

Lecture 10 — Optimal Control

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

Material

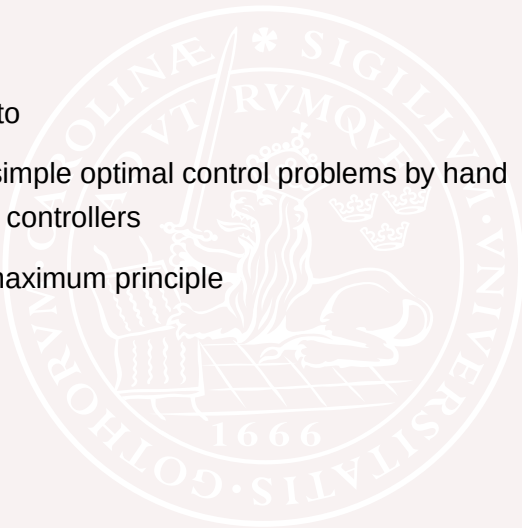
- Lecture slides
- References to Glad & Ljung, part of Chapter 18
- D. Liberzon, Calculus of Variations and Optimal Control Theory: A concise Introduction, Princeton University Press, 2010 (linked from course webpage)

Goal

To be able to

- solve simple optimal control problems by hand
- design controllers

using the maximum principle



Optimal Control Problems

Idea: Formulate the design problem as optimization problem

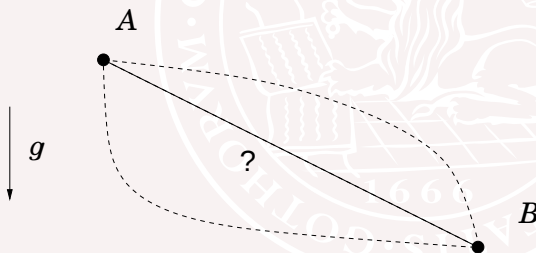
- + Gives systematic design procedure
- + Can use on nonlinear models
- + Can capture limitations etc as constraints
- Hard to find suitable criterium?!
- Can be hard to find the optimal controller

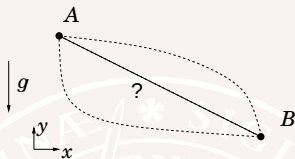
Solutions will often be of “bang-bang” character if control signal is bounded, compare lecture on sliding mode controllers.

The beginning

- 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**





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

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].

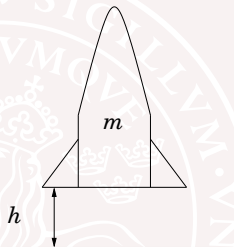
Optimal Control

- 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

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

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

Criterium

$$\text{Maximize } h(t_f), \quad t_f \text{ given}$$

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/>

Optimal Control Problem. Constituents

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

Criterion $h(t_f)$.

Differential equations relating $h(t_f)$ 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!

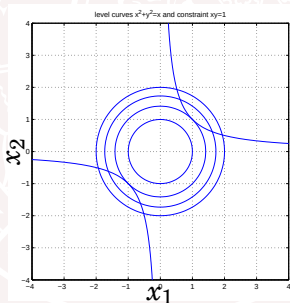
Example - static optimization

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.

Static Optimization cont'd

Solving the equations

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x} + \lambda^T \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial x} = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda^T = -\frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial g_2}{\partial x} \right)^{-1}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial u} = \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial u} + \lambda^T \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial u} = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial u} - \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial g_2}{\partial x} \right)^{-1} \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial u} = 0$$

This gives m equations to solve for u .

Sufficient condition for local minimum

$$\frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{L}}{\partial u^2} > 0$$

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

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

second equality obtained from "integration by parts".

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 ($\delta J = 0$)

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

- Adjoined, or co-state, variables, $\lambda(t)$
- λ specified at $t = t_f$ and x at $t = t_0$
- Two Point Boundary Value Problem (TPBV)
- For sufficiency $\frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial u^2} \geq 0$

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Problem Formulation (1)

Standard form (1):

$$\text{Minimize } \int_0^{t_f} \overbrace{L(x(t), u(t))}^{\text{Trajectory cost}} dt + \overbrace{\phi(x(t_f))}^{\text{Final cost}}$$

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

$$u(t) \in U, \quad 0 \leq t \leq t_f, \quad t_f \text{ given}$$

$$x(0) = x_0$$

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

$$U \subseteq R^m \text{ control constraints}$$

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

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**

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

Notation

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

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**

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

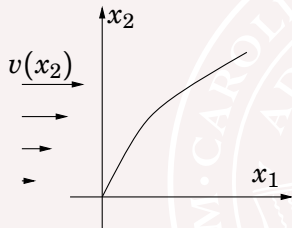
Minimize $x(1)$ when $\dot{x}(t) = u(t)$, $x(0) = 0$ and $u(t)$ is free

Why doesn't there exist a minimum?

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Example–Boat in Stream



$$\min -x_1(T)$$

$$\dot{x}_1 = v(x_2) + u_1$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = u_2$$

$$x_1(0) = 0$$

$$x_2(0) = 0$$

$$u_1^2 + u_2^2 = 1$$

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 $v'(x_2) = 1$

Solution

Hamiltonian:

$$H = 0 + \lambda^T f = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \end{bmatrix} = \lambda_1(v(x_2) + u_1) + \lambda_2 u_2$$

Adjoint equation:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\lambda}_1 \\ \dot{\lambda}_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\partial H / \partial x_1 \\ -\partial H / \partial x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -v'(x_2)\lambda_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -\lambda_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

with boundary conditions

$$\begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1(T) \\ \lambda_2(T) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \partial \phi / \partial x_1|_{x=x^*(t_f)} \\ \partial \phi / \partial x_2|_{x=x^*(t_f)} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

This gives $\lambda_1(t) = -1$, $\lambda_2(t) = t - T$

Solution

Optimality: Control signal should solve

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

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

$$u_1(t) = -\frac{\lambda_1(t)}{\sqrt{\lambda_1^2(t) + \lambda_2^2(t)}}, \quad u_2(t) = -\frac{\lambda_2(t)}{\sqrt{\lambda_1^2(t) + \lambda_2^2(t)}}$$
$$u_1(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + (t - T)^2}}, \quad u_2(t) = \frac{T - t}{\sqrt{1 + (t - T)^2}}$$

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

5 min exercise

Solve the optimal control problem

$$\min \int_0^1 u^4 dt + x(1)$$

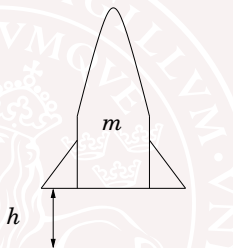
$$\dot{x} = -x + u$$

$$x(0) = 0$$

Goddard's Rocket Problem revisited

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

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



$$(v(0), h(0), m(0)) = (0, 0, m_0), \quad g, \gamma > 0$$

u motor force, $D = D(v, h)$ air resistance

Constraints: $0 \leq u \leq u_{max}$ and $m(t_f) = m_1$ (empty)

Optimization criterion: $\max_{t_f, u} h(t_f)$

Problem Formulation (2)

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\substack{t_f \geq 0 \\ u: [0, t_f] \rightarrow U}} & \int_0^{t_f} L(x(t), u(t)) dt + \phi(t_f, x(t_f)) \\ & \dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), u(t)), \quad x(0) = x_0 \\ & \psi(t_f, x(t_f)) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Note the differences compared to standard form:

- t_f free variable (i.e., not specified *a priori*)
- r end constraints

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

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

The Maximum Principle will be generalized in the next lecture!

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