

# First and Second order Sensitivity Relations in Optimal Control

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Nonholonomic mechanics and optimal control

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# Outline of the talk

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  - Characteristics of HJB
  - Semiconcave and Semiconvex Functions
  - Maximum Principle
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  - Propagation of Twice Fréchet Differentiability
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- 3 **Local  $C^2$ –Regularity of the Value Function**
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# Mayer's Optimal Control Problem

Consider the minimization problem

$$V(t_0, x_0) := \inf \left\{ \phi(x(T)) : x(\cdot) \in S_{[t_0, T]}(x_0) \right\} \quad \mathcal{P}(t_0, x_0)$$

where  $\phi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $S_{[t_0, T]}(x_0)$  is the set of all absolutely continuous solutions of the **control system**

$$\begin{cases} x' &= f(x, u(t)), \quad u(t) \in U \quad \text{a.e. in } [t_0, T] \\ x(t_0) &= x_0 \end{cases}$$

where  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \times U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $U$  is a complete separable metric space.  $V : (-\infty, T] \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is called the **value function**.

Standard Hypothesis:  $\phi$  is locally Lipschitz and

- $$\begin{cases} (i) & f(x, U) \text{ is compact for each } x \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ (ii) & f(\cdot, u) \text{ is locally Lipschitz uniformly in } u \in U \\ (iii) & \exists \gamma > 0 \text{ so that } \max\{|f(x, u)| : u \in U\} \leq \gamma(1 + |x|) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n \end{cases}$$



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## Generalized Differentials

Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be open and  $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . For any  $x \in \Omega$ , the sets

$$\partial^- f(x) = \left\{ p \in \mathbb{R}^n : \liminf_{y \rightarrow x} \frac{f(y) - f(x) - \langle p, y - x \rangle}{|y - x|} \geq 0 \right\}$$

$$\partial^+ f(x) = \left\{ p \in \mathbb{R}^n : \limsup_{y \rightarrow x} \frac{f(y) - f(x) - \langle p, y - x \rangle}{|y - x|} \leq 0 \right\}$$

are the **(Fréchet) subdifferential** and **superdifferential** of  $f$  at  $x$ , respectively.

$p \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is a **proximal subgradient** of  $f$  at  $x \in \Omega$  if  $\exists c, \rho \geq 0$

$$f(y) - f(x) - \langle p, y - x \rangle \geq -c|y - x|^2 \quad \forall y \in B(x, \rho).$$

The set of all proximal subgradients of  $f$  at  $x$  is denoted by  $\partial^{-,pr} f(x)$ .



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# HJB and Characteristics

Define the **Hamiltonian**  $H : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by

$$H(x, p) = \sup_{u \in U} \langle f(x, u), p \rangle \quad \forall (x, p) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n$$

$V$  is the unique solution, in a suitable sense, of the Hamilton-Jacobi equation

$$\begin{cases} -v_t(t, x) + H(x, -v_x(t, x)) = 0 & \text{in } (-\infty, T) \times \mathbb{R}^n \\ v(T, x) = \phi(x) & x \in \mathbb{R}^n \end{cases}$$

**Characteristic system :**  $p(t) = -v_x(t, x(t))$

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}(t) = \nabla_p H(x(t), p(t)) & x(T) = x_T \\ -\dot{p}(t) = \nabla_x H(x(t), p(t)) & -p(T) = \nabla \phi(x_T) \end{cases}$$

where  $\nabla_x H$  is the gradient of  $H(\cdot, p)$ , similarly for  $\nabla_p H$  whenever  $p(\cdot) \neq 0$



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**Characteristic system** :  $p(t) \neq -v_x(t, x(t))$ , in general,

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}(t) \in \partial_p^- H(x(t), p(t)) & x(T) = x_T \\ -\dot{p}(t) \in \partial_x^- H(x(t), p(t)) & -p(T) \in \partial\phi(x_T) \end{cases}$$

where  $\partial_x^- H$  is the subdifferential of  $H(\cdot, p)$ , similarly for  $\partial_p^- H$  and  $\partial\phi$  is the generalized gradient of  $\phi$





# Sensitivity Relations for Smooth Control Systems

Let  $\bar{x}(\cdot)$  be an optimal solution for  $\mathcal{P}(t_0, x_0)$ .

If  $f$  and  $\phi$  are sufficiently **smooth** and  $V$  is differentiable, then the adjoint state  $p(\cdot)$  (of the **maximum principle**) satisfies the **partial** sensitivity relation

$$-p(t) = V_x(t, \bar{x}(t)) \quad \forall t \in [t_0, T]$$

and the **full** sensitivity relation

$$(H(\bar{x}(t), p(t)), -p(t)) = \nabla V(t, \bar{x}(t)) \quad \forall t \in [t_0, T]$$

This leads to **necessary and sufficient conditions for optimality**.



## Sensitivity Relations for Smooth Control Systems

Let  $\bar{x}(\cdot)$  be an optimal solution for  $\mathcal{P}(t_0, x_0)$ .

If  $\phi$  is locally Lipschitz, then by Clarke, Vinter 1987 there exists an adjoint state  $p(\cdot)$  (co-state from the maximum principle) satisfying

$$-p(t) \in \partial_x V(t, \bar{x}(t)) \quad \text{a.e. in } [t_0, T]$$

and by Vinter 1988 there exists an adjoint state  $q(\cdot)$  satisfying

$$(H(\bar{x}(t), q(t)), -q(t)) \in \partial V(t, \bar{x}(t)) \text{ for all } t \in (t_0, T)$$

This relations do not imply sufficient conditions for optimality.  
They also hold true in the state constrained case.



# Sensitivity Relations for Smooth Control Systems

Let  $\bar{x}(\cdot)$  be an optimal solution for  $\mathcal{P}(t_0, x_0)$ .

If  $f(\cdot, u)$  and  $\phi$  are **differentiable**, then the adjoint state  $p(\cdot)$  satisfies

$$-p(t) \in \partial_x^+ V(t, \bar{x}(t)) \quad \forall t \in [t_0, T]$$

and

$$(H(\bar{x}(t), p(t)), -p(t)) \in \partial^+ V(t, \bar{x}(t)) \quad \text{a.e. in } [t_0, T]$$

Subbotina 1989, Cannarsa and HF 1990.

This leads to **necessary and sufficient conditions** for optimality.

Not investigated **yet** when state constraints are present.



# Semiconcave and Semiconvex Functions

Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $c \geq 0$ ,  $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is  $c$ -**semiconcave** if

$$f(\lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y) \geq \lambda f(x) + (1 - \lambda)f(y) - \lambda(1 - \lambda)c|x - y|^2$$

for all  $x, y \in \Omega$  such that  $[x, y] \subset \Omega$  and  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ .

$f$  is called  $c$ -**semiconvex** on  $\Omega$  if  $-f$  is  $c$ -semiconcave on  $\Omega$ .

If  $f$  is sufficiently smooth in  $x$  and  $\phi$  is  $C^2$ , then the **value function** is **locally semiconcave**.

Hence it has directional derivatives and if the subdifferential of  $V$  is nonempty at some  $(t, x)$ , then  $V$  is differentiable at this point.  $V$  is then the unique locally Lipschitz solution of HJB equation in the **classical sense**.



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# Maximum Principle

## Theorem

Assume  $\forall r > 0 \exists c \geq 0$  such that  $\forall p \in S^{n-1}$ ,  $x \mapsto H(\cdot, p)$  is  $c$ -semiconvex on  $B(0, r)$ .

If  $\bar{x}(\cdot)$  is optimal for  $\mathcal{P}(t_0, x_0)$ , then there **exists** an arc  $p : [t_0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  which, together with  $\bar{x}(\cdot)$ , satisfies

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}(s) \in \partial_p^- H(x(s), p(s)), \\ -\dot{p}(s) \in \partial_x^- H(x(s), p(s)), \end{cases} \quad \text{for a.e. } s \in [t_0, T]$$

and  $-p(T) \in \partial\phi(x(T))$ .

Clarke, Vinter show it with  $\partial H(x, p)$  which is contained in  $\partial_p^- H(x, p) \times \partial_x^- H(x, p)$  because of semiconvexity of Hamiltonian.



# Sufficient Conditions for Optimality

## Theorem

Let  $x(\cdot) \in S_{[t_0, T]}(x_0)$ . If, for almost every  $t \in [t_0, T]$ ,  $\exists p(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$

$$\langle p(t), \dot{x}(t) \rangle = H(x(t), p(t))$$

$$(H(x(t), p(t)), -p(t)) \in \partial^+ V(t, x(t))$$

then  $x$  is optimal for  $\mathcal{P}(t_0, x_0)$ .

**Regularity Assumptions:**  $\forall r > 0, \exists c \geq 0, \forall p \in S^{n-1}$

- $$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} (i) x \mapsto H(x, p) \text{ is } c\text{-semiconvex on } B(0, r) \\ (ii) \nabla_p H(x, p) \text{ exists and is } c\text{-Lipschitz continuous in } x \text{ on } B(0, r) \end{array} \right.$$

If  $\phi$  is locally semiconcave, then  $V$  is also locally semiconcave

Cannarsa and Wolenski, 2011



# Sensitivity Relations Involving Superdifferentials

## Theorem

Let  $\bar{x}(\cdot)$  be optimal for  $\mathcal{P}(t_0, x_0)$  and consider *any* arc  $\bar{p}(\cdot)$  such that  $(\bar{x}, \bar{p})$  solves the system

$$\begin{cases} -\dot{p}(t) \in \partial_x^- H(x(t), p(t)) \\ \dot{x}(t) \in \partial_p^- H(x(t), p(t)) \end{cases} \quad -p(T) \in \partial^+ \phi(\bar{x}(T))$$

Then  $\bar{p}(\cdot)$  satisfies the full sensitivity relation

$$(H(\bar{x}(t), \bar{p}(t)), -\bar{p}(t)) \in \partial^+ V(t, \bar{x}(t)) \text{ for all } t \in (t_0, T)$$

and the partial sensitivity relation

$$-\bar{p}(t) \in \partial_x^+ V(t, \bar{x}(t)) \text{ for all } t \in [t_0, T]$$





# Sensitivity Relations Involving Subdifferentials

## Theorem

Assume  $\partial_x^- V(t_0, x_0) \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $\bar{x}(\cdot)$  be optimal for  $\mathcal{P}(t_0, x_0)$  and consider *any* arc  $\bar{p}(\cdot)$  such that  $(\bar{x}, \bar{p})$  solves the system

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}(s) \in \partial_p^- H(x(s), p(s)), & x(t_0) = x_0 \\ -\dot{p}(s) \in \partial_x^- H(x(s), p(s)), & -p(t_0) \in \partial_x^- V(t_0, x_0) \end{cases}$$

Then  $-\bar{p}(t) \in \partial_x^- V(t, \bar{x}(t))$  for all  $t \in [t_0, T]$ .

Furthermore, if  $\partial^+ \phi(\bar{x}(T)) \neq \emptyset$ , then for all  $t \in [t_0, T]$ ,  $V(t, \cdot)$  is differentiable at  $\bar{x}(t)$  and  $\nabla_x V(t, \bar{x}(t)) = -\bar{p}(t)$ .

If  $\phi$  is also locally semiconcave, then  $V(\cdot, \cdot)$  is differentiable at  $(t, \bar{x}(t))$  and  $\nabla V(t, \bar{x}(t)) = (H(\bar{x}(t), \bar{p}(t)), -\bar{p}(t)) \forall t \in [t_0, T]$ .



## Second Order Superjets and Subjets

$S(n)$  is the set of **symmetric**  $n \times n$  matrices.

Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty]$  and  $x \in \text{dom}(f)$ .

$(q, Q) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times S(n)$  is a **superjet** of  $f$  at  $x$  if  $\exists \delta > 0, \forall y \in B(x, \delta)$

$$f(y) \leq f(x) + \langle q, y - x \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \langle Q(y - x), y - x \rangle + o(|y - x|^2)$$

The set of all the superjets of  $f$  at  $x$  is denoted by  $J^{2,+}f(x)$ .

$(q, Q) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times S(n)$  is a **subjet** of  $f$  at  $x$  if  $\exists \delta > 0, \forall y \in B(x, \delta)$

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The set of all the subjets of  $f$  at  $x$  is denoted by  $J^{2,-}f(x)$ .



# Properties of Superjets

## Proposition

Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty]$  be an extended real-valued function and let  $x \in \text{dom}(f)$ . Then the following properties hold:

- (i)  $J^{2,+}f(x)$  is a convex subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n \times S(n)$ ,
- (ii) for any  $q \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , the set  $\{Q \in S(n) : (q, Q) \in J^{2,+}f(x)\}$  is a closed convex subset of  $S(n)$ ,
- (iii) if  $f \leq g$  and  $f(\hat{x}) = g(\hat{x})$  for some  $\hat{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , then  $J^{2,+}g(\hat{x}) \subset J^{2,+}f(\hat{x})$ .
- (iv) if  $(q, Q) \in J^{2,+}f(x)$ , then  $(q, Q') \in J^{2,+}f(x)$  for all  $Q' \in S(n)$  such that  $Q' \geq Q$ . Thus, the set  $J^{2,+}f(x)$  is either empty or unbounded.



## Matrix Riccati Equation

Assume  $H \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^n \times (\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}))$  and  $\partial^+ \phi(z) \neq \emptyset$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

Let  $\bar{x}$  be an optimal solution of  $\mathcal{P}(t_0, x_0)$  and consider a dual arc  $\bar{p}$  satisfying  $0 \neq \bar{p}(T) \in -\partial^+ \phi(\bar{x}(T))$ .

From now on set  $H_{px}[t] := \nabla_{px}^2 H(\bar{x}(t), \bar{p}(t))$ , and let  $H_{xp}[t], H_{pp}[t], H_{xx}[t]$  be defined analogously.

**Riccati Equation** :  $R(T) = -\nabla^2 \phi(\bar{x}(T))$

$$\dot{R}(t) + H_{px}[t]R(t) + R(t)H_{xp}[t] + R(t)H_{pp}[t]R(t) + H_{xx}[t] = 0$$

If  $V(t, \cdot)$  is  $C^2$  in a neighborhood of  $\bar{x}(t)$  for all  $t \in [t_0, T]$ , then

$$(\nabla_x V(t, \bar{x}(t)), \nabla_{xx}^2 V(t, \bar{x}(t))) = (-\bar{p}(t), -R(t))$$

This is a **second order sensitivity relation**.

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This is a **second order sensitivity relation**.

# Sensitivity Relations Involving Superjets

## Theorem

Let  $(q, Q) \in J^{2,+} \phi(\bar{x}(T))$ ,  $q \neq 0$  and  $\bar{p}(\cdot)$  be the dual arc such that  $\bar{p}(T) = -q$ . Consider the solution  $R(\cdot)$  of

$$\begin{cases} \dot{R}(t) + H_{px}[t]R(t) + R(t)H_{xp}[t] + R(t)H_{pp}[t]R(t) + H_{xx}[t] = 0 \\ R(T) = -Q, \end{cases}$$

defined on  $[a, T]$  for some  $a \in [t_0, T)$ . Then

$$(-\bar{p}(t), -R(t)) \in J_x^{2,+} V(t, \bar{x}(t)) \quad \text{for all } t \in [a, T].$$

Proof is an adaptation of the one in Caroff and HF, TAMS 1996



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Proof is an adaptation of the one in [Caroff and HF, TAMS 1996](#)





# Sensitivity Relations Involving Subjets

## Theorem

Let  $H \in C_{loc}^{2,1}(\mathbb{R}^n \times (\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}))$  and for some  $R_0 \in S(n)$

$$(-\bar{p}(t_0), -R_0) \in J_x^{2,-} V(t_0, x_0).$$

If the solution  $R(\cdot)$  of the Riccati equation

$$\begin{cases} \dot{R}(t) + H_{px}[t]R(t) + R(t)H_{xp}[t] + R(t)H_{pp}[t]R(t) + H_{xx}[t] = 0 \\ R(t_0) = R_0 \end{cases}$$

is well defined on  $[t_0, a]$  for some  $a \in (t_0, T]$ , then

$$(-\bar{p}(t), -R(t)) \in J_x^{2,-} V(t, \bar{x}(t)) \quad \text{for all } t \in [t_0, a].$$



# Forward Propagation of Twice Differentiability

## Theorem

If  $V(t_0, \cdot)$  is twice differentiable at  $x_0$  and the solution  $R(\cdot)$  of

$$\begin{cases} \dot{R}(t) + H_{px}[t]R(t) + R(t)H_{xp}[t] + R(t)H_{pp}[t]R(t) + H_{xx}[t] = 0 \\ R(t_0) = -\nabla_{xx} V(t_0, x_0) \end{cases}$$

is well defined on  $[t_0, a]$ , then  $V(t, \cdot)$  is twice differentiable at  $\bar{x}(t)$  for any  $t \in [t_0, a]$  and  $R(t) = -\nabla_{xx} V(t, \bar{x}(t))$ .

If  $\phi$  is locally semiconcave, then the interval  $[t_0, a]$  can be taken equal to  $[t_0, T]$ .

A similar result holds true also **backward in time**.



# Reachable Hessian

$Q \in M(n)$  is a **reachable Hessian** of  $V(t, \cdot)$  at  $x$  if for some  $x_j \rightarrow x$ ,  $V(t, \cdot)$  is twice Fréchet differentiable at  $x_j$ , and

$$Q = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \nabla_{xx}^2 V(t, x_j).$$

The set of all reachable Hessians of  $V(t, \cdot)$  at  $x$  is denoted by  $\partial_{xx}^* V(t, x)$ . By construction,  $\partial_{xx}^* V(t, x)$  is a subset of  $S(n)$ .



# Propagation of Reachable Hessians

## Proposition

Let  $\partial^+ \phi(\bar{x}(T)) \neq \{0\}$  and consider a dual arc  $\bar{p}$  satisfying  $-\bar{p}(T) \in \partial^+ \phi(\bar{x}(T)) \setminus \{0\}$ . If  $V(t_0, \cdot)$  is of class  $C^1$  in a neighborhood of  $x_0$  and for some  $a \in (t_0, T]$  and  $Q \in \partial_{xx}^* V(t_0, x_0)$ , the Riccati equation

$$\begin{cases} \dot{R}(t) + H_{px}[t]R(t) + R(t)H_{xp}[t] + R(t)H_{pp}[t]R(t) + H_{xx}[t] = 0, \\ R(t_0) = -Q, \end{cases}$$

has a solution  $R(\cdot)$  defined on  $[t_0, a]$ , then, for all  $t \in [t_0, a]$ ,

$$R(t) \in -\partial_{xx}^* V(t, \bar{x}(t)). \quad (1)$$

Moreover, if  $\phi$  is a locally semiconcave function, then  $R(\cdot)$  is well defined on  $[t_0, T]$ , and so (1) is true on the whole interval  $[t_0, T]$ .

## Avoiding Conjugate Times

Assume  $\phi \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and consider the Riccati equation

$$\begin{cases} \dot{R} + H_{px}[t]R + RH_{xp}[t] + RH_{pp}[t]R + H_{xx}[t] = 0, \\ R(T) = -\nabla^2\phi(\bar{x}(T)). \end{cases}$$

If for some  $t_c \in [t_0, T]$ ,  $R(\cdot)$  is well defined on  $(t_c, T]$  and  $\lim_{t \searrow t_c} \|R(t)\| = +\infty$ , then  $t_c$  is the **conjugate time** for  $\bar{x}(T)$ .

### Theorem

Let  $\bar{x}$  be optimal for  $\mathcal{P}(t_0, x_0)$  with  $\nabla\phi(\bar{x}(T)) \neq 0$ . If  $\partial_{x^-, pr} V(t_0, x_0) \neq \emptyset$ , then  $R(\cdot)$  is well defined on  $[t_0, T]$  and  $V(t, \cdot)$  is of class  $C^2$  in a neighborhood of  $\bar{x}(t)$  for all  $t \in [t_0, T]$ .

$\partial_{x^-, pr} V(t, x) \neq \emptyset$  on a dense subset of  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .



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# Mayer's Problem under State Constraints

Consider the minimization problem

$$V(t_0, x_0) := \min \left\{ \phi(x(T)) : x(\cdot) \in S_{[t_0, T]}(x_0), x([t_0, T]) \subset K \right\}$$

where  $K \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is nonempty and closed.

**Inward Pointing Condition (IPC):**

$$\text{co } f(y, U) \cap \text{int } C_K(y) \neq \emptyset \quad \forall y \in \partial K$$

where  $C_K(y)$  denotes the Clarke tangent cone to  $K$  at  $y$ .

If  $\phi$  is locally Lipschitz, then  $V$  is locally Lipschitz on  $(-\infty, T] \times K$ .



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## Generalized Gradients on Closed Sets

Define partial generalized gradient of  $V$

$$\partial_x V(t, y) := \text{co Limsup}_{y' \rightarrow \text{Int}K \ y} \{ \nabla_x V(t, y') \}$$

and generalized gradient of  $V$

$$\partial V(t, y) := \text{co Limsup}_{(t', y') \rightarrow [0, T] \times \text{Int}K \ (t, y)} \{ \nabla V(t', y') \}$$

In the next result  $N_K(y)$  denotes Clarke's normal cone to  $K$  at  $y$  and  $\widehat{V} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$  is given by

$$\widehat{V}(y) = \begin{cases} -V(t_0, y) & \text{if } y \in K \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



# Necessary Optimality Conditions

## Theorem (Bettiol, Frankowska, Vinter, AMO 2014)

Let  $\bar{x}(\cdot)$  be optimal for the initial condition  $(t_0, x_0)$ .

Then there **exist** an arc  $p(\cdot)$ , a finite positive Borel measure  $\mu(\cdot)$  on  $[t_0, T]$  and a Borel measurable selection  $\nu(t) \in N_K(\bar{x}(t)) \cap B$   $\mu$ -a.e. in  $[t_0, T]$  such that for  $q(s) := p(s) + \int_{[t_0, s]} \nu(\tau) d\mu(\tau)$

$$(-\dot{p}(t), \dot{\bar{x}}(t)) \in \partial H(\bar{x}(t), q(t)) \quad \text{a.e. in } [t_0, T]$$

$-q(T) \in \partial\phi(\bar{x}(T))$ ,  $p(t_0) \in \partial\hat{V}(\bar{x}(t_0))$  and the following sensitivity relations hold true for a.e.  $t \in [t_0, T]$ :

$$-q(t) \in \partial_x V(t, \bar{x}(t))$$

$$(H(\bar{x}(t), q(t)), -q(t)) \in \partial V(t, \bar{x}(t))$$



# Thank you for your attention!

