

Optimal dynamic operation of chemical processes: current opportunities

James B. Rawlings

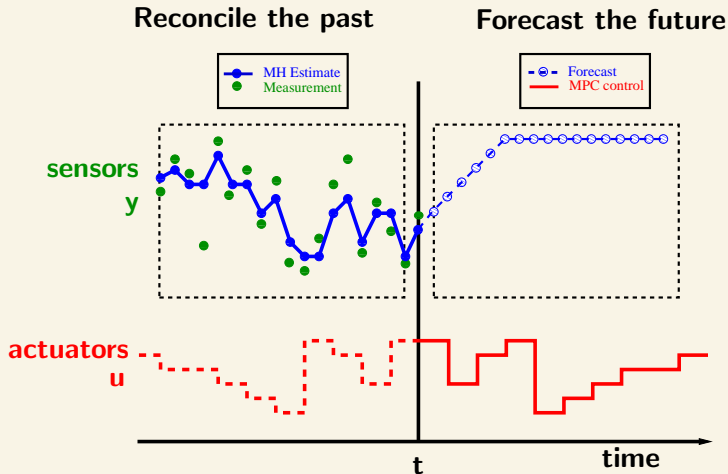
Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering



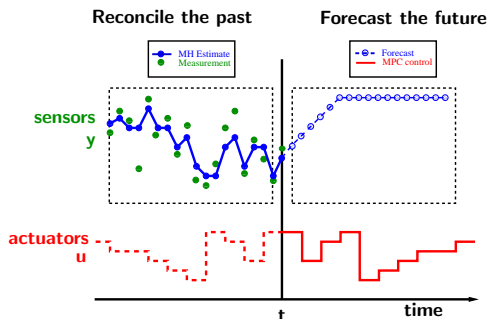
August 6, 2009
Westhollow Research Center
Shell

- 1 Introductory overview to Model Predictive Control (MPC)
- 2 Industrial impact of these ideas
- 3 Recent developments
 - Distributed MPC
 - Large-scale systems and partial enumeration
 - Tools for controller commissioning
 - Optimizing economics
 - Continuous time MPC
- 4 Conclusions and future outlook
- 5 Further Reading

The model predictive control framework



Predictive control



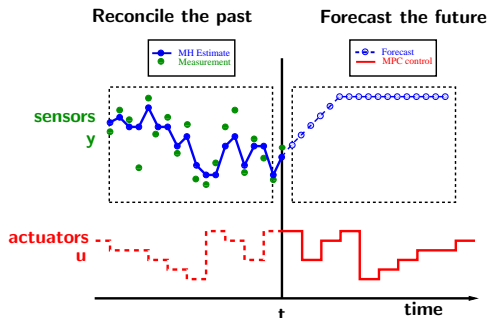
$$\min_{u(t)} \int_0^T |y_{sp} - g(x, u)|_Q^2 + |u_{sp} - u|_R^2 dt$$

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

$$x(0) = x_0 \quad (\text{given})$$

$$y = g(x, u)$$

State estimation

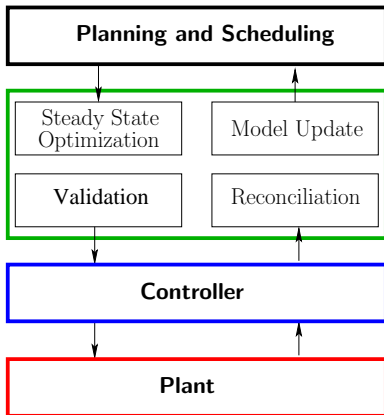


$$\min_{x_0, w(t)} \int_{-T}^0 |y - g(x, u)|_R^2 + |\dot{x} - f(x, u)|_Q^2 dt$$

$$\dot{x} = f(x, u) + w \quad (\text{process noise})$$

$$y = g(x, u) + v \quad (\text{measurement noise})$$

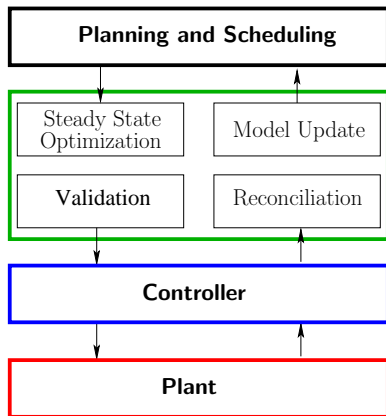
Industrial practice of MPC



Two layer structure

- **Steady-state layer**
 - ▶ RTO optimizes steady state model
 - ▶ Optimal setpoints passed to dynamic layer

Industrial practice of MPC



Two layer structure

- **Steady-state layer**
 - ▶ RTO optimizes steady state model
 - ▶ Optimal setpoints passed to dynamic layer
- **Dynamic layer**
 - ▶ Controller tracks the setpoints
 - ▶ Linear MPC (replaces multiloop PID)

Large industrial success story!

Linear MPC and ethylene manufacturing

- Number of MPC applications in ethylene: 800 to 1200

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Eastman Chemical experience with MPC

- First MPC implemented in 1996

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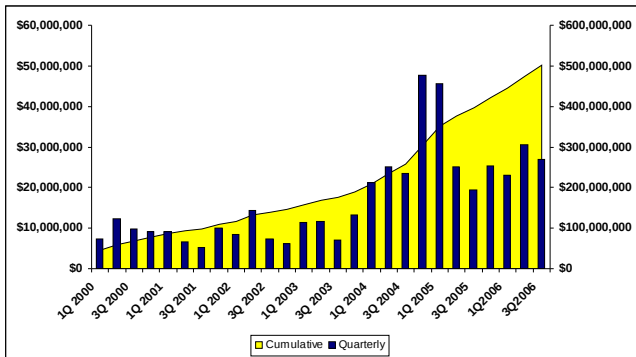
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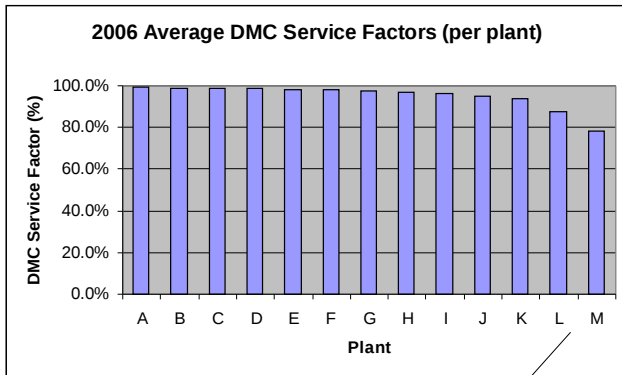
Praxair experience with MPC

- Praxair currently has more than 150 MPC installations
- 16 M\$/year increased profit (2008)

We're Doing it For the Money



Challenges (continued 1)



Plants L & M experienced APC personnel changes



Broader industrial impact (Qin and Badgwell, 2003)

Area	Aspen Technology	Honeywell Hi-Spec	Adersa	PCL	MDC	Total
Refining	1200	480	280	25		1985
Petrochemicals	450	80	-	20		550
Chemicals	100	20	3	21		144
Pulp and Paper	18	50	-	-		68
Air & Gas	-	10	-	-		10
Utility	-	10	-	4		14
Mining/Metallurgy	8	6	7	16		37
Food Processing	-	-	41	10		51
Polymer	17	-	-	-		17
Furnaces	-	-	42	3		45
Aerospace/Defense	-	-	13	-		13
Automotive	-	-	7	-		7
Unclassified	40	40	1045	26	450	1601
Total	1833	696	1438	125	450	4542
First App.	DMC:1985 IDCOM-M:1987 OPC:1987	PCT:1984 RMPCT:1991	IDCOM:1973 HIECON:1986	PCL: 1984	SMOC: 1988	
Largest App	603x283	225x85	-	31x12	-	

Are all the problems solved?

Some questions to consider

- Has the application base stopped growing?

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- Do we have tools to optimize dynamic *economic* operation?
- Do we have tools to *commission* and *maintain* the controllers?
- Can we handle *fast* systems?

Has the application base stopped growing?



European Commission

DG information Society & Media

**Monitoring and control: today's market, its
evolution till 2020 and the impact of ICT on
these**

Workshop:
9th of October 2008



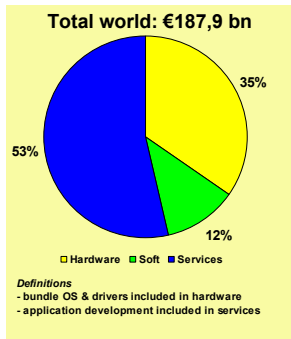
Available for download: <http://www.decision.eu/smart2007.htm>

Has the application base stopped growing?

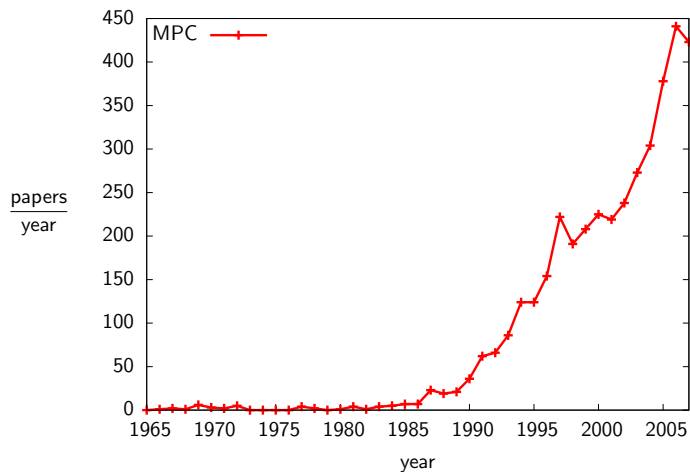


3. Worldwide Monitoring & Control Market

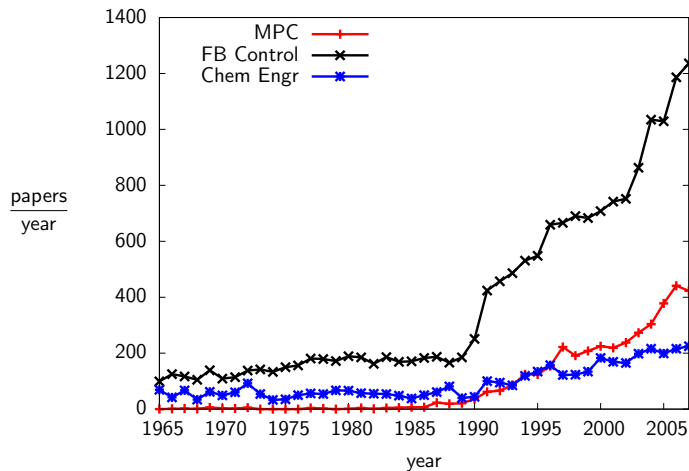
- The worldwide market for Monitoring & Control products and solutions is around 188 billion euros.
- This represents 8% of total ICT expenditures worldwide.
- In the field of ICT, this is comparable to:
 - the whole semiconductor industry world revenues;
 - twice the world mobile phone manufacturers revenues.
- **Services**, with **more than 50% of the market value**, have the biggest share.
- The 3 larger sub markets represent together over 100 billion euros, namely:
 - integration, installation & training services with 38 billion euros;
 - control hardware with 36 billion euros;
 - maintenance, repair & overall services with 30 billion euros.
- The 3 larger application markets are Vehicles, Process and Manufacturing industries.
- **Europe represents 32 % of the world total market value.**



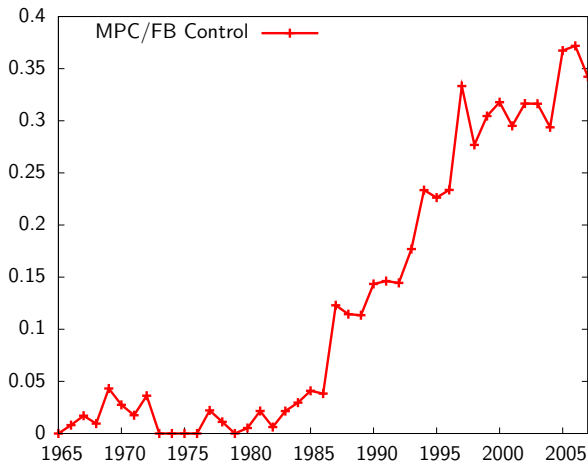
Is the theory complete?



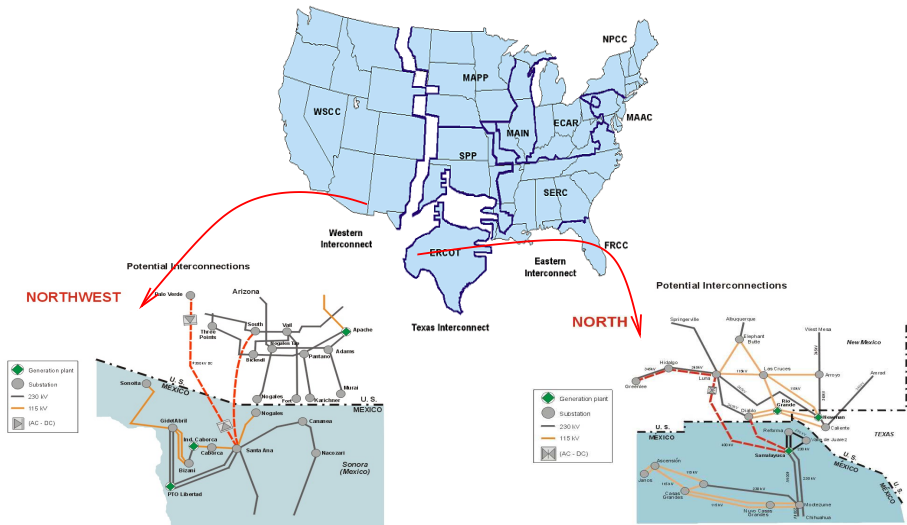
Is the theory complete?



Ratio of MPC papers to feedback control papers



Distributed MPC — Decomposing large-scale systems



Decomposing large-scale systems



Material flow



Energy flow



Decentralized Control

- Traditional approach
 - ▶ Wealth of literature from the early 1970's on improved decentralized control ^a
 - ▶ Well-known that poor performance may result if the interconnections are not negligible

^a(Sandell Jr. et al., 1978; Šiljak, 1991; Lunze, 1992)

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Centralized Control

- Steady increase in available computational power has provided the opportunity for centralized control
- Many practitioners view centralized control of large, networked systems as impractical and unrealistic

Cooperative control as suboptimal MPC

Properties established by suboptimal MPC theory¹

- **Stability:** Given a feasible initial condition, adding the stability constraint

$$\|\mathbf{u}_i\| \leq d_i \|x_i(0)\|$$

gives nominal closed-loop stability for any number of information exchanges

¹(Venkat et al., 2006a) and (Venkat et al., 2006b)

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- **Cost decrease:** Plant-wide objective is decreased at each iterate
- **Convergence:** Cooperative MPC produces centralized control performance at the limit of infinite iterates

¹(Venkat et al., 2006a) and (Venkat et al., 2006b)

Distributed MPC publications

- G. Pannocchia, S. J. Wright, B. T. Stewart, and J. B. Rawlings. Efficient cooperative distributed MPC using partial enumeration. In *ADCHEM 2009, International Symposium on Advanced Control of Chemical Processes*, Istanbul, Turkey, July 12-15, 2009.
- J. B. Rawlings and B. T. Stewart. Coordinating multiple optimization-based controllers: new opportunities and challenges. *J. Proc. Cont.*, 18:839–845, 2008.
- B. T. Stewart, A. N. Venkat, J. B. Rawlings, S. J. Wright, and G. Pannocchia. Cooperative distributed model predictive control. Submitted for publication in *Sys. Cont. Let.*, July 2009.
- A. N. Venkat, J. B. Rawlings, and S. J. Wright. Stability and optimality of distributed, linear MPC. Part 1: state feedback. Technical Report 2006–03, TWMCC, Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering, University of Wisconsin–Madison (Available at <http://jbrwww.che.wisc.edu/tech-reports.html>), October 2006a.
- A. N. Venkat, J. B. Rawlings, and S. J. Wright. Stability and optimality of distributed, linear MPC. Part 2: output feedback. Technical Report 2006–04, TWMCC, Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering, University of Wisconsin–Madison (Available at <http://jbrwww.che.wisc.edu/tech-reports.html>), October 2006b.

Large-scale systems and partial enumeration

- Unconstrained solution: LQ regulator (Kalman, 1960)

$$u = Kx$$

- Constrained solution: MPC

$$u_0 = K_i x + b_i$$

in which i enumerates different possible active sets for the inequality constraints (Bemporad et al., 2002)

- There are 3^{mN} different active sets

$$\begin{bmatrix} \underline{u} \\ \underline{u} \\ \vdots \\ \underline{u} \end{bmatrix} \leq \begin{bmatrix} u^1 \\ u^2 \\ \vdots \\ u^m \end{bmatrix} \leq \begin{bmatrix} \bar{u} \\ \bar{u} \\ \vdots \\ \bar{u} \end{bmatrix}$$

The active set table

$$u_0 = K_j x + b_j$$

The active set table

$$u_0 = K_i x + b_i$$

$$N = 2$$

i	constraint set	K_i	b_i
1	$\{\bar{u}, \bar{u}\}$	0	\bar{u}
2	$\{\bar{u}, -\}$	0	\bar{u}
3	$\{\bar{u}, \underline{u}\}$	0	\bar{u}
4	$\{-, \bar{u}\}$	K_4	b_4
5	$\{-, -\}$	K_5	b_5
6	$\{-, \underline{u}\}$	K_6	b_6
7	$\{\underline{u}, \bar{u}\}$	0	\underline{u}
8	$\{\underline{u}, -\}$	0	\underline{u}
9	$\{\underline{u}, \underline{u}\}$	0	\underline{u}

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4	$\{-, \bar{u}\}$	K_4	b_4
5	$\{-, -\}$	K_5	b_5
6	$\{-, \underline{u}\}$	K_6	b_6
7	$\{\underline{u}, \bar{u}\}$	0	\underline{u}
8	$\{\underline{u}, -\}$	0	\underline{u}
9	$\{\underline{u}, \underline{u}\}$	0	\underline{u}

$N = 4$

i	constraint set	K_i	b_i
1	$\{\bar{u}, \bar{u}, \bar{u}, \bar{u}\}$	0	\bar{u}
2	$\{\bar{u}, \bar{u}, \bar{u}, -\}$	0	\bar{u}
3	$\{\bar{u}, \bar{u}, \bar{u}, \underline{u}\}$	0	\bar{u}
...
40	$\{-, -, -, \bar{u}\}$	K_{40}	b_{40}
41	$\{-, -, -, -\}$	K_{41}	b_{41}
42	$\{-, -, -, \underline{u}\}$	K_{42}	b_{42}
...
79	$\{\underline{u}, \underline{u}, \underline{u}, \bar{u}\}$	0	\underline{u}
80	$\{\underline{u}, \underline{u}, \underline{u}, -\}$	0	\underline{u}
81	$\{\underline{u}, \underline{u}, \underline{u}, \underline{u}\}$	0	\underline{u}

The computational challenge of large scale *centralized* MPC

- On-line QP solution may not be practical for large-scale applications

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- Typical large-sized applications:

$$m = 5, \quad N = 50, \quad 10^{119}$$

$$m = 32, \quad N = 15, \quad 10^{229}$$

The computational challenge of large scale *centralized* MPC

- On-line QP solution may not be practical for large-scale applications
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- Typical large-sized applications:

$$m = 5, \quad N = 50, \quad 10^{119}$$

$$m = 32, \quad N = 15, \quad 10^{229}$$

- Consider partial enumeration

Conjecture: In practice, the state might visit relatively few different active constraints! **SO...** don't do the calculations for all possible active sets.

Instead:

- Initialize by calculating and storing the table only for “likely” active sets;
- Given \hat{x} , search through the table and see if one of them is optimal;
- If so, use that control;
- If not, is there a feasible (suboptimal) solution? If so, use this one;
- If not, solve the MPC QP problem with small N and add this solution to the table;
- Make room in the table by deleting the entry that was used least recently.

Initializing the Table

- Choose a size for the table, and initialize its contents in a training period.
- Add disturbances during training period to ensure that “useful” parts of the active-set space are sampled.
- Larger disturbances tend to cause saturation of some inputs.
- Saturation causes more active sets to be “interesting” because of small variations in the timepoint at which a constraint becomes active/inactive.

Computational Results: Problem 1

- Copolymerization reactor: 5 inputs, 18 states, 4 outputs, horizon $N = 50$.
- 10^{119} possible active sets.

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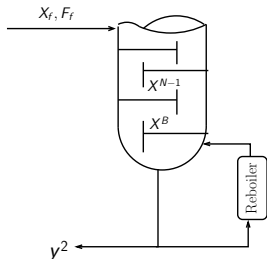
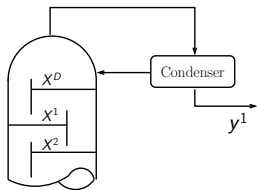
- Copolymerization reactor: 5 inputs, 18 states, 4 outputs, horizon $N = 50$.
- 10^{119} possible active sets.
- Training period: 28800 sample intervals (2 days, 1-minute intervals), 20 random disturbances applied. Visited a total of 376 active sets during this time.
- Validation period: 43200 sample intervals (3 days), 30 random disturbances.
- Considered tables of sizes 50, 100, and 200.

CPU time and suboptimality ratio of four solvers

	TAB50	TAB100	TAB200	qpsol
Max time (s)	0.144	0.278	0.463	1.56
Mean time (s)	0.0075	0.0098	0.0129	1.02
Active sets visited	771	814	877	–
Suboptimality	1.0090	1.0088	1.0094	–

- G. Pannocchia, J. B. Rawlings, and S. J. Wright. Fast, large-scale model predictive control by partial enumeration. *Automatica*, 43:852–860, 2007.
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Controller Commissioning — Obtaining Q and R from Data



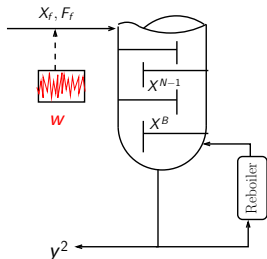
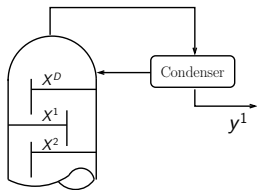
- Model discretized with $t_k = k\Delta t$:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} X^D \\ \vdots \\ X^B \end{bmatrix}}_{x(t)} = F(x(t), \underbrace{u(t)}_{X_f, F_f})$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} y^1 \\ y^2 \end{bmatrix} (t_k) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{bmatrix} x(t_k)$$

- Measurements are only X^D, X^B at the discretization times

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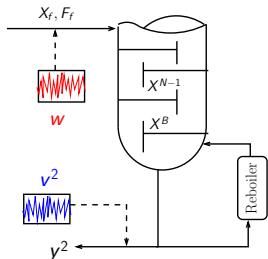
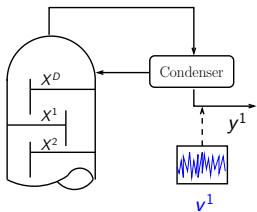


- Model discretized with $t_k = k\Delta t$:

$$x_{k+1} = f(x_k, u_k) + g(x_k, u_k)w_k$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} y^1 \\ y^2 \end{bmatrix}_k = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix} x_k$$

- Measurements are only X^D, X^B at the discretization times
- Noise w_k affects all the states

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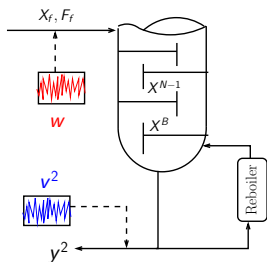
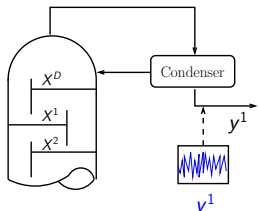


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- Measurements are only X^D, X^B at the discretization times
- Noise w_k affects all the states
- Noise v_k corrupts the measurements

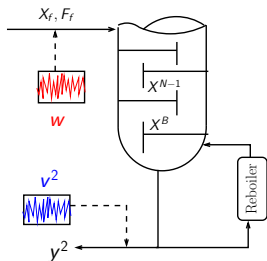
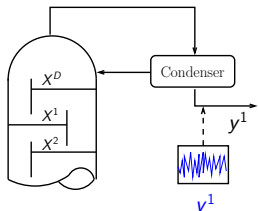
Motivation for Using Autocovariances



Idea of Autocovariances

- The state noise w_k gets propagated in time
- The measurement noise v_k appears only at the sampling times and is not propagated in time
- Taking autocovariances of data at different time lags gives covariances of w_k and v_k

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Let w_k , v_k have zero means and covariances Q and R

Mathematical Formulation of the ALS

Linear State-Space Model:

$$\begin{aligned}x_{k+1} &= Ax_k + Gw_k & w_k &\sim N(0, Q) \\ y_k &= Cx_k + v_k & v_k &\sim N(0, R)\end{aligned}$$

- Model (A, C, G) known from the linearization, finite set of measurements: $\{y_0, \dots, y_k\}$ given.
- Only unknowns are noises w_k and v_k .

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- $y_k = Cx_k$
- $y_{k+1} = CAx_k + CGw_k$
- $y_{k+2} = CA^2x_k + CAGw_k + CGw_{k+1}$

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Mathematical Formulation of the ALS

Linear State-Space Model:

$$\begin{aligned}x_{k+1} &= Ax_k + Gw_k & w_k &\sim N(0, Q) \\ y_k &= Cx_k + v_k & v_k &\sim N(0, R)\end{aligned}$$

- Model (A, C, G) known from the linearization, finite set of measurements: $\{y_0, \dots, y_k\}$ given.
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The Autocovariance Least-Squares (ALS) Problem

Skipping a lot of algebra, we can write:

Autocovariance Least Squares

$$\Phi = \min_{Q,R} \left\| \mathcal{A}_N \begin{bmatrix} (Q)_s \\ (R)_s \end{bmatrix} - \hat{b} \right\|^2$$

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- 2 Form \mathcal{A}_N from known system matrices
- 3 \hat{b} is a vector containing the estimated correlations from data

$$\hat{b} = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{k=1}^T \begin{bmatrix} y_k y_k' \\ \vdots \\ y_{k+N-1} y_k' \end{bmatrix}_s$$

State estimation using (Q, R) from ALS

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State estimation using (Q, R) from ALS

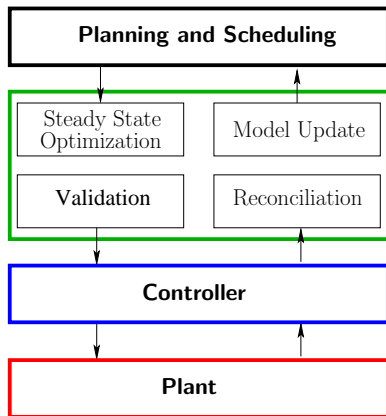
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- Preliminary results from Eastman chemical cracking furnace and AspenTech evaluation are encouraging

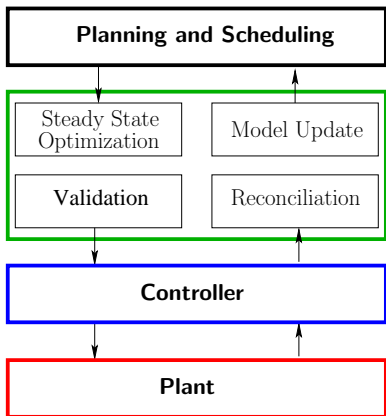
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Optimizing economics: Current industrial practice



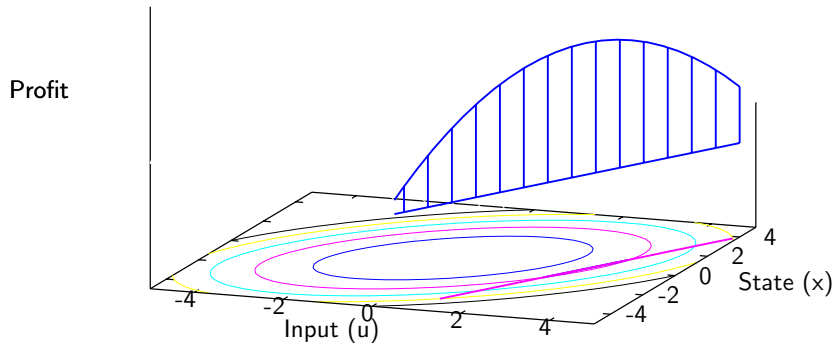
- Two layer structure
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Optimizing economics: Current industrial practice

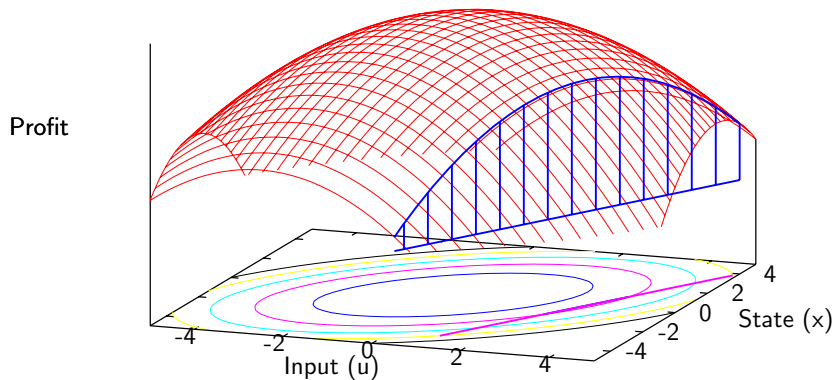


- Two layer structure
- Drawbacks
 - ▶ Inconsistent models
 - ▶ Re-identify linear model as setpoint changes
 - ▶ Time scale separation may not hold
 - ▶ Economics unavailable in dynamic layer

Optimizing economics: what's desirable?



Optimizing economics: what's desirable?



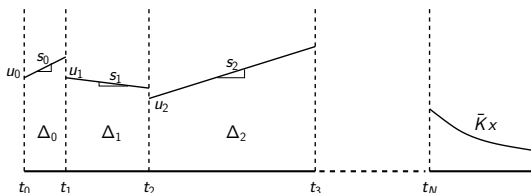
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Continuous-time system and input parameterization

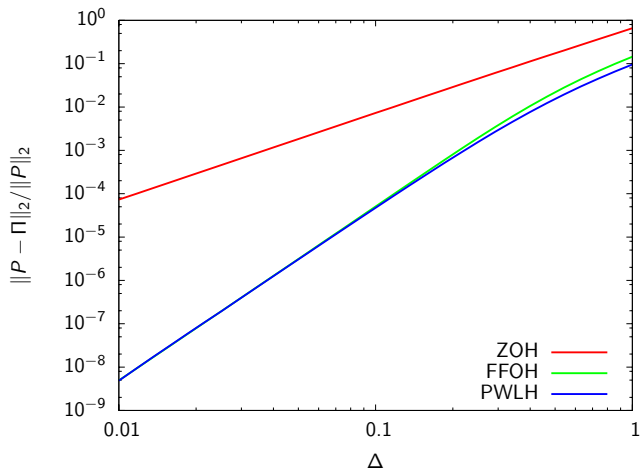
We consider linear time-invariant continuous-time systems

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu \quad (1)$$

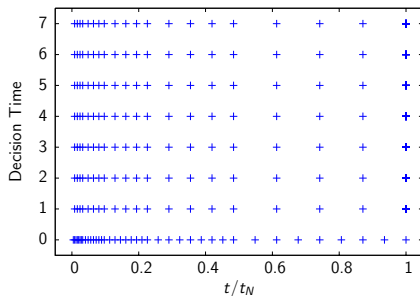
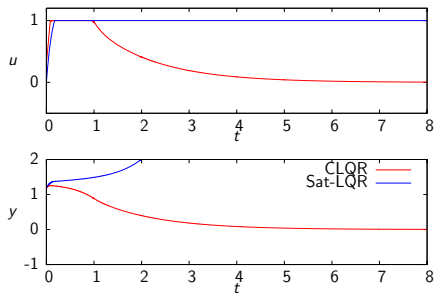
$$V(x_0, \mathbf{u}) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\infty} (x'Qx + u'Ru) dt \quad (2)$$



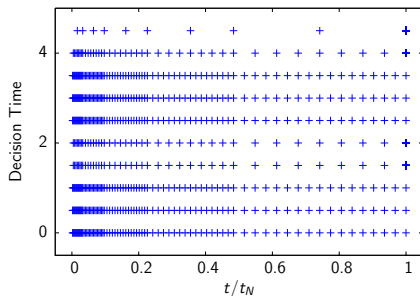
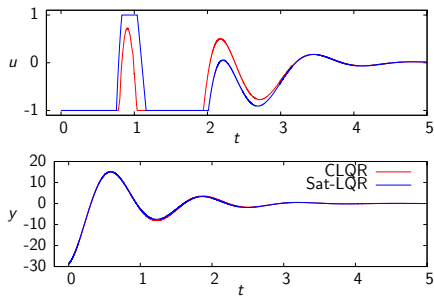
Relative error between CT and DT systems



Open-loop unstable system



System with slow and fast modes



Computation time for infinite horizon CT solution

FFOH-CLQR Algorithm			
μ	$\frac{V^{\text{II}}(x_0) - V^*(x_0)}{V^*(x_0)}$	N	CPU-time (ms)
10^{-2}	$7.689 \cdot 10^{-4}$	12	0.20
10^{-3}	$1.883 \cdot 10^{-4}$	24	0.40
10^{-4}	$4.926 \cdot 10^{-8}$	96	7.5
10^{-5}	$4.926 \cdot 10^{-8}$	96	7.5
10^{-6}	$4.926 \cdot 10^{-8}$	96	7.5
10^{-7}	$8.841 \cdot 10^{-9}$	192	44.0
10^{-8}	$1.468 \cdot 10^{-9}$	384	444

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- 5 Continuous time MPC. Algorithm developed and tested on examples. Theory for convergence and closed-loop stability under development now.

Acknowledgments

- Don Bartusiak, ExxonMobil
- Tom Badgwell, Aspentech
- Jim Downs, Eastman Chemical
- Larry Megan, Praxair
- Rahul Bindlish, Dow
- Financial support from NSF #CTS-0825306, 0931835 and Texas Wisconsin California Control Consortium (TWCCC) members

Further reading

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