

Lecture 10 — Optimal Control

- Introduction
- Static Optimization with Constraints
- Optimization with Dynamic Constraints
- The Maximum Principle
- Examples

Material

- Lecture slides
 - References to Glad & Ljung, part of Chapter 18
- Note: page references to Swedish edition*

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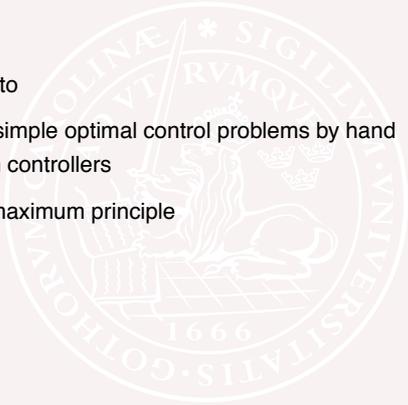
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To be able to

- solve simple optimal control problems by hand
- design controllers

using the maximum principle

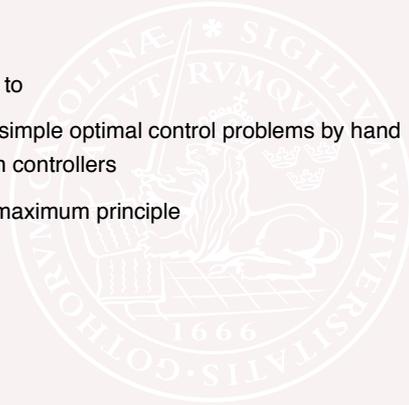


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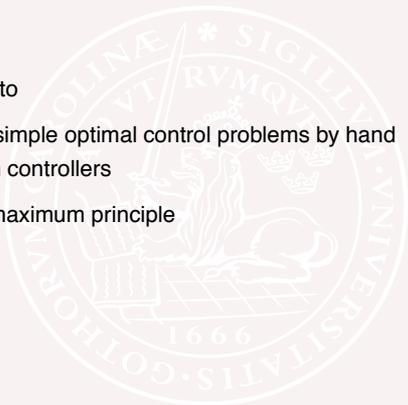


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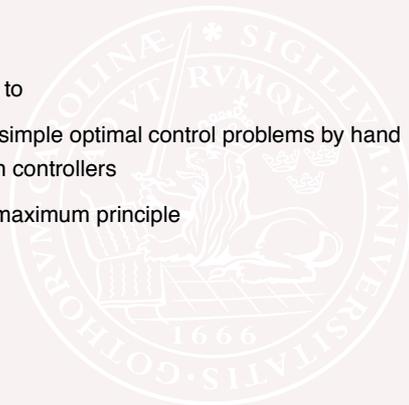


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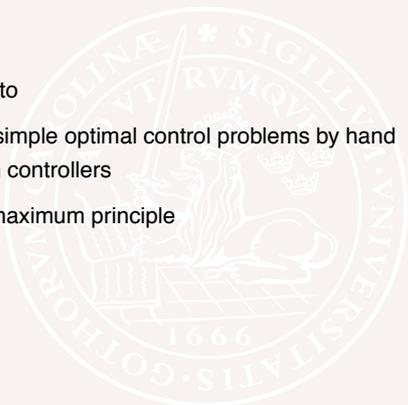


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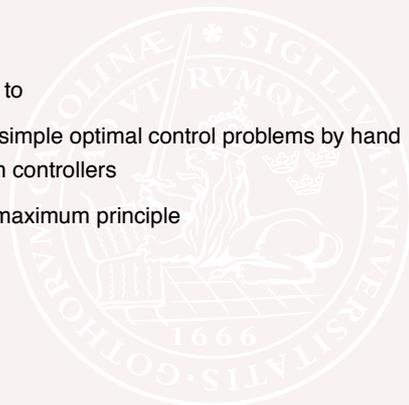


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Optimal Control Problems

Idea: Formulate the design problem as optimization problem

- + Gives systematic design procedure
- + Can use on nonlinear models
- + Can capture limitations etc as constraints
- Hard to find suitable criterium?!
- Can be hard to find the optimal controller

Solutions will often be of “bang-bang” character if control signal is bounded, compare lecture on sliding mode controllers.

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- John Bernoulli: The **brachistochrone** problem 1696
Let a particle slide along a frictionless curve. Find the curve that takes the particle from A to B in **shortest time**



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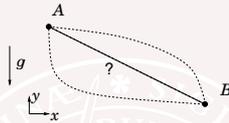
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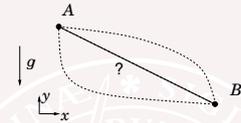


$$\frac{1}{2}v^2 = gy, \quad \frac{dx}{ds} = v \sin \theta, \quad \frac{dy}{ds} = -v \cos \theta$$

Find $y(x)$, with $y(0)$ and $y(1)$ given, that minimizes

$$J(y) = \int_0^1 \frac{\sqrt{1+y'(x)^2}}{\sqrt{2gy(x)}} dx$$

- Solved by John and James Bernoulli, Newton, l'Hospital
- Euler: Isoperimetric problems
 - Example: The largest area covered by a curve of given length is a circle [see also Dido/cow-skin/Carthage].

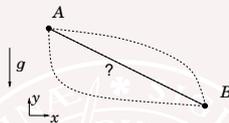


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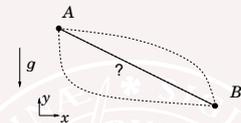


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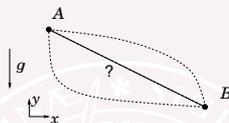


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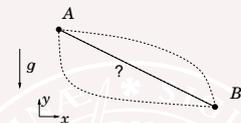


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- The space race (Sputnik 1957)
- Putting satellites in orbit
- Trajectory planning for interplanetary travel
- Reentry into atmosphere
- Minimum time problems
- Pontryagin's maximum principle, 1956
- Dynamic programming, Bellman 1957
- Vitalization of a classical field

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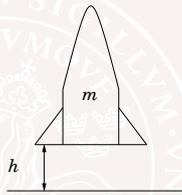
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An example: Goddard's Rocket Problem (1910)

How to send a rocket as high up in the air as possible?

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} v \\ h \\ m \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{u-D}{m} - g \\ v \\ -\gamma u \end{pmatrix}$$



where u = motor force, $D(v, h)$ = air resistance, m = mass.

Constraints

$$0 \leq u \leq u_{max}, \quad m(t_f) \geq m_1$$

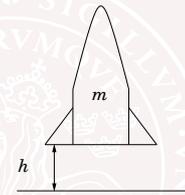
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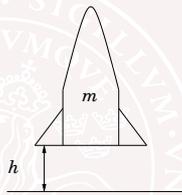
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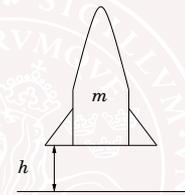
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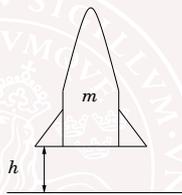
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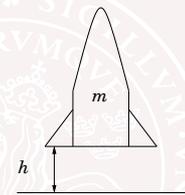
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Goddard's Problem

Can you guess the solution when $D(v, h) = 0$?

Much harder when $D(v, h) \neq 0$

Can be optimal to have low v when air resistance is high. Burn fuel at higher level.

Took about 50 years before a complete solution was found.

Read more about Goddard at <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/goddard/>

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Optimal Control Problem. Constituents

Control signal $u(t), 0 \leq t \leq t_f$

Criterion $h(t_f)$.

Differential equations relating $\dot{h}(t_f)$ and u

Constraints on u

Constraints on $x(0)$ and $x(t_f)$

t_f can be fixed or a free variable

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Preliminary: Static Optimization

Minimize $g_1(x, u)$
over $x \in R^n$ and $u \in R^m$ s.t. $g_2(x, u) = 0$
(Assume $g_2(x, u) = 0 \Rightarrow \partial g_2(x, u)/\partial x$ non-singular)

Lagrangian: $\mathcal{L}(x, u, \lambda) = g_1(x, u) + \lambda^T g_2(x, u)$

Local minima of $g_1(x, u)$ constrained on $g_2(x, u) = 0$
can be mapped into critical points of $\mathcal{L}(x, u, \lambda)$

Necessary conditions for local minimum

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x} = 0 \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial u} = 0 \quad \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \lambda} = g_2(x, u) = 0 \right)$$

Note: Difference if constrained control!

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(Assume $g_2(x, u) = 0 \Rightarrow \partial g_2(x, u)/\partial x$ non-singular)

Lagrangian: $\mathcal{L}(x, u, \lambda) = g_1(x, u) + \lambda^T g_2(x, u)$

Local minima of $g_1(x, u)$ constrained on $g_2(x, u) = 0$
can be mapped into critical points of $\mathcal{L}(x, u, \lambda)$

Necessary conditions for local minimum

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x} = 0 \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial u} = 0 \quad \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \lambda} = g_2(x, u) = 0 \right)$$

Note: Difference if constrained control!

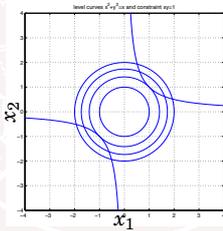
Example - static optimization

Minimize

$$g_1(x_1, x_2) = x_1^2 + x_2^2$$

with the constraint that

$$g_2(x_1, x_2) = x_1 \cdot x_2 - 1 = 0$$



Level curves for constant g_1 and the constraint $g_2 = 0$, respectively.

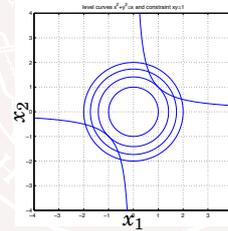
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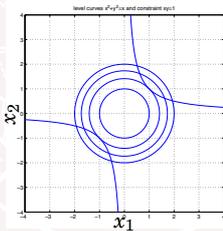
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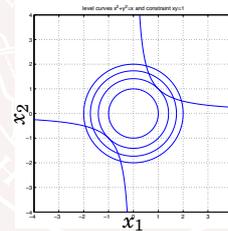
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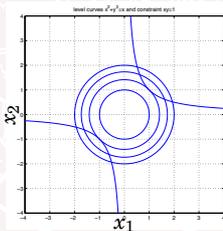
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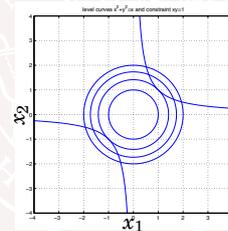
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Optimization with Dynamic Constraint

Optimal Control Problem

$$\min_u J = \min_u \left\{ \phi(x(t_f)) + \int_{t_0}^{t_f} L(x, u) dt \right\}$$

subject to

$$\dot{x} = f(x, u), \quad x(t_0) = x_0$$

Introduce *Hamiltonian*: $H(x, u, \lambda) = L(x, u) + \lambda^T f(x, u)$

$$\begin{aligned} J &= \phi(x(t_f)) + \int_{t_0}^{t_f} (L(x, u) + \lambda^T (f - \dot{x})) dt \\ &= \phi(x(t_f)) - [\lambda^T x]_{t_0}^{t_f} + \int_{t_0}^{t_f} (H + \dot{\lambda}^T x) dt \end{aligned}$$

second equality obtained from "integration by parts".

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Optimization with Dynamic Constraint cont'd

Variation of J :

$$\delta J = \left[\left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} - \lambda^T \right) \delta x \right]_{t=t_f} + \int_{t_0}^{t_f} \left[\left(\frac{\partial H}{\partial x} + \dot{\lambda}^T \right) \delta x + \frac{\partial H}{\partial u} \delta u \right] dt$$

Necessary conditions for local minimum ($\delta J = 0$)

$$\lambda(t_f)^T = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \Big|_{t=t_f} \quad \dot{\lambda}^T = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial x} \quad \frac{\partial H}{\partial u} = 0$$

- Adjoined, or co-state, variables, $\lambda(t)$
- λ specified at $t = t_f$ and x at $t = t_0$
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Standard form (1):

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Minimize } & \int_0^{t_f} \overbrace{L(x(t), u(t))}^{\text{Trajectory cost}} dt + \overbrace{\phi(x(t_f))}^{\text{Final cost}} \\ \dot{x}(t) = & f(x(t), u(t)) \\ u(t) \in U, & \quad 0 \leq t \leq t_f, \quad t_f \text{ given} \\ x(0) = & x_0 \end{aligned}$$

$$x(t) \in R^n, u(t) \in R^m$$

$U \subseteq R^m$ control constraints

Here we have a fixed end-time t_f . This will be relaxed later on.

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The Maximum Principle (18.2)

Introduce the **Hamiltonian**

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

Assume optimization (1) has a solution $\{u^*(t), x^*(t)\}$. Then

$$\min_{u \in U} H(x^*(t), u, \lambda(t)) = H(x^*(t), u^*(t), \lambda(t)), \quad 0 \leq t \leq t_f,$$

where $\lambda(t)$ solves the **adjoint equation**

$$d\lambda(t)/dt = -H_x^T(x^*(t), u^*(t), \lambda(t)), \quad \text{with} \quad \lambda(t_f) = \phi_x^T(x^*(t_f))$$

Notation

$$H_x = \frac{\partial H}{\partial x} = \left(\frac{\partial H}{\partial x_1} \quad \frac{\partial H}{\partial x_2} \dots \right)$$

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Remarks

Proof: If you are theoretically interested look in [Glad & Ljung].

Idea: note that every change of $u(t)$ from the suggested optimal $u^*(t)$ must lead to larger value of the criterium.

Should be called “minimum principle”

$\lambda(t)$ are called the **Lagrange multipliers** or the **adjoint variables**

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Remarks

The Maximum Principle gives **necessary** conditions
A pair $(u^*(\cdot), x^*(\cdot))$ is called **extremal** the conditions of the Maximum Principle are satisfied. Many extremals can exist.
The maximum principle gives all possible candidates.
However, **there might not exist** a minimum!

Example

Minimize $x(1)$ when $\dot{x}(t) = u(t)$, $x(0) = 0$ and $u(t)$ is free

Why doesn't there exist a minimum?

Remarks

The Maximum Principle gives **necessary** conditions
A pair $(u^*(\cdot), x^*(\cdot))$ is called **extremal** the conditions of the Maximum Principle are satisfied. Many extremals can exist.
The maximum principle gives all possible candidates.
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- Static Optimization with Constraints
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- The Maximum Principle
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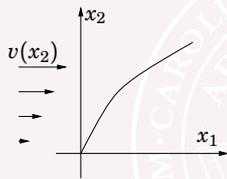
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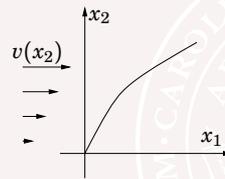


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Speed of water $v(x_2)$ in x_1 direction. Move maximum distance in x_1 -direction in fixed time T

Assume v linear so that $v'(x_2) = 1$

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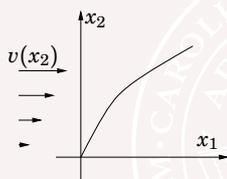


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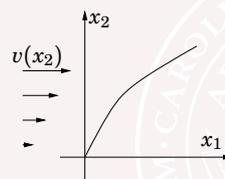


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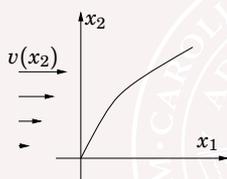


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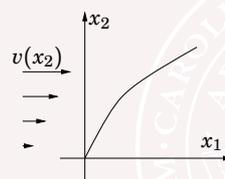


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$$\min_{u_1^2+u_2^2=1} \lambda_1(v(x_2) + u_1) + \lambda_2 u_2$$

Minimize $\lambda_1 u_1 + \lambda_2 u_2$ so that (u_1, u_2) has length 1

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See fig 18.1 for plots

Remark: It can be shown that this optimal control problem has a minimum. Hence it must be the one we found, since this was the only solution to MP

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Compare with standard formulation:

$$t_f = 1 \quad L = u^4 \quad \phi = x \quad f(x) = -x + u$$

Need to introduce one adjoint state

Hamiltonian:

$$H = L + \lambda^T \cdot f = u^4 + \lambda(-x + u)$$

Adjoint equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\lambda}{dt} &= -\frac{\partial H}{\partial x} = -(-\lambda) \implies \lambda(t) = Ce^t \\ \lambda(t_f) &= \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = 1 \implies \lambda(t) = e^{t-1} \end{aligned}$$

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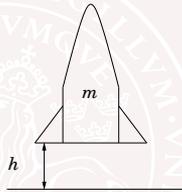
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Goddard's Rocket Problem revisited

How to send a rocket as high up in the air as possible?

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} v \\ h \\ m \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{u-D}{m} - g \\ v \\ -\gamma u \end{pmatrix}$$



$(v(0), h(0), m(0)) = (0, 0, m_0)$, $g, \gamma > 0$
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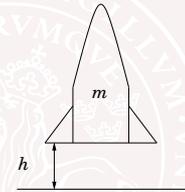
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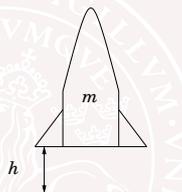
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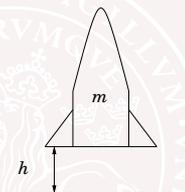
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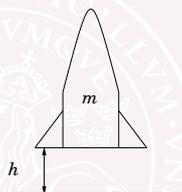
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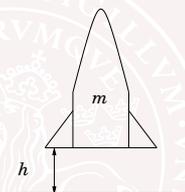
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$$\min_{\substack{t_f \geq 0 \\ u: [0, t_f] \rightarrow U}} \int_0^{t_f} L(x(t), u(t)) dt + \phi(t_f, x(t_f))$$

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$$\psi(t_f, x(t_f)) = 0$$

Note the differences compared to standard form:

- t_f free variable (i.e., not specified *a priori*)
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$$\Psi(t_f, x(t_f)) = \begin{pmatrix} \Psi_1(t_f, x(t_f)) \\ \vdots \\ \Psi_r(t_f, x(t_f)) \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

- time varying final penalty, $\phi(t_f, x(t_f))$

The Maximum Principle will be generalized in the next lecture!

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$$\Psi(t_f, x(t_f)) = \begin{pmatrix} \Psi_1(t_f, x(t_f)) \\ \vdots \\ \Psi_r(t_f, x(t_f)) \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

- time varying final penalty, $\phi(t_f, x(t_f))$

The Maximum Principle will be generalized in the next lecture!

Problem Formulation (2)

$$\min_{\substack{t_f \geq 0 \\ u: [0, t_f] \rightarrow U}} \int_0^{t_f} L(x(t), u(t)) dt + \phi(t_f, x(t_f))$$

$$\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), u(t)), \quad x(0) = x_0$$

$$\psi(t_f, x(t_f)) = 0$$

Note the differences compared to standard form:

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