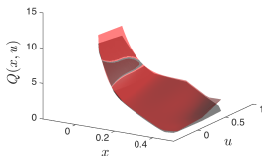


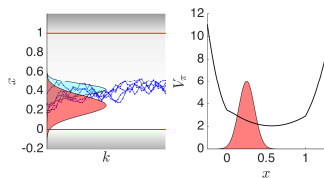
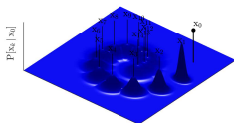
What are we going to discuss?

- 1 Learning for MPC - A closed-loop performance view
- 2 Safety & stability in Learning for MPC
- 3 MPC and Markov Decision Processes - When is learning beneficial?

samples = 1000000



$$Q_+(x, u) \leftarrow L(x, u) + \gamma \mathbb{E}[V(x_+) \mid x, u]$$



What are we going to discuss today?

MPC for MDPs

- MPC: purpose and usage
- MPC as a practical solution to tackle MDPs
- Planning vs. Policing
- Repeated planning as a policy
- MPC as an MDP model
- Optimal MPC model?



Model Predictive Control for Markov Decision Processes

Sébastien Gros

Cybernetic, NTNU

Freiburg PhD School

Model Predictive Control (MPC) Tuning for Performance

MPC: at current state \mathbf{s} solve

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}} \quad T(\mathbf{x}_N) + \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} L(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k)$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{f}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k)$$

$$\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k) \leq 0$$

$$\mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{s}$$

gives policy $\pi_{\theta}^{\text{MPC}}(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbf{u}_0^*$

MPC: at current state \mathbf{s} solve

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- “Classic” view
- MPC built around the model \mathbf{f}_{θ}
- θ fits \mathbf{f}_{θ} to data
- Model fitting \rightarrow optimality is tricky

- “Holistic” view
- MPC is a model of Q^*
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- RL \rightarrow optimality, also BO btw!!

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Can we get $Q^{\text{MPC}} = Q^*$ from tuning the MPC model alone??

Can we get $Q^{\text{MPC}} = Q^*$ from fitting the model to data??

We are unpacking the maths

Outline

- 1 MPC & MDP: Let's rehearse the background
- 2 MPC Model for Performance
- 3 Optimal MPC models
- 4 Stochastic MPC models

Planning vs. Policing

Infinite horizon & discounted

$$\pi_{\infty}^* = \arg \min_{\pi} \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k L(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k) \right]$$

Policy π : state \rightarrow action
belongs to a function space

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Finite-horizon equivalent:

$$\pi_{0, \dots, N-1}^* = \arg \min_{\pi_{0, \dots, N-1}} \mathbb{E} \left[T(\mathbf{x}_N) + \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \gamma^k L(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k) \right]$$

If $T = V_*$, then $\pi_{0, \dots, N-1}^* = \pi_{\infty}^*$

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Planning instead of policing:

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i.e. **restrict policies** to fixed $\mathbf{u}_{0,\dots,N-1}$

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Deterministic approximation:

$$\min_{\pi_{0, \dots, N-1}} T(\mathbf{x}_N) + \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \gamma^k L(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k)$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k)$$

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i.e. adopt **deterministic model**

Planning vs. Policing

Infinite horizon & discounted

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Why attacking the problem in these ways?

Planning instead of policing:

$$\min_{\mathbf{u}_{0, \dots, N-1}} \mathbb{E} \left[T(\mathbf{x}_N) + \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \gamma^k L(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k) \mid \mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{s} \right]$$

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Planning vs. Policing - Illustration

Planning instead of **policing**:

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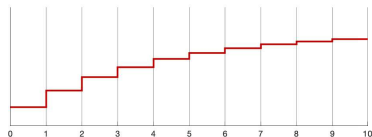
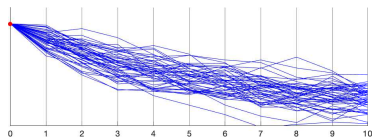
i.e. **restrict policies** to fixed $\mathbf{u}_0, \dots, \mathbf{u}_{N-1}$

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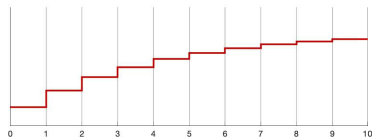
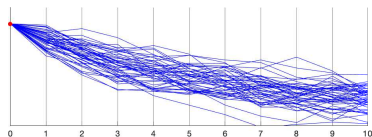
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i.e. **optimize over policies**



Planning vs. Policing - Illustration

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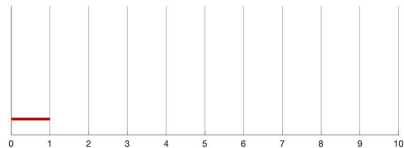
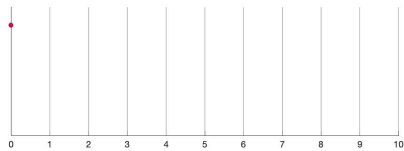
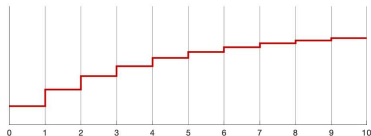
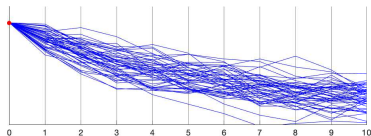
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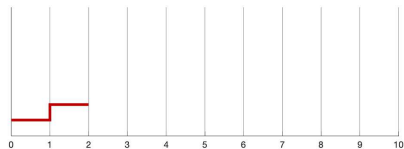
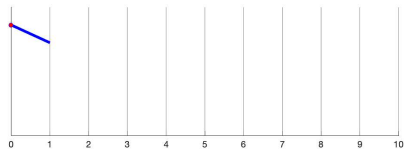
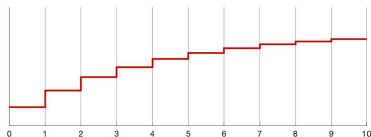
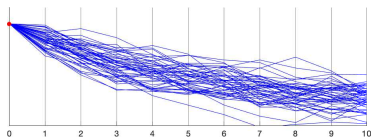
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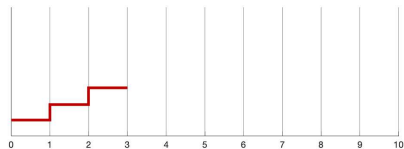
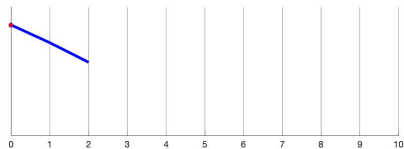
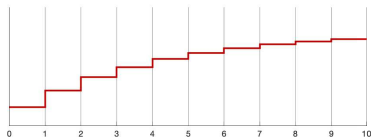
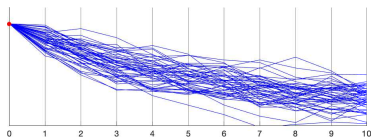
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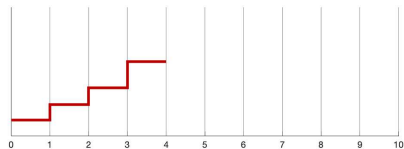
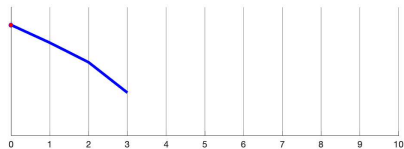
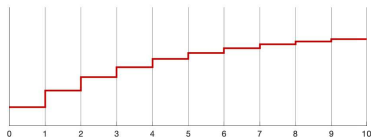
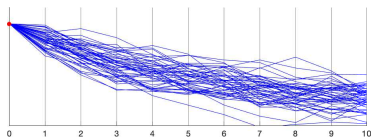
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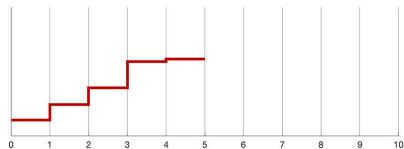
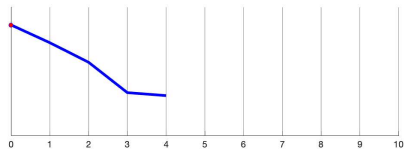
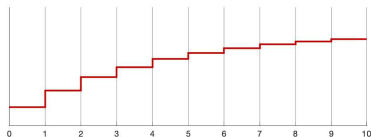
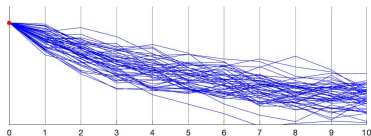
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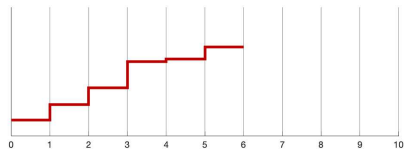
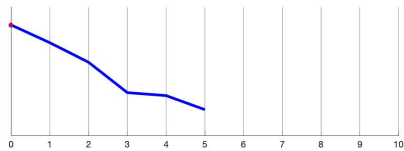
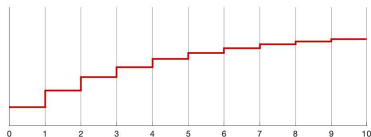
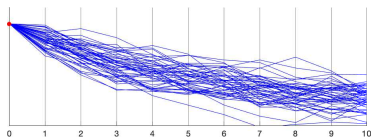
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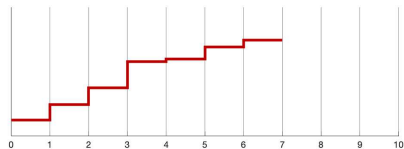
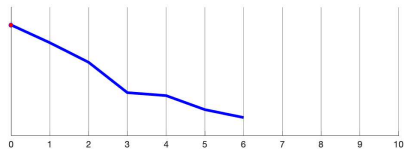
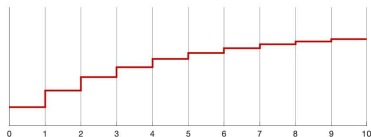
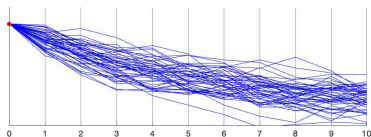
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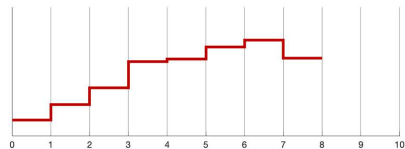
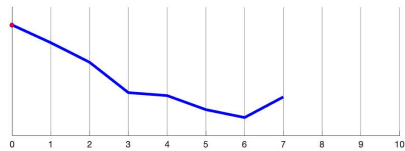
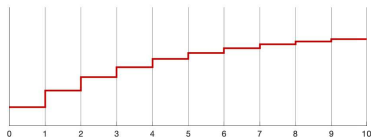
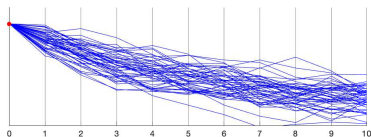
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i.e. **restrict policies** to fixed $\mathbf{u}_0, \dots, \mathbf{u}_{N-1}$

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Planning vs. Policing - Illustration

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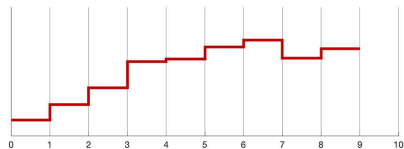
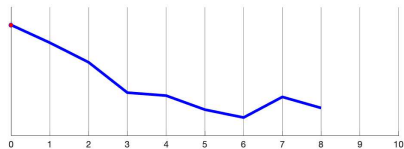
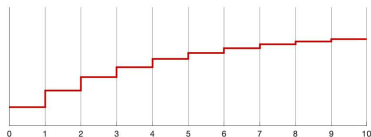
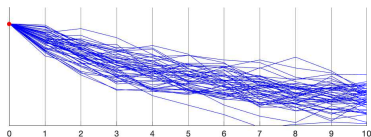
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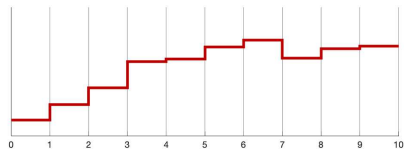
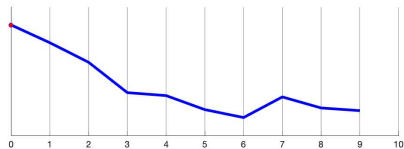
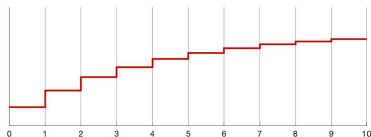
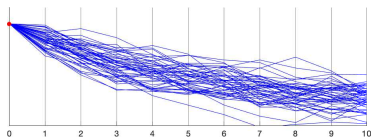
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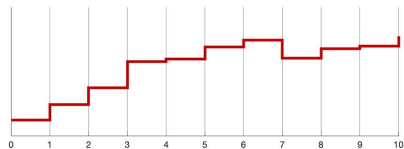
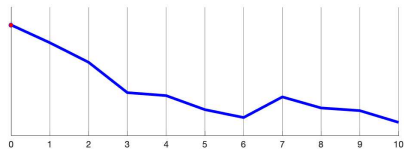
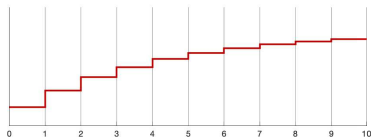
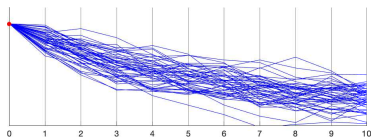
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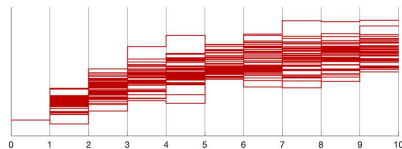
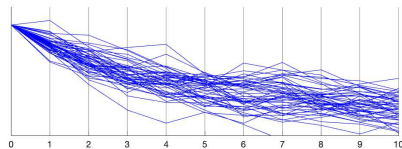
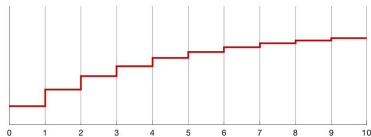
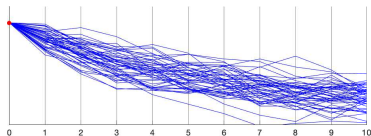
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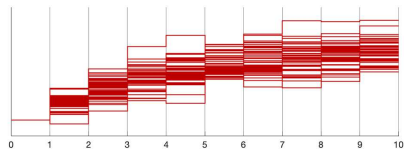
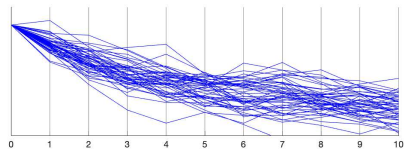
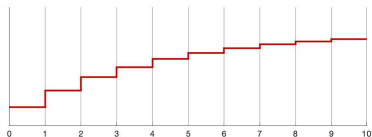
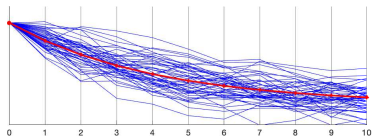
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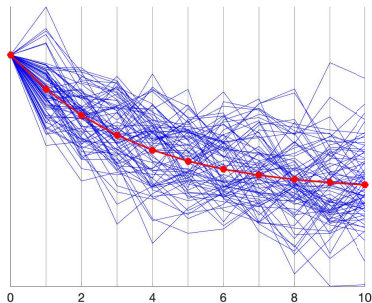
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Infinite horizon & discounted

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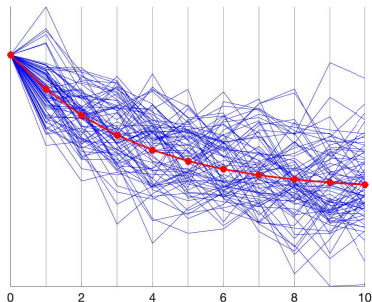
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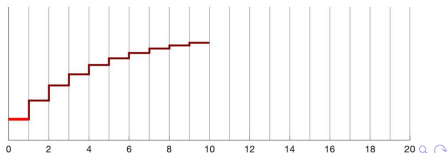
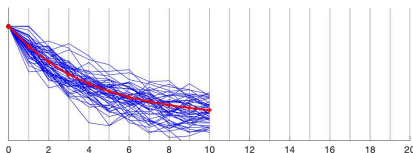
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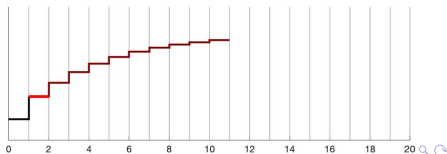
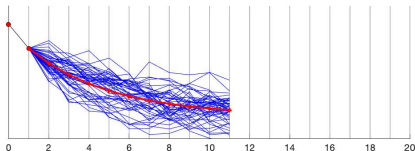
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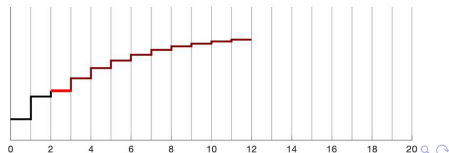
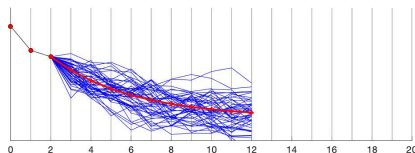
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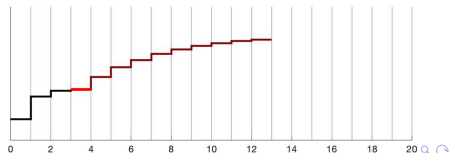
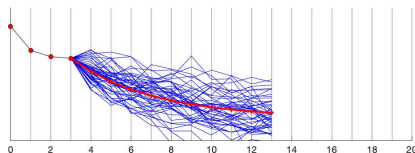
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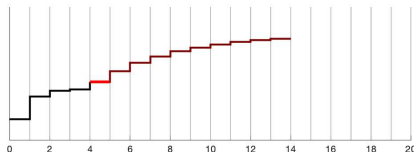
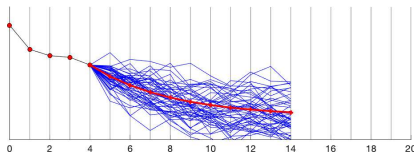
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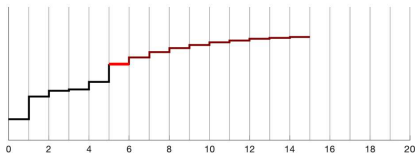
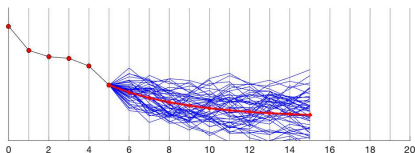
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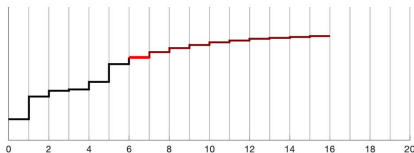
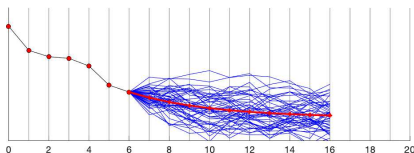
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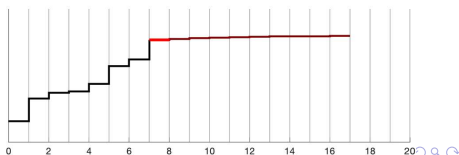
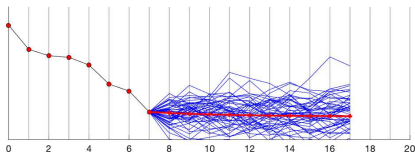
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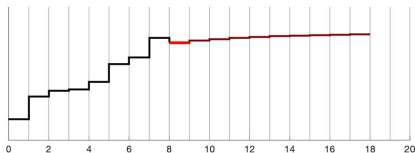
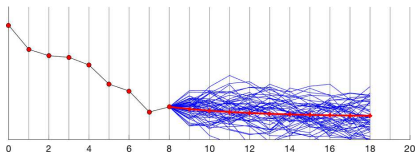
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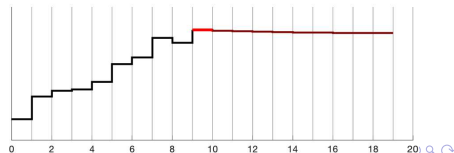
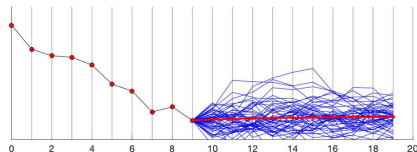
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Remarks:

- **MPC predictions** from \mathbf{f} are a simplified representation of the **real dynamics**
- Finer models can be built, e.g. scenario trees, more on this in a bit...
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from repeated planning



MPC vs. MDP?

Infinite horizon & discounted

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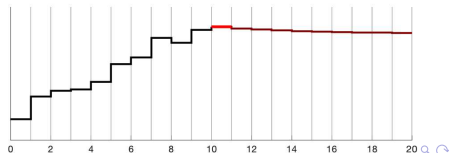
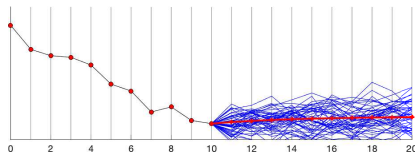
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MPC as a policy

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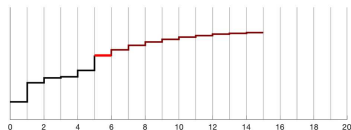
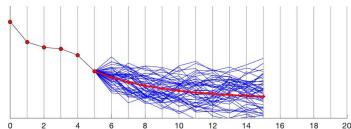
Defines policy:

$$\boldsymbol{\pi}^{\text{MPC}}(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbf{u}_0^*$$

How does $\boldsymbol{\pi}^{\text{MPC}}$ relate to $\boldsymbol{\pi}^*$?

No reason to match:

- Planning rather than policing
- Plan ignores stochasticity



Can we clarify the relationship?

Some more context on MPC for performance

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MPC for closed-loop performance

- is not a very old topic
- unclear in the presence of stochasticity
- partially clarified by recent results

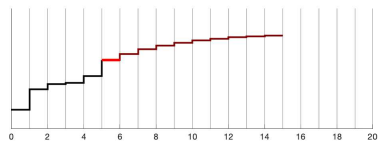
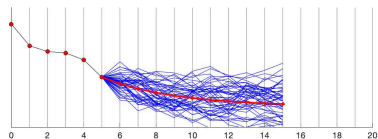
MPC as a model of the MDP

Infinite horizon & discounted

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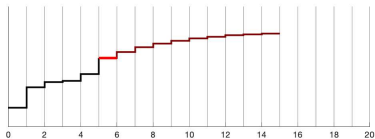
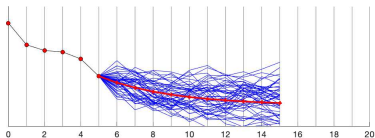
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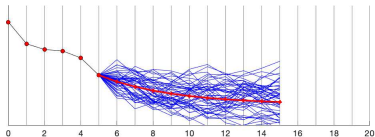
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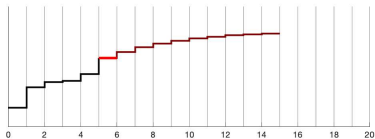
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MPC is a **complete** model of MDP if:

$$Q^{\text{MPC}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = Q^*(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})$$

for all \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a} . Then **optimality** holds:

$$\pi^{\text{MPC}}(\mathbf{s}) = \pi^*(\mathbf{s})$$

Outline

- 1 MPC & MDP: Let's rehearse the background
- 2 MPC Model for Performance
- 3 Optimal MPC models
- 4 Stochastic MPC models

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holds for all s, \mathbf{a} (with technical assumption)

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requirement on model \mathbf{f} !!!

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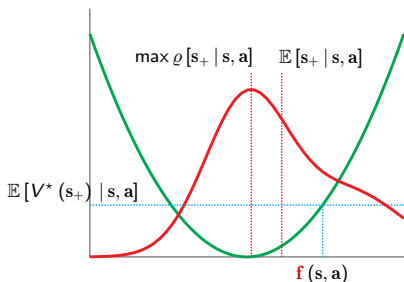
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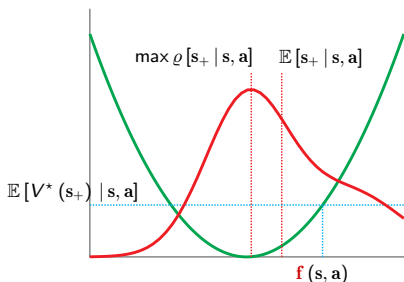
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Remark

Even for a simple V^* **neither**

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{s}_+ | \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}]$$

nor

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \max_{\mathbf{a}} \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{s}_+ | \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}]$$

make the MPC complete / optimal

Why does it matter?

MPC policy $\pi^{\text{MPC}}(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbf{u}_0^*$ from

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MPC is **complete** if model \mathbf{f} satisfies

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$$\min_{\theta} \sum_{k=0}^N \|\mathbf{f}_{\theta}(s_k, \mathbf{a}_k) - s_{k+1}\|^2$$

Classic approach in SYSID & ML

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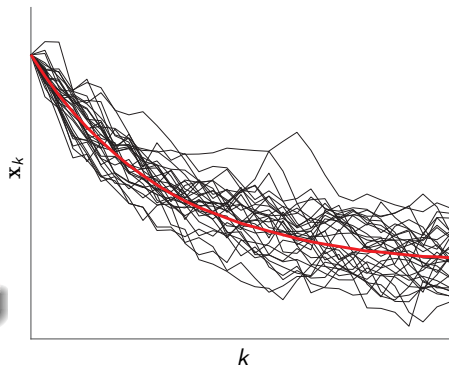
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Trajectory from simulating \mathbf{f}_{θ^*}

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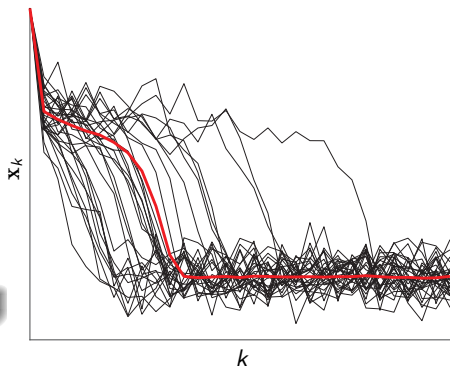
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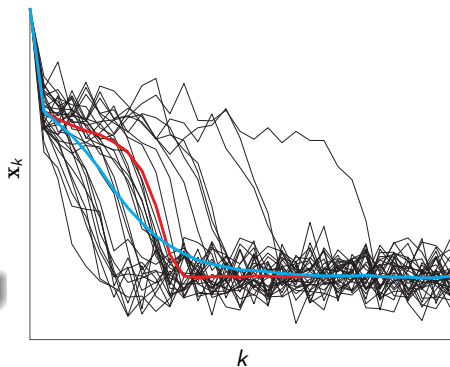
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Trajectory from simulating \mathbf{f}_{θ^*}
Expected trajectory

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The **gap** in

$$Q^{\text{MPC}}(s, \mathbf{a}) \approx Q^*(s, \mathbf{a}), \quad \pi^{\text{MPC}}(s) \approx \pi^*(s)$$

when using MPC models based on one-step ahead Least-Squares fitting (PEM) comes from the **lack of commutativity (up to a constant) between V^* and $\mathbb{E}[\cdot]$** , i.e.

$$\mathbb{E}[V^*(s_+) | s, \mathbf{a}] - V^*(\mathbb{E}[s_+ | s, \mathbf{a}]) \neq c$$

To our best knowledge other methods (sim error, max likelihood) do not fix that

An Important Exception

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Consider

- L is **quadratic**, no constraints
- **Real dynamics**: for some density φ

$$\varrho[\mathbf{s}_+ | \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}] = \varphi(\mathbf{s}_+ - \boldsymbol{\mu}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}))$$

where $\boldsymbol{\mu}$ is **affine**

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This is LQR + i.i.d state noise!

Why is this relevant for MPC?

Local Optimality of Classic MPC

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Assume:

- $g[\mathbf{s}_+ | \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}]$ is smooth in \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a} , for all \mathbf{s}_+
- L is smooth
- π^* is such that system dynamics converge to steady state density $\rho_*(\cdot)$ (dissipative) which is “off-constraints”

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Then MPC based on “expected-value” model

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{s}_+ | \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}]$$

yields a **locally optimal policy**, optimality loss in the order of the moments of $\rho_*(\cdot)$

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Classic MPC paradigm works well under these conditions

Not “classic”?

- Economic / non-smooth cost
- No dissipativity / “disturbances”
- Non-smooth problem

Illustrations - Constrained LQR problem

Consider the dynamics:

$$s_+ = s + a + w$$

with $s, a, w \in \mathbb{R}$, and $w \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma)$ i.i.d.
on a restricted interval.

Cost:

$$L(s, a) = a^2 + (s - 0.5)^2$$

Constraints:

$$a \in [-0.25, 0.25]$$

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Hence theory predicts MPC produces optimal policy!

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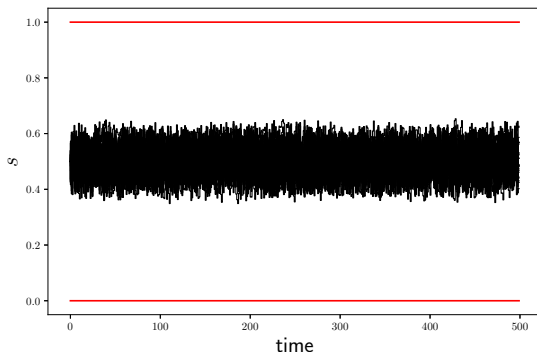
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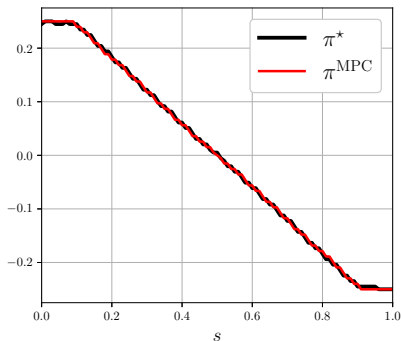
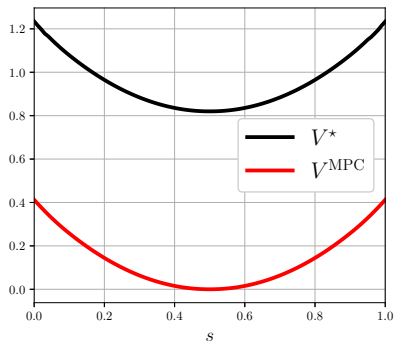
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Illustrations - Dissipative / Non-Smooth Problem

Consider the dynamics:

$$\mathbf{s}_+ = \mathbf{s} + \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{w}$$

with $\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}$, and $\mathbf{w} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma)$
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Cost:

$$L(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = |\mathbf{a}| + |\mathbf{s} - 0.5|$$

Constraints:

$$\mathbf{a} \in [-0.25, 0.25]$$

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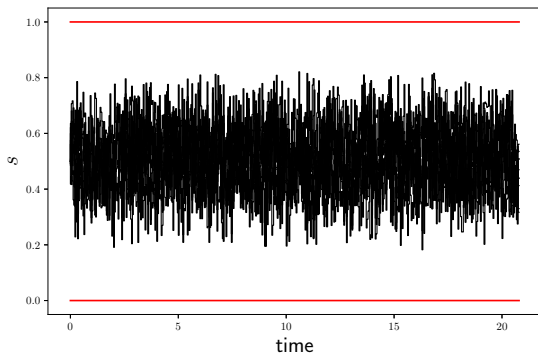
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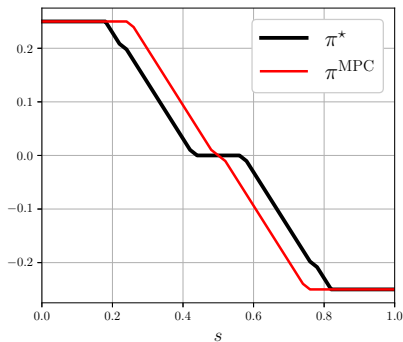
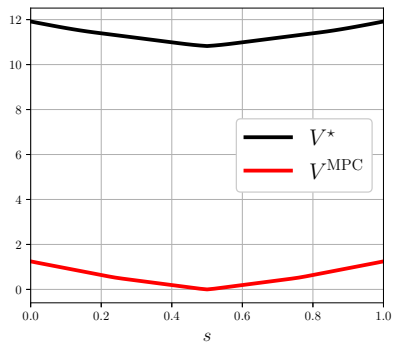
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Illustrations - Non-Dissipative / Non-smooth Problem

Consider the dynamics:

$$s_+ = s + a + w$$

with $s, a, w \in \mathbb{R}$, and $w \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma)$
on a restricted interval.

What is this problem?

Cost:

$$L(s, a) = \begin{cases} a & \text{if } a \leq 0 \\ 2a & \text{if } a > 0 \end{cases}$$

Constraints:

$$s \in [0, 1], \quad a \in [-0.25, 0.25]$$

Illustrations - Non-Dissipative / Non-smooth Problem

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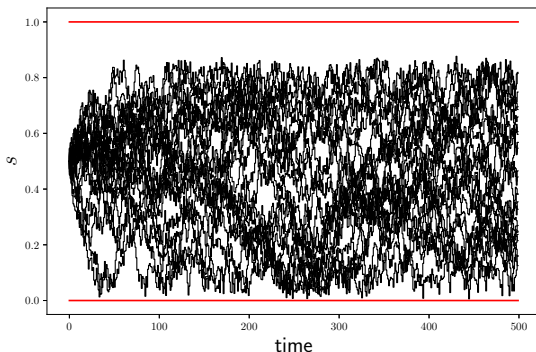
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$$s \in [0, 1], \quad a \in [-0.25, 0.25]$$



Illustrations - Non-Dissipative / Non-smooth Problem

Consider the dynamics:

$$s_+ = s + a + w$$

with $s, a, w \in \mathbb{R}$, and $w \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma)$
on a restricted interval.

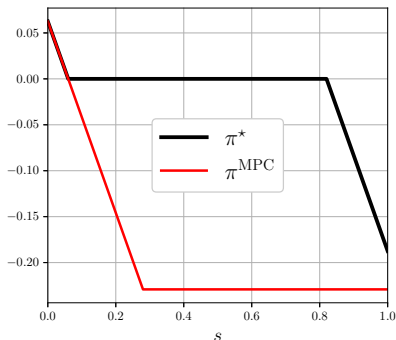
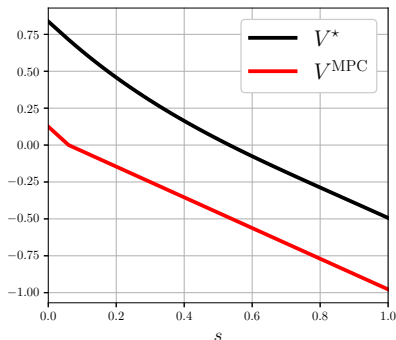
Cost:

$$L(s, a) = \begin{cases} a & \text{if } a \leq 0 \\ 2a & \text{if } a > 0 \end{cases}$$

Constraints:

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What is this problem?



Outline

- 1 MPC & MDP: Let's rehearse the background
- 2 MPC Model for Performance
- 3 Optimal MPC models
- 4 Stochastic MPC models

MPC model & Optimality

Model $f(s, a)$ such that

$$V^*(f(s, a)) = \mathbb{E}[V^*(s_+) | s, a] - c \quad (1)$$

holds for some c ???

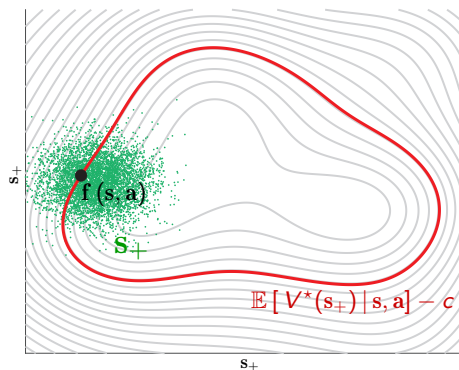
Stochastic state transition

$$\varrho[s_+ | s, a]$$

Model likelihood:

$$\varrho[f(s, a) | s, a] > 0$$

is desired, ideally maximal



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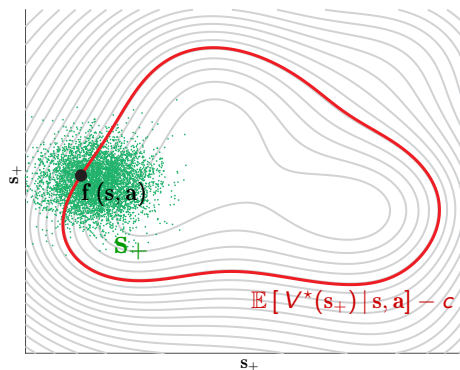
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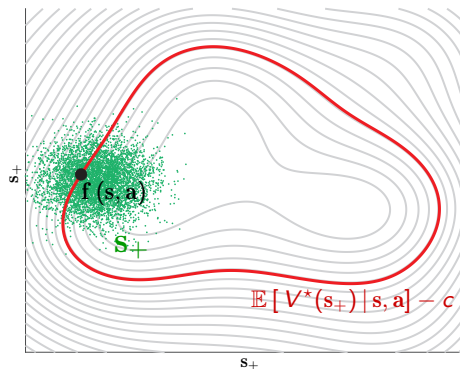
Model likelihood:

$$\varrho[f(s, a) | s, a] > 0$$

is desired, ideally maximal

Existence yes... but not fully clear yet

For $c = 0$ and V^* continuous and ϱ of convex support, there is a $f(s, a)$ with $\varrho[f(s, a) | s, a] > 0$ and (1) for all s, a .

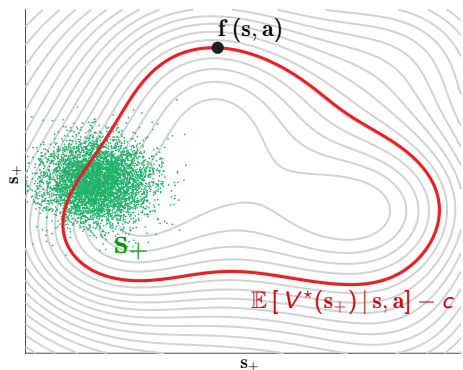


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Stochastic state transition

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Model likelihood:

$$\varrho[f(s, a) | s, a] > 0$$

is desired, ideally maximal

Uniqueness no... but max likelihood

$$f(s, a) = \arg \max_{\hat{s}_+} \varrho[\hat{s}_+ | s, a]$$

s.t. (1)

would typically fix that

MPC model & Optimality

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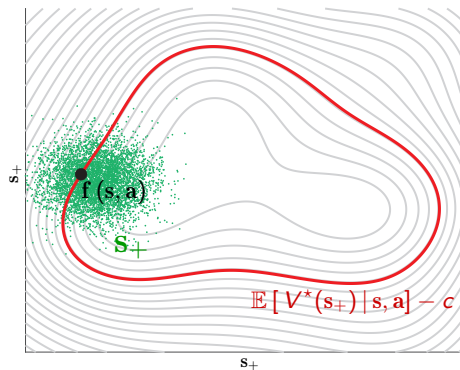
$$\varrho[s_+ | s, a]$$

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is desired, ideally maximal

Continuity not necessarily... must be imposed



Illustrations - Optimal MPC model

Consider the dynamics:

$$s_+ = s + a + w$$

with

- $s, a, w \in \mathbb{R}$
- $w \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma)$ on a restricted interval

Cost:

$$L(s, a) = |a| + |s - 0.5|$$

Constraints:

$$s \in [0, 1], \quad a \in [-0.25, 0.25]$$

Illustrations - Optimal MPC model

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Expected value model:

$$\mathbb{E}[s_+] = s + \mathbf{a}$$

Illustrations - Optimal MPC model

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Max Likelihood optimal model(s)

$f_c(s, a) =$

$$\arg \max_{\hat{s}_+} \varrho[\hat{s}_+ | s, a]$$

$$\text{s.t. } V^*(\hat{s}_+) = \mathbb{E}[V^*(s_+) | s, a] - c$$

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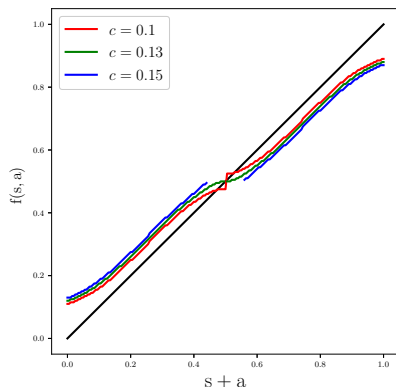
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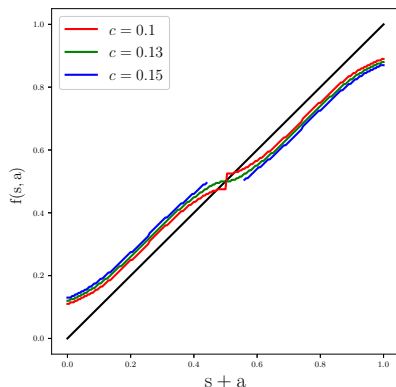
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Observations

- Existence: not for all c
- Continuity: not for all c
- Both: specific $c(?)$
- Linearity is lost



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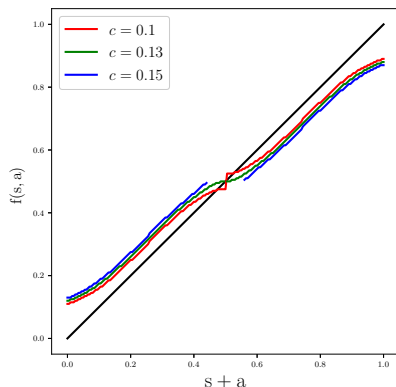
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This is to be further investigated



Optimal MPC model & Safety

What if $s, a \rightarrow$ possible infeasibility? I.e.

$$\mathbb{E}[V^*(s_+) | s, a] = \infty \quad (1)$$

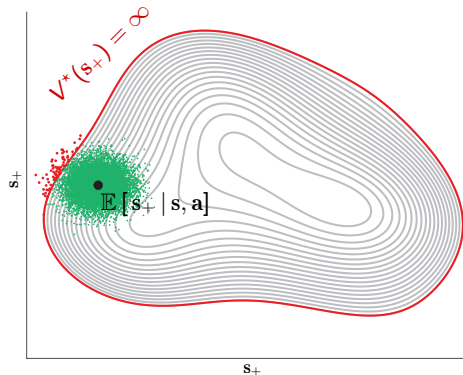
holds.

What should the model do then?

Model $f(s, a)$ such that

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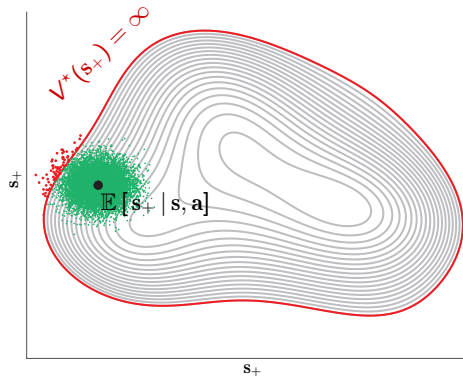
\hat{A}

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What should the model do then?

- (1) implies that:

$$\mathbb{P}[V^*(s_+) = \infty | s, a] > 0$$

i.e. s_+ may land where V^* is ∞

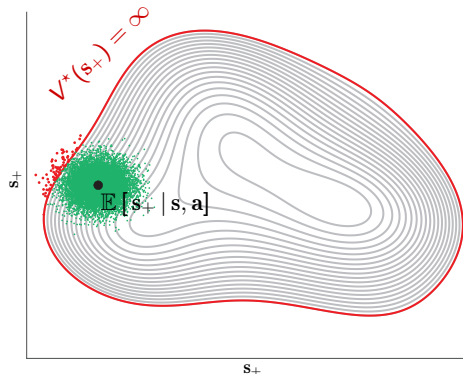
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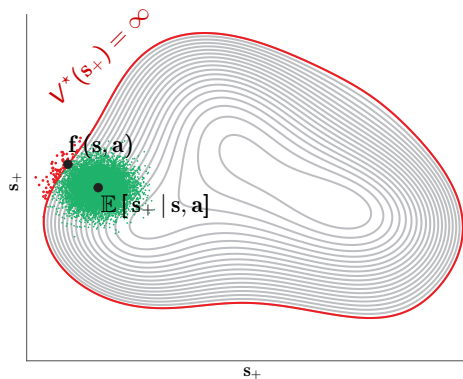
i.e. $f(s, a)$ picks a point among the infeasible ones \hat{A}

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i.e. $f(s, a)$ picks a point among the infeasible ones \hat{A}

Theory requires conservative model for constraints violations

Outline

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MPC with stochastic models?

MPC policy $\pi^{\text{MPC}}(s) = \mathbf{u}_0^*$ from

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}} T(\mathbf{x}_N) + \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} L(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k)$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k)$$

$$\mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{s}$$

MPC policy $\pi^{\text{MPC}}(s) = \mathbf{u}_0^*$ from

$$\min_{\mathbf{u}_0, \boldsymbol{\pi}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\pi}_{N-1}} \mathbb{E} \left[T(\mathbf{x}_N) + \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \gamma^k L(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k) \right]$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{x}_{k+1} \sim \hat{\rho}[\cdot | \mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k],$$

$$\mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{s}, \quad \mathbf{u}_k = \boldsymbol{\pi}_k(\mathbf{x}_k), \quad k > 0$$

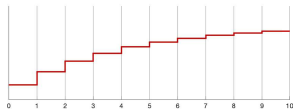
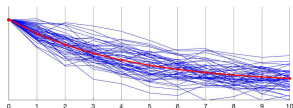
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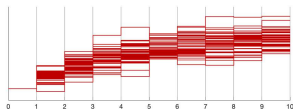
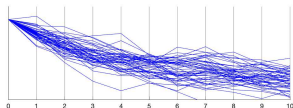
Policy from planning

MPC policy $\pi^{\text{MPC}}(s) = \mathbf{u}_0^*$ from

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$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{x}_{k+1} \sim \hat{\mathcal{Q}}[\cdot | \mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k],$$

$$\mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{s}, \quad \mathbf{u}_k = \boldsymbol{\pi}_k(\mathbf{x}_k), \quad k > 0$$



Proper policing, but difficult

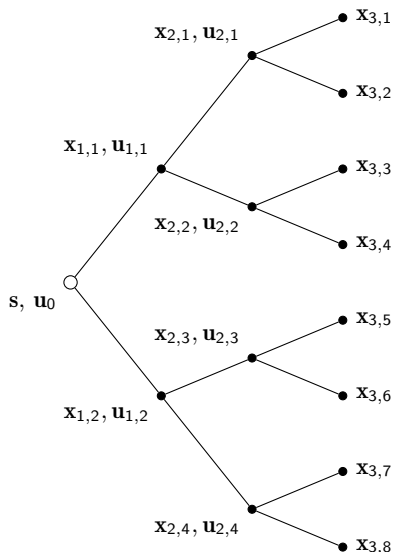
MPC with stochastic models - Scenario trees

MPC policy $\pi^{\text{MPC}}(s) = \mathbf{u}_0^*$ from

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{u}_0, \boldsymbol{\pi}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\pi}_{N-1}} \quad & \mathbb{E} \left[T(\mathbf{x}_N) + \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \gamma^k L(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k) \right] \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{x}_{k+1} \sim \hat{\varrho}[\cdot | \mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k], \\ & \mathbf{x}_0 = s, \quad \mathbf{u}_k = \boldsymbol{\pi}_k(\mathbf{x}_k), \quad k > 0 \end{aligned}$$

Scenario tree MPC

- $\hat{\varrho}$ is a discrete probability distribution
- Tree of scenarios
- Implicitly produces decision policies
- Exploding complexity over horizon



MPC with stochastic models - Other methods

MPC policy $\pi^{\text{MPC}}(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbf{u}_0^*$ from

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“Spectral” representations of $\hat{\rho}$

- Gaussian Processes
- Polynomial Chaos Expansion
- RKHS

Representations of $\boldsymbol{\pi}_{1, \dots, N-1}$

- Linear feedback

$$\boldsymbol{\pi}_k(\mathbf{s}_k) = \bar{\mathbf{u}}_k - K_k(\mathbf{s}_k - \bar{\mathbf{s}}_k)$$

- More advance forms...

Optimal MPC from stochastic models?

Model $f(s, a)$ such that

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yields $\pi^{\text{MPC}}(s) = \pi^*(s)$ (with correct T)

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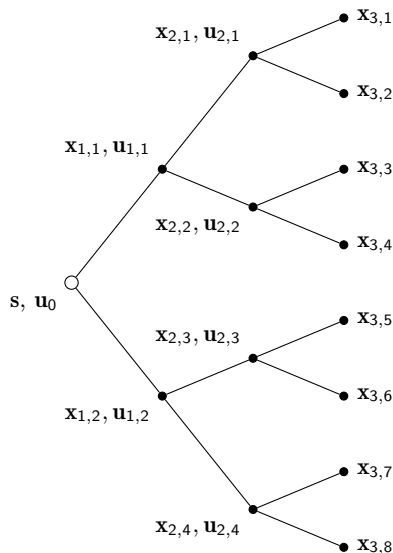
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Discrete Stochastic Model

Models $f_{1, \dots, m}(s, a)$ such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \omega^i V^*(f_i(s, a)) = \mathbb{E}[V^*(s_+) | s, a] - c$$

this describes a scenario tree !!

