

ON THE PURSUIT PROBLEM IN NONLINEAR DIFFERENTIAL GAMES

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We prove a sufficient condition for the termination of pursuit in nonlinear games. We indicate a class of games on a plane, for which this condition is satisfied, we introduce the notion of relative optimality, and we consider an example.

1. Let the motion of a vector z in an n -dimensional Euclidean space R_n be described by the vector differential equation

$$\dot{z} = f(z, u, v), \quad u \in P, \quad v \in Q \quad (1.1)$$

Here the function $f(z, u, v)$ is defined and is continuous for all z, u, v ; P and Q are arbitrary compact subsets of the p - and q -dimensional Euclidean spaces R_p and R_q , respectively. The control parameter u corresponds to the pursuing (chasing) object and v to the pursued (escaping) object. Further, a certain terminal set M is specified in R_n . The game consists of the following: the pursuing object tries to lead out the point z onto M , while the pursued object, generally speaking, hinders this. The game is considered terminated when point z falls onto M . All this describes a differential pursuit game (cf. [1]).

Let the game start from a point $z_0 \in M$ at $t = 0$. We say that the pursuit from point z_0 can be terminated in a finite time if there exists a number $t(z_0) > 0$ such that under an arbitrary measurable variation $v(t)$ of parameter v we can select a measurable variation $u(t)$ of parameter u such that the solution $z(t)$ of the equation

$$\dot{z} = f(z, u(t), v(t)), \quad z(0) = z_0 \quad (1.2)$$

falls onto M in a time not exceeding the number $t(z_0)$; here, for finding the value $u(t)$ of parameter u at each instant $t \geq 0$ we use only the current information: the values $z(t)$ and $v(t)$ of vector z and of parameter v at this same instant t . In what follows we need a generalization of Filippov's lemma [2, 3]. We present it in the necessary form.

Filippov's lemma. If $\varphi(t, u)$ is a continuous n -vector-valued function of the arguments $t \in [\alpha, \beta]$, $u = (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_r) \in \Pi$, Π is a compactum in an r -dimensional Euclidean space, $y(t)$ is a measurable n -vector-valued function defined on the interval $[\alpha, \beta]$ and $\varphi(t, \Pi) \ni y(t)$, then there exists a measurable function $u(t)$, $\alpha \leq t \leq \beta$, for which $\varphi(t, u(t)) = y(t)$ for almost all $t \in [\alpha, \beta]$, i.e. the equation $\varphi(t, u) = y(t)$ has a measurable solution.

Let us state a generalization of this lemma.

Lemma 1. If $\psi(t, u, v)$ is a continuous n -vector-valued function of the arguments $t \in [\alpha, \beta]$, $u \in \Pi_1$, $v \in \Pi_2$, Π_1 and Π_2 are compacta in s - and r -dimensional Euclidean spaces, respectively, $v_0(t), y(t)$ are measurable functions defined on $[\alpha, \beta]$ and $\psi(t, \Pi_1, v_0(t)) \ni y(t)$, then the equation $\psi(t, u, v_0(t)) = y(t)$

has a measurable solution.

Proof. For each $t \in [\alpha, \beta]$, by $u_0(t)$ we denote the solution, smallest in the lexicographic sense, of the equation $\psi(t, u, v_0(t)) = y(t)$ [2, 3]. By Luzin's theorem, for any $\varepsilon > 0$ we can find a compact set $\sigma \subset [\alpha, \beta]$, $\beta - \alpha - \text{mes } \sigma < \varepsilon$, on which the functions $v_0(t), y(t)$ are continuous. By arguing just the same way as in [2, 3], we can show the measurability of $u_0(t)$ on σ . Because the number ε is arbitrary, the function $u_0(t)$ is also measurable on $[\alpha, \beta]$.

Theorem 1. Let the game be started from a point $z_0 \in M$ at $t = 0$. If there exists an absolutely continuous function $\xi(t)$, $0 \leq t \leq T(z_0)$, for which: (1) $\xi(0) = z_0$, $\xi(\tau_0) \in M$, $\tau_0 = T(z_0)$, (2) $\xi'(t) \in f(\xi(t), P, v)$ for any $v \in Q$ for almost every $t \in [0, \tau_0]$, then we can terminate the pursuit in time $T(z_0)$.

Proof. 1°. From Condition (2) of the theorem it follows that $\xi'(t) \in f(\xi(t), P, Q)$ for almost every $t \in [0, \tau_0]$. We denote the Cartesian direct product $P \times Q$ by Π and the function $f(\xi(t), u, v)$ by $\varphi(t, w)$, where $w = (u, v)$. Obviously, the function $\varphi(t, w)$ is continuous in t, w and the set Π is compact in $R_p \times R_q$. Consequently, all the conditions of Filippov's lemma are satisfied. Therefore, there exists a measurable function $w_0(t)$, defined on the interval $[0, \tau_0]$, for which

$$\varphi(t, w_0(t)) = \xi'(t)$$

Obviously, the components $u_0(t), v_0(t)$ of the measurable function $w_0(t)$ also are measurable and $f(\xi(t), u_0(t), v_0(t)) = \xi'(t)$ for almost all $t \in [0, \tau_0]$. Hence, the function $\xi(t)$ is a solution of Eq. (1.1) (with $u = u_0(t), v = v_0(t)$).

2°. Now let $v = v_1(t)$, $0 \leq t \leq \tau_0$, be an arbitrary measurable function with values from Q . We denote the function $f(\xi(t), u, v)$ by $\psi(t, u, v)$. The function $\psi(t, u, v)$ is defined for all $t \in [0, \tau_0]$, $u \in P, v \in Q$, is continuous in t, u, v , and $\psi(t, P, v_1(t)) \in \xi'(t)$ by virtue of Condition (2) of the theorem. Hence, all the hypotheses of Lemma 1 are satisfied. Therefore, there exists a measurable function $u_1(t)$, $0 \leq t \leq \tau_0$, for which

$$f(\xi(t), u_1(t), v_1(t)) \equiv \psi(t, u_1(t), v_1(t)) = \xi'(t) \quad (1.3)$$

for almost every t . From (1.3) we see that the absolutely continuous function $\xi(t)$ is a solution of Eq. (1.1) (with $u = u_1(t), v = v_1(t)$).

3°. Suppose that the pursued object chose an arbitrary measurable control $v = v(t)$ whose value at every instant $t \geq 0$ becomes known to the pursuer. Then, from the value $v(t)$ he chooses the value $u(t)$ of his own control parameter u at this same instant t so that

$$f(\xi(t), u(t), v(t)) = \xi'(t)$$

Obviously, the solution $z(t)$ of Eq. (1.1), corresponding to the controls $u(t), v(t)$, coincides with $\xi(t)$: $z(t) \equiv \xi(t)$ (see Sect. 2). Therefore, $z(0) = z_0$ and $\xi(\tau_0) = z(\tau_0) \in M$. The theorem is proved.

2. Let us consider nonlinear games on a plane. We indicate conditions under which the game can be completed from the points of a certain region. Further, we prove the optimality of the pursuit time relative to the region (see below for the definition).

Let the motion of vector z be described by the system

$$z_1' = z_2, \quad z_2' = g(z, u, v) \quad (2.1)$$

Here u, v are scalar control parameters whose range of variation is $P = Q = [-1, 1]$. The terminal set $M = \{0\}$. Concerning the function $g(z, u, v)$ we assume that it is continuous in all arguments for all z and for $u \in P, v \in Q$, is continuously differentiable in z_1, z_2 for $u = v = 1, u = v = -1$ and for all z . We assume further the fulfillment of the following conditions:

1) No trajectory whatsoever of system (2.1) can go to infinity or come out from infinity within a finite time interval.

2) Let $f_1 = f_1(z) \equiv g(z, 1, 1), f_2 = f_2(z) \equiv g(z, -1, -1)$. For all z and for $i = 1, 2$,

- a) $\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial z_1} < -\frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial z_2} \right)^2$
 b) $\left(\frac{\partial^2 f_i}{\partial z_1 \partial z_2} \right)^2 \leq \frac{\partial^2 f_i}{\partial z_1^2} \frac{\partial^2 f_i}{\partial z_2^2}, \quad (-1)^i \left[\frac{\partial^2 f_i}{\partial z_1^2} - \frac{\partial^2 f_i}{\partial z_2^2} \right] \leq 0$
 3) $f_1(z) > f_2(z)$ for all z .
 4) $f_1(0) > 0 > f_2(0)$

5) For each fixed v the function $g(z, u, v)$ reaches its maximum for $u = 1$ and minimum for $u = -1$. Furthermore, $g(z, 1, v) \geq g(z, 1, 1), g(z, -1, v) \leq g(z, -1, -1)$.

Let us consider a controlled object described by the system

$$\begin{aligned} z_1 &= z_2, & z_2 &= f(z, w) \\ f(z, w) &= 1/2 [(1+w)f_1(z) + (1-w)f_2(z)] \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

Here the control parameter w can take values from the segment $W = [-1, 1]$. For system (2.2) we consider the time-optimal problem of hitting on the origin of the plane R_2 . All the hypotheses of Theorem 3.32 of [4] are satisfied. In fact, by virtue of assumption (5) the set $g(z, P, Q) \supset f(z, W)$, i. e. any trajectory of system (2.2) serves simultaneously as a trajectory of system (2.1); therefore, Condition A of Theorem 3.32 is satisfied. Since $f(z, 1) = f_1(z), f(z, -1) = f_2(z)$, Conditions C, D also are satisfied (see 2)). Further, $\partial f / \partial w = f_1 - f_2 > 0$ according to (3) and $f(0, 1) = f_1(0) > 0, f(0, -1) = f_2(0) < 0$, according to (4); hence conditions (3.73), (3.74) of [4] also are satisfied. Consequently, when Conditions (1)–(5) are satisfied, a region $G (\subset R_2)$ exists for the controlled object (2.2), from any point of which a motion to the origin is possible, which is optimal in region G . The synthesis of controls optimal in region G can be effected in the following manner. The switching line Λ consists of arcs $\sigma_n^-, \sigma_n^+, n = 1, 2, \dots$, while the synthesizing function $w(z)$ equals 1 below line Λ and on arc σ_1^+ and equals -1 above line Λ and on arc σ_1^- .

Theorem 2. Let z_0 be an arbitrary point of region $G, T(z_0)$ be the time in which the phase point goes from z_0 to the origin along an optimal trajectory of system (2.2). Then pursuit from point z_0 can be completed in time $T(z_0)$.

Proof. By $z_0(t)$ we denote the optimal trajectory of system (2.2), connecting point z_0 and the origin. System (2.2) is autonomous; therefore, we can take it that $z_0(0) = z_0$. Then $z_0(T(z_0)) = 0$. Let us convince ourselves that the trajectory $z_0(t), 0 \leq t \leq T(z_0)$ satisfies the hypotheses of Theorem 1. Obviously, Condition (1) is satisfied. Since $z_{01}(t) = z_{02}(t), z'_{02}(t) = f(z_0(t), w_0(t))$, where $w_0(t), 0 \leq t \leq T(z_0)$

is the optimal control leading the phase point from z_0 to the origin along trajectory $z_0(t)$. to verify Condition (2) it is sufficient to show that $f(z_0(t), w_0(t)) \subset g(z_0(t), P, Q)$ for any v and for almost every t . We have

$$f(z_0(t), w_0(t)) \subset [g(z_0(t), -1, -1), g(z_0(t), 1, 1)]$$

On the other hand

$$g(z_0(t), P, Q) = [g(z_0(t), -1, v), g(z_0(t), 1, v)] \supset [g(z_0(t), -1, -1), g(z_0(t), 1, 1)]$$

Hence $f(z_0(t), w_0(t)) \subset g(z_0(t), P, v)$ for any v and for almost every t . Consequently, by virtue of Theorem 1 the pursuit from z_0 can be terminated.

The theorem from [4] cited above establishes the optimality of the trajectories only in region G , i. e. they are optimal in comparison only with trajectories wholly located in G . Therefore, in the differential game described by system (2.1) we can consider the optimality of the pursuit time relative to region G . We introduce the precise definition.

Definition. Let D be some subset of R_2 , containing point z_0 . The number $t(z_0)$ is called the optimal pursuit time relative to D if: (1) the pursuit from point z_0 can be completed in time $t(z_0)$, (2) there exists a measurable control $v(t)$, $0 \leq t \leq t(z_0)$, such that for any measurable control $u(t)$, $0 \leq t \leq t(z_0)$, the solution $z(t)$, $0 \leq t \leq t(z_0)$ of system (2.1), corresponding to the controls $u(t)$, $v(t)$ and emerging from z_0 at $t = 0$, satisfies the conditions $z(t) \in D$ for all $t \in [0, t(z_0)]$ and $z(t) \neq 0$ for any $t \in [0, t(z_0))$. Obviously, if $D = R_2$, then optimality as introduced above coincides with optimality in Pontriagin's sense [1].

Theorem 3. If Conditions (1)–(5) are satisfied, then the time $T(z_0)$ is optimal relative to G for any point $z_0 \in G$.

Proof. The possibility of completing the pursuit from an arbitrary point $z_0 \in G$ in time $T(z_0)$ was established in Theorem 2. It remains to prove the validity of the second part of the definition. Assume that the pursued object applies the control $v(t) = w_0(t)$, $0 \leq t \leq T(z_0)$, while the pursuing object applies an arbitrary control $u(t)$, $0 \leq t \leq T(z_0)$. The trajectory $z(t)$, $0 \leq t \leq T(z_0)$, corresponding to $u(t)$, $v(t)$ connects the points z_0 , $z(T(z_0))$ and is located wholly in G (see the definition). To be specific let z_0 be above Λ , for $0 \leq t < t_1$ let the trajectory $z(t)$ lie in a two-dimensional cell Σ_1 , let it be a part of a one-dimensional v of second kind for $t_1 \leq t < t_2$, let it be a part of a two-dimensional cell Σ_2 for $t_2 \leq t < t_3$, etc. [4], and, finally, for $t_h \leq t \leq T < T(z_0)$ let it hit into the origin on a cell of first kind.

As is known [4], the function $\omega(z) \equiv -T(z)$, $z \in G$, called the Bellman function, is continuously differentiable in the region $G \setminus \Lambda$ and satisfies in it the Bellman equation

$$\max_{w \in W} \left[\frac{\partial \omega(z)}{\partial z_1} z_2 + \frac{\partial \omega(z)}{\partial z_2} f(z, w) \right] = 1 \quad (2.3)$$

$$\frac{\partial \omega(z)}{\partial z_1} z_2 + \frac{\partial \omega(z)}{\partial z_2} f(z, -1) = 1, \text{ if } z \text{ is above } \Lambda$$

The function $z(t)$, $0 \leq t < t_1$, is absolutely continuous, while the function $\omega(z)$ is

smooth in the region $G \setminus \Lambda$. Therefore [5], their superposition $\omega(z(t)), 0 \leq t < t_1$ is absolutely continuous. Hence, for almost all $t \in [0, t_1]$ the derivative $d\omega(z(t))/dt$ exists and can be computed by the formula

$$\frac{d\omega(z(t))}{dt} = \frac{\partial\omega(z(t))}{\partial z_1} z_1(t) + \frac{\partial\omega(z(t))}{\partial z_2} g(z(t), u(t), -1) \quad (2.4)$$

Now let $\varepsilon > 0$ be an arbitrary number, $\varepsilon < t_1$. We consider (2.4) for $0 \leq t \leq t_1 - \varepsilon$. Since the function $\partial\omega(z(t))/\partial z_2 < 0$ [4] for $t \in [0, t_1 - \varepsilon]$, according to (2.3) we have $d\omega(z(t))/dt \leq 1$. Hence, $\omega(z(t_1 - \varepsilon)) - \omega(z(0)) \leq t_1 - \varepsilon < t_1$. Hence, because ε is arbitrary, we obtain $t_1 > \omega(z(t_1)) - \omega(z_0)$. Suppose now that $z(t)$ lies in a one-dimensional cell of first kind for $t \in [\tau_1, \tau_2]$. Because of the special form of system (2.1) this is possible if and only if

$$g(z(t), u(t), w_0(t)) = f(z(t), 1), \quad g(z(t), u(t), w_0(t)) = f(z(t), -1)$$

Consequently, the phase point moves along trajectory $z(t)$ at the same velocity with which it moves for system (2.2) along Λ from $z(\tau_1)$ to $z(\tau_2)$. Hence, $\tau_2 - \tau_1 = \omega(z(\tau_2)) - \omega(z(\tau_1))$.

It is known that if $z(t)$ is a part of a two-dimensional or one-dimensional cell of first kind for $\tau < t < s$, then $s - \tau \geq \omega(z(s)) - \omega(z(\tau))$. But in the given case the phase point $z(t)$ can move for some time on a one-dimensional cell of first kind. It can be proved that if $z(t) \in v$, $t_1 \leq t \leq t_2$, then $t_2 - t_1 \geq \omega(z(t_2)) - \omega(z(t_1))$. To do this it suffices to prove the validity of the Bellman equation on v , i. e. it is sufficient that [6]: (a) the optimal trajectories of system (2.2) should not only approach (this follows from Conditions (1) - (5)) but also depart from cell v at a nonzero angle, (b) the level lines of function $\omega(z)$ at points v do not touch cell v .

Let us first prove the validity of condition (a). The optimal trajectories of system (2.2), moving on cell Σ_2 , approach a certain one-dimensional cell v_1 at a nonzero angle [4]. Let z° be an arbitrary point of cell v_1 and $z^\Delta(t)$ be an optimal trajectory of system (2.2) passing through it. Let $\varphi(\Delta)$, $|\Delta| < \varepsilon$ be the equation of cell v_1 in the neighborhood of point z° and let $\varphi(0) = z^\circ$. By $z^\Delta(t)$ we denote an optimal trajectory of system (2.2) passing through point $\varphi(\Delta)$. Because system (2.2) is autonomous, we can take $z^\Delta(0) = \varphi(\Delta)$, $|\Delta| < \varepsilon$. The trajectory $z^\Delta(t)$ intersects cell v at some $t = \theta(\Delta)$, $\theta(\Delta) < 0$. As was proved in [4], the function $\theta(\Delta)$ depends smoothly on the parameter Δ . By virtue of the smoothness of cell v_1 , the function $\varphi(\Delta)$, $|\Delta| < \varepsilon$ is also smooth. We have $\varphi'(\Delta) = \varphi'(0) + \varphi''(0)\Delta + o(\Delta)$ (here and further on $o(\Delta)$ denotes an infinitesimal of order higher than the first relative to Δ). But $z^\Delta(0) = \varphi(\Delta)$, $z^\Delta(\theta) = \varphi(0) = z^\circ$. Consequently [4], $z^\Delta(\theta(\Delta)) = z^\circ(\theta(\Delta)) + \delta z(\theta(\Delta))\Delta + o(\Delta)$. Here $\delta z(t)$ denotes the solution of the variational system

$$\delta z_1' = \delta z_2, \quad \delta z_2' = \frac{\partial f(z^\circ(t), w_0(t))}{\partial z_1} \delta z_1 + \frac{\partial f(z^\circ(t), w_0(t))}{\partial z_2} \delta z_2 \quad (2.5)$$

with initial condition $\delta z(0) = \varphi'(0)$. Since it is obvious that $\theta(\Delta) = \theta(0) + \theta'(\Delta)\Delta + o(\Delta)$, then

$$z^\Delta(\theta(\Delta)) = z^\circ(\theta(0)) + [z^\circ(\theta(0))\theta'(\Delta) + \delta z(\theta(0))]\Delta + o(\Delta) \quad (2.6)$$

The point $z^\Delta(\theta(\Delta))$ belongs to cell v for all $|\Delta| < \varepsilon$. Therefore, by virtue of (2.6) the vector

$$\delta z(\theta(0)) + z^\circ(\theta(0))\theta'(\Delta) \quad (2.7)$$

is tangent to cell v at the point $z^\circ(\theta(0))$. We now prove that vector (2.7) is not collinear with vector $z^\circ(\theta(0))$, i. e., the trajectory $z^\circ(t)$ departs from cell v at a nonzero angle. Assume that $\delta z(\theta(0)) + z^\circ(\theta(0))\theta'(0) = \lambda z^\circ(\theta(0))$, $\lambda \neq 0$. It can be checked that the function $z^\circ(t)$, $\theta(0) \leq t \leq 0$ is a solution of system (2.5). Consequently, the function

$$\delta z(t) + z^\circ(t)\theta'(0), \quad \theta(0) \leq t \leq 0$$

also is a solution of system (2.5). By virtue of the uniqueness theorem

$$\delta z(t) + z^\circ(t)\theta'(0) \equiv \lambda z^\circ(t) \quad (2.8)$$

When $t = 0$, from (2.7) we have

$$\delta z(0) + z^\circ(0)\theta'(0) = \lambda z^\circ(0) \quad (2.9)$$

But equality (2.9) is possible if and only if the vector $z^\circ(0)$, i. e., the tangent vector to trajectory $z^\circ(t)$ at the instant $t = 0$, is collinear with the vector $\varphi'(0)$, i. e., the tangent vector to cell v_1 at point z° . We have arrived at a contradiction because, as was noted above, the trajectory $z^\circ(t)$ approaches v_1 at a nonzero angle. Thus, the trajectory $z^\circ(t)$ departs from v_1 at a nonzero angle. Condition (a) is proved.

We proceed to the proof of the condition (b). By $\psi(t)$ we denote a solution of the adjoint system (4), corresponding to the optimal trajectory $z^\circ(t)$ and to the control $u_0(t)$. We assume that $z^\circ(t) \in \Sigma_1$, $0 \leq t < \tau_1$, and $z^\circ(t) \in \Sigma_2$, $\tau_1 < t < \tau_2$. As is known [4], the vector $\psi(t) = \lambda_1 \text{grad } \omega(z^\circ(t))$, $\lambda_1 > 0$, for $t \in [0, \tau_1)$, and the vector $\psi(t) = \lambda_2 \text{grad } \omega(z^\circ(t))$, $\lambda_2 > 0$, for $t \in (\tau_1, \tau_2)$, i. e., at points of trajectory $z^\circ(t)$, lying in Σ_1 , Σ_2 , the vector $\psi(t)$ is directed orthogonally to the level line. By virtue of condition (a) the level line of $\omega(z) = \omega(z^\circ(t))$ is smooth at point $z^\circ(\tau_1)$ [5]. Now, from continuity considerations we conclude that $\psi(\tau_1) = \lambda_1 \text{grad } \omega(z^\circ(\tau_1))$. But [4] the second component of vector $\psi(\tau_1)$ equals zero. Therefore, the tangent vector to the level line of $\omega(z) = \omega(z^\circ(\tau_1))$ at point $z^\circ(\tau_1)$ is directed parallelly to the z_2 -axis. In [4] it was proved that cell v does not have vertical tangents. Hence, the level line of $\omega(z) = \omega(z^\circ(\tau_1))$ does not touch v at point $z^\circ(\tau_1)$. Since $z^\circ(\tau_1)$ ranges over the whole cell v , condition (b) is proved.

We have
$$T = (T - t_h) + (t_h - t_{h-1}) + \dots + (t_2 - t_1) + (t_1 - 0) \geq \\ + [\omega(z(t_h)) - \omega(z(t_{h-1}))] + [\omega(z(t_h)) - \omega(z(t_{h-1}))] + \dots \\ + [\omega(z(t_2)) - \omega(z(t_1))] + [\omega(z(t_1)) - \omega(z(0))] + \dots \\ = -\omega(z(0)) = T(z_0)$$

We have arrived at a contradiction because $T < T(z_0)$ by assumption. The theorem is proved.

3. Example. Let the game be described by the system [4]

$$\dot{z}_1 = z_2, \quad \dot{z}_2 = -\omega^2 z_1 - 2\delta z_2 + \rho u - \sigma v \quad (3.1)$$

Here ρ is a positive and ω^2 , δ , σ are nonnegative numbers, $\rho > \sigma$, $\delta^2 < \omega^2$, the sets $P = O = [-1, 1]$, $M = \{0\}$. Conditions (1)–(5) are easily verified for (3.1). As is known [4], the region G coincides with the whole plane of variables z_1, z_2 . Hence, optimality relative to G for (3.1) turns into optimality in Pontriagin's sense.

Note. Example (3.1) relates to the class of linear one-type objects [7]. By using the extremal sighting method we can establish the possibility of completing the pursuit from any point when the pursuer has less information available (at each instant $t \geq 0$ he knows

only the value $z(t)$ of the phase variable z). As a rule this situation is common in linear differential games [8, 9].

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ON THE ESTIMATION OF CERTAIN PERFORMANCE INDICES IN LINEAR STATIONARY CONTROLLED SYSTEMS

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We consider the behavior of a closed-loop stationary controlled system when the forcing functions belong to a certain class of functions (the Bulgakov problem [1, 2]). We derive estimates for the modulus of the maximum value of the output and for the largest accumulation of system errors.

1. Consider the system of equations

$$\begin{aligned} c_0 y^{(n)} + c_1 y^{(n-1)} + \dots + c_{n-2} y'' + y' &= k \varepsilon_x(t) & (1.1) \\ y^{(n-1)}(0) = \dots = y(0) &= 0 \\ \varepsilon_x(t) &= x(t) - y(t) \end{aligned}$$

Equations (1.1) describe the behavior of a closed-loop linear astatic automatic control