Hybrid Systems Seminar Complexity Reduction in Explicit MPC

Michal Kvasnica

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Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Model Predictive Control



Compute control action $u^* = f(x)$ in acceptable time

 $u^* = \arg \min J_N$ Plant model Constraints

Model Predictive Control



On-Line MPC



On-Line MPC

Constraints

Optimal performance

Fast implementation



Typical Implementation Platforms



10 000 MFLOPS/sec more than 2 GB 100 MFLOPS/sec more than 128 MB

1 MFLOPS/sec less than 8 kB

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Explicit MPC



Explicit MPC: Solution Properties



- State space is divided into polytopic regions
- Affine control law in each region

Explicit MPC: On-Line Implementation



- Identify region which contains current state (99.9% of effort)
- Evaluate the corresponding affine feedback law (0.1% effort)

Explicit MPC: Pros and Cons

PROs:

- easy to implement
- "fast" on-line evaluation
- analysis of implementation issues possible

CONs:

- number of controller regions can be large
- no control over the construction of the solution
- computation scales badly

Controller complexity is the crucial issue!

Complexity in Numbers

1000 regions x 100 bytes each to store 1000 regions x 10 FLOPS each to evaluate



Three Levers of Complexity Reduction



Three Levers of Complexity Reduction



Lever 1: Controller Construction

- Observation:
 - complex problem formulations usual lead to complex controllers
- Idea:
 - use simpler objectives and <u>hope</u> for simpler solutions
- Questions to be answered:
 - is the idea justified?
 - if yes, can <u>significant</u> reduction of complexity be achieved?
 - how to simplify the MPC problem and not to loose important properties?

Classical Formulation

$$\min \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \ell(x_k, u_k)$$

s.t.
$$x_{k+1} = f(x_k, u_k)$$
$$x_k \in \mathcal{X}, u_k \in \mathcal{U}$$
$$x_{k+N} \in \mathcal{T}$$

PROs:

- optimal performance
- constraint satisfaction
- closed-loop stability

CON:

complex solution Why?

• Solve a series of horizon-one problems backwards in time:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{u_k} & \ell(x_k, u_k) + \ell_f(x_{k+1}) & \text{Add cost-to-go} \\ \text{s.t.} & x_{k+1} = f(x_k, u_k) \\ & x_k \in \mathcal{X}, u_k \in \mathcal{U} \\ & x_{k+1} \in \mathcal{X}_{k+1} & \text{End up in the} \\ & \text{previous iteration} \end{array}$$



Terminal set Cost-to-go=0

• Solve a series of horizon-one problems backwards in time:

$$\min_{u_k} \quad \ell(x_k, u_k) + \ell_f(x_{k+1}) \quad \text{Add cost-to-go} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad x_{k+1} = f(x_k, u_k) \\ x_k \in \mathcal{X}, u_k \in \mathcal{U} \\ x_{k+1} \in \mathcal{X}_{k+1} \quad \text{End up in the previous iteration}$$





All states that can be pushed to the terminal set in 1 step

• Solve a series of horizon-one problems backwards in time:

$$\min_{u_k} \quad \ell(x_k, u_k) + \ell_f(x_{k+1}) \quad \text{Add cost-to-go} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad x_{k+1} = f(x_k, u_k) \\ x_k \in \mathcal{X}, u_k \in \mathcal{U} \\ x_{k+1} \in \mathcal{X}_{k+1} \quad \text{End up in the previous iteration}$$





In each region we have a <u>unique</u> expression of the cost

• Solve a series of horizon-one problems backwards in time:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{u_k} & \ell(x_k, u_k) + \ell_f(x_{k+1}) & \text{Add cost-to-go} \\ \text{s.t.} & x_{k+1} = f(x_k, u_k) \\ & x_k \in \mathcal{X}, u_k \in \mathcal{U} \\ & x_{k+1} \in \mathcal{X}_{k+1} & \text{End up in the} \\ & \text{previous iteration} \end{array}$$





• Solve a series of horizon-one problems backwards in time:



Combined solution

• Solve a series of horizon-one problems backwards in time:

$$\min_{u_k} \quad \ell(x_k, u_k) + \ell_f(x_{k+1}) \quad \text{Add cost-to-go}$$
s.t.
$$x_{k+1} = f(x_k, u_k)$$

$$x_k \in \mathcal{X}, u_k \in \mathcal{U}$$

$$x_{k+1} \in \mathcal{X}_{k+1} \quad \text{End up in the previous iteration}$$



For each region of the terminal set and each associated cost-togo solve a 1-step problem

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• Solve a series of horizon-one problems backwards in time:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{u_k} & \ell(x_k, u_k) + \ell_f(x_{k+1}) & \text{Add cost-to-go} \\ \text{s.t.} & x_{k+1} = f(x_k, u_k) \\ & x_k \in \mathcal{X}, u_k \in \mathcal{U} \\ & x_{k+1} \in \mathcal{X}_{k+1} & \text{End up in the} \\ & \text{previous iteration} \end{array}$$















Final solution

Dynamic Programming Summary

• Solve a series of horizon-one problems backwards in time:

$$\min_{u_k} \quad \ell(x_k, u_k) + \ell_f(x_{k+1}) \quad \text{Add cost-to-go}$$
s.t.
$$x_{k+1} = f(x_k, u_k)$$

$$x_k \in \mathcal{X}, u_k \in \mathcal{U}$$

$$x_{k+1} \in \mathcal{X}_{k+1} \quad \text{End up in the previous iteration}$$

- Reason for complexity:
 - need to solve as many problems as there are regions defining the cost-to-go function

Classical Formulation

$$\min \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \ell(x_k, u_k)$$

s.t.
$$x_{k+1} = f(x_k, u_k)$$
$$x_k \in \mathcal{X}, u_k \in \mathcal{U}$$
$$x_{k+N} \in \mathcal{T}$$

PROs:

- optimal performance
- constraint satisfaction
- closed-loop stability

CON:

complex solution

Trade performance for complexity

Minimum-Time Formulation

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & N \\ \text{s.t.} & x_{k+1} = f(x_k, u_k) \\ & x_k \in \mathcal{X}, u_k \in \mathcal{U} \\ & x_{k+N} \in \mathcal{T} \end{array}$$

PROs:

- simpler solution
- constraint satisfaction
- closed-loop stability

CON:

suboptimal performance

Possible applications:

- fast vibration suppression
- fast engine startup
- fast disturbance rejection

• Solve a series of horizon-one problems backwards in time:

 $\min_{u_k} \quad \ell(x_k, u_k) + \ell_f(x_{k+1})$ s.t. $x_{k+1} = f(x_k, u_k)$ $x_k \in \mathcal{X}, u_k \in \mathcal{U}$ $x_{k+1} \in \mathcal{X}_{k+1}$

- Why is it a simpler formulation:
 - cost-to-go is constant (number of steps needed to reach the origin)
 - consequence: only need to consider a single terminal set at each step



• Design an invariant set around the origin



- Solve N=1 problem with X_I as the terminal set
- Store \mathcal{X}_1 , its regions and the associated feedback laws



- Solve N=1 problem with \mathcal{X}_1 as the terminal set
- Store \mathcal{X}_2 , its regions and the associated feedback laws











Minimum-Time Controller

• Resulting controller is composed of all partitions!



Minimum-Time Controller Implementation

• All partitions on top of each other

Partition #:


Minimum-Time Controller Implementation

Pick the partition which contains measurements and has the least cost-to-go



Minimum-Time Controller Implementation

- Identify the region which contains measurements
- Evaluate the corresponding feedback law



Minimum-Time Controller Implementation

• By construction the state is pushed to a "lower" partition



Minimum-Time Controller Properties

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & N \\ \text{s.t.} & x_{k+1} = f(x_k, u_k) \\ & x_k \in \mathcal{X}, u_k \in \mathcal{U} \\ & x_{k+N} \in \mathcal{T} \end{array}$$

PROs:

- simpler solution
- constraint satisfaction
- closed-loop stability

CON:

•

How much simpler?

Indeed?

suboptimal performance How much do we loose?

Minimum-Time Controller Properties

- Feasibility guaranteed by solving constrained problems
- Stability guaranteed by construction:



Minimum-Time Controller Complexity



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Minimum-Time Controller Complexity



Minimum-Time Controller Performance



Minimum-Time Control: Summary

PROs:

- faster controller construction
- lower number of regions
- acceptable loss of performance on average

CON:

bang-bang behavior

Extensions of Minimum-Time Control

PWA systems

$$x_{k+1} = A_i x_k + B_i u_k + f_i \text{ IF } x_k \in \mathcal{D}_i$$

Grieder, Kvasnica, Baotic, Morari; Automatica 2005

PWA systems with additive noise

$$x_{k+1} = A_i(\lambda)x_k + B_iu_k + f_i + w \text{ IF } x_k \in \mathcal{D}_i, \ \forall w \in \mathcal{W}$$

Rakovic, Grieder, Kvasnica, Mayne, Morari; CDC 2004

PWA systems with parametric uncertainties

 $x_{k+1} = A_i(\lambda)x_k + B_iu_k + f_i \text{ IF } x_k \in \mathcal{D}_i, \ \forall \lambda \in \Lambda$

Kvasnica, Herceg, Čirka, Fikar; CDC 2010

Three Levers of Complexity Reduction



Lever 2: Solution Complexity

- Observation:
 - many of the controller regions share the same feedback law
- Idea:
 - merge such regions into larger convex objects



Typical Explicit MPC Feedback Law



Lever 2: Solution Complexity

- Observation:
 - many of the controller regions share the same feedback law
- Idea:
 - merge such regions into larger convex objects
- Questions to be answered:
 - can we merge optimally?
 - can we merge quickly?
 - can we go even further and eliminate <u>all</u> regions?

Optimal Region Merging



Geyer, Torrisi, Morari; Automatica 2008

Step 1: Hyperplane Arrangement



Step 2: Associate Boolean Literals





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Step 4: Simplify the Function



Step 4: Simplify the Function



Step 5: Recover Regions



Step 5: Recover Regions



Optimal Region Merging: Summary

PROs:

- optimal region merging using logic minimization (ESPRESSO)
- applicable to any type of PWA functions (discontinuous, non-convex partitions, etc.)
- simplified controller provides the same level of optimality

CONs:

- logic optimization is computationally demanding
- upper bound on possible hyperplane arrangements generated by N hyperplanes in n dimensions is $\mathcal{O}(N^n)$

Geyer, Torrisi, Morari; Automatica 2008

Complexity in Numbers

- Illustrative case:
 - 200 regions in 2D
 - each region, on average, is defined by 5 hyperplanes
 - hence we have ~500 unique hyperplanes
 - therefore the logic minimization can have up to 500² terms with 500 variables each
 - logic minimization with 250 000 constraints and 500 variables is difficult

Lever 2: Solution Complexity

- Observation:
 - many of the controller regions share the same feedback law
- Idea:
 - merge such regions into larger convex objects
- Questions to be answered:
 - can we merge optimally? YES Optimal Region Merging
 - can we merge quickly?
 - can we go even further and eliminate <u>all</u> regions?

Kvasnica, Fikar; Submitted to CDC 2010



- Two types of regions:
 - saturated: $\mathcal{R}_1, \mathcal{R}_5, \mathcal{R}_6$
 - unsaturated: $\mathcal{R}_2, \mathcal{R}_3, \mathcal{R}_4$



• Idea:

- remove saturated regions
- cover the "holes" by expanding unsaturated regions



• We have eliminated region \mathcal{R}_1



- We have eliminated regions $\mathcal{R}_5, \mathcal{R}_6$
- Merged controller consists of 3 regions



- Nothing is for free!
- For some states we have $u(x) \neq \tilde{u}(x)$



- Nothing is for free!
- For some states we have $u(x) \neq \tilde{u}(x)$



• Recover equivalence by using a clipping function:

$$\phi(\tilde{u}(x)) = \max(\min(\tilde{u}(x), \overline{u}), \underline{u})$$

Clipping-Based Complexity Reduction: Summary

PROs:

- very fast, only involves basic polytopic calculus
- clipping function has complexity $\mathcal{O}(1)$
- simplified controller provides the same level of optimality

CONs:

- only provides <u>significant</u> reduction if there are plenty saturated regions
- doesn't simplify unsaturated regions
- directly applicable only to continuous functions

Clipping vs ORM

	Saturated Regions	Unsaturated Regions	
ORM	merged	merged	
Clipping	removed	kept	

Clipping vs ORM

Random System	Regions			Runtime [s]	
	Original	Clipping	ORM	Clipping	ORM
1	35	5	11	1	3
2	75	9	19	1	49
3	83	53	45	1	55
4	173	17	Ť	1	Û
5	221	23	Ť	1	Ť
6	271	119	Û	5	Û
7	481	33	Ť	1	Û
8	547	73	Û	3	Û
9	837	139	Ť	7	Ť
10	1628	274	Ť	24	Ť

 ϑ = exhausted all memory

Lever 2: Solution Complexity

- Observation:
 - many of the controller regions share the same feedback law
- Idea:
 - merge such regions into larger convex objects
- Questions to be answered:
 - can we merge optimally? YES Optimal Region Merging
 - can we merge quickly? **YES Clipping**
 - can we go even further and eliminate <u>all</u> regions?

Kvasnica, Christophersen, Herceg, Fikar; IFAC WC 2008 Kvasnica, Lofberg, Herceg, Čirka, Fikar; ACC 2010
Evaluation of Explicit MPC



- Identify region which contains current state (99.9% of effort)
- Evaluate the corresponding affine feedback law (0.1% effort)

The Idea

- Find an approximate feedback which
 - is defined over a single region (hence no region search is required)
 - guarantees closed-loop stability & constraint satisfaction
 - trades off performance for cost of implementation
- Polynomial is an ideal candidate (low storage, fast evaluation)



How to Guarantee Stability & Feasibility?

- Find an approximate feedback which
 - is defined over a single region (hence no region search is required)
 - guarantees closed-loop stability & constraint satisfaction
 - trades off performance for cost of implementation
- Polynomial is an ideal candidate (low storage, fast evaluation)



The Idea Continued...

- Given is:
 - LTI or PWA system
 - explicit MPC feedback with stability guarantees
 - PWA Lyapunov function
- Is it the only feedback which gives stability?



The Idea Continued...

- Given is:
 - LTI or PWA system
 - explicit MPC feedback with stability guarantees
 - PWA Lyapunov function
- Is it the only feedback which gives stability?
- Theorem:
 - a set of stabilizing feedbacks exists
 - it can be computed
 - it is represented by polytopes
- Corollary:
 - if the polynomial resides in the set, stability is guaranteed



Two Key Questions

- How to find the set of stabilizing controllers?
- How to find coefficients of the polynomial residing in such set?



X

The state space

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Over which the PWA Lyapunov function is defined...



Along with the optimal explicit MPC feedback law



We search for a set of inputs satisfying constraints...



We search for a set of inputs satisfying constraints which push <u>all states</u> from left region to the right region...



i.e. in the direction of decrease of the Lyapunov function









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- The whole set is obtained by exploring all feasible transitions
- This is not the set of <u>all</u> stabilizing controllers!
- Merely it is a set of inputs which render a given PWA Lyapunov function a Control Lyapunov function

Finding the Polynomial



- Objectives:
 - the polynomial must never leave the set
 - it should be close to the optimal feedback
- Tuning parameter: degree of the polynomial

Finding the Polynomial

- Fix the degree of $\tilde{u}(x) = a_0 + a_1 x + \dots + a_n x^n$
- Search for the coefficients:

find
$$a_1, \dots, a_n$$

s.t $T_i - S_i \begin{bmatrix} x \\ \tilde{u}(x) \end{bmatrix} \ge 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, N$
 $\forall x \in \{x \mid K_i - H_i x \ge 0\}, \quad i = 1, \dots, N$



Finding the Polynomial

- Fix the degree of $\tilde{u}(x) = a_0 + a_1 x + \dots + a_n x^n$
- Search for the coefficients:

find
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s.t $T_i - S_i \begin{bmatrix} x \\ \tilde{u}(x) \end{bmatrix} \ge 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, N$
 $\forall x \in \{x \mid K_i - H_i x \ge 0\}, \quad i = 1, \dots, N$

- The problem boils down to showing global positivity of polynomials:
 - positivstellensatz & SDP Kvasnica, Christophersen, Herceg, Fikar; IFAC 2008
 - Polya theorem & LP

Kvasnica, Lofberg, Herceg, Čirka, Fikar; ACC 2010

Polynomial Approximation: Summary

PROs:

- eliminates all regions altogether
- very fast evaluation
- extremely low memory footprint of the controller (< 20 bytes)
- guarantees closed-loop stability & constraint satisfaction

CONs:

- heavy computational demand (feasible for < 200 regions)
- controller is suboptimal (however performance drop can be bounded)
- SDP & LP relaxations are just sufficient conditions

Lever 2: Solution Complexity

- Observation:
 - many of the controller regions share the same feedback law
- Idea:
 - merge such regions into larger convex objects
- Questions to be answered:
 - can we merge optimally? YES Optimal Region Merging
 - can we merge quickly? **YES Clipping**
 - can we go even further and eliminate <u>all</u> regions?

YES - Polynomial Approximation

Three Levers of Complexity Reduction



Sequential Search



- Works out-of-the box
- Can be easily implemented using any language (C, JAVA, LAD, ...)

Lever 3: Control Evaluation

- Fact:
 - sequential search always works, but has complexity $\mathcal{O}(N)$
- Objective:
 - devise faster evaluation scheme, ideally with $\mathcal{O}(\log_2 N)$
- Questions to be answered:
 - is it possible?
 - how expensive is construction of such schemes?
 - can we construct them with less effort?

Complexity in Numbers

• O(N) search (I MFLOP/s)



Complexity in Numbers



















- How to find optimal branching hyperplanes?
- How to organize them into a tree?
- Easy in 1D, what about higher dimensions?

2D Example




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Hyperplane	Regions left	Regions right
А	1, 2	3, 4, 5



Hyperplane	Regions left	Regions right
А	1, 2	3, 4, 5
В	1, 2, 4	2, 3, 5



Hyperplane	Regions left	Regions right
Α	1, 2	3, 4, 5
В	1, 2, 4	2, 3, 5
С	1, 4	2, 3, 4, 5



Hyperplane	Regions left	Regions right
Α	1, 2	3, 4, 5
В	1, 2, 4	2, 3, 5
С	1, 4	2, 3, 4, 5
D	1, 2, 3, 4	4, 5



• Step 2: find best hyperplane which divides regions into ~halves

Hyperplane	Regions left	Regions right
A	1, 2	3, 4, 5
В	1, 2, 4	2, 3, 5
С	1, 4	2, 3, 4, 5
D	1, 2, 3, 4	4, 5



• Step 3: proceed recursively on left and right branches



Binary Search Tree: Summary

PRO:

- region identification in $\mathcal{O}(\log_2 N)$ time on average

CONs:

- expensive construction (requires N^2 linear programs)
- tree can be unbalanced, in the worst case complexity is $\mathcal{O}(N)$

Complexity in Numbers

	Sequential Search	Binary Search
LPs		5·10 ⁶
Construction time		3 hours
Evaluation FLOPS	100 000	110

2568 regions in 3D

Complexity in Numbers

	Sequential Search	Binary Search
LPs		4·10 ⁹
Construction time		>16 days
Evaluation FLOPS	1 500 000	???

22 286 regions in 5D

Lever 3: Control Evaluation

- Fact:
 - sequential search always works, but has complexity $\mathcal{O}(N)$
- Objective:
 - devise faster evaluation scheme, ideally with $\mathcal{O}(\log_2 N)$
- Questions to be answered:
 - is it possible? YES Binary Search Tree
 - how expensive is construction of such schemes? $O(N^2)$
 - can we construct them with less effort?

Bounding-Box Search Tree

- Idea:
 - approximate all regions by boxes
 - construct a binary search tree on these simpler structures
- Advantage:
 - faster tree construction (only 2N linear programs)
- Problem:
 - since the regions have different shapes, the tree only identifies a list of candidates
 - need to sequentially search through this list

Christophersen, Kvasnica, Jones, Morari; ECC 2007





Bounding-Box Search Tree: Summary

PROs:

- very cheap construction even for large partitions
- arbitrary partitions can be processed (e.g. with holes)
- good average performance

CONs:

- local search still necessary
- worst-case evaluation drops to $\mathcal{O}(N)$
- needs to store all regions as well as all bounding boxes

Bounding-Box Search Tree: Summary

PROs:

- very cheap construction even for large partitions (how cheap?)
- arbitrary partitions can be processed (e.g. with holes)
- good average performance (close to Binary Search Tree?)

CONs:

- local search still necessary (how expensive?)
- worst-case evaluation drops to $\mathcal{O}(N)$
- needs to store all regions as well as all bounding boxes

Complexity in Numbers

	Sequential Search	Binary Search	Box Search
LPs		5·10 ⁶	
Construction time		3 hours	
Evaluation FLOPS	100 000	110	

2568 regions in 3D

Complexity in Numbers

	Sequential Search	Binary Search	Box Search
LPs		5·10 ⁶	8·10³
Construction time		3 hours	10 secs
Evaluation FLOPS	100 000	110	923

2568 regions in 3D

Cardinality of List of Candidates



Complexity in Numbers

	Sequential Search	Binary Search	Box Search
LPs		4·10 ⁹	2·10⁵
Construction time		>16 days	1 minute
Evaluation FLOPS	1 500 000	???	200 000

22 286 regions in 5D

Cardinality of List of Candidates



Lever 3: Control Evaluation

- Fact:
 - sequential search always works, but has complexity $\mathcal{O}(N)$
- Objective:
 - devise faster evaluation scheme, ideally with $\mathcal{O}(\log_2 N)$
- Questions to be answered:
 - is it possible? YES Binary Search Tree
 - how expensive is construction of such schemes? $O(N^2)$
 - can we construct them with less effort? **YES Bounding-Box Tree**

Open Possibilities

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Explicit MPC

- #1 issue: once calculated, the controller is "set in stone"
 - penalty matrices stay constant
 - prediction model cannot adapt to updated values of parameters
- Challenges:
 - how to incorporate a tuning knob, i.e. to parameterize the solution not only in states, but also in penalties?
 - adaptive explicit MPC

Controller Construction

- Field to look at: control theory
- Possible directions:
 - move blocking
 - model reduction
 - minimum-time controller essentially approximates the objective function by a piecewise constant function. Can similar, but more precise, approximation be found?
- Issues to address: stability, constraint satisfaction

Solution Complexity

- Fields to look at:
 - computational geometry
 - control engineering
 - computer science
- Possible directions:
 - exploit geometric properties of the solution
 - approximate the solution by a heuristic control law
 - data compression (ZIP-like approach for explicit MPC?)
- Issues to address:
 - tradeoff between off-line calculation effort and gained complexity reduction

Control Evaluation

- Fields to look at: computational geometry, computer science
- Possible directions:
 - map regions to points, then use nearest neighbor search
 - can we learn something from point-and-click games?

