

Simulation and Optimal Control using CasADi and acados

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universität freiburg



- ▶ Who has experience with `python`?



- ▶ Who has experience with `python`?
- ▶ Who has experience with `CasADi`?



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- ▶ Who has experience with `CasADi`?

- ▶ Who models their system in terms of an ordinary differential equation (ODE)?
- ▶ Who models their system in terms of a differential algebraic equation (DAE)?
- ▶ Who models their systems using a neural network?



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- ▶ Who has experience with `CasADi`?

- ▶ Who models their system in terms of an ordinary differential equation (ODE)?
- ▶ Who models their system in terms of a differential algebraic equation (DAE)?
- ▶ Who models their systems using a neural network?

- ▶ Who has installed the provided `docker`?



- ▶ Part 1: Nonlinear Optimization
- ▶ Part 2: Direct Optimal Control



- ▶ Part 1: Nonlinear Optimization using CasADi
- ▶ Part 2: Direct Optimal Control



- ▶ Part 1: Nonlinear Optimization using CasADi
- ▶ Part 2: Direct Optimal Control using CasADi and acados



- ▶ Part 1: Nonlinear Optimization using CasADi
- ▶ Part 2: Direct Optimal Control using CasADi and acados

Most of the theory part of this talk is based on slides by Armin Nurkanović.



Part 1: Nonlinear Optimization

1. Basic definitions
2. Conditions of optimality
3. Nonlinear programming algorithms
4. Nonlinear optimization with CasADi

Part 2: Direct Optimal Control



Part 1: Nonlinear Optimization

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Part 2: Direct Optimal Control

What is an optimization problem?



Minimize (or maximize) an objective function $F(w)$ depending on decision variables w subject to equality and/or inequality constraints.



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An optimization problem

$$\min_w F(w) \quad (1a)$$

$$\text{s.t. } G(w) = 0 \quad (1b)$$

$$H(w) \geq 0 \quad (1c)$$

Terminology

- ▶ w - decision variable
- ▶ F : objective/cost function
- ▶ G, H : equality and inequality constraint functions

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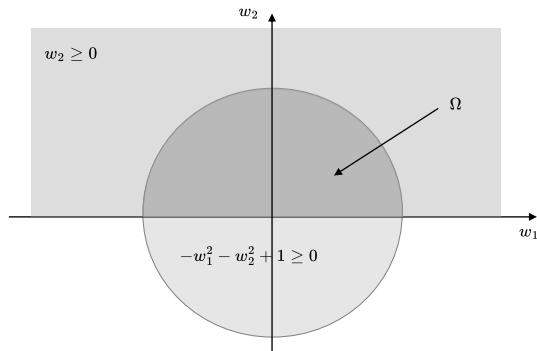
- ▶ Only in few special cases a closed form solution exist
- ▶ Use an iterative algorithm to find solution

Terminology

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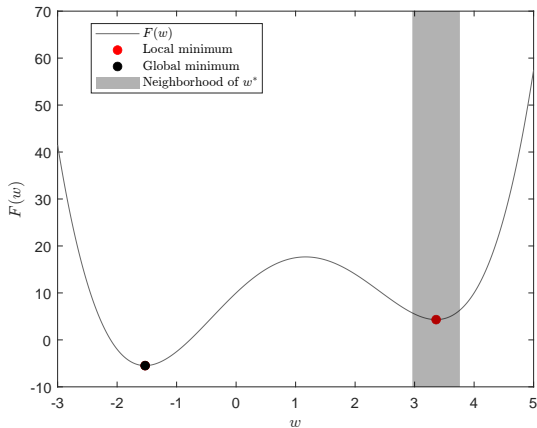
Definition

The feasible set of the optimization problem (1) is defined as $\Omega = \{w \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid G(w) = 0, H(w) \geq 0\}$. A point $w \in \Omega$ is called a feasible point.



The feasible set is the intersection of the two grey areas (halfspace and circle)

Basic definitions: local and global minimizer



The value $F(w^*)$ at a local/global minimizer w^* is called local/global minimum.



A convex optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_w F(w) \\ \text{s.t. } & G(w) = 0 \\ & H(w) \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

An optimization problem is **convex** if the objective function F is convex and the feasible set Ω is convex.

- ▶ A locally optimal solution is globally optimal!
- ▶ First order conditions are necessary and sufficient (we come back to this)
- ▶ Example: convex objective and linear equalities and linear inequalities.



Optimization problems can be:

- ▶ unconstrained ($\Omega = \mathbb{R}^n$) or constrained ($\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$)
- ▶ convex or nonconvex
- ▶ linear or nonlinear
- ▶ finite or infinite dimensional



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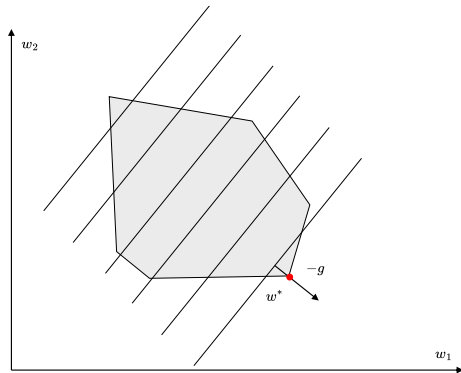
Three important **classes** of optimization problems:

- ▶ Linear Program (LP)
- ▶ Quadratic Program (QP)
- ▶ Nonlinear Program (NLP)



Linear program

$$\begin{aligned} \min_w \quad & g^\top w \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Aw - b = 0 \\ & Cw - d \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$



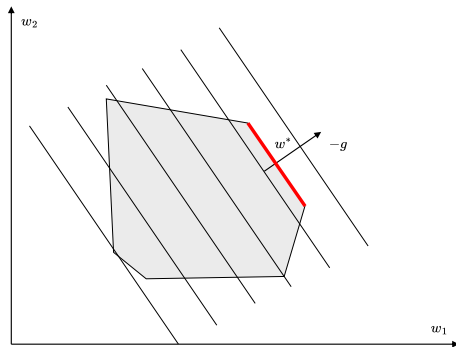
- ▶ convex optimization problem
- ▶ 1947: simplex method by Dantzig, 1984: polynomial time interior-point method by Karmarkar
- ▶ if not unbounded, the solution is always at edge or vertex of the feasible set
- ▶ today very mature and reliable

Class 1: Linear Programming (LP)



Linear program

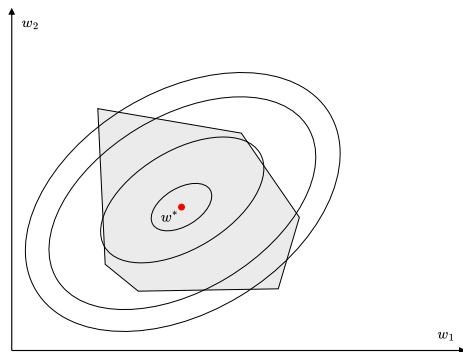
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Quadratic program

$$\begin{aligned} \min_w \quad & \frac{1}{2} w^\top Q w + g^\top w \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & A w - b = 0 \\ & C w - d \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$



- ▶ depending on Q , can be convex and nonconvex
- ▶ solved online in linear model predictive control (linear system model + linear constraints + quadratic cost)
- ▶ many good solvers: Gurobi, OSQP, HPIPM, qpOASES, OOQP, ...
- ▶ subproblems in nonlinear optimization

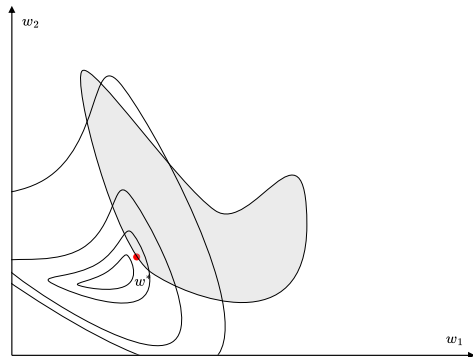
Class 3: Nonlinear Program (NLP)



Nonlinear programming problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min_w & F(w) \\ \text{s.t.} & G(w) = 0 \\ & H(w) \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ can be convex and nonconvex
- ▶ solved with iterative Newton-type algorithms
- ▶ solved in nonlinear model predictive control



Classify your control problem



- ▶ Linear Program (LP)
- ▶ Quadratic Program (QP)
- ▶ Nonlinear Program (NLP)



Continuous time OCP

$$\min_{x(\cdot), u(\cdot)} \int_0^T L_c(x(t), u(t)) dt + E(x(T))$$

$$\text{s.t. } x(0) = \bar{x}_0$$

$$\dot{x}(t) = f_c(x(t), u(t))$$

$$0 \geq h(x(t), u(t)), t \in [0, T]$$

$$0 \geq r(x(T))$$

Direct methods (like direct collocation, multiple shooting) first discretize, then optimize.

Direct optimal control methods solve Nonlinear Programs (NLP)



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Direct methods (like direct collocation, multiple shooting) first discretize, then optimize.

Discrete time OCP (an NLP)

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x, u} \quad & \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \ell(x_k, u_k) + E(x_N) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x_0 = \bar{x}_0 \\ & x_{k+1} = f(x_k, u_k), k = 0, \dots, N-1 \\ & 0 \geq h(x_k, u_k), k = 0, \dots, N-1 \\ & 0 \geq r(x_N) \end{aligned}$$

Variables $x = (x_0, \dots, x_N)$ and $u = (u_0, \dots, u_{N-1})$ can be summarized in vector $w = (x, u) \in \mathbb{R}^n$.



Discrete time OCP (an NLP)

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Nonlinear MPC solves Nonlinear Programs (NLP)

Discrete time NMPC Problem (an NLP)

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x,u} \quad & \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \ell(x_k, u_k) + E(x_N) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x_0 = \bar{x}_0 \\ & x_{k+1} = f(x_k, u_k) \\ & 0 \geq h(x_k, u_k), \quad k = 0, \dots, N-1 \\ & 0 \geq r(x_N) \end{aligned}$$

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Nonlinear Program (NLP)

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^n} \quad & F(w) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & G(w) = 0 \\ & H(w) \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$



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Algebraic characterization of **unconstrained** local optima



Consider the unconstrained problem: $\min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^n} F(w)$

First-Order **Necessary** Condition of Optimality (FONC)

w^* local optimum $\Rightarrow \nabla F(w^*) = 0$, w^* stationary point

Second-Order **Necessary** Condition of Optimality (SONC)

w^* local optimum $\Rightarrow \nabla^2 F(w^*) \succeq 0$

Algebraic characterization of **unconstrained** local optima



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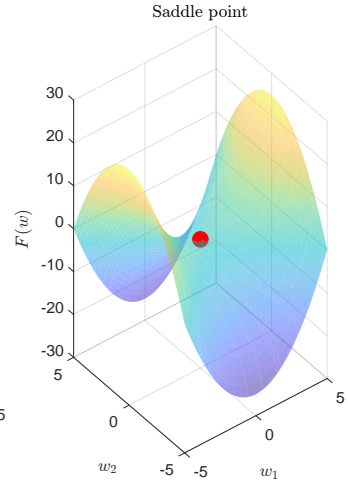
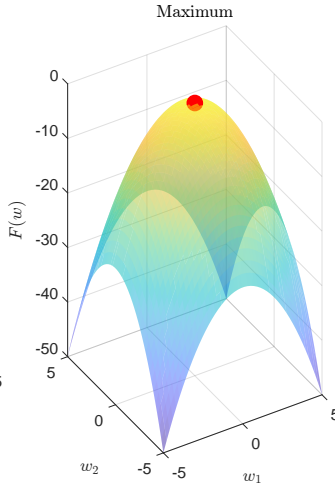
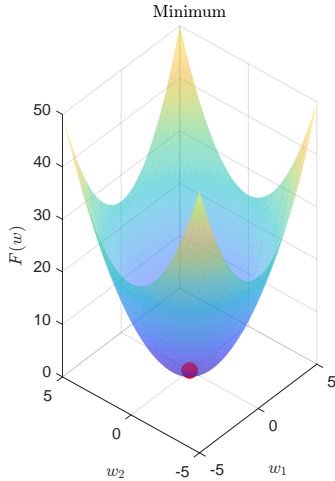
Second-Order **Sufficient** Conditions of Optimality (SOSC)

$$\nabla F(w^*) = 0 \text{ and } \nabla^2 F(w^*) \succ 0 \Rightarrow x^* \text{ strict local minimum}$$

$$\nabla F(w^*) = 0 \text{ and } \nabla^2 F(w^*) \prec 0 \Rightarrow x^* \text{ strict local maximum}$$

No conclusion can be drawn in the case $\nabla^2 F(w^*)$ is indefinite!

Type of stationary points



A stationary point can be a minimum, maximum or a saddle point



Nonlinear Program (NLP)

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^n} & F(w) \\ \text{s.t.} & G(w) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$\mathcal{L}(w, \lambda) = F(w) - \lambda^\top G(w)$ is the **Lagrangian**



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Definition (LICQ)

A point w satisfies Linear Independence Constraint Qualification **LICQ** if and only if $\nabla G(w)$ is full column rank



FONC for equality constraints

Nonlinear Program (NLP)

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First-order Necessary Conditions

Let F, G in \mathcal{C}^1 . If w^* is a (local) **minimizer**, **and** w^* satisfies **LICQ**, then there is a **unique vector** λ such that:

$$\nabla_w \mathcal{L}(w^*, \lambda^*) = \nabla F(w^*) - \nabla G(w^*) \lambda = 0$$

Dual feasibility

$$\nabla_\lambda \mathcal{L}(w^*, \lambda^*) = G(w^*) = 0$$

Primal feasibility



Nonlinear Program (NLP)

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^n} & F(w) \\ \text{s.t.} & G(w) = 0 \\ & H(w) \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

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Definition (LICQ)

A point w satisfies LICQ if and only if

$$[\nabla G(w), \nabla H_{\mathcal{A}}(w)]$$

is full column rank

Active set $\mathcal{A} = \{i \mid H_i(w) = 0\}$



The KKT conditions

Nonlinear Program (NLP)

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Theorem (KKT conditions)

Let F, G, H be \mathcal{C}^1 . If w^* is a (local) *minimizer* **and** *satisfies LICQ*, then there are *unique vectors* λ^* *and* μ^* *such that* (w^*, λ^*, μ^*) *satisfies:*

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_w \mathcal{L}(w^*, \mu^*, \lambda^*) &= 0, & \mu^* &\geq 0, \\ G(w^*) &= 0, & H(w^*) &\geq 0 \\ \mu_i^* H_i(w^*) &= 0, & \forall i \end{aligned}$$

Dual feasibility

Primal feasibility

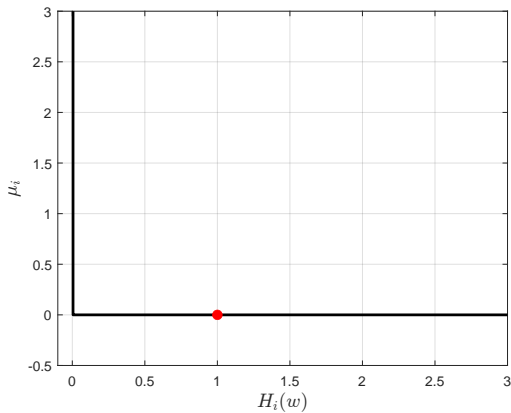
Complementary slackness

The complementary slackness condition



Active constraints:

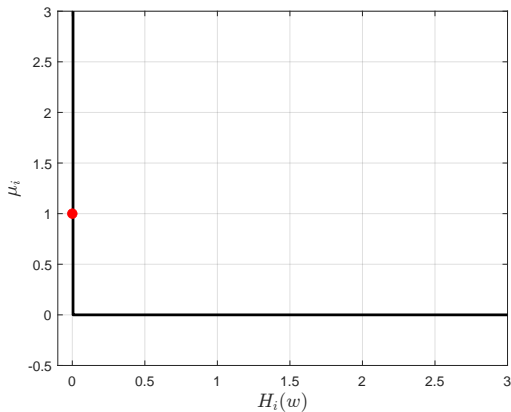
- ▶ $H_i(w^*) > 0$ then $\mu_i^* = 0$, and H_i is inactive



The complementary slackness condition

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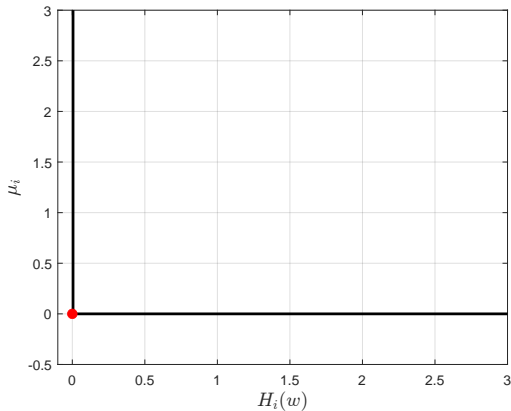
- ▶ $H_i(w^*) > 0$ then $\mu_i^* = 0$, and H_i is inactive
- ▶ $\mu_i^* > 0$ and $H_i(w) = 0$ then $H_i(w)$ is strictly active



The complementary slackness condition

Active constraints:

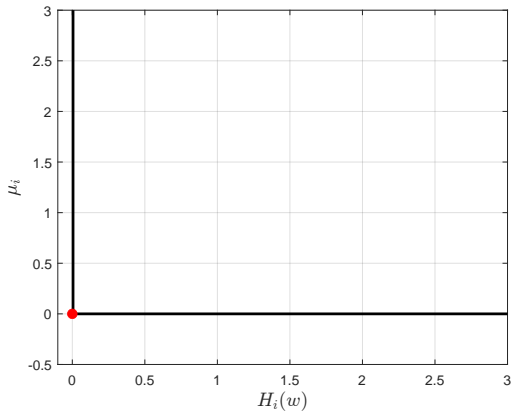
- ▶ $H_i(w^*) > 0$ then $\mu_i^* = 0$, and H_i is inactive
- ▶ $\mu_i^* > 0$ and $H_i(w) = 0$ then $H_i(w)$ is strictly active
- ▶ $\mu_i^* = 0$ and $H_i(w) = 0$ then $H_i(w)$ is weakly active



The complementary slackness condition

Active constraints:

- ▶ $H_i(w^*) > 0$ then $\mu_i^* = 0$, and H_i is inactive
- ▶ $\mu_i^* > 0$ and $H_i(w) = 0$ then $H_i(w)$ is strictly active
- ▶ $\mu_i^* = 0$ and $H_i(w) = 0$ then $H_i(w)$ is weakly active
- ▶ We define the **active set** \mathbb{A}^* as the set of indices i of the active constraints



Summary of optimality conditions



Optimality conditions for NLP with equality and/or inequality constraints:

- ▶ **First-Order Necessary Conditions:** A **regular local optimum** of a (differentiable) NLP is a **KKT point**

Summary of optimality conditions



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Nonconvex problem \Rightarrow minimum is not necessarily global.

But some nonconvex problems have a unique minimum



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But some nonconvex problems have a unique minimum

Some important practical consequences...

- ▶ A KKT point **may not** be a local (global) optimum
... the lack of equivalence results from a lack of **regularity** and/or **SOSC**
- ▶ A local (global) optimum **may not** be a KKT point
... due to violation of **constraint qualifications**, e.g. LICQ violated.



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Newton's method

To solve a nonlinear system, solve a sequence of linear systems



Root-finding problem. Find x such that $F(x) = 0$.

Linearization of F at linearization point \bar{w}

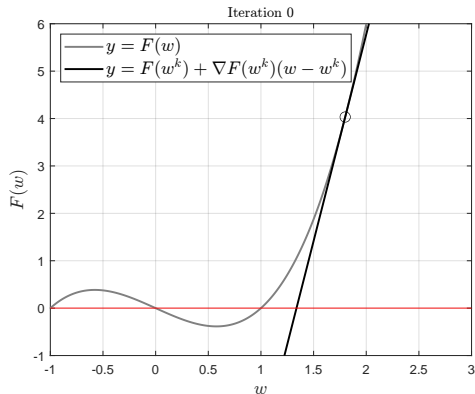
equals

First-order Taylor series at \bar{w}

equals

$$F_L(w; \bar{w}) := F(\bar{w}) + \frac{\partial F}{\partial w}(\bar{w})(w - \bar{w})$$

(for continuously differentiable $F : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$)



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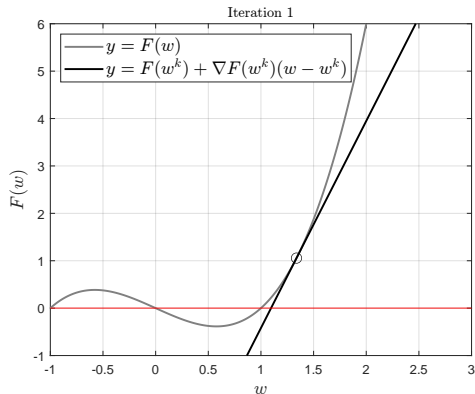
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First-order Taylor series at \bar{w}

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$$F_L(w; \bar{w}) := F(\bar{w}) + \nabla_w F(\bar{w})^\top (w - \bar{w})$$

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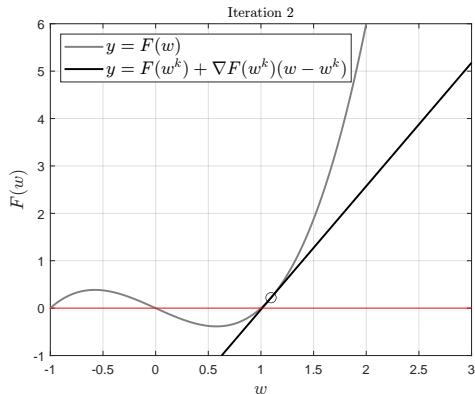
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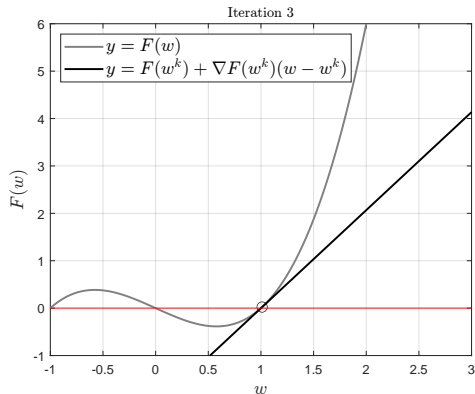
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General Nonlinear Program (NLP)

In direct methods, we have to solve the discretized optimal control problem, which is a Nonlinear Program (NLP)

General Nonlinear Program (NLP)

$$\min_w F(w) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \begin{cases} G(w) = 0 \\ H(w) \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

We first treat the case without inequalities

NLP only with equality constraints

$$\min_w F(w) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad G(w) = 0$$



Lagrange function

$$\mathcal{L}(w, \lambda) = F(w) - \lambda^T G(w)$$

Then for an optimal solution w^* exist multipliers λ^* such that

Nonlinear root-finding problem

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla_w \mathcal{L}(w^*, \lambda^*) &= 0 \\ G(w^*) &= 0\end{aligned}$$



How to solve nonlinear equations

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla_w \mathcal{L}(w^*, \lambda^*) &= 0 \\ G(w^*) &= 0 \quad ?\end{aligned}$$

Linearize!

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla_w \mathcal{L}(w^k, \lambda^k) + \nabla_w^2 \mathcal{L}(w^k, \lambda^k) \Delta w - \nabla_w G(w^k) \Delta \lambda &= 0 \\ G(w^k) + \nabla_w G(w^k)^T \Delta w &= 0\end{aligned}$$

This is equivalent, due to $\nabla \mathcal{L}(w^k, \lambda^k) = \nabla F(w^k) - \nabla G(w^k) \lambda^k$ with the shorthand $\lambda^+ = \lambda^k + \Delta \lambda$ to

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla_w F(w^k) + \nabla_w^2 \mathcal{L}(w^k, \lambda^k) \Delta w - \nabla_w G(w^k) \lambda^+ &= 0 \\ G(w^k) + \nabla_w G(w^k)^T \Delta w &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Newton Step = Solution to a Quadratic Program

Conditions

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_w F(w^k) + \nabla_w^2 \mathcal{L}(w^k, \lambda^k) \Delta w - \nabla_w G(w^k) \lambda^+ &= 0 \\ G(w^k) + \nabla_w G(w^k)^T \Delta w &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

are optimality conditions of a quadratic program (QP), namely:

Quadratic program

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\Delta w} \quad & \nabla F(w^k)^T \Delta w + \frac{1}{2} \Delta w^T A^k \Delta w \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & G(w^k) + \nabla G(w^k)^T \Delta w = 0, \end{aligned}$$

with

$$A^k = \nabla_w^2 \mathcal{L}(w^k, \lambda^k)$$

Newton's method

The full step Newton's Method iterates by solving in each iteration the quadratic program (QP)

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\Delta w} \quad & \nabla F(w^k)^T \Delta w + \frac{1}{2} \Delta w^T A^k \Delta w \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & G(w^k) + \nabla G(w^k)^T \Delta w = 0, \end{aligned}$$

with $A^k = \nabla_w^2 \mathcal{L}(w^k, \lambda^k)$. As solution, we obtain the step Δw^k and the new multiplier λ_{QP}^+ .

New iterate

$$\begin{aligned} w^{k+1} &= w^k + \Delta w^k \\ \lambda^{k+1} &= \lambda^k + \Delta \lambda^k = \lambda_{\text{QP}}^+ \end{aligned}$$

This Newton's method is also called **Sequential Quadratic Programming** (SQP) for equality constrained optimization (with *exact Hessian* and *full steps*)



Regard again NLP with both, equalities and inequalities:

NLP with equality and inequality constraints

$$\min_w F(w) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \begin{cases} G(w) = 0 \\ H(w) \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

Lagrangian function for NLP with equality and inequality constraints

$$\mathcal{L}(w, \lambda, \mu) = F(w) - \lambda^T G(w) - \mu^T H(w)$$



Theorem (Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) conditions)

Let F, G, H be \mathcal{C}^2 . If w^* is a (local) minimizer and satisfies LICQ, then there are unique vectors λ^* and μ^* such that (w^*, λ^*, μ^*) satisfies:

$$\nabla_w \mathcal{L}(w^*, \mu^*, \lambda^*) = 0$$

$$G(w^*) = 0$$

$$H(w^*) \geq 0$$

$$\mu^* \geq 0$$

$$H(w^*)^\top \mu^* = 0$$

- ▶ These contain nonsmooth conditions (the last three) which are called *complementarity conditions*
- ▶ This system cannot be solved by Newton's Method. But still with SQP...

Sequential Quadratic Programming (SQP)

By Linearizing all functions within the KKT Conditions, and setting $\lambda^+ = \lambda^k + \Delta\lambda$ and $\mu^+ = \mu^k + \Delta\mu$, we obtain the KKT conditions of a Quadratic Program (QP).

QP with inequality constraints

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\Delta w} \quad & \nabla F(w^k)^T \Delta w + \frac{1}{2} \Delta w^T A^k \Delta w \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \begin{cases} G(w^k) + \nabla G(w^k)^T \Delta w = 0 \\ H(w^k) + \nabla H(w^k)^T \Delta w \geq 0 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

with

$$A^k = \nabla_w^2 \mathcal{L}(w^k, \lambda^k, \mu^k)$$

and its solution delivers

$$\Delta w^k, \quad \lambda_{\text{QP}}^+, \quad \mu_{\text{QP}}^+$$

Constrained Gauss-Newton Method



In special case of least squares objectives

Least squares objective function

$$F(w) = \frac{1}{2} \|R(w)\|_2^2$$

can approximate Hessian $\nabla_w^2 \mathcal{L}(w^k, \lambda^k, \mu^k)$ by much cheaper

$$A^k = \nabla R(w) \nabla R(w)^T.$$

Need no multipliers to compute A^k ! QP= linear least squares:

Gauss-Newton QP

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\Delta w} \quad & \frac{1}{2} \|R(w^k) + \nabla R(w^k)^T \Delta w\|_2^2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & G(w^k) + \nabla G(w^k)^T \Delta w = 0 \\ & H(w^k) + \nabla H(w^k)^T \Delta w \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Convergence: linear (better if $\|R(w^*)\|$ small)

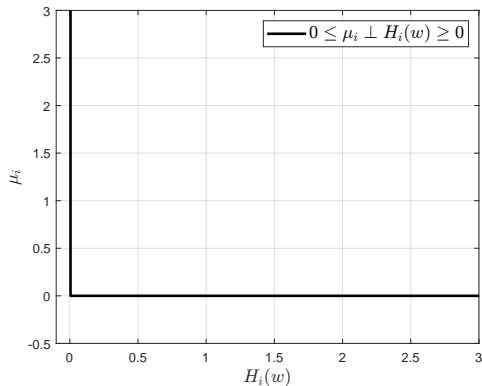
NLP with inequalities

$$\begin{aligned} \min_w & F(w) \\ \text{s.t.} & H(w) \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

KKT conditions

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla F(w) - \nabla H(w)^\top \mu &= 0 \\ 0 \leq \mu \perp H(w) &\geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Main difficulty: inequality conditions introduce nonsmoothness in the KKT conditions



The barrier problem

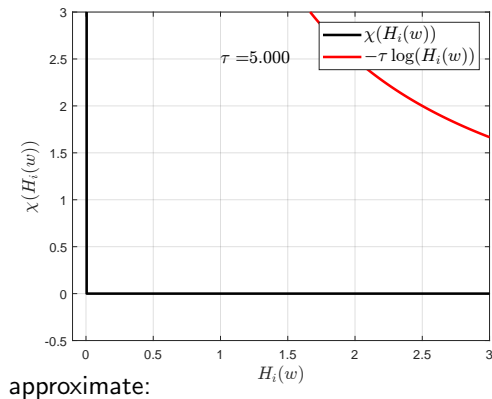
NLP with inequalities

$$\begin{aligned} \min_w & F(w) \\ \text{s.t.} & H(w) \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Barrier problem

$$\min_w F(w) - \tau \sum_{i=1}^m \log(H_i(w)) =: F_\tau(w)$$

Main idea: put inequality constraint into objective



$$\chi(H_i(w)) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } H_i(w) \geq 0 \\ \infty & \text{if } H_i(w) < 0 \end{cases}$$

The barrier problem



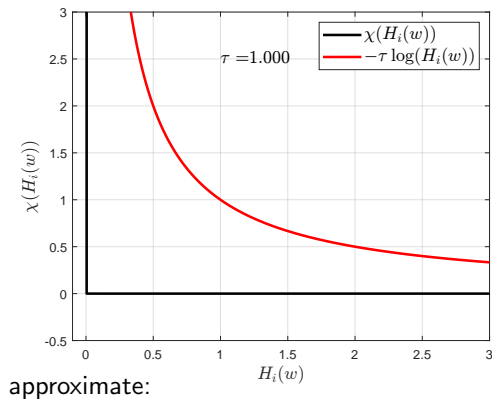
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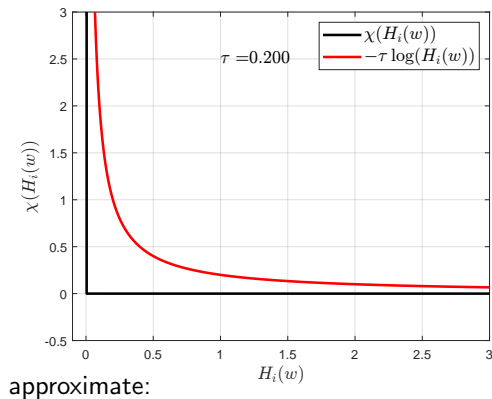
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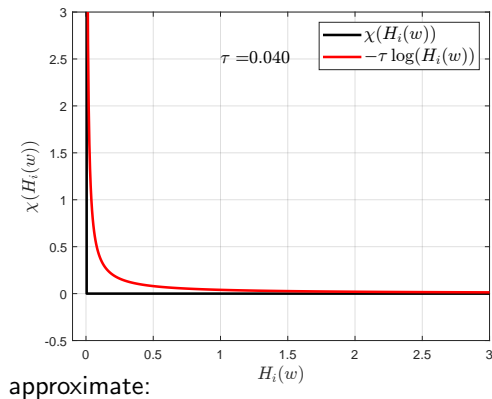
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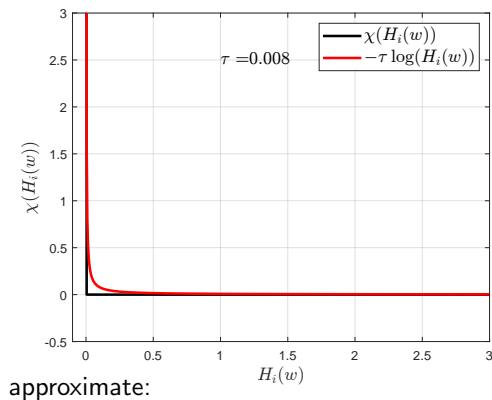
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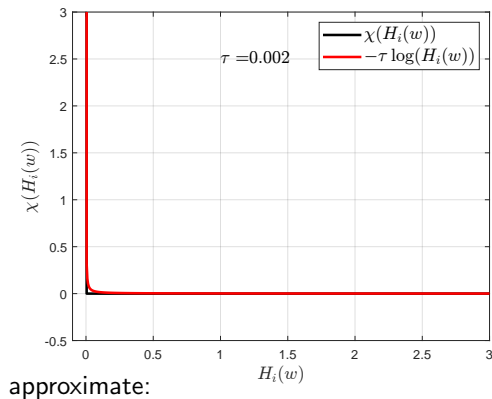
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An example of the barrier problem

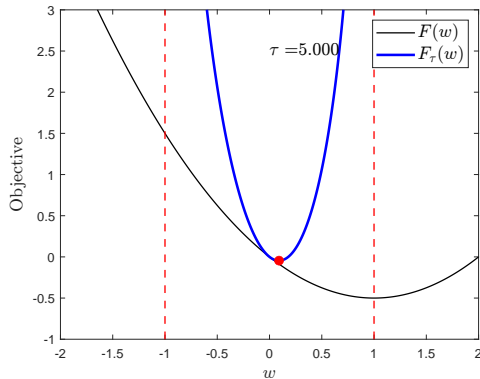


Example NLP

$$\begin{aligned} \min_w \quad & 0.5w^2 - 2w \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & -1 \leq w \leq 1 \end{aligned}$$

Barrier problem

$$\min_w 0.5w^2 - 2 - \tau \log(w + 1) - \tau \log(1 - w)$$



An example of the barrier problem

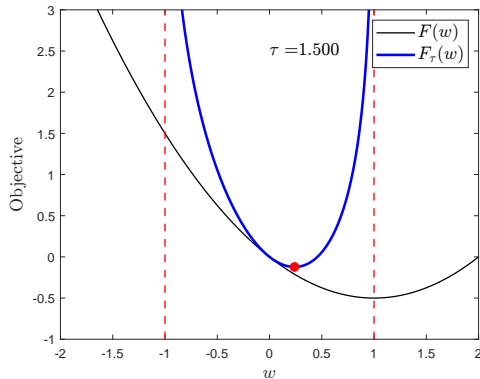


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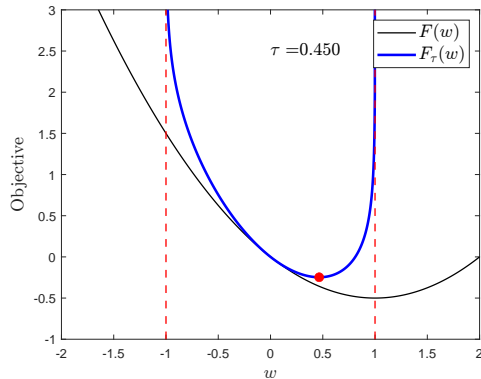


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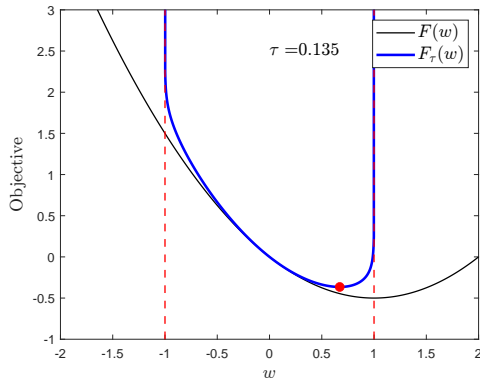


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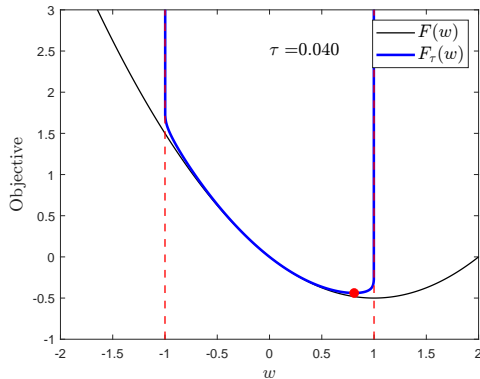
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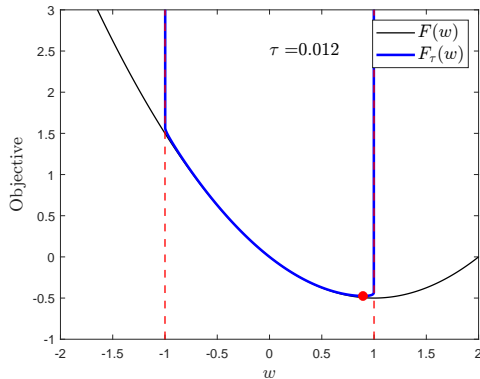
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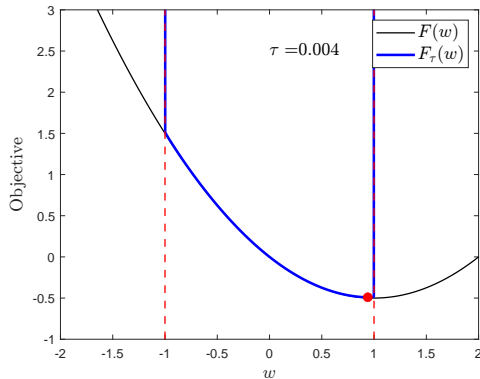
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- ▶ Newton type optimization solves the necessary optimality conditions
- ▶ Newton's method linearizes the nonlinear system in each iteration
- ▶ for constraints: requires Lagrangian function
- ▶ for equality constraints: KKT conditions are smooth, can apply Newton's method directly
- ▶ for inequality constraints: KKT conditions are non-smooth
→ Sequential Quadratic Programming (SQP)
- ▶ QP subproblem might be solved via an interior point solver, active set solver, ADMM, etc.



Part 1: Nonlinear Optimization

1. Basic definitions
2. Conditions of optimality
3. Nonlinear programming algorithms
4. Nonlinear optimization with CasADi

Part 2: Direct Optimal Control

CasADi¹ is an **open-source tool** for nonlinear optimization and algorithmic differentiation.



<https://web.casadi.org/>

CasADi provides

- ▶ algorithmic differentiation on user-defined symbolic expressions
- ▶ standardized interfaces to a variety of numerical routines:
 - ▶ simulation and nonlinear constrained optimization
 - ▶ solution of linear and nonlinear equations
- ▶ CasADi can be used from C++, python, Octave or MATLAB.

¹Joel A. E. Andersson, Joris Gillis, Greg Horn, James B. Rawlings and Moritz Diehl: *CasADi – A software framework for nonlinear optimization and optimal control*; Mathematical Programming Computation (2019).

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CasADi provides

- ▶ algorithmic differentiation on user-defined symbolic expressions
- ▶ standardized interfaces to a variety of numerical routines:
 - ▶ simulation and nonlinear constrained optimization → **Interior point solver IPOPT**
 - ▶ solution of linear and nonlinear equations
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1. Read the docs! <https://web.casadi.org/docs>
 - ▶ What is the difference between a CasADi expression and a CasADi function?
 - ▶ How do you compute a derivative using CasADi?
2. Work on the [exercise sheet](#).
 - ▶ How to formulate a constrained nonlinear optimization problem with CasADi? How to solve the NLP with the solver IPOPT?



Let:

- ▶ $t \in \mathbb{R}$ be the time
- ▶ $x(t) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_x}$ the differential states and $\dot{x}(t) = \frac{dx(t)}{dt}$
- ▶ $u(t) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_u}$ a given control function



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Ordinary differential equations

- ▶ Let $F : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^{n_x} \times \mathbb{R}^{n_x} \times \mathbb{R}^{n_u} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n_x}$ be a function such that the Jacobian $\frac{\partial F}{\partial \dot{x}}(\cdot)$ is invertible. The system of equations:

$$F(t, \dot{x}(t), x(t), u(t)) = 0,$$

is called an Ordinary Differential Equation (ODE).



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- ▶ Given a function $f : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^{n_x} \times \mathbb{R}^{n_u} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n_x}$ then a system of equations:

$$\dot{x}(t) = f(t, x(t), u(t)) \tag{2}$$

is called an **explicit ODE**.

ODE Example: harmonic oscillator



Mass m with spring constant k and friction coefficient c :

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}_1(t) &= x_2(t) \\ \dot{x}_2(t) &= -\frac{k}{m}(x_2(t) - u(t)) - \frac{\beta}{m}x_1(t)\end{aligned}$$

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- state $x(t) \in \mathbb{R}^2$
- position of mass $x_1(t)$ ← measured
- velocity of mass $x_2(t)$
- control action: spring position $u(t) \in \mathbb{R}$ ← manipulated

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As explicit ODE: $\dot{x} = f(x, u)$ with

$$f(x, u) = \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ -\frac{k}{m}(x_2 - u) - \frac{c}{m}x_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

As implicit ODE: $0 = F(\dot{x}, x, u)$ with

$$F(\dot{x}, x, u) = \begin{bmatrix} x_2 - \dot{x}_1 \\ -\frac{k}{m}(x_2 - u) - \frac{\beta}{m}x_1 - \dot{x}_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Differential algebraic equations



Let:

- ▶ $x(t) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_x}$ the differential states with $\dot{x}(t) = \frac{dx(t)}{dt}$
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Differential algebraic equations

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$$F(t, \dot{x}(t), x(t), z(t), u(t)) = 0,$$

is called an **fully implicit Differential Algebraic Equation (DAE)**.



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$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}(t) &= f(t, x(t), z(t), u(t)), \\ 0 &= g(t, x(t), z(t), u(t)), \end{aligned}$$

is called a **semi-explicit DAE**.



- ▶ IVPs have only in special cases a closed form solution
- ▶ Instead, compute numerically a **solution approximation** $\tilde{x}(t)$ that approximately satisfies:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\tilde{x}}(t) &\approx f(t, \tilde{x}(t), u(t)), & t \in [0, T] \\ \tilde{x}(0) &= x(0) = x_0\end{aligned}$$



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- ▶ Recursively generate solution approximation $x_n := \tilde{x}(t_n) \approx x(t_n)$ at N discrete time points $0 = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_N = T$
- ▶ Integration interval $[0, T]$ split into subintervals $[t_n, t_{n+1}]$ where $h = t_{n+1} - t_n$



Single step abstract integration method

ODE.

$$x_{n+1} = \phi(x_n, u_n)$$

where ϕ computes the next state based on current state and input.

DAE.

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_{n+1} \\ z_n \end{bmatrix} = \phi(x_n, u_n)$$

where ϕ computes the next state and algebraic variables based on the current state and input.



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Simplest Example: Explicit Euler

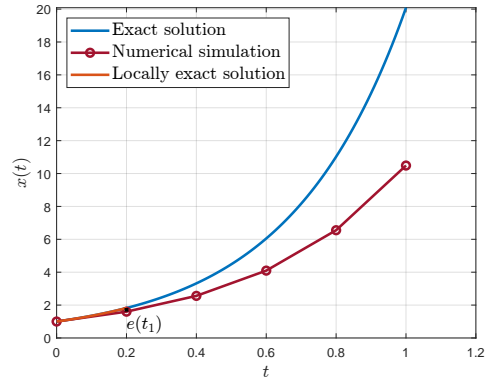
$$x_{n+1} = x_n + hf(x_n, u_n).$$



Local and global error

- ▶ Local integration error at t_{n+1} :

$$e(t_{n+1}) = \|x(t_{n+1}) - \phi(x(t_n), u_0)\|.$$

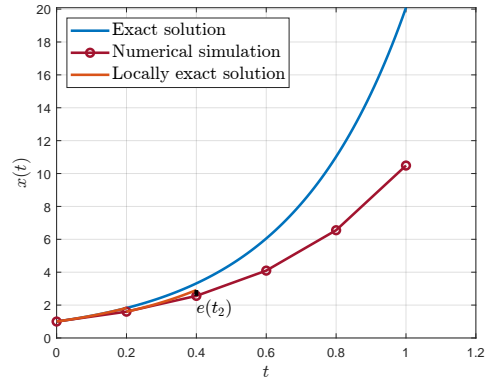




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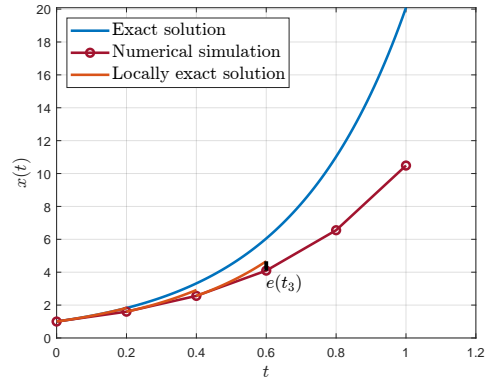




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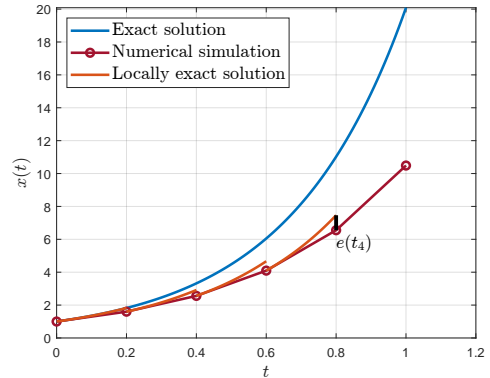




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Local and global error

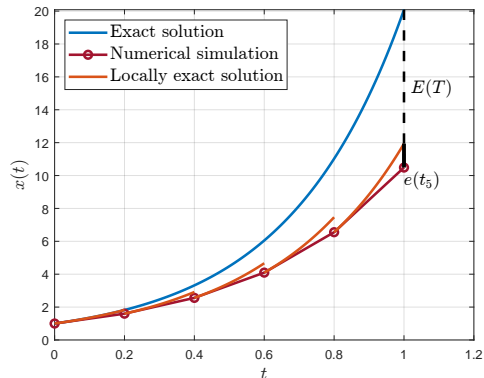
- ▶ Local integration error at t_{n+1} :

$$e(t_{n+1}) = \|x(t_{n+1}) - \phi(x(t_n), u_0)\|.$$

- ▶ Global integration error at $t = T$:

$$E(T) = \|x(T) - x_N\|.$$

- ▶ Global error - accumulation of local errors



Integrator convergence and accuracy

► Convergence

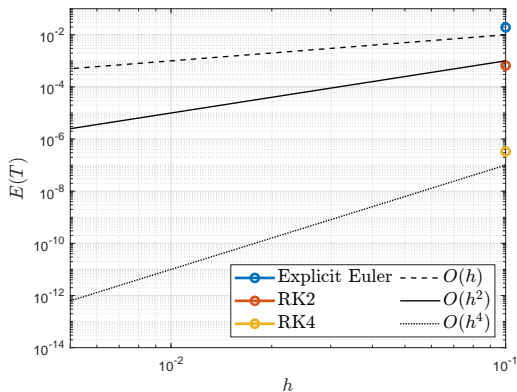
$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} E(T) = 0$$

► Integrator has order p if

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} e(t_i) \leq Ch^{p+1} = O(h^{p+1}), C > 0$$

► Higher order p :

- less, but more expensive steps for same accuracy
- in total fewer r.h.s. evaluations for same accuracy



Integrator convergence and accuracy

► Convergence

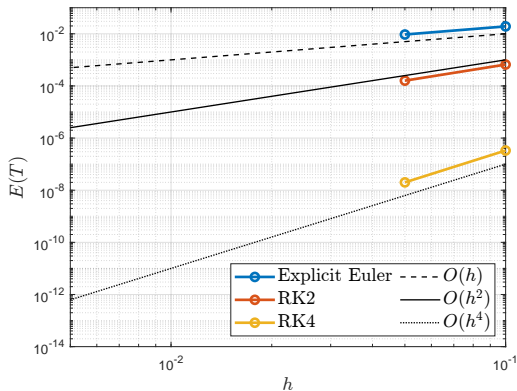
$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} E(T) = 0$$

► Integrator has order p if

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} e(t_i) \leq Ch^{p+1} = O(h^{p+1}), C > 0$$

► Higher order p :

- less, but more expensive steps for same accuracy
- in total fewer r.h.s. evaluations for same accuracy



Integrator convergence and accuracy

► Convergence

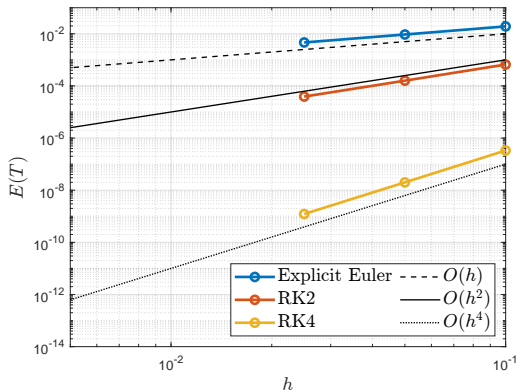
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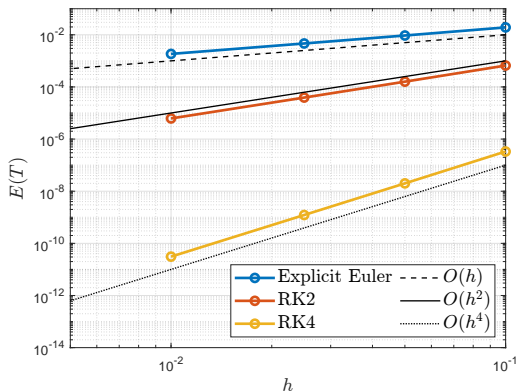
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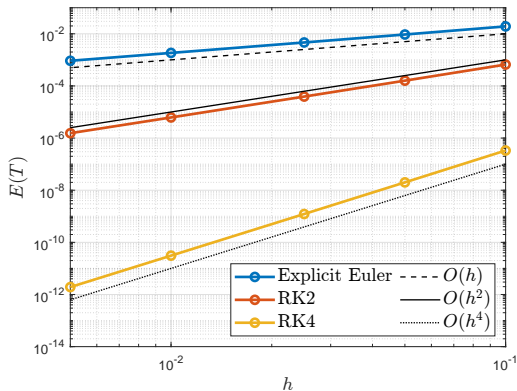
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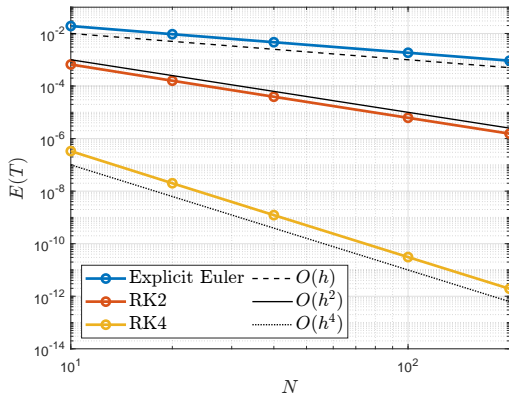
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Integrator convergence and accuracy

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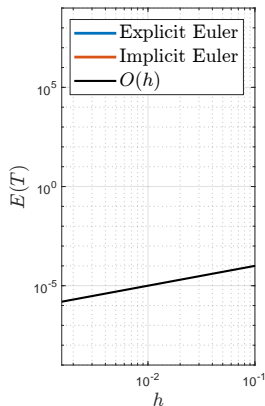
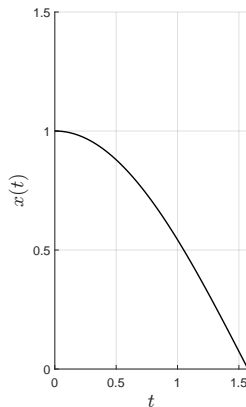
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- **Stability**: damping of errors, does it work for $h \gg 0$?

- If integrator is unstable, it does not converge and has $p = 0$, unless h very small



$$\dot{x}(t) = -300(x(t) - \cos(t)), t \in [0, 2]$$

$$x(0) = 1$$

Integrator convergence and accuracy

- ▶ Convergence

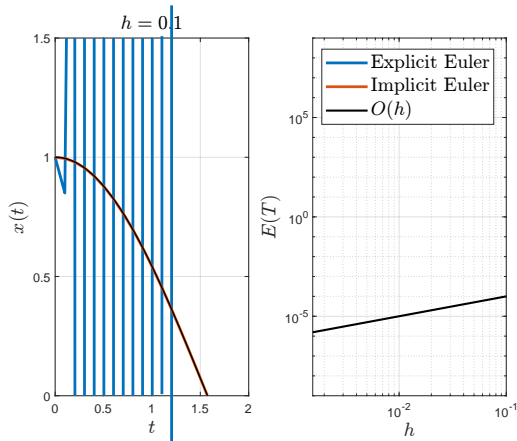
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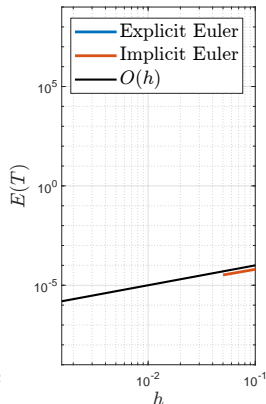
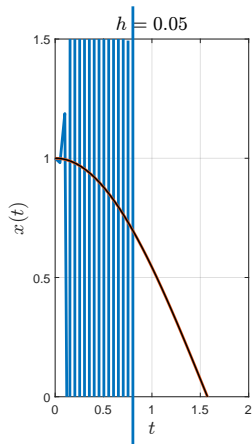
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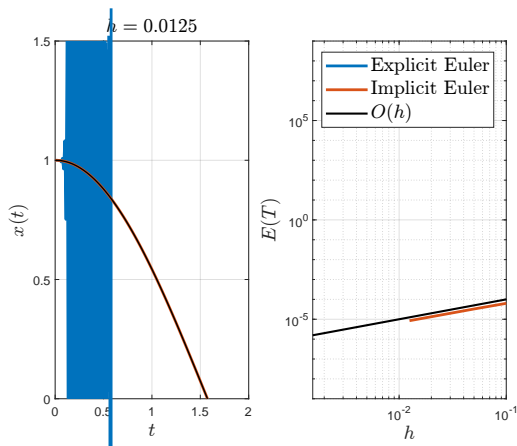
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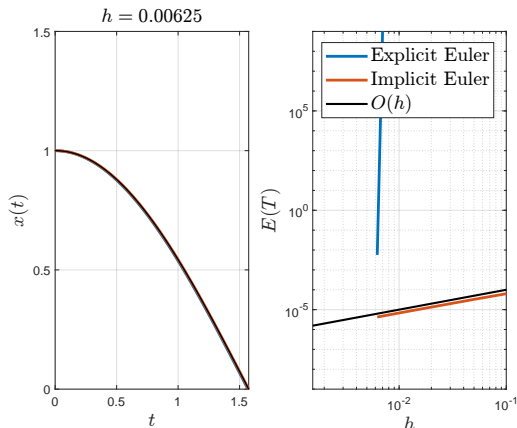
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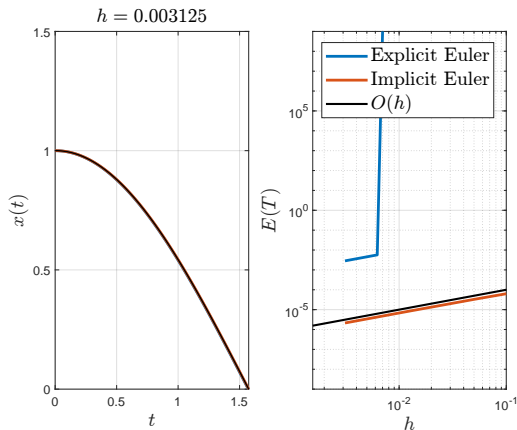
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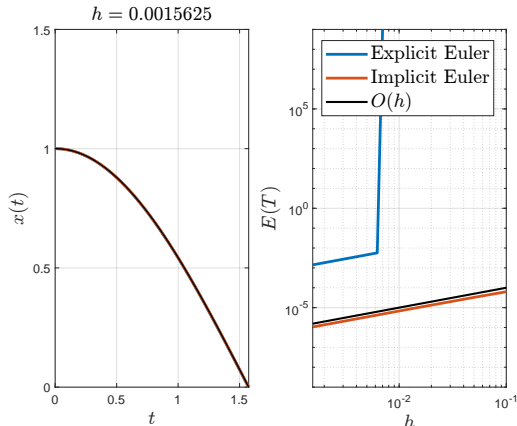
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Runge-Kutta method examples

Explicit Runge-Kutta of order 4

$$k_{n,1} = f(t_n, x_n)$$

$$k_{n,2} = f\left(t_n + \frac{h}{2}, x_n + h\frac{k_{n,1}}{2}\right)$$

$$k_{n,3} = f\left(t_n + \frac{h}{2}, x_n + h\frac{k_{n,2}}{2}\right)$$

$$k_{n,4} = f(t_n + h, x_n + hk_{n,3})$$

$$x_{n+1} = x_n + h\left(\frac{1}{6}k_{n,1} + \frac{2}{6}k_{n,2} + \frac{2}{6}k_{n,3} + \frac{1}{6}k_{n,4}\right)$$

- ▶ All $k_{n,i}$ can be found by explicit function evaluations.



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$$k_{n,5} = f(t_n + h, x_n + hk_{n,3})$$

$$x_{n+1} = x_n + h\left(\frac{1}{6}k_{n,1} + \frac{2}{6}k_{n,2} + \frac{2}{6}k_{n,3} + \frac{1}{6}k_{n,4}\right)$$

- ▶ All $k_{n,i}$ can be found by explicit function evaluations.

Implicit Euler Method

$$k_{n,1} = f(t_n, x_n + hk_{n,1})$$

$$x_{n+1} = x_n + hk_{n,1}$$

- ▶ $k_{n,1}$ is found implicitly by solving $k_{n,1} - f(t_n, x_n + hk_{n,1}) = 0$.



Continuous time OCP

$$\min_{x(\cdot), u(\cdot)} \int_0^T L_c(x(t), u(t)) dt + M(x(T))$$

$$\text{s.t. } x(0) = \bar{x}_0$$

$$\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), u(t))$$

$$0 \geq h(x(t), u(t)), t \in [0, T]$$

$$0 \geq r(x(T))$$

- Direct methods: first discretize, then optimize

Continuous time OCP into Nonlinear Programs (NLP)

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 $u(t) = u_n, t \in [t_n, t_{n+1}]$.

Continuous time OCP into Nonlinear Programs (NLP)

Continuous time OCP

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x(\cdot), u(\cdot)} \quad & \int_0^T L_c(x(t), u(t)) dt + M(x(T)) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x(0) = \bar{x}_0 \\ & \dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), u(t)) \\ & 0 \geq h(x(t), u(t)), \quad t \in [0, T] \\ & 0 \geq r(x(T)) \end{aligned}$$

- Direct methods: first discretize, then optimize

1. Parametrize controls, e.g.
 $u(t) = u_n, t \in [t_n, t_{n+1}]$.
2. Discretize cost and dynamics

$$l(x_n, u_n) \approx \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} L_c(x(t), u(t)) dt.$$

Replace $\dot{x} = f(x, u)$ by

$$x_{n+1} = \phi(x_n, u_n).$$

Continuous time OCP into Nonlinear Programs (NLP)

Continuous time OCP

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x(\cdot), u(\cdot)} \quad & \int_0^T L_c(x(t), u(t)) dt + M(x(T)) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x(0) = \bar{x}_0 \\ & \dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), u(t)) \\ & 0 \geq h(x(t), u(t)), t \in [0, T] \\ & 0 \geq r(x(T)) \end{aligned}$$

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$$x_{n+1} = \phi(x_n, u_n).$$

3. Relax path constraints, e.g., evaluate only at $t = t_n$

$$0 \geq h(x_n, u_n), n = 0, \dots, N - 1.$$



Continuous time OCP

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x(\cdot), u(\cdot)} \quad & \int_0^T L_c(x(t), u(t)) dt + M(x(T)) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x(0) = \bar{x}_0 \\ & \dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), u(t)) \\ & 0 \geq h(x(t), u(t)), \quad t \in [0, T] \\ & 0 \geq r(x(T)) \end{aligned}$$

- Direct methods: first discretize, then optimize

Discrete time OCP (an NLP)

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}} \quad & \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} l(x_k, u_k) + M(x_N) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x_0 = \bar{x}_0 \\ & x_{n+1} = \phi(x_n, u_n) \\ & 0 \geq h(x_n, u_n), \quad n = 0, \dots, N-1 \\ & 0 \geq r(x_N) \end{aligned}$$

Variables $\mathbf{x} = (x_0, \dots, x_N)$ and $\mathbf{u} = (u_0, \dots, u_{N-1})$.



Discrete time OCP – Multiple Shooting Formulation

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}} \quad & \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} l(x_k, u_k) + E(x_N) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x_0 = \bar{x}_0 \\ & x_{n+1} = \phi(x_n, u_n) \\ & 0 \geq h(x_n, u_n), \quad n = 0, \dots, N-1 \\ & 0 \geq r(x_N) \end{aligned}$$

Variables $w = (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$

Direct optimal control methods solve Nonlinear Programs (NLP)



Discrete time OCP – Multiple Shooting Formulation

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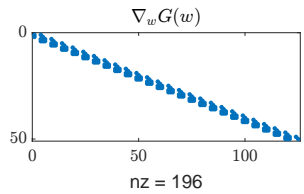
Variables $w = (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$

Nonlinear Program (NLP)

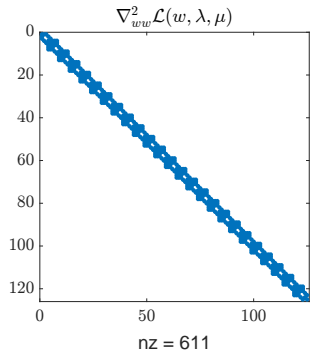
$$\begin{aligned} \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^{n_x}} \quad & F(w) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & G(w) = 0 \\ & H(w) \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Obtain large and sparse NLP

Direct optimal control methods solve Nonlinear Programs (NLP)



Variables $w = (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$



Nonlinear Program (NLP)

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^{n_x}} \quad & F(w) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & G(w) = 0 \\ & H(w) \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Obtain large and sparse NLP



Discrete time OCP – Collocation Formulation

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{u}} \quad & \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} l(x_k, u_k) + E(x_N) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x_0 = \bar{x}_0 \\ & x_{n+1} = \phi(x_n, u_n, k_n) \\ & 0 = \phi_{\text{coll}}(x_n, u_n, k_n) \\ & 0 \geq h(x_n, u_n), \quad n = 0, \dots, N-1 \\ & 0 \geq r(x_N) \end{aligned}$$

Variables $w = (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{u})$

Direct optimal control methods solve Nonlinear Programs (NLP)



Discrete time OCP – Collocation Formulation

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{u}} \quad & \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} l(x_k, u_k) + E(x_N) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x_0 = \bar{x}_0 \\ & x_{n+1} = \phi(x_n, u_n, k_n) \\ & 0 = \phi_{\text{coll}}(x_n, u_n, k_n) \\ & 0 \geq h(x_n, u_n), \quad n = 0, \dots, N-1 \\ & 0 \geq r(x_N) \end{aligned}$$

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Nonlinear Program (NLP)

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^{n_x}} \quad & F(w) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & G(w) = 0 \\ & H(w) \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Obtain large and sparse NLP



- ▶ Numerical simulation methods (integrators) used to solve ODEs and DAEs approximately.
- ▶ Integration accuracy order and stability play key roles.
- ▶ Within the multiple shooting framework, integrators are a key building block for discretization of the continuous OCP.
- ▶ The resulting discrete-time OCP is large, but very sparse



acados is an **open-source** software package for nonlinear optimal control developed and maintain by the group of Prof. Diehl.

acados provides several **building blocks** for nonlinear optimal control

- ▶ Integrators for ODEs and DAEs
 - ▶ explicit and (structure-exploiting) implicit Runge-Kutta schemes
 - ▶ efficient sensitivity propagation

- ▶ SQP-type solver for nonlinear optimal control problems
 - ▶ Hessian approximation exploiting convex-over-nonlinear structures in costs and constraints
 - ▶ real-time iteration
 - ▶ (partial) condensing routines

- ▶ Interfaces to state-of-the-art QP solvers
 - ▶ HPIPM, qpOASES, qpDUNES, OSQP, DAQP

- ▶ Generation of self-contained C code for embedded deployment as well as convenient user interfaces to MATLAB and python.



acados builds on

- ▶ CasADi² for describing the problem functions and their derivatives via algorithmic differentiation (AD)
- ▶ HPIPM² for efficient condensing routines
- ▶ BLASFEO³ for high-performance linear algebra tailored to the embedded hardware
- ▶ various open-source QP solvers, HPIPM², qpOASES⁴, qpDUNES⁵, OSQP⁶, DAQP, for solving the SQP-subproblems

²Andersson et al., 2019; ²Frison & Diehl, 2020; ³Frison et al., 2018; ⁴Ferreau et al., 2014; ⁵Frasch et al., 2015; ⁶Stellato et al., 2020; ⁷Arnstrom et al., 2022;



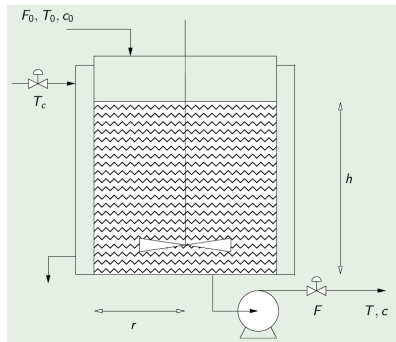
Recent applications of acados in real-world experiments.

- ▶ Obstacle Avoidance for Mobile Robotics (Gao et al., 2023)
- ▶ Quadrotor Control (Salzmann et al., 2023; Romero et al., 2022; Carlos et al., 2020)
- ▶ Combustion Engine and Air Path Control (Hänggi et al., 2022; Gordon et al., 2022)
- ▶ Electric Motor Control (Zanelli et al., 2021)

Advanced NMPC problem formulations and implementations.

- ▶ Robust MPC (Gao et al., 2023)
- ▶ Deep Neural Networks (DNN) and Gaussian Processes (GP) as dynamics model (Salzmann et al., 2023; Lahr et al., 2023)
- ▶ Convenient and efficient access to the SQP subproblem for custom modifications (Frey, Gao, et al., 2023)
- ▶ Custom sensitivity propagation for accurate cost integration for convex-over-nonlinear costs (Frey, Baumgärtner, & Diehl, 2023)

- ▶ We consider a continuously stirred tank reactor as in Pannocchia & Rawlings (2003).
- ▶ An irreversible, first-order reaction $A \rightarrow B$ occurs in the liquid phase and the reactor temperature is regulated with external cooling.



Mass and energy balances lead to the following nonlinear state space model:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{c} &= \frac{F_0(c_0 - c)}{\pi r^2 h} - k_0 \exp\left(-\frac{E}{RT}\right) c \\ \dot{T} &= \frac{F_0(T_0 - T)}{\pi r^2 h} - \frac{\Delta H}{\rho C_p} k_0 \exp\left(-\frac{E}{RT}\right) c + \frac{2U}{r \rho C_p} (T_c - T) \\ \dot{h} &= \frac{F_0 - F}{\pi r^2} \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ The controls are T_c , the coolant liquid temperature, and F , the outlet flowrate.



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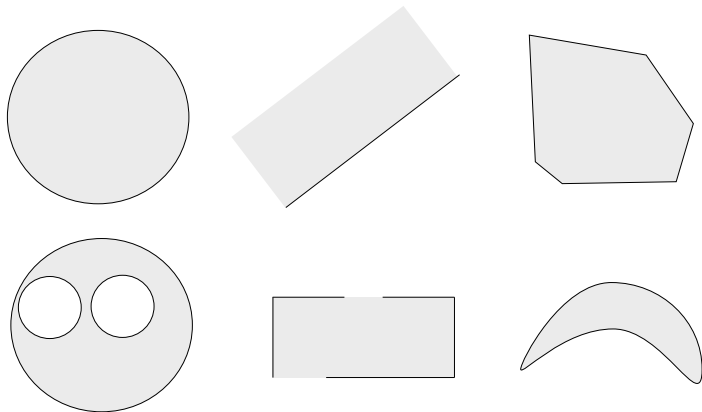


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Convex sets

A key concept in optimization is convexity



A set Ω is said to be convex if for any w_1, w_2 and any $\theta \in [0, 1]$ it holds $\theta w_1 + (1 - \theta)w_2 \in \Omega$



- ▶ A function F is convex if for every $w_1, w_2 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\theta \in [0, 1]$ it holds that

$$F(\theta w_1 + (1 - \theta)w_2) \leq \theta F(w_1) + (1 - \theta)F(w_2)$$

- ▶ F is concave if and only if $-F$ is convex
- ▶ F is convex if and only if the epigraph

$$\text{epi}F = \{(w, t) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_w+1} \mid F(w) \leq t\}$$

is a convex set

