

Semiconcavity and optimal control: an intrinsic approach

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joint work with **Piermarco Cannarsa** and **Francesco Marino**

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Outline

- 1 Optimal Control problems
 - Optimal control
 - Value functions and semiconcavity
 - Differential Inclusions (DI)

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- 3 New (DI) assumptions
 - Examples
 - Consequences

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 - Necessary conditions
- 3 New (DI) assumptions
 - Examples
 - Consequences
- 4 New idea and results
 - A replacement for a priori estimates
 - Semiconcavity results with (DI)

Optimal control problems

Control Dynamics:

$$(CD) \quad \begin{cases} \dot{x}(s) = f(x(s), u(s)) & \text{a.e. } s \in [t, T] \\ u(s) \in U & \text{a.e. } s \in [t, T] \\ x(t) = x, \end{cases}$$

where $f : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is continuous in (x, u) and Lipschitz in x , the *admissible control set* $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ is compact, and $u : [t, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is measurable.

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Two classic problems:

1. **MinTime:** Given a closed *target set* $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, the problem is
$$\min (T - t) \quad \text{over } (x(\cdot), u(\cdot)) \text{ satisfying (CD) and } x(T) \in S.$$

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2. Mayer problem: Given *endpoint cost* $\ell : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, the problem is

$$\min \ell(x(T)) \quad \text{over } (x(\cdot), u(\cdot)) \text{ satisfying (CD).}$$

The optimal value $V(t, x)$ is the **value function**.

Regularity of value functions - SemiConCavity (SCC)

A natural regularity property for $T(\cdot)$ and $V(\cdot, \cdot)$ is the property of being **semiconcave**. A locally Lipschitz function $g : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is semiconcave provided there exists $k > 0$ so that

$$\frac{1}{2} [g(x+z) + g(x-z)] - g(x) \leq k \|z\|^2 \quad \forall x, z \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

(the three point property)

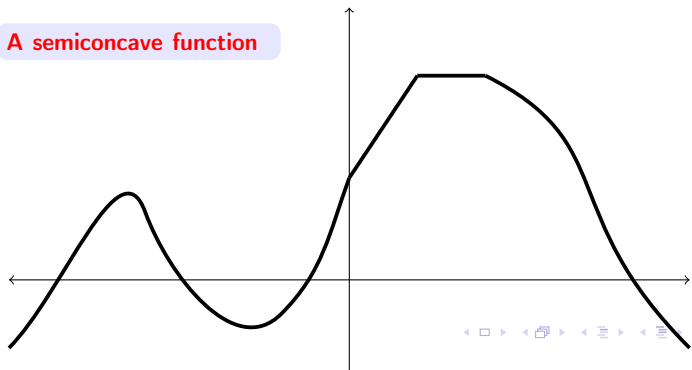
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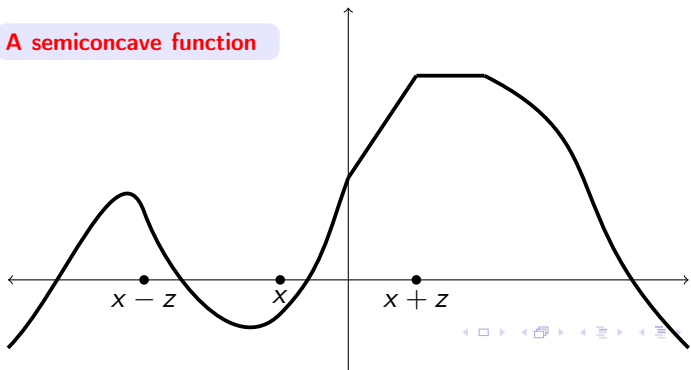
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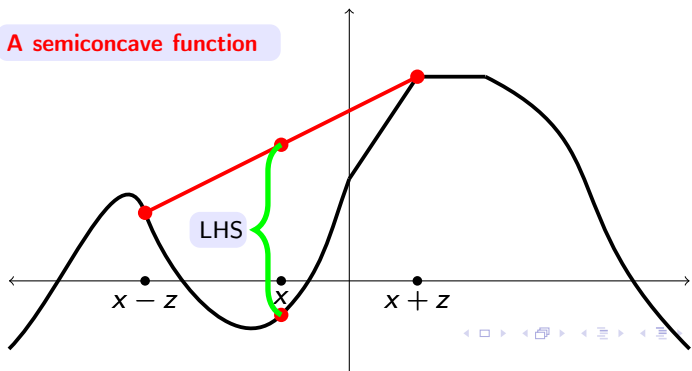


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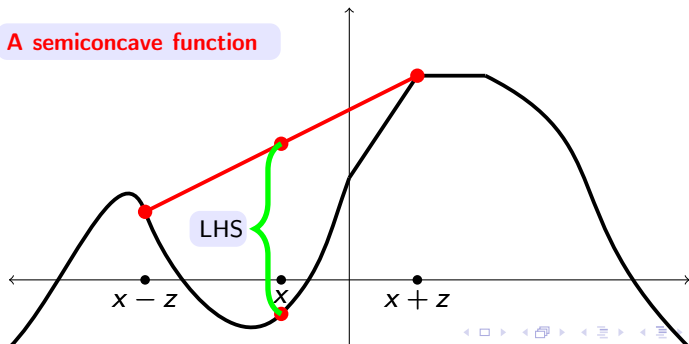
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A geometric description of SCC

A Lipschitz function $g : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is (SCC) if and only if $\exists \sigma > 0$ with

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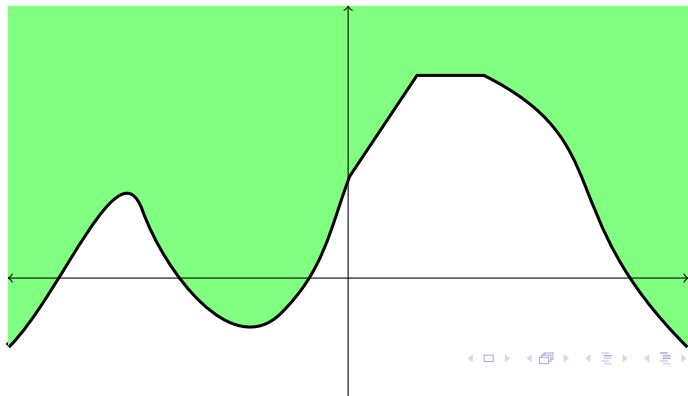
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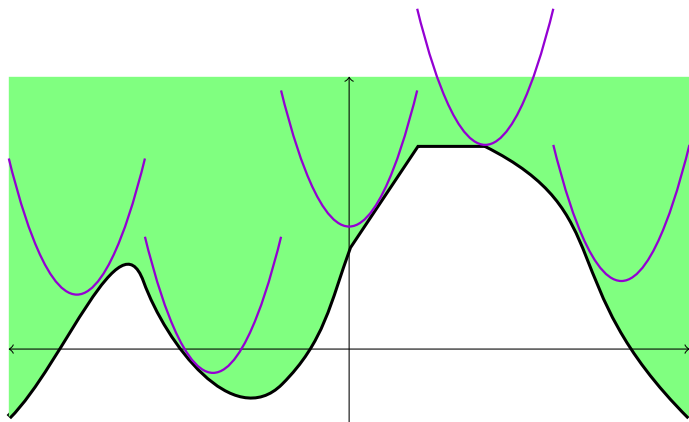


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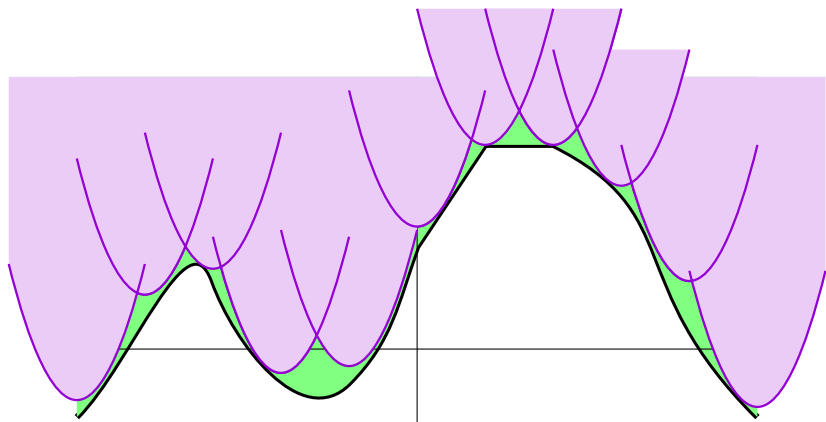


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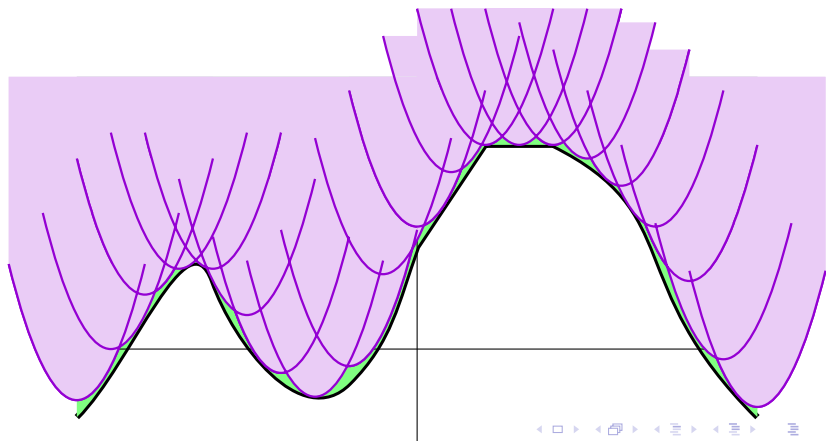


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Basic idea with (CD): (Illustration with Min Time)

We seek an upper bound (by $k \|z\|^2$) of

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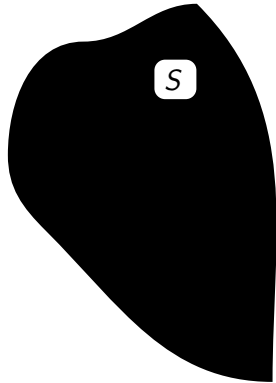
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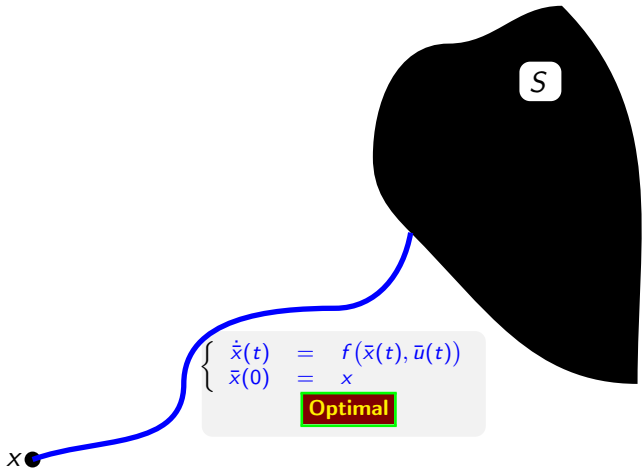
Take an optimal solution starting from x and use it to construct feasible solutions from $x \pm z$ that will yield the appropriate estimates.

Assume that $x \mapsto f(x, u)$ is C^{1+} and take $(\bar{x}(\cdot), \bar{u}(\cdot))$ optimal. Use a priori estimates on the ODEs

$$\text{(ODE}_{\pm}) \quad \begin{cases} \dot{x}_{\pm}(s) = f(x_{\pm}(s), \bar{u}(s)) \text{ a.e. } s \in [t, T] \\ x_{\pm}(t) = x \pm z. \end{cases}$$



x●



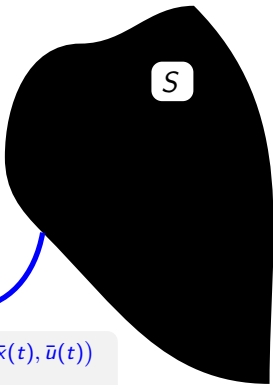
$x + z$ ●

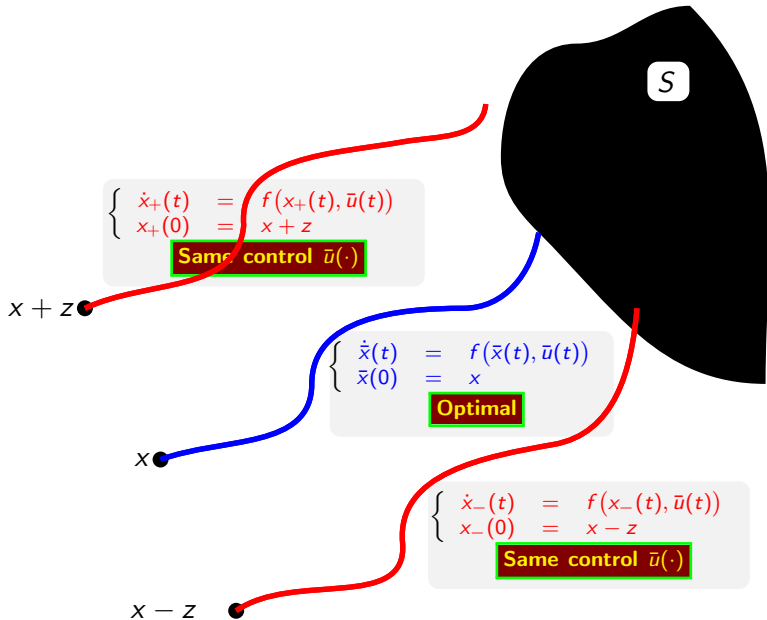
x ●

$x - z$ ●

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\bar{x}}(t) &= f(\bar{x}(t), \bar{u}(t)) \\ \bar{x}(0) &= x \end{cases}$$

Optimal





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Recall the previous work assumed $x \mapsto f(x, u)$ is C^{1+} .

(Very) simple example

Note that $T(\cdot)$ and $V(\cdot, \cdot)$ depend only on the trajectories $x(\cdot)$ and **NOT** in the parameterization of the *admissible velocity set*:

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Note the admissible velocity multifunction $F : \mathbb{R} \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}$ given by

$F(x) = \left[-|x|, |x| \right]$ can be parameterized two ways:

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The former is smoothly parameterized whereas the latter is not.

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The former is smoothly parameterized whereas the latter is not.

Trajectories coincide, but theorems only apply to the former.

Differential Inclusions and Filippov's Lemma

The set of solutions to the Differential Inclusion

$$(DI) \quad \begin{cases} \dot{x}(s) \in F(x(s)) \text{ a.e. } s \in [t, T] \\ x(t) = x \end{cases}$$

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A satisfactory answer should be given in terms of F , or equivalently, by the **Hamiltonian** $H : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by:

$$H(x, p) = \sup_{v \in F(x)} \langle v, p \rangle.$$

Equivalence of F and H

We assume throughout that $F : \mathbb{R}^n \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^n$ satisfies the following Standard Hypotheses:

$$(SH)_+ \begin{cases} 1) F(x) \text{ is nonempty, convex, and compact } \forall x, \\ 2) F \text{ is Lipschitz on bounded sets w.r.t. Hausdorff metric;} \\ 3) \exists r > 0 \text{ so that } \max\{|v| : v \in F(x)\} \leq r(1 + |x|). \end{cases}$$

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$$(SH)_+ \begin{cases} 1) \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n, H(x, p) \text{ is finite and convex,} \\ \quad \text{positively homogeneous in } p; \\ 2) \forall M > 0, \exists k > 0 \text{ so that } \forall \|x\|, \|y\| \leq M, p \in \mathbb{R}^n, \\ \quad |H(x, p) - H(y, p)| \leq k \|p\| \|x - y\|; \\ 3) \exists r > 0 \text{ so that } H(x, p) \leq r \|p\| (1 + |x|) \quad \forall x, p \in \mathbb{R}^n. \end{cases}$$

Smooth parameterizations?

Perhaps one can characterize those multifunctions that have a smooth parameterization:

Question:

Given $F : \mathbb{R}^n \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^n$, when does there exist $f : \mathbb{R}^n \times U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ that is C^1 in the first coordinate and satisfies

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This seems virtually impossible to answer. **Worse:** Even sufficient conditions for smooth *selections* seems intractable:

A simpler (?) question:

Under what conditions on F does there exist a C^1 function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ so that $f(x) \in F(x) \quad \forall x$?

Necessary conditions for smooth parameterizations

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If the assumption of a smooth parameterization is replaced by the existence of a smooth selection, then the conclusion of **(NC)** is

$$\partial_x H(x, p) \cap -\partial_x H(x, -p) \neq \emptyset.$$

Illustration of (NC) with $n = 1$

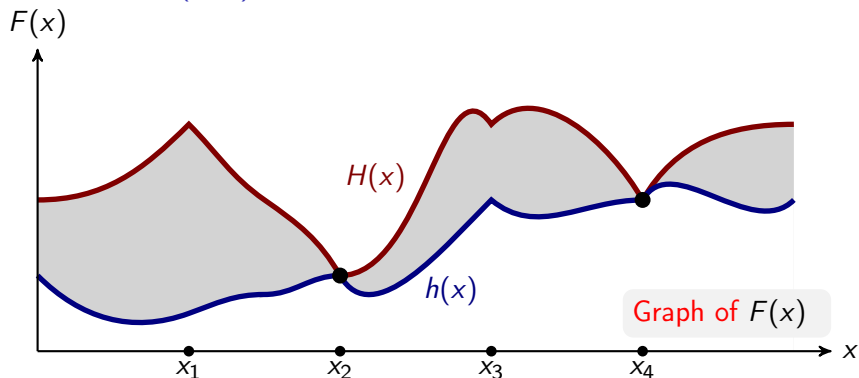


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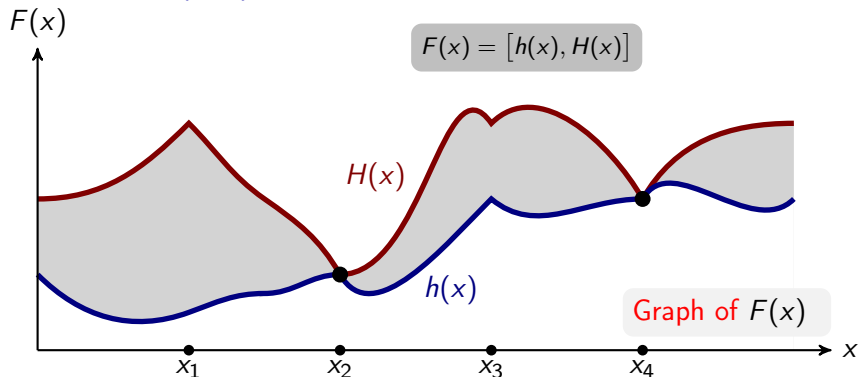


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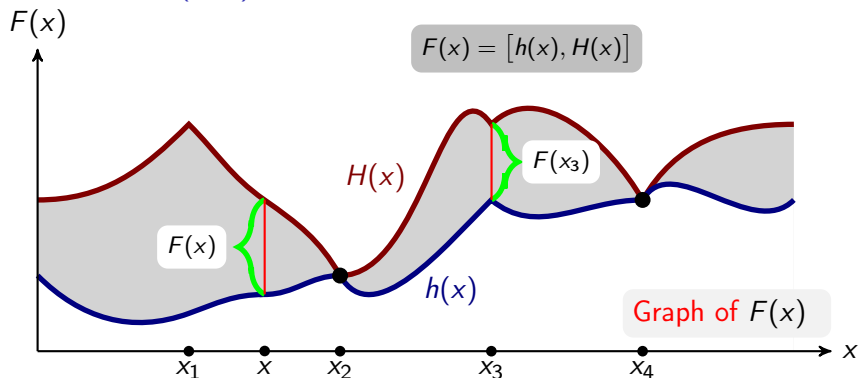
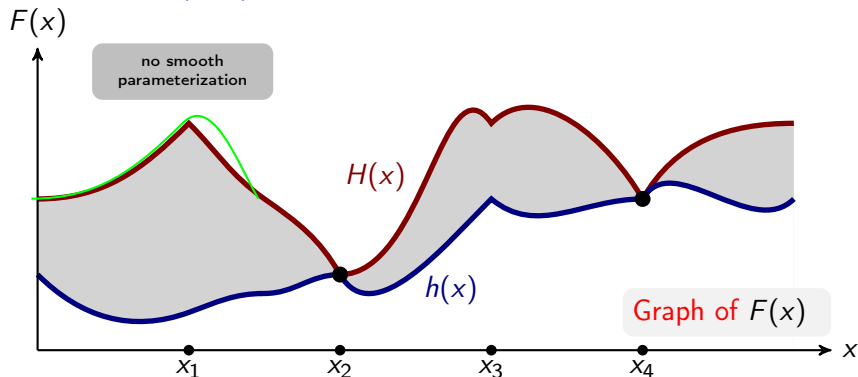
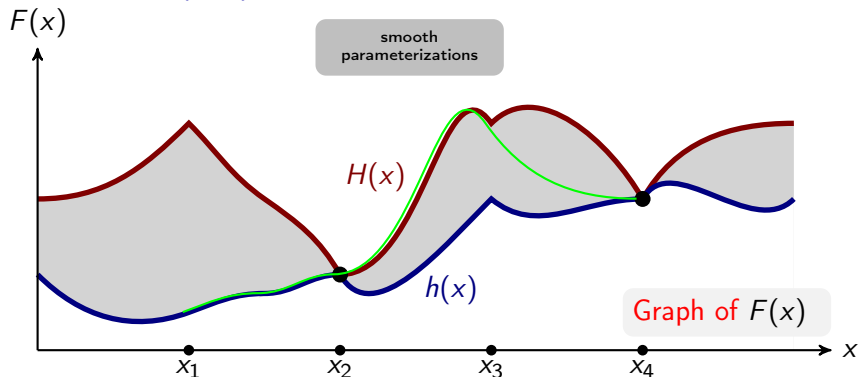


Illustration of (NC) with $n = 1$



x_1 : No smooth parameterization since $x \mapsto H(x)$ not semiconvex.

Illustration of (NC) with $n = 1$



x_2, x_3 : Smooth parameterizations are possible between x_1 and x_4 .

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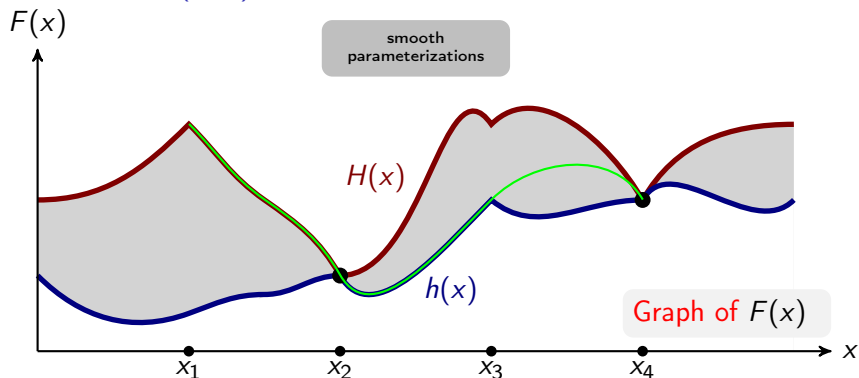


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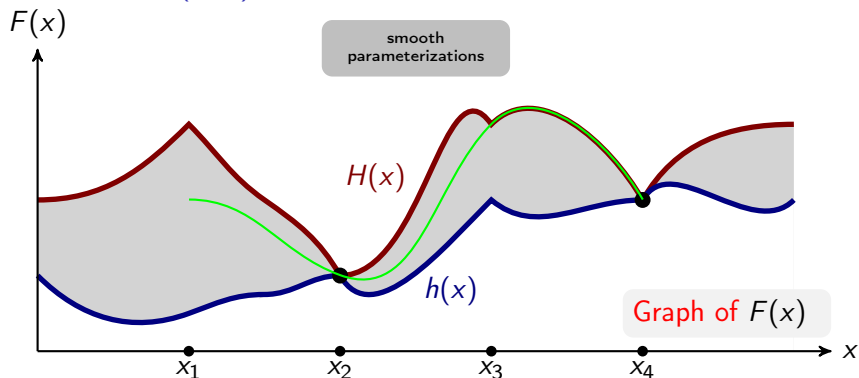


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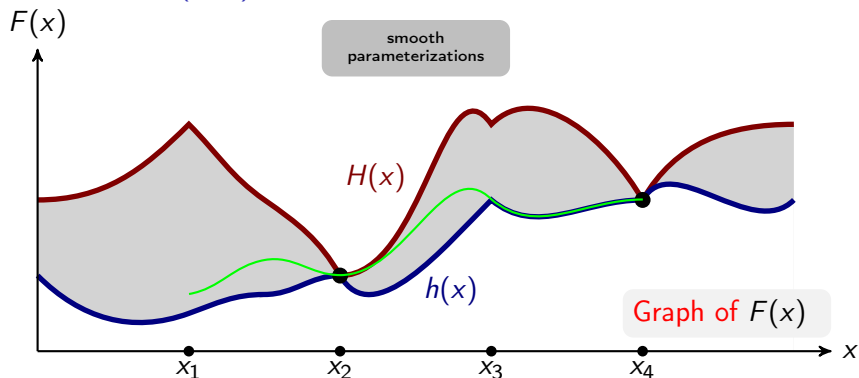
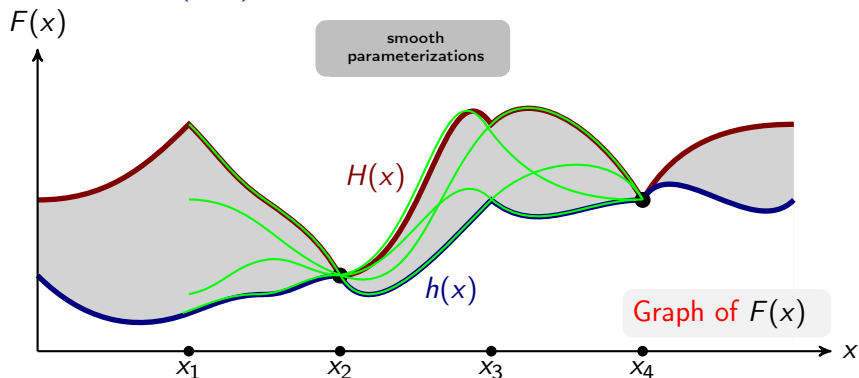
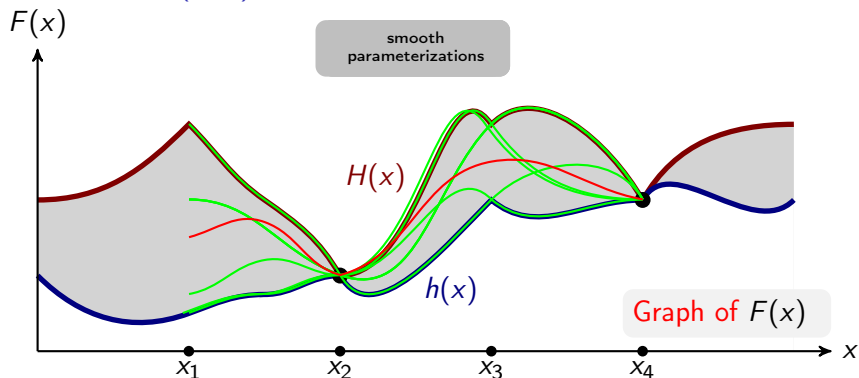


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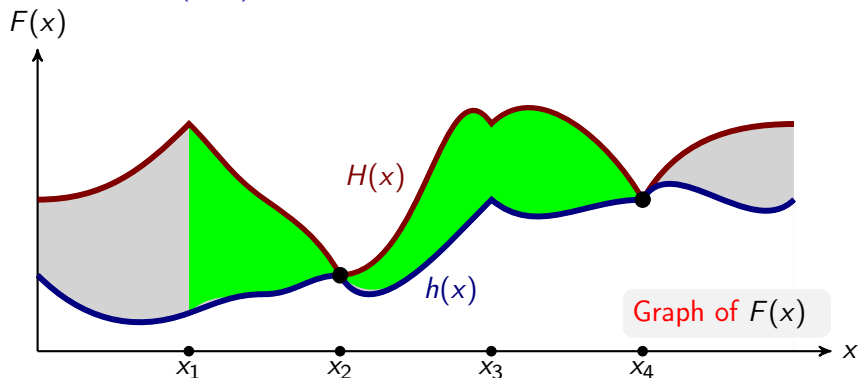
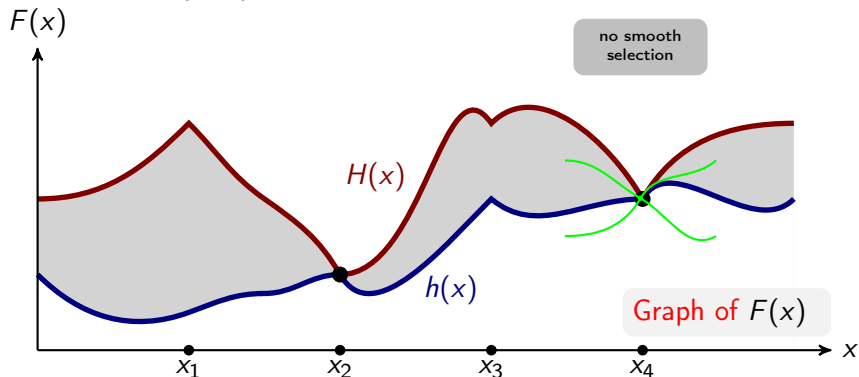


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x_4 : No smooth selection.

Proof of (NC)

Proof.

Note that the assumption

$$H(x, p) = -H(x, -p)$$

means that

$$\sup_{u \in U} \langle f(x, u), p \rangle = - \sup_{v \in F(x)} \langle v, -p \rangle = \inf_{v \in F(x)} \langle v, p \rangle = \inf_{u \in U} \langle f(x, u), p \rangle$$

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New DI assumptions

We abandon looking for smooth parameterizations, and introduce:

- (H) $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{1)} \quad x \mapsto H(x, p) \text{ is semiconvex, and} \\ \mathbf{2)} \quad \text{The gradient } \nabla_p H(x, p) \text{ exists and is locally Lipschitz in } x. \end{array} \right.$

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$n > 1$: Let $F(x) := f(x) + r(x)\overline{\mathbb{B}}$ where $f(\cdot)$ is C^2 and $r : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ is semiconvex. Then $H(x, p) = \langle f(x), p \rangle + r(x)\|p\|$, and so (H) is satisfied. Then (NC) is satisfied only if $r(x) = 0$ implies

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Consequences, part I

Consequences of (H1):

The semiconvexity of $x \mapsto H(x, p)$ implies

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That the gradient $\nabla_p H(x, p)$ exists means that the argmax of $\sup_{v \in F(x)} \langle v, p \rangle$ is unique - we denote it by $f_p(x) \in F(x)$.

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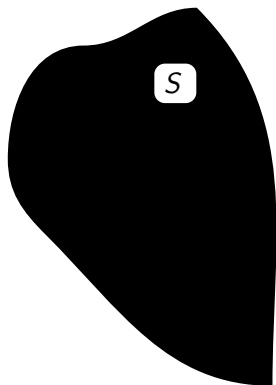
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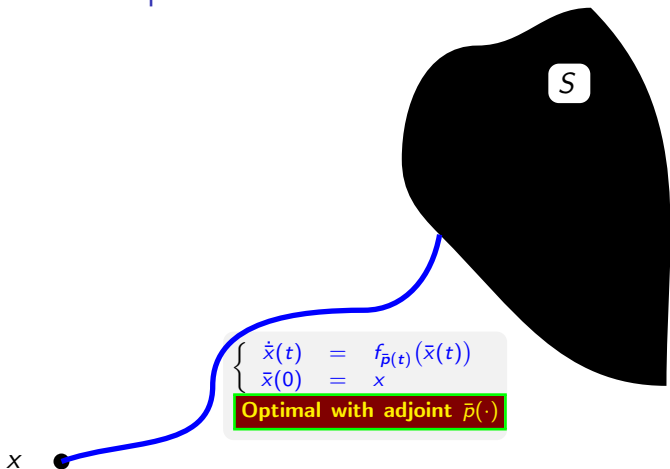
- A unique solution $x(\cdot; x)$ of (ODE)_x exists on $[0, \infty)$;
- Each solution $x(\cdot; x)$ is a solution of (DI) ;
- The function $x \mapsto x(t; x)$ is locally Lipschitz;
- If $(\bar{x}(\cdot), \bar{p}(\cdot))$ is a Hamiltonian arc, then $x(\cdot)$ satisfies (ODE) with $p(\cdot) = \bar{p}(\cdot)$.

A replacement for a priori estimates

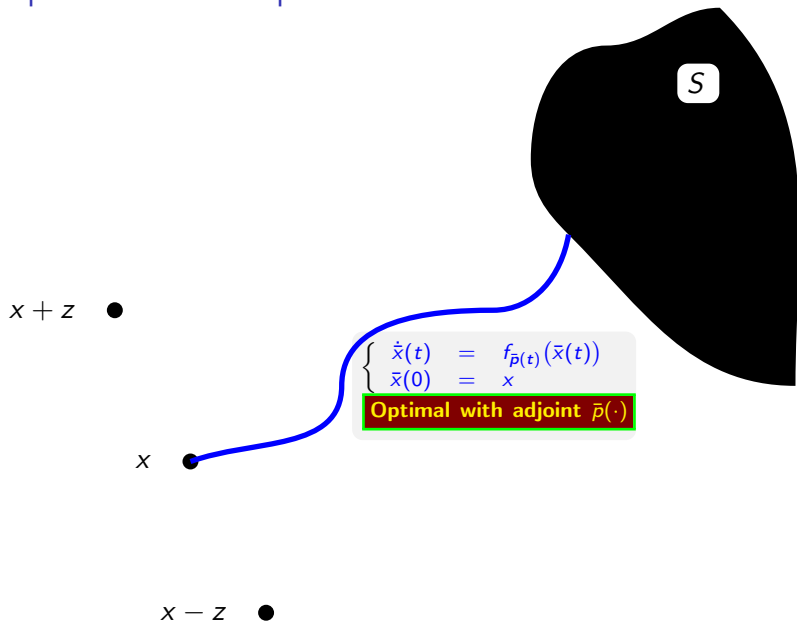


x ●

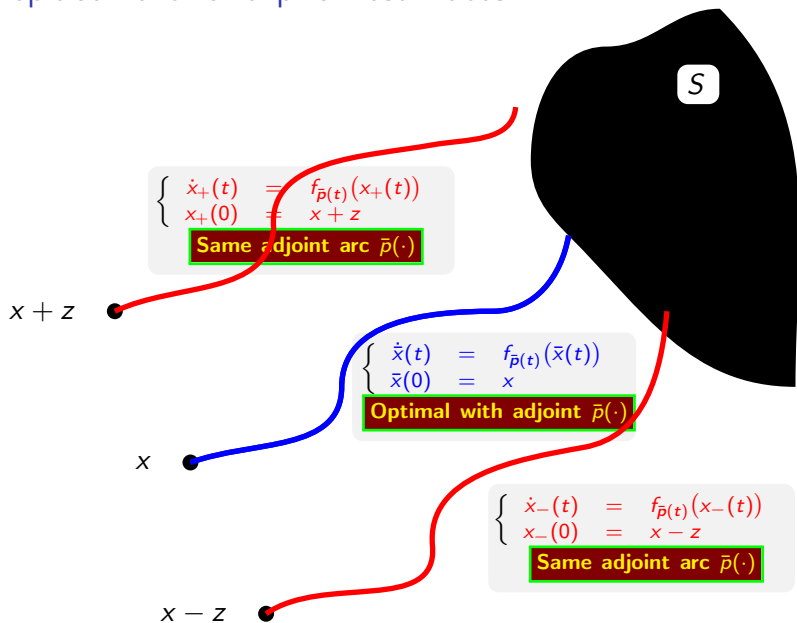
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Theorem

Consider the Mayer problem. Assume the endpoint cost function $\ell(\cdot)$ is semiconcave. Then the value function $V(\cdot, \cdot)$ is locally semiconcave on $(-\infty, T] \times \mathbb{R}^n$.

Conclusions and future work

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**Thank you for your attention
and for sticking around.**

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Grazie per l'attenzione!

Dziękuję za uwagę!

Merci de l'attention

Obrigado pela atenção

Vielen Dank für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit

Gracias por su atención

Gràcies per la vostra atenció

Cám on

شكرا لاهتمامكم

And finally ...

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Many thanks to Richard, Rosario,
Hasnaa, Estelle, and all the SADC0 people!

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Many thanks to Richard, Rosario,
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It's been a great week!