

# Estimation and Control under Constraints through Kernel Methods

Pierre-Cyril Aubin

PhD Defence

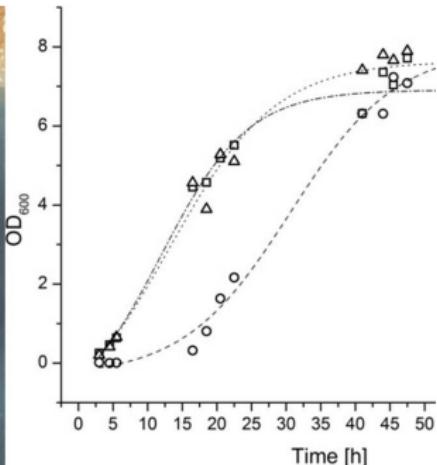
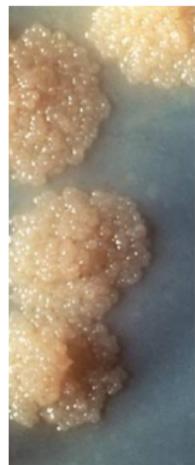
Supervisor: Nicolas Petit

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# What are shape constraints?

## Nonparametric estimation



## Shape constraints

- nonnegativity  
 $f(x) \geq 0$
- directional monotonicity  
 $\partial_i f(x) \geq 0$
- directional convexity  
 $\partial_{i,i}^2 f(x) \geq 0$

## Side information/Requirements

→ compensates small number of samples or excessive noise

Applied in many fields: Biology, Chemistry, Statistics, Economics,...

With many techniques: Isotonic regression, density estimation with splines,...

# What are state constraints?

## Optimal control



## State constraints

- “avoid the wall“  
 $x(t) \in [x_{low}, x_{high}]$
- “abide by the speed limit“  
 $x'(t) \in [v_{low}, v_{high}]$
- “do not stress the pilot“  
 $x''(t) \in [a_{low}, a_{high}]$

## Physical constraints

→ provides feasible trajectories in path-planning

Shape/state constraints are ubiquitous and handled through optimization:  
in this thesis constraints are  
**affine pointwise inequality constraints over Hilbert spaces**

# Content of the thesis

## Optimization in infinite dimensions with infinitely many constraints

- LQ optimal control is usually solved approximately through time discretization, whereas state constraints are theoretically difficult
- kernel methods only provide exact numerical solutions through representer theorems for finitely many constraints

## Challenges to tackle

- handle infinitely many constraints in kernel methods with guarantees
- apply kernel methods to state-constrained LQ optimal control

## Contributions of this thesis

- use finite coverings of compact sets in infinite dimensions to tighten infinitely many constraints by finitely many constraints of another type
- identify the LQ reproducing kernel corresponding to LQ optimal control

# Table of Contents

- ① Finding the RKHS of LQ optimal control
- ② Tightening infinitely many constraints through finite coverings
- ③ Apply the kernel-based constraint tightening to LQ optimal control

This talk summarizes

- *Kernel Regression for Vehicle Trajectory Reconstruction under Speed and Inter-vehicular Distance Constraints*, Aubin, Petit and Szabó, **IFAC WC 2020**
- *Hard Shape-Constrained Kernel Machines*, Aubin and Szabó, **NeurIPS, 2020**
- *Linearly-constrained Linear Quadratic Regulator from the viewpoint of kernel methods*, Aubin, **SICON, 2021** (to appear)
- *Interpreting the dual Riccati equation through the LQ reproducing kernel*, Aubin, **CRM, 2021**

# Time-varying state-constrained LQ optimal control

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{\mathbf{z}(\cdot), \mathbf{u}(\cdot)} \quad \chi_{\mathbf{z}_0}(\mathbf{z}(t_0)) + g(\mathbf{z}(T)) \\ & + \mathbf{z}(t_{ref})^\top \mathbf{J}_{ref} \mathbf{z}(t_{ref}) + \int_{t_0}^T \left[ \mathbf{z}(t)^\top \mathbf{Q}(t) \mathbf{z}(t) + \mathbf{u}(t)^\top \mathbf{R}(t) \mathbf{u}(t) \right] dt \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{z}'(t) = \mathbf{A}(t)\mathbf{z}(t) + \mathbf{B}(t)\mathbf{u}(t), \text{ a.e. in } [t_0, T], \\ & \mathbf{c}_i(t)^\top \mathbf{z}(t) \leq d_i(t), \forall t \in \mathcal{T}_c, \forall i \in [\mathcal{I}] = \llbracket 1, \mathcal{I} \rrbracket, \end{aligned}$$

- state  $\mathbf{z}(t) \in \mathbb{R}^Q$ , control  $\mathbf{u}(t) \in \mathbb{R}^P$ ,
- reference time  $t_{ref} \in [t_0, T]$ , set of constraint times  $\mathcal{T}_c \subset [t_0, T]$ ,
- $\mathbf{A}(\cdot) \in L^1(t_0, T)$ ,  $\mathbf{B}(\cdot) \in L^2(t_0, T)$ ,  $\mathbf{Q}(\cdot) \in L^1(t_0, T)$ ,  $\mathbf{R}(\cdot) \in L^2(t_0, T)$ ,
- $\mathbf{Q}(t) \succcurlyeq 0$  and  $\mathbf{R}(t) \succcurlyeq r\text{Id}_M$  ( $r > 0$ ),  $\mathbf{c}_i(\cdot), d_i(\cdot) \in C^0(t_0, T)$ ,  $\mathbf{J}_{ref} \succ \mathbf{0}$ ,
- lower-semicontinuous terminal cost  $g : \mathbb{R}^Q \rightarrow R \cup \{\infty\}$ , indicator function  $\chi_{\mathbf{z}_0}$ ,
- $\mathbf{z}(\cdot) : [t_0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^Q$  absolutely continuous,  $\mathbf{R}(\cdot)^{1/2}\mathbf{u}(\cdot) \in L^2([t_0, T])$

# Time-varying state-constrained LQ optimal control

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{z}(\cdot), \mathbf{u}(\cdot)} \quad & \chi_{\mathbf{z}_0}(\mathbf{z}(t_0)) + g(\mathbf{z}(T)) && \rightarrow L(\mathbf{z}(t_j)_{j \in [J]}) \\ & + \mathbf{z}(t_{ref})^\top \mathbf{J}_{ref} \mathbf{z}(t_{ref}) + \int_{t_0}^T [\mathbf{z}(t)^\top \mathbf{Q}(t) \mathbf{z}(t) + \mathbf{u}(t)^\top \mathbf{R}(t) \mathbf{u}(t)] dt && \rightarrow \|\mathbf{z}(\cdot)\|_{\mathcal{S}}^2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{z}'(t) = \mathbf{A}(t)\mathbf{z}(t) + \mathbf{B}(t)\mathbf{u}(t), \text{ a.e. in } [t_0, T], \\ & \mathbf{c}_i(t)^\top \mathbf{z}(t) \leq d_i(t), \forall t \in \mathcal{T}_c, \forall i \in [\mathcal{I}] = \llbracket 1, \mathcal{I} \rrbracket, \end{aligned}$$

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- lower-semicontinuous terminal cost  $g : \mathbb{R}^Q \rightarrow R \cup \{\infty\}$ , indicator function  $\chi_{\mathbf{z}_0}$ , “loss function”  $L : (\mathbb{R}^Q)^J \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$ ,
- $\mathbf{z}(\cdot) : [t_0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^Q$  absolutely continuous,  $\mathbf{R}(\cdot)^{1/2}\mathbf{u}(\cdot) \in L^2([t_0, T])$

# LQ optimal control as optimization over vector spaces

## Optimization over Hilbert space $\mathcal{F}$

$$\min_{\mathbf{f}(\cdot)} \quad \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{f}(\cdot))$$

s.t.

$$\mathbf{f} \in \mathcal{F},$$

$$l_t(\mathbf{f}(\cdot)) \leq 0, \forall t \in \mathcal{T}_c$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{f}(\cdot)) &:= L(\mathbf{f}(x_j)_{j \in [J]}) + R(\|\mathbf{f}\|_{\mathcal{F}}) \\ l_t : \mathcal{F} &\rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \text{ e.g. } \mathcal{F} = H^1(\mathbb{R}^d, \mathbb{R}^Q)\end{aligned}$$

## Linear Quadratic Optimal Control

$$\min_{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in W^{1,1}, \mathbf{u}(\cdot) \in L^2} \quad \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{z}(\cdot), \mathbf{u}(\cdot))$$

s.t.

$$\mathbf{z}'(t) = \mathbf{A}(t)\mathbf{z} + \mathbf{B}(t)\mathbf{u}, \text{ a.e. } t \in [t_0, T],$$

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Approximately solvable through finite elements

Approximately solvable through time discretization

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$$l_t : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \text{ e.g. } \mathcal{F} = H^1(\mathbb{R}^d, \mathbb{R}^Q)$$

Exactly solvable if  $\mathcal{F}$  RKHS,  $R \nearrow$ ,  
 $l_t \in \text{span}(\{\delta_x, \delta'_x, \dots\}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d})$ ,  $\mathcal{T}_c$  finite

## Linear Quadratic Optimal Control

$$\min_{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in W^{1,1}, \mathbf{u}(\cdot) \in L^2} \quad \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{z}(\cdot), \mathbf{u}(\cdot))$$

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Approximately solvable through time  
discretization

# LQ optimal control as optimization over vector spaces

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Exactly solvable?

# Reproducing kernel Hilbert spaces (RKHS)

A **RKHS**  $(\mathcal{F}_k, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\mathcal{F}_k})$  is a Hilbert space of real-valued functions over a set  $\mathcal{T}$  if one of the following **equivalent** conditions is satisfied [Aronszajn, 1950]

$\exists k : \mathcal{T} \times \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  s.t.  $k_t(\cdot) = k(\cdot, t) \in \mathcal{F}_k$  and  $f(t) = \langle f(\cdot), k_t(\cdot) \rangle_{\mathcal{F}_k}$  for all  $t \in \mathcal{T}$  and  $f \in \mathcal{F}_k$  (reproducing property)

the topology of  $(\mathcal{F}_k, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\mathcal{F}_k})$  is stronger than pointwise convergence  
i.e.  $\delta_t : f \in \mathcal{F}_k \mapsto f(t)$  is continuous for all  $t \in \mathcal{T}$ .

$$|f(t) - f_n(t)| = |\langle f - f_n, k_t \rangle_{\mathcal{F}_k}| \leq \|f - f_n\|_{\mathcal{F}_k} \|k_t\|_{\mathcal{F}_k} = \|f - f_n\|_{\mathcal{F}_k} \sqrt{k(t, t)}$$

# Reproducing kernel Hilbert spaces (RKHS)

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$k$  is s.t.  $\exists \Phi_k : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_k$  s.t.  $k(t, s) = \langle \Phi_k(t), \Phi_k(s) \rangle_{\mathcal{F}_k}$ ,  $\Phi_k(t) = k_t(\cdot)$

$k$  is s.t.  $\mathbf{G} = [k(t_i, t_j)]_{i,j=1}^n \succcurlyeq 0$  and  $\mathcal{F}_k := \overline{\text{span}(\{k_t(\cdot)\}_{t \in \mathcal{T}})}$ , i.e. the completion for the pre-scalar product  $\langle k_t(\cdot), k_s(\cdot) \rangle_{k,0} = k(t, s)$

## Two essential tools for computations

Representer Theorem (e.g. [Schölkopf et al., 2001a])

Let  $L : \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$ , strictly increasing  $\Omega : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , and

$$\bar{f} \in \arg \min_{f \in \mathcal{F}_k} L\left((f(t_n))_{n \in [N]}\right) + \Omega(\|f\|_k)$$

Then  $\exists (a_n)_{n \in [N]} \in \mathbb{R}^N$  s.t.  $\bar{f}(\cdot) = \sum_{n \in [N]} a_n k(\cdot, t_n)$

↪ Optimal solutions lie in a finite dimensional subspace of  $\mathcal{F}_k$ .

**Finite number of evaluations  $\implies$  finite number of coefficients**

Kernel trick

$$\langle \sum_{n \in [N]} a_n k(\cdot, t_n), \sum_{m \in [M]} b_m k(\cdot, s_m) \rangle_{\mathcal{F}_k} = \sum_{n \in [N]} \sum_{m \in [M]} a_n b_m k(t_n, s_m)$$

↪ On this finite dimensional subspace, no need to know  $(\mathcal{F}_k, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\mathcal{F}_k})$ .

# Vector-valued reproducing kernel Hilbert space (vRKHS)

## Definition (vRKHS)

Let  $\mathcal{T}$  be a non-empty set. A Hilbert space  $(\mathcal{F}_K, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_K)$  of  $\mathbb{R}^Q$ -vector-valued functions defined on  $\mathcal{T}$  is a vRKHS if there exists a matrix-valued kernel  $K : \mathcal{T} \times \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{Q \times Q}$  such that the **reproducing property** holds:

$$K(\cdot, t)\mathbf{p} \in \mathcal{F}_K, \quad \mathbf{p}^\top \mathbf{f}(t) = \langle \mathbf{f}, K(\cdot, t)\mathbf{p} \rangle_K, \quad \text{for } t \in \mathcal{T}, \mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{R}^Q, \mathbf{f} \in \mathcal{F}_K$$

Necessarily,  $K$  has a Hermitian symmetry:  $K(s, t) = K(t, s)^\top$

There is a one-to-one correspondence between  $K$  and  $(\mathcal{F}_K, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_K)$  [Micheli and Glaunès, 2014], so changing  $\mathcal{T}$  or  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_K$  changes  $K$ .

For  $\mathcal{T} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ , Sobolev spaces  $\mathcal{H}^s(\mathcal{T}, \mathbb{R}^Q)$  satisfying  $s > d/2$  are RKHSs. One can take  $K(s, t) = k(s, t)\text{Id}_Q$ , with real-valued  $k$  such as

$$k_{\text{Gauss}}(t, s) = \exp\left(-\|t - s\|_{\mathbb{R}^d}^2/(2\sigma^2)\right) \quad k_{\text{poly}}(t, s) = (1 + \langle t, s \rangle_{\mathbb{R}^d})^2.$$

# Representer theorem in vRKHSs

Theorem (Representer theorem with constraints, P.-C. Aubin, 2021)

Let  $(\mathcal{F}_K, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_K)$  be a vRKHS defined on a set  $\mathcal{T}$ . For a “loss”  $L : \mathbb{R}^{N_0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ , strictly increasing “regularizer”  $\Omega : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , and constraints  $d_i : \mathbb{R}^{N_i} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , consider the optimization problem

$$\bar{\mathbf{f}} \in \arg \min_{\mathbf{f} \in \mathcal{F}_K} L \left( \mathbf{c}_{0,1}^\top \mathbf{f}(t_{0,1}), \dots, \mathbf{c}_{0,N_0}^\top \mathbf{f}(t_{0,N_0}) \right) + \Omega(\|\mathbf{f}\|_K)$$

s.t.

$$\lambda_i \|\mathbf{f}\|_K \leq d_i(\mathbf{c}_{i,1}^\top \mathbf{f}(t_{i,1}), \dots, \mathbf{c}_{i,N_i}^\top \mathbf{f}(t_{i,N_i})), \forall i \in \llbracket 1, P \rrbracket.$$

Then there exists  $\{\mathbf{p}_{i,m}\}_{m \in \llbracket 1, N_i \rrbracket} \subset \mathbb{R}^Q$  and  $\alpha_{i,m} \in \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$\bar{\mathbf{f}} = \sum_{i=0}^P \sum_{m=1}^{N_i} K(\cdot, t_{i,m}) \mathbf{p}_{i,m} \text{ with } \mathbf{p}_{i,m} = \alpha_{i,m} \mathbf{c}_{i,m}.$$

# Objective: Turn the state-constrained LQR into “KRR”

We have a vector space  $\mathcal{S}$  of controlled trajectories  $\mathbf{z}(\cdot) : [t_0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^Q$

$$\mathcal{S}_{[t_0, T]} := \{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \mid \exists \mathbf{u}(\cdot) \in L^2(t_0, T) \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{z}'(t) = \mathbf{A}(t)\mathbf{z}(t) + \mathbf{B}(t)\mathbf{u}(t) \text{ a.e.}\}$$

Given  $\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S}_{[t_0, T]}$ , for the pseudoinverse  $\mathbf{B}(t)^\ominus$  of  $\mathbf{B}(t)$ , set

$$\mathbf{u}(t) := \mathbf{B}(t)^\ominus[\mathbf{z}'(t) - \mathbf{A}(t)\mathbf{z}(t)] \text{ a.e. in } [t_0, T].$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathbf{z}_1(\cdot), \mathbf{z}_2(\cdot) \rangle_{\mathcal{S}} &:= \mathbf{z}_1(t_{ref})^\top \mathbf{J}_{ref} \mathbf{z}_2(t_{ref}) \\ &\quad + \int_{t_0}^T [\mathbf{z}_1(t)^\top \mathbf{Q}(t) \mathbf{z}_2(t) + \mathbf{u}_1(t)^\top \mathbf{R}(t) \mathbf{u}_2(t)] dt \end{aligned}$$

LQR for  $\mathbf{Q} \equiv \mathbf{0}$ ,  $\mathbf{R} \equiv \text{Id}$

$$\min_{\substack{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S} \\ \mathbf{u}(\cdot) \in L^2}} L(\mathbf{z}(t_j)_{j \in [J]}) + \|\mathbf{u}(\cdot)\|_{L^2(t_0, T)}^2$$

$$\mathbf{c}_i(t)^\top \mathbf{z}(t) \leq d_i(t), \forall t \in \mathcal{T}_c, i \in [\mathcal{I}]$$

“KRR” (Kernel Ridge Regression)

$$\min_{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S}} L(\mathbf{z}(t_j)_{j \in [J]}) + \|\mathbf{z}(\cdot)\|_{\mathcal{S}}^2$$

$$\mathbf{c}_i(t)^\top \mathbf{z}(t) \leq d_i(t), \forall t \in \mathcal{T}_c, i \in [\mathcal{I}]$$

Is  $(\mathcal{S}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\mathcal{S}})$  a RKHS?

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Lemma (P.-C. Aubin, 2021)

$(\mathcal{S}_{[t_0, T]}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\mathcal{S}})$  is a vRKHS over  $[t_0, T]$  with uniformly continuous  $K(\cdot, \cdot; [t_0, T])$ .

## Splitting $\mathcal{S}_{[t_0, T]}$ into subspaces and identifying their kernels

It is hard to identify  $K$ , but take  $\mathbf{Q} \equiv \mathbf{0}$ ,  $\mathbf{R} \equiv \text{Id}$ ,  $t_{ref} = t_0$ ,  $\mathbf{J}_{ref} = \text{Id}$

$$\langle \mathbf{z}_1(\cdot), \mathbf{z}_2(\cdot) \rangle_{\mathcal{S}} := \mathbf{z}_1(t_0)^\top \mathbf{z}_2(t_0) + \int_{t_0}^T \mathbf{u}_1(t)^\top \mathbf{u}_2(t) dt.$$

$$\mathcal{S}_0 := \{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \mid \mathbf{z}'(t) = \mathbf{A}(t)\mathbf{z}(t), \text{ a.e. in } [t_0, T]\} \quad \|\mathbf{z}(\cdot)\|_{K_0}^2 = \|\mathbf{z}(t_0)\|^2$$

$$\mathcal{S}_u := \{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \mid \mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S} \text{ and } \mathbf{z}(t_0) = 0\} \quad \|\mathbf{z}(\cdot)\|_{K_1}^2 = \|\mathbf{u}(\cdot)\|_{L^2(t_0, T)}^2.$$

As  $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{S}_0 \oplus \mathcal{S}_u$ ,  $K = K_0 + K_1$ .

## Splitting $\mathcal{S}_{[t_0, T]}$ into subspaces and identifying their kernels

It is hard to identify  $K$ , but take  $\mathbf{Q} \equiv \mathbf{0}$ ,  $\mathbf{R} \equiv \text{Id}$ ,  $t_{ref} = t_0$ ,  $\mathbf{J}_{ref} = \text{Id}$

$$\langle \mathbf{z}_1(\cdot), \mathbf{z}_2(\cdot) \rangle_{\mathcal{S}} := \mathbf{z}_1(t_0)^\top \mathbf{z}_2(t_0) + \int_{t_0}^T \mathbf{u}_1(t)^\top \mathbf{u}_2(t) dt.$$

$$\mathcal{S}_0 := \{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \mid \mathbf{z}'(t) = \mathbf{A}(t)\mathbf{z}(t), \text{ a.e. in } [t_0, T]\} \quad \|\mathbf{z}(\cdot)\|_{K_0}^2 = \|\mathbf{z}(t_0)\|^2$$

$$\mathcal{S}_u := \{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \mid \mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S} \text{ and } \mathbf{z}(t_0) = 0\} \quad \|\mathbf{z}(\cdot)\|_{K_1}^2 = \|\mathbf{u}(\cdot)\|_{L^2(t_0, T)}^2.$$

As  $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{S}_0 \oplus \mathcal{S}_u$ ,  $K = K_0 + K_1$ . Since  $\dim(\mathcal{S}_0) = Q$ , for  $\Phi_{\mathbf{A}}(t, s) \in \mathbb{R}^{Q \times Q}$  the state-transition matrix  $s \rightarrow t$  of  $\mathbf{z}'(\tau) = \mathbf{A}(\tau)\mathbf{z}(\tau)$

$$K_0(s, t) = \Phi_{\mathbf{A}}(s, t_0) \Phi_{\mathbf{A}}(t, t_0)^\top.$$

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$$K_0(s, t) = \Phi_{\mathbf{A}}(s, t_0) \Phi_{\mathbf{A}}(t, t_0)^\top.$$

$K_1$  obtained using only the reproducing property and variation of constants

$$K_1(s, t) = \int_{t_0}^{\min(s, t)} \Phi_{\mathbf{A}}(s, \tau) \mathbf{B}(\tau) \mathbf{B}(\tau)^\top \Phi_{\mathbf{A}}(t, \tau)^\top d\tau.$$

## Examples: controllability Gramian/transversality condition

Steer a point from  $(0, \mathbf{0})$  to  $(T, \mathbf{z}_T)$ , with e.g.  $g(\mathbf{z}(T)) = \|\mathbf{z}_T - \mathbf{z}(T)\|_N^2$

Exact planning ( $\mathbf{z}(T) = \mathbf{z}_T$ )

$$\min_{\substack{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S} \\ \mathbf{z}(0) = \mathbf{0}}} \chi_{\mathbf{z}_T}(\mathbf{z}(T)) + \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{u}(\cdot)\|_{L^2(t_0, T)}^2$$

Relaxed planning ( $\mathbf{g} \in \mathcal{C}^1$  convex)

$$\min_{\substack{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S} \\ \mathbf{z}(0) = \mathbf{0}}} g(\mathbf{z}(T)) + \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{u}(\cdot)\|_{L^2(t_0, T)}^2$$

$\mathbf{z}(0) = \mathbf{0} \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S}_u$ . By representer theorem:  $\exists \mathbf{p}_T, \bar{\mathbf{z}}(\cdot) = K_1(\cdot, T)\mathbf{p}_T$

Controllability Gramian

$$K_1(T, T) = \int_0^T \Phi_{\mathbf{A}}(T, \tau) \mathbf{B}(\tau) \mathbf{B}(\tau)^\top \Phi_{\mathbf{A}}(T, \tau)^\top d\tau$$

$\bar{\mathbf{z}}(T) = \mathbf{z}_T \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{z}_T \in \text{Im}(K_1(T, T))$

Transversality Condition

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{0} &= \nabla \left( \mathbf{p} \mapsto g(K_1(T, T)\mathbf{p}) + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{p}^\top K_1(T, T)\mathbf{p} \right) (\mathbf{p}_T) \\ &= K_1(T, T)(\nabla g(K_1(T, T)\mathbf{p}_T) + \mathbf{p}_T). \end{aligned}$$

Sufficient to take  $\mathbf{p}_T = -\nabla g(\bar{\mathbf{z}}(T))$

## Relation with the differential Riccati equation

Take  $t_{ref} = T$ ,  $\mathbf{J}_{ref} = \mathbf{J}_T \succ \mathbf{0}$ . Let  $J(t, T)$  be the solution of

$$\begin{aligned}-\partial_1 \mathbf{J}(t, T) &= \mathbf{A}(t)^\top \mathbf{J}(t, T) + \mathbf{J}(t, T) \mathbf{A}(t) \\ &\quad - \mathbf{J}(t, T) \mathbf{B}(t) \mathbf{R}(t)^{-1} \mathbf{B}(t)^\top \mathbf{J}(t, T) + \mathbf{Q}(t), \\ \mathbf{J}(T, T) &= \mathbf{J}_T,\end{aligned}$$

Theorem (P.-C. Aubin, 2021)

Let  $K_{\text{diag}} : t_0 \in ]-\infty, T] \mapsto K(t_0, t_0; [t_0, T])$ . Then

$K_{\text{diag}}(t_0) = \mathbf{J}(t_0, T)^{-1}$ . More generally,  $K(\cdot, t; [t_0, T])$  is given by a matrix Hamiltonian system for all  $t \in [t_0, T]$

$$\partial_1 K(s, t) = \mathbf{A}(s)K(s, t) + \mathbf{B}(s)\mathbf{R}(s)^{-1}\mathbf{B}(s)^\top \begin{cases} \boldsymbol{\Pi}(s, t) + \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{\mathbf{A}}(t_0, s)^\top - \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{\mathbf{A}}(t, s)^\top, & s \geq t, \\ \boldsymbol{\Pi}(s, t) + \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{\mathbf{A}}(t_0, s)^\top, & s < t. \end{cases}$$

$$\partial_1 \boldsymbol{\Pi}(s, t) = -\mathbf{A}(s)^\top \boldsymbol{\Pi}(s, t) + \mathbf{Q}(s)K(s, t),$$

$$\boldsymbol{\Pi}(t_0, t) = -Id_N,$$

$$K(t, T) = -\mathbf{J}_T^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\Pi}(T, t)^\top + \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{\mathbf{A}}(t, T) - \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{\mathbf{A}}(t_0, T)).$$

## Relation with the differential Riccati equation

$$\bar{\mathbf{z}}(\cdot) := \arg \min_{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S}_{[t_0, T]}} \underbrace{\mathbf{z}(T)^\top \mathbf{J}_T \mathbf{z}(T) + \int_{t_0}^T [\mathbf{z}(t)^\top \mathbf{Q}(t) \mathbf{z}(t) + \mathbf{u}(t)^\top \mathbf{R}(t) \mathbf{u}(t)] dt}_{\|\mathbf{z}(\cdot)\|_{\mathcal{S}}^2}$$

s.t.

$$\mathbf{z}(t_0) = \mathbf{z}_0,$$

### Pontryagin's maximum principle (PMP)

$$\mathbf{p}(t) = -\mathbf{J}(t, T)\bar{\mathbf{z}}(t) \text{ and}$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{u}}(t) = \mathbf{R}(t)^{-1} \mathbf{B}(t)^\top \mathbf{p}(t) = -\mathbf{R}(t)^{-1} \mathbf{B}(t)^\top \mathbf{J}(t, T)\bar{\mathbf{z}}(t) =: \mathbf{G}(t)\bar{\mathbf{z}}(t)$$

↪ **online and differential** approach

### Representer theorem from kernel methods

$$\bar{\mathbf{z}}(t) = K(t, t_0; [t_0, T])\mathbf{p}_0, \text{ with } \mathbf{p}_0 = K(t_0, t_0; [t_0, T])^{-1}\mathbf{z}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^Q$$

↪ **offline and integral** approach ( $\sim$  Green kernel in PDEs)

# Numerical example: submarine in a cavern

## Original control problem

$$\min_{z(\cdot) \in W^{2,2}, u(\cdot) \in L^2} \int_0^1 |u(t)|^2 dt$$

s.t.

$$z(0) = 0, \quad \dot{z}(0) = 0,$$

$$\ddot{z}(t) = -\dot{z}(t) + u(t), \quad \forall t \in [0, 1],$$

$$z(t) \in [z_{\text{low}}(t), z_{\text{up}}(t)], \quad \forall t \in [0, 1].$$



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## Rewriting in standard form

$$\min_{z(\cdot) \in W^{1,2}, u(\cdot) \in L^2} \int_0^1 |u(t)|^2 dt$$

s.t.

$$z(0) = 0,$$

$$z'(t) \stackrel{\text{a.e.}}{=} \mathbf{A}z(t) + \mathbf{B}u(t),$$

$$z_1(t) \in [z_{\text{low}}(t), z_{\text{up}}(t)], \quad \forall t \in [0, 1]$$

$$\mathbf{z} = \begin{pmatrix} z \\ \dot{z} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Numerical example: submarine in a cavern

## RKHS regression

$$\min_{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S}_u} \|\mathbf{z}(\cdot)\|_{K_1}^2$$

s.t.

$$z_1(t) \in [z_{\text{low}}(t), z_{\text{up}}(t)], \forall t \in [0, 1]$$

## Rewriting in standard form

$$\min_{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in W^{1,2}, u(\cdot) \in L^2} \int_0^1 |u(t)|^2 dt$$

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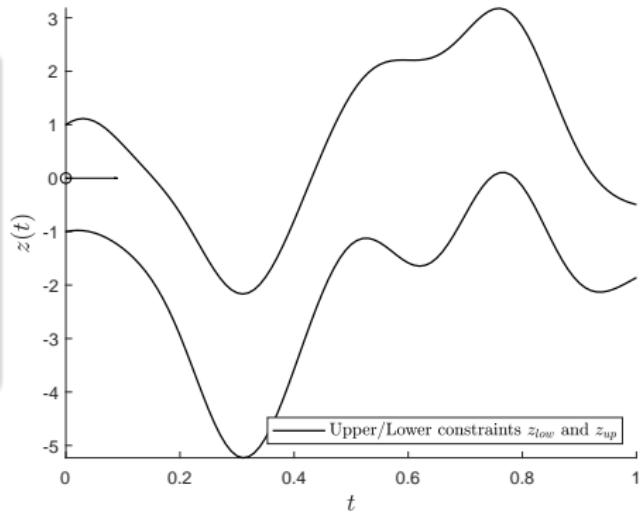
# Numerical example: submarine in a cavern

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$$K_1(s, t) = \int_0^{\min(s, t)} \mathbf{e}^{(s-\tau)\mathbf{A}} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{B}^\top \mathbf{e}^{(t-\tau)\mathbf{A}^\top} d\tau$$

# Numerical example: submarine in a cavern

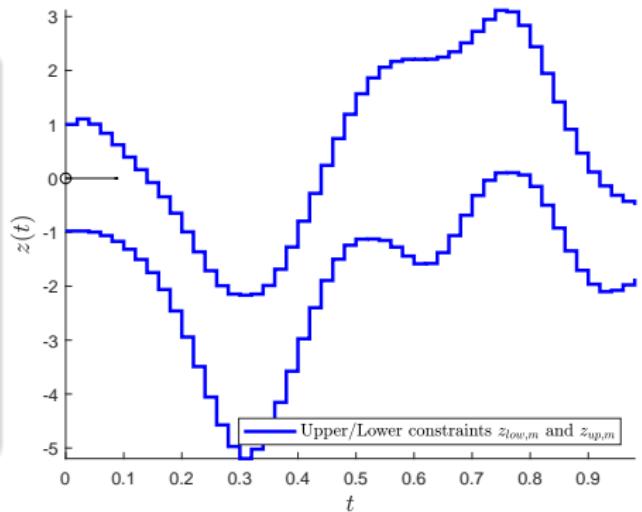
## RKHS regression

$$\min_{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S}_u} \|\mathbf{z}(\cdot)\|_{K_1}^2$$

s.t.

$$z_1(t) \in [z_{low,m}, z_{up,m}],$$

$$\forall t \in [t_m - \delta_m, t_m + \delta_m], \forall m \in [M]$$



$$\mathcal{S}_u := \{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \mid \mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S} \text{ and } \mathbf{z}(0) = 0\} \quad \|\mathbf{z}(\cdot)\|_{K_1}^2 = \|\mathbf{u}(\cdot)\|_{L^2(0,1)}^2.$$

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# Numerical example: submarine in a cavern

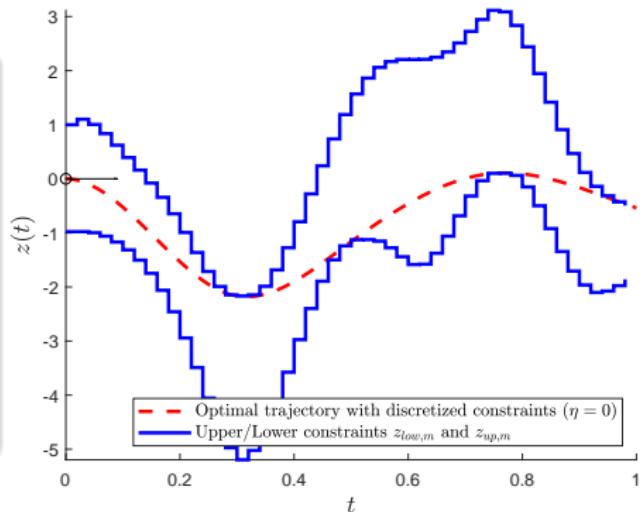
## RKHS regression

$$\min_{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S}_u} \|\mathbf{z}(\cdot)\|_{K_1}^2$$

s.t.

$$\mathbf{z}_1(t_m) \in [z_{low,m}, z_{up,m}],$$

$$\forall t \in [t_m - \delta_m, t_m + \delta_m], \forall m \in [M]$$



$$\bar{\mathbf{z}}(\cdot) = \sum_{m=1}^M K_1(\cdot, t_m) \mathbf{p}_m = \sum_{m=1}^M \alpha_m K_1(\cdot, t_m) \mathbf{e}_1$$

$$K_1(s, t) = \int_0^{\min(s, t)} \mathbf{e}^{(s-\tau)\mathbf{A}} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{B}^\top \mathbf{e}^{(t-\tau)\mathbf{A}^\top} d\tau$$

# Numerical example: submarine in a cavern

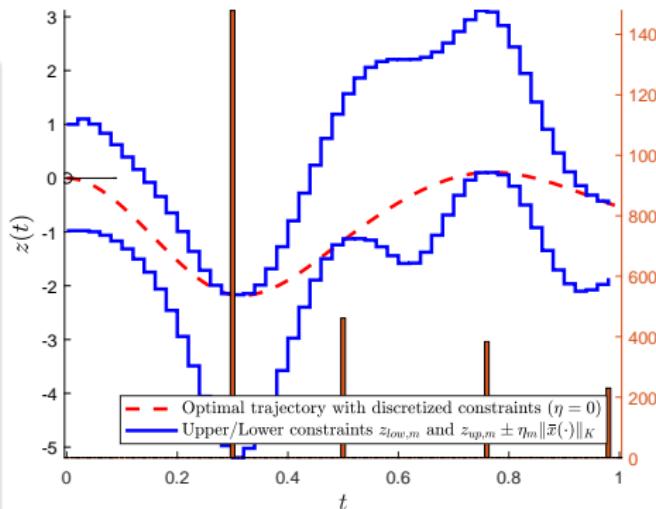
## Quadratic programming

$$\min_{\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^M} \sum_{n,m=1}^M \alpha_n \alpha_m \mathbf{e}_1^\top K_1(t_n, t_m) \mathbf{e}_1$$

s.t.

$$\sum_{n=1}^M \alpha_n K_1(t_m, t_n) \mathbf{e}_1 \in [z_{\text{low},m}, z_{\text{up},m}],$$

$$\forall t \in [t_m - \delta_m, t_m + \delta_m], \forall m \in [M]$$



$$\bar{\mathbf{z}}(\cdot) = \sum_{m=1}^M K_1(\cdot, t_m) \mathbf{p}_m = \sum_{m=1}^M \alpha_m K_1(\cdot, t_m) \mathbf{e}_1$$

$$K_1(s, t) = \int_0^{\min(s,t)} \mathbf{e}^{(s-\tau)\mathbf{A}} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{B}^\top \mathbf{e}^{(t-\tau)\mathbf{A}^\top} d\tau$$

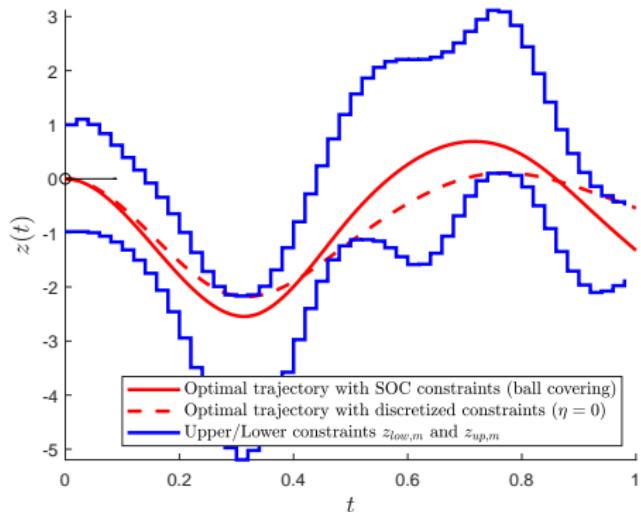
# Numerical example: submarine in a cavern

## RKHS regression

$$\min_{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S}_u} \|\mathbf{z}(\cdot)\|_{K_1}^2$$

s.t.

$$z_1(t_m) \in [z_{low,m}, z_{up,m}] \pm \eta_m \|\mathbf{z}(\cdot)\|_{K_1},$$
$$\forall t \in [t_m - \delta_m, t_m + \delta_m], \forall m \in [M]$$



$$\bar{\mathbf{z}}(\cdot) = \sum_{m=1}^M K_1(\cdot, t_m) \mathbf{p}_m = \sum_{m=1}^M \alpha_m K_1(\cdot, t_m) \mathbf{e}_1$$

$$K_1(s, t) = \int_0^{\min(s, t)} \mathbf{e}^{(s-\tau)\mathbf{A}} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{B}^\top \mathbf{e}^{(t-\tau)\mathbf{A}^\top} d\tau$$

# Table of Contents

- ① Finding the RKHS of LQ optimal control
- ② Tightening infinitely many constraints through finite coverings
- ③ Apply the kernel-based constraint tightening to LQ optimal control

# Problem statement in machine learning terms

For simplicity, we consider a real-valued kernel  $k : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , for  $\mathcal{X} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ .

Given points  $(x_n)_{n \in [N]} \in \mathcal{X}^N$ , a loss  $L : \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$ , a regularizer  $R : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Consider

$$\bar{f} \in \arg \min_{f \in \mathcal{F}_k} \mathcal{L}(f) = L\left((f(x_n))_{n \in [N]}\right) + R(\|f\|_{\mathcal{F}_k})$$

s.t.

$$b_i \leq D_i f(x), \quad \forall x \in \mathcal{K}_i, \forall i \in [\mathcal{I}] = \llbracket 1, \mathcal{I} \rrbracket,$$

where  $\mathcal{F}_k$  is a RKHS of smooth functions from  $\mathcal{X}$  to  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $D_i$  is a differential operator ( $D_i = \sum_j \gamma_j \partial^{r_j}$ ),  $b_i \in \mathbb{R}$  is a lower bound,  $\mathcal{K}_i$  is compact.

For non-finite  $\mathcal{K}_i$ , we have an infinite number of constraints!  
→ No representer theorem to work in finite dimensions!

How can we make this optimization problem computationally tractable?

# Dealing with an infinite number of constraints: an overview

$$\bar{f} \in \arg \min_{f \in \mathcal{F}_k} \mathcal{L}(f) \text{ s.t. } "b_i \leq D_i f(x), \forall x \in \mathcal{K}_i, \forall i \in [\mathcal{I}]", \mathcal{K}_i \text{ non-finite}$$

## Relaxing

- Discretize constraint at “virtual” samples  $\{\tilde{x}_{i,m}\}_{m \leq M} \subset \mathcal{K}_i$ ,  
    ↪ no guarantees out-of-samples [Agrell, 2019, Takeuchi et al., 2006]
- Add constraint-inducing penalty,  $R_{\text{cons}}(f) = -\lambda \int_{\mathcal{K}_i} \min(0, D_i f(x) - b_i) dx$   
    ↪ no guarantees, changes the problem objective [Brault et al., 2019]

## Tightening

- Replace  $\mathcal{F}$  by algebraic subclass of functions satisfying the constraints  
    ↪ hard to stack constraints,  $\Phi(x)^\top A \Phi(x)$  [Marteau-Ferey et al., 2020]
- **Our solution:** discretize  $\mathcal{K}_i$  but replace  $b_i$  using kernel theory

## Deriving SOC constraints through continuity moduli

Take  $\delta \geq 0$  and  $x$  s.t.  $\|x - \tilde{x}_m\| \leq \delta$

$$\begin{aligned} |Df(x) - Df(\tilde{x}_m)| &= |\langle f(\cdot), D_x k(x, \cdot) - D_x k(\tilde{x}_m, \cdot) \rangle_k| \\ &\leq \|f(\cdot)\|_k \underbrace{\sup_{\{x \mid \|x - \tilde{x}_m\| \leq \delta\}} \|D_x k(x, \cdot) - D_x k(\tilde{x}_m, \cdot)\|_k}_{\eta_m(\delta)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\omega_m(Df, \delta) := \sup_{\{x \mid \|x - \tilde{x}_m\| \leq \delta\}} |Df(x) - Df(\tilde{x}_m)| \leq \eta_m(\delta) \|f(\cdot)\|_k$$

For a covering  $\mathcal{K} = \bigcup_{m \in [M]} \mathbb{B}_{\mathcal{X}}(\tilde{x}_m, \delta_m)$

$$“b \leq Df(x), \forall x \in \mathcal{K}” \Leftrightarrow “b + \omega_m(Df, \delta) \leq Df(\tilde{x}_m), \forall m \in [M]”$$

## Deriving SOC constraints through continuity moduli

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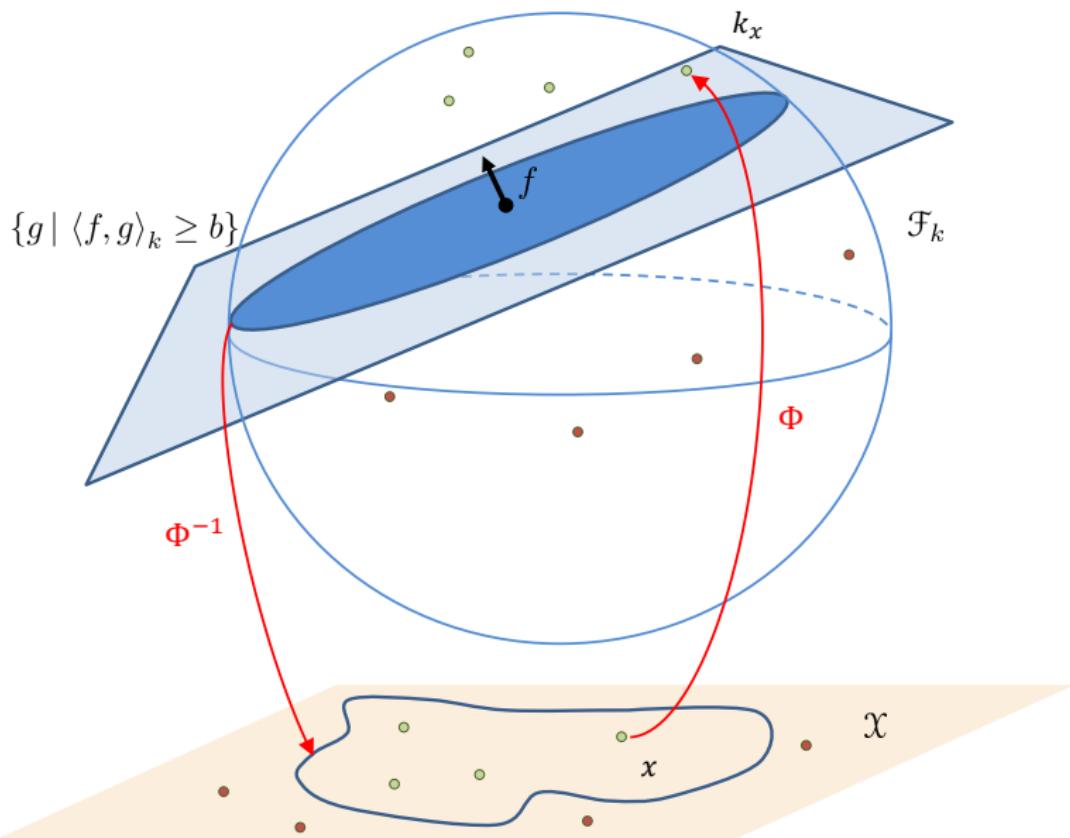
For a covering  $\mathcal{K} \subset \bigcup_{m \in [M]} \mathbb{B}_{\mathcal{X}}(\tilde{x}_m, \delta_m)$

$$\begin{aligned} "b \leq Df(x), \forall x \in \mathcal{K}" &\Leftarrow "b + \omega_m(Df, \delta) \leq Df(\tilde{x}_m), \forall m \in [M]" \\ &\Leftarrow "b + \eta_m(\delta) \|f(\cdot)\| \leq Df(\tilde{x}_m), \forall m \in [M]" \end{aligned}$$

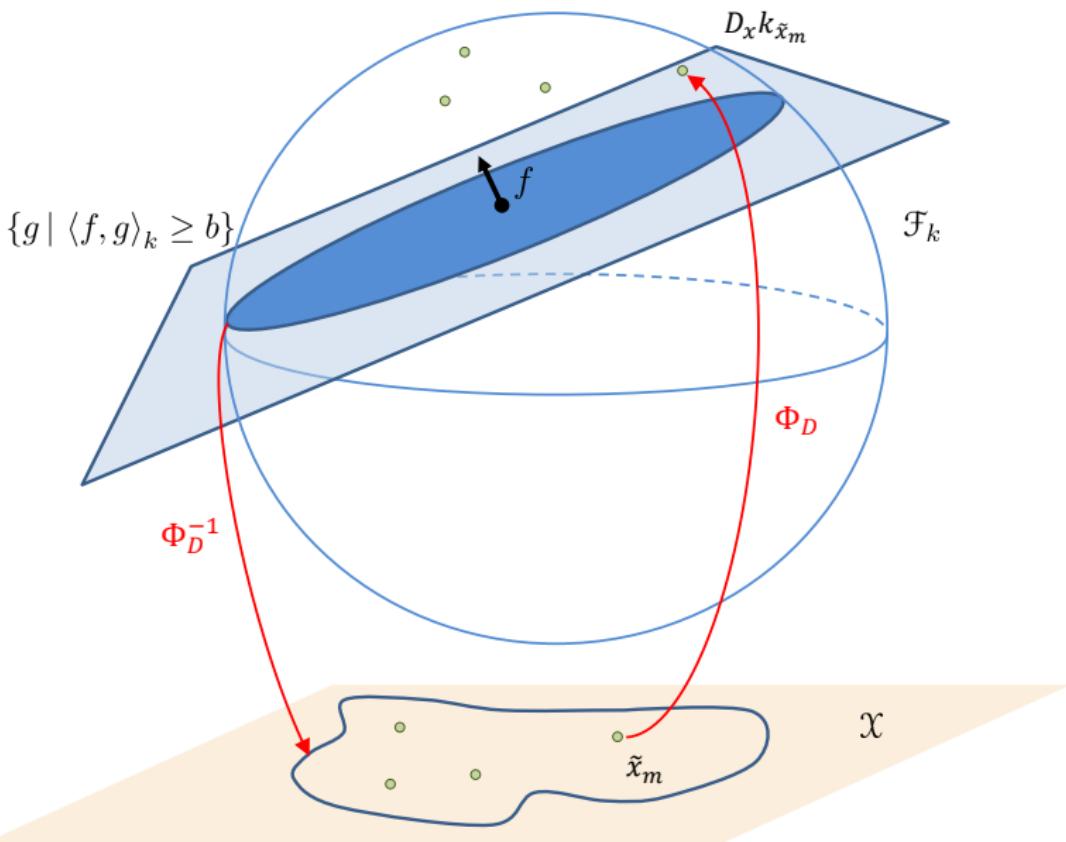
Second-Order Cone (SOC) constraints:  $\{f \mid \|Af + b\|_K \leq c^\top f + d\}$

Since the kernel is smooth,  $\delta \rightarrow 0$  gives  $\eta_m(\delta) \rightarrow 0$ .

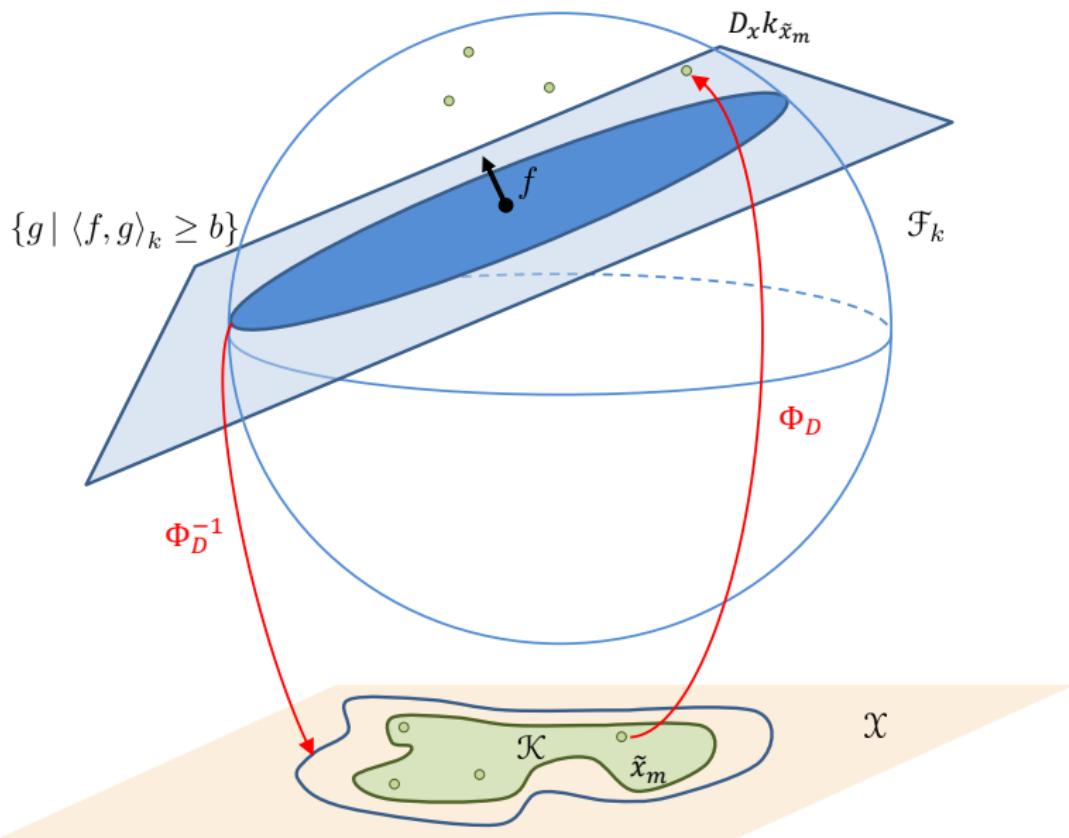
There is also a geometrical interpretation for this choice of  $\eta_m$ .



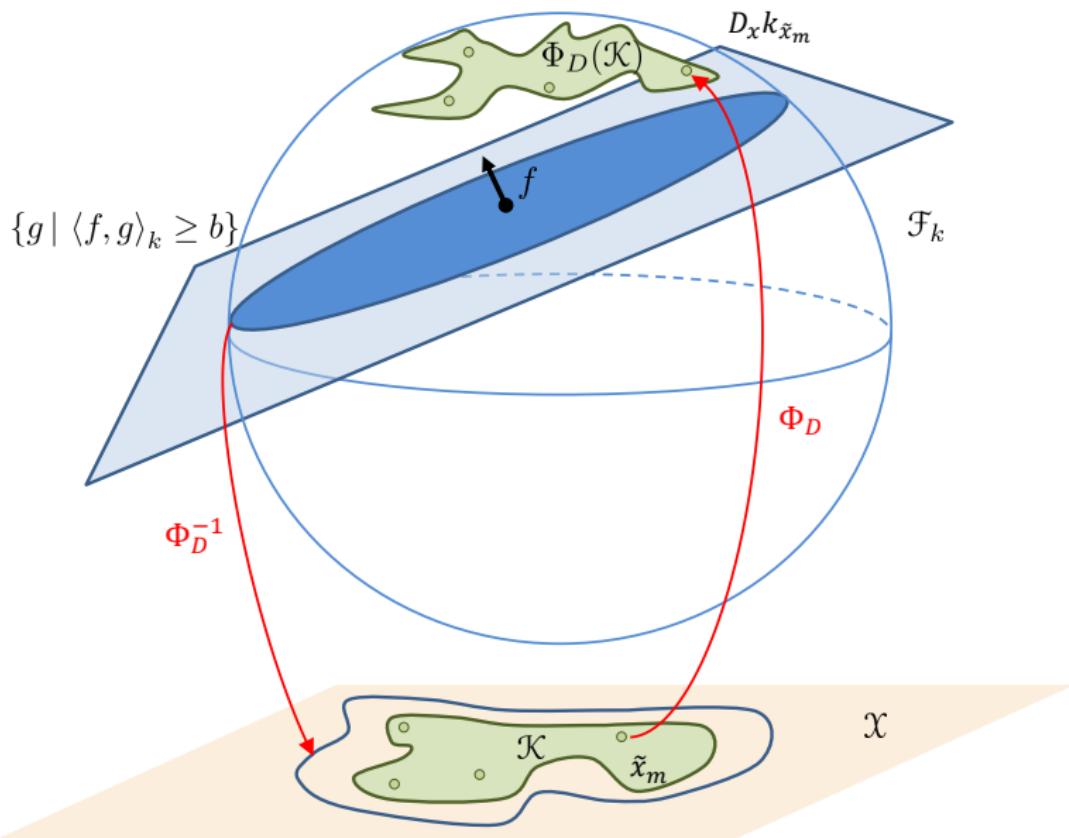
Support Vector Machine (SVM) is about separating red and green points by blue hyperplane.



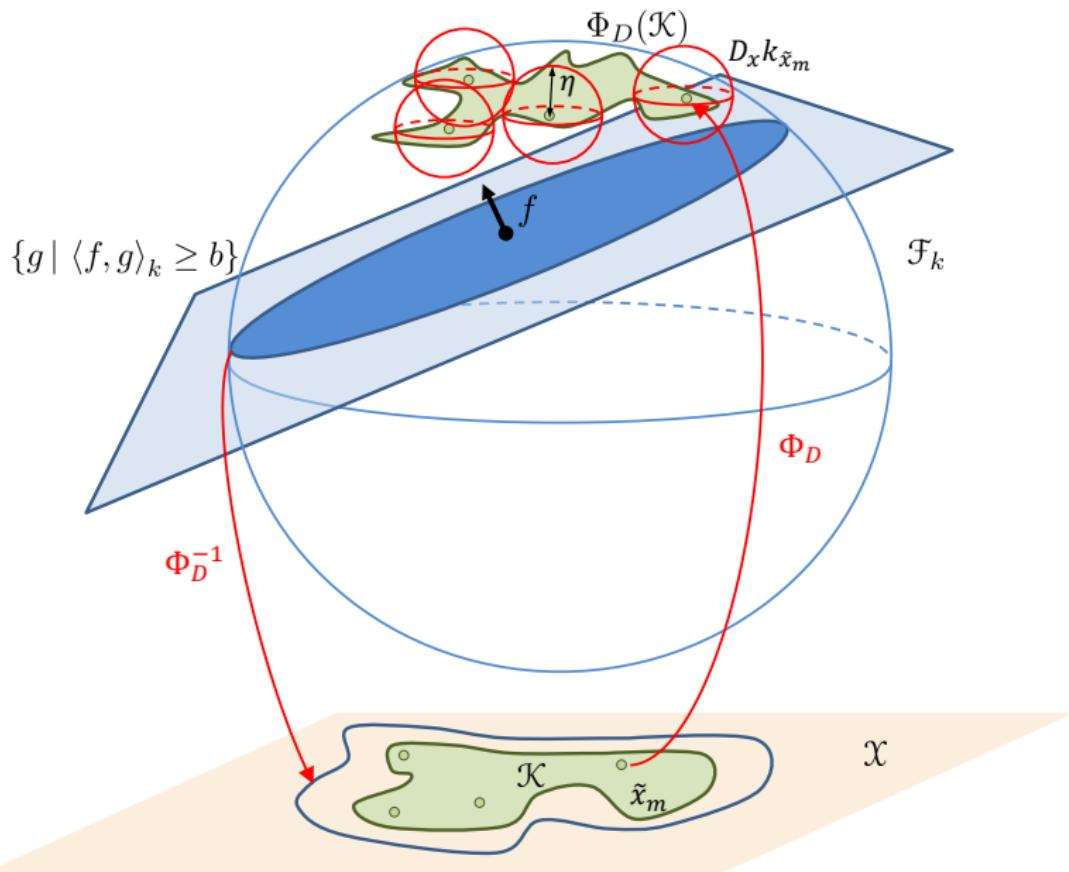
Using the nonlinear embedding  $\Phi_D : x \mapsto D_x k(x, \cdot)$ , the idea is the same. With only the green points, it is a one-class SVM [Schölkopf et al., 2001b]



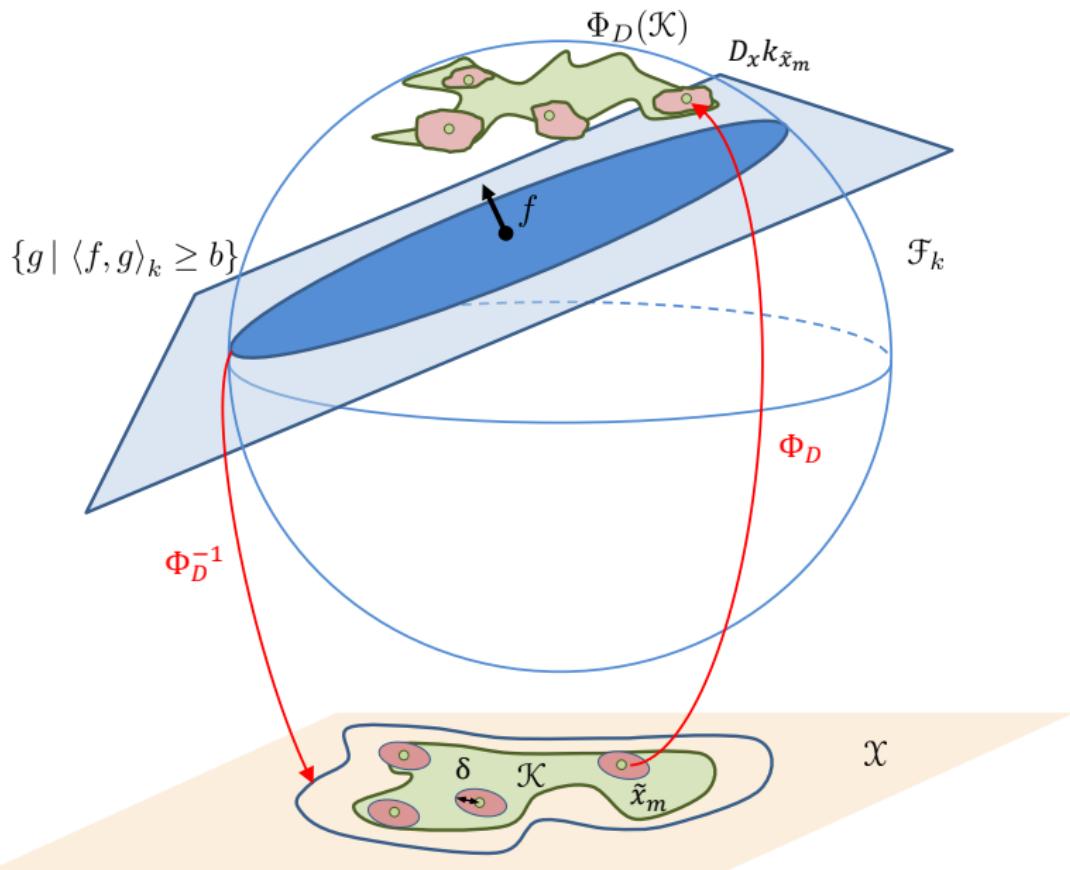
The green points are now samples of a compact set  $\mathcal{K}$ .



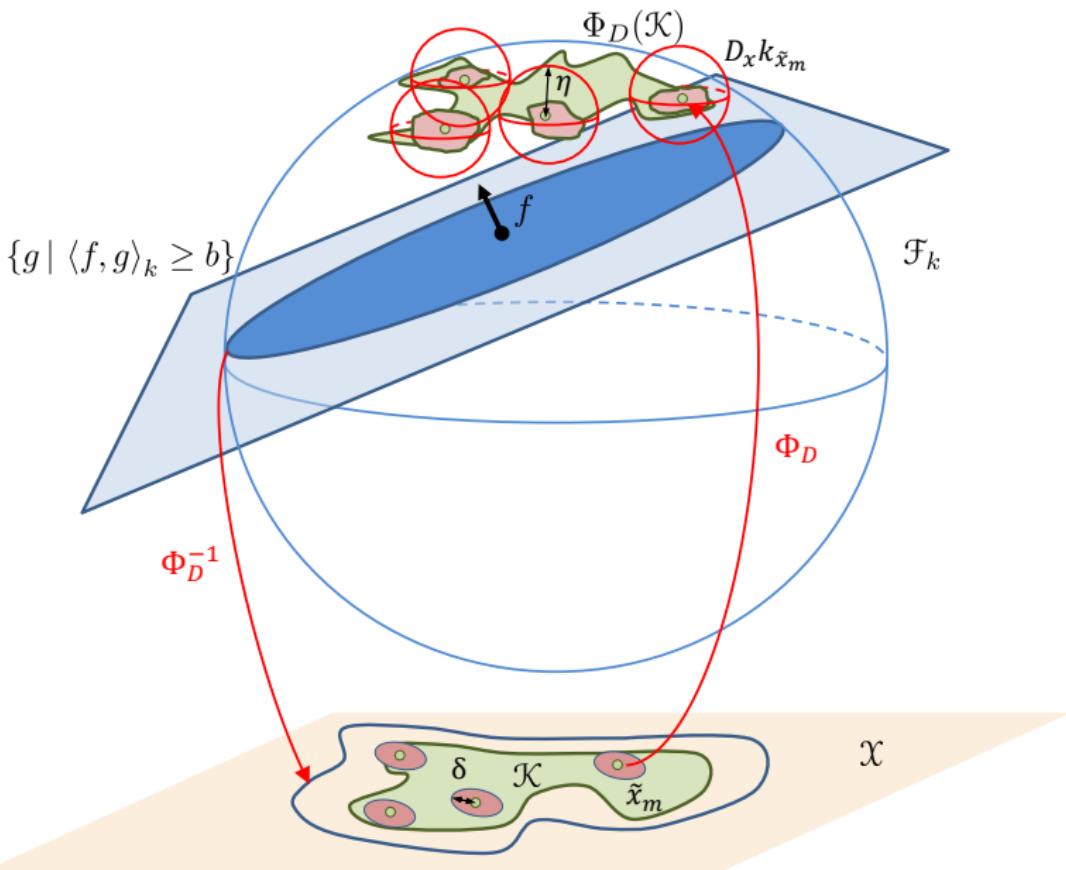
The image  $\Phi_D(\mathcal{K})$  is not convex...



The image  $\Phi_D(\mathcal{K})$  is not convex, can we cover it by balls of radius  $\eta$ ?



First cover  $\mathcal{K} \subset \bigcup \{\tilde{x}_m + \delta \mathbb{B}\}$ , and then look at the images  $\Phi_D(\{\tilde{x}_m + \delta \mathbb{B}\})$



Cover the  $\Phi_D(\{\tilde{x}_m + \delta\mathbb{B}\})$  with tiny balls! This is how SOC was defined.

# Main contribution in Aubin and Szabó, NeurIPS, 2020

$$(f_\eta, b_\eta) \in \arg \min_{f \in \mathcal{F}_k, \mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{B}} \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{b}}(f) = L((f(x_n))_{n \in [N]}) + R(\|f\|_k) + \mu \|\mathbf{b}\|^2$$

s.t.  $b_i + \eta_{i,m} \|f(\cdot)\|_k \leq D_i f(\tilde{x}_{i,m}), \quad \forall m \in [M_i], \forall i \in [\mathcal{I}]$ .

where  $\mathcal{B}$  is a closed convex constraint set. If  $R(\cdot)$  is strictly increasing, then

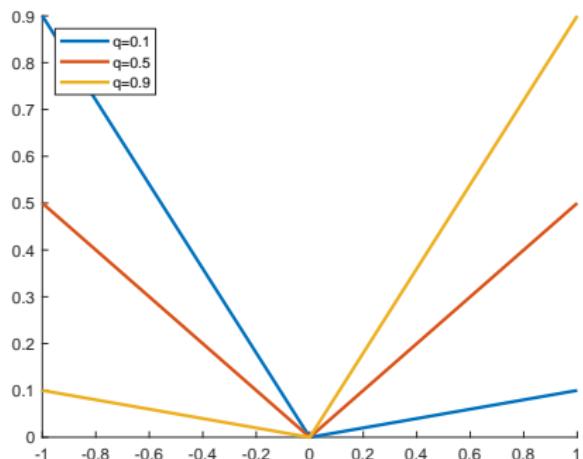
**Theorem (Theoretical guarantees, P.-C. Aubin and Z. Szabó, 2020)**

- i) The finite number of SOC constraints is **tighter** than the infinite number of affine constraints.
- ii) **Representer theorem** (optimal solutions have a finite expression)  
$$f_\eta = \sum_{i \in [\mathcal{I}], m \in [M_i]} \tilde{a}_{i,m} D_{i,x} k(\tilde{x}_{i,m}, \cdot) + \sum_{n \in [N]} a_n k(x_n, \cdot)$$
- iii) If  $\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{b}}$  is  $\mu$ -strongly convex, we have **bounds**: computable/theoretical

$$\|f_\eta - \bar{f}\|_k \leq \min \left( \sqrt{\frac{2(\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{b}_\eta}(f_\eta) - \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{b}_{\eta=0}}(f_{\eta=0}))}{\mu}}, \sqrt{\frac{L_{\bar{f}} \|\boldsymbol{\eta}\|_\infty}{\mu}} \right)$$

(Assuming  $\mathcal{B} = \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{I}}$  for the a priori bound,  $\bar{f}$  the argmin of  $\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{b}}$  with original constraints.)

# Joint Quantile Regression (JQR)



$f_\tau(x)$  conditional quantile over  $(X, Y)$ :  
 $P(Y \leq f_\tau(x)|X = x) = \tau \in ]0, 1[.$

Estimation through convex optimization  
over “pinball loss”  $l_\tau(\cdot)$  (i.e. tilted  
absolute value [Koenker, 2005]).

Known fact: quantile functions can  
cross when estimated independently.

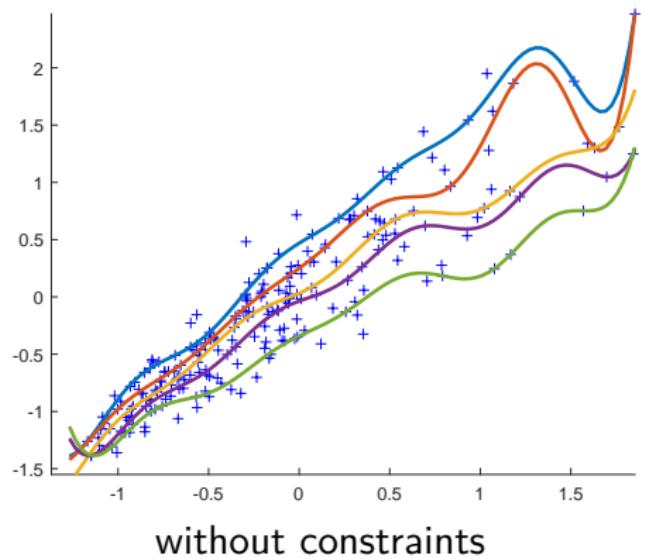
Joint quantile regression with non-crossing constraints

$$\min_{(f_q)_{q \in [Q]} \in \mathcal{F}_k^Q} \mathcal{L}(f_1, \dots, f_Q) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{q \in [Q]} \sum_{n \in [N]} l_{\tau_q}(y_n - f_q(\mathbf{x}_n)) + \lambda_f \sum_{q \in [Q]} \|f_q\|_k^2$$

$$\text{s.t. } f_{q+1}(\mathbf{x}) \geq f_q(\mathbf{x}), \forall q \in [Q-1], \forall \mathbf{x} \in [\min_{n \in [N], i \in [d]} \{x_{n,i}\}, \max_{n \in [N], i \in [d]} \{x_{n,i}\}]^d.$$

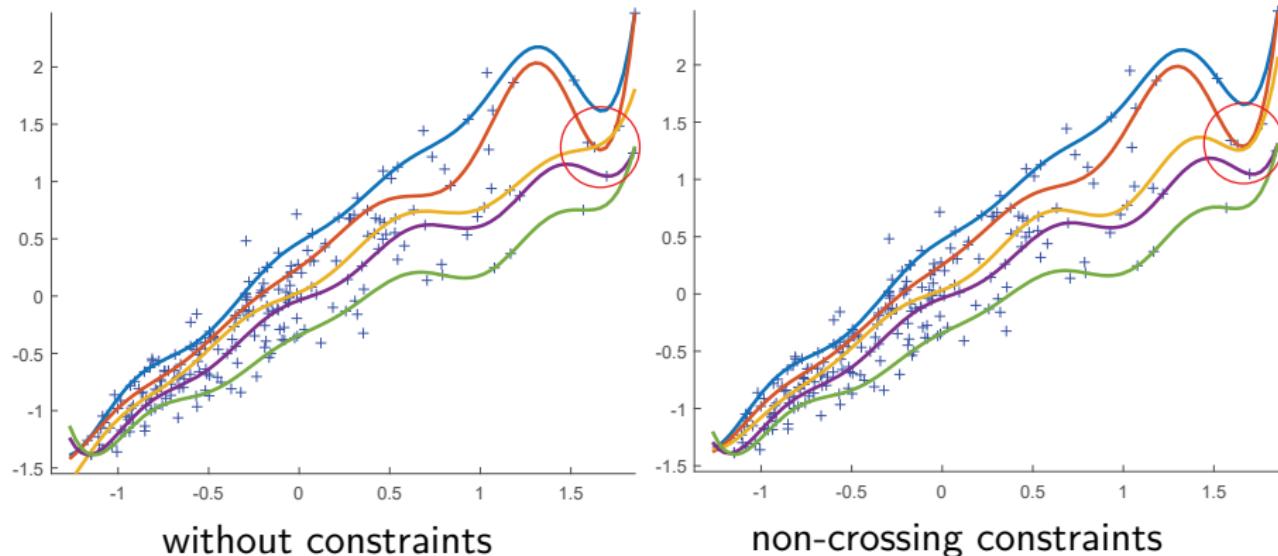
# Pairing non-crossing quantiles with other shape constraints

Engel's law (1857): "As income rises, the proportion of income spent on food falls, but absolute expenditure on food rises."



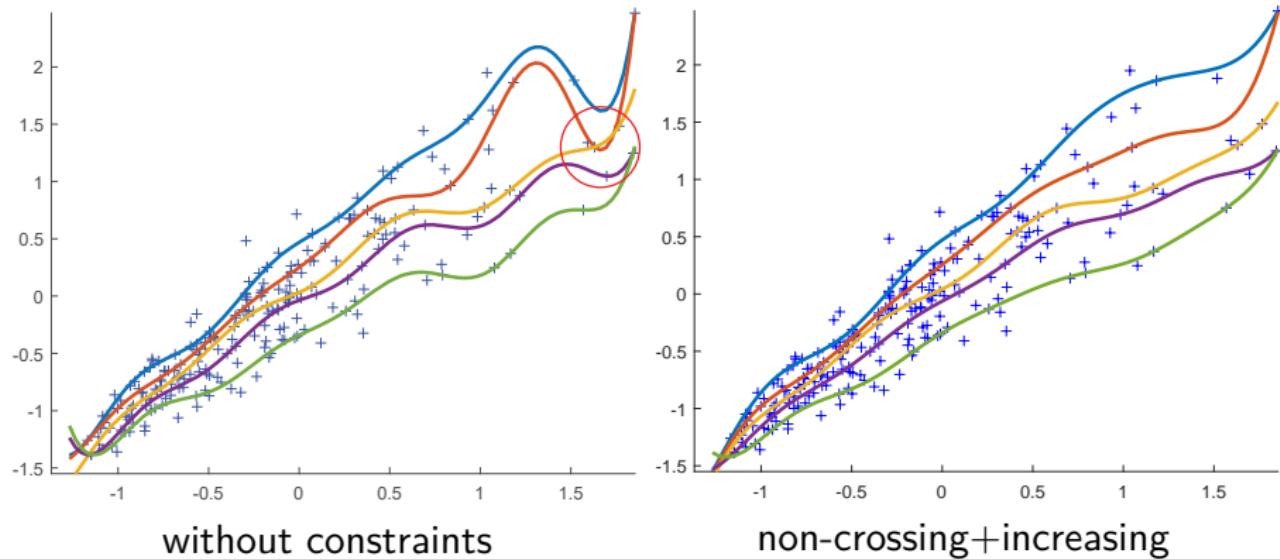
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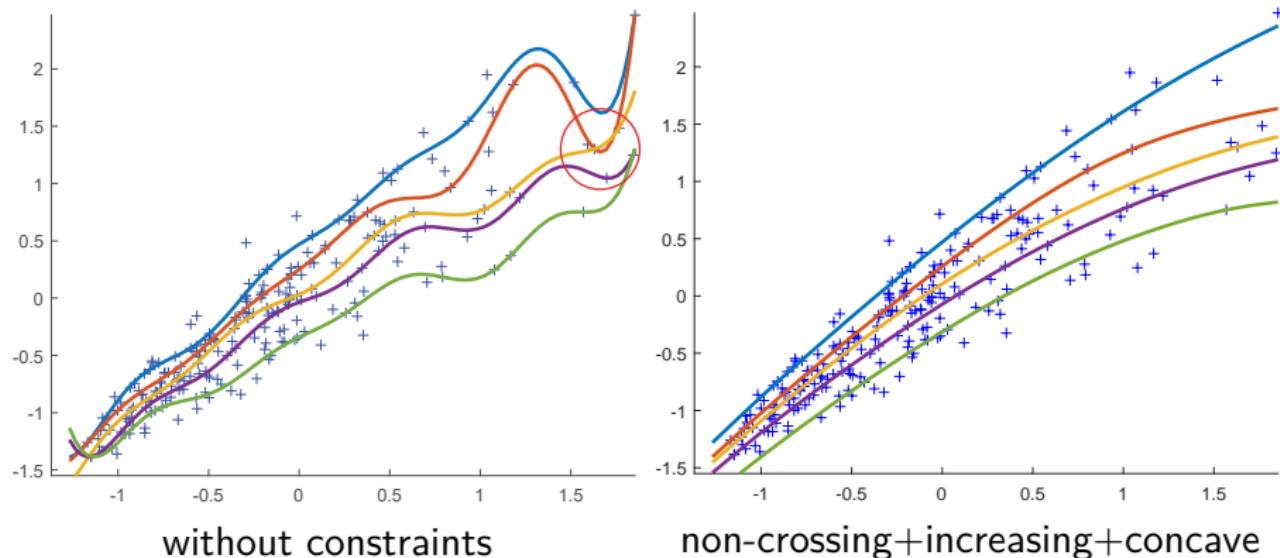
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# Pairing non-crossing quantiles with other shape constraints

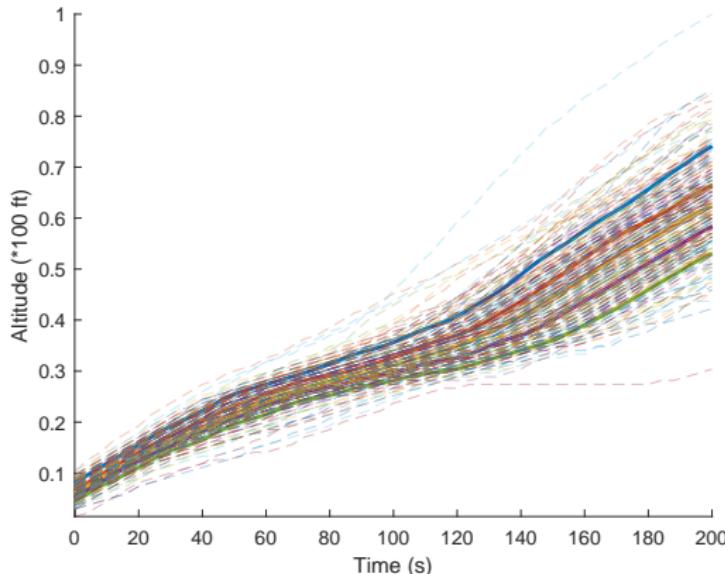
Engel's law (1857): “As income rises, the proportion of income spent on food falls, but absolute expenditure on food rises.“



Qualitative priors have a great effect on the shape of solutions!

# Joint quantile regression (JQR): airplane data

Airplane trajectories at takeoff have **increasing altitude**



JQR with monotonic constraint over  $[x_{\min}, x_{\max}]$ :

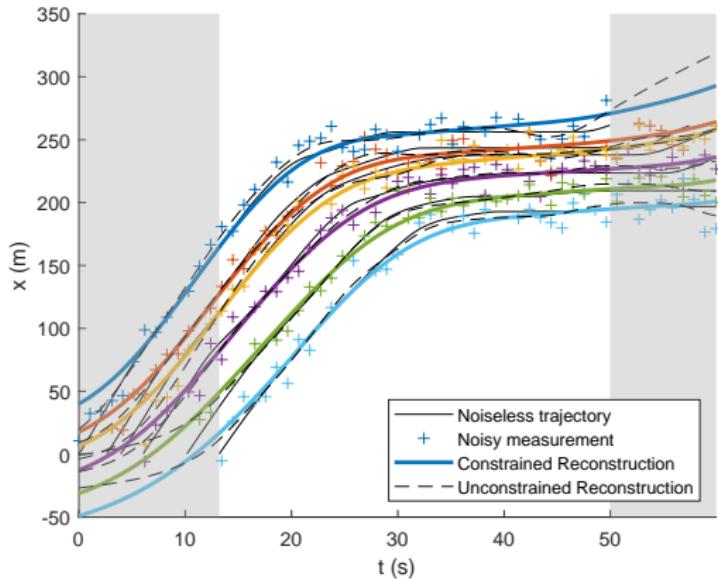
[P.-C. Aubin and Z. Szabó, 2020]

**Increasing quantiles  
should be  
non-crossing**

Data provided by ENAC  
(flights Paris→Toulouse)  
[Nicol, 2013]

# Kernel ridge regression (KRR): trajectory reconstruction

Very noisy GPS data: six non-overtaking cars in a traffic jam



KRR with monotonic constraint over  $[t_{\min}, t_{\max}]$ :

[P.-C. Aubin, N. Petit and Z. Szabó, 2020]

Forward trajectories also maintain security distance

Data from IFSTTAR  
(MOCoPo Project)  
[Buisson et al., 2016]

## Partial conclusion

We have seen how to tighten an **infinite number of affine constraints over a compact set** into **finitely many SOC constraints** in RKHSs  
↪ we thus have a representer theorem!

- tightening intractable constraints is the only way to have guarantees
- but tightening is “harder” to perform (here computationally)

Covering schemes suffer from the curse of dimensionality!  $\mathcal{X} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $d \gg 1$

## Partial conclusion

We have seen how to tighten an **infinite number of affine constraints over a compact set** into **finitely many SOC constraints** in RKHSs  
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- tightening intractable constraints is the only way to have guarantees
- but tightening is “harder” to perform (here computationally)

Covering schemes suffer from the curse of dimensionality!  $\mathcal{X} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $d \gg 1$

**However the control problem is only defined over  $\mathcal{X} = [t_0, T]$  ( $d = 1$ )!**

# Table of Contents

- ① Finding the RKHS of LQ optimal control
- ② Tightening infinitely many constraints through finite coverings
- ③ Apply the kernel-based constraint tightening to LQ optimal control

# SOC tightening of state-constrained LQ optimal control

Problem of time-varying linear quadratic optimal control with finite horizon and affine inequality state constraints

$$\min_{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S}_{[t_0, T]}} \chi_{\mathbf{z}_0}(\mathbf{z}(t_0)) + g(\mathbf{z}(T)) + \|\mathbf{z}(\cdot)\|_K^2$$

s.t.

$$\mathbf{c}_i(t)^\top \mathbf{z}(t) \leq d_i(t), \forall t \in [t_0, T], \forall i \in [\mathcal{I}],$$

# SOC tightening of state-constrained LQ optimal control

Problem of time-varying linear quadratic optimal control with finite horizon and affine inequality state constraints **with SOC tightening**

$$\min_{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S}_{[t_0, T]}} \chi_{\mathbf{z}_0}(\mathbf{z}(t_0)) + g(\mathbf{z}(T)) + \|\mathbf{z}(\cdot)\|_K^2$$

s.t.

$$\eta_i(\delta_m, t_m) \|\mathbf{z}(\cdot)\|_K + \mathbf{c}_i(t_{i,m})^\top \mathbf{z}(t_{i,m}) \leq d_{i,m}, \forall m \in [M_i], \forall i \in [\mathcal{I}],$$

with  $[t_0, T] \subset \bigcup_{m \in [M]} [t_m - \delta_m, t_m + \delta_m]$ , and two values defined at each  $t_m$

$$\eta_i(\delta_m, t_m) := \sup_{t \in [t_m - \delta_m, t_m + \delta_m] \cap [0, T]} \|K(\cdot, t_m) \mathbf{c}_i(t_m) - K(\cdot, t) \mathbf{c}_i(t)\|_K,$$

$$d_{i,m} := \inf_{t \in [t_m - \delta_m, t_m + \delta_m] \cap [t_0, T]} d_i(t).$$

# Main theoretical result in P.-C. Aubin, SICON, 2021

**(H-gen)**  $\mathbf{A}(\cdot), \mathbf{Q}(\cdot) \in L^1$  and  $\mathbf{B}(\cdot), \mathbf{R}(\cdot) \in L^2$ ,  $\mathbf{c}_i(\cdot)$  and  $d_i(\cdot) \in \mathcal{C}^0$ .

**(H-sol)**  $\mathbf{c}_i(t_0)^\top \mathbf{z}_0 < d_i(t_0)$  and there exists a trajectory  $\mathbf{z}^\epsilon(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S}$  satisfying strictly the affine constraints, as well as the initial condition.<sup>1</sup>

**(H-obj)**  $g(\cdot)$  is convex and continuous.

Theorem ( $\exists$ /Approximation by SOC constraints, P.-C. Aubin, 2021)

Both the original problem and its strengthening have unique optimal solutions. For any  $\rho > 0$ , there exists  $\bar{\delta} > 0$  such that for all  $(\delta_m)_{m \in \llbracket 1, N_0 \rrbracket}$ , with  $[t_0, T] \subset \cup_{m \in \llbracket 1, N_0 \rrbracket} [t_m - \delta_m, t_m + \delta_m]$  satisfying  $\bar{\delta} \geq \max_{m \in \llbracket 1, N_0 \rrbracket} \delta_m$ ,

$$\frac{1}{\gamma_K} \sup_{t \in [t_0, T]} \|\bar{\mathbf{z}}_\eta(t) - \bar{\mathbf{z}}(t)\| \leq \|\bar{\mathbf{z}}_\eta(\cdot) - \bar{\mathbf{z}}(\cdot)\|_K \leq \rho$$

with  $\gamma_K := \sup_{t \in [0, T], \mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{B}_N} \sqrt{\mathbf{p}^\top K(t, t) \mathbf{p}}$ .

<sup>1</sup>(H-sol) is implied for instance by an inward-pointing condition at the boundary.

# Main practical result in P.-C. Aubin, SICON, 2021

Problem of time-varying linear quadratic optimal control with finite horizon and affine inequality state constraints **with SOC tightening**

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S}_{[t_0, T]}} \quad & \chi_{\mathbf{z}_0}(\mathbf{z}(t_0)) + g(\mathbf{z}(T)) + \|\mathbf{z}(\cdot)\|_K^2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \eta_i(\delta_m, t_m) \|\mathbf{z}(\cdot)\|_K + \mathbf{c}_i(t_{i,m})^\top \mathbf{z}(t_{i,m}) \leq d_{i,m}, \forall m \in [M_i], \forall i \in [\mathcal{I}] \end{aligned}$$

By the representer theorem, the optimal solution has the form

$$\bar{\mathbf{z}}(\cdot) = \sum_{j=0}^P \sum_{m=1}^{N_j} K(\cdot, t_{j,m}) \bar{\mathbf{p}}_{j,m},$$

where  $t_{0,1} = t_0$  and  $t_{0,2} = T$ , and the coefficients  $(\bar{\mathbf{p}}_{j,m})_{j,m}$  solve a finite dimensional second-order cone problem.

# Main practical result in P.-C. Aubin, SICON, 2021

More precisely, setting  $t_{0,1} = t_0$  and  $t_{0,2} = T$ , the coefficients of the optimal solution  $\bar{\mathbf{z}}(\cdot) = \sum_{j=0}^P \sum_{m=1}^{N_j} K(\cdot, t_{j,m}) \bar{\mathbf{p}}_{j,m}$  solve

$$\min_{\substack{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}_+, \\ \mathbf{p}_{j,m} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_j}, \\ \alpha_{j,m} \in \mathbb{R}}} \chi_{\mathbf{z}_0} \left( \sum_{j=0}^P \sum_{m=1}^{N_j} K(t_0, t_{j,m}) \bar{\mathbf{p}}_{j,m} \right) + g \left( \sum_{j=0}^P \sum_{m=1}^{N_j} K(T, t_{j,m}) \bar{\mathbf{p}}_{j,m} \right) + \gamma^2$$

$$\text{s.t. } \gamma^2 = \sum_{i=0}^P \sum_{n=1}^{N_i} \sum_{j=0}^P \sum_{m=1}^{N_j} \mathbf{p}_{i,n}^\top K(t_{i,n}, t_{j,m}) \mathbf{p}_{j,m},$$

$$\mathbf{p}_{j,m} = \alpha_{j,m} \mathbf{c}_j(t_m), \quad \forall m \in \llbracket 1, N_j \rrbracket, \forall j \in \llbracket 1, P \rrbracket,$$

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_i(\delta_{i,m}, t_{i,m}) \gamma + \sum_{j=0}^P \sum_{m=1}^{N_j} \mathbf{c}_i(t_{i,m})^\top K(t_{i,m}, t_{j,m}) \mathbf{p}_{j,m} & \quad \forall m \in \llbracket 1, N_i \rrbracket, \\ & \leq d_i(\delta_{i,m}, t_{i,m}), \quad \forall i \in \llbracket 1, P \rrbracket, \end{aligned}$$

which can be written equivalently as a finite dimensional second-order cone problem (SOCP).

# Future work: Pushing RKHSs beyond/Revisiting LQR

## For RKHSs

- Control constraints do not correspond to continuous evaluations  
↪ limits of RKHS pointwise theory (e.g.  $x' = u \in L^2([0, T], [-1, 1])$  a.e.)
- Successive linearizations of nonlinear system lead to changing kernels  
↪ a single kernel may not be sufficient (e.g.  $x' = f_{[x_n(\cdot)]}x + f_{[u_n(\cdot)]}u$  a.e.)
- Non-quadratic costs for linear systems do not lead to Hilbert spaces  
↪ one may need Banach kernels (e.g.  $\|\mathbf{u}(\cdot)\|_{L^2(0, T)}^2 \rightarrow \|\mathbf{u}(\cdot)\|_{L^1(0, T)}$ )

# Future work: Pushing RKHSs beyond/Revisiting LQR

## For RKHSs

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## For control theory

- To each evaluation at time  $t$  corresponds a covector  $p_t \in \mathbb{R}^Q$   
↪ Representer theorem well adapted for state constraints, but unsuitable for control constraints. Reverts the difficulty w.r.t. PMP approach.
- The Gramian of controllability generates trajectories  
↪ This allows for close-form solutions in continuous-time for state constraints.

## Final remarks

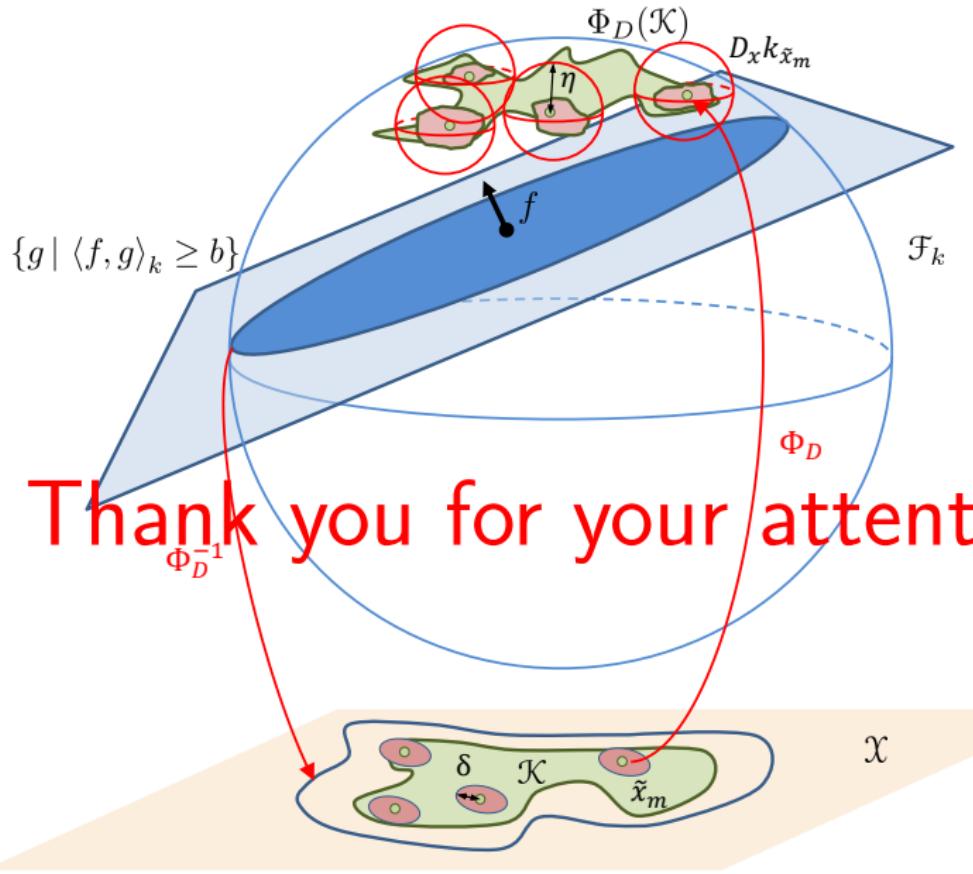
“Finite coverings in RKHSs can be used to turn an **infinite number of pointwise affine constraints** over a compact set into **finitely many SOC constraints**.“

“State-constrained LQ Optimal Control is a shape-constrained kernel regression.“

“In general, positive definite kernels are much too linear to tackle nonlinear control problems → **Linearize!**“

Not covered in this talk:

Chapter 6 (regularity of minimal time) and Chapter 7 (set approximation).



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## Annex: Extra list of shape constraints

- **Monotonicity w.r.t. partial ordering:**  $\mathbf{u} \preceq \mathbf{v} \Rightarrow f(\mathbf{u}) \leq f(\mathbf{v})$  for  $\mathbf{u} \preceq \mathbf{v}$  iff  $\sum_{j \in [i]} u_j \leq \sum_{j \in [i]} v_j$  for all  $i \in [d]$  (unordered weak majorization)

$$\partial^{\mathbf{e}_1} f(\mathbf{x}) \geq \dots \geq \partial^{\mathbf{e}_d} f(\mathbf{x}) \geq 0 \quad (\forall \mathbf{x});$$

$\mathbf{u} \preceq \mathbf{v} \Rightarrow f(\mathbf{u}) \leq f(\mathbf{v})$  for  $\mathbf{u} \preceq \mathbf{v}$  iff  $u_i \leq v_i$  ( $\forall i \in [d]$ ) (product ordering),

$$\partial^{\mathbf{e}_j} f(\mathbf{x}) \geq 0, \quad (\forall j \in [d], \forall \mathbf{x}).$$

- **Supermodularity:**  $f(\mathbf{u} \vee \mathbf{v}) + f(\mathbf{u} \wedge \mathbf{v}) \geq f(\mathbf{u}) + f(\mathbf{v})$ ,  $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , where  $\mathbf{u} \vee \mathbf{v} := (\max(u_j, v_j))_{j \in [d]}$  and  $\mathbf{u} \wedge \mathbf{v} := (\min(u_j, v_j))_{j \in [d]}$ . For  $f \in C^2$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} \geq 0 \quad (\forall i \neq j \in [d], \forall \mathbf{x}).$$

## Annex: JQR performance over UCI datasets

- PDCD = Primal-Dual Coordinate Descent [Sangnier et al., 2016],  
JQR with parallel/heteroscedatic quantile penalization (see also ITL  
[Brault et al., 2019] for noncrossing inducer)
- mean  $\pm$  std of  $100 \times$  value of the pinball loss (smaller is better)

Dataset	$d$	$N$	PDCD	SOC
engel	1	235	48 $\pm$ 8	53 $\pm$ 9
GAGurine	1	314	61 $\pm$ 7	65 $\pm$ 6
geyser	1	299	105 $\pm$ 7	108 $\pm$ 3
mcycle	1	133	66 $\pm$ 9	62 $\pm$ 5
ftcollinssnow	1	93	154 $\pm$ 16	148 $\pm$ 13
CobarOre	2	38	159 $\pm$ 24	151 $\pm$ 17
topo	2	52	69 $\pm$ 18	62 $\pm$ 14
caution	2	100	88 $\pm$ 17	98 $\pm$ 22
ufc	3	372	81 $\pm$ 4	87 $\pm$ 6

## Annex: Estimation of production functions

### Classical assumptions

$$\min_{f \in \mathcal{F}_K} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n \in [N]} [y_n - f(\mathbf{x}_n)]^2 + \lambda \|f\|_K^2$$

s.t.

$$0 \leq f(\mathbf{x}) \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{K},$$

$$0 \leq \partial^{\mathbf{e}_i} f(\mathbf{x}) \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{K}, \forall i \in [d],$$

$$0 = f(\mathbf{0}),$$

$$\mathbf{0}_{d \times d} \preccurlyeq -[(\partial^{\mathbf{e}_i + \mathbf{e}_j} f)(\mathbf{x})]_{i,j}, \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{K},$$

$$y \rightarrow -\log(y)$$

$$\min_{g \in \mathcal{F}_K} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n \in [N]} [y_n - g(\mathbf{x}_n)]^2$$

s.t.

$$\|g\|_K \leq \tilde{\lambda},$$

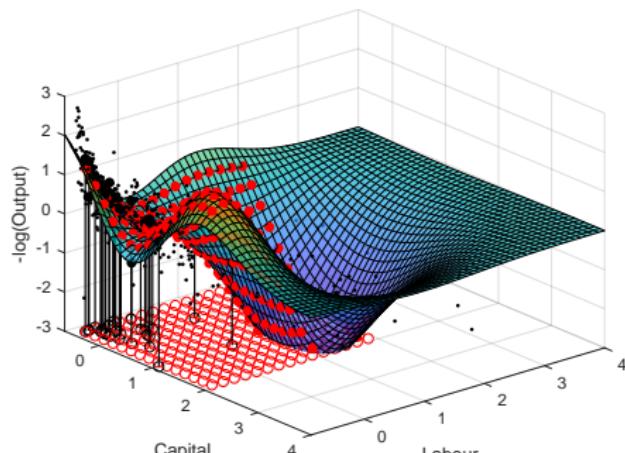
$$0 \leq -\partial^{\mathbf{e}_1} g(\mathbf{x}) \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{K},$$

$$0 \leq -\partial^{\mathbf{e}_2} g(\mathbf{x}) \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{K},$$

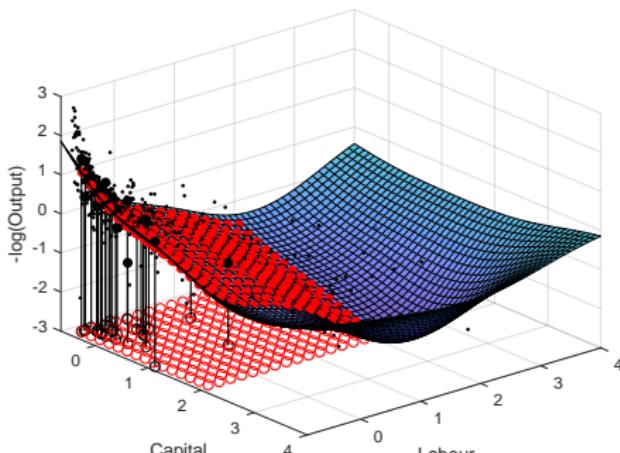
$$\mathbf{0}_{2 \times 2} \preccurlyeq [(\partial^{\mathbf{e}_i + \mathbf{e}_j} g)(\mathbf{x})]_{i,j \in [2]}, \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{K}.$$

## Annex: Estimation of production functions

Only 25 points selected out of 543, checking generalization properties for various constraints (used as side information)



(a) NoCons

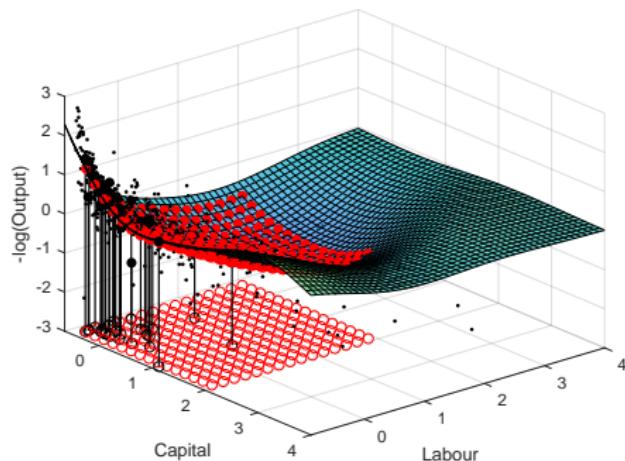


(b) SOC Monot.

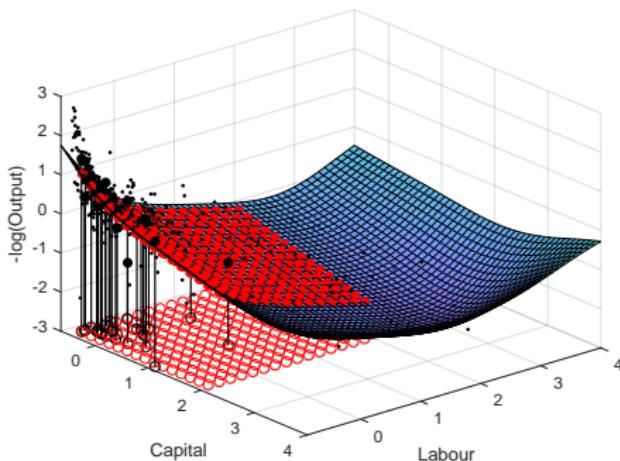
Belgian labour data, 1996, <https://vincentarelbundock.github.io/Rdatasets/doc/Ecdat/Labour.html>

## Annex: Estimation of production functions

Only 25 points selected out of 543, checking generalization properties for various constraints (used as side information)



(c) SOC Conv.

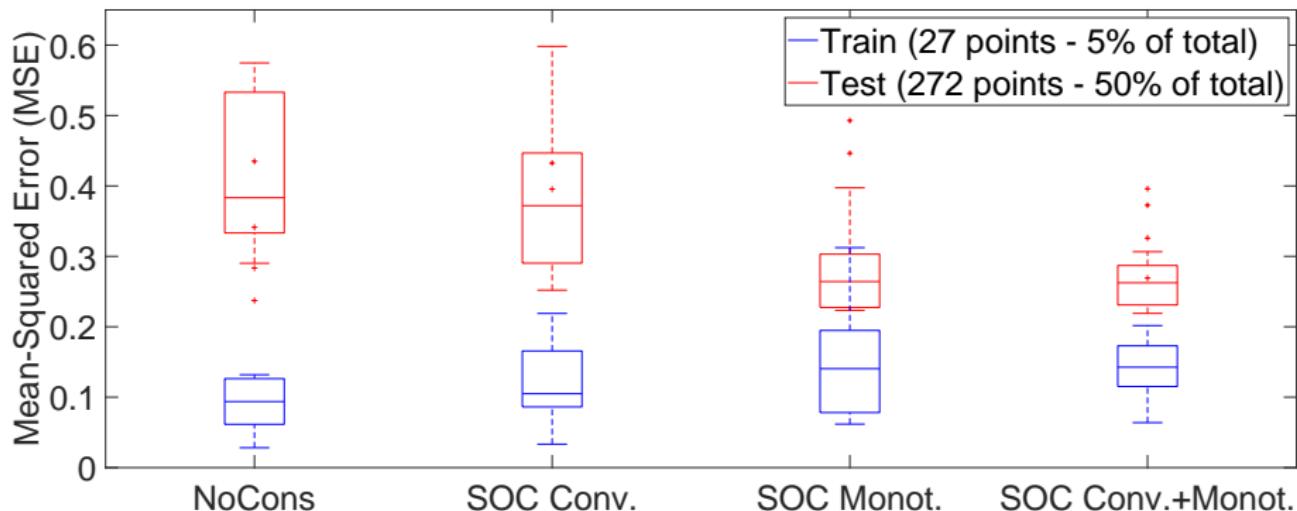


(d) SOC Conv.+Monot.

Belgian labour data, 1996, <https://vincentarelbundock.github.io/Rdatasets/doc/Ecdat/Labour.html>

## Annex: Estimation of production functions

Only 25 points selected out of 543, checking generalization properties for various constraints (used as side information)



**Figure:** MSE as a function of incorporating shape constraints with the proposed SOC technique. NoCons: no constraint. SOC Monot.: two monotonicity constraints. SOC Conv.: one convexity constraint. SOC Conv.+Monot.: one convexity and two monotonicity constraints.

## Annex: Green kernels and RKHSs

Let  $D$  be a differential operator,  $D^*$  its formal adjoint. Define the Green function  $G_{D^*D,x}(y) : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  s.t.  $D^*D G_{D^*D,x}(y) = \delta_z(y)$  then, if the integrals over the boundaries in Green's formula are null, for any  $f \in \mathcal{F}_k$

$$f(x) = \int_{\Omega} f(y) D^* D G_{D^*D,x}(y) dy = \int_{\Omega} Df(y) D G_{D^*D,x}(y) =: \langle f, G_{D^*D,x} \rangle_{\mathcal{F}_k},$$

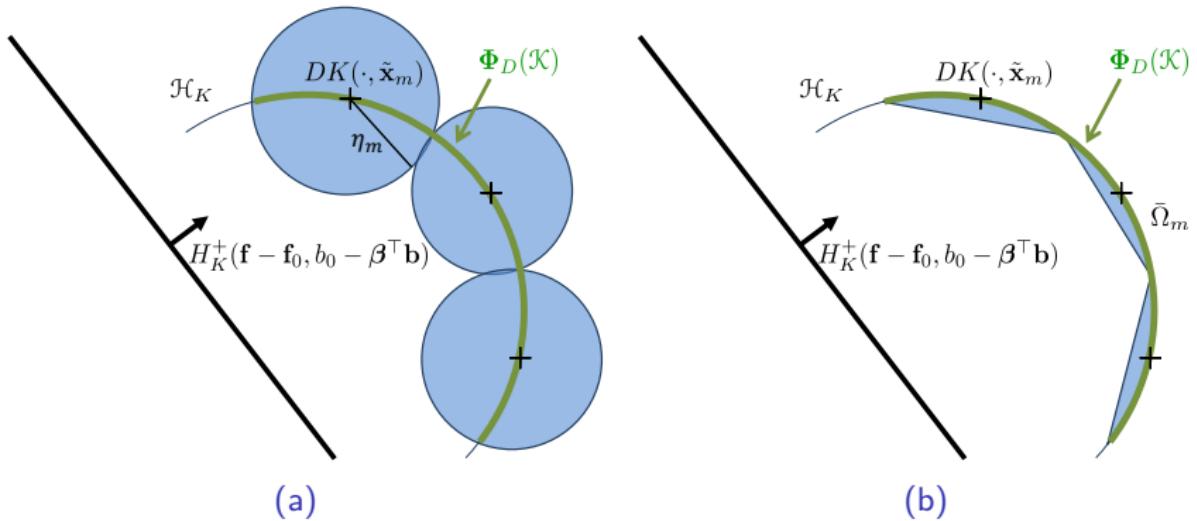
so  $k(x,y) = G_{D^*D,x}(y)$  [Saitoh and Sawano, 2016, p61]. For vector-valued contexts, e.g.  $\mathcal{F}_K = W^{s,2}(\mathbb{R}^d, \mathbb{R}^d)$  and  $D^*D = (1 - \sigma^2 \Delta)^s$  component-wise, see [Micheli and Glaunès, 2014, p9].

Alternatively, in 1D,  $D G_{D,x}(y) = \delta_z(y)$ , the kernel associated to the inner product  $\int_{\Omega} Df(y) Dg(y) dy$  for the space of  $f$  “null at the border” writes as

$$k(x,y) = \int_{\Omega} G_{D,x}(z) G_{D,y}(z) dz$$

see [Berlinet and Thomas-Agnan, 2004, p286] and [Heckman, 2012].

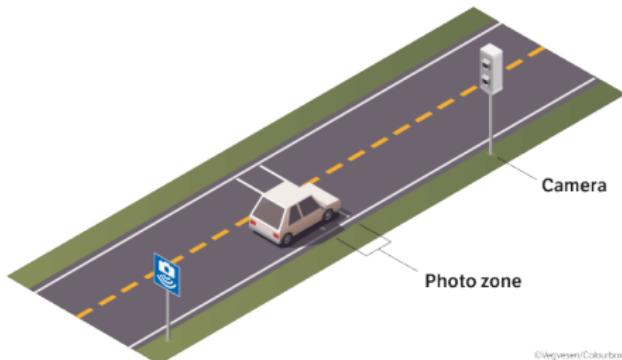
## Annex: Alternative finite coverings



**Figure:** Two examples of coverings in  $\mathcal{F}_K$  of  $\Phi_D(\mathcal{K})$  by a set  $\bar{\Omega} = \cup_{m \in [M]} \bar{\Omega}_m$  contained in the halfspace  $H_K^+(\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{f}_0, b_0 - \beta^\top \mathbf{b})$ . (a): covering through balls  $\Omega_m = \mathring{\mathbb{B}}_K(DK(\cdot, \tilde{x}_m), \eta_m)$ . (b): covering through a ball intersected with halfspaces.

## Annex: Why are state constraints difficult to study?

- **Theoretical obstacle:** Pontryagine's maximum principle involves not only an adjoint vector  $\mathbf{p}(t)$  but also measures/BV functions  $\psi(t)$  supported at times where the constraints are saturated. You cannot just backpropagate the Hamiltonian system from the transversality condition.
- **Numerical obstacle:** Time discretization of constraints may fail e.g.



Speed cameras in traffic control

In between two cameras, drivers always break the speed limit.

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## Annex: IPC gives strictly feasible trajectories

**(H-sol)**  $\mathbf{C}(0)\mathbf{z}_0 < \mathbf{d}(0)$  and there exists a trajectory  $\mathbf{z}^\epsilon(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S}$  satisfying strictly the affine constraints, as well as the initial condition.

**(H1)**  $\mathbf{A}(\cdot), \mathbf{B}(\cdot) \in \mathcal{C}^0$ ,  $\mathbf{c}_i(\cdot), d_i(\cdot) \in \mathcal{C}^1$  and  $\mathbf{C}(0)\mathbf{z}_0 < \mathbf{d}(0)$ .

**(H2)** There exists  $M_u > 0$  s.t. , for all  $t \in [t_0, T]$  and  $\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^Q$  satisfying  $\mathbf{C}(t)\mathbf{z} \leq \mathbf{d}(t)$ , and  $\|\mathbf{z}\| \leq (1 + \|\mathbf{z}_0\|)e^{T\|\mathbf{A}(\cdot)\|_{L^\infty(t_0, T)} + TM_u\|\mathbf{B}(\cdot)\|_{L^\infty(t_0, T)}}$ , there exists  $\mathbf{u}_{t,x} \in M_u \mathbb{B}_M$  such that

$$\forall i \in \{j \mid \mathbf{c}_j(t)^\top \mathbf{z} = d_j(t)\}, \quad \mathbf{c}'_i(t)^\top \mathbf{z} - d'_i(t) + \mathbf{c}_i(t)^\top (\mathbf{A}(t)\mathbf{z} + \mathbf{B}(t)\mathbf{u}_{t,x}) < 0.$$

This is an **inward-pointing condition** (IPC) at the boundary.

Lemma (Existence of interior trajectories)

If (H1) and (H2) hold, then (H-sol) holds.

## Annex: control proof main idea, nested property

$$\begin{aligned}\eta_i(\delta, t) &:= \sup \|K(\cdot, t)\mathbf{c}_i(t) - K(\cdot, s)\mathbf{c}_i(s)\|_K, \quad \omega_i(\delta, t) := \sup |d_i(t) - d_i(s)|, \\ d_i(\delta_m, t_m) &:= \inf d_i(s), \quad \text{over } s \in [t_m - \delta_m, t_m + \delta_m] \cap [t_0, T]\end{aligned}$$

For  $\vec{\epsilon} \in \mathbb{R}_+^P$ , the constraints we shall consider are defined as follows

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{V}_0 &:= \{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S} \mid \mathbf{C}(t)\mathbf{z}(t) \leq \mathbf{d}(t), \forall t \in [t_0, T]\}, \\ \mathcal{V}_{\delta,\text{fin}} &:= \{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S} \mid \vec{\eta}(\delta_m, t_m)\|\mathbf{z}(\cdot)\|_K + \mathbf{C}(t_m)\mathbf{z}(t_m) \leq \mathbf{d}(\delta_m, t_m), \forall m \in [\![1, M_0]\!]\}, \\ \mathcal{V}_{\delta,\text{inf}} &:= \{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S} \mid \vec{\eta}(\delta, t)\|\mathbf{z}(\cdot)\|_K + \vec{\omega}(\delta, t) + \mathbf{C}(t)\mathbf{z}(t) \leq \mathbf{d}(t), \forall t \in [t_0, T]\}, \\ \mathcal{V}_{\vec{\epsilon}} &:= \{\mathbf{z}(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S} \mid \vec{\epsilon} + \mathbf{C}(t)\mathbf{z}(t) \leq \mathbf{d}(t), \forall t \in [t_0, T]\}.\end{aligned}$$

### Proposition (Nested sequence)

Let  $\delta_{max} := \max_{m \in [\![1, M_0]\!]} \delta_m$ . For any  $\delta \geq \delta_{max}$ , if, for a given  $y_0 \geq 0$ ,  $\epsilon_i \geq \sup_{t \in [t_0, T]} [\eta_i(\delta, t)y_0 + \omega_i(\delta, t)]$ , then we have a nested sequence

$$(\mathcal{V}_{\vec{\epsilon}} \cap y_0 \mathbb{B}_K) \subset \mathcal{V}_{\delta,\text{inf}} \subset \mathcal{V}_{\delta,\text{fin}} \subset \mathcal{V}_0.$$

Only the simpler  $\mathcal{V}_{\vec{\epsilon}}$  constraints matter!

## Annex: Van Loan's trick for time-invariant Gramians

Use matrix exponentials as in [Van Loan, 1978]

$$\exp \left( \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{Q}_c \\ 0 & -\mathbf{A}^\top \end{pmatrix} \Delta \right) = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{F}_2(\Delta) & \mathbf{G}_2(\Delta) \\ 0 & \mathbf{F}_3(\Delta) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\left| \begin{array}{l} \hat{\mathbf{F}}_2(t) = e^{\mathbf{A}t} \\ \hat{\mathbf{F}}_3(t) = e^{-\mathbf{A}^\top t} \\ \hat{\mathbf{G}}_2(t) = \int_0^t e^{(t-\tau)\mathbf{A}} \mathbf{Q}_c e^{-\tau\mathbf{A}^\top} d\tau \\ \\ K_1(s, t) = \int_0^{\min(s, t)} e^{(s-\tau)\mathbf{A}} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{B}^\top e^{(t-\tau)\mathbf{A}^\top} d\tau \\ \\ \text{Set } \mathbf{Q}_C = \mathbf{B} \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{B}^\top. \\ \\ \text{For } s \leq t, \ K_1(s, t) = \hat{\mathbf{G}}_2(s) \hat{\mathbf{F}}_2(t)^\top \\ \text{For } t \leq s, \ K_1(s, t) = \hat{\mathbf{F}}_2(s) \hat{\mathbf{G}}_2(t)^\top \end{array} \right.$$

## Annex: Example of constrained pendulum - definition

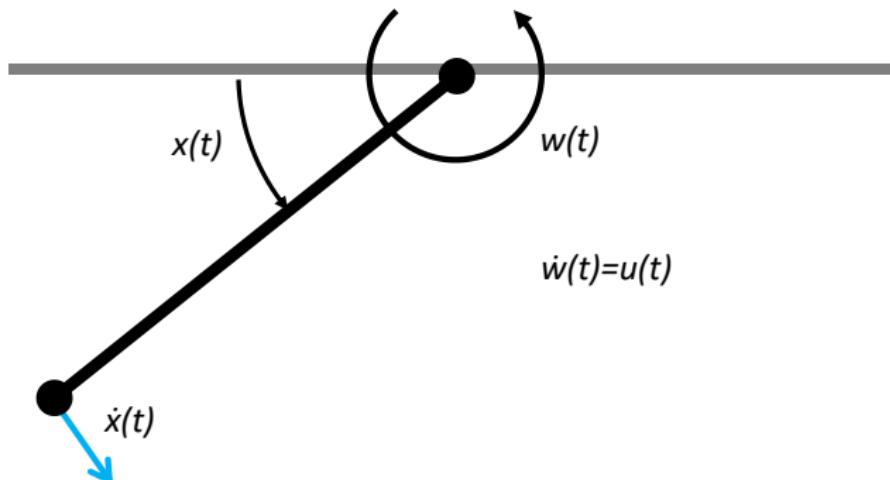
Constrained pendulum when controlling the third derivative of the angle

$$\min_{x(\cdot), w(\cdot), u(\cdot)} -\ddot{x}(T) + \lambda \|u(\cdot)\|_{L^2(0, T)}^2 \quad \lambda \ll 1$$

$$x(0) = 0.5, \quad \dot{x}(0) = 0, \quad w(0) = 0, \quad x(T/3) = 0.5, \quad x(T) = 0$$

$$\ddot{x}(t) = -10x(t) + w(t), \quad \dot{w}(t) = u(t), \text{ a.e. in } [0, T]$$

$$\dot{x}(t) \in [-3, +\infty[, \quad w(t) \in [-10, 10], \quad \forall t \in [0, T]$$



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Converting affine state constraints to SOC constraints, applying rep. thm

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_{\dot{x}} \|\mathbf{z}(\cdot)\|_K - \dot{x}(t_m) &\leq 3, \\ \eta_w \|\mathbf{z}(\cdot)\|_K + w(t_m) &\leq 10, \\ \eta_w \|\mathbf{z}(\cdot)\|_K - w(t_m) &\leq 10 \end{aligned}$$

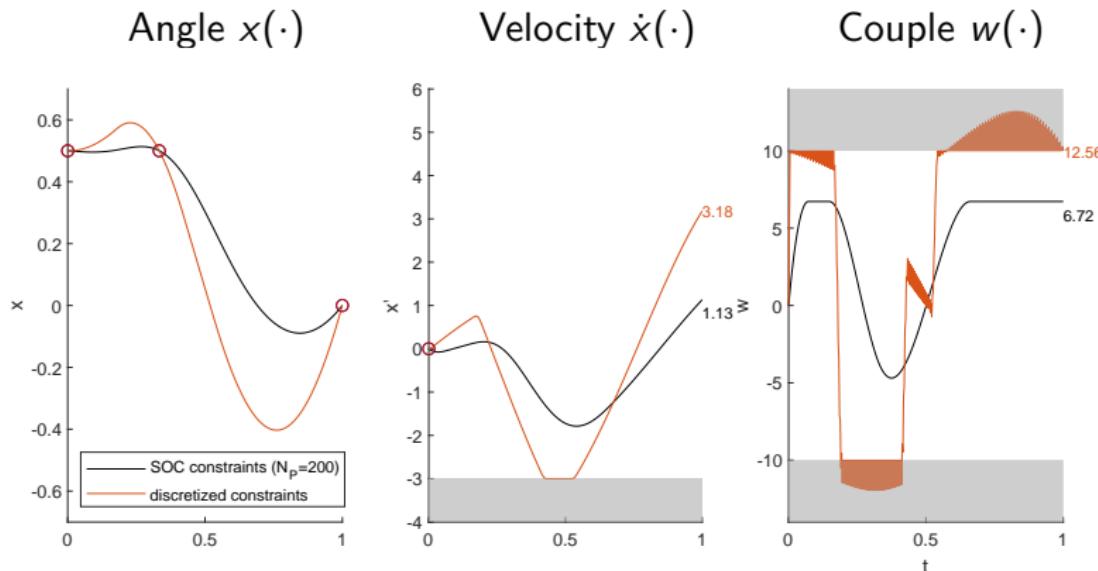
$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mathbf{z}}(\cdot) &= K(\cdot, 0)\mathbf{p}_0 + K(\cdot, T/3)\mathbf{p}_{T/3} \\ &\quad + K(\cdot, T)\mathbf{p}_T + \sum_{m=1}^M K(\cdot, t_m)\mathbf{p}_m \end{aligned}$$

Most of computational cost is related to the “controllability Gramians”

$K_1(s, t) = \int_0^{\min(s, t)} \mathbf{e}^{(s-\tau)\mathbf{A}} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{B}^\top \mathbf{e}^{(t-\tau)\mathbf{A}^\top} d\tau$  which we have to approximate.

## Annex: Example of constrained pendulum - illustration

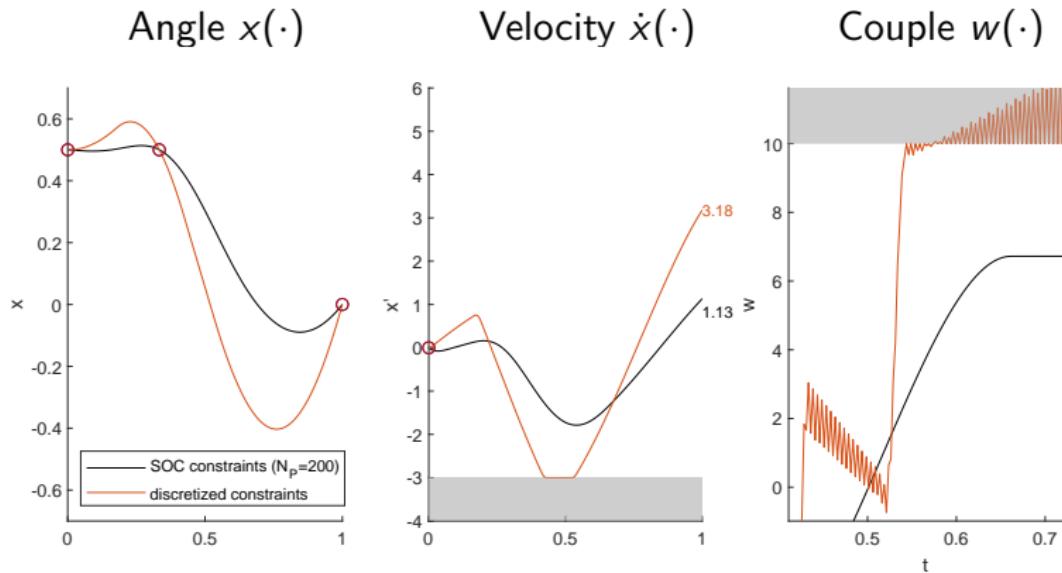
Optimal solutions of the constrained pendulum “path-planning” problem.  
Red circles: equality constraints. Grayed areas: constraints over  $[0, T]$ .



**Figure:** Comparison of SOC constraints (guaranteed  $\eta_w$ ) vs discretized constraints ( $\eta_w = 0$ ) for  $N_P = 200$ .

## Annex: Example of constrained pendulum - illustration

Optimal solutions of the constrained pendulum “path-planning” problem.  
Red circles: equality constraints. Grayed areas: constraints over  $[0, T]$ .



**Figure:** Comparison of SOC constraints (guaranteed  $\eta_w$ ) vs discretized constraints ( $\eta_w = 0$ ) for  $N_P = 200$  - Chattering phenomenon like for traffic cameras!

## Annex: Example of constrained pendulum - illustration

Optimal solutions of the constrained pendulum “path-planning” problem.  
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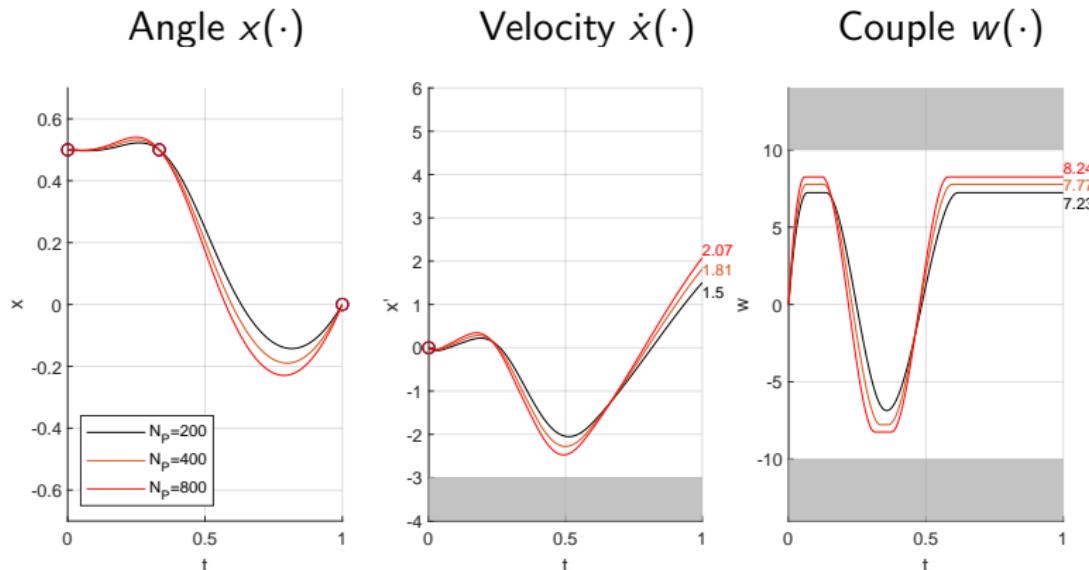


Figure: Comparison of SOC constraints for varying  $N_P$  and guaranteed  $\eta_w$ .

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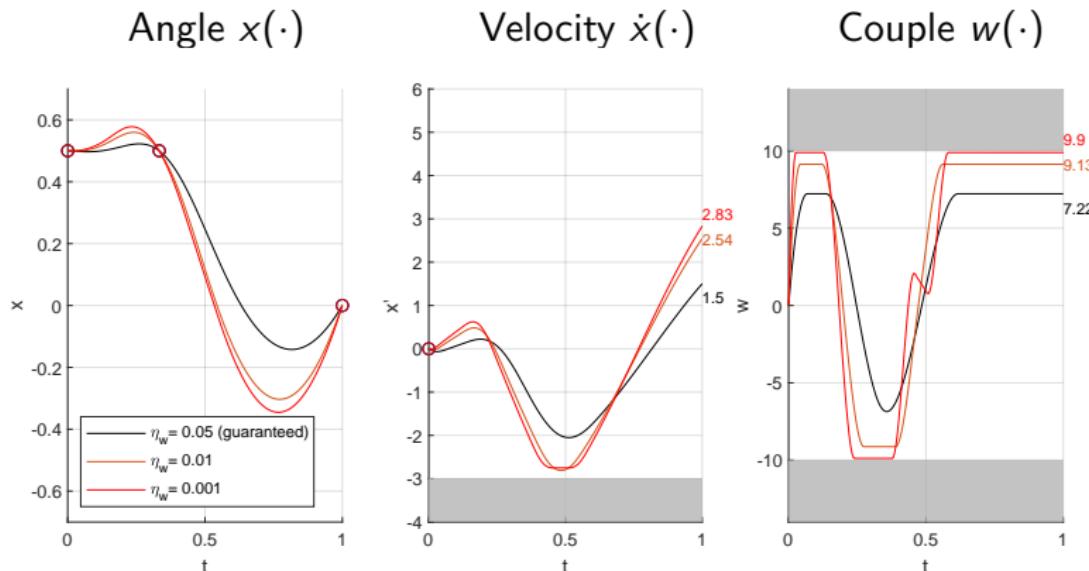


Figure: Comparison of SOC constraints for varying  $\eta_w$  and  $N_P = 200$ .

