

In the Shallows of the DeePC : Data-Enabled Predictive Control Florian Dörfler

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#### Feedback – our central paradigm



### Big, deep, data, and so on

- unprecedented availability of computation, storage, and data
- *theoretical advances* in optimization, statistics, and machine learning
- ... and *big-data* frenzy
- → increasing importance of *data-centric methods* in all of science / engineering

Make up your own opinion, but machine learning works too well to be ignored.





#### 🤒 nvidia: Developer

#### NVIDIA Developer Blo

#### End-to-End Deep Learning for Self-Driving Cars

By Mariusz Bojarski, Ben Firner, Beat Flepp, Larry Jackel, Urs Muller, Karol Zieba and Davide Del Testa | August 17, 2016



### Control in a data-rich world

- ever-growing trend in CS and robotics: data-driven control by-passing models
- canonical problem: black/gray-box system control based on I/O samples

**Q:** Why give up physical modeling and reliable model-based algorithms?



- models are too complex to be useful (e.g., control of fluid dynamics)
- first-principle models are not conceivable (e.g., human-in-the-loop applications)
- modeling and system ID is too costly (e.g., non-critical robotics applications)



**Central promise:** It is often easier to learn control policies directly from data, rather than learning a model.

Example: PID

... of course, we are all tempted, annoyed, ...

machine learning often achieves super-human performance, but it performs nowhere near MPC

... but that's an entirely unfair comparison, is it?

today: *preliminary* ideas on a new approach that seems equally simple & powerful

## Snippets from the literature

 reinforcement learning / or stochastic adaptive control / or approximate dynamic programming

#### with key mathematical challenges

- (approximate/neuro) **DP** to learn approx. value/Q-function or optimal policy
- (stochastic) **function approximation** in continuous state and action spaces
- exploration-exploitation trade-offs

#### and practical limitations

- inefficiency: computation & samples
- complex and fragile algorithms
- safe real-time exploration
- ø suitable for physical control systems?





A Tour of Reinforcement Learning

## Snippets from the literature cont'd

- 2. gray-box safe learning & control
- $\textit{robust} \rightarrow \text{conservative \& complex control}$
- *adaptive* → hard & asymptotic performance
- contemporary learning algorithms (e.g., MPC + Gaussian processes / RL)
- ightarrow non-conservative, optimal, & safe
- Ø limited applicability: need a-priori safety
- 3. Sequential system ID + control
- ID with uncertainty quantification followed by robust control design
- → recent finite-sample & end-to-end ID + control pipelines out-performing RL
  - Ø ID seeks best but not most useful model
- Ø "easier to learn policies than models"





### Key take-aways

Quintessence of literature review :

- data-driven approach is no silver bullet (see previous Ø), and we did not even discuss output feedback, safety constraints, ...
- predictive models are preferable over data (even approximate)
- ightarrow models are tidied-up, compressed, and de-noised representations
- ightarrow model-based methods vastly out-perform model-agnostic strategies
- but often easier to learn controllers from data rather than models

#### ø deadlock ?

- a useful ML insight: non-parametric methods are often preferable over parametric ones (e.g., basis functions vs. kernels)
- ightarrow build a predictive & non-parametric model directly from raw data ?

#### Colorful idea



If you had the *impulse response* of a LTI system, then ...

- can build state-space system identification (Kalman-Ho realization)
- ... but can also build predictive model directly from raw data :

$$y_{\text{future}}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 & y_2 & y_3 & \dots \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} u_{\text{future}}(t) \\ u_{\text{future}}(t-1) \\ u_{\text{future}}(t-2) \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

- model predictive control from data: dynamic matrix control (DMC)
- today: can we do so with arbitrary, finite, and corrupted I/O samples?



Introduction

Insights from Behavioral System Theory

DeePC: Data-Enabled Predictive Control

Beyond Deterministic LTI Systems

Conclusions

### Behavioral view on LTI systems

**Definition:** A discrete-time *dynamical system* is a 3-tuple  $(\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}, \mathbb{W}, \mathscr{B})$  where

- (i)  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  is the discrete-time axis,
- (ii)  $\,\mathbb{W}$  is a signal space, and
- (iii)  $\mathscr{B} \subseteq \mathbb{W}^{\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}}$  is the behavior.

**Definition:** The dynamical system  $(\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}, \mathbb{W}, \mathscr{B})$  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  $\sigma w_t = w_{t+1}$ , and
- (iii) *complete* if  $\mathscr{B}$  is closed  $\Leftrightarrow \mathbb{W}$  is finite dimensional.

In the remainder we focus on discrete-time LTI systems.





#### Behavioral view cont'd

Behavior  $\mathscr{B} =$  set of trajectories in  $\mathbb{W}^{\mathbb{Z} \ge 0}$ , and set of *truncated trajectories*  $\mathscr{B}_T = \{ w \in \mathbb{W}^T \mid \exists v \in \mathscr{B} \text{ s.t. } w_t = v_t, t \in [0, T] \}$ 

A system  $(\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}, \mathbb{W}, \mathscr{B})$  is *controllable* if any two truncated trajectories  $w^1$ ,  $w^2 \in \mathscr{B}$  can be patched together in finite time with a trajectory  $w \in \mathscr{B}_{[T,T']}$ .



I/O:  $\mathscr{B} = \mathscr{B}^u \times \mathscr{B}^y$  where  $\mathscr{B}^u = (\mathbb{R}^m)^{\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}}$  and  $\mathscr{B}^y \subseteq (\mathbb{R}^p)^{\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}}$  are the spaces of *input and output* signals  $\Rightarrow w = \operatorname{col}(u, y) \in \mathscr{B}$ 

parametric *kernel representation*:  $\mathscr{B} = \operatorname{col}(u, y) \in (\mathbb{R}^{m+p})^{\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}}$  s.t.  $b_0 u + b_1 \sigma u + \dots + b_n \sigma^n u + a_0 y + a_1 \sigma y + \dots + a_n \sigma^n y = 0$ 

$$\Leftrightarrow \left| \operatorname{col}(u, y) \in \ker \left[ b_0 \ b_1 \sigma \ \dots \ b_n \sigma^n \quad a_0 \ a_1 \sigma \ \dots \ a_n \sigma^n \right] \right|$$

#### Behavioral view cont'd

parametric state-space representation with minimal realization

$$\mathscr{B}(A, B, C, D) = \left\{ \operatorname{col}(u, y) \in (\mathbb{R}^{m+p})^{\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}} \mid \exists \ x \in (\mathbb{R}^n)^{\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}} \\ \text{s.t.} \ \sigma x = Ax + Bu, \ y = Cx + Du \right\}$$
$$\log \operatorname{smallest} \ell \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0} \text{ s.t. observability matrix} \begin{bmatrix} C \\ CA \\ \vdots \\ CA^{\ell-1} \end{bmatrix} \text{ has rank } n$$

**Lemma** [Markovsky & Rapisarda '08]: Consider a minimal state-space model  $\mathscr{B}(A, B, C, D)$  & a trajectory  $\operatorname{col}(u_{\operatorname{ini}}, u, y_{\operatorname{ini}}, y) \in \mathscr{B}_{T_{\operatorname{ini}}+T_{\operatorname{future}}}$ of length  $T_{\operatorname{ini}} + T_{\operatorname{future}}$  with  $T_{\operatorname{ini}} \geq \ell$ . Then  $\exists$  unique  $x_{\operatorname{ini}} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that

$$y = \begin{bmatrix} C \\ CA \\ \vdots \\ CA^{\ell-1} \end{bmatrix} x_{\text{ini}} + \begin{bmatrix} D & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ CB & D & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ CA^{N-2}B & \cdots & CB & D \end{bmatrix} u$$

i.e., we can recover the initial condition from past  $\ell$  samples.

## LTI systems and matrix time series

foundation of state-space subspace system ID & signal recovery algorithms

u(t) $u_1 u_3 u_4 u_7$  $u_2 u_5 u_6 t$ 



# (u(t), y(t)) satisfy recursive difference equation

 $b_0 u_t + b_1 u_{t+1} + \ldots + b_n u_{t+n} + a_0 y_t + a_1 y_{t+1} + \ldots + a_n y_{t+n} = 0$ 

(kernel representation)



 $\begin{bmatrix} b_0 & a_0 & b_1 & a_1 & \dots & b_n & a_n \end{bmatrix}$  is in the left nullspace of the *Hankel matrix* 

$$\mathscr{H}_{t}\left(\begin{smallmatrix}u\\y\\1\end{smallmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix}u_{1}\\y_{1}\end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix}u_{2}\\y_{2}\end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix}u_{3}\\y_{3}\end{pmatrix} \cdots \begin{pmatrix}u_{T-L+1}\\y_{T-L+1}\end{pmatrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix}u_{2}\\y_{2}\end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix}u_{3}\\y_{3}\end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix}u_{4}\\y_{4}\end{pmatrix} \cdots \\ \vdots \\ \begin{pmatrix}u_{3}\\y_{3}\end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix}u_{4}\\y_{4}\end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix}u_{5}\\y_{5}\end{pmatrix} \cdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \ddots \\ \ddots \\ \vdots \\ \begin{pmatrix}u_{L}\\y_{L}\end{pmatrix} \cdots \cdots \begin{pmatrix}u_{T}\\y_{T}\end{pmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

(collected from data  $\in \{1, \ldots, T\}$ )

### The Fundamental Lemma

**Definition**: The signal  $u = \operatorname{col}(u_1, \dots, u_T) \in \mathbb{R}^{Tm}$  is *persistently* exciting of order *L* if  $\mathscr{H}_L(u) = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \cdots u_{T-L+1} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ u_L \cdots & u_T \end{bmatrix}$  is of full row rank,

*i.e., if the signal is sufficiently rich and long*  $(T - L + 1 \ge mL)$ .

*Fundamental lemma* [Willems et al, '05]: Let  $T, t \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ , Consider

- a *controllable* LTI system  $(\mathbb{Z}_{>0}, \mathbb{R}^{m+p}, \mathscr{B})$ , and
- a *T*-sample long *trajectory*  $col(u, y) \in \mathscr{B}_T$ , where
- u is *persistently exciting* of order t + n. Then

 $\operatorname{colspan}\left(\mathscr{H}_t\left(\begin{smallmatrix} u\\y \end{smallmatrix}\right)\right)=\mathscr{B}_t \ \middle| \ .$ 

#### Cartoon of Fundamental Lemma



all trajectories constructible from finitely many previous trajectories

### Consequences





parametric state-space model

non-parametric model from raw data

#### A note on persistency of excitation

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#### Now let us draw the dramatic corollaries ...

#### Data-driven simulation [Markovsky & Rapisarda '08]

**Problem** : *predict* future output  $y_{\text{future}} \in \mathbb{R}^{pT_{\text{future}}}$  based on

- initial trajectory  $col(u_{ini}, y_{ini}) \in \mathbb{R}^{(m+p)T_{ini}} \rightarrow to estimate x_{ini}$
- input signal  $u_{\text{future}} \in \mathbb{R}^{mT_{\text{future}}}$
- past data  $col(u_{data}, y_{data}) \in \mathscr{B}_{T_{data}}$

 $\rightarrow$  to predict forward

 $\rightarrow$  to form Hankel matrix

**Solution**: Assume that  $\mathscr{B}$  is controllable and  $u_{data}$  is persistently exciting of oder  $T_{ini} + T_{future} + n$ . Form partitioned *Hankel matrices* 

$$\begin{bmatrix} U_{\rm p} \\ U_{\rm f} \end{bmatrix} = \mathscr{H}_{T_{\rm ini}+T_{\rm future}}(u_{\rm data}) \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{bmatrix} Y_{\rm p} \\ Y_{\rm f} \end{bmatrix} = \mathscr{H}_{T_{\rm ini}+T_{\rm future}}(y_{\rm data}) \,.$$

$$\text{Solve predictive model for } (g, y_{\rm future}) : \begin{bmatrix} U_{\rm p} \\ Y_{\rm p} \\ U_{\rm f} \\ Y_{\rm f} \end{bmatrix} g = \begin{bmatrix} u_{\rm ini} \\ y_{\rm ini} \\ u_{\rm future} \\ y_{\rm future} \end{bmatrix} \right\} \stackrel{\text{recover } x_{\rm ini}}{\operatorname{prediction}}$$

Markovsky et al. similarly address feedforward control problem

#### Output Model Predictive Control

The canonical receding-horizon MPC optimization problem :

T-1quadratic cost with  $\sum \|y_k - r_{t+k}\|_Q^2 + \|u_k\|_R^2$ minimize  $\overline{u, x, y}$  $R \succ 0, Q \succeq 0$  & ref. r subject to  $x_{k+1} = Ax_k + Bu_k, \ \forall k \in \{0, \dots, T-1\},\$ model for prediction over  $k \in [0, T - 1]$  $y_k = Cx_k + Du_k, \quad \forall k \in \{0, \dots, T-1\},$  $x_{k+1} = Ax_k + Bu_k, \ \forall k \in \{-n-1, \dots, -1\},\$ model for estimation (many variations)  $y_k = Cx_k + Du_k, \quad \forall k \in \{-n - 1, \dots, -1\},\$  $u_k \in \mathcal{U}, \quad \forall k \in \{0, \dots, T-1\},$ hard operational or safety constraints  $y_k \in \mathcal{Y}, \quad \forall k \in \{0, \dots, T-1\}$ 

For a deterministic LTI plant and an exact model of the plant, MPC is the *gold standard of control*: safe, optimal, tracking, ...

### Data-Enabled Predictive Control

**DeePC** uses non-parametric and data-based Hankel matrix time series as prediction/estimation model inside MPC optimization problem:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \underset{g, u, y}{\operatorname{minimize}} & \sum_{k=0}^{T-1} \|y_k - r_{t+k}\|_Q^2 + \|u_k\|_R^2 \\ \text{subject to} & \begin{bmatrix} U_{\mathrm{p}} \\ Y_{\mathrm{p}} \\ U_{\mathrm{f}} \\ U_{\mathrm{f}} \\ Y_{\mathrm{f}} \end{bmatrix} g = \begin{bmatrix} u_{\mathrm{ini}} \\ y_{\mathrm{ini}} \\ u \\ y \end{bmatrix}, \\ u_k \in \mathcal{U}, \quad \forall k \in \{0, \dots, T-1\}, \\ y_k \in \mathcal{Y}, \quad \forall k \in \{0, \dots, T-1\} \end{array}$$

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

non-parametric model for prediction and estimation

hard operational or safety **constraints** 

• Hankel matrix with  $T_{\text{ini}} + T$  rows from past data  $\begin{bmatrix} U_{\text{p}} \\ U_{\text{f}} \end{bmatrix} = \mathscr{H}_{T_{\text{ini}}+T}(u_{\text{data}}) \text{ and } \begin{bmatrix} Y_{\text{p}} \\ Y_{\text{f}} \end{bmatrix} = \mathscr{H}_{T_{\text{ini}}+T}(y_{\text{data}})$ 

collected **offline** (could be adapted online)

updated online

• past  $T_{ini} \ge \ell$  samples  $(u_{ini}, y_{ini})$  for  $x_{ini}$  estimation

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### **Correctness for LTI Systems**

**Theorem:** Consider a *controllable LTI system* and the DeePC & MPC optimization problems with *persistently exciting* data of order  $T_{ini} + T + n$ . Then the *feasible sets of DeePC & MPC coincide*.

**Corollary:** If  $U, \mathcal{Y}$  are *convex*, then also the *trajectories coincide*.





Thus, *MPC carries over to DeePC* ... at least in the *nominal case*.

Beyond LTI, what about measurement noise, corrupted past data, and nonlinearities?

### Noisy real-time measurements

$$\begin{array}{ll} \underset{g, u, y}{\operatorname{minimize}} & \sum_{k=0}^{T-1} \|y_k - r_{t+k}\|_Q^2 + \|u_k\|_R^2 + \lambda_y \|\sigma_y\|_1 \\ \text{subject to} & \begin{bmatrix} U_p \\ Y_p \\ U_f \\ Y_f \end{bmatrix} g = \begin{bmatrix} u_{\mathsf{ini}} \\ y_{\mathsf{ini}} \\ u \\ y \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \sigma_y \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \\ u_k \in \mathcal{U}, \quad \forall k \in \{0, \dots, T-1\}, \\ y_k \in \mathcal{Y}, \quad \forall k \in \{0, \dots, T-1\} \end{array}$$

**Solution**: add slack to ensure feasibility with  $\ell_1$ -penalty

 $\Rightarrow \text{ for } \lambda_y \text{ sufficiently} \\ \text{ large } \sigma_y \neq 0 \text{ only if} \\ \text{ constraint infeasible} \end{aligned}$ 

c.f. *sensitivity analysis* over randomized sims

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#### Hankel matrix corrupted by noise

$$\begin{array}{ll} \underset{g, u, y}{\operatorname{minimize}} & \sum_{k=0}^{T-1} \|y_k - r_{t+k}\|_Q^2 + \|u_k\|_R^2 + \lambda_g \|g\|_1 \\ \text{subject to} & \begin{bmatrix} U_p \\ Y_p \\ U_f \\ Y_f \end{bmatrix} g = \begin{bmatrix} u_{\text{ini}} \\ y_{\text{ini}} \\ u \\ y \end{bmatrix}, \\ u_k \in \mathcal{U}, \quad \forall k \in \{0, \dots, T-1\}, \\ y_k \in \mathcal{Y}, \quad \forall k \in \{0, \dots, T-1\} \end{array}$$

**Solution**: add a  $\ell_1$ -penalty on g

#### another solution : low-rank approximation

of  $\mathscr{H} \left( \begin{smallmatrix} u_{data} \\ y_{data} \end{smallmatrix} \right)$  seems to perform much less well

c.f. *sensitivity analysis* over randomized sims





## Why an $\ell_1$ -penalty on g?

$$\begin{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ y_1 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} u_2 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} u_3 \\ y_3 \end{pmatrix} & \cdots \\ \begin{pmatrix} u_2 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} u_3 \\ y_4 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} u_4 \\ y_5 \end{pmatrix} & \cdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \end{bmatrix} g = \begin{bmatrix} u_{\mathsf{ini}} \\ y_{\mathsf{ini}} \\ u \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

- *intuition*: each column of Hankel matrix  $\equiv$  a past trajectory
- $\rightarrow \ell_1$  induces sparse column selection  $\equiv$  *motion primitive* combination
  - why not ℓ<sub>2</sub>-average over columns? → scenario-based programming reasoning: sparse set of support constraints picket out by ℓ<sub>1</sub>-penalty
  - *distributional robustness* reasoning:  $\ell_1$ -penalty  $\equiv \ell_{\infty}$ -robustness

 $\rightarrow \min_{x} \max_{\mathbb{P} \in \{\|\mathbb{P} - \mathbb{P}_{\mathsf{sample}}\|_{\infty, \, \mathsf{Wasserstein}} \leq \rho\}} \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}}[f(x)] \ \equiv \ \min_{x} \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}_{\mathsf{sample}}}[f(x)] + \frac{1}{\rho} \|x\|_{1}$ 

... still working on providing exact proofs and quantitative guarantees

#### Towards nonlinear systems

*Idea*: lift nonlinear system to large/ $\infty$ -dimensional bi-/linear system  $\rightarrow$  Carleman, Volterra, Fliess, Koopman, Sturm-Liouville methods  $\rightarrow$  *exploit size rather than nonlinearity* and find features in data

 $\rightarrow$  exploit size, collect more data, & build a *larger Hankel matrix*  $\rightarrow$  *low-rank approximation* singles out relevant basis functions





### Comparison to system ID + MPC

**Setup**: nonlinear stochastic quadcopter model with full state info **DeePC**: low-rank approximation +  $\ell_1$ -regularization for g and  $\sigma_y$ **MPC**: sys ID via prediction error method + nominal MPC



## Summary and conclusions

- fundamental lemma from behavioral systems
- matrix time series serves as predictive model
- data-enabled predictive control (DeePC)
- $\checkmark\,$  certificates for deterministic LTI systems
- ✓ robustification through salient regularizations
- ✓ DeePC works extremely well on case study
- $\rightarrow$  certificates for stochastic/nonlinear setup
- ightarrow adaptive extensions, explicit policies, ...
- $\rightarrow\,$  other non-parametric data-based models



Why have these powerful ideas not been mixed long before us ? Willems '07: "[MPC] has perhaps too little system theory and too much brute force computation in it."

The other side often proclaims "behavioral systems theory is beautiful but did not prove useful"