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Original Article

Sharp sufficient attractivity conditions for sliding on a co-dimension 2 discontinuity surface[☆]

L. Dieci^a, C. Elia^{b,*}, L. Lopez^b

^a School of Mathematics, Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA 30332, USA

^b Dipartimento di Matematica, Univ. of Bari, I-70100 Bari, Italy

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Abstract

We consider Filippov sliding motion on a co-dimension 2 discontinuity surface. We give conditions under which Σ is attractive through sliding which are sharper than those given in a previous paper of ours. Under these sharper conditions, we show that the sliding vector field considered in the same paper is still uniquely defined and varies smoothly in $x \in \Sigma$. A numerical example illustrates our results.

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1. Introduction

An outstanding problem in the study of piecewise smooth differential systems is how to properly define a Filippov sliding vector field when sliding motion has to take place on a co-dimension 2 surface, Σ , intersection of two co-dimension 1 surfaces. In [3], we gave sufficient conditions which guaranteed that Σ attracted nearby trajectories (through sliding), and that a certain sliding vector field, (7) below, was well defined on Σ . Our goal in this work is to sharpen the conditions given in [3], while still obtaining the same conclusions.

The basic problem we consider is the piecewise smooth system

$$\dot{x} = f(x) \quad f(x) = f_i(x) \quad x \in R_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, 4, \quad (1)$$

with initial condition $x(0) = x_0 \in R_i$, for some i . Here, the $R_i \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ are open, disjoint and connected sets, and (locally) $\mathbb{R}^n = \bigcup_i R_i$. Each f_i can be assumed smooth in an open neighborhood of the closure of each R_i , $i = 1, \dots, 4$. Clearly, from (1), the vector field is not properly defined on the boundaries of the R_i 's.

Above, we will assume that the R_i 's are (locally) separated by two intersecting smooth surfaces of co-dimension 1, $\Sigma_1 = \{x : h_1(x) = 0\}$ and $\Sigma_2 = \{x : h_2(x) = 0\}$, and we let $\Sigma = \Sigma_1 \cap \Sigma_2$. We will always assume that $\nabla h_1(x) \neq 0$, $x \in \Sigma_1$.

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* Corresponding author. Tel.: +39 3333514208.

E-mail addresses: dieci@math.gatech.edu (L. Dieci), cinzia.elia@uniba.it, cinzia.elia@gmail.com (C. Elia), luciano.lopez@uniba.it (L. Lopez).

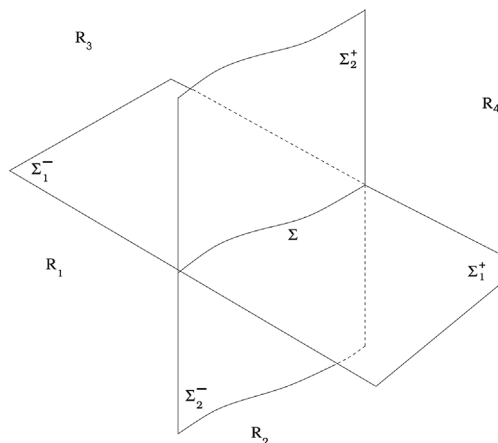


Fig. 1. Regions R_i 's, Σ and $\Sigma_{1,2}^\pm$.

$\nabla h_2(x) \neq 0$, $x \in \Sigma_2$, that $h_{1,2}$ are C^k functions, with $k \geq 2$, and further that $\nabla h_1(x)$ and $\nabla h_2(x)$ are linearly independent for x on (and in a neighborhood of) Σ .

Without loss of generality, we can label the regions as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} R_1 : f_1 \text{ when } h_1 < 0, h_2 < 0, \quad R_2 : f_2 \text{ when } h_1 < 0, h_2 > 0, \\ R_3 : f_3 \text{ when } h_1 > 0, h_2 < 0, \quad R_4 : f_4 \text{ when } h_1 > 0, h_2 > 0, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

and we will also adopt the notation $\Sigma_{1,2}^+$ and $\Sigma_{1,2}^-$ to denote the set of points $x \in \Sigma_{1,2}$ for which we also have $h_{2,1}(x) > 0$ or $h_{2,1}(x) < 0$. See Fig. 1.

Finally, we let

$$\begin{aligned} w_1^1 &= \nabla h_1^T f_1, & w_2^1 &= \nabla h_1^T f_2, & w_3^1 &= \nabla h_1^T f_3, & w_4^1 &= \nabla h_1^T f_4, \\ w_1^2 &= \nabla h_2^T f_1, & w_2^2 &= \nabla h_2^T f_2, & w_3^2 &= \nabla h_2^T f_3, & w_4^2 &= \nabla h_2^T f_4, \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

which we assume to be well defined in a neighborhood of Σ . As it turns out, the signs of the w_j^i 's are the key property to monitor.

Remark 1. Looking ahead, let us suppose that we are following a solution trajectory on Σ , $x(t)$. In this case, we will need to consider the w_j^i 's along this solution trajectory, and can thus think of the w_j^i 's as functions of t .

Remark 2. The classical Filippov theory (see [6]) is concerned with the case of two regions separated by a surface Σ defined as the 0-set of a smooth scalar valued function h :

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x} &= f_1(x) \quad x \in R_1 = \{x : h(x) < 0\} \quad \text{and} \quad \dot{x} = f_2(x) \quad x \in R_2 = \{x : h(x) > 0\}, \\ \Sigma &:= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : h(x) = 0\}, \quad h : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Filippov convexification method allows to define a sliding motion on Σ , in particular when Σ attracts nearby trajectories. Filippov proposal is to take a convex combination of f_1 and f_2 and impose that the vector field is tangent to Σ . That is, take $f_F := (1 - \alpha)f_1 + \alpha f_2$, with α chosen so that $f_F \in T_\Sigma$:

$$x' = (1 - \alpha)f_1 + \alpha f_2, \quad \alpha = \frac{w^1}{w^1 - w^2}, \quad w^1 = \nabla h(x)^T f_1(x), \quad w^2 = \nabla h(x)^T f_2(x) \quad (5)$$

With the above in mind, we can consider sliding on $\Sigma_{1,2}^\pm$ previously defined (if such sliding motion indeed can take place). According to (5), we will call $f_{\Sigma_{1,2}^\pm}$ these four vector fields, defined as follows (as long as the denominators are nonzero):

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_{\Sigma_1^+} &= (1 - \alpha^+)f_2 + \alpha^+f_4, & f_{\Sigma_1^-} &= (1 - \alpha^-)f_1 + \alpha^-f_3, & f_{\Sigma_2^+} &= (1 - \beta^+)f_3 + \beta^+f_4, \\
 f_{\Sigma_2^-} &= (1 - \beta^-)f_1 + \beta^-f_2, & \text{and } \alpha^+ &= \frac{w_2^1}{w_2^1 - w_4^1}, & \alpha^- &= \frac{w_1^1}{w_1^1 - w_3^1}, & \beta^+ &= \frac{w_3^2}{w_3^2 - w_4^2}, \\
 \beta^- &= \frac{w_1^2}{w_1^2 - w_2^2}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

2. Background

When attempting to define a Filippov sliding vector field on $\Sigma = \Sigma_1 \cap \Sigma_2$, one needs to consider a convex combination of the four vector fields f_1, \dots, f_4 : $f_F = \lambda_1 f_1 + \lambda_2 f_2 + \lambda_3 f_3 + \lambda_4 f_4$, $\lambda_i \geq 0$, $i = 1, \dots, 4$, and $\sum_i \lambda_i = 1$. Imposing that $f_F \in T_{\Sigma}$, however, is now no longer sufficient (unlike the case of Remark 2) to uniquely determine the coefficients λ_i 's.

To resolve the above ambiguity, in [2,5,1] the authors proposed to restrict consideration to the following bilinear vector field

$$f_F = (1 - \alpha)(1 - \beta)f_1 + (1 - \alpha)\beta f_2 + \alpha(1 - \beta)f_3 + \alpha\beta f_4 \tag{7}$$

where now $\alpha, \beta \in [0, 1]$ need to be found so to satisfy the following nonlinear system:

$$(1 - \alpha)(1 - \beta) \begin{bmatrix} w_1^1 \\ w_1^2 \end{bmatrix} + (1 - \alpha)\beta \begin{bmatrix} w_2^1 \\ w_2^2 \end{bmatrix} + \alpha(1 - \beta) \begin{bmatrix} w_3^1 \\ w_3^2 \end{bmatrix} + \alpha\beta \begin{bmatrix} w_4^1 \\ w_4^2 \end{bmatrix} = 0. \tag{8}$$

The question then becomes solvability (unique) of this system. To address this problem, in [3] we considered the case of Σ being reached through sliding on one of the $\Sigma_{1,2}^\pm$, and to characterize this situation we worked under the following assumptions.

Assumptions 1.

- (a) $(w_j^1(x), w_j^2(x))$ do not have the same signs as $(h_1(x), h_2(x))$ for $x \in R_j$, $j = 1, 2, 3, 4$.
- (b) At least one pair of the relations $[(1^+) \text{ and } (1_a^+)]$, or $[(1^-) \text{ and } (1_a^-)]$, or $[(2^+) \text{ and } (2_a^+)]$, or $[(2^-) \text{ and } (2_a^-)]$, is satisfied on Σ and in a neighborhood of Σ , where

$$\begin{aligned}
 (1^+)w_2^1 &> 0, w_4^1 < 0, & (1_a^+) \frac{w_2^2}{w_2^1} - \frac{w_4^2}{w_4^1} &< 0, \\
 (1^-)w_1^1 &> 0, w_3^1 < 0, & (1_a^-) \frac{w_3^2}{w_3^1} - \frac{w_1^2}{w_1^1} &< 0, \\
 (2^+)w_3^2 &> 0, w_4^2 < 0, & (2_a^+) \frac{w_3^1}{w_3^2} - \frac{w_4^1}{w_4^2} &< 0, \\
 (2^-)w_1^2 &> 0, w_2^2 < 0, & (2_a^-) \frac{w_2^1}{w_2^2} - \frac{w_1^1}{w_1^2} &< 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

- (c) If any of (1^\pm) or (2^\pm) is satisfied, then (1_a^\pm) or (2_a^\pm) must be satisfied as well.

Let us clarify the meaning of Assumptions 1 insofar as the dynamics of the system. Assumption 1(a) implies that the vector fields f_j , $j = 1, \dots, 4$, must point toward at least one of $\Sigma_{1,2}$. Assumption 1(b) guarantees that there is attractive sliding toward Σ along at least one of the $\Sigma_{1,2}^\pm$. Assumption 1(c) states that if attractive sliding occurs along $\Sigma_{1,2}^\pm$ it must be toward Σ .

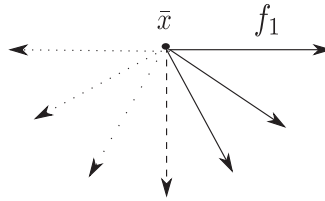


Fig. 2. Admissible f_1 under the assumption $w_1^1(\bar{x}) < 0$.

It must be emphasized that our theory is justified under the assumption that Σ is attractive in finite time upon sliding on a co-dimension 1 surface. Hence, Assumption 1(c) are fundamental in this setting.

In [3], we made a simplifying assumption on the w_j^i 's, expressed by the following:

Old assumption (see [3]):

$$w_j^i(x) \text{ are bounded away from } 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \quad j = 1, 2, 3, 4, \quad x \in \Sigma \quad (9)$$

Note that (9) implies that no trajectory can approach Σ tangentially from a region R_j , $j = 1, 2, 3, 4$.

Under Assumptions 1 and (9), in [3] it was proved that Σ attracted nearby trajectories, which in fact reached Σ in finite time, and moreover that (8) had a unique solution. More precisely, we proved the following result.

Theorem 3. *Let Assumptions 1 be satisfied and let (9) hold.*

- (a) *Then, there exists a unique solution $(\bar{\alpha}, \bar{\beta})$ of system (8) in $(0, 1) \times (0, 1)$.*
- (b) *Further, let (1_a^+) , (1_a^-) , (2_a^+) , and (2_a^-) , hold uniformly; that is (1_a^+) be replaced by $(w_2^2/w_2^1) - (w_4^2/w_4^1) \leq -\lambda_1^+ < 0$, and similarly for the others. Then, Σ is attractive in finite time.*

3. Weaker attractivity assumptions

It was already observed in [3] that (9) was too strong a sufficient condition to guarantee the conclusions of Theorem 3. For this reason, our goal below is to weaken (9) in such a way that: Σ still remains attractive through sliding and reached in finite time, and the vector field (7) still is well defined on Σ .

We restrict ourselves to co-dimension 1 phenomena, as characterized by having just one scalar value among the w_j^i 's being 0 at any point in Σ . Higher co-dimension phenomena (such as two of the w_j^i 's becoming 0 at the same time) are not necessarily going to preclude the aforementioned conclusions (i.e., attractivity of Σ and well posedness of the vector field (7)), but require a host of different possibilities to be examined, which is beyond our present scope.

Assumptions 2. At most one of the w_j^i 's is zero at any given x on Σ .

In this paper we replace condition (9) with Assumptions 2. This means that, while sliding on Σ , one of the w_j^i 's can be zero at a point $x \in \Sigma$, as long as Assumptions 1 are still satisfied.

Assumptions 1 and 2 together imply the following:

- (i) f_j cannot be tangential to Σ at $x \in \Sigma$;
- (ii) f_j cannot be tangential to Σ_2 (respectively, Σ_1), at a point \bar{x} on Σ , whenever f_j points away from Σ_1 (respectively, Σ_2) at \bar{x} .

Item (i) above is just a rewriting of Assumptions 2. To exemplify the instances in (ii), assume that Σ is attractive and that we are following a trajectory on Σ . Assumptions 1 are satisfied along the trajectory and take for example $w_1^1(x(t)) < 0$ and $w_1^2(x(t)) > 0$ for $t < \bar{t}$. At $\bar{x} = x(\bar{t})$, $w_1^2(\bar{x}) = 0$ while $w_1^1(\bar{x})$ stays negative. Now f_1 is tangent to Σ_2 , but points away from Σ_1 . Thus, for $t > \bar{t}$, $w_1^2(x(t)) < 0$ and $w_1^1(x(t)) < 0$. This, together with the continuity of f_1 , violates Assumptions 1(a). The vector f_1 now points away from Σ so that Σ loses attractivity. The same reasoning as above applies to any other vector $w_j = (w_j^1, w_j^2)$.

Fig. 2 shows the admissible configurations for f_1 at $\bar{x} \in \Sigma$. Here we take $w_1^1(\bar{x}) < 0$ and we show only the component of f_1 in the normal plane at \bar{x} to Σ . The dotted and dashed vectors are not admissible due to Assumptions 1(a), while

Q4 Table 1

Component	$i = 1$	$i = 2$	$i = 3$	$i = 4$
w_i^1	≤ 0	> 0	< 0	< 0
w_i^2	> 0	≥ 0	≤ 0	< 0

Table 2

Component	$i = 1$	$i = 2$	$i = 3$	$i = 4$
w_i^1	≤ 0	> 0	≤ 0	≤ 0
w_i^2	> 0	≥ 0	≥ 0	< 0

the solid vectors are admissible configurations. The dashed vector has first component $w_1^1 < 0$ and second component $w_1^2 = 0$.

On the other hand, if, as before, while sliding on Σ , $w_1^2(\bar{x}) = 0$, but $w_1^1(x) > 0$ along the trajectory, Assumptions 1(a) are not violated, (see the numerical example in Section 4 where $\bar{x} = x_5$) and, as we will show in Lemma 4, Σ retains attractivity in finite time. This shows how Assumptions 1(a) are sharper than condition (9).

Lemma 4. Let Assumptions 1 and 2 be verified and let (1_a^\pm) and (2_a^\pm) hold uniformly, then Σ is attractive in finite time.

Proof. The proof is analogous to the proof of Lemma 4 in [3]. We only outline the first part of the proof since it is slightly different. Assumptions 1(a) and 2 guarantee that every f_j , $j = 1, 2, 3, 4$ points toward at least one of Σ_1 or Σ_2 . This, together with the fact that f_j is never tangent to Σ , guarantees that if we start in R_j , we reach Σ_1 or Σ_2 or Σ in finite time. The rest of the proof is the same as that of [3, Lemma 4]. \square

It must be emphasized that a sign change of the w_j^i 's, while Assumptions 1 are still satisfied, does not necessarily lead to a loss of attractivity of Σ .

Remark 5. Having one of the f_j 's tangent to Σ at a point $\bar{x} \in \Sigma$, is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition for loss of attractivity of Σ . Hence, if, while sliding on Σ , $w_j^1(\bar{x}) = w_j^2(\bar{x}) = 0$, this does not necessarily mean that the trajectory should exit Σ tangentially with vector field f_j , as one may expect according to a first order theory. Contrast this to the case of sliding on a co-dimension 1 surface where, if one of the vector fields is tangent to Σ at a point \bar{x} , there is loss of attractivity of Σ and (according to a first order theory) a tangential exit from Σ .

The theorem below shows that Assumptions 1 and 2 are sufficient for (7) to be well defined on Σ .

Theorem 6. Let Assumptions 1 and 2 hold. Then, there exists a unique solution $(\bar{\alpha}, \bar{\beta})$ of system (8) in $(0, 1) \times (0, 1)$.

Remark 7. Assumptions 1 and 2 are not necessary to have a unique solution $(\bar{\alpha}, \bar{\beta})$ of (8) on $(0, 1)^2$. As a matter of facts, the vector field (7) might exist and be unique even if Σ is not attractive (see Example 10).

Proof. The proof is analogous to the proof of Theorem 3 in [3], and below we will highlight just those cases requiring modifications to the arguments used in [3]. \square

In what follows we consider some of the cases that appear in the proof of Theorem 3 in [3], and use the labeling of these cases using the same notation adopted in [3]. These cases are chosen so that each one occurs from one of the others due to a sign change of one of the w_j^i 's. In this way, we can visualize the change in dynamics around Σ if one of the w_j^i 's changes sign, with Assumptions 1 and 2 holding. We emphasize that under each of these sign changes Σ retains attractivity in finite time. In all the tables below (Tables 1–4) we show the sign of each component w_j^i ; in these tables, the writing ≥ 0 , ≤ 0 , must be understood within the limitations imposed by Assumption 2: at any given point $\bar{x} \in \Sigma$ only one of the w_j^i 's is allowed to be zero. In the corresponding figures (Figs. 3–6) we only display the w_j^i 's when they are all different from zero.

Table 3

Component	$i = 1$	$i = 2$	$i = 3$	$i = 4$
w_i^1	≤ 0	> 0	≥ 0	< 0
w_i^2	> 0	≥ 0	> 0	< 0

Table 4

Component	$i = 1$	$i = 2$	$i = 3$	$i = 4$
w_i^1	≥ 0	> 0	≤ 0	≤ 0
w_i^2	≥ 0	≥ 0	≥ 0	< 0

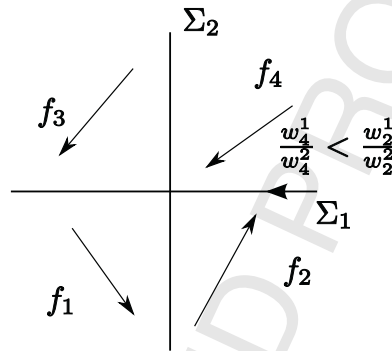


Fig. 3. Case $S_{\Sigma_1^+} : 2$.

Case $(S_{\Sigma_1^+} : 2)$ The signs of the entries of w^1 and w^2 are as in Table 1, and the following condition is satisfied

$$\frac{w_2^2}{w_2^1} < \frac{w_4^2}{w_4^1} \quad (10)$$

Condition (10) ensures sliding along Σ_1^+ toward Σ .

According to Assumptions 1, w_1^1 can be zero on Σ since $w_1^2 > 0$, and similarly for w_2^2 and w_3^2 . Notice, instead, that w_4^1 must be bounded away from zero even though $w_4^2 < 0$. This is in order to ensure sliding on at least one of the co-dimension 1 surfaces. Indeed assume that, while following

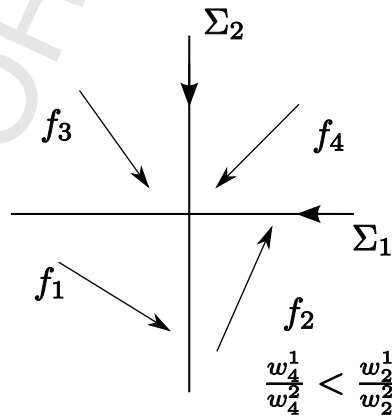


Fig. 4. Case $S_{\Sigma_1^+, \Sigma_2^+} : 2$.

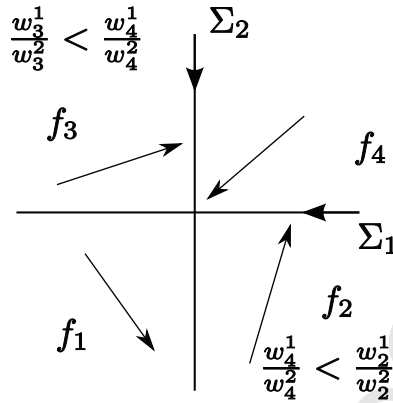


Fig. 5. Case $S_{\Sigma_1^+, \Sigma_2^+} : 5$.

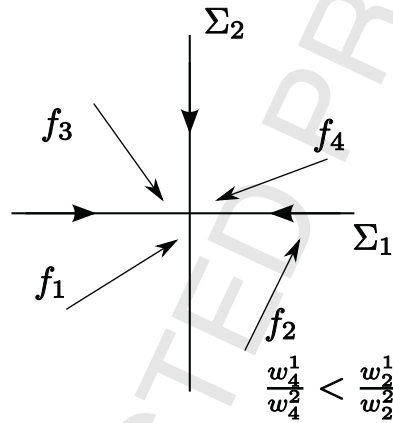


Fig. 6. Case $S_{\Sigma_1^+, \Sigma_2^+} : 2$.

a trajectory on Σ , at $t=T$, $w_4^1(x(T)) = 0$. Then for $t>T$ and t sufficiently close to T , $w_4^1(x(t)) > 0$ and there is no sliding on a co-dimension 1 surface. This is against Assumptions 1(b).

Case $(S_{\Sigma_1^+, \Sigma_2^+} : 2)$ This case follows from Case $(S_{\Sigma_1^+} : 2)$ above, here w_3^2 has undergone a sign change.

The signs of the entries of w^1 and w^2 are as in Table 2 and (10) is satisfied. See Fig. 4.

Case $(S_{\Sigma_1^+, \Sigma_2^+} : 5)$ This case follows from Case $(S_{\Sigma_1^+, \Sigma_2^+} : 2)$ above, here w_3^1 has undergone a sign change.

The signs of the entries of w^1 and w^2 are as in Table 3 and condition (10) is satisfied together with the following

$$\frac{w_3^1}{w_2^3} < \frac{w_4^1}{w_2^4} \quad (11)$$

see Fig. 5.

Here (1_a^+) and (2_a^+) imply that w_4^1 and w_4^2 must be different from zero.

Case $(S_{\Sigma_1^+, \Sigma_2^+} : 2)$ This case follows from Case $S_{\Sigma_1^+, \Sigma_2^+} : 2$ above after w_1^2 has undergone a sign change.

The signs of the entries of w^1 and w^2 are given in Table 4 and (11) is satisfied; see Fig. 6.

For this configuration (1_a^+) implies that w_4^2 must be different from zero.

Example 8. Here we illustrate all the changes in dynamics that might occur while sliding on Σ under Case $(S_{\Sigma_1^+, \Sigma_2^+} : 2)$, when one of the components allowed to be zero in Table 2 goes to zero. Suppose that, while following a trajectory

Table 5

Component	$i=1$	$i=2$	$i=3$	$i=4$
w_i^1	−1	1	−1	−0.5
w_i^2	0	1	−1	−1

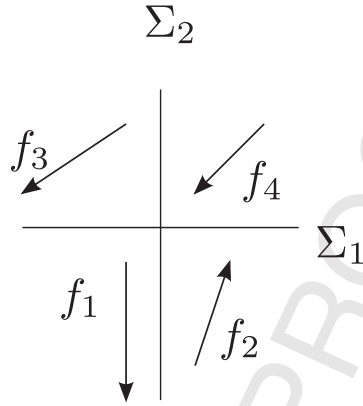


Fig. 7. Example 10, w_j^i 's at $t=T$.

$x(t)$ on Σ , one of the w_j^i 's is zero at time $t=T$. We will list here all the possible changes in dynamic that occur after time T .

- (1) If $w_1^1(T) = 0$, then the dynamic after time T is the one in Case $(S_{\Sigma_1^\pm, \Sigma_2^+} : 2)$.
- (2) If $w_3^1(T) = 0$, then the dynamic after time T is the one in Case $(S_{\Sigma_1^+, \Sigma_2^+} : 5)$.
- (3) If $w_3^2(T) = 0$, then the dynamic after time T is the one in Case $(S_{\Sigma_1^+} : 2)$.
- (4) If $w_4^1(T) = 0$, then after time T there is attractive sliding only along Σ_2^+ and there is no sliding along Σ_1^+ . Trajectories in a neighborhood of Σ will cross Σ_1^+ in the direction of R_4 . This case mirrors to Case $(S_{\Sigma_1^+} : 2)$.
- (5) If $w_2^2(T) = 0$, then after time T there is attractive sliding toward Σ along Σ_1^+ and Σ_2^\pm . This case mirrors Case $(S_{\Sigma_1^\pm, \Sigma_2^+} : 2)$.

We stress that Σ is attractive in a neighborhood of $x(T)$, and that (7) is well defined.

Just like in [3, Theorem 8], and with the same proof, the following holds.

Theorem 9. Under Assumptions 1 and 2, the unique solution $(\bar{\alpha}, \bar{\beta}) \in (0, 1) \times (0, 1)$ of system (8) varies smoothly with respect to $x \in \Sigma$.

3.1. Loss of attractivity

In [3] we showed that violating any of (1^\pm) or (2^\pm) in Assumptions 1 leads to a loss of attractivity of Σ . We further identified when/how this loss of attractivity conduced to an exit from Σ to slide on one of $\Sigma_{1,2}^\pm$: first order exit condition.

Now, when only one of the w_j^i 's is zero, and Assumptions 1 are not satisfied, then Σ looses attractivity, but the vector field (7) might still be defined on Σ as showed in Example 10.

Example 10. Assume that we are following a trajectory on Σ with the w_j^i 's as in Table 1. Moreover, assume that all the w_j^i 's are bounded away from zero for $t < T$ and that at time $t=T$ they are as in Table 5 and Fig. 7. As it is clear from Fig. 7, at $x(T)$ Assumptions 1 are not satisfied and Σ loses attractivity at time $t=T$. Nonetheless, system 8 still admits a unique solution $(\bar{\alpha}, \bar{\beta}) \simeq (0.4226, 0.7321)$, hence the vector field (7) is still well defined on Σ .

In Remark 5, we noticed how, while sliding on Σ , f_j might be tangent to Σ without this implying a loss of attractivity of Σ . Here, in Remark 11, we emphasize how a co-dimension 2 sliding surface might lose attractivity at a point x even though there is no potential tangential exit vector field at that point.

Remark 11. Consider again Table 5. Note that Σ has lost attractivity, but there is no tangential vector field exiting Σ . This is in distinct contrast with sliding on a co-dimension 1 surface. In the latter case, indeed, when the sliding surface Σ loses attractivity, Filippov theory will predict (at first order) exiting Σ tangentially.

4. Numerical example

Here we result of numerical experiments on an example where one of the w_j^i 's (namely, w_2^1) becomes 0 along the sliding trajectory, still satisfying Assumptions 1. Aside from the modification due to w_2^1 becoming 0, the example below is actually the one we meant to use in [3].

All computations have been made with an event driven technique, and event points (when a different regime is reached) have been computed by the secant method. Integration of all relevant differential equations was made using the classical explicit Runge–Kutta (RK) scheme of order four, a projected RK method in case of sliding motion to ensure that all evaluations are made on the constraints' surfaces (e.g., see [4]). The stepsize τ was held constant and equal to $\tau = 0.0025$, and of course adjusted when using the secant method to locate event points. Solution of the system (8) was done by Newton's method.

Example 12. We have the discontinuity surfaces

$$\Sigma_1 = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^3 : h_1(x) = x_2 - p\}, \quad \Sigma_2 = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^3 : h_2(x) = x_3 - q\}, \quad \Sigma = \Sigma_1 \cap \Sigma_2$$

with $p = 0.5$ and $q = 1$. Thus, we have the following four vector fields, at least continuous in their respective regions of definition:

$$\begin{aligned} R_1(h_1 < 0, h_2 < 0) : f_1(x) &= \begin{pmatrix} x_2 \\ -x_1 + \frac{1}{(1+p) - x_2} \\ -x_1 + \frac{32}{(1+q) - x_3} \end{pmatrix} \\ R_2(h_1 < 0, h_2 > 0) : f_2(x) &= \begin{pmatrix} -(x_2 + x_3) \\ -x_1 + \frac{1}{(1+p) - x_2} \\ -x_1 - \frac{1}{(1-q) + x_3} \end{pmatrix} \\ R_3(h_1 > 0, h_2 < 0) : f_3(x) &= \begin{cases} \begin{pmatrix} -(x_2 + x_3) \\ -x_1 + \frac{1}{(1-p) + x_2} \\ -x_1 + \frac{1}{(1+q) - x_3} \end{pmatrix} & \text{when } x_1 \geq -1.3, \\ \begin{pmatrix} -(x_2 + x_3) \\ 6 + 1.3 + 6\frac{x_1}{1.3} + \frac{1}{(1-p) + x_2} \\ -x_1 + \frac{1}{(1+q) - x_3} \end{pmatrix} & \text{when } x_1 < -1.3, \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

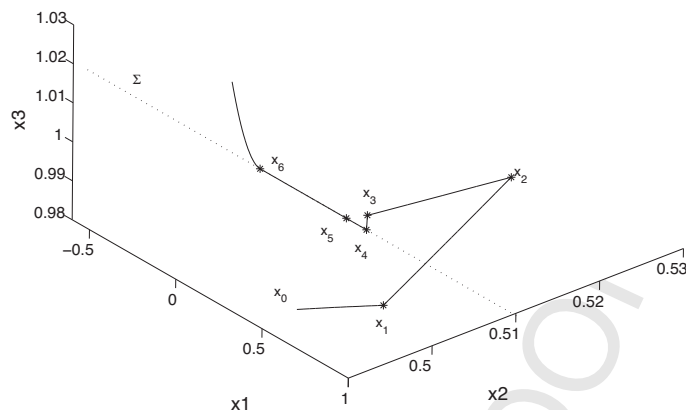


Fig. 8. Solution trajectory: the solution spirals around Σ , starts sliding on Σ_1^+ , enters Σ and leaves it to slide on Σ_1^+ .

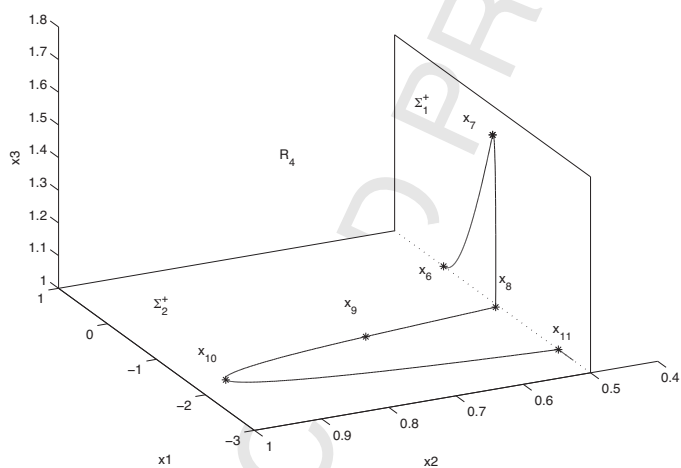


Fig. 9. Solution trajectory: the solution slides on Σ_1^+ and leaves it to enter R_4 , hits Σ_2^+ and starts sliding on it, then hits Σ and starts sliding on it.

$$R_4(h_1 > 0, h_2 > 0) : f_4(x) = \begin{cases} \begin{pmatrix} -(x_2 + x_3) \\ -x_1 - \frac{1}{(1-p) + x_2} \\ -x_1 + \frac{1}{(1-q) + x_3} \\ -(x_2 + x_3) \end{pmatrix} & \text{when } x_1 \geq -1, \\ \begin{pmatrix} -x_1 - \frac{1}{(1-p) + x_2} \\ 130 + 129x_1 + \frac{1}{(1-q) + x_3} \end{pmatrix} & \text{when } x_1 < -1. \end{cases}$$

Results below are for initial condition $x_0 = [0.7, 0.49, 0.99]$. We can distinguish several different dynamics of the solution with respect to the two discontinuity surfaces. Indeed, there are several event points, that is values where the solution reaches a different regime: a different region and/or sliding surface. We will assign a time value t_j , and with abuse of notation indicate each event point with x_j . The initial part of the trajectory is plotted in Fig. 8, and Fig. 9 shows the entire trajectory; event points are marked by asterisks: $x_j, j = 1, \dots, 11$.

Table 6
 w_j^i 's at x_4

Component	$i = 1$	$i = 2$	$i = 3$	$i = 4$
w_1^1	>0	>0	>0	<0
w_2^2	<0	<0	>0	>0

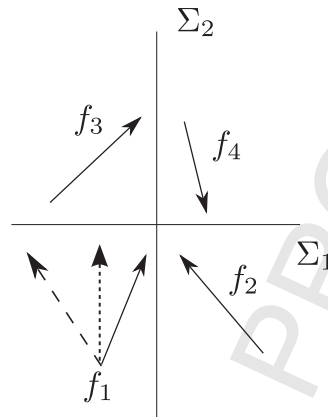


Fig. 10. $w_1 = (w_1^1, w_1^2)$ at $t < t_5$ (left), at t_5 (center), and at $t > t_5$ (right).

The initial condition is in region R_1 and the trajectory crosses Σ_1^- at $x_1 \approx (0.71728, 0.5, 0.98318)$ and enters R_3 (transversal intersection). At $x_2 \approx (0.63696, 0.51686, 1)$, it crosses Σ_2^+ and enters R_4 (transversal intersection). At $x_3 \approx (0.62125, 0.5, 1.00384)$, it hits Σ_1^+ and starts sliding on it in the direction of Σ with vector field $f_{\Sigma_1^+}$. Then, while sliding on Σ_1^+ the solution reaches Σ at time t_4 at the point $x_4 \approx (0.61659, 0.5, 1)$.

At x_4 , the vector fields f_j , $j = 1, 2, 3, 4$, have the signs given in Table 6 and condition (10) is satisfied, so that Assumptions 1 are satisfied, Σ is attractive, f_{Σ} as in (7) is well defined and the solution starts sliding on Σ .

At time t_5 , the solution is at $x_5 = (0.5, 0.5, 1)$, $w_1^2(x_5) = 0$, and $w_1^1 \neq 0$ for values on Σ in a neighborhood of x_5 . Assumptions 1 and 2 are satisfied at x_5 , so the solution keeps sliding on Σ . The configuration along the solution path in a neighborhood of t_5 is the one showed in Fig. 10 (it mirrors Case $(S_{\Sigma_1^+}, \Sigma_2^+ : 1)$ in [3]). Here the dashed vector is $w_1 = (w_1^1, w_1^2)$ at a specific time $t < t_5$, the dotted vector is $w_1(x(t_5))$ and the solid vector is w_1 at a specific time $t > t_5$.

At $t = t_6 \approx 0.62925$, the solution is at $x_6 = (0, 0.5, 1)$, and there is equality in (10). Moreover, the $w_j^i(x)$'s for $x = x_6$ are as in Table 7 and the trajectory leaves Σ smoothly to enter Σ_1^+ .

So, at $t = t_6$, f_{Σ} aligns to $f_{\Sigma_1^+}$ and the solution exits Σ smoothly to slide on Σ_1^+ . At time $t_7 \approx 1.22698$, the solution reaches $x_7 \approx (-1, 0.5, 1.5111)$, $f_{\Sigma_1^+}$ aligns to f_4 and the solution exits Σ_1^+ smoothly to enter in region R_4 . At time t_8 , it reaches Σ_2^+ at $x_8 \approx (-1.1322, 0.5050, 1)$, and here $w_3^2 > 0$ while $w_4^2 < 0$ so that sliding begins on Σ_2^+ away from Σ_1 . At time $t_9 \approx 1.40259$, the solution reaches the surface $x_1 = -1.3$ at $x_9 \approx (-1.3, 0.7105, 1)$; here, f_3 is continuous

Table 7
 w_j^i 's at x_6

Component	$i = 1$	$i = 2$	$i = 3$	$i = 4$
w_1^1	1	1	1	-1
w_2^2	$\frac{1}{2}$	-1	1	1

Table 8
 w_j^i 's at x_{11}

Component	$i = 1$	$i = 2$	$i = 3$	$i = 4$
w_1^1	>0	>0	<0	>0
w_2^1	>0	>0	>0	<0

but not differentiable. At time t_{10} , we reach the value $x_{10} \approx (-1.7377, 0.9507, 1)$. For $t > t_{10}$ the trajectory continues sliding on Σ_2^+ but now in the direction of Σ_1 , since the following condition is satisfied:

$$\frac{w_3^1}{w_2^1} < \frac{w_4^1}{w_2^1}. \quad (12)$$

At time t_{11} , the solution reaches the point $x_{11} \approx (-2.3430, 0.5, 1)$ on Σ . The vector fields $f_j(x_{10}), j = 1, \dots, 4$, satisfy the conditions of Table 8 and the behavior on Σ is analogous to the one of Case $(S_{\Sigma_1^+} : 2)$. The solution now starts sliding on Σ with vector field f_{Σ} as in (7), and remains on Σ .

5. Conclusions

In this paper we weakened the assumptions given in [3] for attractivity of a sliding co-dimension 2 surface Σ and for the existence and uniqueness of the Filippov sliding vector field (7) on Σ . We reported on a numerical experiment to show the behavior of a piecewise smooth system that satisfies our new assumptions.

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