



Spacecraft Attitude Control using CMGs: Local Controllability and Stabilizability

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Previous Talk

- Singular configurations and why people think they make control difficult
- Dynamics are globally as controllable as conservation of angular momentum permits
- Some care should be exercised when drawing conclusions in practical situations
- Two types of singular configurations: external and critically singular

This Talk

Do singular configurations affect

- Local controllability?
- Local stabilizability?

- CMG angular momentum $\nu(\theta) = \nu_1(\theta_1) + \dots + \nu_q(\theta_q)$
- CMG angular momentum magnitude defines a function $\eta(\theta) = \|\nu(\theta)\|^2$
- CMG configuration θ is *singular* with *singular direction* $v \in S^2$ if

$$v^T \nu'_i(\theta_i) = 0 \quad \forall i$$

- A singular configuration θ with singular direction $v \in S^2$ is
 - An *external singularity* if

$$v^T \nu_i(\theta_i) > 0 \quad \forall i$$

- *Critically singular* if
singular direction v and $\nu(\theta)$ are linearly dependent

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{R} &= R[J^{-1}(R^T\mu - \nu(\theta))]^\times \\ \dot{\theta} &= u\end{aligned}$$

$$\dot{y}(t) = \underbrace{f_\mu(y(t))}_{\text{drift}} + \underbrace{g_1(y(t))u_1(t) + \cdots + g_q(y(t))u_q(t)}_{\text{control}}$$

- Set of uncontrolled equilibria

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{E}_\mu &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{x \in \text{SO}(3) \times \mathbb{T}^q : f_\mu(x) = 0\} \\ &= \{(R, \theta) \in \text{SO}(3) \times \mathbb{T}^q : R^T\mu = \nu(\theta)\}\end{aligned}$$

$$\dot{y} = f(x) + g_1(x)u_1 + \cdots + g_q(x)u_q$$

$f(x_e) = 0$, U an open neighborhood of x , $\phi : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ a chart, $\phi(x_e) = 0$

Dynamics expressed in coordinates: $\hat{f} = \phi_*f$, $\hat{g}_i = \phi_*g_i$

Linearization: $\dot{\hat{x}} = A\hat{x} + b_1\hat{u}_1 + \cdots$, $A = \frac{\partial \hat{f}}{\partial \hat{x}}(0)$, $b_i = \hat{g}_i(0)$

$$\begin{aligned} Ab_i &= \frac{\partial \hat{f}}{\partial \hat{x}}(0)\hat{g}_i(0) = \frac{\partial \hat{f}}{\partial \hat{x}}(0)\hat{g}_i(0) - \frac{\partial \hat{g}_i}{\partial \hat{x}}(0)\hat{f}(0) = -[\hat{f}, \hat{g}_i](0) \\ &= -[\phi_*f, \phi_*g_i](0) = -\phi_*[f, g](\phi(x_e)) = -\mathbf{T}_{x_e}\phi([f, g](x_e)) \end{aligned}$$

Similarly

$$A^2b_i = \phi_*[f, [f, g]](\phi(x_e)) = \mathbf{T}_{x_e}\phi(\text{ad}_f^2 g_i(x_e))$$

$$\text{rank } [B, A^2B, \dots, A^{n-1}B] = \dim \text{span}\{\text{ad}_f^k g_i(x_e) : k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$$

Lemma

Let $\mu \in \mathbb{R}^3$, $\theta \in \mathcal{C}$, and suppose $p = (R, \theta) \in \mathcal{E}_\mu$. Then

$$\text{span}\{\text{ad}_{f_\mu}^n g_i(p) : i, n \geq 1\} \subseteq \text{span}\{(R(J^{-1}w)^\times, 0) : w \in \mathbb{R}^3, w^T \nu(\theta) = 0\}$$

Result

Let $\mu \in \mathbb{R}^3$ and suppose $p = (R, \theta) \in \mathcal{E}_\mu$. Then the linearization of the dynamics at p is controllable if and only if θ is not a critically singular configuration.

Corollary

If $\|\mu\|^2$ is a regular value of the function $\eta(\cdot) = \|\nu(\cdot)\|^2$, then the dynamics have a controllable linearization at every equilibrium in \mathcal{E}_μ

- Gimbal rates are measurable functions of time taking values in the *polydisk*

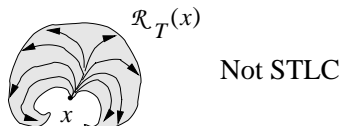
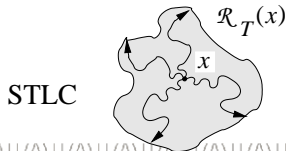
$$\mathcal{H}_\rho \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{u \in \mathbb{R}^q : |u_i| \leq \rho_i, \forall i\}, \rho_i > 0$$

- Reachable set

$\mathcal{R}_T(x)$ = set of states reached in time $\leq T$ by starting from $x \in \text{SO}(3) \times \mathbb{T}^q$ at time 0 and using gimbal rates lying in \mathcal{H}_ρ

- Dynamics are *small-time locally controllable (STLC)* if

$$x \in \text{int } \mathcal{R}_T(x) \quad \forall T > 0$$



Linearization controllable \implies STLC

Result

Dynamics are STLC at an equilibrium if the CMG array at that equilibrium is not in a critically singular configuration

Corollary

- Dynamics are STLC at all equilibria on an angular momentum level set corresponding to a regular value of the function η
- Dynamics are STLC at all equilibria on **almost all** angular momentum level sets (Sard's theorem)

- Assign nonnegative weights l_0, l_1, \dots, l_q to f_μ, g_1, \dots, g_q , resp.
- A bracket B involving f_μ, g_1, \dots, g_q
 - Is *bad* if it contains f_μ an odd number of times and each g_i an even number of times
 - Is *good* otherwise
 - Has l -degree $l_0|B|_0 + l_1|B|_1 + \dots + l_q|B|_q$
- STLC holds at an equilibrium x_e if
 - Every bad bracket evaluated at x_e is in the span of good brackets of lower l -degree
- Stronger than the Bianchini-Stefani condition
- **Fails** to hold at equilibria involving certain critically singular configurations

- $\text{Lie}(\xi) =$ free Lie algebra in indeterminates $\xi = \{\xi_0, \xi_1, \dots, \xi_q\}$
- Containing real linear combinations of formal Lie brackets involving $\{\xi_0, \xi_1, \dots, \xi_q\}$ like
 - $\xi_0, \xi_1, [\xi_0, [\xi_1, \xi_2]], 3\xi_3 + 2[\xi_0, \xi_1] + 1.43[\xi_0, [\xi_1, \xi_2]]$
- $\text{Lie}_0(\xi) =$ subalgebra generated by elements of the form $\text{ad}_{\xi_0}^k B$, $B \in \text{Lie}(\xi)$
- $\text{Lie}_0(\xi)$ contains real linear combinations of elements like
 - $[\xi_0, \xi_1], [\xi_0, B], [\text{ad}_{\xi_0}^k B, C], B, C \in \text{Lie}(\xi)$
- $\text{Lie}_0(\xi)$ is the smallest Lie subalgebra of $\text{Lie}(\xi)$ containing $\{\xi_1, \dots, \xi_q\}$ and closed under brackets with ξ_0

- Admissible weight vector: $l = [l_0, l_1, \dots, l_q]^T \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $l_i \geq l_0 \geq 0$
 - Running example: $q = 3, l_0 = 1, l_2 = 1.5, l_1 = l_3 = 2$
- $|B|_i$ = no. of times ξ_i appears in the bracket $B \in \text{Lie}(\xi)$
- l -degree of bracket B equals $l_0|B|_0 + \dots + l_q|B|_q$
 - $[\xi_0, [\xi_1, \xi_2]]$ has l -degree 4.5, $[[\xi_0, \xi_1], [\xi_1, \xi_2]]$ has l -degree 6.5
- $B \in \text{Lie}(\xi)$ is l -homogeneous if it is a combination of brackets having the same l -degree
 - $2.3[\xi_0, [\xi_1, \xi_2]] + 6.31\text{ad}_{\xi_0}^3 \xi_2$ is l -homogeneous of degree 4.5
 - $2.3[\xi_0, [\xi_1, \xi_2]] + 6.31\text{ad}_{\xi_0}^3 \xi_1$ is not l -homogeneous
- \mathcal{V}_k = subspace of $\text{Lie}_0(\xi)$ generated by brackets having l -degree $\leq k$
 - $2.3[\xi_0, [\xi_1, \xi_2]] + 6.31\text{ad}_{\xi_0}^3 \xi_2 \in \mathcal{V}_{4.5} \subseteq \mathcal{V}_5$
 - $2.3[\xi_0, [\xi_1, \xi_2]] + 6.31\text{ad}_{\xi_0}^3 \xi_1 \notin \mathcal{V}_{4.5}$, but $\in \mathcal{V}_5$



- The bracket $B \in \text{Lie}_0(\xi)$ is *bad* if $|B|_0$ is odd and $|B|_i$ is even for each $i > 0$
 - $[\xi_2, [\xi_0, \xi_2]], [\xi_1, \text{ad}_{\xi_0}^3 \xi_1]$ are bad, $[\xi_1, [\xi_0, \xi_2]], [\xi_1, \text{ad}_{\xi_0}^2 \xi_1]$ are not
- \mathcal{B} = subspace of $\text{Lie}_0(\xi)$ generated by bad brackets
- \mathcal{B}_S = subset of elements of \mathcal{B} that remain unchanged whenever ξ_i and ξ_j are interchanged for any pair $i, j > 0$ such that $l_i = l_j$
 - $[\xi_0, \xi_2] + a[\xi_2, [\xi_0, \xi_1]] + b[\xi_2, [\xi_0, \xi_3]] \in \mathcal{B}_S$ if $a = b$, $\notin \mathcal{B}_S$ otherwise
 - We can “symmetrize” any bad bracket to get an element of \mathcal{B}_S
- Set \mathcal{B}_S^* of *l-obstructions* is the smallest Lie algebra containing \mathcal{B}_S and closed under Lie brackets with ξ_0
 - $\mathcal{B}_S^* =$ Lie subalgebra generated by elements of the form $\text{ad}_{\xi_0}^k B$, $B \in \mathcal{B}_S$

- Given a bracket $B \in \text{Lie}(\xi)$, $p \in \text{SO}(3) \times \mathbb{T}^q$ and a set of vector fields $\mathbf{h} = \{h_0, h_1, \dots, h_q\}$ on $\text{SO}(3) \times \mathbb{T}^q$,
 - $\text{Ev}^{\mathbf{h}}(B)$ = vector field obtained by replacing ξ_i with h_i
 - $\text{Ev}_p^{\mathbf{h}}(B)$ = tangent vector at p obtained by evaluating $\text{Ev}^{\mathbf{h}}(B)$ at p
 - $\mathcal{V}_k^{\mathbf{h}}(p)$ = $\{\text{Ev}_p^{\mathbf{h}}(B) : B \in \mathcal{V}_k\}$
- An l -homogeneous element $B \in \mathcal{B}_S^*$ is **\mathbf{h} - l -neutralized** at p if there exists $k < l$ -degree of B such that

$$\text{Ev}_p^{\mathbf{h}}(B) \in \mathcal{V}_k^{\mathbf{h}}(p)$$

The dynamics are STLC at $p \in \mathcal{E}_\mu$ under the input constraint $u \in \mathcal{H}_\rho$ if there exist

- 1 a nonnegative k
- 2 an admissible weight vector l

such that

- 1 every l -homogeneous element of \mathcal{B}_S^* of l -degree $\leq k$ is \mathbf{h} - l -neutralized at p and
- 2 $\mathcal{V}_k^{\mathbf{h}}(p)$ equals the tangent space at p

for $\mathbf{h} = \{f_\mu, g_1, \dots, g_q\}$

- Condition does not involve the constraint parameters ρ

R. M. Bianchini and G. Stefani, "Controllability along a trajectory: a variational approach," *SIAM J. Contr. Optim.*, 1993

F. Bullo and A. D. Lewis, *Geometric Control of Mechanical Systems*, Springer, 2005

- Consider $p = (R, \theta) \in \mathcal{E}_\mu$ such that $\theta \in \mathcal{C}$ and $\|\nu(\theta)\| (= \|\mu\|) = 0$
- Choose all weights = 1
- Two lowest possible degrees for a bad bracket are 3 and 5
 - A bad bracket of degree 3 is necessarily of the form $B = [\xi_i, [\xi_0, \xi_i]]$
 - Corresponding symmetrized element is $B_S = \sum_{i=1}^q [\xi_i, [\xi_0, \xi_i]]$

$$\text{Ev}^h(B) = [g_i, [f_\mu, g_i]] = (-R(J^{-1}\nu_i)^\times, 0)$$

$$\therefore \text{Ev}_p^h(B_S) = (-R(J^{-1}\nu(\theta))^\times, 0) = 0$$

- Similarly, bad brackets of degree 5 also vanish after symmetrization
- $\mathcal{V}_5^h(p)$ contains the $3 + q$ linearly independent tangent vectors $g_i(p)$ and

$$[f_\mu, g_1](p), \underbrace{[g_1, [f_\mu, g_1]](p)}_{\text{bad bracket}}, [[g_1, [f_\mu, g_1]], [f_\mu, g_1]](p)$$

- STL C follows

Main result

Let $\mu \in \mathbb{R}^3$, and suppose $p = (R, \theta) \in \mathcal{E}_\mu$ is such that $\theta \in \mathcal{C}$. If any one of the following three conditions hold, then the dynamics are STLC at p subject to $u \in \mathcal{H}_\rho$

$$\nu(\theta) = 0$$

$$\min_i \nu(\theta)^\top \nu_i(\theta_i) < 0$$

$$\min_i \nu(\theta)^\top \nu_i(\theta_i) = 0, \dim \text{span}\{\nu'_i(\theta_i) : i \text{ s.t. } \nu(\theta)^\top \nu_i(\theta_i) = 0\} = 2$$

- Second condition $\iff \theta$ is not an external singularity
- Cases not covered

$$\min_i \nu(\theta)^\top \nu_i(\theta_i) > 0 \text{ (external singularity)}$$

$$\min_i \nu(\theta)^\top \nu_i(\theta_i) = 0, \dim \text{span}\{\nu'_i(\theta_i) : i \text{ s.t. } \nu(\theta)^\top \nu_i(\theta_i) = 0\} = 1$$

Suppose $y : [0, \hat{T}] \rightarrow \text{SO}(3) \times \mathbb{T}^q$ is a solution of the uncontrolled system and $\gamma : [0, \hat{T}] \rightarrow \mathbb{T}^*(\text{SO}(3) \times \mathbb{T}^q)$ is a solution of the adjoint system of the uncontrolled system such that $\gamma(t) \in \mathbb{T}_{y(t)}^* \mathcal{N}$, $t \in [0, \hat{T}]$ and

- 1 $\gamma(t)(\text{ad}_{f_\mu}^k g_i(y(t))) = 0$, $t \in [0, \hat{T}]$, for every i, k
- 2 $L \in \mathbb{R}^{q \times q}$ defined by $L_{ij} = \gamma(0) ([f_\mu, g_i], g_j)(y(0))$ is positive definite
- 3 ...

Then there exists $T \in (0, \hat{T}]$ such that, for all $t \in [0, T]$,
 $y(t)$ lies on the boundary of $\mathcal{R}_t(y(t))$

- Consequence of a sufficient condition for extremality
- Idea: apply with y and γ constant solutions

G. Stefani, "A sufficient condition for extremality," *Analysis and Optimization of Systems*, LNCIS # 111, Springer, 1988

Coordinate-free description

The adjoint system of the vector field f_μ is the Hamiltonian vector field on $T^*(\text{SO}(3) \times \mathbb{T}^q)$ having the Hamiltonian function defined by

$$H(\Lambda) = \Lambda(f_\mu(x)), \quad \Lambda \in T^*(\text{SO}(3) \times \mathbb{T}^q), \quad x = \pi^*(\Lambda)$$

Coordinate description

$$\begin{aligned} \text{System:} \quad \dot{x}(t) &= f(x(t)), & f: \mathbb{R}^n &\rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, \\ \text{Adjoint:} \quad \dot{\gamma}^T(t) &= -\gamma^T(t) \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x(t)) \end{aligned}$$

If $x \equiv x_e$ is a constant solution, then the adjoint solution $\gamma(\cdot)$

- Is constant iff it is a left-null vector of the system linearization at x_e
- Satisfies $\gamma(t)(\text{ad}_{f_\mu}^k g_i(x_e)) = 0$ iff it lies in the left null space of the controllability matrix of the system linearization at x_e
- Satisfies both of the above only if the linearization at x_e has an uncontrollable eigenvalue at 0

Main result

Suppose $\mu \neq 0$. Let $\theta \in \mathcal{C}$ be such that

$$\min\{\nu(\theta)^T \nu_i(\theta_i) : i \in \mathbb{I}_q\} > 0, \text{ (external singularity)}$$

and let $p = (R_e, \theta_e) \in \mathcal{E}_\mu$. Then the dynamics are not STLC at p .

- $\gamma \equiv (R_e(J\nu(\theta_e))^\times, 0) \in \mathbf{T}_{R_e}(\mathbf{SO}(3) \times \mathbb{T}^q)$ is an adjoint solution
- Recall that

$$\text{ad}_{f_\mu}^n g_i(p) \in \text{span}\{(R_e(J^{-1}w)^\times, 0) : w \in \mathbb{R}^3, w^T \nu(\theta_e) = 0\}$$

- Matrix L is diagonal with $L_{ii} = \nu(\theta_e)^T \nu_i(\theta_e) > 0$
- Result follows from Stefani's condition

- Dynamics are not STLC at $p = (R, \theta) \in \mathcal{E}_\mu$ if θ is a local maximizer for η
 - Second-order necessary conditions for a local maximum \implies Hessian is nonnegative definite $\implies \nu(\theta)^T \nu_i(\theta_i) > 0$ for all i
- In case of only one CMG, dynamics are STLC at no equilibrium
 - η is a constant function, and every configuration is a local maximizer
- **Can we identify small-time unreachable states?**

- Isotropy group of μ (assumed $\neq 0$)

$$\mathcal{I}_\mu \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{S \in \text{SO}(3) : S\mu = \mu\} = \{e^{\alpha\mu^\times} : \alpha \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

- \mathcal{I}_μ acts on $\text{SO}(3) \times \mathbb{T}^q$ through the action

$$\Phi_S^\mu(x) = (SR, \theta), \quad x = (R, \theta)$$

- If $(R(\cdot), \theta(\cdot))$ is a solution, then so is $(SR(\cdot), \theta(\cdot))$ for each $S \in \mathcal{I}_\mu$
 - Dynamics on $\text{SO}(3) \times \mathbb{T}^q$ are invariant under the action of \mathcal{I}_μ

$$\mathcal{R}_T(\Phi_S^\mu(x)) = \Phi_S^\mu(\mathcal{R}_T(x))$$

- Define “projection” $\phi_\mu : \text{SO}(3) \times \mathbb{T}^q \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^2 \times \mathbb{T}^q$

$$\phi_\mu(x) = (\|\mu\|^{-1}R^\top\mu, \theta), \quad x = (R, \theta)$$

- Fiber over $x^r \in \mathbb{S}^2 \times \theta$ is an orbit of \mathcal{I}_μ

- Reduced state $S^2 \times \mathbb{T}^q \ni (\xi, \theta) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x^r = \phi_\mu(x) = (\|\mu\|^{-1}R^T\mu, \theta)$
- Reduced dynamics

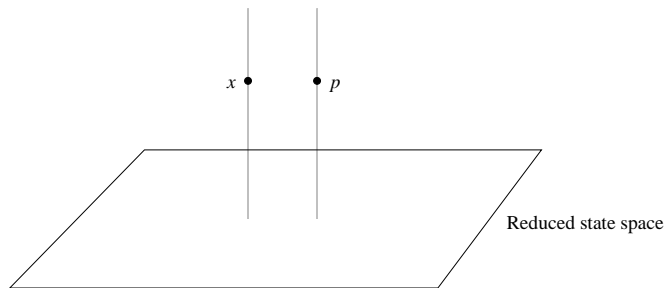
$$\dot{\xi} = \xi \times [J^{-1}\{\|\mu\|\xi - \nu(\theta)\}], \quad \dot{\theta} = u$$

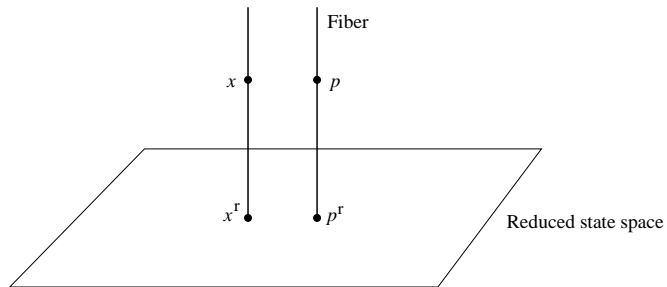
- Easy consequences

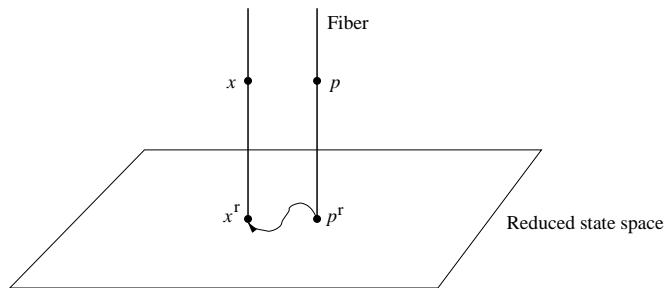
$$\mathcal{R}_T^r(\phi_\mu(x)) = \phi_\mu(\mathcal{R}_T(x)), \quad \phi_\mu(\mathcal{E}_\mu) \subseteq \mathcal{E}_\mu^r$$

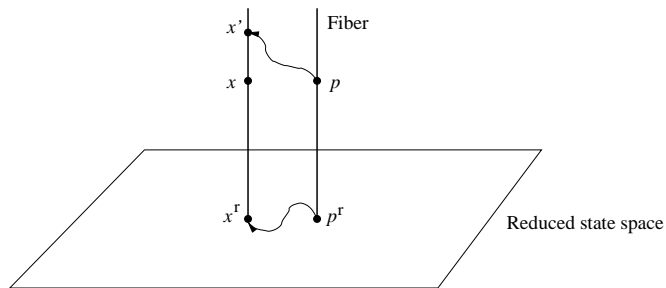
STLC of reduced dynamics

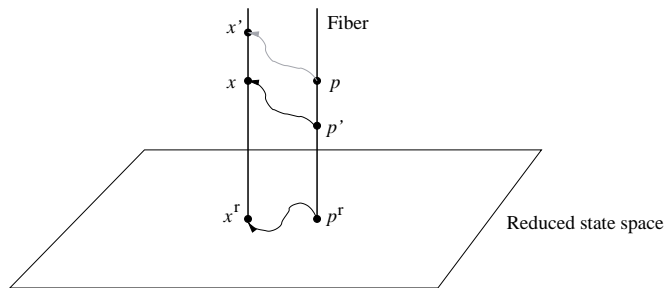
Suppose $\mu \neq 0$. If $p \in \mathcal{E}_\mu$, then the linearization of the reduced dynamics at $p^r \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \phi_\mu(p)$ are controllable. Consequently, the reduced dynamics are STLC at p^r .

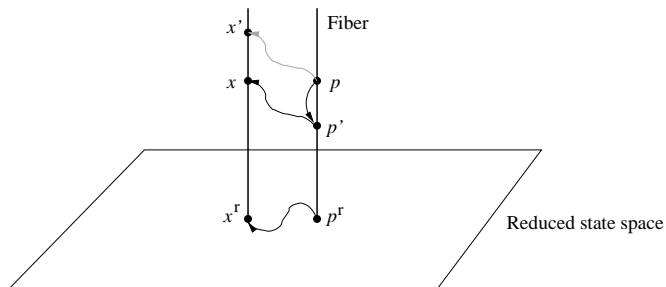












- If all nearby points on the fiber can be reached in small time, then the full dynamics must be STLC

Suppose $\mu \neq 0$. Let θ be a critically singular external singularity, and assume $p = (R, \theta)$ is an equilibrium point. Then there exist $T > 0$ and a sequence of angles $\{\alpha_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ converging to 0 in $(-\pi, \pi)$ such that

$$(\exp(\alpha_n \mu^\times)R, \theta) \notin \mathcal{R}_T(p)$$

- There exist arbitrarily small rotations about the inertial angular momentum vector (equivalently, the singular direction) that cannot be achieved in time less than T with zero net change in the gimbal angles

Results

Suppose $p = (R_e, \theta_e) \in \mathcal{E}_\mu$.

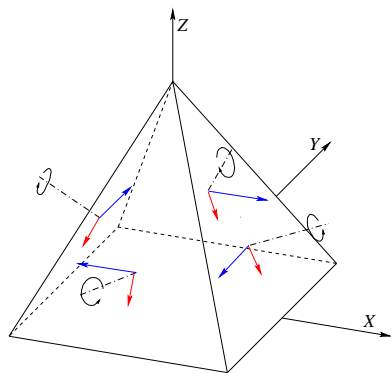
- 1 If θ_e is not a critically singular configuration, then p is locally asymptotically stabilizable (linearization is controllable)
- 2 If θ_e either yields a local maximum or a nonzero local minimum for η , then p is not locally asymptotically stabilizable
 - Single CMG \implies no equilibrium is stabilizable

- Choose neighborhood U of p such that

$$(R^T \mu)^T \nu(\theta_e) > 0 < \nu(\theta_e)^T \nu(\theta) \quad \forall (R, \theta) \in U$$

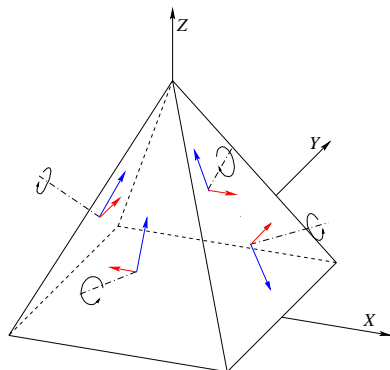
- There exists $(R, \theta) \in U$ and $\epsilon < 0$ such that $R^T \mu - \nu(\theta) = \epsilon \nu(\theta_e) \implies$

$$\begin{aligned} \|\nu(\theta_e)\|^2 - \|\nu(\theta)\|^2 &= \|R^T \mu\|^2 - \|\nu(\theta)\|^2 \\ &= (R^T \mu + \nu(\theta))^T (R^T \mu - \nu(\theta)) = \epsilon (R^T \mu + \nu(\theta))^T \nu(\theta_e) < 0 \end{aligned}$$



A non-singular configuration

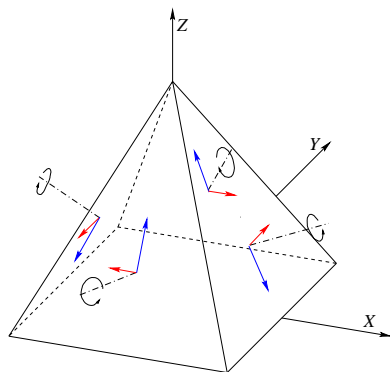
- Linearization controllable
- STLC and stabilizability hold



A non-critically singular
configuration

$$\nu(\theta) \neq 0$$

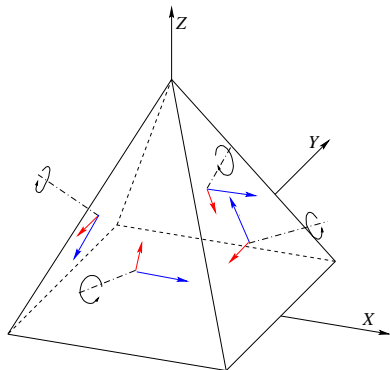
- Linearization controllable
- STLC and stabilizability hold



- Linearization uncontrollable
- STLC holds

A critically singular configuration

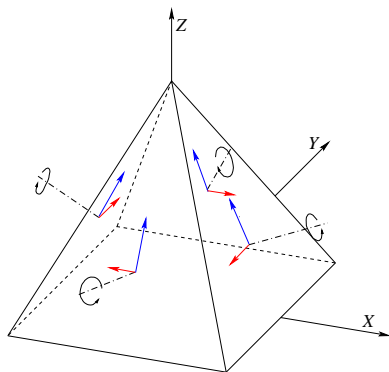
$$\nu(\theta) = 0$$



- Internal singularity
- Linearization uncontrollable
- STLC holds

A critically singular configuration

$$\nu(\theta) \neq 0$$



- θ is a local maximizer for η
- STLC and stabilizability fail

A critically singular external singularity

- STLC and stabilizability depend on the nature of the singular configuration
 - Non-critically singular configurations pose no problems for STLC, stabilizability
 - Critically singular configurations that are not external singularities pose no problems for STLC
 - Critically singular external singularities \implies no STLC
 - Small rotations about the singular direction not achievable in small time
 - Includes local maximizers of CMG angular momentum magnitude as special cases
 - Includes single CMG as a special case
 - Local maximizer of CMG angular momentum magnitude \implies no stabilizability



Thank You