

Thruster Allocation:

Maximize F_x , Minimize Other Force, Minimize Torque

1. Thruster Geometry

We have four thrusters with directions a_i and positions r_i :

$$\begin{aligned}a_1 &= (2, 2, 0), & r_1 &= (100, 100, 100), \\a_2 &= (2, -2, 0), & r_2 &= (100, -100, 100), \\a_3 &= (-2, -2, 0), & r_3 &= (-100, -100, 100), \\a_4 &= (-2, 2, 0), & r_4 &= (-100, 100, 100).\end{aligned}$$

Thruster commands T_i are bounded by

$$0 \leq T_i \leq 1 \quad (i = 1, 2, 3, 4).$$

2. Force Model

The total force is

$$\mathbf{F} = \sum_{i=1}^4 T_i a_i = (F_x, F_y, F_z).$$

For this specific geometry,

$$\begin{aligned}F_x &= 2(T_1 + T_2 - T_3 - T_4), \\F_y &= 2(T_1 - T_2 - T_3 + T_4), \\F_z &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

3. Torque Model

The total torque about the origin is

$$\boldsymbol{\tau} = \sum_{i=1}^4 T_i (r_i \times a_i) = (\tau_x, \tau_y, \tau_z).$$

For the given r_i and a_i ,

$$\begin{aligned}\tau_x &= -200T_1 + 200T_2 + 200T_3 - 200T_4, \\ \tau_y &= 200T_1 + 200T_2 - 200T_3 - 200T_4, \\ \tau_z &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

4. Auxiliary Variables for Magnitude Minimization

To represent absolute values in linear form, introduce nonnegative variables:

$$\begin{aligned} -u_y &\leq F_y \leq u_y, & u_y &\geq 0, \\ -u_{\tau_x} &\leq \tau_x \leq u_{\tau_x}, & u_{\tau_x} &\geq 0, \\ -u_{\tau_y} &\leq \tau_y \leq u_{\tau_y}, & u_{\tau_y} &\geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$u_y \geq |F_y|, \quad u_{\tau_x} \geq |\tau_x|, \quad u_{\tau_y} \geq |\tau_y|.$$

5. Single Weighted Linear Program

A single LP encoding

$$\text{maximize } F_x, \quad \text{minimize other force } |F_y|, \quad \text{minimize torque}$$

is:

$$\max \left[F_x - \alpha u_y - \beta (u_{\tau_x} + u_{\tau_y}) \right],$$

with user-chosen weights $\alpha, \beta > 0$.

Subject to:

$$\begin{aligned} F_x &= 2(T_1 + T_2 - T_3 - T_4), \\ F_y &= 2(T_1 - T_2 - T_3 + T_4), \\ \tau_x &= -200T_1 + 200T_2 + 200T_3 - 200T_4, \\ \tau_y &= 200T_1 + 200T_2 - 200T_3 - 200T_4, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} -u_y &\leq F_y \leq u_y, \\ -u_{\tau_x} &\leq \tau_x \leq u_{\tau_x}, \\ -u_{\tau_y} &\leq \tau_y \leq u_{\tau_y}, \end{aligned}$$

$$0 \leq T_i \leq 1 \quad (i = 1, \dots, 4), \quad u_y, u_{\tau_x}, u_{\tau_y} \geq 0.$$

6. Preemptive (Lexicographic) Priority Formulation

If we want strict priorities

$$\text{maximize } F_x \Rightarrow \text{minimize } |F_y| \Rightarrow \text{minimize torque},$$

we solve three LPs sequentially.

Priority P_1 : Maximize F_x

Solve

$$\max F_x$$

subject to force/torque definitions and

$$0 \leq T_i \leq 1.$$

Let the optimum be F_x^* . To preserve this in later levels, add the achievement constraint

$$F_x \geq F_x^* - \varepsilon,$$

where $\varepsilon \geq 0$ is a small tolerance.

Priority P_2 : Minimize Lateral Force $|F_y|$

Introduce u_y with

$$-u_y \leq F_y \leq u_y, \quad u_y \geq 0,$$

and solve

$$\min u_y$$

subject to all previous constraints and

$$F_x \geq F_x^* - \varepsilon.$$

Let the resulting optimum be u_y^* . Then add an achievement constraint

$$u_y \leq u_y^* + \varepsilon_y,$$

with small $\varepsilon_y \geq 0$.

Priority P_3 : Minimize Torque

Introduce u_{τ_x}, u_{τ_y} with

$$-u_{\tau_x} \leq \tau_x \leq u_{\tau_x}, \quad -u_{\tau_y} \leq \tau_y \leq u_{\tau_y},$$

and solve

$$\min(u_{\tau_x} + u_{\tau_y})$$

subject to

$$F_x \geq F_x^* - \varepsilon, \quad u_y \leq u_y^* + \varepsilon_y.$$

7. Summary

We have defined:

- A linear model of force and torque from 4 bounded thrusters.
- A single weighted LP that maximizes forward force F_x while penalizing side force and torque via auxiliary variables.
- A preemptive (goal-programming) formulation with the priorities:
 1. Maximize F_x ,
 2. Minimize $|F_y|$,
 3. Minimize torque magnitude $|\tau_x| + |\tau_y|$.

This XeLaTeX document can be compiled with `xelatex` and used as a basis for implementation or documentation.