

Some results on quotient Aubry sets

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1 Introduction

This note consists of partial results of my recent paper [Fu]. In [Fu], we discuss several topics which are not treated here.

Let Ω be an open and connected subset of $\mathbb{R}^n$, and $H : \Omega \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ a given function. In this paper, we consider the Hamilton-Jacobi equation

$$(1.1) \quad H(x, Du(x)) = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

Let $\mathcal{A}$ and $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$ be, respectively, its (projected) Aubry set and the quotient Aubry set. As for their definitions and properties, see Section 2 below. The quotient Aubry set $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$ plays an essential role to study viscosity solutions of (1.1) (cf. [CI, DS, FU, I, IM]). In particular, several authors provided sufficient conditions in order that $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$ is totally disconnected (i.e., every connected component consists of a single point in the topology of $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$) [FFR, M1, M2, S].

In this note, we explain a reason why total disconnectedness of $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$ is important. Let $\pi(x)$ be the equivalent class of $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$ containing $x \in \mathcal{A}$. We study how $\pi(x)$ behaves in $\mathcal{A}$ when $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$ is total disconnected. We show that a necessary condition in order that $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$ is totally disconnected is that $\pi(x) \supset C(x)$ holds for each $x \in \mathcal{A}$. Here, $C(x)$ is the connected component of $\mathcal{A}$ containing $x \in \mathcal{A}$. On the other hand, we show that if $\mathcal{A}$ is a compact set in Ω , then a necessary and sufficient condition in order that $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$ is totally disconnected is that $\pi(x) = C(x)$ holds for each $x \in \mathcal{A}$.

The state such that $\pi(x) = C(x)$ for each $x \in \mathcal{A}$ is preferable, because we can understand and calculate $\pi(x)$ of this case clearly. Our result shows that if $\mathcal{A}$ is a compact set in Ω , this preferable state occurs when and only when $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$ is totally disconnected. This is a reason why we propose that totally disconnectedness of $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$ is important.

The contents of this note are as follows: In Section 2, we provide some preliminaries. In Section 3, we state our results .

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2 Preliminaries

Let $B(x, r) = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid |y - x| \leq r\}$ for $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $r > 0$. We assume:

$$(A1) \quad H \in C(\Omega \times \mathbb{R}^n).$$

$$(A2) \quad H \text{ is coercive, that is, for any compact subset } K \text{ of } \Omega,$$

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \inf \{H(x, p) \mid x \in K, p \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus B(0, r)\} = \infty.$$

$$(A3) \quad \text{For any } x \in \Omega, \text{ the function } p \mapsto H(x, p) \text{ is convex on } \mathbb{R}^n.$$

$$(A4) \quad \text{There is a continuous viscosity subsolution of (1.1).}$$

Let $\mathcal{S}$ (resp., $\mathcal{S}^-$) denotes the space of continuous viscosity solutions (resp., viscosity subsolutions) of (1.1). If necessary, we write $\mathcal{S}(\Omega)$ and $\mathcal{S}^-(\Omega)$ for $\mathcal{S}$ and $\mathcal{S}^-$, respectively, in order to refer the domain under consideration. Then, (A4) implies that $\mathcal{S}^-(\Omega) \neq \emptyset$.

Next, we explain the (projected) Aubry set for the Hamilton-Jacobi equation (1.1). The Aubry set is defined as follows: Define the function $d : \Omega \times \Omega \mapsto (-\infty, \infty]$ by

$$(2.1) \quad d(x, y) = \sup \{v(x) - v(y) \mid v \in \mathcal{S}^-(\Omega)\}.$$

Then, by [IM, Theorem 1.4 and Proposition 1.6], we have the following:

$$(2.2) \quad d \text{ is locally Lipschitz continuous on } \Omega \times \Omega.$$

$$(2.3) \quad u(x) - u(y) \leq d(x, y) \text{ for all } u \in \mathcal{S}^-(\Omega) \text{ and } x, y \in \Omega.$$

$$(2.4) \quad \text{For all } y \in \Omega, d(\cdot, y) \in \mathcal{S}^-(\Omega) \text{ and } d(\cdot, y) \in \mathcal{S}(\Omega \setminus \{y\}).$$

$$(2.5) \quad \text{For all } x, y, z \in \Omega, d(x, z) \leq d(x, y) + d(y, z) \text{ and } d(x, x) = 0.$$

$$(2.6) \quad d(x, y) = \inf \left\{ \int_0^t L(\gamma(s), \dot{\gamma}(s)) ds \mid t > 0, \gamma \in \mathcal{C}(x, t; y, 0) \right\},$$

where $\mathcal{C}(x, t; y, 0)$ is the set of all absolutely continuous curves $\gamma : [0, t] \mapsto \Omega$ satisfying $(\gamma(t), \gamma(0)) = (x, y)$, and $L \in C(\Omega \times \mathbb{R}^n)$ is the convex conjugate of H defined by

$$(2.7) \quad L(x, \xi) = \sup \{\xi \cdot p - H(x, p) \mid p \in \mathbb{R}^n\} \quad \text{for } (x, \xi) \in \Omega \times \mathbb{R}^n.$$

The Aubry set $\mathcal{A}$ is defined by

$$(2.8) \quad \mathcal{A} = \{y \in \Omega \mid d(\cdot, y) \in \mathcal{S}(\Omega)\}.$$

In the following, we assume

$$(A5) \quad \mathcal{A} \neq \emptyset.$$

We note that $\mathcal{A}$ is a closed set in Ω , which is due to the stability of the viscosity property under uniform convergence. The assumptions (A1)-(A5) are considered to be natural to discuss the Aubry set for the Hamilton-Jacobi equation (1.1).

Now, we explain an equivalence relation on $\mathcal{A}$, which is important to study $\mathcal{S}(\Omega)$ and $\mathcal{S}^-(\Omega)$. By (2.5), we see that the function $\lambda : \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $\lambda(x, y) = d(x, y) + d(y, x)$ is a pseudo-metric on $\mathcal{A}$, i.e., it is non-negative, symmetric, and satisfies the triangle inequality and $\lambda(x, x) = 0$; but the condition $\lambda(x, y) = 0$ does not necessarily imply $x = y$. Let $x, y \in \mathcal{A}$. If $\lambda(x, y) = 0$, then we write $x\delta y$. This relation δ is an equivalence relation on $\mathcal{A}$. We set

$$(2.9) \quad \begin{aligned} \pi(y) &= \{z \in \mathcal{A} \mid z\delta y\}, \quad y \in \mathcal{A}, \\ \overline{\mathcal{A}} &= \{\pi(y) \mid y \in \mathcal{A}\}. \end{aligned}$$

Then, π is considered as the canonical surjection from $\mathcal{A}$ to $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$, and we see that $\overline{\mathcal{A}} = \mathcal{A}/\delta$. Note that we may regard $\xi \in \overline{\mathcal{A}}$ as a subset of $\mathcal{A}$ and $\xi = \pi^{-1}(\{\xi\})$. Note also that if $x \in \pi(y)$, then $\pi(x) = \pi(y)$. We define the function $\overline{\lambda} : \overline{\mathcal{A}} \times \overline{\mathcal{A}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$(2.10) \quad \overline{\lambda}(\pi(x), \pi(y)) = d(x, y) + d(y, x).$$

The following proposition is well-known.

Proposition 1. *$\overline{\lambda}$ is well defined, and $(\overline{\mathcal{A}}, \overline{\lambda})$ is a metric space.*

3 Results

In this section, we state our results of this note. For their proofs, see [Fu]. Let $C(x)$ be the connected component of $\mathcal{A}$ containing x . In the following, as the topology of $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$, we always consider the one induced by the metric $\overline{\lambda}$. Note that, by (2.2) and (2.10), π is a continuous mapping from $\mathcal{A}$ to $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$.

Proposition 2. *Assume (A1)-(A5). If $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$ is totally disconnected, then $\pi(x) \supset C(x)$ for each $x \in \mathcal{A}$.*

By Proposition 2, the condition that $\pi(x) \supset C(x)$ for each $x \in \mathcal{A}$ is a necessary condition in order that $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$ is totally disconnected. Next, we consider a sufficient condition in order that $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$ is totally disconnected. In the following, we assume:

(A6) $\mathcal{A}$ is a compact set of Ω .

We provide a simple consequence of (A6).

Lemma 1. *Assume (A1)-(A6). Then, $\pi(x)$ is a connected set of $\mathcal{A}$ for each $x \in \mathcal{A}$.*

Now, we are in the position to state our sufficient condition in order that $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$ is totally disconnected.

Proposition 3. *Assume that (A1)-(A6). Then, $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$ is totally disconnected if and only if $\pi(x) = C(x)$ for each $x \in \mathcal{A}$.*

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