

# Capturability in a Two-Target "Game of Two Cars"

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The regions of capturability and draw are derived for a two-target pursuit-evasion differential game of two cars. Specifically, using geometric arguments, complete barrier surfaces are constructed that emanate from the boundaries of the usable parts of the targets of the faster and slower players. The targets are, respectively, a sector of a disk and a complete disk. The barrier surface emanating from the latter target provides a solution to the one-target game of two cars, while the regions of capturability in the two-target game of two cars are inferred from the combined effect of both barrier surfaces.

## Nomenclature

$f$	= right-hand side of the kinematic differential equations
$n$	= normal to the barrier surface
$r$	= weapon system range
$R$	= minimum turning radius
$R^2$	= Euclidian plane
$S^1$	= one-dimensional torus
$S$	= barrier surface
$t$	= time
$T$	= target set (terminal manifold)
$u$	= control variable
$w$	= speed
$x, y$	= position of the player in the plane
$\alpha$	= half-squint angle of the weapon system
$\beta$	= maneuverability ratio $\triangleq w_1 R_2 / w_2 R_1$
$\gamma$	= speed ratio $\triangleq w_2 / w_1$
$\theta$	= heading
$\tau$	= time

## Subscripts

$1, 2$	= player 1 and player 2, respectively
$x, y, \theta$	= partial derivative with respect to $x, y$ , or $\theta$

## I. Introduction

THE literature on two-player qualitative differential games (games of kind) has focused to a large extent on one-target differential games of the pursuit-evasion kind, the game of two cars<sup>1</sup> being a typical example. Admittedly, this formulation is an appealing model if we consider, say, a missile chasing a plane. However, upon considering a dogfight between two planes, ships, or other craft that are both armed and capable of destroying their opponents, it is apparent that the evader, after having employed a suitable evasion tactic (for example, a tight turn), can find himself in the position of a pursuer (i.e., he may find the pursuing craft in front of his guns). In view of these considerations we introduce two-target pursuit-evasion differential games (of kind) of the "game of two cars" type where either player may, depending on the configuration of the players, be the pursuer or the evader. Each target set ( $T_1$  and  $T_2$ ) is now indicative of the weapon-systems kill (i.e., capturability) capability of the respective player.

Two-target differential games were introduced in Ref. 2 (see also, Ref. 3). Regions of capturability in the two-target pursuit-evasion differential game of two cars have been obtained in Ref. 4 for target sets in front of each aircraft consisting of a line segment aligned with the velocity vector of the aircraft and problem parameters: a speed ratio of 3/4, maneuverability ratio of 1/3, the weapon system range of the first aircraft is twice its minimum turning radius and the range of the weapon system of the second aircraft is unbounded. In Ref. 5 the target sets  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  are such that the game terminates when either aircraft is directly in front of the other with the heading difference limited to at most 30 and 40 deg, respectively, and with the problem parameters: a speed ratio of 1/2 and a maneuverability ratio of 10/11. In Ref. 6 the target of player 1 is a fan shaped zone in front of 1 while the mirror image of this region below the  $x$  axis is taken as  $T_2$ , i.e., the winning region of player 2 is rigidly attached to player 1 in the realistic state space. Furthermore, in Ref. 6, for problem parameters: a speed ratio of  $\sqrt{2}/2$  and a maneuverability ratio of 1/2, the region of capturability of player 1 is obtained when player 1 acts as the pursuer and player 2 is the evader. In addition, the region of capturability (in fact reachability) for player 2 is obtained upon letting player 2 act as the pursuer under the assumption that player 1 does not maneuver.

In the present paper we consider the two-target game of two cars with a fan-shaped target set  $T_1$  for player 1 and a circular target set for player 2, and parameter values: a speed ratio of 1/2 and a maneuverability ratio of 1. The reader is also referred to Sec. II where the target sets are described in a concise manner.

In this respect the present paper is a sequel to Ref. 7 where the corresponding homicidal chauffeur version (the minimum turning radius of player 2 is zero so that the reduced space is two dimensional) of the two-target game of two cars has been analyzed.

Instead of employing the value function approach of Isaacs (Hamilton-Jacobi partial differential equation and related costate functions) we have focused our approach on the geometric construction of the complete barrier surfaces (in the reduced state space) which emanate from the boundary of the usable parts of the targets  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ .

These barrier surfaces are constructed employing (geometrical) invariance arguments, as elaborated on in Ref. 8, and include the dispersal lines on the barrier surfaces and the curves that delimit these surfaces. The solution to the two-target two-car game of kind is then arrived at by discarding the appropriate part of one of the  $T_2$  surfaces beyond the curve along which the two barrier surfaces intersect, as a result of which the state space is partitioned into regions from which either both players, only one of them, or neither can force a win. Consequently the pursuer/evader roles for players 1 and 2 are determined in these regions.

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Specifically, following a statement of the problem in Sec. II, in Sec. III we outline the general geometric method of construction of the barrier surfaces introduced in Ref. 8. In Sec. IV we present the barrier surface that emanates from the target set  $T_1$ , while in Sec. V we present the barrier surface that emanates from the target set  $T_2$ . The latter case provides a solution to the pursuit-evasion differential game of two cars from the point of view of player 2; namely, player 2 with the target set  $T_2$  is the pursuer and player 1 is the evader. Furthermore, since  $T_2$  is circular and player 2 is slower than player 1, the barrier presented in Sec. V provides a solution to the research problem posed by Isaacs<sup>1</sup> of pursuit-evasion in the game of two cars where the pursuer is slower than the evader.

The barrier presented in Sec. IV does not, however, provide a solution to a one-target game of two cars (player 1 is the pursuer, endowed with a target set  $T_1$ , and player 2 is the evader) since the boundary condition for the barrier surface is not the natural boundary condition but is imposed by the geometry of the two-target game.

Finally in Sec. VI we combine the barriers presented in Secs. IV and V to provide the game-of-kind (capturability) solution to the two-target pursuit-evasion differential game of two cars (dogfight) just posed.

## II. Mathematical Modeling

We consider the following model for a dogfight in the plane, the model being an extension of that evolved for the pursuit-evasion differential game of two cars.<sup>1</sup> Two points, i.e., "players," 1 and 2, whose positions at any instant are given by  $(x_1, y_1)$  and  $(x_2, y_2)$ , move in a plane at constant speed  $w_i$  in the direction  $\theta_i$ , where  $\theta_i$  is an angle measured from the positive  $y_i$  axis in a clockwise direction,  $i=1,2$ .

The maneuverability of the players is determined by their minimum turning radii  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ , respectively, and they steer by selecting at each instant the value of the curvature of their trajectories by choosing an appropriate value of the controls  $u_1 \in [-1,1]$  and  $u_2 \in [-1,1]$ , respectively, which curvature then determines their actual instantaneous turning radius.

Suppose that the weapon system of player 1 has a range  $r_1$  and a half-squint-angle  $\alpha_1$  and the weapon system of player 2 has an all-aspect range of  $r_2$  (i.e., player 2 has a swivelling gun). Let  $T_i$  denote the (closed) set of state space points for which the weapons of player  $i$ ,  $i=1,2$ , are effective.

The objective of each player is to force his (uncooperative) opponent into his target, while at the same time he avoids entering his opponent's target. Formally we say that player 1 scores a win if there exist  $t' \geq 0$  and  $\tau > 0$  such that  $(x_2(t), y_2(t)) \in T_1$  for  $t \in [t', t' + \tau]$  and  $(x_1(t), y_1(t)) \notin T_2$  on any open subinterval of  $[0, t' + \tau]$ ; similarly for player 2.

Thus a player can always capture his opponent in the interior of his target, but can capture him on the boundary of his target only if his opponent is there for a nonzero period of time. This two-target game of two cars is illustrated in Fig. 1 and is a special case ( $T_2$  is circular) of the more general setting presented in Ref. 7.

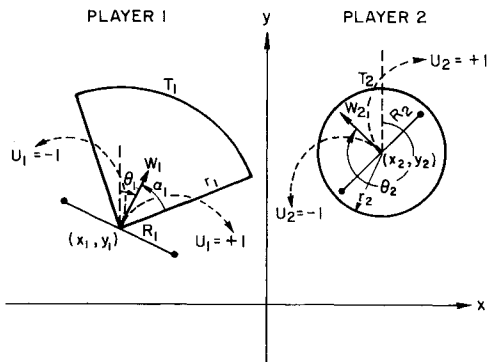


Fig. 1 The two-target pursuit-evasion game in the plane.

By fixing the origin of the coordinate system  $(x,y)$  at the position occupied by player 1, aligning the  $y$  axis with the direction of motion of player 1, and considering the relative motion of players 1 and 2, the state space of the game is reduced to  $R^2 \times S^1$ : the state vector  $(x,y,\theta)$  designates the position  $(x,y)$  of player 2 in the plane and the angle  $\theta$  is the velocity vector of player 2 measured clockwise from the positive  $y$  axis (the direction in which player 2 is heading). When the equations of motion have been transformed to dimensionless form [i.e., when  $x/R_1 \rightarrow x$ ,  $y/R_1 \rightarrow y$ ,  $r_1/R_1 \rightarrow r_1$ ,  $r_2/R_1 \rightarrow r_2$ ,  $tw_1/R_1 \rightarrow t$  and  $\gamma = w_2/w_1$ ,  $\beta = (1/\gamma)R_2/R_1$ ], they become

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dx}{dt} &= -yu_1 + \gamma \sin \theta & x(0) &= x_0 \\ \frac{dy}{dt} &= xu_1 - 1 + \gamma \cos \theta & y(0) &= y_0 \\ \frac{d\theta}{dt} &= -u_1 + \frac{u_2}{\beta} & \theta(0) &= \theta_0 \\ & & (t \geq 0, |u_1| \leq 1, |u_2| \leq 1) & \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

and the parameters of the specified capture sets then imply the cylindrical target sets

$$\begin{aligned} T_1 &= \{ (x,y,\theta) \mid x^2 + y^2 \leq r_1^2, \quad 90^\circ \text{ deg} \\ &\quad -\alpha_1 \leq \arctan(y/x) \leq 90^\circ \text{ deg} + \alpha_1, \quad y \geq 0 \} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

and

$$T_2 = \{ (x,y,\theta) \mid x^2 + y^2 \leq r_2^2 \} \quad (3)$$

In this notation the target sets were

$$T_i = \{ (x,y,\theta) \mid x=0, \quad 0 \leq y \leq r_i \} \quad (i=1,2)$$

$$T_1 = \{ (x,y,\theta) \mid x=0, \quad y \geq 0, \quad -30^\circ \text{ deg} \leq \theta \leq 30^\circ \text{ deg} \}$$

$$T_2 = \{ (x,y,\theta) \mid x=y \tan \theta, \quad y \leq 0, \quad -40^\circ \text{ deg} \leq \theta \leq 40^\circ \text{ deg} \}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} T_1 &= \{ (x,y,\theta) \mid x^2 + y^2 \leq 1/8, \quad 60^\circ \text{ deg} \leq \arctan(y/x) \leq 120^\circ \text{ deg}, \\ &\quad y \geq \sqrt{2}/80 \} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} T_2 &= \{ (x,y,\theta) \mid x^2 + y^2 \leq 1/8, \quad 60^\circ \text{ deg} \leq \arctan(-y/x) \leq 120^\circ \text{ deg}, \\ &\quad y \geq -\sqrt{2}/80 \} \end{aligned}$$

in Refs. 4-6, respectively.

Note that now (in the reduced state space) the target  $T_2$  is attached to the origin instead of the point  $(x,y)$ , i.e., when the point  $(x,y)$  reaches the boundary of the target set  $T_2$ , player 1 comes into the range of the weapons of player 2. The object of player  $i$  is thus to get the point  $(x,y)$  into  $T_i$  without passing through his opponent's target. The game in this reduced state space is illustrated in Fig. 2, and the targets,  $T_i$ ,  $i=1,2$ , as they appear in the reduced state space are illustrated in Fig. 3.

## III. Construction of Barrier Surfaces—An Outline

The targets  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  as they would appear in  $R^2 \times [0,2\pi]$  (note that  $\theta=0$  and  $\theta=2\pi$  are identified and that the actual state space is  $R^2 \times S^1$ ) are illustrated in Fig. 3, and the boundary of their usable parts<sup>1</sup> (BUP) on the target surfaces

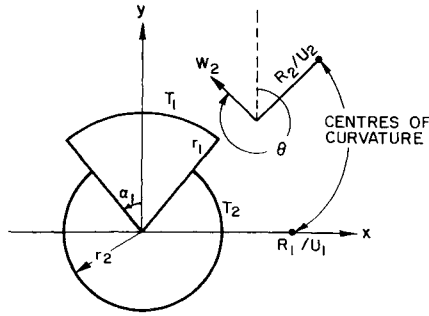


Fig. 2 The game illustrated in Fig. 1 in the reduced state space.

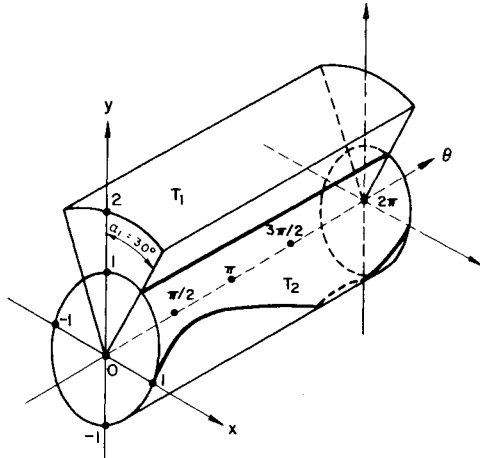


Fig. 3 The targets  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  in  $R^2 \times [0, 2\pi]$ .

can be evaluated to obtain

Boundary of usable part of  $T_1$

$$x_0(\theta_0) = 1/2 \quad y_0(\theta_0) = \sqrt{3}/2 \quad (4)$$

Boundary of usable part of  $T_2$

$$\begin{aligned} x_0(\theta_0) &= (2 - \cos\theta_0) / \sqrt{5 - 4 \cos\theta_0} \\ y_0(\theta_0) &= \sin\theta_0 / \sqrt{5 - 4 \cos\theta_0} \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

The boundary of the usable part of  $T_1$  is in our case imposed by  $T_2$ . If, however, the radius of  $T_2$  were less than unity, then part or all of the natural boundary of the usable part of  $T_2$  would emerge and in these regions would be given by

$$\begin{aligned} x_0(\theta_0) &= [\sin(\theta_0 - 30 \text{ deg}) + 1] / 4 \\ y_0(\theta_0) &= [\sin(\theta_0 - 30 \text{ deg}) + 1] \sqrt{3} / 4 \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

The barrier surface is a semipermeable surface<sup>1</sup> that emanates from the boundary of the usable part of the target set ( $T_1$  or  $T_2$ ). Indeed, a semipermeable surface  $S$  is a surface on which the saddle-point condition

$$\max_{|u_i| \leq 1, |u_j| \leq 1} \min (n, f) = 0 \quad (i \neq j; \quad i, j = 1, 2) \quad (7)$$

holds, where  $n$  is a vector normal to the surface  $S$ ,  $f$  denotes the right-hand side of Eq. (1) and  $(n, f)$  the inner product of the vectors  $n$  and  $f$ . If  $S$  is described by a function  $y(x, \theta)$  then elementary differential geometry tells us that  $n = (-y_x, 1, -y_\theta)$  (here  $y_x \triangleq \partial y / \partial x$ ,  $y_\theta \triangleq \partial y / \partial \theta$ ) and Eq. (7), for the case  $i=1, j=2$ , implies that (see Ref. 8)  $S$  must satisfy the partial

differential equation

$$(x + y y_x + y_\theta) u_1 - y_\theta u_2 - y_x (\sin\theta) / 2 + (\cos\theta) / 2 - 1 = 0 \quad (8)$$

where

$$u_1 = \text{sign}(x + y y_x + y_\theta) \quad u_2 = \text{sign}(y_\theta) \quad (9)$$

The Eqs. (9) indicate that we must consider the controls  $|u_i| = 1$ ,  $i=1, 2$  in which case either  $u_1 = u_2 = \pm 1$  or  $u_1 = -u_2 = \pm 1$ . The case  $u_1 = \pm 1$  with  $u_2 = 0$  is also important, as it is used to construct the universal curve which separates regions in which  $u_1 = u_2$  and  $u_1 = -u_2$ .

For given  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  the equations of motion Eq. (1) are then linear and have the following solutions:

For  $u_1 = -u_2$

$$\begin{aligned} x(\theta, \theta_0) &= \left[ x_0(\theta_0) - \frac{1}{u_1} \right] \cos\left(\frac{\theta - \theta_0}{2}\right) \\ &\quad + \left[ 2 + \cos\theta - \cos\left(\frac{\theta + \theta_0}{2}\right) \right] / 2 u_1 + y_0(\theta_0) \sin\left(\frac{\theta - \theta_0}{2}\right) \\ y(\theta, \theta_0) &= \left[ \frac{1}{u_1} - x_0(\theta_0) \right] \sin\left(\frac{\theta - \theta_0}{2}\right) \\ &\quad + \left[ \sin\left(\frac{\theta + \theta_0}{2}\right) - \sin\theta_0 \right] / 2 u_1 + y_0(\theta_0) \cos\left(\frac{\theta - \theta_0}{2}\right) \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

For  $u_1 = u_2$

$$[y u_1 - (\sin\theta_0) / 2]^2 + [x u_1 - 1 + (\cos\theta_0) / 2]^2 = C(\theta_0) \quad (11)$$

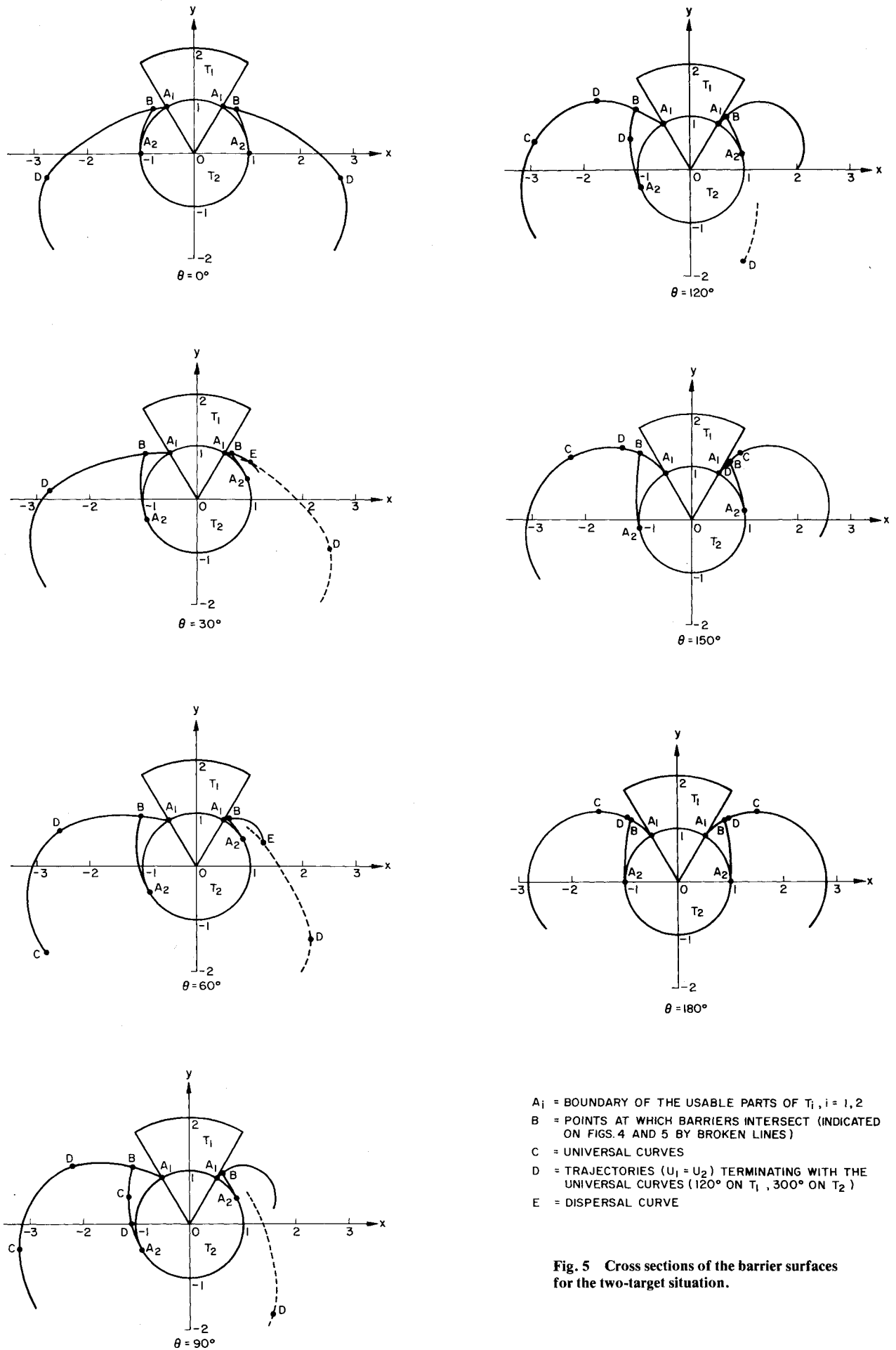
where  $C(\theta_0)$  is evaluated from the left-hand side of Eq. (11) at  $x = x_0(\theta_0)$ ,  $y = y_0(\theta_0)$ .

For  $u_2 = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} x(\theta, \theta_0) &= [x_0(\theta_0) - 1/u_1] \cos(\theta - \theta_0) \\ &\quad + [2 - (\theta - \theta_0) \sin\theta] / 2 u_1 + y_0(\theta_0) \sin(\theta - \theta_0) \\ y(\theta, \theta_0) &= [1/u_1 - x_0(\theta_0)] \sin(\theta - \theta_0) \\ &\quad - (\theta - \theta_0) \cos(\theta) / 2 u_1 + y_0(\theta_0) \cos(\theta - \theta_0) \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

By construction, the characteristics<sup>9</sup> of a surface  $S$  satisfying Eq. (8) and emanating from the BUP are solutions to Eq. (1) and therefore satisfy Eqs. (10-12). In Ref. 8 it is shown in detail how the surface  $S$ , satisfying Eqs. (8) and (9) and emanating from the BUP can be constructed using Eqs. (10-12). Basically, from the BUP of the target, surfaces are constructed using Eqs. (10) and (11) with nominal extreme values for  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  (viz.,  $u_i = \pm 1$ ,  $i=1, 2$ ). Only these parts of the surfaces compatible with Eqs. (9) that are geometrically significant (e.g., external to target) are retained. The result is two bounded surfaces which are unconnected away from the target but can be patched together by inserting a universal curve (UC) at the point of connection between the two surfaces on the target and using the UC as the new boundary condition from which new surfaces satisfying Eqs. (8) and (9) can be generated; the UC is given by Eqs. (12). The result is a surface made up of four parts, connected in sequence, viz: 1)  $u_1 = u_2$  and the surface emanates from the BUP; 2)  $u_1 = u_2$  and the surface emanates from the UC; 3)  $u_1 = -u_2$  and the surface emanates from the UC; and 4)  $u_1 = -u_2$  and the surface emanates from the BUP. Note that in all four cases the value of  $u_1$  is the same and is either +1 or -1 depending on whether the surface emanates from  $T_1$  or  $T_2$ , respectively.

**Fig. 4** Projection of the barrier surface from  $T_1$  onto the  $(x, \theta)$  plane.



**Fig. 5** Cross sections of the barrier surfaces for the two-target situation.

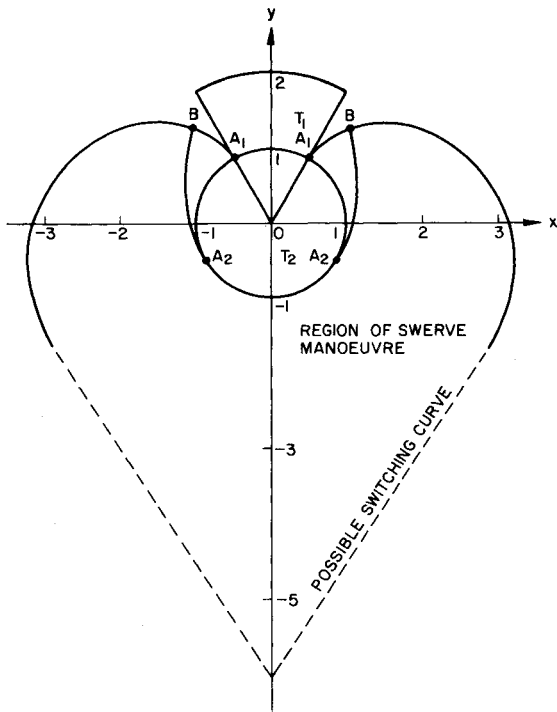


Fig. 6 Solution to the homicidal chauffeur version of the two-target game of two cars presented in Fig. 7 (player 2 has infinite maneuverability).

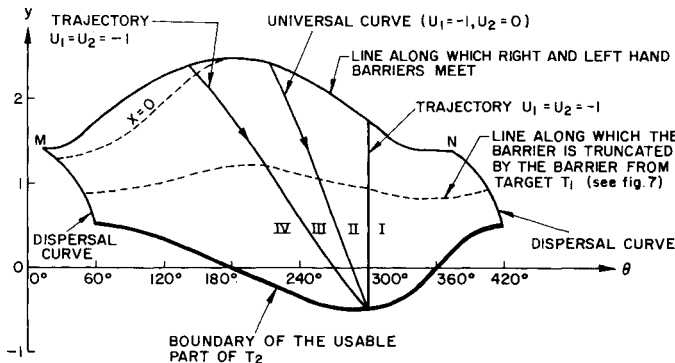


Fig. 7 Projection of the barrier surface from  $T_2$  in the absence of  $T_1$  onto the  $(y, \theta)$  plane.

of capturability in the two-target pursuit-evasion differential game of two cars (dogfight).

Specifically, the interior of the two regions ( $x > 0$  and  $x < 0$ ) bounded in cross section (see Fig. 5) by the lines  $A_1B$ ,  $BA_2$ ,  $A_2A_1$  represents the set of all initial points from which player 2 can force a win, while all points exterior to these regions and excluding  $T_2$  and the actual barrier surfaces are points from which player 1 can force a win. The points on the barrier surface which emanate from  $T_1$ , namely the segments  $A_1B$  in Fig. 5 (or the region between the BUP and the broken line in Figs. 4 and 7), are initial conditions which result in a draw (a simultaneous win for both players); the exception is the region PBQP (see Fig. 4) on the barrier surface, but not containing the points between P and Q, which is a region of win for player 1. This follows from Eq. (6) and the definition of a win in Sec. I. In the same way, the points on the barrier surface which emanate from  $T_2$ , namely the segments  $A_2B$  in Fig. 5, are initial conditions which result in a win for player 2, since player 1 only grazes the second player's target set.

For the sake of comparison we present in Fig. 6 the regions of capturability in the corresponding two-target homicidal chauffeur ( $R_2 = 0$ ) version of this game.<sup>7</sup> It is evident that the

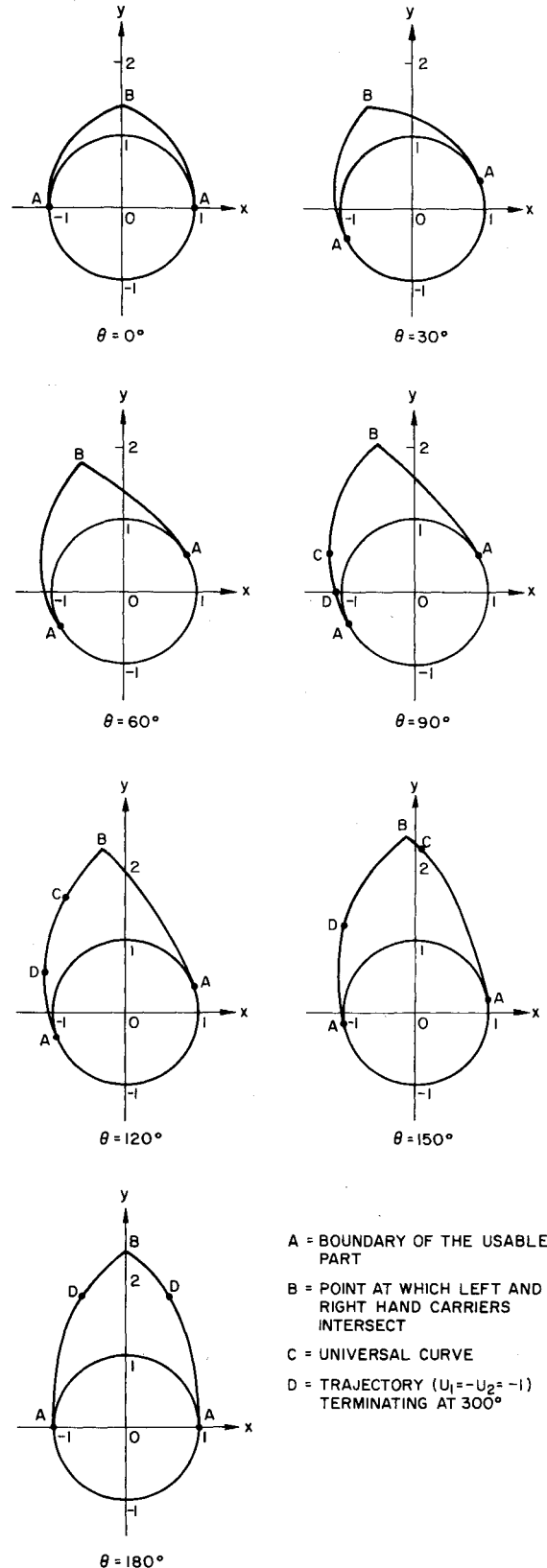


Fig. 8 Cross sections of barrier surface emanating from  $T_2$ .

$T_1$  barrier in the homicidal chauffeur game (Fig. 6) is more extensive than the barrier cross sections in the game of two cars (Fig. 5) (especially for certain relative headings), thus demarcating a larger swerve region there; the player 2 region of capturability in the two-target homicidal chauffeur game (in Fig. 6) is, as would be expected, larger than its counterpart in the game of two cars (see Fig. 5).

## VII. Concluding Remarks

We have constructed the regions of win for either player (and draw) in a two-target pursuit-evasion differential game of two cars where the target set for the faster player is a sector of a disk and the target set for the slower player is a complete disk. By employing geometric arguments, we have constructed the complete barrier surfaces in two separate one-target pursuit-evasion games of two cars (thus obtaining, among other things, the region of capturability in a one-target pursuit-evasion game of two cars when the slower player, endowed with a circular target set, is the pursuer) and we then combined these results in order to obtain the regions of capturability in our two-target game of two cars. Although the results are worked out and presented for a specific set of problem parameters, the general procedure is clear.

## Acknowledgments

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