Constraint Splitting and Projection Methods for Optimal Control

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Early part based on

• H. H. BAUSCHKE, R. S. BURACHIK, C. Y. KAYA, Constraint splitting and projection methods for optimal control of double integrator. Chapter in Springer Edited Book "Splitting Algorithms, Modern Operator Theory, and Applications," pp. 45–68, 2019. (arXiv:1804.03767, 2018).

Outline

- **1** Cubic curves in \mathbb{R}^n : Minimum-energy control of the double integrator
- 2 Constraint splitting and projections
- **3** Best approx. algorithms: *Dykstra* | *MAP* | *DR* | *AAC* | *FISTA*
- 4 Numerical experiments: parametric behaviour | error analysis

Motivation

Douglas–Rachford splitting method applied to *discrete-time* optimal control problems.
 (O'Donoghue–Stathopoulos–Boyd 2013)

Also see (Eckstein–Ferris 1998).

- No known example of application of best approximation algorithms to *continuous-time* optimal control problems except Bauschke–Burachik–K (2019).
- Minimum-energy control of the double integrator building block for cubic splines.

Cubic Curves in \mathbb{R}^n

(P)
$$\begin{cases} \min \quad \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 ||u(t)||_2^2 dt \\ \text{subject to} \quad \dot{x}_1(t) = x_2(t) , \ x_1(0) = s_0 , \ x_1(1) = s_f , \\ \dot{x}_2(t) = u(t) , \ x_2(0) = v_0 , \ x_2(1) = v_f . \end{cases}$$

 $x_1(t), x_2(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$: state variable vectors $u(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$: control variable vector $x_i(t) = (x_{i,1}(t), \dots, x_{i,n}(t)), i = 1, 2; u(t) = (u_1(t), \dots, u_n(t))$

n = 1: Min.-energy control of the double integrator n = 2, 3: Spatial curves with minimum ave. acceleration

Cubic Curves in \mathbb{R}^n

(P)
$$\begin{cases} \min \quad \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \|u(t)\|_2^2 dt \\ \text{subject to} \quad \dot{x}_1(t) = x_2(t) , \ x_1(0) = s_0 , \ x_1(1) = s_f , \\ \dot{x}_2(t) = u(t) , \ x_2(0) = v_0 , \ x_2(1) = v_f , \\ \|u(t)\|_2 \le a . \text{ (constrained acceleration)} \end{cases}$$

 $x_1(t), x_2(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$: state variable vectors $u(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$: control variable vector $x_i(t) = (x_{i,1}(t), \dots, x_{i,n}(t)), i = 1, 2; u(t) = (u_1(t), \dots, u_n(t))$

n = 1: Min.-energy control of the double integrator n = 2, 3: Spatial curves with minimum ave. acceleration

Examples with n = 1, 2, 3

n = 1:



n = 2:



Examples with n = 1, 2, 3

n = 3:



 $x_1(t), x_2(t)$: state variables; u(t): control variable.



 $x_1(t), x_2(t)$: state variables; u(t): control variable.



 $x_1(t), x_2(t)$: state variables; u(t): control variable.

$$u(t) = c_1 t + c_2,$$

$$x_1(t) = \frac{1}{6}c_1 t^3 + \frac{1}{2}c_2 t^2 + v_0 t + s_0,$$

$$x_2(t) = \frac{1}{2}c_1 t^2 + c_2 t + v_0,$$

for all $t \in [0, 1]$, where

$$c_1 = -12(s_f - s_0) + 6(v_0 + v_f),$$

$$c_2 = 6(s_f - s_0) - 2(2v_0 + v_f).$$

Min.-energy Control of Double Integrator Solution with $s_0 = 0$, $s_f = 0$, $v_0 = 1$, $v_f = 0$:



$$u(t) = 6t - 4;$$

$$x_1(t) = t^3 - 2t^2 + t$$

$$x_2(t) = 3t^2 - 4t + 1$$

Min.-energy Control with Constraints



a > 0 some real constant.

Min.-energy Control with Constraints

Maximum Principle

Define the *Hamiltonian function*:

$$H(x_1, x_2, u, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) := \frac{1}{2}u^2 + \lambda_1 x_2 + \lambda_2 u$$

where the *adjoint variables* $\lambda_1(t)$ and $\lambda_2(t)$ satisfy

$$\dot{\lambda}_1 = -\partial H/\partial x_1$$
 and $\dot{\lambda}_2 = -\partial H/\partial x_2$,

i.e.,

$$\lambda_1(t) = c_1$$
 and $\lambda_2(t) = -c_1 t - c_2$,

 c_1 , c_2 real constants.

Optimality Conditions (DI)

Maximum Principle

If u is an optimal control for Problem (P), then there exists a continuously differentiable vector of adjoint variables λ , as defined before, such that $\lambda(t) \neq 0$ for all $t \in [0, t_f]$, and that, for a.e. $t \in [0, t_f]$,

$$u(t) = \operatorname*{argmin}_{v \in [-a,a]} H(x, v, \lambda(t)),$$

i.e.,

$$u(t) = \operatorname*{argmin}_{v \in [-a,a]} \frac{1}{2} v^2 + \lambda_2(t) v.$$

Optimality Conditions (DI)

Optimal control

$$u(t) = \begin{cases} -\lambda_2(t), & \text{if } -a \leq \lambda_2(t) \leq a, \\ a, & \text{if } \lambda_2(t) \leq -a, \\ -a, & \text{if } \lambda_2(t) \geq a. \end{cases}$$

Note that the optimal control u for Problem (P) is continuous.

Numerical Solution Techniques

Three approaches:

- I. (First-)discretize-then-optimize
- **1**. Discretize Problem (P) over a partition of the time horizon [0, 1].
- 2. Use some (large-scale) finite-dimensional optimization software (e.g. AMPL + Ipopt) to get a *discrete* (finite-dimensional) *approximation* for the state and control variables x(t) and u(t).

II. (First-)optimize-then-discretize

- **1**. Write down conditions of optimality.
- 2. Solve the optimality conditions by using discretized functions.

III. Arc parameterization

- 1. Parameterize w.r.t. a concatenation of (u(t) = a)-, (u(t) = -a)- and $(u(t) = -\lambda_2(t))$ -arcs over intervals $[t_{i-1}, t_i]$, t_i unknown, i = 1, ..., N.
- 2. Use some finite-dimensional optimization software (e.g. AMPL + Ipopt) to find the unknown t_i , i = 1, ..., N.

Analytical Solution (DI)



$$s_0 = 0, s_f = 0, v_0 = 1, v_f = 0$$

 $a = \infty$

Numerical Solution (DI)



$$s_0 = 0, s_f = 0, v_0 = 1, v_f = 0$$

 $a = 2.5$



Constraint Splitting (DI)



Constraint Splitting (DI in \mathbb{R}^n)

$$(Pc) \begin{cases} \min & \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 ||u(t)||_2^2 dt \\ \text{subject to} & \dot{x}_1(t) = x_2(t) , \ x_1(0) = s_0 , \ x_1(1) = s_f , \\ & \dot{x}_2(t) = u(t) , \ x_2(0) = v_0 , \ x_2(1) = v_f , \\ & ||u(t)||_2 \le a . \end{cases}$$

Constraint Splitting

 $\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A} &:= \left\{ u \in L^2(0,1; \mathbb{R}^n) \mid \exists x_i \in W^{1,2}(0,1; \mathbb{R}^n), i = 1, 2, \text{ which solve} \\ \dot{x}_1(t) &= x_2(t) , \ x_1(0) = s_0 , \ x_1(1) = s_f , \\ \dot{x}_2(t) &= u(t) , \ x_2(0) = v_0 , \ x_2(1) = v_f , \\ \forall t \in [0,1] \right\}, \end{aligned}$

 $\mathcal{B} := \left\{ u \in L^2(0,1; \mathbb{R}^n) \mid \|u(t)\|_2 \le a \,, \text{ for all } t \in [0,1] \right\}.$

 \mathcal{A} is an **affine subspace** and \mathcal{B} a **ball**.

Projections

The projection onto \mathcal{A} from a current iterate u^- is u which solves

(P1)
$$\begin{cases} \min \quad \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 ||u(t) - u^-(t)||_2^2 dt \\ \text{subject to} \quad u \in \mathcal{A} \,. \end{cases}$$

The projection onto \mathcal{B} from a current iterate u^- is u which solves

(P2)
$$\begin{cases} \min \quad \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 ||u(t) - u^-(t)||_2^2 dt \\ \text{subject to} \quad u \in \mathcal{B}. \end{cases}$$

Projections

Proposition 1 (Projection onto \mathcal{A}). The projection $P_{\mathcal{A}}$ of $u^- \in L^2(0, 1; \mathbb{R}^n)$ onto the constraint set \mathcal{A} , as the solution of Problem (P1), is given by

$$P_{\mathcal{A}}(u^{-})(t) = u^{-}(t) + c_1 t + c_2 ,$$

for all $t \in [0, 1]$, where

$$c_{1} = 12 (x_{1}(1) - s_{f}) - 6 (x_{2}(1) - v_{f}),$$

$$c_{2} = -6 (x_{1}(1) - s_{f}) + 2 (x_{2}(1) - v_{f}),$$

and $x_1(1)$ and $x_2(1)$ are obtained by solving the IVP

$$\dot{x}_1(t) = x_2(t), \quad x_1(0) = s_0,$$

 $\dot{x}_2(t) = u^-(t), \quad x_2(0) = v_0,$

for all $t \in [0, 1]$.

Projections

Proposition 2 (Projection onto \mathcal{B}). The projection $P_{\mathcal{B}}$ of $u^- \in L^2(0, 1; \mathbb{R}^n)$ onto the constraint set \mathcal{B} , as the solution of Problem (P2), is given by

$$P_{\mathcal{B}}(u^{-})(t) = \begin{cases} u^{-}(t), & \text{if } ||u^{-}(t)||_{2} \le a, \\ a \frac{u^{-}(t)}{||u^{-}(t)||_{2}}, & \text{if } ||u^{-}(t)||_{2} > a, \end{cases}$$

for all $t \in [0, 1]$.

X is a real Hilbert space

with inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$, induced norm $\|\cdot\|$.

A is a closed affine subspace of X, and B is a nonempty closed convex subset of X.

Given $z \in X$, our aim is to find

 $P_{A\cap B}(z)$,

the projection of z onto the intersection $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$.

We test five methods when $X = L^2(0, 1; \mathbb{R}^n)$, $A = \mathcal{A}$, $B = \mathcal{B}$, and z = 0:

- Dykstra's Algorithm [strongly convergent] (Boyle–Dykstra 1985)
- Method of Alternating Projections (MAP) [weakly convergent] (von Neumann 1948, Bregman 1965)
- Douglas–Rachford (DR) Algorithm [weakly convergent] (Douglas–Rachford 1956, Lions–Mercier 1979, Eckstein–Bertsekas 1992)
- Aragón Artacho–Campoy (AAC) Algorithm [strongly convergent] (Aragón Artacho–Campoy 2018, Alwadani–Bauschke–Moursi–Wang 2018)
- Fast Iterative Shrinkage-thresholding Algorithm (FISTA) [strong. conv.] (Beck–Teboulle 2009, Attouch–Cabot 2018, Bauschke–Bui–Wang 2019)

Algorithm 1 (Dykstra)

- **Step 1** (*Initialization*) Choose the initial iterates $u^0 = 0$ and $q^0 = 0$. Choose a small parameter $\varepsilon > 0$, and set k = 0.
- **Step 2** (Projection onto \mathcal{B}) Set $u^- = u^k + q^k$. Compute $\widetilde{u} = P_{\mathcal{B}}(u^-)$.
- **Step 3** (Projection onto \mathcal{A}) Set $u^- := \widetilde{u}$. Compute $\widehat{u} = P_{\mathcal{A}}(u^-)$.
- Step 4 (Update) Set $u^{k+1} := \hat{u}$ and $q^{k+1} := u^k + q^k \tilde{u}$.
- Step 5 (Stopping criterion) If $||u^{k+1} u^k||_{L^{\infty}} \le \varepsilon$, then return \tilde{u} and stop. Otherwise, set k := k + 1 and go to Step 2.

Algorithm 2 (MAP)

Step 1 (*Initialization*) Choose the initial iterate $u^0 = 0$ Choose a small parameter $\varepsilon > 0$, and set k = 0.

Step 2 (Projection onto \mathcal{B}) Set $u^- = u^k$. Compute $\tilde{u} = P_{\mathcal{B}}(u^-)$.

Step 3 (Projection onto \mathcal{A}) Set $u^- := \widetilde{u}$. Compute $\widehat{u} = P_{\mathcal{A}}(u^-)$.

Step 4 (Update) Set $u^{k+1} := \hat{u}$

Step 5 (Stopping criterion) If $||u^{k+1} - u^k||_{L^{\infty}} \le \varepsilon$, then return \tilde{u} and stop. Otherwise, set k := k + 1 and go to Step 2.

Algorithm 3 (DR)

Step 1 (Initialization) Choose a parameter $\lambda \in]0, 1[$ and the initial iterate u^0 arbitrarily. Choose a small parameter $\varepsilon > 0$, and set k = 0.

Step 2 (Projection onto \mathcal{B}) Set $u^- = \lambda u^k$. Compute $\tilde{u} = P_{\mathcal{B}}(u^-)$.

Step 3 (Projection onto \mathcal{A}) Set $u^- := 2\widetilde{u} - u^k$. Compute $\widehat{u} = P_{\mathcal{A}}(u^-)$.

Step 4 (Update) Set $u^{k+1} := u^k + \hat{u} - \tilde{u}$.

Step 5 (Stopping criterion) If $||u^{k+1} - u^k||_{L^{\infty}} \le \varepsilon$, then return \tilde{u} and stop. Otherwise, set k := k + 1 and go to Step 2.

Algorithm 4 (AAC)

Step 1 (*Initialization*) Choose the initial iterate u^0 arbitrarily. Choose a small parameter $\varepsilon > 0$, two parameters¹ α and β in]0, 1[, and set k = 0.

Step 2 (Projection onto \mathcal{B}) Set $u^- = u^k$. Compute $\tilde{u} = P_{\mathcal{B}}(u^-)$.

Step 3 (Projection onto \mathcal{A}) Set $u^- = 2\beta \widetilde{u} - u^k$. Compute $\widehat{u} = P_{\mathcal{A}}(u^-)$.

Step 4 (Update) Set $u^{k+1} := u^k + 2\alpha\beta(\widehat{u} - \widetilde{u})$.

Step 5 (Stopping criterion) If $||u^{k+1} - u^k||_{L^{\infty}} \le \varepsilon$, then return \tilde{u} and stop. Otherwise, set k := k + 1 and go to Step 2.

¹Aragón Artacho and Campoy recommend $\alpha = 0.9$ and $\beta \in [0.7, 0.8]$ in their paper.

Algorithm 5 (FISTA)

Step 1 (Initialization) Choose $\hat{u}_1 = \hat{u}_2 = v = 0$, $t_0 = 1$. Choose a small parameter $\varepsilon > 0$, Lipschitz const. L = 2 for ℓ_2 -norm, and k = 0.

Step 2 (Projection onto \mathcal{B}) Set $u^- := v - L \widehat{u}_1$. Compute $\widetilde{u}_1^{k+1} = \widehat{u}_1 - (v - P_{\mathcal{B}}(u^-))/L$.

- **Step 3** (Projection onto \mathcal{A}) Set $u^- := v L \,\widehat{u}_2$. Compute $\widetilde{u}_2^{k+1} = \widehat{u}_2 (v P_{\mathcal{A}}(u^-))/L$.
- Step 4 (Update) Set $u^{k+1} = \widetilde{u}_1^{k+1} + \widetilde{u}_2^{k+1}$.
- Step 5 (Stopping criterion) If $||u^{k+1} u^k||_{L^{\infty}} \le \varepsilon$, then return \widetilde{u} and stop. Otherwise, set: $t_{k+1} = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \sqrt{1 + 4t_k^2} \right)$, $\widehat{u}_i := \widetilde{u}_i^{k+1} + \frac{t_k - 1}{t_{k+1}} \left(\widetilde{u}_i^{k+1} - \widetilde{u}_i^k \right)$, i = 1, 2 (Nesterov 1983) OR $\widehat{u}_i := \widetilde{u}_i^{k+1} + \frac{1 - \alpha}{k+1} \left(\widetilde{u}_i^{k+1} - \widetilde{u}_i^k \right)$, $i = 1, 2, \alpha > 3$ (Attouch–Cabot 2018) OR $\widehat{u}_i := \widetilde{u}_i^{k+1} + \frac{1 - \ln^{\theta}(k+1)}{k+1} \left(\widetilde{u}_i^{k+1} - \widetilde{u}_i^k \right)$, $i = 1, 2, \theta > 0$ (Attouch–Cabot 2018) Set $v := \widehat{u}_1 + \widehat{u}_2$, k := k + 1 and go to Step 2.

Numerical Experiments

- Algorithms 1–5 carry out iterations with functions.
- Use discrete approximations of the functions over the partition 0 = t₀ < t₁ < ... < t_N = 1. For the IVP in computing P_A, use Euler's method over the same partition. (Could use any other ODE solver interested only in x_i(1))
- Define

$$\sigma_u^k := \max_{0 \le i \le N-1} |u_i^k - u^*(t_i)| \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_x^k := \max_{0 \le i \le N} ||x_i^k - x^*(t_i)||_{\infty}.$$

Parametric Behaviour



Parametric Behaviour



(c) Algorithm 4 (AAC)

Numerical Experiments (n = 1)Behaviour in Early Iterations $(N = 2 \times 10^3)$



(c) Algorithm 4 (AAC, $\alpha = 1, \beta = 0.8617$).



Error in Each Iteration



(a) L^{∞} -error in control with $N = 10^3$.

(b) L^{∞} -error in states with $N = 10^3$.

Error in Each Iteration



(a) L^{∞} -error in control with $N = 10^4$.

(b) L^{∞} -error in states with $N = 10^4$.

Error in Each Iteration



(a) L^{∞} -error in control with $N = 10^5$.

(b) L^{∞} -error in states with $N = 10^5$.

N	Dykstra	DR	AAC	Ipopt
10^{3}	3.2×10^{-2}	2.5×10^{-2}	2.8×10^{-2}	3.2×10^{-2}
10^{4}	3.2×10^{-3}	2.5×10^{-3}	2.8×10^{-3}	7.7×10^{-3}
10^{5}	3.0×10^{-4}	2.4×10^{-4}	2.6×10^{-4}	1.6×10^{-2}

(a) L^{∞} -error in control, σ_u^k .

N	Dykstra	DR	AAC	Ipopt			
10^{3}	2.2×10^{-3}	3.6×10^{-3}	3.0×10^{-3}	2.2×10^{-3}			
10^{4}	2.1×10^{-4}	3.6×10^{-4}	2.9×10^{-4}	2.3×10^{-4}			
$10^{5} 2.0 \times 10^{-5} 3.4 \times 10^{-5} 2.8 \times 10^{-5} 8.7 \times 10^{-5}$							
(b) I^{∞} arrow in states σ^k							

(b) L^{∞} -error in states, σ_x^{κ} .

Table 1: Least errors by Algorithms 1, 3–4 and Ipopt ($\varepsilon = 10^{-8}$)

N	Dykstra	DR	AAC	Ipopt
10^{3}	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.08
10^{4}	0.16	0.05	0.05	0.71
10^{5}	1.6	0.41	0.28	7.3

Table 2: CPU times taken by Algorithms 1, 3–4 and Ipopt.



 $s_0 = (0,0), v_0 = (0,1), s_f = (1,1), v_f = (-1,0)$















State and Control Error in Each Iteration



(a) L^{∞} -error in control with $N = 10^2$.

(b) L^{∞} -error in states with $N = 10^2$.

State and Control Error in Each Iteration



(a) L^{∞} -error in control with $N = 10^3$.

(b) L^{∞} -error in states with $N = 10^3$.

State and Control Error in Each Iteration



(a) L^{∞} -error in control with $N = 10^4$.

(b) L^{∞} -error in states with $N = 10^4$.

State and Control Error in Each Iteration



(a) L^{∞} -error in control with $N = 10^5$.

(b) L^{∞} -error in states with $N = 10^5$.

N	Dykstra	MAP	DR	AAC	FISTA
10^{2}	3.3×10^{-1}	3.3×10^{-1}	1.8×10^{-1}	1.9×10^{-1}	7.6×10^{-1}
10^{3}	3.4×10^{-2}	5.4×10^{-2}	1.9×10^{-2}	2.0×10^{-2}	7.5×10^{-2}
10^{4}	3.4×10^{-3}	5.7×10^{-2}	1.9×10^{-3}	2.0×10^{-3}	7.5×10^{-3}
10^{5}	3.4×10^{-4}	5.8×10^{-2}	1.9×10^{-4}	2.0×10^{-4}	7.6×10^{-4}

(a) L^{∞} -error in control, σ_u^k .

N	Dykstra	MAP	DR	AAC	FISTA
10^{2}	1.9×10^{-2}	1.9×10^{-2}	6.4×10^{-2}	6.0×10^{-2}	3.0×10^{-1}
10^{3}	1.9×10^{-3}	3.5×10^{-3}	6.6×10^{-3}	6.2×10^{-3}	3.1×10^{-2}
10^{4}	1.9×10^{-4}	3.8×10^{-3}	6.6×10^{-4}	6.2×10^{-4}	3.1×10^{-3}
10^{5}	1.9×10^{-5}	3.8×10^{-3}	6.6×10^{-5}	6.2×10^{-5}	3.1×10^{-4}

(b) L^{∞} -error in states, σ_x^k .

Table 3: Least errors by Algorithms 1–5 ($\varepsilon = 10^{-8}$)



 $s_0 = (0, 0, 0), v_0 = (1, -1, 0), s_f = (1, 1, 1), v_f = (-1, -1, 0)$











State and Control Error in Each Iteration



(a) L^{∞} -error in control with $N = 10^2$.

(b) L^{∞} -error in states with $N = 10^2$.

State and Control Error in Each Iteration



State and Control Error in Each Iteration



N	Dykstra	MAP	DR	AAC	FISTA
10^{2}	1.4×10^1	1.5×10^1	1.7×10^1	1.6×10^1	5.4×10^1
10^{3}	1.7×10^{-1}	4.8×10^{-1}	2.2×10^{-1}	2.1×10^{-1}	1.0×10^{1}
10^{4}	1.7×10^{-2}	4.4×10^{-1}	2.2×10^{-3}	2.1×10^{-3}	9.9×10^{-2}

(a) L^{∞} -error in control, σ_u^k .

N	Dykstra	MAP	DR	AAC	FISTA
10^{2}	3.9×10^{-2}	3.6×10^{-2}	2.3×10^{-1}	2.2×10^{-1}	7.7×10^{-1}
10^{3}	4.1×10^{-3}	3.2×10^{-2}	2.6×10^{-2}	2.5×10^{-2}	1.2×10^{-1}
10^{4}	4.2×10^{-4}	3.4×10^{-2}	2.6×10^{-3}	2.5×10^{-3}	1.2×10^{-2}

(b) L^{∞} -error in states, σ_x^k .

Table 4: Least errors by Algorithms 1–5 ($\varepsilon = 10^{-8}$)

Conclusion and Open Problems

We observe and note that

- Dykstra, DR, AAC (Algorithms 1, 3 and 4) are the most successful. Dykstra is best in generating optimal states (position and velocity).
- Projection methods are better than the standard discretization approach.
- MAP is observed to converge only weakly for n = 2 and 3.
- Models and algorithms here are prototypes for future extensions.

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We observe and note that

- Dykstra, DR, AAC (Algorithms 1, 3 and 4) are the most successful. Dykstra is best in generating optimal states (position and velocity).
- Projection methods are better than the standard discretization approach.
- MAP is observed to converge only weakly for n = 2 and 3.
- Models and algorithms here are prototypes for future extensions.

Future work

- If $u^-(t)$ is piecewise linear then its projection is piecewise linear. This might simplify further the projection expressions.
- Extension to general control-constrained linear-quadratic problems.
- Extension to nonconvex optimal control problems.