

Line Search

Thursday, 5 February 2026 21:39

Background Information

Iterative LQR

Start with a guess for X, U (random noise, Bdot)

Evaluate $J = l_f(x_N) + \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} l(x_k, u_k)$

while $|J - J_{prev}| > tolerance$

$J_{prev} = J$

$K, d, \Delta V \leftarrow \text{BackwardPass}(X, U)$

$X, U, J \leftarrow \text{ForwardPass}(X, U, K, d, \Delta V, J_{prev})$

return X, U, J

Backward Pass

$$p_N = \frac{\partial l_f}{\partial x}, P_N = \frac{\partial^2 l_f}{\partial x^2}$$

for $k = N - 1 : -1 : 0$ (Bellman's Optimality Principle)

$$\delta Q_k = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \delta x_k \\ \delta u_k \end{bmatrix}^T \left[\begin{array}{cc} \frac{\partial^2 l}{\partial x_k^2} + A_k^T P_{k+1} A_k + \frac{\partial c_k}{\partial x_k} I_{\mu,k} \frac{\partial c_k}{\partial x_k} & \frac{\partial^2 l}{\partial x_k \partial u_k} + A_k^T P_{k+1} B_k + \frac{\partial c_k}{\partial x_k} I_{\mu,k} \frac{\partial c_k}{\partial u_k} \\ \frac{\partial^2 l}{\partial u_k \partial x_k} + B_k^T P_{k+1} A_k + \frac{\partial c_k}{\partial u_k} I_{\mu,k} \frac{\partial c_k}{\partial x_k} & \frac{\partial^2 l}{\partial u_k^2} + B_k^T P_{k+1} B_k + \frac{\partial c_k}{\partial u_k} I_{\mu,k} \frac{\partial c_k}{\partial u_k} \end{array} \right] \begin{bmatrix} \delta x_k \\ \delta u_k \end{bmatrix} + \left[\begin{array}{c} \frac{\partial l}{\partial x_k} + A_k^T p_{k+1} + \lambda_k \frac{\partial c_k}{\partial x_k} + \frac{\partial c_k}{\partial x_k} I_{\mu,k} c_k \\ \frac{\partial l}{\partial u_k} + B_k^T p_{k+1} + \lambda_k \frac{\partial c_k}{\partial u_k} + \frac{\partial c_k}{\partial u_k} I_{\mu,k} c_k \end{array} \right]^T \begin{bmatrix} \delta x_k \\ \delta u_k \end{bmatrix}$$

if Q_{uu} invertible:

$$\delta u_k = -(Q_{uu} + \rho I)^{-1} (Q_{ux} \delta x_k + Q_u)$$

else:

$\rho \uparrow$ and try again

return sequence of $K, d, \Delta V$ for every timestep

Forward Pass

$\alpha = 1$

for $k = 0 : 1 : N - 1$

$$\bar{u}_k = u_k + K_k (\bar{x}_k - x_k) + \alpha d_k$$

$$\bar{x}_{k+1} = f(\bar{x}_k, \bar{u}_k)$$

$$J = l_f(x_N) + \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} l(\bar{x}_k, \bar{u}_k)$$

If J has actually decreased (line search condition), return. Else, decrease α and try again

Choosing α

Choosing α , or how aggressively we want to track a feedback controller, is tricky business. The main performance criterium is an adequate decrease in cost.

We may determine a ratio of actual decrease to expected decrease:

$$z = \frac{J(X, U) - J(\bar{X}, \bar{U})}{-\Delta V(\alpha)}$$

Recall from earlier that $\Delta V_k = Q_u^T d_k + \frac{1}{2} d_k^T Q_{uu} d_k$, except now we want all timesteps:

$$\Delta V(\alpha) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \alpha d_k^T Q_u + \alpha^2 \frac{1}{2} d_k^T Q_{uu} d_k$$

As you may notice, since we are running our controller with αd_k , our expected cost should also use αd_k .

Failure in α

We accept a trajectory if $z \in [0.0001, 10]$. If not, we decrease scaling by $\alpha \leftarrow 0.5\alpha$.

Failure in ρ

If the **Forward Pass** still fails repeatedly, go to **Backward Pass** and increase the regularization.