

Convex Parameterization for Linear Dynamical Systems

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CS 6789: Foundations of Reinforcement Learning

Setting: Linear Dynamical System and Convex Cost functions

$$x_{t+1} = Ax_t + Bu_t + w_t, x_0 \sim \mathcal{D}, w_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2 I)$$

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$$\frac{1}{2} x^T Q x + \frac{1}{2} u^T R u$$

Convex Function!

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$$\Pi = \left\{ \pi = \{K_t\}_{t=0}^{H-1} : K_t \in \mathcal{K}, \forall t \right\}$$

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We cannot guarantee the optimal policy is linear anymore...

But we consider a restricted policy class

$$\Pi = \{ \pi = \{ -K_t \}_{t=0}^{H-1} : K_t \in \mathcal{K}, \forall t \}$$

Goal: find the best linear controllers: $\{ -K_t^* \}_{t=0}^{H-1} := \arg \min_{\pi \in \Pi} \mathbb{E}_{\pi} \left[\sum_{t=0}^{H-1} c(x_t, u_t) \right]$

A New Convex Parameterization of Controllers

Unfortunately, even with quadratic cost, $\max_{\pi} \mathbb{E}_{\pi} \left[\sum_{h=0}^{H-1} c(x_h, a_h) \right]$ is not convex

with respect to $\pi := \underbrace{\{-K_t\}_{t=0}^{H-1}}_{\Delta}$

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Solution: Over-Parameterization

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Assume we roll out π and the system is at x_t , we can compute all previous noises:

$$w_{t-1} = x_t - Ax_{t-1} - Bu_{t-1}, w_{t-2} = x_{t-1} - Ax_{t-2} - Bu_{t-2}, \dots$$

x_t

$$u_t = M_0 x_0 + M_1 w_0 + \dots + M_t w_{t-1}$$

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$$u_t = -K_t x_t \quad \leftarrow \quad x_t = Ax_{t-1} + Bu_{t-1} + w_{t-1}$$

$$= -K_t w_{t-1} - K_t (A - BK_{t-1}) x_{t-1}$$

Δ

$$u_{t-1} = -K_{t-1} x_{t-1}$$

$$x_{t-1} = Ax_{t-2} + Bu_{t-2} + w_{t-2}$$

\uparrow

$$u_{t-2} = -K_{t-2} x_{t-2}$$

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$$= -K_t w_{t-1} - K_t (A - BK_{t-1}) \underbrace{(Ax_{t-2} - BK_{t-2} x_{t-2} + w_{t-2})}_{= x_{t-1}}$$

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$$= -K_t w_{t-1} - K_t(A - BK_{t-1})(Ax_{t-2} - BK_{t-2}x_{t-2} + w_{t-2})$$

$$= \underbrace{-K_t}_{:=M_{t-1;t}} w_{t-1} - \underbrace{K_t(A - BK_{t-1})}_{:=M_{t-2;t}} w_{t-2} - \underbrace{K_t(A - BK_{t-1})(A - BK_{t-2})}_{:=M_{t-3;t}} x_{t-2} \quad A$$

$$x_{t-2} = Ax_{t-3} + Bu_{t-3} + w_{t-3}$$

$$\uparrow$$

$$-K_{t-3} x_{t-3}$$

$$\underbrace{-K_t(A - BK_{t-1})(A - BK_{t-2})(A - BK_{t-3})}_{:=M_{t-4;t}} w_{t-3}$$

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$$= \underbrace{\left[-K_t \left(\prod_{\tau=1}^t (A - BK_{t-\tau}) \right) \right]}_{M_t} x_0 + \sum_{\tau=0}^{t-1} \underbrace{\left[-K_t \prod_{h=1}^{t-1-\tau} (A - BK_{t-h}) \right]}_{M_{\tau,t}} w_{\tau}$$

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$$u_t = -K_t x_t \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad u_t = M_t x_0 + M_{0;t} w_0 + M_{1;t} w_1 + \dots + M_{t-1;t} w_{t-1}$$

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M_t

$M_{\tau,t}$

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[Claim] For any linear controllers $\pi := \{-K_t\}_{t=0}^{H-1}$, there exists a parameterization $\{\{M_t, M_{t-1;t}, \dots, M_{0;t}\}\}_{t=0}^{H-1}$, that generates the same sequence trajectory, given a any fixed x_0 , and fixed noise w_0, \dots, w_{H-1} .

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$$x_0 \longrightarrow \underbrace{u_0 = -K_0 x_0}$$

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$$x_0 \longrightarrow u_0 = -K_0 x_0 \longrightarrow x_1 \checkmark$$

$$x_0 \longrightarrow u_0 = M_0 x_0 \longrightarrow \begin{matrix} x_1, w_0 \\ \Delta \quad \Delta \end{matrix}$$

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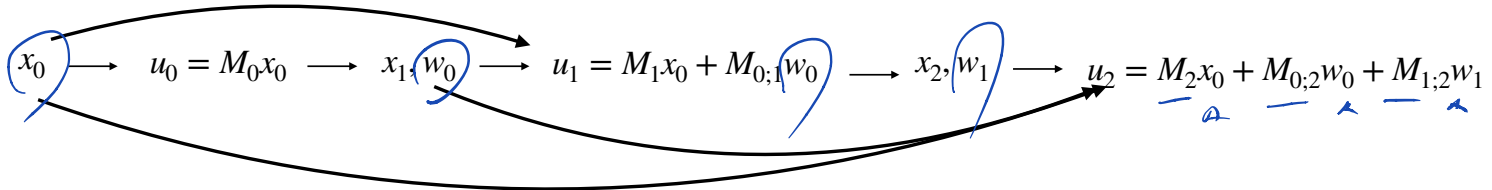
Δ


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[Claim] Given controller $\tilde{\pi} := \left\{ \{M_t, M_{0;t}, \dots, M_{t-1;t}\} \right\}_{t=0}^{H-1}$, u_t & x_t are all linear with respect to the parameters, $\forall t$ \square \square

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$$\begin{aligned} x_0, u_0 &= M_0 x_0 \\ x_1 &= Ax_0 + BM_0 x_0 + w_0 \end{aligned}$$

linear

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$$u_1 = M_1 x_0 + \underline{M_{0;1}} w_0 \leftarrow u_i \text{ linear wrt } M_s$$

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$$u_1 = M_1 x_0 + M_{0;1} w_0$$

$$x_2 = Ax_1 + \underbrace{BM_1 x_0 + BM_{0;1} w_0}$$

x_2 is linear w.r.t M_s



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[Claim] Given controller $\tilde{\pi} := \left\{ \{M_t, M_{0;t}, \dots, M_{t-1;t}\} \right\}_{t=0}^{H-1}$, $\sum_{t=0}^{H-1} c(x_t, u_t)$ is convex with respect to the parameters, $\forall t$



[Claim] Given controller $\tilde{\pi} := \left\{ \{M_t, M_{0;t}, \dots, M_{t-1;t}\} \right\}_{t=0}^{H-1}$,

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Convexity allows to perform Gradient Descent directly on parameters

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$$\left\{ \{M_t, M_{0;t}, \dots, M_{t-1;t}\} \right\}_{t=0}^{H-1}$$

$$K_t \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times d}$$

Over-Parameterized:

For $\pi := \{-K_t\}_{t=0}^{H-1}$, we have $H \times d \times k$ parameters

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Convexity allows to perform Gradient Descent directly on parameters

$$K_t \leftrightarrow M_0, M_{0;t}, \dots, M_{t-1;t} \quad \left\{ \{M_t, M_{0;t}, \dots, M_{t-1;t}\} \right\}_{t=0}^{H-1}$$

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For $\tilde{\pi} := \left\{ \{M_t, M_{0;t}, \dots, M_{t-1;t}\} \right\}_{t=0}^{H-1}$, we have $\approx H^2 \times d \times k$ parameters

\triangle

What we covered:

1. LQR formulation and DP for LQR (Riccati Equation)
2. You don't really need to remember the exact quadratic formulation and linear control, I always derive them from scratch when I use LQR (but it could be time consuming..)
3. Another form of over-parameterized controllers which leads to a convex parameterization (hence we can do gradient descent).

What we did covered:

Online Control with Adversarial noises and costs

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$$\underbrace{\{\{M_t^k, M_{0;t}^k, \dots, M_{t-1;t}^k\}\}_{t=0}^{H-1}}$$

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$$\{\{M_t^k, M_{0;t}^k, \dots, M_{t-1;t}^k\}\}_{t=0}^{H-1}$$
3. Learner executes controllers, and suffers total cost $\sum_{h=0}^H c^k(x_h^k, a_h^k)$

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Goal: No-Regret $\sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \sum_{h=0}^H c^k(x_h^k, a_h^k) - \min_{\{-K_h^*\}_{h=0}^{H-1}} \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} J^k(\{-K_h^*\}_{h=0}) = o(K),$

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Online Control with Adversarial noises and costs

On the k-th day,

1. adversary decides sequence of noises $\{w_0^k, \dots, w_{H-1}^k\}$ and (convex) cost function $c^k(x, u)$,
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$$\left\{ \left\{ M_t^k, M_{0;t}^k, \dots, M_{t-1;t}^k \right\}_{t=0}^{H-1} \right\}$$

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Goal: No-Regret $\frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \sum_{h=0}^H c^k(x_h^k, a_h^k) - \min_{\{-K_h^*\}_{h=0}^{H-1}} \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} J^k(\{-K_h^*\}_{h=0}^{H-1}) = o(K),$ $\frac{\sqrt{K}}{K} \rightarrow 0$ as $K \rightarrow \infty$

$$\left(J^k(\pi) = \sum_{h=0}^{H-1} c^k(x_h, u_h), \text{ where } x_{h+1} = Ax_h + Bu_h + w_t^k, u_t = \pi(x_t) \right)$$

$$u \sim N(0, \beta^2 I)$$

Collect (x, u, x')

$$\begin{aligned} (\hat{A}, \hat{B}) = \underset{A, B}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} & \left[\frac{1}{2} \|Ax + Bu - x'\|_2^2 \right. \\ & + \lambda \|A\|_F^2 \\ & \left. + \lambda \|B\|_F^2 \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\hat{\pi} = \text{Run LQR}(\hat{A}, \hat{B})$$