

Summary of 300 Years of Optimal Control

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Introduction

The study of optimal control began with a challenge by Johann Bernoulli. In simple terms, the challenge was to find the path from point A to point B, in a vertical plane, such that a moveable point M will take in the shortest amount of time if moved purely under the influence of its own weight (Sussmann and Willems 1997).

References

Sussmann, Hector J, and Jan C Willems. 1997. “300 Years of Optimal Control: from the Brachystochrone to the Maximum Principle.” *IEEE Control Systems* 17 (3): 32–44.