

# Stability analysis of linear constraints nonholonomic systems based on conserved quantity

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**Abstract** In this paper, we derive the augmented Birkhoff equation of linear constraints nonholonomic systems firstly. Base on a conserved quantity or a combination of some conserved quantities, we study the stability of linear constraints nonholonomic systems. Finally, a numerical example is provided to demonstrate the potential and effectiveness of the method.

**Keywords** conserved quantity; Birkhoff equation; linear constraints; stability.

## 1 Introduction

In this paper, we study the stability of linear constraints nonholonomic systems.

The stability of dynamical systems is one of the most basic issues in system theory. The theory of the stability of the nonholonomic control systems with linear constraints have attracted a lot of interest recently. The most complete contribution to the stability analysis of nonlinear systems was introduced by A. M. Lyapunov [1], the Lyapunov method is the most extensive analysis method currently. There are many stability results are obtained in the references, e.g., [2]. But it is very difficult to find a suitable Liapunov function.

Motivated by [3], in this paper, we derive the augmented Birkhoff equation of linear constraints nonholonomic systems firstly, construct a Lyapunov functional candidate by using a conserved quantity or a combination of some conserved quantities, and study the stability of linear constraints nonholonomic systems by the constructed Lyapunov functional candidate. Finally, a numerical example is provided to demonstrate the potential and effectiveness of the method.

## 2 Problem formulation and preliminaries

**Lemma 1** [4] For the Birkhoff system

$$\left(\frac{\partial R_\nu}{\partial a^\mu} - \frac{\partial R_\mu}{\partial a^\nu}\right)\dot{a}^\nu - \frac{\partial B}{\partial a^\mu} - \frac{\partial R_\mu}{\partial t} = 0(\mu, \nu = 1, 2, \dots, 2n), \quad (1)$$

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if the infinitesimal transformations of group

$$t^* = t + \varepsilon_\alpha \xi_0^\alpha(t, a), \quad a^{\mu*}(t^*) = a^\mu(t) + \varepsilon_\alpha \xi_\mu^\alpha(t, a), \quad (2)$$

are the Noether quasi-symmetrical transformations, then the system possesses  $r$  linearly independent first integrals

$$I^\alpha = R_\mu \xi_\mu^\alpha - B \xi_0^\alpha + G^\alpha = C_\alpha \quad (\alpha = 1, 2, \dots, r), \quad (3)$$

where  $\varepsilon_\alpha$  are infinitesimal parameters,  $\xi_0^\alpha$ ,  $\xi_\mu^\alpha$ ,  $G^\alpha$  are the generating functions and normalized function of the infinitesimal transformations respectively.

**Lemma2** [4] If the infinitesimal transformations of group (5) satisfy the following  $r$  equations

$$\left(\frac{\partial R_\mu}{\partial t} \dot{a}^\mu - \frac{B}{\partial t}\right) \xi_0^\alpha + \left(\frac{\partial R_\nu}{\partial a^\mu} \dot{a}^\nu - \frac{B}{\partial a^\mu}\right) \xi_\mu^\alpha - B \dot{\xi}_0^\alpha + R_\mu \dot{\xi}_\mu^\alpha = -\dot{G}^\alpha \quad (\alpha = 1, 2, \dots, r), \quad (4)$$

then the transformations are quasi-symmetrical transformations of given system.

### 3 Main result

#### 3.1 Birkhoff equation

Let  $q = [q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n]$  denote the generalized coordinate vector of nonholonomic system. The rheonomous affine kinematic model constraints are represented by analytical relations between the generalized coordinates and velocities  $\dot{q} = [\dot{q}_1, \dot{q}_2, \dots, \dot{q}_n]$ , written as:

$$J(q)^T \dot{q} = 0, \quad (5)$$

where  $J(q) \in R^{m \times n}$

Generally, the Lagrange function is:

$$L(q, \dot{q}, t) = \frac{1}{2} \dot{q}^T M(q) \dot{q} - V(t, q), \quad (6)$$

where  $M(q)$  is the  $(n \times n)$  definite positive symmetric inertia matrix.

Using the Lagrange formalism, the dynamics of a mechanical system can be described by the following differential equations:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}} - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q} = J(q) \lambda \quad (s = 1, 2, \dots, n), \quad (7)$$

where  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_m)^T$  is the  $m$ -vector of Lagrange multipliers, is the control vector.

By [5], the multiplier  $\lambda_\beta$  can be solved as a function of  $t$ ,  $q$ ,  $\dot{q}$  from the following equation

$$\sum_{\beta=1}^m \sum_{s=1}^n \sum_{l=1}^n M_{sl}^{-1} j_{l\gamma} j_{s\beta} \lambda_\beta$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= -\sum_{l=1}^n \frac{\partial a_\gamma}{\partial q_l} \dot{q}_l - \frac{\partial a_\gamma}{\partial t} + \sum_{l=1}^n j_{lr} \sum_{s=1}^n M_{sl}^{-1} \cdot \\
&\quad \left[ \sum_{m=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n [k, m, s] \dot{q}_k \dot{q}_m + \frac{\partial V}{\partial q_s} + \sum_{l=1}^n \frac{\partial M_{ks}}{\partial t} \dot{q}_k \right] \\
&= 0, \quad (\gamma = 1, 2, \dots, m)
\end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

where  $M_{sl}$  is an algebraic complement of  $M$ , and

$$[k, m, s] = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial M_{ks}}{\partial q_m} + \frac{\partial M_{ms}}{\partial q_k} - \frac{\partial M_{km}}{\partial q_s} \right). \tag{9}$$

Take the generalized momentum

$$p = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}}, \tag{10}$$

and  $H = H(t, q, p)$  is the Hamiltonian

$$H = p^T \dot{q} - L. \tag{11}$$

From (8)-(11), we can express (7) as

$$\dot{q} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial p}, \quad \dot{p}_s = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial q} + Q + u \quad (s = 1, 2, \dots, n). \tag{12}$$

where  $Q = J(q)\lambda(q, p, t)$ ,  $u = u'(q, p, t) = (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n)$

Let

$$a^\mu = \begin{cases} q_\mu & (\mu = 1, 2, \dots, n) \\ p_{\mu-n} & (\mu = n+1, n+2, \dots, 2n) \end{cases} \tag{13}$$

$$R_\nu = \begin{cases} p_\nu & (\nu = 1, 2, \dots, n) \\ 0 & (\nu = n+1, n+2, \dots, 2n) \end{cases} \tag{14}$$

$$B(a) = H \tag{15}$$

where  $a = (a^1, a^2, \dots, a^n)^T$ . Then the Birkhoff equation is (13), (14), (15), where  $R_\nu$  and  $B$  are Birkhoff functions and Birkhofian respectively.

### 3.2 Stability

Let Lyapunov function  $V(a, t)$  as a conserved quantity or a combination of some conserved quantities. Without loss of generality, let  $V(a, t) = I^1$ . We have the following conclusion:

**Theorem 1.** When  $I^1 > 0$ ,  $\dot{I}^1 \leq 0$ , then the system is asymptotic stability.

## 4 An illustrative Example

Suppose rheonomous constraint is:

$$\dot{q}_1 + bt\dot{q}_2 - bq_2 = 0 \quad (16)$$

The kinetic energy and potential energy are

$$T = \frac{1}{2}(q_1^2 + q_2^2), \quad V = const \quad (17)$$

where  $b$  is constant.

The corresponding holonomic system of (16), (17) is

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{q}_1 = -\frac{1}{1+b^2t^2} \\ \ddot{q}_2 = -\frac{bt}{1+b^2t^2} \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

Then

$$\begin{cases} a^1 = q_1 \\ a^2 = q_2 \\ a^3 = \dot{q}_1 + \frac{1}{b} \arctan bt \\ a^4 = \dot{q}_2 + \frac{1}{2b} \ln(1 + b^2t^2) \end{cases} \quad (19)$$

Equation (18) can be expressed as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{a}^1 = a^3 - \frac{1}{b} \arctan bt \\ \dot{a}^2 = a^4 - \frac{1}{2b} \ln(1 + b^2t^2) \\ \dot{a}^3 = 0 \\ \dot{a}^4 = 0 \end{cases} \quad (20)$$

So we have

$$R_1 = a^3, \quad R_2 = a^4, \quad R_3 = 0, \quad R_4 = 0, \quad (21)$$

$$B = \frac{1}{2}[a^3 - \frac{1}{b} \arctan bt]^2 + \frac{1}{2}[a^4 - \frac{1}{2b} \ln(1 + b^2t^2)]^2, \quad R_2 = a^4, \quad R_3 = 0, \quad R_4 = 0, \quad (22)$$

Let

$$\begin{cases} \xi_0^1 = 0 \\ \xi_1^1 = a^3, \xi_2^1 = 0, \xi_3^1 = 0, \xi_4^1 = 0, \\ G^1 = -\frac{1}{2}(a^3)^2 \end{cases} \quad (23)$$

So

$$\begin{cases} \Delta t = 0, (\Delta t)^* = 0 \\ \Delta a^1 = \varepsilon, \Delta a^2 = 0, \Delta a^3 = 0, \Delta a^4 = 0, \\ \Delta \dot{a}^\mu = 0 \end{cases} \quad (24)$$

thus (23) is Noether quasi-symmetrical transformation, and conserved quantity is

$$I^1 = \frac{1}{2}(a^3)^2, \quad (25)$$

Thus the system is asymptotic stability.

## 5 Conclusions

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