

Is Optimal Control a Panacea?

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University of Southern California

Now in University of Washington



Is optimal control a panacea?

Outline

Part I Model Based Nonlinear Optimal Control.

Constraint Iterative optimal control methods

Application on the neuromuscular model of the index finger

Conclusions.

Part II Path Integral Control Beyond Linearization and Internals Models.

Path Integral Stochastic Optimal Control

Application to a variety of dynamical systems

Conclusions.

Part III General comments about control under uncertainty.

Part I: Model Based Nonlinear Optimal Control



Index Finger Biomechanics

USC
VITERBI
SCHOOL OF
ENGINEERING

Flexor Digitorum Superficialis(FDS)

Flexor Digitorum Profundus (FDP)

Extensor Communis(EC)

Extensor Indicis(EI)

Radial Interosseous(RI)

Ulnar Interosseous(UI)

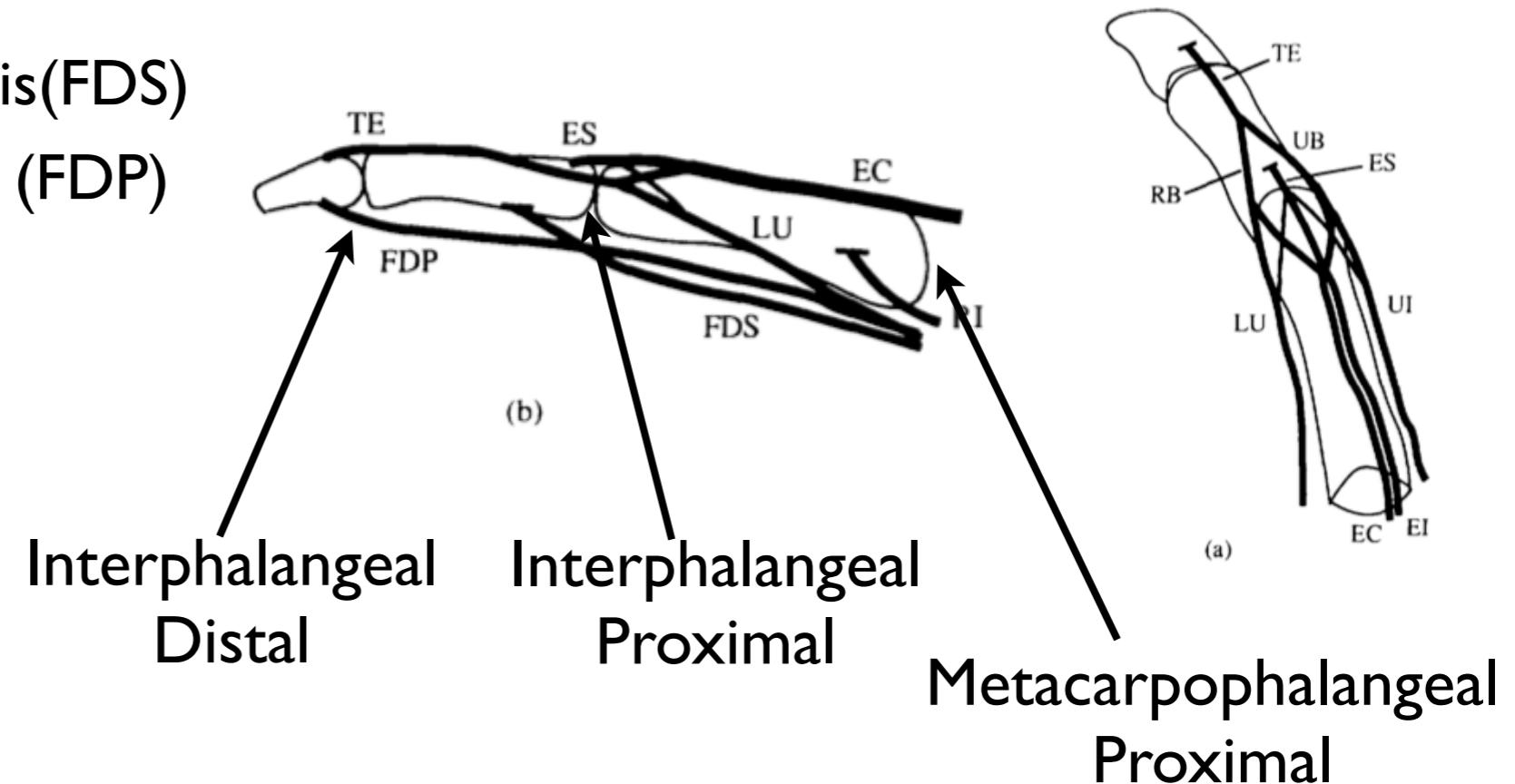
Lubrical(LU)

Terminal Extensor(TE)

Radial Band(RB)

Ulnar Band(UB)

Extensor Slip(ES)



N. Brook, J. Mizrahi, J. Dayan, 1995



Index Finger Model

$$\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{M}(\theta) \mathbf{F}$$

#torques \times #tendons

$$\ddot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = -\mathbf{I}(\boldsymbol{\theta})^{-1} \left(\mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}) + \mathbf{B}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + \mathbf{T} \right)$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{F}} = -\frac{1}{\tau} (\mathbf{F} - \mathbf{u})$$

$$J(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) = \phi(\mathbf{x}(t_N)) + \int_0^{t_N} \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{R} \mathbf{u} dt$$

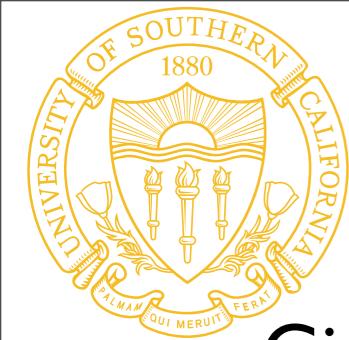
E.A. Theodorou and FJ.Valero-Cuevas. EMBS2010

E.A. Theodorou, E. Todorov, and Francisco J.Valero-Cuevas. ASME 2010

E.A. Theodorou, Y. Tassa and E. Todorov. (ACC-2010).

E.A. Theodorou, E. Todorov, FJ Valero Cuevas. (ACC-2011)

Valero-Cuevas, F. J., Hoffmann, H., Kurse, M. U., Kutch, J. J., and Theodorou, E. A., 2009.. IEEE Reviews in Biomedical Engineering,



Nonlinear Stochastic Optimal Control

Given an initial control $u(t)$, generate a trajectory $x(t)$.

Start



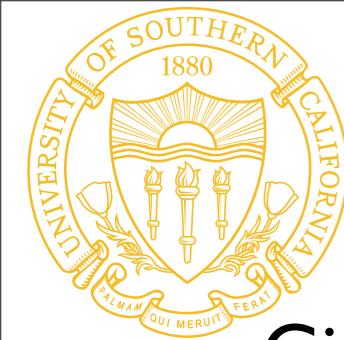
Goal



Step I

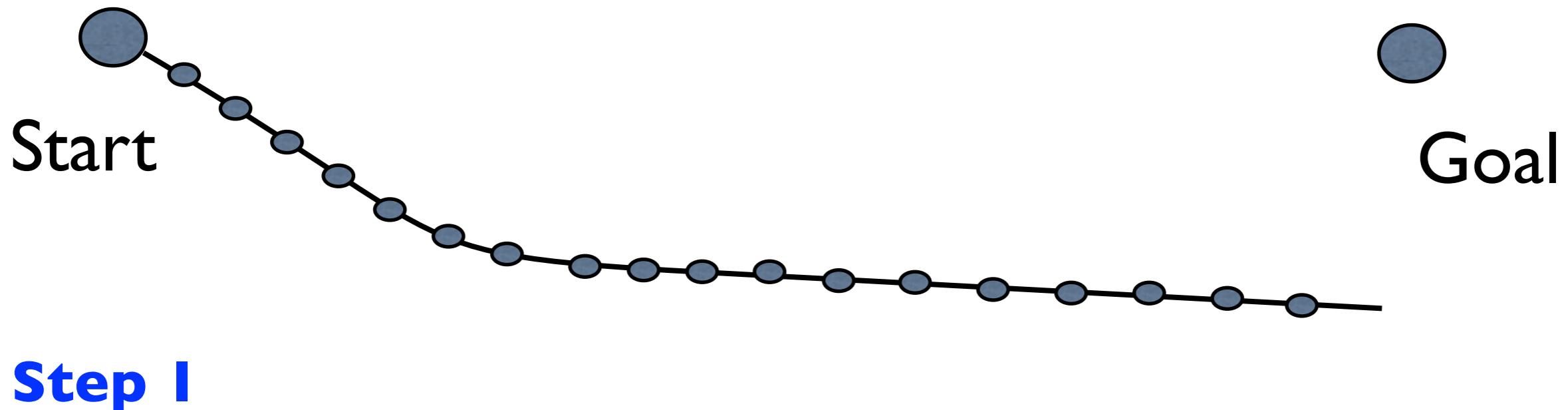
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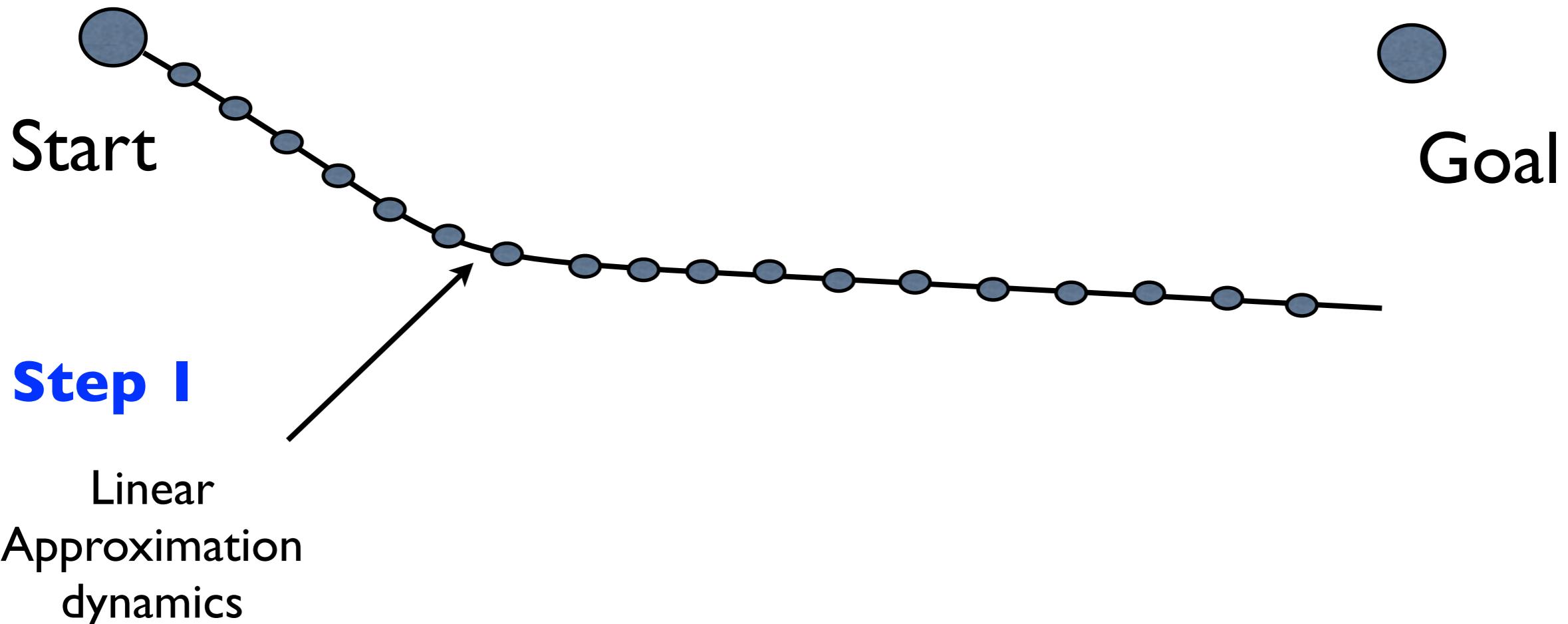
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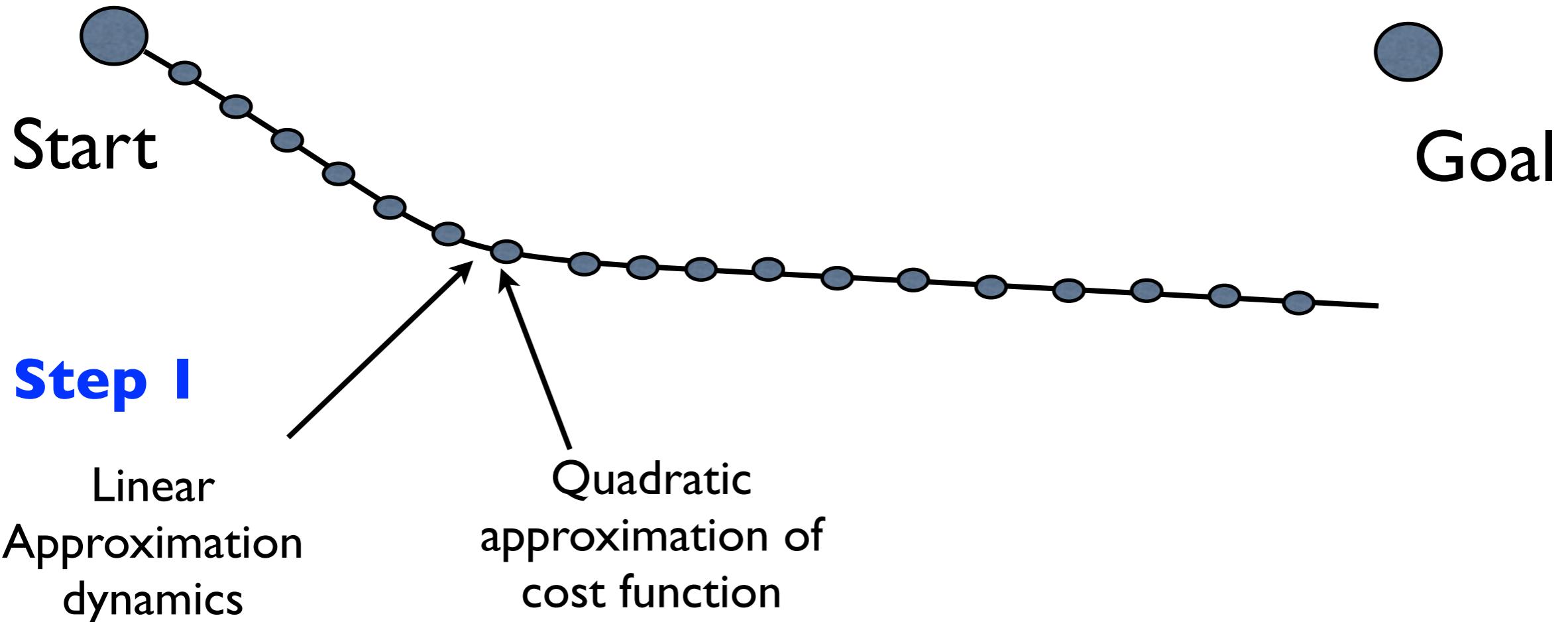
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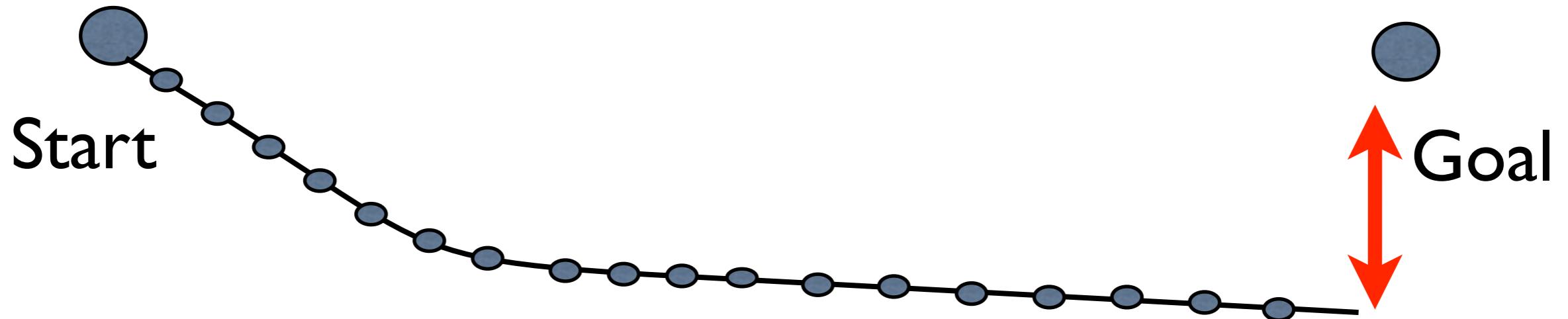


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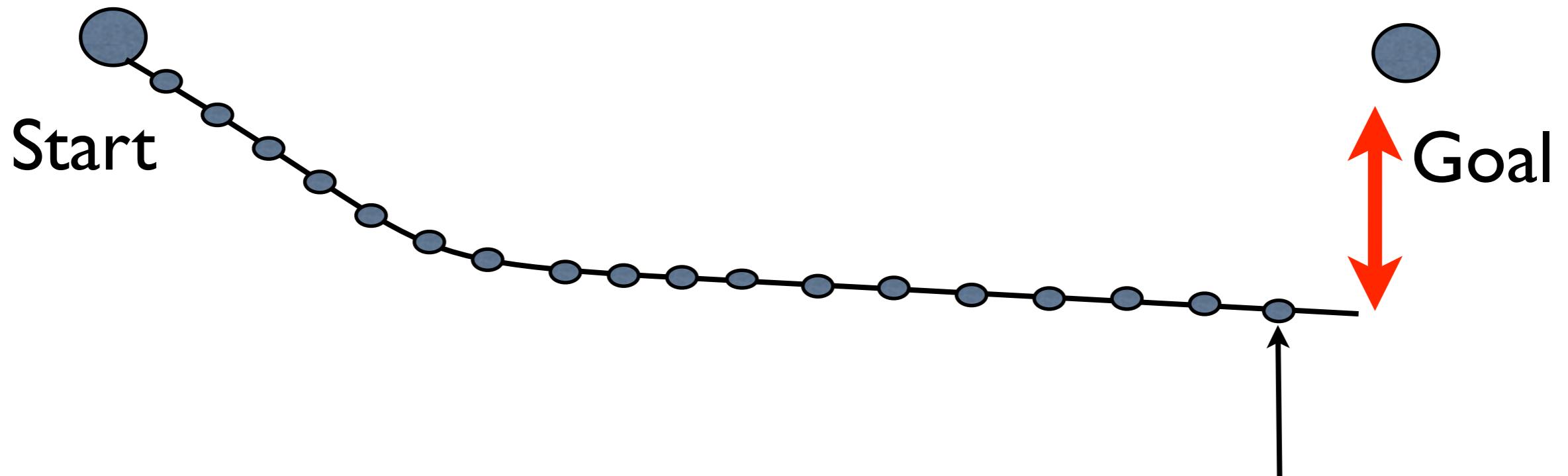
Step 2. Back-propagate the quadratic approximation of the Cost-to-go

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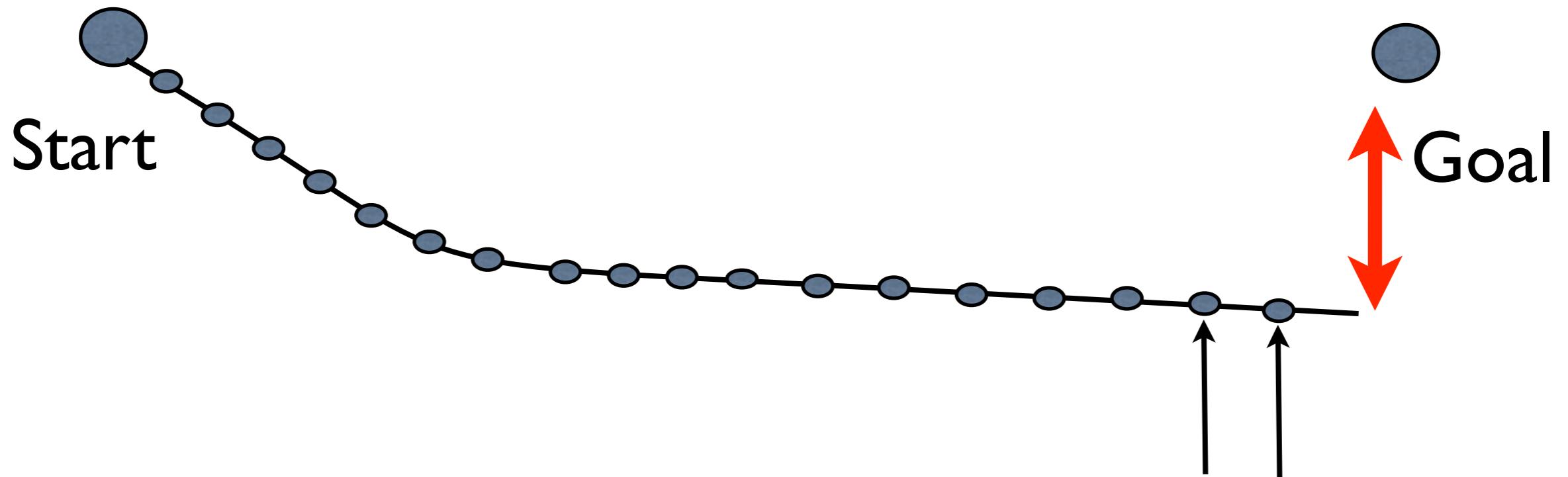
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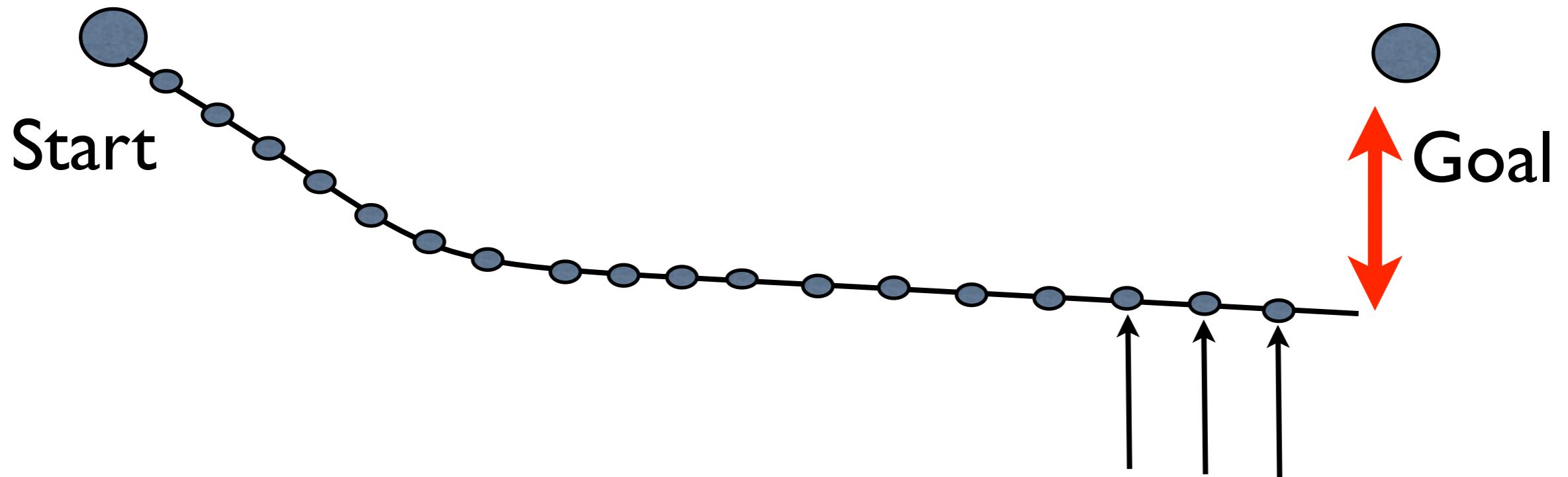
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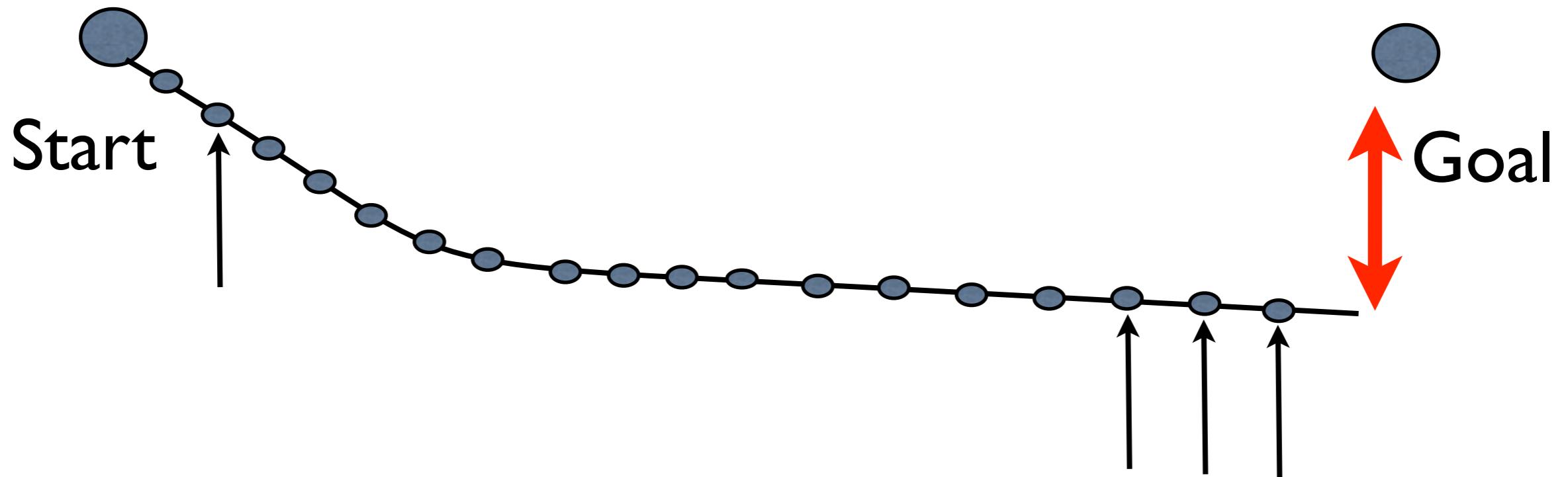
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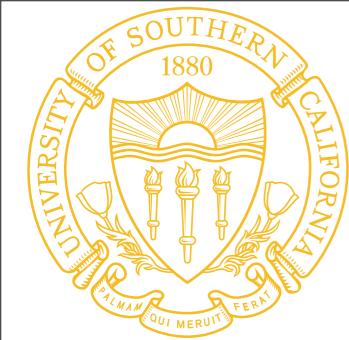
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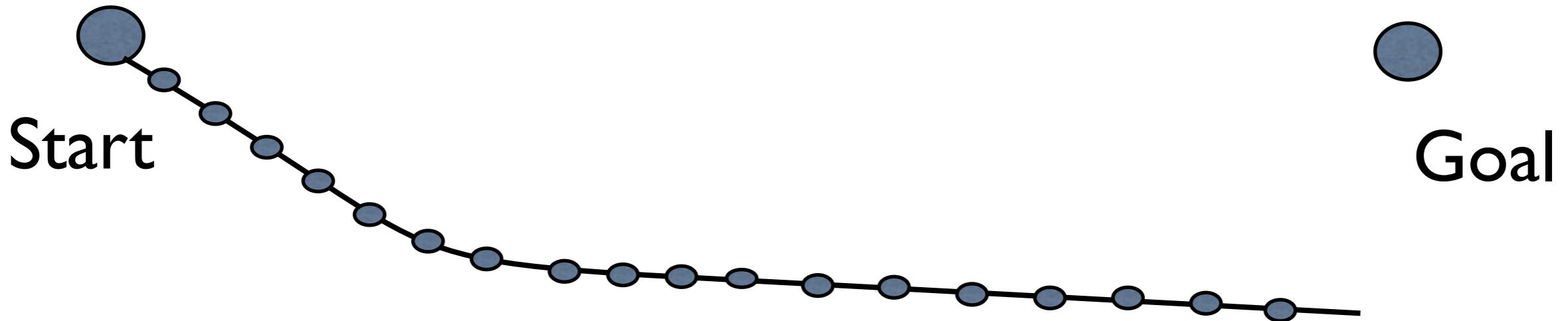
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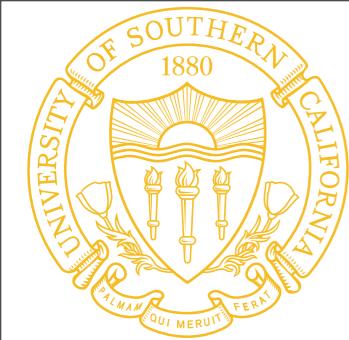
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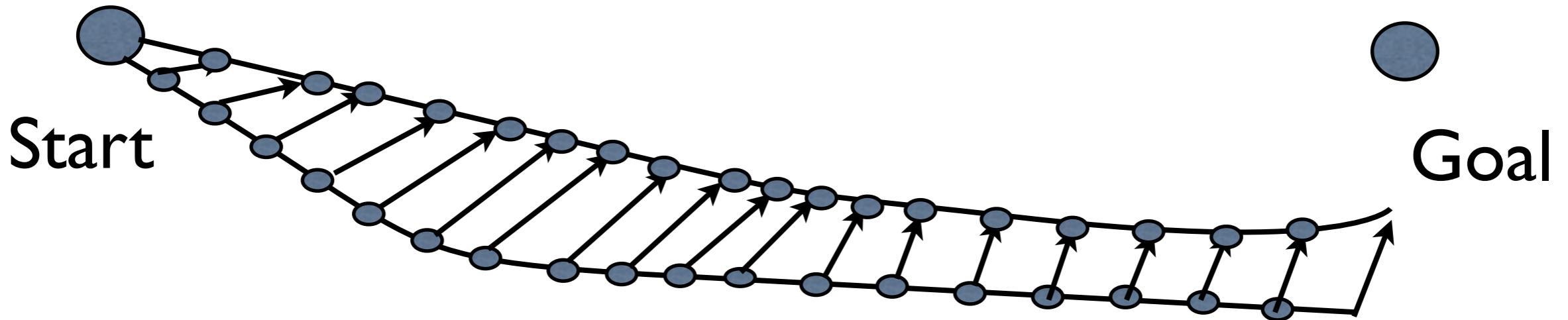
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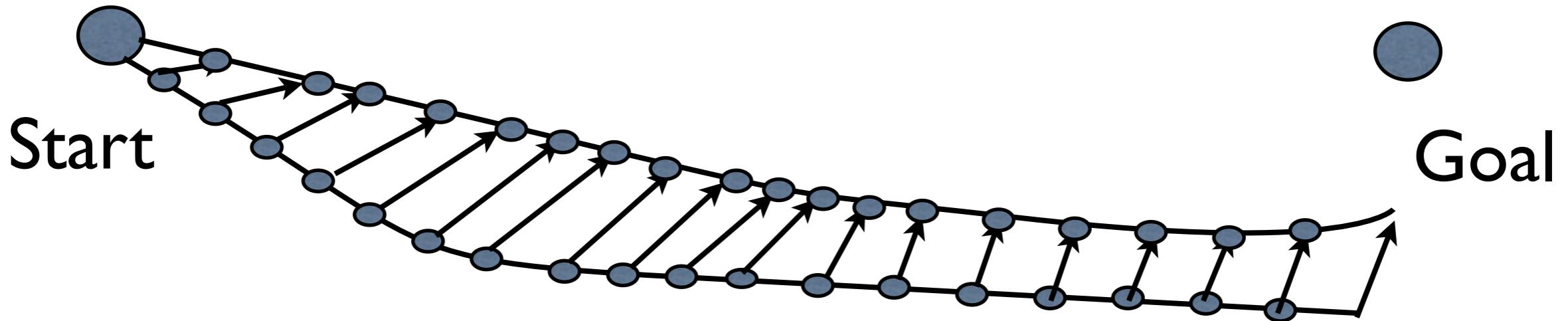
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Nonlinear Stochastic Optimal Control



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What you get at the end

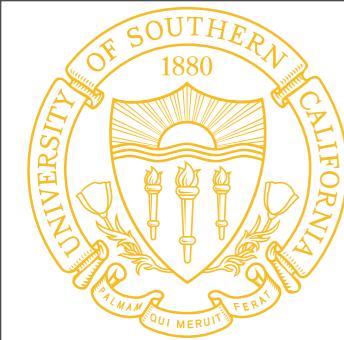
Control gains $L(t)$

Optimal Trajectory $x(t)$

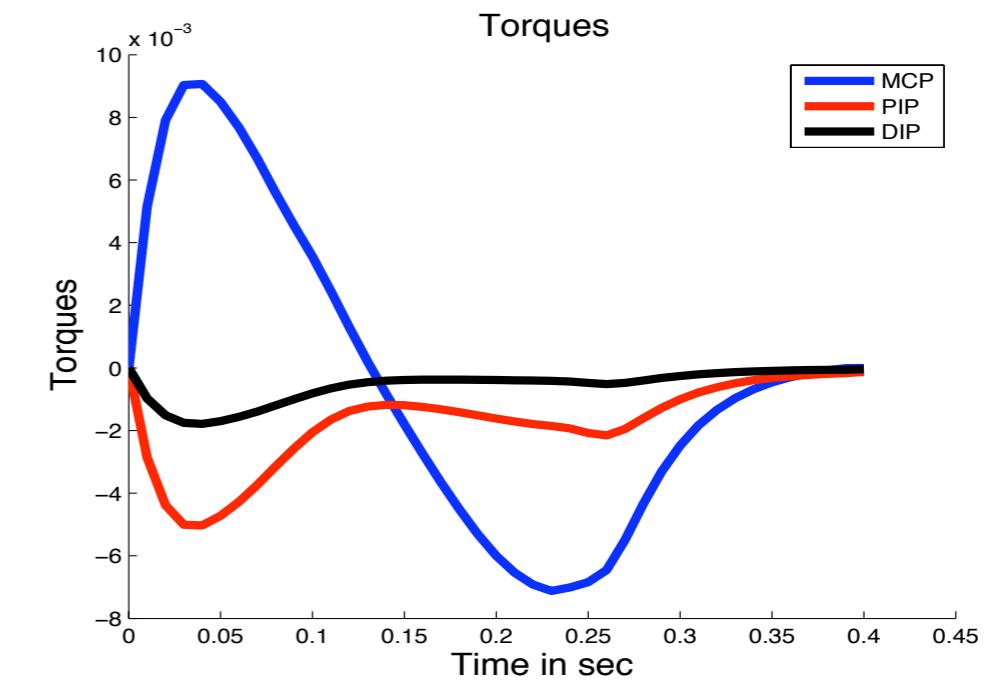
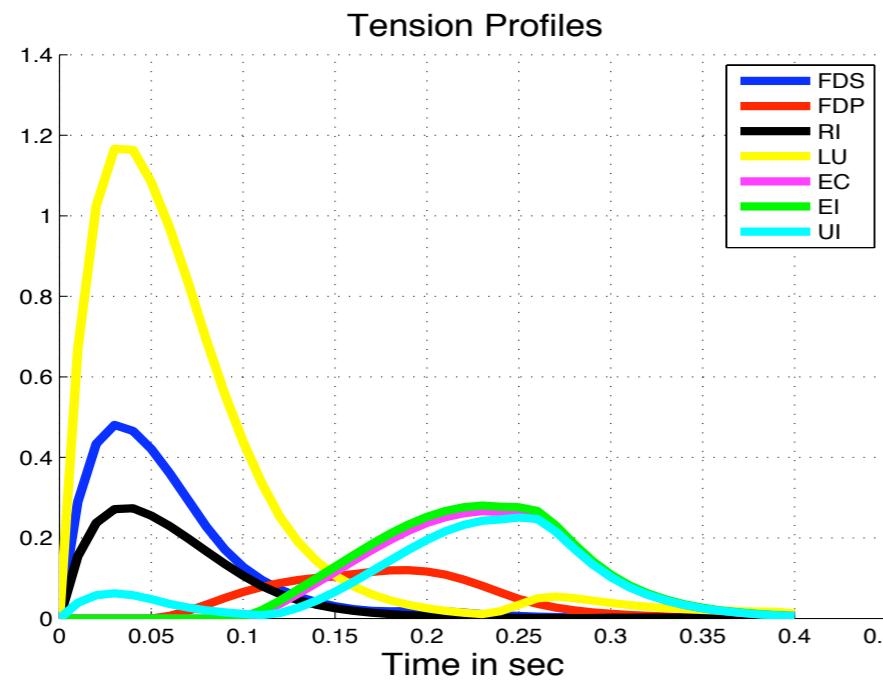
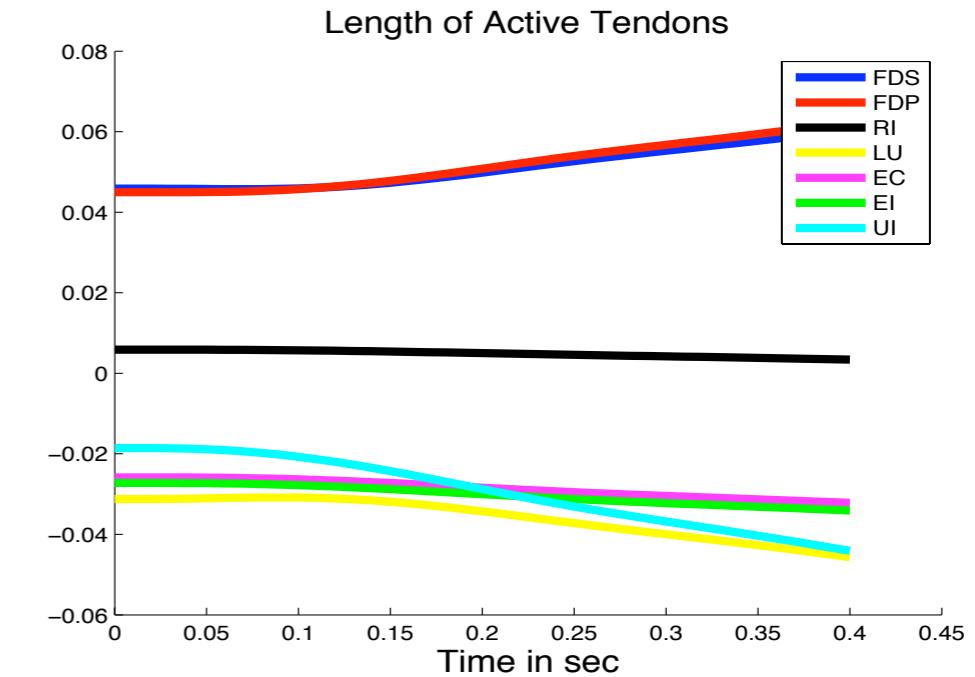
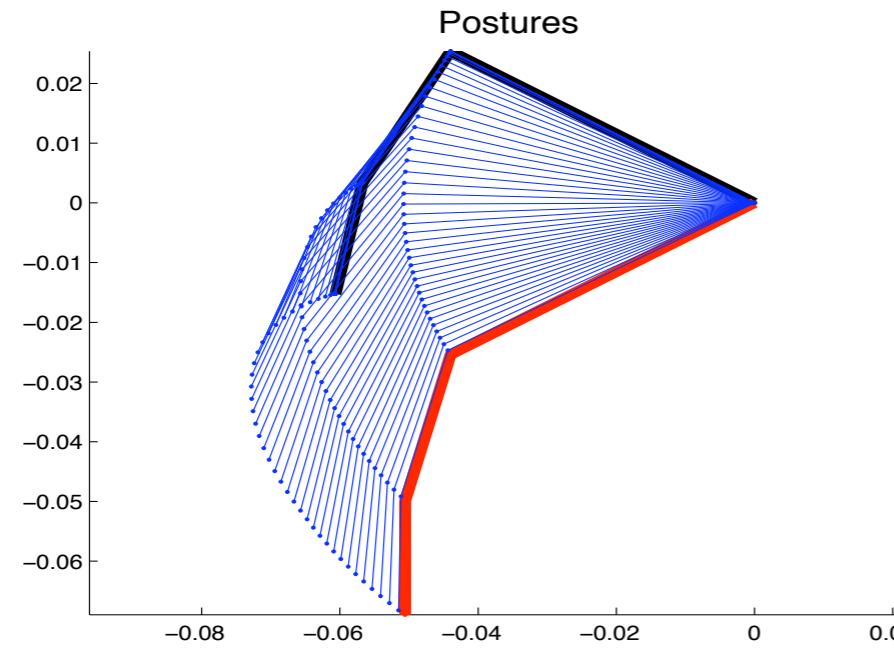
Optimal feedforward controls $u(t)$

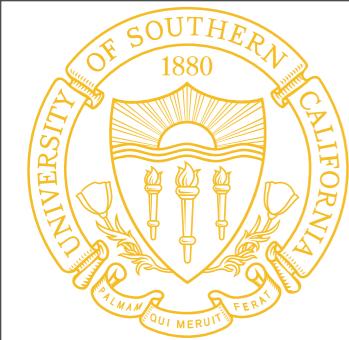
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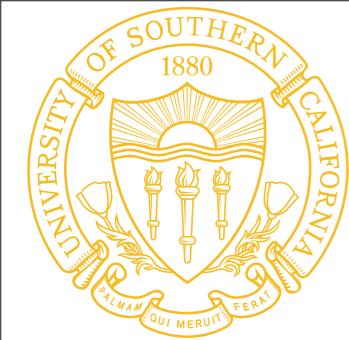


Application on the index finger



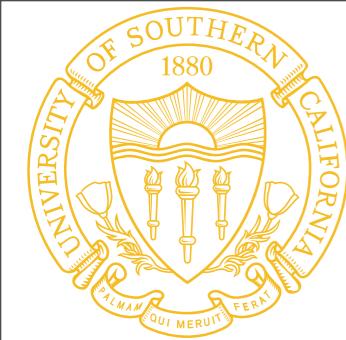


Conclusions



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Optimal control of tendon driven systems is a hard problem.



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Hard constraints in the actuations of the tendons reduce solution space.



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Sensitivity of control policies to model changes and variations.



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Sensitivity of control policies to model changes and variations.

Sensitivity increases due to linearization and hard constraints.



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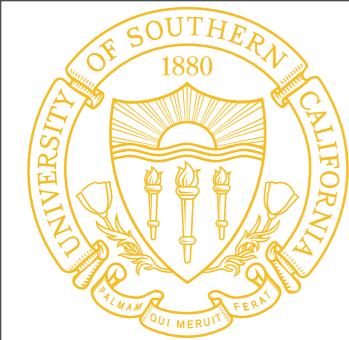
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Part 2: Beyond linearization and internals model: Path integral control approach



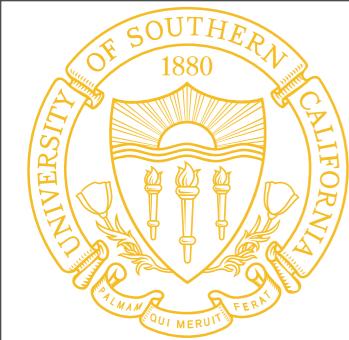
Path Integral Optimal Control

Dynamics: $\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_t) + \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{u}) dt + \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{L}d\omega$

Cost: $J(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) = \phi(\mathbf{x}(t_N)) + \int_{t_0}^{t_N} q(\mathbf{x}, t) + \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{R} \mathbf{u} dt$

Value Function: $V(\mathbf{x}, t) = \min_{\mathbf{u}} E(J(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}))$

Optimal Control: $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t) = -\mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{G}^T \text{grad}(V(\mathbf{x}, t))$



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$$-\partial_t V_t = q_t + (\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} V_t)^T \mathbf{f}_t - \frac{1}{2} (\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} V_t)^T \mathbf{G}_t \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{G}_t^T (\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} V_t) + \frac{1}{2} \text{trace}((\nabla_{\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}} V_t) \mathbf{B}_t \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\epsilon} \mathbf{B}_t^T)$$



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Nonlinear



Path Integral Optimal Control

Dynamics: $\mathbf{dx} = (\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_t) + \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{u}) dt + \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{L}d\omega$

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Nonlinear

Second order



Path Integral Optimal Control

$$\text{Dynamics: } \quad d\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_t) + \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{u}) dt + \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{L}d\boldsymbol{\omega}$$

$$\text{Cost: } J(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) = \phi(\mathbf{x}(t_N)) + \int_{t_0}^{t_N} q(\mathbf{x}, t) + \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{R} \mathbf{u} \, dt$$

Value Function: $V(\mathbf{x}, t) = \min_{\mathbf{u}} E(J(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}))$

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Nonlinear Second order

We can simplify the problem by transforming HJB into a linear PDE.



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We can simplify the problem by transforming HJB into a linear PDE.

We derive the path integral optimal controller.



Path Integral Optimal Control

$$\text{Dynamics: } \quad d\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_t) + \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{u}) dt + \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{L}d\boldsymbol{\omega}$$

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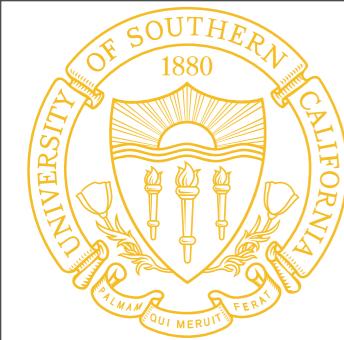
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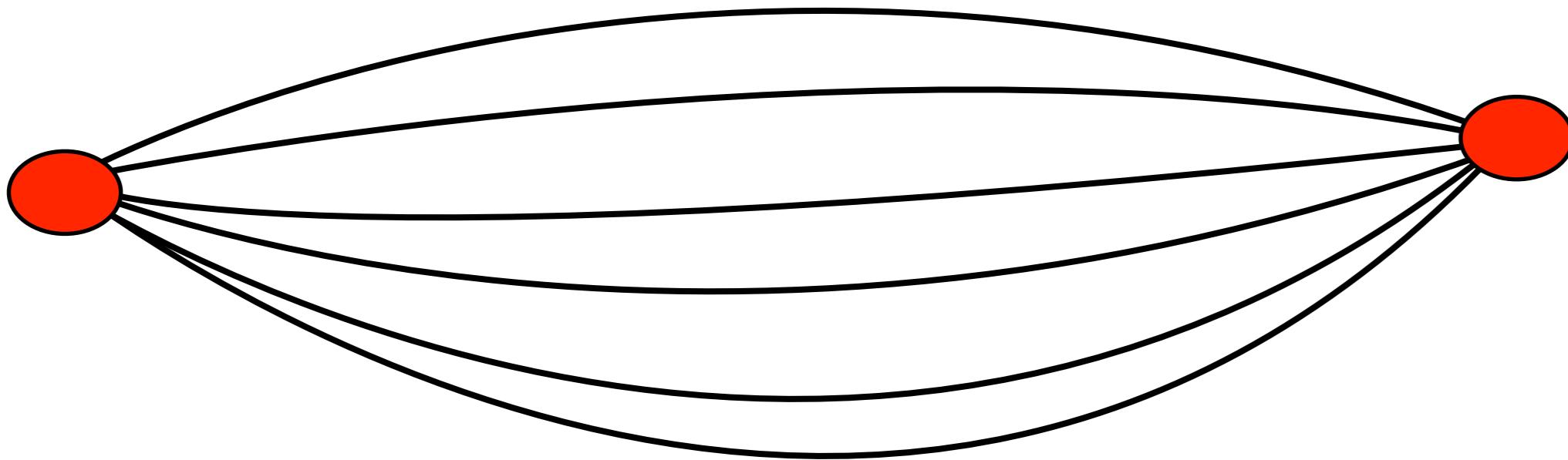
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Path integral optimal control can be model based, semi-model based, model free.



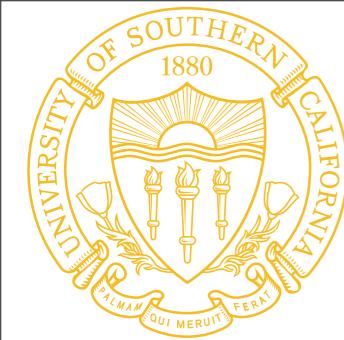
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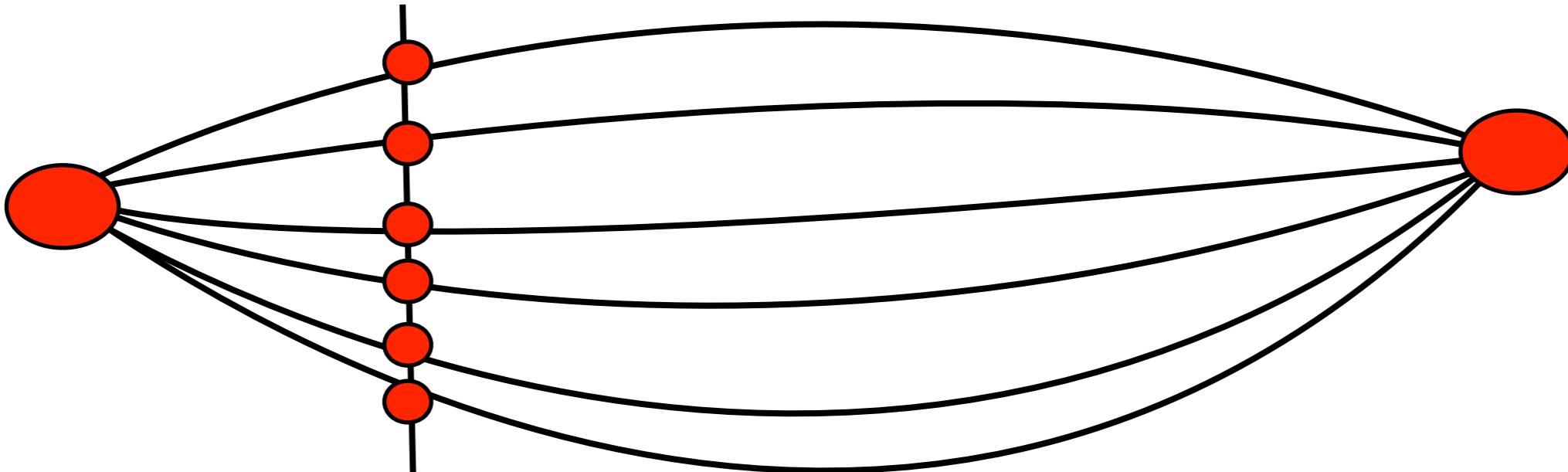
E. Theodorou, J. Buchli, S.Schaal ICRA 2010

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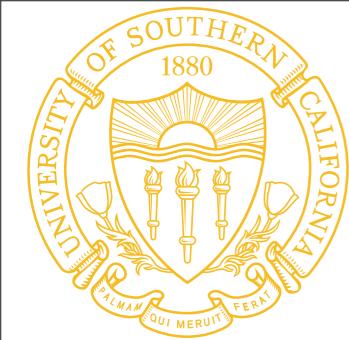
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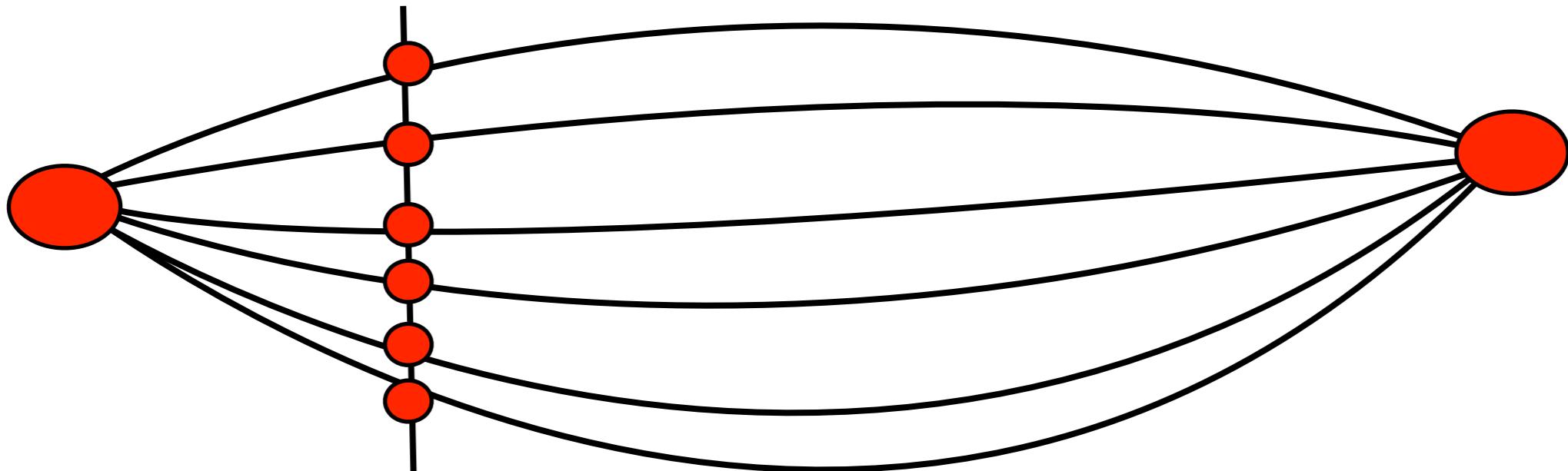
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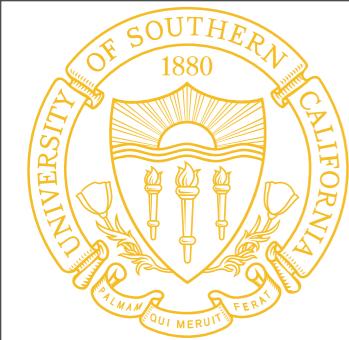
Cost

$$J(\mathbf{x}_j(t : N))$$

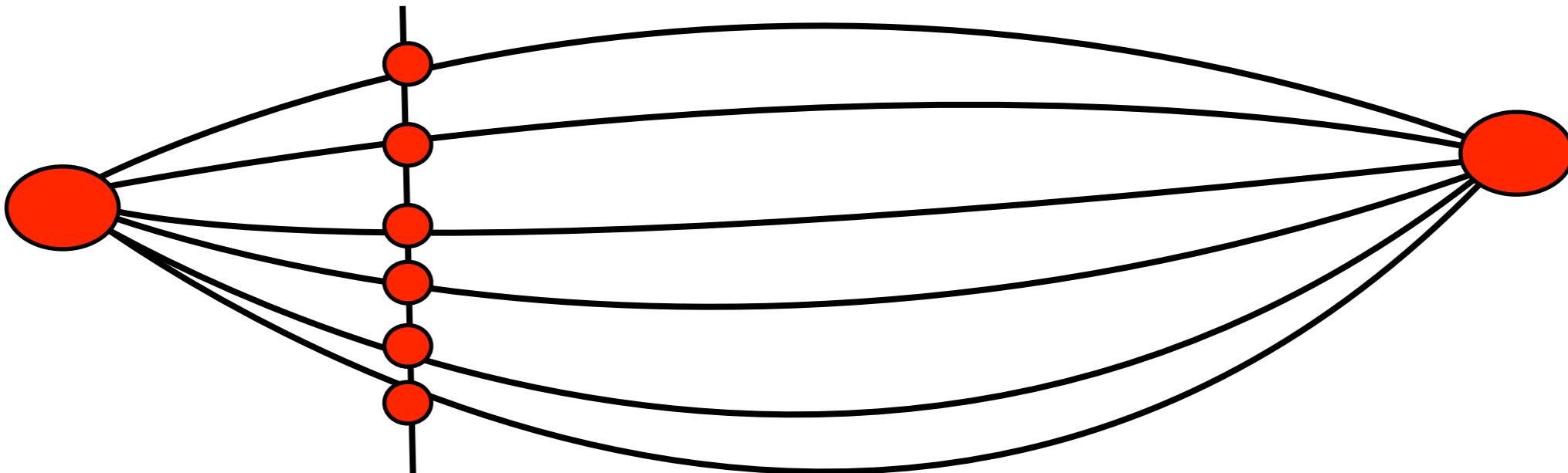
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Path Integral Optimal Control



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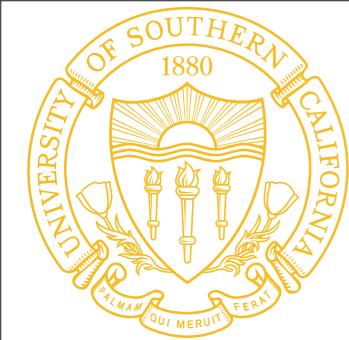
Probability

$$P(\mathbf{x}_j(t : N)) = \frac{e^{-\frac{1}{\lambda} P(\mathbf{x}_j(t:N))}}{\int e^{-\frac{1}{\lambda} P(\mathbf{x}_j(t:N))} d\mathbf{x}}$$

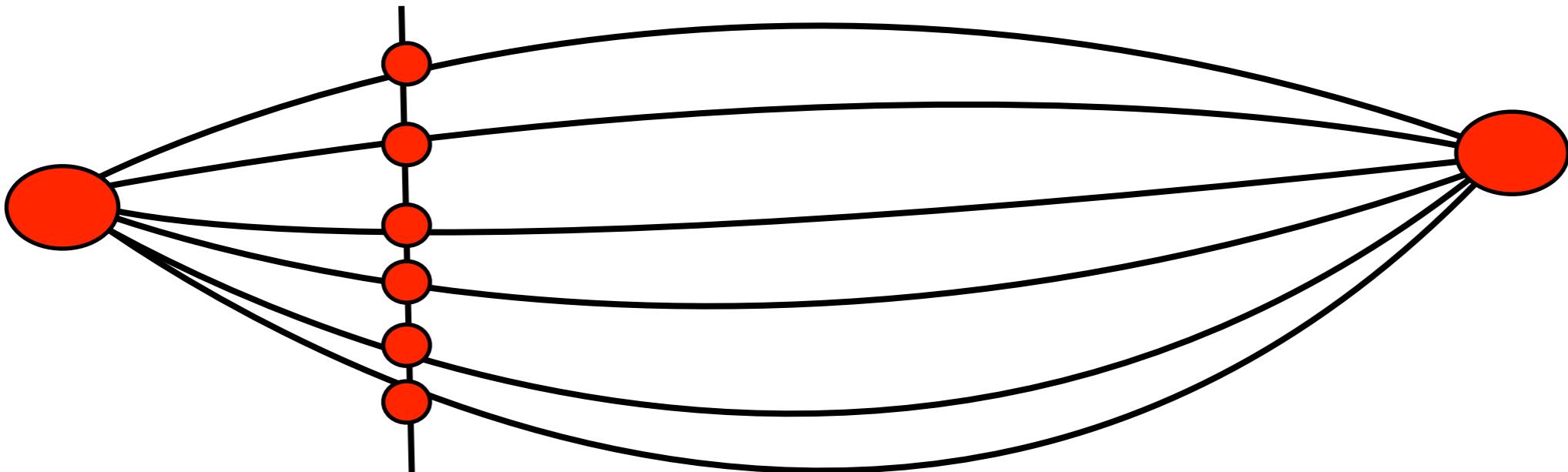
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Path Integral Optimal Control



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$$J(\mathbf{x}_j(t : N))$$

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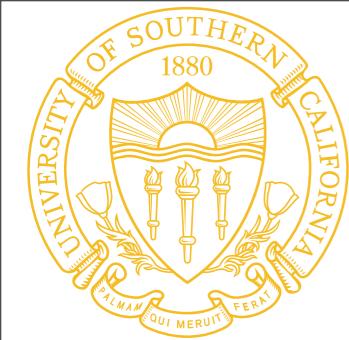
Local controls

$$\delta \mathbf{u}(t) = \sum_j P(\mathbf{x}_j(t : N)) \delta \mathbf{u}_j(t)$$

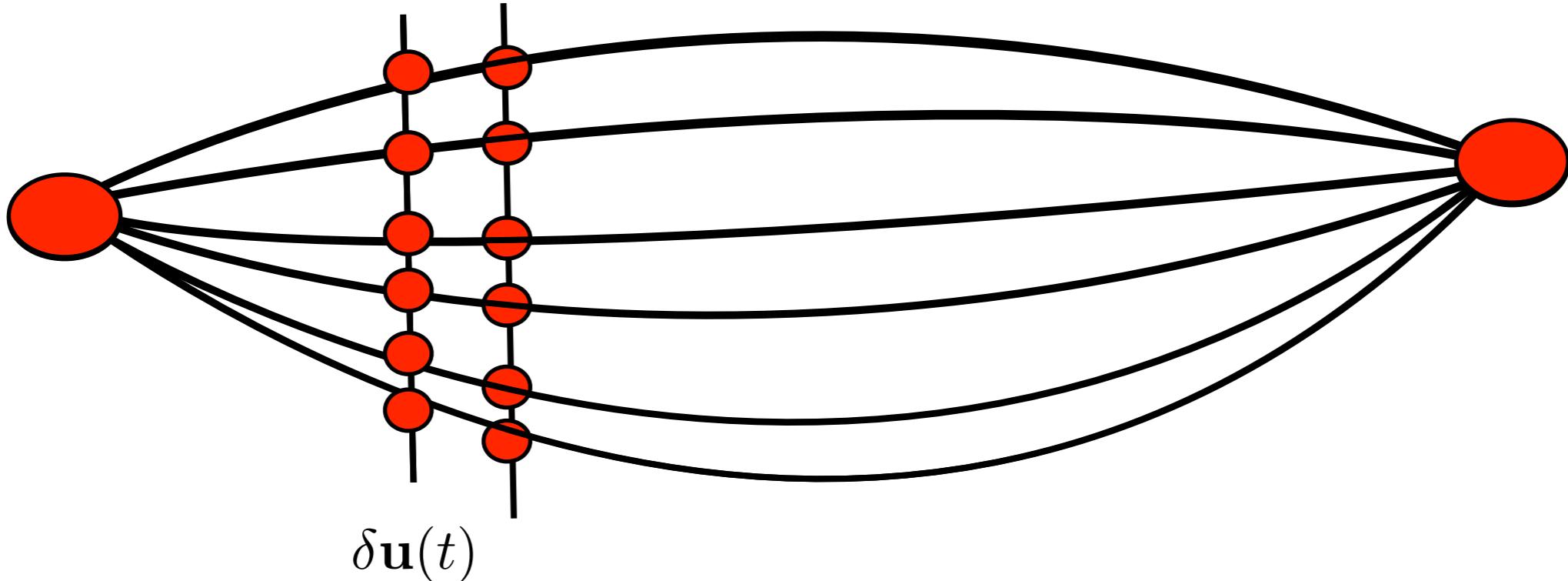
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Path Integral Optimal Control



Cost $J(\mathbf{x}_j(t : N))$

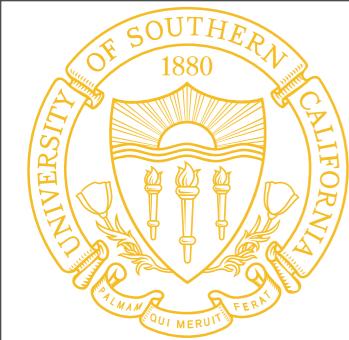
Probability $P(\mathbf{x}_j(t : N)) = \frac{e^{-\frac{1}{\lambda} P(\mathbf{x}_j(t:N))}}{\int e^{-\frac{1}{\lambda} P(\mathbf{x}_j(t:N))} d\mathbf{x}}$

Local controls $\delta \mathbf{u}(t) = \sum_j P(\mathbf{x}_j(t : N)) \delta \mathbf{u}_j(t)$

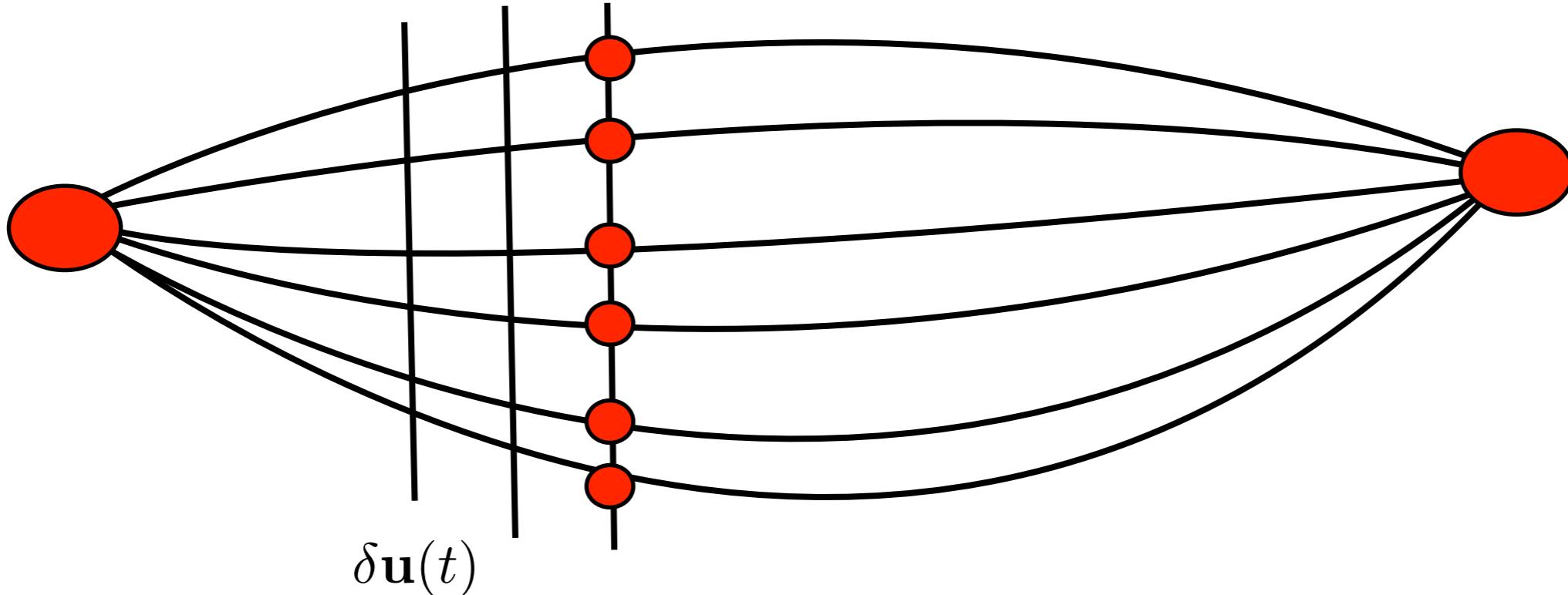
E. Theodorou, J. Buchli, S.Schaal ICRA 2010

E. Theodorou, J. Buchli, S.Schaal AISTATS 2010

E. Theodorou, J. Buchli, S.Schaal JMLR 2010



Path Integral Optimal Control



Cost

$$J(\mathbf{x}_j(t : N))$$

Probability

$$P(\mathbf{x}_j(t : N)) = \frac{e^{-\frac{1}{\lambda} P(\mathbf{x}_j(t:N))}}{\int e^{-\frac{1}{\lambda} P(\mathbf{x}_j(t:N))} d\mathbf{x}}$$

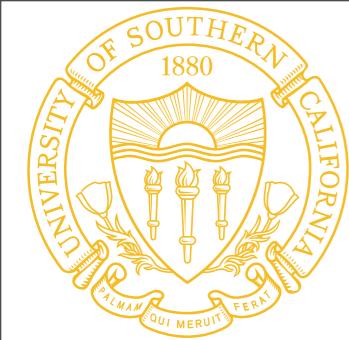
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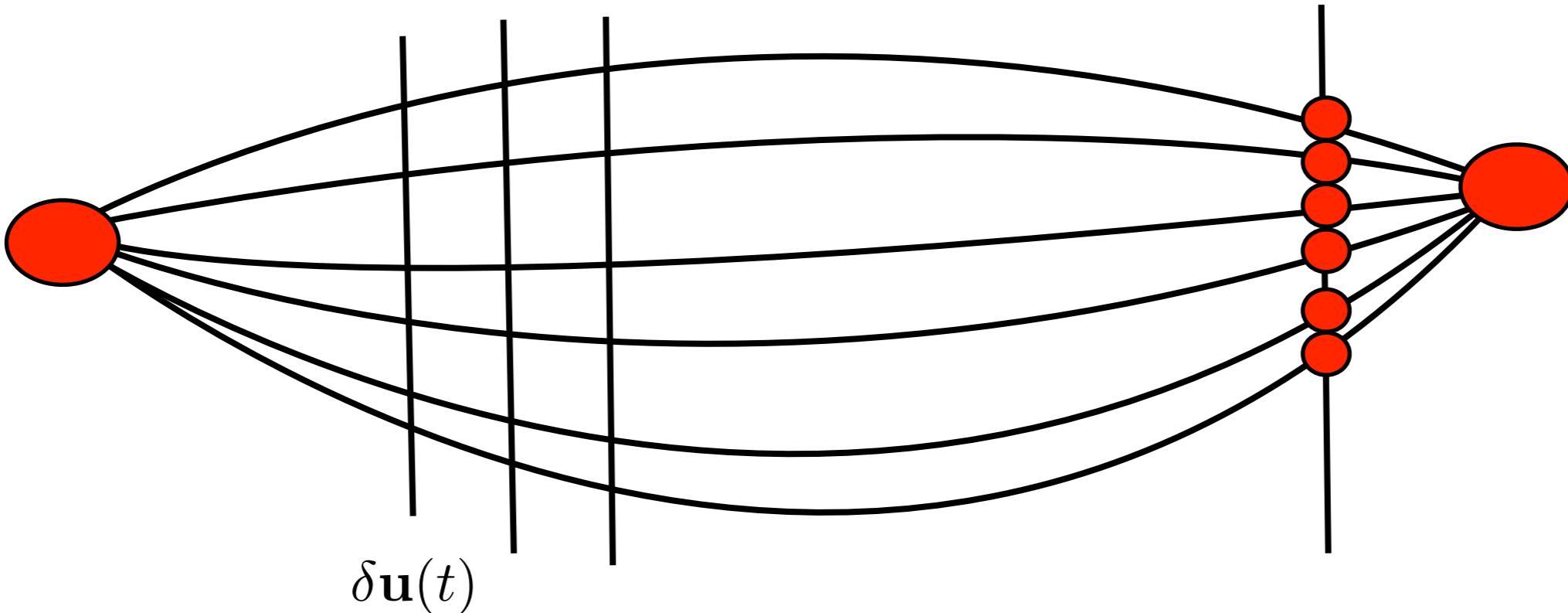
E. Theodorou, J. Buchli, S.Schaal ICRA 2010

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Path Integral Optimal Control



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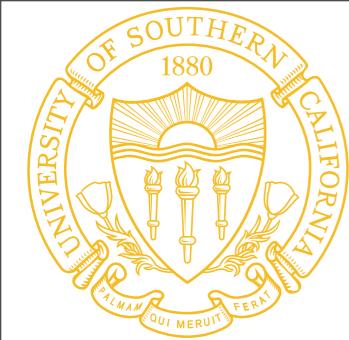
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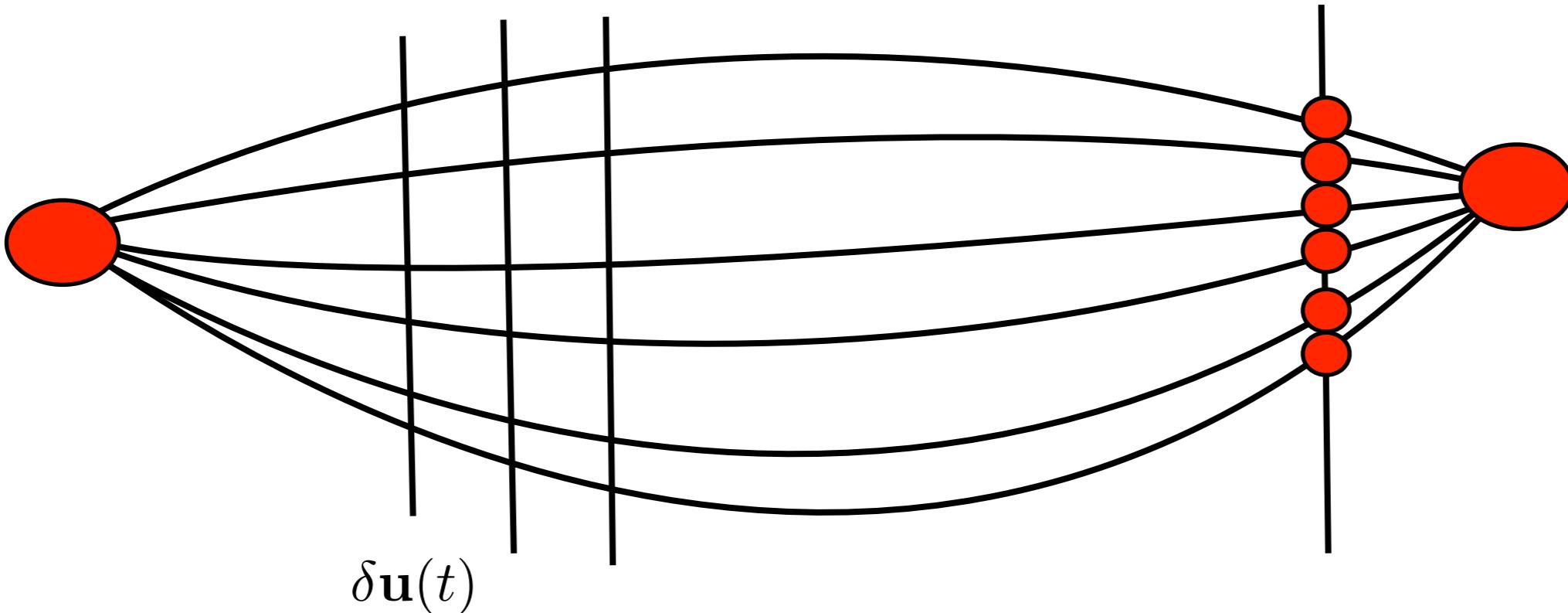
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Path Integral Optimal Control



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Local controls

$$\delta\mathbf{u}(t) = \sum_j P(\mathbf{x}_j(t : N)) \delta\mathbf{u}_j(t)$$

$$\mathbf{u}_{new} = \mathbf{u}_{old} + \delta\mathbf{u}$$

E. Theodorou, J. Buchli, S.Schaal ICRA 2010

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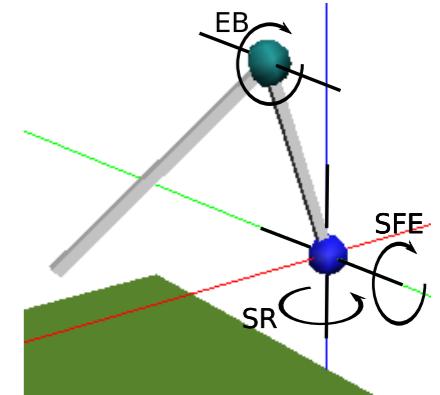
Path Integral Optimal Control

$$J(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, t) = \phi(\mathbf{x}(t_N)) + \int \left(q(\mathbf{x}) + \left\| \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right\|_p + \left\| \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} \right\|_p \right) dt$$

Variable Stiffness Control (Gain Scheduling)

$$J(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, t) = \int \left(w_{accel} \|\ddot{\mathbf{x}}(t)\| + w_{target} C(t) + w_{gain} \sum_i^{\#DOFs} K_{P,t}^i \right) dt$$

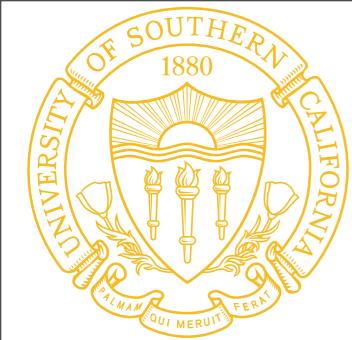
↑ ↑ ↑
Acceleration Joint Angles Control Gains



J. Buchli, E.Theodorou, F. Stulp,S. Schaal RSS2010

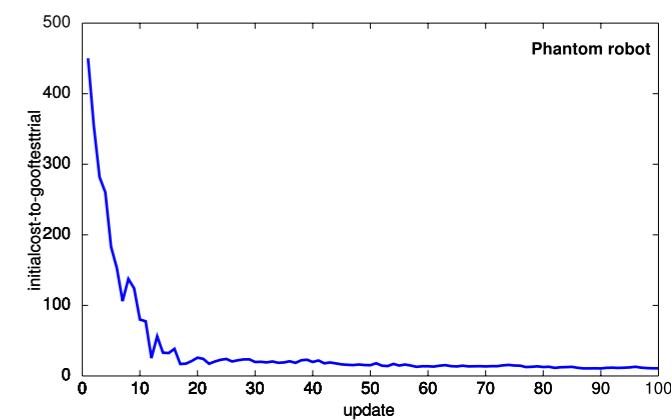
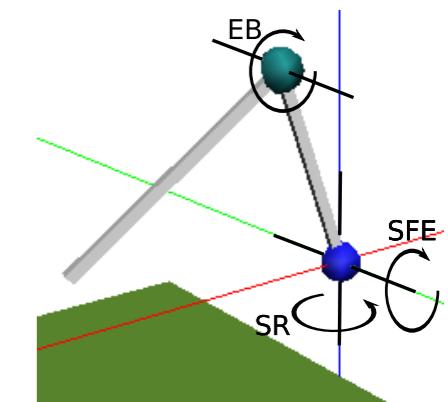
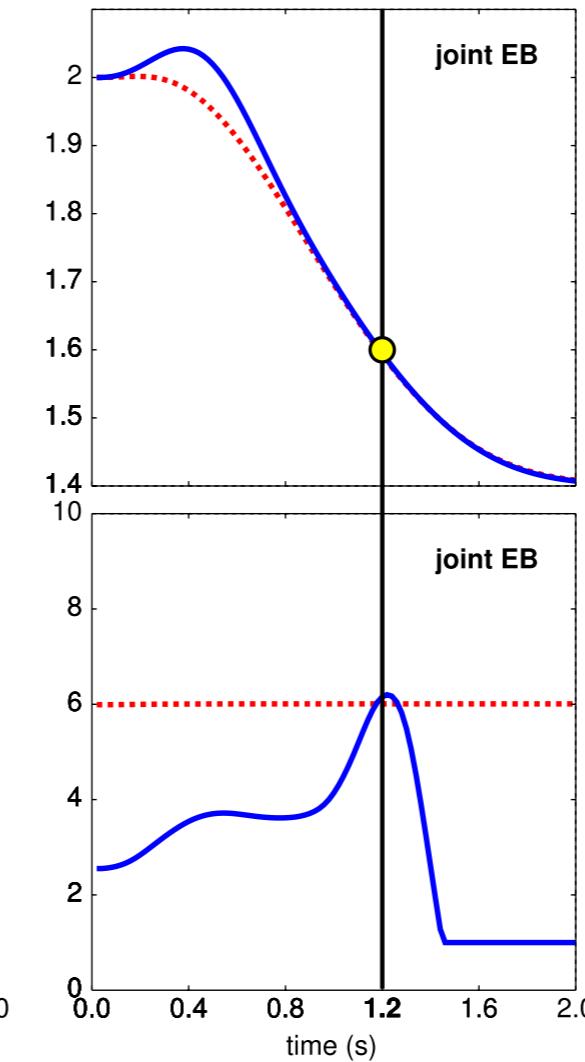
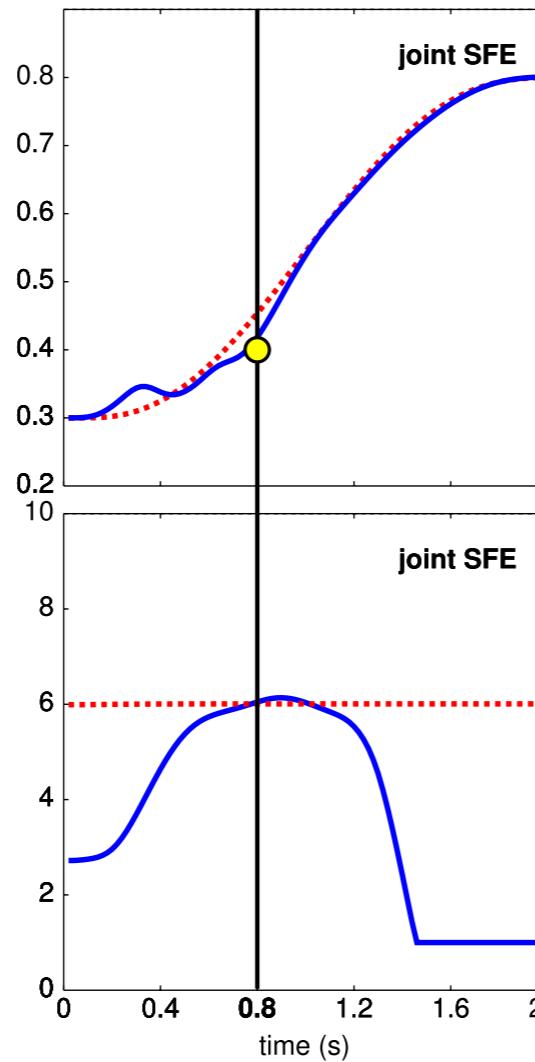
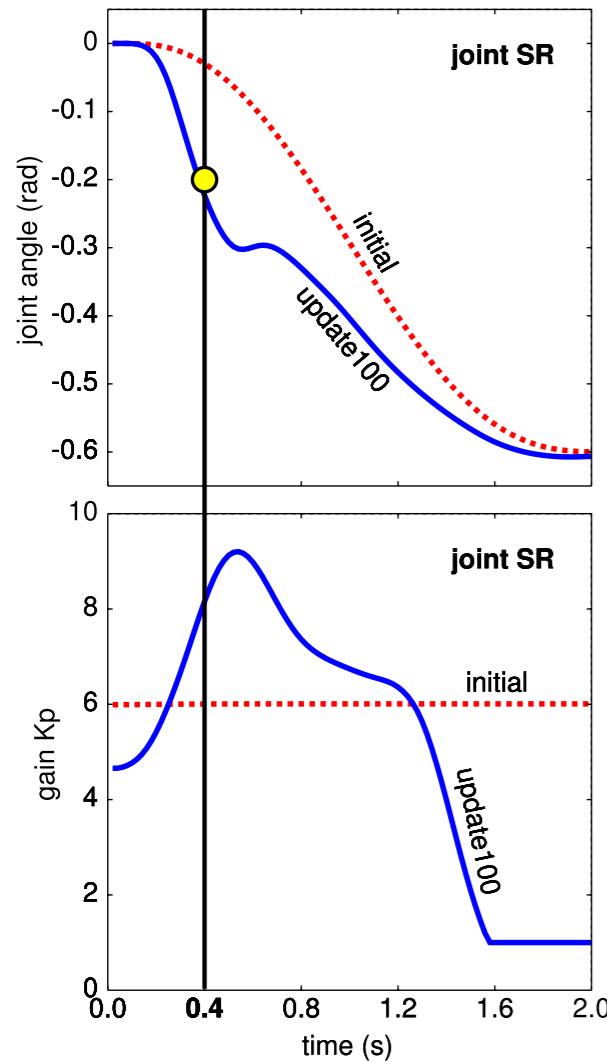
J. Buchli, F. Stulp,E.Theodorou,S. Schaal IJRR 2010

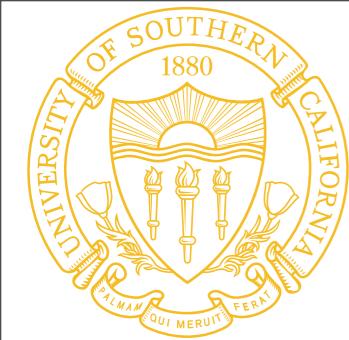
F. Stulp, E.Theodorou, J. Buchli S. Schaal Humanoids 2010



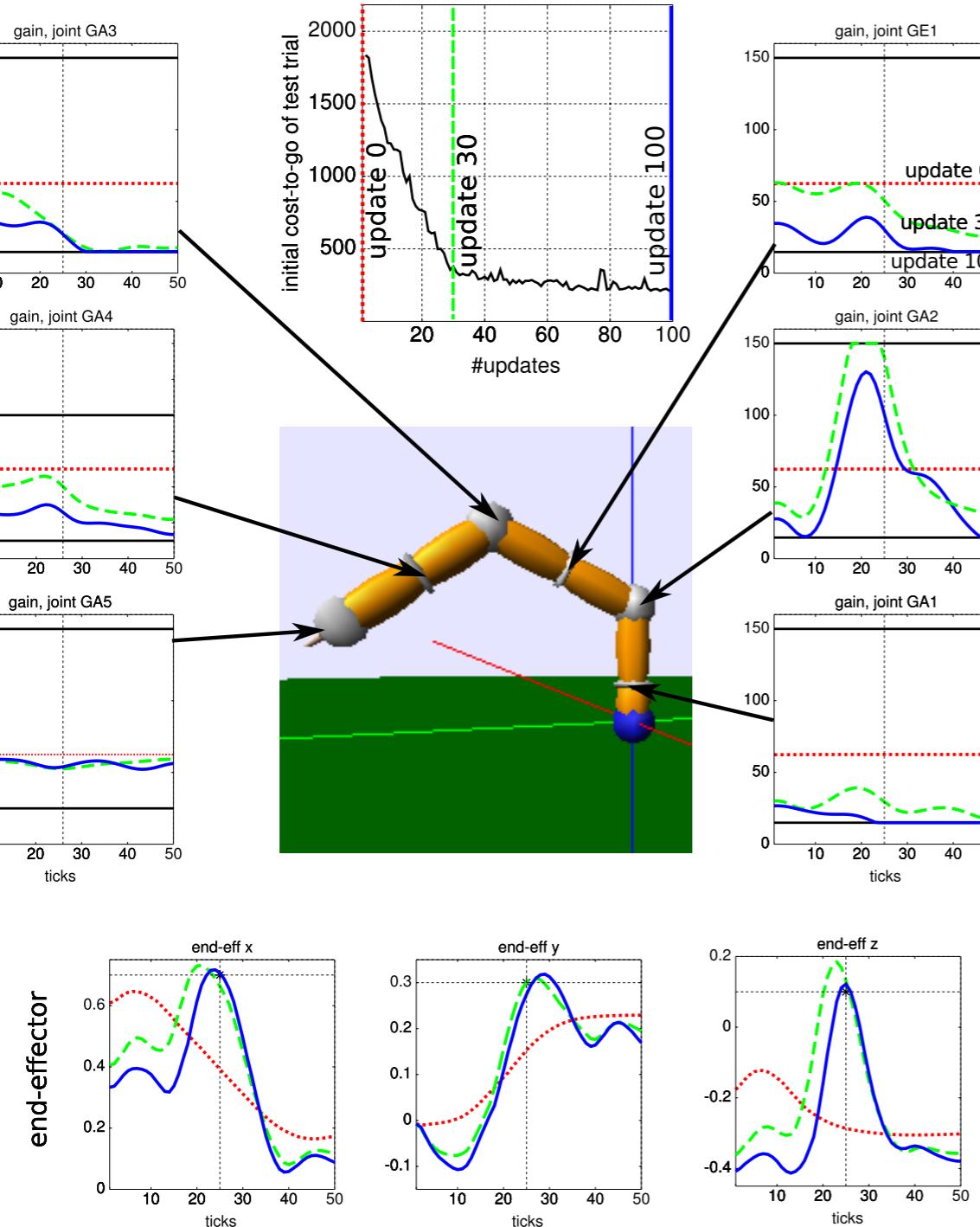
Path Integral Optimal Control

Variable Stiffness Control (Gain Scheduling)

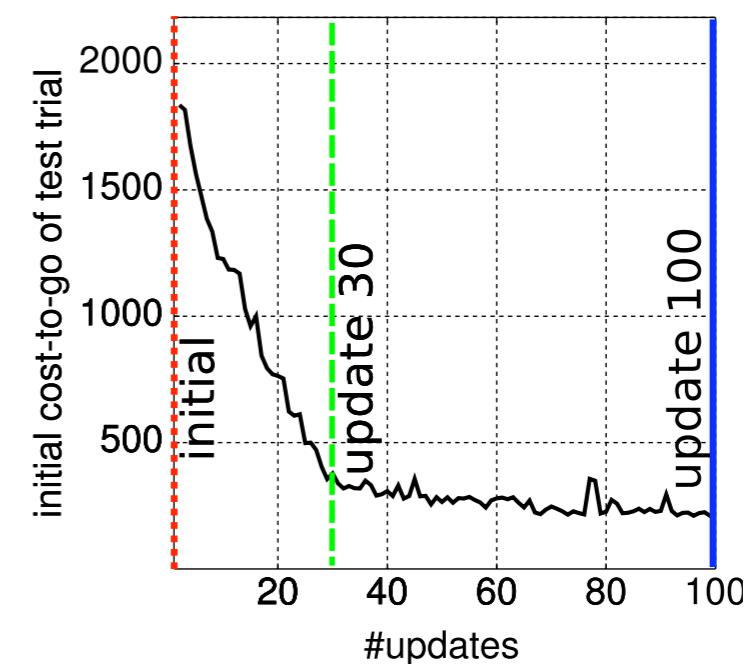


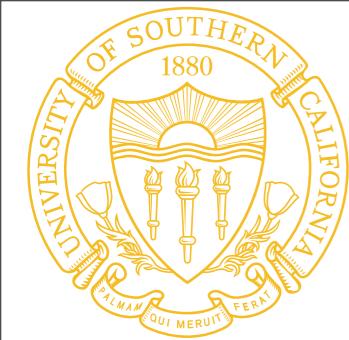


Path Integral Optimal Control



$$C(t) = \delta(t - 0.5)(\mathbf{x} - [0.7 \ 0.3 \ 0.1]^T)$$

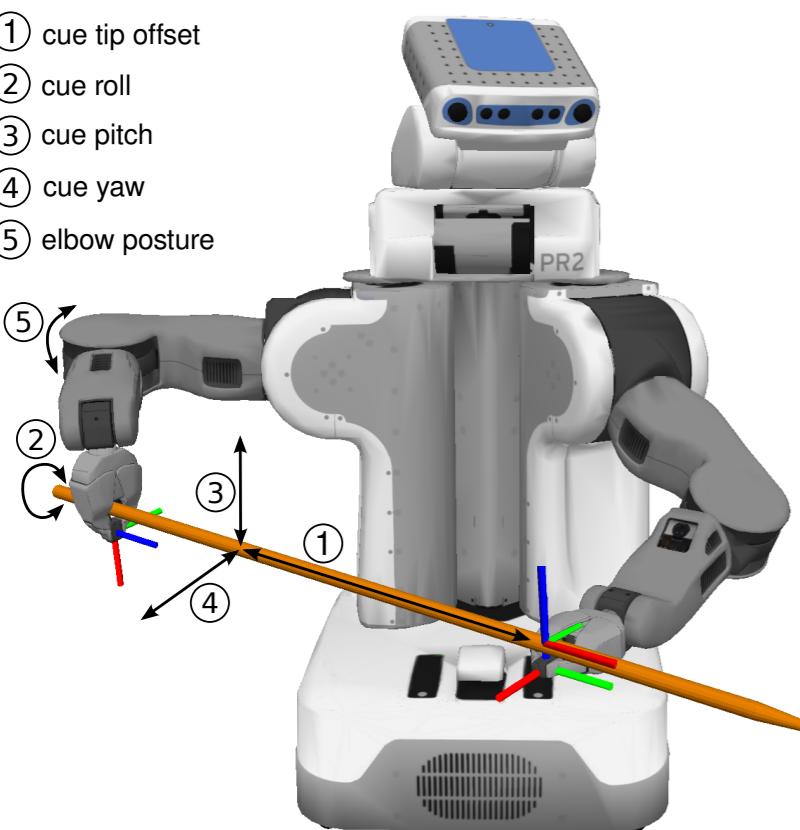




Path Integral Optimal Control



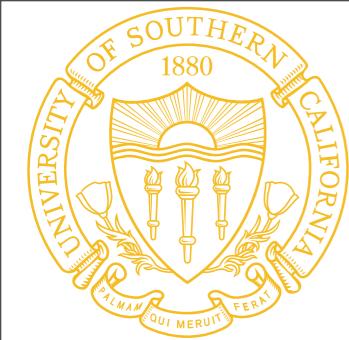
- ① cue tip offset
- ② cue roll
- ③ cue pitch
- ④ cue yaw
- ⑤ elbow posture



Learning Pool Stroke

$$\begin{aligned} q(x_t) &= w_1 \times Time + w_2 \times Error \\ &\quad + w_3 \times Displacement \end{aligned}$$

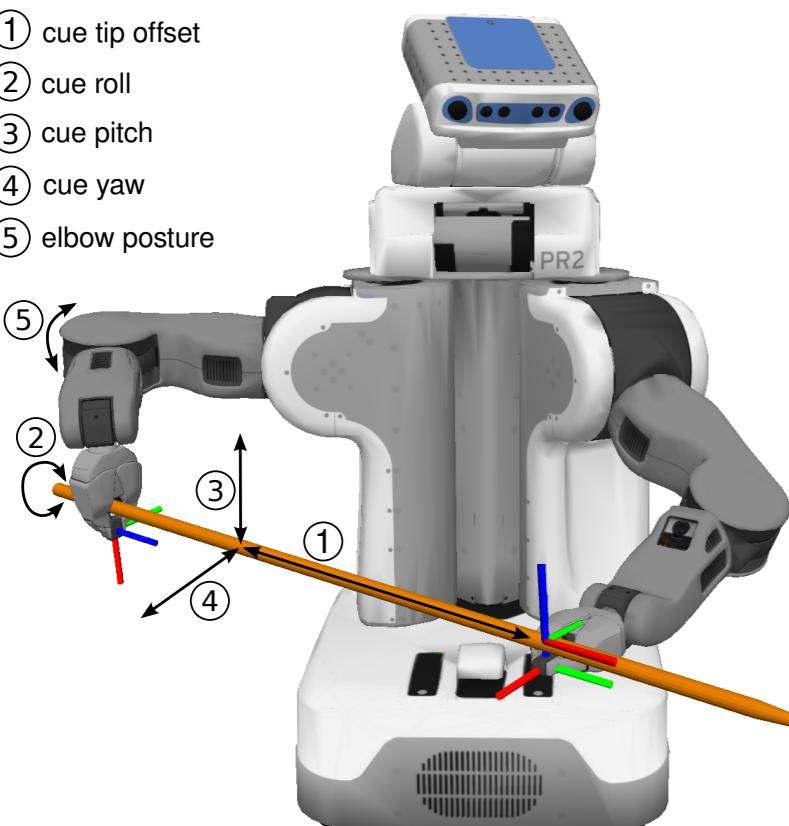
P. Pastor, M. Kalakrishnan, S. Chitta, E.A. Theodorou, S. Schaal Skil, ICRA 2011



Path Integral Optimal Control



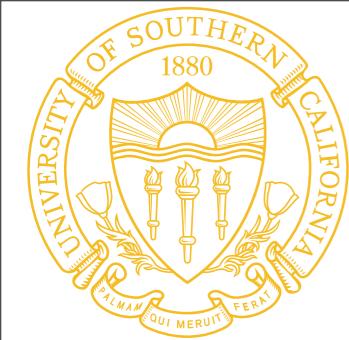
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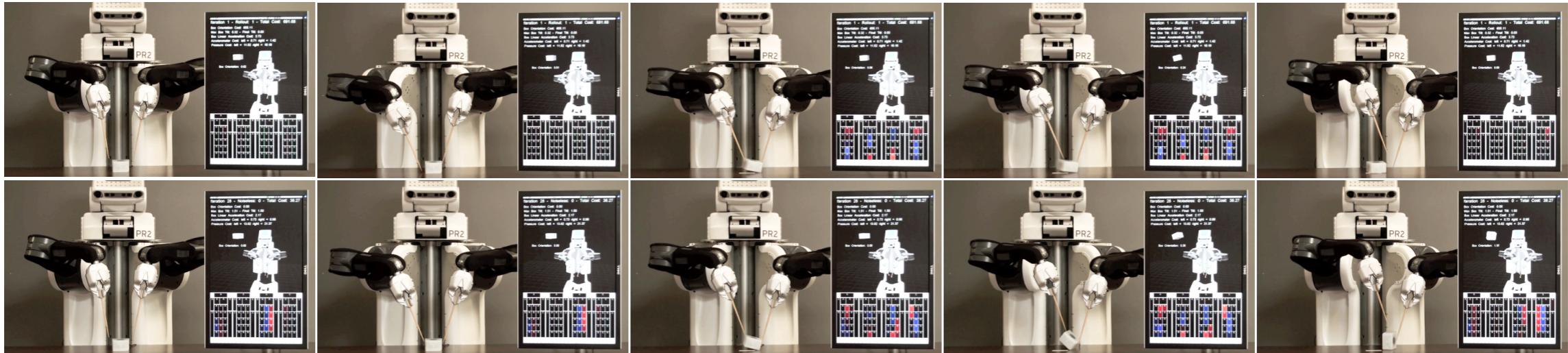
P. Pastor, M. Kalakrishnan, S. Chitta, E.A. Theodorou, S. Schaal Skil, ICRA 2011



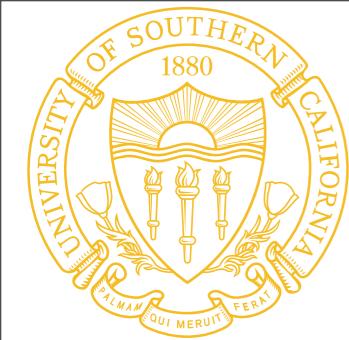
Path Integral Optimal Control



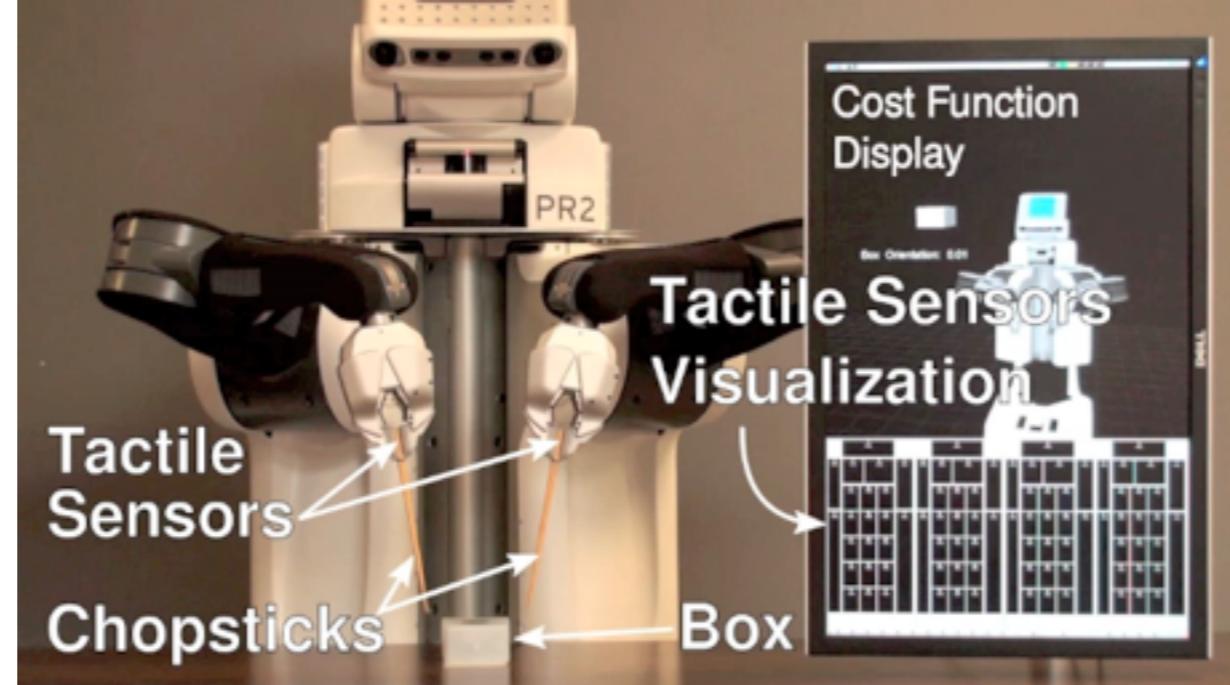
$$C(t) = w_1 \times (\text{Box Acceleration}) + w_2 \times (\text{Force}) + w_3 \times (\text{Gripper acceleration})$$
$$\phi(t) = w_4 \times (\text{Terminal state error})$$



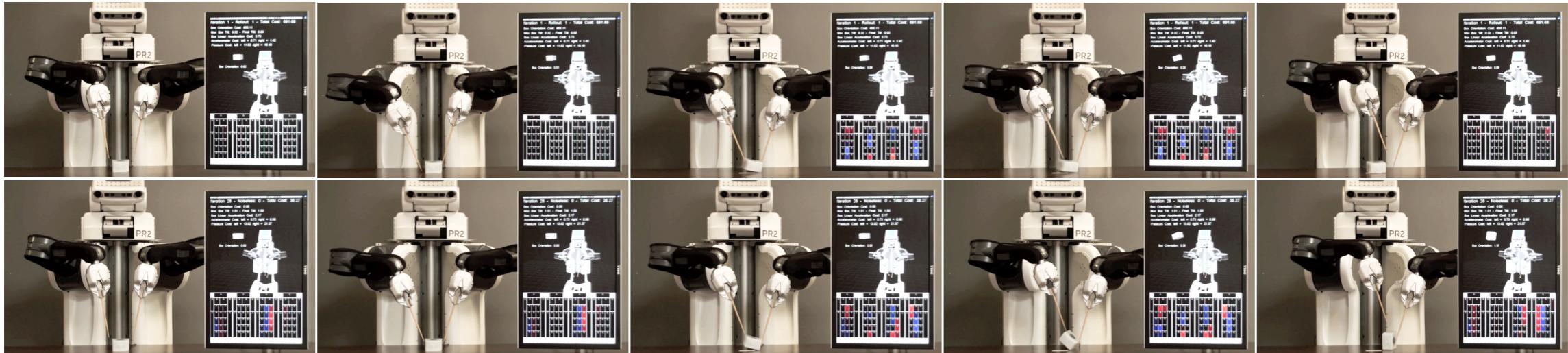
P. Pastor, M. Kalakrishnan, S. Chitta, E.A. Theodorou, S. Schaal Skil, ICRA 2011



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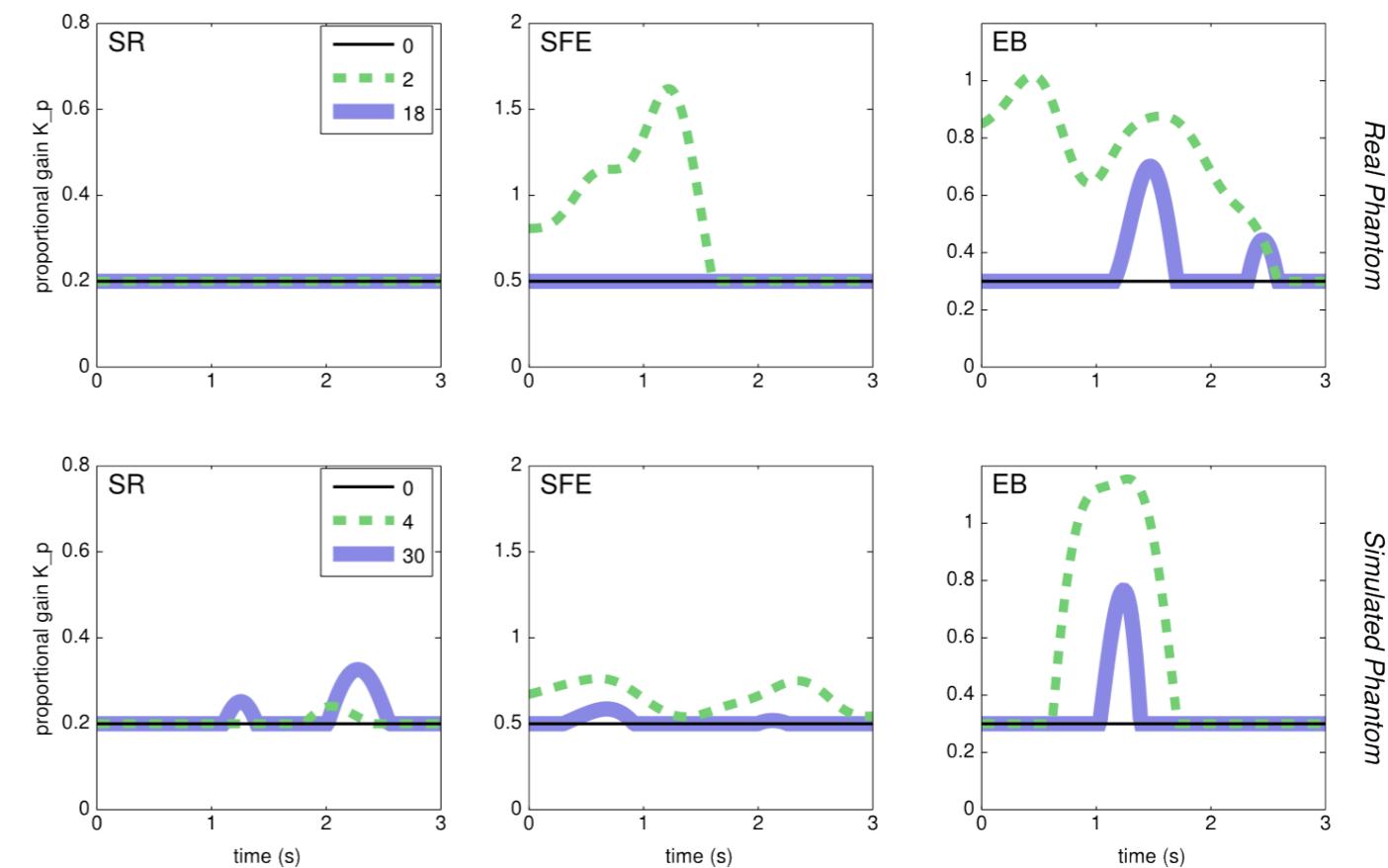
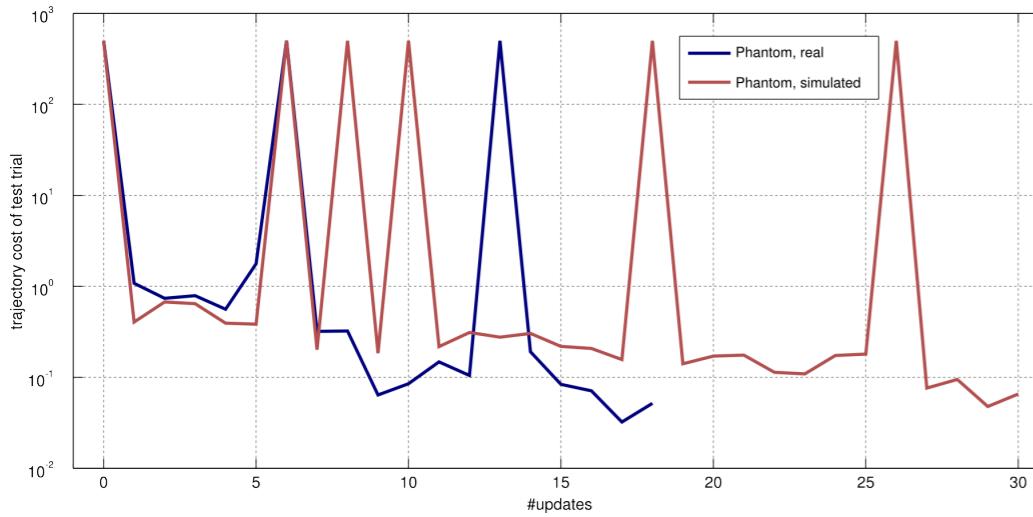
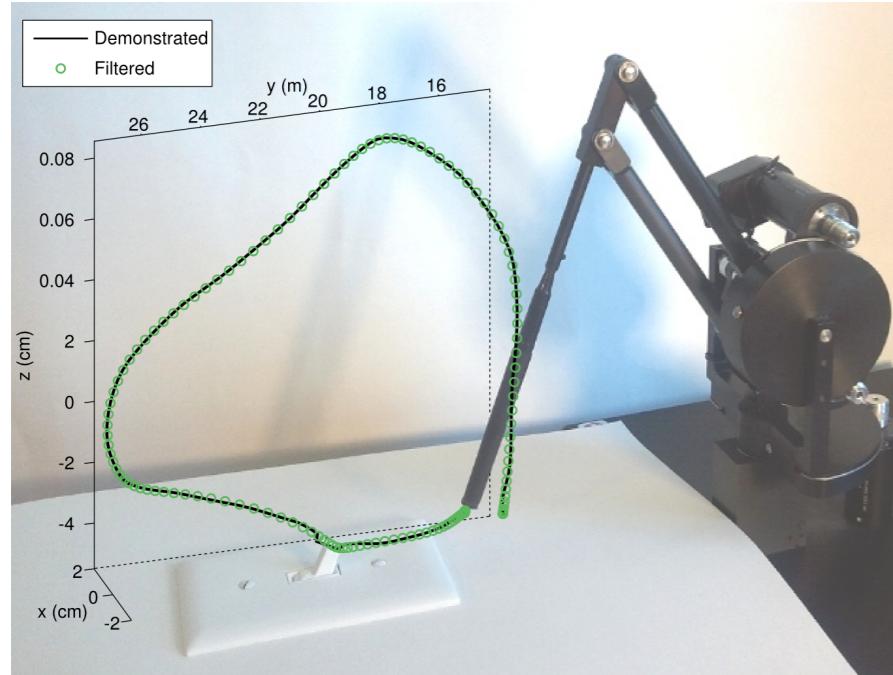


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Path Integral Optimal Control

Task Goal: Flipping the switch



J. Buchli, F. Stulp, E. Theodorou, S. Schaal IJRR (Accepted)



Path Integral Optimal Control

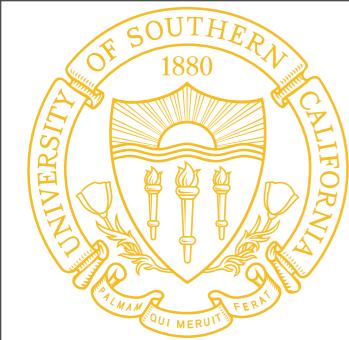
Jump over the barrier - Little Dog

$$r_t = r_{roll} + r_{yaw} + \sum_{i=1}^d \left(a_1 f_{i,t}^2 + 0.5 a_2 \boldsymbol{\theta}_i^T \boldsymbol{\theta} \right) (a_1 = 1.e-6, a_2 = 1.e-8)$$

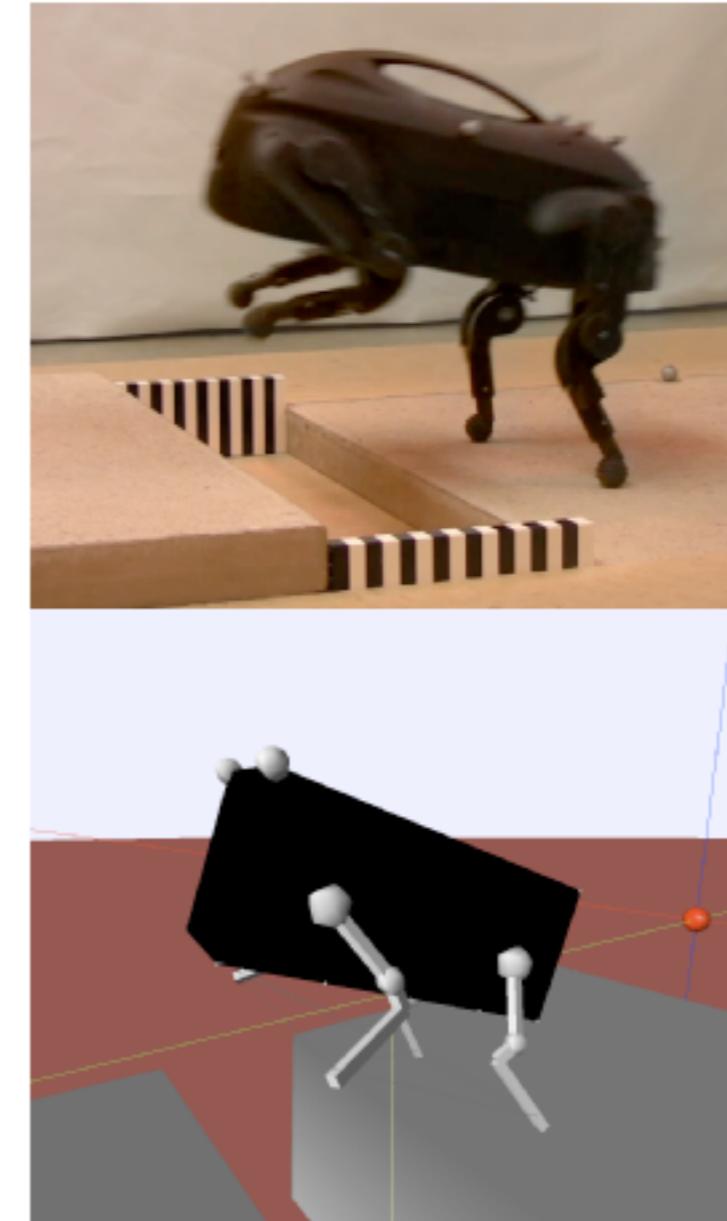
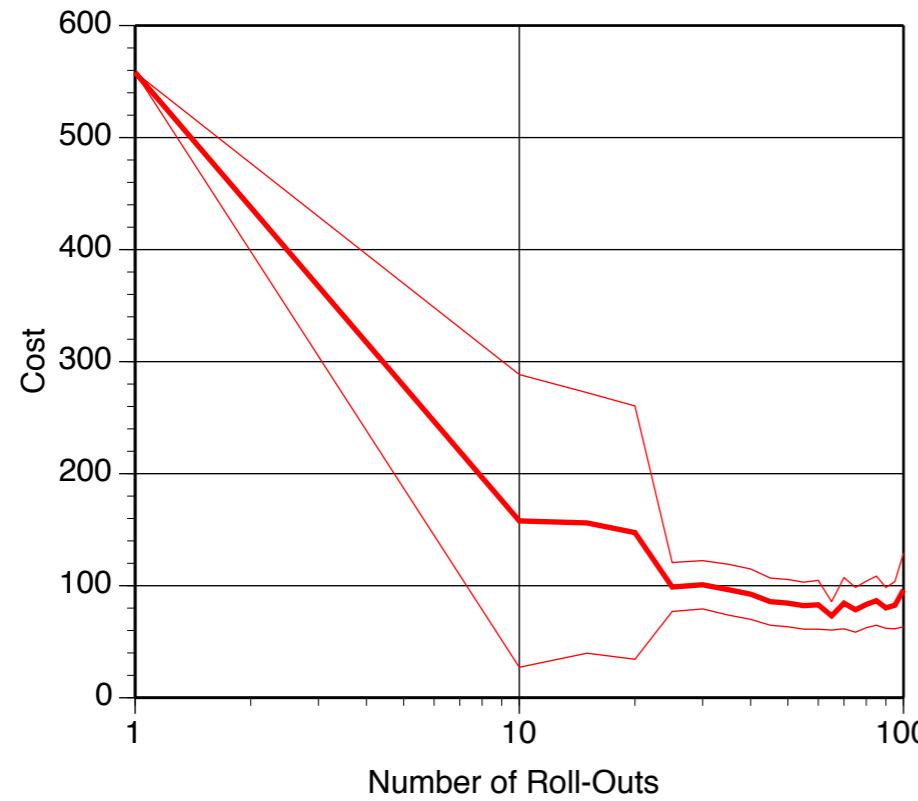
$$r_{roll} = \begin{cases} 100 * (|roll_t| - 0.3)^2, & \text{if } (|roll_t| > 0.3) \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

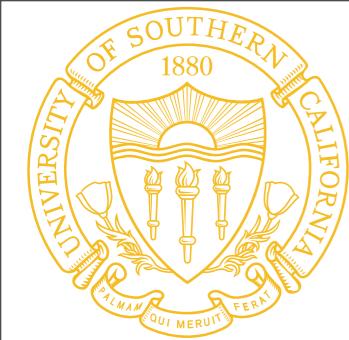
$$r_{yaw} = \begin{cases} 100 * (|yaw_t| - 0.1)^2, & \text{if } (|yaw_t| > 0.1) \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\phi_{t_N} = 50000(goal - x_{nose})^2$$



Path Integral Optimal Control

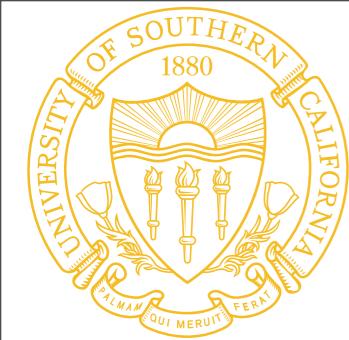




Path Integral Optimal Control

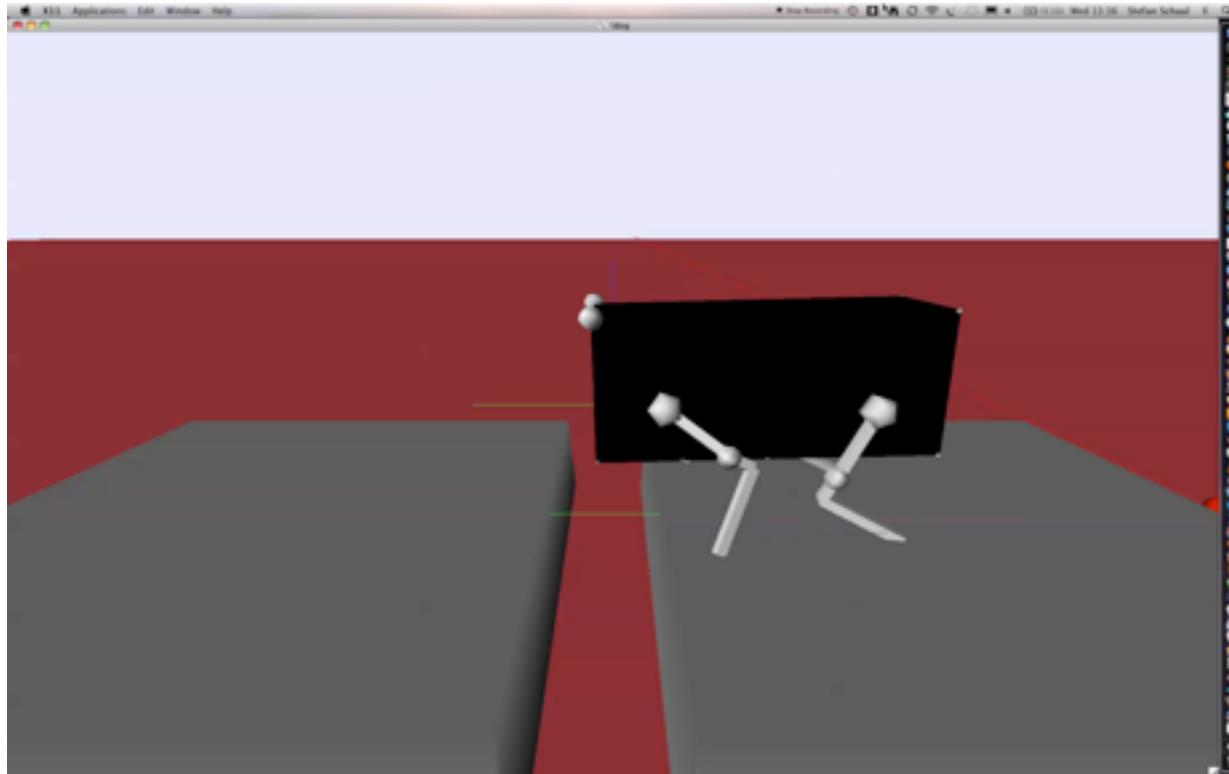
Before Learning

After Learning

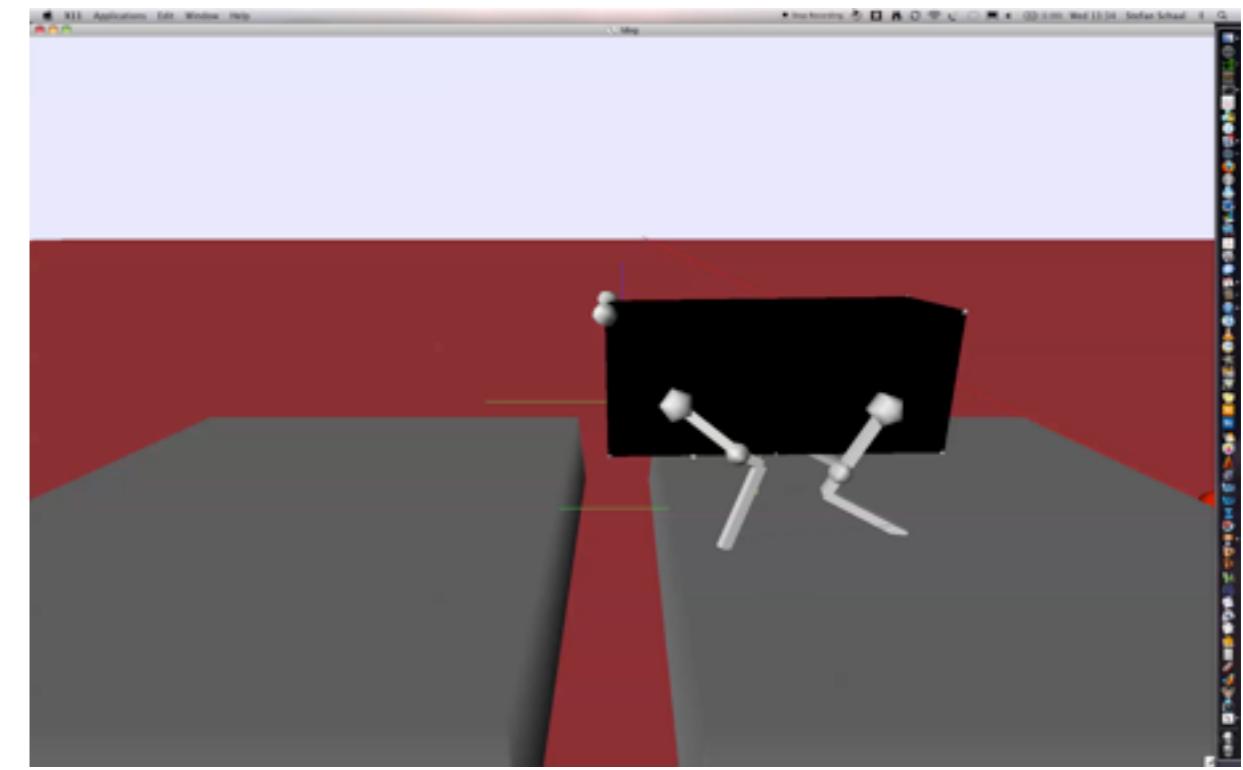


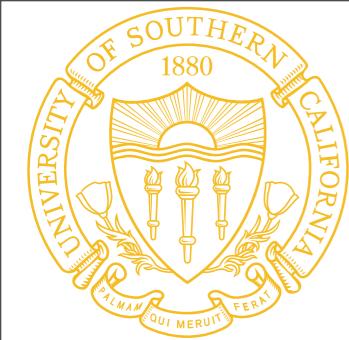
Path Integral Optimal Control

Before Learning



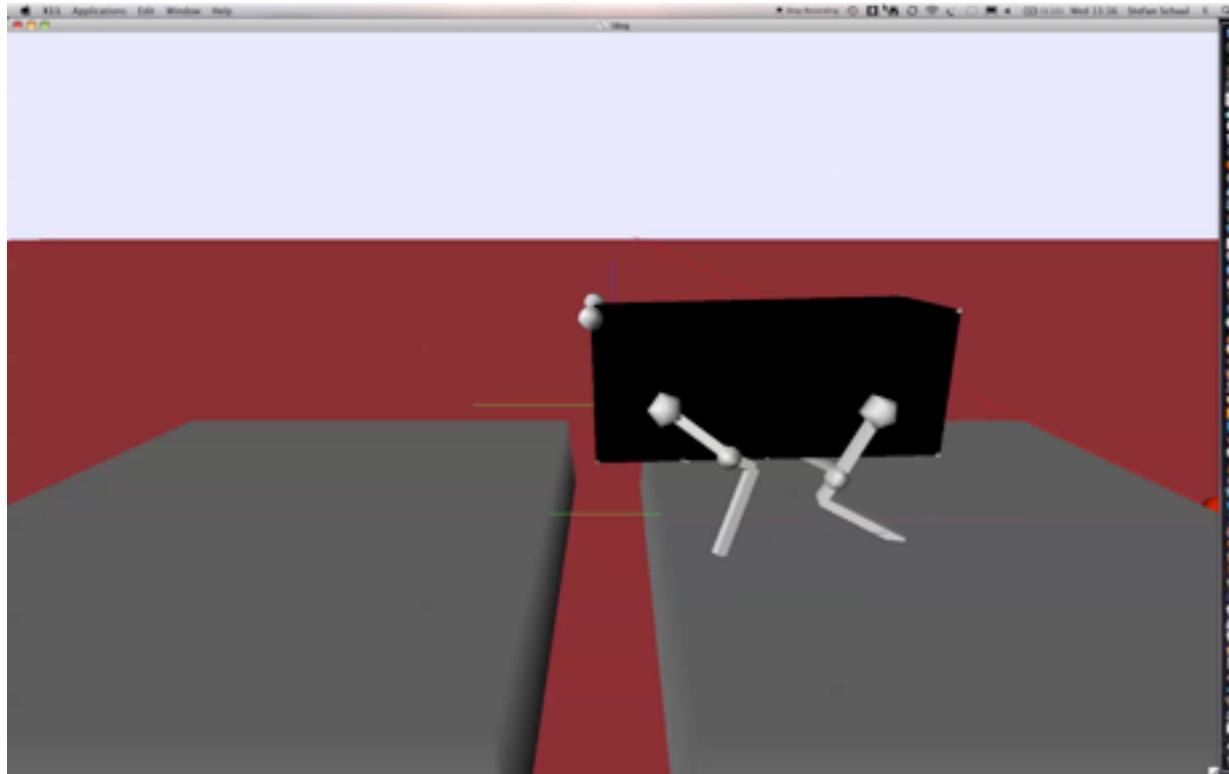
After Learning



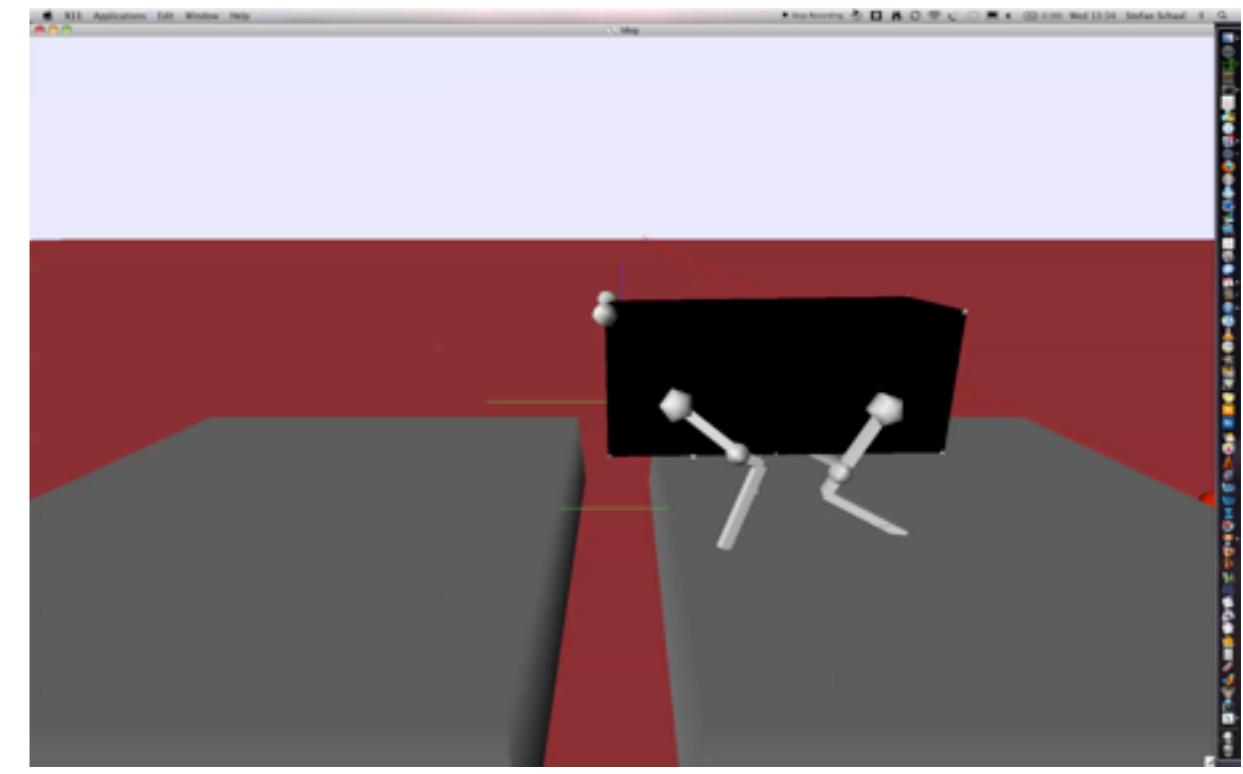


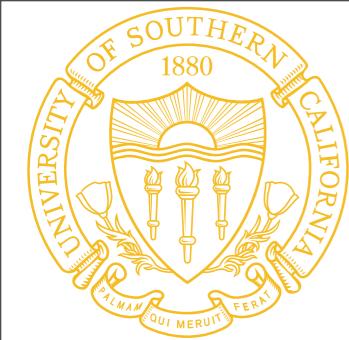
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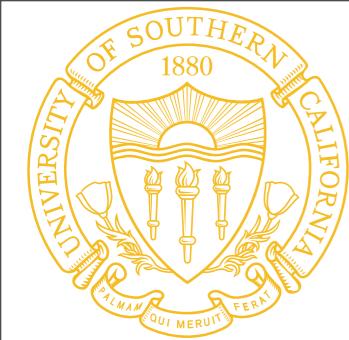
After Learning





Part 2

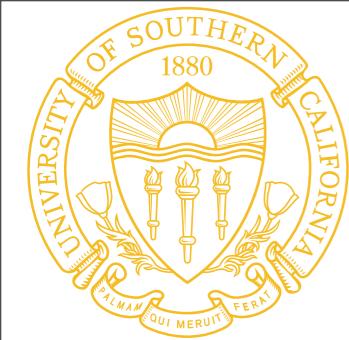
Beyond Linearization and internal models: Path Integral Optimal Control



Part 2

Beyond Linearization and internal models: Path Integral Optimal Control

Advantages!

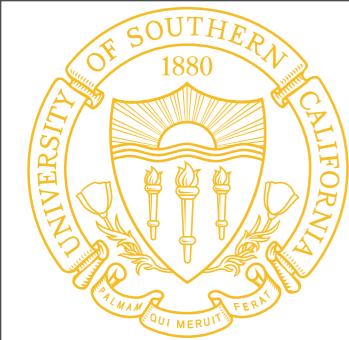


Part 2

Beyond Linearization and internal models: Path Integral Optimal Control

Advantages!

I) Model Free & Model Based

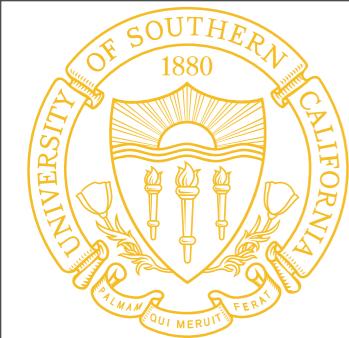


Part 2

Beyond Linearization and internal models: Path Integral Optimal Control

Advantages!

- 1) Model Free & Model Based
- 2) Forward problem

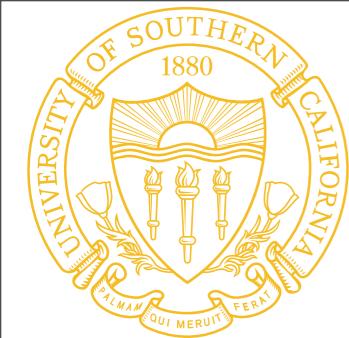


Part 2

Beyond Linearization and internal models: Path Integral Optimal Control

Advantages!

- 1) Model Free & Model Based
- 2) Forward problem
- 3) Probabilistic - Fast

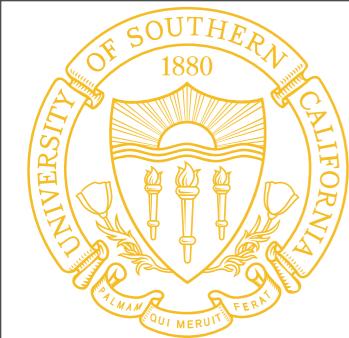


Part 2

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Advantages!

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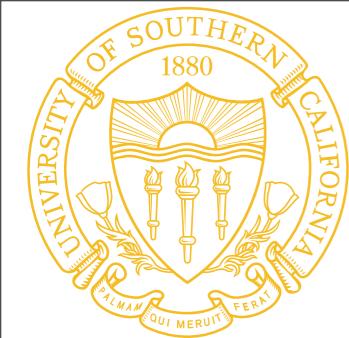


Part 2

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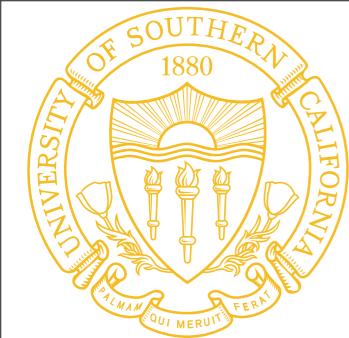


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Be aware!



Part 2

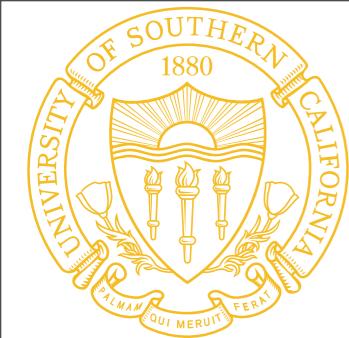
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- 1) Initial set of trajectories are required - Learning from demonstration



Part 2

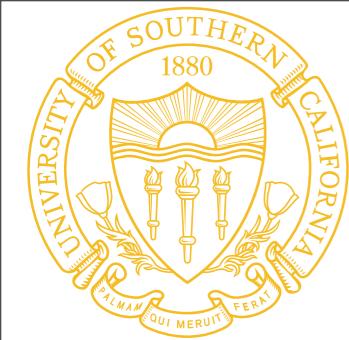
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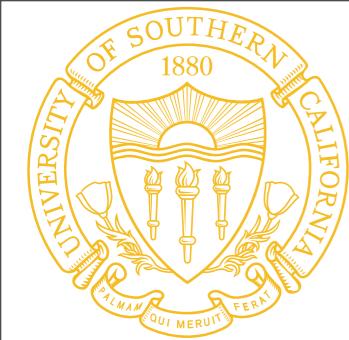
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Be aware!

- 1) Initial set of trajectories are required - Learning from demonstration
- 2) An initial stabilizing control policy

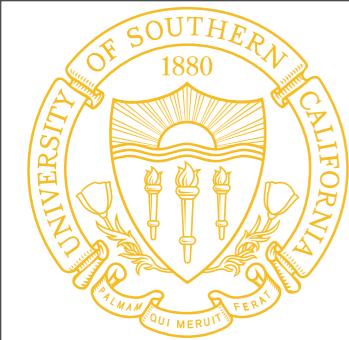


General comments about control under uncertainty.



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Sensitivity and robustness to plant uncertainty or model errors.



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Stochastic optimal control has poor robustness and stability margins J Doyle
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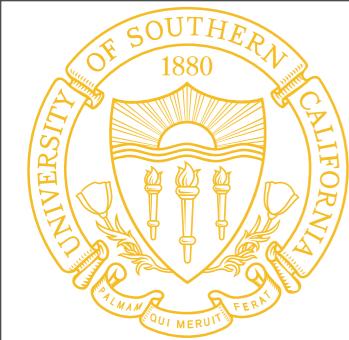


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Control under uncertainty:

Model Predictive	Re-optimization on the fly	Heavy Computations	
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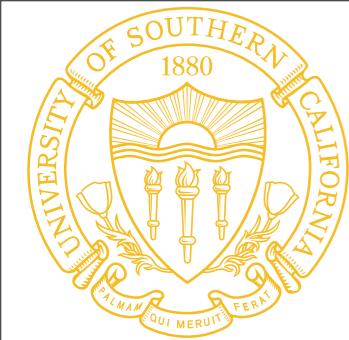
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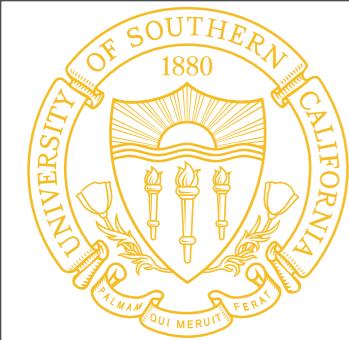
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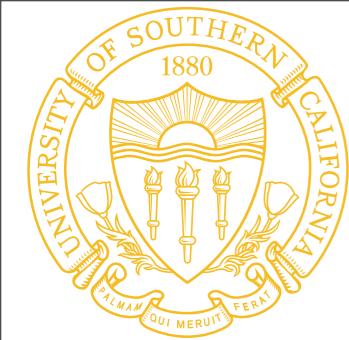
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Model Free OC or RL	Learning from experience	Initial Policy or demonstration	



General comments about control under uncertainty.

Sensitivity and robustness to plant uncertainty or model errors.

Stochastic optimal control has poor robustness and stability margins J Doyle 1972, M. Safonov 1971.

This is important for biological motor control if one considers the parametric variability in neuromuscular models.

Control under uncertainty:

Model Predictive	Re-optimization on the fly	Heavy Computations	Internal Models
Robust Control	Bounded Disturbances (small gain theorem)	Conservative	
Adaptive Control	Unknown parameters Adaptive law, PE.	Sensitivity stochasticity Observation noise	
Model Free OC or RL	Learning from experience	Initial Policy or demonstration	



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