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## TOPOLOGICAL NECESSARY CONDITIONS OF SMOOTH STABILIZATION IN THE LARGE

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# Topological necessary conditions of smooth stabilization in the large<sup>1</sup>

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Abstract: Several topological necessary conditions of smooth stabilization in the large have been obtained. In particular, if a smooth single - input nonlinear system is smoothly stabilizable in the large at some point of a connected component of equilibria set, then the connected component is to be an unknoted, unbounded curve.

Keywords: Nonlinear systems; asymptotic stabilization; feedback control; degree of continuous function; knot.

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#### 1 Introduction

Consider the system  $\Sigma_f$ :

$$\dot{x} = f(x, u),$$

where  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $u \in \mathbb{R}^m$  and  $\mathbb{R}^\ell$  is used for  $\ell$ -dimensional Euclidean space. f(x, u) is a complete  $C^{\infty}$  vector field on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  for every  $u \in \mathbb{R}^m$  fixed.

The set

$$f^{-1}(0) = \{(x, u) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+m} ; f(x, u) = 0\}$$

is called an equilibria set of the control system.

A system  $\Sigma_f$  is said to be *smoothly stabilizable* at  $(x^*, u^*) \in f^{-1}(0)$  in the large, iff there exists a  $C^{\infty}$  function u = u(x), such that  $u(x^*) = u^*$  and  $x^*$  is an asymptotically stable in the large singular point of the closed loop system

$$\dot{x} = f(x, u(x)),$$

i.e.,  $x^*$  is stable and

$$\lim_{t \to +\infty} e^{tf} x = x^* \quad \forall \ x \in \mathbf{R}^{\mathbf{n}}$$

where  $e^{tf}$  is the flow generated by the vector field f(x, u(x)).

The smooth stabilizability problem has been considered in many papers (for the list of references see, e.g., [7]). Necessary conditions for local smooth stabilization have been obtained in [1, 2], and for smooth stabilization in the large in [5]. This paper represents a continuation of a line of work started in [5].

#### 2 Some facts about degree of function

This section is devoted to recalling some facts about the degree of continuous functions. For additional details on the degree of continuous functions, see [3, 4, 6]. We start with some notations.

- (i)  $x = (x_1, ..., x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ;  $|x|^2 = \langle x, x \rangle$ , where  $\langle x, y \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i \quad \forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .
- (ii) D is a bounded, open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Given  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , its closure is written  $\overline{D}$ , its interior IntD, its boundary  $\partial D$ .

(iii) Given a real positive number r and  $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $B_r(y)$  is the closed ball centre y, radius r:

$$B_r(y) = \{x \in \mathbf{R}^n; \mid x - y \mid \leq r \}.$$

(iv)  $C(\bar{D})$  is the linear space of continuous functions from  $\bar{D}$  into  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with the norm

$$|| f || = \sup_{x \in D} |f(x)|.$$

 $C^1(\bar{D})$  is the space of functions having continuous first order partial derivatives in  $\bar{D}$ ; the norm on  $C^1(\bar{D})$  is

$$|| f ||_1 = \sup_{x \in D} | f(x) | + \sup_{x \in D} | \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} f(x) |,$$

where

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} f(x) = \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} f_1(x), \dots, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} f_n(x)\right)^T,$$

 $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} f_i(x)$  is the partial derivative of the i-th entry of the function  $f: \bar{D} \to \mathbb{R}^n$ , T indicates transpose;  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} f(x)$  is the Jacobian matrix and  $\det(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} f(x))$  is the Jacobian determinant of f at x.

(v) Let M, N be smooth manifolds of dimension n. Then  $C^{\infty}$  - mapping  $\psi : M \to N$  is called diffeomorphism iff  $\psi$  is homeomorphism and  $\psi^{-1}$  is also  $C^{\infty}$  - mapping.

Now we define the degree of  $\phi$  when function  $\phi \in C^1(\bar{D})$  and

$$\forall x \in \phi_{\bar{D}}^{-1}(p) = \{x \in \bar{D}; \ \phi(x) = p\} \ \det(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\phi(x)) \neq 0,$$

i.e., p is not critical value of  $\phi$  on D.

**Definition 2.1.** Suppose  $\phi \in C^1(\bar{D})$ ,  $p \in \phi(\partial D)$  and p is not critical value of  $\phi$  on D. Define the degree of  $\phi$  at p relative to D to be  $d(\phi, D, p)$ , where

$$d(\phi, D, p) = \sum_{x \in \phi^{-1}(p)} sign[det(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\phi(x))].$$

If  $\phi \in C(\bar{D})$ , then the degree of  $\phi$  can be defined as the degree of a sufficiently good  $C^1$  approximation of  $\phi$  (for details, see [4]).

**Definition 2.2.** Suppose that  $\phi \in C(\bar{D})$  and  $p \in \phi(\partial D)$ . Define  $d(\phi, D, p)$  to be  $d(\psi, D, p)$ , where  $\psi$  is any function in  $C^1(\bar{D})$  satisfying

$$|\phi(x) - \psi(x)| < \rho(p, \phi(\partial D)) \quad \forall x \in \bar{D},$$

where  $\rho(x, \phi(\partial D)) = \inf_{y \in \phi(\partial D)} |x - y|$ .

Recall that if X and Y are topological spaces, two continuous functions f and g are said to be homotopic ( $f \sim g$ ) if there is a continuous function (homotopy)

$$H: [0,1] \times X \rightarrow Y$$

such that

$$H(0,x) = f(x), \quad H(1,x) = g(x) \quad (x \in X).$$

We will need the following properties of degree.

**Theorem 2.1** (1) If  $H(t,x) \equiv h_t(x)$  is a homotopy and  $p \in h_t(\partial D)$  for  $0 \le t \le 1$ , then  $d(h_t, D, p)$  is independent of  $t \in [0, 1]$ .

(2) If a smooth feedback u = u(x) stabilizes the system  $\Sigma_f$  at  $p \in D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  in the large, then

$$d(f(u), D, 0) = (-1)^n,$$

where f(u) denotes f(x, u(x)):  $\mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$ .

(3) Suppose  $\phi \in C(D)$ . If  $d(\phi, D, p)$  is defined and non-zero, then there is  $q \in D$  such that  $\phi(q) = p$ .

In the definitions 2.1, 2.2 D can be replaced by a smooth, oriented manifold M of dimension n, dim M = n (details of this and related material may be found in [3, 6]). Given  $\phi \in C^1(M)$ ,  $\phi: M \to \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $p \in \phi(\partial M)$ ,  $d(\phi, M, p)$  denotes the degree of  $\phi$  at p relative to M.

An immersion  $i: M \to \mathbb{R}^n_x \times \mathbb{R}^m_u$  which maps M homeomorphically into its image  $i(M) \subset \mathbb{R}^n_x \times \mathbb{R}^m_u$  with topology induced by  $\mathbb{R}^n_x \times \mathbb{R}^m_u$  is called regular embedding.  $i_x: M \to \mathbb{R}^n_x$ ,  $i_u$ ;  $M \to \mathbb{R}^m_u$  are used to denote  $P_x \circ i$  and  $P_u \circ i$ , respectively, where  $P_x$ ,  $P_u$  are the projections:  $P_x(x,u) = x$ ,  $P_u(x,u) = u$ .

**Lemma 2.1** Suppose  $f: \mathbb{R}^n_x \times \mathbb{R}^m_u \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is a smooth function and

$$rank\left\{\frac{\partial}{\partial x}f(x,u),\frac{\partial}{\partial u}f(x,u)\right\}=n \quad \forall (x,u) \in f^{-1}(0).$$

Suppose further  $\omega$  is a bounded connected component of  $f^{-1}(0)$ . If  $u = v(x) : \mathbb{R}^n_x \to \mathbb{R}^m_u$  is a smooth function such that

$$f^{-1}(0) \cap \{(x, u) \in \mathbf{R}^{\mathbf{n}}_{x} \times \mathbf{R}^{\mathbf{m}}_{u} : u = \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x})\} = \omega \cap \{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) \in \mathbf{R}^{\mathbf{n}}_{x} \times \mathbf{R}^{\mathbf{m}}_{u}; \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x})\},$$

then

$$d((f,P_u-v\circ P_x),B_R(0),0)=0$$

where R > 0 such that  $\omega \subset IntB_R(0)$ .

**Proof.** Consider the function

$$\phi(x,u) = \left(\begin{array}{c} f(x,u) \\ u - v(x) \end{array}\right)$$

If  $\omega \subset IntB_R(0)$ , then  $0 \in \phi(\partial B_R(0))$  and  $d((f, P_u - v \circ P_x), B_R(0), 0)$  is defined. The set

$$V = \phi([B_R(0) \cap \{f^{-1}(0) \setminus \omega\}] \cup \partial B_R(0))$$

is compact and  $0 \in V$ . Thus making use of Sard's theorem (see, e.g., [3]), for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  we can choose so a point  $p \in \mathbb{R}^n_x \times \mathbb{R}^m_u$ , that p is not critical value of  $\phi$  on  $B_R(0), |p| < \varepsilon$ .  $P_r(p)$  is not critical value of f(x, u) and p is in the connected component of the set  $(\mathbb{R}^n_x \times \mathbb{R}^n_u) \setminus V$  containing zero.

For any  $\delta > 0$  one can find a positive number  $\varepsilon$  such that

$$f^{-1}(B_{\varepsilon}(0)) \cap B_R(0) \subseteq \bigcup_{x \in f^{-1}(0) \cap B_R(0)} B_{\delta}(x).$$

Let us choose  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $\delta > 0$  such that

$$\{(x,u)\in B_R(0); \mid u-v(x)\mid <\varepsilon\}\cap [\bigcup_{x\in (f^{-1}(0)\setminus \omega)\cap B_R(0)}B_\delta(x)]=\emptyset,$$

$$\bigcup_{x\in\omega}B_{\delta}(x)\subset IntB_{R}(0),$$

$$\{\bigcup_{x\in\omega}B_{\delta}(x)\}\cap[\bigcup_{x\in(f^{-1}(0)\setminus\omega)\cap B_{R}(0)}B_{\delta}(x)]=\emptyset.$$

Then the property (1) (Theorem 2.1) implies

$$d(\phi, B_R(0), 0) = d(\phi, B_R(0), p)$$

and according to the definition 2.1.

$$d(\phi, B_R(0), p) = \sum_{(x,u)\in\phi^{-1}(p)} sign[det \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} f(x,u) & \frac{\partial}{\partial u} f(x,u) \\ -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} v(x) & I_m \end{pmatrix}],$$

where  $I_m$  is the identity  $m \times m$  -matrix.

Let

$$\omega_p = f^{-1}(P_x(p)) \cap [\bigcup_{x \in \omega} B_{\delta}(x)]$$

and  $i: \omega_p \to \mathbb{R}^n_x \times \mathbb{R}^m_u$  be regular embedding z will be used to denote local coordinates on  $\omega_p$ . Due to

$$rank(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}f(x,u),\frac{\partial}{\partial u}f(x,u)) = n \quad \forall (x,u) \in f^{-1}(P_x(p))$$

one can choose local coordinates on  $\omega_p$  so that

$$\det\left(\begin{array}{cc} (\frac{\partial}{\partial x}f) \circ i(z) & (\frac{\partial}{\partial u}f) \circ i(z) \\ (\frac{\partial}{\partial z}i_x(z))^T & (\frac{\partial}{\partial z}i_u(z))^T \end{array}\right) > 0 \quad \forall z \in \omega_p.$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} sign[\det\left(\begin{array}{cc} \frac{\partial}{\partial x}f(x,u) & \frac{\partial}{\partial u}f(x,u) \\ -\frac{\partial}{\partial x}v(x) & I_{m} \end{array}\right)] &= sign[\det\left[\left(\begin{array}{cc} \frac{\partial}{\partial x}f(x,u) & \frac{\partial}{\partial u}f(x,u) \\ -\frac{\partial}{\partial x}v(x) & I_{m} \end{array}\right) \times \\ &\left(\begin{array}{cc} (\frac{\partial}{\partial x}f(x,u))^{T} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z}i_{x}(z) \\ (\frac{\partial}{\partial u}f(x,u))^{T} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z}i_{u}(z) \end{array}\right)] &= sign[\det(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}f(x,u)(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}f(x,u))^{T} + \frac{\partial}{\partial u}f(x,u)(\frac{\partial}{\partial u}f(x,u))^{T})] \times \\ &sign(\det[\frac{\partial}{\partial z}i_{u}(z) - \frac{\partial}{\partial x}v(x) \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial z}i_{x}(z)]) \quad \forall \ z \in \omega_{p} \ \text{ and } \ x = i_{x}(z), \ u = i_{u}(z). \end{aligned}$$

It follows from

$$rank[\frac{\partial}{\partial x}f(x,u), \frac{\partial}{\partial u}f(x,u)] = n \quad \forall \ (x,u) \in \omega_p,$$

that

$$\det(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}f(x,u)(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}f(x,u))^T + \frac{\partial}{\partial u}f(x,u)(\frac{\partial}{\partial u}f(x,u))^T) \neq 0 \quad \forall (x,u) \in \omega_p.$$

Hence we obtain

$$\mid d(\phi, B_R(0), \rho) \mid = \mid d(i_u - v \circ i_x, \omega_p, P_u(p)) \mid .$$

Since  $\omega_p$  is a compact manifold without boundary and  $i_u - v \circ i_x$ :  $\omega_p \to \mathbb{R}_u^m$  is a continuous function on  $\omega_p$ , it implies (see , e.g., [3,6])  $d(i_u - v \circ i_x, \omega_p, P_u(p)) = 0$ . The proof is completed.

#### 3 Main results

#### 3.1 Multi - input systems

We start with the following necessary condition of smooth stabilization in the large.

Theorem 3.1 Suppose  $f: R_x^n \times R_u^m \rightarrow R^n$  is a smooth function and

$$\lim_{|x|^2 + |u|^2 \to \infty} \quad \text{inf } 1 < f(x, u), f(x, u) > 0.$$
 (1)

Then the system  $\Sigma_f$  is not smoothly stabilizable in the large at any point  $(x^*, u^*) \in f^{-1}(0)$ .

**Proof.** It follows from (1) that there is a positive real number R, such that

$$f^{-1}(0) \subset Int(B_R(0)).$$

Hence

$$f(x, u) \neq 0 \quad \forall u \in \mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}}^{\mathbf{m}}, \mid \mathbf{x} \mid = \mathbf{R}$$

and properties (1), (3) (Theorem 2.1) imply

$$d(f(x,u(x)), P_x(B_R(0)), 0) = d(f(x,\bar{u}), P_x(B_R(0)), 0) = 0,$$

where  $|\bar{u}| = R$  and u = u(x) is any  $C^{\infty}$  - function, while

$$d(f(x,u(x)),P_x(B_R(0)),0)$$

is to be equal to  $(-1)^n$  whenever u = u(x) is a smooth feedback stabilizing the system in the large. Thus the system can not be smoothly stabilized in the large at any point  $(x^*, u^*) \in f^{-1}(0)$ . The contention of the theorem is proved.

If  $f^{-1}(0)$  is a regularly embedded submanifold of  $R_x^n \times R_u^m$ , then Theorem 3.1 can be replaced by the following stronger result.

**Theorem 3.2** Suppose  $f: R_x^n \times R_u^m \rightarrow R^n$  is a smooth function and

$$rank\left\{\frac{\partial}{\partial x}f(x,u),\frac{\partial}{\partial u}f(x,u)\right\} = n \quad \forall (x,u) \in f^{-1}(0).$$

If the system  $\Sigma_f$  is smoothly stabilizable in the large at a point  $(x^*, u^*) \in \omega$ , where  $\omega$  is a connected component of  $f^{-1}(0)$ , then  $\omega$  is to be unbounded.

**Proof.** If u = v(x) is a smooth feedback stabilizing in the large the system  $\Sigma_f$  at a point  $(x^*, u^*) \in \omega$  and  $\omega$  is bounded, then there is  $B_R(0)$  such that

$$\omega \subset IntB_{R}(0)$$

and

$$d(f(v), P_x(B_R(0)), 0) = (-1)^n.$$

Note that

$$f^{-1}(0) \cap \{(x, u) \in \mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{x}}^{\mathbf{n}} \times \mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}}^{\mathbf{m}} \; ; \; \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x})\} = \omega \cap \{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) \in \mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{x}}^{\mathbf{n}} \times \mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{u}}^{\mathbf{m}} \; ; \; \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x})\}$$

and

$$|d(f(v), P_r(B_R(0)), 0)| = |d((f, P_u - v \circ P_x), B_R(0), 0)|.$$

Thus making use of Lemma 2.1 we obtain the contradiction which proves the theorem.

**Example 3.1.** Consider the system

$$\dot{x}_1 = x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 1,$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = u$$
.

It is easy to see that all condition of Theorem 3.1 are met. Therefore the system is not smoothly stabilizable in the large at any point of the equilibria set defined by  $x_1^2 + x_2^2 = 1$ .

#### 3.2 Single-input systems

Consider the single - input system  $\Sigma_f$ 

$$\dot{x} = f(x, u),$$

where  $u \in \mathbb{R}$  and f is defined above. If

$$rank(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}f(x,u),\frac{\partial}{\partial u}f(x,u)) = n \quad \forall \ (x,u) \in f^{-1}(0),$$

then the equilibria set of  $\Sigma_f$  consists of regular curves:

$$f^{-1}(0)=\bigcup_{i}\omega_{i},$$

where  $\omega_i = \{(x_{\omega_i}(\tau), u_{\omega_i}(\tau)) : \tau \in \mathbb{R}\}$  and  $|\frac{d}{d\tau}x_{\omega_i}(\tau)|^2 + |\frac{d}{d\tau}u_{\omega_i}(\tau)|^2 \neq 0$  for all  $\tau \in \mathbb{R}$  and i.

#### **Definition 3.1.** A parametrization

$$\{(x_{\omega_i}(\tau), u_{\omega_i}(\tau)); \tau \in \mathbf{R}\}$$

of the curve  $\omega_i \subset f^{-1}(0)$  will be called normal iff for any smooth feedback u = v(x) stabilizing in the large the system  $\Sigma_f$  at any point  $(x^*, u^*) \in \omega_i$  the following inequalities hold:

$$u_{\omega_i}(\tau) - v(x_{\omega_i}(\tau)) > 0$$
 for  $\tau > \tau^*$ 

and

$$u_{\omega_i}(\tau) - v(x_{\omega_i}(\tau)) < 0 \quad \text{for} \quad \tau < \tau^*,$$

where  $\tau^* \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $x_{\omega_i}(\tau^*) = x^*$ ,  $u_{\omega_i}(\tau^*) = u^*$ .

**Proposition.** Let  $\omega \subset f^{-1}(0)$ , the system  $\Sigma_f$  be smoothly stabilizable in the large at some point in  $\omega$  and

$$rank(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}f(x,u), \frac{\partial}{\partial u}f(x,u)) = n \quad \forall \ (x,u) \in f^{-1}(0).$$

Then there is a normal parametrization on  $\omega$ .

**Proof.** Assume there is a smooth feedback u = v(x) stabilizing in the large the system  $\Sigma_f$  at some point  $(x^*, u^*) \in \omega$ . Then following the proof of Lemma 2.1 we conclude that

$$d(i_u - v \circ i_x, \omega, 0) = sign(d\epsilon t \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} f(x, u) \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x} f(x, u) \right)^T + \frac{\partial}{\partial u} f(x, u) \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial u} f(x, u) \right)^T \right]) \cdot (-1)^n.$$

and the righthand side does not depend on v(x). Therefore we can choose the parametrization so that

$$d(i_u - v \circ i_x, \omega, 0) = 1.$$

That means  $(u_{\omega}(\tau) - v(x_{\omega}(\tau))) \cdot (\tau - \tau^*) > 0$  whenever  $\tau \neq \tau^*$ . The proof is finished.

Using the normal parametrization we can formulate the following necessary condition of smooth stabilization in the large.

**Theorem 3.3** Let  $\Sigma_f$  be a smooth system such that

$$rank(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}f(x,u),\frac{\partial}{\partial u}f(x,u)) = n \quad \forall \ (x,u) \in f^{-1}(0)$$

and  $\omega \subset f^{-1}(0)$  connected component with the normal parametrization  $\{(x_{\omega}(\tau), u_{\omega}(\tau)) \in \mathbb{R}^n_{\mathbf{x}} \times \mathbb{R}_u; \ \tau \in \mathbb{R}\}$ . Then the system  $\Sigma_f$  is not smoothly stabilizable in the large at a point  $(x^*, u^*) \in \omega$  whenever either  $\omega$  is bounded or there is a connected component  $\tilde{\omega} \subset f^{-1}(0)$  such that one can find points  $(\tilde{x}_2, \tilde{u}_2), \ (\tilde{x}_1, \tilde{u}_1) \in \tilde{\omega}$  such that

$$x_{\omega}(\tau_1) = \tilde{x}_1 \qquad \tau_1 \le \tau^*,$$
  
$$x_{\omega}(\tau_2) = \tilde{x}_2 \qquad \tau_2 \ge \tau^*.$$

and

$$u_{\omega}(\tau_1) > \tilde{u}_1, \tag{2}$$

$$u_{\omega}(\tau_2) < \tilde{u}_2,$$

where  $\tau^* \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $x_{\nu}(\tau^*) = x^*, \quad u_{\nu}(\tau^*) = u^*.$ 

**Proof.** If  $\omega$  is bounded, then the theorem follows from Theorem 3.2. According the definition of normal parametrization

$$(u_{\omega}(\tau) - v(x_{\omega}(\tau))) \cdot (\tau - \tau^*) > 0 \quad \forall \tau \neq \tau^*$$

where u = v(x) is a smooth feedback stabilizing  $\Sigma_f$  at  $(x^*, u^*)$  in the large. If the inequalities (2) hold, then

$$v(x_{\omega}(\tau_1)) > \tilde{u}_1$$
$$v(x_{\omega}(\tau_2)) < \tilde{u}_2.$$

Since  $\tilde{\omega}$  is a connected component of  $f^{-1}(0)$  we obtain the existence of  $(\tilde{x}^*, \tilde{u}^*) \in \tilde{\omega}$  such that

$$\tilde{u}^* = v(\tilde{x}^*).$$

That means the closed loop system

$$\dot{x} = f(x, v(x))$$

has two different equilibria points:  $(x^*, u^*)$ ,  $(\tilde{x}^*, \tilde{u}^*)$ . Therefore the feedback u = v(x) can not stabilize the system  $\Sigma_f$  in the large at the point  $(x^*, u^*)$ . The proof is completed.

In Theorem 3.3 it is possible also that  $\tilde{\omega} = \omega$ . In this case we have the following proposition.

**Theorem 3.4** Suppose  $\Sigma_f$  be a smooth system such that

$$rank(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}f(x,u),\frac{\partial}{\partial u}f(x,u)) = n \quad \forall \ (x,u) \in f^{-1}(0)$$

and  $\omega \subset f^{-1}(0)$  a connected component with the normal parametrization

$$\omega = \{(x_{\omega}(\tau), u_{\omega}(\tau)); \quad \tau \in \mathbf{R}\}.$$

Suppose further there are  $\tau_1$ ,  $\tau_2 \in \mathbb{R}$  for which it is true that either  $\tilde{\tau}_1 < \tilde{\tau}_2 \leq \tau^*$  or  $\tilde{\tau}_2 > \tilde{\tau}_1 \geq \tau^*$  and

$$x_{\omega}(\tau_1) = x_{\omega}(\tilde{\tau}_1) \quad \tau_1 \leq \tau^*,$$
  

$$x_{\omega}(\tau_2) = x_{\omega}(\tilde{\tau}_2) \quad \tau_2 \geq \tau^*,$$
  

$$u_{\omega}(\tau_1) > u_{\omega}(\tilde{\tau}_1),$$
  

$$u_{\omega}(\tau_2) < u_{\omega}(\tilde{\tau}_2),$$

where  $\tau^* \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $x_{\omega}(\tau^*) = x^*$ ,  $u_{\omega}(\tau^*) = u^*$ . Then the system  $\Sigma_f$  is not smoothly stabilizable in the large at  $(x^*, u^*) \in \omega$ .

Geometrically Theorem 3.4 together with Theorem 3.2 mean that if a system  $\Sigma_f$  is smoothly stabilizable in the large at every point of  $\omega \subset f^{-1}(0)$ , then  $\omega$  is to be an unknoted, unbounded curve in  $\mathbb{R}^n_x \times \mathbb{R}_u$ .

**Example 3.2.** Consider the system

$$\dot{x}_1 = -(x_1 - 2)(x_1 - u^2 - 1) - x_2(x_1 - u^2 - 1)^2 u,$$
  
$$\dot{x}_2 = -x_2 + x_1(x_1 - u^2 - 1)u.$$

Using Theorem 3.3 we obtain that the system is not smoothly stabilizable in the large at the point  $x_1 = 2$ ,  $x_2 = 0$ , u = 0.

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