

Information Performance Tradeoffs in Control

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We focus our attention on the most common scenario in networked control systems where the measured output from the observer is transmitted via a communication channel to the controller.

Using information-theoretic results, we study the tradeoff between the performance and the accuracy of observations due to communication constraints for such a scenario. We focus on three important cases in the communication channel: the additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN), limited data rate and systems with multiplicative uncertainty in the system parameters.

Using known theoretical results for a rate limited communication channel, we show the effect of entropy of the output of quantizer on the performance. The same is done for the case of ~~random parameters as~~ multiplicative uncertainty in the system.

For an AWGN channel, we show the effect of channel SNR on the performance. For the analog joint source-channel coding approach (which works only for Gaussian disturbances in the system), we show that the known lower bound is tight even for non-Gaussian system disturbances.

We also compare the simulated performance of a system with known upper and lower rate-distortion bounds for all the three cases. The lower bound on the rate is closely approached by a simple uniform quantization scheme, hence demonstrating its tightness.