Lecture 6 - Nonlinear controllability



What you will learn today (spoiler alert)

New mathematical concepts and language

Manifolds, charts
$$(M, \phi(x))$$

Vector fields $\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i(x) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}$
Lie-derivative $L_X(f) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i(x) \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}$
Lie-bracket $[f, g] = \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} f - \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} g$

And not this

Nonlinear Kalman Decomposition

Can find coordinates (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) so that

$$\begin{array}{lll} \dot{x}_1 &=& f^1(x_1,x_3) + g(x_1,x_3)u \\ \dot{x}_2 &=& f^2(x_1,x_2,x_3,x_4) + g(x_1,x_2,x_3,x_4)u \\ \dot{x}_3 &=& f^3(x_3) \\ \dot{x}_4 &=& f^4(x_1,x_3) \\ y &=& h(x_1,x_3) \end{array}$$

Relative Degree Smallest r such that $L_q L_f^{r-1} h(x_0) \neq 0$

Exact Linearization by Feedback

$$\begin{array}{lll} \dot{x} & = & f(x) + g(x)u \\ u & = & \alpha(x) + \beta(x)v \text{ and } z = Z(x) \Longrightarrow \dot{z} = Az + Bv \end{array}$$

System is feedback linearizable if one can find y = h(x) so the system has relative degree n. Can be checked with Lie-brackets

Material

Lecture slides

Handout from Nonlinear Control Theory, Torkel Glad (Linköping)

Handout about Inverse function theorem by Hörmander

What you will learn today

Local Controllability:

- A nonlinear system is controllable if the linearized system is
- $\dot{x} = f(x) + g(x)u$ is "accessible" iff

$$\dim\ (f,g,[f,g],[f,[f,g]],\ldots)=n$$

Fundamental Parking Theorem





and not this

Differential Flatness

Zero Dynamics

Nonlinear Minimum Phase

Disturbance Decoupling

Normal Forms

Stabilization

Nonlinear System

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
\dot{x} & = & f(x, u) \\
y & = & h(x, u)
\end{array}$$

Important special affine case:

$$\dot{x} = f(x) + g(x)u$$

$$y = h(x)$$

f : drift term

q:input term(s)

What we will not do

Local Observability. Depends on x_0 and u.

$$y_i = h_i(x)$$

$$\mathcal{O} = \operatorname{span} L_{X_1} \dots L_{X_k} h_j(x)$$

$$d\mathcal{O} = \operatorname{span}\left(dH \mid H \in \mathcal{O}\right)$$

The system is locally observable if

$$\dim (d\mathcal{O}) = n$$

Duality between observability and controllability

Basic Result: Linearization at (x_0, u_0)

$$\dot{x} = f(x) + g(x)u, \qquad x(0) = x_0$$

Theorem Suppose $f(x_0) + g(x_0)u_0 = 0$. If the linearization

$$\dot{z} = Az + Bv
A = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x_0) + \frac{\partial g}{\partial x}(x_0)u_0
B = g(x_0)$$

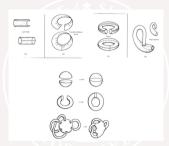
is controllable, then for all $T>0, \epsilon>0$ the set

$$X_{T,\epsilon} = \{x(T); |u - u_0| < \epsilon\}$$

contains a neighborhood of x_0 . (Proof: Nice exercise in using the inverse function theorem)

Manifolds

What are natural mathematical models for state spaces?



Piece together "bent" pieces of \mathbb{R}^n . Same local properties as \mathbb{R}^n . Different globally

Rolling Penny

$$\dot{x} = u_1 \cos(\theta)$$

 $= u_1 \sin(\theta)$



The linearization is not controllable (check)

Can the penny be moved sideways in small time (keeping the head up)?

Topology

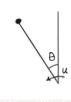
A topology on a set M is a collection T of subsets of M.

O is called "open" if $O \in T$.

The collection T must be such that

- 0, $M \in T$
- $O_1, O_2 \in T \Longrightarrow O_1 \cap O_2 \in T$
- $\{O_i\} \in T \Longrightarrow \cup O_i \in T$

Example - Pendulum



$$\ddot{\theta} = \sin(\theta) + u$$

Natural state space: $R \times S^1$ = cylinder

$$S^1 =$$
 unit circle

Rolling Penny

Yes it can. But it is not obvious.

The penny has non-holonomic constraints $a(z)\dot{z}=0$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sin \theta & -\cos \theta & 0 & 0 \\ \cos \theta & \sin \theta & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \\ \dot{\varphi} \\ \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

Can not be written as holonomic constraints: $h(z) = 0 \Longrightarrow h_z \dot{z} = 0$.

Compatible Coordinate Charts



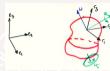
Compatible: $\psi \circ \varphi^{-1}(x) \in C^{\infty}$

f is called "smooth" if $f(\psi^{-1}(x)) \in C^{\infty}$, $\forall \psi$

Note: $f \circ \varphi^{-1}(x) = f \circ \psi^{-1} \circ \psi \circ \varphi^{-1} \in C^{\infty}$

Independent on coordinate charts.

Rigid Bodies



Natural State Space

$$\begin{array}{rcl} R & = & \left(r_1 & r_2 & r_3\right) \in SO(3) \\ \text{ie } RR^T & = & I \text{ and } \det(R) = 1 \\ \dot{R} & = & -R \times w \Leftrightarrow \dot{R} = -RS(w) \\ S(w) & = & \left(\begin{matrix} 0 & -w_3 & w_2 \\ w_3 & 0 & -w_1 \\ -w_2 & w_1 & 0 \end{matrix}\right) \end{array}$$

Definition of Manifold



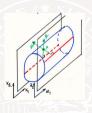
A C^{∞} (=smooth) manifold is a topological space M together with an atlas $\{U_{\alpha}, \varphi_{\alpha}\}$ of pairwise C^{∞} -compatible coordinate charts that cover M.

Topological space M?

Atlas $\{U_{\alpha}, \varphi_{\alpha}\}$?

Pairwise C^{∞} -compatible coordinate charts ?

Example: Cylinder



 $\psi \circ \varphi^{-1}$ smooth on $U \cap V = (x_2 \neq 0, z_2 \neq 0)$

 $z = \psi(\varphi^{-1}(x))$ is given by $(z_1, z_2) = (x_1, 4/x_2)$

The cylinder is a smooth manifold

Examples

Example



Example



Double pendulum $S' \times S' = torus$

Example Sphere S^2



Differentials

 $f:A\to B$ is called differentiable at $x\in A$ iff there is a continuous linear map $DF_x(h):A\to B$ such that

$$||f(x+h) - f(x) - DF_x(h)|| \to 0, \quad h \to 0$$

 DF_{x} = differential (Jacobian)

$$DF = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_2} & \cdots \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_1} & \ddots & \\ \vdots & & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$$

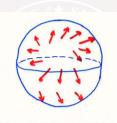
Proof idea: To solve y = f(x) use

$$x_k = x_{k-1} + f'(x_0)^{-1}(y - f(x_{k-1}))$$

Prove $\sum (x_k - x_{k-1})$ converges for y near y_0 .

See handout.

Global Differences to \mathbb{R}^n - Example



Any smooth velocity field v on S^2 must have a point where v(x)=0 "You can't comb the hair of a tennis ball"

Differentials

$$DF = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_2} & \dots \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_1} & \dots \\ \vdots & & \vdots \end{pmatrix}$$

Definition Rank of f at $x := rank(DF_x)$.

If f smooth then

$$\operatorname{Rank}\left(DF_{x_0}\right)=k \implies \operatorname{Rank}\left(DF_x\right)\geq k$$

for all x close to x_0 .

 $\begin{array}{l} \textit{Proof: } D_k(x) = k \times k \text{ submatrix of } DF_x \text{ with } \\ \det(D_k(x_0)) \neq 0 \Longrightarrow \det(D_k(x)) \neq 0, \text{ for } x \text{ close to } x_0. \end{array}$

Implicit Function Theorem

$$h(x,y) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \text{ full rank} \quad \Longrightarrow \quad x = x(y) \text{ uniquely}$$

Manifolds defined by equation systems

Many manifolds are defined implicitly by equations systems

$$f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0$$

$$\vdots$$

$$f_k(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0$$

When does this describe a (smooth) n - k-dimensional manifold?

Inverse Function Theorem

Theorem Let X be open in U and $f \in C^1(X,V)$, $f(x_0) = y_0$. For existence of $g \in C^1(Y,U)$ where Y is a neighborhood of y_0 so

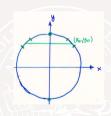
- a) $f \circ g = \text{identity near } y_0$
- b) $g \circ f = \text{identity near } x_0$
- c) a) and b)

it is necessary and sufficient that there is a linear map \boldsymbol{A} such that respectively

- a') $f'(x_0)A = I_V$
- b') $Af'(x_0) = I_U$
- c') a') and b')

Condition c' implies that g is uniquely determined near y_0 .

Example



$$h(x,y) = x^2 + y^2 - 1, \quad h'_x = 2x$$

So x = x(y) uniquely except near $(0, \pm 1)$.

In fact
$$x = \sqrt{1 - y^2}$$
, $x_0 > 0$ and $x = -\sqrt{1 - y^2}$, $x_0 < 0$.

Discussion

Implicit F. T. \implies Inverse F. T. c).

$$h(x,y)=y-f(x); \quad h_x'=f_x'\Longrightarrow x=x(y) \text{ uniquely }$$

Inverse F. T. c) \implies Implicit F. T.

$$f(x,y) = (h(x,y),y)$$

$$f' = \begin{pmatrix} h'_x & h'_y \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix}$$
 full rank

So (x,y) locally determined by (h,y)=(0,y)

 $\implies x = x(y)$ uniquely locally

Manifolds by equation systems

$$f_1(x_1,\ldots,x_n) = 0$$

$$\vdots$$

$$f_k(x_1,\ldots,x_n) = 0$$

determines an n-k dimensional manifold near \bar{x} if

("Gradients $\nabla f_1, \ldots, \nabla f_k$ are linearly independent")

Different notation

 $L_X(f) = X(f)$ Lie-derivative = fishermans derivative

Examples

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}$$
; $\frac{\partial}{\partial z}$; $z\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \sin(\theta)\frac{\partial}{\partial z}$

Note

$$f(x,y) = 0$$

$$f'_x \frac{\partial x}{\partial y} + f'_y = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial x}{\partial y} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial x}{\partial y} = -(f_x')^{-1} f_y'$$

Try it yourself example

$$x_1^3 - e^{x_2} + x_3^3 - 1 = 0$$
$$x_1^2 + x_2 - x_3^2 = 0$$

Are x_1, x_2 smooth functions of x_3 around (1, 0, 1)? What is $\frac{\partial x_1}{\partial x_2}$ at that point?

Tangent Vectors - different definitions



• Define it only for manifolds embedded in \mathbb{R}^n :

$$\dot{x} = \lim_{t \to 0} \frac{\varphi(t) - \varphi(0)}{t}$$

Velocity vectors in \mathbb{R}^n .

• Coordinate free version. Tangent vectors at $x\leftrightarrow$ "equivalance classes of curves with $\varphi(0)=x$ ", we define $\varphi(t)\sim\psi(t)$ when

$$\varphi(0) = \psi(0) = x \quad \text{ and } \quad \lim_{t \to 0} \frac{\varphi(t) - \psi(t)}{t} = 0 \quad \text{in some chart}$$

Coordinate Change

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial}{\partial x_n} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_n \end{pmatrix}$$

Change coordinates $\beta = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \alpha$ or

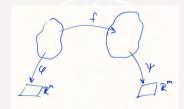
$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} \quad \dots \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial x_n}\right) = \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial z_1} \quad \dots \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial z_n}\right) \frac{\partial z}{\partial x}$$

Example

$$\begin{array}{rcl} z_1 & = & x_1 \\ z_2 & = & x_1 + x_2 \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} & = & \frac{\partial z_1}{\partial x_1} \frac{\partial}{\partial z_1} + \frac{\partial z_2}{\partial x_1} \frac{\partial}{\partial z_2} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z_1} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z_2} \end{array}$$

Note that $x_1 = z_1$ does not imply $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z_1}$

Functions Between Manifolds



Definition

$$f \in C^{\infty} \iff \psi \circ f \circ \varphi^{-1} \in C^{\infty}, \forall \psi, \varphi$$

Our Definition

Derivative operator $X(f):(f:M\mapsto R)\mapsto R$

$$X(\alpha f + \beta g) = \alpha X(f) + \beta X(g)$$
$$X(fg) = fX(g) + gX(f)$$

Example: Take any coordinate chart (U, φ) with coordinates x. Then

$$X_a = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}$$

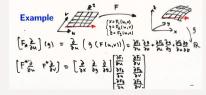
is a tangent vector, where

$$X_a(f) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}(a)$$

Push Forward Operator



$$[f_*X](g) := X(g \circ f)$$



(Smooth) Vector Fields



Assigns a tangent vector to each point: $p \mapsto X_p$

$$X = \sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i(p) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}$$

 $X_i(p)$ smooth functions of p.

 $\text{Alternativ notation:} \quad X \sim \begin{pmatrix} X_1(x_1,\dots,x_n) \\ \vdots \\ X_n(x_1,\dots,x_n) \end{pmatrix}$

Example

$$\dot{x} = f(x) + g(x)u
y = h(x)$$

$$\dot{y} = \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \dot{x} = \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} (f + gu) = L_{f+gu} h$$

$$= L_f h + u L_g h$$

$$y^{(k)} = (L_{f+gu})^k h$$

Example

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \dot{x}_1 & = & u_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 & = & u_2 \\ \dot{x}_3 & = & x_1 u_2 \pm x_2 u_1 \end{array}$$

This means
$$g_1=egin{pmatrix}1\\0\\\pm x_2\end{pmatrix}$$
 and $g_2=egin{pmatrix}0\\1\\x_1\end{pmatrix}$

$$[g_1, g_2] = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \pm x_2 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \pm 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ x_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Integral Curve

 $\sigma(t)$ is an *integral curve* to X if in local coordinates

$$\sigma(t) = \begin{cases} \sigma_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ \sigma_n(t) \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (g(\sigma(t)) = X(\sigma(t))(g)$$

$$\sum \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_i} \frac{d\sigma_i}{dt} = \sum X_i(\sigma(t)) \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_i}$$

i.e.

$$\dot{\sigma}_1 = X_1(\sigma(t))$$
 \vdots
 $\dot{\sigma}_n = X_n(\sigma(t))$

A set of ODEs

Main new object: Lie Bracket of vector fields

Consider two vector fields $\dot{x} = f(x)$ and $\dot{x} = g(x)$

Lie-bracket. New vector field

$$[f,g] = \frac{\partial g}{\partial x}f - \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}g$$

Example

Hence at x=0 we have

$$g_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad g_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad [g_1, g_2] = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 - \pm 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

With the minus-sign the three vector fields span \mathbb{R}^3 , and we have controllability.

With the plus-sign the system is not controllable, in fact it can be seen that $x_1^2+x_2^2-2x_3$ is an invariant.

Transformation Group, Flow



$$X^t(p) =$$
solution to $\dot{x} = X(x), x(0) = p$

 X^t is smooth, $X^0 = \mathrm{id}$

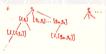
$$L_X(g) = X(g) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_i} = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{g(X^h(p)) - g(p)}{h}$$

$$L_{\alpha X + \beta Y} = \alpha L_X + \beta L_Y, \ \alpha, \beta \in R$$

$$\dot{x} = f(x, u)$$
 $f: M \times U \mapsto TM$

Why is it interesting?

$$\dot{x} = f(x) + g_1(x)u_1 + g_2(x)u_2 + \dots$$



Roughly we have:

If the Liebracket "tree" has full rank, then the system is "controllable".

Example

$$\dot{x} = f(x) + g(x)u
y = h(x)$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \dot{y} & = & \dfrac{\partial h}{\partial x} \dot{x} = \dfrac{\partial h}{\partial x} (f + gu) = L_{f+gu} h \\ & = & L_f h + u L_g h \\ y^{(k)} & = & (L_{f+gu})^k h \end{array}$$

Lie-Brackets

$$\begin{split} [X,Y]_p(f) &= X_p(Y(f)) - Y_p(X(f)) \\ X \sim \begin{pmatrix} X_1 \\ \vdots \\ X_n \end{pmatrix}; \quad Y \sim \begin{pmatrix} Y_1 \\ \vdots \\ Y_n \end{pmatrix} \\ [X,Y] &= \frac{\partial Y}{\partial x} X - \frac{\partial X}{\partial x} Y \end{split}$$

Some Lie-Bracket Formulas

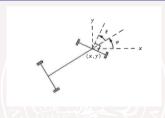
$$\begin{split} [fX,gY] &= fg[X,Y] + fX(g)Y - gY(f)X \\ [X,Y] &= -[Y,X] \\ [X_1,[X_2,X_3]] + [X_2,[X_3,X_1]] + [X_3,[X_1,X_2]] = 0 \\ L_XY &= [X,Y] = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{1}{h}[X_*^{-h}Y - Y] \end{split}$$

$$X_*^{-h}Y = \sum_{n=0}^\infty \operatorname{ad}_X^n Y \frac{h^n}{n!} = Y + h[X,Y] + \frac{h^2}{2}[X,[X,Y]] \dots$$

related to

$$e^{A}e^{B} = e^{C}; \qquad C = A + B + \frac{1}{2}[A, B] + \dots$$

Park Your Car Using Lie-Brackets!



(x,y) : position

 ϕ : direction of ca

 θ : direction of wheels

 $(x,y,\phi,\theta) \ \in \ R^2 \times S^1 \times [\theta_{\min},\theta_{\max}]$

Another example

$$\begin{split} X &= \begin{pmatrix} \cos \phi \\ r \end{pmatrix} \sim \cos \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + r \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \\ Y &= \begin{pmatrix} r \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \sim r \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \\ [X,Y] &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \phi \\ r \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\sin \phi \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} r \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \cos \phi - \sin \phi \\ -r \end{pmatrix} \sim (\cos \phi - \sin \phi) \frac{\partial}{\partial r} - r \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \end{split}$$

Vector Fields, Summary

A vector field X is associated with

a) A system of differential equations

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = X(x)$$

b) A flow $\Phi^t:M\mapsto M,t\in[t_0,t_1],$ where $\sigma(t)=\Phi^t(x)$ is the solution to

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dt} = X(\sigma), \qquad \sigma(0) = x$$

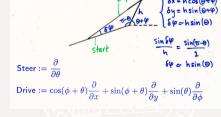
c) A directional derivative

$$X_x f = \frac{d}{dt} f(\Phi^t(x)) \Big|_{t=0}$$

- d) A "derivation" of the algebra $C^{\infty}(M)$.
- e) A partial differential operator

$$X = \sum X_j \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j}$$

Parking cont'd



$$\mathsf{Steer} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathsf{Drive} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\phi + \theta) \\ \sin(\phi + \theta) \\ \sin(\theta) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Lie-Brackets

Why are Lie-brackets so fundamental?

$$\dot{x} = g_1 u_1 + g_2 u_2$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} (u_1(t),u_2(t)) &=& \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} (1,0) & t \in [0,h) \\ (0,1) & t \in [h,2h) \\ (-1,0) & t \in [2h,3h) \\ (0,-1) & t \in [3h,4h) \end{array} \right. \\ x(4h) &=& x_0 + h^2[g_1,g_2] + O(h^3) \end{array}$$

Trotters Product Formula

$$\Phi^t_{[X,Y]} = \lim_{n \to \infty} \left(\Phi^{\sqrt{\frac{t}{n}}}_{-Y} \Phi^{\sqrt{\frac{t}{n}}}_{-X} \Phi^{\sqrt{\frac{t}{n}}}_{Y} \Phi^{\sqrt{\frac{t}{n}}}_{X} \right)^n$$

Proof sketch

$$\left(1 + \frac{tf}{n} + o\left(\frac{tf}{n}\right)\right)^n \to e^{tf}$$

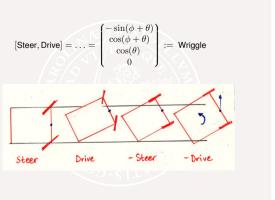
 $a \rightarrow b$ solution to differential equations

 $b \to c \, \mathrm{direct}$

c o d direct

 $d \rightarrow e$ proposition

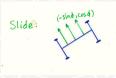
 $e
ightarrow a \, \mathrm{direct}$



An easy calculation (exercise) shows that

$$[\text{Wriggle, Drive}] = \begin{bmatrix} -\sin(\phi + \theta) \\ \cos(\phi + \theta) \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} =: \text{Slide}$$

For $\theta = 0$ this takes you sideways:



$$\mathsf{Slide}^t(x, y, \phi, 0) = (x - t\sin(\phi), x + t\cos(\phi), \phi, 0)$$

Controllability Theorems

$$\dot{x} = f(x) + \sum_{i} g_i(x) u_i$$

Let $A(x_0)$ be the reachable set from x_0 , i.e. all points that can be reached from x_0 using a suitable control u

Accessibility The system has the accessibility property at x if A(x) has nonempty interior

Fundamental Parking Theorem

You can get out of any parking lot that is larger than the car. Use the following control: Wriggle, Drive, –Wriggle (this requires a cool head), –Drive (repeat).

Proof: Trotters Product Formula

Accessibility theorem

 $C = \text{smallest Lie subalg. containing } \{f, g_1, \dots, g_m\}$



Theorem If for all x_0 the Lie-bracket tree contains n linearly independent elements, then the system is has the accessbility property

$$\dim C = n \implies \operatorname{can} \operatorname{reach} \operatorname{open} \operatorname{set}$$

If f=0, (or more generally f(x,u) is "symmetric", see Glad) then the system is controllable: $A(x_0)=R^n$

Linear Systems

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu = f(x) + g(x)u$$
 Example
$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu$$
 As a Unit of Linear subtree. As a Unit of Linear subtree.

$$\begin{array}{rcl} [f,g] &=& [Ax,B] = 0 - AB \\ [g,[f,g]] &=& 0 \\ [f,[f,g]] &=& [Ax,-AB] = A^2B \\ &\vdots \\ \operatorname{Ad}_f^k g = [f,[f,\dots,[f,g]]] = (-1)^k A^k B \end{array}$$

Reading Assignment

For a precis formulation, and more about "controllability" vs "accessability" see

T. Glad, Nonlinear Control Theory, Chapter 8, pp 73-81