

Oriented Models Based On Ordinary Differential Equations

Nicola Mimmo

Department of Electrical, Electronics and Information Engineering University of Bologna

March 7, 2025

Motivations and Goals

Basic Mathematics

Simulation Model



Motivations and Goals

- Basic Mathematics
- Simulation Model



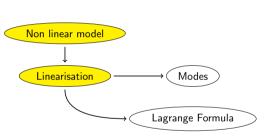
Motivations and Goals

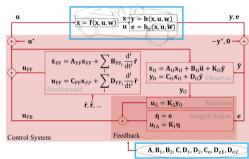
- This course deals with the so-called **model-based** controls.
- Therefore, we need (oriented) models!
- ullet Specifically, we focus on models written as sets of 1^{st} -order Ordinary Differential Equations (ODEs)
- The goals is the formal definition of on oriented model of this kind



Where are we?

Regarding the course contents ...







Motivations and Goals

Basic Mathematics

Simulation Model



We use the following mathematical symbols throughout this presentation:

- ullet The colon symbol : and the arrow o are read as **such that** and **to**
- The symbol := reads as defined as
- We use ∃ for **exists**
- ullet We read the symbols = and > as **equal to** and **greater than**
- We read \implies , \implies , and \iff as **implies**, **does not imply**, and **is equivalent** to
- The symbol \in reads as **belongs to**



Definition - Set

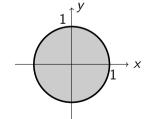
A **set** is a collection of objects, which are called **elements** of the set. Sets are usually denoted with calligraphic letters, *e.g.*, \mathcal{X} . However, we refer to the sets of real and natural numbers with \mathbb{R} and \mathbb{N}

Examples

$$\mathcal{X} := [0,1] \times [0,1] \qquad \mathcal{X} := \mathbb{R} \times [0,1]$$

$$\downarrow 1 \qquad \qquad \downarrow 1 \qquad \qquad \downarrow 1$$

$$\mathcal{X} := [0,1] \times [0,1]$$
 $\mathcal{X} := \mathbb{R} \times [0,1]$ $\mathcal{X} := \{(x,y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x^2 + y^2 \le 1\}$





Definition - Matrices, Vectors

Let $a_{ij} \in \mathbb{R}$, with $i=1,\ldots,n$, $j=1,\ldots,m$, and $n,m \in \mathbb{N}$, then

$$\mathbf{A} := \left[egin{array}{cccccc} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1m} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \dots & a_{nm} \end{array}
ight]$$

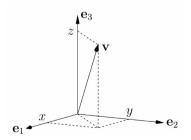
is called **matrix**. A matrix of m rows and n columns, whose entries belong to \mathbb{R} , represents an element of the space $\mathbb{R}^{m\times n}$, i.e., $\mathbf{A}\in\mathbb{R}^{m\times n}$. When n=1, a matrix is said to be a **vector**, and it is denoted with $\mathbf{v}\in\mathbb{R}^m$.

Examples

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.2176 & 0.0513 & 0.4669 \\ -0.3031 & 0.8261 & -0.2097 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.2741 \\ 1.5301 \\ -0.2490 \end{bmatrix}$$



Commonly, we graphically represent vectors as arrows in the \mathbb{R}^n space. For example, let $\mathbf{e}_1 := \operatorname{col}(1,0,0)$, $\mathbf{e}_2 := \operatorname{col}(0,1,0)$, and $\mathbf{e}_3 := \operatorname{col}(0,0,1)$ be three orthonormal vectors belonging to \mathbb{R}^3 . Moreover, let $x,y,z \in \mathbb{R}$ be three real numbers collected to form the vector $\mathbf{v} := \operatorname{col}(x,y,z)$. Then, we depict \mathbf{v} as in the following figure by highlighting that x,y, and z represent the projections of \mathbf{v} on \mathbf{e}_1 , \mathbf{e}_2 , and \mathbf{e}_3 , respectively.





Definition - Dot Product

The operator "·" defines the **dot matrix product**, representative of the well-known rule **row-by-column**. In details, let $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$, and $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times p}$, with $m, n, p \in \mathbb{N}$. Let a_{ik} , b_{kj} , and c_{ij} be the elements of \mathbf{A} , \mathbf{B} , and \mathbf{C} , with $i = 1, \ldots, m$, $k = 1, \ldots, n$, and $j = 1, \ldots, p$. Then, $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B}$ if

$$c_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^n a_{ik} b_{kj}.$$

Remark

It is worth noting that the matrix product is well-posed if the number of columns of ${\bf A}$ is equal to the number of rows of ${\bf B}$.

Example

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.2176 & -0.0513 \\ -0.3031 & 0.8261 \end{bmatrix}, \ \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.2741 \\ 1.5301 \end{bmatrix}, \ \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.2176 \times 0.2741 - 0.0513 \times 1.5301 \\ 0.3031 \times 0.2741 + 0.8261 \times 1.5301 \end{bmatrix}$$

Definition - Transpose

Let **A** be a matrix with elements a_{ij} , $i=1,\ldots,n,\ j=1,\ldots,m,\ n,m\in\mathbb{N}$. Then, its **transpose**, namely \mathbf{A}^{\top} , is defined as

$$\mathbf{A}^ op = \left[egin{array}{ccccc} a_{11} & a_{21} & \dots & a_{n1} \ a_{12} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{n2} \ dots & dots & \ddots & dots \ a_{1m} & a_{2m} & \dots & a_{nm} \end{array}
ight]$$

Example

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.2176 & 0.0513 & 0.4669 \\ -0.3031 & 0.8261 & -0.2097 \end{bmatrix}, \qquad \mathbf{A}^{\top} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.2176 & -0.3031 \\ 0.0513 & 0.8261 \\ 0.4669 & -0.2097 \end{bmatrix}$$



Definition - Function

Let $\mathcal X$ and $\mathcal Y$ be two sets. Then, a **function f** from $\mathcal X$ to $\mathcal Y$ is a relation that assigns to each element of $\mathcal X$ exactly one element of $\mathcal Y$. The set $\mathcal X$ is called the **domain** of the function and the set $\mathcal Y$ is called the **codomain** of the function. We encapsulate these concepts in the symbol $\mathbf f: \mathcal X \to \mathcal Y$. Moreover, $\mathbf f(\mathbf x) \in \mathcal Y$ for any $\mathbf x \in \mathcal X$.

Definition - Norm

Let $\mathcal V$ be a set. Then, the **norm** is a real-valued function denoted with $\|\cdot\|$ and such that $\|\mathbf v\|\geq 0$ for all $\mathbf v\in\mathcal V$ and $\|\mathbf v\|=0\iff \mathbf v=\mathbf 0$. Let $\mathbf v\in\mathbb R^n$ be a vector, with $n\in\mathbb N$. Then, we define $\|\mathbf v\|:=\sqrt{\mathbf v^\top\cdot\mathbf v}$ as the Euclidean norm.

Definition - Continuous Function

Let $\mathbf{f}: \mathcal{X} \to \mathbb{R}^n$ be a function defined on $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$, with $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$. Then, we say that \mathbf{f} is **continuous** on \mathcal{X} if for any $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $\delta > 0$ such that all $\mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{X}$ satisfying $\|\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{x}\| < \delta$ will also satisfy $\|\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{s}) - \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})\| < \varepsilon$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}$.

Definition - Linear Function

Let \mathcal{X} and \mathcal{Y} be to sets, then a function $\mathbf{f}: \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{Y}$ is said to be **linear** if for any $\mathbf{x_1}, \mathbf{x_2} \in \mathcal{X}$ and for any $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ the following relations hold:

$$f(x_1+x_2)=f(x_1)+f(x_2), \qquad f(\alpha x_1)=\alpha f(x_1).$$

Definition - Differentiable Function

Let $\mathbf{f}: \mathcal{X} \to \mathbb{R}^n$ be a function, with $n \in \mathbb{N}$. It is said to be **differentiable** at point $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \mathcal{X}$ if there exists a linear function $\mathbf{J}: \mathcal{X} \to \mathbb{R}^n$ such that

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\|\,f(\textbf{x}_0 + h) - f(\textbf{x}_0) - J(h)\|}{\|\,h\,\|} = 0\,.$$

It is worth noting that differentiability implies continuity.

Definition - class \mathcal{C}^1

The class C^1 consists of all differentiable functions whose derivatives are continuous; such functions are called **continuously differentiable**.

Definition - Time Derivative

Let $\mathbf{f}: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}^n$, with $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $\mathbf{f} \in \mathcal{C}^1$ and let $t \in \mathbb{R}$ be the time. Then, we define the time derivative of \mathbf{f} as

$$\dot{\mathbf{f}} := \frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{f}(t).$$

The following figure reports the graphical representation of the derivative $\dot{\mathbf{f}}$

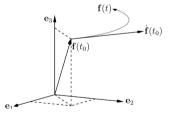


Figure: The dotted line graphically represents the function \mathbf{f} . The arrow at the end of the dotted line denotes the time evolution direction. The evaluations $\mathbf{f}(t)$ and $\dot{\mathbf{f}}(t)$, at time $t=t_0$ are represented as vectors. Note that $\dot{\mathbf{f}}(t)$ is tangent to $\mathbf{f}(t)$ for all t.

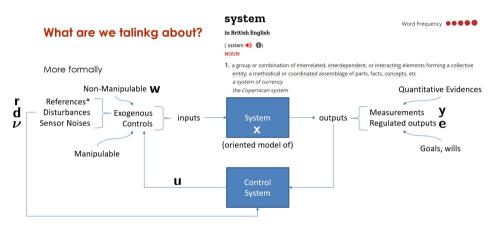
Motivations and Goals

- Basic Mathematics
- Simulation Model



Simulation Model

Let us give a name to each variable appearing in the oriented model





Simulation Model

- $\mathbf{x}: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}^n$, with $n \in \mathbb{N}$, called **state**
- $\mathbf{u}: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}^p$, with $p \in \mathbb{N}$, called **control inputs**
- $\mathbf{w}: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}^r$, with $r \in \mathbb{N}$, $\mathbf{w} := \operatorname{col}(\mathbf{d}, \nu, \mathbf{r})$, called exogenous
- $\mathbf{y}: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}^q$, with $q \in \mathbb{N}$, called measurements / outputs
- $e : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}^m$, with $m \in \mathbb{N}$, called **regulated outputs / errors**
- $\mathbf{f}: \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^p \times \mathbb{R}^r \to \mathbb{R}^n$, called **process model**
- $h: \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^p \times \mathbb{R}^r \to \mathbb{R}^q$, called **output function**
- $\mathbf{h}_{e}: \mathbb{R}^{n} \times \mathbb{R}^{p} \times \mathbb{R}^{r} \to \mathbb{R}^{m}$, called error function

define a 1st-order ODEs-based oriented model if they satisfy

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

$$y = h(x, u, w)$$

$$e = h_e(x, u, w)$$

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

(1)

Non linear model

We introduce $\mathbf{x}(t_0) = \mathbf{x}_0$, where $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ are called **initial state** and **initial** time, for the evaluation of (1). We refer to (1) as the simulation model

Motivations and Goals

- Basic Mathematics
- Simulation Model



Definition - Partial Derivatives

Let $f: \mathbb{R}^m \to \mathbb{R}$ be a function, with $m \in \mathbb{N}$. Take $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ whose elements are $x_i \in \mathbb{R}$, with $i = 1, \ldots, m$. Let $f(x_1, \ldots, x_m)$ denote the evaluation of f at \mathbf{x} . Then, we define the **partial derivatives** of f at \mathbf{x} as

$$\left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} := \left. \frac{df(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, s, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_m)}{ds} \right|_{s=x_i}$$

Definition - Jacobian

Let $f_i: \mathbb{R}^m \to \mathbb{R}$, with $i=1,\ldots,n$, be \mathcal{C}^1 -class functions, with $n,m \in \mathbb{N}$. Define $\mathbf{f}:=[f_1,\ldots,f_n]^{\top}$. Let $\mathbf{x}\in \mathbb{R}^m$, with elements $x_i\in \mathbb{R}$, $i=1,\ldots,m$. Then, we define the **Jacobian** as $\partial \mathbf{f}/\partial \mathbf{x}: \mathbb{R}^m \to \mathbb{R}^{n\times m}$ such that

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_m} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_m} \end{bmatrix}$$



Definition - (Big) "O" Limiting Behaviour

Let $f, g : \mathbb{R}^m \to \mathbb{R}^n$ be two functions, with $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$. Take $\mathbf{x}^* \in \mathbb{R}^m$. Then we say $f(\mathbf{x}) = O(g(\mathbf{x}))$ for $\mathbf{x} \to \mathbf{x}^*$ if and only if there exist $\rho, c > 0$ such that

$$||f(\mathbf{x})|| \le c||g(\mathbf{x})|| \quad \forall \, \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m : ||\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*|| \le \rho$$

Taylor's Theorem

Let $f: \mathbb{R}^m \to \mathbb{R}^n$ be a function, with $f \in \mathcal{C}^2$. Then, for any $x^* \in \mathbb{R}^m$, the difference

$$f(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x}^*) - \left[\frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \Big|_{\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}^*} \right] \cdot (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*) = O(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*\|^2)$$

for $\mathbf{x} \to \mathbf{x}^{\star}$.



Definition - Equilibrium triplet, output, and error

Consider the oriented model (1), hereafter recalled

$$\dot{x}=f(x,u,w),\ y=h(x,u,w),\ e=h_e(x,u,w)$$

Then, we say $(\mathbf{x}^\star, \mathbf{u}^\star, \mathbf{w}^\star)$ is an equilibrium triplet if $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}^\star, \mathbf{u}^\star, \mathbf{w}^\star) = \mathbf{0}$. Moreover, we call $\mathbf{y}^\star := \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}^\star, \mathbf{u}^\star, \mathbf{w}^\star)$ and $\mathbf{e}^\star := \mathbf{h}_e(\mathbf{x}^\star, \mathbf{u}^\star, \mathbf{w}^\star)$ the equilibrium output and equilibrium error.

Remark

Usually, the equilibrium triplet is designed such that $e^* = 0$.

Definition - Variations

Consider the oriented model (1) and let $(\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{u}^*, \mathbf{w}^*)$, \mathbf{y}^* , and \mathbf{e}^* be the equilibrium triplet, output, and error. Then, we define the variations as

$$\boldsymbol{\tilde{x}}_{\mathsf{NL}} := \boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{x}^{\star}, \quad \boldsymbol{\tilde{u}} := \boldsymbol{u} - \boldsymbol{u}^{\star}, \quad \boldsymbol{\tilde{w}} := \boldsymbol{w} - \boldsymbol{w}^{\star}, \quad \boldsymbol{\tilde{y}}_{\mathsf{NL}} := \boldsymbol{y} - \boldsymbol{y}^{\star}, \quad \boldsymbol{\tilde{e}}_{\mathsf{NL}} := \boldsymbol{e} - \boldsymbol{e}^{\star}$$



We compute the dynamics of $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{NL}$, exploiting $\dot{\mathbf{x}}^* = \mathbf{0}$, $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}^* + \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{NL}$, $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}^* + \tilde{\mathbf{u}}$, and $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{w}^* + \tilde{\mathbf{w}}$, as

$$\dot{\tilde{\mathbf{x}}}_{\mathsf{NL}} = \dot{\mathbf{x}} - \dot{\mathbf{x}}^{\star} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}^{\star} + \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{\mathsf{NL}}, \mathbf{u}^{\star} + \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \mathbf{w}^{\star} + \tilde{\mathbf{w}}), \quad \tilde{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{t_0}) = \tilde{\mathbf{x}_0} := \mathbf{x_0} - \mathbf{x}^{\star} \tag{2a}$$

and we rewrite the output and error variations as

$$\begin{split} \tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{\text{NL}} &= \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}^{*} + \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{\text{NL}}, \mathbf{u}^{*} + \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \mathbf{w}^{*} + \tilde{\mathbf{w}}) \\ \tilde{\mathbf{e}}_{\text{NL}} &= \mathbf{h}_{e}(\mathbf{x}^{*} + \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{\text{NL}}, \mathbf{u}^{*} + \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \mathbf{w}^{*} + \tilde{\mathbf{w}}) \end{split} \tag{2b}$$

Now, define the following Jacobians

and rewrite the variational system (2) as

$$\begin{split} \dot{\tilde{\mathbf{x}}}_{\mathsf{NL}} &= \mathbf{A} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{\mathsf{NL}} + \mathbf{B}_{1} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{B}_{2} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{w}} + O(\|(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{\mathsf{NL}}, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\mathbf{w}})\|^{2}), \\ \tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{\mathsf{NL}} &= \mathbf{C} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{\mathsf{NL}} + \mathbf{D}_{1} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{D}_{2} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{w}} + O(\|(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{\mathsf{NL}}, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\mathbf{w}})\|^{2}) \\ \tilde{\mathbf{e}}_{\mathsf{NL}} &= \mathbf{C}_{e} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{\mathsf{NL}} + \mathbf{D}_{e1} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{D}_{e2} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{w}} + O(\|(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{\mathsf{NL}}, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\mathbf{w}})\|^{2}) \end{split}$$

Linearisation

 $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{NI}(t_0) = \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_0$

Finally, we define the so-called **design model** as

$$\begin{split} \dot{\tilde{\mathbf{x}}} &= \mathbf{A} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{B}_1 \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{B}_2 \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{w}} & \tilde{\mathbf{x}}(t_0) = \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_0 \\ \tilde{\mathbf{y}} &= \mathbf{C} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{D}_1 \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{D}_2 \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{w}} \\ \tilde{\mathbf{e}} &= \mathbf{C}_e \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{D}_{e1} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{D}_{e2} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{w}} \end{split}$$

 $A, B_1, B_2, C, D_1, D_2, C_e, D_{e1}, D_{e2}$

Remark

The subscript NL stands for **non-linear**. We have that $\tilde{\mathbf{x}} \approx \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{NL}$, $\tilde{\mathbf{y}} \approx \tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{NL}$, and $\tilde{\mathbf{e}} \approx \tilde{\mathbf{e}}_{NL}$ only if $\|(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{NL}, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\mathbf{w}})\|$ is sufficiently small to neglect the terms $O(\|(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{NL}, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\mathbf{w}})\|^2)$.





Nicola Mimmo

Department of Electrical, Electronics and Information Engineering "G. Marconi"
University of Bologna

nicola.mimmo2@unibo.it