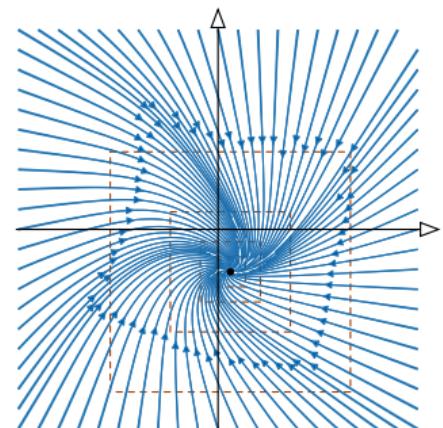


contractivity = robust computationally-friendly stability

fixed point theory + Lyapunov stability theory + geometry of metric spaces

highly-ordered transient and asymptotic behavior, no anonymous constants/functions:

- ① unique globally exponential stable equilibrium
& two natural Lyapunov functions
- ② robustness properties
 - bounded input, bounded output (iss)
 - finite input-state gain
 - robustness margin wrt unmodeled dynamics
 - robustness margin wrt delayed dynamics
- ③ periodic input, periodic output
- ④ modularity and interconnection properties
- ⑤ accurate numerical integration and equilibrium point computation



search for contraction properties
design engineering systems to be contracting
verify correct/safe behavior via known Lipschitz constants

Acknowledgments



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UC Boulder



Emiliano Dall'Anese
UC Boulder



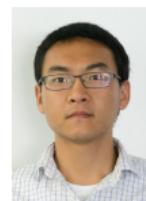
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Utilidata



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Outline

§1. History and resources

§2. Basic definitions: discrete and continuous-time dynamics on vector spaces

- Properties of induced matrix norms and Lipschitz constants

§3. Example systems

- Constrained, distributed and proximal gradient dynamics
- Continuous-time recurrent neural networks
- Nonlinear dynamics in Lur'e form

§4. Properties of contracting dynamics

- Equilibria, Lyapunov functions, and Euler discretization
- Incremental input-to-state stability
- Contractivity of interconnected systems
- Additional properties: entrainment, robustness wrt unmodeled dynamics and delays

§5. Example applications

- Time-varying gradient dynamics and feedback optimization
- From recurrent to implicit neural networks
- Gradient dynamics and Nash equilibria in games

§6. Generalizations with examples

- G1: Semicontractivity: Primal dual gradient with redundant constraints
- G2: Local contractivity: Kuramoto-Sakaguchi model and synchronization
- G3: Weak contractivity: Biologically-plausible circuits for sparse reconstruction
- G4: Contractivity on Riemannian manifolds and the Karcher mean

§7. Conclusions and future research

§8. Advanced Topics

- More on semicontractivity: ergodic coefficients and duality
- Network small-gain theorem for Metzler matrices
- More on the Kuramoto-Sakaguchi model and synchronization
- Proof of semicontractivity of saddle matrices
- Proof of Euler discretization theorem
- Non-Euclidean Monotone Operator Theory

- **Origins**

S. Banach. Sur les opérations dans les ensembles abstraits et leur application aux équations intégrales. *Fundamenta Mathematicae*, 3(1):133–181, 1922. doi: 

- **Dynamics:**

G. Dahlquist. *Stability and error bounds in the numerical integration of ordinary differential equations*. PhD thesis, (Reprinted in Trans. Royal Inst. of Technology, No. 130, Stockholm, Sweden, 1959), 1958

S. M. Lozinskii. Error estimate for numerical integration of ordinary differential equations. I. *Izvestiya Vysshikh Uchebnykh Zavedenii. Matematika*, 5:52–90, 1958. URL <http://mi.mathnet.ru/eng/ivm2980>. (in Russian)



- **Computation:**

C. A. Desoer and H. Haneda. The measure of a matrix as a tool to analyze computer algorithms for circuit analysis. *IEEE Transactions on Circuit Theory*, 19(5):480–486, 1972. doi: 

- **Systems and control:**

W. Lohmiller and J.-J. E. Slotine. On contraction analysis for non-linear systems. *Automatica*, 34(6):683–696, 1998. doi: 

- **Incomplete list of scientists who influenced me**

Aminzare, Arcak, Chung, Coogan, Corless, Di Bernardo, Manchester, Margaliot, Martins, Pavel, Pavlov, Pham, Proskurnikov, Russo, Sepulchre, Slotine, Sontag, ...

- **Surveys:**

Z. Aminzare and E. D. Sontag. Contraction methods for nonlinear systems: A brief introduction and some open problems. In *IEEE Conf. on Decision and Control*, pages 3835–3847, Dec. 2014b. doi: 

M. Di Bernardo, D. Fiore, G. Russo, and F. Scafuti. Convergence, consensus and synchronization of complex networks via contraction theory. In *Complex Systems and Networks*. Springer, 2016. doi: 

H. Tsukamoto, S.-J. Chung, and J.-J. E. Slotine. Contraction theory for nonlinear stability analysis and learning-based control: A tutorial overview. *Annual Reviews in Control*, 52:135–169, 2021. doi: 

P. Giesl, S. Hafstein, and C. Kawan. Review on contraction analysis and computation of contraction metrics. *Journal of Computational Dynamics*, 10(1):1–47, 2023. doi: 

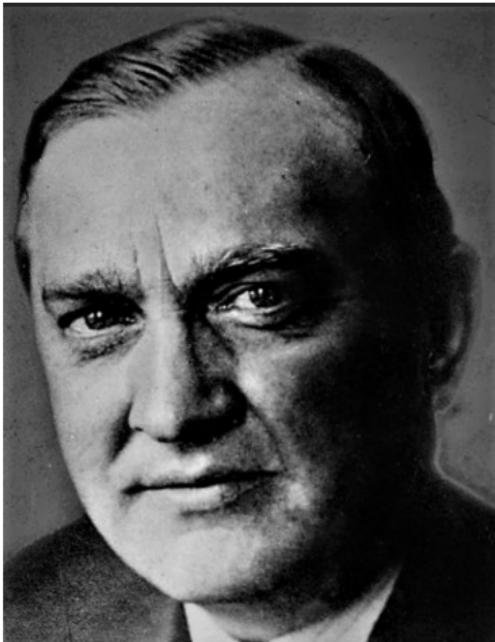


Figure: Stefan Banach (Krakow, 30 Mar 1892 – Lviv, 31 Aug 1945) was a self-taught Polish mathematician

1920: doctoral thesis on Banach spaces @ University of Lviv
1920-1922: Assistant Professor @ Lwow Polytechnic
1922: Full Professor @ Lwow Polytechnic
1924: Member of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences
1929: Founder, Lvov School of Mathematics
1931: first functional analysis: “Theory of Linear Operations”
1939-45: dark years

S. Banach. Sur les opérations dans les ensembles abstraits et leur application aux équations intégrales. *Fundamenta Mathematicae*, 3(1):133–181, 1922. doi: 

The Banach Contraction Theorem is also referred to as the *Picard-Banach-Caccioppoli*, because of the earlier work by Picard (1890) on the “method of successive approximations” and the later independent work by Renato Caccioppoli (1930).



Figure: Renato Caccioppoli (Napoli, 20 Jan 1904 – Napoli, 8 May 1959) was an Italian mathematician

1921-1932 student and researcher @ Napoli

1931-1934 professor @ Padova

1934-1959 professor @ Napoli

R. Caccioppoli. Un teorema generale sull'esistenza di elementi uniti in una trasformazione funzionale. *Rendiconti dell'Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei*, 11:794–799, 1930

Contraction conditions without Jacobians

- ① **uniformly decreasing maps** in: L. Chua and D. Green. A qualitative analysis of the behavior of dynamic nonlinear networks: Stability of autonomous networks. *IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems*, 23(6): 355–379, 1976. 
- ② no-name in: A. F. Filippov. *Differential Equations with Discontinuous Righthand Sides*. Kluwer, 1988. ISBN 902772699X (Chapter 1, page 5)
- ③ **one-sided Lipschitz maps** in: E. Hairer, S. P. Nørsett, and G. Wanner. *Solving Ordinary Differential Equations I. Nonstiff Problems*. Springer, 1993.  (Section 1.10, Exercise 6)
- ④ **maps with negative nonlinear measure** in: H. Qiao, J. Peng, and Z.-B. Xu. Nonlinear measures: A new approach to exponential stability analysis for Hopfield-type neural networks. *IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks*, 12(2):360–370, 2001. 
- ⑤ **dissipative Lipschitz maps** in: T. Caraballo and P. E. Kloeden. The persistence of synchronization under environmental noise. *Proceedings of the Royal Society A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences*, 461(2059):2257–2267, 2005. 
- ⑥ **maps with negative lub log Lipschitz constant** in: G. Söderlind. The logarithmic norm. History and modern theory. *BIT Numerical Mathematics*, 46(3):631–652, 2006. 
- ⑦ **QUAD maps** in: W. Lu and T. Chen. New approach to synchronization analysis of linearly coupled ordinary differential systems. *Physica D: Nonlinear Phenomena*, 213(2):214–230, 2006. 
- ⑧ **incremental quadratically stable maps** in: L. D'Alto and M. Corless. Incremental quadratic stability. *Numerical Algebra, Control and Optimization*, 3:175–201, 2013. 

Contraction conditions without Jacobians

- ① Demidovich LMI condition in: B. P. Demidovič. On the dissipativity of a certain non-linear system of differential equations. I. *Vestnik Moskovskogo Universiteta. Serija I. Matematika, Mekhanika*, 6:19–27, 1961
- ② Krasovskii's method for Lyapunov functions
- ③ common Lyapunov function approach
- ④ Pointwise quadratic constraints
- ⑤ Incremental multiplier matrices
- ⑥ Lyapunov functions for the variational system

Links to recent related educational and research events

- 2023 ACC Workshop on "Contraction Theory for Systems, Control, and Learning"
<http://motion.me.ucsb.edu/contraction-workshop-2023>
- Tutorial session: <https://sites.google.com/view/contractiontheory> "Contraction Theory for Machine Learning" (PDFs and youtube videos) at the 2021 IEEE CDC conference, by Soon-Jo Chung, Jean-Jacques Slotine, and Hiroyasu Tsukamoto
- Tutorial paper at CDC2021 "Contraction-Based Methods for Stable Identification and Robust Machine Learning: a Tutorial" by Ian Manchester and coauthors: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2110.00207>,
<https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/abstract/document/9683128>
- Plenary presentation: (Slides
<https://fbullo.github.io/talks/2022-12-FBullo-ContractionSystemsControl-CDC.pdf>) "Contraction Theory in Systems and Control" by Francesco Bullo at the 2022 IEEE CDC
- Youtube lectures: "Lectures on Nonlinear Systems" by Jean-Jacques Slotine, Fall 2013:
<https://web.mit.edu/ns1/www/videos/lectures.html>, Lectures 14-20 (approximately 1h20min each)
- Youtube lectures: "Minicourse on Contraction Theory" by Francesco Bullo, Fall 2022. Youtube lectures
<https://youtu.be/RvR47ZbqJjc>: 10h in 4 lectures, with chapters
- Textbook: Contraction Theory for Dynamical Systems, Francesco Bullo, rev 1.1, Mar 2023. (Book and slides freely available) <https://fbullo.github.io/ctds>

Contraction Theory for Dynamical Systems

Francesco Bullo

Contraction Theory for Dynamical Systems, Francesco Bullo,
KDP, 1.1 edition, 2023, ISBN 979-8836646806

- ① Textbook with exercises and answers. Format: textbook, slides, and paperbook
- ② Content:
 - Fixed point theory
 - Theory of contracting dynamics on vector spaces
 - Applications to nonlinear and interconnected systems
- ③ Self-Published and Print-on-Demand at:
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0B4K1BTF4>
- ④ PDF Freely available at
<https://fbullo.github.io/ctds>
- ⑤ 10h minicourse on youtube:
<https://youtu.be/RvR47ZbqJjc>
- ⑥ Future version to include: systems on Riemannian manifolds, homogeneous spaces, and solid cones
 - "Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection"
 - Mark Twain**

Selected references from my group

Contraction theory on normed spaces and Riemannian manifolds:

- A. Davydov, S. Jafarpour, and F. Bullo. Non-Euclidean contraction theory for robust nonlinear stability. *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, 67(12):6667–6681, 2022a. 
- S. Jafarpour, A. Davydov, and F. Bullo. Non-Euclidean contraction theory for monotone and positive systems. *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, 68(9):5653–5660, 2023. 
- J. W. Simpson-Porco and F. Bullo. Contraction theory on Riemannian manifolds. *Systems & Control Letters*, 65:74–80, 2014. 

Contracting neural networks:

- S. Jafarpour, A. Davydov, A. V. Proskurnikov, and F. Bullo. Robust implicit networks via non-Euclidean contractions. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, Dec. 2021. 
- A. Davydov, A. V. Proskurnikov, and F. Bullo. Non-Euclidean contractivity of recurrent neural networks. In *American Control Conference*, pages 1527–1534, Atlanta, USA, May 2022c. 
- V. Centorrino, A. Gokhale, A. Davydov, G. Russo, and F. Bullo. Euclidean contractivity of neural networks with symmetric weights. *IEEE Control Systems Letters*, 7:1724–1729, 2023b. 

Weak and semicontraction theory:

- S. Jafarpour, P. Cisneros-Velarde, and F. Bullo. Weak and semi-contraction for network systems and diffusively-coupled oscillators. *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, 67(3):1285–1300, 2022a. 
- G. De Pasquale, K. D. Smith, F. Bullo, and M. E. Valcher. Dual seminorms, ergodic coefficients, and semicontraction theory. *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, 69(5), 2024.  To appear
- R. Delabays and F. Bullo. Semicontraction and synchronization of Kuramoto-Sakaguchi oscillator networks. *IEEE Control Systems Letters*, 7:1566–1571, 2023. 

Optimization:

- F. Bullo, P. Cisneros-Velarde, A. Davydov, and S. Jafarpour. From contraction theory to fixed point algorithms on Riemannian and non-Euclidean spaces. In *IEEE Conf. on Decision and Control*, Dec. 2021. 
- A. Davydov, S. Jafarpour, A. V. Proskurnikov, and F. Bullo. Non-Euclidean monotone operator theory and applications. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, June 2023b.  Submitted
- A. Davydov, V. Centorrino, A. Gokhale, G. Russo, and F. Bullo. Contracting dynamics for time-varying convex optimization. *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, June 2023a.  Submitted

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Banach Contraction Theorem

Let (\mathcal{X}, d) be a *complete metric space*

If $T : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$ is Lipschitz with constant $\ell < 1$ (called the *contraction factor*), then

- ① T has a unique fixed point x^* in \mathcal{X}
- ② the sequence $\{x_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ generated by the *Picard iteration* $x_{k+1} = T(x_k)$ converges to x^* for all initial conditions $x_0 \in \mathcal{X}$
- ③ the following error estimates hold for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$:

(geometric convergence):

$$d(x_k, x^*) \leq \ell^k d(x_0, x^*)$$

(a-priori upper bound):

$$d(x_k, x^*) \leq \frac{\ell^k}{1 - \ell} d(x_0, x_1)$$

(a-posteriori upper bound):

$$d(x_k, x^*) \leq \frac{\ell}{1 - \ell} d(x_{k-1}, x_k)$$

Proof of Banach Contraction Theorem

For $x_{k+1} = T(x_k)$

- sequence $\{x_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ is Cauchy

$$\begin{aligned} d(x_{k+h}, x_k) &\leq d(x_{k+h}, x_{k+h-1}) + \cdots + d(x_{k+1}, x_k) \\ &\leq (\ell^{h-1} + \cdots + 1)d(x_{k+1}, x_k) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{1-\ell}d(x_{k+1}, x_k) \\ &\leq \frac{\ell^k}{1-\ell}d(x_1, x_0) \end{aligned}$$

- since \mathcal{X} is complete, sequence converges to a point x^*
- uniqueness from $\ell < 1$
- geometric convergence

$$d(x_k, x^*) = d(T(x_{k-1}), x^*) \leq \ell d(x_{k-1}, x^*) \leq \ell^k d(x_0, x^*)$$

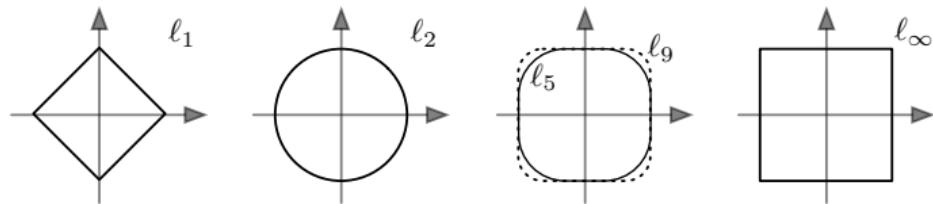
Examples of metric spaces

- ① finite dimensional vector spaces with a norm
- ② Riemannian manifolds (e.g., matrix Lie groups, Grassmannian/Stiefel ...)
- ③ infinite-dimensional Hilbert and Banach spaces
- ④ cones with the Thomson metric (e.g., positive definite matrices)
- ⑤ ...

Note: in these slides, contractivity = *contractivity on $(\mathbb{R}^n, \|\cdot\|)$* . Available for this case: all discrete/continuous-time theorems, numerous examples, amenable to analysis.

Linear algebra: induced norms

Vector norm	Induced matrix norm	Induced matrix log norm
$\ x\ _1 = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i $	$\ A\ _1 = \max_{j \in \{1, \dots, n\}} \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij} $ = max column "absolute sum" of A	$\mu_1(A) = \max_{j \in \{1, \dots, n\}} \left(a_{jj} + \sum_{i=1, i \neq j}^n a_{ij} \right)$ absolute value only off-diagonal
$\ x\ _2 = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2}$	$\ A\ _2 = \sqrt{\lambda_{\max}(A^\top A)}$	$\mu_2(A) = \lambda_{\max}\left(\frac{A + A^\top}{2}\right)$
$\ x\ _\infty = \max_{i \in \{1, \dots, n\}} x_i $	$\ A\ _\infty = \max_{i \in \{1, \dots, n\}} \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} $ = max row "absolute sum" of A	$\mu_\infty(A) = \max_{i \in \{1, \dots, n\}} \left(a_{ii} + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^n a_{ij} \right)$ absolute value only off-diagonal



$$x_{k+1} = \mathsf{F}(x_k) \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^n \text{ with norm } \|\cdot\| \text{ and induced norm } \|\cdot\|$$

Lipschitz constant

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Lip}(\mathsf{F}) &= \inf\{\ell > 0 \text{ such that } \|\mathsf{F}(x) - \mathsf{F}(y)\| \leq \ell \|x - y\| \text{ for all } x, y\} \\ &= \sup_x \|D\mathsf{F}(x)\|\end{aligned}$$

For **scalar map** f , $\text{Lip}(f) = \sup_x |f'(x)|$

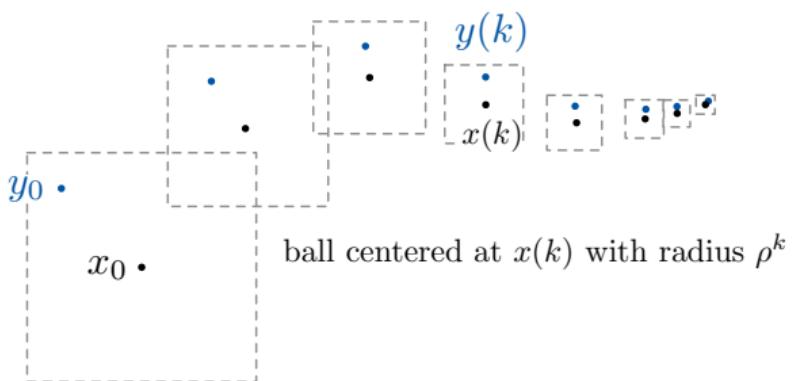
For **affine map** $\mathsf{F}_A(x) = Ax + a$

$$\begin{array}{lll}\|x\|_{2,P} = (x^\top Px)^{1/2} & \text{Lip}_{2,P}(\mathsf{F}_A) = \|A\|_{2,P} \leq \ell & \iff A^\top PA \preceq \ell^2 P \\ \|x\|_{\infty,\eta} = \max_i |x_i|/\eta_i & \text{Lip}_{\infty,\eta}(\mathsf{F}_A) = \|A\|_{\infty,\eta} \leq \ell & \iff \eta^\top |A| \leq \ell \eta^\top\end{array}$$

Banach contraction theorem for discrete-time dynamics:

If $\rho := \text{Lip}(F) < 1$, then

- ① F is **contracting** = distance between trajectories decreases exp fast (ρ^k)
- ② F has a unique, glob exp stable equilibrium x^*



ball centered at $x(k)$ with radius ρ^k

From induced norms to induced log norms

The **induced log norm** of $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ wrt to $\|\cdot\|$:

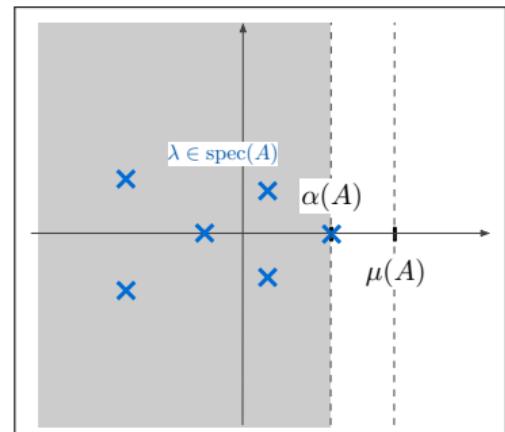
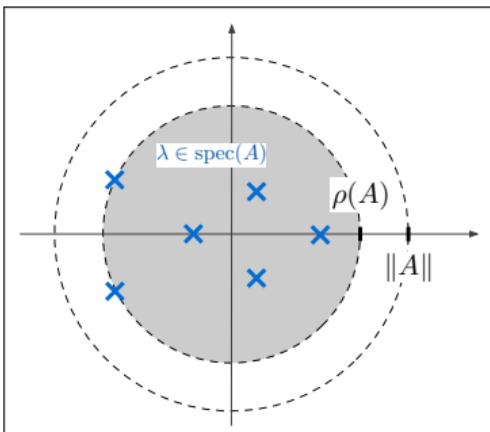
$$\mu(A) := \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\|I_n + hA\| - 1}{h}$$

subadditivity:

$$\mu(A + B) \leq \mu(A) + \mu(B)$$

scaling:

$$\mu(bA) = b\mu(A), \quad \forall b \geq 0$$



Example induced log norms

Vector norm	Induced matrix norm	Induced matrix log norm
$\ x\ _1 = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i $	$\ A\ _1 = \max_{j \in \{1, \dots, n\}} \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij} $ = max column "absolute sum" of A	$\mu_1(A) = \max_{j \in \{1, \dots, n\}} \left(a_{jj} + \sum_{i=1, i \neq j}^n a_{ij} \right)$ absolute value only off-diagonal
$\ x\ _2 = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2}$	$\ A\ _2 = \sqrt{\lambda_{\max}(A^\top A)}$	$\mu_2(A) = \lambda_{\max}\left(\frac{A + A^\top}{2}\right)$
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$\dot{x} = F(x)$ on \mathbb{R}^n with norm $\|\cdot\|$ and induced log norm $\mu(\cdot)$

One-sided Lipschitz constant

$$\begin{aligned}\text{osLip}(F) &= \inf\{b \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that } [F(x) - F(y), x - y] \leq b\|x - y\|^2 \text{ for all } x, y\} \\ &= \sup_x \mu(DF(x))\end{aligned}$$

For **scalar map** f , $\text{osLip}(f) = \sup_x f'(x)$

For **affine map** $F_A(x) = Ax + a$

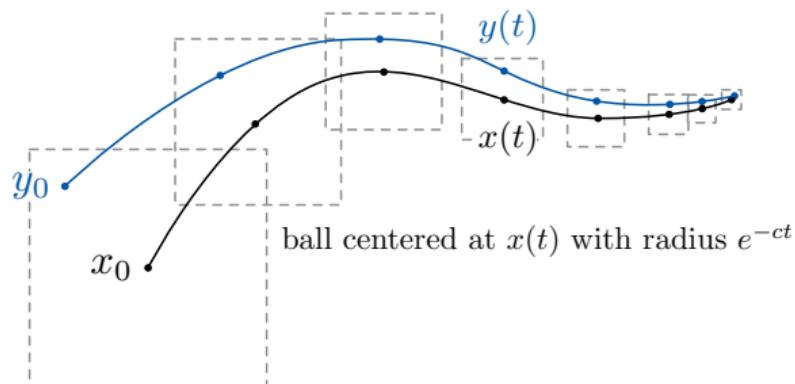
$$\text{osLip}_{2,P}(F_A) = \mu_{2,P}(A) \leq \ell \iff A^\top P + AP \preceq 2\ell P$$

$$\text{osLip}_{\infty,\eta}(F_A) = \mu_{\infty,\eta}(A) \leq \ell \iff a_{ii} + \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}| \eta_i / \eta_j \leq \ell$$

Banach contraction theorem for continuous-time dynamics:

If $-c := \text{osLip}(F) < 0$, then

- ① F is **infinitesimally contracting** = distance between trajectories decreases exp fast (e^{-ct})
- ② F has a unique, glob exp stable equilibrium x^*



Key properties of inner products

Curve norm derivative formula:

$$\frac{1}{2} D^+ \|x(t)\|^2 = \langle\!\langle \dot{x}(t), x(t) \rangle\!\rangle$$

Sup of Euclidean numerical range:

$$\mu_2(A) = \lambda_{\max}\left(\frac{A+A^\top}{2}\right) = \sup_{\|x\|=1} \langle\!\langle Ax, x \rangle\!\rangle$$

An **inner product** is $\langle\!\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle\!\rangle : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfying

- ① $\langle\!\langle x_1 + x_2, y \rangle\!\rangle = \langle\!\langle x_1, y \rangle\!\rangle + \langle\!\langle x_2, y \rangle\!\rangle$ and $x \mapsto \langle\!\langle x, y \rangle\!\rangle$ is continuous, (additivity)
- ② $\langle\!\langle bx, y \rangle\!\rangle = \langle\!\langle x, by \rangle\!\rangle = b \langle\!\langle x, y \rangle\!\rangle$ for $b \in \mathbb{R}$, (homogeneity)
- ③ $\langle\!\langle x, x \rangle\!\rangle > 0$, for all $x \neq 0_n$, (definiteness)
- ④ $|\langle\!\langle x, y \rangle\!\rangle| \leq \langle\!\langle x, x \rangle\!\rangle^{1/2} \langle\!\langle y, y \rangle\!\rangle^{1/2}$, (Cauchy-Schwarz)

Given norm $\|\cdot\|$, compatibility: $\langle\!\langle x, x \rangle\!\rangle = \|x\|^2$ for all x

Key properties of weak pairings

Curve norm derivative formula:

$$\frac{1}{2}D^+\|x(t)\|^2 = \llbracket \dot{x}(t), x(t) \rrbracket$$

Sup of non-Euclidean numerical range (Lumer):

$$\mu(A) = \sup_{\|x\|=1} \llbracket Ax, x \rrbracket$$

A **weak pairing** is $\llbracket \cdot, \cdot \rrbracket : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfying

- ① $\llbracket x_1 + x_2, y \rrbracket \leq \llbracket x_1, y \rrbracket + \llbracket x_2, y \rrbracket$, (sub-additivity)
- ② $\llbracket bx, y \rrbracket = \llbracket x, by \rrbracket = b \llbracket x, y \rrbracket$ for $b \geq 0$ and $\llbracket -x, -y \rrbracket = \llbracket x, y \rrbracket$, (positive homogeneity)
- ③ $\llbracket x, x \rrbracket > 0$, for all $x \neq 0_n$, (definiteness)
- ④ $|\llbracket x, y \rrbracket| \leq \llbracket x, x \rrbracket^{1/2} \llbracket y, y \rrbracket^{1/2}$, (Cauchy-Schwarz)

Given norm $\|\cdot\|$, compatibility: $\llbracket x, x \rrbracket = \|x\|^2$ for all x

A. Davydov, S. Jafarpour, and F. Bullo. Non-Euclidean contraction theory for robust nonlinear stability. *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, 67(12):6667–6681, 2022a. 

Example weak pairings

Norms

From inner products to sign and max pairings

From LMIs to log norms

$$\|x\|_{2,P^{1/2}}^2 = x^\top Px$$

$$[\![x, y]\!]_{2,P^{1/2}} = x^\top Py$$

$$\mu_{2,P^{1/2}}(A) = \min\{b \mid A^\top P + PA \preceq 2bP\}$$

$$\|x\|_1 = \sum_i |x_i|$$

$$[\![x, y]\!]_1 = \|y\|_1 \text{sign}(y)^\top x$$

$$\mu_1(A) = \max_j \left(a_{jj} + \sum_{i \neq j} |a_{ij}| \right)$$

$$\|x\|_\infty = \max_i |x_i|$$

$$[\![x, y]\!]_\infty = \max_{i \in I_\infty(y)} y_i x_i$$

$$\mu_\infty(A) = \max_i \left(a_{ii} + \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}| \right)$$

where $I_\infty(x) = \{i \in \{1, \dots, n\} \text{ such that } |x_i| = \|x\|_\infty\}$

Table of continuous-time contractivity conditions

Log Norm bound	Demidovich condition	One-sided Lipschitz condition
$\mu_{2,P}(D\mathbf{F}(x)) \leq b$	$P D\mathbf{F}(x) + D\mathbf{F}(x)^\top P \preceq 2bP$	$(x - y)^\top P(\mathbf{F}(x) - \mathbf{F}(y)) \leq b\ x - y\ _{P^{1/2}}^2$
$\mu_1(D\mathbf{F}(x)) \leq b$	$\text{sign}(v)^\top D\mathbf{F}(x)v \leq b\ v\ _1$	$\text{sign}(x - y)^\top (\mathbf{F}(x) - \mathbf{F}(y)) \leq b\ x - y\ _1$
$\mu_\infty(D\mathbf{F}(x)) \leq b$	$\max_{i \in I_\infty(v)} v_i (D\mathbf{F}(x)v)_i \leq b\ v\ _\infty^2$	$\max_{i \in I_\infty(x-y)} (x_i - y_i)(\mathbf{F}_i(x) - \mathbf{F}_i(y)) \leq b\ x - y\ _\infty^2$

Equivalent contractivity conditions

J. A. Jacquez and C. P. Simon. Qualitative theory of compartmental systems. *SIAM Review*, 35(1):43–79, 1993. 

H. Qiao, J. Peng, and Z.-B. Xu. Nonlinear measures: A new approach to exponential stability analysis for Hopfield-type neural networks. *IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks*, 12(2):360–370, 2001. 

G. Como, E. Lovisari, and K. Savla. Throughput optimality and overload behavior of dynamical flow networks under monotone distributed routing. *IEEE Transactions on Control of Network Systems*, 2(1):57–67, 2015. 

Advantages of non-Euclidean approaches

- ① *well suited for certain class of systems*

ℓ_1 for monotone flow systems

- ② *computational advantages*

ℓ_1/ℓ_∞ constraints lead to LPs, whereas ℓ_2 constraints leads to LMIs

- ③ *robustness to structural perturbations*

ℓ_1/ℓ_∞ contractions are connectively robust (i.e., edge removal)

- ④ *adversarial input-output analysis*

ℓ_∞ better suited for the analysis of adversarial examples than ℓ_2

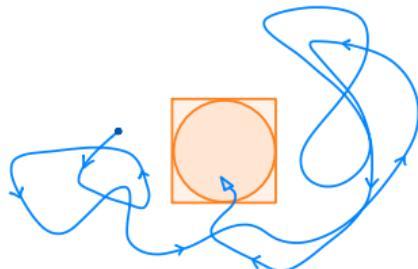
- ⑤ *asynchronous distributed computation*

ℓ_∞ contractions converge under fully asynchronous distributed execution

NonEuclidean contractions: biological transcriptional systems (Russo, Di Bernardo, and Sontag, 2010), Hopfield neural networks (Fang and Kincaid, 1996; Qiao, Peng, and Xu, 2001), chemical reaction networks (Al-Radhawi, Angeli, and Sontag, 2020), traffic networks (Coogan and Arcak, 2015; Como, Lovisari, and Savla, 2015; Coogan, 2019), multi-vehicle systems (Monteil, Russo, and Shorten, 2019), and coupled oscillators (Russo, Di Bernardo, and Sontag, 2013; Aminzare and Sontag, 2014a)

Practical stability problem and the counter-intuitive nature of \mathbb{R}^n

Boris Polyak (1935-2023) used to say “ \mathbb{R}^n contradicts our intuition”



Aim: **compute settling time inside a desired set**

- since norms on \mathbb{R}^n are equivalent, no formal difference in the choice of norm
- assume: can tolerate ± 1 error in each coordinate
 - ⇒ desired set is hypercube = ℓ_∞ -ball
- assume: Lyapunov function is $V(x) = \|x\|_2^2$
 - ⇒ need to wait until solution enters unit ℓ_2 -ball \subset unit ℓ_∞ -ball
- but n -sphere inscribed in n -hypercube is very small fraction!
as $n \rightarrow \infty$, the ratio of volumes decreases faster than any exponential function

for large n , quadratic Lyap fnctns may provide exponentially conservative estimates

Courtesy of Anton Proskurnikov, Politecnico di Torino

Proof of Banach contraction theorem for continuous-time dynamics

For $\dot{x} = F(x)$ with $\text{osLip}(F) = -c < 0$ and unit-time flow map ϕ :

- using the properties of the weak pairing, we compute

$$\begin{aligned}\|x - y\| D^+ \|x - y\| &= \llbracket \dot{x} - \dot{y}, x - y \rrbracket && (\text{curve norm derivative}) \\ &= \llbracket F(x) - F(y), x - y \rrbracket && (\dot{x} = F(x)) \\ &\leq -c \|x - y\|^2 && (\text{osLip}(F) = -c)\end{aligned}$$

- By the Grönwall Comparison,

$$D^+ \|x - y\| \leq -c \|x - y\| \implies \|x(t) - y(t)\| \leq e^{-ct} \|x(0) - y(0)\|$$

and ϕ is a contraction with factor $e^{-c} < 1$

- recall $(\mathbb{R}^n, \|\cdot\|)$ is complete metric space,
- the Banach Contraction Theorem implies **existence** of a unique x^* fixed point of ϕ
- $\phi(x^*) = x^*$ implies that
 - either x^* is an equilibrium
 - or x^* is a point in a periodic orbit with period 1,
- by contradiction, assume a periodic orbit of period 1 exists. Then each point in the orbit is a fixed point of ϕ , which violates the uniqueness of x^* as a fixed point,
- hence, x^* is the **unique** equilibrium of F .

The **upper right Dini derivative** of a continuous function $f :]a, b[\rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ at a point $t \in]a, b[$ is

$$D^+f(t) = \limsup_{\Delta t > 0, \Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(t + \Delta t) - f(t)}{\Delta t}$$

where the limit superior of a sequence $\{a_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subset \mathbb{R}$ is $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{m \geq n} a_m$.

Properties of the upper right Dini derivative

Given a continuous function $f :]a, b[\rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

- ① if f is differentiable at $t \in]a, b[$, then $D^+f(t) = \frac{d}{dt}f(t)$ is the usual derivative of f at t ,
- ② if f is locally Lipschitz at t , then D^+f is upper bounded at t ,
- ③ if $D^+f(t) \leq 0$ for all $t \in]a, b[$, then f is non-increasing on $]a, b[$.

Grönwall Comparison Lemma for absolutely continuous functions

Given $a \in \mathbb{R}$ and a continuous function $t \mapsto \gamma(t) \in \mathbb{R}$, assume the absolutely continuous function $t \mapsto z(t)$ satisfies the differential inequality

$$D^+z(t) \leq az(t) + \gamma(t).$$

Then, for $t \in [t_0, \infty)$,

$$z(t) \leq e^{a(t-t_0)}z(t_0) + \int_{t_0}^t e^{a(t-\tau)}\gamma(\tau)d\tau.$$

Equivalence between integral and differential osLip

For continuously-diff $F : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$

$$\text{Lip}(F) = \sup_x \|DF(x)\| \quad \text{and} \quad \text{osLip}(F) = \sup_x \mu(DF(x))$$

Proof Mean Value Theorem for vector-valued C^1 function $F(x) - F(y) = (\int_0^1 DF(y + s(x-y))ds)(x-y)$ for any x, y :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{osLip}(F) &= \sup_{x \neq y} \frac{\llbracket (\int_0^1 DF(y + s(x-y))ds)(x-y), x-y \rrbracket}{\|x-y\|^2} \\ &\leq \sup_{x \neq y} \int_0^1 \frac{\llbracket DF(y + s(x-y))(x-y), x-y \rrbracket}{\|x-y\|^2} ds \quad (\text{subadditivity of } \llbracket \cdot, \cdot \rrbracket) \\ &\leq \int_0^1 \sup_{x \neq y} \frac{\llbracket DF(y + s(x-y))(x-y), x-y \rrbracket}{\|x-y\|^2} ds = \int_0^1 \sup_{y, z \neq 0_n} \frac{\llbracket DF(y + sz)z, z \rrbracket}{\|z\|^2} ds \\ &= \int_0^1 \sup_{y, z \neq 0_n} \mu(DF(y + sz)) ds \leq \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \mu(DF(x)) \quad (\text{Lumer's equality}) \end{aligned}$$

Vice versa, recall $DF(y)v = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} (F(y + hv) - F(y))/h$. Pick $x = y + hv$ for arbitrary $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\|v\| = 1$, and $h > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{osLip}(F) &= \sup_{y \in \mathbb{R}^n, v \in \mathbb{R}^n, \|v\|=1, h>0} \frac{\llbracket F(x) - F(y), x-y \rrbracket}{\|x-y\|^2} \Big|_{x=y+hv} \\ &\geq \sup_{y \in \mathbb{R}^n, v \in \mathbb{R}^n, \|v\|=1} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\llbracket F(y + hv) - F(y), v \rrbracket}{h} \quad (\text{weak homogeneity}) \\ &= \sup_{y \in \mathbb{R}^n, v \in \mathbb{R}^n, \|v\|=1} \llbracket DF(y)v, v \rrbracket \quad (\text{continuity of } w \mapsto \llbracket w, v \rrbracket) \\ &= \sup_{y \in \mathbb{R}^n} \mu(DF(y)). \quad (\text{Lumer's equality}) \end{aligned}$$

For all matrices $A, B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, Lipschitz maps $F, G : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ and $a \in \mathbb{R}$

“the modulus properties”

matrix norms	Lipschitz constants
(positive definiteness) $\ A\ \geq 0$ and $\ A\ = 0 \iff A = \mathbb{0}_{n \times n}$	$\text{Lip}(F) \geq 0$ and $\text{Lip}(F) = 0 \iff F$ is constant
(homogeneity) $\ aA\ = a \ A\ $	$\text{Lip}(aF) = a \text{Lip}(F)$
(subadditivity) $\ A + B\ \leq \ A\ + \ B\ $	$\text{Lip}(F + G) \leq \text{Lip}(F) + \text{Lip}(G)$
(sub-multiplicativity) $\ AB\ \leq \ A\ \ B\ $	$\text{Lip}(F \circ G) \leq \text{Lip}(F) \text{Lip}(G)$

“the real part properties”

matrix log norms	one-sided Lipschitz constants
(positive homogeneity) $\mu(aA) = a \mu(\text{sign}(a)A)$	$\text{osLip}(aF) = a \text{osLip}(\text{sign}(a)F)$
(subadditivity) $\mu(A + B) \leq \mu(A) + \mu(B)$	$\text{osLip}(F + G) \leq \text{osLip}(F) + \text{osLip}(G)$
(translation property) $\mu(A + aI_n) = \mu(A) + a$	$\text{osLip}(F + a \text{Id}) = \text{osLip}(F) + a$
(uniform monotonicity) $\mu(A) < 0$ $\implies A$ invertible, $\ A^{-1}\ \leq -1/\mu(A)$	$\text{osLip}(F) < 0$ $\implies F$ injective, $\text{Lip}(F^{-1}) \leq -1/\text{osLip}(F)$

The linear algebra of matrix norms and log norms

Now read Chapter2 in CTDS

Lemma 2.12 (Weighted matrix and log norms). Given an invertible matrix R and a norm $\|\cdot\|$,

$$\|A\|_R = \|RAR^{-1}\| \quad \text{and} \quad \mu_R(A) = \mu(RAR^{-1}). \quad (2.34)$$

Theorem 2.13 (Composite induced norms and log norms). For any set of local norms $\|\cdot\|_i$, and an aggregating norm $\|\cdot\|_{\log}$ over a decomposition of \mathbb{R}^n , consider a matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$.

- (i) the composite norm $\|\cdot\|_{\log}$ is a well-defined, i.e., it satisfies the norm properties;
- (ii) if the aggregating norm $\|\cdot\|_{\log}$ is monotonic, then

$$\max_{i \in \{1, \dots, r\}} \|A_i\|_i \leq \|A\|_{\log} \leq \|A\|_{\infty}. \quad (2.49)$$

$$\max_{i \in \{1, \dots, r\}} \mu_i(A_i) \leq \mu_{\log}(A) \leq \mu_{\infty}(\|A\|_{\infty}). \quad (2.50)$$

Ref	Quadratic forms (for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$)
Lemma 2.14	$\rho_{x, P, \omega}(A) = \lambda_{\min}\left(\frac{PA^T + A^T}{2}\right)$ $\mu_{x, P, \omega}(A) = \max\{\lambda^T P A x, x^T P A x - 1\}$ $\mu(x)(A) = \max\{\eta_1^T A \eta_1 \eta_1^T \eta_1 = 1\}$ $\mu(x)(A) = \max\{\eta_1^T A \eta_1 \sqrt{\lambda_{\max}(A)} \leq \eta_1^T \eta_1 = 1\}$
Lemma 2.21	$\mu_{\omega, P}(A) = \max\{\eta_1^T A \eta_1 \eta_1^T \eta_1 = 1\}$ $\mu_{\omega, P}(A) = \max\{\eta_1^T A \eta_1 \eta_1^T \eta_1 = 1\}$
Lemma 2.23	$\mu_{\omega, P}(A) = \max\{\eta_1^T A \eta_1 \eta_1^T \eta_1 = 1\}$

Table 2.2: Table of quadratic forms for weighted ℓ_1 , ℓ_∞ and ℓ_m log norms, $P \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n$ and $\eta \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n$. We adopt the shorthand $I_m(x) = \{i \in \{1, \dots, n\} : |x_i| = \|x\|_m\}$ as the set of indices where x takes its maximal absolute value.

Theorem 2.23 (Spectrum-norm properties). Given a matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ and a norm $\|\cdot\|$,

- (i) for any eigenvalue λ of A , the spectral-radius norm property is

$$(\text{spectral-radius norm property}) \quad 0 \leq |\lambda| \leq \rho(A) \leq \|A\|. \quad (2.71)$$

and, if A is invertible,

$$0 \leq 1/\|A^{-1}\| \leq |\lambda| \leq \rho(A) \leq \|A\|. \quad (2.72)$$

- (ii) for any eigenvalue λ of A , the spectral-abscissa log-norm property is

$$(\text{spectral-abscissa log-norm property}) \quad -\|A\| \leq -\rho(-A) \leq \Re(\lambda) \leq \alpha(A) \leq \rho(A) \leq \|A\|. \quad (2.73)$$

- (iii) if the norm $\|\cdot\|$ is monotonic and A is diagonal, then

$$\|A\| = \max_{i \in \{1, \dots, n\}} |A_{ii}| = \rho(A), \quad (2.74)$$

$$\mu(A) = \max_{i \in \{1, \dots, n\}} A_{ii} = \alpha(A). \quad (2.75)$$

Lemma 2.27 (Optimal weighted norms via the Jordan normal form). Given a matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, a monotonic norm $\|\cdot\|$, and $\varepsilon > 0$, define

$$T \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n} \text{ as an invertible matrix such that } TAT^{-1} \text{ is in Jordan normal form.} \quad (2.89)$$

$$Q \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n} \text{ as an unitary matrix such that } (QA)^{-1} \text{ is in Schur normal form, and} \quad (2.90)$$

$$\delta = \varepsilon / \|I_n\|_{Q^{-1}} > 0, \text{ where } I_n \text{ is a Jordan block with eigenvalue } 0 \text{ and dimension } n. \quad (2.91)$$

Then

- (i) the norm $\|\cdot\|_{\log(Q^{-1}T)}$ is ε -optimal and ε -logarithmically optimal;

- (ii) if A is diagonalizable, the norm $\|\cdot\|_{\log(Q^{-1}T)}$ is ε -optimal and ε -logarithmically optimal; and
- (iii) the norm $\|\cdot\|_{\log(Q^{-1}T)}$ is ε -optimal and ε -logarithmically optimal for sufficiently small δ .

Lemma 2.30 (Weighted log norms and Lyapunov inequalities). Given a matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ with spectral abscissa $\alpha(A)$, define for any nonnegative tolerance $\varepsilon \geq 0$

$$P_\varepsilon := \text{any element of } \{P \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n : AP^T + PA \preceq 2[\alpha(A) + \varepsilon]P\}. \quad (2.97)$$

Then

- (i) for any $\varepsilon > 0$, P_ε is well defined and $\|\cdot\|_{\log(P_\varepsilon^{-1}A)}$ is logarithmically ε -optimal for A ;

- (ii) if each eigenvalue $\lambda_i(A)$ with $\Re(\lambda_i(A)) = \alpha(A)$ is semisimple, then P_0 is well defined and $\|\cdot\|_{\log(P_0^{-1}A)}$ is logarithmically optimal for A .

Theorem 2.24 (Monotonicity properties). Consider a monotonic norm $\|\cdot\|$, a matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, and a non-negative matrix $B \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^{n \times n}$. Then

$$(\text{monotonicity property of spectral radius}) \quad \rho(A) \leq \rho(A+B) \leq \rho(A+2B), \quad (2.77a)$$

$$(\text{monotonicity property of induced norm}) \quad \|A\| \leq \|A+B\| \leq \|A+2B\|. \quad (2.77b)$$

and

$$(\text{monotonicity property of spectral abscissa}) \quad \alpha(A) \leq \alpha(|A|_B) \leq \alpha(|A|_B + B), \quad (2.78a)$$

$$(\text{monotonicity property of log norms}) \quad \mu(A) \leq \mu(|A|_B) \leq \mu(|A|_B + B). \quad (2.78b)$$

Lemma 2.29 (Quasiconvex dependence upon matrix weights). Given any $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$,

- (i) the function $P \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n \mapsto \mu_{\omega, P}(A)$ is quasiconvex with sublevel sets

$$\{P \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n : \rho_{x, P, \omega}(A) \leq b\} = \{P \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n : A^TP + PA \preceq bP\}. \quad (2.93)$$

- (ii) the functions $\eta \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n \mapsto \mu_{\omega, \eta}(A)$ and $q \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n \mapsto \mu_{\omega, q}(A)$ are quasiconvex with sublevel sets

$$\{\eta \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n : \rho_{x, \eta}(A) \leq b\} = \{\eta \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n : \eta^T A \eta \leq b\}, \quad (2.94)$$

$$\{q \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n : \mu_{\omega, q}(A) \leq b\} = \{q \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n : |A|_q \leq b\}. \quad (2.95)$$

Lemma 2.31 (Optimal diagonally-weighted norms for non-negative and Metzler matrices). Consider a nonnegative matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^{n \times n}$ and a Metzler matrix $M \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$. For any $\eta \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n$ and $d > 0$, define

v and $u \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n$ to be the right and left dominant eigenvectors of $A + \delta \lambda_u Z_v^d$ (respectively, $M + \delta \lambda_u Z_v^d$),

$q \in [1, \infty]$ to satisfy $1/q + 1/q = 1$ (with the convention $1/\infty = 0$), and

$$w = \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n$$

Then

- (i) for sufficiently small δ , the norm $\|\cdot\|_{\log(w)}$ is ε -optimal for A (respectively, ε -logarithmically optimal for M); and

- (ii) if A (respectively, M) is reducible, then the norm $\|\cdot\|_{\log(w)}$ is optimal for A (respectively, logarithmically optimal for M).

Specifically, for $p \in \{1, 2, \infty\}$ and an irreducible A with spectral radius $\rho(A)$ and an irreducible M with spectral abscissa $\alpha(A)$,

$$\rho(A) = \|A\|_{\log(w)} = \|A\|_{\log(v)} = \|\lambda_1(A)\|^{1/p}. \quad (2.98)$$

$$\alpha(M) = \mu_{\log(w)}(M) = \mu_{\log(v)}(M) = \mu_{\log(w)}(\gamma(M)). \quad (2.99)$$

(Recall that, for w and $v \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n$, the entrywise division $w \odot v$ is defined by $(w \odot v)_i = w_i/v_i$.)

Outline

§1. History and resources

§2. Basic definitions: discrete and continuous-time dynamics on vector spaces

- Properties of induced matrix norms and Lipschitz constants

§3. Example systems

- Constrained, distributed and proximal gradient dynamics
- Continuous-time recurrent neural networks
- Nonlinear dynamics in Lur'e form

§4. Properties of contracting dynamics

- Equilibria, Lyapunov functions, and Euler discretization
- Incremental input-to-state stability
- Contractivity of interconnected systems
- Additional properties: entrainment, robustness wrt unmodeled dynamics and delays

§5. Example applications

- Time-varying gradient dynamics and feedback optimization
- From recurrent to implicit neural networks
- Gradient dynamics and Nash equilibria in games

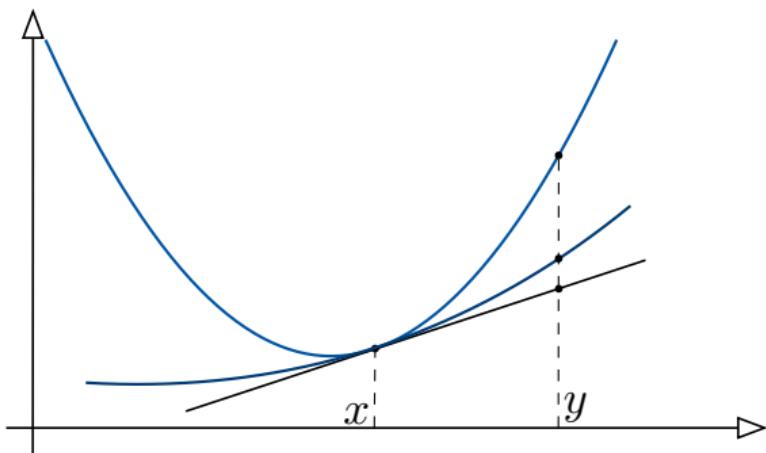
§6. Generalizations with examples

- G1: Semicontractivity: Primal dual gradient with redundant constraints
- G2: Local contractivity: Kuramoto-Sakaguchi model and synchronization
- G3: Weak contractivity: Biologically-plausible circuits for sparse reconstruction
- G4: Contractivity on Riemannian manifolds and the Karcher mean

§7. Conclusions and future research

§8. Advanced Topics

- More on semicontractivity: ergodic coefficients and duality
- Network small-gain theorem for Metzler matrices
- More on the Kuramoto-Sakaguchi model and synchronization
- Proof of semicontractivity of saddle matrices
- Proof of Euler discretization theorem
- Non-Euclidean Monotone Operator Theory



$f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is **ν -strongly convex** if, for all x, y ,

- ① $f(\chi x + (1 - \chi)y) \leq \chi f(x) + (1 - \chi)f(y) - \frac{1}{2}\nu\chi(1 - \chi)\|x - y\|_2^2$ for each $0 \leq \chi \leq 1$
- ② (if f is differentiable) $f(x) \geq f(y) + \nabla f(y)^\top(x - y) + \frac{\nu}{2}\|x - y\|_2^2$
 $(\nabla f(x) - \nabla f(y))^\top(x - y) \geq \nu\|x - y\|_2^2$
- ③ (if f is twice differentiable) $\text{Hess } f(x) \succeq \nu I_n$

Example #1: Gradient dynamics for strongly convex function

Given differentiable, strongly convex $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with parameter $\nu > 0$, **gradient dynamics**

$$\dot{x} = F_G(x) := -\nabla f(x)$$

F_G is infinitesimally contracting wrt $\|\cdot\|_2$ with rate ν

unique globally exp stable point is global minimum

If f is twice-differentiable, then $\text{Hess } f(x) \succeq \nu I_n$ for all x

$$D(-\nabla f)(x) = -\text{Hess } f(x) \preceq -\nu I_n$$

$$\iff I_n D(-\nabla f)(x) + D(-\nabla f)(x)^\top I_n \preceq -2\nu I_n$$

Kachurovskii's Theorem: For differentiable $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, equivalent statements:

- ① f is **strongly convex** with parameter ν (and minimum x^*)
- ② $-\nabla f$ is **ν -strongly infinitesimally contracting** (with equilibrium x^*), that is

$$(-\nabla f(x) + \nabla f(y))^\top (x - y) \leq -\nu \|x - y\|_2^2$$

For map $F : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, equivalent statements:

- ① F is a **monotone operator^a** (or a **coercive operator**) with parameter ν ,
- ② $-F$ is **ν -strongly contracting** wrt $\|\cdot\|_2$

^a $F : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is a **ν -strongly monotone operator** if $\langle F(x) - F(y), x - y \rangle \geq \nu \|x - y\|_2^2$

Example #2: Primal-dual gradient dynamics

strongly convex function f s.t. $0 \prec \nu_{\min} I_n \preceq \text{Hess } f \preceq \nu_{\max} I_n$
constraint matrix A s.t. $0 \prec a_{\min} I_m \preceq AA^\top \preceq a_{\max} I_m$ (independent rows)

linearly constrained optimization:

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x) \\ & \text{subj. to } Ax = b \end{aligned}$$

primal-dual gradient dynamics:

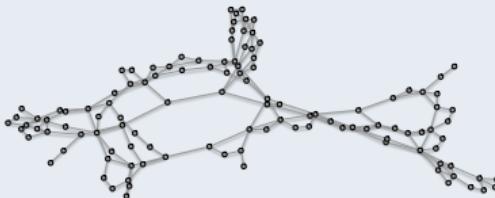
$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{\lambda} \end{bmatrix} = \mathsf{F}_{\text{PDG}}(x, \lambda) := \begin{bmatrix} -\nabla f(x) - A^\top \lambda \\ Ax - b \end{bmatrix}$$

F_{PDG} is infinitesimally contracting wrt $\|\cdot\|_{2,P^{1/2}}$ with rate c

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} I_n & \alpha A^\top \\ \alpha A & I_m \end{bmatrix} \text{ with } \alpha = \frac{1}{2} \min \left\{ \frac{1}{\nu_{\max}}, \frac{\nu_{\min}}{a_{\max}} \right\} \quad \text{and} \quad c = \frac{1}{4} \min \left\{ \frac{a_{\min}}{\nu_{\max}}, \frac{a_{\min}}{a_{\max}} \nu_{\min} \right\}$$

For each $\nu_{\min} I_n \preceq Q \preceq \nu_{\max} I_n$,

$$\begin{bmatrix} -Q & -A^\top \\ A & 0 \end{bmatrix}^\top P + P \begin{bmatrix} -Q & -A^\top \\ A & 0 \end{bmatrix} \preceq -2cP$$



undirected, weighted and connected graph with n nodes and m edges
Laplacian $L \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, λ_2 = algebraic connectivity, λ_2/λ_n = synchronizability
oriented incidence matrix $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$

Distributed optimization setup

cost function f is decomposable into sum of private cost function

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n f_i(x) \quad \text{where each } f_i \text{ is private to node } i$$

each node i has a local estimate $x_{[i]}$ of global variable x and $\mathbf{x} = [x_{[1]}, \dots, x_{[n]}]$
consensus constraints among estimates are imposed in two ways:

- ① incidence constraint: $B^\top \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}_m$
- ② Laplacian constraint: $L\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}_n$

Example #3: Incidence-based distributed gradient

Assume graph is a tree, so that (see LNS.Exercise9.2)

$$0 \prec \lambda_2 I_{n-1} \preceq B^\top B \preceq \lambda_n I_{n-1}$$

decomposable cost: $\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \sum_i f_i(x)$ where each f_i is ν_i -strongly convex

$$\begin{cases} \min_{x_{[i]} \in \mathbb{R}} & \sum_{i=1}^n f_i(x_{[i]}) \\ \text{subj. to} & B^\top \mathbf{x} = \mathbb{0}_m \end{cases} \iff \begin{cases} \min_{x_{[i]} \in \mathbb{R}} & \sum_{i=1}^n f_i(x_{[i]}) \\ \text{subj. to} & x_{[i]} - x_{[j]} = 0 \quad \text{for each edge } e = (i, j) \end{cases}$$

incidence-based distributed gradient (primal-dual gradient, $n + m$ vars):

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_{[i]} = -\nabla f_i(x_{[i]}) - \sum_{e=(i,j)} \lambda_e + \sum_{e=(j,i)} \lambda_e & \text{for each node } i \\ \dot{\lambda}_e = x_{[i]} - x_{[j]} & \text{for each edge } e = (i, j) \end{cases}$$

F_{Incidence-DistributedG} is infinitesimally contracting with $c = \frac{1}{4} \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_n} \min_i \nu_i$

Example #4: Laplacian-based distributed gradient

Given $\Pi_n = I_n - \mathbb{1}_n \mathbb{1}_n^\top / n$ = orthogonal projection onto $\text{span}\{\mathbb{1}_n\}^\perp$,

$$0 \prec \lambda_2 \Pi_n \preceq L \preceq \lambda_n I_n$$

decomposable cost: $\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \sum_{i=1}^n f_i(x)$ where each f_i is ν_i -strongly convex

$$\begin{cases} \min_{x_{[i]} \in \mathbb{R}} & \sum_{i=1}^n f_i(x_{[i]}) \\ \text{subj. to} & L\mathbf{x} = \mathbb{0}_n \end{cases} \iff \begin{cases} \min_{x_{[i]} \in \mathbb{R}} & \sum_{i=1}^n f_i(x_{[i]}) \\ \text{subj. to} & \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(x_i - x_j) = 0 \end{cases}$$

Laplacian-based distributed gradient (primal-dual gradient, $2n$ vars):

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_{[i]} = -\nabla f_i(x_{[i]}) - \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(\lambda_i - \lambda_j) & \text{for each node } i \\ \dot{\lambda}_i = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(x_i - x_j) & \text{for each node } i \end{cases}$$

F_{Laplacian-DistributedG} is infinitesimally contracting[†] with $c = \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_n} \right)^2 \min_i \nu_i$

Composite optimization

composite minimization (cost = sum of terms with structurally different properties):

$$x^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x) + g(x)$$

$f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is strongly convex and strongly smooth

$g : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \bar{\mathbb{R}}$ is convex, closed, and proper (ccp)

proximal operator: $\operatorname{prox}_{\gamma g}(z) := \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} g(x) + \frac{1}{2\gamma} \|x - z\|_2^2$

proximal gradient dynamics: $\dot{x} = F_{\operatorname{ProxG}}(x) := -x + \operatorname{prox}_{\gamma g}(x - \gamma \nabla f(x))$

Equivalence:

- ① x^* is minimizer for:

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x) + g(x)$$

- ② x^* is fixed point for:

$$x = \operatorname{prox}_{\gamma g}(x - \gamma \nabla f(x)) \quad \text{for all } \gamma$$

$f(\mathbf{x})$	$\text{dom}(f)$	$\text{prox}_f(\mathbf{x})$	Assumptions	Reference
$\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{x} + c$	\mathbb{R}^n	$(\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{I})^{-1}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b})$	$\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{S}_+^n, \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n, c \in \mathbb{R}$	Section 6.2.3
λx^3	\mathbb{R}_+	$\frac{-1 + \sqrt{1 + 12\lambda x }}{6\lambda} \mathbf{x}$	$\lambda > 0$	Lemma 6.5
μx	$[0, \alpha] \cap \mathbb{R}$	$\min\{\max\{x - \mu, 0\}, \alpha\}$	$\mu \in \mathbb{R}, \alpha \in [0, \infty]$	Example 6.14
$\lambda \ \mathbf{x}\ $	\mathbb{E}	$\left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{\max\{\ \mathbf{x}\ , \lambda\}}\right) \mathbf{x}$	$\ \cdot\ = \text{Euclidean norm}, \lambda > 0$	Example 6.19
$-\lambda \ \mathbf{x}\ $	\mathbb{E}	$\begin{cases} \left(1 + \frac{\lambda}{\ \mathbf{x}\ }\right) \mathbf{x}, & \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}, \\ \{\mathbf{u} : \ \mathbf{u}\ = \lambda\}, & \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}. \end{cases}$	$\ \cdot\ = \text{Euclidean norm}, \lambda > 0$	Example 6.21
$\lambda \ \mathbf{x}\ _1$	\mathbb{R}^n	$\mathcal{T}_\lambda(\mathbf{x}) = [\ \mathbf{x}\ - \lambda e]_+ \odot \text{sgn}(\mathbf{x})$	$\lambda > 0$	Example 6.8
$\ \omega \odot \mathbf{x}\ _1$	$\text{Box}[-\alpha, \alpha]$	$\mathcal{S}_{\omega, \alpha}(\mathbf{x})$	$\alpha \in [0, \infty]^n, \omega \in \mathbb{R}_+^n$	Example 6.23
$\lambda \ \mathbf{x}\ _\infty$	\mathbb{R}^n	$\mathbf{x} - \lambda P_{B_{\ \cdot\ _1}[0,1]}(\mathbf{x}/\lambda)$	$\lambda > 0$	Example 6.48
$\lambda \ \mathbf{x}\ _a$	\mathbb{E}	$\mathbf{x} - \lambda P_{B_{\ \cdot\ _a, *}[0,1]}(\mathbf{x}/\lambda)$	$\ \cdot\ _a = \text{arbitrary norm}, \lambda > 0$	Example 6.47
$\lambda \ \mathbf{x}\ _0$	\mathbb{R}^n	$\mathcal{H}_{\sqrt{2\lambda}}(x_1) \times \dots \times \mathcal{H}_{\sqrt{2\lambda}}(x_n)$	$\lambda > 0$	Example 6.10
$\lambda \ \mathbf{x}\ ^3$	\mathbb{E}	$\frac{2}{1 + \sqrt{1 + 12\lambda \ \mathbf{x}\ }} \mathbf{x}$	$\ \cdot\ = \text{Euclidean norm}, \lambda > 0,$	Example 6.20
$-\lambda \sum_{j=1}^n \log x_j$	\mathbb{R}_{++}^n	$\left(\frac{x_j + \sqrt{x_j^2 + 4\lambda}}{2} \right)_{j=1}^n$	$\lambda > 0$	Example 6.9
$\delta_C(\mathbf{x})$	\mathbb{E}	$P_C(\mathbf{x})$	$\emptyset \neq C \subseteq \mathbb{E}$	Theorem 6.24
$\lambda \sigma_C(\mathbf{x})$	\mathbb{E}	$\mathbf{x} - \lambda P_C(\mathbf{x}/\lambda)$	$\lambda > 0, C \neq \emptyset \text{ closed convex}$	Theorem 6.46
$\lambda \max\{x_i\}$	\mathbb{R}^n	$\mathbf{x} - \lambda P_{\Delta_n}(\mathbf{x}/\lambda)$	$\lambda > 0$	Example 6.49
$\lambda \sum_{i=1}^k x_{[i]}$	\mathbb{R}^n	$\mathbf{x} - \lambda P_C(\mathbf{x}/\lambda), C = H_{\mathbf{e}, k} \cap \text{Box}[\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{e}]$	$\lambda > 0$	Example 6.50
$\lambda \sum_{i=1}^k x_{(i)} $	\mathbb{R}^n	$\mathbf{x} - \lambda P_C(\mathbf{x}/\lambda), C = B_{\ \cdot\ _1}[0, k] \cap \text{Box}[-\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{e}]$	$\lambda > 0$	Example 6.51
$\lambda M_f^\mu(\mathbf{x})$	\mathbb{E}	$\mathbf{x} + \frac{\lambda}{\mu + \lambda} (\text{prox}_{(\mu+\lambda)f}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{x})$	$\lambda, \mu > 0, f \text{ proper closed convex}$	Corollary 6.64
$\lambda d_C(\mathbf{x})$	\mathbb{E}	$\mathbf{x} + \min \left\{ \frac{\lambda}{d_C(\mathbf{x})}, 1 \right\} (P_C(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{x})$	$\emptyset \neq C \text{ closed convex}, \lambda > 0$	Lemma 6.43
$\frac{\lambda}{2} d_C^2(\mathbf{x})$	\mathbb{E}	$\frac{\lambda}{\lambda + 1} P_C(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{1}{\lambda + 1} \mathbf{x}$	$\emptyset \neq C \text{ closed convex}, \lambda > 0$	Example 6.65
$\lambda H_\mu(\mathbf{x})$	\mathbb{E}	$(1 - \frac{\lambda}{\max\{\ \mathbf{x}\ , \mu + \lambda\}}) \mathbf{x}$	$\lambda, \mu > 0$	Example 6.66
$\rho \ \mathbf{x}\ _1^2$	\mathbb{R}^n	$\left[\frac{\nu_i x_i}{\nu_i + 2\rho} \right]_{i=1}^n, \mathbf{v} = \sqrt{\frac{\nu}{\mu}} \mathbf{x} - 2\rho \mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{v} = 1 (\mathbf{0} \text{ when } \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0})$	$\rho > 0$	Lemma 6.70
$\lambda \ \mathbf{Ax}\ _2$	\mathbb{R}^n	$\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{A}^T (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^T + \alpha \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{Ax}, \alpha = 0 \text{ if } \ \mathbf{v}\ _2 \leq \lambda; \text{ otherwise, } \ \mathbf{v}_{\alpha^*}\ _2 = \lambda; \mathbf{v}_\alpha \equiv (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^T + \alpha \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{Ax}$	$\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \text{ with full row rank}, \lambda > 0$	Lemma 6.68

proximal operator

well-defined for all CCP functions
generalized form of projection
non-expansive

helps generalize gradient algorithms/dynamics to proximal algorithms/dynamics, useful for nonsmooth, constrained, large-scale, and distributed optimization

evaluation of proximal operator requires small convex optimization,
see Summary of prox computations, Beck 2017

A. Beck. *First-Order Methods in Optimization*. SIAM, 2017. ISBN 978-1-61197-498-0

N. Parikh and S. Boyd. Proximal algorithms. *Foundations and Trends in Optimization*, 1(3):127–239, 2014. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1137/1313001>

Example #5: Proximal gradient dynamics

proximal gradient dynamics:

$$\dot{x} = \mathsf{F}_{\text{ProxG}}(x) := -x + \text{prox}_{\gamma g}(x - \gamma \nabla f(x))$$

$f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is ν -strongly convex and ℓ -strongly smooth

$g : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ is convex, closed, proper

① $\mathsf{F}_{\text{ProxG}}$ is infinitesimally contracting wrt $\|\cdot\|_2$

$$\text{for } 0 < \gamma < \frac{2}{\ell}, \quad \text{with rate} \quad c = 1 - \max\{|1 - \gamma\nu|, |1 - \gamma\ell|\},$$

$$\text{for } \gamma^* = \frac{2}{\nu + \ell}, \quad \text{with maximal rate} \quad c^* = \frac{2\nu}{\nu + \ell}$$

② $\mathsf{F}_{\text{ProxG}}$ is infinitesimally contracting wrt $\|\cdot\|_{2,(\gamma A - I_n)^{1/2}}$ with rate $c = 1$

$$\text{if } f(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^\top Ax + b^\top x \quad \text{with } A \succ 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma > 1/\lambda_{\min}(A)$$

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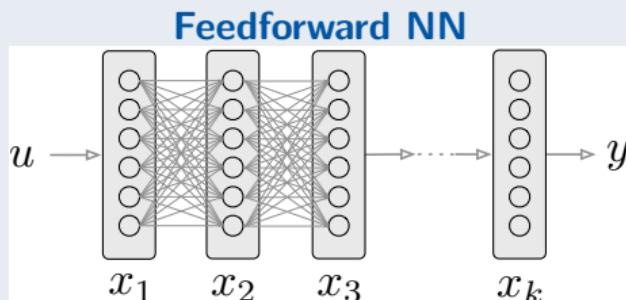
§6. Generalizations with examples

- G1: Semicontractivity: Primal dual gradient with redundant constraints
- G2: Local contractivity: Kuramoto-Sakaguchi model and synchronization
- G3: Weak contractivity: Biologically-plausible circuits for sparse reconstruction
- G4: Contractivity on Riemannian manifolds and the Karcher mean

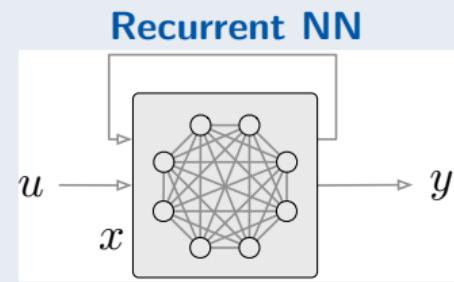
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§8. Advanced Topics

- More on semicontractivity: ergodic coefficients and duality
- Network small-gain theorem for Metzler matrices
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$$x_{i+1} = \Phi(A_i x_i + b_i), \quad x_0 = u,$$
$$y = C x_k + d$$



$$\dot{x} = -x + \Phi(Ax + Bu + b),$$
$$y = Cx + d$$

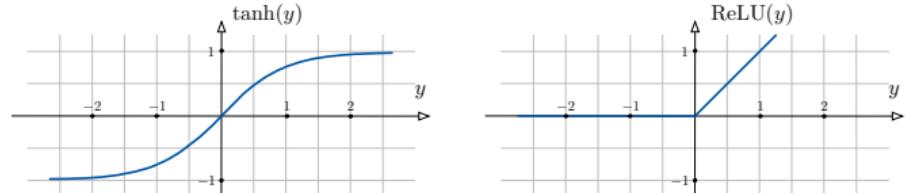
A. Davydov, A. V. Proskurnikov, and F. Bullo. Non-Euclidean contractivity of recurrent neural networks. In *American Control Conference*, pages 1527–1534, Atlanta, USA, May 2022c. [doi](#)

V. Centorrino, A. Gokhale, A. Davydov, G. Russo, and F. Bullo. Euclidean contractivity of neural networks with symmetric weights. *IEEE Control Systems Letters*, 7:1724–1729, 2023b. [doi](#)

Example #6: Firing-rate recurrent neural network

$$\dot{x} = \mathsf{F}_{\text{FR}}(x) := -x + \Phi(Wx + Bu)$$

sigmoid, hyperbolic tangent
 $\text{ReLU} = \max\{x, 0\} = (x)_+$
 $0 \leq \Phi'_i(y) \leq 1$



F_{FR} is infinitesimally contracting wrt $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ with rate $1 - \mu_\infty(W)_+$ if

$$\mu_\infty(W) < 1 \quad (\text{i.e., } w_{ii} + \sum_j |w_{ij}| < 1 \text{ for all } i)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{osLip}_\infty(\mathsf{F}_{\text{FR}}) &= \sup_{x,u} \mu_\infty(-I_n + (D\Phi(Wx + Bu))W) = -1 + \sup_{x,u} \mu_\infty(D\Phi(Wx + Bu)W) \\ &= -1 + \max_{d \in [0,1]^n} \mu_\infty(\text{diag}(d)W) \quad (\text{max convex polytope, } 2^n \text{ vertices}) \\ &= -1 + \max \{\mu_\infty(0), \mu_\infty(W)\} = -1 + \mu_\infty(W)_+\end{aligned}$$

Example #7: Firing-rate network with symmetric synapses

$$\dot{x} = \mathsf{F}_{\text{FR}}(x) := -x + \Phi(Wx + Bu)$$

$$0 \leq \Phi'_i(y) \leq 1 \quad \text{and} \quad W = W^\top \text{ with } \lambda_W = \lambda_{\max}(W)$$

F_{FR} is infinitesimally contracting:

(for $\lambda_W < 0$)

with rate 1 wrt $\|\cdot\|_{2,(-W)^{1/2}}$

(for $\lambda_W = 0$)

with rate $\|\cdot\|_{2,Q_{\text{FR},\epsilon}}$, **for each** $\epsilon > 0$

(for $0 < \lambda_W < 1$)

with rate $1 - \lambda_W$ **wrt** $\|\cdot\|_{2,Q_{\text{FR},\lambda_W}}$

For $\lambda_W = 1$, F_{FR} is weakly infinitesimally contracting wrt $\|\cdot\|_{2,Q_{\text{FR},\lambda_W}}$

- $Q_{\text{FR},a} := Uh_a(\Lambda)U^\top \succ 0$, where $W = U\Lambda U^\top$ and $h_a(z) := 2a(1 + \sqrt{1 - z/a})$
- optimal rates
- proof based upon LMI calculations and Sylvester's law of inertia

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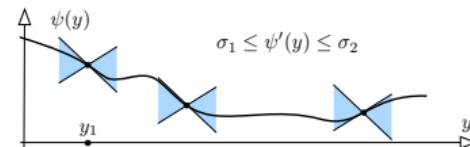
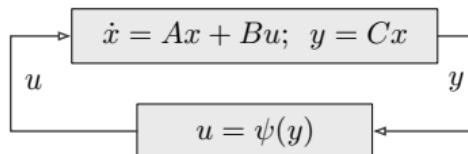
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Systems in Lur'e form

nonlinear system in Lur'e form $x \in \mathbb{R}^n, u \in \mathbb{R}, y \in \mathbb{R}$:

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu \quad y = Cx$$

$$u = \psi(y) \quad \psi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$



$M = M^\top \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$ is an *incremental multiplier matrix* for ψ if

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_1 - y_2 \\ \psi(y_1) - \psi(y_2) \end{bmatrix}^\top M \begin{bmatrix} y_1 - y_2 \\ \psi(y_1) - \psi(y_2) \end{bmatrix} \geq 0 \quad \text{for all } y_1, y_2 \in \mathbb{R}$$

Eg, *slope constraint* $\sigma_1 \leq \psi'(y) \leq \sigma_2$ is described by $M_{\sigma_1, \sigma_2} = \begin{bmatrix} -\sigma_1 \sigma_2 & (\sigma_1 + \sigma_2)/2 \\ (\sigma_1 + \sigma_2)/2 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$

Example #8: Systems in Lur'e form

$$F_{\text{Lur'e}}(x) = Ax + B\psi(Cx)$$

assume

- ① nonlinearity $\psi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ described by incremental multiplier M
- ② there exist an $n \times n$ matrix $P = P^\top \succ 0$ and a scalar $c > 0$ satisfying LMI

$$\begin{bmatrix} PA + A^\top P + 2cP & PB \\ B^\top P & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} C & 0 \\ 0_{1 \times n} & 1 \end{bmatrix}^\top M \begin{bmatrix} C & 0 \\ 0_{1 \times n} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \preceq 0$$

$F_{\text{Lur'e}}(x)$ is infinitesimally contracting wrt $\|\cdot\|_{2,P^{1/2}}$ with rate c

- proof based upon S-lemma
- LMIs defining P and M together imply contractivity LMI
- typical vector valued constraints: monotonic or sector bound

L. D'Alto and M. Corless. Incremental quadratic stability. *Numerical Algebra, Control and Optimization*, 3:175–201, 2013. 

M. Giaccagli, V. Andrieu, S. Tarbouriech, and D. Astolfi. Infinite gain margin, contraction and optimality: An LMI-based design. *European Journal of Control*, 68:100685, 2022. 

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Equilibrium and Lyapunov functions for a contracting vector field

For a time-invariant \mathbf{F} , c -strongly contracting wrt $\|\cdot\|$

- ① for each $t > 0$, flow at time t of \mathbf{F} is a contraction,
i.e., distance between solutions exponentially decreases with rate c
- ② there exists an equilibrium x^* , that is unique, globally exponentially stable with global Lyapunov functions

$$V_1(x) = \|x - x^*\|^2 \quad \text{and} \quad V_2(x) = \|\mathbf{F}(x)\|^2$$

- ③ if additionally $D\mathbf{F}(x) = D\mathbf{F}(x)^\top$ for all x , then another global Lyapunov function is

$$V_3(x) = - \int_0^1 x^\top \mathbf{F}(tx) dt + w \quad \text{for each scalar } w$$

Also, V_3 is c -strongly convex and $\mathbf{F} = -\nabla V_3$

Proof of global Lyapunov functions

Regarding $V_1(x) = \|x - x^*\|^2$, from $D^+ \|x - y\| \leq -c \|x - y\|$, we immediately have

$$\|x(t) - x^*\| \leq e^{-ct} \|x(0) - x^*\|$$

Regarding $V_2(x) = \|\mathbf{F}(x)\|^2$, note $\frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{F}(x(t)) = D\mathbf{F}(x(t))\dot{x}(t) = D\mathbf{F}(x(t))\mathbf{F}(x(t))$ and

$$\begin{aligned}\|\mathbf{F}(x(t))\| D^+ \|\mathbf{F}(x(t))\| &= \left\| \frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{F}(x(t)), \mathbf{F}(x(t)) \right\| && \text{(curve norm derivative)} \\ &= \llbracket D\mathbf{F}(x(t))\mathbf{F}(x(t)), \mathbf{F}(x(t)) \rrbracket \\ &= \mu(D\mathbf{F}(x(t))) \llbracket \mathbf{F}(x(t)), \mathbf{F}(x(t)) \rrbracket && \text{(Lumer equality)} \\ &\leq \sup_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} \mu(D\mathbf{F}(z)) \|\mathbf{F}(x(t))\|^2 = -c \|\mathbf{F}(x(t))\|^2\end{aligned}$$

Regarding V_3 , see M. Fitzsimmons and J. Liu. A note on the equivalence of a strongly convex function and its induced contractive differential equation. *Automatica*, page 110349, 2022. doi. URL

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.automatica.2022.110349>

Euler discretization theorem for contracting dynamics

Given arbitrary norm $\|\cdot\|$ and differentiable $F : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, equivalent statements

- ① $\dot{x} = F(x)$ is infinitesimally contracting
- ② there exists $\alpha > 0$ such that $x_{k+1} = x_k + \alpha F(x_k)$ is contracting

Optimal* contractivity of Euler discretization $\text{Id} + \alpha F$

Given $c := -\text{osLip}(F) > 0$ and $\ell := \text{Lip}(F)$, define *condition number* $\kappa = \ell/c \geq 1$:

$$\textcircled{3} \quad 0 < \alpha < \frac{1}{c\kappa(1+\kappa)} \implies \text{Lip}(\text{Id} + \alpha F) \leq \left(1 + \alpha c - \frac{\alpha^2 \ell^2}{1 - \alpha \ell}\right)^{-1} < 1$$

- ④ the optimal* step size and contraction factor are

$$\alpha^* = \frac{1}{c} \left(\frac{1}{2\kappa^2} - \frac{3}{8\kappa^3} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\kappa^4}\right) \right), \quad \text{Lip}(\text{Id} + \alpha^* F) = 1 - \frac{1}{4\kappa^2} + \frac{1}{8\kappa^3} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\kappa^4}\right)$$

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For time and input-dependent vector \mathbf{F} ,

$$\dot{x} = \mathbf{F}(t, x, u(t)), \quad x(0) = x_0 \in \mathcal{X}, \quad u(t) \in \mathcal{U}$$

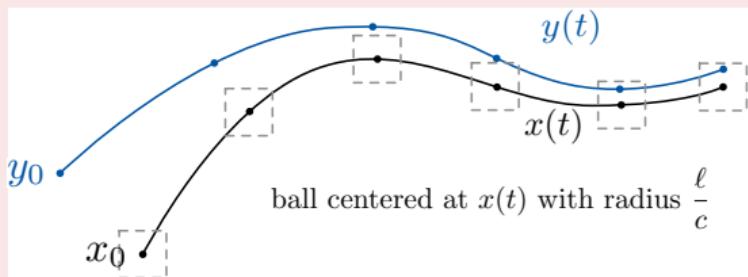
Given norms $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{X}}$ and $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{U}}$, assume

- **contractivity wrt x :** $\text{osLip}_x(\mathbf{F}) \leq -c < 0$, uniformly in t, u
- **Lipschitz wrt u :** $\text{Lip}_u(\mathbf{F}) \leq \ell$, uniformly in t, x

Then

- ① any soltns: $x(t)$ with input u_x and $y(t)$ with input u_y

$$D^+ \|x(t) - y(t)\|_{\mathcal{X}} \leq -c \|x(t) - y(t)\|_{\mathcal{X}} + \ell \|u_x(t) - u_y(t)\|_{\mathcal{U}}$$



- ② F is **incrementally ISS**, that is, for all x_0, y_0

$$\|x(t) - y(t)\|_{\mathcal{X}} \leq e^{-ct} \|x_0 - y_0\|_{\mathcal{X}} + \frac{\ell(1 - e^{-ct})}{c} \sup_{\tau \in [0, t]} \|u_x(\tau) - u_y(\tau)\|_{\mathcal{U}}$$

Proof of iISS property

Using the properties of the weak pairing, we compute

$$\begin{aligned} \|x(t) - y(t)\| D^+ \|x(t) - y(t)\| &= \llbracket \dot{x}(t) - \dot{y}(t), x - y \rrbracket && (\text{curve norm derivative}) \\ &= \llbracket \mathbb{F}(t, x, u_x) - \mathbb{F}(t, y, u_y), x - y \rrbracket \\ &\leq \llbracket \mathbb{F}(t, x, u_x) - \mathbb{F}(t, y, u_x), x - y \rrbracket \\ &\quad + \llbracket \mathbb{F}(t, y, u_x) - \mathbb{F}(t, y, u_y), x - y \rrbracket && (\text{subadditivity}) \\ &\leq -c \|x - y\|^2 + \llbracket \mathbb{F}(t, y, u_x) - \mathbb{F}(t, y, u_y), x - y \rrbracket && (\text{contractivity}) \\ &\leq -c \|x - y\|^2 + \|\mathbb{F}(t, y, u_x) - \mathbb{F}(t, y, u_y)\| \|x - y\| && (\text{Cauchy-Schwartz}) \\ &\leq -c \|x - y\|^2 + \ell \|u_x - u_y\|_{\mathcal{U}} \|x - y\|. && (\text{Lipschitzness}) \end{aligned}$$

Signal norms and system gains

Given norm $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{X}}$ on \mathbb{R}^n (or $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{U}}$ on \mathbb{R}^k),

- $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{X}}^q$, $q \in [1, \infty]$, is vector space of continuous signals, $x : \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, with well-defined bounded norm

$$\|x(\cdot)\|_{\mathcal{X},q} = \begin{cases} \left(\int_0^\infty \|x(t)\|_{\mathcal{X}}^q dt \right)^{1/q} & \text{if } q \in [1, \infty[\\ \sup_{t \geq 0} \|x(t)\|_{\mathcal{X}} & \text{if } q = \infty \end{cases}$$

- Input-state system has $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{X},\mathcal{U}}^q$ -induced gain upper bounded by $\gamma > 0$ if, for all $u \in \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{U}}^q$, the state x from zero initial state satisfies

$$\|x(\cdot)\|_{\mathcal{X},q} \leq \gamma \|u(\cdot)\|_{\mathcal{U},q}$$

- ③ F has incremental $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{X},\mathcal{U}}^q$ gain equal to ℓ/c , for $q \in [1, \infty]$,

$$\|x(\cdot) - y(\cdot)\|_{\mathcal{X},q} \leq \frac{\ell}{c} \|u_x(\cdot) - u_y(\cdot)\|_{\mathcal{U},q} \quad (\text{for } x_0 = y_0)$$

Application: Parametrized fixed point problem

$$\emptyset_n = F(x, u), \quad x \in \mathcal{X}, u \in \mathcal{U}$$

Given norms $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{X}}$ and $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{U}}$, assume

- **contractivity wrt x :** $\text{osLip}_x(F) \leq -c < 0$, uniformly in u
- **Lipschitz wrt u :** $\text{Lip}_u(F) \leq \ell$, uniformly in x

① for each fixed u , there exists a unique equilibrium $x^*(u)$

② the equilibrium map $x^* : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$ is Lipschitz with constant $\frac{\ell}{c}$

Sensitivity analysis in convex optimization

If $f(x, u)$ is ν -strongly convex and differentiable wrt x ,

$\nabla_x f$ is ℓ -Lipschitz wrt u ,

then global minimum $u \mapsto x^*(u)$ is Lipschitz with constant $\frac{\ell}{\nu}$

Proof of Parametrized continuous-time Banach Contraction Theorem

Recall iISS: any soltns $x_1(t)$ with input $u_1(t)$ and $x_2(t)$ with input $u_2(t)$

$$D^+ \|x_1(t) - x_2(t)\|_{\mathcal{X}} \leq -c \|x_1(t) - x_2(t)\|_{\mathcal{X}} + \ell \|u_1(t) - u_2(t)\|_{\mathcal{U}}$$

For constant $u_1(t) = u_1$ and $u_2(t) = u_2$, as $t \rightarrow +\infty$,

$$x_1(t) \rightarrow x^*(u_1) \quad \text{and} \quad x_2(t) \rightarrow x^*(u_2)$$

Taking the limit, we obtain

$$0 \leq -c \|x^*(u_1) - x^*(u_2)\|_{\mathcal{X}} + \ell \|u_1 - u_2\|_{\mathcal{U}}$$

that is, $\|x^*(u_1) - x^*(u_2)\|_{\mathcal{X}} \leq \frac{\ell}{c} \|u_1 - u_2\|_{\mathcal{U}}$

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- Continuous-time recurrent neural networks
- Nonlinear dynamics in Lur'e form

§4. Properties of contracting dynamics

- Equilibria, Lyapunov functions, and Euler discretization
- Incremental input-to-state stability
- Contractivity of interconnected systems**
- Additional properties: entrainment, robustness wrt unmodeled dynamics and delays

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- Time-varying gradient dynamics and feedback optimization
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- G3: Weak contractivity: Biologically-plausible circuits for sparse reconstruction
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§7. Conclusions and future research

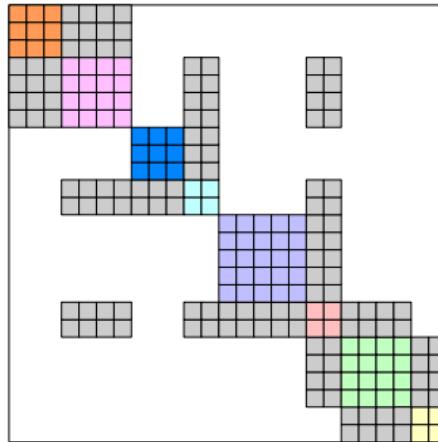
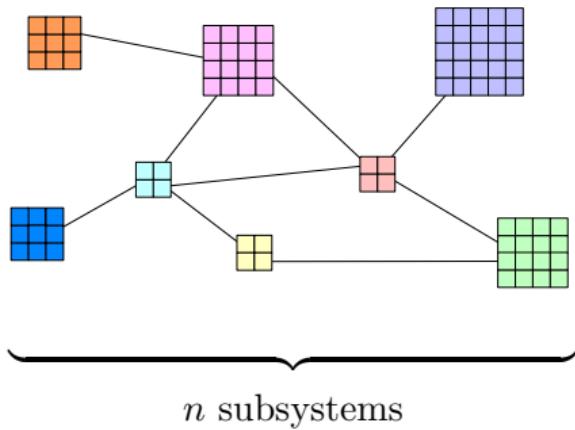
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- Network small-gain theorem for Metzler matrices
- More on the Kuramoto-Sakaguchi model and synchronization
- Proof of semicontractivity of saddle matrices
- Proof of Euler discretization theorem
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Contractivity of interconnected systems

(1/3)

Composite norms



- ① n local norms $\|\cdot\|_i$ on \mathbb{R}^{N_i}
- ② an aggregating norm $\|\cdot\|_{\text{agg}}$ on \mathbb{R}^n
- ③ composite norm

T. Ström. On logarithmic norms. *SIAM Journal on Numerical Analysis*, 12(5):741–753, 1975. doi: [10.1137/0712051](#)

O. Pastravanu and M. Voicu. Generalized matrix diagonal stability and linear dynamical systems. *Linear Algebra and its Applications*, 419(2):299–310, 2006. doi: [10.1016/j.laa.2006.03.017](#)

G. Russo, M. Di Bernardo, and E. D. Sontag. A contraction approach to the hierarchical analysis and design of networked systems. *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, 58(5):1328–1331, 2013. doi: [10.1109/TAC.2013.2247007](#)

Interconnected subsystems: $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^{N_i}$ and $x_{-i} \in \mathbb{R}^{N-N_i}$:

$$\dot{x}_i = F_i(x_i, x_{-i}), \quad \text{for } i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$$

Network contraction theorem

- **contractivity wrt x_i :** $\text{osLip}_{x_i}(F_i) \leq -c_i < 0$, uniformly in x_{-i}
- **Lipschitz wrt x_j , $j \neq i$:** $\text{Lip}_{x_j}(F_i) \leq \ell_{ij}$, uniformly in x_{-j}

- the Lipschitz constants matrix $\begin{bmatrix} -c_1 & \dots & \ell_{1n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \ell_{n1} & \dots & -c_n \end{bmatrix}$ is **Hurwitz**

⇒ the **interconnected system** is infinitesimally contracting

$$\begin{bmatrix} -c_1 & \dots & \ell_{1n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \ell_{n1} & \dots & -c_n \end{bmatrix}$$
 is **Metzler** (Perron-Frobenius Theorem applies)

(see LNS.Section10.4)

Hurwitzness depends upon both topology and edge weights

- M Hurwitz iff there exists a positive ξ such that $M\xi < \mathbb{0}_n$ (power method)
- For $n = 2$, Hurwitz if and only if **small gain condition**

$$\text{cycle gain} := \frac{\ell_{12}}{c_1} \frac{\ell_{21}}{c_2} < 1$$

- For $n \geq 3$, Hurwitz if **network small gain condition**

see **network small-gain theorem for Metzler matrices**

Proof of Network Contraction Theorem

First, design a log optimal norm for $\Gamma = \begin{bmatrix} -c_1 & \dots & \ell_{1r} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \ell_{r1} & \dots & -c_r \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times r}$

From Lemma 3.21 on Metzler matrices in CTDS, for arbitrarily small ϵ , one can compute $\eta \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n$ such that $\|\cdot\|_{2,\text{diag}(\eta)^{1/2}}$ is ϵ -log optimal for Γ :

$$\mu_{2,\text{diag}(\eta)^{1/2}}(\Gamma) \leq \alpha(\Gamma) + \epsilon \iff \text{diag}(\eta)\Gamma + \Gamma^\top \text{diag}(\eta) \preceq 2(\alpha(\Gamma) + \epsilon) \text{diag}(\eta)$$

Next, define the composite norm $\|\cdot\|_\eta$ on \mathbb{R}^N by

$$\|(x_1, \dots, x_r)\|_\eta^2 = \sum_{i=1}^r \eta_i \|x_i\|_i^2$$

with weak pairing

$$[(x_1, \dots, x_r), (y_1, \dots, y_r)]_\eta = \sum_{i=1}^r \eta_i [x_i, y_i]_i$$

For each i , compute

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \| \mathbb{F}_i(t, x_i, x_{-i}) - \mathbb{F}_i(t, y_i, y_{-i}), x_i - y_i \|_i \\
 & \leq \| \mathbb{F}_i(t, x_i, x_{-i}) - \mathbb{F}_i(t, y_i, x_{-i}), x_i - y_i \|_i + \| \mathbb{F}_i(t, y_i, x_{-i}) - \mathbb{F}_i(t, y_i, y_{-i}), x_i - y_i \|_i \\
 & \leq -c_i \|x_i - y_i\|_i^2 + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^r \ell_{ij} \|x_j - y_j\|_j \|x_i - y_i\|_i
 \end{aligned}$$

Next, we check the one-sided Lipschitz condition for the vector field on \mathbb{R}^N :

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sum_{i=1}^r \eta_i \| \mathbb{F}_i(t, x_i, x_{-i}) - \mathbb{F}_i(t, y_i, y_{-i}), x_i - y_i \|_i \\
 & \leq - \sum_{i=1}^r \eta_i c_i \|x_i - y_i\|_i^2 + \sum_{i,j=1, j \neq i}^r \eta_i \ell_{ij} \|x_j - y_j\|_j \|x_i - y_i\|_i \\
 & = \begin{bmatrix} \|x_1 - y_1\|_1 \\ \vdots \\ \|x_r - y_r\|_r \end{bmatrix}^\top \text{diag}(\eta) \Gamma \begin{bmatrix} \|x_1 - y_1\|_1 \\ \vdots \\ \|x_r - y_r\|_r \end{bmatrix} \\
 & = \begin{bmatrix} \|x_1 - y_1\|_1 \\ \vdots \\ \|x_r - y_r\|_r \end{bmatrix}^\top \frac{\text{diag}(\eta) \Gamma + \Gamma^\top \text{diag}(\eta)}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \|x_1 - y_1\|_1 \\ \vdots \\ \|x_r - y_r\|_r \end{bmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

so that the interconnected system is contracting if the gain matrix Γ is diagonally stable.

Application: Singularly perturbed matrices

Given a constant $\epsilon > 0$, consider block matrix

$$\mathcal{A}_\epsilon = \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon A & \epsilon B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{(n+m) \times (n+m)}.$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \mu(A) < 0, \mu(D) < 0, \text{ and} \\ \mu(A)\mu(D) > \|B\|\|C\| \end{array} \implies \mathcal{A}_\epsilon \text{ is Hurwitz for all } \epsilon > 0$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & \Downarrow \\ \Downarrow & & \Downarrow \\ D \text{ and } A - BD^{-1}C \text{ are Hurwitz} & \implies & \exists \epsilon^* \text{ s.t. } \mathcal{A}_\epsilon \text{ is Hurwitz for each } \epsilon < \epsilon^* \end{array}$$

Additionally, a valid choice of ϵ^* is:

$$\epsilon^* := \frac{|\mu(A - BD^{-1}C)| \cdot |\mu(D)|}{\|B\|\|D^{-1}C(A - BD^{-1}C)\| + |\mu(A - BD^{-1}C)|\|D^{-1}CB\|}$$

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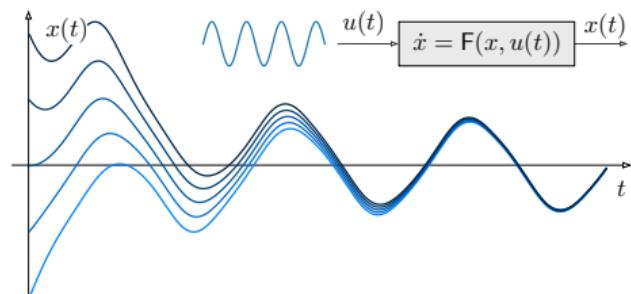
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Entrainment in systems with periodic time-dependence

For time-varying vector field \mathbf{F} and norm $\|\cdot\|$

- ① $\text{osLip}_x(\mathbf{F}) \leq -c < 0$
- ② \mathbf{F} is T -periodic



Then

- ① there exists a unique periodic solution $x^* : \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ with period T
- ② for every initial condition x_0 ,

$$\|x(t, x_0) - x^*(t)\| \leq e^{-ct} \|x_0 - x^*(0)\|$$

G. Russo, M. Di Bernardo, and E. D. Sontag. Global entrainment of transcriptional systems to periodic inputs. *PLoS Computational Biology*, 6(4):e1000739, 2010. [doi:10.1371/journal.pcbi.1000739](#)

Given a norm $\|\cdot\|$, consider

$$\dot{x} = F(x) + \Delta(x)$$

Assume:

- **contractivity:** $\text{osLip}(F) \leq -c < 0$
- **bounded disturbance:** $\text{osLip}(\Delta) \leq d < c$

Then

- ① $F + \Delta$ is strongly contracting with rate $c - d$
- ② the unique equilibria x_F^* of F and $x_{F+\Delta}^*$ of $F + \Delta$ satisfy

$$\|x_F^* - x_{F+\Delta}^*\| \leq \frac{\|\Delta(x_F^*)\|}{c - d}$$

$$\dot{x}(t) = F(x(t), x(t-s), u(t)), 0 \leq s \leq S, \quad \|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{X}}, \|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{U}} \quad (1)$$

assume there exist positive constants $c, \ell_{\mathcal{U}}, \ell_{\mathcal{X}}$ such that, for all variables,

$$\text{osL } x : \quad \|F(x, d, u) - F(y, d, u), x - y\|_{\mathcal{X}} \leq -c\|x - y\|_{\mathcal{X}}^2 \quad (2)$$

$$\text{Lip } x(t-s) : \quad \|F(x, x_1, u) - F(x, x_2, u)\|_{\mathcal{X}} \leq \ell_{\mathcal{X}}\|x_1 - x_2\|_{\mathcal{X}} \quad (3)$$

$$\text{Lip } u : \quad \|F(x, d, u) - F(x, d, v)\|_{\mathcal{X}} \leq \ell_{\mathcal{U}}\|u - v\|_{\mathcal{U}} \quad (4)$$

By the curve norm derivative formula, subadditivity, and Cauchy-Schwarz inequality,

$$\begin{aligned} \|x(t) - y(t)\|_{\mathcal{X}} D^+ \|x(t) - y(t)\|_{\mathcal{X}} &= \|F(x(t), x(t-s), u_x(t)) - F(y(t), y(t-s), u_y(t)), x(t) - y(t)\|_{\mathcal{X}} \\ &\leq \|F(x(t), x(t-s), u_x(t)) - F(y(t), x(t-s), u_x(t)), x(t) - y(t)\|_{\mathcal{X}} \\ &\quad + \|F(y(t), x(t-s), u_x(t)) - F(y(t), y(t-s), u_x(t)), x(t) - y(t)\|_{\mathcal{X}} \\ &\quad + \|F(y(t), y(t-s), u_x(t)) - F(y(t), y(t-s), u_y(t)), x(t) - y(t)\|_{\mathcal{X}} \\ &\leq -c\|x(t) - y(t)\|_{\mathcal{X}}^2 + \ell_{\mathcal{X}}\|x(t-s) - y(t-s)\|_{\mathcal{U}}\|x(t) - y(t)\|_{\mathcal{X}} \\ &\quad + \ell_{\mathcal{U}}\|u_x(t) - u_y(t)\|_{\mathcal{U}}\|x(t) - y(t)\|_{\mathcal{X}}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, with $m(t) = \|x(t) - y(t)\|_{\mathcal{X}}$, delay differential inequality:

$$D^+ m(t) \leq -cm(t) + \ell_{\mathcal{X}} \sup_{0 \leq s \leq S} m(t-s) + \ell_{\mathcal{U}}\|u_x(t) - u_y(t)\|_{\mathcal{U}}, \quad (5)$$

Halanay inequality is applicable. If $c > \ell_{\mathcal{X}}$, then

$$m(t) \leq m_0 e^{-\rho(t-t_0)} + \ell_{\mathcal{U}} \int_{t_0}^t e^{-\rho(t-\tau)} \|u_x(\tau) - u_y(\tau)\|_{\mathcal{U}} d\tau, \quad (6)$$

where $\rho > 0$ is the unique positive root of $\rho = c - \ell_{\mathcal{X}} e^{\rho S}$ and $m_0 = \sup_{0 \leq s \leq S} m(t_0 - s)$.

Interconnected subsystems $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$

$$\dot{x}_i = F_i(x_i, x_{-i}, x_{-i}(t-s), u_i), \quad 0 \leq s \leq S, \quad \|\cdot\|_i, \|\cdot\|_{i,\mathcal{U}} \quad (7)$$

Assume there exist positive constants st

osL x_i : $\llbracket F_i(x_i, \dots) - F_i(y_i, \dots), x_i - y_i \rrbracket_i \leq -c_i \|x_i - y_i\|_i^2$

Lip x_{-i} : $\|F_i(\dots, x_{-i}, \dots) - F_i(\dots, y_{-i}, \dots)\|_i \leq \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^n \gamma_{ij} \|x_j - y_j\|_j$

Lip x_{-1}^{-s} : $\|F_i(\dots, x_{-i}^{-s}, \dots) - F_i(\dots, y_{-i}^{-s}, \dots)\|_i \leq \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^n \hat{\gamma}_{ij} \|x_j^{-s} - y_j^{-s}\|_j$

Lip u_i : $\|F_i(\dots, u_i) - F_i(\dots, v_i)\|_i \leq \ell_{i,\mathcal{U}} \|u_i - v_i\|_{i,\mathcal{U}}$

With $m_i(t) = \|x_i(t) - y_i(t)\|_i$, delay differential inequality:

$$D^+ m(t) \leq -Cm(t) + \Gamma m(t) + \widehat{\Gamma} \sup_{0 \leq s \leq S} m(t-s) + \ell_{\mathcal{U}} \|u_x(t) - u_y(t)\|_{\mathcal{U}}$$

and, if the Metzler matrix $-C + \Gamma + \widehat{\Gamma}$ is Hurwitz, then (7) is incremental ISS

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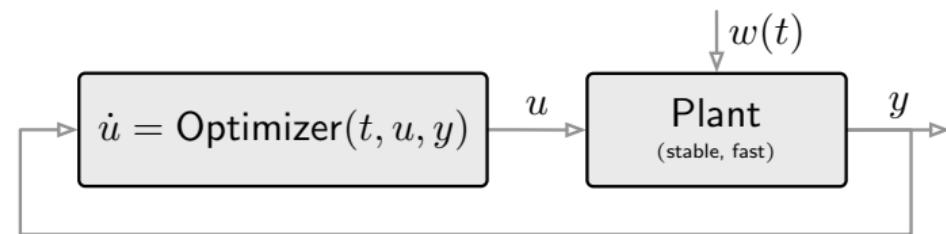
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Time-varying and feedback optimization

Solving optimization problems via dynamical systems



- studies in linear and nonlinear programming (Arrow, Hurwicz, and Uzawa 1958)
- neural networks (Hopfield and Tank 1985) and analog circuits (Kennedy and Chua 1988)
- optimization on manifolds (Brockett 1991)
- ...
- power grids (Bolognani, Carli, Cavraro, Zampieri 2013)
- online and dynamic feedback optimization (Dall'Anese, Dörfler, Simonetto, ...)

A. Davydov, V. Centorrino, A. Gokhale, G. Russo, and F. Bullo. Contracting dynamics for time-varying convex optimization. *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, June 2023a. Submitted

L. Cothren, F. Bullo, and E. Dall'Anese. Singular perturbation via contraction theory. *Technical Report*, Sept. 2023

From convex optimization to contracting dynamics – time-varying

Many convex optimization problems can be solved with contracting dynamics

$$\dot{x} = \mathsf{F}(x, \theta)$$

	Convex Optimization	Contracting Dynamics
Unconstrained	$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x, \theta)$	$\dot{x} = -\nabla_x f(x, \theta)$
Constrained	$\min_{\substack{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ \text{s.t.} \\ x \in \mathcal{X}(\theta)}} f(x, \theta)$	$\dot{x} = -x + \text{Proj}_{\mathcal{X}(\theta)}(x - \gamma \nabla_x f(x, \theta))$
Composite	$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x, \theta) + g(x, \theta)$	$\dot{x} = -x + \text{prox}_{\gamma g_\theta}(x - \gamma \nabla_x f(x, \theta))$
Equality	$\min_{\substack{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ \text{s.t.} \\ Ax = b(\theta)}} f(x, \theta)$	$\begin{aligned} \dot{x} &= -\nabla_x f(x, \theta) - A^\top \lambda, \\ \dot{\lambda} &= Ax - b(\theta) \end{aligned}$
Inequality	$\min_{\substack{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ \text{s.t.} \\ Ax \leq b(\theta)}} f(x, \theta)$	$\begin{aligned} \dot{x} &= -\nabla f(x, \theta) - A^\top \nabla M_{\gamma, b(\theta)}(Ax + \gamma \lambda), \\ \dot{\lambda} &= \gamma(-\lambda + \nabla M_{\gamma, b(\theta)}(Ax + \gamma \lambda)) \end{aligned}$

Tracking equilibrium trajectories

For parameter-dependent vector field $\mathbf{F} : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ and differentiable $\theta : \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \Theta \subset \mathbb{R}^d$

$$\dot{x}(t) = \mathbf{F}(x(t), \theta(t))$$

Assume there exist norms $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{X}}$ and $\|\cdot\|_{\Theta}$ s.t.

- **contractivity wrt x :** $\text{osLip}_x(\mathbf{F}) \leq -c < 0$, uniformly in θ
- **Lipschitz wrt θ :** $\text{Lip}_{\theta}(\mathbf{F}) \leq \ell$, uniformly in x

Theorem: Incremental ISS any two soltns: $x(t)$ with input θ_x and $y(t)$ with input θ_y

$$D^+ \|x(t) - y(t)\|_{\mathcal{X}} \leq -c \|x(t) - y(t)\|_{\mathcal{X}} + \ell \|\theta_x(t) - \theta_y(t)\|_{\Theta}$$

Tracking equilibrium trajectories

For parameter-dependent vector field $\mathbf{F} : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ and differentiable $\theta : \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \Theta \subset \mathbb{R}^d$

$$\dot{x}(t) = \mathbf{F}(x(t), \theta(t))$$

Assume there exist norms $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{X}}$ and $\|\cdot\|_{\Theta}$ s.t.

- **contractivity wrt x :** $\text{osLip}_x(\mathbf{F}) \leq -c < 0$, uniformly in θ
- **Lipschitz wrt θ :** $\text{Lip}_{\theta}(\mathbf{F}) \leq \ell$, uniformly in x

Theorem: Equilibrium tracking for contracting dynamics

- ① for each fixed θ , there exists a unique equilibrium $x^*(\theta)$
- ② the equilibrium map $x^*(\cdot)$ is Lipschitz with constant $\frac{\ell}{c}$
- ③ $D^+ \|x(t) - x^*(\theta(t))\|_{\mathcal{X}} \leq -c \|x(t) - x^*(\theta(t))\|_{\mathcal{X}} + \frac{\ell}{c} \|\dot{\theta}(t)\|_{\Theta}$

Proof of equilibrium tracking

Given: $\dot{x} = F(x, \theta(t))$ with $\text{osLip}_x(F) \leq -c$ and $\text{Lip}_u(F) \leq \ell$

Task: compare **traj** $x(t)$ with **equilibrium traj** $x^*(\theta(t))$ implicitly defined by $F(x, \theta(t)) = 0$

Consider **auxiliary dynamics** with two trajectories:

$$\dot{x} = F(x, \theta(t)) + v(t) =: F_{\text{aux}}(x, \theta, v)$$

① $v(t) = 0 \implies \text{trajectory } x(t)$

② $v(t) = \dot{x}^*(\theta(t)) \implies \text{equilibrium trajectory } x^*(\theta(t))$

F_{aux} is contracting with $\text{osLip}_x(F_{\text{aux}}) \leq -c$ and $\text{Lip}_v(F_{\text{aux}}) = 1$. Hence, iISS:

$$\begin{aligned} D^+ \|x(t) - x^*(\theta(t))\|_x &\leq -c \cdot \|x(t) - x^*(\theta(t))\|_x + 1 \cdot \|0 - \dot{x}^*(\theta(t))\|_x \\ &\leq -c \cdot \|x(t) - x^*(\theta(t))\|_x + \frac{\ell}{c} \cdot \|\dot{\theta}(t)\|_\Theta \quad \left(\text{since } \text{Lip}(x^*) = \frac{\ell}{c} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Consequences for tracking error

$$D^+ \|x(t) - x^*(\theta(t))\|_{\mathcal{X}} \leq -c \|x(t) - x^*(\theta(t))\|_{\mathcal{X}} + \frac{\ell}{c} \|\dot{\theta}(t)\|_{\Theta}$$

- bounded input, bounded error
with asymptotic bound:

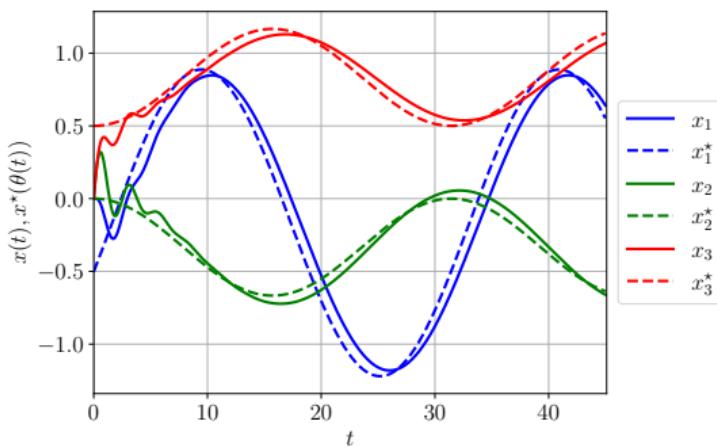
$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \|x(t) - x^*(\theta(t))\|_{\mathcal{X}} \leq \frac{\ell}{c^2} \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \|\dot{\theta}(t)\|_{\Theta}$$

- bounded energy input, bounded energy error
- vanishing input, vanishing error
- exponentially vanishing input $\sim e^{-ht}$, exponentially vanishing error $\sim e^{-\min\{c,h\}t}$
- periodic input, periodic error

Numerical simulations

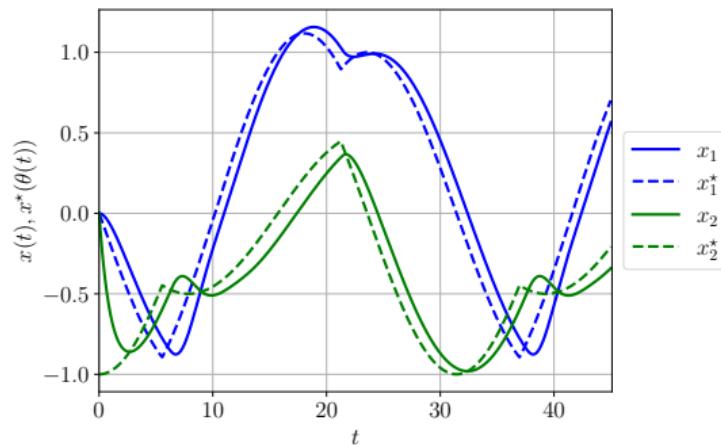
$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^3} & \frac{1}{2} \|x - r(t)\|_2^2 \\ \text{subj. to} & x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 = \sin(\omega t), \end{array}$$

$$r(t) = (\sin(\omega t), \cos(\omega t), 1), \omega = 0.2$$

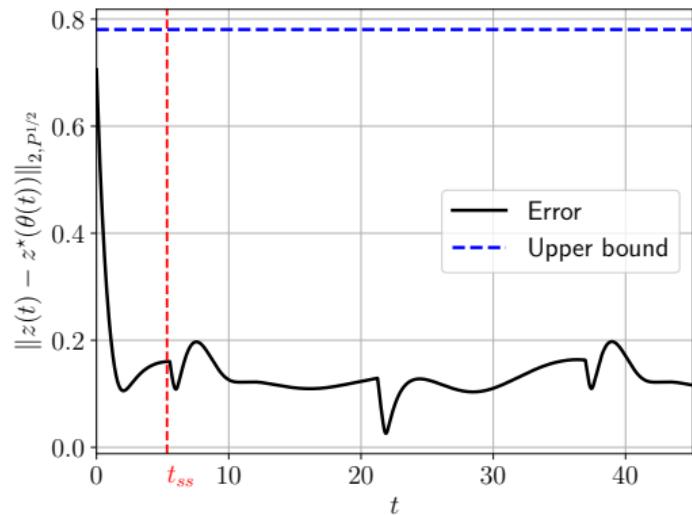
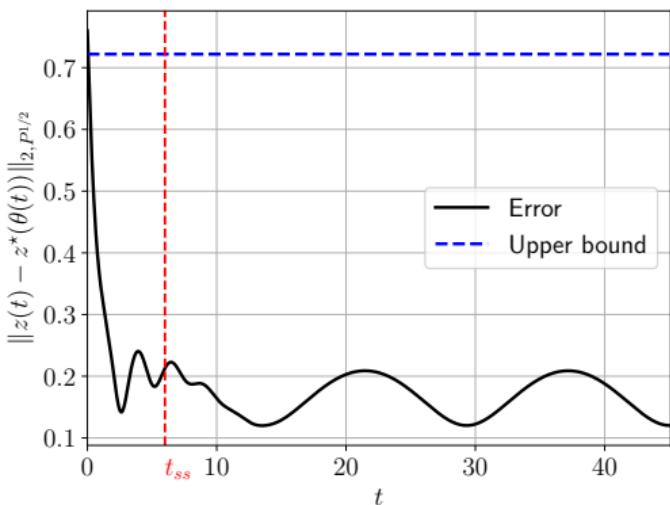


$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^2} & \frac{1}{2} \|x + r(t)\|_2^2 \\ \text{subj. to} & -x_1 + x_2 \leq \cos(\omega t), \end{array}$$

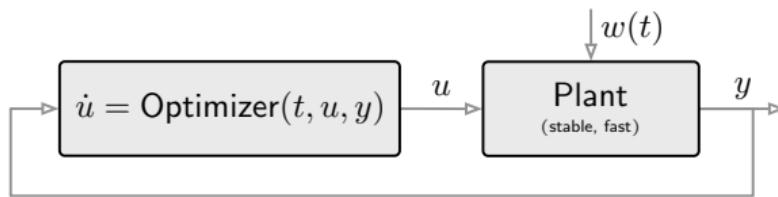
$$r(t) = (\sin(\omega t), \cos(\omega t)), \omega = 0.2$$



Empirical error versus theoretical upper bound



Application: Dynamic feedback optimization



dynamic feedback optimization

online optimization, optimization-based feedback, input/output regulation . . .

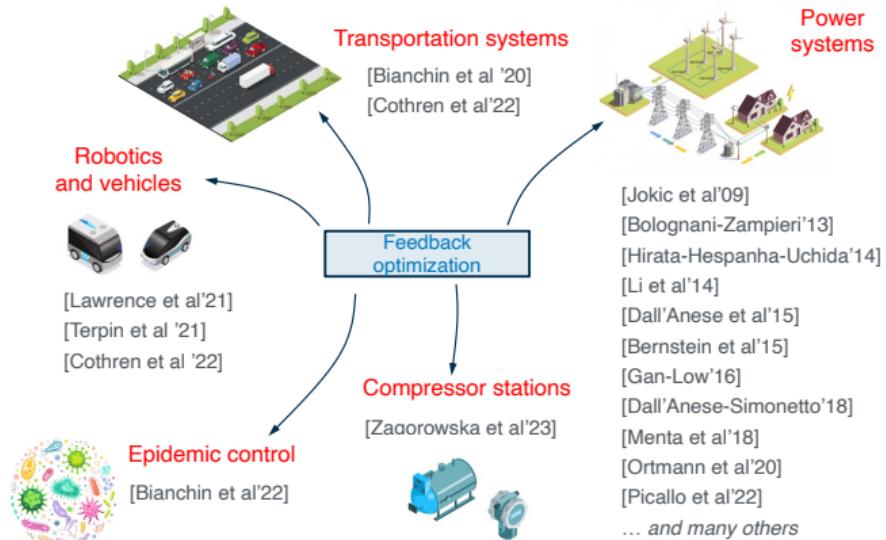
$$\begin{cases} \min & \text{cost}_1(u) + \text{cost}_2(y) \\ \text{subj. to} & y = \text{Plant}(u, w(t)) \end{cases} \implies \begin{cases} \dot{u} = \text{Optimizer}(t, u, y) \\ y = \text{Plant}(u, w(t)) \end{cases}$$

A. Jokic, M. Lazar, and P. van den Bosch. On constrained steady-state regulation: Dynamic KKT controllers. *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, 54(9):2250–2254, 2009. [doi](#)

A. Hauswirth, S. Bolognani, G. Hug, and F. Dorfler. Timescale separation in autonomous optimization. *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, 66(2):611–624, 2021. [doi](#)

G. Bianchin, J. Cortés, J. I. Poveda, and E. Dall'Anese. Time-varying optimization of LTI systems via projected primal-dual gradient flows. *IEEE Transactions on Control of Network Systems*, 9(1):474–486, 2022. [doi](#)

Some works on feedback optimization



Example #9: Gradient controller

Fast/stable LTI plant with control input u and state/measurement disturbance $w(t)$:

$$\begin{aligned}\epsilon \dot{x} &= Ax + Bu + Ew(t) && A \text{ Hurwitz} \\ y &= Cx + Dw(t)\end{aligned}$$

In singular perturbation limit as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+$, steady state map (Y_u and Y_w)

$$y = \underbrace{-CA^{-1}B}_{=: Y_u} u + \underbrace{(D - CA^{-1}E)}_{=: Y_w} w$$

Feedback optimization

equilibrium trajectory $u^*(t)$ is solution to

$$\min_u \phi(u) + \psi(y(t)) \quad (\nu\text{-strongly convex } \phi, \text{ convex } \psi)$$

$$\text{subj to } y(t) = Y_u u + Y_w w(t)$$

Gradient controller (as function of measured output):

$$\begin{cases} \dot{u}(t) = -\nabla \phi(u(t)) - Y_u^\top \nabla \psi(y(t)), & u(0) = u_0 \\ \text{fast/stable LTI} \end{cases}$$

Example #9: Gradient controller

In singular perturbation limit as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+$,

$$\mathcal{E}(u, w) = \phi(u) + \psi(Y_u u + Y_w w), \quad (\nu\text{-strongly convex in } u)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla_u \mathcal{E}(u, w) &= \nabla \phi(u) + Y_u^\top \nabla \psi(Y_u u + Y_w w) \\ &= \nabla \phi(u) + Y_u^\top \nabla \psi(y) \quad (\text{no need to measure } w(t) \text{ to compute } \dot{u}(t))\end{aligned}$$

Hence, **gradient controller** is equivalently defined by

$$\dot{u} = F_{\text{GradCtrl}}(u, w) := -\nabla \mathcal{E}_u(u, w) = -\nabla \phi(u) - Y_u^\top \nabla \psi(Y_u u + Y_w w)$$

Equilibrium tracking for the gradient controller

① $\text{osLip}_u(F_{\text{GradCtrl}}) \leq -\nu$ (gradient of ν -strongly convex function)

② $\text{Lip}_w(F_{\text{GradCtrl}}) = \ell_w := \|Y_u^\top\| \text{Lip}(\nabla \psi) \|Y_w\|$

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \|u(t) - u^*(t)\| \leq \frac{\ell_w}{\nu^2} \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \|\dot{w}(t)\|$$

Example #10: Projected gradient controller

Constrained feedback optimization:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_u \quad & \mathcal{E}(u, w) = \phi(u) + \psi(Y_u u + Y_w w) \quad (\nu \text{ strongly convex}, \ell_u \text{ strongly smooth}, \ell_w) \\ \text{subj. to} \quad & u \in \mathcal{U} \quad (\text{nonempty, closed, convex. } P_{\mathcal{U}} = \text{orthogonal projection}) \end{aligned}$$

Projected gradient controller (example of proximal gradient dynamics):

$$\dot{u} = F_{\text{PGC}}(u, w) := -u + P_{\mathcal{U}}(u - \gamma \nabla_u \mathcal{E}(u, w))$$

Equilibrium tracking for projected gradient controller At $\gamma = \frac{2}{\nu + \ell_u}$,

① $\text{osLip}_u(F_{\text{PGC}}) \leq -c_{\text{PGC}} := -\frac{2\nu}{\nu + \ell_u}$ (contractivity prox gradient)

② $\text{Lip}_w(F_{\text{PGC}}) = \ell_{\text{PGC}} := \frac{2}{\nu + \ell_u} \ell_w$

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \|u(t) - u^*(t)\| \leq \frac{\ell_{\text{PGC}}}{c_{\text{PGC}}^2} \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \|\dot{u}(t)\| \quad (\text{eq tracking})$$

Summary:

- ① from convex optimization to contracting dynamics
- ② tracking-bounds for time-varying contracting systems
- ③ applications to convex optimization and feedback optimization

Ongoing work and open problems:

- ① contracting predictor-corrector methods
- ② tracking bounds in time-varying norms
- ③ convex but not strongly convex problems

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§2. Basic definitions: discrete and continuous-time dynamics on vector spaces

- Properties of induced matrix norms and Lipschitz constants

§3. Example systems

- Constrained, distributed and proximal gradient dynamics
- Continuous-time recurrent neural networks
- Nonlinear dynamics in Lur'e form

§4. Properties of contracting dynamics

- Equilibria, Lyapunov functions, and Euler discretization
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§5. Example applications

- Time-varying gradient dynamics and feedback optimization
- From recurrent to implicit neural networks
- Gradient dynamics and Nash equilibria in games

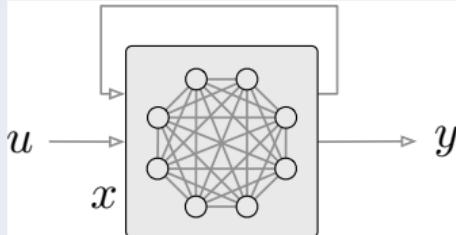
§6. Generalizations with examples

- G1: Semicontractivity: Primal dual gradient with redundant constraints
- G2: Local contractivity: Kuramoto-Sakaguchi model and synchronization
- G3: Weak contractivity: Biologically-plausible circuits for sparse reconstruction
- G4: Contractivity on Riemannian manifolds and the Karcher mean

§7. Conclusions and future research

§8. Advanced Topics

- More on semicontractivity: ergodic coefficients and duality
- Network small-gain theorem for Metzler matrices
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$$\dot{x} = -x + \Phi(Ax + Bu + b)$$

(*recurrent NN*)

$$x = \Phi(Ax + Bu + b)$$

(*implicit NN*)

$$x_{k+1} = (1 - \alpha)x_k + \alpha\Phi(Ax_k + Bu + b) \quad (\text{Euler discretization})$$

If

$$\mu_\infty(A) < 1 \quad \left(\text{i.e., } a_{ii} + \sum_j |a_{ij}| < 1 \text{ for all } i \right)$$

- recurrent NN is contracting with rate $1 - \mu_\infty(A)_+$
- implicit NN is well posed
- Euler discretization is contracting with factor $1 - \frac{1 - \mu_\infty(A)_+}{1 - \min_i(a_{ii})_-}$ at $\alpha^* = \frac{1}{1 - \min_i(a_{ii})_-}$
- input-state Lipschitz constant $\text{Lip}_{u \rightarrow x} = \frac{\|B\|_\infty}{1 - \mu_\infty(A)_+}$

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- Nash equilibria: existence, uniqueness, computation, convergence for gradient-like dynamics, robustness
- games with partial information
- aggregative games: demand-side management in the smart grid, charging control for plug-in electric vehicles, spectrum sharing in wireless networks, and network congestion control

S. Li and T. Başar. Distributed algorithms for the computation of noncooperative equilibria. *Automatica*, 23(4):523–533, 1987. 

D. Gadjov and L. Pavel. A passivity-based approach to Nash equilibrium seeking over networks. *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, 64(3):1077–1092, 2019. 

M. Arcak and N. C. Martins. Dissipativity tools for convergence to Nash equilibria in population games. *IEEE Transactions on Control of Network Systems*, 8(1):39–50, 2021. 

G. Belgioioso, P. Yi, S. Grammatico, and L. Pavel. Distributed generalized Nash equilibrium seeking: An operator-theoretic perspective. *IEEE Control Systems*, 42(4):87–102, 2022. 

A. Gokhale, A. Davydov, and F. Bullo. Contractivity of distributed optimization and Nash seeking dynamics. *IEEE Control Systems Letters*, Sept. 2023.  Submitted

Example #11: Saddle dynamics

Assume $f : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

- $x \mapsto f(x, y)$ is ν_x -strongly convex, uniformly in y
- $y \mapsto f(x, y)$ is ν_y -strongly concave, uniformly in x

saddle dynamics (primal-descent / dual-ascent):

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix} = \mathsf{F}_S(x, y) := \begin{bmatrix} -\nabla_x f(x, y) \\ \nabla_y f(x, y) \end{bmatrix}$$

F_S is infinitesimally contracting wrt $\|\cdot\|_2$ with rate $\min\{\nu_x, \nu_y\}$

unique globally exp stable point is saddle point (min in x , max in y)

If f is twice-differentiable, then

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_2(D\mathsf{F}_S(x, y)) &= \mu_2 \left(\begin{bmatrix} -\text{Hess}_x f(x, y) & -D_y \nabla_x f(x, y) \\ D_x \nabla_y f(x, y) & \text{Hess}_y f(x, y) \end{bmatrix} \right) \\ &\stackrel{\mu_2(A)=\mu_2(\frac{A+A^\top}{2})}{=} \mu_2 \left(\begin{bmatrix} -\text{Hess}_x f(x, y) & 0 \\ 0 & \text{Hess}_y f(x, y) \end{bmatrix} \right) = -\min\{\nu_x, \nu_y\} \end{aligned}$$

Example #12: Pseudogradient play

Each player i aims to minimize its own cost function $J_i(x_i, x_{-i})$ (not a potential game)

pseudogradient dynamics (aka gradient play in game theory):

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x} &= \mathsf{F}_{\text{PseudoG}}(x) = -(\nabla_1 J_1(x_1, x_{-1}), \dots, \nabla_n J_n(x_n, x_{-n})) \quad (\text{stacked vector}) \\ \iff \quad \dot{x}_i &= -\nabla_i J_i(x_i, x_{-i})\end{aligned}$$

- **strong convexity wrt x_i :** J_i is μ_i strongly convex wrt x_i , uniformly in x_{-i}
 - **Lipschitz wrt x_{-i} :** $\text{Lip}_{x_j}(\nabla_i J_i) \leq \ell_{ij}$, uniformly in x_{-j}
 - $\mathsf{F}_{\text{PseudoG}}$ gain matrix is Hurwitz
- ⇒ $\mathsf{F}_{\text{PseudoG}}$ is infinitesimally contracting wrt appropriate diag-weighted $\|\cdot\|_2$

if $\mathsf{F}_{\text{PseudoG}}$ is infinitesimally contracting (wrt any norm)
then unique globally exp stable Nash equilibrium $J_i(x_i^*, x_{-i}^*) \leq J_i(y_i, x_{-i}^*)$ for all y_i

Example #13: Best response play

Each player i aims to minimize its own cost function $J_i(x_i, x_{-i})$

$\text{BR}_i : x_{-i} \rightarrow \operatorname{argmin}_{x_i} J_i(x_i, x_{-i})$ best response of player i wrt other decisions x_{-i}

best response dynamics:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x} &= F_{\text{BR}}(x) := \text{BR}(x) - x \\ \iff \quad \dot{x}_i &= \text{BR}_i(x_{-i}) - x_i\end{aligned}$$

- **strong convexity wrt x_i :** J_i is μ_i strongly convex wrt x_i , uniformly in x_{-i}
- **Lipschitz wrt x_{-i} :** $\text{Lip}_{x_j}(\nabla_i J_i) \leq \ell_{ij}$, uniformly in x_{-j}
 $\implies \text{BR}_i$ is Lipschitz wrt x_j with constant ℓ_{ij}/μ_i
- F_{BR} gain matrix is Hurwitz \iff BR is a discrete-time contraction
 $\implies \text{BR} - \text{Id}$ is infinitesimally contracting wrt appropriate diag-weighted $\|\cdot\|_2$

if F_{BR} is infinitesimally contracting (wrt any norm)
then unique globally exp stable Nash equilibrium (fixed point of BR)

Equivalent statements:

① F_{PseudoG} gain matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\mu_1 & \dots & \ell_{1n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \ell_{n1} & \dots & -\mu_n \end{bmatrix} \text{ is Hurwitz}$$

② F_{BR} gain matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & \dots & \ell_{1n}/\mu_1 \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \ell_{n1}/\mu_n & \dots & -1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ is Hurwitz}$$

③ discrete-time F_{BR} gain matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \dots & \ell_{1n}/\mu_1 \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \ell_{n1}/\mu_n & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ is Schur}$$

Aggregative games: $J_i(x_i, x_{-i}) = f_i(x_i, \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n x_j)$

assume f_i is μ_i -strongly convex wrt x_i and $\ell_i = \text{Lip}_y(\nabla_{x_i} f_i(x_i, y))$

$$\mu_i > \ell_i \text{ for each agent } i \quad \implies \quad \text{Hurwitz}$$

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Consider a vector field $\mathbf{F} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, and let $\xi, \eta \in \mathbb{R}^n$

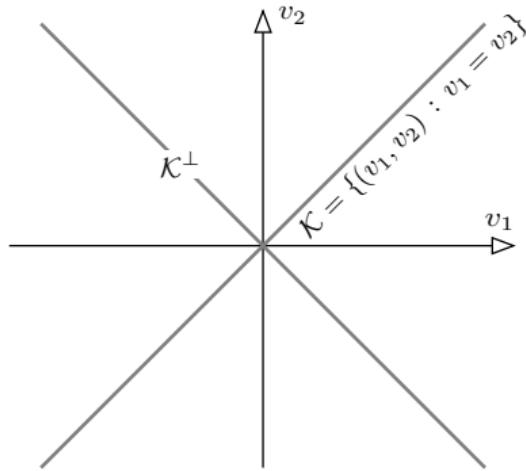
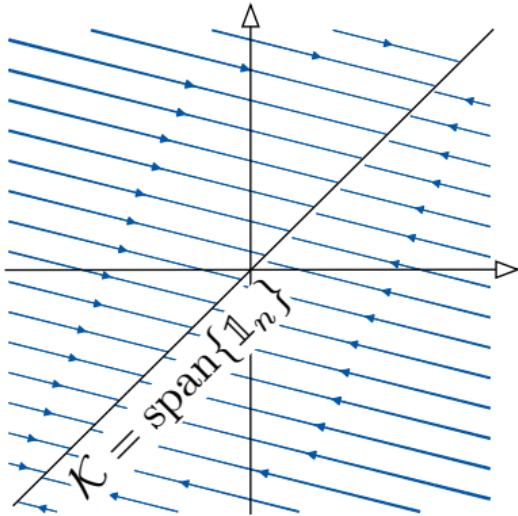
- **Invariance property:** for all $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$\mathbf{F}(x + \alpha\xi) = \mathbf{F}(x) \quad \text{or equivalently} \quad D\mathbf{F}(x)\xi = \mathbb{0}_n$$

- **Conservation property:** for all $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$,

$$\eta^\top \mathbf{F}(x) = \eta^\top \mathbf{F}(y) \quad \text{or equivalently} \quad \eta^\top D\mathbf{F}(x) = \mathbb{0}_n^\top$$

systems with invariance or conservation properties are not strongly contracting



For $\dot{x} = -Lx$

- ① $\mathcal{K} = \text{span}\{\mathbf{1}_n\}$
- ② $x_{\text{avg}} = \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{1}_n^\top x$ along \mathcal{K}
- ③ $x_\perp = x - x_{\text{avg}} \mathbf{1}_n \in \mathcal{K}^\perp$

decomposition: perpendicular dynamics + reconstruction equation:

$$\dot{x}_\perp := -\Pi_n L x_\perp \quad \in \mathbb{1}_m^\perp$$

$$\dot{x}_{\text{avg}} = -\frac{1}{n} \mathbf{1}_n^\top L x_\perp \quad \in \mathbb{R}$$

Systems with symmetry and their reduced dynamics

Model	Symmetry	Reduced space
Laplacian	$\dot{x} = \mathsf{F}_{\text{Laplacian}}(x) := -Lx$ $\mathsf{F}_{\text{Laplacian}}(x + \alpha \mathbb{1}_n) = \mathsf{F}_{\text{Laplacian}}(x)$	$\mathbb{R}^n / \mathbb{R}$
Kuramoto-Sakaguchi	$\dot{\theta} = \mathsf{F}_{\text{KS}}(\theta) := \omega + B\mathcal{A}(\sin(B^\top \theta - \varphi) + \sin(\varphi))$ $\mathsf{F}_{\text{KS}}(\theta + \alpha \mathbb{1}_n) = \mathsf{F}_{\text{KS}}(\theta)$	$\mathbb{T}^n / \mathbb{S} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n / \mathbb{R}$
Primal dual gradient with k redundant constraints	$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{\lambda} \end{bmatrix} = \mathsf{F}_{\text{PDG}} \left(\begin{bmatrix} x \\ \lambda \end{bmatrix} \right) := \begin{bmatrix} -\nabla f(x) - A^\top \lambda \\ Ax - b \end{bmatrix}$ $\mathsf{F}_{\text{PDG}} \left(\begin{bmatrix} x \\ \lambda \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \alpha \nu \end{bmatrix} \right) = \mathsf{F}_{\text{PDG}} \left(\begin{bmatrix} x \\ \lambda \end{bmatrix} \right) \quad \text{for all } \nu \in \ker(A^\top)$	$\mathbb{R}^{n+m} / \mathbb{R}^k$

If $\mathsf{F} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is invariant under \mathbb{R}^k translations, then

perpendicular dynamics $\mathsf{F}_\perp : \mathbb{R}^n / \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n / \mathbb{R}^k$ is well defined
full solution obtained via **reconstruction equation**

A **seminorm** is a function $\|\cdot\| : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ such that $\forall a \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$

- ① (*homogeneity*): $\|ax\| = |a|\|x\|$
- ② (*subadditivity*): $\|x + y\| \leq \|x\| + \|y\|$

kernel is a subspace $\mathcal{K} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ such that } \|x\| = 0\}$

seminorm is invariant $\|x + \kappa\| = \|x\| \text{ for all } \kappa \in \mathcal{K}$

seminorm on \mathbb{R}^n with kernel $\mathcal{K} \sim \mathbb{R}^k$ \iff **norm on $\mathcal{K}^\perp \sim \mathbb{R}^n / \mathbb{R}^k$**

- **matrix seminorm** is $\|A\| = \max_{\substack{\|v\|=1 \\ v \perp \mathcal{K}}} \|Av\|$
- **matrix log seminorm** $\mu_{\|\cdot\|}(A) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\|I_n + hA\| - 1}{h}$
- F is **infinitesimally semicontracting** if $\sup_x \mu_{\|\cdot\|}(DF(x)) \leq -c$

F is inf semicontracting on \mathbb{R}^n \iff **F_\perp is inf contracting on $\mathbb{R}^n / \mathbb{R}^k$**

ℓ_2 seminorm with kernel \mathcal{K} $\iff P = P^\top \succeq 0$ and $\ker(P) = \mathcal{K}$

$$\|x\|_{2,P^{1/2}}^2 := x^\top Px$$

consensus ℓ_2 seminorm with $\mathcal{K} = \text{span}\{\mathbb{1}_n\}$

$$\|x\|_{2,\Pi_n}^2 := \sum_{i,j} (x_i - x_j)^2,$$

$$\Pi_n = I_n - \mathbb{1}_n \mathbb{1}_n^\top / n = \text{orthogonal projection onto } \mathcal{K}^\perp = \text{span}\{\mathbb{1}_n\}^\perp$$

Given ℓ_2 seminorm defined by $P = P^\top \succeq 0$ and $\ker(P) = \mathcal{K}$,

semicontractivity LMIs for $A\mathcal{K} \subset \mathcal{K}$

$$\|A\|_{2,P} \leq \ell \iff A^\top PA \preceq \ell^2 P$$

$$\mu_{2,P}(A) \leq \ell \iff A^\top P + AP \preceq 2\ell P$$

Example #14: Laplacian flow

Laplacian flow

$$\dot{x} = \mathsf{F}_{\text{Laplacian}}(x) := -Lx$$

where L is the Laplacian of a weighted undirected graph

$\mathsf{F}_{\text{Laplacian}}$ is semicontracting wrt $\|\cdot\|_{2,\Pi_n}$ with rate λ_2

- $L \succeq \lambda_2 \Pi_n$
- $\Pi_n L = L \Pi_n = L$
- $\Pi_n (-L) + (-L) \Pi_n \preceq -2\lambda_2 \Pi_n$
- $\text{osLip}_{2,\Pi_n}(\mathsf{F}_{\text{Laplacian}}) := \mu_{2,\Pi_n}(-L) = -\lambda_2$

Example #15: Kuramoto-Sakaguchi model and synchronization

graph: incidence matrix B , weight matrix A , max degree d_{\max} and algebraic connectivity λ_2
natural frequency ω , frustration parameter φ

$$\dot{\theta}_i = \omega_i + \sum_j a_{ij} \sin(\theta_i - \theta_j + \varphi_{ij})$$

F_{KS} is locally infinitesimally semicontracting wrt $\|\cdot\|_{2,\Pi_n}$

Proof sketch

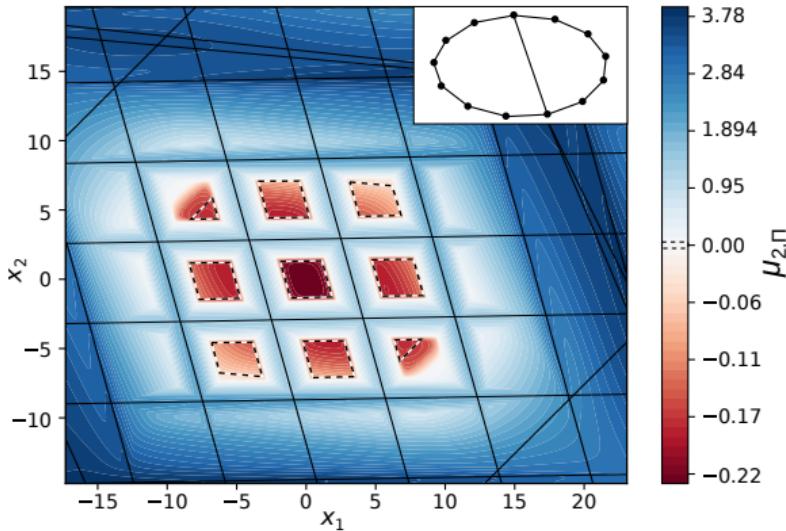
$$\dot{\theta} = \omega + \cos(\varphi) \underbrace{BA \sin(B^\top \theta)}_{F_{\text{odd}}(\theta)} - \sin(\varphi) \underbrace{BA(1 - \cos(B^\top \theta))}_{F_{\text{even}}(\theta)}$$

For $\theta \in \mathbb{T}^n$, define $\gamma(\theta) = \max_{(i,j)} |\theta_i - \theta_j|$

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{2,\Pi_n}(DF_{\text{odd}}(\theta)) &= \mu_{2,\Pi_n}(-L(\theta)) \leq -\lambda_2 \cos(\gamma(\theta)) \quad (\text{Jacobian} = -\text{Laplacian}, L = BAB^\top) \\ \mu_{2,\Pi_n}(DF_{\text{even}}(\theta)) &\leq d_{\max} \sin(\gamma(\theta)) \end{aligned}$$

$$\implies \mu_{2,\Pi_n}(DF_{KS}(\theta)) < 0 \text{ locally in } \left\{ \theta \in \mathbb{T}^n \mid \gamma(\theta) < \arctan \frac{\lambda_2}{d_{\max} \tan(\varphi)} \right\}$$

Local semicontractivity of KS system, inside cells



$\mu_{2,\text{II}_n}(DF_{\text{KS}}(\theta))$ for θ in two-dimensional slice of \mathbb{R}^{13}
model parameters: frustration $\varphi = 0.01$, graph in inset

Example #16: Primal-dual gradient dynamics with redundant constraints

strongly convex function f

constraint matrix A

$$\text{s.t. } 0 \prec \nu_{\min} I_n \preceq \text{Hess } f \preceq \nu_{\max} I_n$$

$$\text{s.t. } 0 \preceq a_{\min} \Pi_A \preceq AA^\top \preceq a_{\max} I_m$$

where Π_A is the orthogonal projection onto $\text{Im}(A)$
i.e., redundant constraints are allowed

primal-dual gradient dynamics:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{\lambda} \end{bmatrix} = \mathsf{F}_{\text{PDG}}(x, \lambda) := \begin{bmatrix} -\nabla f(x) - A^\top \lambda \\ Ax - b \end{bmatrix}$$

F_{PDG} is infinitesimally semicontracting wrt $\|\cdot\|_{2,P^{1/2}}$ with rate c

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} I_n & \alpha A^\top \\ \alpha A & \Pi_A \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \alpha = \frac{1}{2} \min \left\{ \frac{1}{\nu_{\max}}, \frac{\nu_{\min}}{a_{\max}} \right\}, \quad \text{and} \quad c = \frac{1}{4} \min \left\{ \frac{a_{\min}}{\nu_{\max}}, \frac{a_{\min}}{a_{\max}} \nu_{\min} \right\}$$

$$\text{For each } \nu_{\min} I_n \preceq Q \preceq \nu_{\max} I_n, \quad \begin{bmatrix} -Q & -A^\top \\ A & 0 \end{bmatrix}^\top P + P \begin{bmatrix} -Q & -A^\top \\ A & 0 \end{bmatrix} \preceq -2cP$$

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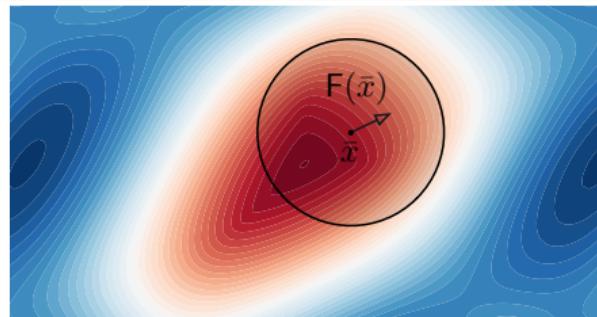
Local contractivity

Given a norm $\|\cdot\|$ and a set S , consider

$$\dot{x} = F(x)$$

$$\text{satisfying } \sup_{x \in S} \mu(DF(x)) \leq -c < 0$$

trajectories slow down and
approach each other while inside S



① integral and differential conditions do not coincide

In general $\text{osLip}(F|_S) \geq \sup\{\mu(DF(x)) \text{ s.t. } x \in S\}$, with equality when S is convex

② x^* exists if “residual is below threshold”

if \exists a closed ball with center \bar{x} and radius $r > 0$ inside S such that $\|F(\bar{x})\| \leq cr$,
then ball is F -invariant and contains a unique exponentially stable equilibrium x^*

③ x^* exists if complete trajectory in set

if $\exists \phi_t(x_0) \in S$ for all $t \geq 0$, then $x^* := \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \phi_t(x_0) \in S$ is an equilibrium

④ there exists either 0 or 1 equilibrium x^* in each convex subset of S

each convex subset of S possesses 0 or 1 equilibrium

Local contractivity near each Hurwitz equilibrium

Consider a continuously-differentiable F with an equilibrium x^* such that $DF(x^*)$ is Hurwitz. Pick a sufficiently small $\epsilon > 0$ and compute $P = P^\top \succ 0$ such that

$$\mu_{2,P^{1/2}}(DF(x^*)) \leq \alpha(DF(x^*)) + \epsilon$$

Then

- ① by the continuity of DF , there exists a radius $r > 0$ such that

$$\mu_{2,P^{1/2}}(DF(x)) < 0$$

in a ball of radius r centered at x^* with respect to the norm $\|\cdot\|_{2,P^{1/2}}$

- ② each trajectory starting inside this ball converges to x^*

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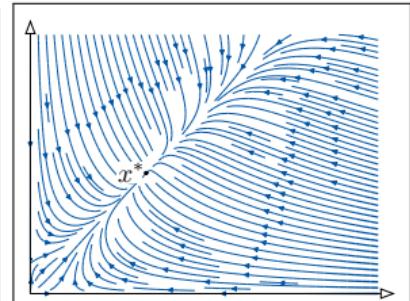
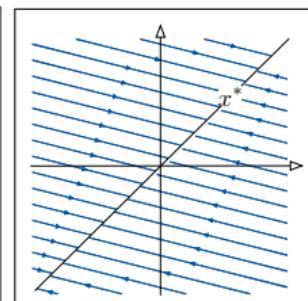
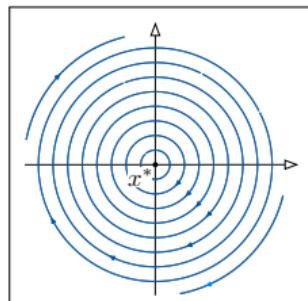
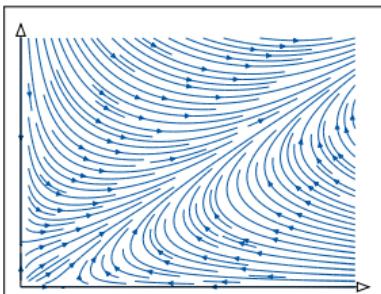
From strongly to weakly contracting systems

Given a norm $\|\cdot\|$, consider

$$\dot{x} = F(x) \quad \text{satisfying} \quad \text{osLip}(F) = 0$$

Dichotomy for weakly-contracting systems

- ① no equilibrium and every trajectory is unbounded, or
- ② at least one equilibrium, every trajectory is bounded, and local asy stability \implies global



$$\dot{x} = F(t, x) \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^n \text{ with norm } \|\cdot\|_{\text{glo}}$$

- ① F is weakly contracting wrt $\|\cdot\|_{\text{glo}}$
- ② x^* is locally-exponentially-stable equilibrium
 - $\implies F$ is locally c -strongly contracting wrt $\|\cdot\|_{\text{loc}}$ over forward-invariant \mathcal{S}
 - \implies exists $\mathcal{B}_{\text{glo}} = \{x \mid \|x - x^*\|_{\text{glo}} \leq r\} \subset \mathcal{S}$

Equivalently:

- ① F is globally weakly contracting wrt $\|\cdot\|_{\text{glo}}$
- ② F is locally strongly contracting wrt $\|\cdot\|_{\text{loc}}$ in \mathcal{S}
- ③ equilibrium point in \mathcal{S}

① **finite decay in finite time:** For each $x(0) \notin \mathcal{S}$ and each $\rho < 1$,

$$\|x(t_\rho) - x^*\|_{\text{glo}} \leq \|x(0) - x^*\|_{\text{glo}} - \rho r \quad \text{for } t_\rho = \ln(\kappa_{\text{loc,glo}}(1-\rho)^{-1})c^{-1}$$

\implies *average linear decay rate*

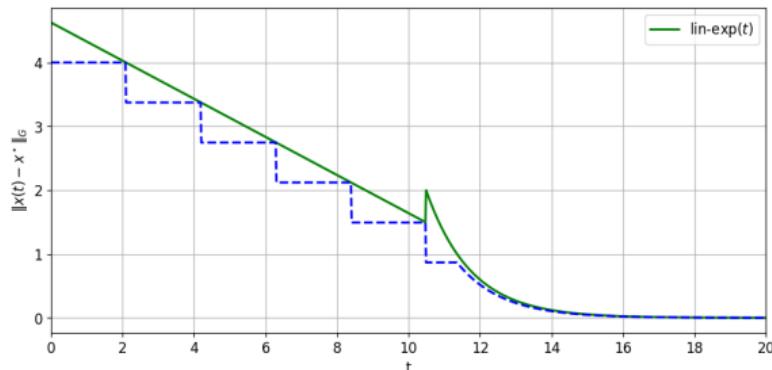
$\implies x(t) \in \mathcal{B}_{\text{glo}}$ after *linear decay time*

$$c_{\text{ld}} = \rho r / t_\rho$$

$$t_{\text{ld}} = \left\lceil \frac{\|x(0) - x^*\|_{\text{glo}} - r}{\rho r} \right\rceil t_\rho$$

② **linear exponential decay:**

$$\|x(t) - x^*\|_{\text{glo}} \leq \begin{cases} (\|x(0) - x^*\|_{\text{glo}} + \rho r) - c_{\text{ld}} t & \text{if } t \leq t_{\text{ld}} \\ \kappa_{\text{loc,glo}} r e^{-c(t-t_{\text{ld}})} & \text{if } t > t_{\text{ld}} \end{cases}$$



Example #16: Gradient dynamics for convex functions

Given differentiable convex $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, **gradient dynamics**

$$\dot{x} = F_G(x) := -\nabla f(x)$$

Dichotomy and Convergence

- ① $-\nabla f$ has no equilibrium, f has no minimum, and every trajectory is unbounded, or
- ② $-\nabla f$ has at least one equilibrium $x^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and the following properties hold:
 - ① f is constant on convex set of equilibria, each local is a global minimum,
 - ② every trajectory is bounded and converges to a minimum, each equilibrium is stable
 - ③ if x^* is locally asymptotically stable, then x^* is globally asymptotically stable
 - ④ if $\mu_2(-\text{Hess}(f)(x^*)) < 0$, then linear exponential decay and $x \mapsto \|x - x^*\|_2$ is a global Lyap

Convex quadratic-linear function (Huber loss) leads to linear-exponential decay

$$f_{\text{Huber}}(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}x^2 & \text{if } |x| \leq 1 \\ |x| - \frac{1}{2} & \text{if } |x| > 1 \end{cases} \implies \dot{x} = -\nabla f_{\text{Huber}}(x) = -\text{sat}(x)$$

Example #17: Biologically-plausible circuits for sparse reconstruction

Φ dictionary matrix:

- full row rank, each column Φ_i has unit norm
- $\Phi_i \cdot \Phi_j =$ similarity between dictionary elements

$$\begin{array}{c|c} \boxed{u} & \approx \boxed{\Phi} \\ (M \times 1) & (M \times N) \end{array} \quad \boxed{x} = \boxed{\Phi_1 | \Phi_2 | \cdots | \Phi_N} , \quad \boxed{x} , \quad \underbrace{\Phi^\top \Phi}_{\text{rank at most } M} = \boxed{\Phi^\top} \boxed{\Phi} = (\Phi^\top \Phi)_{ij} = \Phi_i^\top \Phi_j$$

$(N \times 1)$ $(M \times N)$ $(N \times 1)$ $(N \times M)$ $(M \times N)$ $(N \times N)$

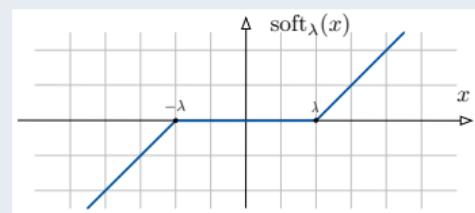
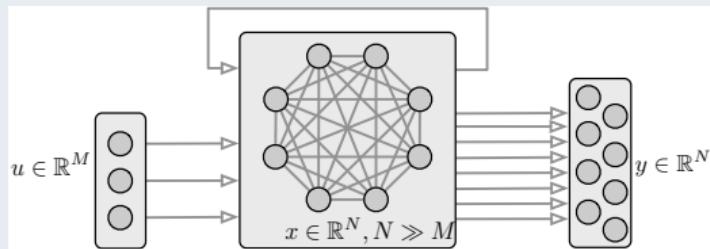
Sparse reconstruction:

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^N} \mathcal{E}_{\text{lasso}}(x) := \frac{1}{2} \|u - \Phi x\|_2^2 + \lambda \|x\|_1$$

Competitive neural network

$$\tau \dot{x}(t) = F_{\text{competitive}}(x, u) := -x + \text{soft}_\lambda((I_N - \Phi^\top \Phi)x + \Phi^\top u)$$

or, in components $\tau \dot{x}_i(t) = -x_i - \text{soft}_\lambda\left(\sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^n \Phi_i^\top \Phi_j x_j + \Phi_i^\top u\right)$



Equilibria, weak contractivity and convergence of $F_{\text{competitive}}$

- ① x^* is equilibrium $\iff x^*$ minimizes $\mathcal{E}_{\text{lasso}}(x)$
- ② $\mathcal{E}_{\text{lasso}}$ is convex (not strongly) $\implies F_{\text{competitive}}$ is weakly contracting
- ③ if Φ satisfies RIP condition, then x^* is locally exp stable
 \implies each trajectory linearly-exponentially-decays to x^*

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Contraction theory on Riemannian manifolds originates in

W. Lohmiller and J.-J. E. Slotine. On contraction analysis for non-linear systems. *Automatica*, 34(6):683–696, 1998. 

A formal coordinate-free analysis (with connection to monotone operators) is given in

J. W. Simpson-Porco and F. Bullo. Contraction theory on Riemannian manifolds. *Systems & Control Letters*, 65:74–80, 2014. 

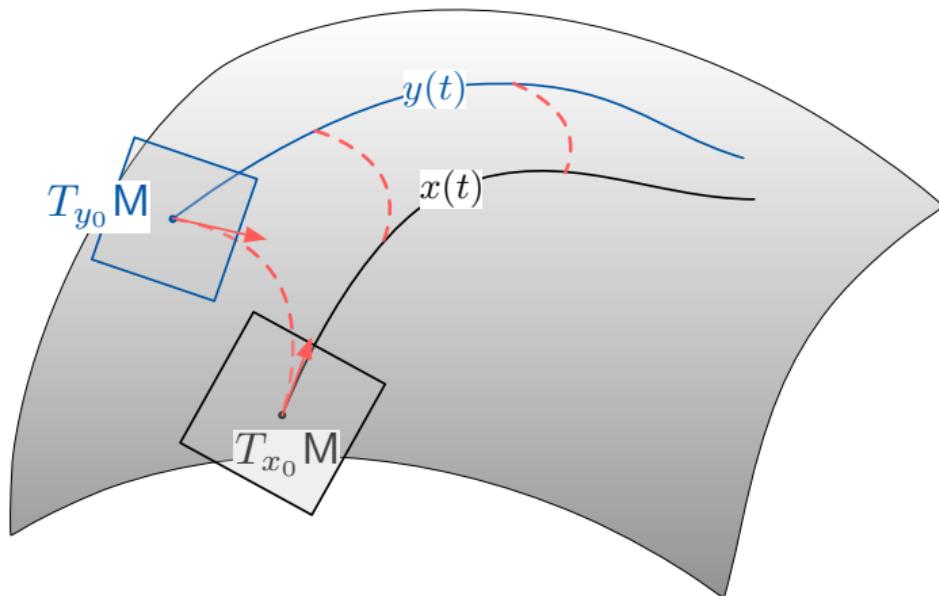
In the differential geometry literature, geodesically monotonic vector fields are studied by

S. Z. Németh. Geodesic monotone vector fields. *Lobachevskii Journal of Mathematics*, 5:13–28, 1999. URL <http://mi.mathnet.ru/eng/ljm145>

J. X. Da Cruz Neto, O. P. Ferreira, and L. R. Lucambio Pérez. Contributions to the study of monotone vector fields. *Acta Mathematica Hungarica*, 94(4):307–320, 2002. 

J. H. Wang, G. López, V. Martín-Márquez, and C. Li. Monotone and accretive vector fields on Riemannian manifolds. *Journal of Optimization Theory and Applications*, 146(3):691–708, 2010. 

Assume: existence and uniqueness of geodesic curve $\gamma(t) = x \#_t y$ between each (x, y)
F **contracting** if geodesic distances from x to y diminishes along the flow of F



integral test: the inner product between F and the geodesic velocity vector γ' at x and y

differential test: condition on covariant differential of F

Given vector field F on a Riemannian manifold (M, \mathbb{G}) and $c > 0$, equivalent statements:

- ① **integral condition:** for each $x, y \in M$ and geodesic $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow M$ with $\gamma(0) = x, \gamma(1) = y$,

$$\langle\langle F(y), \gamma'(1) \rangle\rangle_{\mathbb{G}} - \langle\langle F(x), \gamma'(0) \rangle\rangle_{\mathbb{G}} \leq -c d_{\mathbb{G}}(x, y)^2$$

or, equivalently, using the parallel transport map $P_{y \rightarrow x} : T_y M \rightarrow T_x M$,

$$\langle\langle P_{y \rightarrow x} F(y) - F(x), \gamma'(0) \rangle\rangle_{\mathbb{G}} \leq -c d_{\mathbb{G}}(x, y)^2$$

- ② **differential condition:** for all $v_x \in T_x M$

$$\langle\langle \nabla_{v_x} F(x), v_x \rangle\rangle_{\mathbb{G}} \leq -c \|v_x\|_{\mathbb{G}}^2,$$

where ∇F is covariant derivative. In components, generalized Demidovich condition:

$$\mathbb{G}(x) D F(x) + D F(x)^\top \mathbb{G}(x) + \mathcal{L}_F \mathbb{G}(x) \preceq -2c \mathbb{G}(x)$$

- ③ **trajectory condition:** for all solutions $x(\cdot), y(\cdot)$

$$D^+ d_{\mathbb{G}}(x(t), y(t)) \leq -c d_{\mathbb{G}}(x(t), y(t))$$

Example #18: Natural gradient dynamics on Riemannian manifolds

Given Riemannian manifold (M, \mathbb{G}) ,

a function $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is **ν -strongly geodesically convex** if, for each x, y ,

- ① $f(x\#_t y) \leq (1 - \chi)f(x) + \chi f(y) - \frac{1}{2}\nu\chi(1 - \chi)d_{\mathbb{G}}(x, y)^2$
- ② (if f is twice differentiable) $\text{Hess } f(x) \succeq \nu\mathbb{G}(x)$

natural gradient dynamics

$$\dot{x} = F_{\mathbb{G}}(x) := -\mathbb{G}(x)^{-1}\nabla f(x)$$

$F_{\mathbb{G}}$ is infinitesimally contracting wrt \mathbb{G} with rate ν

unique globally exp stable point is global minimum

Let $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ smooth, strongly convex

**natural gradient on $(\mathbb{R}^n, \text{Hess}(f))$ = Newton's continuous-time method
infinitesimally contracting with rate 1**

Example #19: Rosenbrock function

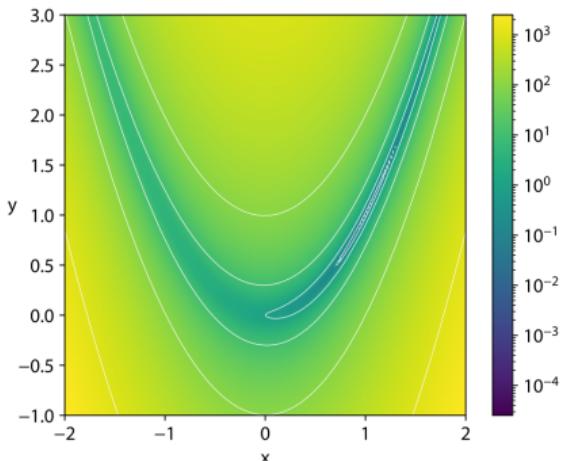
$$f_{\text{Rsnbrck}}(x_1, x_2) = 100(x_1^2 - x_2)^2 + (x_1 - 1)^2$$

is 2-strongly geodesically convex wrt

$$\mathbb{G}(x) = \begin{bmatrix} 400x_1^2 + 1 & -200x_1 \\ -200x_1 & 100 \end{bmatrix}$$

and natural gradient is 2-strongly contracting

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \end{bmatrix} = -\mathbb{G}(x)^{-1} \nabla f_{\text{Rsnbrck}} = -2 \begin{bmatrix} x_1 - 1 \\ x_1^2 - 2x_1 + x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$



contour plot for f_{Rsnbrck}
long, shallow parabolic valley
global minimum (1, 1)

Example #20: Karcher mean on manifold of positive-definite matrices

$\mathbb{S}_{>0}^n$ = manifold of symmetric positive-definite matrices with

$$\mathbb{G}(X)(\xi, \eta) = \text{trace}(X^{-1}\xi X^{-1}\eta) \quad (\text{Riemannian metric})$$

$$X \#_t Y = X^{1/2} (X^{-1/2} Y X^{-1/2})^t X^{1/2} \quad (\text{geodesic})$$

$$d_{\mathbb{G}}(X, Y) = \|\log(X^{-1/2} Y X^{-1/2})\|_{\text{F}} \quad (\text{geodesic distance})$$

Given dataset $\{A_i \in \mathbb{S}_{>0}^n\}_{i \in \{1, \dots, N\}}$, define **Karcher loss function**

$$f_{\text{Karcher}}(X) = \sum_{i=1}^N d_{\mathbb{G}}(X, A_i)^2$$

f_{Karcher} is $2N$ -strongly geodesically convex on $\mathbb{S}_{>0}^n$

Karcher mean = global minimizer = globally exp stable point of natural gradient

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- ① **Lotka-Volterra population dynamics** (Lotka, 1920; Volterra, 1928):
 ℓ_1 - semiglobally strongly contracting (after a rescaling change of coordinates)
- ② **Matrosov-Bellman interconnected stable systems** (Bellman, 1962; Matrosov, 1962):
strongly contracting wrt composite norm
- ③ **Kuramoto coupled oscillators** (Kuramoto, 1975):
strongly semicontracting wrt (ℓ_2, Π_n) norm, in neightb'd of each phase-cohesive equilibrium
- ④ **Yorke multigroup SIS epidemic model** (Lajmanovich and Yorke, 1976):
equilibrium contracting wrt weighted ℓ_1/ℓ_∞ norms (at disease-free and endemic eq.)
- ⑤ **Hopfield and cellular neural networks** (Hopfield, 1982):
 ℓ_1/ℓ_∞ -strongly contracting
- ⑥ **Daganzo cell transmission model for traffic networks** (Daganzo, 1994):
 ℓ_1 -weakly contracting, when the dynamics is monotone
- ⑦ **Chua's diffusively-coupled dynamical systems** (Wu and Chua, 1995):
strongly semi-contracting wrt $(2, p)$ tensor norm on $\mathbb{R}^n \otimes \mathbb{R}^k$
- ⑧ ...

contractivity = robust computationally-friendly stability

fixed point theory + Lyapunov stability theory + geometry of metric spaces

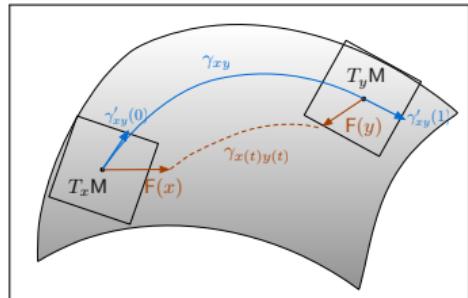


	Lyapunov Theory	Contraction Theory for Dynamical Systems
existence of equilibrium Lyapunov function inputs	F admits global Lyapunov function assumed arbitrary ISS via \mathcal{KL} and \mathcal{L} functions	F is strongly contracting implied + computational methods $\ x - x^*\ $ and $\ F(x)\ $ iISS via explicit constants

search for contraction properties
design engineering systems to be contracting

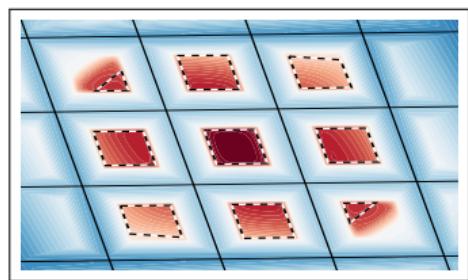
Theoretical frontiers

- higher order contraction
- relationship with monotone operator theory
- metric spaces
- computational methods



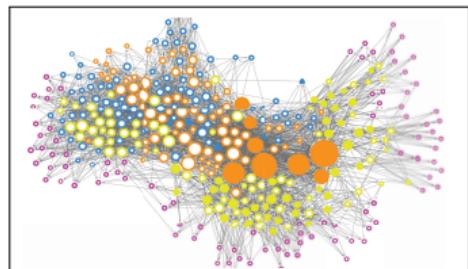
Limitations: not all stable systems are contractive:

- Lyapunov-diagonally-stable networks
- multistable and locally contracting systems
- biochemical networks
- control contraction design



Application to control and learning

- ① control: optimization-based control design
- ② ML: implicit models and energy-based learning
- ③ neuroscience: robust dynamical modeling



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Consider a vector field $\mathbf{F} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, and let $\xi, \eta \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

- **Invariance property:** for all $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$\mathbf{F}(x + \alpha\xi) = \mathbf{F}(x) \quad \text{or equivalently} \quad D\mathbf{F}(x)\xi = \mathbb{0}_n$$

- **Conservation property:** for all $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$,

$$\eta^\top \mathbf{F}(x) = \eta^\top \mathbf{F}(y) \quad \text{or equivalently} \quad \eta^\top D\mathbf{F}(x) = \mathbb{0}_n^\top$$

Example #21: Averaging and dynamical flow systems

Prototypical dynamics with invariance and conservation

Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ be row-stochastic: $A\mathbb{1}_n = \mathbb{1}_n$ and $A \geq 0$

Averaging Systems

$$x_{k+1} = Ax_k$$

Invariance: dynamics unaffected by translations in $\text{span}\{\mathbb{1}_n\}$

Examples: distributed optimization, robotic coordination, frequency synchronization, ...

Dynamical Flow Systems

$$x_{k+1} = A^\top x_k$$

Conservation: quantity $\mathbb{1}_n^\top x$ is constant

Examples: compartmental models, Markov chains

Given row-stochastic $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$,

Markov-Dobrushin ergodic coefficient

$$\tau_1(A) = \max_{\|z\|_1=1, \mathbf{1}_n^\top z=0} \|A^\top z\|_1$$

$\tau_1(A) < 1$ under mild connectivity conditions

$\tau_p(A)$ also defined for general $p \in [1, \infty]$

How is τ_1 an induced norm?



A. A. Markov. Extensions of the law of large numbers to dependent quantities. *Izvestiya Fiziko-matematicheskogo obschestva pri Kazanskom universitete*, 15, 1906. (in Russian)

R. L. Dobrushin. Central limit theorem for nonstationary Markov chains. I. *Theory of Probability & Its Applications*, 1(1):65–80, 1956. doi:10.1007/BF01043417

$$A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \text{ row-stochastic}$$

Classical Property of Averaging Systems $x_{k+1} = Ax_k$

Given $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, max-min disagreement:

$$d_{\max\text{-}\min}(Ax) \leq \tau_1(A) d_{\max\text{-}\min}(x), \quad \text{where } d_{\max\text{-}\min}(x) = \max_i \{x_i\} - \min_j \{x_j\}$$

Classical Property of Markov Chains $x_{k+1} = A^\top x_k$

Given π, σ in the simplex Δ_n , total variation distance:

$$d_{\text{TV}}(A^\top \pi, A^\top \sigma) \leq \tau_1(A) d_{\text{TV}}(\pi, \sigma), \quad \text{where } d_{\text{TV}}(\pi, \sigma) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i |\pi_i - \sigma_i|$$

Why is the same τ_1 relevant in both cases?

A **seminorm** is a function $\|\cdot\| : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ s.t., $\forall a \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$:

- ① (*homogeneity*): $\|ax\| = |a|\|x\|$
- ② (*subadditivity*): $\|x + y\| \leq \|x\| + \|y\|$

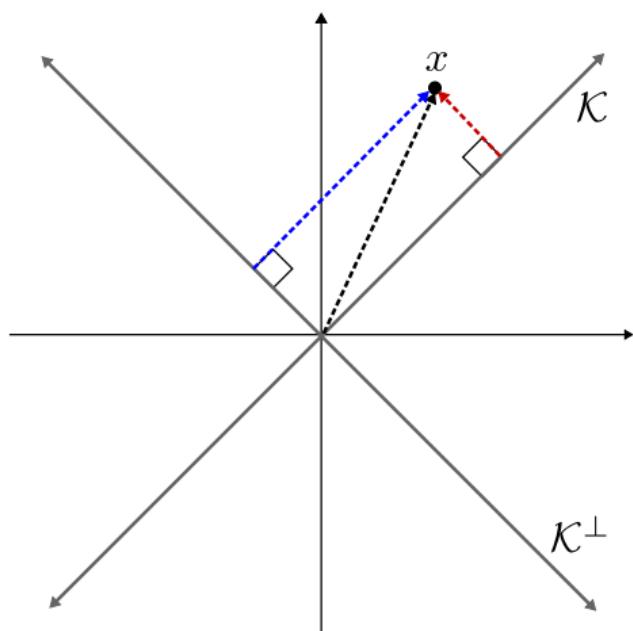
The *kernel* is the vector space:

$$\mathcal{K} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|x\| = 0\}$$

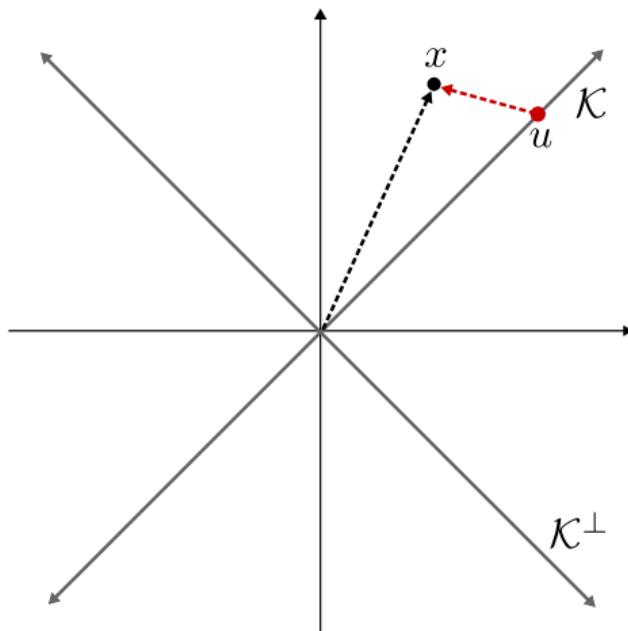
We focus on *consensus seminorms*, where $\mathcal{K} = \text{span}\{\mathbf{1}_n\}$.

Note: $\|\cdot\|$ is invariant under translations in \mathcal{K}

Projection seminorms



Distance seminorms



$$\|x\|_{\text{proj},p} \triangleq \|\Pi_\perp x\|_p, \quad \Pi_\perp = \Pi_\perp^\top$$

$$\|x\|_{\text{dist},p} \triangleq \min_{u \in \mathcal{K}} \|x - u\|_p$$

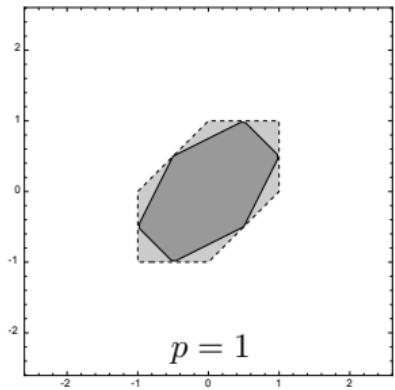
Projection and distance-based consensus seminorms ($\mathcal{K} = \text{span}\{\mathbb{1}_n\}$)

	$\ x\ _{\text{proj},p}$	$\ x\ _{\text{dist},p}$
ℓ_1	$\sum_{i=1}^n x_i - x_{\text{avg}} $	$\sum_{i=1}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} x_{(i)} - \sum_{j=\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil + 1}^n x_{(j)}$
ℓ_2	$\sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i,j} (x_i - x_j)^2}$	$\sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i,j} (x_i - x_j)^2}$
ℓ_∞	$\max_i x_i - x_{\text{avg}} $	$\frac{1}{2} (x_{(1)} - x_{(n)})$

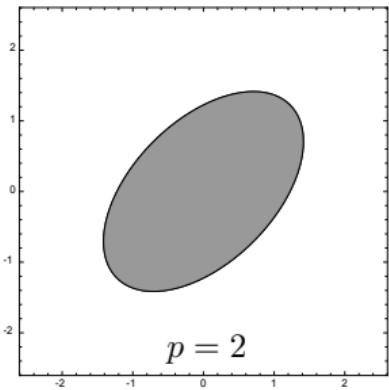
where we have sorted $x_{(1)} \geq x_{(2)} \geq \dots \geq x_{(n)}$

Therefore

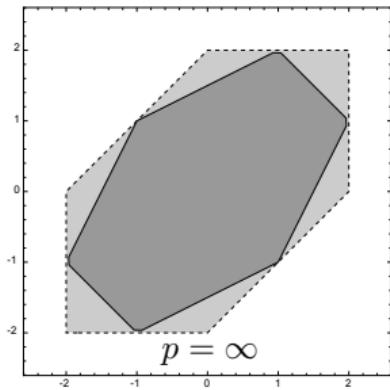
$$d_{\text{max-min}}(x) = 2\|x\|_{\text{dist},\infty} \quad \text{and} \quad d_{\text{TV}}(\pi, \sigma) = \|\pi - \sigma\|_{\text{proj},1}$$



$$p = 1$$



$$p = 2$$



$$p = \infty$$

Figure: Two-dimensional sections of three-dimensional unit disks of projection (solid contours) and distance (dashed contours) consensus seminorms. We plot the sections corresponding to $(x_1, x_2, x_3 = 0)$.

Consider a seminorm $\|\cdot\|$ on \mathbb{R}^n with kernel \mathcal{K} .

Induced matrix seminorm: function $\|\cdot\| : \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ where

$$\|A\| = \max_{\substack{\|x\| \leq 1 \\ x \perp \mathcal{K}}} \|Ax\|, \quad \forall A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$$



In general, $\|Ax\| \not\leq \|A\| \|x\|$
Inequality is true if $x \in \mathcal{K}^\perp$ or $A\mathcal{K} \subseteq \mathcal{K}$

Properties of dual and induced norms

- ① ℓ_p and ℓ_q norms are dual, for $1/p + 1/q = 1$

$$\|\cdot\|_p = (\|\cdot\|_q)_\star \quad \|\cdot\|_q = (\|\cdot\|_p)_\star$$

- ② dual norm satisfies (sharp) *Hölder inequality*: $x^\top y \leq \|x\|_p \|y\|_q$
- ③ equality between dual induced norms: $\|A\|_p = \|A^\top\|_q$
- ④ induced norm is submultiplicative: $\|AB\| \leq \|A\| \|B\|$

Properties of dual and induced seminorms

- ① ℓ_p -distance and ℓ_q -projection seminorms are dual, for $1/p + 1/q = 1$

$$\|\cdot\|_{\text{dist},p} = (\|\cdot\|_{\text{proj},q})_* \quad \|\cdot\|_{\text{proj},q} = (\|\cdot\|_{\text{dist},p})_*$$

- ② dual seminorm satisfies (sharp) *Markov inequality*: $x^\top \Pi_\perp y \leq \|x\|_{\text{dist},p} \|y\|_{\text{proj},q}$
- ③ equality between dual induced seminorms: $\|A\|_{\text{dist},p} = \|A^\top\|_{\text{proj},q}$
- ④ induced seminorm is submultiplicative: $\|AB\| \leq \|A\| \|B\|$ if $A\mathcal{K} \subseteq \mathcal{K}$ or $B\mathcal{K}^\top \subseteq \mathcal{K}^\top$

Ergodic coefficients are induced seminorms

$$\|A\|_{\text{dist},p} = \|A^\top\|_{\text{proj},q} = \tau_q(A) := \max_{\|z\|_q=1, z \perp \mathbb{1}_n} \|A^\top z\|_q$$

How Markov and Banach's results meet

Classical Property of Averaging Systems

Given row-stochastic $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ and $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$:

$$\begin{aligned}\|A(x - y)\|_{\text{dist},\infty} &\leq \tau_1(A) \|x - y\|_{\text{dist},\infty} \\ &= \|A\|_{\text{dist},\infty} \|x - y\|_{\text{dist},\infty}\end{aligned}$$

Classical Property of Markov Chains

Given row-stochastic $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ and π, σ in the simplex Δ_n :

$$\begin{aligned}\|A^\top(\pi - \sigma)\|_{\text{proj},1} &\leq \tau_1(A) \|\pi - \sigma\|_{\text{proj},1} \\ &= \|A^\top\|_{\text{proj},1} \|\pi - \sigma\|_{\text{proj},1}\end{aligned}$$

Summary and future work

- ① ergodic coefficients are contraction factors
- ② duality explains their roles in both averaging and flow systems
- ③ nonEuclidean norms play a key role
- ④ **semicontraction theory**
 - ① discrete/continuous-time Markov chains
 - ② discrete/continuous-time nonlinear consensus algorithms
 - ③ primal-dual dynamics with redundant constraints
 - ④ local contractivity of Kuramoto-Sakaguchi models

Future work

consider the set of undirected, unweighted connected graphs + selfloops

for each adjacency A_i , define row-stochastic $\mathcal{A}_i = \text{diag}(A_i \mathbf{1}_n)^{-1} A_i$ (equal neighbor)

find a consensus seminorm $\|\cdot\|$ such that, for each i ,

$$\|\mathcal{A}_i\| < 1$$

or **prove** that it does not exist

Continuous-time semicontraction theory

The *induced log seminorm* of $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is

$$\mu_{\|\cdot\|}(A) \triangleq \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\|I_n + hA\| - 1}{h}$$

Laplacian L , corresponding to weighted digraph with adj. matrix A :

$$\mu_{\text{dist},1}(-L) = -\min_j \left\{ (d_{\text{out}})_j - \sum_{i=1}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor - 1} a_{(i),j} + \sum_{i=\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil}^{n-1} a_{(i),j} \right\}, \quad d_{\text{out}} = A\mathbb{1}_n$$

$$\mu_{\text{dist},2}(-L) = \min \left\{ b : \Pi_{\perp} L + L^{\top} \Pi_{\perp} \succeq -2b\Pi_{\perp} \right\}, \quad \Pi_{\perp} = I_n - \frac{1}{n}\mathbb{1}_n\mathbb{1}_n^{\top}$$

$$\mu_{\text{dist},\infty}(-L) = -\min_{i \neq j} \left\{ a_{ij} + a_{ji} + \sum_{k \neq i,j} \min\{a_{ik}, a_{jk}\} \right\}$$

Let $p, q \in [1, \infty]$ such that $p^{-1} + q^{-1} = 1$. For any matrix $M \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, and any kernel \mathcal{K} ,

$$\mu_{\text{dist},p}(M) = \mu_{\text{proj},q}(M^{\top})$$

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§8. Advanced Topics

- More on semicontractivity: ergodic coefficients and duality
- Network small-gain theorem for Metzler matrices**
- More on the Kuramoto-Sakaguchi model and synchronization
- Proof of semicontractivity of saddle matrices
- Proof of Euler discretization theorem
- Non-Euclidean Monotone Operator Theory

Hurwitz Metzler Theorem (see LNS.Section10.4)

- ① M is Hurwitz,
- ② there exists $\eta \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n$ such that $\eta^\top M < 0_n^\top$ or, equivalently, $\mu_{1,\text{diag}(\eta)}(M) < 0$,
- ③ there exists $\xi \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n$ such that $M\xi < 0_n$ or, equivalently, $\mu_{\infty,\text{diag}(\xi)^{-1}}(M) < 0$, and
- ④ there exists a diagonal $P = P^\top \succ 0$ satisfying $M^\top P + PM \prec 0$ or, equivalently,
 $\mu_{2,P^{1/2}}(M) < 0$.

Input: a Metzler matrix $M \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$

Output: polynomials $\{\gamma_{\mathcal{C}_2}, \dots, \gamma_{\mathcal{C}_n}\}$ in entries of M

- 1: $\mathcal{C} :=$ set of simple cycles of digraph associated to M
- 2: $\gamma_\phi :=$ gain of cycle $\phi \in \mathcal{C}$
- 3: **for** i from 2 to n
- 4: $\mathcal{C}_i :=$ cycles in \mathcal{C} passing through only nodes $1, \dots, i$
- 5: $\gamma_{\mathcal{C}_i} := \sum_{\phi \in \mathcal{C}_i} \gamma_\phi - \sum_{\substack{\phi, \psi \in \mathcal{C}_i \\ \phi \perp \psi}} \gamma_\phi \gamma_\psi + \sum_{\substack{\phi, \psi, \rho \in \mathcal{C}_i \\ \phi \perp \psi, \phi \perp \rho, \psi \perp \rho}} \gamma_\phi \gamma_\psi \gamma_\rho - \dots$

Network small-gain theorem for Metzler matrices

$$\text{Metzler } M \text{ is Hurwitz} \iff \gamma_{\mathcal{C}_2} < 1, \dots, \gamma_{\mathcal{C}_n} < 1$$

- not unique: distinct/equivalent conditions after renumbering, redundancy
- computational efficiency: after precomputation of simple cycles

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} -c_1 & 0 & 0 & \ell_{14} \\ 0 & -c_2 & \ell_{23} & \ell_{24} \\ 0 & \ell_{32} & -c_3 & \ell_{34} \\ \ell_{41} & \ell_{42} & \ell_{43} & -c_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

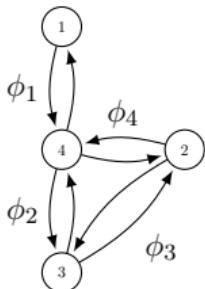


Figure: associated digraph and simple cycles

- $\gamma_{\phi_1} = \frac{\ell_{14}\ell_{41}}{c_1 c_4}$, $\gamma_{\phi_2} = \frac{\ell_{34}\ell_{43}}{c_3 c_4}$, $\gamma_{\phi_3} = \frac{\ell_{23}\ell_{32}}{c_2 c_3}$, and $\gamma_{\phi_4} = \frac{\ell_{24}\ell_{42}}{c_2 c_4}$
- $\mathcal{C}_2 = \emptyset$
- $\mathcal{C}_3 = \{\phi_3\}$: $\gamma_{\mathcal{C}_3} = \gamma_{\phi_3} < 1$ (redundant)
- $\mathcal{C}_4 = \{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_4\}$: $\gamma_{\mathcal{C}_4} = \sum_{i=1}^4 \gamma_{\phi_i} - \gamma_{\phi_1} \gamma_{\phi_3} < 1$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -c_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \ell_{15} & \ell_{16} \\ 0 & -c_2 & 0 & \ell_{24} & \ell_{25} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -c_3 & \ell_{34} & 0 & \ell_{36} \\ 0 & \ell_{42} & \ell_{43} & -c_4 & 0 & 0 \\ \ell_{51} & \ell_{52} & 0 & 0 & -c_5 & 0 \\ \ell_{61} & 0 & \ell_{63} & 0 & 0 & -c_6 \end{bmatrix}$$

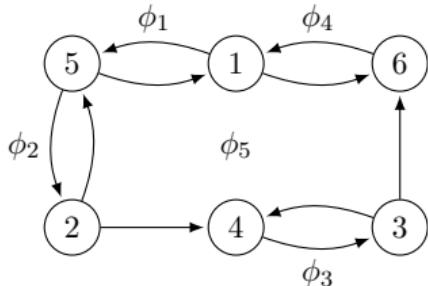


Figure: associated digraph and simple cycles

- $\mathcal{C}_2, \mathcal{C}_3$ empty
- $\mathcal{C}_4 = \{\phi_3\}$: $\gamma_3 < 1$ (redundant)
- $\mathcal{C}_5 = \{\phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3\}$: $\gamma_{\mathcal{C}_5} = \gamma_1 + \gamma_2 + \gamma_3 - \gamma_1\gamma_3 - \gamma_2\gamma_3 < 1$
- $\mathcal{C}_6 = \{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_5\}$: $\gamma_{\mathcal{C}_6} = \sum_{i=1}^5 \gamma_i - \gamma_1\gamma_3 - \gamma_2\gamma_3 - \gamma_3\gamma_4 - \gamma_2\gamma_4 + \gamma_2\gamma_3\gamma_4 < 1$

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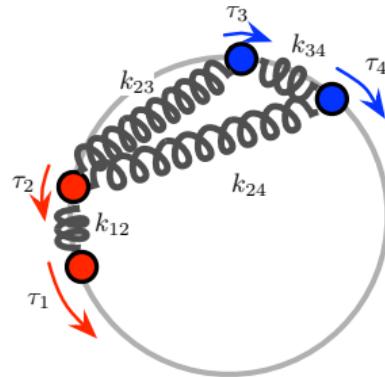
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$$\omega_i = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} \sin(\theta_i - \theta_j)$$

Spring network

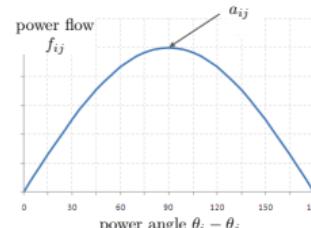
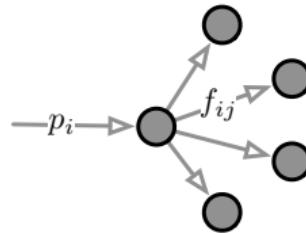
- $\omega_i = \tau_i$: torque at i
- $a_{ij} = k_{ij}$: spring stiffness i, j
- $\sin(\theta_i - \theta_j)$: modulation
- elastic energy

$$\mathcal{E} = \sum_{ij} (1 - \cos(\theta_i - \theta_j))$$



Power network

- $\omega_i = p_i$: injected power
- a_{ij} : max power flow i, j
- $\sin(\theta_i - \theta_j)$: modulation
- KCL flow conservation and Ohm's law

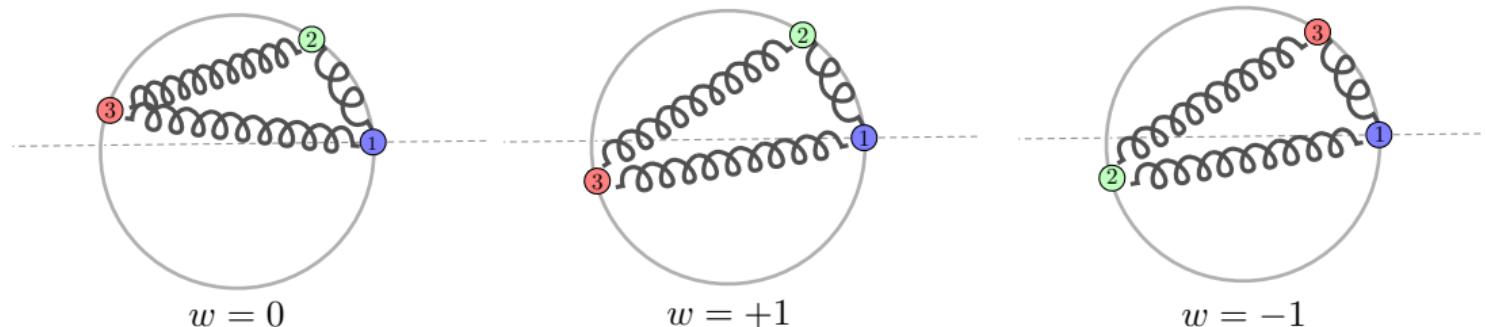


Winding numbers and partitions

Given a cycle $\sigma = (1, \dots, n_\sigma)$ and orientation

- ① **winding number of $\theta \in \mathbb{T}^n$ along σ**

= number of times the **shortest-arc path wraps around torus**



- ② given basis $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_r$ for cycles, **winding vector of θ** is

$$w(\theta) = (w_{\sigma_1}(\theta), \dots, w_{\sigma_r}(\theta))$$

Theorem: Kirchhoff angle law on \mathbb{T}^n

winding number is at most $\pm \lfloor n_\sigma / 2 \rfloor - 1$

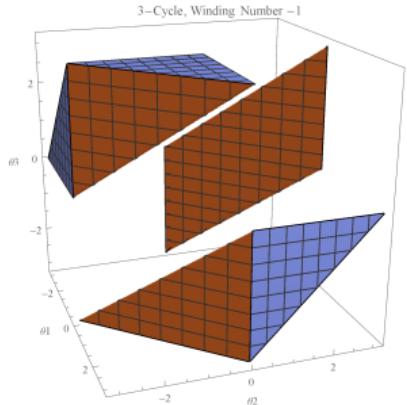


Theorem: Winding partition For each possible winding vector u , define

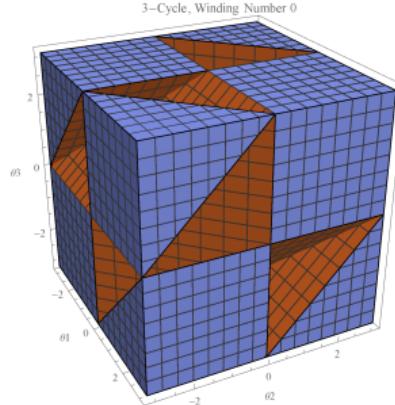
$$\text{WindingCell}(u) := \{\theta \in \mathbb{T}^n \text{ such that } w(\theta) = u\}$$

Then

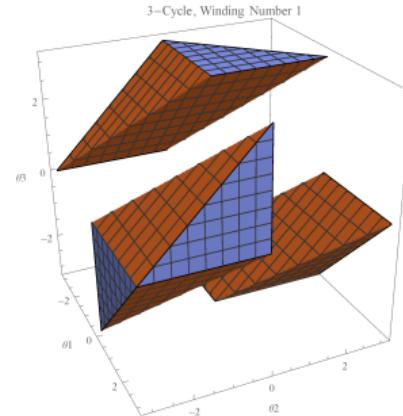
$$\mathbb{T}^n = \cup_u \text{WindingCell}(u)$$



$w = -1$



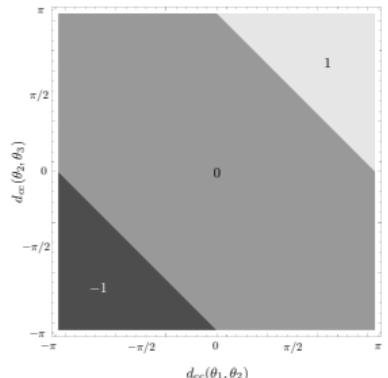
$w = 0$

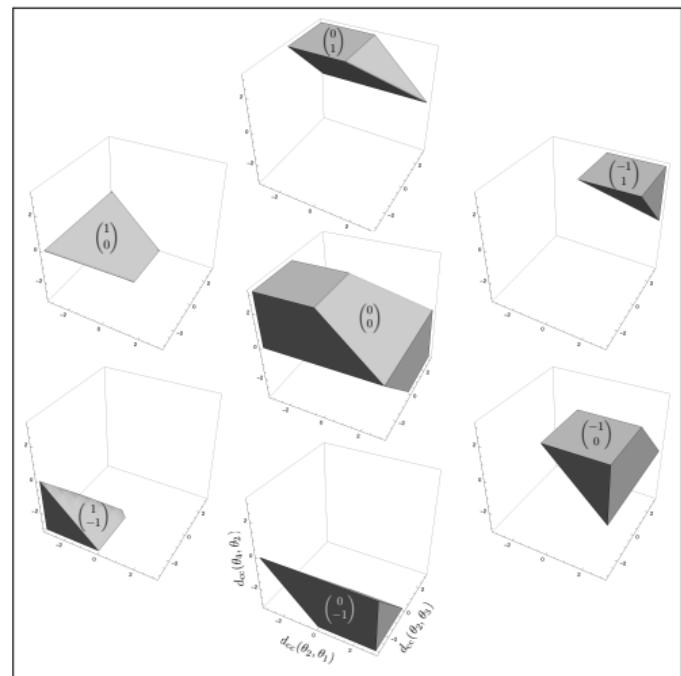
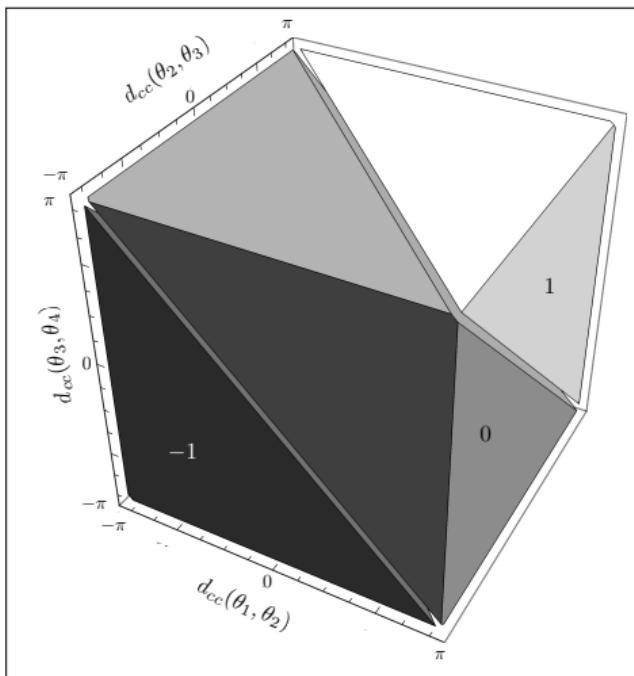
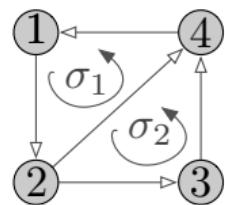
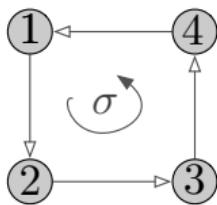


$w = +1$

Theorem: Reduced cell is convex polytope

- each winding cell is connected and invariant under rotation
- bijection:**
reduced winding cell \longleftrightarrow open convex polytope





$$\dot{\theta}_i = \omega_i - \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} \sin(\theta_i - \theta_j)$$

in each winding cell

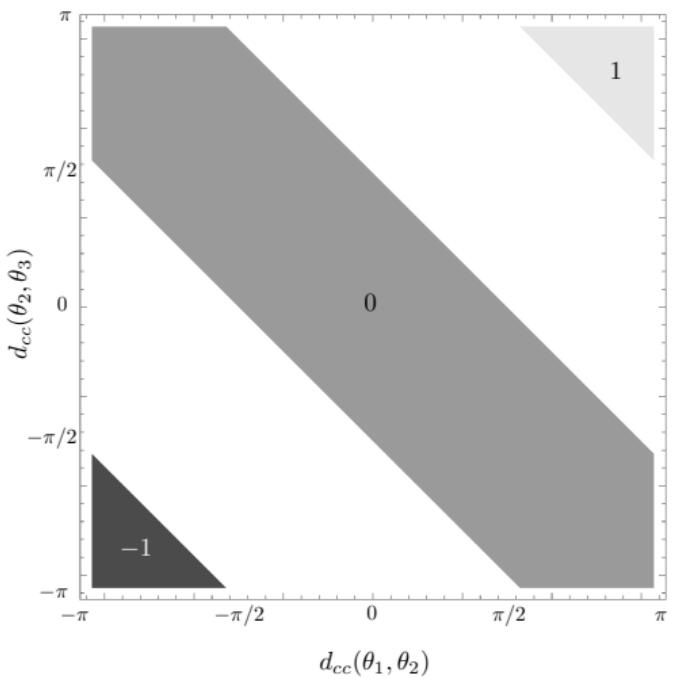
- ① $\dot{\theta} = -\nabla \mathcal{E}(\theta)$, where (well-posed smooth)

$$\mathcal{E}(\theta) = \sum_{ij} (1 - \cos(\theta_i - \theta_j)) + \omega^\top \theta$$

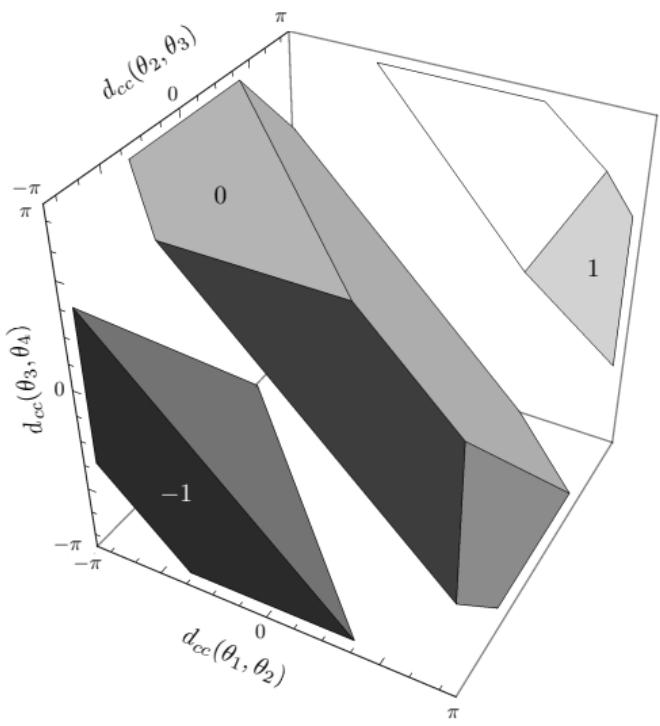
- ② Hessian $\mathcal{E}(\theta) = -\text{Cosine-Laplacian}(\theta)$ (with possibly negative weights)
- ③ Hessian $\mathcal{E}(\theta) \preceq 0$ on the **cohesive subset** $|\theta_i - \theta_j| \leq \pi/2$
- ④ modulo the symmetry, the dynamics is strongly contracting (on strictly cohesive subset)

Theorem:

- ① each winding cell has at most one cohesive equilibrium
- ② contraction algorithm to decide/compute in each winding cell



(a)



(b)

$$\dot{\theta}_i = \omega_i - \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} \sin(\theta_i - \theta_j + \phi_{ij})$$

same properties, by robustness of contracting dynamics

R. Delabays and F. Bullo. Semicontraction and synchronization of Kuramoto-Sakaguchi oscillator networks. *IEEE Control Systems Letters*, 7:1566–1571, 2023. 

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- Time-varying gradient dynamics and feedback optimization
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- G3: Weak contractivity: Biologically-plausible circuits for sparse reconstruction
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§8. Advanced Topics

- More on semicontractivity: ergodic coefficients and duality
- Network small-gain theorem for Metzler matrices
- More on the Kuramoto-Sakaguchi model and synchronization
- Proof of semicontractivity of saddle matrices
- Proof of Euler discretization theorem
- Non-Euclidean Monotone Operator Theory

Semicontractivity of saddle matrices

Given $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, and a time-scale parameter $\tau > 0$, define

saddle matrix

$$\mathcal{S} = \begin{bmatrix} -Q & -A^\top \\ \tau^{-1}A & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{(m+n) \times (m+n)}$$

$$q_{\min} := \lambda_{\min}(Q + Q^\top)/2 > 0$$

$$q_{\max} := \min\{q \text{ such that } Q^\top Q \preceq q(Q + Q^\top)/2\} \leq \sigma_{\max}^2(Q)/q_{\min}$$

$a_{\min}\Pi_A \preceq AA^\top \preceq a_{\max}I_m$, where $\Pi_A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ is orthogonal projection onto image of A

Semi-contractivity LMI

$$\mathcal{S}^\top P + P\mathcal{S} \preceq -2cP$$

where

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} I_n & \alpha A^\top \\ \alpha A & \tau \Pi_A \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0 \quad \text{with} \quad \alpha = \frac{1}{2} \min \left\{ \frac{1}{\nu_{\max}}, \tau \frac{\nu_{\min}}{a_{\max}} \right\}$$

$$c = \frac{1}{2} \tau^{-1} \alpha a_{\min} = \frac{1}{4} \min \left\{ \frac{a_{\min}}{\tau q_{\max}}, \frac{a_{\min}}{a_{\max}} q_{\min} \right\}$$

Proof of saddle matrix semicontractivity I: $P \succeq 0$

Use Schur complement to show that $P \succeq 0$. Clearly the $(1, 1)$ block is positive definite. Therefore,

$$P \succeq 0 \iff \tau \Pi_A - \alpha^2 A A^\top \succ 0 \iff \tau - \alpha^2 a_{\max} > 0 \iff \alpha^2 < \tau/a_{\max}.$$

The inequality $\alpha^2 < \tau/a_{\max}$ follows from the stronger inequality $(2\alpha)^2 < \frac{\tau}{a_{\max}}$ with the following argument:

$$\min \left\{ \frac{1}{q_{\max}}, \tau \frac{q_{\min}}{a_{\max}} \right\}^2 \leq \min \left\{ \frac{1}{q_{\max}}, \tau \frac{q_{\min}}{a_{\max}} \right\} \cdot \max \left\{ \frac{1}{q_{\max}}, \tau \frac{q_{\min}}{a_{\max}} \right\} = \frac{q_{\min}}{q_{\max}} \cdot \frac{\tau}{a_{\max}} \leq \frac{\tau}{a_{\max}}.$$

Proof of saddle matrix semicontractivity II: factorization of LMI

Next, we aim to show that $-\mathcal{S}^\top P - PS - 2cP \succeq 0$. After some bookkeeping, we compute

$$\begin{aligned} -\mathcal{S}^\top P - PS - 2cP &= \begin{bmatrix} Q^\top & -\tau^{-1}A^\top \\ A & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I_n & \alpha A^\top \\ \alpha A & \tau \Pi_A \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} I_n & \alpha A^\top \\ \alpha A & \tau \Pi_A \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Q & A^\top \\ -\tau^{-1}A & 0 \end{bmatrix} - 2c \begin{bmatrix} I_n & \alpha A^\top \\ \alpha A & \tau \Pi_A \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} Q + Q^\top - 2\tau^{-1}\alpha A^\top A - 2cI_n & \alpha Q^\top A^\top - A^\top + A^\top \Pi_A^\top - 2c\alpha A^\top \\ A + \alpha A Q - \Pi_A A - 2c\alpha A & 2\alpha A A^\top - 2c\tau \Pi_A \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

The (2,2) block satisfies the lower bound

$$2\alpha A A^\top - 2c\tau \Pi_A = 2\left(\frac{1}{2}\alpha A A^\top - c\tau \Pi_A\right) + \alpha A A^\top \succeq 2\left(\frac{1}{2}\alpha a_{\min} - c\tau\right)\Pi_A + \alpha A A^\top = \alpha A A^\top \succ 0.$$

Given this lower bound and the equality $\Pi_A A = A$, we can factorize the resulting matrix as follows:

$$-\mathcal{S}^\top P - PS - cP \succeq \begin{bmatrix} I_n & 0 \\ 0 & A \end{bmatrix} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} Q + Q^\top - 2(\tau^{-1}\alpha A^\top A + cI_n) & \alpha Q^\top - 2c\alpha I_n \\ \alpha Q - 2c\alpha I_n & \alpha I_n \end{bmatrix}}_{n \times n} \begin{bmatrix} I_n & 0 \\ 0 & A^\top \end{bmatrix}.$$

Proof of saddle matrix semicontractivity III: Schur complement and final bounds

Since $\alpha I_n \succ 0$, it suffices to show that the Schur complement of the (2,2) block is positive semidefinite:

$$Q + Q^\top - 2(\tau^{-1}\alpha A^\top A + cI_n) - \alpha(Q^\top - 2cI_n)(Q - 2cI_n) \succeq 0 \quad (8)$$

$$\iff (Q + Q^\top - \alpha Q^\top Q) + 2\alpha c(Q + Q^\top) \succeq 2(\tau^{-1}\alpha A^\top A + cI_n) + 4\alpha c^2 I_n \quad (9)$$

$$\iff Q + Q^\top - \alpha Q^\top Q \succeq 2(\tau^{-1}\alpha A^\top A + cI_n) \quad \text{and} \quad 2\alpha c(Q + Q^\top) \succeq 4\alpha c^2 I_n. \quad (10)$$

To prove the first inequality in (10), we upper bound the right hand side as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} 2(\tau^{-1}\alpha A^\top A + cI_n) &\preceq 2(\tau^{-1}\alpha a_{\max} + c)I_n \stackrel{c=\frac{1}{2}\tau^{-1}\alpha a_{\min}}{=} \tau^{-1}\alpha(2a_{\max} + a_{\min})I_n \\ &\stackrel{\alpha \leq \frac{1}{2}\tau q_{\min}/a_{\max}}{\preceq} \frac{1}{2} \frac{q_{\min}}{a_{\max}} (2a_{\max} + a_{\min})I_n \preceq \frac{3}{2}q_{\min}I_n. \end{aligned}$$

Next, since $\alpha \leq \frac{1}{2q_{\max}}$, we know $-\alpha q_{\max} \geq -\frac{1}{2}$. We then lower bound the left hand side as follows:

$$Q + Q^\top - \alpha Q^\top Q \stackrel{\text{by definition}}{\succeq} Q + Q^\top - \alpha q_{\max}(Q + Q^\top)/2 \succeq (2 - \frac{1}{2})(Q + Q^\top) \succeq \frac{3}{2}q_{\min}I_n.$$

Finally, we prove the second inequality in (10) that is, $2\alpha c(Q + Q^\top) \succeq 4\alpha c^2 I_n$. This is equivalent to $Q + Q^\top \succeq 2cI_n$ and follows from noting $c \leq \frac{1}{2} \frac{a_{\min}}{a_{\max}} q_{\min} < q_{\min}$.

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- Proof of semicontractivity of saddle matrices
- **Proof of Euler discretization theorem**
- Non-Euclidean Monotone Operator Theory

Euler discretization theorem for contracting dynamics

Given arbitrary norm $\|\cdot\|$ and differentiable $F : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, equivalent statements

- ① $\dot{x} = F(x)$ is infinitesimally contracting
- ② there exists $\alpha > 0$ such that $x_{k+1} = x_k + \alpha F(x_k)$ is contracting

Optimal* contractivity of Euler discretization $\text{Id} + \alpha F$

Given $c := -\text{osLip}(F) > 0$ and $\ell := \text{Lip}(F)$, define *condition number* $\kappa = \ell/c \geq 1$:

$$\textcircled{3} \quad 0 < \alpha < \frac{1}{c\kappa(1+\kappa)} \implies \text{Lip}(\text{Id} + \alpha F) \leq \left(1 + \alpha c - \frac{\alpha^2 \ell^2}{1 - \alpha \ell}\right)^{-1} < 1$$

- ④ the optimal* step size and contraction factor are

$$\alpha^* = \frac{1}{c} \left(\frac{1}{2\kappa^2} - \frac{3}{8\kappa^3} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\kappa^4}\right) \right), \quad \text{Lip}(\text{Id} + \alpha^* F) = 1 - \frac{1}{4\kappa^2} + \frac{1}{8\kappa^3} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\kappa^4}\right)$$

Euler discretization theorem: Additional equivalences

Given $F : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\alpha \geq 0$, define

- **shifted map** $G := \text{Id} + F \iff F = -\text{Id} + G$
- $F_\alpha := \underbrace{\text{Id} + \alpha F}_{\text{Euler discretization of } F} = \underbrace{(1 - \alpha) \text{Id} + \alpha G}_{\text{average map of } G} =: G_\alpha$

For a differentiable F and $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F(x) = 0 & \iff & F_\alpha(x) = G_\alpha(x) = G(x) = x \\ \text{equilibrium point} & & \text{fixed point} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \begin{array}{c} \text{osLip}(F) < 0 \\ F \text{ is infinitesimally contracting} \end{array} & \iff & \begin{array}{c} \text{osLip}(G) = \text{osLip}(F) + 1 < 1 \\ \uparrow \\ \exists \alpha^* \text{ s.t. } \text{Lip}(F_{\alpha^*}) < 1 \\ F_{\alpha^*} \text{ is contracting} \end{array} \\ \iff & & \iff \\ \begin{array}{c} \exists \alpha^* \text{ s.t. } \text{Lip}(G_{\alpha^*}) < 1 \\ G_{\alpha^*} \text{ is contracting} \end{array} & & \end{array}$$

Optimal* contractivity of Euler discretization $\text{Id} + \alpha F$: inner-product norms $\|\cdot\|_{2,P^{1/2}}$

Given $c := -\text{osLip}(F) > 0$ and $\ell := \text{Lip}(F)$, define *condition number* $\kappa = \ell/c \geq 1$:

① $0 < \alpha < \frac{2}{c\kappa^2} \implies \text{Lip}(\text{Id} + \alpha F) \leq 1 - 2\alpha c + \alpha^2 \ell^2 < 1$

② the optimal* step size and contraction factor are

$$\alpha^* = \frac{1}{c\kappa^2}, \quad \text{Lip}(\text{Id} + \alpha^* F) = 1 - \frac{1}{2\kappa^2} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\kappa^3}\right)$$

Standard proof from monotone operator theory. For $\alpha > 0$, compute

$$\begin{aligned} \|(\text{Id} + \alpha F)x - (\text{Id} + \alpha F)y\|^2 &= \|x - y + \alpha(F(x) - F(y))\|^2 \\ &= \|x - y\|^2 + 2\alpha \langle F(x) - F(y), x - y \rangle + \alpha^2 \|F(x) - F(y)\|^2 \\ &\leq (1 - 2\alpha c + \alpha^2 \ell^2) \|x - y\|^2 \end{aligned}$$

Next, study convex parabola $\alpha \mapsto 1 - 2\alpha c + \alpha^2 \ell^2$. Eg, $1 - 2\alpha c + \alpha^2 \ell^2 < 1$ iff $0 < \alpha < 2c/\ell^2$

Optimal* contractivity of Euler discretization $\text{Id} + \alpha F$: nonEuclidean $\|\cdot\|_{\infty, \text{diag}(\eta)^{-1}}$,

$\|\cdot\|_{1, \text{diag}(\eta)}$

Let $F : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be differentiable and Lipschitz

define *contraction rate* $c := -\text{osLip}(F) > 0$

define *diagonal Lipschitz constant* $\ell_{\text{diag}} = \max_{i \in \{1, \dots, n\}} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} |DF_{ii}(x)|$; can show $\ell_{\text{diag}} \geq c$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad 0 < \alpha \leq \frac{1}{\ell_{\text{diag}}} \implies \text{Lip}(\text{Id} + \alpha F) \leq 1 - \alpha c < 1$$

\textcircled{2} the optimal* step size and contraction factor are

$$\alpha^* = \frac{1}{\ell_{\text{diag}}}, \quad \text{Lip}(\text{Id} + \alpha^* F) = 1 - \frac{c}{\ell_{\text{diag}}}$$

Acceleration: (i) the condition number improves/diminishes $\kappa \geq \kappa_\infty := \frac{c}{\ell_{\text{diag}}}$, and
(ii) $\text{Lip}(\text{Id} + \alpha^* F) = 1 - \frac{1}{4\kappa^2} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\kappa^4}\right)$ improves/decreases to $\text{Lip}(\text{Id} + \alpha^* F) = 1 - \frac{1}{\kappa_\infty}$.

S. Jafarpour, A. Davydov, A. V. Proskurnikov, and F. Bullo. Robust implicit networks via non-Euclidean contractions. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, Dec. 2021. 

Proof of ℓ_∞/ℓ_1 Euler discretization theorem

For every $A = [a_{ij}] \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, $\eta \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}^n$, and $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $|\alpha| \leq (\max_i |a_{ii}|)^{-1}$, **norm=lognorm identity**:

$$\|I_n + \alpha A\|_{1,\text{diag}(\eta)} = 1 + \alpha \mu_{1,\text{diag}(\eta)}(A), \quad \|I_n + \alpha A\|_{\infty,\text{diag}(\eta)^{-1}} = 1 + \alpha \mu_{\infty,\text{diag}(\eta)^{-1}}(A), \quad (11)$$

whose proof is an algebraic exercise (hint: diagonal of $I_n + \alpha A$ is nonnegative).

Next, consider $\|\cdot\|_{\infty,\text{diag}(\eta)^{-1}}$; the proof for $\|\cdot\|_{1,\text{diag}(\eta)}$ is omitted. Regarding part 1, for each $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$

$$\begin{aligned} \ell_{\text{diag}} &= \max_{i \in \{1, \dots, n\}} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} |DF_{ii}(x)| \stackrel{(\text{osLip}(F) < 0 \implies DF_{ii}(x) < 0)}{=} \max_{i \in \{1, \dots, n\}} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} (-DF_{ii}(x)), \\ &\geq \max_{i \in \{1, \dots, n\}} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \left(-DF_{ii}(x) - \sum_{j \neq i} |DF_{ij}(x)| \frac{\eta_j}{\eta_i} \right) \\ &= - \max_{i \in \{1, \dots, n\}} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \mu_{\infty,\text{diag}(\eta)^{-1}}(DF(x)) = -\text{osLip}(F) = c. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\ell_{\text{diag}} = \sup_x \max_i |DF_{ii}(x)| \geq \max_i |DF_{ii}(x)|$ for all x and $\alpha \leq \frac{1}{\ell_{\text{diag}}} \leq \frac{1}{\max_i |DF_{ii}(x)|}$, equation (11) implies

$$\|I_n + \alpha DF(x)\|_{\infty,\text{diag}(\eta)^{-1}} = 1 + \alpha \mu_{\infty,\text{diag}(\eta)^{-1}}(DF(x)) \leq 1 + \alpha \text{osLip}(F) = 1 - \alpha c.$$

Finally, $\text{Lip}(\text{Id} + \alpha F) \leq \sup_x \|I_n + \alpha DF(x)\|_{\infty,\text{diag}(\eta)^{-1}} \leq 1 - \alpha c$.

Regarding part 2, $\alpha \rightarrow \text{Lip}(\text{Id} + \alpha F)$ is decreasing and therefore minimum at the maximum of allowable value of α . Note that $\alpha^* = \ell_{\text{diag}}^{-1}$ is the maximum value of α and $\text{Lip}(\text{Id} + \alpha^* F) = 1 - c/\ell_{\text{diag}} > 0$ since $c/\ell_{\text{diag}} \leq 1$.

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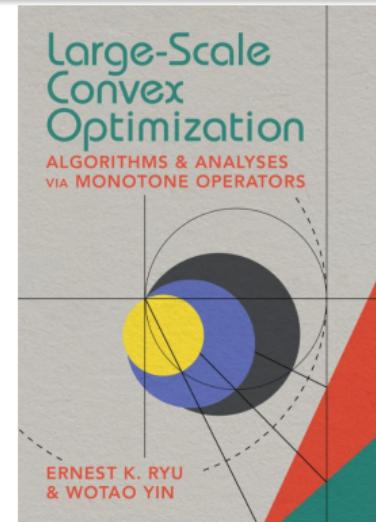
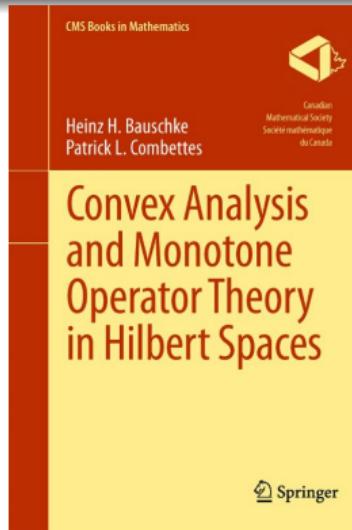
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Monotone operator methods

Success in many disparate fields

- ① Optimization and control
 - Subdifferentials are monotone
- ② Game theory
 - Monotone games
- ③ Systems analysis
 - Input-output behavior
- ④ Machine learning



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Background on monotone operators

operator $A : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is **monotone** with parameter $m \geq 0$ if

$$\langle\langle A(x) - A(y), x - y \rangle\rangle \geq m \|x - y\|_2^2 \quad (\text{osLip}_2(-A) \leq -m)$$

A **monotone inclusion problem** is of the form

$$\text{find } x \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ s.t. } 0 \in A(x)$$

A **monotone splitting problem** is of the form

$$\text{find } x \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ s.t. } 0 \in (A + B)(x)$$

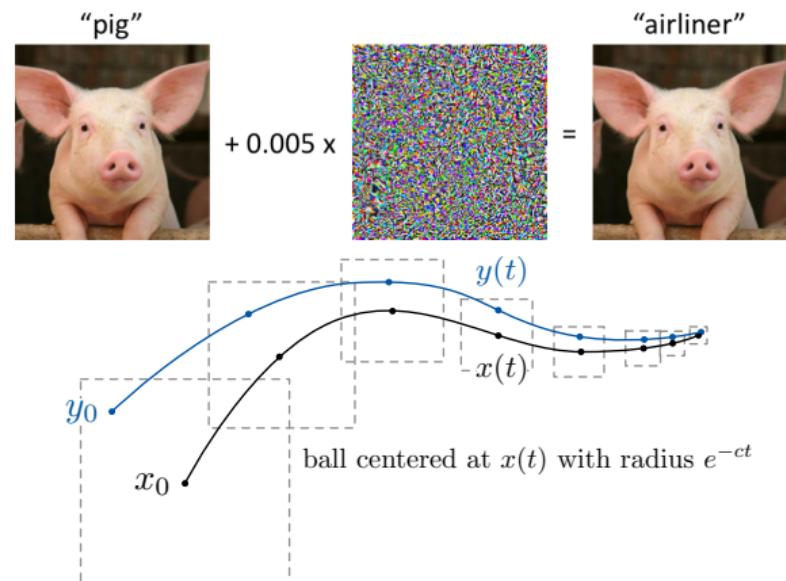
Existing algorithms based on Banach contractions or Krasnosel'skii–Mann iterations:

- Forward step method, proximal-point algorithm, etc.
- Forward-backward splitting, Peaceman-Rachford splitting, etc.

Why non-Euclidean?

Algorithms for inclusions and splittings are limited to Hilbert settings
Many problems are better stated in **Banach spaces!**

- ① ℓ_∞ robustness analysis of neural networks
- ② L_∞ norm systems analysis
- ③ Non-Euclidean contracting dynamics
- ④ Totally asynchronous distributed optimization



A differentiable $F : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is **strongly monotone w.r.t $\|\cdot\|$ with parameter m** if

$$-\mu(-DF(x)) \geq m, \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n. \quad (\text{osLip}(-F) \leq -m)$$

The **resolvent** and **reflected resolvent** of F with parameter $\alpha > 0$ are given by:

$$J_{\alpha F} := (\text{Id} + \alpha F)^{-1}, \quad R_{\alpha F} := 2J_{\alpha F} - \text{Id}$$

Fixed points of $J_{\alpha F}$ and $R_{\alpha F}$ correspond to zeros of F

Lipschitz constants: Suppose F is monotone w.r.t. a diagonally-weighted ℓ_1/ℓ_∞ norm

$$\text{Lip}(J_{\alpha F}) = \frac{1}{1 + \alpha m}, \quad \forall \alpha > 0$$

$$\text{Lip}(R_{\alpha F}) = \frac{1 - \alpha m}{1 + \alpha m}, \quad \forall \alpha \in]0, \text{diagL}(F)^{-1}]$$

$$\text{diagL}(F) = \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \max_{i \in \{1, \dots, n\}} (DF(x))_{ii}$$

Monotone inclusion problem $F(x) = 0$

The **forward step method** of F (ℓ_1/ℓ_∞ monotone) is the iteration

$$x_{k+1} = (\text{Id} - \alpha F)(x_k)$$

- ① if $m > 0$, $\|x_{k+1} - x^*\| \leq (1 - \alpha m) \|x_k - x^*\|$, $\forall \alpha \in]0, \text{diagL}(F)^{-1}]$
- ② if $m = 0$ and $\text{zero}(F) \neq \emptyset$, then convergence to an element of $\text{zero}(F)$ with rate $\mathcal{O}(1/\sqrt{k})$

The **proximal point method** of F (ℓ_1/ℓ_∞ monotone) is the iteration

$$x_{k+1} = J_{\alpha F}(x_k)$$

- ① if $m > 0$, $\|x_{k+1} - x^*\| \leq \frac{1}{1 + \alpha m} \|x_k - x^*\|$, $\forall \alpha > 0$
- ② if $m = 0$ and $\text{zero}(F) \neq \emptyset$, then convergence to an element of $\text{zero}(F)$ with rate $\mathcal{O}(1/\sqrt{k})$

Comparison to standard convergence rates

Algorithm	F strongly monotone and globally Lipschitz			
	ℓ_2		Diagonally weighted ℓ_1 or ℓ_∞	
	α range	Optimal Lip	α range	Optimal Lip
Forward step	$]0, \frac{2m}{\ell^2} [$	$1 - \frac{1}{2\kappa^2} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\kappa^3}\right)$	$]0, \frac{1}{\text{diagL}(F)} [$	$1 - \frac{1}{\kappa_\infty}$
Proximal point	$]0, \infty[$	N/A	$]0, \infty[$	N/A
Cayley method	$]0, \infty[$	$1 - \frac{1}{2\kappa} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\kappa^2}\right)$	$]0, \frac{1}{\text{diagL}(F)} [$	$1 - \frac{2}{\kappa_\infty} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\kappa_\infty^2}\right)$

Step size ranges and Lipschitz constants for algorithms for finding zeros of monotone operators. $\kappa := \ell/m \geq 1$ and $\kappa_\infty := \text{diagL}(F)/m \in [1, \kappa]$

Non-Euclidean operator splitting

Monotone splitting problem $(F + G)(x) = 0$

The **forward-backward splitting method** of F and G (ℓ_1/ℓ_∞ monotone) is

$$x_{k+1} = (J_{\alpha G} \circ (\text{Id} - \alpha F))(x_k)$$

- ① if F s.m., $m > 0$, $\|x_{k+1} - x^*\| \leq (1 - \alpha m) \|x_k - x^*\|$, $\forall \alpha \in]0, \text{diagL}(F)^{-1}]$
- ② if $m = 0$ and $\text{zero}(F + G) \neq \emptyset$, then iteration converges to an element of $\text{zero}(F + G)$ with rate $\mathcal{O}(1/\sqrt{k})$

The **Peaceman-Rachford splitting method** of F and G (ℓ_1/ℓ_∞ monotone) is

$$x_{k+1} = J_{\alpha G}(z_k),$$

$$z_{k+1} = z_k + 2J_{\alpha F}(2x_{k+1} - z_k) - 2x_{k+1}.$$

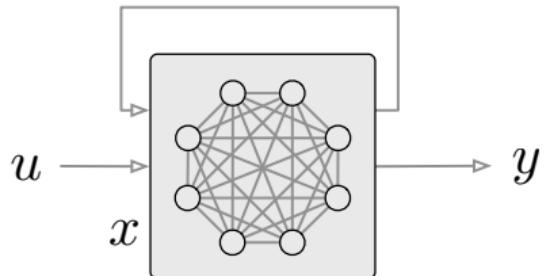
- ① If F s.m., $m > 0$,

$$\|x_{k+1} - x^*\| \leq \frac{1 - \alpha m}{1 + \alpha m} \|x_k - x^*\|, \quad \forall \alpha \in]0, \min\{\text{diagL}(F)^{-1}, \text{diagL}(G)^{-1}\}]$$

Equilibrium computation of RNN

$$\dot{x} = -x + \Phi(Ax + Bu + b) =: F(x, u)$$

$$\Phi(x) = \text{LeakyReLU}(x) = \max\{x, ax\}$$



A sufficient condition for contractivity is $\mu_\infty(A) = \gamma < 1$.

In this case, $-F(x, u)$ is strongly monotone and can apply **forward step method**

$$x_{k+1} = (1 - \alpha)x_k + \alpha\Phi(Ax_k + Bu + b),$$

converges for $\alpha \in]0, \alpha^*]$ with linear convergence rate $1 - \alpha(1 - \Phi(\gamma))$

$$\alpha^* = (1 - \min_{i \in \{1, \dots, n\}} \min\{a \cdot (A)_{ii}, (A)_{ii}\})^{-1}$$

A. Davydov, A. V. Proskurnikov, and F. Bullo. Non-Euclidean contractivity of recurrent neural networks. In *American Control Conference*, pages 1527–1534, Atlanta, USA, May 2022c. doi: [10.23915/ACC22.1534](#)

Splitting methods for equilibrium computation

Finding an equilibrium point $x^*(u)$ is equivalent to $(F + G)(x^*(u)) = 0$ where

$$F(z) = (I_n - A)z - Bu - b, \quad G(z) = \frac{1-a}{a} \min\{z, 0\}$$

Apply **forward-backward splitting**

$$x_{k+1} = J_{\alpha G}((1-\alpha)x_k + \alpha(Ax_k + Bu + b)).$$

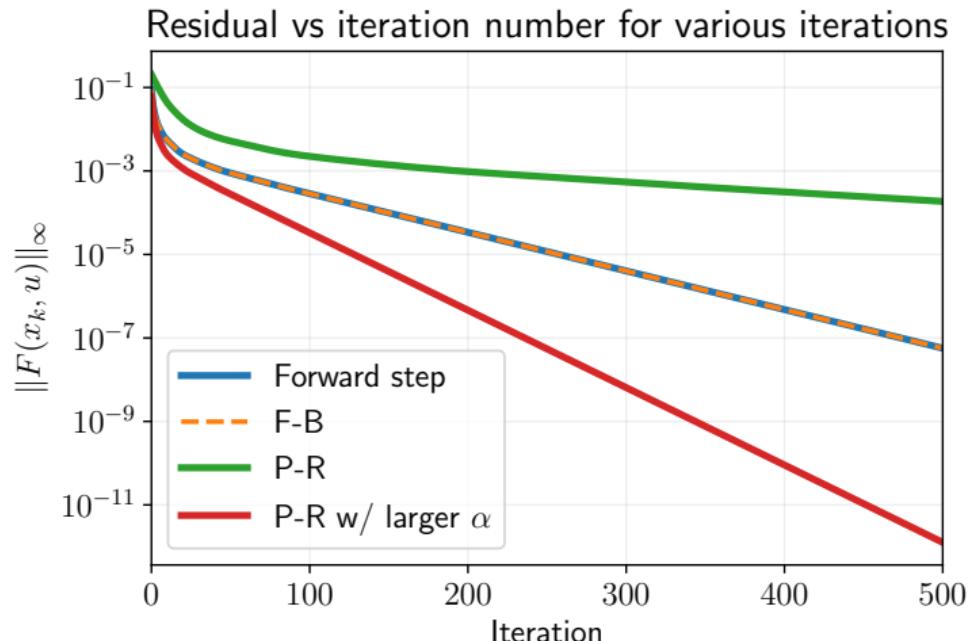
Converges with rate $1 - \alpha(1 - \gamma)$ for $\alpha \in]0, (1 - \min_i(A)_{ii})^{-1}]$

Apply **Peaceman-Rachford splitting**

$$x_{k+1} = (I_n + \alpha(I_n - A))^{-1}(z_k + \alpha(Bu + b)),$$

$$z_{k+1} = z_k + 2J_{\alpha G}(2x_{k+1} - z_k) - 2x_{k+1}.$$

Converges with rate $\frac{1 - \alpha(1 - \gamma)}{1 + \alpha(1 - \gamma)}$ for $\alpha \in]0, \min\{(1 - \min_i(A)_{ii})^{-1}, \frac{a}{1-a}\}[,$



We generate $A \in \mathbb{R}^{200 \times 200}$, $B \in \mathbb{R}^{200 \times 50}$, $b \in \mathbb{R}^{200}$, $u \in \mathbb{R}^{50}$ with entries according to a normal distribution and then project A so that $\mu_\infty(A) \leq 0.99$

Summary:

- ① provide a transcription of monotone operator theory for non-Euclidean norms
- ② provable convergence of classical iterations for monotone inclusions and splittings
- ③ application to continuous-time recurrent neural network

Extensions and open problems:

- ① tightening Lipschitz estimates for operator splittings
- ② infinite-dimensional Banach spaces and set-valued F
- ③ further applications to systems analysis and neural networks

Thank you for reading!

For any questions, please do not hesitate to email me

Let F denote a ℓ_1 weakly-contracting analytic vector field on a subset C of \mathbb{R}^n . Assume there exists a bounded solution $x(\cdot)$ in C of $\dot{x} = F(x)$ defined for all $t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$. If the function $t \mapsto \|F(x(t))\|_1$ is constant, then the solution $x(\cdot)$ is an equilibrium of F , that is, $x(t) = x^*$ for all t and $F(x^*) \equiv 0$.

Proof For simplicity take $n = 2$. By analyticity, and unless $\|f(x(t))\|_1$ is identically zero (in case we are done), we can pick an interval J where both $f_i(x(t))$ have no zeroes, and hence a constant sign. (If one is identically zero, the proof is the same ignoring that variable.) Without loss of generality (take $-f_i$ if necessary), assume that both have positive sign, so $\|f(x(t))\|_1 = f_1(x(t)) + f_2(x(t)) = \frac{dx_1}{dt} + \frac{dx_2}{dt} = \frac{d(x_1+x_2)}{dt}$. Since $\|f(x)\|_1$ is constant, this means that $\frac{d(x_1+x_2)}{dt} \equiv c$ on the interval, and therefore $x_1(t) + x_2(t) = ct + b$ on the interval J . By analytic continuation, this is true for all $t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$, contradicting boundedness of $x(\cdot)$ unless $c = 0$. So we have that $\frac{d(x_1+x_2)}{dt} \equiv 0$, that is, $\|f(x(t))\|_1 \equiv 0$, as desired. The proof for ℓ_∞ norm is even easier - just take an interval where one of the two terms is max.