Direct Collocation Methods for Trajectory Optimization and Policy Learning



CS 294-112: Deep Reinforcement Learning

Guest Lecture

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Overview

- Last Time: Learning dynamics models, optimal control, and policy learning
 - Focused on using forward dynamics models and shooting methods (LQR, DDP)

• Today:

- Look at *inverse* dynamics models, direct collocation in detail (for optimal control and policy learning)
- How to optimize complex movement with contacts
- Dealing with unknown and uncertain dynamics
- Applications to biomechanics



Trajectory Optimization with Direct Collocation



Learning Control Policies with Direct Collocation



Unknown/Uncertain Dynamics and Applications



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Learning Control Policies with Direct Collocation



Unknown/Uncertain Dynamics and Applications





$$\min_{\mathbf{u}^0 \dots \mathbf{u}^T} \sum_t C^t(\mathbf{x}^t), \quad \mathbf{x}^{t+1} = f(\mathbf{x}^t, \mathbf{u}^t)$$





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$$\min_{\mathbf{u}^{0}...\mathbf{u}^{T}} \sum_{t} C^{t}(\mathbf{x}^{t}), \quad \mathbf{x}^{t+1} = f(\mathbf{x}^{t}, \mathbf{u}^{t})$$

$$\min_{\mathbf{u}_{1},...,\mathbf{u}_{T}} c(\mathbf{x}_{1}, \mathbf{u}_{1}) + c(f(\mathbf{x}_{1}, \mathbf{u}_{1}), \mathbf{u}_{2}) + \cdots$$

$$\cdots + c(f(f(\ldots)...), \mathbf{u}_{T})$$



$$\min_{\mathbf{u}^0 \dots \mathbf{u}^T} \sum_t C^t(\mathbf{x}^t), \quad \mathbf{x}^{t+1} = f(\mathbf{x}^t, \mathbf{u}^t)$$

Forward Shooting:

$$\min_{\mathbf{u}^0 \dots \mathbf{u}^T} \sum_t C^t(\mathbf{x}^t), \quad \mathbf{x}^{t+1} = f$$

$$\mathbf{x}^{t+1} = f(\mathbf{x}^t, \mathbf{u}^t)$$

implicit hard constraint

Forward Shooting:

$$\min_{\mathbf{u}^0 \dots \mathbf{u}^T} \sum_t C^t(\mathbf{x}^t), \quad \mathbf{x}^{t+1} = f(\mathbf{x}^t, \mathbf{u}^t)$$



feasible region









Forward Shooting:

$$\min_{\mathbf{u}^0 \dots \mathbf{u}^T} \sum_t C^t(\mathbf{x}^t), \quad \mathbf{x}^{t+1} = f(\mathbf{x}^t, \mathbf{u}^t)$$



• Comes up as an issue in practice

- collisions, falling down, etc...
- Prone to falling into local minima
- Makes solution sensitive to initial guess
- Initial guess from demonstrations and randomization helps

Shooting methods vs collocation

collocation method: optimize over actions and states, with constraints ${\cal T}$

$$\min_{\mathbf{u}_1,\dots,\mathbf{u}_T,\mathbf{x}_1,\dots,\mathbf{x}_T} \sum_{t=1}^{t} c(\mathbf{x}_t,\mathbf{u}_t) \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{x}_t = f(\mathbf{x}_{t-1},\mathbf{u}_{t-1})$$



Shooting methods vs collocation

collocation method: optimize over actions and states, with constraints \$T\$

$$\min_{\mathbf{u}_1,\dots,\mathbf{u}_T,\mathbf{x}_1,\dots,\mathbf{x}_T} \sum_{t=1}^{n} c(\mathbf{x}_t,\mathbf{u}_t) \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{x}_t = f(\mathbf{x}_{t-1},\mathbf{u}_{t-1})$$



Shooting methods vs collocation

collocation method: optimize over actions and states, with constraints

$$\min_{\mathbf{u}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{u}_T,\mathbf{x}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{x}_T} \sum_{t=1}^T c(\mathbf{x}_t,\mathbf{u}_t) \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{x}_t = f(\mathbf{x}_{t-1},\mathbf{u}_{t-1})$$



Forward Shooting:

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Direct Collocation:

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}^0 \dots \mathbf{x}^T} \sum_t C^t(\mathbf{x}^t), \ st \ f^{-1}(\mathbf{x}^t, \mathbf{x}^{t+1}) = \mathbf{u}^t \in \mathcal{U}$$



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Shooting methods vs collocation

collocation method: optimize over actions and states, with constraints \$T\$

$$\min_{\mathbf{u}_1,\dots,\mathbf{u}_T,\mathbf{x}_1,\dots,\mathbf{x}_T} \sum_{t=1}^{n} c(\mathbf{x}_t,\mathbf{u}_t) \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{x}_t = f(\mathbf{x}_{t-1},\mathbf{u}_{t-1})$$



Forward Shooting: $\min_{\mathbf{u}^{0}...\mathbf{u}^{T}} \sum_{t} C^{t}(\mathbf{x}^{t}), \quad \mathbf{x}^{t+1} = f(\mathbf{x}^{t}, \mathbf{u}^{t})$ inverse dynamics function Direct Collocation: $\min_{\mathbf{x}^{0}...\mathbf{x}^{T}} \sum_{t} C^{t}(\mathbf{x}^{t}), \quad st \quad f^{-1}(\mathbf{x}^{t}, \mathbf{x}^{t+1}) = \mathbf{u}^{t} \in \mathcal{U}$



Forward Shooting:

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Direct Collocation:



- Only pairwise dependencies
- Good conditioning
 - changing x¹ has similar effect as changing x^T
- No forward integration instability

Direct Collocation:

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}^{0}...\mathbf{x}^{T}} \sum_{t} C^{t}(\mathbf{x}^{t}), \text{ st } f^{-1}(\mathbf{x}^{t}, \mathbf{x}^{t+1}) = \mathbf{u}^{t} \in \mathcal{U}$$
Explicit rather than implicit constrained

Explicit rather than implicit constraint

Direct Collocation:

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}^{0}...\mathbf{x}^{T}} \sum_{t} C^{t}(\mathbf{x}^{t}), \text{ st } f^{-1}(\mathbf{x}^{t}, \mathbf{x}^{t+1}) = \mathbf{u}^{t} \in \mathcal{U}$$

Explicit rather than implicit constraint Can be hard or soft Less prone to local minima





Shooting vs Direct Collocation

Forward Shooting:

$$\min_{\mathbf{u}^0 \dots \mathbf{u}^T} \sum_t C^t(\mathbf{x}^t), \quad \mathbf{x}^{t+1} = f(\mathbf{x}^t, \mathbf{u}^t)$$

- Optimize over controls
- State trajectory is implicit
- Dynamics is an implicit constraint (always satisfied)

Direct Collocation:

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}^0 \dots \mathbf{x}^T} \sum_t C^t(\mathbf{x}^t), \ st \ f^{-1}(\mathbf{x}^t, \mathbf{x}^{t+1}) = \mathbf{u}^t \in \mathcal{U}$$

- Optimize over states
- Controls and forces are implicit
- Dynamics is an explicit constraint (can be soft)

Inverse Dynamics Model

$$f^{-1}(\mathbf{x}^t, \mathbf{x}^{t+1}) = \mathbf{u}^t$$

 Describes what controls and forces you apply when transitioning from x^t to x^{t+1}

Inverse Dynamics Model

$$f^{-1}(\mathbf{x}^t, \mathbf{x}^{t+1}) = \mathbf{u}^t$$

- Describes what controls and forces you apply when transitioning from x^t to x^{t+1}
- Can be learned from data



Training data input: $\mathbf{x}^t \ \mathbf{x}^{t+1}$ Target output: \mathbf{u}^t
Inverse Dynamics Model

$$f^{-1}(\mathbf{x}^t, \mathbf{x}^{t+1}) = \mathbf{u}^t$$

- Describes what controls and forces you apply when transitioning from x^t to x^{t+1}
- Can be learned from data
- For rigid multi-body dynamics, we can do better when we know system parameters

Generalized coordinates:

 $\mathbf{x}^t = \mathbf{q}^t$



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Generalized coordinates:

$$\mathbf{x}^{t} = \mathbf{q}^{t} \qquad \dot{\mathbf{q}}^{t} = \frac{\mathbf{q}^{t-1} - \mathbf{q}^{t}}{2\delta t} \quad \ddot{\mathbf{q}}^{t} = \frac{\mathbf{q}^{t-1} - 2\mathbf{q}^{t} + \mathbf{q}^{t+1}}{\delta t^{2}}$$

Calculate velocities and accelerations from nearby states



Generalized coordinates:

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Dynamics equation: generalization of $\mathbf{f} = m\mathbf{a}$ $M(\mathbf{q}) \ddot{\mathbf{q}} + C(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \dot{\mathbf{q}} = B\mathbf{u} + J(\mathbf{q})^T \mathbf{f}$

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Generalized mass and Coriolis matrices



Generalized coordinates:

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Controls and actuation matrix



Generalized coordinates:

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Constraint forces and constraint Jacobian



Generalized coordinates:

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For more detail, see chapters 2 and 3 in Springer Handbook of Robotics and Analytical Dynamics: A New Approach



Generalized coordinates:

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Dynamics equation: generalization of $\mathbf{f} = m\mathbf{a}$

$$M(\mathbf{q}) \quad \ddot{\mathbf{q}} + C(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \quad \dot{\mathbf{q}} = B\mathbf{u} + J(\mathbf{q})^{T} \mathbf{f}$$
Inverse dynamics function:
$$f^{-1}(\mathbf{x}^{t-1}, \mathbf{x}^{t}, \mathbf{x}^{t+1}) = \arg\min_{\mathbf{u} \mathbf{f}} ||\mathbf{v}||^{2}$$

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$$M(\mathbf{q}) \ \ddot{\mathbf{q}} + C(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \ \dot{\mathbf{q}} = B\mathbf{u} + J(\mathbf{q})^{T} \mathbf{f}$$
Inverse dynamics function:
$$f^{-1}(\mathbf{x}^{t-1}, \mathbf{x}^{t}, \mathbf{x}^{t+1}) = \arg\min_{\mathbf{u} \mathbf{f}} ||^{2}$$
can be solved numerically, or analytically [Todorov 14]

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$$\underbrace{M(\mathbf{q}) \ \ddot{\mathbf{q}} + C(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \ \dot{\mathbf{q}} = B\mathbf{u} + J(\mathbf{q})^{T} \mathbf{f}}_{\mathbf{l} \mathbf{v} \mathbf{r}(\mathbf{x}^{t-1}, \mathbf{x}^{t}, \mathbf{x}^{t+1}) = \min_{\mathbf{u} \mathbf{f}} ||\mathbf{v}||^{2}}$$

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Dynamics equation: generalization of $\mathbf{f} = m\mathbf{a}$

$$M(\mathbf{q}) \quad \ddot{\mathbf{q}} + C(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \quad \dot{\mathbf{q}} = B\mathbf{u} + J(\mathbf{q})^{T} \quad \mathbf{f}$$
Inverse dynamics residual:

$$r(\mathbf{x}^{t-1}, \mathbf{x}^{t}, \mathbf{x}^{t+1}) = \min_{\mathbf{u} \mid \mathbf{f}} ||^{2}$$

Simple Particle Example

- Dynamics equation: $\mathbf{u} \mathbf{g} = m \ddot{\mathbf{x}}$
- Inverse dynamics function:

$$f^{-1}(\mathbf{x}^{t-1}, \mathbf{x}^t, \mathbf{x}^{t+1}) = \mathbf{u}^t = m(\mathbf{x}^{t-1} - 2\mathbf{x}^t + \mathbf{x}^{t+1})/\delta t + \mathbf{g}$$

- Cost: $C(\mathbf{x}) = ||\mathbf{x}||^2$
- Known:

Initial state: \mathbf{x}^0 System parameters: m External forces: \mathbf{g}

- Optimization unknowns: $\mathbf{x}^1,...,\mathbf{x}^T$
- Solution:

States: $\mathbf{x}^1, ..., \mathbf{x}^T = \mathbf{0}$ Implicit controls: $\mathbf{u}^0, ..., \mathbf{x}^{T-1} = \mathbf{g}$



Numerical Solutions for Direct Collocation Methods



- First Thought: Set up a TensorFlow graph and optimize with gradient descent
- For shooting methods we had 2nd order methods (Iterative LQR, DDP)
- For direct collocation we also can apply a truncated
 2nd order method

• Total trajectory cost is

$$C(\mathbf{X}) = \sum_t c(oldsymbol{\phi}^t(\mathbf{X}))$$

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includes inverse dynamics residual and any cost function features

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$$C(\mathbf{X}) = \sum_t c(oldsymbol{\phi}^t(\mathbf{X}))$$

• Its gradient and truncated Hessian are $C_{\mathbf{X}} = \sum_{t} c_{\phi}^{t} \phi_{\mathbf{X}}^{t}$ $C_{\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}} = \sum_{t} (\phi_{\mathbf{X}}^{t})^{\top} c_{\phi\phi}^{t} \phi_{\mathbf{X}}^{t} + c_{\phi}^{t} \phi_{\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}}^{t} \approx \sum_{t} (\phi_{\mathbf{X}}^{t})^{\top} c_{\phi\phi}^{t} \phi_{\mathbf{X}}^{t}$

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- Find optimal solution by iterative Gauss-Newton steps

$$\mathbf{X}^* = \mathbf{X}^* - C_{\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}}^{-1}C_{\mathbf{X}}$$

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- Find optimal solution by iterative Gauss-Newton steps

$$\mathbf{X}^* = \mathbf{X}^* - C_{\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}}^{-1}C_{\mathbf{X}}$$

Typically use damped Hessian (similar to Trust Region)

$$(C_{\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}}^{-1} + \lambda \mathbf{I})C_{\mathbf{X}}$$

• Requires inverting $(|\mathbf{x}|T) \times (|\mathbf{x}|T)$ Hessian every time???

 $\mathbf{X}^* = \mathbf{X}^* - C_{\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}}^{-1}C_{\mathbf{X}}$

• Hessian is block sparse



- Can use sparse linear system solvers
 - python: linalg.spsolve
 - Other methods possible (multigrid, projection, spectral?)
 - Constrained optimization possible (SQP) [Posa and Tedrake 12]

- Both shooting and collocation methods can be applied to control of movement without contact
 - flying, driving, swimming robots, collision-free paths



- Both shooting and collocation methods can be applied to control of movement without contact
 - flying, driving, swimming robots, collision-free paths



- With contact, it is difficult to apply either method
 - legged robots, manipulation





• Discontinuous jumps in contact forces (and their number)



Dynamics equation:

$$M(\mathbf{q}) \ddot{\mathbf{q}} + C(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \dot{\mathbf{q}} = B\mathbf{u} + J(\mathbf{q})^T \mathbf{f}$$

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• No gradient information from inactive contacts



Can't anticipate being able to apply forces

manual specification







track demonstrations



motion structure





- Contact activity is an indirect function of state
- What if we make contact activity a direct optimization variable like we did for state?

[Mordatch, Todorov, Popovic, SIGGRAPGH 2012]

X:









$$\min_{\mathbf{x}^0 \dots \mathbf{x}^T} \sum_t C^t(\mathbf{x}^t) \qquad \qquad \mathbf{x}: \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{q} \ \mathbf{c} \end{bmatrix}$$

C_{t,n} = 1: foot/hand **n** is in contact with ground at time t

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}^0 \dots \mathbf{x}^T} \sum_t C^t(\mathbf{x}^t)$$

enforce contact and dynamics consistency between Q and C

Contact Consistency

When $C_n = 1$ limb n must be touching ground and not sliding

When $C_n = 0$ limb n is unconstrained

Dynamics Consistency

All forces are active (contact set is constant)

Dynamics Consistency

All forces are active (contact set is constant) High penalties for using forces where c = 0

Dynamics Consistency

All forces are active (contact set is constant)

High penalties for using forces where c = 0 trajectory optimization guides inverse dynamics solver via c

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}^0 \dots \mathbf{x}^T} \sum_t C^t(\mathbf{x}^t)$$

 $\mathbf{x}: [\mathbf{q} \mathbf{c}]$

No contact discontinuities and always have a gradient

Solved with standard local optimization

Optimization time of 2 to 10 minutes


Stage 1



Stage 2



Stage 3



Optimization Result



Idea

Add auxiliary variables

Softly enforce consistency between variables Search in larger, but easier to explore space



Interaction with Environment

Agile Behaviors

Non-Humanoid Character Morphologies

Props rigid body dynamics variables for hand/prop contact



Interaction Between Multiple Characters

Hand Manipulation

 $\min_{\mathbf{x}^0 \dots \mathbf{x}^T} \sum_t C^t(\mathbf{x}^t)$





[Mordatch, Popovic, Todorov, SCA 2012]

Object Grasping

In-Hand Object Manipulation

Manipulation Tasks



Two-Handed Manipulation



Trajectory Optimization with Direct Collocation

Automatic and general approach

Optimization problem for each motion clip

Do we solve optimization problems to move?

No learning or reuse in optimization

Cannot deal with unexpected events

Instead of motion clips, find policies



Trajectory Optimization with Direct Collocation



Learning Control Policies with Direct Collocation



Unknown/Uncertain Dynamics and Applications

NEURAL NETWORK POLICY







Forward Shooting:

 $\min_{\theta} \sum_{t} C^{t}(\mathbf{x}^{t}), \quad \mathbf{x}^{t+1} = f(\mathbf{x}^{t}, \boldsymbol{\pi}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{t}))$





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Forward Shooting:

$$\min_{\theta} \sum_{t} C^{t}(\mathbf{x}^{t}), \quad \mathbf{x}^{t+1} = f(\mathbf{x}^{t}, \boldsymbol{\pi}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{t}))$$

Poor Conditioning



Forward Shooting:

Learning from Demonstrations:







Where does training data come from?

• Human demonstration



Where does training data come from?

- Human demonstration
- Trajectory optimization















 $\mathbf{X}^1, \dots \, \mathbf{X}^N$ can be inconsistent or difficult to fit
Learning Policies from Trajectory Optimization



Learning Policies from Trajectory Optimization



Learning Policies from Trajectory Optimization













$$\min_{\theta \mathbf{X}^1 \dots \mathbf{X}^N} \sum_{i,t} C(\mathbf{x}^{i,t}) + ||\boldsymbol{\pi}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{i,t}) - \mathbf{u}^{i,t}||^2$$



$$\min_{\theta \mathbf{X}^1 \dots \mathbf{X}^N} \sum_{i,t} C(\mathbf{x}^{i,t}) + || \boldsymbol{\pi}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{i,t}) - \mathbf{u}^{i,t} ||^2$$



$$\min_{\theta \mathbf{x}^{1} \dots \mathbf{x}^{N}} \sum_{i,t} C(\mathbf{x}^{i,t}) + \frac{||\boldsymbol{\pi}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{i,t}) - \mathbf{u}^{i,t}||^{2}}{||\boldsymbol{\pi}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{i,t}) - \mathbf{u}^{i,t}||^{2}}$$

Add auxiliary variables

Softly enforce consistency between variables Search in larger, but easier to explore space

$$\min_{\theta \mathbf{X}^1 \dots \mathbf{X}^N} \sum_{i,t} C(\mathbf{x}^{i,t}) + || \boldsymbol{\pi}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{i,t}) - \mathbf{u}^{i,t} ||^2$$

Policy still not converging?



$$\min_{\theta \mathbf{X}^1 \dots \mathbf{X}^N} \sum_{i,t} C(\mathbf{x}^{i,t}) + ||\boldsymbol{\pi}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{i,t}) - \mathbf{u}^{i,t}||^2$$

Traditional supervised learning at test time: independent errors

Traditional supervised learning at test time: independent errors



Traditional supervised learning at test time: independent errors



Traditional supervised learning at test time: independent errors



Traditional supervised learning at test time: independent errors

Policy at test time:

at test time.





Injecting Network Noise



Noisy Training Data

input: $\mathbf{x} + \boldsymbol{arepsilon}$ output: $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{K} \boldsymbol{arepsilon}$

Injecting Network Noise







Decompose into:

- trajectory optimizations
- regression



Decompose into:

"stay close to policy"

• trajectory optimizations

$$\min_{\mathbf{X}} \sum_{t} C(\mathbf{x}^{t}) + ||\boldsymbol{\pi}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{t}) - \mathbf{u}^{t}||^{2}$$

regression



Decompose into:

- trajectory optimizations
- regression

$$\min_{ heta} \sum_{i,t} || oldsymbol{\pi}_{ heta}(\mathbf{x}^{i,t}) - \mathbf{u}^{i,t} ||^2$$



Decompose into:

• trajectory optimizations

$$\min_{\mathbf{X}} \sum_{t} C(\mathbf{x}^{t}) + ||\boldsymbol{\pi}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{t}) - \mathbf{u}^{t}||^{2}$$

• regression



Decompose into:

- trajectory optimizations
- regression

$$\min_{ heta} \sum_{i,t} || oldsymbol{\pi}_{ heta}(\mathbf{x}^{i,t}) - \mathbf{u}^{i,t} ||^2$$

Scalable Implementation



- asynchronous updates
- SGD network training
- Full dataset never loaded in memory



1 . 1 E C . X















Future State Prediction




Trajectory Optimization with Direct Collocation



Learning Control Policies with Direct Collocation



Unknown/Uncertain Dynamics and Applications

Executing optimal trajectories in open loop



What went wrong?



Darwin robot

Imperfect simulator model

Movement with Model Uncertainty

[Mordatch, Lowrey, Todorov, IROS 2015]



Movement with Model Uncertainty

[Mordatch, Lowrey, Todorov, IROS 2015]



Generate noisy models varying:

limb mass limb center of mass contact locations



Optimize over multiple state trajectories

Single control trajectory

Execute control trajectory in open loop

No Model Noise

With Model Noise



With Model Noise









What if we don't want conservative motion?



Interactive Policies with Online Model Learning

[Mordatch, Mishra, Eppner, Abbeel, ICRA 2016]





Offline:

Train policy to output *desired* next state:

 $ar{\mathbf{x}}^{t+1}$ Joint Angles, IMU, Forces

At every timestep:

Learn robot dynamics on the fly from past observations

$$\mathbf{x}^{t+1} = f(\mathbf{x}^t, \mathbf{u}^t)$$

Query policy for $ar{\mathbf{x}}^{t+1}$

Solve for robot torques \mathbf{u}^* such that

$$\bar{\mathbf{x}}^{t+1} = f(\mathbf{x}^t, \mathbf{u}^*)$$





Detailed Humanoid Models

[Mordatch, Wang, Todorov, Koltun, SIGGRAPH Asia 2013]



Detailed Humanoid Models



Musculotendon Actuator (Hill Model)





Equilibrium constraint: $f_{ce} + f_{pe} = f_{se}$

Model effort with metabolic energy expenditure [Anderson 99]























MTU usage effort modeled with metabolic energy expenditure [Anderson 99]

Humanoid Model with MTUs





1.5m/s Walking



1.5m/s Walking Kinematics and Torques





4m/s Running






Gait Initiation COP Trajectory

















Trust Region Policy Optimization



Trajectory Optimization with Direct Collocation



Learning Control Policies with Direct Collocation



Unknown/Uncertain Dynamics and Applications

Thank You!



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