# **Optimal control of variational inequalities**

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## 1. Introduction

- 2. Optimality conditions
- 3. Regularization and path analysis

#### Minimize

$$J(y, u) := g(y) + j(u)$$

subject to the variational inequality  $y \in K$ 

$$a(y, v - y) \ge (u, v - y) \quad \forall v \in K$$

with

$$K = \{ y \in H^1_0(\Omega) : y \le \psi \}.$$

**References**: Barbu, Bergounioux, Bonnans, Casas, Hintermüller, Ito, Kunisch, Mordukhovich, Mignot, Outrata, Puel, Tiba, ...

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**Bilinear form:**  $a(\cdot, \cdot)$  coercive, induced by  $2^{nd}$ -order differential operator A with smooth coefficients

**Obstacle:**  $\psi \in H^1(\Omega)$ ,  $\psi|_{\Gamma} \ge 0$ ,  $A\psi \in L^2(\Omega)$ 

**Unique solvability:** For every  $u \in L^2(\Omega)$ , the v.i. admits a unique solution  $y \in H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^2$ 

**Multiplier:**  $\lambda := u - Ay$  with  $\lambda \ge 0$ ,  $\langle \lambda, y - \psi \rangle = 0$ 

#### **Control-to-state mapping:**

 $u \mapsto (y, \lambda)$  is directional differentiable as  $H^{-1}(\Omega) \to H^1_0(\Omega) \times H^{-1}(\Omega)$ . But neither differentiable nor Lipschitz as  $L^2(\Omega) \to H^2(\Omega) \times L^2(\Omega)$ , hence pointwise discussion w.r.t.  $\lambda$  is difficult. Optimal control problem equivalent to

min 
$$J(y(u), u)$$
  
s.t.  $\psi - y(u) \ge 0$ ,  $\lambda(u) \ge 0$ ,  $\langle y - \psi, \lambda \rangle = 0$ 

#### Mathematical programming with complementarity constraints:

min 
$$f(z)$$
 s.t.  $F(x) \ge 0$ ,  $G(z) \ge 0$ ,  $F(x)^T G(x) = 0$ .

Standard constraint qualifications fail, extensive literature on specialized MPCC-CQ.

 $\Rightarrow$  MPCC-CQ are satisfied (formally) for our problem

The variational inequality

$$a(y, v - y) \ge (u, v - y) \quad \forall v \in K$$

is the necessary and sufficient optimality condition of a constrained minimization problem.

**Bi-level optimization problem:** 

$$\min_{\substack{u \in L^{2}(\Omega), \ y \in H_{0}^{1}(\Omega)}} J(y, u)$$
$$y = \operatorname*{argmin}_{y \in K} \frac{1}{2} a(y, y) - (u, y)$$

Consider the state constraint problem:

 $\min J(y, u)$ 

subject to

$$Ay = u$$
,  $y \leq \psi$ .

Equivalent bi-level formulation:

$$\min_{\substack{u \in L^2(\Omega), y \in K}} J(y, u)$$
$$y = \operatorname*{argmin}_{y \in H^1_0(\Omega)} \frac{1}{2} a(y, y) - (u, y)$$

**Control of variational inequality:** 

(non-convex)

$$\min_{\substack{u \in L^2(\Omega), y \in H_0^1(\Omega)}} J(y, u)$$
$$y = \operatorname{argmin}_{\substack{y \in K}} \frac{1}{2} a(y, y) - (u, y)$$

State constrained problem:

(convex)

$$\min_{\substack{u \in L^2(\Omega), \ y \in K}} J(y, u)$$
$$y = \operatorname*{argmin}_{y \in H^1_0(\Omega)} \frac{1}{2} a(y, y) - (u, y)$$

In the control problem for the variational inequality

- the state constraint is imposed in the inner optimization problem
- every control is feasible (i.e. gives a feasible state)

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Let  $\bar{u} \in L^2(\Omega)$  with  $\bar{y} \in H^1_0(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega)$ ,  $\bar{\lambda} \in L^2(\Omega)$  be locally optimal.

# **Theorem:**

[Mignot '76, Mignot-Puel '84]

There exist uniquely determined adjoint states  $\bar{p} \in H_0^1(\Omega) \cap L^{\infty}(\Omega)$ and  $\bar{\mu} \in H^{-1}(\Omega) \cap (L^{\infty}(\Omega))^*$  fulfilling:

• Adjoint equation and optimality condition

$$A^* \bar{p} + \bar{\mu} + g'(\bar{y}) = 0, \qquad j'(\bar{u}) - \bar{p} = 0$$

• Complementarity conditions

 $\bar{\lambda}\bar{p}=0$  a.e. on  $\varOmega$ ,

 $\langle \bar{\mu}, \varphi(\bar{y} - \psi) \rangle = 0$  for all  $\varphi \in C^1(\bar{\Omega})$  such that  $\varphi \psi|_{\Gamma} = 0$ ,

# • Sign conditions

 $ar{p}\geq 0$  where  $ar{y}=\psi$ ,  $\langlear{\mu},ar{p}
angle\geq 0$ ,

 $\langle \bar{\mu}, \phi \rangle \ge 0$  for all  $\phi \in H^1_0(\Omega)$  with  $\langle \bar{\lambda}, \phi \rangle = 0$  and  $\phi \ge 0$  on  $\{ \bar{y} = \psi \}$ .

Optimality system similar to **strong stationarity** in mpcc's.



**Open:** prove strong stationarity for problems with additional controland state constraints [Hintermüller, Kopacka '08] [Outrata, Jarusek, Stara '09] Lagrange-function:

$$L = J(y, u) + \langle Ay + \lambda - u, p \rangle - \langle p, \lambda \rangle + \langle \mu, y - \psi \rangle$$

- *p* multiplier to  $\lambda \ge 0$
- $\mu$  multiplier to  $y \leq \psi$
- in general no multiplier exists for  $\lambda(y \psi) = 0$ [Bergounioux, Mignot '00]

#### **Comparison to state-constrained problems:**

- Only information about signs of  $\bar{p}$  and  $\bar{\mu}$  on part of the domain!
- No interior point assumption is needed.

1. There is  $\gamma > 0$  such that

 $j''(\bar{u})(h,h) \ge \gamma \|h\|_{L^2}^2$  for all  $h \in L^2(\Omega)$ .

2. For all  $h \in L^2(\Omega) \setminus \{0\}$  and  $z = y'(\bar{u}; h)$  with  $j'(\bar{u})h + g'(\bar{y})z = 0$ , we have

$$g''(\bar{y})(z,z) + j''(\bar{u})(h,h) > 0.$$

3. There exists a constant  $\tau > 0$  such that

$$\bar{p} \ge 0$$
 on  $\{\psi - \tau < \bar{y} < \psi\}$ .

4. Moreover,  $\bar{\mu}$  satisfies

$$\langle \bar{\mu}, \phi 
angle \geq 0$$
,  $\phi \in H^1_0(\Omega)$ ,  $\phi \geq 0$ .

**Theorem:** [Kunisch, W '09] Let  $(\bar{y}, \bar{u}, \bar{\lambda}, \bar{p}, \bar{\mu})$  fulfill the optimality system. If assumptions (1)– (4) are satisfied then  $\bar{u}$  is locally optimal and it holds  $J(y, u) \ge J(\bar{y}, \bar{u}) + \alpha ||u - \bar{u}||_{L^2}^2$  for all  $u \in L^2(\Omega)$ ,  $||u - \bar{u}||_{L^2} \le \rho$ , with some  $\alpha, \rho > 0$ .

**Open:** Stability of the sufficient condition.

### **Comparison to finite-dimensional mpcc:**

Local decomposition approach not applicable: Small changes in  $\bar{u}, \bar{y}, \bar{\lambda}$  can cause changes of the active / inactive sets.

 $\Rightarrow$  need stronger sign conditions on  $\bar{p}$  and  $\bar{\mu}$  than obtained by strong stationarity.

### **Comparison to state constrained problems:**

 $\bar{p}$  and  $\bar{\mu}$  can be regarded as multipliers to  $\lambda \geq 0$  and  $y \leq \psi$ , but:

- incomplete information about signs of  $\bar{p}$  and  $\bar{\mu}$
- the mapping  $u \mapsto \lambda$  is not continuous from  $L^2(\Omega)$  to  $L^{\infty}(\Omega)$ .

We can weaken the assumption if we want to prove local optimality with respect to the norm  $||u||_{L^2} + ||\lambda||_{L^{\infty}}$ .

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Starting point: The multiplier  $\lambda$  fulfills

$$\lambda = \max(0, \lambda + c(y - \psi)) \quad \forall c > 0.$$

Smoothing:

$$\lambda_c = f_c(\tilde{\lambda} + c(y - \psi)) \quad c > 0, \, \tilde{\lambda} > 0$$

**Regularized equation:** 

$$Ay + f_c(\tilde{\lambda} + c(y - \psi)) = u$$

**Feasibility:** If  $\tilde{\lambda} > \Lambda$  for some large  $\Lambda > 0$  then  $y_c$  is feasible,  $y_c \leq \psi$ .

Convergence for  $c \to \infty$ :

$$u_c \to u \text{ in } H^{-1}(\Omega) \Rightarrow \begin{cases} y_c(u_c) \to y(u) \text{ in } H^1_0(\Omega) \\ \lambda_c(u_c) \to \lambda(u) \text{ in } H^{-1}(\Omega) \end{cases}$$

Minimize J(y, u) subject to

$$Ay + f_c(\tilde{\lambda} + c(y - \psi)) = u.$$

 $\rightarrow$  no inequality constraints

**Convergence:** Global solutions  $(y_c, u_c)$  converge to global solutions of the original problem. [Ito, Kunisch '00]

#### **Multipliers:**

$$A^*p_c + f'_c(\tilde{\lambda} + c(y - \psi))p_c + g'(y_c) = 0, \quad j'(u_c) - p_c = 0.$$

**Convergence of multipliers:** 

$$f_c(\dots) =: \lambda_c \to \bar{\lambda} \text{ in } H^{-1}(\Omega)$$
$$p_c \rightharpoonup \bar{p} \text{ in } H^1_0(\Omega)$$
$$f'_c(\dots)p_c =: \mu_c \rightharpoonup \bar{\mu} \text{ in } H^{-1}(\Omega)$$

**Assumption:**  $j(u) = \frac{\gamma}{2} ||u||_{L^2}^2$ 

**Existence:** For each strict local minimizer  $(\bar{y}, \bar{u})$  there exists a family  $(y_c, u_c)_{c>0}$  of local solutions of the regularized problem.

#### **Convergence:**

$$(y_c, u_c, \lambda_c) \to (\bar{y}, \bar{u}, \bar{\lambda}) \quad \text{in } H^1_0(\Omega) \times L^2(\Omega) \times H^{-1}(\Omega)$$
$$(p_c, \mu_c) \to (\bar{p}, \bar{\mu}) \quad \text{in } H^1_0(\Omega) \times H^{-1}(\Omega)$$

**Question:** Is the path  $c \mapsto u_c$  continuous? Or even Lipschitz or differentiable?

**Value function:** The function  $V(c) := J(y_c, u_c)$  is continuous.

**Path continuity:** Under a modified second-order condition on  $(\bar{y}, \bar{u})$  and some positivity assumptions on  $p_c$  <sup>(\*)</sup>, it holds:

**Theorem:** [Kunisch, W '09] The mapping  $c \mapsto u_c$  has a finite number of discontinuities. Hence, there is  $C_1$  such that  $c \mapsto u_c$  is continuous for all  $c > C_1$  with respect to the strong topology of  $L^2(\Omega)$ .

**Differentiability:** If the path  $c \mapsto (y_c, u_c, p_c)$  is continuous at  $c_0$  then it is also **locally Lipschitz continuous** at  $c_0$ . Moreover, the path is **Gateaux differentiable** at  $c_0$  if it is continuous in a neighborhood of  $c_0$ .

<sup>(\*)</sup> Due to only weak convergence  $p_c \rightarrow \bar{p}$  in  $H^{-1}(\Omega)$ , we cannot use  $\bar{p} \ge \tau > 0$  to prove  $p_c \ge 0$ .

#### **Further work:**

- Investigate properties of the value function (monotonicity, convexity / concavity),
- Study path-following strategies for  $c \to \infty$ .

# Thank you very much!