

A time multiplexing technique to control the heading of an underwater robot using an inertia wheel

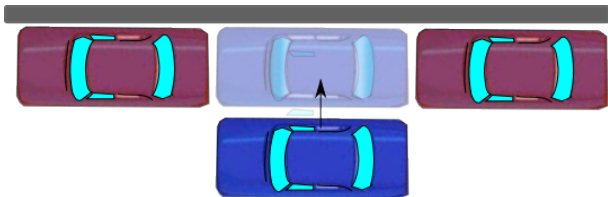
Luc Jaulin (with Gabriel Betton, Mathis Riera, Loïck Degorre, Lionel Lapierre)



November 26, 2024, Faro, Palaiseau

La vidéo de la présentation est disponible ici
https://youtu.be/_mu8whjjfeo

1. Control with Lie brackets



To park, the blue car needs to move sideway

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 &= u_1 \cos x_3 \\ \dot{x}_2 &= u_1 \sin x_3 \\ \dot{x}_3 &= u_2 \end{cases}$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \cos x_3 \\ \sin x_3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})} \cdot u_1 + \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})} \cdot u_2$$

The Lie bracket between the two vector fields \mathbf{f} and \mathbf{g} is

$$[\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g}] = \frac{d\mathbf{g}}{d\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{f} - \frac{d\mathbf{f}}{d\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{g}.$$

The set of vector fields equipped with the Lie bracket is a Lie algebra. For instance

$$[\mathbf{f}, [\mathbf{g}, \mathbf{h}]] + [\mathbf{h}, [\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g}]] + [\mathbf{g}, [\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{f}]] = \mathbf{0}$$

Example. For $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{x}$, $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{x}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} [\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g}](\mathbf{x}) &= \frac{d\mathbf{g}}{d\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) - \frac{d\mathbf{f}}{d\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) \\ &= \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{x} \\ &= (\mathbf{B}\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{B}) \cdot \mathbf{x}. \end{aligned}$$

Consider the system

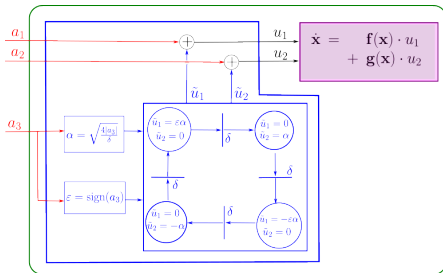
$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) \cdot u_1 + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) \cdot u_2.$$

Apply the following cyclic sequence:

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} t \in [0, \delta] & t \in [\delta, 2\delta] & t \in [2\delta, 3\delta] & t \in [3\delta, 4\delta] & t \in [4\delta, 5\delta] & \dots \\ \mathbf{u} = (1, 0) & \mathbf{u} = (0, 1) & \mathbf{u} = (-1, 0) & \mathbf{u} = (0, -1) & \mathbf{u} = (1, 0) & \dots \end{array}$$

where $\delta = o(1)$. We have

$$\mathbf{x}(t+2\delta) = \mathbf{x}(t-2\delta) + [\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g}](\mathbf{x}(t)) \delta^2 + o(\delta^2).$$



$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{matrix} \xrightarrow{a_1} \\ \xrightarrow{a_2} \\ \xrightarrow{a_3} \end{matrix} \dot{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{matrix} \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) \cdot a_1 \\ + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) \cdot a_2 \\ + [\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g}](\mathbf{x}) \cdot a_3 \end{matrix}$$

First order Dubins car:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 &= u_1 \cos x_3 \\ \dot{x}_2 &= u_1 \sin x_3 \\ \dot{x}_3 &= u_2 \end{cases}$$

or equivalently

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \cos x_3 \\ \sin x_3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})} \cdot u_1 + \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})} \cdot u_2$$

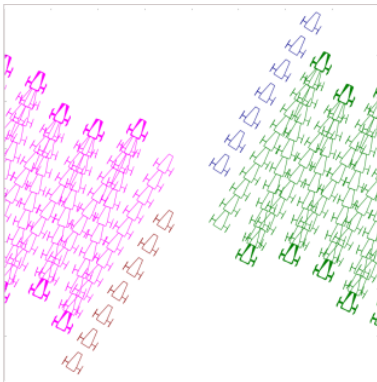
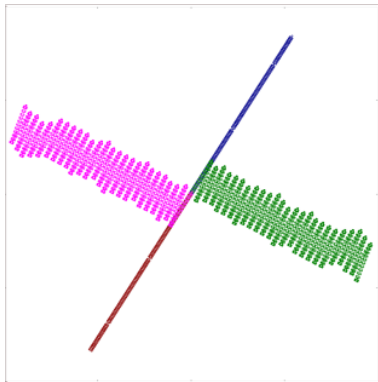
We have

$$\begin{aligned} [\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g}](\mathbf{x}) &= \underbrace{\frac{d\mathbf{g}}{d\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{x})}_{\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}} \cdot \underbrace{\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})}_{\begin{pmatrix} \cos x_3 \\ \sin x_3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}} - \underbrace{\frac{d\mathbf{f}}{d\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{x})}_{\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -\sin x_3 \\ 0 & 0 & \cos x_3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}} \cdot \underbrace{\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})}_{\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \sin x_3 \\ -\cos x_3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

We can now move the car laterally.

If we apply the cyclic sequence, we get

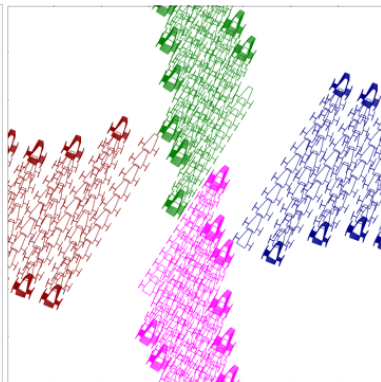
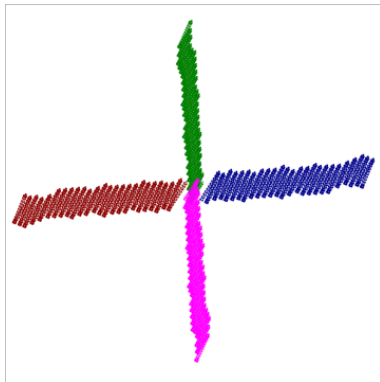
$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \cos x_3 \\ \sin x_3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})} \cdot a_1 + \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})} \cdot a_2 + \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \sin x_3 \\ -\cos x_3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}}_{[\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g}](\mathbf{x})} \cdot a_3$$

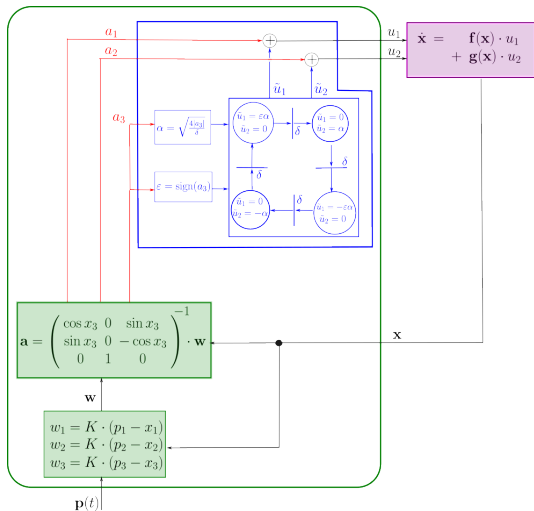


We have

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\mathbf{x}} &= \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) \cdot a_1 + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) \cdot a_2 + [\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g}](\mathbf{x}) \cdot a_3 \\ &= \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \mathbf{a}\end{aligned}$$

We take $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \mathbf{w}$ to get $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{w}$, where $\mathbf{w} = (\dot{x}_d, \dot{y}_d, \dot{\theta}_d)$.





Right inverse of the first order Dubins car

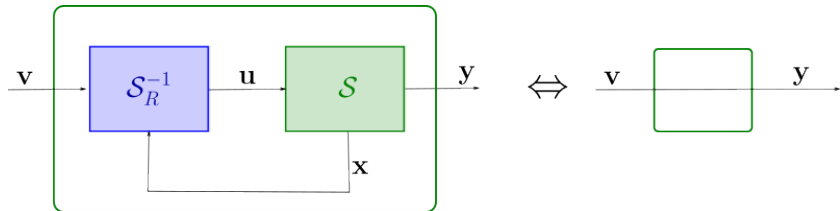
2. With drift

Second order Dubins car

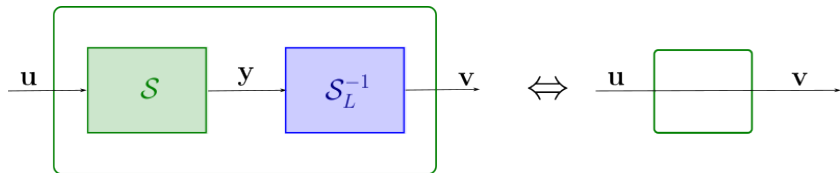
$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = x_4 \cos x_3 \\ \dot{x}_2 = x_4 \sin x_3 \\ \dot{x}_3 = x_5 \\ \dot{x}_4 = u_1 \\ \dot{x}_5 = u_2 \end{cases}$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} x_4 \cos x_3 \\ x_4 \sin x_3 \\ x_5 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})} + \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{g}_1(\mathbf{x})} \cdot u_1 + \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{g}_2(\mathbf{x})} \cdot u_2$$

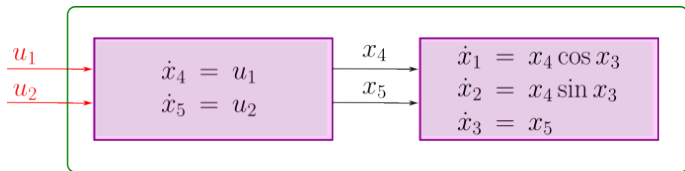
To use a backstepping technique we decompose the system as a chain of right invertible systems.

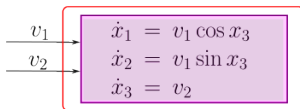
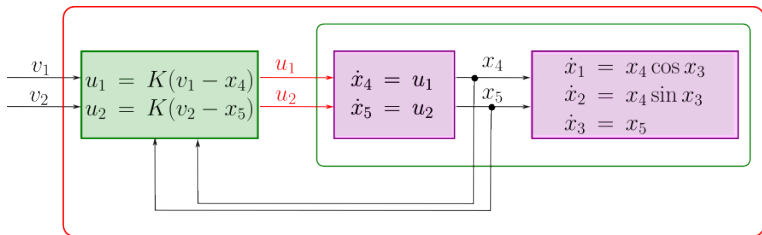


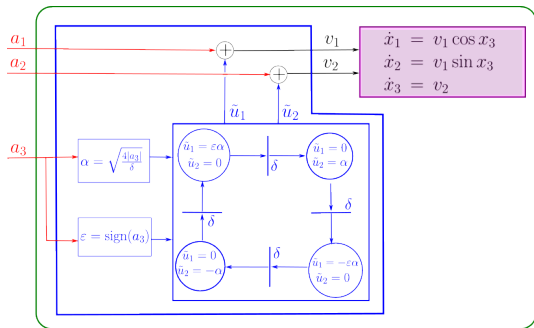
The system \mathcal{S}_R^{-1} is the right inverse of \mathcal{S} :
$$\mathbf{y} = \mathcal{S}(\mathbf{u}) = \mathcal{S} \circ \mathcal{S}_R^{-1}(\mathbf{v}) \simeq \mathbf{v}$$



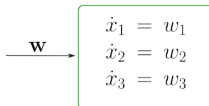
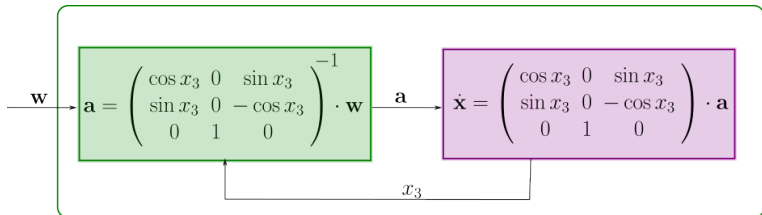
The system \mathcal{S}_L^{-1} is the left inverse of \mathcal{S} : $\mathbf{v} = \mathcal{S}_L^{-1} \circ \mathcal{S}(\mathbf{u}) \simeq \mathbf{u}$

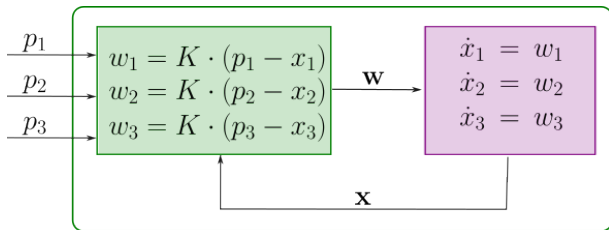


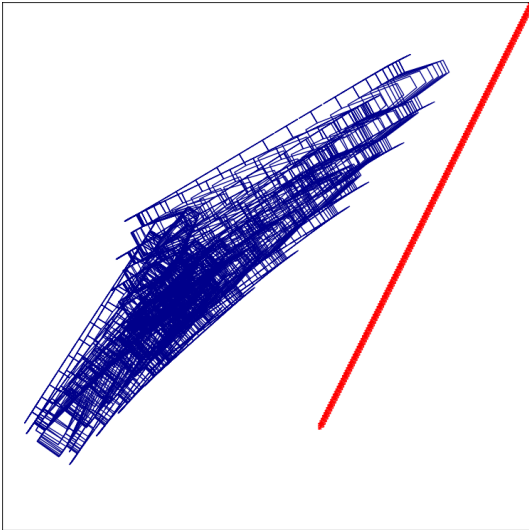


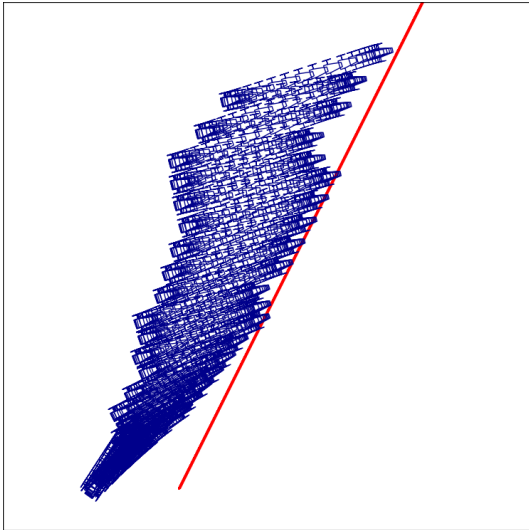


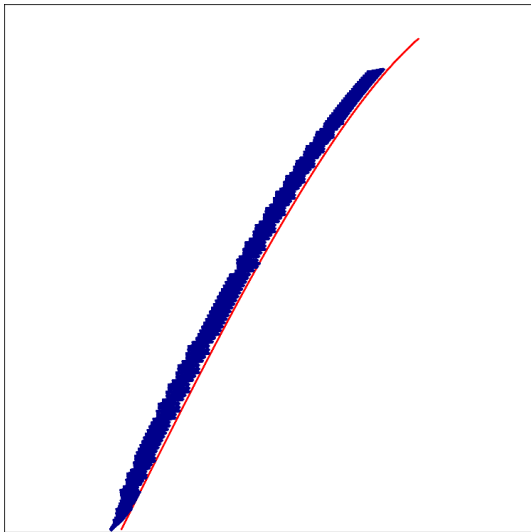
$\mathbf{a} \rightarrow \dot{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos x_3 & 0 & \sin x_3 \\ \sin x_3 & 0 & -\cos x_3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \mathbf{a}$

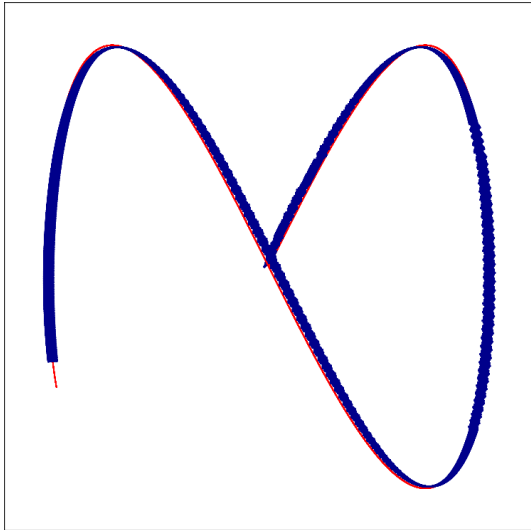






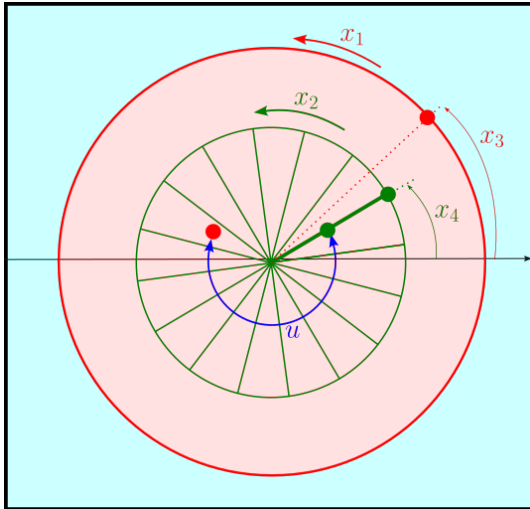






3. Swim disk

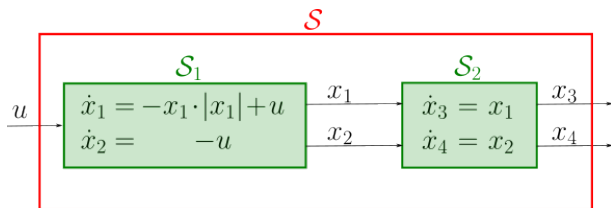




The state equations are

$$\mathcal{S} : \begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 &= -x_1 \cdot |x_1| + u \\ \dot{x}_2 &= -u \\ \dot{x}_3 &= x_1 \\ \dot{x}_4 &= x_2 \end{cases}$$

Can we control the two angles x_3, x_4 independently?



Consider

$$\mathcal{S}_1 : \begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 &= -x_1 \cdot |x_1| + u \\ \dot{x}_2 &= -u \end{cases}$$

Note that the *small-time local controllability* can only be obtained for driftless states.

For \mathcal{S}_1 , the driftless states have the form $\bar{\mathbf{x}} = (0, \bar{x}_2)$.

We want to control both x_1 and x_2 .

Linearization approach

The linearized system around \bar{x}

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} u$$

does not satisfy the controllability criterion. Indeed, the rank of the controllability matrix is one.

With Lie brackets

Our system \mathcal{S}_1 has the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \end{pmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} -x_1 \cdot |x_1| \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{f}} + \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{g}} \cdot u.$$

If at a driftless state $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$, the *Lie ideal* $\text{Lie}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g})$ spans all directions of \mathbb{R}^n , then we can *generally* conclude that the system is locally accessible.

For our system, we generate $\text{Lie}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g})$ as follows

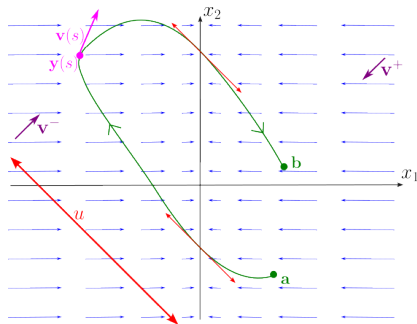
$$\begin{aligned} [\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g}](\mathbf{x}) &= \frac{d\mathbf{g}}{d\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{f} - \frac{d\mathbf{f}}{d\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{g} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -x_1 \cdot |x_1| \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} -2|x_1| & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 2|x_1| \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}[\mathbf{f}, [\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g}]](\mathbf{x}) &= \frac{d[\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g}]}{d\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{f} - \frac{d\mathbf{f}}{d\mathbf{x}} \cdot [\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g}] \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} -2\text{sign}(x_1) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -x_1 \cdot |x_1| \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &\quad - \begin{pmatrix} -2|x_1| & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2|x_1| \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 4x_1^2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} [[\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g}], \mathbf{g}] &= \frac{d\mathbf{g}}{dx} \cdot [\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g}] - \frac{d[\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g}]}{dx} \cdot \mathbf{g} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot [\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g}] - \begin{pmatrix} -2\text{sign}(x_1) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} -2\text{sign}(x_1) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

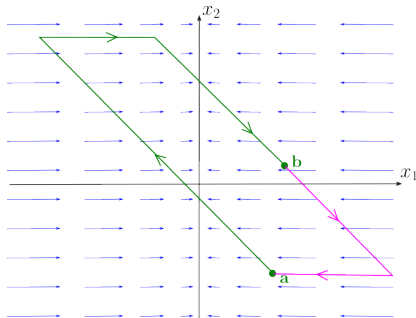
We observe that any element of $\text{Lie}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g})$ cancels at any driftless state $\bar{\mathbf{x}} = (0, \bar{x}_2)$

The criterion based on the Lie brackets fails.



A feasible path $y(s)$ for \mathcal{S}_1 from \mathbf{a} to \mathbf{b}

Proposition. Any state of the system \mathcal{S}_1 is accessible from any initial state.

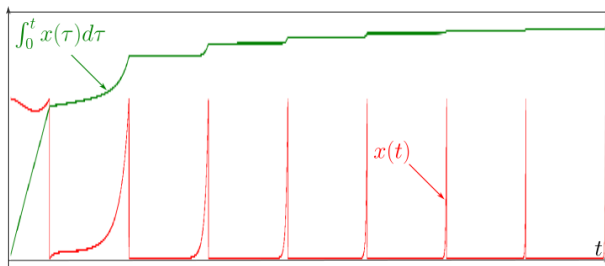


Average stability

The function $x(t) : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ converges to zero on average, we will write $x \xrightarrow{a} 0$ if

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^t x(\tau) d\tau \in \mathbb{R}$$

Example. The function $x(t) = (t \% 1)^2$ satisfies $x \xrightarrow{a} 0$.



The system $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})$ is *stable on average* if,

$$\forall \mathbf{x}(0), x_i(t) \xrightarrow{a} 0$$

A system $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$ is *stabilizable on average* if there exists a control $\mathbf{u}()$ such that the system is stable on average.

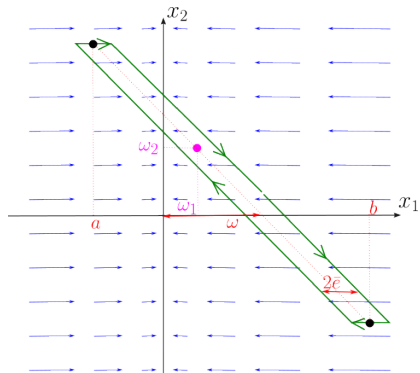
A system $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$ is *right invertible* on average if for all $\boldsymbol{\omega} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, there exists $\mathbf{u}(t)$ such that $\dot{\mathbf{z}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{z} + \boldsymbol{\omega}, \mathbf{u})$ is stabilizable on average. It means that $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\omega} \xrightarrow{a} \mathbf{0}$.

Speed control of the swim disk

We want a controller for

$$\mathcal{S}_1 : \begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 &= -x_1 \cdot |x_1| + u \\ \dot{x}_2 &= -u \end{cases}$$

which stabilizes \mathbf{x} at a given (ω_1, ω_2) on average.



A swim cycle with parameters \bar{e} , a , b , ω

Proposition. The system:

$$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \end{pmatrix}}_{\dot{\mathbf{x}}} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} -x_1 \cdot |x_1| \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})} + \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})} \cdot u$$

can follow any swim cycle. Moreover, along the swim cycle, the period is

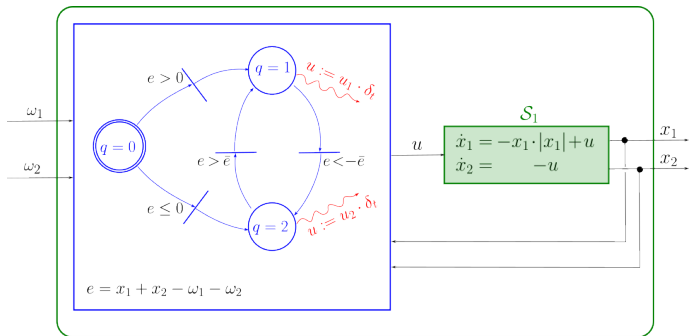
$$T = \frac{2\bar{e}}{a^2} + \frac{2\bar{e}}{b^2}$$

and the average is

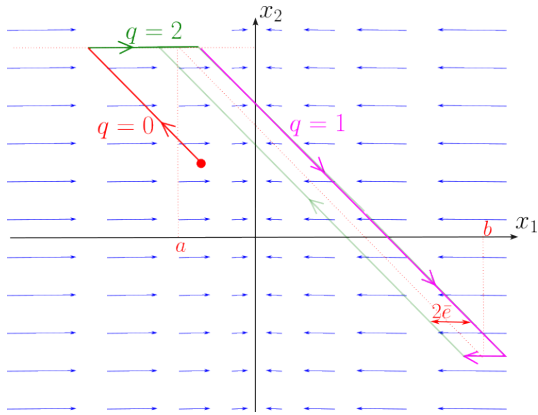
$$\begin{aligned} \omega_1 &= \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T x_1(\tau) \, d\tau = \frac{a^2 b + b^2 a}{a^2 + b^2} \\ \omega_2 &= \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T x_2(\tau) \, d\tau = \frac{(\omega - a)b^2 + (\omega - b)a^2}{a^2 + b^2} \end{aligned}$$

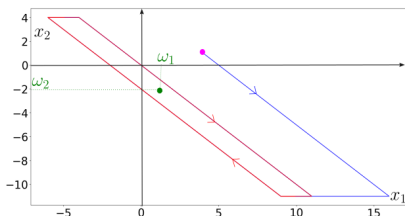
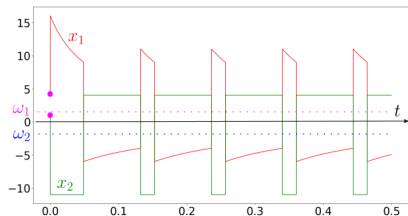
Proposition. The parameters (a, ω, \bar{e}) of the swim cycle corresponding to ω_1, ω_2, T, b are

$$\begin{aligned}\omega &= \omega_2 + \omega_1 \\ a &= \frac{-b^2 - b\sqrt{b^2 - 4(\omega_1 - b)\omega_1}}{2(b - \omega_1)} \\ \bar{e} &= \frac{T}{\frac{2}{a^2} + \frac{2}{b^2}}\end{aligned}$$



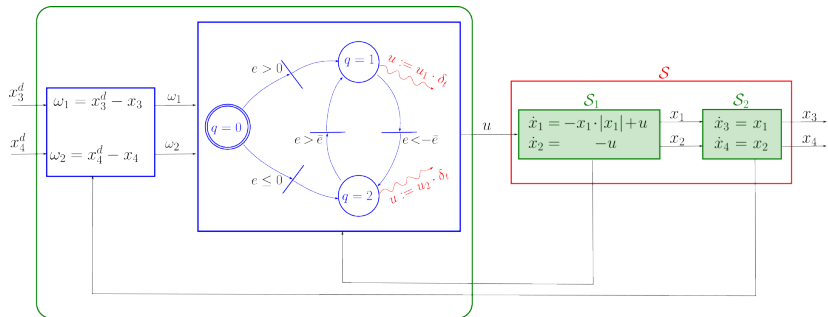
The blue controller is the right inverse of \mathcal{S}_1 in average

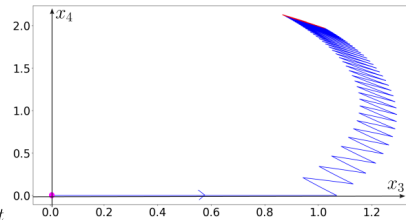
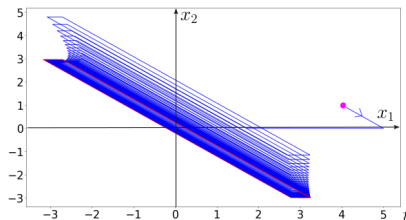
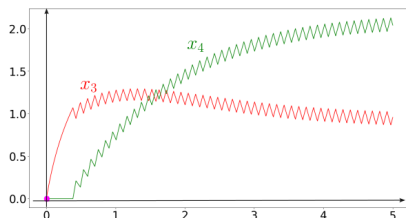
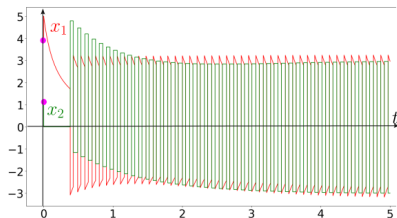




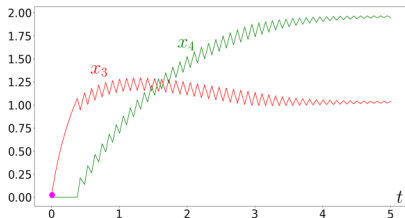
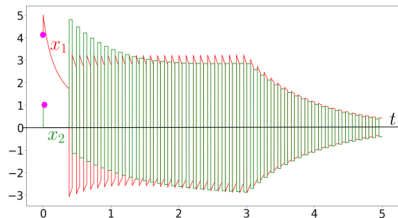
The controller leads (x_1, x_2) to the desired speeds $(\omega_1, \omega_2) = (-2, 1)$

Position control of the swim disk





The controller leads the output (x_3, x_4) to the desired position $(1, 2)$

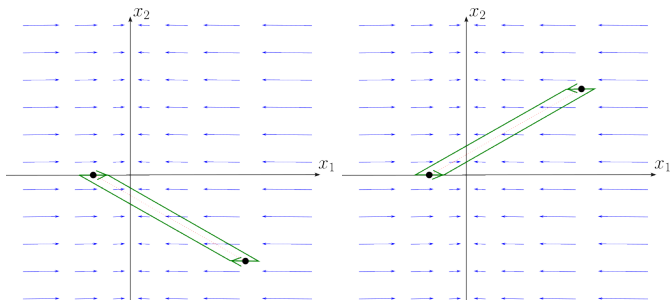


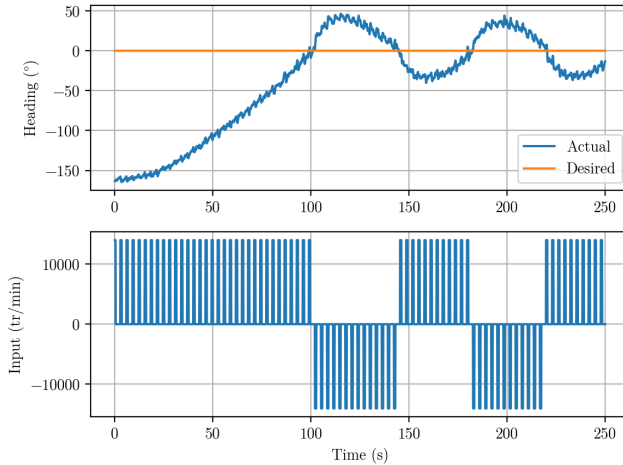
A damping is added at time $t = 3$

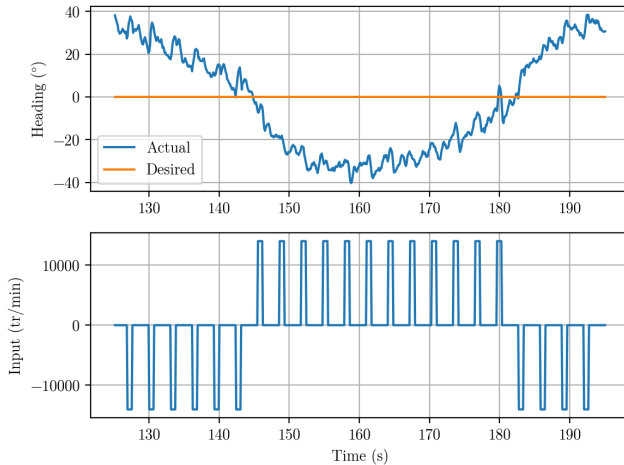
Experiment



https://youtu.be/IB_A_1ePN34












References

- 1 Lie bracket control [5] [4] [6]
- 2 Small-time local controllability [6], section 15.1.3
- 3 Left invertibility [3] and [2], section 3.3.3
- 4 Swimming robots [8][7][1]

-  F. Boyer, M. Porez, and W. Khalil.
Macro-continuous computed torque algorithm for a three-dimensional eel-like robot.
IEEE Transactions on Robotics, 22(4):763–775, 2006.
-  F. Doyle and M. Henson.
Nonlinear Systems Theory.
Prentice-Hall, 1997.
-  R. M. Hirschorn.
Invertibility of nonlinear control systems.
SIAM Journal on Control and Optimization, 17(2):289–297, 1979.
-  L. Jaulin.
InMOOC, inertial tools for robotics,
www.ensta-bretagne.fr/inmooc/.
ENSTA-Bretagne, 2019.

-  J. P. Laumond.
Feasible trajectories for mobile robots with kinematic and environment constraints.
In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Intelligent Autonomous Systems*, pages 246–354, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 1986.
-  S. LaValle.
Planning algorithm.
Cambridge University Press, 2006.
-  W. Remmas, A. Chemori, and M. Kruusmaa.
Diver tracking in open waters: A low-cost approach based on visual and acoustic sensor fusion.
J. Field Robotics, 38(3):494–508, 2021.
-  A. Simha, R. Gkliva, U. Kotta, and M. Kruusmaa.

A flapped paddle-fin for improving underwater propulsive efficiency of oscillatory actuation.

IEEE Robotics Autom. Lett., 5(2):3176–3181, 2020.