

**Part I:**  
**Optimization**

**Part II:**  
**Constrained optimization**

**Part III:**  
**Piccolo.jl**



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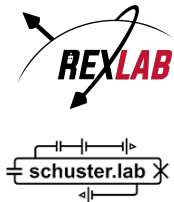
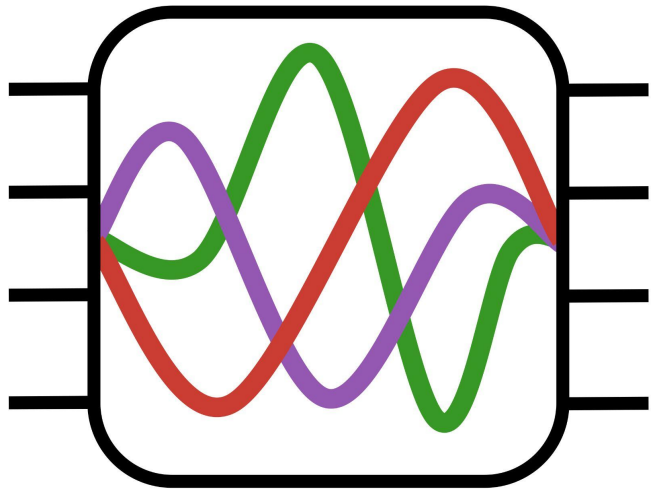
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# Piccolo.jl



EPIQC

Unitary  
Fund

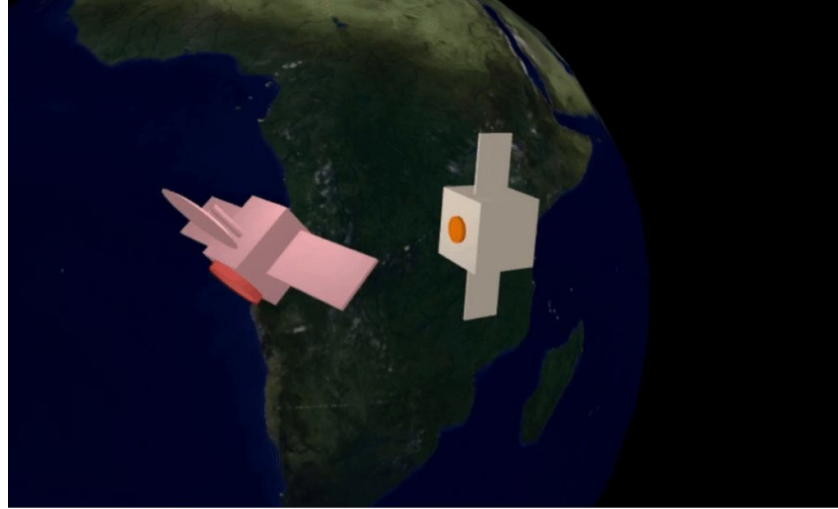


## Piccolo.jl

- > QuantumCollocation.jl
- > NamedTrajectories.jl
- > TrajectoryIndexingUtils.jl
- > QuantumCalibration.jl\*

# Optimal control

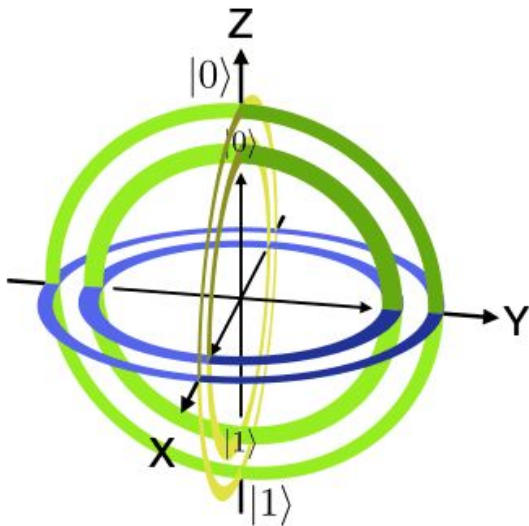
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Control affine:  $\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{f}_0(\mathbf{x}(t)) + \sum_j u_j(t) \mathbf{f}_j(\mathbf{x}(t))$

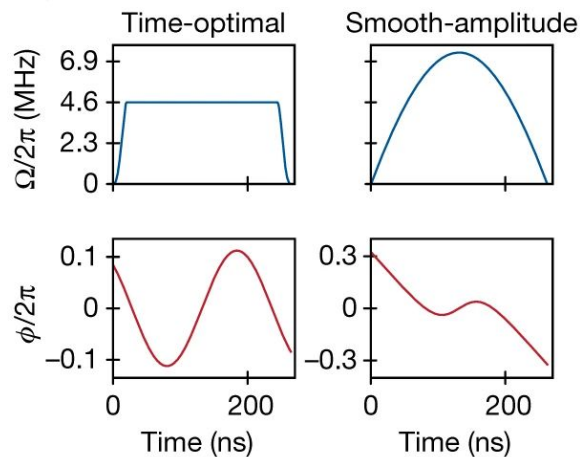
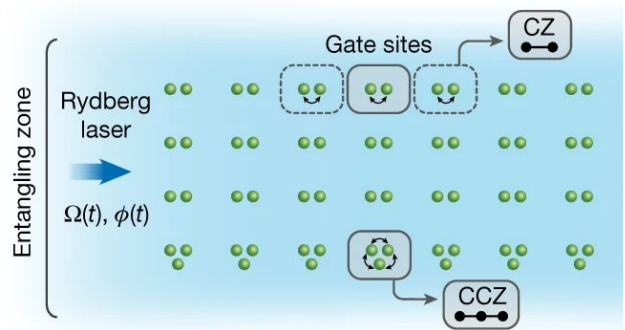
# Quantum optimal control

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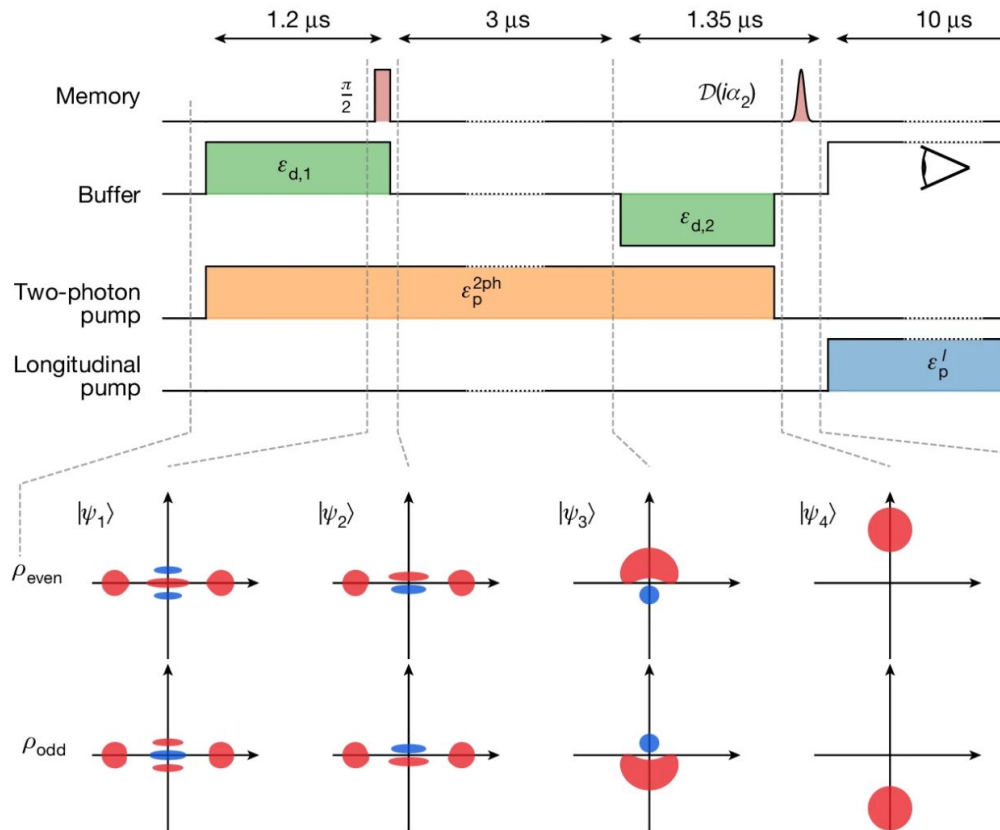
Control affine: 
$$i \frac{d}{dt} |\psi(t)\rangle = \mathbf{H}_0 |\psi(t)\rangle + \sum_j u_j(t) \mathbf{H}_j |\psi(t)\rangle$$

## (a) Neutral atoms



S. J. Evered et al., Nature 622, 268 (2023)

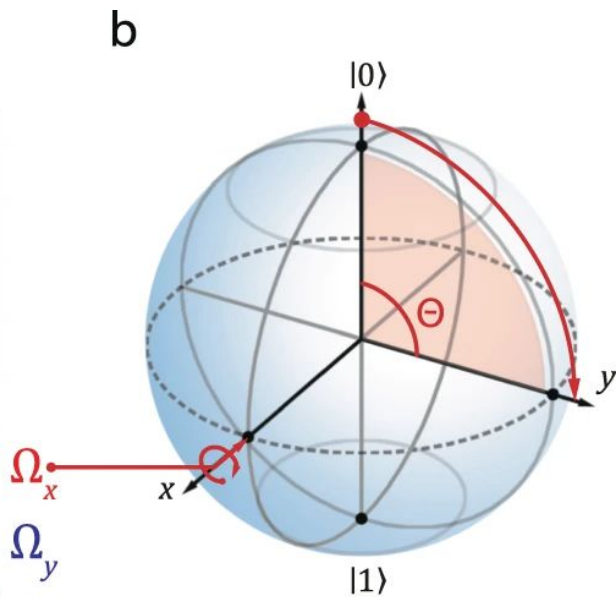
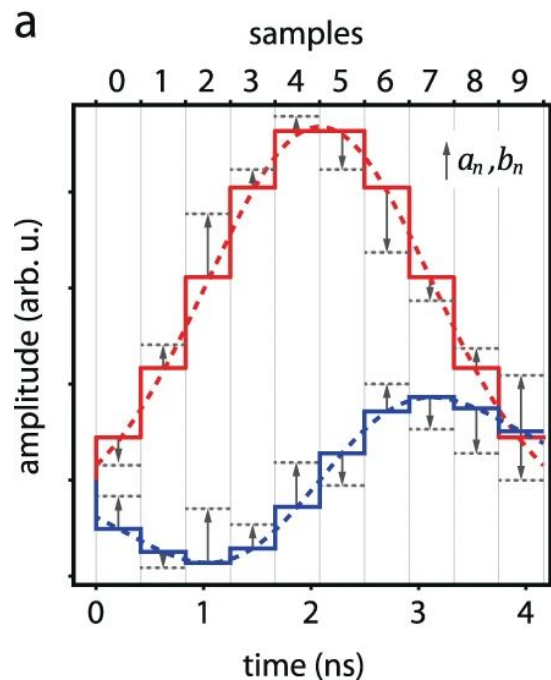
## (b) Cat qubits



U. Réglade et al., Nature 629, 778 (2024)

## (c) Transmons 🧊

C. P. Koch et al., EPJ Quantum Technology 9, (2022)



(d) Ions 🪫

(e) Spins 🌀

... and more!

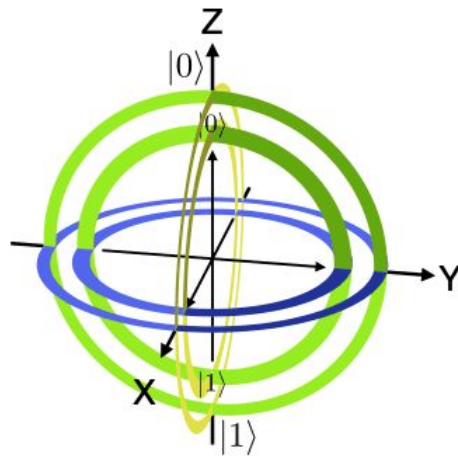
M. Werninghaus et al., npj Quantum Info 7, (2021)

# Quantum control by hand

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Hamiltonians generate rotations.

- Commutators make orthogonal Hamiltonians.
- Computing all possible commutators reveals all possible rotations.



$$e^{t(X+Y)} = e^{tX} e^{tY} e^{-\frac{t^2}{2} [X,Y]} e^{\frac{t^3}{6} (2[Y,[X,Y]] + [X,[X,Y]])} \dots$$



**Part I**

**optimization**

**quantum optimal control**

# Optimization

---

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} J(\mathbf{x})$$

# Gradient descent & Newton's method

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Necessary condition:  $\nabla \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}^*) = 0$

- First-order methods: gradient.
- Second-order methods: Hessian.

$$0 \stackrel{!}{=} \nabla \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x} + \Delta \mathbf{x}) \approx \nabla \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) + \nabla^2 \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) \Delta \mathbf{x}$$

$$\Delta \mathbf{x} \stackrel{!}{=} -(\nabla^2 \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}))^{-1} \nabla \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})$$

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} J(\mathbf{x})$$

# Example I.1

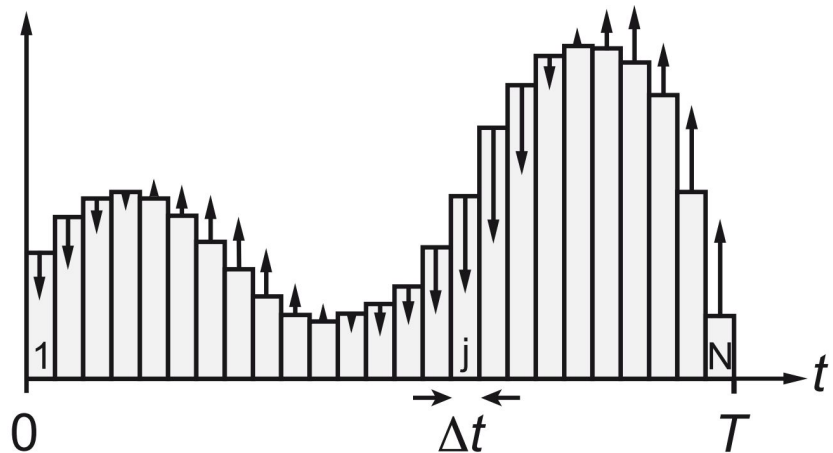
## Example I.1

Takeaway: How to evaluate Newton's method?  
Regularization and line search.

# GRadiant Ascent Pulse Engineering

$$\min_{\mathbf{a}_{1:T}} 1 - \frac{1}{N} \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{U}_{\text{goal}}, \mathbf{U}_T(\mathbf{a}_{1:T}))$$

- It's just  $\min_{\mathbf{x}} J(\mathbf{x})$
- *Indirect* method



# Example I.2

## Example I.2

Takeaway: How to set up and solve a GRAPE problem?  
Rollouts and **Optim.jl**.



# Exercises

- Adding Piccolo
- Modifying GRAPE

# Part II

**constrained optimization**

**quantum collocation**

# Constrained optimization

---

$$\begin{array}{ll}\min_{\mathbf{x}} & J(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \\ & \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0\end{array}$$

# Equality constraints

---

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{\mathbf{x}} & J(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \end{array}$$

# Equality constraints

---

Remember your classical mechanics: Lagrange multipliers!

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{\mathbf{x}} & J(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \end{array}$$

# Equality constraints

---

Remember your classical mechanics: Lagrange multipliers!

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}) = J(\mathbf{x}) + \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right)^T \boldsymbol{\lambda}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{\mathbf{x}} & J(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \end{array}$$

# Necessary conditions

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Compute both gradients of the Lagrangian

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \mathcal{L} = \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} J(\mathbf{x}) + \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right)^T \boldsymbol{\lambda}$$

$$\nabla_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}} \mathcal{L} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = 0$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{\mathbf{x}} & J(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \end{array}$$

# Newton's method $\Rightarrow$ KKT system

---

Compute the Newton step toward  $\nabla \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}^*, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^*) = 0$

**Give it a try!**

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \mathcal{L} &= \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} J(\mathbf{x}) + \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right)^T \boldsymbol{\lambda} & \min_{\mathbf{x}} \quad & J(\mathbf{x}) \\ \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}} \mathcal{L} &= \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = 0 & \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \end{aligned}$$



# Newton's method $\Rightarrow$ KKT system

---

Compute the Newton step toward  $\nabla \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}^*, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^*) = 0$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta \mathbf{x} \\ \Delta \boldsymbol{\lambda} \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{L}}{\partial \mathbf{x}^2} & \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right)^T \\ \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} & 0 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}) \\ \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \mathcal{L} &= \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} J(\mathbf{x}) + \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right)^T \boldsymbol{\lambda} & \min_{\mathbf{x}} \quad & J(\mathbf{x}) \\ \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}} \mathcal{L} &= \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = 0 & \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

# Example II.1

# Example II.1

Takeaway: How the KKT conditions work

# Inequality constraints

---

KKT conditions (*necessary* conditions)

$$1. \quad \nabla f(\mathbf{x}) + \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{C}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right)^T \boldsymbol{\lambda} = 0$$

$$2. \quad \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0$$

$$3. \quad \boldsymbol{\lambda} \geq 0$$

$$4. \quad \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{x}) \odot \boldsymbol{\lambda} = 0$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{\mathbf{x}} & J(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0 \end{array}$$

# Inequality constraints

---

KKT conditions (*necessary* conditions)

1.  $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}) + \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{C}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right)^T \boldsymbol{\lambda} = 0$  Stationarity

2.  $\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0$  Primal feasibility

3.  $\boldsymbol{\lambda} \geq 0$  Dual feasibility

4.  $\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{x}) \odot \boldsymbol{\lambda} = 0$  Complementarity

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{\mathbf{x}} & J(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0 \end{array}$$

# How to solve

---

**Active set:** Guess when constraints are active / inactive.

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---

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**Penalty methods:** Add regularizers on constraints.

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# How to solve

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**Active set:** Guess when constraints are active / inactive.

~~**Penalty methods:**~~ Add regularizers on constraints.

**Augmented Lagrangian:** Add Lagrange multipliers on constraints.

# How to solve

---

**Active set:** Guess when constraints are active / inactive.

~~**Penalty methods:**~~ Add regularizers on constraints.

**Augmented Lagrangian:** Add Lagrange multipliers on constraints.

**Interior-point:** Add log-barriers on constraints.

# How to solve

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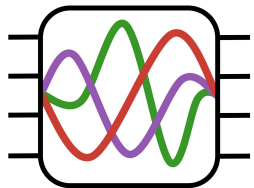
**Active set:** Guess when constraints are active / inactive.

**Penalty methods:** Add regularizers on constraints.

**Augmented Lagrangian:** Add Lagrange multipliers on constraints.

**Interior-point:** Add log-barriers on constraints.

Piccolo.jl



# Quantum COLLOcation

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Objectives

$$J(\mathbf{x}_{1:T}, \mathbf{a}_{1:T}, \Delta t)$$

Integrators

s.t.

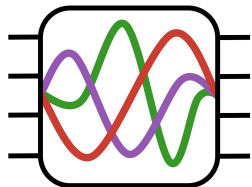
$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_{n+1}, \mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{a}_n, \Delta t) = 0$$

$$\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{a}, \Delta t) \in \mathcal{C}$$

Constraints

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}_{1:T}, \mathbf{a}_{1:T}, \Delta t}$$

Piccolo.jl

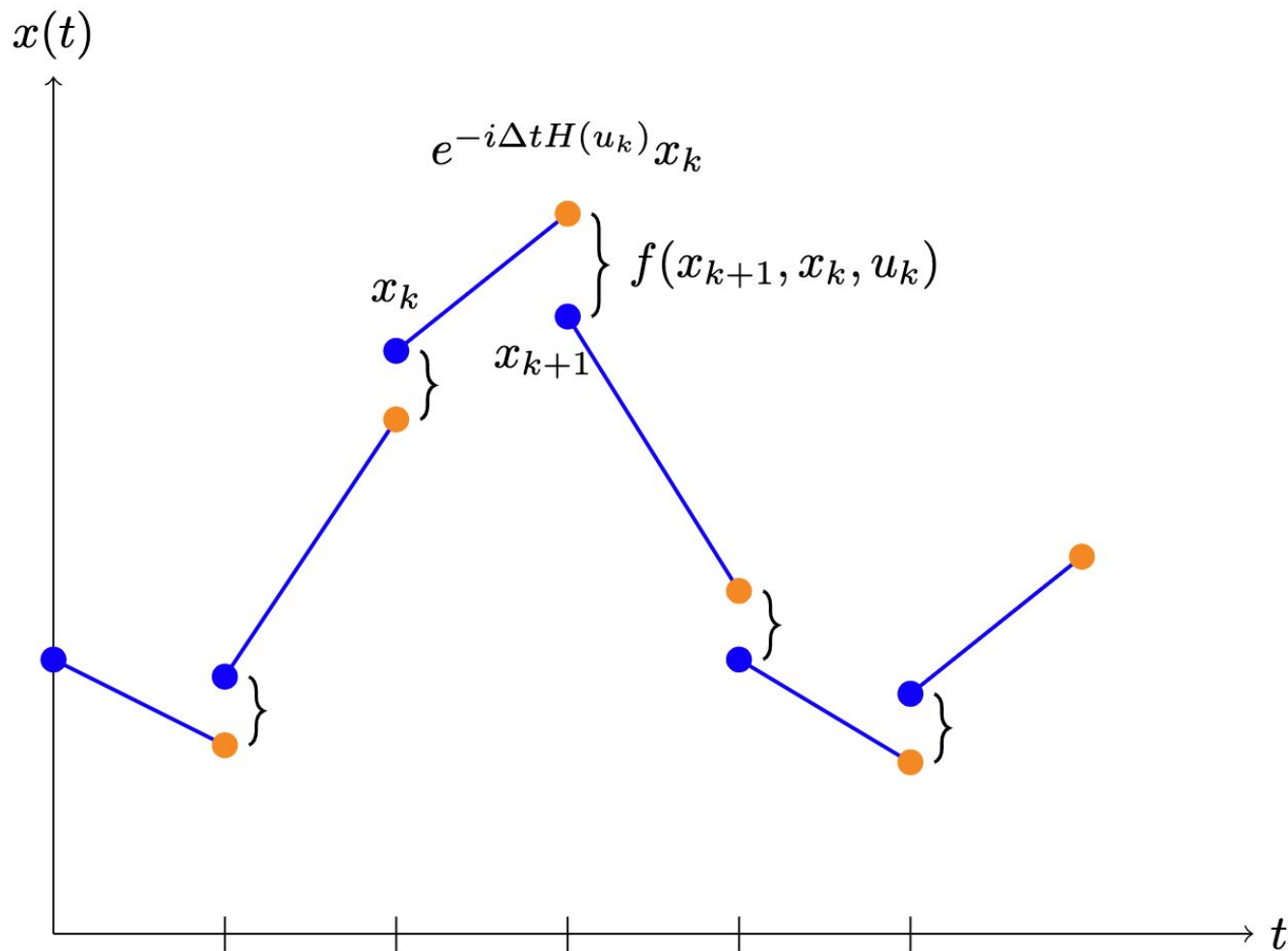
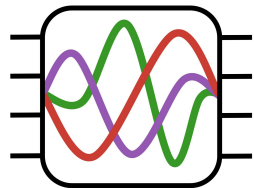


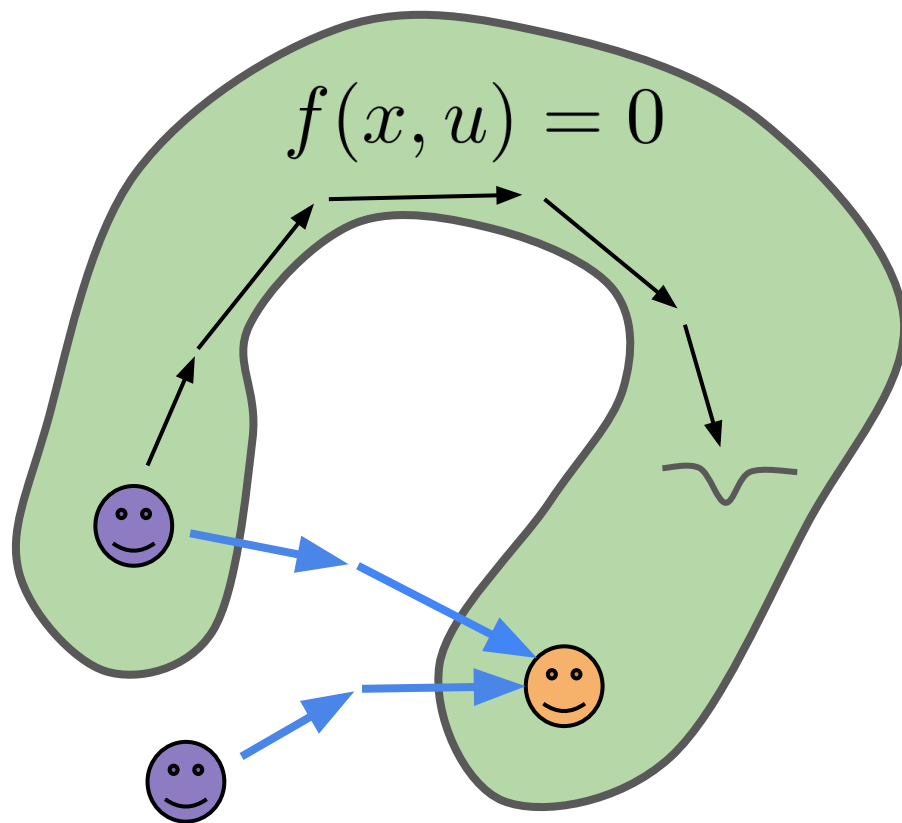
## Example II.2

## Example II.2

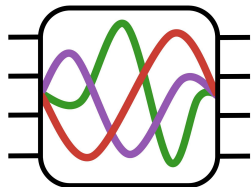
Takeaway: How to interpret Piccolo outputs

Piccolo.jl





Piccolo.jl





## Exercises

- Gauss–Newton reminder
- Augmented Lagrangians

# Part III

**integrators**

**objectives**

**constraints**

# Parts of a QuantumControlProblem

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**Objectives**

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}_{1:T}, \mathbf{a}_{1:T}, \Delta t}$$

$$J(\mathbf{x}_{1:T}, \mathbf{a}_{1:T}, \Delta t)$$

**Integrators**

s.t.

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_{n+1}, \mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{a}_n, \Delta t) = 0$$

$$\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{a}, \Delta t) \in \mathcal{C}$$

**Constraints**

# Objectives, Constraints, and Losses

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## Trajectories

- Objectives

$$J(\vec{\mathbf{Z}}), \nabla J(\vec{\mathbf{Z}})$$

- Constraints

$$\mathbf{C}(\vec{\mathbf{Z}}), \frac{\partial \mathbf{C}}{\partial \vec{\mathbf{Z}}}$$

## Knot points

- Losses

$$L(\boldsymbol{\alpha}, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\gamma}, \dots), \\ \nabla L(\boldsymbol{\alpha}, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\gamma}, \dots)$$

# Pade Integrator COLLOcation

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*19 dubious ways to compute a matrix exponential*

Explicit integrator:  $\mathbf{U}_{t+1} = \exp(-i\Delta t_t \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{a}_t)) \mathbf{U}_t$

# Pade Integrator COLLOcation

---

*19 dubious ways to compute a matrix exponential*

Explicit integrator:  $\mathbf{U}_{t+1} = \exp(-i\Delta t_t \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{a}_t)) \mathbf{U}_t$

Implicit integrator:  $\mathbf{U}_{t+1} - \exp(-i\Delta t_t \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{a}_t)) \mathbf{U}_t = 0$

# Pade Integrator COLLOcation

---

*19 dubious ways to compute a matrix exponential*

Explicit integrator:  $\mathbf{U}_{t+1} = \exp(-i\Delta t_t \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{a}_t)) \mathbf{U}_t$

Implicit integrator:  $\mathbf{U}_{t+1} - \exp(-i\Delta t_t \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{a}_t)) \mathbf{U}_t = 0$

$$\mathbf{U}_{t+1} - \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{a}_t, \Delta t_t) \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{a}_t, \Delta t_t) \mathbf{U}_t \approx 0$$

# Pade Integrator COLLOcation

---

*19 dubious ways to compute a matrix exponential*

Explicit integrator:  $\mathbf{U}_{t+1} = \exp(-i\Delta t_t \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{a}_t)) \mathbf{U}_t$

Implicit integrator:  $\mathbf{U}_{t+1} - \exp(-i\Delta t_t \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{a}_t)) \mathbf{U}_t = 0$

$$\mathbf{U}_{t+1} - \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{a}_t, \Delta t_t) \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{a}_t, \Delta t_t) \mathbf{U}_t \approx 0$$

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{a}_t, \Delta t_t) \mathbf{U}_{t+1} - \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{a}_t, \Delta t_t) \mathbf{U}_t \approx 0$$



## Example III.1

## Example III.1

Takeaway: How to build a quantum control problem

# Problem templates

Packaging the creation of quantum control problems

```
function UnitarySmoothPulseProblem(  
    system::AbstractQuantumSystem,  
    operator::QuantumOperator,  
    T::Int,  
    Δt::Union{Float64, Vector{Float64}};  
    ipopt_options::IpoptOptions=IpoptOptions(),  
    piccolo_options::PiccoloOptions=PiccoloOptions(),...  
)
```

# An applications toolbox

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## **Unitary control**

UnitarySmoothPulseProblem

UnitaryBangBangProblem

UnitaryRobustnessProblem

UnitaryMinTimeProblem

UnitarySamplingProblem

UnitaryDirectSumProblem

## **Quantum state control**

QuantumStateSmoothPulseProblem

QuantumStateMinTimeProblem

## **Density matrix control**

# Flexible design patterns

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## Optimize

Smooth pulses

Bang-bang  
pulses

## Specialize

Minimum time

Hamiltonian  
robustness

## Coordinate

Direct sums

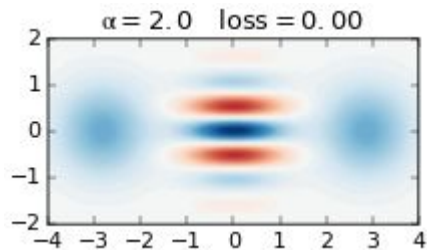
Sampling-based  
robustness

## Exercises

- Inspect a gradient for correctness
- Exploring problem templates

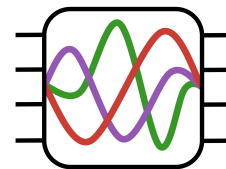
**What's next?**

**Piccolo.jl 1.0**



Open quantum  
systems

Integrate with  
**QuantumOptics.jl**,  
**QuantumToolbox.jl**



**Piccolo.jl 1.0**



In progress

Summer 2024

Fall 2024

Winter 2024

End of year

Expand docs,  
CI, contribution,  
& style guides

**QuantumCollocationCore.jl**