

MODEL PREDICTIVE CONTROL FOR SAMPLED-DATA SYSTEMS

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Abstract: In this paper, the model predictive control law for sampled-data systems is presented. Compared to the standard model predictive controller, the new controller considers the intersampling behavior of the continuous system. First we convert the hybrid optimization problem to an equivalent discrete-time one and solve it using dynamic programming. Then we show that the controller is stabilizing. *Copyright © 1999 IFAC*

Key Words: sampled-data systems, model predictive control, hybrid systems.

1 INTRODUCTION

Recently, model predictive control (MPC), also known as receding horizon control and moving horizon control, has become a popular technique to control systems and achieved a significant level of industrial success in practical process control applications. The main idea of MPC is as follows. At sampling time k , the M (called input horizon) future control moves that optimize the open-loop performance objective over some output horizon are calculated. Only the first one of the M computed control moves is implemented. At the next sampling time, the optimization problem is reformulated and solved with new measurements obtained from the system. Now, a great deal of results on stability (Clarke and Scattolini, 1991; Rawlings and Muske, 1993; Kouvaritakis et al., 1992; Zheng and Morari, 1995), robustness (Zafiriou, 1990; Gencelli and Nikolaou 1993; Zheng and Morari, 1993; Kothare, et al., 1996), and applications (Richalet, 1993; Camaco and Bordons, 1995) of the model predictive control have been presented. A fairly complete discussion of several design techniques based on MPC and the current state of model predictive control can be found in the review articles (Garcial et al., 1989,

Kwon, 1994).

With the great advantages in computer technology, today digital controllers are more compact, reliable, flexible and often less expensive than analog ones. Note that significant progress has been made in modern analysis and synthesis for sampled-data feedback systems, where a continuous-time plant is controlled by a digital controller with appropriate hold and sample devices. By taking into account of the intersample behaviors, a sampled-data feedback control system combines both continuous and discrete-time dynamic subsystems. So it is a hybrid system with hybrid input and output signals. Although both the plant and controller are time-invariant, the sampled-data system is a time-varying system. Many researchers have investigated various problems in sampled-data control, such as the H_∞ , H_2 and robust control problems (Bannieh and Pearson, 1992a, 1992b; Kabamba and Hara, 1993; Chen and Francis, 1991, 1996; Toivonen, 1992; Sun et al. 1993; Sivahsankar and Khargonekar, 1993, 1994; Hayakawa et al. 1994; Khargonekar and Sivahsankar, 1991; Hagiwara and Araki, 1995; Khammash, 1993; Dullerud, 1993, 1996). More complete discussions can be found in Hara et al. (1996) and Chen and Frances (1995).

Although MPC has many advantages, it usually uses a discrete time model only based on the behavior at the sampling instants. So it ignores the intersample behavior. To obtain a high performance digital controller for a continuous-time system, it is necessary to consider the hybrid nature of the problem. That is, the design should be a direct sampled-data design. The main contribution of this paper is that it presents a technique of designing a digital model predictive controller directly for sampled-data systems. The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we discuss some background material about sampled-data feedback systems and infinite horizon MPC. In Section 3 and 4, we formulate the control law of the MPC for sampled-data systems and show that the control law we obtain is stabilizing. Finally, in Section 5, the paper is concluded.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Sampled-Data Feedback Control Systems

First, we give a brief introduction to sampled-data systems. For more details, we refer the reader to Chen and Francis (1995). A typical sampled-data feedback control system is shown in Fig.1. Let us note the following points:

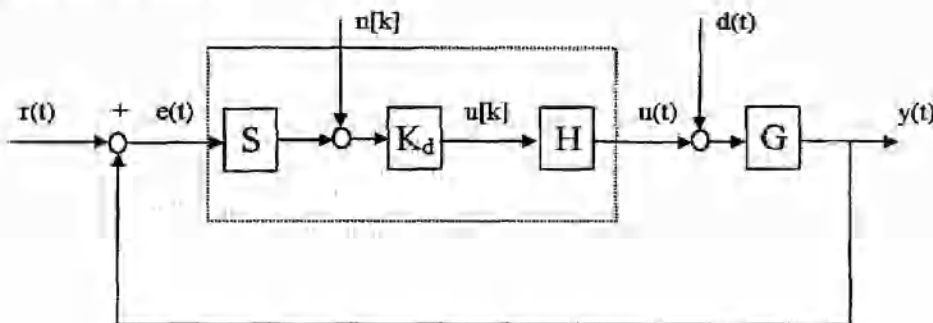


Figure 1: A Typical Sampled-data Feedback System

2.2 Model predictive control

Consider the discrete-time linear system

$$\mathbf{x}[k+1] = \mathbf{A}_d \mathbf{x}[k] + \mathbf{B}_d \mathbf{u}[k],$$

$$\mathbf{y}[k] = \mathbf{C}_d \mathbf{x}[k]$$

where $\mathbf{u}[k]$ is the control input, $\mathbf{x}[k]$ is the state of the plant and $\mathbf{y}[k]$ is the plant output. At each sampling time k we determine $\mathbf{u}[k+i|k]$, $i=0, \dots, M-1$, by minimizing the objective function $J_P[k]$, subject to some constraints on the control input, and sometimes also on the state or output, where $J_P[k]$ is a given norm presentation related to $\mathbf{x}[k+i|k]$, $i=0, \dots, P-1$, and $\mathbf{u}[k+i|k]$, $i=0, \dots, M-1$, ($\mathbf{y}[k+i|k]$ can be expressed by $\mathbf{x}[k+i|k]$). Here the notation is general:

- $u(t), y(t), e(t), r(t), d(t)$ are continuous-time signals of the control input, plant output, reference command, tracking error and disturbance input. Continuous-time signals will be represented by () around an independent variable, whereas discrete-time signals will be represented by bracket [].
- $u[k], y[k], e[k], n[k]$ are digital signals of the output of the controller, error at sampling instants and measurement noise, respectively.
- Let h be the sampling period. S and H are the ideal sampler and hold operator respectively. That is

$$Se(t) = e(kh) = e[k]; k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

$$(Hu)(kh+\theta) = H(\theta)u[k] = u(kh+\theta); 0 < \theta \leq h.$$

In this paper, we use the usual zero order hold, i.e. $H(\theta) = I$.

The purpose of the sampled-data control design is to find a stabilizing digital controller which gives desirable property. In the control design, the error $e(t)$ rather than the $e[k]$ is considered. In other words, we have to take into account the intersampling behavior in sampled-data design.

$\mathbf{x}[k+i|k]$ = predicted value of the state at time $k+i$ based on the information available at time k ; $\mathbf{x}[k|k]$ refers to the state measured at time k

$\mathbf{u}[k+i|k]$ = control input at time $k+i$, computed by the optimization problem at time k ; $\mathbf{u}[k|k]$ is the control input to be implemented at time k

P = prediction horizon

M = control horizon

In the model predictive framework, only the first computed control move $\mathbf{u}[k|k]$ is implemented. At time $k+1$, the optimization is resolved with new measurements from the plant. The purpose of taking new measurements at each time step is to compensate for unmeasured disturbances and

model uncertainty. This is the main feature of the model predictive control.

3 MPC FOR SAMPLED-DATA SYSTEMS

Let (A_c, B_c, C_c) be a given continuous-time system
 $\dot{x}(t) = A_c x(t) + B_c u(t),$
 $y(t) = C_c x(t),$
 $x(0) = x_0, u \in R^m, x \in R^n, y \in R^p$ (1)

Let h be the sampling period. At each sampling time kh , assume that exact measurement of the state of the system is available, i.e., $x(kh|kh) = x(kh)$, and Mh is the control horizon, i.e.

$$u(kh + t|kh) = 0, \forall t > Mh.$$

The problem is to design the control input $u(kh + t|kh), 0 \leq t \leq Mh$, such that the following quadratic objective function

$$\min_{u(kh+t|kh), 0 \leq t \leq Mh} J = \int_{kh}^{+\infty} [x^T(t)Qx(t) + u^T(t)Ru(t)] dt$$

is minimized, where Q and R are positive definite, symmetric weighting matrices. Here we use infinite horizon optimization to guarantee the nominal stability. Using the zero order hold, the objective function can be rewritten as

$$\min_{u(kh+t|kh), t=0, \dots, M-1} J = \int_{kh}^{+\infty} [x^T(t)Qx(t) + u^T(t)Ru(t)] dt \quad (2)$$

Note that this is a hybrid optimization problem since both the continuous-time and discrete-time signals are involved in (2).

The discretized system of (A_c, B_c, C_c) is as follows

$$\begin{aligned} x[k+1] &= A_d x[k] + B_d u[k], \\ y[k] &= C_c x[k] \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} x[k] &= x(kh), \quad y[k] = y(kh), \\ A_d &= e^{A_c h}, \quad B_d = \left(\int_0^h e^{A_c t} dt \right) B_c. \end{aligned}$$

From (1) and (3), we have

$$x(kh + t) = e^{A_c t} x[k] + \int_0^t e^{A_c(t-\tau)} d\tau B_c u[k], \quad (4)$$

where $0 \leq t \leq h$, Now we are ready to give the main result of this section.

Theorem 1 Consider the stable system (A_c, B_c, C_c) in (1) together with the objective function (2). The optimal discrete state feedback controller can be obtained as follows

$$u[k+i|k] = -F[i]x[k+i|k] \quad (5)$$

$$F[i] = [Q_{22} + A_d^T S[i+1] A_d]^{-1} [A_d^T S[i+1] B_d + Q_{12}^T] \quad (6)$$

$$\begin{aligned} S[i] &= (B_d - A_d F[i])^T S[i+1] (B_d - A_d F[i]) \\ &\quad + F^T[i] Q_{22} F[i] + Q_{11} - F^T[i] Q_{12}^T - Q_{12} F[i], \quad (7) \\ i &= 1, \dots, M-1 \end{aligned}$$

$$S[M] = \bar{Q} \quad (8)$$

where

$$Q_{11} = \int_0^h e^{A_c^T t} Q e^{A_c t} dt \quad (9)$$

$$Q_{12} = \left[\int_0^h e^{A_c^T t} Q \left(\int_0^t e^{A_c \tau} d\tau \right) dt \right] B_c \quad (10)$$

$$Q_{22} = B_c^T \left[\int_0^h \left(\int_0^t e^{A_c \tau} d\tau \right) Q \left(\int_0^t e^{A_c \tau} d\tau \right) dt \right] B_c + hR \quad (11)$$

$$\bar{Q} = \int_0^{+\infty} e^{A_c^T t} Q e^{A_c t} dt \quad (12)$$

Proof At first, we will convert the hybrid optimization problem to a discrete-time one, then use the dynamic program to obtain the solution. Since Mh is the control horizon, there is no control input after Mh sampling interval. For any $t > 0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} x(Mh + kh + t|kh) &= e^{A_c(t-Mh)} x(Mh + kh|kh) \\ &= e^{A_c(t-Mh)} x[M + k|k] \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

The objective function can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} J &= \int_{kh}^{(k+M)h} [x^T(t)Qx(t) + u^T(t)Ru(t)] dt \\ &\quad + \int_{(k+M)h}^{+\infty} x^T(t)Qx(t) dt \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{M-1} \int_{k+i}^{k+i+1} [x^T(t)Qx(t) + u^T(t)Ru(t)] dt \\ &\quad + x^T[k+M|k] \left(\int_{Mh}^{+\infty} e^{A_c^T(t-Mh)} Q e^{A_c(t-Mh)} dt \right) x[k+M|k] \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{M-1} J_i + x^T[k+M|k] \bar{Q} x[k+M|k] \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} J_i &= x^T[k+i|k] Q_{11} x[k+i|k] \\ &\quad + 2x^T[k+i|k] Q_{12} u[k+i|k] \\ &\quad + u^T[k+i|k] Q_{22} u[k+i|k] \end{aligned}$$

The hybrid optimization problem (2) is now converted to a discrete-time one

$$\min_{u[0], \dots, u[M-1]} J = \sum_{i=0}^{M-1} J_i + x^T[k+M|k] \bar{Q} x[k+M|k] \quad (14)$$

Using discrete dynamic programming, the result can be obtained. \square

Note that the equivalent discrete objective function includes a crossover term which differs from the discrete MPC case.

Remark 1. The formulas for computing the matrices Q_{11} , Q_{12} , Q_{22} in (9)-(11) can be done using matrix exponential as in Franklin and Powell (1980) and Chen and Francis (1995). We will give the explicit formulas for Q_{11} , Q_{12} , Q_{22} in the following.

Lemma 1 (Chen and Francis, 1995) Let A_{11} and A_{22} both be square and define

$$\begin{bmatrix} F_{11}(t) & F_{12}(t) \\ 0 & F_{22}(t) \end{bmatrix} := \exp \left\{ t \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ 0 & A_{22} \end{bmatrix} \right\}, \quad t \geq 0.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} F_{11}(t) &= e^{tA_{11}}, \\ F_{22}(t) &= e^{tA_{22}}, \\ F_{12}(t) &= \int_0^t e^{(t-\tau)A_{11}} A_{12} e^{\tau A_{22}} d\tau. \end{aligned}$$

Corollary 1 For the system (1), Define

$$\begin{aligned} &\begin{bmatrix} P_{11} & P_{12} \\ 0 & P_{22} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \exp \left\{ h \begin{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} A_c & B_c \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}^T & \begin{bmatrix} Q & 0 \\ 0 & R \end{bmatrix} \\ 0 & \begin{bmatrix} A_c & B_c \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

Then Q_{11} , Q_{12} and Q_{22} in (9)-(11) can be computed via the following

$$\begin{bmatrix} Q_{11} & Q_{12} \\ Q_{12}^T & Q_{22} \end{bmatrix} = P_{22}^{-T} P_{12}.$$

Proof For any matrix A , we know that

$$\int_0^t e^{A\tau} d\tau = [I \quad 0] e^{\begin{bmatrix} A & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} t} \begin{bmatrix} I \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

It is then straightforward to obtain the corollary by Lemma 1. \square

Remark 2. Integrate the following equation from 0 to ∞

$$\frac{d}{dt} e^{tA_c^T} Q e^{tA_c} = A_c^T e^{tA_c^T} Q e^{tA_c} + e^{tA_c^T} Q e^{tA_c} A_c$$

Since $\exp(tA_c)$ converges to zero (A_c is stable), we have

$$A_c^T \bar{Q} + \bar{Q} A_c + Q = 0 \quad (15)$$

Then \bar{Q} can be computed via the equation (15).

Remark 3. The MPC algorithm for sampled-data systems is then obtained from Theorem 1.

- i. Compute Q_{11} , Q_{12} , Q_{22} , \bar{Q} in (9-12). The explicit formulas of Q_{11} , Q_{12} , Q_{22} , \bar{Q} is given in remark 1 and remark 2.
- ii. Get the state measurement $x(kh)$ at the sampling time kh , compute $S[k]$, $F[k]$ from (6)-(8) and compute the optimal control law from

- (5). Only the first element $u[k|k]$ is sent to the process.
- iii. Return to Step ii at the next sampling time $(k+1)h$.

4 STABILITY ANALYSIS

In this section, we will show that the above control law is stabilizing just like in the discrete-time case. To this end, we need the following lemma.

Lemma 2 Consider the system (A_c, B_c, C_c) in (1) together with the objective function (2). Assume the sampling period h is not pathological, then the matrix $\begin{bmatrix} Q_{11} & Q_{12} \\ Q_{12}^T & Q_{22} \end{bmatrix}$ is positive, where Q_{11} , Q_{12} , Q_{22} are obtained from (9)-(11).

Proof Denote

$$\alpha(t) = e^{At}, \quad \beta(t) = \int_0^t e^{A\tau} B d\tau.$$

Then for $\forall x \in R^n, y \in R^m$,

$$\begin{aligned} &\begin{bmatrix} x^T & y^T \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Q_{11} & Q_{12} \\ Q_{12}^T & Q_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} \\ &= x^T Q_{11} x + y^T Q_{12}^T x + x^T Q_{12} y + y^T Q_{22} y \\ &= \int_0^h x^T \alpha^T(t) Q \alpha(t) x dt + \int_0^h y^T \beta^T(t) Q \beta(t) y dt \\ &\quad + \int_0^h x^T \alpha^T(t) Q \beta(t) y dt + \int_0^h y^T \beta^T(t) Q \alpha(t) x dt \\ &\quad + y^T (hR) y \\ &= \|\alpha(t)x\|_Q^2 + \|\beta(t)y\|_Q^2 + \langle \alpha(t)x, \beta(t)y \rangle + y^T (hR) y \\ &= \|\alpha(t)x + \beta(t)y\|_Q^2 + y^T (hR) y \quad (16) \end{aligned}$$

Note that $Q > 0$ and $R > 0$, hence, $\begin{bmatrix} Q_{11} & Q_{12} \\ Q_{12}^T & Q_{22} \end{bmatrix}$ is positive-definite. \square

Theorem 2 For stable A_c and $M \geq 1$, assume the sampling period h is not pathological, then the model predictive controller given by (5)-(8) is stabilizing.

Proof Since A_c is stable and h is not pathological, (A_d, B_d) is stable too.

Let $x^*[k+j|k], u^*[k+j|k]$ denote the optimal state and input at time $(k+j)h$ computed from (5-8) at time kh . The optimal value of the objective function at time kh is then

$$\begin{aligned}
 J^*[k] &= \mathbf{x}^{*T}[k] \mathbf{Q}_{11} \mathbf{x}^*[k] \\
 &+ 2\mathbf{x}^{*T}[k] \mathbf{Q}_{12} \mathbf{u}^*[k] + \mathbf{u}^{*T}[k] \mathbf{Q}_{22} \mathbf{u}^*[k] \\
 &+ \int_{(k+1)h}^{\infty} [\mathbf{x}^{*T}(t) \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{x}^*(t) + \mathbf{u}^{*T}(t) \mathbf{R} \mathbf{u}^*(t)] dt
 \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

Suppose there is no disturbances, then at time $(k+1)h$, the initial condition of the state is

$$\mathbf{x}[k+1] = \mathbf{x}^*[k+1|k].$$

Therefore the objective function is

$$J[k+1] = \int_{(k+1)h}^{\infty} [\mathbf{x}^{*T}(t) \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{x}^*(t) + \mathbf{u}^{*T}(t) \mathbf{R} \mathbf{u}^*(t)] dt$$

if the following input sequence is used at time $(k+1)h$

$$\{\mathbf{u}^*[k+1|k], \mathbf{u}^*[k+2|k], \dots, \mathbf{u}^*[k+M-1|k], \mathbf{0}\}$$

Since the optimal objective function $J^*[k+1]$ at time $(k+1)h$ is no worse than $J[k+1]$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 J^*[k+1] &\leq J[k+1] = J^*[k] - J_0 \\
 &= J^*[k] - \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}^T[k] & \mathbf{u}^T[k] \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{Q}_{11} & \mathbf{Q}_{12} \\ \mathbf{Q}_{12}^T & \mathbf{Q}_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}[k] \\ \mathbf{u}[k] \end{bmatrix}
 \end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

The sequence $J^*[k]$ is therefore nonincreasing. It converges because it is bounded below by zero. From Lemma 2, we have that both $\mathbf{x}[k]$ and $\mathbf{u}[k]$ converge to zero for $k > k_0$, which is large enough. So the controller is stabilizing from (4). \square

Remark 4. We only give the algorithm and the stability proof for stable systems. However, it is easy to extend these results to unstable systems in the same way as Rawlings (1993). In this case, the problem can be solved via dynamic programming with constraints.

Remark 5. The phenomena of a pathological sample period can be found in Chen and Francis (1996).

5 CONCLUSION

The model predictive controller for sampled-data systems is presented in this paper. The most attractive advantage of the proposed controller is that it considers the intersample behavior of the system and shows a better performance than that in the discrete-time case. The controller is also stabilizing as the same as in the discrete-time case.

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