

Model Predictive Path Integral

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MPPI Algorithm

MPPI Algorithm

Pseudo Code

Algorithm 1: Sampling-Based MPC.

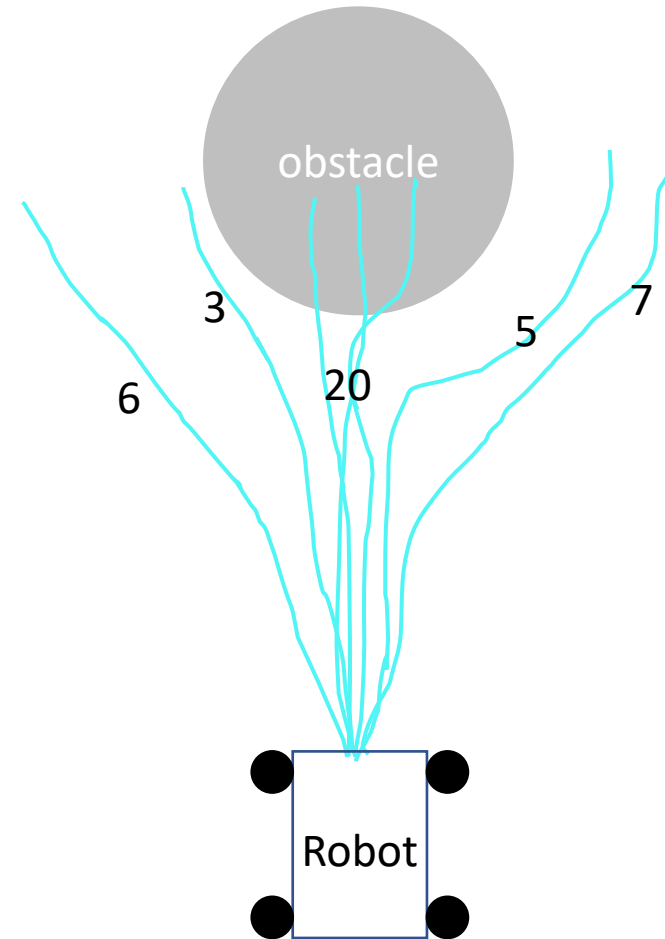
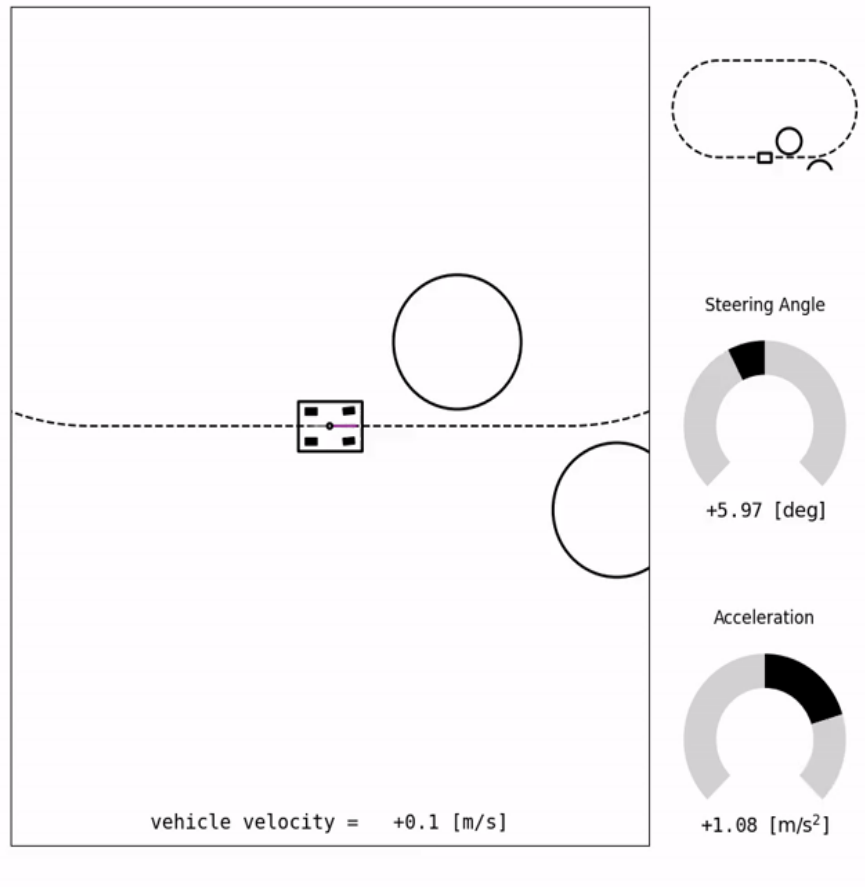
Given: \mathbf{F}, g : Transition Model;
 K : Number of samples;
 T : Number of time-steps;
 $(\mathbf{u}_0, \mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_{T-1})$: Initial control sequence;
 $\Sigma, \phi, q, \gamma, \alpha$: Cost functions/parameters;
SGF: Savitsky–Galov convolutional filter;
while task not completed **do**
 $\mathbf{x}_0 \leftarrow \text{GetStateEstimate}();$
 for $k \leftarrow 0$ **to** $K - 1$ **do**
 $\mathbf{x} \leftarrow \mathbf{x}_0;$
 Sample $\mathcal{E}^k = (\epsilon_0^k \dots \epsilon_{T-1}^k), \epsilon_t^k \in \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma);$
 for $t \leftarrow 1$ **to** T **do**
 if $k < (1 - \alpha)K$ **then**
 $\mathbf{v}_{t-1} = \mathbf{u}_{t-1} + \epsilon_{t-1}^k;$
 else
 $\mathbf{v}_{t-1} = \epsilon_{t-1}^k;$
 $\mathbf{x} \leftarrow \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}, g(\mathbf{v}_{t-1}));$
 $S_k += \mathbf{q}(\mathbf{x}) + \gamma \mathbf{u}_{t-1}^T \Sigma^{-1} (\mathbf{u}_t - \mathbf{v}_t);$
 $S_k += \phi(\mathbf{x});$
 ComputeWeights(S_0, S_1, \dots, S_k);
 for $t \leftarrow 0$ **to** $T - 1$ **do**
 $U \leftarrow U + \text{SGF} * \left(\sum_{k=1}^K w_k \mathcal{E}^k \right);$
 SendToActuators(\mathbf{u}_0);
 for $t \leftarrow 1$ **to** $T - 1$ **do**
 $\mathbf{u}_{t-1} \leftarrow \mathbf{u}_t;$
 $\mathbf{u}_{T-1} \leftarrow \text{Intialize}(\mathbf{u}_{T-1});$

Algorithm 2: Information-Theoretic Weight Computation.

Given: S_1, S_2, \dots, S_K : Trajectory costs;
 λ : Inverse Temperature;
 $\rho \leftarrow \min_k [S_k];$
 $\tilde{\eta} \leftarrow \sum_{k=1}^K \exp \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} (S_k - \rho) \right);$
for $k \leftarrow 1$ **to** K **do**
 $w_k \leftarrow \frac{1}{\tilde{\eta}} \exp \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} (S_k - \rho) \right);$
return $\{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_K\}$

MPPI Algorithm

Example



MPPI Algorithm

Pros and Cons

- **Flexible**: handles nonlinear dynamics and nonconvex cost functions
- **Parallelizable**: efficient on GPU/parallel hardware, suitable for real-time applications
- **Derivative-free**: does not require gradients of dynamics or cost functions
- **Exploratory**: inherent sampling encourages exploration in uncertain environments

Pros

- **Sample-sensitive**: performance depends heavily on the quality of sampled trajectories
- **Computationally expensive**: requires a large number of rollouts for good performance
- **Hyperparameter-dependent**: sensitive to noise variance, horizon length, temperature, etc.

Cons

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Information-Theoretic Derivation of MPPI

Information-Theoretic Derivation of MPPI

Stochastic Control Setup

- Discrete-time dynamics $\mathbf{x}_{t+1} = f(\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{v}_t)$
- Noise control input $\mathbf{v}_t \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{u}_t, \Sigma)$
- Control sequence and noise sequence

$$\mathbf{U} = (\mathbf{u}_0, \dots, \mathbf{u}_{T-1}), \quad \mathbf{V} = (\mathbf{v}_0, \dots, \mathbf{v}_{T-1})$$

- Distribution over control noises

$$q(\mathbf{V} \mid \mathbf{U}, \Sigma) = Z^{-T} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} (\mathbf{v}_t - \mathbf{u}_t)^\top \Sigma^{-1} (\mathbf{v}_t - \mathbf{u}_t)\right)$$

- Cost

$$J(\mathbf{U}) = \mathbb{E}_{Q_{\mathbf{U}, \Sigma}} \left[\phi(\mathbf{x}_T) + \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \ell(\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{u}_t) \right]$$

Information-Theoretic Derivation of MPPI

■ Trajectory Cost and Free Energy

- Define state-only trajectory cost

$$S(\mathbf{V}) = \phi(\mathbf{x}_T) + \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} c(\mathbf{x}_t)$$

- Running cost decomposition

$$\ell(\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{u}_t) = c(\mathbf{x}_t) + \text{control cost term}$$

- Let P be a base distribution over \mathbf{V} with density $p(\mathbf{V})$

- Define free energy

$$\mathcal{F}_\lambda(S, p, \mathbf{x}_0) = -\lambda \log \mathbb{E}_P \left[\exp \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} S(\mathbf{V}) \right) \right]$$

Information-Theoretic Derivation of MPPI

Free Energy Lower bound via KL

- Start from the free energy $\mathcal{F}_\lambda = -\lambda \log \mathbb{E}_P \left[e^{-\frac{1}{\lambda} S(\mathbf{V})} \right]$

- Change measure from P to the controlled distribution $Q_{\mathbf{U}, \Sigma}$

$$\mathcal{F}_\lambda = -\lambda \log \mathbb{E}_{Q_{\mathbf{U}, \Sigma}} \left[e^{-\frac{1}{\lambda} S(\mathbf{V})} \frac{p(\mathbf{V})}{q(\mathbf{V}|\mathbf{U}, \Sigma)} \right]$$

- Apply Jensen's inequality

$$\mathcal{F}_\lambda \leq -\lambda \mathbb{E}_{Q_{\mathbf{U}, \Sigma}} \left[\log \left(e^{-\frac{1}{\lambda} S(\mathbf{V})} \frac{p(\mathbf{V})}{q(\mathbf{V}|\mathbf{U}, \Sigma)} \right) \right]$$

- Simplify

$$\mathcal{F}_\lambda \leq \mathbb{E}_{Q_{\mathbf{U}, \Sigma}} [S(\mathbf{V})] + \lambda D_{\text{KL}}(Q_{\mathbf{U}, \Sigma} \parallel P)$$

$$D_{\text{KL}}(Q_{\mathbf{U}, \Sigma} \parallel P) = \mathbb{E}_{Q_{\mathbf{U}, \Sigma}} \left[\log \frac{q(\mathbf{V}|\mathbf{U}, \Sigma)}{p(\mathbf{V})} \right]$$

Information-Theoretic Derivation of MPPI

Free Energy Lower bound via KL

- Choose the base distribution as

$$p(\mathbf{V}) = q(\mathbf{V} \mid \tilde{\mathbf{U}}, \Sigma)$$

where $\tilde{\mathbf{U}}$ is a nominal control sequence.

- Then the KL term

$$D_{\text{KL}}(Q_{\mathbf{U}, \Sigma} \parallel Q_{\tilde{\mathbf{U}}, \Sigma}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} (\mathbf{u}_t - \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_t)^\top \Sigma^{-1} (\mathbf{u}_t - \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_t) + c$$

- Therefore, the right-hand side of the bound becomes

$$\mathcal{F}_\lambda \leq \mathbb{E}_{Q_{\mathbf{U}, \Sigma}} \left[\phi(\mathbf{x}_T) + \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \ell(\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{u}_t) \right] = J(\mathbf{U})$$

Information-Theoretic Derivation of MPPI

Optimal Distribution over Trajectories

- Define the optimal distribution

$$q^*(\mathbf{V}) = \frac{1}{\eta} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} S(\mathbf{V})\right) p(\mathbf{V})$$

- Normalization constant

$$\eta = \int \exp\left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} S(\mathbf{V})\right) p(\mathbf{V}) d\mathbf{V}$$

- This is a Boltzmann distribution over trajectories:
lower-cost trajectories get higher probability

Information-Theoretic Derivation of MPPI

Control as KL Minimization

- Instead of minimizing $J(\mathbf{U})$ directly, we solve

$$\mathbf{U}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{U}} D_{\text{KL}}(Q^* \parallel Q_{\mathbf{U}, \Sigma})$$

- Expand the KL

$$D_{\text{KL}}(Q^* \parallel Q_{\mathbf{U}, \Sigma}) = \mathbb{E}_{Q^*} \left[\log \frac{q^*(\mathbf{V})}{q(\mathbf{V} | \mathbf{U}, \Sigma)} \right]$$

- Since q^* does not depend on

$$\mathbf{U}^* = \arg \max_{\mathbf{U}} \mathbb{E}_{Q^*} [\log q(\mathbf{V} | \mathbf{U}, \Sigma)]$$

Information-Theoretic Derivation of MPPI

Control as KL Minimization

- For Gaussian q , this is equivalent to

$$\mathbf{U}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{U}} \mathbb{E}_{Q^*} \left[\sum_{t=0}^{T-1} (\mathbf{v}_t - \mathbf{u}_t)^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} (\mathbf{v}_t - \mathbf{u}_t) \right]$$

- Unconstrained minimizer:

$$\mathbf{u}_t^* = \mathbb{E}_{Q^*} [\mathbf{v}_t]$$

Information-Theoretic Derivation of MPPI

Importance Sampling

- We cannot sample directly from Q^*
Use a proposal distribution $Q_{\hat{\mathbf{U}}, \Sigma}$

- We write this expectation as an integral

$$\mathbb{E}_{Q^*}[\mathbf{v}_t] = \int q^*(\mathbf{V}) \mathbf{v}_t d\mathbf{V}$$

- Multiply and divide by the proposal density $q(\mathbf{V} \mid \hat{\mathbf{U}}, \Sigma)$

$$\mathbb{E}_{Q^*}[\mathbf{v}_t] = \int \frac{q^*(\mathbf{V})}{q(\mathbf{V} \mid \hat{\mathbf{U}}, \Sigma)} q(\mathbf{V} \mid \hat{\mathbf{U}}, \Sigma) \mathbf{v}_t d\mathbf{V}$$

- Therefore,

$$\mathbb{E}_{Q^*}[\mathbf{v}_t] = \mathbb{E}_{Q_{\hat{\mathbf{U}}, \Sigma}}[w(\mathbf{V}) \mathbf{v}_t], \quad w(\mathbf{V}) = \frac{q^*(\mathbf{V})}{q(\mathbf{V} \mid \hat{\mathbf{U}}, \Sigma)}$$

Information-Theoretic Derivation of MPPI

Decomposing the Importance Weight

- Introduce the base distribution P with density $p(\mathbf{V})$
- We can factor $w(\mathbf{V})$ as

$$w(\mathbf{V}) = \left(\frac{q^*(\mathbf{V})}{p(\mathbf{V})} \right) \left(\frac{p(\mathbf{V})}{q(\mathbf{V}|\hat{\mathbf{U}}, \Sigma)} \right)$$

- Using the optimal distribution

$$q^*(\mathbf{V}) = \frac{1}{\eta} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} S(\mathbf{V})\right) p(\mathbf{V})$$

- We obtain

$$w(\mathbf{V}) = \frac{1}{\eta} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} S(\mathbf{V})\right) \left(\frac{p(\mathbf{V})}{q(\mathbf{V}|\hat{\mathbf{U}}, \Sigma)} \right)$$

Information-Theoretic Derivation of MPPI

Gaussian Ratio

- For the Gaussian base $p(\mathbf{V}) = q(\mathbf{V} \mid \tilde{\mathbf{U}}, \Sigma)$,
- We can write

$$\frac{p(\mathbf{V})}{q(\mathbf{V} \mid \hat{\mathbf{U}}, \Sigma)} = \exp \left(-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \left[D + 2(\hat{\mathbf{u}}_t - \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_t)^\top \Sigma^{-1} \mathbf{v}_t \right] \right)$$

where

$$D = \hat{\mathbf{u}}_t^\top \Sigma^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{u}}_t - \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_t^\top \Sigma^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_t$$

- The term D does not depend on \mathbf{V}_t , so it can be pulled out of the integral and canceled with the corresponding term in η .
- Thus we keep only the \mathbf{V}_t – dependent part:

$$\frac{p(\mathbf{V})}{q(\mathbf{V} \mid \hat{\mathbf{U}}, \Sigma)} \propto \exp \left(-\sum_{t=0}^{T-1} (\hat{\mathbf{u}}_t - \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_t)^\top \Sigma^{-1} \mathbf{v}_t \right)$$

Information-Theoretic Derivation of MPPI

Final Weight and Control Law

- Substituting the Gaussian ratio into $w(\mathbf{V})$

$$w(\mathbf{V}) = \frac{1}{\eta} \exp \left(- \frac{1}{\lambda} \left[S(\mathbf{V}) + \lambda \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} (\hat{\mathbf{u}}_t - \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_t)^\top \Sigma^{-1} \mathbf{v}_t \right] \right)$$

- The corresponding control update is

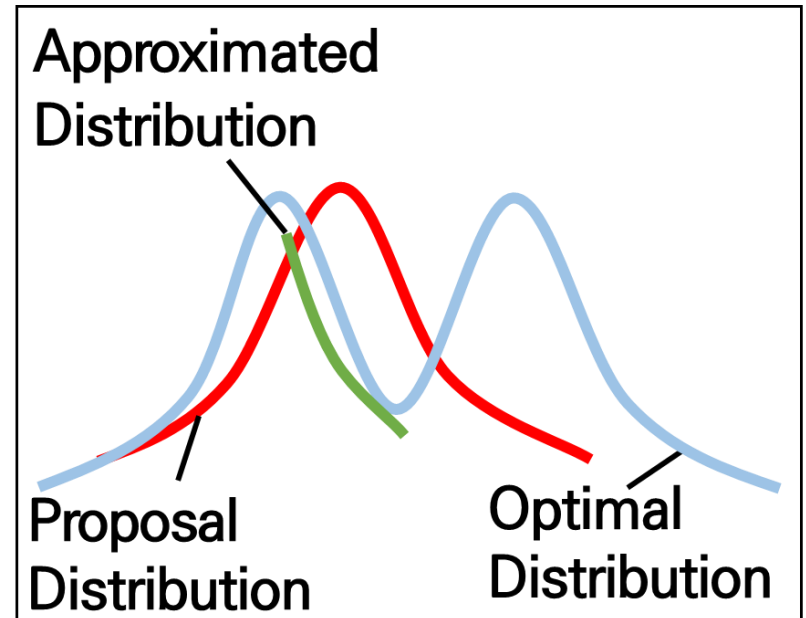
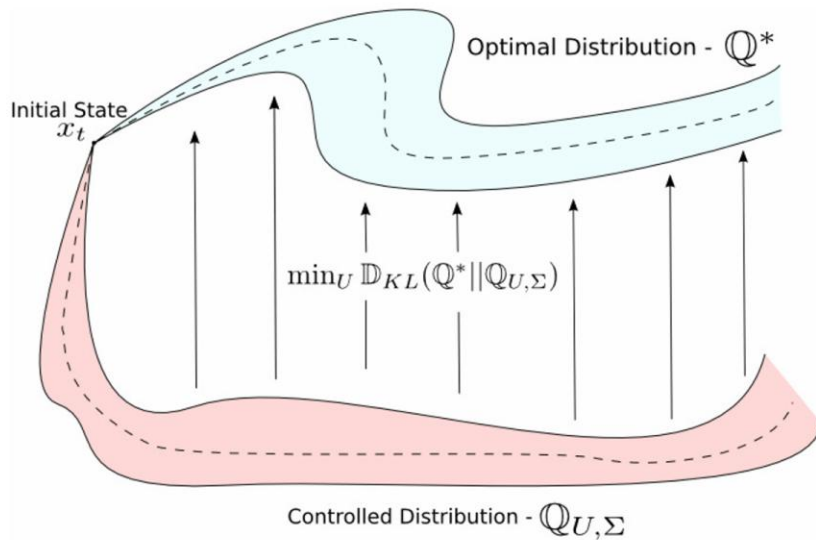
$$\mathbf{u}_t^* = \mathbb{E}_{Q_{\hat{\mathbf{U}}, \Sigma}} \left[w(\mathbf{V}) \mathbf{v}_t \right]$$

- In practice, this expectation is approximated by Monte Carlo

$$\mathbf{u}_t^* \approx \frac{\sum_{k=1}^K w^{(k)} \mathbf{v}_t^{(k)}}{\sum_{k=1}^K w^{(k)}} \quad w^{(k)} \propto \exp \left(- \frac{1}{\lambda} \tilde{S}(\mathbf{V}^{(k)}) \right)$$

Information-Theoretic Derivation of MPPI

Example



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Classical Path-Integral Derivation of MPPI

Classical Path–Integral Derivation of MPPI

Stochastic System and Optimal Control Cost

- Continuous–time stochastic dynamics

$$d\mathbf{x}_t = (\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_t, t) + \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}_t, t) \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}_t, t)) dt + \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x}_t, t) d\mathbf{w}_t$$

- State partition

$$\mathbf{x}_t = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_t^{(a)} \\ \mathbf{x}_t^{(c)} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{G} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{G}_c \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{B}_c \end{bmatrix}$$

- Cost functional

$$J(\mathbf{x}_t, t; \mathbf{u}) = \mathbb{E}_Q \left[\phi(\mathbf{x}_T) + \int_t^T (q(\mathbf{x}_s, s) + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{u}_s^\top \mathbf{R} \mathbf{u}_s) ds \right]$$

- Value function

$$V(\mathbf{x}_t, t) = \min_{\mathbf{u}} J(\mathbf{x}_t, t; \mathbf{u})$$

Classical Path-Integral Derivation of MPPI

Stochastic HJB Equation

- Stochastic HJB

$$-\partial_t V = q + \mathbf{f}^\top V_{\mathbf{x}} - \frac{1}{2} V_{\mathbf{x}}^\top \mathbf{G} \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{G}^\top V_{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\mathbf{B} \mathbf{B}^\top V_{\mathbf{xx}})$$

- Boundary

$$V(\mathbf{x}_T, T) = \phi(\mathbf{x}_T)$$

- Optimal Control

$$\mathbf{u}^*(\mathbf{x}, t) = -\mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{G}^\top V_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

Classical Path–Integral Derivation of MPPI

Exponential Transform and Linearization of the HJB

- Define desirability transform

$$V(\mathbf{x}, t) = -\lambda \log \Psi(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

- Compute derivatives

$$V_{\mathbf{x}} = -\lambda \frac{\Psi_{\mathbf{x}}}{\Psi} \quad V_{\mathbf{xx}} = -\lambda \frac{\Psi_{\mathbf{xx}}}{\Psi} + \lambda \frac{\Psi_{\mathbf{x}} \Psi_{\mathbf{x}}^{\top}}{\Psi^2}$$

- Substitute into the nonlinear HJB

$$\frac{\lambda}{\Psi} \partial_t \Psi = q - \lambda \frac{\mathbf{f}^{\top} \Psi_{\mathbf{x}}}{\Psi} + \frac{\lambda^2}{2\Psi^2} \Psi_{\mathbf{x}}^{\top} \mathbf{G} \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{G}^{\top} \Psi_{\mathbf{x}} - \frac{\lambda}{2\Psi} \text{tr}(\mathbf{B} \mathbf{B}^{\top} \Psi_{\mathbf{xx}}) + \frac{\lambda}{2\Psi^2} \Psi_{\mathbf{x}}^{\top} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{B}^{\top} \Psi_{\mathbf{x}}$$

- Identify nonlinear gradient–quadratic terms

$$\frac{\lambda^2}{2\Psi^2} \Psi_{\mathbf{x}}^{\top} \mathbf{G} \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{G}^{\top} \Psi_{\mathbf{x}} \quad \frac{\lambda}{2\Psi^2} \Psi_{\mathbf{x}}^{\top} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{B}^{\top} \Psi_{\mathbf{x}}$$

Classical Path–Integral Derivation of MPPI

Exponential Transform and Linearization of the HJB

- Noise–Control matching cancels these terms

If

$$\mathbf{B}\mathbf{B}^\top = \lambda \mathbf{G}\mathbf{R}^{-1}\mathbf{G}^\top$$

then

$$\frac{\lambda^2}{2\Psi^2} \Psi_{\mathbf{x}}^\top \mathbf{G}\mathbf{R}^{-1}\mathbf{G}^\top \Psi_{\mathbf{x}} = \frac{\lambda}{2\Psi^2} \Psi_{\mathbf{x}}^\top \mathbf{B}\mathbf{B}^\top \Psi_{\mathbf{x}}$$

→ meaning the two nonlinear terms exactly cancel

- Final linear PDE

$$\partial_t \Psi = \Psi \frac{q}{\lambda} - \mathbf{f}^\top \Psi_{\mathbf{x}} - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\mathbf{B}\mathbf{B}^\top \Psi_{\mathbf{xx}})$$

Classical Path–Integral Derivation of MPPI

Feynman–Kac and Path Integral Representation

- Linear PDE solution via Feynman–Kac

$$\Psi(\mathbf{x}_{t_0}, t_0) = \mathbb{E}_P \left[e^{-\frac{1}{\lambda} \int q(\mathbf{x}_s, s) ds} \Psi(\mathbf{x}_T, T) \right]$$

- Terminal condition

$$\Psi(\mathbf{x}_T, T) = e^{-\phi(\mathbf{x}_T)/\lambda}$$

- Trajectory cost

$$S(\boldsymbol{\tau}) = \phi(\mathbf{x}_T) + \int q(\mathbf{x}_s, s) ds$$

- Path integral form

$$\Psi(\mathbf{x}_{t_0}, t_0) = \mathbb{E}_P [e^{-S(\boldsymbol{\tau})/\lambda}]$$

- Value function

$$V(\mathbf{x}, t) = -\lambda \log \mathbb{E}_P [e^{-S(\boldsymbol{\tau})/\lambda}]$$

Classical Path–Integral Derivation of MPPI

Continuous–Time Path Integral Optimal Control

- Path integral control law (continuous time)

$$\mathbf{u}^*(t_0)dt = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_{t_0}, t_0) \frac{\mathbb{E}_P[e^{-S(\boldsymbol{\tau})/\lambda} \mathbf{B}_c(\mathbf{x}_{t_0}, t_0) d\mathbf{w}]}{\mathbb{E}_P[e^{-S(\boldsymbol{\tau})/\lambda}]}$$

- Here, $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}, t)$ is defined as

$$\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{x}, t)^{-1} \mathbf{G}_c(\mathbf{x}, t)^\top \left(\mathbf{G}_c(\mathbf{x}, t) \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{x}, t)^{-1} \mathbf{G}_c(\mathbf{x}, t)^\top \right)^{-1}$$

- And \mathbf{B}_c is the diffusion matrix acting on the controlled states

Classical Path–Integral Derivation of MPPI

Discrete–Time Path Integral Control

- Stochastic dynamics for uncontrolled system

$$d\mathbf{x}_t = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_t)\Delta t + \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x}_t) \epsilon_t \sqrt{\Delta t}$$

- Therefore

$$\mathbf{B}_c(\mathbf{x}_t) d\mathbf{w}_t = d\mathbf{x}_t^{(c)} - \mathbf{f}_c(\mathbf{x}_t) dt$$

- For controlled state component

$$d\mathbf{x}_t^{(c)} = \mathbf{f}_c(\mathbf{x}_t) dt + \mathbf{G}_c(\mathbf{x}_t) \mathbf{u}_t dt$$

- Discrete PI control law

$$\mathbf{u}^*(\mathbf{x}_{t_0}) = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_{t_0}) \frac{\mathbb{E}_p[e^{-S/\lambda} (d\mathbf{x}_{t_0}^{(c)} / \Delta t - \mathbf{f}_c(\mathbf{x}_{t_0}))]}{\mathbb{E}_p[e^{-S/\lambda}]}$$

Classical Path–Integral Derivation of MPPI

Importance Sampling

- Goal: Replace sampling from inefficient distribution with a more effective distribution
- Start from discrete PI control

$$\mathbf{u}_t^* = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_t) \frac{\mathbb{E}_p \left[e^{-S(\tau)/\lambda} \left(\frac{d\mathbf{x}_t^{(c)}}{\Delta t} - \mathbf{f}_c \right) \right]}{\mathbb{E}_p [e^{-S(\tau)/\lambda}]}$$

- Write numerator and denominator as integrals over trajectories

$$\int e^{-S(\tau)/\lambda} \left(\frac{d\mathbf{x}_t^{(c)}}{\Delta t} - \mathbf{f}_c \right) p(\tau) d\tau, \quad \int e^{-S(\tau)/\lambda} p(\tau) d\tau$$

- Multiply numerator & denominator by $\frac{p(\tau)}{q(\tau)}$

$$\int e^{-S(\tau)/\lambda} \left(\frac{d\mathbf{x}_t^{(c)}}{\Delta t} - \mathbf{f}_c(\mathbf{x}_t) \right) \frac{p(\tau)}{q(\tau)} q(\tau) d\tau, \quad \int e^{-S(\tau)/\lambda} \frac{p(\tau)}{q(\tau)} q(\tau) d\tau$$

Classical Path–Integral Derivation of MPPI

Importance Sampling

- Convert integrals into expectations under q

$$\mathbf{u}_t^* = \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}_t) \frac{\mathbb{E}_q \left[e^{-S(\tau)/\lambda} \left(\frac{d\mathbf{x}_t^{(c)}}{\Delta t} - \mathbf{f}_c(\mathbf{x}_t) \right) \frac{p(\tau)}{q(\tau)} \right]}{\mathbb{E}_q \left[e^{-S(\tau)/\lambda} \frac{p(\tau)}{q(\tau)} \right]}$$

- Introduce likelihood ratio

$$w(\tau) = \frac{p(\tau)}{q(\tau)}$$

- Combine likelihood ratio with cost to form modified cost

$$\tilde{S} = S + \lambda \sum_t \log(p_t/q_t)$$

Classical Path–Integral Derivation of MPPI

MPPI Control Update

- Sample controls

$$\mathbf{u}_{t,k} = \mathbf{u}_t + \delta \mathbf{u}_{t,k}, \quad \delta \mathbf{u}_{t,k} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \Sigma_u)$$

- For each rollout compute modified trajectory cost

$$\tilde{S}_k = \phi(\mathbf{x}_T) + \sum_{i=0}^{T-1} \tilde{q}_{i,k}$$

- Probability weights

$$w_k = \exp\left(-\frac{\tilde{S}_k}{\lambda}\right)$$

- Final MPPI control update

$$\mathbf{u}^*(t) = \mathbf{u}(t) + \frac{\sum_{k=1}^K w_k \delta \mathbf{u}_{t,k}}{\sum_{k=1}^K w_k}$$

Thank you!