
Ten Years of Interconnection and Damping Assignment Passivity–based Control of Mechanical Systems

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Starting Point:

R. Ortega, M. Spong, F. Gomez and G. Blankenstein: Stabilization of underactuated mechanical systems via interconnection and damping assignment, *IEEE Trans. Automatic Control*, Vol. AC–47, No. 8, August 2002, pp. 1218–1233.

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- 3 Simplifying the PDEs via Coordinate Changes. (G. Viola, R. Ortega, R. Banavar, J. A. Acosta and A. Astolfi: Total energy shaping control of mechanical systems: simplifying the matching equations via coordinate changes, *IEEE Trans. Automatic Control*, Vol. 52, No. 6, pp. 1093–1099, 2007.)
- 4 Robustness to External Disturbances. (R. Ortega and J. Romero: Robust integral control of port-Hamiltonian systems: The case of non-passive outputs with unmatched disturbances, *Systems and Control Letters*, Vol. 61, No. 1, pp. 11-17, 2012.)
- 5 Globally Exponentially Stable Output Feedback Tracking. (J. Romero and R. Ortega: A globally exponentially stable tracking controller for mechanical systems using position feedback, *2013 American Control Conference*, June 17–19, 2013, Washington DC, USA.)
- 6 LTI Systems. (Z. Liu, R. Ortega and H. Su: Control via IDA of linear time–invariant systems: A tutorial, *International Journal of Control*, Vol 85, Issue 3, pp. 603-611, 2012.)

1. IDA-PBC of Mechanical Systems

Model

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{q} \\ \dot{p} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I_n \\ -I_n & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial H}{\partial q} \\ \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ G(q) \end{bmatrix} u$$

where $H(q, p) = \frac{1}{2}p^\top M^{-1}(q)p + V(q)$, $\text{rank}(G) = m < n$.

Desired closed-loop dynamics

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{q} \\ \dot{p} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & M^{-1}(q)M_d(q) \\ -M_d(q)M^{-1}(q) & J_2(q, p) - G(q)K_v G^\top(q) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial H_d}{\partial q} \\ \frac{\partial H_d}{\partial p} \end{bmatrix}$$

with $K_v > 0$ and $J_2(q, p) = -J_2^\top(q, p)$.

Desired energy is parameterized

- $H_d(q, p) = \frac{1}{2}p^\top M_d^{-1}(q)p + V_d(q)$, $M_d(q) = M_d^\top(q) > 0$

- $q_\star = \arg \min V_d(q)$.

Connection with Controlled Lagrangians: Gyroscopic terms had to be added

$$L_c(q, \dot{q}) = \frac{1}{2}\dot{q}^\top M(q)M_d^{-1}(q)M(q)\dot{q} + \dot{q}^\top Q(q) - V_d(q)$$

Proposition

Let (without loss of generality)

$$J_2(q, p) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n U_k(q) p_k, \quad U_k = -U_k^\top.$$

Assume solution of the PDEs

$$\begin{aligned} G^\perp \left\{ \frac{\partial^\top}{\partial q} (M_{(\cdot, k)}^{-1}) - M_d M^{-1} \frac{\partial^\top}{\partial q} (M_d^{-1})_{(\cdot, k)} + U_k M_d^{-1} \right\} &= 0 \\ G^\perp \left\{ \frac{\partial V}{\partial q} - M_d M^{-1} \frac{\partial V_d}{\partial q} \right\} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

with $(\cdot)_{(\cdot, k)}$ the k -th row, $G^\perp(q) \in \mathbb{R}^{(n-m) \times n}$ a full rank left annihilator of G , i.e., $G^\perp G = 0$ and $\text{rank}(G^\perp) = n - m$. Then, the system in closed-loop with

$$u = (G^\top G)^{-1} G^\top (\nabla_q H - M_d M^{-1} \nabla_q H_d + J_2 M_d^{-1} p) - K_v G^\top \nabla_p H_d,$$

takes the desired port-Hamiltonian form and $(q^*, 0)$ is a **stable equilibrium** point with Lyapunov function H_d .

2. Constructive Solution For Underactuation Degree One

- Identification of a class of mechanical systems for which the PDEs are **explicitly solved**.

Proposition

- **A.1** $m = n - 1$.
- **A.2** M and V do not depend on the unactuated coordinate. The former can be enforced with Spong's partial feedback linearization.
- **A.3** G and M are functions of a single element of q , say q_r , $r \in \{1, \dots, n\}$

An explicit solution of the PDE's is given by

$$M_d(q_r) = \int_{q_r^*}^{q_r} G(\mu) \Psi(\mu) G^\top(\mu) d\mu + M_d^0$$

$$V_d(q) = \int_0^{q_r} \frac{G^\perp \nabla V(\mu)}{\gamma_r(\mu)} d\mu + \Phi(z(q)),$$

where

$$\gamma := M^{-1} M_d (G^\perp)^\top, \quad z(q) := q - \int_0^{q_r} \frac{\gamma(\mu)}{\gamma_r(\mu)} d\mu$$

and $\Psi = \Psi^\top$, $M_d^0 = (M_d^0)^\top > 0$ and Φ may be **arbitrarily** chosen.

3. Simplifying the PDEs via Coordinate Changes

- The KE-PDE is nonlinear and nonhomogeneous. The presence of the forcing term introduces a **quadratic term** in M_d that renders very difficult its solution—even with the help of the free skew-symmetric matrix J_2 .
- Perform a **coordinate change** $(q, p) \mapsto (q, \tilde{p})$, with $p = T(q)\tilde{p}$, where $T \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is **full rank**. This yields:

$$\tilde{\Sigma} : \begin{bmatrix} \dot{q} \\ \dot{\tilde{p}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & T^{-\top} \\ -T^{-1} & -T^{-1}(S - S^\top)T^{-\top} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \nabla_q \tilde{H} \\ \nabla_{\tilde{p}} \tilde{H} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ T^{-1}G \end{bmatrix} u,$$

where $\tilde{H}(q, \tilde{p}) = \frac{1}{2}\tilde{p}^\top T^\top(q)M^{-1}(q)T(q)\tilde{p} + V(q)$, and $S(q, \tilde{p}) = \nabla_q(T(q)\tilde{p})$.

- Define **new target dynamics**, in the coordinates (q, \tilde{p}) , as

$$\tilde{\Sigma}_d : \begin{bmatrix} \dot{q} \\ \dot{\tilde{p}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & M^{-1}(q)T(q)\tilde{M}_d(q) \\ -\tilde{M}_dT^\top(q)M^{-1}(q) & \tilde{J}_2(q, \tilde{p}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \nabla_q \tilde{H}_d \\ \nabla_{\tilde{p}} \tilde{H}_d \end{bmatrix},$$

where $\tilde{H}_d(q, \tilde{p}) = \frac{1}{2}\tilde{p}^\top \tilde{M}_d^{-1}(q)\tilde{p} + \tilde{V}_d(q)$ and $\tilde{J}_2 = -\tilde{J}_2^\top$ is free.

Obtaining an Homogeneous KE–PDE

Proposition T is such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \left[T^\top M^{-1} e_i G_k^\perp \frac{\partial T}{\partial q_i} + \frac{\partial T^\top}{\partial q_i} (e_i G_k^\perp)^\top M^{-1} T + G_k^\perp e_i T^\top \frac{\partial M^{-1}}{\partial q_i} T \right] = 0.$$

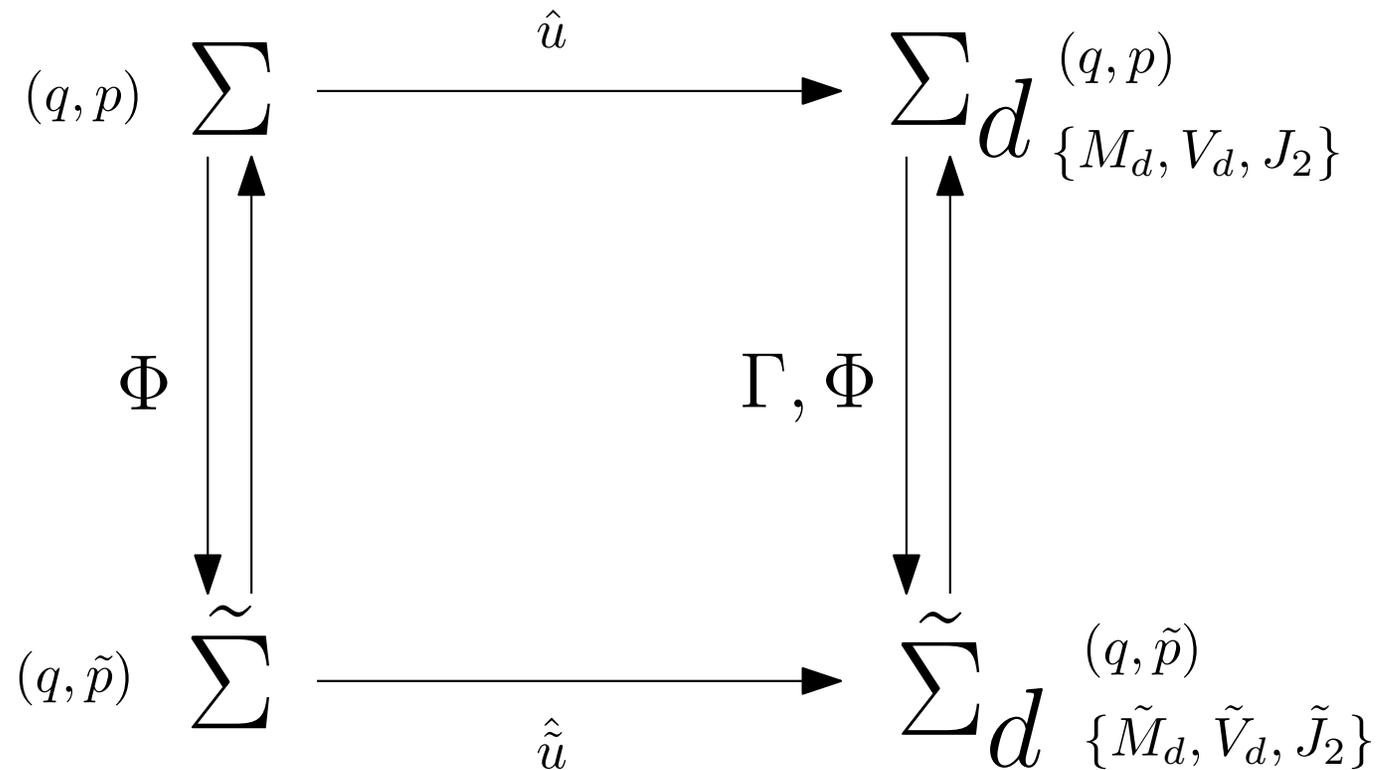
The PDEs become

$$\begin{aligned} G^\perp T \left[\tilde{M}_d T^\top M^{-1} \nabla_q (\tilde{p}^\top \tilde{M}_d^{-1} \tilde{p}) - 2\tilde{J}_2 \tilde{M}_d^{-1} \tilde{p} \right] &= 0 \\ G^\perp T \tilde{M}_d T^\top M^{-1} \nabla \tilde{V}_d &= G^\perp \nabla V, \end{aligned}$$

Remarks

- $T = M$ solves the new PDE if and only if $G^\perp(q)C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} = 0$, where $C \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is the matrix of Coriolis and centrifugal forces of the system.
- Solving the new PDEs is, in principle, simpler: it has been possible for several practical examples, including the pendulum of Furuta ♡.
- For the Acrobot ♡ first proof of smooth stabilization with domain of attraction including the lower half plane.

Relationship Between New and Original Problem



$\Gamma : \{M_d, V_d, J_2\} \rightarrow \{\tilde{M}_d, \tilde{V}_d, \tilde{J}_2\}$ is one-to-one.
 $\Phi : (q, p) \rightarrow (q, \tilde{p})$ is the coordinate transformation.

4. Robustness to External Disturbances

- Perturbed port–Hamiltonian (pH) model

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{q} \\ \dot{p} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I_n \\ -I_n & -K_p \end{bmatrix} \nabla H + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ I_n \end{bmatrix} u + \begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix},$$

with Hamiltonian

$$H(q, p) = \frac{1}{2} p^\top M^{-1}(q) p + V(q).$$

- d_1, d_2 are disturbances—possibly time–varying, but bounded.
- $K_p > 0, q^* = \arg \min V(q) \Rightarrow$ Asymptotic stability if $d = 0$.
- **Objective:** Design a state–feedback controller that:
 - preserves asymptotic stability for constant disturbances,
 - ensures input–to–state stability (ISS).
- Main technical tools ([Donaire/Junco, Automatica'09](#)), ([Ortega/Romero, SCL'10](#)):
 - Change of coordinates (preserving pH structure and Hamiltonian function form)
 - Addition of integral action

Destabilization of Integral Action on Velocities

- Integral control on passive output

$$\begin{aligned}u &= -\eta \\ \dot{\eta} &= K_i M^{-1}(q)p, \quad K_i > 0\end{aligned}$$

- If d_1 is a non-zero constant the system admits no constant equilibrium, and if $d_1 = 0$ and d_2 is constant there is an equilibrium set

$$\mathcal{E} = \left\{ (q, p, \eta) \mid p = 0, \nabla V(q) + \eta = d_2 \right\}.$$

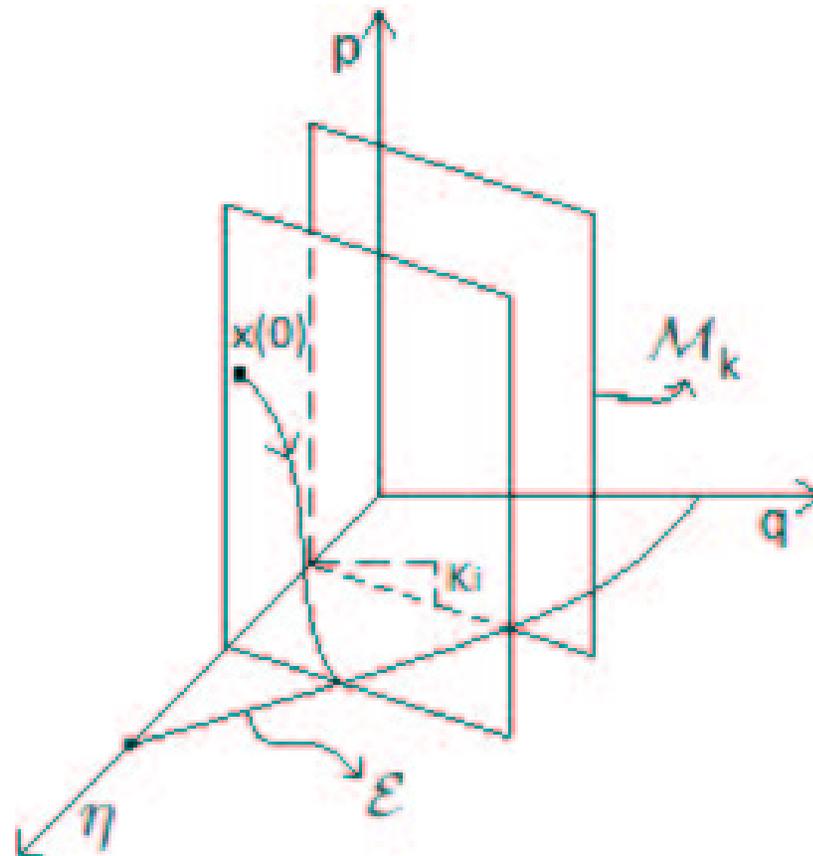
- With or without disturbances, the foliation

$$\mathcal{M}_\kappa = \left\{ (q, p, \eta) \mid K_i q - \eta = \kappa, \kappa \in \mathbb{R} \right\},$$

is **invariant**.

- Convergence to $(q^*, 0, d_2)$ is attained only for a zero measure set of initial conditions.

Invariant Foliation in the State Space



Robustness for Constant Inertia Matrix and $d(t) = \bar{d}$

Proposition (Romero, et al., CDC'12) Constant inertia matrix M and disturbances $d = \bar{d}$ with PI control

$$\begin{aligned}u &= -K_p z_3 - M K_i \nabla V \\ \dot{z}_3 &= K_i \nabla V.\end{aligned}$$

(i) The closed-loop dynamics expressed in the coordinates,

$$z_1 = q, \quad z_2 = p + M(z_3 - K_p^{-1} d_2)$$

takes the pH form

$$\dot{z} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I_n & -K_i \\ -I_n & -K_p & 0 \\ K_i & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \nabla H_z(z),$$

with

$$H_z(z) := H(z) + \frac{1}{2} (z_3 - z_3^*)^\top K_i^{-1} (z_3 - z_3^*).$$

(ii) $z^* := (q^*, 0, z_3^*)$, is asymptotically stable.

Non-constant $M(q)$: Change of Coordinates

Fact (Venkatraman, et al., TAC'10) Consider the system without damping ($K_p = 0$) and no unmatched disturbances ($d_1 = 0$). The change of coordinates

$$(q, \bar{p}) = (q, T(q)p), \quad M^{-1}(q) = T^2(q).$$

transforms the dynamics into

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{q} \\ \dot{\bar{p}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & T(q) \\ -T(q) & J_2(q, \bar{p}) \end{bmatrix} \nabla W + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ I_n \end{bmatrix} v + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ T d_2 \end{bmatrix},$$

with $v := T(q)u$, new Hamiltonian function

$$W(q, \bar{p}) = \frac{1}{2} |\bar{p}|^2 + V(q),$$

and the gyroscopic forces matrix

$$J_2(q, \bar{p}) := \nabla^\top (Tp)T - T\nabla (Tp)|_{p=T^{-1}\bar{p}}.$$

Robustness *vis-à-vis* $d_2(t)$

Proposition (Romero, et al., WLHM'12) Control law

$$\begin{aligned}v &= -(\nabla^2 V T + J_2 + R_2 + R_3)\bar{p} - (R_2 + R_3)z_3 - (T + R_2 + R_3)\nabla V \\ \dot{z}_3 &= (T + R_3)\nabla V + R_3\bar{p}\end{aligned}$$

(i) Closed-loop dynamics in the coordinates $(z_1, z_2, z_3) = (q, \bar{p} + \nabla V(q) + z_3, z_3)$, is given by

$$\dot{z} = \begin{bmatrix} -T & T & -T \\ -T & -R_2 & -R_3 \\ T & R_3 & -R_3 \end{bmatrix} \nabla U + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ T d_2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad U(z) := \frac{1}{2}|z_2|^2 + V(z_1) + \frac{1}{2}|z_3|^2$$

(ii) The closed-loop system is **ISS** (with respect to the disturbance $d_2(t)$).

(iii) If $d_2(t) = \bar{d}_2$, the equilibrium $z^* = (q^*, 0, z_3^*)$ is **asymptotically stable**.

Remark Similar result for $(d_1(t), d_2(t))$, with complex control.

5. Globally Exponentially Stable Output Feedback Tracking

Proposition For all twice differentiable, bounded, references $(q_d(t), \mathbf{p}_d(t)) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n$, there exists a dynamic position–feedback IDA–PBC that ensures **uniform global exponential stability** of the closed–loop system provided the inertia matrix is **bounded from above**. More precisely, there exist two (smooth) mappings

$$\mathbf{F} : \mathbb{R}^{3n+1} \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{3n+1}, \quad \mathbf{H} : \mathbb{R}^{3n+1} \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$$

such that the mechanical system in closed–loop with

$$\dot{\chi} = \mathbf{F}(\chi, q, t), \quad u = \mathbf{H}(\chi, q, t)$$

is a (perturbed) port–Hamiltonian system that verifies

$$\left\| \begin{bmatrix} q(t) - q_d(t) \\ \mathbf{p}(t) - \mathbf{p}_d(t) \\ \chi(t) \end{bmatrix} \right\| \leq \kappa \exp^{-\alpha(t-t_0)} \left\| \begin{bmatrix} q(t_0) - q_d(t_0) \\ \mathbf{p}(t_0) - \mathbf{p}_d(t_0) \\ \chi(t_0) \end{bmatrix} \right\|, \quad \forall t \geq t_0.$$

for all initial conditions $(q(t_0), \mathbf{p}(t_0), \chi(t_0)) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^{3n} \times \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$. Moreover, the controller ensures uniform global **asymptotic** stability even if the inertia matrix is **not bounded from above**.

6. Linear Time Invariant (Conservative) Mechanical Systems

- IDA for LTI systems: Find $u(x)$ such that

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu(x) \equiv F \nabla H_d$$

with $H_d(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^\top Px$, $P > 0$ and $F + F^\top \leq 0$.

- **Proposition** (Prajna, et al., SCL'02) IDA applicable if and only if (A, B) is stabilizable.
- IDA for mechanical systems: Given $H(q, p) = \frac{1}{2}|p|^2 + \frac{1}{2}q^\top Cq$ find $u(q, p)$ such that

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{q} \\ \dot{p} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I_n \\ -I_n & 0 \end{bmatrix} \nabla H + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ G \end{bmatrix} u(q, p) \equiv \begin{bmatrix} 0 & M_d \\ -M_d & 0 \end{bmatrix} \nabla H_d.$$

where $H_d(q, p) = \frac{1}{2}p^\top M_d^{-1}p + \frac{1}{2}q^\top C_dq$, $M_d > 0$, $C_d > 0$.

- Differences with general IDA is that H_d is separable and the structure of F is fixed.
- **Proposition** (Liu, et al., IJC'12), (Zenkov, MTNS'02), (Chang, SIAM/JOTA'10)
 - IDA is applicable if and only if the matrix associated to the uncontrollable part of the pair $(-C, G)$ —if any—is diagonalizable and has negative real eigenvalues.
 - Stabilizability is not enough for applicability of IDA.

Thanks a lot Mark!