

# SECOND NATURE

## Goals

1. Motivation for Optimization Based Control
2. Convexity
3. Convex Optimization
4. QP Based MPC
5. Spatial Discretization for Obstacle Avoidance.

## I Motivation for Optimization Based Control

Need algorithmic intelligence to generate controllers in unforeseen environments, obstacles and input constraints are important to satisfy.

Methods	Dynamics	Input/State Constraints	Time Discretized Constraint Check	Real-Time?
Ackermann's Equation	LTI	no	NA	yes
LQR	LTV	no*	NA	yes*
LTV-MPC	LTV	yes	yes	yes*
Nonlinear Trajectory Design	Nonlinear	yes	yes	no

\* show this afterwards jump to page 2 description first

put this after table w/ LTI and LQR

We will formulate our control design problem as an optimization problem:

Def: An optimization problem is:

$$\min_{z \in Z} J(z)$$

subject to  $g_i(z) \leq 0 \quad \forall i \in \{1, \dots, p_e\}$   
 $h_i(z) = 0 \quad \forall i \in \{1, \dots, p_e\}$

decision variables

where  $Z$  is the decision set,  $J: Z \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

or cost

is the objective function which is minimized over  $z$  that satisfy the inequality constraints  $g_i: Z \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and equality constraints  $h_i: Z \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . The set of points in  $Z$  that satisfy the constraints (i.e.  $g_i(z) \leq 0 \quad \forall i \in \{1, \dots, p_e\}$  and  $h_i(z) = 0 \quad \forall i \in \{1, \dots, p_e\}$ ) is called the feasible set.

Note: we focus on  $Z$  that looks like  $\mathbb{R}^m$

Ex: Lets suppose we have our kinematic steering model:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{p}_x \\ \dot{p}_y \\ \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v \cos \theta \\ v \sin \theta \\ w \end{bmatrix} = f(\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} p_x \\ p_y \\ \theta \end{bmatrix}}_X, \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} v \\ w \end{bmatrix}}_u)$$



Lets suppose we want to derive this model to  $(p_x, p_y) = (1, 1)$  by  $t=1$  starting from  $(p_x, p_y, \theta) = (0, 0, 0)$  at  $t=0$ .

In addition suppose we want to avoid an obstacle that is a circle with radius 0.1 centered at  $(0.5, 0.5)$ . Under input constraints on  $v \in [-1, 1]$ ,  $w \in [-1, 1]$

1) Discretize dynamics

Use Euler's integration to represent dynamics

Select step size  $h$ , then

$$x(h(k+1)) = x(hk) + hf(x(hk), u(hk))$$

for each  $k \in \{0, \dots, \frac{1}{h}-1\}$

2) Decision variables become  $\{x(kh)\}_{k=0}^{\frac{1}{h}}$  and  $\{u(kh)\}_{k=0}^{\frac{1}{h}-1}$ .

3) Check constraints at the discretization points. Let  $q_k(\{x(kh)\}_{k=0}^{\frac{1}{h}}, \{u(kh)\}_{k=0}^{\frac{1}{h}-1}) = -(p_x(kh) - 0.5)^2 - (p_y(kh) - 0.5)^2 + (0.1)^2$  for each  $k \in \{1, \dots, \frac{1}{h}\}$ .

4) Cost function:  $J(\{x(kh)\}_{k=0}^{\frac{1}{h}}, \{u(kh)\}_{k=0}^{\frac{1}{h}-1}) = (p_x(1) - 1)^2 + (p_y(1) - 1)^2$ .



$$\min_{\{x(kh)\}_{k=0}^{1/h}, \{u(kh)\}_{k=0}^{1/h-1}} J(\{x(kh)\}_{k=0}^{1/h}, \{u(kh)\}_{k=0}^{1/h-1})$$

$$\text{Subject to } x(h(k+1)) = x(kh) + hf(x(kh), u(kh)) \\ \forall k \in \{0, \dots, \frac{1}{h}-1\}$$

$$x(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$-(p_x(kh) - 0.5)^2 - (p_y(kh) - 0.5)^2 + 0.1^2 \leq 0 \\ \forall k \in \{1, \dots, \frac{1}{h}\}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} v(kh) - 1 \leq 0 \\ -v(kh) + 1 \leq 0 \\ w(kh) - 1 \leq 0 \\ -w(kh) + 1 \leq 0 \end{array} \right\} \forall k \in \{0, \dots, \frac{1}{h}-1\}$$

When is this problem easy to solve?

→ Fill in the remainder of the table

→ We use derivatives to find solutions to problems.

Def: 1) Let  $J^*$  be the optimal value of the optimization problem. A global optimizer is a feasible  $z^*$  such that  $J(z^*) = J^*$ .

2) A feasible  $\bar{z}$  is a local optimizer if there exists  $R > 0$  s.t.

$$J(\bar{z}) = \min_{z \in Z} J(z)$$

$$\text{subject to } g_i(z) \leq 0 \quad \forall i \in \{1, \dots, p_1\} \\ h_i(z) = 0 \quad \forall i \in \{1, \dots, p_2\} \\ \|z - \bar{z}\| \leq R$$



Local optima is easy to compute  
Global optima is not...

this lecture → LTV-MPC = linear time varying model predictive control  
Nonlinear Trajectory Design = nonlinear optimization based  
next lecture

objective for today:

- 1) why is LTV-MPC easy to solve but nonlinear optimization isn't (i.e. why are certain optimization problems easy and others are not?)
- 2) understanding how to formulate such easy optimization problems. We will not speak about how they are solved; however the state of algorithms is so robust that all major solvers have the same interface (i.e. easy problems are described in the same way)
- 3) Understand how to obstacle avoidance using an easy problem.

## I Convexity

Def: a) A set  $Z \in \mathbb{R}^s$  is convex if

$$\lambda z_1 + (1-\lambda)z_2 \in Z$$

for all  $z_1, z_2 \in Z, \lambda \in [0, 1]$

b) A function  $f: Z \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is convex

if  $Z$  is convex and

$$f(\lambda z_1 + (1-\lambda)z_2) \leq \lambda f(z_1) + (1-\lambda)f(z_2)$$

for all  $z_1, z_2 \in Z, \lambda \in [0, 1]$ .

c) A function  $f: Z \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is strictly convex

if  $Z$  is convex and

$$f(\lambda z_1 + (1-\lambda)z_2) < \lambda f(z_1) + (1-\lambda)f(z_2)$$

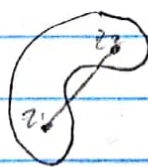
for all  $z_1, z_2 \in Z, \lambda \in (0, 1)$

Ex: a)



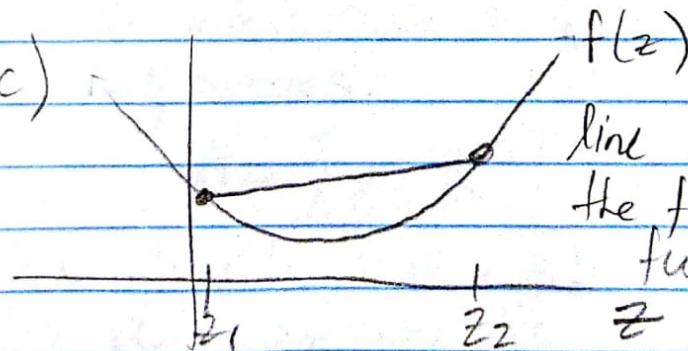
is a convex set

b)



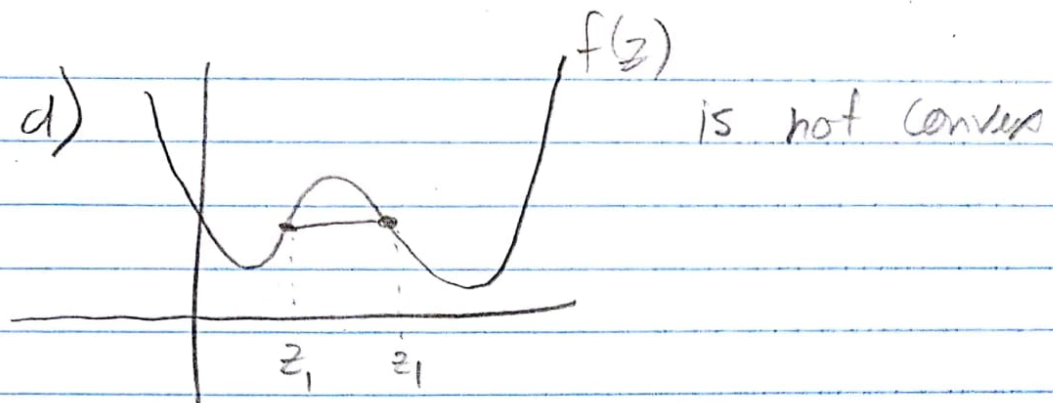
isn't a convex set

c)



line is above  
the function this  
function is convex





e) A linear function  $f(z) = c'z + d$  is convex

f) A quadratic function  $f(z) = z'Qz + 2s'z + r$  is convex iff  $Q$  is positive semidefinite

g) A quadratic function  $f(z) = z'Qz + 2s'z + r$  is strictly convex iff  $Q$  is positive definite.

Theorem: 1) The intersection of an arbitrary number of convex sets is a convex set.  
2) If  $f_1, \dots, f_N$  are convex functions, then  $\sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i f_i$  is a convex function for all  $\alpha_i \geq 0, i=1, \dots, N$ .

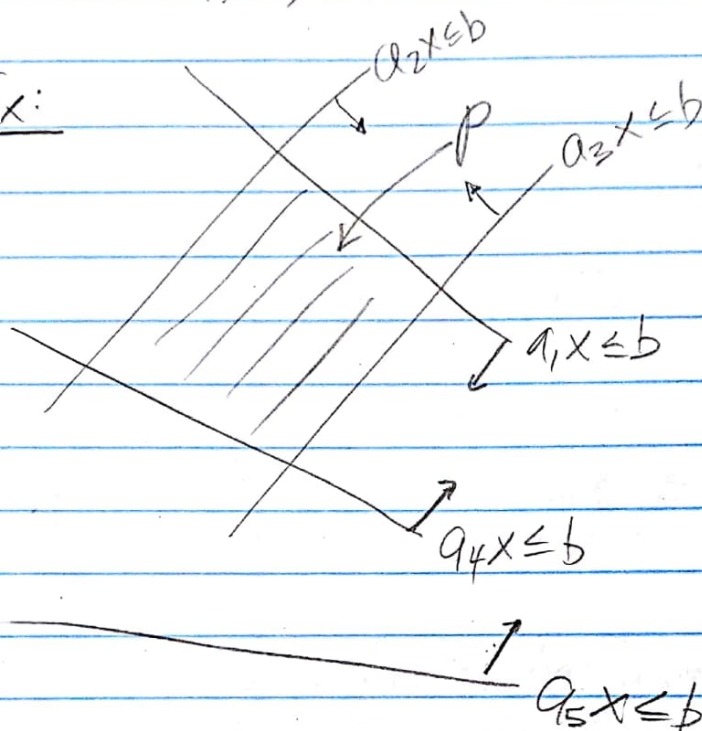
Def: A convex polytope,  $P \subset \mathbb{R}^s$ , is a set defined as the intersection of a finite number of half spaces:

$$P = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^s \mid Ax \leq b\}$$

where  $Ax \leq b$  is  $a_i x \leq b_i, i=1, \dots, m$   
where  $a_1, \dots, a_m$  are the rows of  $A$  ✓

and  $b_1, \dots, b_m$  are the components of  $b$ .

Ex:



Note: A convex polytope is <sup>n</sup>a convex set.

### III Convex Optimization

Def: An optimization problem is convex if the objective function on  $\mathbb{Z}$  is convex and the feasible set is convex.

Theorem: In convex optimization problems local optimizers are global optimizers

Note: As a result, we can just use derivative information to find local minima  $\Rightarrow$  global minima!



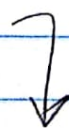
## A. Linear Programming

Def: A linear program is an optimization problem that can be written in the following form:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} \quad & C'z \\ \text{subject to} \quad & Ax \leq b \end{aligned}$$

Theorem: Linear programs are convex optimization problems.

Ex: Suppose a farmer has a piece of land say  $L$  km<sup>2</sup>, to be planted w/ wheat or barley or some combination of the two. Farmer has a limited amount of fertilizer,  $F$  kilograms, and pesticide,  $P$  kilograms. Every square kilometer of wheat requires  $F_1$  kg of fertilizer and  $P_1$  kg of pesticide, while every square kilometer of barley requires  $F_2$  kg of fertilizer and  $P_2$  kg of pesticide. Let  $S_1$  be the selling price of wheat/km<sup>2</sup> and  $S_2$  be the selling price of barley/km<sup>2</sup>. Determine <sup>optimal</sup> amount of wheat  $x_1$  and barley  $x_2$  to plot:



$$\min_{x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}^2} -S_1 x_1 - S_2 x_2 \quad (\text{max revenue})$$

$$x_1 + x_2 \leq L \quad (\text{limit on total area})$$

$$F_1 x_1 + F_2 x_2 \leq F \quad (\text{limit on fertilizer})$$

$$P_1 x_1 + P_2 x_2 \leq P \quad (\text{limit on pesticide})$$

$$x_1 \geq 0, x_2 \geq 0 \quad (\text{cannot plant a negative area})$$

Note: We can use linprog to solve in MATLAB, but many solvers exist commercially (CPLEX, GUROBI, MOSEK, etc.).

## B. Quadratic Programming

Def: A quadratic program is an optimization problem that can be written in the following form:

$$\min_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{2} z^T Q z + c^T z$$

subject to  $Az \leq b$

where  $Q$  is a symmetric matrix

Theorem: If  $Q \geq 0$  then the quadratic program is convex.

Note: We can use quadprog to solve in MATLAB



## IV. QP Based Model Predictive Control

### Basic Idea: of Model Predictive Control

1. Rely on fast speed of QP solvers.
2. At each sampling time<sup>\*</sup>, starting at current state, compute an optimal controller at a sequence of time steps over finite horizon,  $[k, k+K]$
3. Use the sample for the first computed sampling instance,  $[k, k+1]$
4. Repeat step 2 at new location  $[k+1, K+1]$

Note: 1) This technique is used extensively in real world control.

2) Suppose we have an LTV continuous time system; we can apply Euler integration to create a discrete time system:

$$x(k+1) = A(k)x(k) + B(k)u(k)$$

$$y(k) = C(k)x(k)$$

where  $x(k) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $u(k) \in \mathbb{R}^m$ ,  $y(k) \in \mathbb{R}^q$   
 $A(k) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $B(k) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ ,  $C(k) \in \mathbb{R}^{q \times n}$  for each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

$$\Delta + (A(k)x(k) + B(k)u(k))$$

$$\neg x \leq b$$

$$\neg Ax \leq b$$

Notation: 1) Let  $u_{k+k'|k}$  be the input

at time step  $k+k'$  computed at time step  $k$ .

2) Given  $\{u_{k+k'|k}\}_{k'=0}^{K-1}$ , let

$x_{k+k'|k}$  be the state at time step  $k+k'$  under  $\{u_{k+k'|k}\}_{k'=0}^{K-1}$ .

Consider the problem of ensuring that the origin of a discrete-time linear time-invariant system

$$x(k+1) = A(k)x(k) + B(k)u(k)$$

$$y(k) = C(k)x(k)$$

subject to constraints that  $x(k) \in \mathcal{X}$  and  $u(k) \in \mathcal{U} \forall k$  where  $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\mathcal{U} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$  are convex polytopes. Fix a horizon  $K > 0$ . We solve this problem by solving the following problem iteratively

$$\min_{\{u_{k+k'|k}\}_{k'=0}^{K-1}, \{x_{k+k'|k}\}_{k'=0}^{K-1}} \sum_{k'=0}^{K-1} \bar{x}_{k+k'|k}^T Q(k') x_{k+k'|k} + u_{k+k'|k}^T R(k') u_{k+k'|k}$$

subject to

$$\begin{aligned} & x_{k+k'+1|k} = A(k+k')x_{k+k'|k} + B(k+k')u_{k+k'|k} \\ & x_{k+k'|k} \in \mathcal{X}, u_{k+k'|k} \in \mathcal{U} \\ & \forall k'=0, \dots, K-1 \end{aligned}$$



### Algorithm for Model Predictive Control

- 1) Measure the state  $x_{k|k}$  at time instance  $k$
- 2) Solve QP described above.
- Infeasible! → 3) If no solution exists, then stop and quit
- 4) Apply  $u_{k|k}$  at time instance  $k$
- 5) Wait for new sampling time  $k+1$  goto step 1.

Ex: Consider the system:

$$x(k+1) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} x(k) + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} u(k)$$

$$y(k) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} x(k)$$

Try to regulate system to origin while ensuring that

$$-10 \leq u(k) \leq 10$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} \leq x(k) \leq \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

with that overlaps

$$x \leq 5$$

$$-x \leq 5$$

$$x \geq -5$$