

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910789085103321
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Titolo	Optimal control theory with aerospace applications [[electronic resource] /] / Joseph Z. Ben-Asher
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Reston, Va., : American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Inc., c2010
ISBN	1-60086-734-0 1-60086-733-2 1-61344-043-X
Descrizione fisica	xvii, 262 p. : ill
Collana	AIAA education series
Disciplina	629.132/6
Soggetti	Automatic pilot (Airplanes) Flight control Guided missiles - Control systems
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Historical background -- Ordinary minimum problems : from the beginning of calculus to Kuhn-Tucker -- Calculus of variations : from Bernoulli to Bliss -- Minimum principle of Pontryagin and Hestenes -- Application of the Jacobi test in optimal control and neighboring extremals -- Numerical techniques for the optimal control problem -- Singular perturbation technique and its application to air-to-space interception -- Application to aircraft performance : Rutowski and Kaiser's techniques and more -- Application to rocket performance : the Goddard problem -- Application to missile guidance : proportional navigation -- Application to time-optimal rotational maneuvers of flexible spacecraft.