Optimal Control Problem: Statement and existence of solutions. Lebesgue measure and integral

(Lecture 1)

Yuri Sachkov

Program Systems Institute Russian Academy of Sciences Pereslavl-Zalessky, Russia yusachkov@gmail.com

«Elements of Optimal Control»

Lecture course in Steklov Mathematical Institute, Moscow

15 September 2023

Plan of lecture

- 1. Optimal Control Problem Statement
- 2. Lebesgue measurable sets and functions
- 3. Lebesgue integral
- 4. Carathéodory ODEs
- 5. Reduction of Optimal Control Problem to Study of Attainable Sets
- 6. Filippov's theorem: Compactness of Attainable Sets
- 7. Time-Optimal Problem

Optimal Control Problem Statement

Control system:

$$\dot{q} = f_u(q), \qquad q \in M, \quad u \in U \subset \mathbb{R}^m.$$
 (1)

- M a smooth manifold
- U an arbitrary subset of \mathbb{R}^m
- right-hand side of (1):

$$q\mapsto f_u(q)$$
 is a smooth vector field on M for any fixed $u\in U,$

$$(q,u)\mapsto f_u(q)$$
 is a continuous mapping for $q\in M,\ u\in \overline{U},$

and moreover, in any local coordinates on M

$$(q,u)\mapsto \frac{\partial f_u}{\partial g}(q)$$
 is a continuous mapping for $q\in M,\ u\in \overline{U}$.

• Admissible controls are measurable locally bounded mappings

$$u: t \mapsto u(t) \in U$$
,

i.e.,
$$u \in L_{\infty}([0, t_1], U)$$
.

(2)

(3)

(4)

- Substitute such a control u = u(t) for control parameter into system (1)
- \Rightarrow nonautonomous ODE $\dot{q} = f_u(q)$
- By Carathéodory's Theorem, for any point $q_0 \in M$, the Cauchy problem

$$\dot{q}=f_u(q), \qquad q(0)=q_0, \tag{5}$$

has a unique solution $q_{\mu}(t)$.

• In order to compare admissible controls one with another on a segment $[0, t_1]$, introduce a *cost functional*:

$$J(u) = \int_0^{t_1} \varphi(q_u(t), u(t)) dt \tag{6}$$

with an integrand

$$\varphi: M \times U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

satisfying the same regularity assumptions as the right-hand side f, see (2)–(4).

- Take any pair of points $q_0, q_1 \in M$.
- Consider the following optimal control problem:

Problem 1

Minimize the functional J among all admissible controls u = u(t), $t \in [0, t_1]$, for which the corresponding solution $q_u(t)$ of Cauchy problem (5) satisfies the boundary condition

$$q_u(t_1) = q_1. (7)$$

This problem can also be written as follows:

$$\dot{q} = f_u(q), \qquad q \in M, \quad u \in U \subset \mathbb{R}^m,$$
 (8)

$$q(0) = q_0, q(t_1) = q_1,$$
 (9)

$$J(u) = \int_0^{t_1} \varphi(q(t), u(t)) dt \to \min.$$
 (10)

- Two types of problems: with fixed terminal time t_1 and free t_1 .
- A solution u of this problem is called an *optimal control*, and the corresponding curve $q_u(t)$ is an *optimal trajectory*.

5/28

Example: Euler elasticae

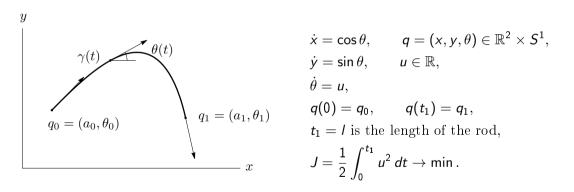
Given:

- uniform elastic rod of length / in the plane
- the rod has fixed endpoints and tangents at endpoints

Find:

• the profile of the rod.

Example: Euler elasticae



Definition of Lebesgue measure in I = [0, 1]: H. Lebesgue, 1902 ¹

Measure of intervals:

$$m(\emptyset) := 0,$$
 $m(|a, b|) := b - a,$ $b \ge a,$ $| = [or].$

- Measure of elementary sets: $m'(\sqcup_{i=1}^{\infty}|a_i,b_i|):=\sum_{i=1}^{\infty}m(|a_i,b_i|)$
- Outer measure: $\mu^*(A) := \inf \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} m(P_i) \mid A \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} P_i, P_i \text{ intervals} \right\}.$
- Lebesgue measure:
 - $A \subset I$ is called *measurable* if

$$\forall \ \varepsilon > 0 \ \exists \ \mathsf{elementary} \ \mathsf{set} \ B \subset I: \ \mu^*(A \triangle B) < \varepsilon, \qquad A \triangle B := (A \setminus B) \cup (B \setminus A).$$

• A measurable \Rightarrow Lebesgue measure $\mu(A) := \mu^*(A)$.

¹A.N. Kolmogorov, S.V. Fomin, "Elements of theory of functions and functional analysis"

Properties of Lebesgue measure

- 1. System of measurable sets is closed w.r.t. $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty}$, $\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty}$, \setminus , \triangle
- 2. σ -additivity: A_i measurable $\Rightarrow \mu(\sqcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mu(A_i)$.
- 3. Continuity: $A_1 \supset A_2 \supset \cdots$ measurable $\Rightarrow \mu(\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i) = \lim_{i \to \infty} \mu(A_i)$.
- 4. Open, closed sets are measurable.
- 5. There exist non-measurable sets (G. Vitali, 1905)
- 6. $A \subset \mathbb{R}$ is measurable if $\forall A \cap I_n$ is measurable, $I_n = (n, n+1], n \in \mathbb{Z}$,
- 7. $\mu(A) := \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} \mu(A \cap I_n) \in [0, +\infty].$
- 8. $\mu(A) = 0 \Leftrightarrow \forall \varepsilon > 0 \exists \text{ intervals: } \cup_{i=1}^{\infty} P_i \supset A, \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} m(P_i) < \varepsilon.$
- 9. A property P holds almost everywhere (a.e.) on a set X if $\exists A \subset X$, $\mu(A) = 0$, s.t. P holds on $X \setminus A$.
- 10. $f: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}^m$ is measurable if $f^{-1}(O)$ is measurable for any open $O \subset \mathbb{R}^m$.

Banach-Tarski Paradox

Theorem 2

Let $B, B' \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ be balls of different radii. Then there exist decompositions

$$B = X_1 \sqcup \cdots \sqcup X_n, \qquad B' = X'_1 \sqcup \cdots \sqcup X'_n$$

such that

$$\exists f_i \in SE(3) : f_i(X_i) = X'_i, \quad i = 1, ..., n.$$

- Sets X_i , X'_i are not measurable.
- n > 5.
- X, X' can be raplaced by any bounded subsets in \mathbb{R}^3 with nonempty interior.
- Similar theorem for \mathbb{R}^2 instead of \mathbb{R}^3 fails. Reason: SE(2) is solvable, while SE(3) is not: $[\mathfrak{se}(3),\mathfrak{se}(3)] = \mathfrak{so}(3), [\mathfrak{so}(3),\mathfrak{so}(3)] = \mathfrak{so}(3) \neq \{0\}.$

Lebesgue integral: Definition

- Let $\mu(X) < +\infty$. A function $f: X \to \mathbb{R}$ is simple if it is measurable and takes not more than countable number of values.
- Th.: A function f(x) taking not more than countable number of values y_1 , y_2 , ... is measurable iff all sets $f^{-1}(y_n)$ are measurable.
- Th.: A function f(x) is measurable iff it is a uniform limit of simple measurable functions.
- Let f be a simple measurable function taking values y_1, y_2, \ldots Let $A \subset X$ be measurable. Then

$$\int_A f(x)d\mu := \sum_n y_n \mu(f^{-1}(y_n)).$$

A function f is called integrable on A if this series absolutely converges.

• A measurable function f is called *integrable* on $A \subset X$ if there exist a sequence of simple integrable on A functions $\{f_n\}$ that converges uniformly to f. Then

$$\int_{A} f(x)d\mu := \lim_{n\to\infty} \int_{A} f_n(x)d\mu.$$

Lebesgue integral: Properties

- 1. $\int_{\Delta} 1 d\mu = \mu(A)$
- 2. Linearity: $\int_{\Delta} (af(x) + bg(x))d\mu = a \int_{\Delta} f(x)d\mu + b \int_{\Delta} g(x)d\mu$.
- 3. f(x) bounded on $A \Rightarrow f(x)$ integrable on A.
- 4. Monotonicity: $f(x) \le g(x) \Rightarrow \int_{\Delta} f(x) d\mu \le \int_{\Delta} g(x) d\mu$.
- 5. $\mu(A) = 0 \Rightarrow \int_A f(x) d\mu = 0$.
- 6. f(x) = g(x) a.e. $\Rightarrow \int_{\Delta} f(x) d\mu = \int_{\Delta} g(x) d\mu$.
- 7. g(x) integrable on A and $|f(x)| \le g(x)$ a.e. $\Rightarrow f(x)$ integrable on A.
- 8. Functions f and |f| are integrable or non-integrable simultaneously.
- 9. σ -additivity: if $A = \bigsqcup_n A_n$ then $\int_A f(x) d\mu = \sum_n \int_{A_n} f(x) d\mu$.
- 10. Absolute continuity: f in integrable on $A \Rightarrow \forall \varepsilon > 0 \ \exists \delta > 0 \ \text{s.t.}$ $|\int_{\mathcal{E}} f(x) d\mu| < \varepsilon$ for any measurable $E \subset A$, $\mu(E) < \varepsilon$.
- 11. $\mu(X) = \infty$, $X = \bigcup_n X_n$, $X_n \subset X_{n+1}$, $\mu(X_n) < \infty \Rightarrow \int_X f(x) d\mu := \lim_{n \to \infty} \int_{X_n} f(x) d\mu$.

Spaces of integrable functions

 $f:X\to\mathbb{R}$ measurable.

- 1. $L_p(X,\mu) = \{f \mid ||f||_p < \infty\}, ||f||_p = (\int_X |f(x)|^p d\mu)^{1/p}, p \in [1,+\infty).$
- 2. $L_{\infty}(X, \mu) = \{f \mid ||f||_{\infty} < \infty\}, ||f||_{\infty} = \operatorname{ess\,sup}_{x \in X} |f(x)|.$
- 3. $1 \leq p_1 < p_2 \leq \infty \quad \Rightarrow \quad L_{p_1} \supseteq L_{p_2}$
- 4. L_p , $p \in [1, +\infty]$, are Banach spaces (= complete normed spaces).
- 5. L_2 is a Hilbert space (= complete Euclidean infinite-dimensional space), $(f,g) = \int_X f(x)g(x)d\mu$.

Carathéodory ODEs: C. Carathéodory, 1873–1950 ²

- ullet Carathéodory conditions: let for a domain $D\subset \mathbb{R}^{1+n}_{t,x}$
 - 1. f(t,x) is defined and continuous in x for almost all t
 - 2. f(t,x) is measurable in t for any x
 - 3. $|f(t,x)| \leq m(t)$, where m(t) is Lebesgue integrable on any segment
- Carathéodory ODE: $\dot{x} = f(t, x)$, where $f: D \to \mathbb{R}^n$ satisfies conditions 1–3.
- Solution to Carathéodory ODE: $x:|a,b|\to\mathbb{R}^n$, $x(t)=x(t_0)+\int_{t_0}^t f(s,x(s))ds$, $t_0\in [a,b]$.
- Existence: Solutions exist on sufficiently small segments $[t_0, t_0 + \varepsilon], \ \varepsilon > 0$.
- Uniqueness: If $|f(t,x)-f(t,y)| \le I(t)|x-y|$, I(t) Lebesgue integrable, then a solution is unique.
- Extension: Any solution in compact D can be extended in both sides up to ∂D .

²A.F. Filippov, "Differential equations with discontinuous right-hand side"

Optimal Control Problem Statement

$$\dot{q} = f_u(q), \qquad q \in M, \quad u \in U \subset \mathbb{R}^m, \tag{11}$$

$$q(0) = q_0, \tag{12}$$

$$q(t_1) = q_1, \tag{13}$$

$$J(u) = \int_0^{t_1} \varphi(q, u) dt \to \min.$$
 (14)

 $q = q_u(\cdot)$ — solution to Cauchy problem (11),(12) corresponding to an admissible control $u(\cdot)$.

Attainable sets

- Fix an initial point $q_0 \in M$.
- Attainable set of control system (11) for time $t \ge 0$ from q_0 with measurable locally bounded controls is defined as follows:

$$A_{q_0}(t) = \{q_u(t) \mid u \in L_{\infty}([0, t], U)\}.$$

• Similarly, one can consider the attainable sets for time not greater than t:

$$\mathcal{A}_{q_0}^t = igcup_{0 \leq au \leq t} \mathcal{A}_{q_0}(au)$$

and for arbitrary nonnegative time:

$$\mathcal{A}_{q_0} = \bigcup_{0 \leq au < \infty} \mathcal{A}_{q_0}(au).$$

Extended system

 Optimal control problems on M can be reduced to the study of attainable sets of some auxiliary control systems on the extended state space

$$\widehat{M} = \mathbb{R} \times M = \{\widehat{q} = (y, q) \mid y \in \mathbb{R}, \ q \in M\}.$$

• Consider the following extended control system on \widehat{M} :

$$\frac{d\widehat{q}}{dt} = \widehat{f}_u(\widehat{q}), \qquad \widehat{q} \in \widehat{M}, \ u \in U, \tag{15}$$

with the right-hand side

$$\widehat{f}_u(\widehat{q}) = \left(\begin{array}{c} \varphi(q,u) \\ f_u(q) \end{array} \right), \qquad q \in M, \quad u \in U,$$

where φ is the integrand of the cost functional J, see (14).

• Denote by $\widehat{q}_u(t)$ the solution of the extended system (15) with the initial conditions

$$\widehat{q}_u(0) = \left(\begin{array}{c} y(0) \\ q(0) \end{array} \right) = \left(\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ q_0 \end{array} \right).$$

Reduction to Study of Attainable Sets

Theorem 3

Let $q_{\widetilde{u}}(t)$, $t \in [0, t_1]$, be an optimal trajectory in the problem (11)–(14) with the fixed terminal time t_1 . Then $\widehat{q}_{\widetilde{u}}(t_1) \in \partial \widehat{\mathcal{A}}_{(0,q_0)}(t_1)$.

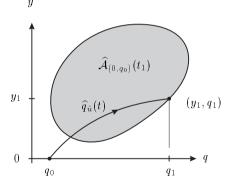


Figure: $q_{\widetilde{u}}(t)$ optimal

Proof.

• Solutions $\widehat{q}_u(t)$ of the extended system are expressed through solutions $q_u(t)$ of the original system (11) as

$$\widehat{q}_u(t) = \begin{pmatrix} J_t(u) \\ q_u(t) \end{pmatrix}, \qquad J_t(u) = \int_0^t \varphi(q_u(\tau), u(\tau)) d\tau.$$

• Thus attainable sets of the extended system (15) have the form

$$\widehat{\mathcal{A}}_{(0,q_0)}(t) = \{(J_t(u), q_u(t)) \mid u \in L_{\infty}([0,t], U)\}.$$

- The set $\widehat{\mathcal{A}}_{(0,q_0)}(t_1)$ should not intersect the ray $\left\{(y,q_1)\in \widehat{M}\mid y< J_{t_1}(\widetilde{u})
 ight\}$.
- Indeed, suppose that there exists a point $(y, q_1) \in \widehat{\mathcal{A}}_{(0,q_0)}(t_1), \quad y < J_{t_1}(\widetilde{u}).$
- Then the trajectory of the extended system $\widehat{q}_u(t)$ that steers $(0, q_0)$ to (y, q_1) :

$$\widehat{q}_u(0) = \left(egin{array}{c} 0 \ q_0 \end{array}
ight), \qquad \widehat{q}_u(t_1) = \left(egin{array}{c} y \ q_1 \end{array}
ight),$$

gives a trajectory $q_u(t)$, $q_u(0) = q_0$, $q_u(t_1) = q_1$, with $J_{t_1}(u) = y < J_{t_1}(\widetilde{u})$, a contradiction to optimality of \widetilde{u} .

Existence of optimal trajectories for problems with fixed t_1

Theorem 4

Let $q_1 \in \mathcal{A}_{q_0}(t_1)$. If $\widehat{\mathcal{A}}_{(0,q_0)}(t_1)$ is compact, then there exists an optimal trajectory in the problem (11)–(14) with the fixed terminal time t_1 .

Proof.

- The intersection $\widehat{\mathcal{A}}_{(0,q_0)}(t_1)\cap\{(y,q_1)\in\widehat{M}\}$ is nonempty and compact.
- Denote $\widetilde{J}=\min\{y\in\mathbb{R}\mid (y,q_1)\in\widehat{\mathcal{A}}_{(0,q_0)}(t_1)\}.$
- $ullet (\widetilde{J},q_1)\in \widehat{\mathcal{A}}_{(0,q_0)}(t_1).$
- There exists an admissible control \widetilde{u} such that $q_{\widetilde{u}}$ steers q_0 to q_1 for time t_1 with the cost \widetilde{J} .
- The trajectory $q_{\widetilde{u}}$ is optimal.

Existence of optimal trajectories for problems with free t_1

Theorem 5

Let $q_1 \in \mathcal{A}_{q_0}$. Let $\widehat{\mathcal{A}}_{(0,q_0)}^t$, t > 0, be compact. Let there extist $\overline{u} \in L_{\infty}[0,\overline{t}_1]$ that steers q_0 to q_1 such that for any $u \in L_{\infty}[0,t_1]$ that steers q_0 to q_1 :

$$t_1 > \overline{t}_1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad J(u) > J(\overline{u}).$$

Then there exists an optimal trajectory in the problem (11)–(14) with the free t_1 .

- Denote $I^t = \left\{ y \in \mathbb{R} \mid (y,q_1) \in \widehat{\mathcal{A}}^t_{(0,q_0)}
 ight\}$, $J^t = \min I^t$.
- Since $q_1 \in \mathcal{A}_{q_0}(t_1)$ for some $t_1 > 0$, then $I^{t_1} \neq \emptyset$.
- Let $T = \max(t_1, \overline{t}_1)$. We have $I^T \neq \emptyset$. Denote $\widetilde{J} = J^T$.
- There exists $\widetilde{u} \in L_{\infty}[0,\widetilde{t}_1]$ that steers q_0 to q_1 with the cost $\widetilde{J} = J(\widetilde{u})$.
- The control \widetilde{u} is optimal in the problem with the free t_1 .

Compactness of attainable sets

Theorem 6 (Filippov)

Let the space of control parameters $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ be compact. Let there exist a compact $K \subseteq M$ such that $f_u(q) = 0$ for $q \notin K$, $u \in U$. Moreover, let the velocity sets

$$f_U(q) = \{f_u(q) \mid u \in U\} \subset T_q M, \qquad q \in M,$$

be convex. Then the attainable sets $\mathcal{A}_{q_0}(t)$ and $\mathcal{A}_{q_0}^t$ are compact for all $q_0 \in M$, t > 0.

Remark 1

The condition of convexity of the velocity sets $f_U(q)$ is natural: the flow of the ODE

$$\dot{q} = \alpha(t)f_{u_1}(q) + (1 - \alpha(t))f_{u_2}(q), \qquad 0 \le \alpha(t) \le 1,$$

can be approximated by flows of the systems of the form

$$\dot{q}=f_{v}(q), \quad ext{where} \quad v(t)\in\{u_{1}(t),\,u_{2}(t)\}.$$

Sketch of the proof of Filippov's Theorem: 1/5

- All nonautonomous vector fields $f_u(q)$ with admissible controls u have a common compact support, thus are complete.
- Under hypotheses of the theorem, velocities $f_u(q)$, $q \in M$, $u \in U$, are uniformly bounded, thus all trajectories q(t) of control system (11) starting at q_0 are Lipschitzian with the same Lipschitz constant.
- Embed the manifold M into a Euclidean space \mathbb{R}^N , then the space of continuous curves q(t) becomes endowed with the uniform topology of continuous mappings from $[0, t_1]$ to \mathbb{R}^N .
- The set of trajectories q(t) of control system (11) starting at q_0 is uniformly bounded:

$$||q(t)|| \leq C$$

and equicontinous:

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0 \ \exists \delta > 0 \ \forall q(\cdot) \ \forall |t_1 - t_2| < \delta \quad \|q(t_1) - q(t_2)\| < \varepsilon.$$

Sketch of the proof of Filippov's Theorem: 2/5

Theorem 7 (Arzelà-Ascoli)

Consider a family of mappins $\mathcal{F} \subset C([0,t_1],M)$, where M is a complete metric space. If \mathcal{F} is uniformly bounded and equicontinuous, then it is precompact:

$$\forall \{q_n\} \subset \mathcal{F} \exists \text{ a converging subsequence } q_{n_k} \rightarrow q \in C([0, t_1], M).$$

- Thus the set of admissible trajectories is precompact in the topology of uniform convergence.
- For any sequence $q_n(t)$ of admissible trajectories:

$$\dot{q}_n(t) = f_{u_n}(q_n(t)), \qquad 0 \leq t \leq t_1, \quad q_n(0) = q_0,$$

there exists a uniformly converging subsequence, we denote it again by $q_n(t)$:

$$q_n(\cdot) \to q(\cdot)$$
 in $C([0,t_1],M)$ as $n \to \infty$.

• Now we show that q(t) is an admissible trajectory of control system (11).

Sketch of the proof of Filippov's Theorem: 3/5

- Fix a sufficiently small $\varepsilon > 0$.
- Then in local coordinates

$$egin{aligned} rac{1}{arepsilon}(q_n(t+arepsilon)-q_n(t)) &=rac{1}{arepsilon}\int_t^{t+arepsilon}f_{u_n}(q_n(au))\,d au\ &\in \mathsf{conv}igcup_{ au\in[t,t+arepsilon]}f_U(q_n(au))\subset\mathsf{conv}igcup_{q\in O_{q(t)}(carepsilon)}f_U(q) \end{aligned}$$

where c is the doubled Lipschitz constant of admissible trajectories.

• We pass to the limit $n \to \infty$ and obtain

$$rac{1}{arepsilon}(q(t+arepsilon)-q(t))\in\operatorname{\mathsf{conv}}igcup_{q(t)}(carepsilon)f_U(q).$$

• Now let $\varepsilon \to 0$. If t is a point of differentiability of q(t), then

$$\dot{q}(t) \in f_U(q)$$

since $f_U(q)$ is convex.

Sketch of the proof of Filippov's Theorem: 4/5

- In order to show that q(t) is an admissible trajectory of control system (11), we should find a measurable selection $u(t) \in U$ that generates q(t).
- We do this via the lexicographic order on the set $U = \{(u_1, \dots, u_m)\} \subset \mathbb{R}^m$.
- The set

$$V_t = \{ v \in U \mid \dot{q}(t) = f_v(q(t)) \}$$

is a compact subset of U, thus of \mathbb{R}^m .

• There exists a vector $v^{\min}(t) \in V_t$ minimal in the sense of lexicographic order. To find $v^{\min}(t)$, we minimize the first coordinate on V_t :

$$v_1^{\min} = \min\{ v_1 \mid v = (v_1, \dots, v_m) \in V_t \},$$

then minimize the second coordinate on the compact set found at the first step:

$$v_2^{\min} = \min\{ v_2 \mid v = (v_1^{\min}, v_2, \dots, v_m) \in V_t \}, \dots, v_m^{\min} = \min\{ v_m \mid v = (v_1^{\min}, \dots, v_{m-1}^{\min}, v_m) \in V_t \}.$$

Sketch of the proof of Filippov's Theorem: 5/5

- The control $v^{\min}(t) = (v_1^{\min}(t), \dots, v_m^{\min}(t))$ is measurable, thus q(t) is an admissible trajectory of system (11) generated by this control.
- The proof of compactness of the attainable set $A_{q_0}(t)$ is complete.
- Compactness of $\mathcal{A}_{q_0}^t$ is proved similarly.

Discussion on completeness

- In Filippov's theorem, the hypothesis of common compact support of the vector fields in the right-hand side is essential to ensure the uniform boundedness of velocities and completeness of vector fields.
- On a manifold, sufficient conditions for completeness of a vector field cannot be given in terms of boundedness of the vector field and its derivatives: a constant vector field is not complete on a bounded domain in \mathbb{R}^n .
- Nevertheless, one can prove compactness of attainable sets for many systems without the assumption of common compact support. If for such a system we have a priori bounds on solutions, then we can multiply its right-hand side by a cut-off function, and obtain a system with vector fields having compact support.
- We can apply Filippov's theorem to the new system. Since trajectories of the initial and new systems coincide in a domain of interest for us, we obtain a conclusion on compactness of attainable sets for the initial system.