

# Efficient Methods for Control of Dynamical Systems

## Interior Point Differential Dynamic Programming

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PhD completion seminar

# Structure of the seminar

First 5 minutes of the talk:

- ▶ General problem and the previous contributions

The rest of the talk:

- ▶ Interior Point Differential Dynamic programming

## Motivation: Control problem

For a given system subject to constraints find a control law, that

1. guarantees performance,
2. satisfies constraints,
3. can be computed in real-time.

Modern approach: Model Predictive Control

## Advantages of MPC

- ▶ Performance is related to the objective function,
- ▶ Explicit constraints handling,
- ▶ Closed-loop control (by iterative resolving).

## Disadvantages of MPC

- ▶ Computationally expensive → need efficient optimisation algorithms
- ▶ Stability and recursive feasibility analysis is required.

# The MPC problem

Setup:

- ▶ Dynamical system  $x^+ = f(x, u)$
- ▶ State and input constraints  $c(x, u) \leq 0$
- ▶ Stage and terminal costs  $q(x, u)$  and  $p(x)$

where  $f(x, u)$ ,  $c(x, u)$ ,  $c(x, u)$  and  $p(x)$  are twice continuously differentiable (possibly nonlinear) functions

**Research focus:**

Solution of the FTOC problem  
at real-time

**Research directions:**

1. Precompute the solution?
2. Optimise the problem's complexity?
3. Efficient optimisation algorithms?

**FTOC problem:**

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{z, u} \quad & \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} q(z_t, u_t) + p(z_N) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & z_0 = x, \\ & \text{for } t \in \{0, \dots, N-1\} : \\ & z_{t+1} = f(z_t, u_t), \\ & c(z_t, u_t) \leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

## Previous work: Minimax Approximate EMPC

Consider convex MPC problem as a multi-parametric problem in  $x$ :

$$J^*(x) = \min_{z, u} \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} q(z_t, u_t) + p(z_N)$$

s.t.  $z_0 = x, z_{k+1} = Az_t + Bu_t$   
 $c(z_t, u_t) \leq 0, c_f(z_N) \leq 0 \leftarrow$  **terminal constraints**

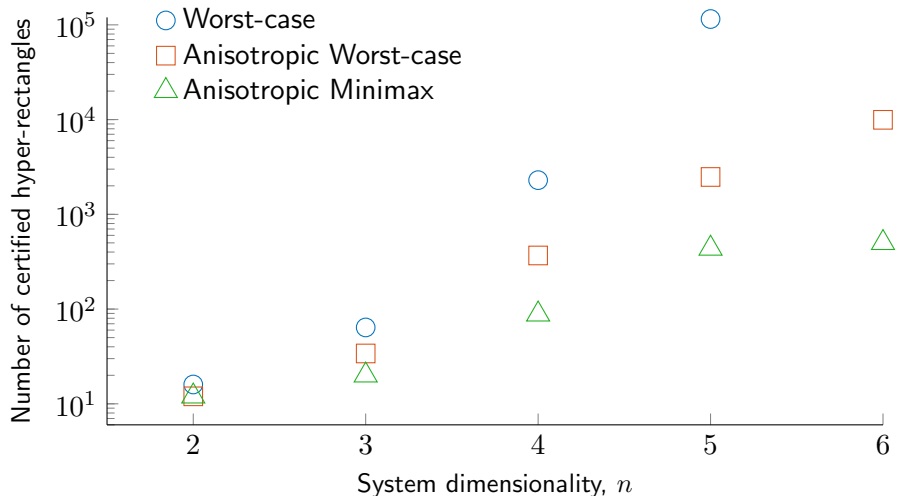
**Explicit MPC:** compute the optimal control law  $u^*(x) = F_j x + h_j$   
(where  $j$  is a region's label)

**Approximate Explicit MPC:** approximate  $u^*(x)$  with  $\hat{u}(x)$  such that **stability** and **recursive feasibility** properties are preserved

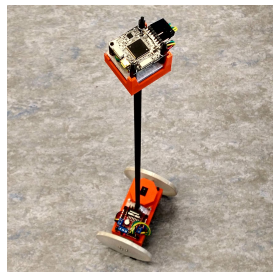
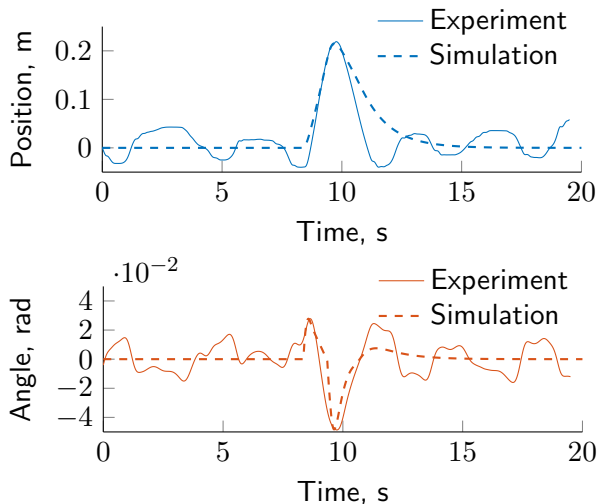
**Proposed method:**  $\hat{u}(x) = \sum \lambda_i^* u^*(x_i) +$  minimax stability certificate,  
where  $\lambda^* = \arg \min \sum \lambda_i J^*(x_i)$  s.t. *barycentric interpolation conditions*

## Minimax AEMPC: Numerical tests and comparisons

Here we generate random marginally stable systems for  $n = 2, 3, 4, 5, 6$  with one constrained input  $u \in [-1, 1]$  and partition the set  $\|x\|_\infty \leq 1$ .



# Minimax AEMPC: Practical implementation



- ▶ In total  $\approx 24k$  hyper-cubes
- ▶ Linear programs are solved at 100Hz on a micro-controller.

**Publication:** Pavlov et. al. "Minimax strategy in approximate model predictive control." *Automatica* 111 (2020): 108649. <https://youtu.be/233ZM8I6WBM>

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## Previous work: MPC complexity minimisation

MPC without terminal constraints (i.e.,  $p(x) \equiv 0$ )

$$J^*(x) = \min_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}} \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} q(z_t, u_t) \quad \left[ =: J(x, \mathbf{u}) \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{s.t.} \quad & z_0 = x, \\ & \text{for } t \in \{0, \dots, N-1\} : \\ & z_{t+1} = f(z_t, u_t), \\ & c(z_t, u_t) \leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

**Property:** Provable closed-loop stability when  $N$  is sufficiently big

### How to make the problem simpler to solve?

1. Choose an optimisation algorithm
2. MPC complexity = #iterations  $\times$  per-iteration complexity
3. #iterations = iterations for a “suitable” suboptimal solution
4.  $\min$  (MPC complexity)  
subject to (stability and feasibility guarantees)

## Previous work: MPC complexity minimisation

**Definition:** a  $\gamma$ -suboptimal solution if  $J(x, \mathbf{u}) - J^*(x) \leq \gamma q(x, u_0)$  for  $\gamma \in [0, 1)$

**Certificate:** Duality gap  $G(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{s}; x) \leq \gamma q(x, u_0)$  ( $\mathbf{s}$  is a solution to the dual problem)

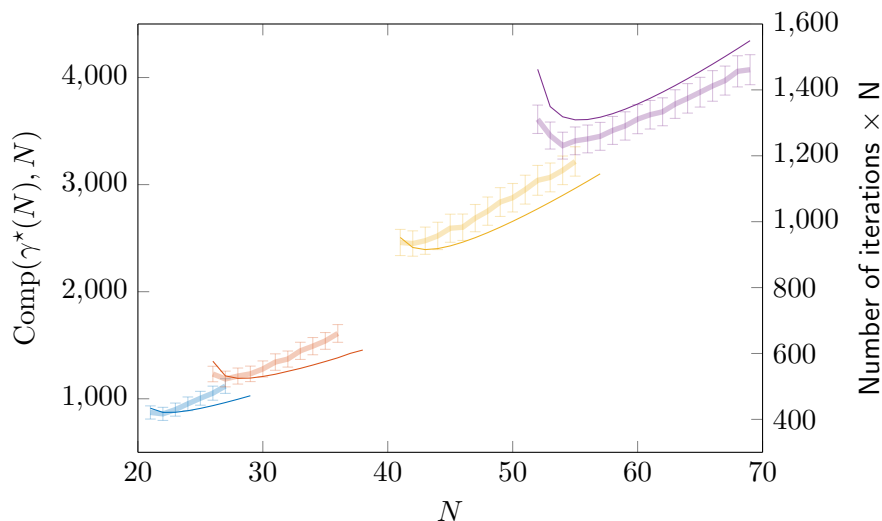
**Stability conditions:** closed-loop stability and performance bound under  $\gamma$ -suboptimality conditions

$$1 - \gamma - \frac{(\gamma + \nu_N - 1) \prod_{i=2}^N (\nu_i - 1)}{\prod_{i=2}^N \nu_i - \prod_{i=2}^N (\nu_i - 1)} \geq \alpha_{min}$$

### Publications:

1. Pavlov et. al. "Early Termination of NMPC Interior Point Solvers: Relating the Duality Gap to Stability." 2019 18th European Control Conference (ECC), 2019.
2. Pavlov et. al. "Complexity minimisation of suboptimal MPC without terminal constraints", in the Proceedings of IFAC World Congress, Berlin, July 2020.
3. Pavlov et. al. "Algorithmic complexity minimisation of suboptimal MPC without terminal conditions." *Journal version, in progress.*

## Example: NMPC + interior-point methods



**Figure:** Computational complexity (thin lines) and experimentally measured computational efforts with its standard deviation (thick semi-transparent lines).

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# Outline

## 1. Motivation

- ▶ Feedback laws
- ▶ Dynamical feasibility
- ▶ Inequality constraints

## 2. Contribution

- ▶ Roadmap
- ▶ DDP recursion
- ▶ Properties

## 3. Verification

- ▶ Practical implementation
- ▶ Numerical comparisons
- ▶ Conclusions

## Problem formulation

Develop an efficient method for solving the finite-time optimal control problem (FTOC):

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{z, u} \quad & \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} q(z_t, u_t) + p(z_N) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & z_0 = x, \\ & \text{for } t \in \{0, \dots, N-1\} : \\ & z_{t+1} = f(z_t, u_t), \\ & c(z_t, u_t) \leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ **Inequality constrained problem:** Sequential quadratic programming (SQP), Augmented Lagrangian (AL), Interior-Point (IP) methods, etc.
- ▶ **Feasible (suboptimal) solutions:** Condensed problem, Differential Dynamic Programming (DDP) method
- ▶ **Closed-loop control:** Linear Quadratic Regulator (LQR), Model predictive Control (MPC)

**Research direction:** combination of the methods and their properties

# Motivation: The optimal closed-loop control

**Techniques** behind the optimal closed-loop control:

▶ **Model Predictive Control**

**Idea:** Resolving the problem for each new state

**Limitation:** “Solving from scratch” is hard

**Take-away:** Need **fast convergence** for the real-time capabilities

▶ **Bellman's Optimality Principle**

**Idea:** 
$$\min_{u_0, \dots, u_{N-1}} [\dots] = \min_{u_0} \left[ \dots + \min_{u_1} \left[ \dots + \min_{u_2} [\dots] \right] \right]$$

**Limitation:** Analytical solution is rarely available (e.g., LQR)

**Take-away:** Compute **locally optimal** control law

## Motivation: Dynamically feasible solutions

**Property:** Feasible solutions can be checked for suboptimality

**Issue:** general-purpose optimisation methods satisfy  $z_{t+1} = f(z_t, u_t)$   
only in the limit

**Solution #1:** Propagate the dynamics for the obtained control solution

**Disadvantage:** Potential violation of the inequality constraints

**Solution #2:** Eliminate  $z_{t+1} = f(z_t, u_t)$  by substitution, i.e.,

$\min_{u_0, \dots, u_{N-1}} J(x_0, \mathbf{u})$  – optimisation in control inputs only

**Disadvantage:** Dense Hessian – Newton method has  $O(N^3)$  complexity

**Solution #3:** Stage-wise Newton method with  $O(N)$  complexity

**Disadvantage:** Hard to implement

**Solution #4:** Differential Dynamic Programming (DDP)

**Disadvantage:** Inequality constraints? ← let's go for it



# Motivation: SQP vs AL vs IP for constrained problem

## Sequential quadratic programming method

- ▶ **Idea:** Use constrained quadratic models (QP) for solution updates
- ▶ **Properties:** Well-established and popular method, but **significant computational cost** for each iteration

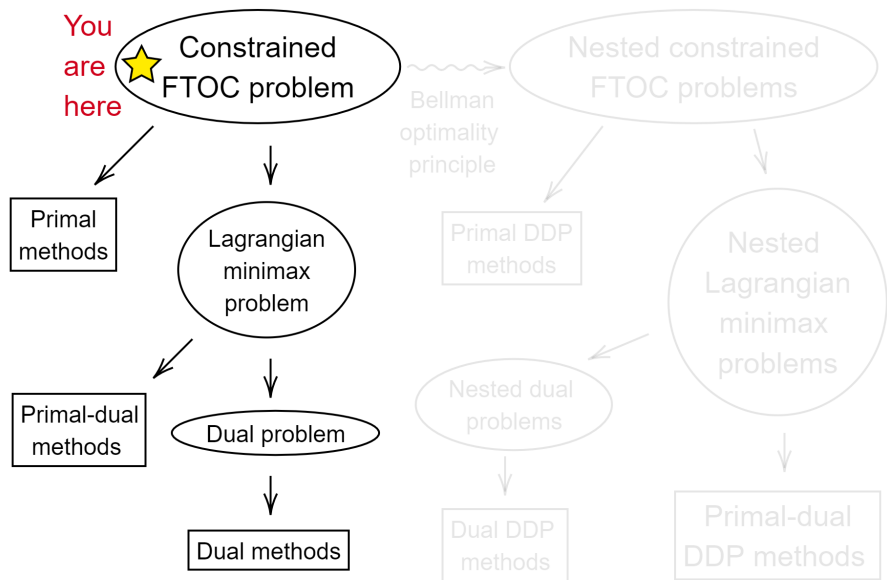
## Penalty and Augmented Lagrangian methods

- ▶ **Idea:** Add “penalties” in the objective or Lagrangian functions, solve the resulting unconstrained problem
- ▶ **Properties:** Sometimes useful, usually **slower convergence**

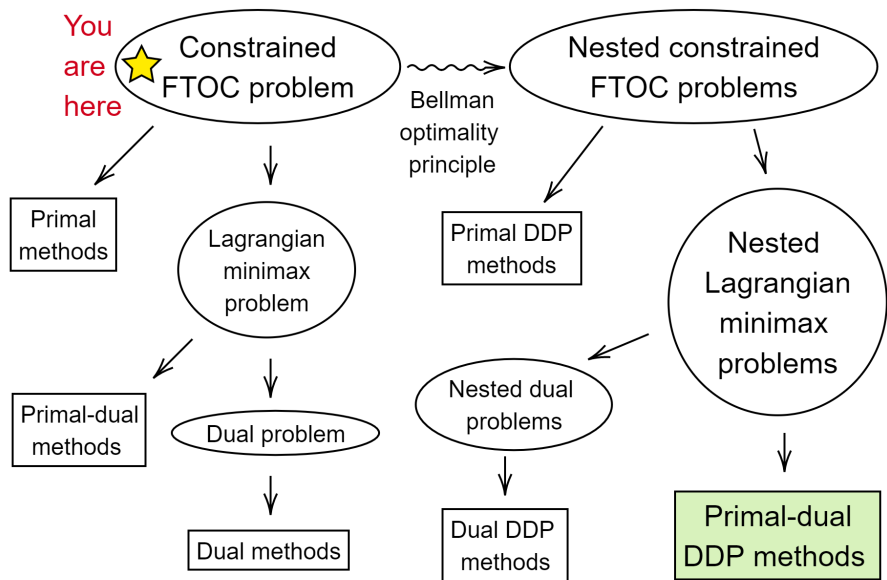
## Interior-point method

- ▶ **Idea:** Perturb the KKT system and solve it for decaying perturbation
- ▶ **Properties:** Theoretically appealing and remarkably successful in practice

# Roadmap: Optimisation algorithms



# Roadmap: Optimisation algorithms



## Three steps to the nested minimax problems

1. Apply **Bellman's principle of optimality** to the FTOC problem

$$J_N^*(x_0) = \min_{z, u} \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} q(z_t, u_t) + p(z_N)$$

s.t.                    constraints

2. Obtain the **nested formulation** of the OC problem

$$\min_{\substack{u_0 \\ c(x_0, u_0) \leq 0}} \left[ q(x_0, u_0) + \min_{\substack{u_1 \\ c(f(x_0, u_0), u_1) \leq 0}} \left[ q(f(x_0, u_0), u_1) + \dots \right] \right]$$

3. Represent the above problem as the **minimax problem**

$$\min_{u_0} \max_{s_0 \geq 0} \left[ \ell(x_0, u_0, s_0) + \min_{u_1} \max_{s_1 \geq 0} \left[ \ell(f(x_0, u_0), u_1, s_1) + \dots \right] \right],$$

where  $\ell(x, u, s) = q(x, u) + s^T c(x, u) \leftarrow$  **stage-wise Lagrangian**.

## The nested minimax problems

Consider the following recursion:

- ▶ 
$$\min_{u_0} \max_{s_0 \geq 0} \left[ \underbrace{\ell(x_0, u_0, s_0) + \min_{u_1} \max_{s_1 \geq 0} [\ell(f(x_0, u_0), u_1, s_1) + \dots]}_{\text{Solve?}} \right]$$
- ▶ 
$$\min_{u_0} \max_{s_0 \geq 0} \left[ \underbrace{\ell(x_0, u_0, s_0) + \min_{u_1} \max_{s_1 \geq 0} [\ell(f(x_0, u_0), u_1, s_1) + \dots]}_{\text{Approximate?}} \right]$$
- ▶ 
$$\min_{u_0} \max_{s_0 \geq 0} \left[ \ell(x_0, u_0, s_0) + \underbrace{\min_{u_1} \max_{s_1 \geq 0} [\ell(f(x_0, u_0), u_1, s_1) + \dots]}_{\text{Solve?}} \right]$$
- ▶ ...

It's a **finite recursion** with the terminal cost  $p(x)$  in the end:

$$\min_{u_0} \max_{s_0 \geq 0} \left[ \dots + \min_{u_{N-1}} \max_{s_{N-1} \geq 0} \left[ \ell(x_{N-1}, u_{N-1}, s_{N-1}) + p(f(x_{N-1}, u_{N-1})) \right] \right]$$

## Checkpoint: Overview

The idea behind any DDP method:

Start with an initial solution guess and repeat until convergence:

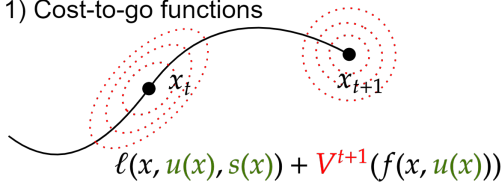
1. **Backward pass**: Resolve the recursion from **(end)** to **(start)**
2. **Forward pass**: Update the solution from **(start)** to **(end)**

**Need to answer:**

- ▶ How to resolve the recursion?
- ▶ How to update the solution?
- ▶ When (and why) the algorithm works?

# Backward pass: Ingredients

1) Cost-to-go functions



3) Local behaviour

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &= u_t + \delta u(x - x_t) \\ s(x) &= s_t + \delta s(x - x_t) \end{aligned}$$

2) Minimax problems

$$\min_{\delta u} \max_{s_t + \delta s \geq 0} \left[ \ell(x_t + \delta x, u_t + \delta u, s_t + \delta s) + V^{t+1}(f(x_t + \delta x, u_t + \delta u)) \right]$$

## Cost-to-go function $\Rightarrow$ minimax problem

- ▶ Assume trajectory  $\{x_t, u_t, s_t\}_{t=0}^{N-1}$  is given,  
where  $x_{t+1} = f(x_t, u_t)$ ,  $c(x_t, u_t) \leq 0$  and  $s_t > 0$ .

- ▶ Consider quadratic models of the **cost-to-go** functions

$$V^t(x) := V_0^t + (V_x^t)^T (x - x_t) + \frac{1}{2} (x - x_t)^T V_{xx}^t (x - x_t) + \dots,$$

- ▶ Note that  $V^N(x) \equiv p(x)$ , thus

$$V_0^N = p(x_N), \quad V_x^N = p_x(x_N) \quad \text{and} \quad V_{xx}^N = p_{xx}(x_N).$$

**Problem at time  $t$  is**

$$\min_u \max_{s \geq 0} \left[ \underbrace{\ell(x, u, s) + V^{t+1}(f(x, u))}_{\text{call it } Q\text{-function}} \right]$$



## Minimax problem $\Rightarrow$ local behaviour

- Replace  $\min_u \max_{s \geq 0} Q^t(x, u, s)$  with  $\min_{\delta u} \max_{s + \delta s \geq 0} \delta Q^t(\delta x, \delta u, \delta s)$
- exact problem  
with  $Q$ -function
approximation

$$\text{where } \delta Q^t(\delta x, \delta u, \delta s) := \begin{bmatrix} Q_x^t \\ Q_u^t \\ Q_s^t \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} \delta x \\ \delta u \\ \delta s \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \delta x \\ \delta u \\ \delta s \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} Q_{xx}^t & Q_{xu}^t & Q_{xs}^t \\ Q_{ux}^t & Q_{uu}^t & Q_{us}^t \\ Q_{sx}^t & Q_{su}^t & Q_{ss}^t \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \delta x \\ \delta u \\ \delta s \end{bmatrix}$$

- Optimisation with respect to  $\delta u$  and  $\delta s$  yields

$$\begin{aligned} Q_u^t + Q_{ux}^t \delta x + Q_{uu}^t \delta u + Q_{us}^t \delta s &= 0 \\ (s_t + \delta s) \odot (Q_s^t + Q_{sx}^t \delta x + Q_{su}^t \delta u) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Perturb the equations with  $\mu > 0$  and drop the second-order terms

$$\begin{bmatrix} Q_{uu}^t & Q_{us}^t \\ S_t Q_{su}^t & C_t \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \delta u \\ \delta s \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} Q_u^t \\ S_t c(x_t, u_t) + \mu \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} Q_{ux}^t \\ S_t Q_{sx}^t \end{bmatrix} \delta x,$$

where  $C_t := \text{diag}[c(x_t, u_t)]$  and  $S_t := \text{diag}[s_t]$ .

## Perturbation parameter $\mu$

The “perturbed” parametric system for  $\delta u$  and  $\delta s$

$$\begin{bmatrix} Q_{uu}^t & Q_{us}^t \\ S_t Q_{su}^t & C_t \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \delta u \\ \delta s \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} Q_u^t \\ S_t c(x_t, u_t) + \mu \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} Q_{ux}^t \\ S_t Q_{sx} \end{bmatrix} \delta x,$$

### Theoretical aspects of using $\mu$

- ▶ Keeps solutions away from the feasible set boundaries (think of log-barrier)
- ▶ Make problems “smoother” and easier to optimise (think of homotopy)

### Practical aspects of using $\mu$

- ▶ Controls the convergence (by following the interior-point central path)
- ▶ Allows for balance between optimality and algorithmic complexity

## Local behaviour $\Rightarrow$ cost-to-go function

- ▶ Step  $t$  depends on step  $t + 1$ , e.g.,

$$Q_x^t = \ell_x + f_x^T V_x^{t+1}$$
$$Q_{xu}^t = \ell_{xu} + f_x^T V_{xx}^{t+1} f_u + V_x^{t+1} \cdot f_{xu}$$

- ▶ Can solve for  $(\delta u, \delta s)$  at step  $t$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} \delta u \\ \delta s \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_t \\ \eta_t \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \beta_t \\ \theta_t \end{bmatrix} \delta x$$

The cost-to-go model at time  $t$  is well-defined (given info from  $t + 1$ )

$$V_x^t = \hat{Q}_x^t + \hat{Q}_{xu}^t \alpha_t$$
$$V_{xx}^t = \hat{Q}_{xx}^t + \hat{Q}_{xu}^t \beta_t$$

## Forward pass: updating the solution guess

1. Define the update functions

$$\phi_t(x) := u_t + \alpha_t + \beta_t(x - x_t),$$

$$\psi_t(x) := s_t + \eta_t + \theta_t(x - x_t),$$

2. Denote a new solution guess by

$$\mathbf{x}^+ = (x_0^+, \dots, x_N^+)$$

$$\mathbf{u}^+ = (u_0^+, \dots, u_{N-1}^+)$$

$$\mathbf{s}^+ = (s_0^+, \dots, s_{N-1}^+)$$

3. Initialise  $x_0^+ = x_0$  and compute for  $t = 0, \dots, N - 1$ :

$$u_t^+ = \phi_t(x_t^+),$$

$$s_t^+ = \psi_t(x_t^+),$$

$$x_{t+1}^+ = f(x_t^+, u_t^+)$$

# When and why IPDDP works

## Assume

1. Strict primal-dual feasibility, i.e.,  $c(x_t, u_t) < 0$  and  $s_t > 0$
2. Matrices  $\hat{Q}_{uu}^t$  (related to  $Q_{uu}^t$ ) are positive definite

## Then

1. Stationary points of IPDDP  $\iff$  perturbed KKT points
2. IPDDP has a local quadratic convergence rate

## Moreover

- ▶ **Global convergence** with line-search, regularisation and step filter
- ▶ Convergence to the locally **optimal solutions**<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Constrained **feedback control** laws
- ▶ Can handle primal **infeasible** guess? Yes! (after modification)

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<sup>1</sup>under regularity and 2nd order sufficient optimality conditions

# Infeasible IPDDP

## Backward pass:

1. Introduce slack variables:  $c(x_t, u_t) + y_t = 0$ , where  $y_t \geq 0$
2. New parametric system of equations

$$\begin{bmatrix} Q_{uu}^t & Q_{us}^t & 0 \\ Q_{su}^t & 0 & I \\ 0 & Y_t & S_t \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \delta u \\ \delta s \\ \delta y \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} Q_u^t \\ c(x_t, u_t) + y_t \\ S_t y_t - \mu \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} Q_{ux}^t \\ Q_{sx}^t \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \delta x$$

**Forward pass:** slack updates  $y_t^+ = y_t + \chi_t + \zeta_t(x - x_t)$ .

## Checkpoint: Results overview

### Feasible IPDDP

- ▶ Primal-dual feasibility:  
 $c(x_t, u_y) < 0$  and  $s_t > 0$
- ▶ Stationary points  $\Leftrightarrow$  Pertb. KKT points
- ▶ Local quadratic convergence if  $\hat{Q}_{uu}^t \succ 0$

### Infeasible IPDDP

- ▶ Dual feasibility:  
 $s_t > 0$  and  $y_t > 0$
- ▶ Stationary points  $\Leftrightarrow$  Pertb. KKT points
- ▶ Local quadratic convergence if  $\hat{Q}_{uu}^t \succ 0$

### Practical implementation:

1. Regularisation: use  $\hat{Q}_{uu} + \sigma I$  when  $\hat{Q}_{uu} \not\succeq 0$
2. Line-search with a step-size  $\gamma \in (0; 1]$ :

$$u_t^+ = u_t + \gamma \alpha_t + \beta_t(x - x_t),$$

$$s_t^+ = s_t + \gamma \eta_t + \theta_t(x - x_t), \text{ etc}$$

3. Step filter: **strict reduction** of the optimality error
4. Perturbation: start with  $\mu > 0$  and **reduce it** in the process

## Advantages of IPDDP: Perturbation $\Rightarrow$ smoothness

**Inverted pendulum problem:**

$$f(x, u) = \begin{bmatrix} \varphi + h\omega \\ \omega + h \sin(\varphi) + h \end{bmatrix} \text{ subject to } -0.25 \leq u \leq 0.25$$

**Solutions to the perturbed problem:**

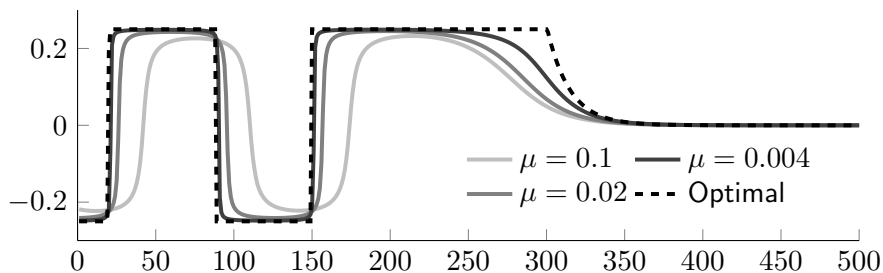
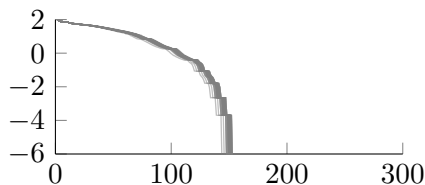


Figure: Control inputs  $u_t$  on y-axis vs time-index  $t$  on x-axis

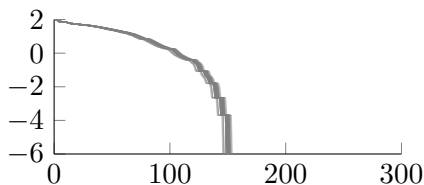


## Advantages of IPDDP: Numerical comparisons

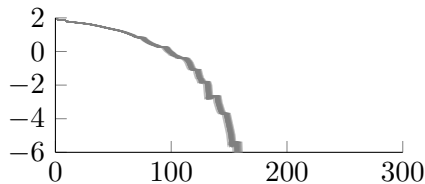
**Inverted pendulum problem:**



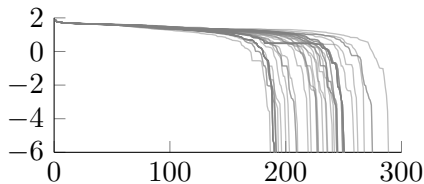
(a) Feasible-IPDDP



(b) Infeasible-IPDDP



(c) Log-barrier DDP



(d) SQP-type DDP

**Figure:**  $\log[J(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) - J(\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{u}^*)]$  on y-axis vs iteration number on x-axis

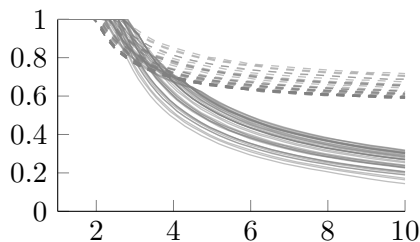
# Advantages of IPDDP: IP Central path-following

## Car-parking problem:

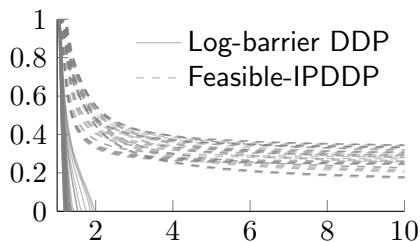
$$f(x, u) = \begin{bmatrix} r_x + b(v, w) \cos(\varphi) \\ r_y + b(v, w) \sin(\varphi) \\ \varphi + \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{hv}{d} \sin(w)\right) \\ v + ha \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{subject to} \quad - \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \leq \begin{bmatrix} w \\ a \end{bmatrix} \leq \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\text{where } b(v, w) = d + hv \cos(w) - \sqrt{d^2 - h^2 v^2 \sin^2(w)}$$

## Perturbation strategy: $\mu \leftarrow \min(\mu/\kappa, \mu^{1.2})$



(a)  $0.0001 \leq \mu \leq 0.0005$

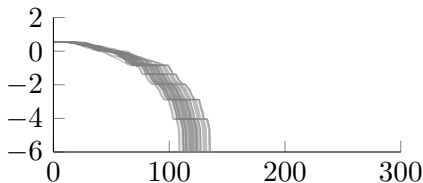


(b)  $0.0006 \leq \mu \leq 0.0010$

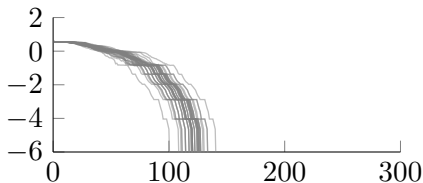
Figure: The maximum accepted stepsize on y-axis vs reduction factor  $\kappa$  on x-axis

## Advantages of IPDDP: Numerical comparisons

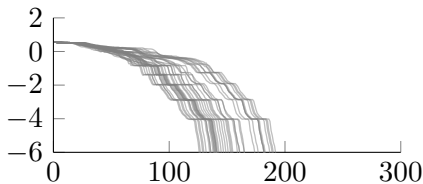
Car-parking problem:



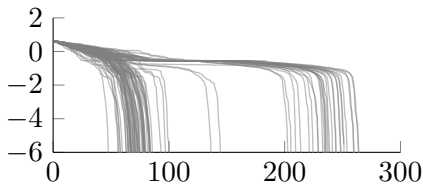
(a) Feasible-IPDDP



(b) Infeasible-IPDDP



(c) Log-barrier DDP



(d) SQP-type DDP

Figure:  $\log[J(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) - J(\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{u}^*)]$  on y-axis vs iteration number on x-axis

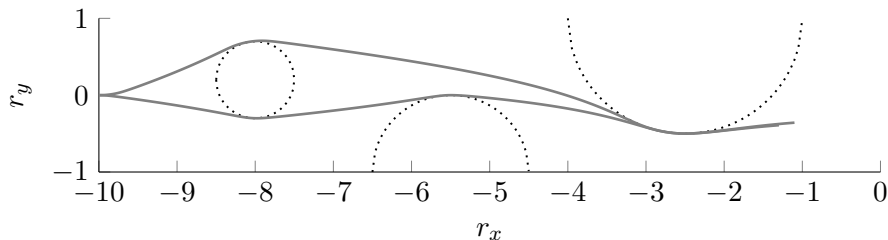
# Advantages of IPDDP: Infeasible guesses

## Unicycle motion problem:

$$f(x, u) = \begin{bmatrix} r_x + hv \cos(\varphi) \\ r_y + hv \sin(\varphi) \\ \varphi + hu \end{bmatrix}$$

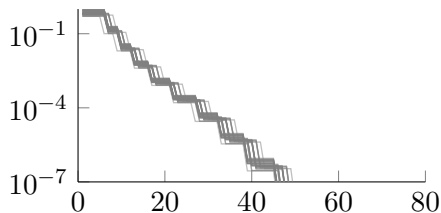
subject to the input and state constraints

$$\begin{aligned} -1.5 \leq u \leq 1.5, \quad -1 \leq r_y \leq 1, \quad \|r_x + 5.5, r_y + 1\|^2 \geq 1, \\ \|[r_x + 8, r_y - 0.2]\|^2 \geq 0.5^2, \quad \|[r_x + 2.5, r_y - 1]\|^2 \geq 1.5^2. \end{aligned}$$

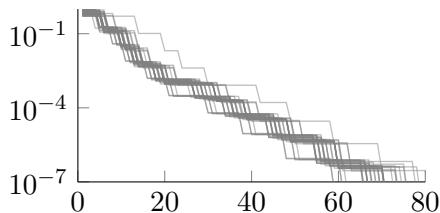


# Advantages of IPDDP: Numerical comparisons

## Unicycle motion problem:



(a) Infeasible-IPDDP



(b) Relaxed\* log-barrier DDP

Figure: Unicycle motion control: optimality error on y-axis vs iteration number on x-axis.

$$*\beta_{\delta}(z) = \begin{cases} -\log z & z > \delta, \\ \frac{1}{2} \left[ \left( \frac{z-2\delta}{\delta} \right)^2 - 1 \right] - \log \delta & z \leq \delta, \end{cases}$$

# Conclusions and future work

## Properties of IPDDP:

1. Locally (sub)optimal solutions
2. Local quadratic convergence (super-linear in practice)
3. Linear complexity in  $N$
4. Dynamical feasibility
5. Comparable (or better) numerical performance
6. Infeasible solution guesses
7. Constrained feedback control laws (reinforcement learning?)

## Further reaseach:

- ▶ Predictor-corrector steps
- ▶ Adaptive perturbation strategy
- ▶ Bilevel programs - optimisation problems with extra optimisation problems as constraints (aka MPEC)
- ▶ Optimisation on manifolds

**Preprint:** arXiv:2004.12710