

Identifying comfortable driving behaviour from demonstration

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Voorafgaande schriftelijke toestemming van de promotor is eveneens vereist voor het aanwenden van de in deze masterproef beschreven (originele) methoden, producten, schakelingen en programma's voor industrieel of commercieel nut en voor de inzending van deze publicatie ter deelname aan wetenschappelijke prijzen of wedstrijden.

Preface

I would like to thank my family in the first place. During the history of my studies they always have been my biggest fans and I want to show my gratitude for the opportunities they have given me. I also want to thank my promoter Professor Swevers at the KU Leuven and Dr. Tong my mentor at Siemens for the professional discussions and tips they have given me in order to improve results. As last I also want to thank Flavia Acerbo, an employee at Siemens who stood always ready when I had a question.

Stijn Staring

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Abstract

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Samenvatting

In dit **abstract** environment wordt een al dan niet uitgebreide Nederlandse samenvatting van het werk gegeven. Wanneer de tekst voor een Nederlandstalige master in het Engels wordt geschreven, wordt hier normaal een uitgebreide samenvatting verwacht, bijvoorbeeld een tiental bladzijden.

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List of Abbreviations and Symbols

Abbreviations

LoG Laplacian-of-Gaussian

Symbols

42 “The Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything”
according to [?]
 c Speed of light

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.0.1 Importance of topic

"Society expects autonomous vehicles to be held to a higher standard than human drivers." [16] This quote is setting the tone of the technology in autonomous driving. In order to be accepted to the public, autonomous vehicles should perform as least as good as the conventional human driver on parameters as for example safety. Despite widespread research on self-driving vehicles the acceptance by the user stays only limited.[2] The purchase behaviour of customers can be directly linked with comfort. Also in order to gain more trust by the public it is clear that the challenge of making autonomous vehicles as comfortable as possible, should be tackled. This immediately leads to the questions what comfort during driving exactly is and how to measure it. A survey was conducted by researchers of the university of Warwick with as research question: Do passengers prefer autonomous vehicles be driven as full efficiency machines or in a way that emulates averaged human behaviour? [20] The result suggested that a blend of both is appealing the most confidence by user of a autonomous vehicle.

Driving comfort is a personal experience and also depend on the current emotional state of the driver. This means that more than one driving style for autonomous vehicle-driving should be identified for a certain vehicle. [22] The state of the driver can be communicated with the vehicle at the start of each ride and different driving styles can be obtained by changing the parameters in the path planning algorithm.



FIGURE 1.1: Concept visualization of autonomous driving. (source: [6])

1.0.2 Link with previous studies and problem formulation

In order to identify the specific comfort preferences of the driver that are quantized by these parameters, the vehicle should be able to learn them by demonstration. [11] Despite that each driver has its own preferences, they are based on a common notion of comfort where only different trade-offs are made. For example some drivers prefer more aggressive driving behaviour than others which will manifests itself in a different trade-offs of different comfort criteria than for example a defensive drivers. This will later in this thesis be translated into a comfort objective where different weights are used in order to quantify different comfort trade-offs made. This approach is in literature called inverse optimal control because it is learning the objective function of the comfort optimization. The lower the outputted value of this comfort objective, the higher the measurement of attained comfort will be in the later path planning algorithm.

In order to find comfort criteria which can be used to distinguish different drivers, research about the common notion of comfort is necessary. Passenger surveys in public road transport about carsickness [19] have identified lateral acceleration as the primarily responsible for motion sickness. It is explained that drive style is a main factor to influence the amount of sickness and it was found that sickness is higher when drivers drove with a higher average magnitude of fore-and-aft and lateral motion. These effect were found far more significant than the effect of vertical vibrations. There is also a consensus reached about the contribution of continuous trajectories to the prevention of motion sickness and the natural feel of paths.[7] This means that higher order kinematic variables like accelerations and jerks also should be considered when measuring comfort.

1.0.3 Thesis objective

The goal of this thesis is to build further on the research of learning by demonstration [11] and to refine this idea in a good working practical application. The thesis is more concretely focussed in the ability to explain driver data and the practical implementation and validation of a learning algorithm that is able to capture user specific driving preferences in weights of a comfort objective function. The learning process is to be done offline and is based on an inverse optimal control approach. A comfort objective will be derived from literature to describe the common notion of comfort and this will be fitted on individual driver data to produce driver specific parameters. In the next step this objective function will be used in a path planning MPC formulation which will be calculating online feasible and comfortable paths whereafter an tracking MPC algorithm will follow it.

To conduct the inverse learning control there is first look at data generated by simulations where it is assumed that the vehicle is driving on an straight road and high way speed when executing manoeuvres as lane changes and longitudinal accelerations.

An example lane change can be seen in Figure 1.2. Assumptions made during this manoeuvre To be able to make the generated data of high quality an MPC approach with a 15 degree of freedom vehicle model is used. Also in the learning algorithm itself a three degree of freedom non-linear bicycle model is used in order to adequately capture the different kinematic signals e.g. jerks and accelerations. Further there were comparisons made of different methods to learn from multiple datasets.

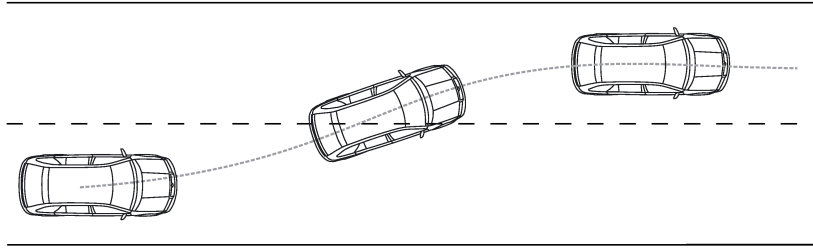


FIGURE 1.2: Example lane change as used as input in the inverse optimal control algorithm.

The execution of this research is conducted with the support of "Siemens Digital Industries Software - NVH R&D engineering department" located in Leuven which made it possible to preserve the direct link with reality. Software was made available e.g. Simcenter Amesim and the possibility to validate the obtained algorithms with real driver data made it possible to make the results that could be obtained more significant.

Chapter 2

State of the art modelling of comfort

As discussed in the introduction the goal of the thesis is to learn and implement a method to capture personal experience of comfort in autonomous driving. This will be done by using an inverse optimal control approach where the weights are learned from demonstration. To be able to do this it is necessary that a literature study is done about how to define comfort in a vehicle and to gain information about inverse optimal control.

This chapter will give an overview of the literature that is available and will show how the thesis fits in earlier conducted research.

2.1 What are the parameters that define comfort during driving?

In the following US patent [5] the idea is to assess the amount of comfort by calculating a value for carsickness. This value is calculated by a weighted sum of the sway motion, surge motion and heave motion of the vehicle. These motions are being directly calculated from the lateral acceleration, fore-aft acceleration and the vertical acceleration of the vehicle.

In the paper 'Investigating ride comfort measures in autonomous cars' [7], it is explained that due to the introduction of autonomous vehicles there will be an other perception of comfort. Figure 2.1 indicates in blue the claimed traditional comfort factors and in red the new ones that also have to be taken into account in when driving in autonomous vehicles. Concretely this can be translated into the preference of smooth trajectories and low lateral motions when the roads are assumed to be sufficiently smooth. A hypotheses is that motion sickness will be more prominent in autonomous driving due to the loss of control. Is is also argued that the amount of travel time and the distance to an obstacle are naturally parameters that contribute to a comfortable feeling.

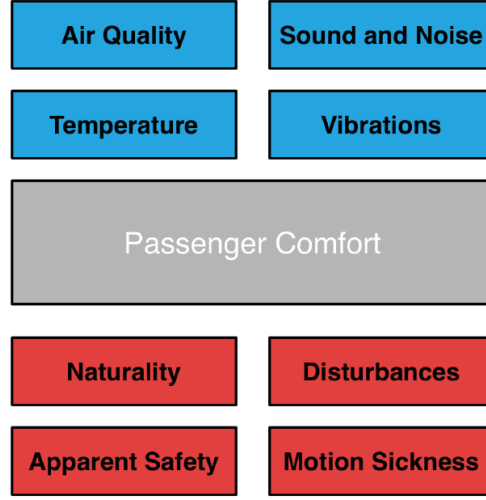


FIGURE 2.1: Overview of comfort parameters in autonomous vehicle with old parameters (blue) and new ones (red). (Source: [7])

In 'Analysis of Driving Style Preference in Automated Driving' [3] three studies are conducted in order to capture the definition of comfortable driving in autonomous vehicles. In the first study drivers drove manually with their own driving styles and this data was used in order to look for relevant metrics that could be used in defining distinct driver styles. It was found that these metrics are varying across the maneuver. This is a logical result because not in all maneuvers are all the comfort matrices equally dominant.

The results of this research is that accelerations play a key role in comfort but are not the only factor. [3]

The different comfort metrics found:

- lateral and longitudinal acceleration;
- lateral and longitudinal jerk;
- quickness of maneuver;
- headway distance;

Quickness of completing a lane change or an acceleration maneuver could respectively be modelled as: $q_L = \frac{\int \frac{velocity \cdot dt}{Time}}{\Delta distance}$ and $q_A = \frac{\int \frac{acceleration \cdot dt}{Time}}{\Delta velocity}$.

Comfortable driving as being assessed in [3] can be summarized as driving with small accelerations and jerk to obtain sufficient smooth trajectories and keeping sufficient headway distance in order to have a feeling of control and safety. These results suggest that when an algorithm to assess comfort is suggested for autonomous

vehicles, a notion of the surrounding traffic should be inherently present. It was found that in order of the traffic density the driver is more tolerant towards less smooth driving behaviour e.g. to be able to insert in a busy lane. In this case higher comfort can be attained if the driver has a feeling of a fast responds of the vehicle translating in early peaks of acceleration. Vertical vibrations come not into scope when roads are assumed sufficiently smooth.

In a second study the main metrics that were found from study one are varied and combinations are rated by the use of a survey about the amount of comfort. "Out of this it followed that accelerations are playing a key factor." [3] For lane changes it could be concluded that the maneuvers with a small lateral acceleration and early perceivable onset were more comfortable. It is further also hypothesised that the location of the acceleration peaks and the amount of symmetry of the acceleration signal also plays a role when the amount of comfort is rated.

The relation between jerks and comfort is also confirmed by [8] where it is stated that: "Jerk has been shown to elicit a stronger influence on comfort than acceleration".

2.1.1 Conclusion

In order to find parameters of driving comfort that will further on in the thesis will be used as comfort criteria, a literature study is conducted which is mainly questionnaire based. The results are that in order to be able to assess comfort higher order kinematic variables as accelerations and jerks should be taken into account. These are important variables in order to obtain a smooth vehicle path and to give a continuous and natural feeling when driving. Also should the quickness of the maneuver and the feeling of safety of the driver be taken into account. As quoted by [19] states that low frequency lateral acceleration are the mean responsible for carsickness. In addition comfort assessment is influenced by the environment because in busier traffic there is a higher tolerance for less smooth trajectories. It was also found that the effect of a fast reaction of vehicle at the start of a maneuver is influencing the amount of comfort perceived in a positive way.

2.2 Inverse reinforcement learning

Because every human has its own driving style it is a cumbersome task to tune these parameters for each individual in order to model a personal perception of comfort. In [15] it is showed that manual tuned parameters will lead besides also to sub-optimal solutions in comparison when the parameters are learned. That is why it is chosen in this thesis to derive these parameters by demonstration of a human driver.

The goal of the learning algorithm explained in this thesis is to derive the parameters of different linearly combined comfort criteria combined in the costfunction J that when optimized as best as possible explain the observed data. As the match with the observed data gets better, the model as suggested by equation 2.1 is getting

closer to the inner comfort model of the individual driver. However it should be noted that the driver is taken unknowingly a lot of comfort criteria into account and they are not always linearly relating. Therefore the suggested comfort cost function consisting of a linear combination of comfort criteria will always be an approximation of the reality. Yet as discussed in [11] the results suggest that the magnitudes of the quantities that contribute to the comfort of the user are obtained.

$$J = \sum_{j=1}^N \theta_j \cdot f_j \quad (2.1)$$

In order to create a generative model that create vehicle paths r_i with equivalent kinematic characteristics as the path that was observed \tilde{r}_i , a feature-based inverse reinforcement learning is applied. [11, 1] With $i \in [1...m]$ and m the amount of observed trajectories. A feature is encoding relevant kinematic properties and the difference between the demonstrated and calculated features says something about the similarity of the kinematic vehicle signals.

2.2.1 Background on learning algorithm

A feature values maps a trajectory onto a scalar and the higher the scalar value the more discomfort is experienced. An example of a that measures the amount of accelerations in a maneuver is given by equation 2.2.

$$f : \mathbf{r} \rightarrow f(\mathbf{r}) = \int_0^T \ddot{x}(t)^2 + \ddot{y}(t)^2 dt \quad (2.2)$$

The path that the centre of gravity of the vehicle is following can be represented by: 2.3.

$$\mathbf{r} : t \rightarrow \mathbf{r}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} x(t) \\ y(t) \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.3)$$

The driver is not a deterministic agent and is modelled by a stochastic distribution: $p(\mathbf{r}|\boldsymbol{\theta})$ For certain weights $\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ a path \mathbf{r} is produced as being a sample of a stochastic distribution. The distribution that is chosen for this is the distribution of maximum entropy (equation: 2.4). [4, 10]. This describes the data best because it is the distribution that is least biased. [11] The distribution with the highest entropy represents the given information best since it does not favour any particular outcome besides the observed constraints. [1]

$$p(\mathbf{r}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \exp(-\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \cdot \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r})) \quad (2.4)$$

Equation 2.4 can be interpreted as a linear costfunction $\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r})$ where agents are exponentially more likely to select trajectories with lower cost. [11] The observed feature vector $\tilde{\mathbf{F}} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ has on its entries the different feature values \tilde{f}_i with $i \in [1...m]$. The averaged observed feature vector is $\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{av} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m \tilde{\mathbf{F}}_j$.

In order to be able to explain the averaged observed feature vector, the weights θ need to be found that match the expected features vector obtained from the distribution $\mathbf{F}(r_{expected})$ with the averaged observed features vector \mathbf{F}_{obs} . $r_{expected}$ defined as $E(p(\mathbf{r}|\theta))$. To make the expected features vector match the averaged observed features vector, gradient descent method can be used with as gradient $\mathbf{F}_{obs} - \mathbf{F}(r_{expected})$. Equation 2.5 summarizes the gradient descent method with α the step size taken in the direction of descent.

$$\theta^{k+1} = \theta^k - \alpha \frac{\partial \mathbf{F}^k}{\partial \theta} \quad (2.5)$$

When $\theta_{optimal}$ is found the gradient is minimized and the features vectors will match as closely as possible. "When the feature expectations match, guaranteeing that the learner performs equivalently to the agent's demonstrated behaviour regardless of the actual reward weights the agent is attempting to optimize" [1]

In order to calculate $\mathbf{F}(r_{expected})$ a Hamiltonian Markov chain Monte Carlo stochastic distribution sampling approached is used in [10]. In [11] a simplified method and less calculation demanding approach is proposed where it is assumed that the expected path is the one that is been assessed as the most comfortable by the driver and is thus the path that is minimizing 2.1 for certain weights. In order to be able to match with the observed data it is hereby assumed that the demonstrations not only are samples of a stochastic distribution but are also generated by optimizing an inner cost function which is similar to 2.1. Equation 2.6 summarizes the approximation proposed by [11].

$$r_{expected} = \underset{\mathbf{r}}{argmax} p(\mathbf{r}|\theta) = \underset{\mathbf{r}}{argmin} \theta^T \cdot \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}) \quad (2.6)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{F}}{\partial \theta} = \mathbf{F}_{obs} - \mathbf{F}(r_{expected}) \quad (2.7)$$

It is checked in chapter 3 if this approach that is assuming that demonstrations are generated by minimizing a cost function also gives acceptable results when the assumption is violated.

2.2.2 RPROP algorithm

From [14] it is known that not every step size in the opposite direction of the gradient is leading to the convergence towards a minimum. When the step size is too small it will take a long time to convergence. However when it is chosen too big, cycling behaviour between limit points can occur. In order to avoid this kind of unwanted behaviour a line-search method is needed in order to change the step size taken during the course of the algorithm. For this the Resilient backpropagation algorithm (**RPROP**) [17] is used as it was first proposed by Martin Riedmiller and Heinrich Braun in 1993.

The main advantage when using RPROP is that the size of the gradient is not blurring the update value of the weights for the start of the next iteration in the gradient descent optimization method. The update value Δu is solely dependent of the sign of the current gradient and the sign of the gradient in the previous iteration. The main equations of the algorithm are given for each by:

$$\Delta u_i^t = \begin{cases} \eta^+ \cdot \Delta u_i^{t-1}, & \text{if } \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \theta_i}^t \cdot \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \theta_i}^{t-1} > 0 \\ \eta^- \cdot \Delta u_i^{t-1}, & \text{if } \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \theta_i}^t \cdot \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \theta_i}^{t-1} < 0 \\ \Delta u_i^{t-1}, & \text{if } \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \theta_i}^t \cdot \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \theta_i}^{t-1} = 0 \end{cases} \quad (2.8)$$

When the update value of the weight is determined it is applied in the direction of steepest descent which equals the opposite direction of the current gradient.

$$\Delta \theta_i^t = \begin{cases} -\Delta u_i^t, & \text{if } \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \theta_i}^t > 0 \\ +\Delta u_i^t, & \text{if } \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \theta_i}^t < 0 \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases} \quad (2.9)$$

Exception on 2.9:

$$\Delta \theta_i^t = -\Delta \theta_i^{t-1}, \text{ if } \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \theta_i}^t \cdot \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \theta_i}^{t-1} < 0 \quad (2.10)$$

$$0 < \eta^- < 1 < \eta^+ \quad (2.11)$$

and with $\theta_i^{t+1} = \theta_i^t + \Delta \theta_i^t$, $i \in \mathbb{N}_{[1 \dots N]}$ and $t \in \mathbb{N}_{[1 \dots \tau]}$ the amount of iterations. Every time the partial derivative $\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \theta_i}^t$ of the corresponding weight θ_i^t changes its sign, it is assumed that the last update was too big and the local minimum was passed. In 2.8 the step size is reduced and in order to go back the previous situation the update of the weight is done as 2.10. In order to not again decrease the update value when going back to the previous situation, in the next iteration $\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \theta_i}^{t-1}$ is set equal to zero. If the derivative retains its sign, the update-value is slightly increased in order to accelerate convergence in shallow regions." [17] Parameters chosen by the user are Δ_0, η^+ and η^- . In this thesis following values were chosen: $\Delta_0 = 0.1$, $\eta^+ = 1.2$ and $\eta^- = 0.5$.

Conclusion

A background from literature on the inverse reinforcement learning algorithm used in this thesis was given. First inverse reinforcement learning was explained and how it could help to solve the research question how to learn comfort from observations. Afterwards a more detailed background on the formulation of the specific learning algorithm was given, which was complemented with a discussion on the algorithm used to update the weights being part of the gradient descent method to match expected feature values with observed ones.

Chapter 3

Learning from ideal data

This chapter is focussing on the implementation of the inverse reinforcement learning idea that is used to learn the different weights in the comfort cost function $\theta^T \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r})$ explained in chapter 2. The use of ideal data is assumed which means that vehicle model mismatch is avoided by using the same model for learning the weights as generating the data. Thereby is the approximation that comfort of a driver can be modelled by a simple linear relation of features is exactly for-filled. Data is generated by choosing a set of weights and generating kinematic vehicle signals by the minimization seen in equation 2.6. Perfect learning occurs when the chosen weights when generating the data are found back.

First the non-linear bicycle model with the used parameters are explained. Further on the concretely used algorithm is discussed. After that a detailed discussion is given about the simulations done in order to check what the algorithm is capable of. The reader must be aware that the learning process discussed, concerns an offline optimization which allows for higher calculations loads because of the absence of binding real time constraints.

3.1 Non-linear bicycle model

The free body diagram of the non-linear bicycle model can be seen in figure 3.1.

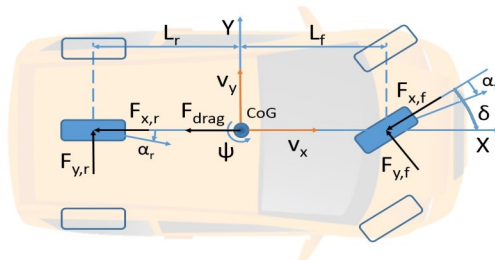


FIGURE 3.1: Non-linear vehicle bicycle model (Source: [18]).

3. LEARNING FROM IDEAL DATA

The model is characterizing the vehicle with 6 states and 2 inputs:

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} x & y & v_x & v_y & \psi & \dot{\psi} \end{bmatrix}^T \text{ and } \mathbf{U} = \begin{bmatrix} t_r & \delta \end{bmatrix}^T \quad (3.1)$$

X and Y in the formulation of 3.1 are the position of the centre of gravity of the car in the global coordinate system. ψ is the vehicle yaw angle and $\dot{\psi}$ the yaw angular velocity. v_x and v_y are the vehicle velocities in the local vehicle frame. The input vector consists of the throttle control input t_r and the steering angle δ .

The equations of motion [18] are:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x} &= v_x \cos(\psi) - v_y \sin(\psi) \\ \dot{y} &= v_x \sin(\psi) + v_y \cos(\psi) \\ \dot{\psi} &= \dot{\psi} \\ m\dot{v}_x &= F_{x,f} \cos(\delta) - F_{y,f} \sin(\delta) + F_{x,r} - F_{drag} + m v_y \dot{\psi} \\ m\dot{v}_y &= F_{x,f} \sin(\delta) + F_{y,f} \cos(\delta) + F_{y,r} - m v_x \dot{\psi} \\ I_z \ddot{\psi} &= L_f (F_{y,f} \cos(\delta) + F_{x,f} \sin(\delta)) - L_r F_{y,r} \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

The drag force is calculated as:

$$F_{drag} = C_{r0} + C_{r1} v_x^2 \quad (3.3)$$

, with C_{r0} the roll resistance and C_{r1} the air drag contributions.

To calculate the tyre forces, a linear tyre model is used instead of a more complex non-linear model e.g. Pacejka tire model. The longitudinal tyre forces are calculated as:

$$\begin{aligned} F_{x,f} &= \frac{t_r T_{max}}{2 R_w} \\ F_{x,r} &= F_{x,f} \end{aligned} \quad (3.4)$$

R_w is the wheel radius and T_{max} a measure for the maximum torque the engine is able to supply. In this way, four wheel drive is assumed and the total torque is equally distributed between front and rear axle (division by 2 in above equations). The coefficient t_r is the normalised wheel torque and can have a value between -1 and 1 (negative for braking). The lateral tyre forces are calculated based on the tyre slipangles α_f and α_r :

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_f &= -\text{atan}\left(\frac{\dot{\psi} L_f + v_y}{v_x}\right) + \delta \\ \alpha_r &= \text{atan}\left(\frac{\dot{\psi} L_r - v_y}{v_x}\right) \end{aligned} \quad (3.5)$$

, resulting in:

$$\begin{aligned} F_{y,f} &= 2K_f \alpha_f \\ F_{y,r} &= 2K_r \alpha_r \end{aligned} \quad (3.6)$$

The use of this linearised lateral tyre model is valid for small lateral accelerations ($a_y \leq 4m/s^2$) and slip angles ($\alpha \leq 5^\circ$) [18]. It is acceptable to use this approximation model in this thesis as the goal is learn a comfortable and thus smooth manoeuvre e.g lane change. These constraints will also be checked during the validation in Chapter 7.

The fixed model parameter used during the simulations are given in table 3.1. These correspond to common used vehicle parameters as provide by Siemens Digital Industries Software - NVH R&D engineering department.

Parameter	Value
Vehicle mass m [kg]	1430
Moment of inertia I_z [kgm^2]	1300
Front axle distance L_f [m]	1.056
Rear axle distance L_r [m]	1.344
Roll resistance coefficient C_{r0} [N]	0.6
Air drag coefficient C_{r1} [$\frac{Ns^2}{m^2}$]	0.1
Engine torque limit T_{max} [Nm]	584
Wheel radius R_w [m]	0.292
Lateral front tyre stiffness K_f [N]	41850.85
Lateral rear tyre stiffness K_r [N]	51175.78

TABLE 3.1: Used vehicle model parameters.

3.2 Formulation of the algorithm

The goal of the learning algorithm is to learn the weights θ in the pre-defined comfort objective function: $\theta^T \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r})$. The features that are the entries of the feature vector $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r})$ have to capture a notion of comfort felled by the driver. Based on the literature study conducted in Chapter 2 and paper [11], the amount of discomfort can be modelled by following features during timespan T of the maneuver. The scenario of a lane change on a highway is chosen. Further in this thesis a validation of the method is done by also looking into a longitudinal acceleration maneuver. T itself is aside of the state and control variables of the non-linear bicycle model also an optimization variable during the learning process. The simulations done in this thesis were performed on a notebook with Intel Core i7-7920HQ CPU @ 3.10GHz and 32 GB of RAM memory.

3.2.1 Flow of the algorithm

The best weights are found when the paths that are generated with the comfort cost function 3.17 explain the observed path best. Similarity between the observed path and the one that follows from minimizing the objective 3.17 is quantitated by the difference between the feature values of the observed path and the obtained one. The flow of the single data set learning algorithm can be seen in Figure 3.2.

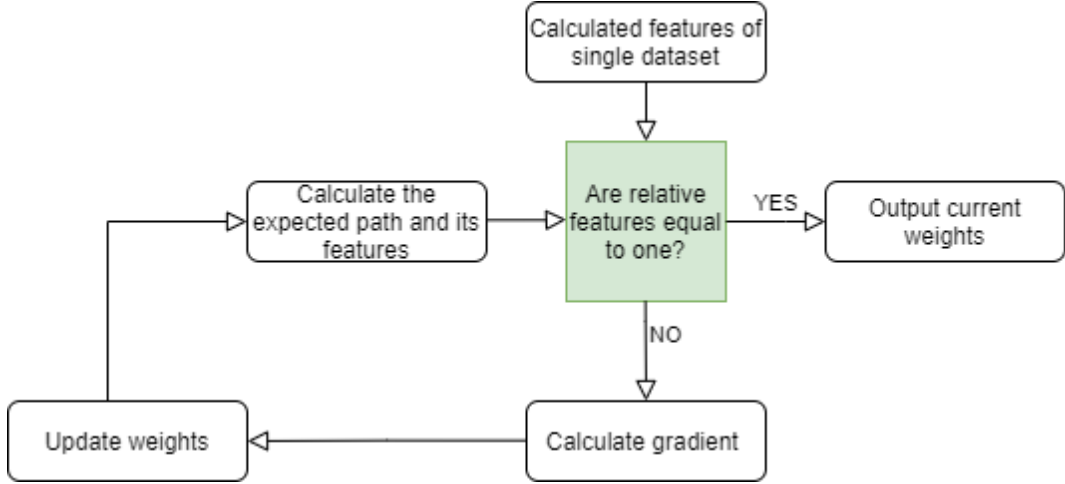


FIGURE 3.2: Basic flow of the reinforced learning algorithm.

The learning is started by guessing a set of weights e.g. all equal to one. Equation 3.17 is minimized in order to generate an expected path for these weights. From this calculated path, features can be retrieved from where relative features $f_{rel,i}$ are calculated by dividing the calculated features by the features that are derived of the observed path. A perfect match is acquired when the division equals one. The tolerance on convergence towards one, is chosen during this chapter equal to 10^{-4} . When obtained, the learning algorithm is stopped and the learned weights are outputted.

While no convergence takes place the weights are updated, making use of the RPROP algorithm explained in Chapter 2. In order to apply the RPROP method only the sign of the gradient is needed, because the size of the step α is decoupled of the size of the gradient. Because the gradient is given by $\frac{\partial F}{\partial \theta} = F_{obs} - F(r_{expected})$ and the update of the weight is achieved by applying the gradient method according to $\theta^{k+1} = \theta^k - \alpha \frac{\partial F}{\partial \theta}$, the weight θ_i is decreased if $f_{obs,i} > f_i(r_{expected})$ and increased when $f_{obs,i} < f_i(r_{expected})$. The optimization with fixed weights that is solved during each iteration in order to calculate the expected path, which equals the most comfortable path, can be seen in optimization 3.7.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \min_{\mathbf{X}(\cdot), \mathbf{U}(\cdot), T} \quad & \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \theta^T \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{X}^k, \mathbf{U}^k, T) \\
 \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{X}^{k+1} = I(\mathbf{X}^k, \mathbf{U}^k) \quad k = [0, \dots, N-1] \\
 & \mathbf{X}^0 = \mathbf{X}_{initial} \\
 & \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{X}^k, \mathbf{U}^k) \geq 0 \quad k = [0, \dots, N] \\
 & \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{X}^k, \mathbf{U}^k) = 0 \quad k = [0, \dots, N] \\
 & \mathbf{X}^k \in \mathbb{R}^{6 \times 1} \quad k = [0, \dots, N] \\
 & \mathbf{U}^k \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 1} \quad k = [0, \dots, N-1] \\
 & T \in \mathbb{R}, \quad N, i, l \in \mathbb{N}
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.7}$$

Where $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{6 \times N+1}$ and $\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times N}$ contain respectively the states and controls 3.1 during the maneuver, complemented with the time of the maneuver T . In order to discretize time a multiple shooting is adopted as is explained in section 5.0.2 The amount of integration intervals N chosen in this chapter is equal to 500 and equals the amount of control intervals in order to go from the initial state towards the end state. Taken into account that a lane change maneuver modelled takes around 6 seconds, a sampling time around $100 \frac{\text{samples}}{s}$ is obtained with N taken equal to 500. Inside the function I the Runge-Kutta time integration method is embedded in order to connect different states over time when a certain control is applied for ΔT . The path constraint vector $\mathbf{G} \in \mathbb{R}^{L \times 1}$ demarcate together with the equality constraint vector $\mathbf{H} \in \mathbb{R}^{Q \times 1}$ the feasible area of the solutions for \mathbf{X} , \mathbf{U} and T . An overview of \mathbf{G} and \mathbf{H} used can be found by equation 3.8 and 3.9.

$$\mathbf{G} = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} -1 \leq t_r^k \leq 1, & k = [0, \dots, N-1] \\ -\frac{Width \ Road}{2} \leq y^k \leq \frac{3 \cdot Width \ Road}{2}, & k = [0, \dots, N] \\ x^k \geq 0, & k = [0, \dots, N] \end{array} \right\} \tag{3.8}$$

It should be noted that the physical limits of the vehicle so as maximum accelerations, velocities are not taken into account. This is done because they were not bounding during a comfortable lane change maneuver and thus are not influencing the optimal solution. Ofcourse when the learning is applied in a more general scenario these

3. LEARNING FROM IDEAL DATA

constraints should be included in order to get a more robust optimization formulation.

$$\mathbf{H} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} y^N = Width\ Road \\ vy^N = 0 \\ ay^N = 0 \\ \psi^N = 0 \\ \dot{\psi}^N = 0 \\ a_{t,y}^N = 0 \\ j_y^N = 0 \\ a_{t,y}^0 = 0 \\ j_y^0 = 0 \end{array} \right\} \quad (3.9)$$

These constraints displayed in \mathbf{H} make sure that initial state of the vehicle is just before the start of the lane change and the last state of the vehicle is when the lane change maneuver is completely finished. The initial state $\mathbf{X}_{initial}$ as stated by optimization 3.7 can be seen in 3.10.

$$\mathbf{X}_{initial} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ v_{start} \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (3.10)$$

From this formulation it is clear that when the generation of ideal observation data by solving 3.7 for a set of manually chosen weights (Section 3.2.4), changing the parameters v_{start} and *Width Road* will lead to different lane change maneuvers. The initial guess used in 3.7 for \mathbf{X} , \mathbf{U} and T during the learning process are extracted from the observation.

3.2.2 Objective function

$$discomfort = \theta_1 \cdot f_1 + \theta_2 \cdot f_2 + \theta_3 \cdot f_3 + \theta_4 \cdot f_4 + \theta_5 \cdot f_5 \quad (3.11)$$

$$f_i, \theta_i \in \mathbb{R} \quad i \in \mathbb{N}$$

Feature 1: longitudinal acceleration

$$f_1 : \mathbf{r} \rightarrow f_1(\mathbf{r}) = \int_0^T a_{x,total}^2(t) dt \quad (3.12)$$

Feature one is assessing the amount of discomfort by integrating the total longitudinal acceleration in the local axis fixed to the vehicle as can be seen in Figure 3.1.

The total longitudinal acceleration $a_{x,total}$ is the sum of the tangential acceleration $a_{x,tangential}$ and the normal acceleration $a_{x,normal}$. These 2 variables can respectively be linked to the optimization variables regarding the vehicle model of equation 3.1 by $\frac{\partial^2 v_x}{\partial t^2}$ and $-v_y \cdot \dot{\psi}$. By including the normal acceleration, the centripetal force and hence the curvature of the path is taken into account.

Feature 2: lateral acceleration

$$f_2 : \mathbf{r} \rightarrow f_2(\mathbf{r}) = \int_0^T a_{y,total}^2(t) dt \quad (3.13)$$

Feature two is assessing the amount of discomfort by integrating the total lateral acceleration in the local axis while assuming a straight road. The total lateral acceleration $a_{y,total}$ is the sum of the tangential acceleration $a_{y,tangential}$ and the normal acceleration $a_{y,normal}$. These 2 variables can respectively be linked to the optimization variables regarding the vehicle model of equation 3.1 by $\frac{\partial^2 v_y}{\partial t^2}$ and $v_x \cdot \dot{\psi}$.

Feature 3: lateral jerk

$$f_3 : \mathbf{r} \rightarrow f_3(\mathbf{r}) = \int_0^T j_y^2(t) dt \quad (3.14)$$

Feature three is assessing the amount of comfort by integrating the total change of acceleration during the followed path.

Feature 4: desired speed

$$f_4 : \mathbf{r} \rightarrow f_4(\mathbf{r}) = \int_0^T (v_{des} - v_x)^2 dt \quad (3.15)$$

v_{des} is assumed to be a constant value in this paper and set equal to start velocity just before starting the lane change.

Feature 5: desired lane change

$$f_5 : \mathbf{r} \rightarrow f_5(\mathbf{r}) = \int_0^T (y_{lane_change} - y)^2 dt \quad (3.16)$$

y_{des} is a constant and is the desired lateral distance completed after the lane change. If the goal is faster achieved, this is interpreted as comfort for the driver.

In order to implement the above defined first and second derivative and integrations in a CasADi optimization environment, discretization with a numerical scheme is needed. The first and second derivative are discretized by means of a central scheme as can be seen in equation 3.17

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = \frac{\phi(i+1) - \phi(i-1)}{2\Delta t} \quad (3.17a)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial t^2} = \frac{\phi(i+1) - 2\phi(i) + \phi(i-1))}{\Delta t^2} \quad (3.17b)$$

3. LEARNING FROM IDEAL DATA

The Crank-Nicolson numerical integration as is displayed in equation 3.18 is used in order to obtain the different feature values of feature i .

$$\int_{f_i(t^n)}^{f_i(t^{n+1})} df_i = \int_{t^n}^{t^{n+1}} I(t) \cdot dt \quad (3.18a)$$

$$f_i^{n+1} - f_i^n = \frac{1}{2} \frac{I(t^{n+1}) + I(t^n)}{\Delta t} \quad (3.18b)$$

The objectives seen in equation 3.17, that consists out of a set of comfort features models the amount of discomfort experienced during a maneuver by mapping 2D kinematic signals onto a scalar feature values. By finding the driver specific weights in 3.17 it is possible to model driver preferences between different comfort features. With this information an autonomous vehicle can perform path planning of the most comfortable path to do a maneuver. As is shortly discussed in Chapter 2, the perception of save driving by the autonomous vehicle contributes to the amount of comfort that will be experienced during driving. Because this thesis is focussing on the development and validation of a reinforcement learning algorithm, the environment is not taken into account. However this can easily be done if data of the state of other vehicles is available by modelling the distances between different vehicles by equation 3.19 as suggested in [11].

$$f_d = \sum_{k=1}^L \int_0^T \frac{1}{(x_{o,k}(t) - x)^2 + (y_{o,k}(t) - y)^2} \cdot dt \quad (3.19)$$

$L \in \mathbb{N}$

With $[x_o, y_o]_k$ the position of a different vehicle and L the total amount of vehicles in the nearby area.

Not only the bird's eye view distance between two different vehicles plays a role, but also the following distance of the vehicle in front in the same lane is important. This can be modelled as suggested by [11] by:

$$f_d = \int_0^T \max(0, \hat{d} - d(t)) \cdot dt \quad (3.20)$$

In equation 3.20, \hat{d} is the desired distance and $d(t)$ is the distance between the vehicle in front in the current lane.

An other assumption that not is discussed in this thesis is the time limit to finish a maneuver. In a real life application however this limit often influence the maneuver. After the weights are identified, the most comfortable path in a limited time span can be calculated for a specific driver. If no time limit serves as bottleneck, the time of the maneuver can be included as optimization variable and long and smooth lane changes are planned.

3.2.3 Normalization factors and initialization

In order to nullify the effect of order of size given by the units in the objective discussed in section 3.2.2, a normalization of the features is used. The kinematic signals of an example lane change are produced and the same features that are used in the objective function are calculated from it. These will be the normalization factors. Then the objective function is divided by the corresponding normalization factor which means that a feature that inherently gives a small feature values, will be divided by a small value and the other way around, an inherently large feature value will be divided by a large value. In this thesis the example lane change is produced as is described in section 3.2.4 with weights equal to $[4, 5, 6, 1, 2]$ and corresponding to the objective function of section 3.2.2 and making use of normalization factors and an initial guess provided by data of a lane change that was available at Siemens. Table 3.2.3 gives an overview of the lane change normalization factors used in this chapter.

Normalization factor	Value
Nr.1	0.0073
Nr.2	2.64
Nr.3	11.28
Nr.4	0.047
Nr.5	17.14

TABLE 3.2: Overview of normalization factors.

The solver used to calculate the states and control signals in 3.7 is the interior point solver IPOPT which is open source code. The idea behind the solver is to smoothing the KKT conditions and transform it to a smooth root finding problem. [14] Because IPOPT is a interior boundary method, a feasible initial guess is needed.

Every time that the expected path has to be calculated as is visualised in flow diagram 3.2, the optimization 3.7 is performed with as initial guess the observed maneuver.

3.2.4 Ideal data generation

As mentioned above the term 'ideal data' concerns data that is generated with a non-linear bicycle model and exactly fulfils the assumption that the observations are minimizing an underlying discomfort function. More over the discomfort function is the same as the one used in the learning algorithm and quantitatively this means that the generated path is a the solution of the objective function discussed in section 3.2.2. Because that the observations are exactly representing the comfort function in the learning algorithm and the absence of vehicle model mismatch, weights can be learned that perfectly explain the observations. This is translated in a accurate matching of the feature values discussed in 3.2.2. Because beforehand it is know what the weights should be in 3.11, the ideal data can serve as a validation of the

3. LEARNING FROM IDEAL DATA

developed learning algorithm.

The relative weights chosen are $[4, 5, 6, 1, 2]$, which gives as absolute weights $[549.63, 1.90, 0.53, 21.43, 0.12]$ when the normalization of 3.2.3 is taken into account. The objective that is used in 3.7 and outputs the ideal data is given by 3.21.

$$discomfort = \frac{4}{0.0073} \cdot f_1 + \frac{5}{2.64} \cdot f_2 + \frac{6}{11.28} \cdot f_3 + \frac{1}{0.047} \cdot f_4 + \frac{2}{17.14} \cdot f_5 \quad (3.21)$$
$$f_i \in \mathbb{R}, i \in \mathbb{N}$$

Because of the normalization the relative weights will quantify the trade-offs between different comfort features without the disturbance of units used. Aside of this it allows to learn weights faster because of the absence of big size differences that are present in absolute weights.

Chapter 4

Enhanced learning approach

Next a new learning approach is proposed which is based on a fitting algorithm and makes use of taylor expansions.

Chapter 5

Background in optimal control problems

This chapter gives some background information of the theory behind optimal control (OCP). After a global introduction and the discussion about the time discretization and shooting option, the chapter is being specified into model predictive control (MPC).

5.0.1 Optimal control problem (OCP)

An optimal control problem determines the desired inputs and corresponding state trajectories to change the system from an initial state to a desired final state in an optimal way while satisfying some input and state constraints [12].

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{u}} \quad & \int_0^T l(\mathbf{q}(t), \mathbf{u}(t)) dt + E(\mathbf{q}(T)) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \dot{\mathbf{q}}(t) = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q}(t), \mathbf{u}(t)) \\ & \mathbf{q}(0) = \mathbf{q}_0, \quad \mathbf{q}(T) = \mathbf{q}_T \\ & h(\mathbf{q}(t), \mathbf{u}(t)) \geq 0 \\ & \mathbf{q}(t) \in Q, \quad \mathbf{u}(t) \in U, \quad t \in [0, T] \end{aligned} \tag{5.1}$$

\mathbf{q} is called contains all the states of the system and \mathbf{u} containing the controls. In the context of vehicle control states are often kinematic variables like positions and velocities of the centre of gravity of the vehicle. \mathbf{u} is containing the controls which are typically steerwheelangle and the amount of throttle which can be directly linked the amount of propulsion force. The objective function l of the optimization problem is integrated over the desired control horizon T . The objective function indicates what should be minimized and is a function of the different states and controls. The terminal cost is represented by $E(\mathbf{q}(T))$ and can be needed to assure certain conditions of the system at the end of the control horizon. $\dot{\mathbf{q}}(t)$ describes the dynamics of the system by an explicit ordinary differential equation. Furthermore there are also constraints possible on states and inputs, represented by h , Q and

U respectively. The results that come out of an OCP indicate which states will be visited by the system and which controls have to be applied in order to do this with respect to the constraints on an optimal manner. [13]

There is a difference between soft and hard constraints. Soft constraints are placed in the objective function l . If the constraint is better fulfilled a more optimal solution will be obtained. A hard constraint, represented by h in equation 5.1, is explicitly put in the constraints and defines the feasible solution set of the optimization [21].

5.0.2 Time discretization

The optimal control problem (equation 5.1) is continuous in time which means that it has infinite dimensions. To be able to run the optimization problem on digital systems there is need for discretization. There are several ways to do this which are summarized in Figure 5.1.

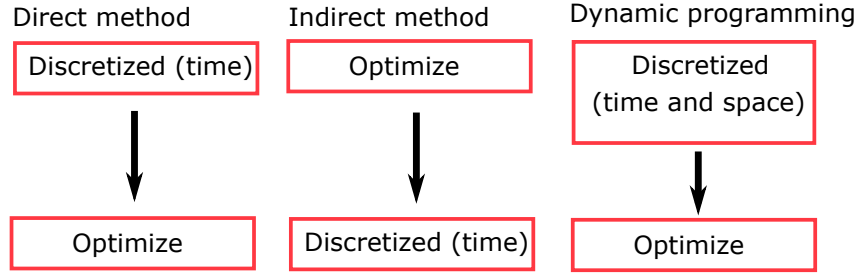


FIGURE 5.1: Overview of different discretization methods.

Since direct methods are best suited to solve practically relevant OCPs [12], this thesis is following the direct method. To implement the discretization of time when using the Direct method, a time shooting approach can be used.

Time shooting

A shooting approach makes use of a time grid. This means that time will be sampled and on every time instant the optimal control problem is assessed. Constraints will only be not violated on these time instants but no limits are set between different time samples. To bound the system to the constraints a high enough sampling rate is desired. [12] Two different shooting approaches exist:

1. Multiple shooting (MS)

During multiple shooting $ns \in \mathbb{N}$ new states and $nc \in \mathbb{N}$ new controls are defined on every new time sample and are taken as optimization variables. Because input changes are only allowed on the time samples this will often lead to a piece wise control input signal. This is indicated by the blue bars in Figure 5.2 (left). The red dots in Figure 5.2 (left) indicate the condition

of the states on the discrete time samples. In order to make the connection $\mathbf{q}(k+1) = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q}(k), \mathbf{u}(k))$ from the previous state to the next, time integration is used. The constraints introduced in this way are called in literature 'path closing constraints' [9].

2. Single shooting (SS)

In the single shooting or sequential approach only the initial state and control points are optimization variables. This is achieved by replacing the state variable by the integration result from the previous state [9]. This approach is show in equation 5.2. Figure 5.2 (right) gives a visualization with the green dots indicating the result of one integration step from the previous state.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{q}(1) &= \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q}(0), \mathbf{u}(0)) \\ \mathbf{q}(2) &= \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q}(0), \mathbf{u}(0)), \mathbf{u}(1)) \\ \mathbf{q}(3) &= \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q}(0), \mathbf{u}(0)), \mathbf{u}(1)), \mathbf{u}(2)) \\ &\dots \end{aligned} \tag{5.2}$$

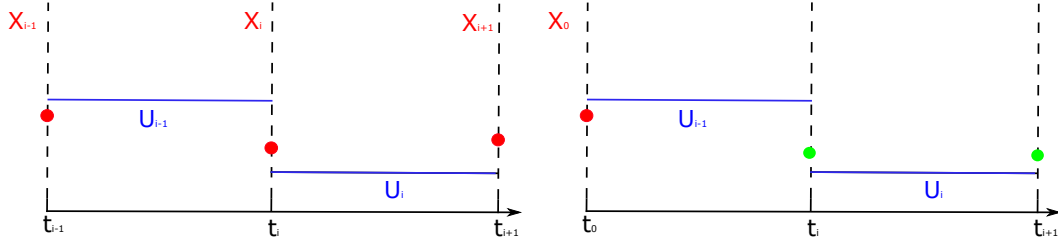


FIGURE 5.2: Schematic view of the time shooting approaches (left: multiple shooting; right: single shooting).

In this thesis a multiple shooting approach is used together with the use of a Runge-Kutta integration scheme. Runge-Kutta is an explicit integration scheme which has a higher calculation cost than a standard Euler scheme but is more reliable for non-linear systems and has a higher stability with respect to the chosen time-step [12].

Multiple shooting will lead to a larger Hessian of the objective function and a larger Jacobian of the constraints in comparison with the single shooting approach due to the fact that more optimization variables are introduced. But on the other hand, multiple shooting has a sparse Hessian which can be solved very effectively. Single shooting would instead often produce a smaller fully populated Hessian because of the very non-linear way that the states depend on the begin state and the different controls.

5.0.3 Model predictive control

MPC is already a mature approach in slow changing environments such as a chemical plant, but has more recently made also his breakthrough to the fast dynamic systems due to an increase of computational power and the implementation of new algorithms [12].

In order to be able to deal with model-plant mismatch and disturbances, MPC uses in this paper a moving control horizon. The time horizon is divided in discrete steps T_s and inputs are calculated over the finite prediction horizon $N \cdot T_s$ by solving an OCP. The decision on the amount of samples taken to define the control horizon is based on a trade off between calculation effort and accuracy [18, 12]. Figure 5.3 depicts the solving of the OCP on time sample $t + 1$. In Figure 5.4 it can be seen how only the first control sample of the calculated control signal will be applied to the system and a new OCP is solved.

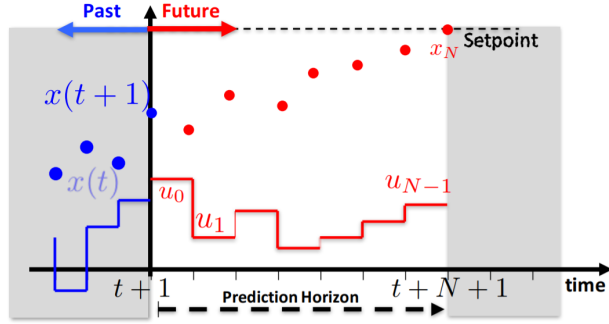


FIGURE 5.3: Visualization of the optimal control problem solved in one iteration of the MPC (Source: [13]).

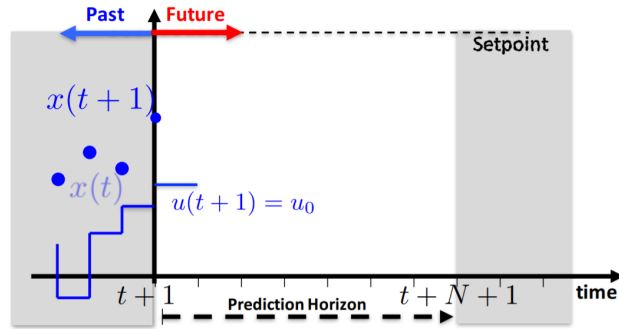


FIGURE 5.4: Visualization of the application of the first step of the calculated control signal during one iteration of the MPC (Source:[13]).

$$\begin{aligned}
& \min_{\mathbf{q}(\cdot), \mathbf{u}(\cdot)} \quad \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} l_k(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{u}_k) + E(\mathbf{q}_N) \\
& \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{q}_{k+1} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{u}_k) \quad k = [0, \dots, N-1] \\
& \quad \mathbf{q}_0 = \mathbf{q}_{measured} \\
& \quad h(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{u}_k) \geq 0 \quad k = [0, \dots, N-1] \\
& \quad \mathbf{q}_k \in Q, \quad \mathbf{u}_k \in U \quad k = [0, \dots, N-1] \\
& \quad \mathbf{q}_N \in Q_f, \quad N \in \mathbb{N}
\end{aligned} \tag{5.3}$$

Equation 5.3 is a representation of the solved discrete system OCP during one iteration of the MPC. It is a discretized version of equation 5.1. The Runge-Kutta integration is embedded in \mathbf{f} . The hard constraints are represented by h . It is worth noticing that the constraints can be violated in-between the different time sample points.

MPC has no direct feedback loop, but through the iterative way of solving the OCPs it can still deal with model mismatch or a changing environment. The downside of this approach is that it requires a bigger computational load, which makes efficiently written software a necessity.

Chapter 6

Learning from complex vehicle model

6.1 The First Topic of this Chapter

6.1.1 Item 1

Sub-item 1

Sub-item 2

6.1.2 Item 2

6.2 The Second Topic

6.3 Conclusion

Chapter 7

Validatie with expert driver data

Bespreek de validatie van de methode. Implementeer simulaties in prescan. Bespreek de verschillende software tools bij Siemens → Amesim, simulink, prescan. Hoe werken ze samen en hoe wordt de validatie precies gedaan? Wat zijn de resultaten? Install amesim and write a chapter about how the dataset is generated. How is the amesim model defined etc.

how accurate results are learned when the assumption on the observations is violated. (assuming generated by a comfort cost function)

The objective function of the MPC is slightly different of the one used in the learning algorithm. In the training set it was important to explain the observed data but it is known beforehand that the driver demonstrated a feasible path and wants to do a lane change. Now the situation is different and features that assess the environment are a necessity. For this reason the objective function of the learning algorithm is extended with features that handle collision avoidance and following distance. (Lane change behavior is influenced by the environment!)

7.1 The First Topic of this Chapter

7.1.1 Item 1

Sub-item 1

Sub-item 2

7.1.2 Item 2

7.2 The Second Topic

7.3 Conclusion

Chapter 8

Conclusion

The final chapter contains the overall conclusion. It also contains suggestions for future work and industrial applications.

Application: say something about hierarchical control. The comfort controller can work as an inferior controller of the safety of the vehicle.

Appendices

Appendix A

The First Appendix

Appendices hold useful data which is not essential to understand the work done in the master's thesis. An example is a (program) source. An appendix can also have sections as well as figures and references[?].

A.1 More Lorem

Appendix B

The Last Appendix

Appendices are numbered with letters, but the sections and subsections use arabic numerals, as can be seen below.

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