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Finite Settling Time Control of Constrained Systems

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Abstract—In the paper, a method of finite settling time control of constrained systems is described. The method is an extension of the relatively optimal control scheme by Blanchini and Pellegrino, and can derive larger attractive regions and faster convergence to the equilibrium point. Usefulness of the proposed method are demonstrated through some examples.

1. Introduction

For almost all practical control systems, we need to take into account constraints on state and/or control input caused by amplitude limitation of state variables, saturation property of actuators and so on. If we ignore these constraints, then the real performance of the system degrades or, in worst cases, the control system becomes unstable. In these respect, extensive researches have been done to cope with such constraints (See [1] –[5] and references therein).

In this paper, we consider a state feedback deadbeat control and will propose an extension of the static ROC (Relatively Optimal Control) method [6]. The proposing method has two advantages: The first is that the attractive region is larger than that obtained by ROC. The second is achieving faster convergence to the origin than the ROC does.

2. Problem statement

2.1. System Description

Consider a discrete-time system given by

$$\begin{cases} x[k+1] = Ax[k] + bu[k], \quad x[0] = x_0, \\ z[k] = Lx[k] + Du[k], \end{cases}$$
(1)

where $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is the state of the system, $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is the initial state, $u \in \mathbb{R}$ is the control input, and $z \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is the vector of constrained variables. We assume that A is nonsingular and (A, b) is a reachable pair.

When x_0 and $\boldsymbol{u}_k = \begin{bmatrix} u[0] & u[1] & \cdots & u[k-1] \end{bmatrix}^\top$ are given, $x[k; x_0, \boldsymbol{u}_k]$ denotes the solution of the system (1). The constraint is represented by $z[k; x_0, \boldsymbol{u}_{k+1}] = (Lx[k; x_0, \boldsymbol{u}_k] + Du[k]) \in \mathcal{Z}$ for all $k \ge 0$, where $\boldsymbol{u}_{k+1} = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{u}_k^\top & u[k] \end{bmatrix}^\top$, and \mathcal{Z} is a polytope given by

$$\mathcal{Z} = \{ z : Hz \le h \}, \tag{2}$$

where $H \in \mathbb{R}^{N_c \times m}$, $h \in \mathbb{R}^{N_c}$, h > 0, and inequalities \leq and > means the element-wise inequalities.

We say that a region \mathcal{X}_q is a *q*-time attractive region if $x_0 \in \mathcal{X}_q$ then there exists an input \boldsymbol{u}_q such that $\boldsymbol{z}[k; x_0, \boldsymbol{u}_q] \in \mathcal{Z}$ for all $k = 0, 1, \dots, q-1$ and $\boldsymbol{x}[q; x_0, \boldsymbol{u}_q] = 0$.

2.2. An Motivative Example

Blanchini and Pellegrino [6] proposed the static ROC. For a given positive integer N and an initial state x_0 , they consider the following optimization problem.

$$(\text{QP1}) \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \min_{\substack{x[\cdot], u[\cdot], z[\cdot] \\ \text{sub. to} \end{array}} \sum_{\substack{k=0 \\ k=0}}^{N-1} \left(|Cx[k]|^2 + R|u[k]|^2 \right) \\ \text{sub. to} \quad x[k+1] = Ax[k] + bu[k], \\ z[k] = Lx[k] + Du[k] \in \mathcal{Z}, \\ k = 0, 1, \cdots, N-1 \\ x[0] = x_0, \quad x[N] = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

where $C \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times n}$ and R is a positive number.

Using the optimal solution $\{(\hat{x}[k+1], \hat{u}[k], \hat{z}[k])\}_{k=0}^{N-1}$, they construct attractive regions $\{\mathcal{X}_q(x_0)\}_{q=1}^N$ (in this case, \mathcal{X}_q depends on x_0).

Example 1 Let C = 0, R = 1 in (QP1), and

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, b = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, L = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, D = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (3)$$
$$H = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad h = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \\ 5 \\ 5 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (4)$$

For q = 1, 2, 3, 4, N, N = 5 and $x_0 = [-2 -5]^{\top}$, $x_0 = [-3 -5]^{\top}$, and $x_0 = [-4 -5]^{\top}$, we compute $\mathcal{X}_q(x_0)$. In Fig. 1, we show $\{\mathcal{X}_q(x_0)\}_{q=1}^N$, where the red, the yellow, the green, the cyan, and the magenta regions denotes $\mathcal{X}_1(x_0)$, $\mathcal{X}_2(x_0)$, $\mathcal{X}_3(x_0)$, $\mathcal{X}_4(x_0)$, and $\mathcal{X}_5(x_0)$ respectively. About the gray region we will mention it later.

As we can see from **Figure 1**, attractive regions $\mathcal{X}_q(x_0)$ depend on initial state x_0 . Note that \tilde{x}_0

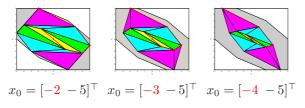


Figure 1: Attractive regions $\{\mathcal{X}_q(x_0)\}_{q=1}^5$ computed by ROC method.

may belong to $\mathcal{X}_q(x_0) \cap \mathcal{X}_{q'}(x'_0)$ for different (q, x_0) and (q', x'_0) . In this case, we have two control laws u = f(x) and u = f'(x), and x[q] = 0 if we adopt u[k] = f(x[k]) and x[q'] = 0 if we adopt u[k] =f'(x[k]). This implies that the control law u = f(x) is not the control law achieving the minimum convergent time q (x[q] = 0), in general.

2.3. Problem Statement

Our problem is the following:

Problem 1 Given an integer N > 0. For each $q = 1, 2, \dots, N$, compute the maximal attractive region \mathcal{X}_q satisfying for any $x_0 \in \mathcal{X}_q$ there exists an input u_q such that $z[k; x_0, u_q] \in \mathcal{Z}$, $k = 0, 1, \dots, q-1$ and $x[q; x_0, u_q] = 0$, where

$$\boldsymbol{u}_q = \begin{bmatrix} u[0] & u[1] & \cdots & u[q-1] \end{bmatrix}^\top \in \mathbb{R}^q.$$
 (5)

Moreover, derive a piecewise linear state feedback control law u = f(x).

By computing the maximal attractive regions $\{\mathcal{X}_q\}_{q=1}^N$, we can achieve faster convergence to the origin than the ROC do for some initial state x_0 .

3. Main Results

3.1. Construction of X_N

Given $q \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$ and $x[0] = x_0$. For each $k \in \{0, 1, \dots, q\}$, the solution x[k] of (1) and z[k] are represented by

$$\begin{aligned} x[k] &= A^{k} x_{0} + A^{k-1} b u[0] + \dots + b u[k-1], \\ z[k] &= L A^{k} x_{0} + L A^{k-1} b u[0] + \dots + L b u[k-1] \\ &+ D u[k]. \end{aligned}$$

Since we assume that A is nonsingular, the boundary condition that x[q] = 0 is represented by

$$x[q] = A^q(x_0 + \boldsymbol{M}_q \boldsymbol{u}_q) = 0, \qquad (6)$$

where

$$\boldsymbol{M}_q = \begin{bmatrix} A^{-1}b & A^{-2}b & \cdots & A^{-q}b \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times q}.$$
(7)

The constraint $Hz[k] \leq h, k = 0, 1, \cdots, q-1$ is represented by

$$\boldsymbol{a}_q x_0 + \boldsymbol{T}_q \boldsymbol{u}_q \leq \boldsymbol{h} = [\boldsymbol{h}^\top \cdots \boldsymbol{h}^\top]^\top \in \mathbb{R}^{qN_c}$$
 (8)

where $\boldsymbol{a}_q = \begin{bmatrix} (HL)^\top & (HLA)^\top & \cdots & (HLA^{q-1})^\top \end{bmatrix}^\top \in \mathbb{R}^{qN_c \times n},$

$$\boldsymbol{T}_{q} = \begin{bmatrix} HD & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ HLb & HD & & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ HLA^{q-2}b & HLA^{q-3}b & \cdots & HD \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{qN_{c} \times q}$$

The maximal attractive region \mathcal{X}_q is characterized as follows:

$$\mathcal{X}_{q} = \{ x_{0} : \boldsymbol{a}_{q} x_{0} + \boldsymbol{T}_{q} \boldsymbol{u}_{q} \leq \boldsymbol{h}, \\ x_{0} + \boldsymbol{M}_{q} \boldsymbol{u}_{q} = 0 \text{ for some } \boldsymbol{u}_{q} \}.$$
(9)

Since (A, b) is a reachable pair and since A is nonsingular,

$$\operatorname{rank} \boldsymbol{M}_{q} = \begin{cases} q, & q \leq n, \\ n, & q > n, \end{cases}$$
(10)

Therefore, M_q is column full rank when $q \leq n$ and is full row rank when $q \geq n$, and we have the following:

Lemma 1 Let q < n and $M_{q,L} = (M_q^{\top} M_q)^{-1} M_q^{\top}$.

Then, for any $x_0 \in \text{Im } M_q$, the unique solution u_q of (6) is given by

$$\boldsymbol{u}_q = -\boldsymbol{M}_{q,L} \boldsymbol{x}_0 \tag{11}$$

and \mathcal{X}_q defined by (9) is given by

$$\mathcal{X}_q = \{ x_0 = \boldsymbol{M}_q \boldsymbol{\xi} : (\boldsymbol{a}_q - \boldsymbol{T}_q \boldsymbol{M}_{q,L}) \boldsymbol{M}_q \boldsymbol{\xi} \le \boldsymbol{h} \}, \quad (12)$$

which is the largest polyhedral set such that for any $x_0 \in \mathcal{X}_q$ the input \mathbf{u}_q defined by (11) gives that $z[k; x_0, \mathbf{u}_q] \in \mathcal{Z}, \ k = 0, 1, \cdots, q-1$ and $x[q; x_0, \mathbf{u}_q] = 0$.

Lemma 2 Let q = n. Then for any $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, the unique solution u_q of (6) is given by

$$\boldsymbol{u}_n = -\boldsymbol{M}_n^{-1} \boldsymbol{x}_0 \tag{13}$$

and \mathcal{X}_q defined by (9) is given by

$$\mathcal{X}_n = \{ x_0 : (\boldsymbol{a}_q - \boldsymbol{T}_q \boldsymbol{M}_q^{-1}) x_0 \le \boldsymbol{h} \}, \qquad (14)$$

which is the largest polyhedral set such that for any $x_0 \in \mathcal{X}_n$ the input \mathbf{u}_n defined by (13) gives that $z[k; x_0, \mathbf{u}_q] \in \mathcal{Z}, \ k = 0, 1, \cdots, n-1$ and $x[n; x_0, \mathbf{u}_n] = 0$.

Lemma 3 Let q > n, $M_{q,R} = M_q^{\top} (M_q M_q^{\top})^{-1}$, and $P_q \in \mathbb{R}^{q \times (q-n)}$ be a matrix whose column vectors are basis of Ker M_q .

Then, for any $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, any solution u_q of (6) is given by

$$\boldsymbol{u}_q = -\boldsymbol{M}_{q,R} \boldsymbol{x}_0 + \boldsymbol{P}_q \boldsymbol{\xi}, \tag{15}$$

for some $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^{(q-n)}$. Let

$$\Upsilon_q = \{ (x_0, \xi) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^q : (\boldsymbol{a}_q - \boldsymbol{T}_q \boldsymbol{M}_{q,R}) x_0 \\ + \boldsymbol{T}_q \boldsymbol{P}_q \xi \leq \boldsymbol{h} \}.$$
(16)

We assume that Υ_q is bounded, ¹ and node $\Upsilon_q = \{v_{q,j} = (x_{q,j}, \xi_{q,j})\}_{j=1}^{N_q}$ is the set of node of polytope Υ_q . Then, \mathcal{X}_q defined by (9) is given by

$$\mathcal{X}_q = \operatorname{conv} \{ x_{q,1}, x_{q,2}, \cdots, x_{q,N_q} \}.$$
 (17)

Let node $\mathcal{X}_q = \{x_{q,j_1}, \cdots, x_{q,j_{m_q}}\}$ is the set of vertices of the polytope \mathcal{X}_q . Then, for any $x_0 \in \mathcal{X}_q$ there exists $\{\lambda_i \in [0,1]\}_{i=1}^{m_q}$ such that

$$x_0 = \sum_{i=1}^{m_q} \lambda_i x_{q,j_i}, \quad \sum_{i=1}^{m_q} \lambda_i = 1.$$
 (18)

Define

$$\boldsymbol{u}_q = \sum_{i=1}^{m_q} \lambda_i \boldsymbol{u}_{q,j_i},\tag{19}$$

$$\boldsymbol{u}_{q,j_i} = -\boldsymbol{M}_{q,R} \boldsymbol{x}_{q,j_i} + \boldsymbol{P}_q \boldsymbol{\xi}_{q,j_i}, \qquad (20)$$

where $v_{q,j} = (x_{q,j}, \xi_{q,j}) \in \operatorname{node} \Upsilon_q$.

The polytope \mathcal{X}_q is the largest polytope such that for any $x_0 \in \mathcal{X}_q$ the input \mathbf{u}_q defined by (19) gives that z[k; $x_0, \mathbf{u}_q] \in \mathcal{Z}, \ k = 0, 1, \cdots, q-1$ and $x[q; x_0, \mathbf{u}_q] = 0$.

We summarize above observations and get the following:

Theorem 1 Assume that $N \geq n$ and $\{\mathcal{X}_q\}_{q=1}^{n-1}$ are defined by (12) and \mathcal{X}_n is defined by (14). Moreover, we assume that $\{\Upsilon_q\}_{q=n+1}^N$ defined by (16) are bounded and $\{\mathcal{X}_q\}_{q=n+1}^N$ are defined by (17).

Then, we have the following;

(a) The polytope X_q is the largest polytope such that for any x₀ ∈ X_q there exists a u_q such that z[k; x₀, u_q] ∈ Z, k = 0, 1, · · · , q − 1 and x[q; x₀, u_q] = 0.
(b) If x₀ ∈ X_q for some q < N − 1, then x₀ ∈ X_{q+1}. Therefore, we have

$$\mathcal{X}_1 \subseteq \cdots \subseteq \mathcal{X}_q \subseteq \cdots \subseteq \mathcal{X}_N.$$
(21)

(c) If $x_0 \in \mathcal{X}_q$ for some q > 1, then $x[1] \in \mathcal{X}_{q-1}$. \Box

For the system given in **Example 1**, we computed $\{\mathcal{X}_q\}_{q=1}^N$ where N = 5. The gray region in **Figure 1** is \mathcal{X}_5 , which is much larger than attractive regions $\mathcal{X}_5(x_0)$ computed by applying ROC.

Suppose that we computed polytopes $\{\mathcal{X}_q\}_{q=1}^N$ under the assumptions in **Theorem 1**. Let

$$n_q = \dim \mathcal{X}_q. \tag{22}$$

Note that $n_q \leq q$ and $n_q < m_q$ for all $q = 1, 2, \dots, N$, where m_q is the cardinality of the nodes of \mathcal{X}_q . Since h > 0 by the assumption, \mathcal{X}_p includes $0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ as an interior point, and, hence, $n_q = n$ for all $q = n+1, n+2, \dots, N$.

3.2. Control law

In this subsection, we will state how to determine the control law u = f(x). If $q \leq n$, then u_q is defined uniquely. On the other hand, when q > n, u_q depends on the choice of $\{\lambda_i \in [0,1]\}_{i=1}^{m_q}$ satisfying (18), which is not unique in general. Let $\Delta_q = \mathcal{X}_q \setminus \mathcal{X}_{q-1}$.² We divide Δ_q into simplexes $\{\mathcal{S}_{q,\ell}\}_{\ell=1}^{d_q}$, that is,

$$\Delta_{q} = \bigcup_{\ell=1}^{d_{q}} S_{q,\ell}, \quad \text{int} \, S_{q,\ell} \cap \, \text{int} \, S_{q,\ell'} = \emptyset, \, \ell \neq \ell' \quad (23)$$
$$\mathcal{X}_{q} = \mathcal{X}_{q-1} \cup \left(\bigcup_{\ell=1}^{d_{q}} S_{q,\ell}\right). \tag{24}$$

Let node $S_{q,\ell} = \{x_{q,j_{\ell,i}}\}_{i=1}^{n+1}$ be the set of nodes of the simplex $S_{q,\ell}$, where $(x_{q,j_{\ell,i}}, \xi_{q,j_{\ell,i}}) \in (\text{node } \mathcal{X}_q \cup \text{node } \mathcal{X}_{q-1})$. Then, for each $x_0 \in Sq, \ell$, there is a unique $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ such that $x_0 = \tilde{X}_{q,\ell}\lambda$, where

$$\tilde{X}_{q,\ell} = \begin{bmatrix} x_{q,j_{\ell,1}} & x_{q,j_{\ell,2}} & \cdots & x_{q,j_{\ell,n+1}} \\ 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$
 (25)

Note that $\tilde{X}_{q,\ell} \in \mathbb{R}^{(n+1)\times(n+1)}$ is nonsingular since $S_{q,\ell}$ is a simplex. Therefore $\lambda = \tilde{X}_{q,\ell}^{-1} x_0$. We define u_q by

$$\boldsymbol{u}_q = U_{q,\ell} \tilde{\boldsymbol{X}}_{q,\ell}^{-1} \boldsymbol{x}_0, \qquad (26)$$

where

$$U_{q,\ell} = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{u}_{q,j_{\ell,1}} & \boldsymbol{u}_{q,j_{\ell,2}} & \cdots & \boldsymbol{u}_{q,j_{\ell,n+1}} \end{bmatrix}$$
(27)

$$\boldsymbol{u}_{q,j_{\ell,i}} = -\boldsymbol{M}_{q,R} x_{q,j_{\ell,i}} + \boldsymbol{P}_{q} \xi_{q,j_{\ell,i}}.$$
 (28)

We summarize as follows:

Theorem 2 Assume that the assumptions of **Theorem 1** is satisfied. Then, the polytope \mathcal{X}_q is the largest polytope such that for any $x_0 \in \mathcal{X}_q$ there exists a \mathbf{u}_q such that $z[k; x_0, \mathbf{u}_q] \in \mathcal{Z}$, $k = 0, 1, \dots, q-1$ and $x[q; x_0, \mathbf{u}_q] = 0$, and input \mathbf{u}_q is given by (11) when q < n, (13) when q = n, and (26) when q > n.

 $^{^1\}mathrm{A}$ sufficient condition that Υ_q is bounded is all elements of x and u are elements of z.

²We note here that $\mathcal{X}_{q-1} \subseteq \mathcal{X}_q$ because of **Theorem 1**, (b)

For the system given in **Example 1**, we computed $\{\mathcal{X}_q\}_{q=1}^n$ and $\{\mathcal{S}_{q,\ell}\}$ for $q = n+1, n+2, \cdots, N$, where n = 2 and N = 5. In **Figure 2**, \mathcal{X}_1 is a red line segment, \mathcal{X}_2 is the yellow polytope, $\{\mathcal{S}_{3,\ell}\}$ are green simplexes, $\{\mathcal{X}_{4,\ell}\}$ are cyan simplexes, and $\{\mathcal{S}_{5,\ell}\}$ are magenta simplexes. We also show $\{\mathcal{X}_q(x_0)\}_{q=1}^5$ computed by ROC in **Figure 3**, where $x_0 = [-25]^{\top}$. In **Figure 3**, $\mathcal{X}_1(x_0)$ is a red line segment, $\mathcal{X}_2(x_0)$ is a yellow polytope, $\Delta_3(x_0) = \mathcal{X}_3(x_0) \setminus \mathcal{X}_2(x_0)$ is divided into green simplexes, and $\Delta_5(x_0) = \mathcal{X}_5(x_0) \setminus \mathcal{X}_4(x_0)$ is divided into cyan simplexes, and $\Delta_5(x_0) = \mathcal{X}_5(x_0) \setminus \mathcal{X}_4(x_0)$ is divided into magenta simplexes. We can see that \mathcal{X}_5 obtained our method is larger than $\mathcal{X}_5(x_0)$. This is the first contribution of our method.

Let $x_0 = [-2 \ 4]$. Note that $x_0 \in \Delta_4$ in **Figure 2**, and, hence, the trajectory $x[k; x_0, u_4]$ obtained by our method converges 0 by 4 steps. On the other hand, $x_0 \in \Delta_5([-2 \ 5]^{\top})$ in **Figure 3**, and, hence, the trajectory $x[k; x_0, u_5]$ obtained by ROC need 5 steps converges 0. Thus, the trajectory by our method converges 0 by smaller steps than that of ROC. This is the second contribution of our method.

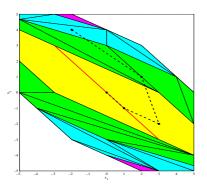


Figure 2: The partitioned state space and state trajectory from point $x[0] = [-2 \ 4]^{\top}$

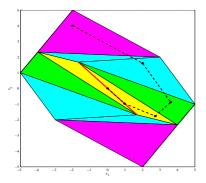


Figure 3: The partitioned state space and state trajectory from point $x[0] = [-2 \ 4]^{\top}$ by ROC method

4. Concluding Remark

In this paper, we assume that exact model of the plant is given and there is no disturbance and noises. However, in practice, we can not expect such a situation. Suppose that N > n and that $x_0 \in \mathcal{S}_{N,\ell}$ for some ℓ . According to the proposing scheme, we have a input $\boldsymbol{u}_N = \begin{bmatrix} u[0] & u[1] & \cdots & u[N-1] \end{bmatrix}$. Suppose that, like the model predictive control scheme, we only apply u[0] to the system, and observe the state $x'_0 = x[1]$ at time 1. Note that $x_0^{[1]}$ might be different from $x[1; x_0, \boldsymbol{u}_N]$ because of model errors, disturbances or noises. But it is not so ambiguous that we expect that $x_0^{[1]} \in \mathcal{X}_{N-1}$ because of **Theorem 1**, (c). Then, determine ℓ' such that $x_0^{[1]} \in \mathcal{S}_{N-1,\ell'}$, compute $\boldsymbol{u}_{N-1} = \begin{bmatrix} u'[0] & u'[1] & \cdots & u'[N-2] \end{bmatrix}$, and apply only u'[0] to the system. By repeating this process N-n times, we can expect that $x_0^{[n]} = x[N-n] \in \mathcal{X}_n$. However, since dim $\mathcal{X}_q < n$ for q < n, it is not reasonable to expect that x[N] = 0 when there are model errors, disturbances or noises. This is the point we need to circumvent in future study.

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