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Permanent Magnet Synchronous Motor control via Parameter Dependent Relay Control

Romain Delpoux, Laurentiu Hetel and Alexandre Kruszewski

Abstract—The article presents a novel control strategy for the control of Permanent Magnet Synchronous Motor (PMSM). The approach is motivated by the fact that PMSM are usually controlled by relays and thus only a finite set of control inputs is available. However in classical control design the use of Pulse-Width Modulation (PWM) ignores the relay nature of the actuators. Here we propose a direct relay control. As PMSM may be modeled as Linear Parameter Varying (LPV) systems, we propose a Parameter Dependent Relay (PDR) control. A design based on Linear Matrix Inequalities (LMI) allows to derive the switching surfaces, which depend on the motor position. The theory described is illustrated by simulations results.

Index Terms—PMSM, relay feedback control, linear matrix inequalities, switched systems.

I. INTRODUCTION

Permanent Magnet Synchronous Motors (PMSM’s) are widely used in the industry. They are more reliable than brush Direct Current (DC) motors and produce a higher torque per volume. From a control engineer perspective, the theory through simulation results using real motor parameters is available. However in classical control design the use of Pulse-Width Modulation (PWM) ignores the relay nature of the actuators. Here we propose a direct relay control which may use the advantages of the switching actuators in power electronics.

Relay feedback was proposed in variable structure systems [21], [8], [9], [22] and has very interesting robustness properties faced to matched perturbations. In this field, several problems remain unsolved, such as choosing the switching surfaces to optimize system performances, the robustness properties or the size of the domain of attraction.

Recently, Linear Matrix Inequalities (LMI) conditions have been proposed for designing a relay control in the case of Linear Time Invariant (LTI) systems with time varying sampling [12]. The method considers LMI techniques used for systems with saturation [5], [13], [14], [15] and convex optimization techniques [18]. Up to now, it exists few switching surfaces optimization tools applied to nonlinear systems. Here we extend the results from [12] to the case of Linear Time-Varying systems [3], [2], [11] which are interesting since they may be used for approximating locally nonlinear systems. The main contribution is to propose an LMI based approach for the design of switching surfaces which are parameterized by time varying parameters. The objective is to find a Parameter Dependent Relay (PDR) controlling directly the commutations of the actuators. When applied to the case of nonlinear systems, the method leads to designing nonlinear switching surfaces guaranteeing the stability of the system under actuator constraints. An illustration of the theory through simulation results using real motor parameters is proposed.

The paper is structured as follow: Section II describes the LPV model of the PMSM for the purpose of relay control. Section III is dedicated to the generic design of the DCR control for LPV systems. The simulation results on the PMSM are proposed in Section IV.

Notations: The identity (or null) matrix with appropriate dimension is denoted by \( I \) (or \( 0 \)). For a square symmetric matrix, \( M > 0 \) \((M < 0)\) indicates that \( M \) is positive (negative) definite. For a full rank square symmetric matrix \( M, M^{-1} \) denotes the inverse of \( M \). For a symmetric matrix,

\[
M = \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ \ast & C \end{bmatrix},
\]

where \( \ast \) denotes an element that may be inferred by symmetry.

We denote by \( I_N \) the set \( \{1, 2, \ldots, N\} \).

The symbol \( \Delta \) denotes the unit simplex in \( \mathbb{R}^N \) defined by:

\[
\Delta = \left\{ \mu \in \mathbb{R}^N : \mu_i \geq 0, i \in I_N, \sum_{i=1}^N \mu_i(t) = 1 \right\}.
\]

For a given set \( S \subset \mathbb{R}^n \) the symbol \( \text{conv}\{S\} \) denotes the closed convex hull of the set. For a symmetric positive definite matrix \( P \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \) and a positive scalar \( c \) we denote by \( E(P, c) \) the ellipsoid:

\[
E(P, c) = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x^T P x < c \}.
\]

Let \( B(x, c) \) denotes the open ball centered on \( x \in \mathbb{R}^n \) with...
radius $c > 0$:
\[ B(x, c) = \{ y \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x - y| < c \}. \] (4)

Given a constant scalar $U > 0$, we define the finite set:
\[ \Psi_m(U) = \{-U, U\}^m. \]

Given a continuous function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ and a compact set $S$ we denote by:
\[
\text{argmin}_{s \in S} f(s) = \{ s \in S : f(s) \leq f(r), \forall r \in S \}.
\]

For a set $S \subset \mathbb{R}^m, K \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, we denote:
\[ C_S(K) = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Kx \in \text{conv}\{S\}\}. \] (5)

II. MOTIVATION

The equations (6) give the standard PMSM model in the phase (or winding) variables:
\[
\begin{align*}
L \frac{dl_\alpha}{dt} &= v_\alpha - Rl_\alpha + K\Omega \sin(n_p\theta), \\
L \frac{dl_\beta}{dt} &= v_\beta - Rl_\beta - K\Omega \cos(n_p\theta), \\
J \frac{d\Omega}{dt} &= K (i_\beta \cos(n_p\theta) - i_\alpha \sin(n_p\theta)) - f_v \omega - \tau,
\end{align*}
\] (6)

where $v_\alpha$ and $v_\beta$ are the voltages applied to the two phases of the PMSM, $i_\alpha$ and $i_\beta$ are the two phase currents, $L$ is the inductance of a phase winding, $R$ is the resistance of a phase winding, $K$ is the back-EMF constant (and also the torque constant), $\theta$ is the angular position of the rotor, $\Omega = d\theta/dt$ is the angular velocity of the rotor, $n_p$ is the number of pole pairs (or rotor teeth), $J$ is the moment of inertia of the rotor (including the load), $f_v$ is the coefficient of viscous friction and $\tau$ represents the load torque.

The non-linear state representation of the system of equations (6) is defined by:
\[
\dot{x}_{\alpha\beta}(t) = f(x_{\alpha\beta}(t), + Bv_{\alpha\beta}(t) + D\varpi(t),
\] (7)
where $x_{\alpha\beta}^T = [i_\alpha \ i_\beta \ \Omega]$, $v_{\alpha\beta}^T = [v_\alpha \ v_\beta]$ and $\varpi = \tau$.

The function $f(x_{\alpha\beta})$ is defined by:
\[
f(x_{\alpha\beta}) = \begin{bmatrix}
\frac{R}{L}i_\alpha + \frac{K}{L}\Omega \sin(n_p\theta) \\
\frac{R}{L}i_\beta - \frac{K}{L}\Omega \cos(n_p\theta) \\
K (i_\beta \cos(n_p\theta) - i_\alpha \sin(n_p\theta)) - f_v \omega - \tau
\end{bmatrix}.
\]

Considering that each motor phase is actuated via commutation, the control vector $v_{\alpha\beta}$ may take values in a finite set defined by:
\[ \Psi_2(V) = \{ v_{\alpha\beta} \in \mathbb{R}^2 : v_\alpha, v_\beta \in \{-V, V\}\}, \]
where $V$ represents the maximal voltage that the control can deliver.

Model in the rotating frame ($d - q$)

In the phases frame the signals $i_\alpha$ and $i_\beta$ vary at $n_p$ times the frequency of rotation. This high frequency problem is alleviated by the use of the direct quadrature ($d - q$) transformation. This transformation changes the frame of reference from the fixed phase axes to axes moving with the rotor. Equation (8) gives the transformation performed to obtain the rotating frame:
\[
R(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix}
\cos(n_p\theta) & \sin(n_p\theta) \\
-\sin(n_p\theta) & \cos(n_p\theta)
\end{bmatrix}.
\] (8)

The variables in the rotating frame are expressed by:
\[
\begin{bmatrix}
i_d \\
v_d
\end{bmatrix} = R(\theta) \begin{bmatrix}
i_\alpha \\
v_\alpha
\end{bmatrix},
\] (9)
and:
\[
\begin{bmatrix}
v_d \\
v_q
\end{bmatrix} = R(\theta) \begin{bmatrix}
v_\beta \\
v_\beta
\end{bmatrix}.
\] (10)

The state space representation is then given by:
\[
x_{dq}(t) = A_{dq}(\Omega(t))x_{dq}(t) + Bv_{dq}(t) + D\varpi(t),
\] (11)
where $x_{dq}^T = [i_d \ i_q \ \Omega]$, $v_{dq}^T = [v_d \ v_q]$ and:
\[ A_{dq}(\Omega(t)) = \begin{bmatrix}
-R \frac{L}{J} & n_p\Omega(t) & 0 \\
-n_p\Omega(t) & -\frac{R}{L} & -\frac{K}{L} \\
0 & \frac{K}{J} & -f_v
\end{bmatrix}.
\]

The matrices $B$ and $D$ remain unchanged. Consider that $\Omega(t)$ ranges between known extremal values $\Omega(t) \in [\Omega, 1\Omega]$. In this frame the PMSM can be described using a LPV state space representation. The state space representation of the system depends linearly on a vector of time varying parameters: $\Omega(t), \sin(n_p\theta(t)), \cos(n_p\theta(t))$. The model may be represented as follows:
\[
\begin{cases}
\dot{x}_{dq}(t) = A(\mu(t))x_{dq}(t) + Bv_{dq}(t) + D\varpi(t), \\
A(\mu(t)) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \mu_i(t)A_i, \quad \forall i, \mu_i(t) \geq 0, \\
\sum_{i=1}^{N} \mu_i(t) = 1,
\end{cases}
\] (12)

where $N_A = 2$, with $A \in [A_{dq}(\Omega), A_{dq}(1\Omega)]$, and $v_{dq}(t)$ are defined such that $\forall \theta \in [0, 2\pi]$. The control is defined by:
\[
v_{dq}(t) = k(x_{dq}(t), \theta(t)),
\] (13)
where:
\[
k : \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}.
\] (14)
A vector, the matrices \( V \) control inputs in the different frames are represented Fig. 1. The stability of the system (12) with the control law (13). The surfaces in the state space which ensure the closed loop in a finite set \( \{V_\mu\} \) exists a positive scalar \( \gamma \) such that:

\[
\sum_{i=1}^{N} \mu_i(t) A_i B(t) + B(t) A(t) \preceq -\gamma R
\]

We assume that the set of LMI conditions:

\[
\text{LMI cond.: } A_i = \text{polytopic matrix}, \quad B_i = \text{polytopic matrix}
\]

The vector set \( \{V_\mu\} \) is a known set corresponding to the actuators constraints. Given that \( u \) is discontinuous, the closed loop vector field is discontinuous. Therefore system solutions are considered in the sense of Filippov [10]. We recall the definition of locally asymptotically stability. One poses:

\[
\|x(t_0)\| < \delta \implies \|x(t)\| < \epsilon, \forall t \geq t_0 \geq 0,
\]

with:

\[
\Gamma = \mathcal{E}(Q^{-1}, \gamma).
\]

Proof: It is desired to design the PDR control (24) that ensures locally the stabilization. The condition (22) means that the Lyapunov function \( V(x) = x^T Q^{-1} x \) satisfies:

\[
\text{LMI cond.: } A_i = \text{polytopic matrix}, \quad B_i = \text{polytopic matrix}
\]

where:

\[
u_0 \in \overline{\text{conv}\{V_\mu\}, \forall \mu \in \Delta}.
\]

The objective is to find a PDR control \( u(x, \mu) \) which locally stabilize the system (16):

\[
u : \mathbb{R}^n \times \Delta \rightarrow V_\mu.
\]

The vector set \( V_\mu \) is a known set corresponding to the actuators constraints.

A. Stabilization by PDR control

In this paragraph we show how classical LMIs [5] may be used to find a control law under the form (19), that is a PDR control.

Proposition 1: Consider system (16) with the description (17). Assume that the set of LMI conditions:

\[
QA_i^T + A_i Q + B_i Y + Y^T B_i^T \preceq -\delta Q, \quad i = i, \ldots, N
\]

hold with \( Q = Q^T > 0, Y \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \) and \( \delta > 0 \). Then there exists a positive \( \gamma \) such that the function \( V(x) = x^T Q^{-1} x \), satisfies:

\[
\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} (A(x) + B(u(x, \mu))) u(x, \mu) \preceq -\delta V(x),
\]

where:

\[
u_0 \in \overline{\text{conv}\{V_\mu\}, \forall \mu \in \Delta}.
\]
one has:
\[ C_{\nu_i}(Y Q^{-1}) : \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Y Q^{-1} x \in \text{conv}\{\nu_i\} \}. \quad (27) \]

Let us denote \( \Gamma := \mathcal{E}(Q^{-1}, \gamma) \). Then for any \( x \in \Gamma \) and \( \mu \in \Delta \) there exist \( k \) scalars \( \alpha_j(x, \mu) \geq 0, j \in \mathcal{I}_k \), with
\[ \sum_{j=1}^{k} \alpha_j(x, \mu) = 1 \] such that:
\[ Y Q^{-1} x = \sum_{j=1}^{k} \alpha_j(x, \mu) v_j(\mu). \quad (28) \]

From (25) and (28) we have:
\[ \sum_{j=1}^{k} \alpha_j(x, \mu) 2x^T Q^{-1} (A(\mu)x + B(\mu)v_j(\mu)) \]
\[ < -2\delta V(x), \forall \mu \in \Delta \text{ and } \forall x \in \Gamma \setminus \{0\}. \quad (29) \]

Considering \( \alpha_j(x, \mu) > 0, \mu \in \Delta \) and \( j \in \mathcal{I}_k \), there must be at least one \( j \in \mathcal{I}_k \) such that:
\[ 2x^T Q^{-1} (A(\mu)x + B(\mu)v_j(\mu)) < -2\delta V(x), \quad (30) \]
\[ \forall x \in \Gamma \setminus \{0\}, \forall \mu \in \Delta. \]

Since \( \Gamma \) represents a sub-level set of \( V(x) \), local stabilization in \( \Gamma \) with a finite control set is ensured by choosing the control \( u(x, \mu) \) with the steepest descend of the Lyapunov function:
\[ u(x, \mu) \in \arg\min_{v \in \nu_i} x^T Q^{-1} B(\mu)v. \quad (31) \]

Since all minimizers ensure the decay of \( V \) and the switching surfaces are continuous the the stability (in the sense of Filippov solutions) is insured.

**B. Characterization of the domain of attraction**

In the previous section we have shown how to guarantee the local stability of the system (16) with the PDR control law (24) in an ellipsoid \( \Gamma \). In practice it is often useful to provide an estimation of this domain of attraction.

Since \( \mu \in \nu_i, \text{conv}\{\nu_i\} \) is non empty and contains the origin, remark that there exists a polytopic region:
\[ Q = \text{conv}\{q_1, q_2, \ldots, q_p\} \]
\[ = \{ y \in \mathbb{R}^m : h_i y \leq 1, i \in \mathcal{I}_{N_k} \}, \quad (32) \]

such that:
\[ Q \in \text{conv}\{\nu_i\}, \forall \mu \in \Delta \text{ and } 0 \in \text{Int}\{Q\}. \]

Using the polytope \( Q \) one can adjust the design condition (22) so to include an optimization of the domain of attraction.

**Proposition 2:** Consider system (16) and assume that there exists \( Q = Q^T > 0, Y \) and a positive scalar \( \delta \) such that:
\[ QA_i^T + A_i Q + B_i Y + Y^T B_i^T < -2\delta Q, \quad i \in \mathcal{I}_N, \quad (33a) \]
\[ \left[ \begin{array}{cc} 1 & h_i Y^T \\ * & Q \end{array} \right] > 0, i \in \mathcal{I}_N, \quad (33b) \]
\[ \left[ \begin{array}{cc} eI & I \\ * & Q \end{array} \right] > 0. \quad (33c) \]

Then the equilibrium point \( x = 0 \) of the closed-loop system (16)-(24) is locally asymptotically stable. An estimation of the domain of attraction is provided by the ball \( B(0, \sqrt{\gamma}) \) with \( \epsilon = \frac{1}{\Delta} \).

**Proof:** The objective is to find \( Q \) and \( Y \) such that:
\[ \forall x \in \mathcal{E}(Q^{-1}, 1) \Rightarrow Y Q^{-1} x \in Q. \quad (34) \]

Using Lemma 1 ([13], see appendix), (34) leads to:
\[ 1 \leq \min_{h_i K x = 1} x^T Q^{-1} x = \min_{h_i, h_i Y Q^{-1} Q (Y Q^{-1})^T (h_i Y)^T} \delta \]
\[ \leq \min_{i \in \mathcal{I}_{N_k}} (h_i Y Q^{-1} Q (Y Q^{-1})^T (h_i Y)^T)^{-1}, \quad (35) \]

which may be characterized by the sufficient set of LMI
\[ \left[ \begin{array}{cc} 1 & h_i Y^T \\ * & Q \end{array} \right] > 0, i \in \mathcal{I}_N. \quad (36) \]

To guarantee that the ball \( B(0, \sqrt{\gamma}) \) is included in the domain of decay \( \mathcal{E}(Q^{-1}, 1) \) of the Lyapunov function we add the constraints [14], [13]:
\[ \left[ \begin{array}{cc} eI & I \\ * & Q \end{array} \right] > 0. \quad (37) \]

with \( e = \frac{1}{\Delta}. \)

**Remark 1:** The feasibility of the LMI optimization problem (33) with some matrix \( Q \), guarantees that any LPV system (16) with the control (24) originating from the invariant ellipsoid \( \mathcal{E}(Q^{-1}, 1) \) is converging to the origin with a decay rate \( \delta \). By minimizing \( e \), the size of the invariant ellipsoid is maximized, in the sense that it contains the ball \( B(0, \sqrt{\gamma}) \) with the maximum radius \( \sqrt{\gamma} \). This allows to provide an inner ellipsoid approximation of the domain of attraction.

**IV. SIMULATION RESULTS**

In this section we propose simulation results to illustrate the PDR control, applied to a PMSM. For this purpose, we design a velocity tracking control where we consider that only four control inputs are available. In this article, the control design is considered with the assumption that there is no external torque (i.e. \( \tau = 0 \)).

The objective is to follow a velocity reference \( y_{ref} \). Given that the plant has no natural integrator, an integral action is implemented [19], to ensure tracking performance. The integral action is given by:
\[ \dot{\zeta} = y - y_{ref} = Cx - y_{ref}, \quad (38) \]
where \( \zeta \) is the output of the integrator \( \zeta(0) = 0 \). A combination of the state space representation (11) and the
integral action (38) without torque can be re-written as:
\[
\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_{dq} \\ \dot{\zeta} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{dq}(\Omega) & 0 \\ C & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_{dq} \\ \zeta \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \frac{L}{R} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} u - \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ I \end{bmatrix} y_{ref}.
\]  
(39)

The objective is to design an asymptotically stable system such that at steady state one has \( \dot{\zeta} = 0 \), and get the output at steady state \( y = y_{\infty} \). Moreover, at steady state, one has:
\[
\dot{z}_{\infty} = \overline{A}(\Omega)z_{\infty} + \overline{B}u_{\infty} - R\gamma_{ref, \infty},
\]  
(40)

Considering a constant reference, \( y_{ref} = y_{ref, \infty} \) for \( t > 0 \). Define
\[
e \equiv \dot{z} - \dot{z}_{\infty}, \quad u_c \equiv u - u_{\infty}.
\]

The dynamic error equation \( \dot{e} = \dot{z} - \dot{z}_{\infty} \) is defined by:
\[
\dot{e} = \overline{A}(\Omega) e + \overline{B} u_c,
\]  
(41)

where \( u_c \) is a state feedback control law defined by:
\[
u_c = Y Q^{-1} e,
\]  
(42)

with \( Q = Q^T > 0 \) and \( Y \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 4} \). The parameter \( \Omega \) takes values in \([0, 30]\) (in \( rad.s^{-1} \)). For each \( \theta \), the control \( u \) is constrained to switch among four different values in the set \( \{ \mathbb{R}(\theta)p, \rho \in \Psi_2(V) \} \). The matrix \( R(\theta) \) is defined by equation (8). For the simulations we consider the real parameters of the stepper motor bench developed in LAGIS at École Centrale de Lille [7]. The parameters are \( L = 9mH \), \( R = 3.01\Omega \), \( K = 0.27N.m.A^{-1} \) and \( J = 3.18 \times 10^{-4}kg.m^2 \). The number of pole pairs is \( n_p = 50 \). The power supply provides a maximum voltage \( v_{\text{max}} = 20V \). The sampling period for this simulation is constant and equal to \( 1 \times 10^{-9} \). The relay value \( V \) is equal to \( v_{\text{max}} = 20V \) leading to a set of two input each taking values in \( \{-V, V\} \).

Considering as bounded time varying parameter \( \sin(\theta(t)), \cos(\theta(t)) \) and \( \Omega(t) \), the system (41) may be rewritten as an LPV system of the form (16) defined by:
\[
\dot{x} = A(\mu)x + Bu,
\]  
(43)

with 8 vertices.

The control \( u \) takes values in the finite set (18) defined by:
\[
\mathcal{V}_\mu = \{ v_i(\mu), i \in 1, \ldots, 4 \} = \{ R(\theta)p, \rho \in \Psi_2(V) \}.
\]  
(44)

In order to optimize the domain of attraction, it is necessary to find a polytopic region \( Q \in \mathcal{V}_\mu \). Note that the input \( u \) takes values in the vertices of a square of size \( 2 \times V \) submitted to a rotation defined by \( R(\theta) \). The region containing \( u \) is the inscribed disc of radius \( V \). This disc can be approximated by the polytope \( Q \) represented for which the vertices \( q_i \) are given by:
\[
q_i + 1 = V \begin{bmatrix} \cos \left( \frac{2i \pi}{p} \right) \\ \sin \left( \frac{2i \pi}{p} \right) \end{bmatrix}, i = 0, \ldots, p - 1.
\]  
(45)

Each face of the polytope can be characterized by its normal:
\[
h_i + 1 = \frac{q_i + q_{i+1}}{1 + \cos \left( \frac{2i \pi}{p} \right)}, i = 0, \ldots, p - 1.
\]  
(46)

The simulation are realized using Matlab/Simulink and the LMI are solved using the SeDuMi solver [16]. In order to approximate the inscribed disc by the polytope \( Q \) we take \( p = 30 \). Choosing a decay rate \( \delta = 1 \), the LMI solver computes the following \( Q \) and \( Y \) matrices:
\[
Q = \begin{bmatrix} 29.6 & -4.8 & 9.4 & -0.012 \\ -4.8 & 26.6 & -15.9 & 0.038 \\ 9.4 & -16.0 & 208.4 & -2.8 \\ -0.012 & 0.038 & -2.8 & 0.069 \end{bmatrix},
\]  
(47)

\[
Y = \begin{bmatrix} -41.7 & -39.1 & 178.5 & -0.052 \\ -56.3 & -51.2 & -74.2 & -0.59 \end{bmatrix}.
\]

The \( Q \) matrix defines the PDR control (24) and thus the switching regions. To illustrate the theoretical results, one proposes to compare the continuous state feedback (CSF) control law \( u_c = Y Q^{-1} e \) with the PDR control.

Fig. 2 represents the simulation results when no external torque is added. The velocity tracking is accurate in both cases: it shows that at steady state the desired trajectory is tracked with a precision of \( 0.1rad.s^{-1} \) for the PDR control. It must be noted that chattering phenomena appears in the PDR case leading to a tracking error slightly higher. However in this case only four control inputs are used for control. In order to show the robustness of the PDR control, Fig. 3 shows the same tracking but, in this case, an external torque is added from \( t = 7s \) until the end of the simulations. Due to the control saturation, the CSF is not able to track the desired
velocity while the PDR shows good robustness properties.

V. CONCLUSION

This article has presented a novel control strategy for the control of PMSM. While classical control design using PWM ignores the relay nature of the actuators, in this paper a direct relay control has been considered. Based on an LPV modeling of the PMSM we have proposed a PDR control. LMI have allowed to derive the switching surfaces, which have pointed out the interesting robustness properties of relay control. As future work it would be interesting to consider a larger class of non-linear system is under consideration. Experimental results are also in progress.

APPENDIX

Lemma 1: ([13]). Let $V(x) = x^T Q^{-1} x$, where $Q = Q^T > 0$, $C$ be a row vector in $\mathbb{R}^n$ and $r$ be a nonzero scalar. Then the minimum of $V$ along the hyperplane $\{x|C^T x = r\}$ is given by:

$$\alpha_r = \frac{r^2}{C^T Q C}.$$  

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