

**EXAMPLE OF APPLICATION OF THE PONTRYAGIN'S MINIMUM PRINCIPLE "PMP EXTENSION": ZERMELO PROBLEM (WITH CURRENT SPEED MORE THAN BOAT SPEED HYPOTHESIS)**

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**ПРИМЕР ПРИМЕНЕНИЯ ПРИНЦИПА МИНИМУМА ПОНТРЯГИНА «РАСШИРЕНИЕ РМР»: ЗАДАЧА ZERMELO (ПРИ ГИПОТЕЗЕ СКОРОСТЬ ТЕЧЕНИЯ БОЛЬШЕ, ЧЕМ СКОРОСТИ ЛОДКИ)**

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**Abstract.** We present an example of application covering several cases using the extension of the Pontryaguine minimum principle (PMP) in the case where we add a constraint on reaching a target variety at the final time: the Zermelo problem with current speed more than Boat speed hypothesis, where we consider a boat crossing a channel under a strong current and where we try to reach the opposite bank by minimizing the lateral offset or by minimizing the crossing time

**Аннотация.** Мы представляем пример приложения, охватывающий несколько случаев, использующих расширение принципа минимума Понтрягуина (РМР) в случае, когда мы добавляем ограничение на достижение целевого разнообразия в последний момент: проблема Zermelo с скоростью течения больше, чем скорости лодки, где мы рассматриваем лодку, пересекающую канал под сильным течением, и где мы пытаемся достичь противоположного берега, минимизируя боковое смещение или минимизируя время перехода

**Key words:** Zermelo problem – Hamiltonian - optimal control – Minimization - Non-linear control systems

**Ключевые слова:** задача Zermelo - гамильтониан - оптимальное управление - минимизация - нелинейные системы управления.

**Definition: Non-linear control systems**

We consider the non-linear control system

$$\dot{x}_u(t) = f(t, x_u(t), u(t)), \forall t \in [0, T], x_u(0) = x_0$$

- $x_u : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d, T > 0$  fixed,  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$  fixed
- $u : [0, T] \rightarrow U \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ , a closed non-empty sub-assembly
- $f : [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d \times U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$

We are looking for an optimal control  $\bar{u} \in U = L^1([0, T]; U)$  which minimizes the criterion

$$J(u) = \int_0^T g(t, x_u(t), u(t)) dt + h(x_u(T))$$

With  $g : [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d \times U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$  and  $h : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

With the usual known hypotheses on  $f, g$  and  $h$

**The theorem of the Pontryagin's minimum principle PMP:**

If  $\bar{u} \in U$  is an optimal control, then by noting  $\bar{x} = x_{\bar{u}} \in AC([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$  the trajectory associated with the control  $\bar{u}$  and by defining the deputy state  $\bar{p} \in AC([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$  solution of  $\frac{d\bar{p}}{dt}(t) = -\bar{A}(t)^T \bar{p}(t) - \bar{B}(t), \forall t \in [0, T], \bar{p}(T) = \frac{d\bar{h}}{dx}(\bar{x}(T)) \in \mathbb{R}^d$

Where for all  $t \in [0, T]$ :

$$\bar{A}(t) = \frac{df}{dx}(t, \bar{x}(t), \bar{u}(t)) \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}, \bar{B}(t) = \frac{dg}{dx}(t, \bar{x}(t), \bar{u}(t)) \in \mathbb{R}^d,$$

We have :  $\bar{u}(t) \in \arg_{v \in U} \min H(t, \bar{x}(t), \bar{p}(t), v)$  p.p.  $t \in [0, T]$

Where the Hamiltonian  $H : [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \times U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  verify:

$$H(t, x, p, u) = p^T f(t, x, u) + g(t, x, u)$$

A triplet  $(\bar{x}, \bar{p}, \bar{u})$  satisfying the above conditions is called an extremal.

**Remark:**

The PMP here provides only a necessary condition for optimization. It does not say anything about the existence of optimal control and it does not provide a sufficient condition a priori. In practice, we consider the extremes and we sort...

**PMP extension: (The target hit)**

We add the constraint of reaching a target variety  $M$  at the instant  $t = T / x(T) \in M$

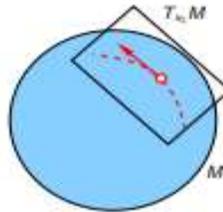
$M$  is a  $C^1$  differential Variety of dimension  $0 \leq d_0 \leq d$

At a point  $x_1 \in M$ , the tangent space  $T_{x_1} M$  is the set of velocity vectors of the curves drawn on  $M$  passing through

$x_1$

If  $d'_0 = 0$ ,  $M = \{x_1\}$  (point target), and  $T_{x_1} M = \{0\}$

If  $d'_0 = d$ ,  $M = \{R^d\}$  (trivial target constraint), and  $T_{x_1} M = R^d$



And we look an optimal control in  $U_M := \{u \in L^1([0, T]; U) \mid x_u(T) \in M\}$

**PMP with target**

If  $u \in U_M$  is an optimal control, then by setting  $\bar{x} := x_u \in AC([0, T]; R^d)$ , there exists  $\lambda \in R_+$  such as by defining the deputy state  $\bar{p} \in AC([0, T]; R^d)$  such as

$$\frac{d\bar{p}}{dt}(t) = -\bar{A}(t)^T \bar{p}(t) - \lambda \bar{B}(t), \forall t \in [0, T]$$

Where:  $\bar{A}(t) = \frac{df}{dx}(t, \bar{x}(t), \bar{u}(t)) \in R^{d \times d}$ ,  $\bar{B}(t) = \frac{dg}{dx}(t, \bar{x}(t), \bar{u}(t)) \in R^d$ ,

And satisfying the condition of transversality in final time  $\bar{p}(T) - \lambda \frac{dh}{dx}(\bar{x}(T)) \perp T_{x(T)} M$

We have  $(p, \lambda) \neq (0, 0)$  and:  $\bar{u}(t) = \arg_{v \in U} \min H(t, \bar{x}(t), \bar{p}(t), \lambda, v)$  p.p.  $t \in [0, T]$

Where the Hamiltonian  $H : [0, T] \times R^d \times R^d \times R_+ \times U \rightarrow R$  verify:

$$H(t, x, p, \lambda, u) = p^T f(t, x, u) + \lambda g(t, x, u)$$

A quadruplet  $(\bar{x}, \bar{p}, \lambda, \bar{u})$  satisfying the above conditions is called an extremal

**Important comments**

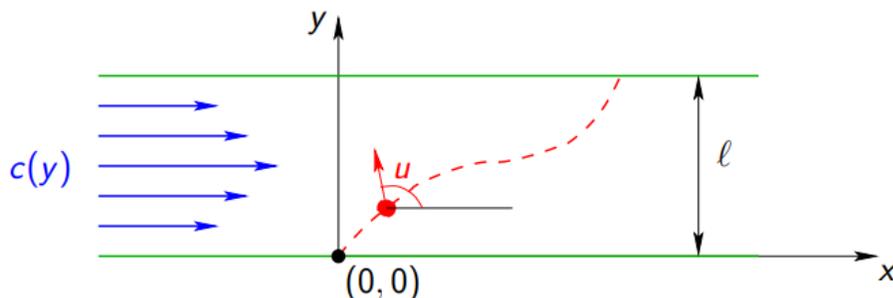
- As  $(p, \lambda) \neq (0, 0)$ , two cases can occur:
  1.  $\lambda \neq 0$ : the PMP being invariant by a positive scaling factor on  $(p, \lambda)$ , we can assume that  $\lambda = 1$ ; we say that the extremal is normal
  2.  $\lambda = 0$ : we necessarily have  $p \neq 0$ ; we say that the extremal is abnormal
- When the variety  $M$  is of dimension  $d_0 < d$ , there are more possibilities for  $p(T)$ , and there may be abnormal extremals.

**Formulation of the problem:**

**Zermelo problem** (with current speed more than Boat speed hypothesis)

Boat crossing a channel of width  $l$

- The control is the angle  $u$  of the boat p.r. to the horizontal axis representing the two banks
- Boat of speed  $v$ , current of speed  $c(y)$
- we suppose that  $c(y) > v, \forall y \in [0, l]$  (strong current hypothesis)



We consider three optimal control problems to reach the bank opposite

1. minimize the lateral offset
2. minimize the crossing time
3. reach a point on the opposite bank in minimum time.

The condition of the boat is described by the couple  $X = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$  giving the coordinates of the boat

The trajectory of the boat is governed by the following dynamics:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{X}(t) = f(X(t), u(t)) = \begin{pmatrix} v \cos(u(t)) + c(y(t)) \\ v \sin(u(t)) \end{pmatrix} \\ X(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{cases}$$

In the lateral offset minimization problem, the criterion involves functions

$$g(t, X, u) \equiv 0 \text{ and } h(X) = x$$

And by adding the target constraint  $y(T) = l$ ; the final time is free

As  $\bar{A}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & c'(\bar{y}(t)) \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\bar{B}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ , the deputy state  $\bar{p}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{p}_x \\ \bar{p}_y \end{pmatrix}$  satisfied:

$$\bar{p}_x = \text{cst and } \frac{d\bar{p}_y}{dt}(t) = -c'(\bar{y}(t)) \bar{p}_x$$

And the transversality condition on  $\bar{p}(T)$  gives  $\begin{pmatrix} \bar{p}_x - \lambda \\ \bar{p}_y(T) \end{pmatrix} \perp \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \bar{p}_x = \lambda$

The Hamiltonian is worth

$$H(X, p, \lambda, u) = (p_x \cos(u) + p_y \sin(u)) v + p_x c(y)$$

The minimization condition gives us the optimal control if  $|p| \neq 0$ :

$$\cos(\bar{u}) = -\frac{\bar{p}_x}{|\bar{p}|}, \sin(\bar{u}) = -\frac{\bar{p}_y}{|\bar{p}|}$$

So, the minimized Hamiltonian is  $H(\bar{X}(t), \bar{p}(t), \lambda, \bar{u}(t)) = -|\bar{p}(t)|v + p_x c(y(t))$

And the transversality condition on  $H$  gives  $-|\bar{p}(T)|v + p_x c(y(T)) = 0$

We deduce that there is no abnormal extremal Because:

- if  $\lambda = 0$  then  $\bar{p}_x = \lambda = 0$ ; therefore  $p_y$  is constant and will be cancelled at final time (transversality over H)  $\Rightarrow p_y$  would also be zero, which is excluded  $\Rightarrow$  so we can assume that  $\bar{p}_x = \lambda = 1$
- therefore, we always have  $\bar{p} \neq \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$  so that the optimal control is good such that:

$$\cos(\bar{u}) = -\frac{\bar{p}_x}{|\bar{p}|}, \sin(\bar{u}) = -\frac{\bar{p}_y}{|\bar{p}|}$$

We have  $|\bar{p}(t)| = \frac{c(y(t))}{v}, \forall t \in [0, T]$ ; this relation is satisfied in  $T$  (transversality on  $H$ ). by deriving in relation to time, as  $|\bar{p}| = (1 + \bar{p}_y^2)^{1/2}$  becomes:

$$\frac{d|\bar{p}|}{dt} = \frac{\bar{p}_y}{|\bar{p}|} \frac{d\bar{p}_y}{dt} = \sin(\bar{u}) c'(y(t)) = \frac{1}{v} \frac{d\bar{y}}{dt} c'(\bar{y}(t)) = \frac{1}{v} \frac{d\bar{c}(\bar{y})}{dt}$$

In conclusion, the optimal control is written as feedback

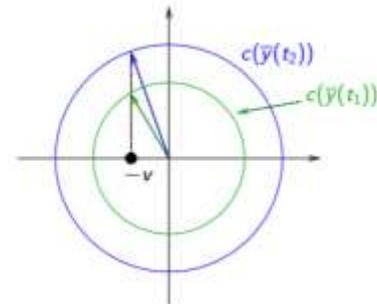
$$\cos(\bar{u}(t)) = -\frac{v}{c(\bar{y}(t))}, \forall t \in [0, T]$$

The angle of the trajectory in the Cartesian frame is  $\bar{u}(t) = \frac{\pi}{2}$ .

**Comments:**

**the minimized Hamiltonian Stationarity:**

- We have  $H(X, p, \lambda, u) = p^+ f(X, u) + \lambda g(X, u)$  here  $g = 0$
- the optimal control  $\bar{u}$  being regular in time, the minimization of the Hamiltonian implies that  $\frac{dH}{du}(\bar{X}(t), \bar{p}(t), \lambda, \bar{u}(t)) = 0$
- As  $\frac{d\bar{X}}{dt}(t) = \frac{dH}{dp}(\bar{X}(t), \bar{p}(t), \lambda, \bar{u}(t))$  and  $\frac{d\bar{p}}{dt}(t) = -\frac{dH}{dx}(\bar{X}(t), \bar{p}(t), \lambda, \bar{u}(t))$  We will have:  $\frac{d}{dt} H(\bar{X}(t), \bar{p}(t), \lambda, \bar{u}(t)) = 0$

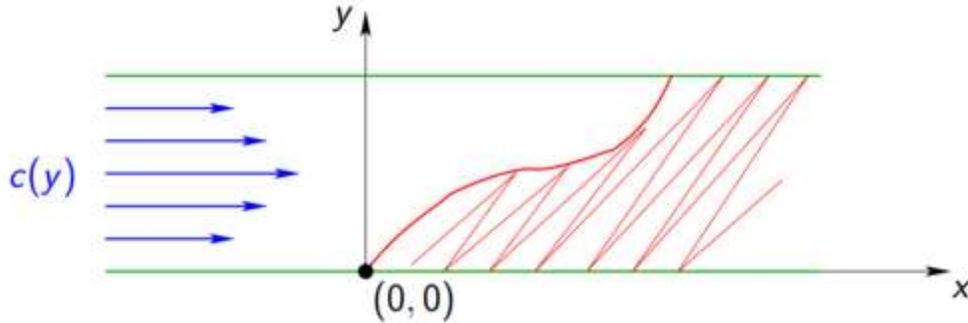


the minimized Hamiltonian being zero at  $T$  (by transversality), we conclude that:  
 $H(\bar{X}(t), \bar{p}(t), \lambda, \bar{u}(t)) = 0, \forall t \in [0, T]$

- This allows to show directly that  $|\bar{p}(t)| = \frac{c(\bar{y}(t))}{v}, \forall t \in [0, T]$

**Achievable set:**

Solving the lateral offset problem allows us to determine the set reachable by any control



2. Minimization of crossing time

The criterion this time involves the functions  $g(t, X, u) \equiv 1, h(X) \equiv 0$ , we still have the target constraint  $y(T) = l$  and the final time remains free.

The deputy state equations are unchanged ( $\bar{p}_x = cst$  and  $\frac{d\bar{p}_y}{dt}(t) = -c'(\bar{y}(t)) \bar{p}_x$ ). But the transversality condition on  $\bar{p}$  is now  $\bar{p}_x(T) = 0$  hence  $\bar{p}_x \equiv 0$  So  $\bar{p}_y = cste$

The Hamiltonian is worth  $H(X, p, \lambda, u) = (p_x \cos(u) + p_y \sin(u)) v + p_x c(y) + \lambda$ , and:

- $H(\bar{X}, \bar{p}, \lambda, u) = p_y \sin(u) v + \lambda$  because  $\bar{p}_x \equiv 0$
- $\bar{p}_y \neq 0$ , otherwise, the transversality cond on  $H$  would give  $\lambda = 0$
- The optimal command is therefore  $\sin(\bar{u}) = 1$  i.e.  $\bar{u}(t) = \frac{\pi}{2}$

Note: Never sail against the current if you want to reach the opposite shore as quickly as possible.

3. Reach a target in minimal time:

The target is  $\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ l \end{pmatrix}$  where  $x_1$  is located downstream of the point of minimum offset.

We consider  $g \equiv 1, h \equiv 0$ . The deputy state equations are still unchanged ( $\bar{p}_x = cst$  and  $\frac{d\bar{p}_y}{dt}(t) = -c'(\bar{y}(t)) \bar{p}_x$ ). But the transversality condition on  $\bar{p}$  become trivial.

The Hamiltonian is  $H(X, p, \lambda, u) = (p_x \cos(u) + p_y \sin(u)) v + p_x c(y) + \lambda$ , and the minimized Hamiltonian is  $-|\bar{p}(t)|v + p_x c(y(t)) + \lambda \equiv 0, \forall t \in [0, T]$ .

- The Abnormal extremal ( $\lambda = 0$ ):  
we get again  $\cos(\bar{u}(t)) = -\frac{v}{c\bar{y}(t)}$ , this is possible if  $x_1$  is the abscissa of the minimum offset point.

- The Normal extremal ( $\lambda = 1$ ):  
using the minimized Hamiltonian and  $\cos(\bar{u}(t)) = -\frac{\bar{p}_x}{|\bar{p}(t)|}$  we will have:

$$\cos(\bar{u}(t)) = \frac{\bar{p}_x v}{1 - \bar{p}_x c\bar{y}(t)} \text{ provided that } \bar{p}_x \in \left] -\infty, \frac{1}{v + \max_{y \in [0, l]} c(y)} \right[$$

we obtain a family of curves with one parameter, such as when  $\bar{p}_x \rightarrow -\infty$  we tend towards the abnormal extremal. The value  $\bar{p}_x = 0$  corresponds to the crossing in minimum time.

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