

Data-Enabled Predictive Control in Autonomous Energy Systems

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IfA DeePC team, & many master students

Thoughts on data-driven control

- indirect data-driven control via models: data ^{SysID} model + uncertainty → control
- growing trend: direct data-driven control by-passing models ... (again) hyped, why ?

The direct approach is viable alternative

• for some *applications* : model-based approach is too complex to be useful

 \rightarrow too complex models, environments, sensing modalities, specifications (e.g., wind farm)

- due to (well-known) shortcomings of ID
 → too cumbersome, models not identified for control, incompatible uncertainty estimates, ...
- when brute force data/compute available



Central promise: It is often easier to learn a control policy from data rather than a model. Example: PID [Åström et al., '73]

 \rightarrow theory trade-offs: (non)modular + (in)tractable + (sub)optimal (?)

Today: tractable direct approach

- 1. behavioral system theory: fundamental lemma
- 2. DeePC: data-enabled predictive control
- 3. robustification via salient regularizations
- 4. cases studies from wind & power systems

blooming literature (2-3 ArXiv/week)

 \rightarrow survey & tutorial to get started:

DATA-DRIVEN CONTROL BASED ON BEHAVIORAL APPROACH: FROM THEORY TO APPLICATIONS IN POWER SYSTEMS

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Preview

complex 4-area power *system*: large (n = 208), few sensors (8), nonlinear, noisy, stiff, input constraints, & decentralized control specifications

control objective: oscillation damping without model

(grid has many owners, models are proprietary, operation in flux, ...)





seek a method that **works reliably**, can be **efficiently** implemented, & **certifiable**

 \rightarrow automating ourselves

Reality check: magic or hoax?

surely, nobody would put apply such a shaky data-driven method

- on the world's most complex engineered system (the electric grid),
- using the world's biggest actuators (Gigawatt-sized HVDC links),
- and subject to real-time, safety, & stability constraints ... right?



at least someone believes that DeePC is practically useful ...

Behavioral view on LTI systems

| Definition: A discrete-time dynamical | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--|
| system is a 3-tuple $(\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}, \mathbb{W}, \mathscr{B})$ whe | re | |
| (i) $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ is the <i>discrete-time</i> axis, | B is the set of all trajectories | |
| (ii) \mathbb{W} is a signal space, & | | |
| (iii) $\mathscr{B} \subseteq \mathbb{W}^{\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}}$ is the <i>behavior</i> . | | |

Definition: The dynamical system $(\mathbb{Z}_{>0}, \mathbb{W}, \mathscr{B})$ is

- (i) *linear* if \mathbb{W} is a vector space & \mathscr{B} is a subspace of $\mathbb{W}^{\mathbb{Z} \ge 0}$
- (ii) & *time-invariant* if $\mathscr{B} \subseteq \sigma \mathscr{B}$, where $\sigma w_t = w_{t+1}$.

LTI system = shift-invariant subspace of trajectory space

→ abstract perspective suited for data-driven control





Fundamental Lemma [Willems et al. '05 + many recent extensions]



if and only if the trajectory matrix has rank $m \cdot T + n$ for all $T > \ell$



all trajectories constructible from finitely many previous trajectories

 standing on the shoulders of giants: classic Willems' result was only "if" & required further assumptions: Hankel, persistency of excitation, controllability



- terminology *fundamental* is justified: motion primitives, subspace SysID, dictionary learning, (E)DMD, ... all implicitly rely on this equivalence
- many recent *extensions* to other *system classes* (bi-linear, descriptor, LPV, delay, Volterra series, Wiener-Hammerstein, ...), other *matrix data structures* (mosaic Hankel, Page, ...), & other *proof methods*
- *blooming literature* (2-3 / week) on theory, applications, & computation

Output Model Predictive Control

The canonical receding-horizon MPC optimization problem :

 $\min_{u, x, y}$

subj

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$$\begin{aligned} \underset{C, \mathcal{Y}}{\text{mize}} \quad & \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \|y_k - r_k\|_Q^2 + \|u_k\|_R^2 \\ \text{ect to} \quad & x_{k+1} = Ax_k + Bu_k, \ \forall k \in \{1, \dots, T_{\text{future}}\}, \\ & y_k = Cx_k + Du_k, \quad \forall k \in \{1, \dots, T_{\text{future}}\}, \\ & x_{k+1} = Ax_k + Bu_k, \ \forall k \in \{-T_{\text{ini}} - 1, \dots, 0\} \\ & y_k = Cx_k + Du_k, \quad \forall k \in \{-T_{\text{ini}} - 1, \dots, 0\} \\ & u_k \in \mathcal{U}, \quad \forall k \in \{1, \dots, T_{\text{future}}\}, \\ & y_k \in \mathcal{Y}, \quad \forall k \in \{1, \dots, T_{\text{future}}\} \end{aligned}$$

quadratic cost with $R \succ 0, Q \succeq 0$ & ref. r

model for **prediction** with $k \in [1, T_{\text{future}}]$

model for **estimation** with $k \in [-T_{ini} - 1, 0]$ & $T_{ini} \ge lag$ (many flavors)

hard operational or safety **constraints**

Willems '07: "[MPC] has perhaps too little system theory and too much **brute force** computation." Elegance aside, for a deterministic LTI plant with known model, MPC is truly the *gold standard of control*.

Data-Enabled Predictive Control

$$\begin{array}{ll} \underset{g, u, y}{\operatorname{minimize}} & \sum_{k=1}^{T_{\operatorname{luture}}} \|y_k - r_k\|_Q^2 + \|u_k\|_R^2 \\ \text{subject to} & \mathscr{H} \begin{pmatrix} u^{\mathsf{d}} \\ y^{\mathsf{d}} \end{pmatrix} \cdot g = \left[\begin{matrix} u_{\operatorname{ini}} \\ y_{\operatorname{ini}} \\ u \\ y \end{matrix} \right], \\ & u_k \in \mathcal{U}, \quad \forall k \in \{1, \dots, T_{\operatorname{future}}\}, \\ & y_k \in \mathcal{Y}, \quad \forall k \in \{1, \dots, T_{\operatorname{future}}\} \end{array}$$

quadratic cost with $R \succ 0, Q \succeq 0$ & ref. r

non-parametric model for prediction and estimation

hard operational or safety **constraints**

• real-time measurements (u_{ini}, y_{ini}) for estimation

• trajectory matrix
$$\mathscr{H} \begin{pmatrix} u^{d} \\ y^{d} \end{pmatrix}$$
 from past experimental data

updated online

collected offline (could be adapted online)

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→ equivalent to MPC in deterministic LTI case ...
but needs to be robustified in case of noise / nonlinearity !

Regularizations counter-acting noise

$$\begin{array}{ll} \underset{g,u,y,\sigma}{\operatorname{minimize}} & \sum_{k=1}^{T_{\operatorname{huture}}} \|y_k - r_k\|_Q^2 + \|u_k\|_R^2 + \lambda_y \|\sigma\|_p + \lambda_g h(g) \\ \text{subject to} & \mathscr{H} \begin{pmatrix} u^{\operatorname{d}} \\ y^{\operatorname{d}} \end{pmatrix} \cdot g = \left[\begin{matrix} u_{\operatorname{ini}} \\ y_{\operatorname{ini}} \\ u_y \end{matrix} \right] + \left[\begin{matrix} 0 \\ \sigma \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{matrix} \right], \\ u_k \in \mathcal{U}, \quad \forall k \in \{1, \ldots, T_{\operatorname{future}}\}, \\ y_k \in \mathcal{Y}, \quad \forall k \in \{1, \ldots, T_{\operatorname{future}}\} \end{aligned} \right]$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \underset{g,u,y,\sigma}{\operatorname{measurement noise}} \rightarrow \text{infeasible } y_{\operatorname{ini}} \text{ estimate} \\ \rightarrow \text{ estimation slack } \sigma \\ \rightarrow \text{ moving-horizon} \\ \text{ least-square filter} \end{array}$$

Bayesian intuition: regularization \Leftrightarrow prior, e.g., $h(g) = ||g||_1$ sparsely selects {trajectory matrix columns} = {motion primitives} \sim low-order basis

Robustness intuition: regularization \Leftrightarrow robustifies, e.g., in a simple case $\min_{x} \max_{\|\Delta\| \le \rho} \|(A+\Delta)x-b\| \stackrel{\text{tight}}{\le} \min_{x} \max_{\|\Delta\| \le \rho} \|Ax-b\| + \|\Delta x\| = \min_{x} \|Ax-b\| + \rho \|x\|$

Regularization = relaxation of bi-level ID

 $\operatorname{minimize}_{u,y,g}$ $\operatorname{control} \operatorname{cost}(u, y)$ optimal control $\begin{bmatrix} u \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \mathscr{H} \begin{pmatrix} \hat{u} \\ \hat{y} \end{pmatrix} g$ subject to $\begin{pmatrix} \hat{u} \\ \hat{y} \end{pmatrix} \in \operatorname{argmin} \left\| \begin{pmatrix} \hat{u} \\ \hat{y} \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} u^{d} \\ u^{d} \end{pmatrix} \right\|$ system identification where subject to rank $(\mathscr{H}(\hat{u})) = mL + n$ \downarrow sequence of convex relaxations \downarrow l₁-regularization minimize_{u,y,g} control cost $(u, y) + \lambda_q \cdot \|g\|_1$ = relaxation of id smoothening order subject to $\begin{bmatrix} u \\ u \end{bmatrix} = \mathscr{H} \begin{pmatrix} u^d \\ y^d \end{bmatrix} g$ selection (no bias)

Towards nonlinear systems

idea : lift nonlinear system to large/ ∞ -dimensional bi-/linear system \rightarrow Carleman, Volterra, Fliess, Koopman, Sturm-Liouville methods \rightarrow nonlinear dynamics can be approximated by LTI on finite horizon

regularization singles out relevant features / basis functions in data



Works very well across case studies



guad coptor fig-8 tracking



quadruped (by Fawcett, Afsari Amers, & Hamed)



greenhouse automation (by Automatoes)



combined cycle power plant (by P Mahdavipour et. al)



robotic excavator



pendulum swing up



traffic coordination (by J. Wang et al.)



battery charging (by K. Chen et al.)



wind turbine control



Reason: distributional robustness

- problem abstraction: $\min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} c\left(\widehat{\xi}, x\right)$ where $\widehat{\xi}$ is measured data
- distributionally robust formulation → "min_{x∈X} max_ξ c (ξ, x)" where max accounts for all stochastic processes (linear or nonlinear) that could have generated the data ... more precisely

$$\inf_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \ \sup_{Q \in \mathbb{B}_{\epsilon}(\widehat{\mathbb{P}})} \ \mathbb{E}_{Q} \big[c \left(\xi, x \right) \big]$$

where $\mathbb{B}_{\epsilon}(\widehat{\mathbb{P}})$ is an ϵ -Wasserstein ball centered at empirical sample distribution $\widehat{\mathbb{P}}$:

$$\mathbb{B}_{\epsilon}\left(\widehat{\mathbb{P}}\right) = \left\{P : \inf_{\Pi} \int \left\|\xi - \hat{\xi}\right\|_{p} d\Pi \leq \epsilon\right\}$$



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$$\begin{array}{l} \textbf{Theorem}: \inf_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \sup_{Q \in \mathbb{B}_{\epsilon}(\widehat{\mathbb{P}})} \mathbb{E}_{Q} \big[c\left(\xi, x\right) \big] \\ \\ \overbrace{distributional robust formulation} \\ \end{array} \underbrace{ \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} c\left(\widehat{\xi}, x\right) + \epsilon \operatorname{Lip}(c) \cdot \|x\|_{p}^{\star} }_{previous regularized DeePC formulation} \end{array}$$

Case study: wind turbine



- detailed *industrial model*: 37 states & highly nonlinear (abc ↔ dq, MPTT, PLL, power specs, dynamics, etc.)
- turbine & grid model unknown to commissioning engineer & operator
- weak grid + PLL + fault \rightarrow *loss of sync*
- disturbance to be rejected by DeePC



Case study ++ : wind farm



- high-fidelity models for turbines, machines, & IEEE-9-bus system
- fast frequency response via decentralized DeePC at turbines



Conclusions

main take-aways

- matrix time series as predictive model
- robustness & implicit ID via regularizations
- method that works in theory & practice for stochastic & weakly nonlinear systems
- · illustrated via energy system case studies

ongoing work

- \rightarrow certificates for truly nonlinear systems
- ightarrow explicit policies & direct adaptive control
- ightarrow applications with a true "business case"



only catch (no-free-lunch) : optimization problems become large \rightarrow models are compressed, de-noised, & tidied-up representations

Thanks!

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mail: dorfler@ethz.ch [link] to homepage [link] to related publications

back-up slides

Performance of least-square-induced regularizer on stochastic LTI system



Further ...

- measure concentration: average matrix $\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \mathscr{H}_i(y^d)$ from i.i.d. experiments \implies ambiguity set $\mathbb{B}_{\epsilon}(\widehat{\mathbb{P}})$ includes true \mathbb{P} with high confidence if $\epsilon \sim 1/N^{1/\dim(\xi)}$
- distributionally robust constraints



 $\sup_{Q\in \mathbb{B}_{\epsilon}(\widehat{\mathbb{P}})} \mathsf{CVaR}^{\mathbb{Q}}_{1-\alpha} \iff \text{averaging + regularization + tightening}$

 more structured uncertainty sets: tractable reformulations (relaxations) & guarantees on realized performance



• replace (finite) moving horizon estimation via $\binom{u_{\text{ini}}}{y_{\text{ini}}}$ by *recursive Kalman filtering* based on explicit optimizer g^* as hidden state how does DeePC relate to sequential SysID + control ?

surprise: DeePC consistently beats models across all our case studies !

Abstraction reveals pros & cons

indirect (model-based) data-driven control

| where x estimated from (u, y) & model where model identified from (u^d, y^d) data inner opt. $(\rightarrow LQG case (\rightarrow LQG))$ | • |
|---|-----------|
| where model identified from (u^d, y^d) data $\left. \right\}$ inner opt. $\left. \right\}$ $\underbrace{\text{no separatic}}_{(\rightarrow \text{ ID-4-contribution})}$ | e) |
| second and the second section is estimated as a second second | วท rol |
| \rightarrow hested multi-level optimization problem | |
| direct (black-box) data-driven control → trade-offs | |
| minimize control cost (u, y) subject to (u, y) consistent with (u^d, y^d) data modular vs. end-2-end suboptimal (?) vs. optimal convex vs. non-convex (?) | |

Additionally: account for *uncertainty* (hard to propagate in indirect approach)

Comparison: direct vs. indirect control

indirect ID-based data-driven control

minimize control cost (u, y)

subject to (u, y) satisfy parametric model

where model \in argmin id cost (u^d, y^d) subject to model \in LTI (n, ℓ) class

ID projects data on the set of LTI models

- with parameters (n, ℓ)
- removes noise & thus lowers variance error
- suffers bias error if plant is not $\text{LTI}(n, \ell)$

direct regularized data-driven control

minimize control cost $(u, y) + \lambda$ regularizer subject to (u, y) consistent with (u^d, y^d) data

- regularization robustifies
 → choosing λ makes it work
- *no projection* on $LTI(n, \ell)$ \rightarrow no de-noising & no bias

hypothesis: ID wins in stochastic (variance) & DeePC in nonlinear (bias) case

Case study: direct vs. indirect control

$\textit{stochastic LTI case} \rightarrow \textit{indirect ID wins}$

- LQR control of 5th order LTI system
- Gaussian noise with varying noise to signal ratio (100 rollouts each case)
- *l*₁-regularized DeePC, SysID via N4SID, & judicious hyper-parameters

nonlinear case \rightarrow direct DeePC wins

- Lotka-Volterra + control: $x^+ = f(x, u)$
- interpolated system $x^+ = \epsilon \cdot f_{\text{linearized}}(x,u) + (1-\epsilon) \cdot f(x,u)$
- same ID & DeePC as on the left & 100 initial x₀ rollouts for each ε

