



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE  
FOR DYNAMICS OF COMPLEX  
TECHNICAL SYSTEMS  
MAGDEBURG



COMPUTATIONAL METHODS IN  
SYSTEMS AND CONTROL THEORY

# Computational Approaches to $\mathcal{H}_\infty$ -robust Controller Design and System Norms for Large-scale Systems

Peter Benner, Jan Heiland, Steffen W. R. Werner

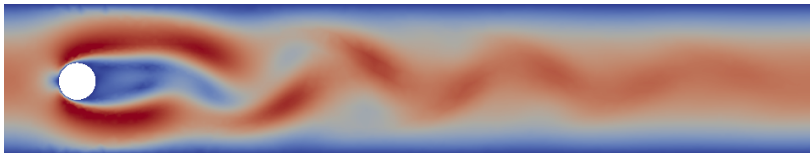
June 01, 2023

GAMM Annual Meeting (S22-04), Dresden, Germany

Supported by:



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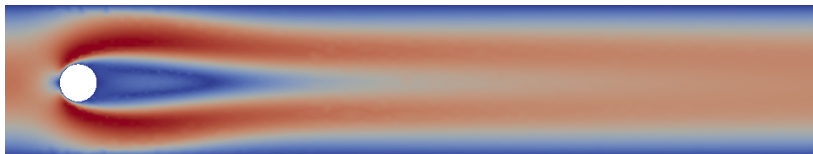


## Feedback Control

**Problem:** The steady state does not persist because of unavoidable system perturbations.

**Goal:** Stabilizing feedback controller that can handle:

- limited measurements,
- short evaluation time,
- system uncertainties.





**Idea:** Linearization-based feedback control for stabilization of the steady state.

[RAYMOND'05,'06&BREITEN/KUNISCH'14,PB/JH'15]

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{v} + (v \cdot \nabla v) - \frac{1}{Re} \Delta v + \nabla p &= Bu, \\ \nabla \cdot v &= 0, \\ y &= Cv\end{aligned}$$

Linearization &  
Semi-Discretization

$$\begin{aligned}E\dot{v} - Av - J^T p &= Bu, \\ Jv &= 0, \\ y &= Cv\end{aligned}$$



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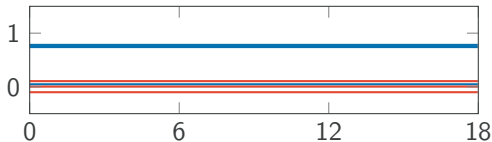
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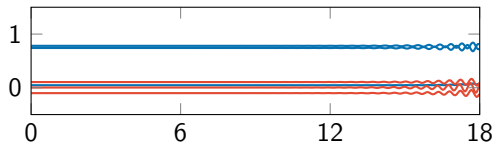
## Fragility of Observer-Based Controllers

LQG controllers have no guaranteed robustness margins and will likely fail in the presence of system uncertainties.

LQG-feedback



corrupted LQG-feedback





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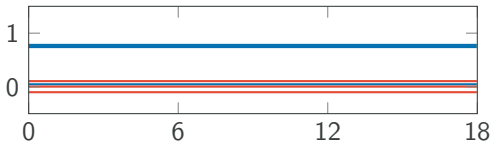
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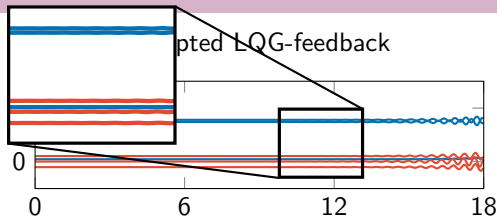
## Fragility of Observer-Based Controllers

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LQG-feedback



Adapted LQG-feedback



### Guaranteed Margins for LQG Regulators

JOHN C. DOYLE

*Abstract—There are none.*

1978 ...

1981 ... First formulation of the  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$ -robust control problem.

1987 ... State space formulations

2000's ... Further developments

- $\mathcal{H}_\infty$ -theory for abstract linear systems,
- $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  model reduction,
- solvers for high-dimensional Riccati equations.

today ...  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$ -robust controllers for the stabilization of flows

- in the PDE model of incompressible Navier-Stokes equations
- and in the simulation (this talk).

 $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  Riccati Equations

[DOYLE/GLOVER/KHARGONEKAR/FRANCIS '89, VAN KEULEN '93]

Under some reasonable assumptions, there exists a  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$ -robust controller  $K(s) \iff$ :

- 1 There exists a stabilizing solution  $X_\infty = X_\infty^T \geq 0$  to the regulator Riccati equation

$$A^T X_\infty + X_\infty A + C_1^T C_1 + X_\infty (\gamma^{-2} B_1 B_1^T - B_2 B_2^T) X_\infty = 0.$$

- 2 There exists a stabilizing solution  $Y_\infty = Y_\infty^T \geq 0$  to the filter Riccati equation

$$A Y_\infty + Y_\infty A^T + B_1 B_1^T + Y_\infty (\gamma^{-2} C_1^T C_1 - C_2^T C_2) Y_\infty = 0.$$

- 3 It holds  $\gamma^2 > \lambda_{\max}(Y_\infty X_\infty)$ .

Here,

- $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$  is a parameter that expresses robustness performance and
- $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $B_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p_1}$ ,  $B_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p_2}$ ,  $C_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{q_1 \times n}$ , and  $C_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{q_2 \times n}$

are matrix coefficients of the considered linear time-invariant system.



- How to solve the large-scale  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$ -Riccati equation
  - Riccati iteration
  - using low-rank factors.
- What do we do with the solution?
  - Design a controller.
  - Reduce it.
  - Balance it's robustness with system uncertainties.





# Riccati Equations with Indefinite Quadratic Term



$$\mathcal{R}(X) := C^T C + A^T X + X A + X(B_1 B_1^T - B_2 B_2^T)X = 0.$$

### Generally

- The solution is  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  – for  $n = 50'000$  this means a memory requirement of about 18GB.
- The coefficient  $B_1 B_1^T - B_2 B_2^T$  is symmetric but possibly indefinite – for negative definite coefficients, i.e. the “standard” Riccati equation, there exist numerous efficient solution approaches.



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### General remarks

- For small sized problems, standard direct methods like the *sign function iteration* or *Schur decomposition approaches* apply.



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- Krylov subspace methods might be employed, but so far no convergence results, and in case of convergence, no guarantee that stabilizing solution is computed.



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- Krylov subspace methods might be employed, but so far no convergence results, and in case of convergence, no guarantee that stabilizing solution is computed.
- Newton/Newton-ADI method will in general diverge/converge to a non-stabilizing solution.



$$\mathcal{R}(X) := C^T C + A^T X + X A + X(B_1 B_1^T - B_2 B_2^T)X = 0.$$

### General remarks

Quick-and-dirty solution: consider  $X^{-1}\mathcal{R}(X)X^{-1} = 0$  [DAMM '02]

$\rightsquigarrow$  standard ARE for  $\tilde{X} \equiv X^{-1}$

$$\tilde{\mathcal{R}}(\tilde{X}) := (B_1 B_1^T - B_2 B_2^T) + \tilde{X} A^T + A \tilde{X} + \tilde{X} C^T C \tilde{X} = 0.$$

Newton's method will converge to stabilizing solution, Newton-ADI can be employed (with modification for indefinite constant term).

But: low-rank approximation of  $\tilde{X}$  will not yield good approximation of  $X \Rightarrow$  not feasible for large-scale problems!



## Idea

Perturb Hessian to enforce semi-definiteness: write

$$0 = A^T X + XA + Q - XGX = A^T X + XA + Q - XDX + X(D - G)X,$$

where  $D = G + \alpha I \geq 0$  with  $\alpha \geq \min\{0, -\lambda_{\max}(G)\}$ .





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Here:  $G = B_2 B_2^T - B_1 B_1^T$

$\Rightarrow$  use  $\alpha = \|B_1\|^2$  for spectral/Frobenius norm or

$$\alpha = \|B_1\|_1 \cdot \|B_1\|_\infty.$$

## Remark

$W \geq -G$  can be used instead of  $\alpha I$ , e.g.,  $W = \beta B_1 B_1^T$  with  $\beta \geq 1$ .



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## Lyapunov iteration

Based on

$$(A - DX)^T X + X(A - DX) = -Q - XDX - \alpha X^2,$$

iterate

FOR  $k = 0, 1, \dots$ , solve Lyapunov equation

$$(A - DX_k)^T X_{k+1} + X_{k+1}(A - DX_k) = -Q - X_k DX_k - \alpha X_k^2.$$



## Theorem [Cherfi/Abou-Kandil/Bourles '05]

If

- $\exists \hat{X}$  such that  $\mathcal{R}(\hat{X}) \geq 0$ ,
- $\exists X_0 = X_0^T \geq \hat{X}$  such that  $\mathcal{R}(X_0) \leq 0$  and  $A - DX_0$  is Hurwitz,

then



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then

a)  $X_0 \geq \dots \geq X_k \geq X_{k+1} \geq \dots \geq \hat{X},$

## Main problems

- Conditions for initial guess make its computation difficult.
- Observed convergence is linear.



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- c)  $A - DX_k$  is Hurwitz for all  $k = 0, 1, \dots$ ,
- d)  $\exists \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} X_k =: \underline{X} \geq \hat{X}$ ,

## Main problems

- Conditions for initial guess make its computation difficult.
- Observed convergence is linear.



## Idea

Consider

$$A^T X + XA + C^T C + X(B_1 B_1^T - B_2 B_2^T)X =: \mathcal{R}(X)$$

and

$$\mathcal{R}(X + Z) = \mathcal{R}(X) + \underbrace{(A + (B_1 B_1^T - B_2 B_2^T)X)^T}_{=: \hat{A}} Z + Z \hat{A} + Z(B_1 B_1^T - B_2 B_2^T)Z.$$





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Thus, if for some  $X = X^T$ , the matrix  $Z = Z^T$  solves the **standard ARE**

$$0 = \mathcal{R}(X) + \hat{A}^T Z + Z \hat{A} - Z B_2 B_2^T Z,$$

then

$$\mathcal{R}(X + Z) = Z B_1 B_1^T Z$$

which, by the way, is a low-rank factorization of the residual.



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## Riccati iteration

- 1 Set  $X_0 = 0$ .
- 2 FOR  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ ,
  - i Set  $A_k := A + B_1(B_1^T X_k) - B_2(B_2^T X_k)$ .

- ii Solve the ARE

$$\mathcal{R}(X_k) + A_k^T Z_k + Z_k A_k - Z_k B_2 B_2^T Z_k = 0.$$

- iii Set  $X_{k+1} := X_k + Z_k$ .

- iv IF  $\|B_1^T Z_k\|_2 < \text{tol}$  THEN **Stop**.

**Remark.** ARE for  $k = 1$  is the standard LQR/ $H_2$  ARE.

**Theorem [Lanzon/Feng/B.D.O. Anderson 2007]**

If

- $(A, B_2)$  stabilizable,
- $(A, C)$  has no unobservable purely imaginary modes, and
- $\exists$  stabilizing solution  $X_-$ ,

then

- a)  $(A + B_1 B_1^T X_k, B_2)$  stabilizable for all  $k = 0, 1, \dots$ ,
- b)  $Z_k \geq 0$  for all  $k = 0, 1, \dots$ ,
- c)  $A + B_1 B_1^T X_k - B_2 B_2^T X_{k+1}$  is Hurwitz for all  $k = 0, 1, \dots$ ,
- d)  $\mathcal{R}(X_{k+1}) = Z_k B_1 B_1^T Z_k$  for all  $k = 0, 1, \dots$ ,
- e)  $X_- \geq \dots \geq X_{k+1} \geq X_k \geq \dots \geq 0$ .
- f) If  $\exists \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} X_k =: \underline{X}$ , then  $\underline{X} = X_-$ , and
- g) convergence is locally quadratic.



## Riccati iteration – low-rank version [PB'08&amp;PB/JH/SW'23]

- 1 Solve the ARE

$$C^T C + A^T Z_0 + Z_0 A - Z_0 B_2 B_2^T Z_0 = 0$$

using low-rank Newton-ADI, yielding  $Y_0$  with  $Z_0 \approx Y_0 Y_0^T$ .

- 2 Set  $V_1 := Y_0$ .

{%  $V_1 V_1^T \approx X_1$ .}

- 3 FOR  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ ,

- i Set  $A_k := A + B_1(B_1^T V_k) V_k^T - B_2(B_2^T V_k) V_k^T$ .

- ii Solve the ARE

$$Y_{k-1}(Y_{k-1}^T B_1)(B_1^T Y_{k-1}) Y_{k-1}^T + A_k^T Z_k + Z_k A_k - Z_k B_2 B_2^T Z_k = 0$$

using low-rank Newton-ADI, yielding  $Y_k$  with  $Z_k \approx Y_k Y_k^T$ .

- iii Set  $V_{k+1} := \text{rank\_revealing\_qr}([V_k, Y_k], \tau)$ .

{%  $\tau$  truncation tolerance;  $V_{k+1} V_{k+1}^T \approx X_{k+1}$ }

- iv IF  $\|(B_1^T Y_k) Y_k^T\|_2 < \text{tol}$  THEN Stop.



- Solution to the  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$ -Riccati equation

$$X_\infty$$

... use the *Riccati iteration*.



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- Solution at  $k$ -th Riccati iteration (a standard ARE)

$$X_\infty \approx X_\infty^{(k)}$$

... use the *Newton-Kleinman iteration*.



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$$^{(i)}X_\infty^{(k)} \approx X_\infty^{(k)}$$

... use the low-rank *ADI iteration*.





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- Solution at  $j$ -th low-rank ADI iteration

$$^{(i)}V_\infty^{(k)T} {}^{(i)}V_\infty^{(k)} := {}^{(i)}X_\infty^{(k)} \approx {}^{(i)}X_\infty^{(k)}$$



Generally, **feasibility for large-scale** comes from a formulation that during the iterations

- expresses approximate solutions

$$X^{(k)} = VV^T$$

and right hand sides in **low-rank** factorized form,

- preserves the coefficients

$$A^{(k)} = A - BB^T X^{(k)} = A - BK^{(k)}$$

as **sparse + low-rank update** matrices,

- and resorts to efficient solves of (possibly nonsymmetric or indefinite) Lyapunov equations.



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## Possible solvers:

- Standard Krylov subspace solvers in operator form [HOCHBRUCK, STARKE, REICHEL, BAO, ...].
- Block-Tensor-Krylov subspace methods with truncation [KRESSNER/TOBLER, BOLLHÖFER/EPPLER, B./BREITEN, ...].
- Galerkin-type methods based on (extended, rational) Krylov subspace methods [JAIMOUKHA, KASENALLY, JBILOU, SIMONCINI, DRUSKIN, KNIZHERMANN, ...].
- Doubling-type methods [SMITH, CHU ET AL., B./SADKANE/EL KHOURY, ...].
- **ADI methods** [WACHSPRESS, REICHEL ET AL., LI, PENZL, B., SAAK, KÜRSCHNER, ...].



**Table:** Results for solving the  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$ -control Riccati equations for the aircraft ( $n = 55$ ) and cable mass ( $n = 76$ ) benchmarks from [LEIBFRITZ'04].

	aircraft( $n=10$ )			cable mass( $=76$ )		
	LRRI	ICARE	SIGN	LRRI	ICARE	SIGN
Iteration steps	5	—	19	4	—	23
Runtime (s)	0.89996	0.42306	0.07541	31.3999	140.634	5.98172
Rank $Z_k$	53	55	55	569	758	781
Final res.	5.545e-25	—	—	1.873e-15	—	—
Relative res.	2.599e-07	9.617e-10	1.183e-09	1.910e-09	5.019e-08	2.125e-07
Normalized res.	1.554e-03	5.752e-06	7.074e-06	1.667e-05	4.381e-04	1.855e-03
$\ Z_k^T Z_k\ _2$	1.457e+01	1.457e+01	1.457e+01	1.253e+04	1.253e+04	1.253e+04



**Table:** Results of the LRRI for solving the  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$ -control Riccati equations for large-scale sparse examples.

	rail	cylinderwake
Dimension $n$	79 841	47 136
Iteration steps	3	3
Runtime (s)	72.2906	3469.27
Rank $Z_k$	169	418
Final res.	1.297e-19	2.184e-21
Relative res.	2.125e-21	1.996e-14
Normalized res.	9.766e-11	1.622e-03
$\ Z_k^T Z_k\ _2$	6.866e+11	5.056e+08



**OK, what now?**



## OK, what now?

- 1 Design the  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$ -controller.
- 2 Reduce it.
- 3 Balance robustness with reduction and linearization errors.



## $\mathcal{H}_\infty$ Riccati Equations

[DOYLE/GLOVER/KHARGONEKAR/FRANCIS '89, VAN KEULEN '93]

Given some simplifying assumptions, there exists an admissible controller  $K(s) \iff$ :

- 1 There exists a stabilizing solution  $X_\infty = X_\infty^T \geq 0$  to the regulator Riccati equation

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- 2 There exists a stabilizing solution  $Y_\infty = Y_\infty^T \geq 0$  to the filter Riccati equation

$$A Y_\infty + Y_\infty A^T + B_1 B_1^T + Y_\infty (\gamma^{-2} C_1^T C_1 - C_2^T C_2) Y_\infty = 0.$$

- 3 It holds  $\gamma^2 > \lambda_{\max}(Y_\infty X_\infty)$ .

The central (or minimum entropy) controller  $\hat{K}(s) = \hat{C}(sI_n - \hat{A})^{-1} \hat{B}$  has the transfer function

$$\hat{A} = A + (\gamma^{-2} B_1 B_1^T - B_2 B_2^T) X_\infty - Z_\infty Y_\infty C_2^T C_2, \quad \hat{B} = Z_\infty Y_\infty C_2^T, \quad \hat{C} = -B_2^T X_\infty,$$

with  $Z_\infty = (I_n - \gamma^{-2} X_\infty Y_\infty)^{-1}$ .

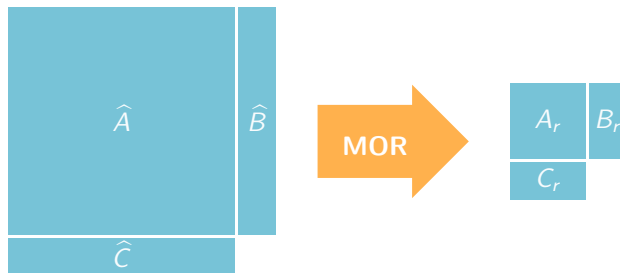




## Challenge

This controller is of the size of the system (i.e. prohibitively large)

⇒ However, can do reduction to size  $r$  to enable fast evaluation of the feedback law.



For the **normalized**  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$ -robust control problem with  $B_1 B_1^T = B_2 B_2^T$ :

- Reduction to  $K_r$  can be computed from the low-rank factors of  $X_\infty$ ,  $Y_\infty$  [MUSTAFA&GLOVER'91]
- Proven: The controller will be still stabilizing but with a slightly worse robustness margin.



- Notation: normalized left coprime factorizations transferfunctions of the full and the reduced system:

$$G = M^{-1}N \quad \text{and} \quad G_r = M_r^{-1}N_r$$

(for computation see below or [PB/JH/W. '19]),

- The approximation error of the  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  balanced truncation is given by

$$\left\| \begin{bmatrix} \beta(N - N_r) & M - M_r \end{bmatrix} \right\|_{\mathcal{H}_\infty} =: \beta \hat{\epsilon} \leq \beta \epsilon$$

- for  $\beta = \sqrt{1 - \gamma^{-2}}$ .
- for a theoretical threshold  $\hat{\epsilon}$ ,
- and a computable estimate  $\epsilon$ .
- (see below).



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$$\| [\beta(N - N_r) \quad M - M_r] \|_{\mathcal{H}_\infty} =: \beta\hat{\epsilon} \leq \beta\epsilon$$

### Theorem

[MUSTAFA/GLOVER '91]

The reduced-order  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  controller is guaranteed to stabilize the full-order system if

$$\hat{\epsilon}(\beta + \gamma) < 1 \quad \text{or} \quad \epsilon(\beta + \gamma) < 1.$$

- for  $\beta = \sqrt{1 - \gamma^{-2}}$ .
- for a theoretical threshold  $\hat{\epsilon}$ ,
- and a computable estimate  $\epsilon$ .
- (see below).



- A perturbation  $A_\Delta$  in the linear system

$$\dot{x} = (A + A_\Delta)x + B_2 u$$

- smoothly [H.22] transfers into a coprime factor perturbation

$$G \approx G_\Delta = M_\Delta^{-1} N_\Delta$$

### Theorem

[MUSTAFA/GLOVER '91, PB/JH/W. '19]

Any stabilizing controller  $K$  with  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$ -performance that satisfies  $\gamma$  is guaranteed to stabilize the disturbed system if

$$\| [N - N_\Delta \quad M - M_\Delta] \|_{\mathcal{H}_\infty} < \gamma^{-1}.$$



# Application to Incompressible Nonlinear Flows



For consistent initial values, i.e.,  $Jv_0 = 0$ , the semi-discretized Navier-Stokes equation can be realized by an ODE system:

$$\begin{aligned} E\dot{v} &= Av + J^T p + Bu, \\ 0 &= Jv, \\ y &= Cv, \end{aligned} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{aligned} E\dot{v} &= \Pi^T A \Pi v + \Pi^T B, \\ y &= C \Pi v, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\Pi = I_{n_v} - E^{-1}J^T(JE^{-1}J^T)^{-1}J$  is the discrete Leray projection.



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**Implicit Realization** [HEINKENSCHLOSS/SORENSEN/SUN '08, BÄNSCH/PB/SAAK/WEICHELT '15, AND MANY MORE...]

The explicit projection  $\Pi$  can be avoided in the numerical methods by solving saddle point problems of the type

$$\begin{bmatrix} A + s_i E & J^T \\ J & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X \\ * \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} Y \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$



Given the normalized left coprime factorizations:  $G = M^{-1}N$ ,  $G_{\Delta} = M_{\Delta}^{-1}N_{\Delta}$ , with

$$\begin{bmatrix} N_{\Delta}(s) & M_{\Delta}(s) \end{bmatrix} = \mathcal{C}(s\mathcal{E} - \tilde{\mathcal{A}} - \mathbf{A}_{\Delta})^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{B} & -\tilde{\mathcal{L}} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I_p \end{bmatrix},$$

where

$$\mathcal{E} = \begin{bmatrix} E & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \tilde{\mathcal{A}} - \mathbf{A}_{\Delta} = \begin{bmatrix} A + \mathbf{A}_{\Delta} - (1 - \gamma^{-2})EY_{\mathcal{H}_{\infty}}C^T C & J^T \\ J & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$
$$\mathcal{C} = \begin{bmatrix} C & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathcal{B} = \begin{bmatrix} B \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \tilde{\mathcal{L}} = \begin{bmatrix} (1 - \gamma^{-2})EY_{\mathcal{H}_{\infty}}C^T \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

is a realization that can be used to compute, e.g.,

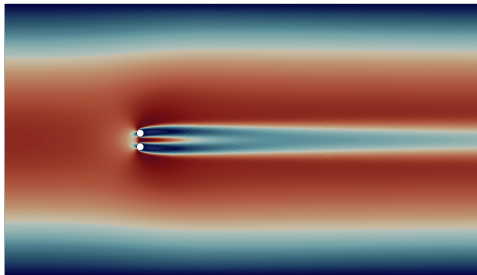
$$\| \begin{bmatrix} N - N_{\Delta} & M - M_{\Delta} \end{bmatrix} \|_{\mathcal{H}_{\infty}} < \gamma^{-1}?$$

by Navier-Stokes simulation tools.

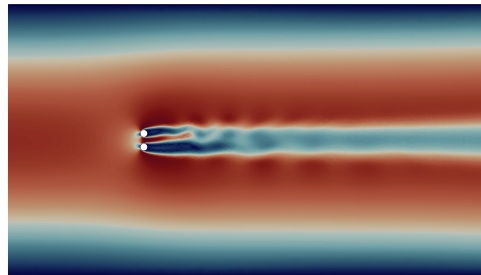




# Numerical Example

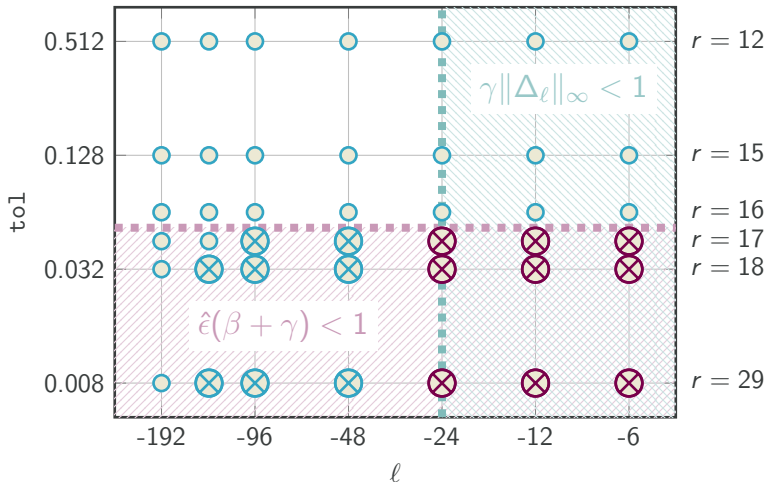


(a) Steady state.



(b) Disturbed flow.

- Navier-Stokes equations discretized by Taylor-Hood finite elements
- system order  $n = 51\,337$
- boundary control: individual rotation of both cylinders
- observations: 3 velocity sensors in the wake behind the cylinders
- Reynolds number 60
- $K$  with robustness margin:  
 $\gamma = 12.5418$
- linearization error: disturbed Reynolds number



○ Unstable simulation    ⊗ Stabilized simulation    ⊗ Guaranteed stabilization



# Conclusions



## Summary

- The low-rank formulation of the Riccati iteration (LRRI) enables the computation of solution to, e.g., the  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$ -Riccati equation for large-scale systems.
- Proof of concept: LRRI competes well with dense routines for small system sizes and shows fast convergence for large system sizes.
- Once the  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$ -Riccati solutions are at hand, low-order  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$ -controller design comes at little extra cost.
- Application to incompressible flows using implicit realizations of projections.
- Outlook: Theory on balancing errors in the multilevel iteration.



## Summary

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P. Benner, J. Heiland, S.W.R. Werner: Robust output-feedback stabilization for incompressible flows using low-dimensional  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$ -controllers. arXiv:2103.01608. (comes with codes)

- Low-rank solvers for (in-)definite Riccati equations are available in M-M.E.S.S.
- HINFBT and LQGBT implementations can be found in the MORLAB toolbox.





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