



# AMPL: A Mathematical Programming Language

Anas Abdelkarim

Electromobility Research Group

Technische Universität Kaiserslautern

- **Introduction**
  - What is AMPL?
  - AMPL features.
  - The Syntax
  - Run AMPL
- **Examples**
  - Example 1: general picture of using AMPL
  - Example 2 : AMPL for modeling MPC
  - Example 3: advanced example of MPC
- **Installation**

- **What is AMPL**
  - AMPL is high-level algebraic **modelling language** to describe, implement and solve the optimization problems.
  - AMPL invokes the solvers (optimization algorithms ) to find the solution of OP, i.e., AMPL is an **interface** environment not solving algorithms.

- **AMPL features**

- AMPL **syntax** is similar to the mathematical notation of optimization problems
- It **supports** a lot of **solvers**:

CONDOR, CONOPT, Couenne, **CPLEX**, DONLP2, FilMINT, FILTER, MINLP, FortMP, FSQP, Gecode, **Gurobi**, **IPOPT**, JaCoP, KNITRO, LANCELOT, L-BFGS-B, LGO, LINDO, Global, LOQO, LP\_SOLVE, MINLP, **MINOS**, MINTO, MOSEK, NPSOL, NSIPS, OOQP, PATH, PCx, PENNON, RAPOSa, SCIP, SNOPT, SOPT, Sulum, TRON, WSAT(OIP), XA, XLSOL, LS-XLSOL, Xpress, ACRS, ALGENCAN, BARON, BLMVM, Bonmin, BPMPD, CBC.

<https://ampl.com/products/solvers/all-solvers-for-ampl/>

- It has **IDE** (Integrated Development Environment) supports Microsoft Windows, Linux and, macOS.
- It has **API** (Application Programming Interface) for Python, R, C++, C#, Java, MATLAB
- Treats large scale optimization

$$a = 2$$

$\text{minimize } x^2$   
 $\text{subject to } x \geq a$



```

model;
param a;
var x;
minimize cost: x**2;
s.t.      restriction: x >= a;
data;
param a := 2;
    
```

- **Syntax**

- Parameters:

**param** parameter\_name;

- Variable:

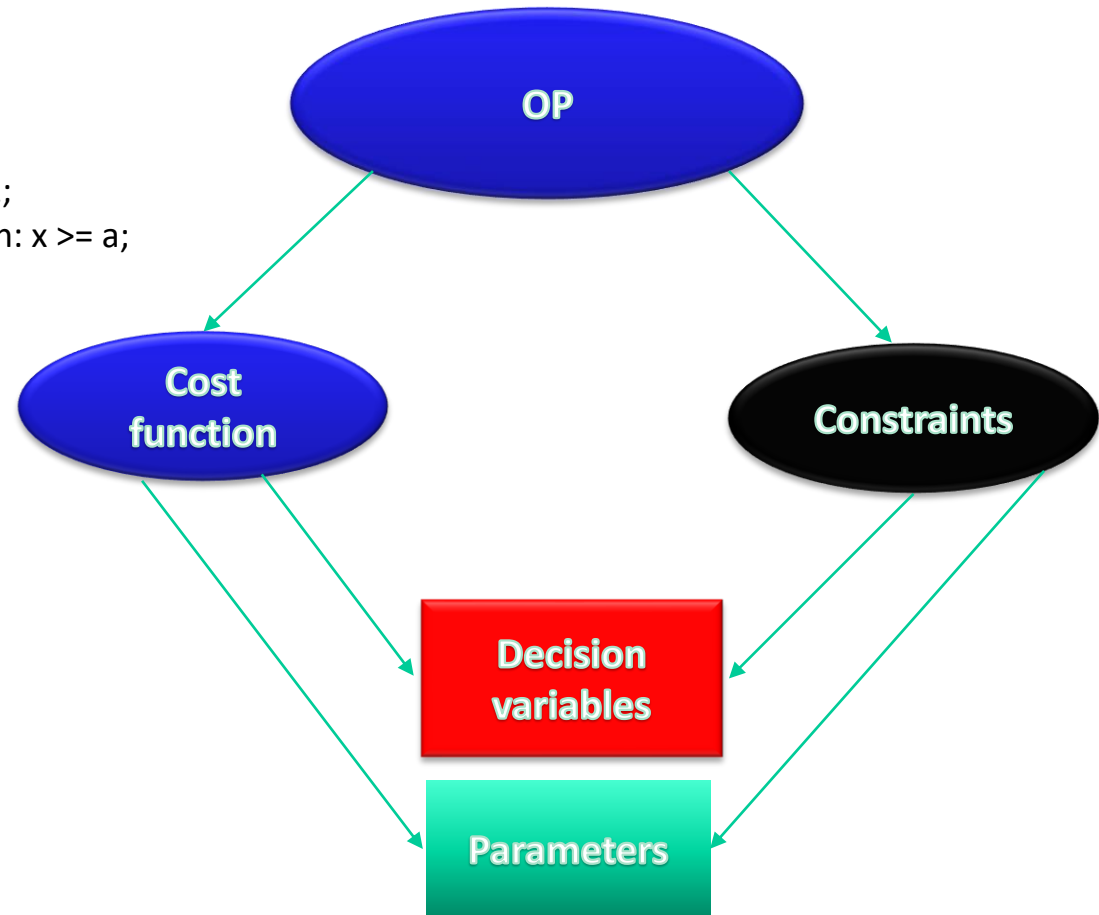
**var** variable\_name;

- Cost function:

**minimized/maximize** cost\_function\_name:

- Constraints:

**(subject to/s.t.)** constraint\_name:



$$a = 2$$

*minimiz*  $x^2$   
*subject to*  $x \geq a$



```
model;
param a;
var x; # the decision variable
minimize cost: x**2;
s.t.      restriction: x >= a;
data;
param a := 2;
```

- **Syntax**

- Parameters:

**param** parameter\_name;

- Variable:

**var** variable\_name;

- Cost function:

**minimize/maximize** cost\_function\_name:

- Constraints:

**(subject to/s.t.)** constraint\_name:

- **Remarks**

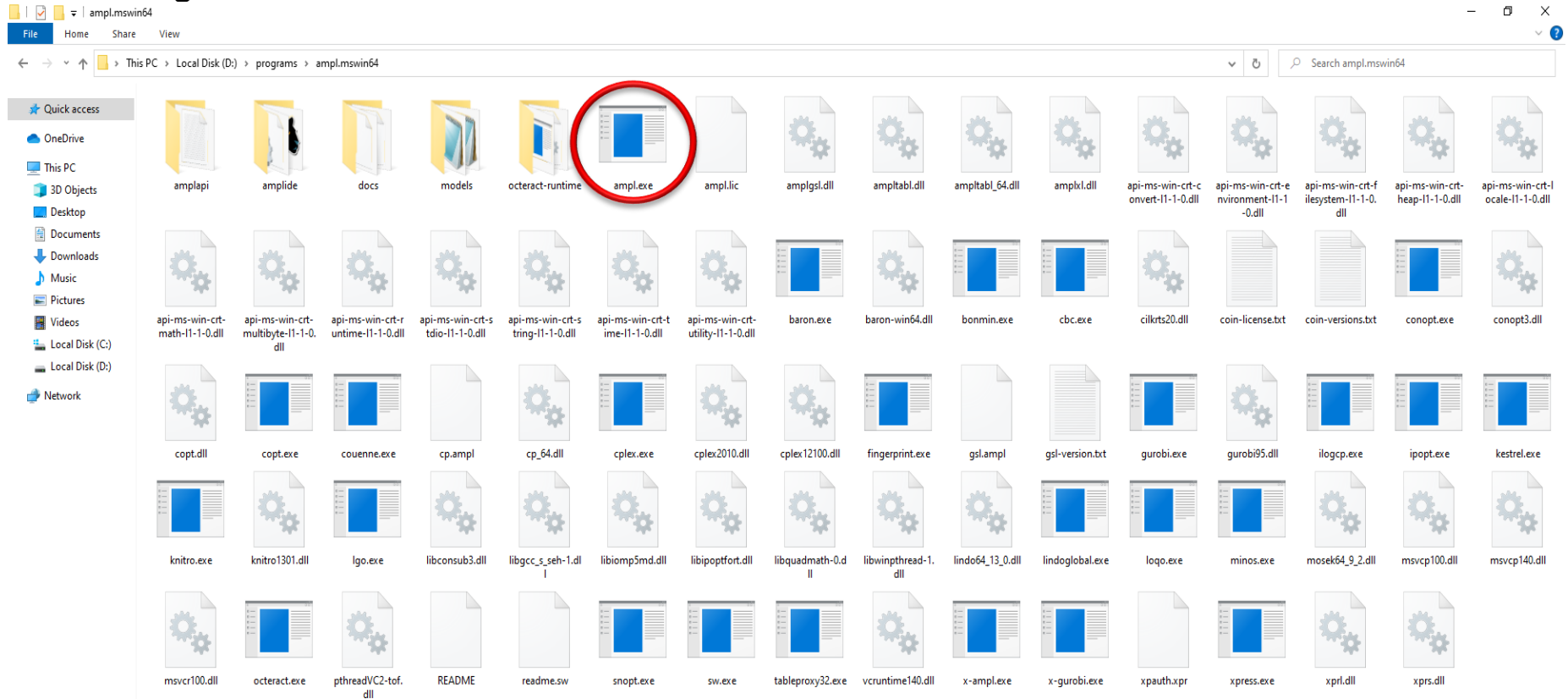
- Every line instruction must be terminated with “;”.
- Line comments are preceded by the symbol “#”.
- AMPL is “case-sensitive”.
- Variable names must be unique

- **AMPL Modes**

- Model mode: this is where we define the parameters, variables, sets, cost function, and constraints.
- Data mode: this is where the data is given a value

## Run AMPL

- **Using AMPL Terminal:**



## Run AMPL

- Using AMPL Terminal:

```
D:\programs\ampl.mswin64\ampl.exe
ampl: reset;
ampl: #####
ampl: model;
ampl: param a;
ampl: var x; # the decision variable
ampl: minimize cost: x**2;
ampl: s.t.          restriction: x >= a;
ampl: #####
ampl: data;
ampl data: param a := 2;
ampl data: #####
ampl data: solve;
MINOS 5.51: optimal solution found.
0 iterations, objective 4
Nonlin evals: obj = 3, grad = 2.
ampl: expand cost, restriction;
minimize cost:
    x^2;

subject to restriction:
    x >= 2;

ampl: display x, a;
x = 2
a = 2
```

```
reset;
#####
model;
param a;
var x; # the decision variable
minimize cost: x**2;
s.t.          restriction: x >= a;
#####
data;
param a := 2;
#####
solve;
expand cost, restriction;
display x, a;
#####
option solver cplex;
solve;
display x;
#####
option solver ipopt;
solve;
display x;
```



```
D:\programs\ampl.mswin64\ampl.exe

*****
This program contains Ipopt, a library for large-scale nonlinear optimization.
Ipopt is released as open source code under the Eclipse Public License (EPL).
For more information visit http://projects.coin-or.org/Ipopt
*****

This is Ipopt version 3.12.13, running with linear solver mumps.
NOTE: Other linear solvers might be more efficient (see Ipopt documentation).

Number of nonzeros in equality constraint Jacobian...:      0
Number of nonzeros in inequality constraint Jacobian.:      0
Number of nonzeros in Lagrangian Hessian.....:            1

Total number of variables.....:            1
    variables with only lower bounds:          1
    variables with lower and upper bounds:      0
    variables with only upper bounds:          0
Total number of equality constraints.....:        0
Total number of inequality constraints.....:        0
    inequality constraints with only lower bounds:  0
    inequality constraints with lower and upper bounds: 0
    inequality constraints with only upper bounds:  0

iter   objective    inf_pr  inf_du lg(mu)  ||d||  lg(rg) alpha_du alpha_pr ls
  0   4.0803999e+00  0.00e+00  3.04e+00 -1.0  0.00e+00 -  0.00e+00  0.00e+00  0
  1   4.1177774e+00  0.00e+00  1.85e-02 -1.0  1.85e-02 -  1.00e+00  5.00e-01f 2
  2   4.0049122e+00  0.00e+00  2.83e-08 -2.5  2.80e-02 -  1.00e+00  1.00e+00f 1
  3   4.0001532e+00  0.00e+00  1.50e-09 -3.8  1.19e-03 -  1.00e+00  1.00e+00f 1
  4   4.0000018e+00  0.00e+00  1.84e-11 -5.7  3.79e-05 -  1.00e+00  1.00e+00f 1
  5   3.9999999e+00  0.00e+00  2.49e-14 -8.6  4.61e-07 -  1.00e+00  1.00e+00f 1

Number of Iterations.....: 5

                                (scaled)                                (unscaled)
Objective.....:           3.9999999225063294e+00      3.9999999225063294e+00
Dual infeasibility.....:   2.4868995751603507e-14      2.4868995751603507e-14
Constraint violation.....:  0.0000000000000000e+00      0.0000000000000000e+00
Complementarity.....:      2.5063293419916432e-09      2.5063293419916432e-09
Overall NLP error.....:    2.5063293419916432e-09      2.5063293419916432e-09

Number of objective function evaluations      = 11
Number of objective gradient evaluations      = 6
Number of equality constraint evaluations      = 0
Number of inequality constraint evaluations    = 0
Number of equality constraint Jacobian evaluations = 0
Number of inequality constraint Jacobian evaluations = 0
Number of Lagrangian Hessian evaluations     = 5
Total CPU secs in IPOPT (w/o function evaluations) =      0.011
Total CPU secs in NLP function evaluations    =      0.000

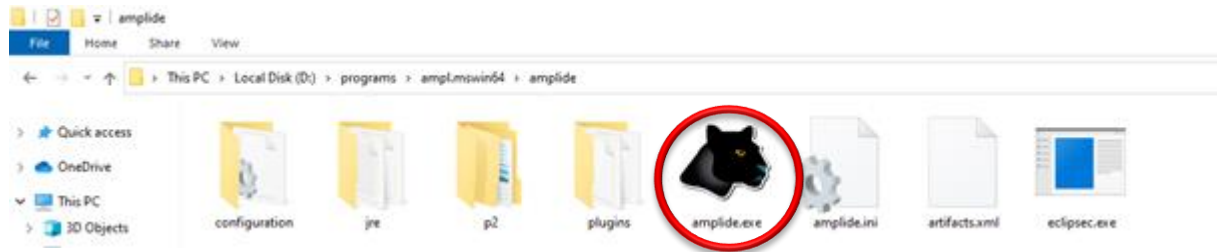
EXIT: Optimal Solution Found.

Ipopt 3.12.13: Optimal Solution Found
```

```
reset;
#####
model;
param a;
var x; # the decision variable
minimize cost: x**2;
s.t.      restriction: x >= a;
#####
data;
param a := 2;
#####
solve;
expand cost, restriction;
display x, a;
#####
option solver cplex;
solve;
display x;
#####
option solver ipopt;
solve;
display x;
```

## Run AMPL

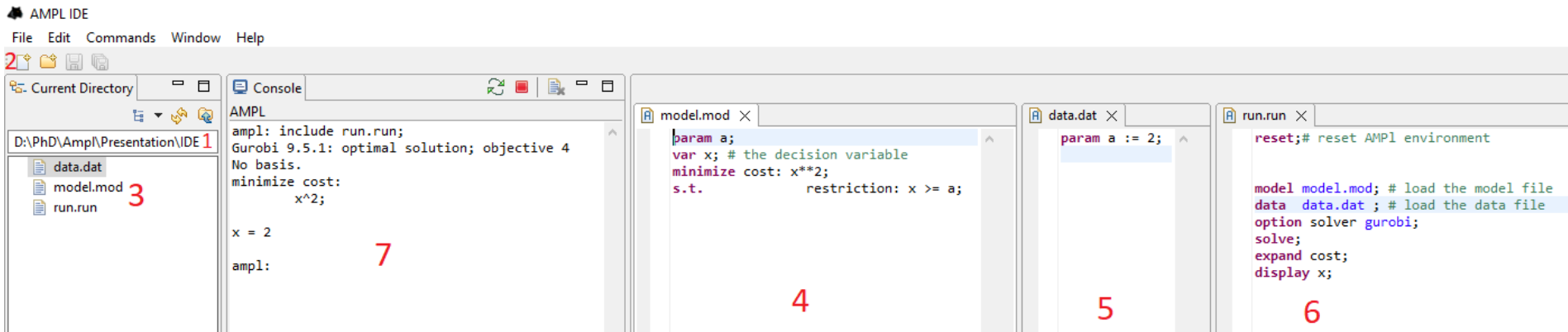
- Using AMPL IDE:



$$a = 2$$

$$\text{minimize } x^2$$

$$\text{subject to } x \geq a$$



## Run AMPL

- **AMPL on NEOS server:**
    - It is **free** internet-based service for solving OP
    - It is hosted by the University of Wisconsin, and provides access to more than **60 well-established solvers**
    - The submitted tasks (jobs) to the NEOS server run on distributed **high-performance computers**.
1. Go to: <https://neos-server.org/neos/solvers/index.html>
  2. Choose the target solver and click on AMPL

### Mixed Integer Linear Programming

- Cbc [AMPL] [GAMS] [MPS]
- COPT [AMPL] [GAMS] [LP] [MPS] [NL]
- CPLEX [AMPL] [GAMS] [LP] [MPS] [NL]
- feaspump [AMPL] [CPLEX] [MPS]
- FICO-Xpress [AMPL] [GAMS] [MOSEL] [MPS] [NL]
- Gurobi [AMPL] [GAMS] [LP] [MPS] [NL]
- MINTO [AMPL]
- MOSEK [AMPL] [GAMS] [LP] [MPS] [NL]

## Run AMPL

- **AMPL on NEOS server:**
  3. Upload AMPL files, fill the email
  4. Click on Submit to NEOS

- **Remark:**

- Run Should not have **load \*.mod**, **load \*.dat**, and **option solver \* code** lines.

**Model File**  
Enter the location of the AMPL model (local file)  
 No file chosen

**Data File**  
Enter the location of the AMPL data file (local file)  
 No file chosen

**Commands File**  
Enter the location of the AMPL commands file (local file)  
 No file chosen

**Comments**

**Additional Settings**  
☐ Dry run: generate job XML instead of submitting it to NEOS  
☐ Short Priority: submit to higher priority queue with maximum CPU time of 5 minutes  
E-Mail address:   

*Please do not click the 'Submit to NEOS' button more than once.*

## Run AMPL

- **AMPL on Matlab (after installation  of API and customized codes )**

%% AMPL Environment %%%

AMPLPathDir = 'D:\programs\ampl.mswin64';

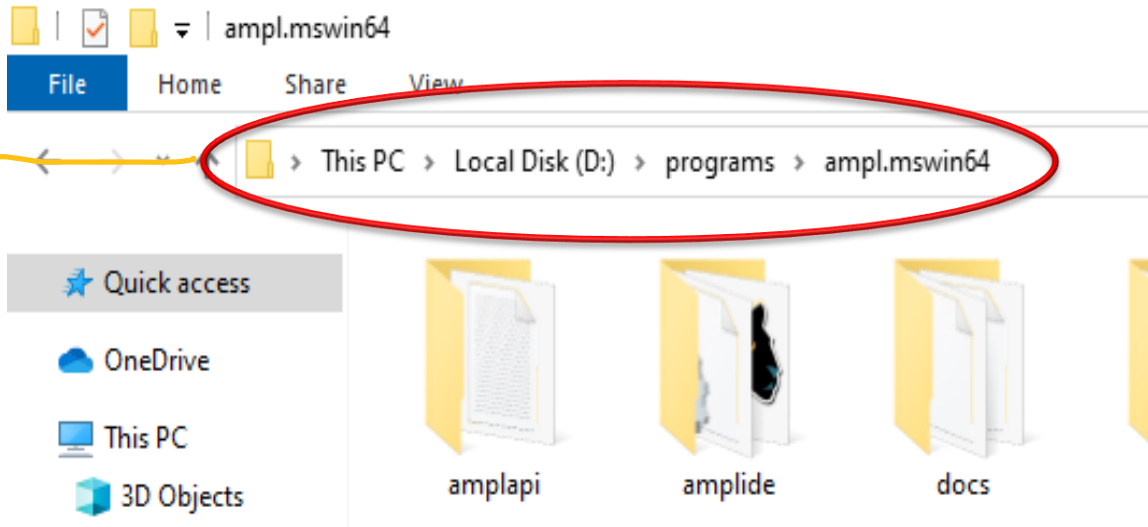
%% add path for the customized codes

addpath(AMPLPathDir+ "\amplapi\matlab\customizedCodes")

run(AMPLPathDir + "\amplapi\matlab" + "\setUp.m") % setup API for matlab

%%

$$\begin{aligned}
 &a = 2 \\
 &\underset{x}{\text{minimize}} \quad x^2 \\
 &\text{subject to} \quad x \geq a
 \end{aligned}$$



## Run AMPL

- **AMPL on MATLAB – Method 1**

```
%%%%%%%%%%%%%% Method 1 %%%%%%%%%%%%%%%  
% run AMPL  
ampl = AMPL(amplPathDir);  
% read the model  
ampl.read(['D:\PhD\Ampl\Presentation\IDE\model.mod'])  
% read the data  
ampl.readData(['D:\PhD\Ampl\Presentation\IDE\data.dat'])  
% Choose the solver  
ampl.eval('option solver gurobi;')  
% solve the optimization problem  
ampl.solve()  
% extract the results:  
[value, astatus, result, exitcode, message, expand] = ampl.getObj('cost');  
x = ampl.getVarValue('x');  
a = ampl.getParamValue('a');  
% close AMPL  
ampl.close
```

$$\begin{aligned} a &= 2 \\ \underset{x}{\text{minimize}} \quad & x^2 \\ \text{subject to} \quad & x \geq a \end{aligned}$$

## Run AMPL

- **AMPL on MATLAB – Method 2**

```
% run AMPL
AMPL = AMPL(AMPLPathDir);
% model
AMPL.eval('model; param a; var x;')
AMPL.eval('minimize cost: x**2;')
AMPL.eval('restriction: x >= a;')
%data
AMPL.eval('data; param a:=2;')
% Choose the solver
AMPL.eval('option solver gurobi;')
% solve the optimization problem
AMPL.solve()
% extract the results:
[value, astatus, result, exitcode, message, expand] = AMPL.getObj('cost');
x = AMPL.getVarValue('x');
a = AMPL.getParamValue('a');
% close AMPL
AMPL.close
```

$$\begin{aligned} a &= 2 \\ \text{minimize } x^2 \\ \text{subject to } x &\geq a \end{aligned}$$

- **Optimal Control: Mixed Integer Programming**

- Abdelkarim, A. and Zhang, P., 2020, September. Optimal Scheduling of Preventive Maintenance for Safety Instrumented Systems Based on Mixed-Integer Programming. In *International Symposium on Model-Based Safety and Assessment* (pp. 83-96). Springer, Cham.

**For more details, go to folder:**

`amplPathDir\amplapi\matlab\AMPL-Codes-main\Examples\Optimal-scheduling_example`





- Optimal Control: Mixed Integer Programming**

$$\min_{\alpha(k), \gamma(k), p(k)} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} (p_3(k) + p_4(k) + p_5(k) + p_6(k))$$

$$\text{s.t. } p(k+1) = \gamma(k)(Qp(k)) + \alpha(k)(Q(M_A p(k))),$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \alpha(k) \leq n_f, \quad \alpha(k) \in \{0, 1\}$$

$$\alpha(k) + \gamma(k) = 1, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$$

$$p(0) = p_0,$$

```

param N , integer                ; # horizon length
var alpha { k in 0..N-1 } , binary ; # full maintenance mode
var gamma { k in 0..N-1 } , binary ; # dynamics mode
var p { i in 1..6 , k in 0..N } >= 0 ; # states vector
param n_f                        ; # num. of full maintenance
param initial_values { j in 1..6 } ; # initial values
param Q { i in 1..6 , j in 1..6 } ; # system matrix
param Ma { i in 1..6 , j in 1..6 } ; # full maintenance matrix
  
```

minimize cost\_function:

1/(N)\*sum { k in 0..N-1 } ( p[3,k] + p[4,k] + p[5,k] + p[6,k] );

dynamics { i in 1..6 , k in 0..N-1 } :

p[i,k+1] = (gamma[k] \* sum { c in 1..6 } Q[i,c] \* p[c,k]) +  
(alpha[k] \* sum { c in 1..6 } Q[i,c] \* sum { j in 1..6 } Ma[c,j] \* p[j,k]);

full\_maintenance\_active: sum { j in 0..N-1 } alpha [j] <= n\_f;

one\_active { k in 0..N-1 } : gamma[k] + alpha[k] = 1;

subject to initial\_values\_constraints { i in 1..6 }:  
p[i,0] = initial\_values[i];

- In MATLAB**

```

ampl.defineParam("N",1,"integer")
ampl.defineVar("alpha gamma", "0..N", "binary")
ampl.defineVar("p",[6,"0..N"], ">=0")
ampl.defineParam("n_f")
ampl.defineParam("Q Ma",[6,6])
ampl.defineParam("initial_values",6)

cost_function = [ ' 1/(N)*sum { k in 0..N-1 } ( ' ...
                  ' p[3,k] + p[4,k+1] + p[5,k] + x[6,k+1] ' );
ampl.defineObj("min","cost_function",cost_function);

dynamics = [ ' p[i,k+1] = ' ...
             ' (gamma[k] * sum { c in 1..6 } Q[i,c] * p[c,k]) + ' ...
             ' (alpha[k] * sum { c in 1..6 } Q[i,c]*sum { j in 1..6 } Ma[c,j]*p[j,k]) ' ];
ampl.defineCons("dynamics",dynamics,"i in 1..6, k in 0..N-1");

full_maintenance_active= 'sum { j in 0..N-1 } alpha[j] <= n_f';
ampl.defineCons("full_maintenance_active",full_maintenance_active);

one_active = ' gamma[j] + alpha[j] = 1 ' ;
ampl.defineCons("one_active",one_active,"j in 0..N-1")
ampl.defineCons("initial_values_constraints", 'x[i,0] = initial_values[i]', "i in 1..6")
% Note: ampl.defineParam, defineVar, defineCons and
% ampl.defineCons are customized codes

```

```

param N , integer                ; # horizon length
var alpha { k in 0..N-1 } , binary ; # full maintenance mode
var gamma { k in 0..N-1 } , binary ; # dynamics mode
var p { i in 1..6 , k in 0..N } >= 0 ; # states vector
param n_f                        ; # num. of full maintenance
param initial_values { j in 1..6 } ; # initial values
param Q { i in 1..6 , j in 1..6 } ; # system matrix
param Ma { i in 1..6 , j in 1..6 } ; # full maintenance matrix

```

```

minimize cost_function:
1/(N)*sum { k in 0..N-1 } ( p[3,k] + p[4,k] + p[5,k] + p[6,k] );

```

```

dynamics { i in 1..6,k in 0..N-1 } :
p[i,k+1] = (gamma[k] * sum { c in 1..6 } Q[i,c] * p[c,k]) +
(alpha[k] * sum { c in 1..6 } Q[i,c]*sum { j in 1..6 } Ma[c,j]*p[j,k]);

```

```

full_maintenance_active:      sum { j in 0..N-1 } alpha [j] <= n_f;

```

```

one_active { k in 0..N-1 } :      gamma[k] + alpha[k] = 1;

```

```

subject to initial_values_constraints { i in 1 .. 6}:
p[i,0] = initial_values[i];

```

# Examples – Example 1 (DATA)

- Optimal control: mixed integer programming

```

param n_f := 1 ;
param initial_values := 1 1
                        2 0
                        3 0
                        4 0
                        5 0
                        6 0;

param N := 131400;      # 15 years
param Q : 1 2 3 4 5 6 :=
1 1 0.005 0.001 0 0 0
2 0 1 0 0 0 0
3 0 0 1 0 0 0
4 0 0 0 1 0 0
5 0 0 0 0 1 0
6 0 0 0 0 0 1;

param Ma : 1 2 3 4 5 6 :=
1 1 0 0 0 0 0
2 0 1 0 0 0 0
3 0 0 1 1 1 0
4 0 0 0 0 0 0
5 0 0 0 0 0 0
6 0 0 0 0 0 1;

```

$$\min_{\alpha(k), \gamma(k), p(k)} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} (p_3(k) + p_4(k) + p_5(k) + p_6(k))$$

$$\text{s.t. } p(k+1) = \gamma(k)(Qp(k)) + \alpha(k)(Q(M_A p(k))),$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \alpha(k) \leq n_f, \quad \alpha(k) \in \{0, 1\}$$

$$\alpha(k) + \gamma(k) = 1, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$$

$$p(0) = p_0,$$

# Examples – Example 1 (DATA)

- In MATLAB**

```
n_f= 1 ;
initial_values = [ 1 0 0 0 0 0];
N = 131400;

Q = [1    0.005  0.001    0    0    0
      0    1      0      0    0    0
      0    1      0      0    0    0
      0    0      0      1    0    0
      0    0      0      0    1    0
      0    0      0      0    0    1];

Ma = [ 1 0 0 0 0 0;0 1 0 0 0 0;0 0 1 1 1 0;0 0 0 0 0 0;
       0 0 0 0 0 0;0 0 0 0 0 1];

ampl.assignParam("N n_f", [N n_f])
ampl.assignParam("initial_values",initial_values)
ampl.assignParam("Ma",Ma)
ampl.assignParam("Q",Q)
```

% Note: ampl.defineParam, defineVar, defineCons and  
% ampl.defineCons are customized codes

```
param n_f := 1 ;
param initial_values := 1 1
                        2 0
                        3 0
                        4 0
                        5 0
                        6 0;

param N := 131400;      # 15 years
param Q : 1    2      3      4      5      6 :=
1          1  0.005  0.001    0    0    0
2          0    1      0      0    0    0
3          0    0      1      0    0    0
4          0    0      0      1    0    0
5          0    0      0      0    1    0
6    0      0    0      0      0    1;

param Ma : 1 2 3 4 5 6 :=
1  1 0 0 0 0 0
2  0 1 0 0 0 0
3  0 0 1 1 1 0
4  0 0 0 0 0 0
5  0 0 0 0 0 0
6  0 0 0 0 0 1;
```

- **In MATLAB**

```
%% solve the optimization problem  
ampl.solve
```

```
%% Harvest the results  
% check the value of N  
ampl.getParamValue("N")  
ampl.getParamValue("initial_values")  
ampl.getParamValue("Ma")  
[gamma, index, rowdata] = ampl.getVarValue("gamma");  
alpha = ampl.getVarValue("alpha");  
p = ampl.getVarValue("p");
```

```
% objective function  
[value, astatus, result, exitcode, message, expandCost] = ampl.getObj('cost_function')
```

- **Go to folder:** `amplPathDir\amplapi\matlab\AMPL-Codes-main\Examples\MPC`

- Check and run the matlab codes:

`Example_9_Tracking_Mass_Spring_Damper_System.m`

`Example_9_Regulation.m`

## Customized codes for AMPL in MATLAB:

- `expand(input)`: results in a string array of a matrix, vector, or scalar elements
- Examples:

Line command	<code>expand('Q[1..3,1..2]')</code>	<code>expand('y[0..2,k]')</code>	<code>expand('s[1..1]')</code>	<code>expand('vT[0..%u]',1)</code>
Data Type Output	3×2 string array	3×1 string array	String	1×2 string array
Output	"Q[1,1]" "Q[1,2]" "Q[2,1]" "Q[2,2]" "Q[3,1]" "Q[3,2]"	"y[0,k]" "y[1,k]" "y[2,k]"	"s"	"v[0]" "v[1]"

## Customized codes for AMPL in MATLAB:

- multiply(A,B): results in a string array of a product of A and B
- Examples:

Line command	Data Type Output	Output
<code>multiply('x[1..2,k]','Q[1..2,1..2]')</code>	1×2 string array	"(x[1,k]*Q[1,1]+ x[2,k]*Q[2,1])"    "(x[1,k]*Q[1,2]+ x[2,k]*Q[2,2])"
<code>multiply('x[1..2,k]','Q[1..2,1..2]','x[1..2,k]')</code>	string	"((x[1,k]*Q[1,1]+ x[2,k]*Q[2,1])*x[1,k]+ (x[1,k]*Q[1,2]+ x[2,k]*Q[2,2])*x[2,k])"



1. - Install AMPL program: <https://ampl.com/try-ampl/download-a-free-demo/>

choose the download link based on the operating system

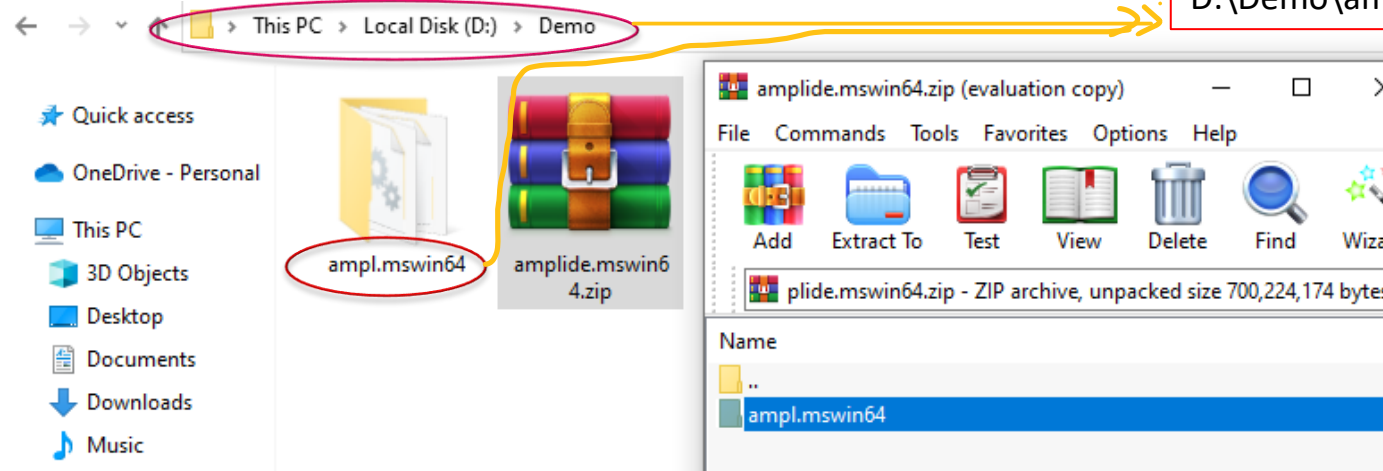
for 64 bit – Windows and 32 bit Windows the download links are respectively:

<https://ampl.com/demo/ampl.mswin64.zip>

<https://ampl.com/demo/ampl.mswin32.zip>

- Unzip (extract the folder: ampl.mswin64) inside the zip file.

Note that amplPathDir is:  
D:\Demo\ampl.mswin64



1.

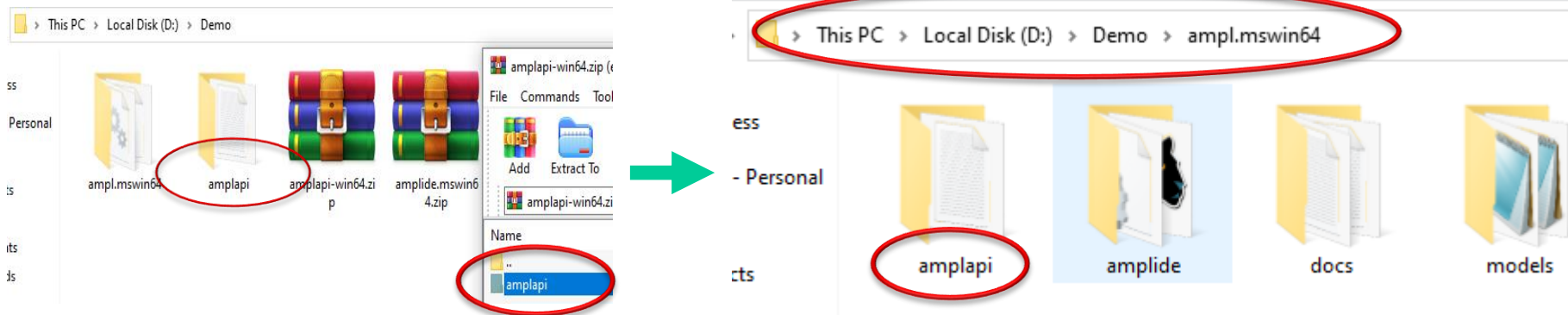
2. - Install Ampl API using the link: <https://ampl.com/products/api/>

choose the download link based on the operating system and programming language  
download links for C++, C#, Java, and MATLAB APIs for Windows 32 bit and 64 bit are respectively:

<https://ampl.com/dl/API/latest/amplapi-win64.zip>

<https://ampl.com/dl/API/latest/amplapi-win32.zip>

- Unzip (extract the folder: amplapi) inside the zip file and move to ampl.mswin64 folder.

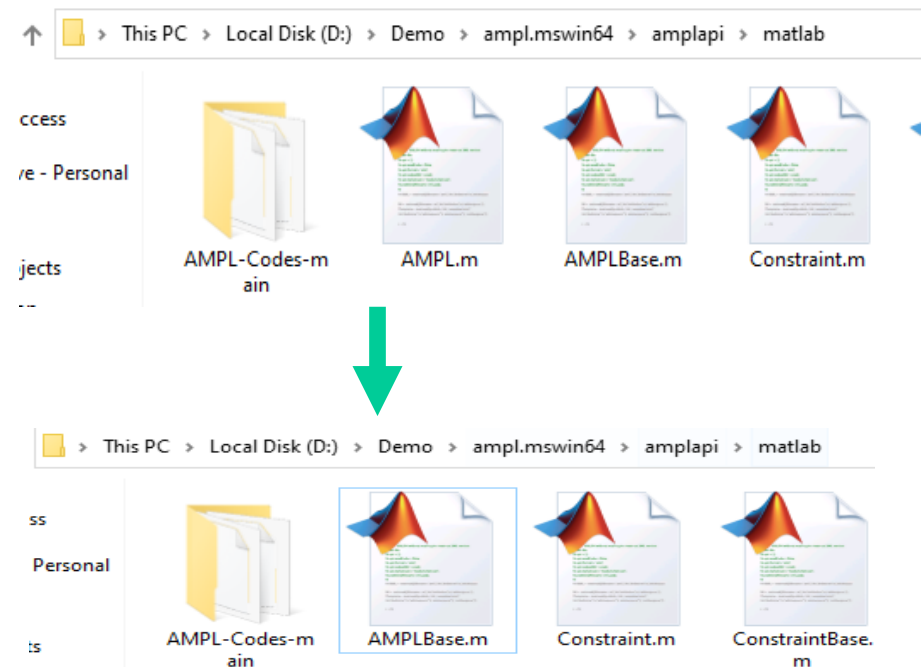
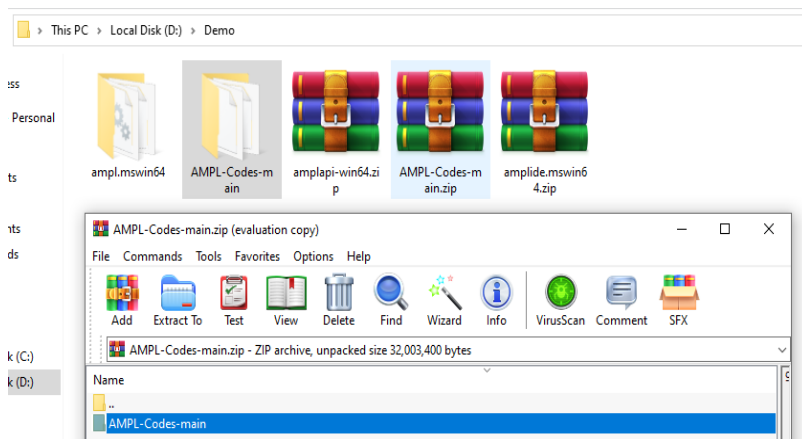


3. - install the repository: AMPL-codes on the link:

<https://github.com/Anas-Abdelkarim/AMPL-Codes>

- unzip (extract the file: AMPL-Codes-main) and move to: ampl.mswin64\amplapi

- delete AMPL.m from the folder: ampl.mswin64\amplapi\matlab



Note: the students can request 30-day trial over the link: <https://ampl.com/products/ampl/ampl-for-students/#Trial>



1. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxGBdCPf5vM&ab\\_channel=YongWang](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxGBdCPf5vM&ab_channel=YongWang)
2. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrqsflMu4z8&ab\\_channel=AMPLOptimization](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrqsflMu4z8&ab_channel=AMPLOptimization)
3. <https://neos-server.org/neos/>
4. Abdelkarim, A. and Zhang, P., 2020, September. Optimal Scheduling of Preventive Maintenance for Safety Instrumented Systems Based on Mixed-Integer Programming. In *International Symposium on Model-Based Safety and Assessment* (pp. 83-96). Springer, Cham.