

# 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:

$$\begin{aligned} F_x &= 2(T_1 + T_2 - T_3 - T_4), \\ F_y &= 2(T_1 - T_2 - T_3 + T_4), \\ \tau_x &= -200T_1 + 200T_2 + 200T_3 - 200T_4, \\ \tau_y &= 200T_1 + 200T_2 - 200T_3 - 200T_4, \\ -u_y &\leq F_y \leq u_y, \\ -u_{\tau_x} &\leq \tau_x \leq u_{\tau_x}, \\ -u_{\tau_y} &\leq \tau_y \leq u_{\tau_y}, \\ 0 \leq T_i &\leq 1 \quad (i = 1, \dots, 4), \quad u_y, u_{\tau_x}, u_{\tau_y} \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

## 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  $u_{\tau_x}, u_{\tau_y}$  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.