

OPTIMAL CONTROL AND CONSTRAINT REACTIONS OF MECHANICAL SYSTEMS

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1. INTRODUCTION

In the theoretical field of optimal control, the motion optimisation of systems with limited phase state has been discussed in detail, but the mathematical models of those limitations do not show their physical essence. The basic problem of the determination of the optimal control which provides the motion along the optimal trajectory according to the restrictions imposed (theorems 22-25, [1]) is being solved. The immediate application of such solving procedure of mechanical system control problems is sensible if the phase limitations belong to some subjective requirements (insurance against undesirable behaviour of the system, for example). But, if the motion of mechanical system is limited by material constraints, then, independent of the control, the constraint occur which, according to the procedure mentioned, would remain "hidden" in the solutions for optimal control. Another important fact (which is not considered in the mathematical theory of optimal control) is the difference between the holonomous and unholonomous constrains, although some authors [2] call holonomous constraints all phase limitations.

The constraint reactions in practical problems present the load of the system with useful or harmful consequences, and thus it is necessary to have a possibility of influencing their behaviour during the motion control process. Therefore in this paper, the mathematical model of a mechanical system will be written in such a way that it provides the explicit presence of constraint reactions. Thereby, if the consideration of all constraint reactions is unnecessary, the structure and dimension of the phase space will depend upon which and how many of them are the object of our interest.

2. FUNDAMENTALS OF THE PROBLEM

Without diminishing the generality of the method which will be presented in this paper, we shall confine ourselves to the consideration of a scleronomic mechanical system the state of which is, in $2n$ -dimensional phase space, determined by generalised coordinates q^α and generalised momentums p_α ($\alpha=1, 2, \dots, n$). Hamilton's function of such a system presents the total mechanical energy and has the following form:

$$H = T + \Pi = \frac{1}{2} a^{\alpha\beta}(q) p_\alpha p_\beta + \Pi(q) \quad (2-1)$$

where: T - kinetic energy, Π - potential energy, $a^{\alpha\beta}$ - contravariant metric tensor of configuration space.

Beside the potential force, let a non-potential force act upon the system:

$$Q_\alpha = Q_\alpha(q, p, u) \quad (2-2)$$

where u is the control vector with coordinates u_i ($i=1, 2, \dots, r$) from the vector space U_r . In addition, let the motion the system be limited by the mechanical holonomous constraints:

$$\varphi^v(q) = 0 \quad (v = 1, 2, \dots, l_1) \quad (2-3)$$

and mechanical non-holonomous constraints:

$$b_\alpha^p(q) q^\alpha = 0 \quad \left(\frac{\partial b_\alpha^p}{\partial q^\beta} \neq \frac{\partial b_\beta^p}{\partial q^\alpha} \right) \quad (p = 1, 2, \dots, l_2) \quad (2-4)$$

The constraints are smooth and continuous where functions $\varphi^v(q)$ possess continuous second differentials. In that case, system is, beside the potential and non-potential forces, exposed to the action of forces-constraint reactions (2.3) and (2.4):

$$R_\alpha = \lambda_v \frac{\partial \varphi^v}{\partial q^\alpha} + \mu_p b_\alpha^p \quad (2-5)$$

so that, for the description of the motion such a system in the phase space, we have the equation [3]:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{q}^\alpha &= \frac{\partial H}{\partial p_\alpha} \\ \dot{p}_\alpha &= -\frac{\partial H}{\partial q^\alpha} + Q_\alpha(q, p, u) + \lambda_v \frac{\partial \varphi^v}{\partial q^\alpha} + \mu_p b_\alpha^p \end{aligned} \quad (2-6)$$

where λ_v and μ_p are undetermined multipliers from the space U_l ($l=l_1+l_2$). Let in the general case, the admissible controls be limited, i.e.:

$$u_i \in G_u \subset U_r \quad (2-7)$$

and let the reactions (2.5) be exposed to certain limitations which can be expressed as:

$$\lambda_v \in G_\lambda \subset U_l, \quad \mu_p \in G_\mu \subset U_l \quad (2-8)$$

The areas G_u , G_λ and G_μ can be open or closed sets, constant or variable, and admissible controls u_i and admissible multipliers λ_v and μ_p can be a piecewise continuous function with a finite number of interruptions in the interval $[t_0, t_1]$.

Considering (2.6) the non-holonomous constraints (2.4) can be written as:

$$b^{\rho\alpha} p_\alpha = 0 \quad (b^{\rho\alpha} = a^{\alpha\beta} b_\beta^\rho)$$

If, in addition to the constraints (2.3) and (2.9) following limitations are imposed on the system:

$$g^k(q, p) = 0 \quad (k=1, 2, \dots, m) \quad (2-10)$$

which do not present mechanical constraints, the structure of Eq. (2.6) will not be changed. This fact indicates a crucial difference between constraints (2.3) and (2.9) on the one hand and limitations (2.10) on the other. Relations (2.3) and (2.9) are fulfilled allways regardless of controls u_i , whereas limitations (2.10) hold only for the optimal solution.

The condition for optimality can be written as:

$$\int_{t_0}^{t_1} F^0(q, p, u) dt \rightarrow \inf \quad (2-11)$$

where the state of the system on the interval ends $[t_0, t_1]$, is presented with manifold:

$$Q_\sigma[q(t_0), p(t_0), q(t_1), p(t_1)] = 0 \quad (\sigma = 1, 2, \dots, s, \leq 2n) \quad (2-12)$$

It is important to note that, if constraints (2.5) are also included in some optimality requirements the subintegral function in (2.11) can depend upon multipliers λ_ν and μ_ρ .

Basing upon the above, the task of the optimal control of the motion of a constrained mechanical system is defined by relations (2.3), (2.6)-(2.12).

3. SOLUTION OF THE OPTIMAL CONTROL TASK

The problem previously defined problem should be formulated in a form convenient for the solution by applying the method of the optimal control theory. For that purpose let us introduce into the consideration vector space U_z of vector v with coordinates v_γ ($\gamma=1, 2, \dots, z < n$) and perform the following transformation:

$$Q_\alpha(q, p, u) + \lambda_\nu \frac{\partial \varphi^\nu}{\partial q^\alpha} + \mu_\rho b_\alpha^\rho = d_\alpha^\gamma v_\gamma \quad (3-1)$$

where, in the general case, $d_\alpha^\gamma(q, p)$ are certain known functions. Let:

$$\text{rang} \left\{ \frac{\partial Q_\alpha}{\partial u_i}, \frac{\partial \varphi^\nu}{\partial q^\alpha}, b_\alpha^\rho \right\} = k = \inf(n, r+l) \quad (3-2)$$

In the case when $r+l > n$ ($k=n$), we can assume that:

$$d_\alpha^\gamma = \begin{cases} 1, & \alpha = \gamma \quad (1, 2, \dots, n) \\ 0, & \alpha \neq \gamma \end{cases} \quad (3-3)$$

where by for $r+l = n$ transformations (3.1) are unique and can be expressed as:

$$\begin{aligned} u_i &= u_i(q, p, v) \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, r) \\ \lambda_\nu &= \lambda_\nu(q, p, v) \quad (\nu = 1, 2, \dots, l_1) \\ \mu_\rho &= \mu_\rho(q, p, v) \quad (\rho = 1, 2, \dots, l_2) \end{aligned} \quad (3-4)$$

For $r+l > n$ transformations are not unique thus $r+l-n$ the quantities λ_ν , μ_ρ and u_i can arbitrarily be chosen from (2.7) and (2.8).

In the case when $r+l < n$ in relations (3.1), $\gamma=1, 2, \dots, z=r+l$ should be taken. Coefficients d_α^γ should be choosed in such a way that the $n-(r+l)$ relations are excessive.

After the transformations (3.1) equations (2.6) obtain the form:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{q}^\alpha &= \frac{\partial H}{\partial p_\alpha} \\ \dot{p}_\alpha &= -\frac{\partial H}{\partial q^\alpha} + d_\alpha^\gamma v_\gamma \end{aligned} \quad (3-5)$$

where the admissible control are:

$$v_\gamma \in G_\nu \subset U_z \quad (3-6)$$

The set G_ν from the space U_z is determined by the restrictions (2.7) and (2.8), as well as the transformations (3.1).

The optimality condition (2.11) now becomes:

$$\int_{t_0}^{t_1} f^0(q, p, v) dt \rightarrow \inf \quad (3-7)$$

where $f^0(q, p, v) = F^0[q, p, u(q, p, v)]$.

In this manner, the problem previously defined, by means of the transformations (3.1) is reduced in the form determined with the relations (2.3), (2.9), (2.10), (3.5), (3.6) and (3.7). For the solution of the problem, the Theorem 22 [1] can be used, if some of the relations mentioned are transformed into convenient form. For that purpose, let us introduce $l+m$ dimensional vector function

$$\Phi^\xi(q, p, v) = \begin{cases} \frac{d^2}{dt^2} [\varphi^\nu(q)] \\ \frac{d}{dt} [b^{\rho\alpha} p_\alpha] \\ \frac{d}{dt} [g^k(q, p)] \end{cases} \quad (\xi = 1, 2, \dots, l+m) \quad (3-8)$$

where by the differentiations are performed on the trajectory $q(t)$, $p(t)$ which is the solution of eq. (3.5) for the appropriate control $v(t)$. The conditions:

$$\Phi^\xi(q, p, v) = 0 \quad \forall t \in [t_0, t_1] \quad (3-9)$$

are equivalent to the constraints (2.3) and (2.9) and limitations (2.10) if at the begining moment t_0 the phase point is on the manifolds:

$$\left[\varphi^\nu(q) \right]_{t_0} = 0, \quad \left[\frac{\partial \varphi^\nu}{\partial q^\alpha} \frac{\partial H}{\partial p_\alpha} \right]_{t_0} = 0,$$

$$\left[b^{\rho\alpha} p_{\alpha} \right]_{t_0} = 0, \quad \left[g^k(q, p) \right]_{t_0} = 0. \quad (3-10)$$

In other words, conditions (3.9) and (3.10) provide the motion of the phase point along the complete interval $[t_0, t_1]$ according to the constraints (2.3) and (2.9) and limitations (2.10).

By separating among the manifolds (2.120 and (3.10) those with the independent gradients on the interval $[t_0, t_1]$ ends we obtain conditions:

$$\omega_{\lambda} = [q(t_0), p(t_0), q(t_1), p(t_1)] = 0$$

$$(\lambda = 1, 2, \dots, p, \dots, s \leq p \leq 2n) \quad (3-11)$$

In that way, the optimal control task, defined with the equations (3.5), (3.6), (3.7), (3.9) and (3.11), is transformed into the form applicable for the Theorem 22 [1] which provides the necessary conditions for a determination of the optimal control and the corresponding trajectories $v^* = v^*(t), q^* = q^*(t), p^* = p^*(t)$. Returning to the initial problem, the optimal

$$u^* = u^*(t) \quad \lambda^* = \lambda^*(t) \quad \mu^* = \mu^*(t) \quad (3-12)$$

solutions follow from (3.4), so that we obtain:

4. EXAMPLE. HOLONOMOUS CONSTRAINT WITH RESTRICTED REACTION

A slider with the mass $m=1$ (values of all physical quantities are given in this example in basic units) moves in a vertical plane on a smooth constraint under the action of the control force u of the horizontal direction and position $A(0,0)$ reaches the position $B(1,1)$ at the time t_1 (Fig.1).

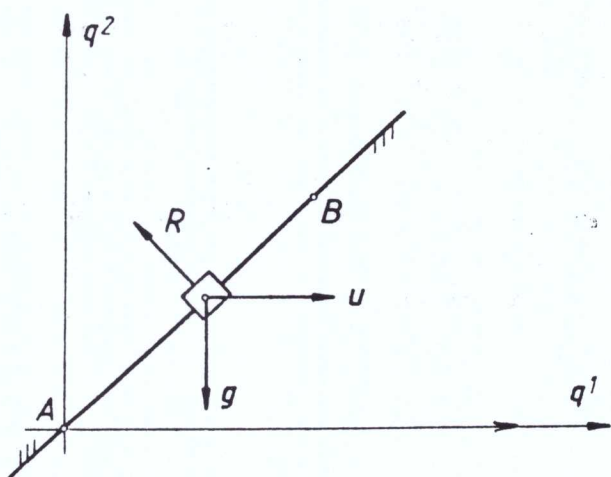


Figure 1.

If, in the initial and the end position, the speeds of the slider equal to zero, and if the constraint reaction is limited $|R| \leq 4g\sqrt{2}$, determine control u from the condition that the motion time is minimal.

Optimality task has the form:

$$\dot{q}^1 = p_1 \quad \dot{p}_1 = u - \lambda \quad (4-1)$$

$$\dot{q}^2 = p_2 \quad \dot{p}_2 = -g + \lambda$$

$$\int_{t_0}^{t_1} dt \rightarrow \inf \quad (4-2)$$

$$|R| \leq 4g\sqrt{2} \Rightarrow |\lambda| \leq 4g, \quad \forall t \in [0, t_1] \quad (4-3)$$

$$\varphi(q^1, q^2) = q^2 - q^1 = 0 \quad (4-4)$$

$$q^1(0) = q^2(0) = p_1(0) = p_2(0) = p_1(t_1) = p_2(t_1) = 0$$

$$q^1(t_1) = q^2(t_1) = 1 \quad (4-5)$$

where λ is undefined constraint multiplier (4.4).

By transformations:

$$u = v_1 + v_2 + g, \quad \lambda = v_2 + g$$

we obtain:

$$\dot{q}^1 = p_1 \quad \dot{q}^2 = p_2 \quad \dot{p}_1 = v_1 \quad \dot{p}_2 = v_2 \quad (4-7)$$

$$-5g \leq v_2 \leq 3g \quad (4-8)$$

$$\Phi(v_1, v_2) = v_2 - v_1 = 0 \quad (4-9)$$

On the basis of (4.2), (4.7) and (4.9) we can form the the function:

$$\kappa = \Psi_0 + \Psi_1 p_1 + \Psi_2 p_2 + \Psi_3 v_1 + \Psi_4 v_2 + \eta(v_2 - v_1) \quad (4-10)$$

According to the Pontryagin's maximum principle, we have:

$$\sup_{v \in G_v} \kappa = 0 \quad (4-11)$$

$$\dot{\Psi}_1 = 0, \quad \dot{\Psi}_2 = 0, \quad \dot{\Psi}_3 = -\Psi_1, \quad \dot{\Psi}_4 = -\Psi_2, \quad \Psi_0 \leq 0 \quad (4-12)$$

Considering (4.8) from (4.11) it follows that:

$$\frac{\partial \kappa}{\partial v_1} = \Psi_3 - \eta = 0$$

$$v_2^* = \begin{cases} -5g, & \Psi_4 < 0 \\ 3g, & \Psi_4 > 0 \end{cases} \quad (4-13)$$

i.e. considering (4.7), (4.9) and (4.12):

$$v_1^* = v_2^* = \begin{cases} 3g, & \forall t \in [0, \tau], \quad \tau = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{5}{3g}} \\ -5g, & \forall t \in [\tau, t_1], \quad t_1 = \frac{4}{5} \sqrt{\frac{5}{3g}} \end{cases} \quad (4-14)$$

and thus, according to the transformations (4.6):

$$u^* = \begin{cases} 7g, & \forall t \in [0, \tau] \\ -9g, & \forall t \in [\tau, t_1] \end{cases} \quad (4-15)$$

5. EXAMPLE. MECHANICAL SYSTEM WITH UNHOLONOMOUS CONSTRAINTS

Body 1 which can along its rotation axis transmits the rotation from disc 2 to disc 3 (Fig.2). Force F ($F \leq 1$) acts on body 1, and the torque M acts on body 2, which rotates with the constant angle speed $\Psi = 1$. The internal matrix of the system is the unit matrix.

6. CONCLUSION

The method presented in this paper has been imposed by the need analyze reactions of either or internal constraints in the optimal control of the motion of a system with mechanical constraints. It was necessary to form applicable mechanical and mathematical models so that the results of the optimal control theory could be applied to a previously defined problem. Different approaches to the problem are possible, i.e. it is possible to solve a problem considering the undefined constraint multipliers as a part of the control function or with introduction of new control function which contain, as components, constraint reactions. Besides, it is possible to transform the mechanical constraint equations as limitations for control functions, according to the initial and final system state. However, all such approaches give the same number of conditions for the definite problem solution, and which of them should be used depends exclusively on the convenience of the solution

model. In mechanical system as, for example, closed loop kinematic chains, it is much more convenient to use mathematical model in which a constraint multipliers exist explicitly, in relation to the model obtained by the elimination of the multipliers, even in those problems where constraint reactions have no influence.

Examples which were used to illustrate the methodology in the present paper, have been chosen because of the possibility of obtaining an analytical solution. However, field of the application of this paper includes several important problems such as the optimal control of the manipulator where the gripper performs a limited motion, and where the constraint reactions must be restricted.

ОПТИМАЛЬНОЕ УПРАВЛЕНИЕ И РЕАКЦИИ СВЯЗЕЙ МЕХАНИЧЕСКИХ СИСТЕМ

J. Vuković, A. Obradović

Решается задача оптимального управления и определения реакции связей для механической системы с механическими (голономными и неголономными) связями. Метод базируется на принципиальном отличии механических связей от других ограничений движения управляемой системы. В рамках математической модели составляются уравнения состояния, которые явно содержат множители связи. Проблема сформулирована так что на ее непосредственно можно применить современную математическую теорию оптимальных процессов при исследовании практических задач.

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The fact that only ideal mechanical constraints have been considered in this paper, does not exclude the possibility of application of this method to be extended to systems with real constraints.

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OPTIMALNO UPRAVLJANJE I REAKCIJE VEZA MEHANIČKIH SISTEMA

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Rešava se problem optimalnog upravljanja uz određivanje reakcija veza neslobodnog mehaničkog sistema. Metod je zasnovan na činjenici da postoji suštinska razlika između materijalnih veza i drugih vrsta ograničenja kretanja upravljanog sistema. U okviru matematičkog modela problema formiraju se jednačine stanja upravljanog sistema koje u sebi eksplicitno sadrže reakcije veza. Problem je doveden na oblik koji omogućava neposrednu primenu rezultata teorije optimalnog upravljanja za rešavanje praktičnih zadataka.

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