

# Distributed Optimization I

## Convex Optimization

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Mathias Hudoba de Badyn

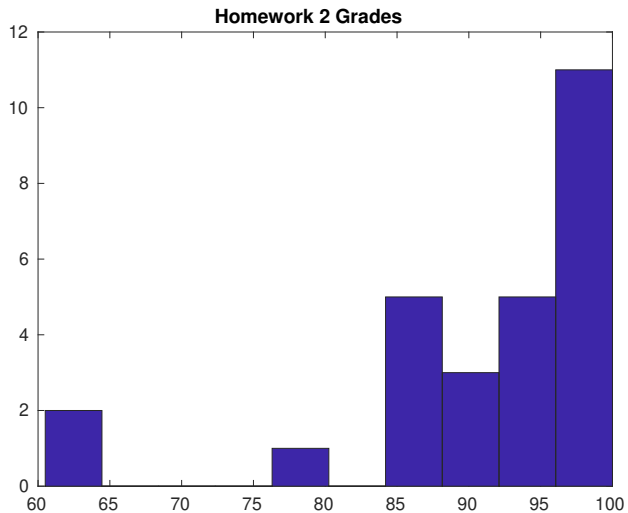
Advanced Topics in Control

May 23, 2022

**ETH** zürich

AUTOMATIC  
CONTROL  
LABORATORY **ifA**

# Announcements



relative state-based control –  
double-integrator case

## Relative state-based control – Double Integrator

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We further assume that  $\ddot{z}_{\text{ref}} = 0$ , i.e. the reference velocity does not change with time.

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We can show that,

$$\ddot{e} = -D(\mathcal{D})^T u(t).$$

*Proof:*



Define the (proportional-derivative) feedback controller,

$$u(t) = k \begin{bmatrix} D(\mathcal{D}) & D(\mathcal{D}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e(t) \\ \dot{e}(t) \end{bmatrix}.$$

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Then, the closed-loop system is

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{e}(t) \\ \ddot{e}(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I \\ -kL_e(\mathcal{D}) & -kL_e(\mathcal{D}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e(t) \\ \dot{e}(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

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*continued:*

## Theorem

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}(t) \\ \ddot{x}(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I \\ -kL(\tilde{\mathcal{D}}) & -kL(\tilde{\mathcal{D}}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x(t) \\ \dot{x}(t) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ kD(\mathcal{D}) & kD(\mathcal{D}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} z_{\text{ref}}(t) \\ \dot{z}_{\text{ref}} \end{bmatrix}$$

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3. Single/double integrator versions

recap: convergence  
of nonlinear systems via  
LaSalle invariance principle

# LaSalle Invariance Principle

Consider a dynamical system  $\dot{x} = f(x)$  with differentiable  $f$ . Assume that

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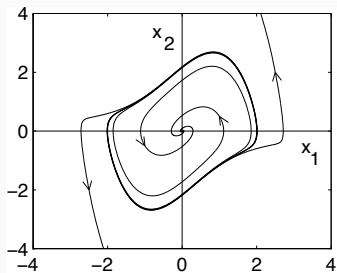
$$\left\{ x \in W : \frac{\partial V(x)}{\partial x}^T f(x) = 0 \right\}$$

**Note:** compact and invariant set can often be constructed as a sublevel set of  $V$ :  $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : V(x) \leq \ell\}$  where  $\ell = V(x_0)$

## Example: reverse-time van der Pol oscillator

$$\dot{x}_1 = -x_2$$

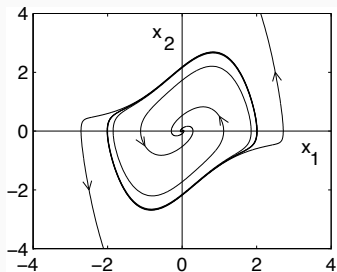
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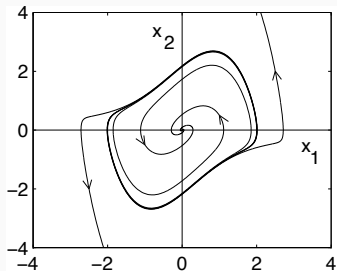


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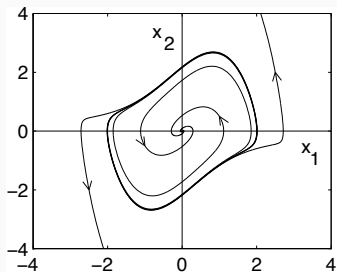
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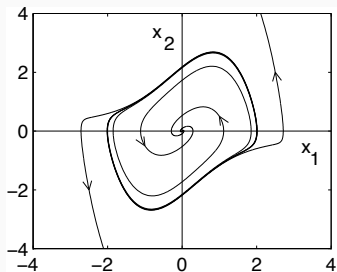
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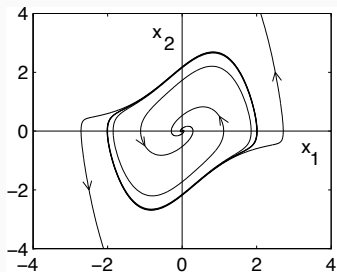
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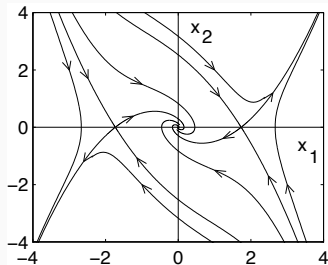
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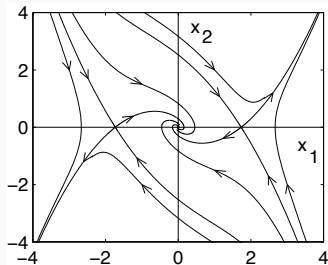
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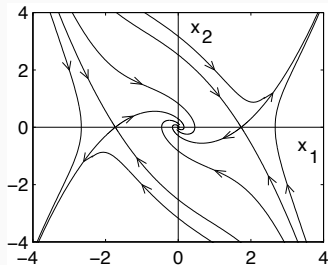
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$\Rightarrow$  **0** is exp. stable with  $W_\epsilon$  as guaranteed region of attraction

# basics of (un)constrained optimization



# Unconstrained optimization

- unconstrained optimization:

$$\underset{x \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\text{minimize}} f(x)$$

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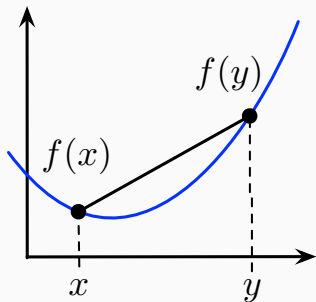
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- on **gradients**:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is the *column vector* of partial derivatives

# Convexity

- $f$  is said to be **convex** if “function is below line segment”

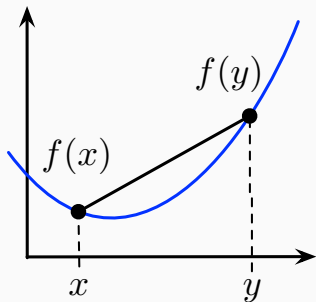


$$\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ and } \forall \alpha, \beta \geq 0 \text{ with } \alpha + \beta = 1$$

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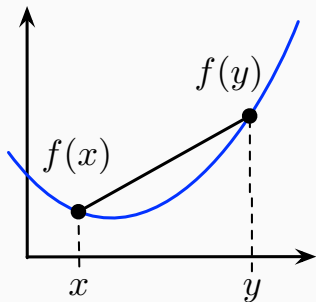
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$\Rightarrow f$  is **concave** if  $-f$  is convex

- **underestimator property**: “convex iff function above its tangents”

a cont. diff. function  $f$  is convex  
if and only if for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$

$$f(y) \geq f(x) + (y - x)^\top \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x}$$

(strictly convex if inequality is strict for  $x \neq y$ )



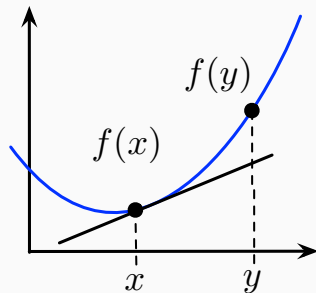
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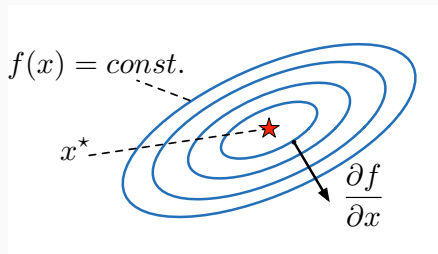
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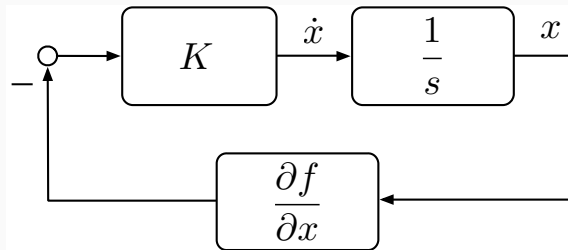


# Unconstrained optimization & gradient flows

$$\dot{x} = -K \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x}$$



geometry of an unconstrained optimization problem



block-diagram of negative gradient flow with positive definite gain  $K \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$

# Constrained optimization

- linearly-constrained optimization:

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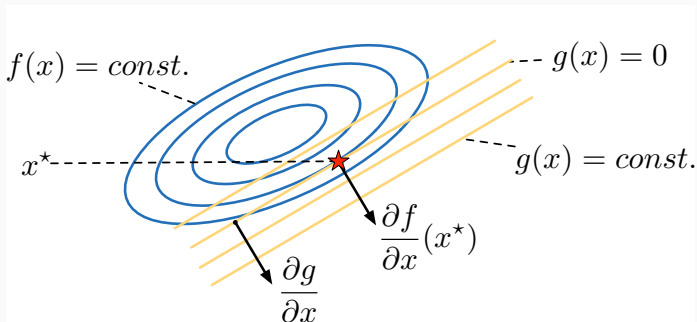
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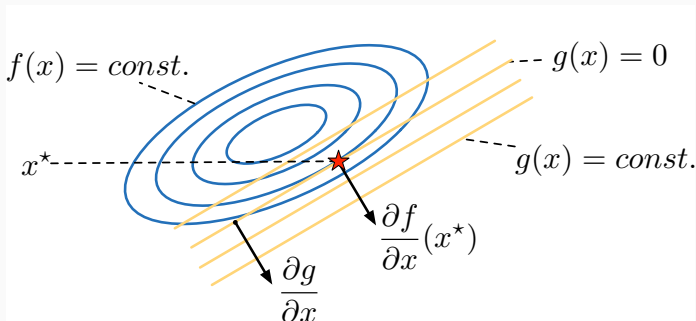


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$\Rightarrow$  minimizer  $x^*$  when  $\{g(x) = 0\}$  **tangent** to  $\{f(x) = \text{const.}\} \Leftrightarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \parallel \frac{\partial g}{\partial x}$

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$\Rightarrow$  minimizer  $x^*$  satisfies **KKT conditions** (after Karush, Kuhn, Tucker):

## KKT Conditions

(i) constraint equation:  $\mathbf{0} = g(x) = Ax - b$

(ii) tangency condition:  $\mathbf{0} = \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial g(x)}{\partial x}^\top \lambda,$

where  $\lambda$  is Lagrange multiplier or *dual variable* (analogous:  $x$  is *primal variable*)

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- if  $f$  is convex, then the KKT conditions are sufficient for optimality, and their solutions  $(x^*, \lambda^*)$  specify all minimizers and optimal dual variables
- if  $f$  is strictly convex and  $A$  has full rank, then the KKT conditions admit only a single solution  $(x^*, \lambda^*)$

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- Lagrangian**:  $\mathcal{L}(x, \lambda) = f(x) + \lambda^\top g(x)$  is convex in  $x$  and concave in  $\lambda$

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# Constrained Optimization

- linearly-constrained optimization:

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## Recall useful matrix lemma

**Lemma:** Consider a positive semidefinite matrix  $P \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  and a matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  with  $n \geq m$  forming the composite **saddle matrix**

$$\mathcal{A} = \begin{bmatrix} -P & -A^\top \\ A & \mathbf{0}_{m \times m} \end{bmatrix}.$$

The matrix  $\mathcal{A}$  has the following properties:

- 1) all eigenvalues are in the closed left half-plane:  $\text{spec}(\mathcal{A}) = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \mid \mathcal{R}(\lambda) \leq 0\}$ .  
Moreover, all eigenvalues on the imaginary axis have equal algebraic and geometric multiplicity;



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- 3) if  $P$  is positive definite and  $A$  has full rank, then  $\mathcal{A}$  has no eigenvalues on the imaginary axis.

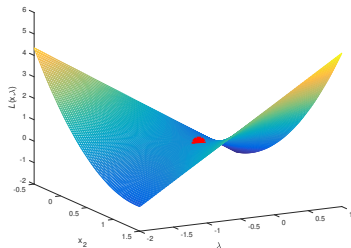
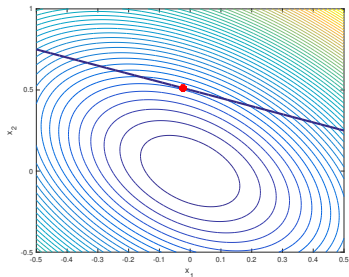
## Running example for linear quadratic (LQ) case

$$\underset{x \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\text{minimize}} \ f(x) = \frac{1}{2} (x - \underline{x})^\top P (x - \underline{x}) \quad \text{subject to} \quad g(x) = Ax - b = 0$$

data:  $P = \begin{bmatrix} 2.6 & 0.8 \\ 0.8 & 1.4 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\underline{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $b = 1$

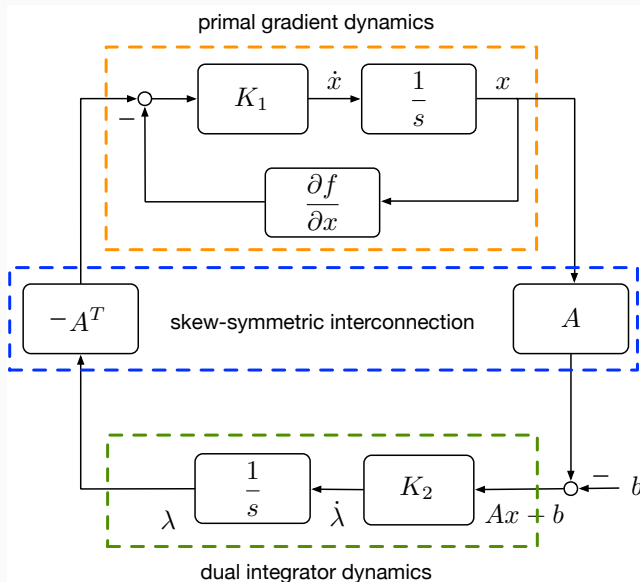
facts:  $P$  is positive definite with eigenvalues  $\{1, 3\}$ , optimizer

$$x^* = [-0.0233 \ 0.5116]^\top, \text{ and optimal multiplier } \lambda^* = -0.3488$$





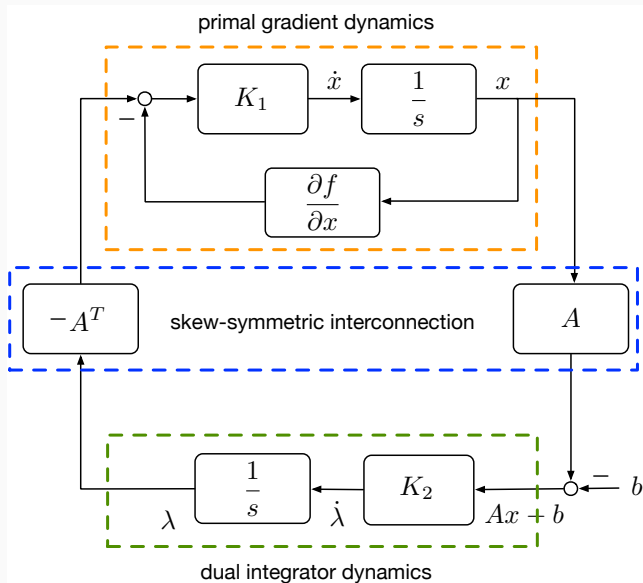
# Block-diagram of primal-dual saddle-point flow



$$\dot{x} = -K_1 \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x} - K_1 A^T \lambda$$
$$\dot{\lambda} = K_2 (Ax - b)$$

1. primal gradient descent

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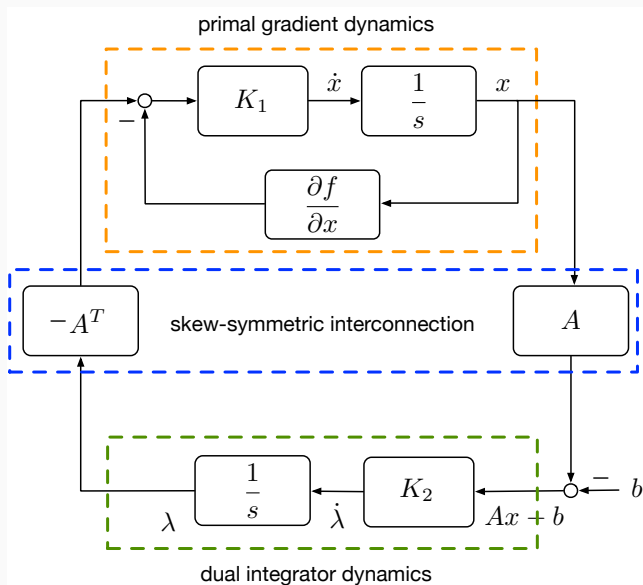


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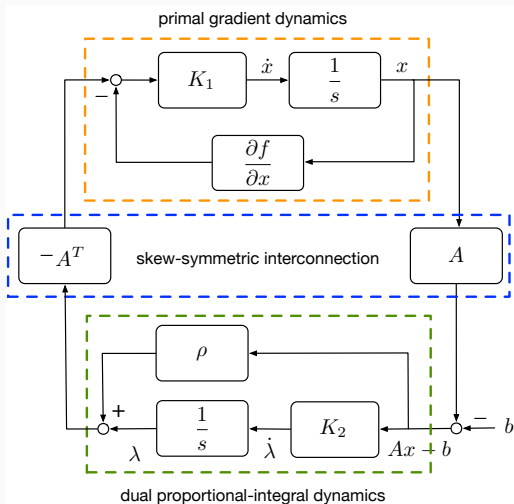
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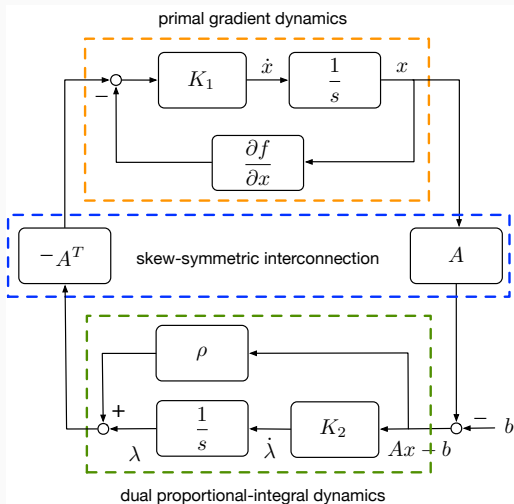
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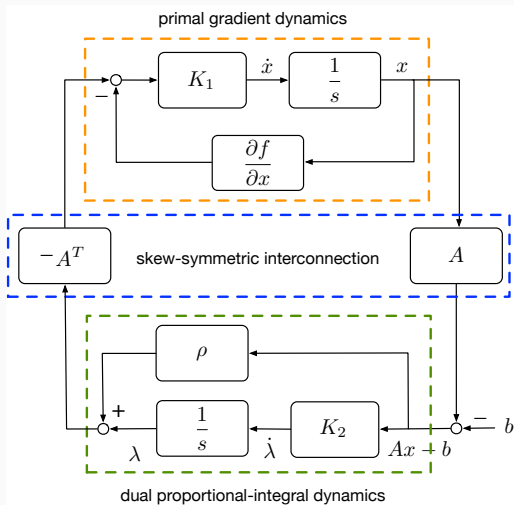
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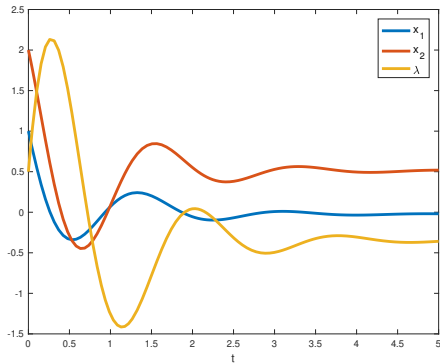


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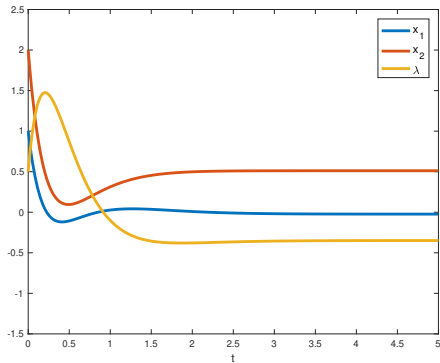
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# Standard and augmented saddle-point flow for LQ program



standard saddle-point flow



augmented saddle-point flow ( $\rho = 1$ )

**augmentation** induces (stricter) convexity & better performance (damping)

more algorithms in the next lecture

# distributed optimization

# Setup in distributed optimization



1. **basic problem:**  $n$  distributed agents want to solve

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize}_{y \in \mathbb{R}} & \sum_{i=1}^n f_i(x) \\ \text{subject to} & \mathcal{C}(x) \end{array}$$

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- ⇒ **key idea:** local copies of global variable  $x$  and consensus constraint



# Saddle points of distributed optimization problem

Consider the **augmented Lagrangian**  $\mathcal{L}(y, \lambda) = \tilde{f}(y) + \lambda^T Ly + \frac{1}{2}y^T Ly$

and its set of **saddle points**  $(y^*, \lambda^*) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n$

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3. **inverse optimality:** if  $x^* \in \mathbb{R}$  is a solution of the original optimization problem, then there are  $\lambda^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $y^* = x^* \mathbf{1}$  satisfying  $L\lambda^* + \frac{\partial \tilde{f}(y^*)}{\partial y} = \mathbf{0}$  so that  $(y^*, \lambda^*)$  is a saddle point of  $\mathcal{L}$ .

## Distributed saddle-point flow

The **saddle-point flow** associated with  $\mathcal{L}(y, \lambda) = \tilde{f}(y) + \frac{1}{2}y^T Ly + \lambda^T Ly$  is

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For processor  $i$  the saddle-point dynamics **read component-wise** as

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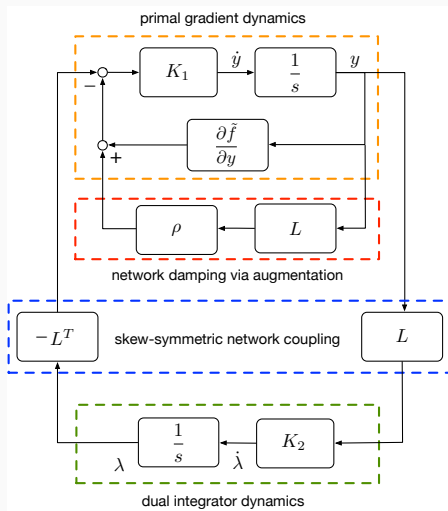
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- **distributed:** local computation & nearest neighbor communication;
- **converges** to the set of saddle points  $(y^*, \lambda^*)$ ; and
- **recovers** the globally optimal solution  $y^* = x^* \mathbf{1}$ .

# Block-diagram of distributed primal-dual saddle-point flow

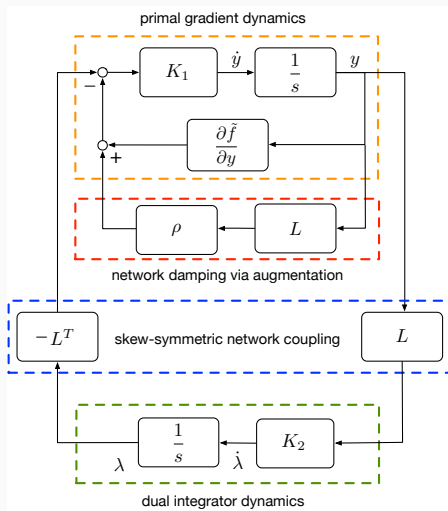


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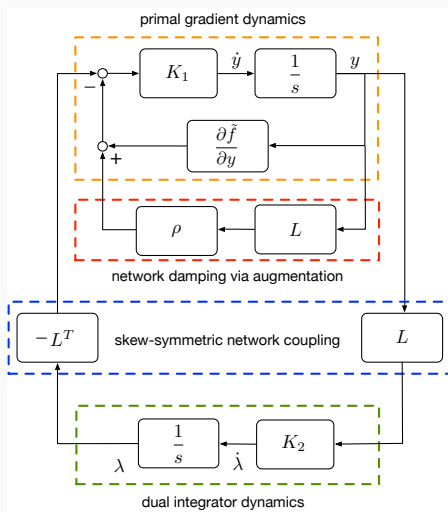


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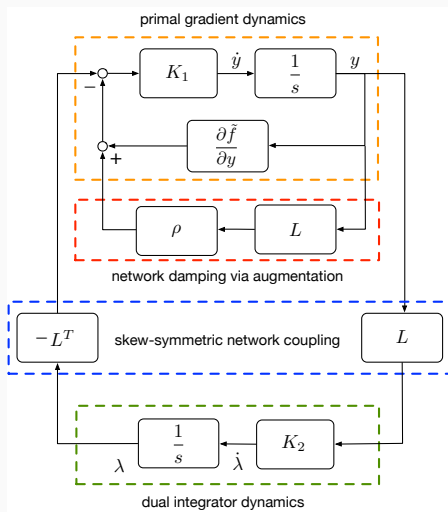
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4. Laplacian damping from  
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## Next week:

1. More distributed optimization

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3. Exercise sessions: discrete-time counterparts