

Scalable Learning, Optimization, and Control for Autonomous Systems

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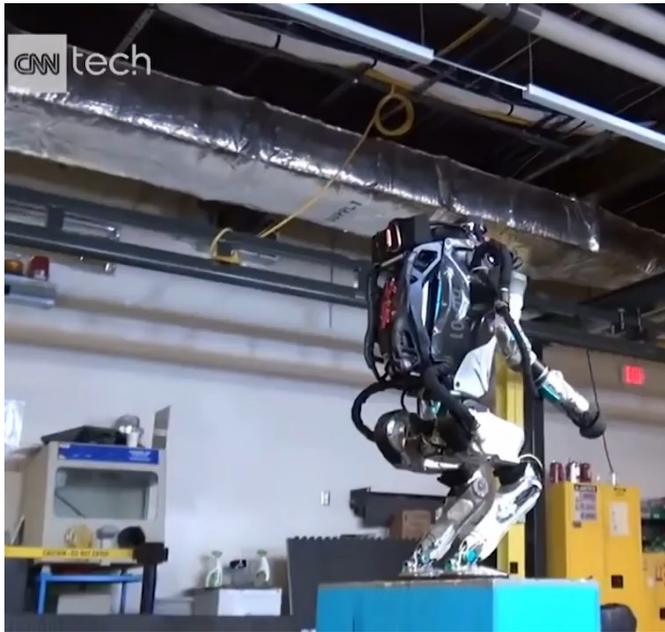
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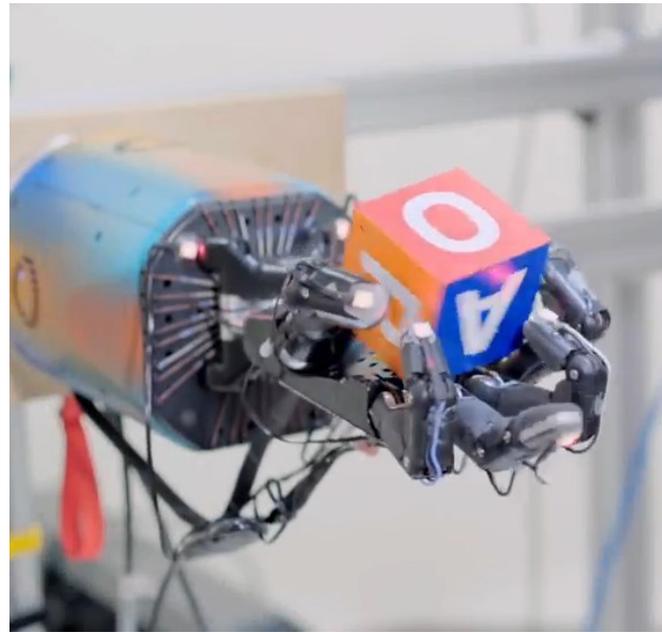
UC San Diego
JACOBS SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Scalable Optimization and
Control (SOC) Lab
<https://zhengy09.github.io/soclab.html>

Successful stories



Boston Dynamics



Open AI



Waymo

Learning, Optimization, and Control are fundamental building blocks

Lots of failure stories



Boston Dynamics



DeepMind

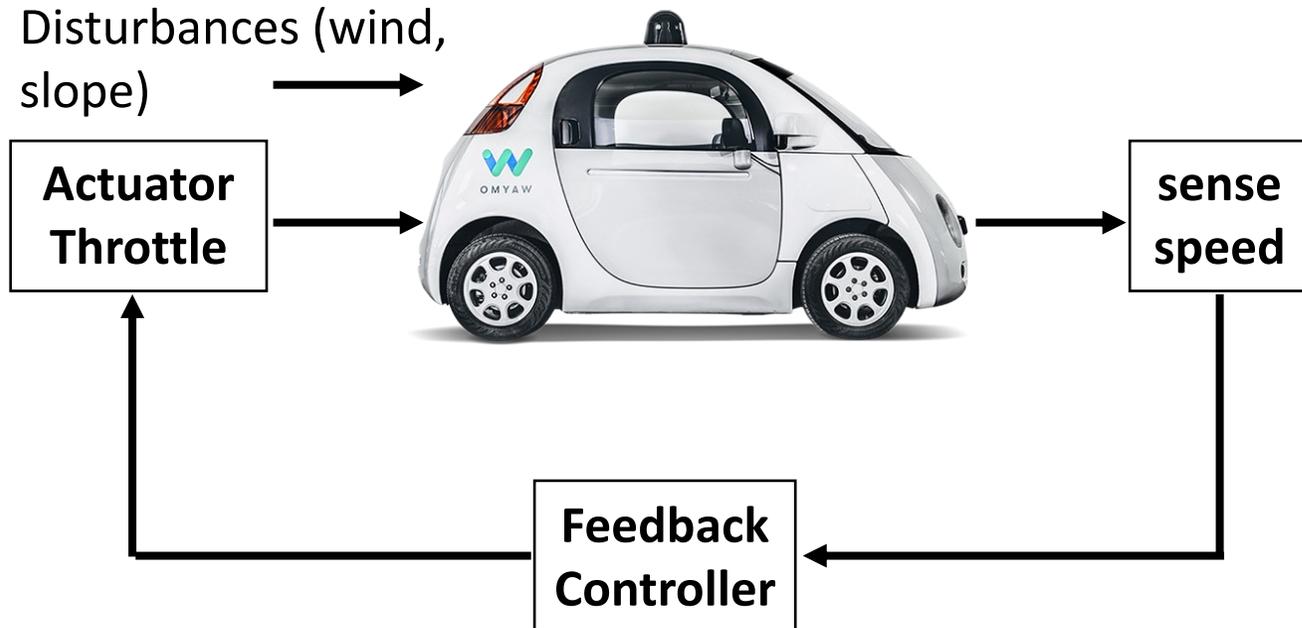


Uber running a red

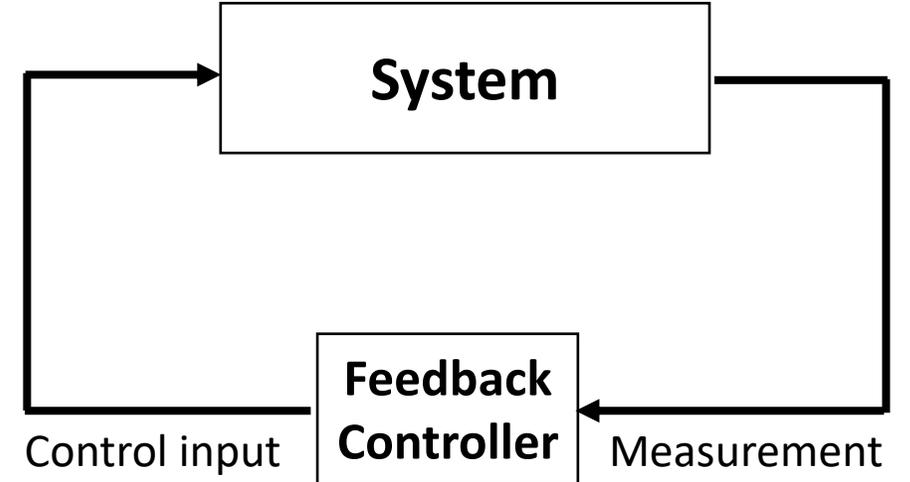
Formal guarantees of robustness, safety, and efficiency are very challenging

Automatic control example

Highway cruise control



Feedback Paradigm



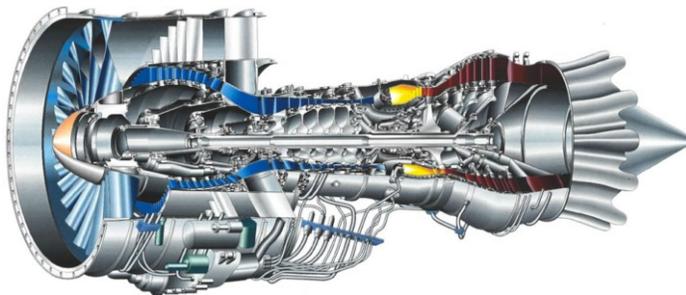
Control theory: the principled use of feedback loops and algorithms to drive a system to its desired goal

- ❑ “Simple” centralized linear control systems are well understood.
- ❑ “Complexity” can enter in different ways . . .

Complex autonomous systems

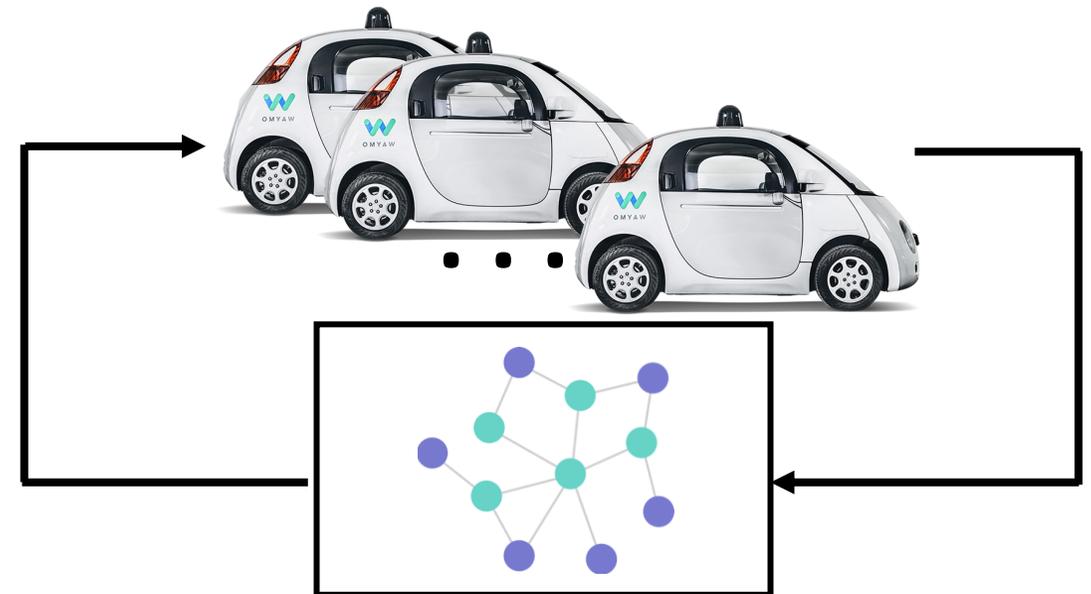
❑ Complex nonlinear dynamics

- Aircraft, jet engine, robotics



❑ Complex distributed systems

- Multiple subsystems & local commutation



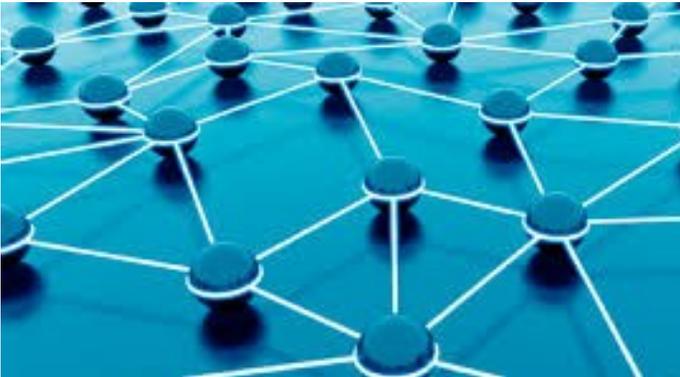
Distributed controller

Source: <https://solidmechanicsproblems.wordpress.com/>;
<https://www.bostondynamics.com/>

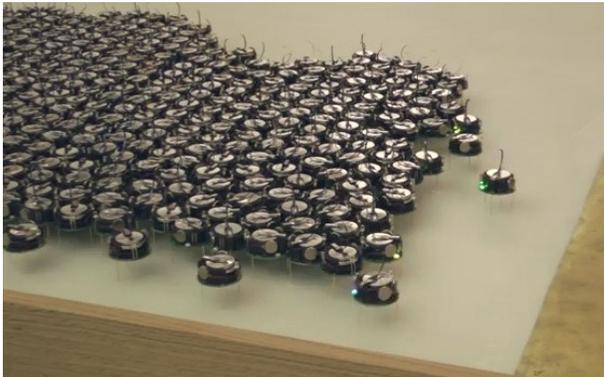
Examples of large-scale autonomous systems



Drone formations



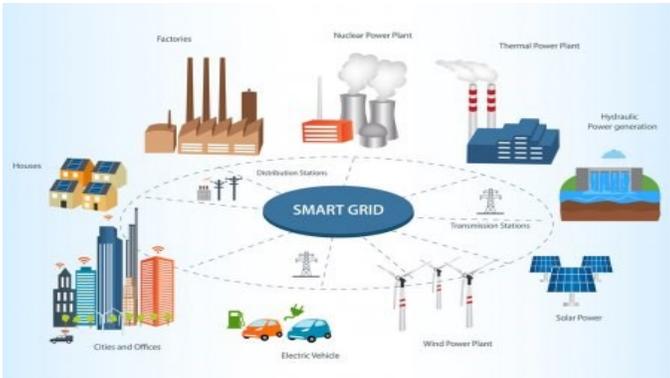
Sensor networks



Robotic networks



Transportation network



Smart grid



Self-organization

Distributed control laws



Desired collective behavior

Challenges and Overview of the SOC lab

❑ Model uncertainty → Learning-based & Robust control

- Model might be unknown for practical systems;
- Model might be uncertain; **Learning-based** solutions

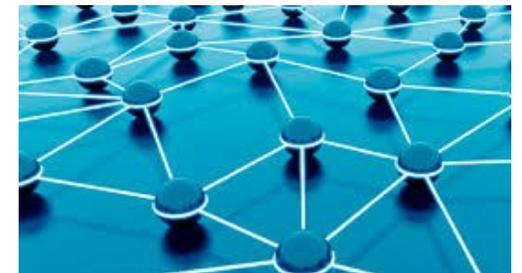
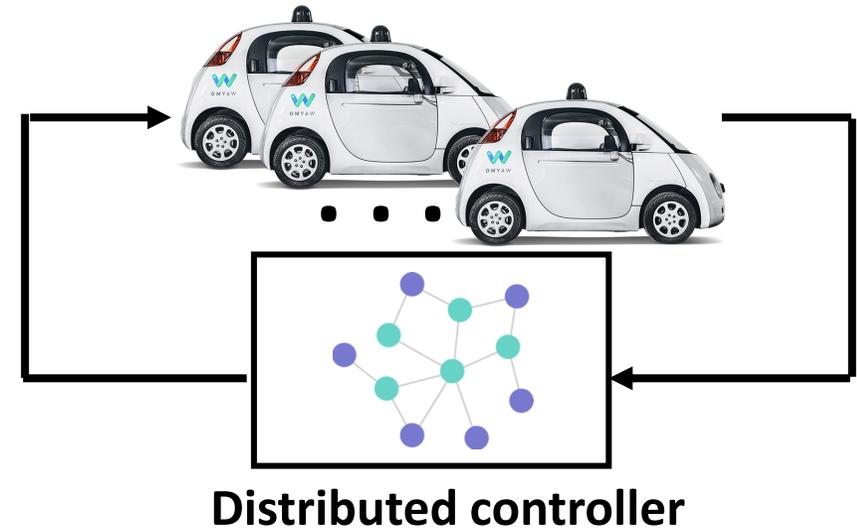
❑ Information constraints → Distributed control

- Large numbers of components;
- Subsystems or components may have dynamic coupling;
- Only **local information available** for control decision;

❑ High dimensional problems → Scalable Optimization

- A very large number of states and control variables;
- Require to solve **large-scale optimization** efficiently;

❑ Real world applications → Mixed traffic control

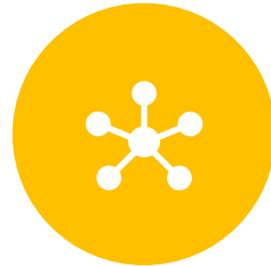
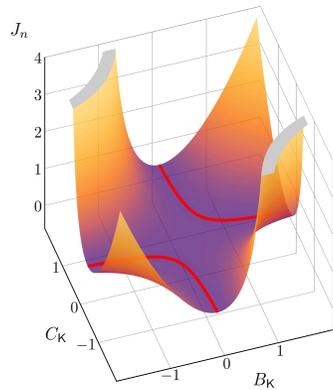


Scalable Optimization & Control
(SOC) Lab

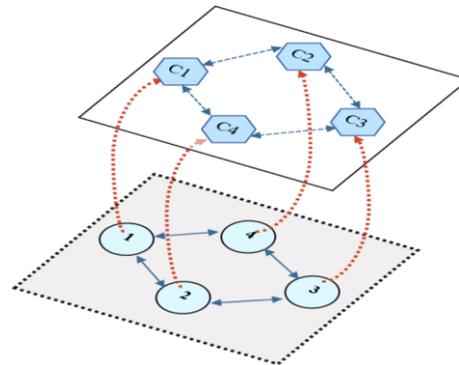
Scalable Optimization and Control (SOC) lab



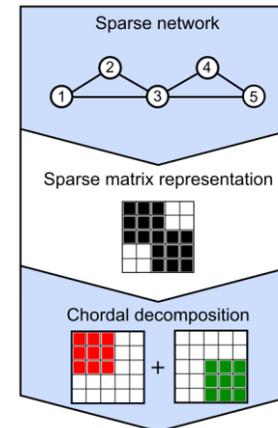
Data-driven and learning-based control



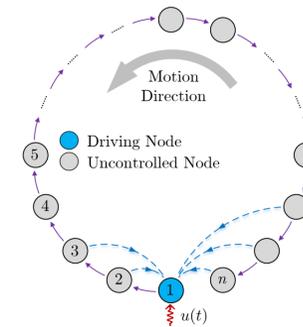
Scalable distributed control



Sparse conic optimization

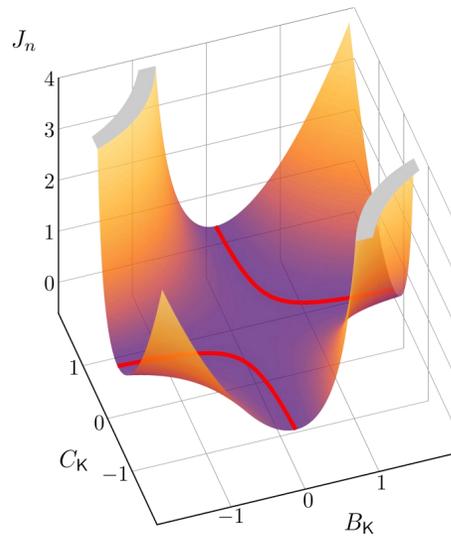


Connected and autonomous vehicles (CAVs)

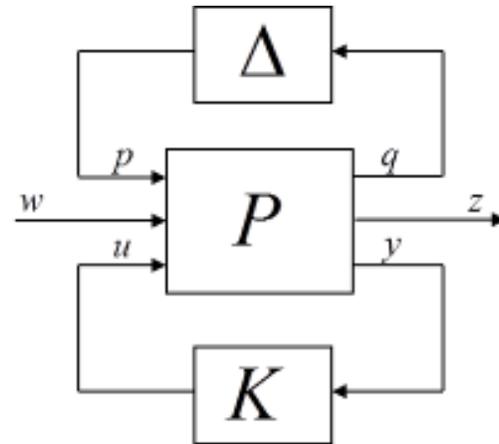


Today's talk

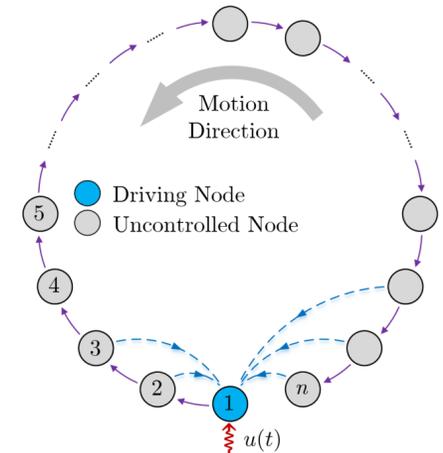
Part 1: Model free LQG control



Part 2: Model-based LQG control



Part 3: Data-driven MPC in mixed traffic



Analysis of the Optimization Landscape of Linear Quadratic Gaussian (LQG) Control



Yujie Tang
Harvard University



Na Li
Harvard University

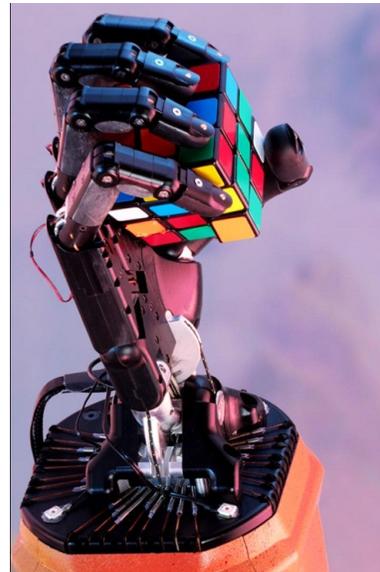
Motivation

□ Model-free methods and data-driven control

- Use direct policy updates
- Become very popular in both academia and practice, from game playing, robotics, and drones, etc.



DeepMind



OpenAI

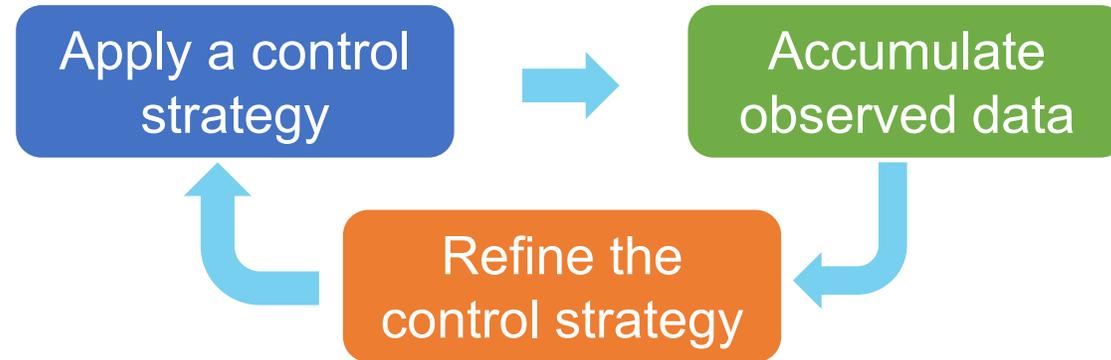


Applications

Duan et al. 2016; Silver et al., 2017; Dean et al., 2019; Tu and Recht, 2019;
Mania et al., 2019; Fazel et al., 2018; Recht, 2019;

Motivation

□ Model-free methods and data-driven control



Opportunities

- Directly search over a given policy class
- Directly optimize performance on the true system, bypassing the model estimation (not on an approximated model)

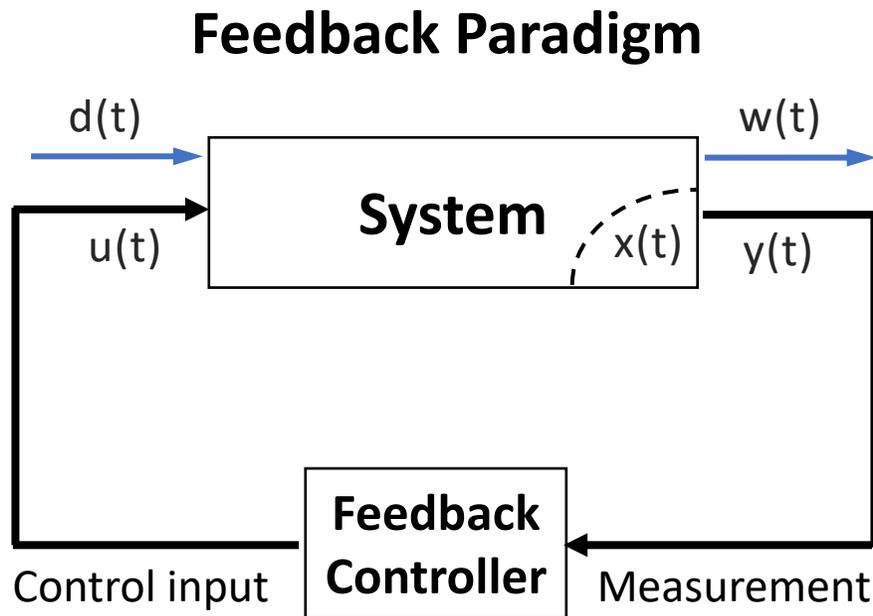
Challenges

- Lack of non-asymptotic performance guarantees
 - Sample complexity
 - Suboptimality
 - Convergence, etc.

❖ Highly nontrivial even for **linear dynamical systems**

Today's talk

□ Optimal Control



Linear Quadratic Optimal control

$$\min_{u_1, u_2, \dots,} \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T (x_t^\top Q x_t + u_t^\top R u_t) \right]$$

$$\text{subject to } x_{t+1} = A x_t + B u_t + w_t$$

$$y_t = C x_t + v_t$$

- Many practical applications
- **Linear Quadratic Regulator (LQR)** when the state x_t is directly observed
- **Linear Quadratic Gaussian (LQG) control** when only partial output y_t is observed
- Extensive classical results (Dynamic programming, Separation principle, Riccati equations, etc.)

Major challenge: how to perform optimal control when the system is unknown?

Model-free: Direct policy iteration

□ Controller parameterization

- Give a parameterization of control policies; say **neural networks?** ❌
- Control theory already tells us many structural properties
- **Linear feedback is sufficient for LQR** $u_t = Kx_t$

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T (x_t^\top Q x_t + u_t^\top R u_t) \right] := J(K)$$

- Set of stabilizing controllers $K \in \mathcal{K}$
- A fast-growing list of references

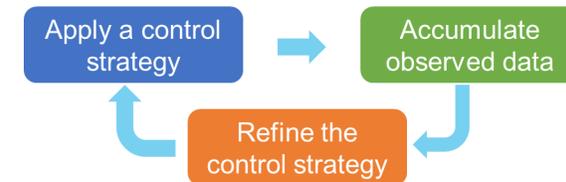
➤ Fazel et al., ICML, 2018; Malik et al., 2019; Mohammadi et al., IEEE TAC, 2020; Li et al., 2019; K. Zhang, B. Hu, and T. Başar, 2021; Furieri et al., 2019; Feiran Zhao & Keyou You, 2021, and many others

LQR as an Optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min_K \quad & J(K) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & K \in \mathcal{K} \end{aligned}$$

Direct policy iteration

$$K_{i+1} = K_i - \alpha_i \nabla J(K_i)$$



- ✓ Good Landscape properties (Fazel et al., 2018)
 - Connected feasible region
 - Unique stationary point
 - Gradient dominance
- ✓ Fast global convergence (exponential)

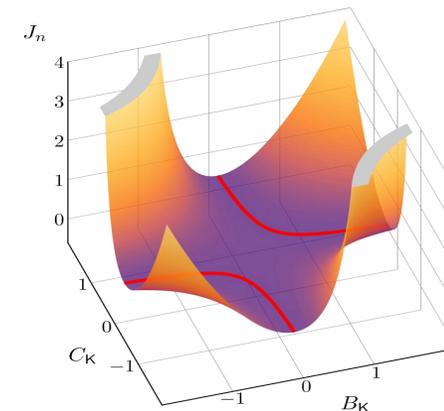
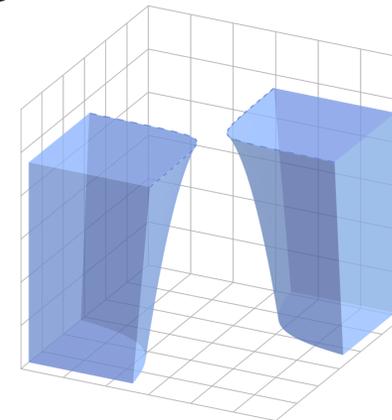
Challenges for partially observed LQG

□ Results on model-free LQG control are much fewer

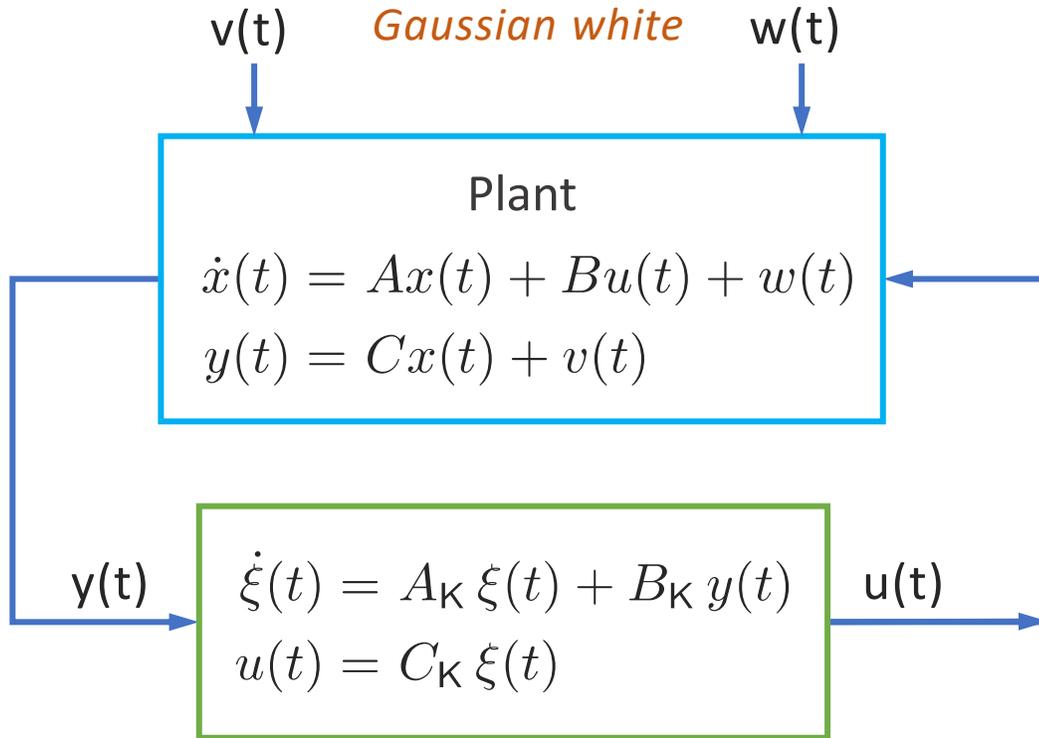
- LQG is more complicated than LQR
- Requires dynamical controllers
- Its landscape properties are much richer and more complicated than LQR

Our focus: Landscape Analysis of LQG

- **Question 1: Properties of the domain** (set of stabilizing controllers)
 - convexity, connectivity, open/closed?
- **Question 2: Properties of the accumulated cost**
 - convexity, differentiability, coercivity?
 - set of stationary points/local minima/global minima?



LQG Problem Setup



dynamical controller

$$K = (A_K, B_K, C_K)$$

Standard Assumption	$(A, B), (A, W^{1/2})$	Controllable
	$(C, A), (Q^{1/2}, A)$	Observable

Objective: The LQG cost

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{T} \mathbb{E} \int_0^T (x^\top Q x + u^\top R u) dt$$

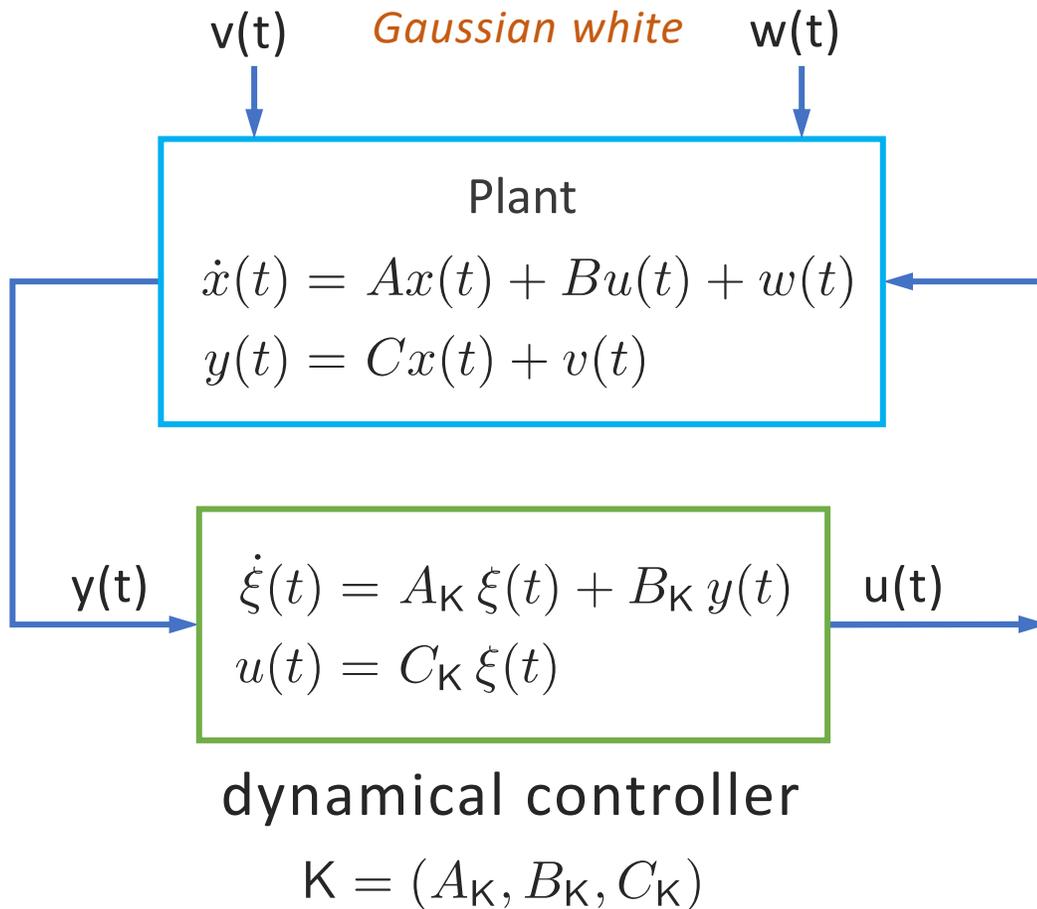
- $\xi(t)$ internal state of the controller
- $\dim \xi(t)$ order of the controller
- $\dim \xi(t) = \dim x(t)$ full-order
- $\dim \xi(t) < \dim x(t)$ reduced-order

Minimal controller

The input-output behavior cannot be replicated by a lower order controller.

* (A_K, B_K, C_K) controllable and observable

Separation principle



Explicit dependence on the dynamics

Objective: The LQG cost

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{T} \mathbb{E} \int_0^T (x^\top Q x + u^\top R u) dt$$

Solution: Kalman filter for state estimation
+ LQR based on the estimated state

$$\dot{\xi} = (A - BK)\xi + L(y - C\xi),$$

$$u = -K\xi.$$

Two Riccati equations

➤ Kalman gain $L = PC^\top V^{-1}$

$$AP + PA^\top - PC^\top V^{-1} CP + W = 0,$$

➤ Feedback gain $K = R^{-1} B^\top S$

$$A^\top S + SA - SBR^{-1} B^\top S + Q = 0$$

Model-free Optimization formulation

□ Closed-loop dynamics

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ \xi \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} A & BC_K \\ B_K C & A_K \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ \xi \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \\ 0 & B_K \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} w \\ v \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} y \\ u \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} C & 0 \\ 0 & C_K \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ \xi \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} v \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

□ Feasible region of the controller parameters

$$\mathcal{C}_{\text{full}} = \left\{ K \mid K = (A_K, B_K, C_K) \text{ is full-order,} \right. \\ \left. \begin{bmatrix} A & BC_K \\ B_K C & A_K \end{bmatrix} \text{ is Hurwitz stable} \right\}$$

□ Cost function

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{T} \mathbb{E} \int_0^T (x^\top Q x + u^\top R u) dt$$

$$J(K) = \text{tr} \left(\begin{bmatrix} Q & 0 \\ 0 & C_K^\top R C_K \end{bmatrix} X_K \right) = \text{tr} \left(\begin{bmatrix} W & 0 \\ 0 & B_K V B_K^\top \end{bmatrix} Y_K \right)$$

X_K, Y_K Solution to Lyapunov equations

LQG as an Optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min_K \quad & J(K) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & K = (A_K, B_K, C_K) \in \mathcal{C}_{\text{full}} \end{aligned}$$

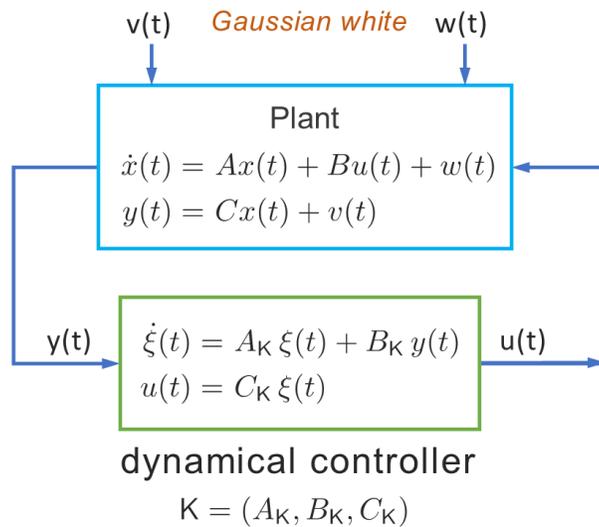
Direct policy iteration $K_{i+1} = K_i - \alpha_i \nabla J(K_i)$



- ✓ Does it converge at all?
- ✓ Converge to which point?
- ✓ Convergence speed?

**Landscape
Analysis**

Model-free Optimization formulation



LQG as an Optimization problem

$$\min_K J(K)$$

$$\text{s.t. } K = (A_K, B_K, C_K) \in \mathcal{C}_{\text{full}}$$

Landscape Analysis

- **Q1: Connectivity of the feasible region $\mathcal{C}_{\text{full}}$**
 - Is it connected?
 - If not, how many connected components can it have?
- **Q2: Structure of stationary points of $J(K)$**
 - Are there spurious (strictly suboptimal, saddle) stationary points?
 - How to check if a stationary point is globally optimal?

Connectivity of the feasible region

□ Simple observation: non-convex and unbounded

Lemma 1: the set $\mathcal{C}_{\text{full}}$ is non-empty, unbounded, and can be non-convex.

Example

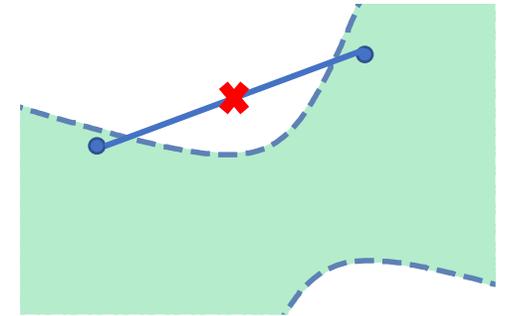
$$\dot{x}(t) = x(t) + u(t) + w(t)$$

$$y(t) = x(t) + v(t)$$

$$\mathcal{C}_{\text{full}} = \left\{ \mathbf{K} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & C_{\mathbf{K}} \\ B_{\mathbf{K}} & A_{\mathbf{K}} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2} \mid \begin{bmatrix} 1 & C_{\mathbf{K}} \\ B_{\mathbf{K}} & A_{\mathbf{K}} \end{bmatrix} \text{ is stable} \right\}.$$

$$\mathbf{K}^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ -2 & -2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{K}^{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -2 \\ 2 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{Stabilize the plant, and thus belong to } \mathcal{C}_{\text{full}}$$

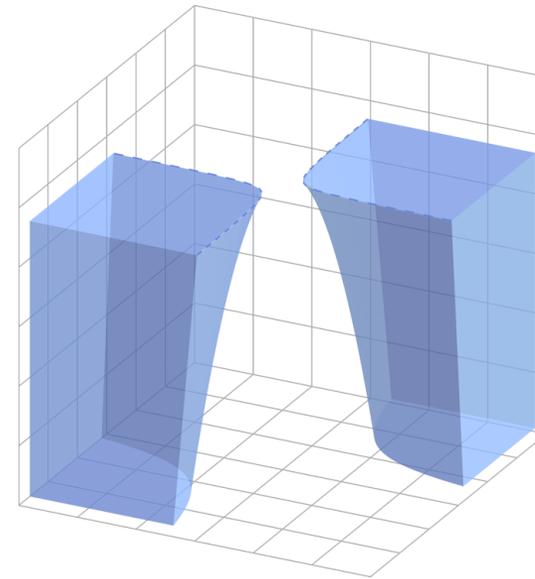
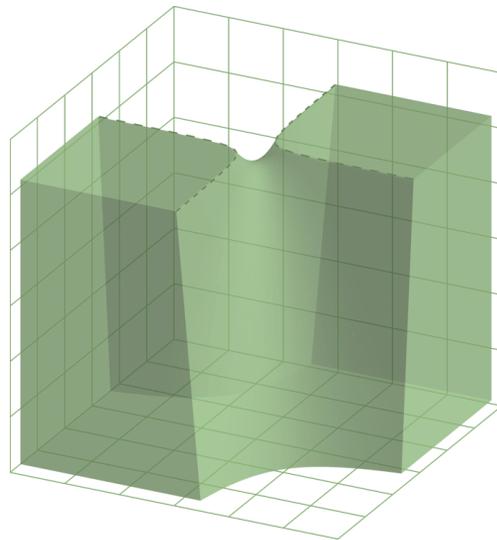
$$\hat{\mathbf{K}} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\mathbf{K}^{(1)} + \mathbf{K}^{(2)} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{Fails to stabilize the plant, and thus outside } \mathcal{C}_{\text{full}}$$



Connectivity of the feasible region

□ Main Result 1: dis-connectivity

Theorem 1: The set $\mathcal{C}_{\text{full}}$ can be disconnected but has at most 2 connected components.

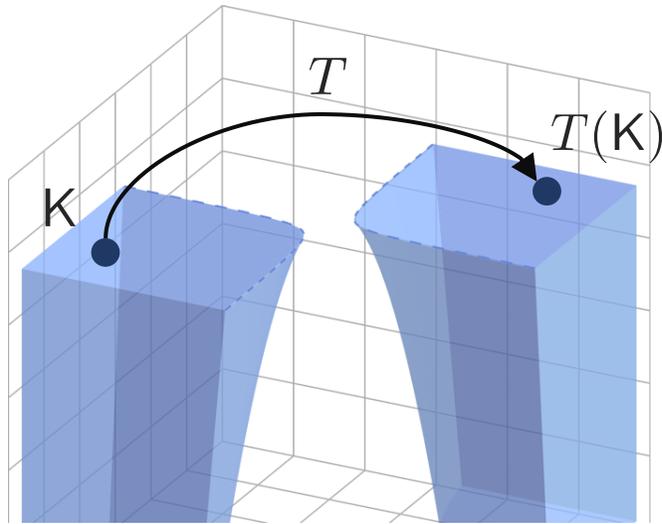


- ✓ Different from the connectivity of static stabilizing state-feedback controllers, which is always connected!
- ✓ Is this a negative result for gradient-based algorithms? → **No**

Connectivity of the feasible region

□ Main Result 2: dis-connectivity

Theorem 2: If $\mathcal{C}_{\text{full}}$ has 2 connected components, then there is a smooth bijection T between the 2 connected components that has the same cost function value.



$$J(\mathbf{K}) = J(T(\mathbf{K}))$$

✓ In fact, the bijection T is defined by a similarity transformation (change of controller state coordinate)

$$\mathcal{I}_T(\mathbf{K}) := \begin{bmatrix} D_{\mathbf{K}} & C_{\mathbf{K}}T^{-1} \\ TB_{\mathbf{K}} & TA_{\mathbf{K}}T^{-1} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Positive news: For gradient-based local search methods, it makes no difference to search over either connected component.

Connectivity of the feasible region

□ Main Result 3: conditions for connectivity

Theorem 3: 1) $\mathcal{C}_{\text{full}}$ is connected if there exists a reduced-order stabilizing controller.

2) The sufficient condition above becomes necessary if the plant is single-input or single-output.

Corollary 1: Given any open-loop stable plant, the set of stabilizing controllers $\mathcal{C}_{\text{full}}$ is connected.

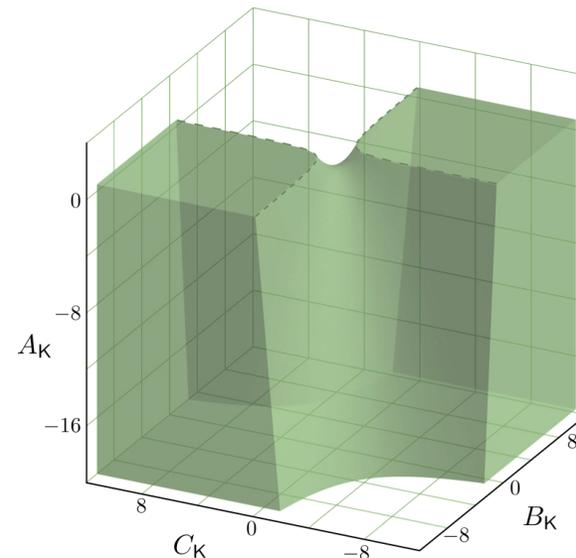
Example: Open-loop stable system

$$\dot{x}(t) = -x(t) + u(t) + w(t)$$

$$y(t) = x(t) + v(t)$$

Routh--Hurwitz stability criterion

$$\mathcal{C}_{\text{full}} = \left\{ K = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & C_K \\ B_K & A_K \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2} \mid A_K < 1, B_K C_K < -A_K \right\}.$$



Connectivity of the feasible region

□ Main Result 3: conditions for connectivity

Example: Open-loop unstable system (SISO)

$$\dot{x}(t) = x(t) + u(t) + w(t)$$

$$y(t) = x(t) + v(t)$$

- **Routh--Hurwitz stability criterion**

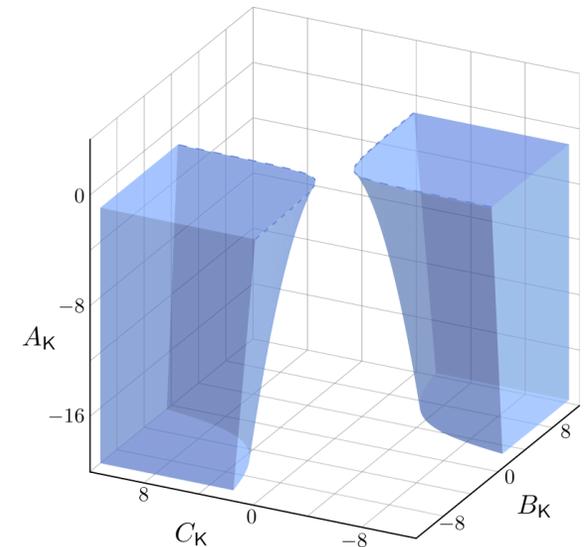
$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{C}_{\text{full}} &= \left\{ K = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & C_K \\ B_K & A_K \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2} \mid \begin{bmatrix} A & BC_K \\ B_K C & A_K \end{bmatrix} \text{ is stable} \right\} \\ &= \left\{ K = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & C_K \\ B_K & A_K \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2} \mid A_K < -1, B_K C_K < A_K \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

- **Two path-connected components**

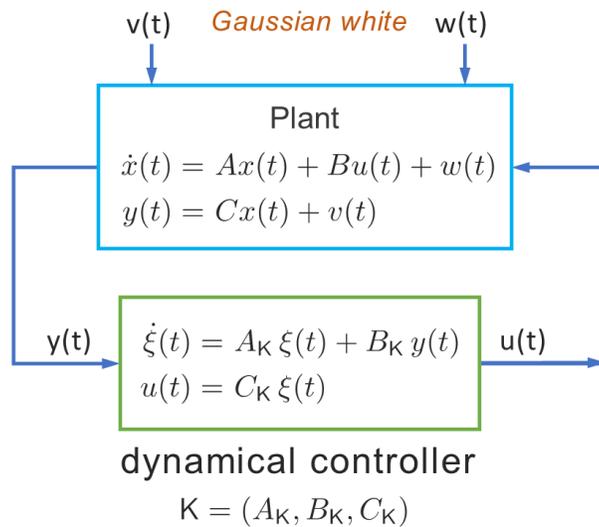
$$\mathcal{C}_1^+ := \left\{ K = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & C_K \\ B_K & A_K \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2} \mid A_K < -1, B_K C_K < A_K, B_K > 0 \right\},$$

$$\mathcal{C}_1^- := \left\{ K = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & C_K \\ B_K & A_K \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2} \mid A_K < -1, B_K C_K < A_K, B_K < 0 \right\}.$$

Disconnected feasible region



Model-free Optimization formulation



LQG as an Optimization problem

$$\min_K J(K)$$

$$\text{s.t. } K = (A_K, B_K, C_K) \in \mathcal{C}_{\text{full}}$$

Landscape Analysis

- Q1: Connectivity of the feasible region $\mathcal{C}_{\text{full}}$
 - Is it connected? **No**
 - How many connected components can it have? **Two**
- Q2: Structure of stationary points of $J(K)$
 - Are there spurious (strictly suboptimal, saddle) stationary points?
 - How to check if a stationary point is globally optimal?

Structure of Stationary Points

□ Simple observations

- 1) $J(K)$ is a real analytic function over its domain (smooth, infinitely differentiable)
- 2) $J(K)$ has **non-unique** and **non-isolated** global optima

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\xi}(t) &= A_K \xi(t) + B_K y(t) \\ u(t) &= C_K \xi(t)\end{aligned}$$

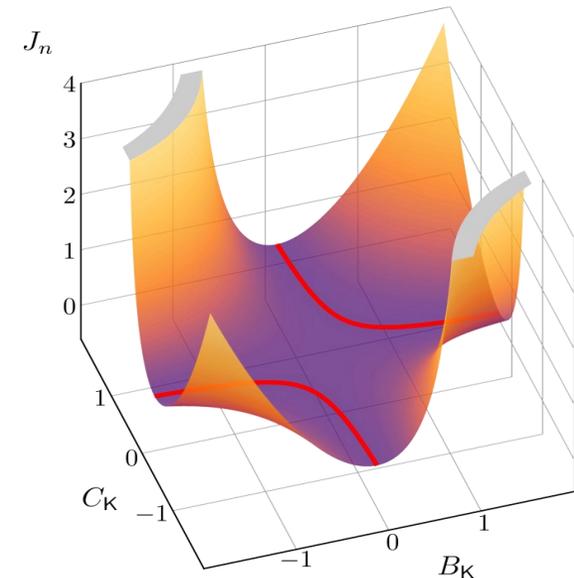
Similarity transformation

$$(A_K, B_K, C_K) \mapsto (T A_K T^{-1}, T B_K, C_K T^{-1})$$

- $J(K)$ is invariant under similarity transformations.
- It has many stationary points, unlike the LQR with a unique stationary point

LQG as an Optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned}\min_K \quad & J(K) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & K = (A_K, B_K, C_K) \in \mathcal{C}_{\text{full}}\end{aligned}$$



Structure of Stationary Points

□ Gradient computation

Lemma 1: For every $K = (A_K, B_K, C_K) \in \mathcal{C}_{\text{full}}$, we have

$$\frac{\partial J(K)}{\partial A_K} = 2 (Y_{12}^T X_{12} + Y_{22} X_{22}),$$

$$\frac{\partial J(K)}{\partial B_K} = 2 (Y_{22} B_K V + Y_{22} X_{12}^T C^T + Y_{12}^T X_{11} C^T),$$

$$\frac{\partial J(K)}{\partial C_K} = 2 (R C_K X_{22} + B^T Y_{11} X_{12} + B^T Y_{12} X_{22}),$$

where $X_K = \begin{bmatrix} X_{11} & X_{12} \\ X_{12}^T & X_{22} \end{bmatrix}$, $Y_K = \begin{bmatrix} Y_{11} & Y_{12} \\ Y_{12}^T & Y_{22} \end{bmatrix}$

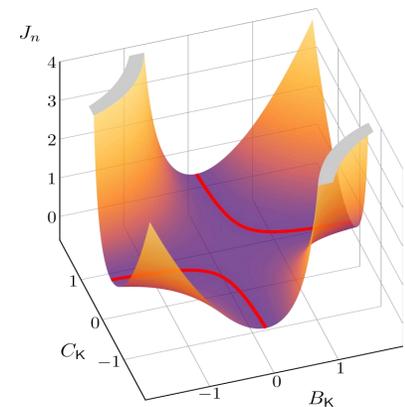
are the unique positive semidefinite solutions to two Lyapunov equations.

How does the set of Stationary Points look like?

$$\left\{ K \in \mathcal{C}_{\text{full}} \mid \begin{cases} \frac{\partial J(K)}{\partial A_K} = 0, \\ \frac{\partial J(K)}{\partial B_K} = 0, \\ \frac{\partial J(K)}{\partial C_K} = 0, \end{cases} \right\}$$

□ Non-unique, non-isolated

□ Local minimum, local maximum, saddle points, or globally minimum?



Structure of Stationary Points

□ Main Result: existences of strict saddle points

Theorem 4: Consider any open-loop stable plant. The zero controller with any stable A_K

$$K = (A_K, 0, 0) \in \mathcal{C}_{\text{full}}$$

is a stationary point. Furthermore, the corresponding hessian is either indefinite (strict saddle point) or equal to zero.

Example:

$$\dot{x}(t) = -x(t) + u(t) + w(t)$$

$$Q = 1, R = 1, V = 1, W = 1$$

$$y(t) = x(t) + v(t)$$

$$\text{Stationary point: } K^* = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}, \quad \text{with } a < 0$$

➤ **Cost function:** $J\left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 & C_K \\ B_K & A_K \end{bmatrix}\right) = \frac{A_K^2 - A_K(1 + B_K^2 C_K^2) - B_K C_K(1 - 3B_K C_K + B_K^2 C_K^2)}{2(-1 + A_K)(A_K + B_K C_K)}$.

➤ **Hessian:**
$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc} \frac{\partial J^2(K)}{\partial A_K^2} & \frac{\partial J^2(K)}{\partial A_K \partial B_K} & \frac{\partial J^2(K)}{\partial A_K \partial C_K} \\ \frac{\partial J^2(K)}{\partial B_K A_K} & \frac{\partial J^2(K)}{\partial B_K^2} & \frac{\partial J^2(K)}{\partial B_K \partial C_K} \\ \frac{\partial J^2(K)}{\partial C_K A_K} & \frac{\partial J^2(K)}{\partial C_K B_K} & \frac{\partial J^2(K)}{\partial C_K^2} \end{array} \right] \Bigg|_{K^* = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a \end{bmatrix}} = \frac{1}{2(1-a)} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

Indefinite with eigenvalues:

$$0 \text{ and } \pm \frac{1}{2(1-a)}$$

Structure of Stationary Points

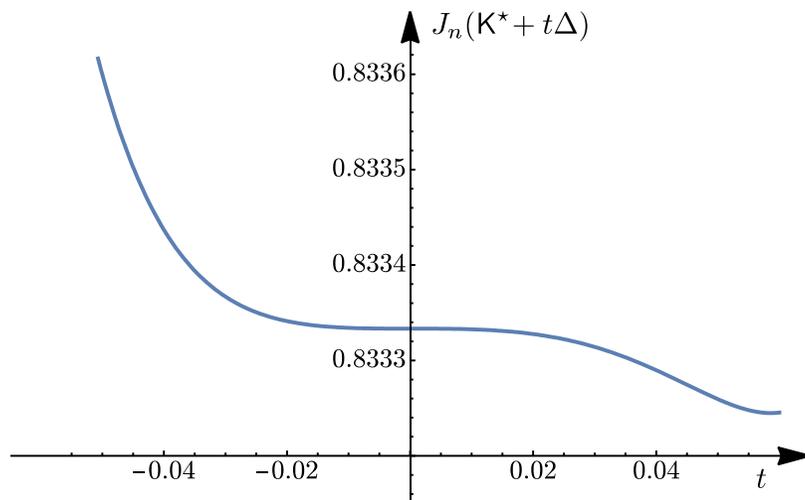
□ Main Result: existences of strict saddle points

Theorem 4: Consider any open-loop stable plant. The zero controller with any stable A_K

$$K = (A_K, 0, 0) \in \mathcal{C}_{\text{full}}$$

is a stationary point. Furthermore, the corresponding hessian is either indefinite (strict saddle point) or equal to zero.

Another example with zero Hessian



How does the set of Stationary Points look like?

$$\left\{ K \in \mathcal{C}_{\text{full}} \left| \begin{array}{l} \frac{\partial J(K)}{\partial A_K} = 0, \\ \frac{\partial J(K)}{\partial B_K} = 0, \\ \frac{\partial J(K)}{\partial C_K} = 0, \end{array} \right. \right\}$$

- Non-unique, non-isolated
- **Strictly suboptimal points; Strict saddle points**
- All bad stationary points correspond to non-minimal controllers

Structure of Stationary Points

□ Main Result

Theorem 5: All stationary points corresponding to controllable and observable controllers are globally optimum.

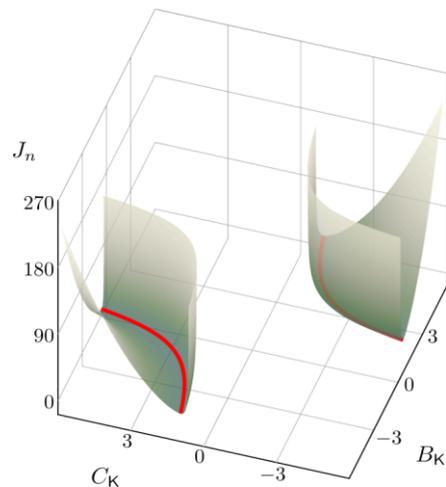
Particularly, given a stationary point that is a **minimal** controller

- 1) This stationary point is a global optimum of $J(K)$
- 2) The set of all global optima forms a manifold with 2 connected components. They are connected by a similarity transformation.

$$\left\{ K \in \mathcal{C}_{\text{full}} \left| \begin{array}{l} \frac{\partial J(K)}{\partial A_K} = 0, \\ \frac{\partial J(K)}{\partial B_K} = 0, \\ \frac{\partial J(K)}{\partial C_K} = 0, \end{array} \right. \right\}$$

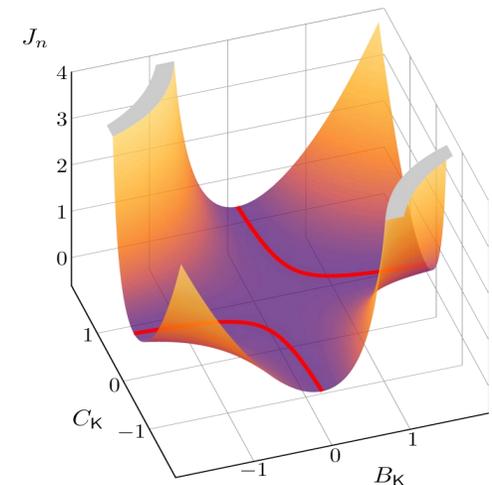
Example: open-loop unstable system

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}(t) &= x(t) + u(t) + w(t) \\ y(t) &= x(t) + v(t) \end{aligned}$$



Example: open-loop stable system

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}(t) &= -x(t) + u(t) + w(t) \\ y(t) &= x(t) + v(t) \end{aligned}$$



Proof idea

□ Proof: all minimal stationary points are unique up to a similarity transformation

All minimal stationary points $K = (A_K, B_K, C_K) \in \mathcal{C}_{\text{full}}$ to the LQG problem are in the form of

$$A_K = T(A - BK - LC)T^{-1}, \quad B_K = -TL, \quad C_K = KT^{-1},$$

$$K = R^{-1}B^T S, \quad L = PC^T V^{-1},$$

T is an invertible matrix and P, S are the unique positive definite solutions to the Riccati equations

$$\left\{ K \in \mathcal{C}_{\text{full}} \left| \begin{array}{l} \frac{\partial J(K)}{\partial A_K} = 0, \\ \frac{\partial J(K)}{\partial B_K} = 0, \\ \frac{\partial J(K)}{\partial C_K} = 0, \end{array} \right. \right\} \xrightarrow{\text{Minimal controller}} \begin{array}{l} \frac{\partial J_n(K)}{\partial B_K} = 0 \implies B_K = -TPC^T V^{-1} \\ \frac{\partial J_n(K)}{\partial C_K} = 0 \implies C_K = R^{-1}B^T S T^{-1} \\ \frac{\partial J(K)}{\partial A_K} = 0 \implies A_K = T(A - PC^T V^{-1}C - BR^{-1}B^T S)T^{-1} \end{array}$$

$$\frac{\partial J(K)}{\partial A_K} = 2(Y_{12}^T X_{12} + Y_{22} X_{22}),$$

$$\frac{\partial J(K)}{\partial B_K} = 2(Y_{22} B_K V + Y_{22} X_{12}^T C^T + Y_{12}^T X_{11} C^T),$$

$$\frac{\partial J(K)}{\partial C_K} = 2(R C_K X_{22} + B^T Y_{11} X_{12} + B^T Y_{12} X_{22}),$$

Special case in Theorem 20.6 of Zhou et al., 1996 and
Section II of Hyland, 1984

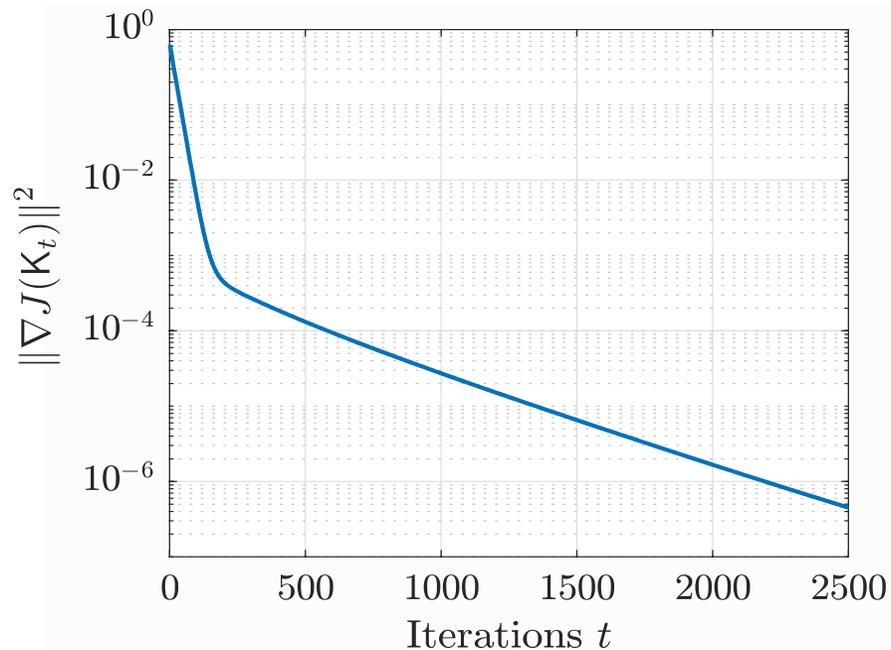
Structure of Stationary Points

□ Implication

Corollary: Consider gradient descent iterations

$$K_{t+1} = K_t - \alpha \nabla J(K_t)$$

If the iterates converge to a minimal controller, then this minimal controller is a global optima.



Open questions:

- ✓ Convergence conditions?
- ✓ Convergence speed?
- ✓ Alternative model-free parameterization

Some recent papers are

- Umenberger, J., et al. (2022). Globally Convergent Policy Search over Dynamic Filters for Output Estimation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2202.11659*.
- Zheng, Y., Sun, Y., Fazel, M., & Li, N. (2022). Escaping High-order Saddles in Policy Optimization for Linear Quadratic Gaussian (LQG) Control. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2204.00912*.

Comparison with LQR

LQR as an Optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min_K \quad & J(K) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & K \in \mathcal{K} \end{aligned}$$

LQG as an Optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min_K \quad & J(K) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & K = (A_K, B_K, C_K) \in \mathcal{C}_{\text{full}} \end{aligned}$$

Connectivity of feasible region

- ❖ Always connected

- ❖ Disconnected, but at most 2 connected comp.
- ❖ They are almost identical to each other

Stationary points

- ❖ Unique

- ❖ Non-unique, non-isolated stationary points
- ❖ Spurious stationary points (strict saddle, nonminimal controller)
- ❖ **All mini. stationary points are globally optimal**

Gradient Descent

- ❖ Gradient dominance
- ❖ Global fast convergence (like strictly convex)

- ❖ No gradient dominance
- ❖ Local convergence/speed (**unknown**)
- ❖ **Many open questions**

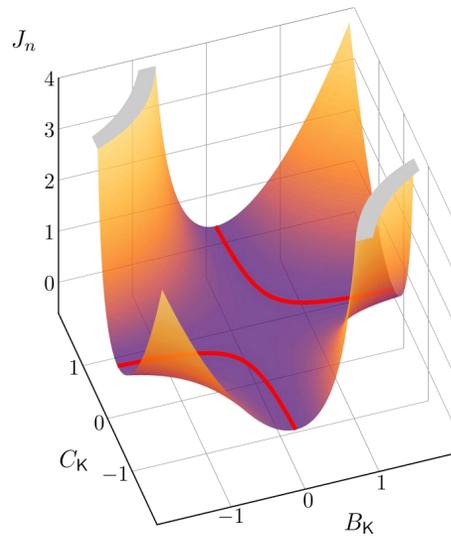
References

Fazel et al., ICML, 2018; Malik et al., 2019; Mohammadi et al., IEEE TAC, 2020; Li et al., 2019; K. Zhang, B. Hu, and T. Başar, 2021; Furiieri et al., 2019; Feiran Zhao & Keyou You, 2021, and many others

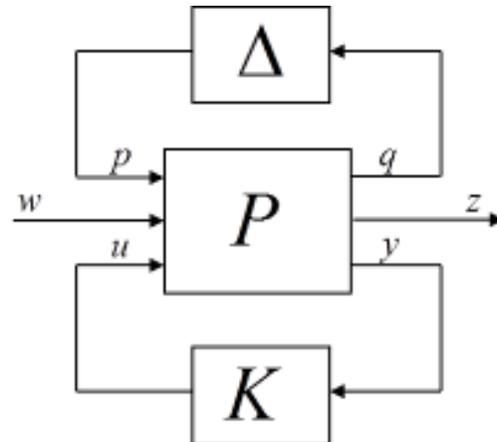
Zheng*, Tang*, Li. 2021, [link](#) (* equal contribution)

Today's talk

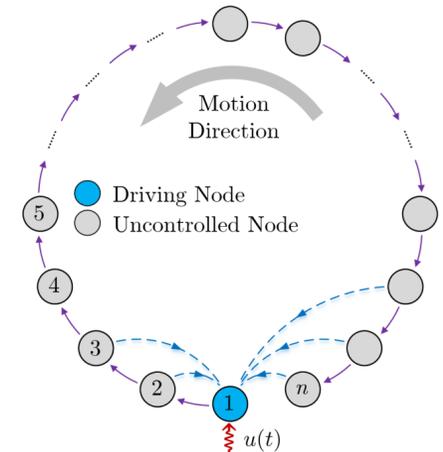
Part 1: Model free LQG control



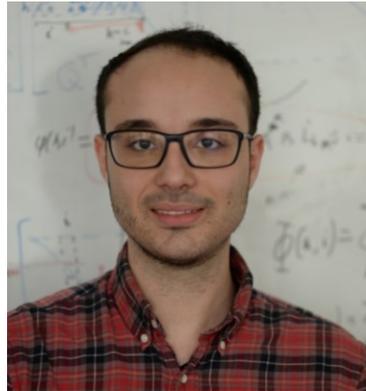
Part 2: Model-based LQG control



Part 3: Data-driven MPC in mixed traffic



Sample complexity of linear quadratic gaussian (LQG) control for output feedback systems



Luca Furieri
EPFL



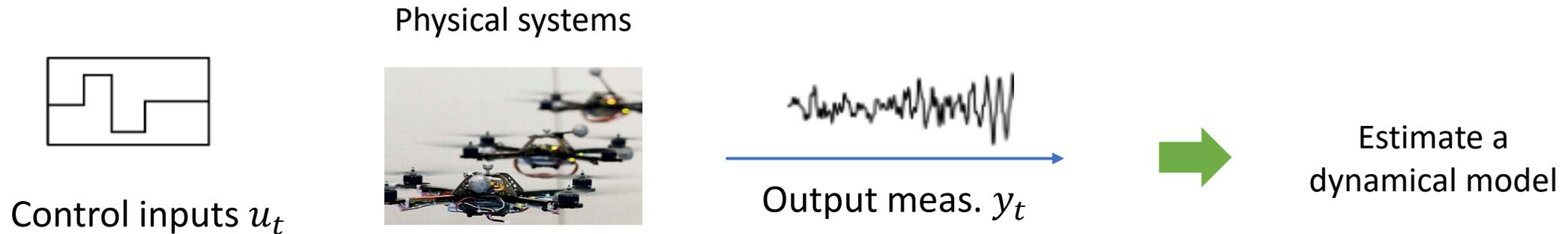
Maryam Kamgarpour
EPFL



Na Li
Harvard University

System ID + Robust Control

□ System ID procedure



□ How to represent a dynamical system: space-space or frequency domain?

- ✓ State-feedback LQR seems easier

$$\hat{A} + \Delta A, \quad \hat{B} + \Delta B, \quad \|\Delta A\| \leq \epsilon_A, \|\Delta B\| \leq \epsilon_B,$$

- ✓ System-level parameterization (SLP, frequency domain technique) for robust control and sample complexity analysis; see Dean et al., 2020

□ Partially observed LQG case

Natural idea: estimate $\|\hat{A} - A_\star\|$, $\|\hat{B} - B_\star\|$, $\|\hat{C} - C_\star\|$,

Then, design a robust LQG controller?

Highly Non-trivial

- ✓ Dean et al. 2020 works only for state feedback via SLP
- ✓ The realization of A, B, C is not unique!!

Frequency domain formulation

State-space model

$$x_{t+1} = A_{\star}x_t + B_{\star}u_t + B_{\star}w_t,$$

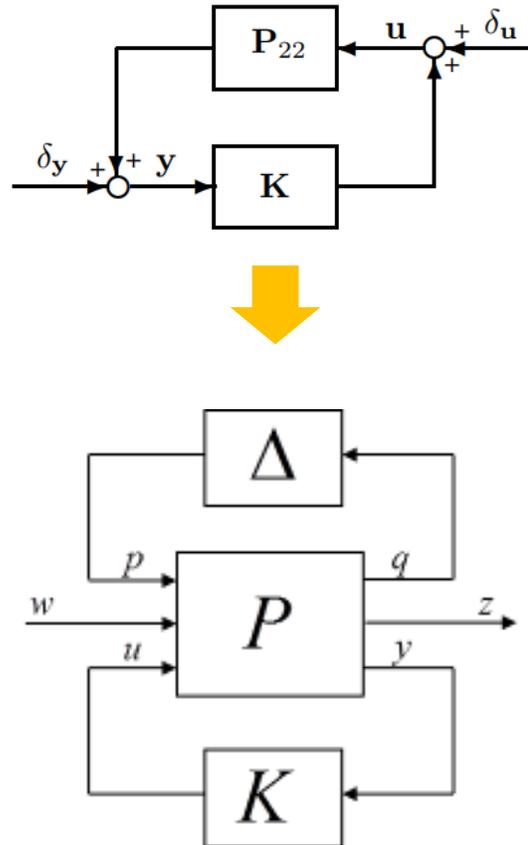
$$y_t = C_{\star}x_t + v_t.$$

Unique transfer function

$$G_{\star}(z) = C_{\star}(zI - A_{\star})^{-1}B_{\star},$$

Estimate a nominal model
as well as its uncertainty

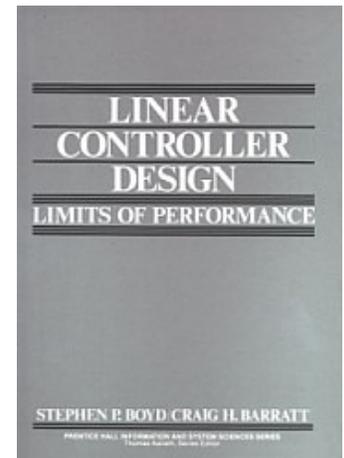
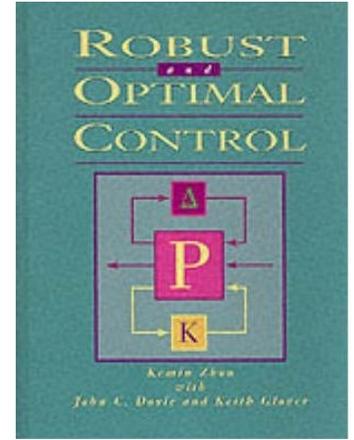
$$\|\Delta\|_{\infty} := \|G_{\star} - \hat{G}\|_{\infty} < \epsilon$$



Least-square fits a
coarse model

High dimen. stats
bounds the error

Design a robust
LQG controller



Robust LQG formulation

Nominal LQG formulation

$$\min_{u_0, u_1, \dots} \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=0}^T (y_t^\top Q y_t + u_t^\top R u_t) \right]$$

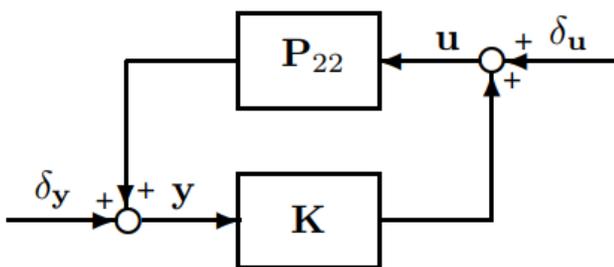
subject to $x_{t+1} = A_\star x_t + B_\star u_t + B_\star w_t,$
 $y_t = C_\star x_t + v_t \dots$

Robust LQG formulation

$$\min_{\mathbf{K}} \sup_{\|\Delta\|_\infty < \epsilon} \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=0}^T (y_t^\top Q y_t + u_t^\top R u_t) \right],$$

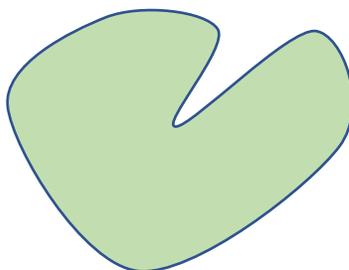
subject to $\mathbf{y} = (\hat{\mathbf{G}} + \Delta)\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$
 $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{K}\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{w},$

Key idea via Change of variables:

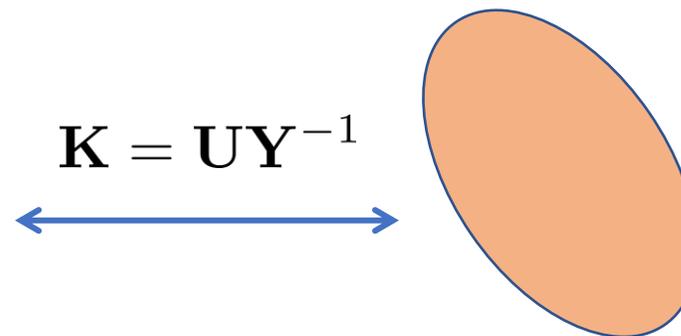


$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{y} \\ \mathbf{u} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{Y} & \mathbf{W} \\ \mathbf{U} & \mathbf{Z} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \delta_y \\ \delta_u \end{bmatrix}$$

Instead of optimizing the controller \mathbf{K} , we search over the closed-loop responses



Non-convex



Convex

$$\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{Y}^{-1}$$

Closed-loop convexity

$$(\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{U}, \mathbf{W}, \mathbf{Z}) \in \hat{\mathcal{C}}$$

$$\hat{\mathcal{C}} \equiv \text{Affine space} \cap \text{Stable}$$

Robust LQG formulation

**Robust LQG
formulation**

$$\min_{\mathbf{K}} \sup_{\|\Delta\|_\infty < \epsilon} \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=0}^T (y_t^\top Q y_t + u_t^\top R u_t) \right],$$

subject to $\mathbf{y} = (\hat{\mathbf{G}} + \Delta)\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$
 $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{K}\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{w},$

Theorem (Zheng et al., 2021): the problem above
is equivalent to



$$\min_{\hat{\mathbf{Y}}, \hat{\mathbf{W}}, \hat{\mathbf{U}}, \hat{\mathbf{Z}}} \sup_{\|\Delta\|_\infty < \epsilon} J(\mathbf{G}_*, \mathbf{K}) = \left\| \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{Y}}(I - \Delta\hat{\mathbf{U}})^{-1} & \hat{\mathbf{Y}}(I - \Delta\hat{\mathbf{U}})^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{G}} + \Delta) \\ \hat{\mathbf{U}}(I - \Delta\hat{\mathbf{U}})^{-1} & (I - \hat{\mathbf{U}}\Delta)^{-1}\hat{\mathbf{Z}} \end{bmatrix} \right\|_{\mathcal{H}_2}$$

subject to $\begin{bmatrix} I & -\hat{\mathbf{G}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{Y}} & \hat{\mathbf{W}} \\ \hat{\mathbf{U}} & \hat{\mathbf{Z}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \end{bmatrix},$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{Y}} & \hat{\mathbf{W}} \\ \hat{\mathbf{U}} & \hat{\mathbf{Z}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -\hat{\mathbf{G}} \\ I \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ I \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{Y}}, \hat{\mathbf{W}}, \hat{\mathbf{U}}, \hat{\mathbf{Z}} \in \mathcal{RH}_\infty, \|\hat{\mathbf{U}}\|_\infty \leq \frac{1}{\epsilon},$$

**Another upper approximation
via Taylor expansion**

→ Convex optimization

Suboptimality guarantee

Theorem (Zheng et al., 2021): When the plant is open-loop stable, solving an SDP upper approximation of the robust control problem leads to a robust stabilizing LQG control with a suboptimality gap

$$\frac{J(\hat{\mathbf{K}}) - J_{\star}}{J_{\star}} \leq 20\epsilon \|\mathbf{U}_{\star}\|_{\infty} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon),$$

where $\|\mathbf{G}_{\star} - \hat{\mathbf{G}}\|_{\infty} < \epsilon$, and the estimation is accurate enough

Optimality vs. Robustness

- Certainty equivalent controller (Mania et al., 2019) achieves a better suboptimality scaling $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2)$
- Much stricter requirement on admissible uncertainty,
- No guarantee of robust stabilization performance

“The price of obtaining a faster rate for LQR is that the certainty equivalent controller becomes less robust to model uncertainty”

End-to-end Sample complexity

Nominal LQG formulation

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{u_0, u_1, \dots} \quad & \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=0}^T (y_t^\top Q y_t + u_t^\top R u_t) \right] \\ \text{subject to} \quad & x_{t+1} = A_\star x_t + B_\star u_t + B_\star w_t, \\ & y_t = C_\star x_t + v_t \dots \end{aligned}$$

Robust LQG formulation

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{K}} \quad & \sup_{\|\Delta\|_\infty < \epsilon} \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=0}^T (y_t^\top Q y_t + u_t^\top R u_t) \right], \\ \text{subject to} \quad & \mathbf{y} = (\hat{\mathbf{G}} + \Delta) \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} \\ & \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{K} \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{w}, \end{aligned}$$

End-to-end Sample complexity:

Suppose the true plant is FIR of order T_0 and let the length $T \geq T_0$. With high probability, the end-to-end sample complexity scales as

$$\frac{J(\hat{\mathbf{K}}) - J_\star}{J_\star} \sim \mathcal{O} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \right),$$

- N is the number of samples (y_t, u_t) in a single trajectory
- **Robust stability:** as long as the Robust LQG has a feasible solution, the closed-loop is guaranteed to be stable:

Comparison with LQR

$$\min_{\mathbf{K}} \sup_{\|\Delta_A\|, \|\Delta_B\| < \epsilon} \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=0}^T (x_t^\top Q x_t + u_t^\top R u_t) \right]$$

subject to $x_{t+1} = (\hat{A} + \Delta A)x_t + (\hat{B} + \Delta B)u_t + v_t$
 $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{K}\mathbf{x}$

$$\min_{\mathbf{K}} \sup_{\|\Delta\|_\infty < \epsilon} \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=0}^T (y_t^\top Q y_t + u_t^\top R u_t) \right]$$

subject to $\mathbf{y} = (\hat{\mathbf{G}} + \Delta)\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$
 $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{K}\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{w},$

Sys ID methods

❖ Least squares

$$\|\hat{A} - A_\star\| \leq \epsilon_A, \|\hat{B} - B_\star\| \leq \epsilon_B,$$

❖ Least squares

$$\|\Delta\|_\infty := \|\mathbf{G}_\star - \hat{\mathbf{G}}\|_\infty < \epsilon$$

Synthesis Technique

❖ Frequency domain

❖ System-level synthesis, SLS (Wang et al., 2019)

❖ Taylor expansion

❖ Frequency domain

❖ Input-output parameterization, IOP, (Furieri et al., 2019)

❖ Taylor expansion

Sample Complexity

❖ both stable and unstable systems

$$\frac{J(\hat{K}) - J_\star}{J_\star} \sim \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}\right),$$

❖ Only for open-loop stable system

$$\frac{J(\hat{\mathbf{K}}) - J_\star}{J_\star} \sim \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}\right),$$

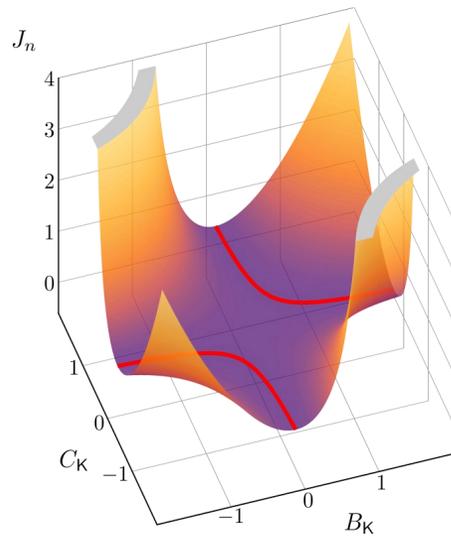
References

✓ Dean et al., 2020; Berberich et al., 2020; Boczar et al., 2018; Tsiamis et al., 2020; Umenberger et al., 2019; and many others

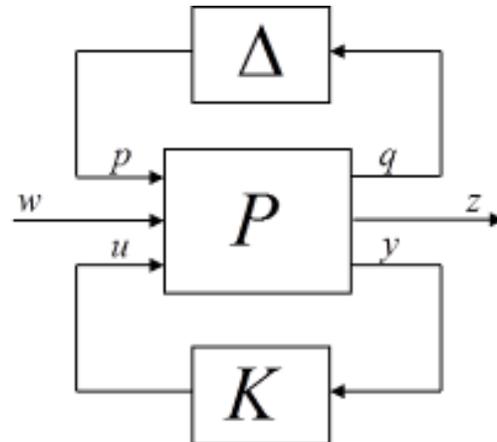
• Zheng*, Furieri*, Kamgarpour, & Li, (2021, May). [Link](#) (equal contribution)

Today's talk

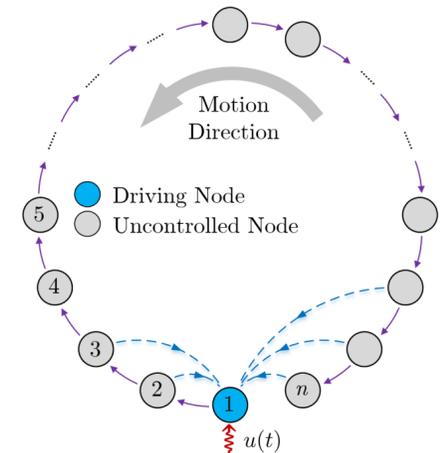
Part 1: Model free LQG control



Part 2: Model-based LQG control



Part 3: Data-driven MPC in mixed traffic



Data-Driven Predictive Control for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles in Mixed Traffic



Jiawei Wang
Tsinghua University



Qing Xu
Tsinghua University

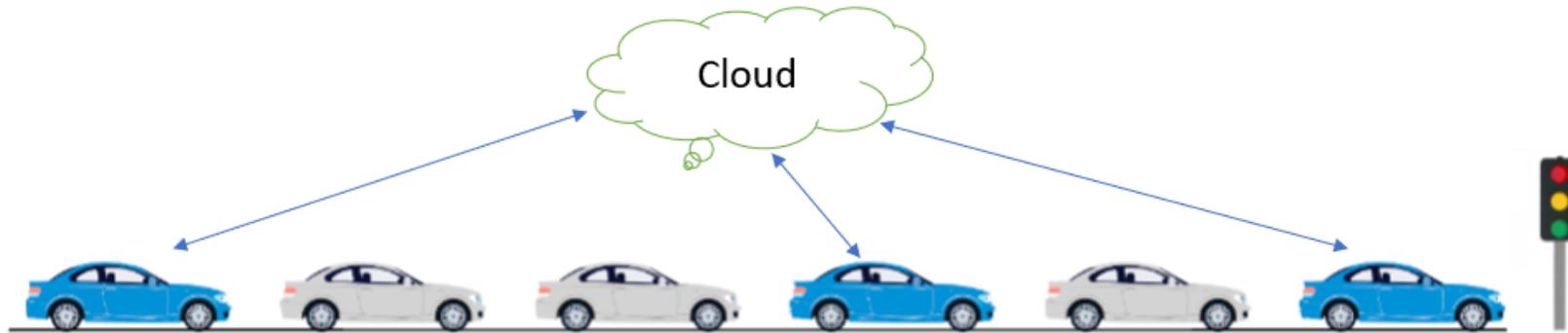


Keqiang Li
Tsinghua University

Wang, J., Zheng, Y., Li, K., & Xu, Q. (2022). DeeP-LCC: Data-enabled predictive leading cruise control in mixed traffic flow. arXiv preprint arXiv:2203.10639.

Mix-Autonomy Mobility

□ A long stage of mixed-autonomy mobility



Mixed-autonomy mobility: a traffic condition where both autonomous vehicles and human-driven vehicles co-exist.

- **Q1:** How will **a small scale of autonomous vehicles** change traffic dynamics?
- **Q2:** How to integrate **a small scale of autonomous vehicles** to improve traffic performance?

Benchmark Ring Road Experiment



Setting:

22 human drivers

Instructions:

drive at 30 km/h /following its preceding vehicle

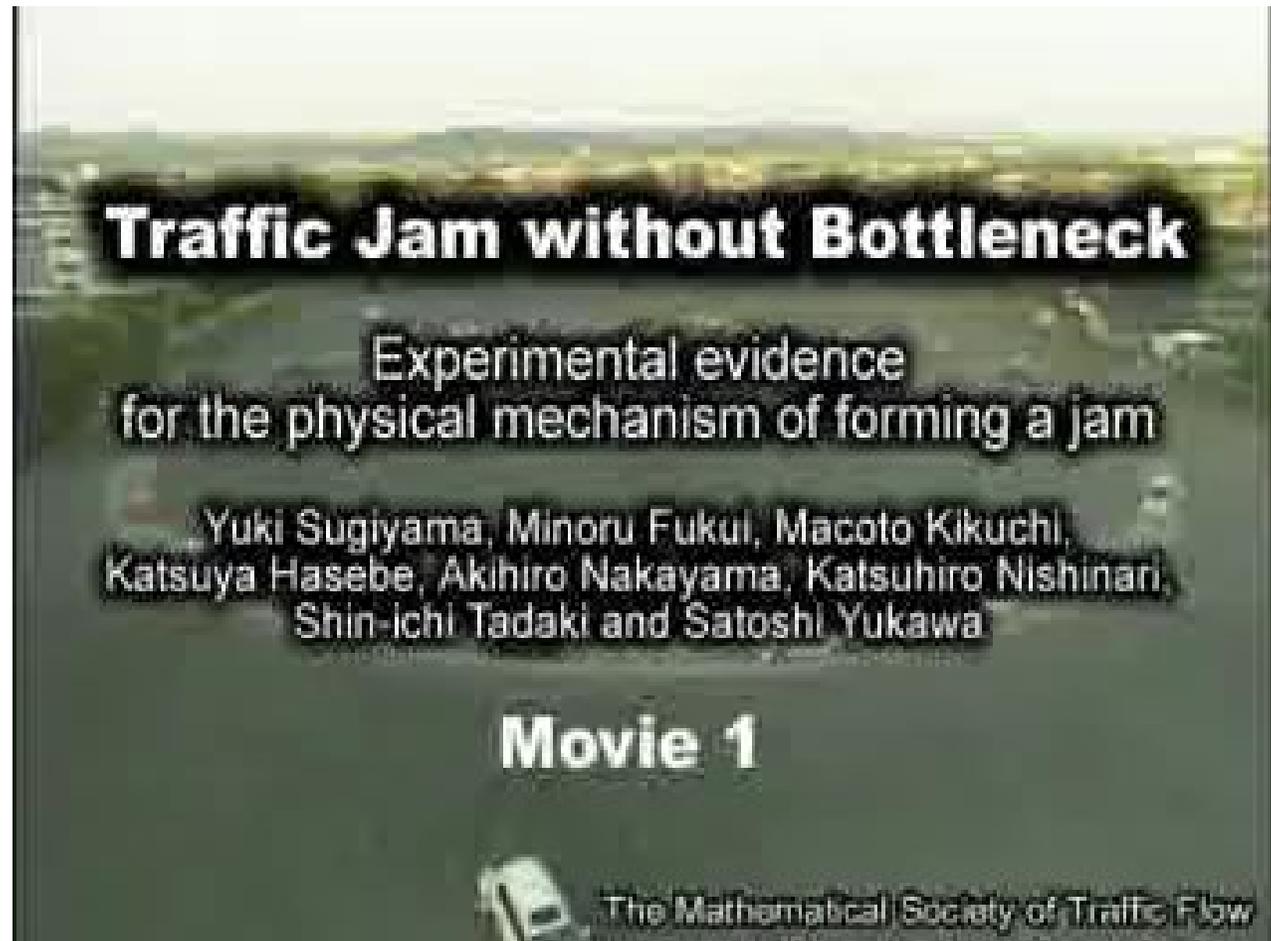
Environment

Single lane

No traffic lights,

No stop signs,

No lane changes.



Benchmark Ring Road Experiment



Setting:

21 human drivers

+ 1 AV

Instructions:

drive at 30km/h /follow its preceding vehicle

Environment

- Single lane
- No traffic lights,
- No stop signs,
- No lane changes.

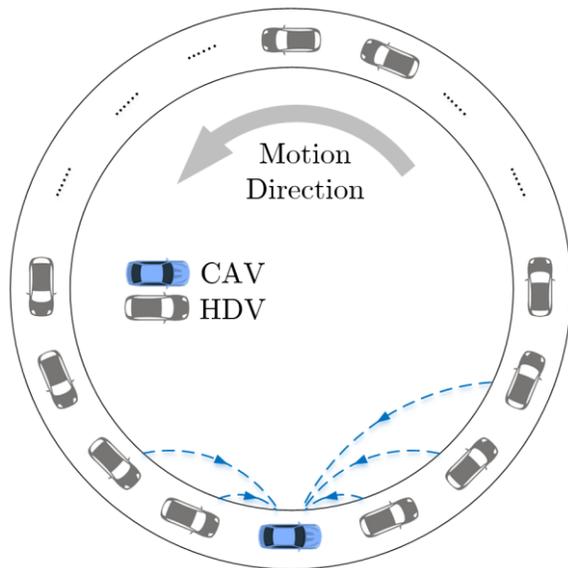
Dissipation of stop-and-go traffic waves via control of a single autonomous vehicle



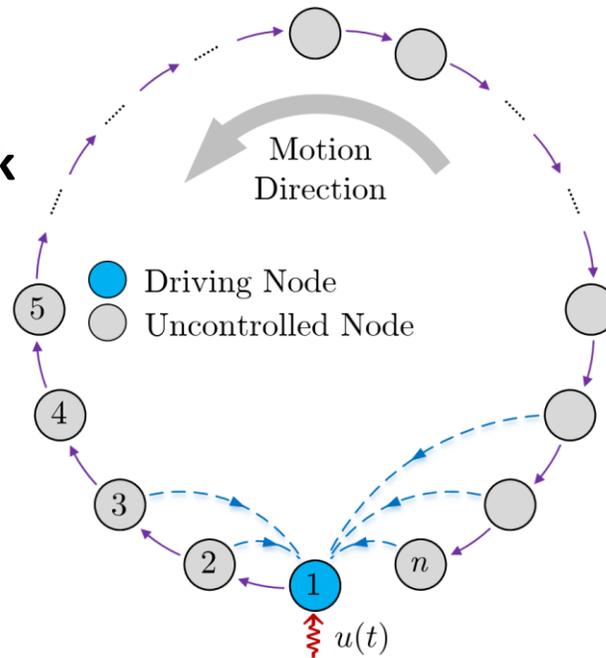
Mixed urban mobility

□ Theoretical Evidence & Controller design

- Why does it work?
- Does it work in other setups (e.g., different number of HDVs, different human-driver behavior, open straight road scenario)?



Sparse network control

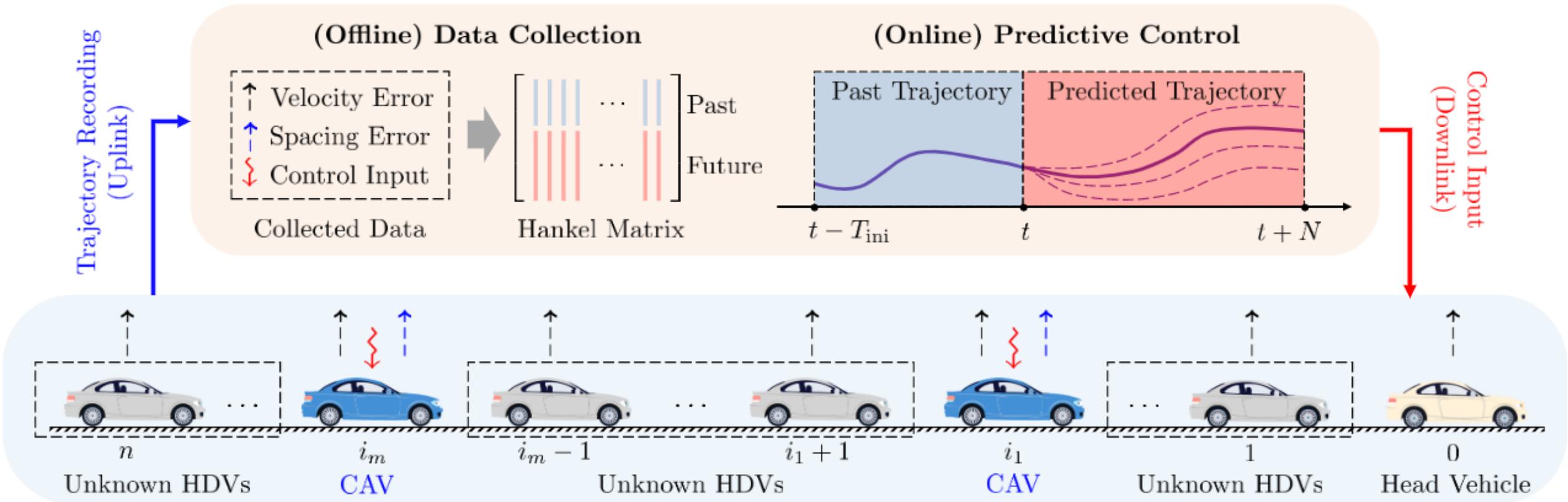


- **Theorem (Informal):** The mixed traffic system is **stabilizable** after introducing a single autonomous vehicle;
 - Design a distributed controller;
- minimize $J(K)$
subject to $K \in \mathcal{C} \cap \text{Sparse}(S)$.

- Zheng, Y., Wang, J., & Li, K. (2020). Smoothing traffic flow via control of autonomous vehicles. *IEEE Internet of Things Journal*, 7(5), 3882-3896.
- Wang, J., Zheng, Y., Xu, Q., Wang, J., & Li, K. (2020). Controllability analysis and optimal control of mixed traffic flow with human-driven and autonomous vehicles. *IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems*, 22(12), 7445-7459.

Data-driven Leading Cruise Control

System architecture



Data-driven Leading Cruise Control

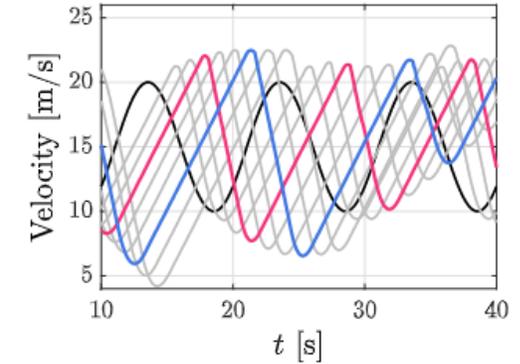
DeeP-LCC: Data-Enabled Predictive Leading Cruise Control

$$\min_{g, u, y, \sigma_y} \sum_{k=t}^{t+N-1} \left(\|y(k)\|_Q^2 + \|u(k)\|_R^2 \right) + \lambda_g \|g\|_2^2 + \lambda_y \|\sigma_y\|_2^2$$

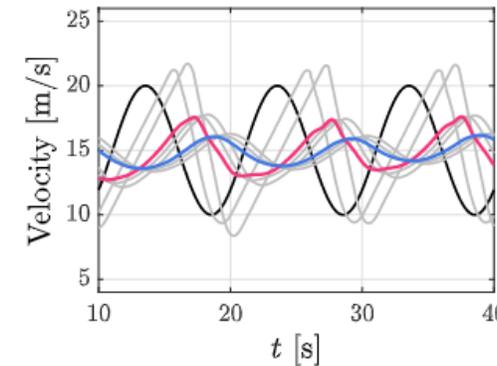
$$\text{s.t.} \quad \begin{bmatrix} U_p \\ E_p \\ Y_p \\ U_f \\ E_f \\ Y_f \end{bmatrix} g = \begin{bmatrix} u_{\text{ini}} \\ \epsilon_{\text{ini}} \\ y_{\text{ini}} \\ u \\ \epsilon \\ y \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \sigma_y \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

assumption on ϵ ,

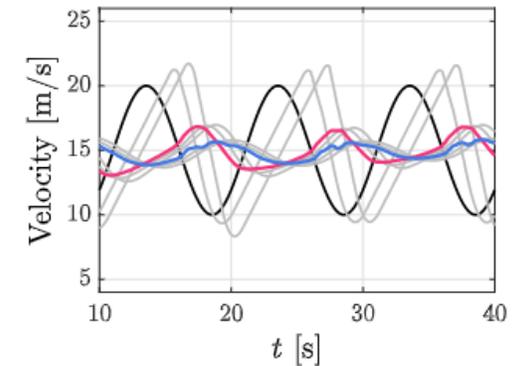
safety constraint on u and y .



(a) All HDVs



(b) MPC



(c) DeeP-LCC

Real experiments

Experiment platform



Size: 9 m × 5 m (~500 square ft)

Vehicle: 1.4kg, 0.2m × 0.2m × 0.13m

Operating systems



Ubuntu 18.04.5 LTS

Ubuntu18.04



ROS-melodic

@ Tsinghua University <https://youtu.be/ZZ2cWhapqpc>

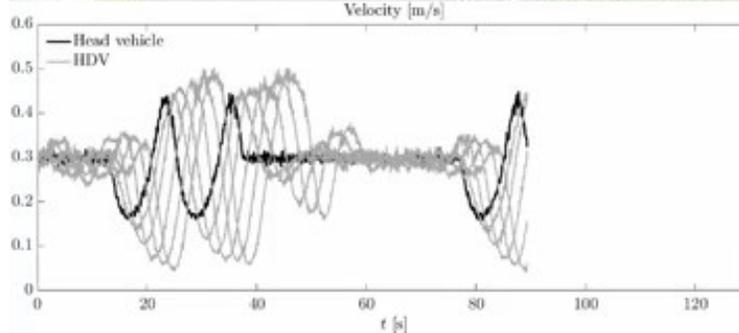
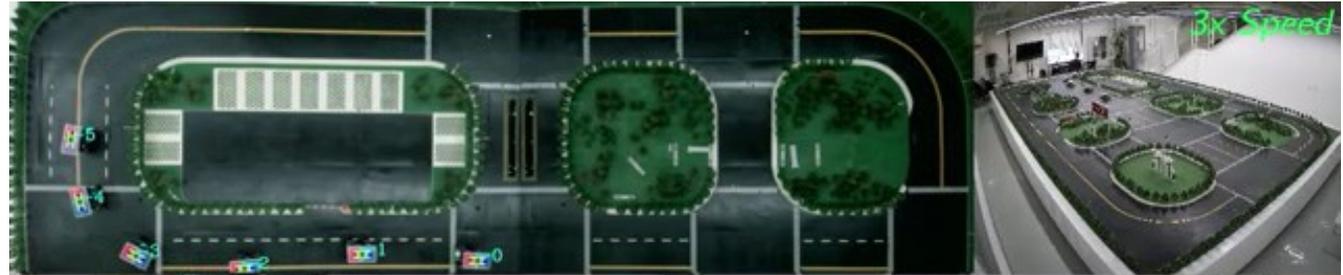
Traffic jams

1950s

>10,000 papers for traffic control

Ours

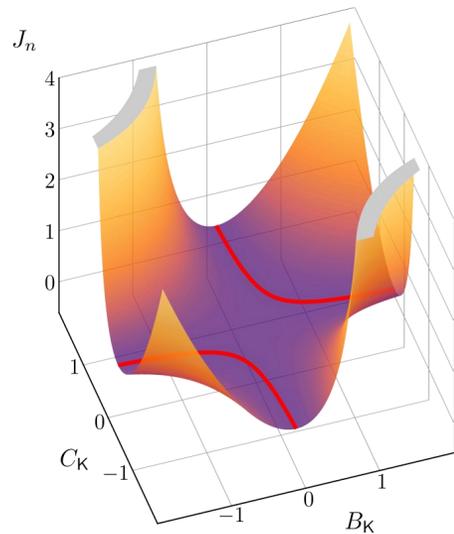
2022



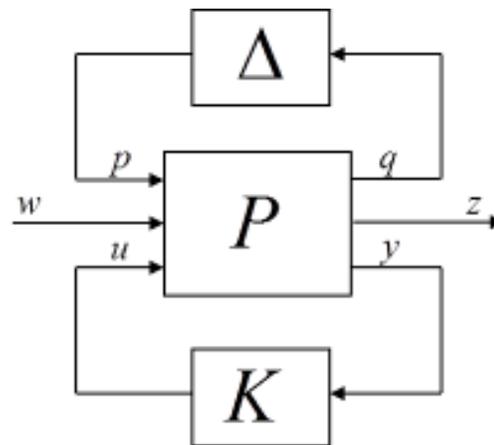
Conclusion

Summary

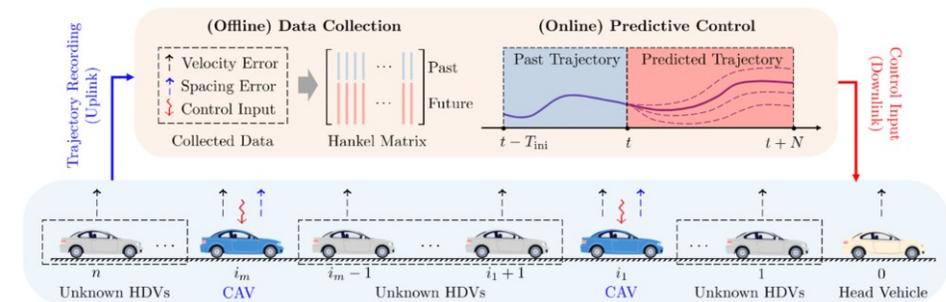
Landscape analysis of non-convex LQG control



Robust Model-based LQG control



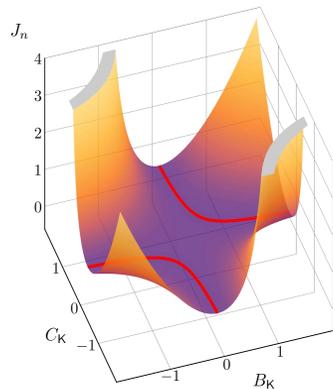
Data-driven MPC in mixed traffic



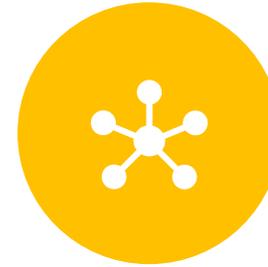
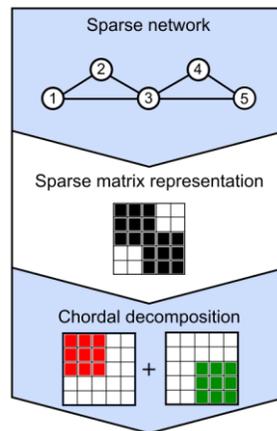
SOC lab at UC San Diego



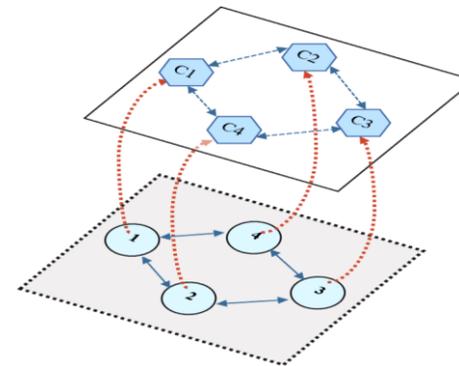
Data-driven and learning-based control



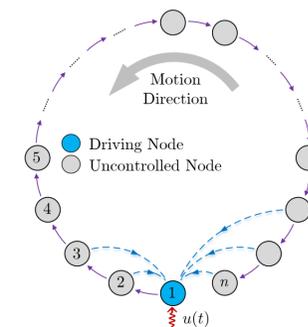
Sparse conic optimization



Scalable distributed control



Connected and autonomous vehicles (CAVs)



Scalable Learning, Optimization, and Control for Autonomous Systems

Thank you for your attention!

Q & A

Proof idea: Lifting via Change of Variables

□ Change of variables in state-space domain: Lyapunov theory

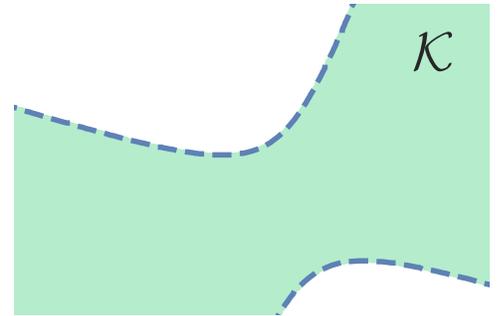
- Connectivity of the static stabilizing state feedback gains

$$\{K \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \mid A - BK \text{ is stable}\}$$

$$\iff \{K \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \mid \exists P \succ 0, P(A - BK)^\top + (A - BK)P \prec 0\}$$

$$\iff \{K \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \mid \exists P \succ 0, PA^\top - L^\top B^\top + AP - BL \prec 0, L = KP\}$$

$$\iff \{K = LP^{-1} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \mid \exists P \succ 0, PA^\top - L^\top B^\top + AP - BL \prec 0\}.$$



Open, connected,
possibly nonconvex

- How about the set of stabilizing dynamical controllers

$$\begin{bmatrix} A & BC_K \\ B_K C & A_K \end{bmatrix} \text{ is stable}$$

$$\iff \exists P \succ 0, P \begin{bmatrix} A & BC_K \\ B_K C & A_K \end{bmatrix}^\top + \begin{bmatrix} A & BC_K \\ B_K C & A_K \end{bmatrix} P \prec 0,$$

Change of variables for
output feedback control
is highly non-trivial

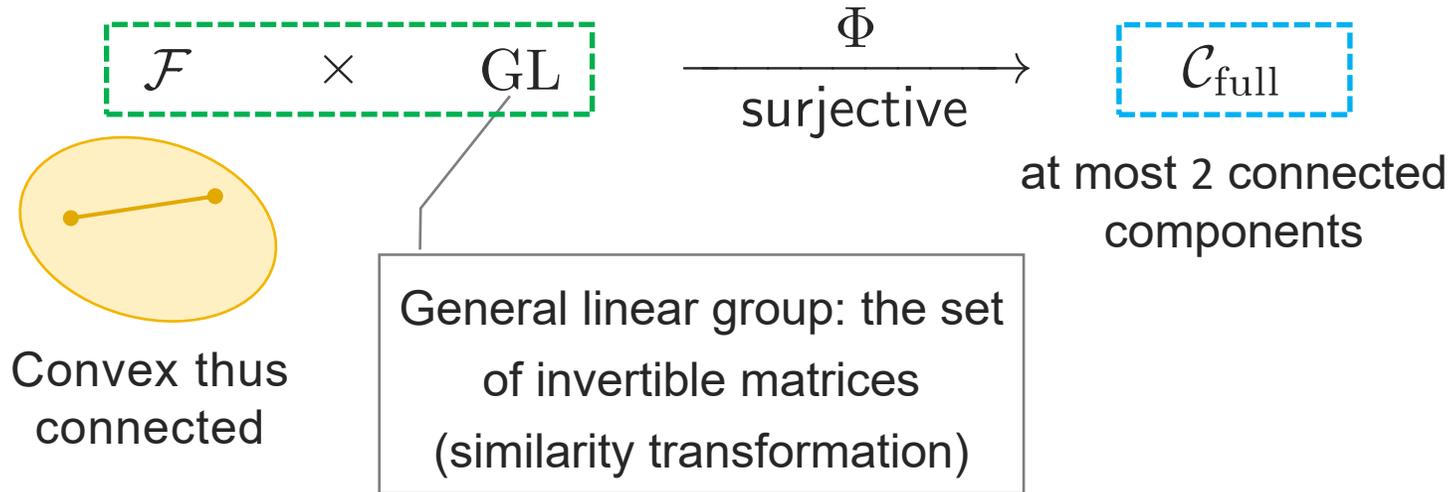
[Gahinet and Apkarian, 1994]
[Scherer et al., IEEE TAC 1997]

Proof idea: Lifting via Change of Variables

□ Change of variables in state-space domain: Lyapunov theory

$$\Phi(Z) = \begin{bmatrix} \Phi_D(Z) & \Phi_C(Z) \\ \Phi_B(Z) & \Phi_A(Z) \end{bmatrix} := \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \\ YB & \Xi \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} G & H \\ F & M - YAX \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & CX \\ 0 & \Pi \end{bmatrix}^{-1} .$$

[Scherer et al., IEEE TAC 1997]
[Gahinet and Apkarian, 1994]



Two connected components

$$\text{GL}_n^+ = \{\Pi \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \mid \det \Pi > 0\},$$

$$\text{GL}_n^- = \{\Pi \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \mid \det \Pi < 0\}.$$

$$\mathcal{F} = \left\{ (X, Y, M, H, F) \mid X, Y \in \mathbb{S}^n, M \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}, H \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}, F \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, \right.$$

$$\left. \begin{bmatrix} X & I \\ I & Y \end{bmatrix} \succ 0, \begin{bmatrix} AX+BF & A \\ M & YA+HC \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} AX+BF & A \\ M & YA+HC \end{bmatrix}^\top \prec 0 \right\}$$

