





Mixed Integer Representations in Control Design. Applications for the Control of Multi-agent Dynamical Systems

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"To be or not to be ?" (Hamlet, Shakespeare, 1601)

"analysis and control of dynamical systems with conflicting objectives"



"analysis and control of dynamical systems with conflicting objectives"

Mixed-integer optimization problems for which part or all of the arguments are required to be integers. NP-hard in general, but can also solve many large problems in practice



Brief history

"50 Years of Integer Programming 1958-2008 : From the Early Years to the State-of-the-art", Jünger et al. [2009]

Mathematicians have started first to analyze problems with integer variables (early 1820's). Fourier [1826], Minkowski [1896], Dantzig [1951], Fulkerson [1954], Hoffman and Kruskal [1956], Gomory et al. [1958], Edmonds [1965], Garey and Johnson [1979], Khachiyan [1979], Karmarkar [1984]



In the 90's MIP/MILP becomes a widely explored approach for chemical process scheduling problems. Pritsker et al. [1969], Sahinidis and Grossmann [1991]



The availability of computing power increased the interest in optimization problems which can be formulated through the use of MI techniques (early 2000).

Earl and D'Andrea [2001], Richards et al. [2002], Schumacher et al. [2003]

Outline

Hyperplane arrangements notions

- 2 Mixed-integer representations
- 3 Applications
- 4 Conclusions

Outline

Hyperplane arrangements notions

Mixed-integer representations

- Classical MIP representation
- Logarithmic MIP representation
- MIP for hyperplane arrangements

Applications

- Obstacle avoidance
- Area coverage
- Formation control
- Other MIP applications

Conclusions

Half-spaces and polytopic sets

Let there be a collection of hyperplanes

 $\mathcal{H}_i = \left\{ x : h_i x = k_i, (h_i, k_i) \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times n} \times \mathbb{R} \right\}$

which partition the space in regions

 $\mathcal{R}^+(\mathcal{H}_i) = \{ x : h_i x \le k_i \}$ $\mathcal{R}^-(\mathcal{H}_i) = \{ x : -h_i x \le -k_i \}$



Half-spaces and polytopic sets

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describing a bounded polyhedral set



$$S = \bigcap_{i} \mathcal{R}^{+}(\mathcal{H}_{i}), \quad i = 1 : N$$

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$$S = \bigcap_{i} \mathcal{R}^{+}(\mathcal{H}_{i}), \quad i = 1 : N$$

The complement of *P* is defined as

$$\mathcal{C}(S) \triangleq cl(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus P) = \bigcup_i \mathcal{R}^-(\mathcal{H}_i), \quad i = 1 : N$$

Hyperplane arrangement decomposition

The collection of hyperplanes \mathbb{H} partitions \mathbb{R}^n into a union of disjoint cells $\mathcal{A}(\sigma)$ characterized by the sign tuple $\sigma \in \{-,+\}^N$:

$$\mathcal{A}(\sigma) = \bigcap_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \mathcal{R}_i^{\sigma(i)}.$$

The feasible sign tuples describe a hyperplane arrangement of cells covering the entire space :

$$\mathcal{A}(\mathbb{H}) = \bigcup_{\sigma_l \in \sum_N} \mathcal{A}(\sigma_l).$$



where $\sum_{N} \subset \{-,+\}^{N}$ denotes the collection of combinations of regions \mathcal{R}_{i}^{+} , \mathcal{R}_{i}^{-} resulting into non-empty cells (Buck's formula gives $\gamma(N) \leq \sum_{i=0}^{n} {N \choose i}$ as an upper bound Buck [1943]).

Description of the feasible region – I

Describe the feasible region ($\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \mathbb{S}$) by dividing the existing cells ($\sigma \in \sum_N$) into :

• forbidden (they describe S) :

 $\sigma \in \bar{\Sigma}_N$

• feasible (they describe $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \mathbb{S}$) :

 $\sigma \in \sum_N \setminus \overline{\sum}_N$



Then the feasible region can be defined as the union of feasible cells :

$$\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \mathbb{S} = \bigcup_{\sigma_l \in \sum_N \setminus \overline{\sum}_N} \mathcal{A}(\sigma_l).$$

Description of the feasible region – II

Feasible cells can be concatenated into "merged" cells (through merging procedures, e.g., Karnaugh maps, Espresso minimizer Geyer et al. [2008], Prodan et al. [2012a])

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{A}(\sigma^*) &= \bigcup_{\substack{\sigma, \\ \sigma(i) = \sigma^*(i), \\ \sigma(i) \in \{-, +\}, \\ \sigma^*(i) \neq *', \\ i \in \mathcal{I}}} \mathcal{A}(\sigma) \\ \sigma^*(i) \neq *' \\ \mathcal{A}(\sigma) = \bigcap_{\substack{\sigma^*(i) \neq *', i \in \mathcal{I}}} \mathcal{R}_i^{\sigma^*(i)} \end{split}$$

where $\sigma^* \in \{-, *, +\}^N$ denotes the sign tuple associated with the merged cell.



Then the feasible region can be defined as the union of feasible merged cells :

$$\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \mathbb{S} = \bigcup_{\sigma^*} \mathcal{A}(\sigma^*).$$

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Classical MIP representation



Define an extended linear representation of $\mathcal{C}(P)$



Classical MIP representation



Any of the regions $\mathcal{R}^{-}(\mathcal{H}_{i})$ of $\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{P})$ can be obtained by a suitable choice of binary variables

$$\mathcal{R}^{-}(\mathcal{H}_{i}) \longleftrightarrow (\alpha_{1}, \ldots, \alpha_{N})^{i} \triangleq (1, \ldots, 1, \underbrace{0}_{i}, 1, \ldots, 1)$$

Logarithmic representation

For each region $\mathcal{R}^{-}(\mathcal{H}_{i})$ a unique combination of binary variables $\lambda^{i} \in \{0,1\}^{\lceil log_{2}N \rceil}$ is associated. Then, the affine functions $\alpha_{i} : \{0,1\}^{\lceil log_{2}N \rceil} \to \{0\} \cup [1,\infty)$ are constructed :

$$\alpha_i(\lambda) = \sum_{k=0}^{\lceil \log_2 N \rceil} \left(\lambda_k^i + (1 - 2\lambda_k^i) \cdot \lambda_k \right).$$

 λ_k denotes the *k*th component of λ and λ_k^i its value for the tuple associated to region $\mathcal{R}^-(\mathcal{H}_i)$:

$$\alpha_i(\lambda) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{only if } \lambda = \lambda^i \\ \geq 1, & \text{for any } \lambda \neq \lambda^i \end{cases}$$

which leads to the compact formulation

$$\begin{split} -h_i x &\leq -k_i + M \alpha_i(\lambda), \quad i=1: \ N \ , \\ 0 &\leq \beta_i(\lambda). \end{split}$$



Interdicted tuples

In the mixed-integer representation we interdict tuples which describe the obstacle :

• in the classical formulation we force that at least one constraint is active :

 $\sum_{i=1}^{i=N} \alpha_i \leq N-1$

- in the logarithmic formulation
 - multiple constraints to interdict tuples Prodan et al. [2012a]

 $0 < \beta_l(\lambda)$

 if the allocated tuples are ordered a single constraint suffices Afonso and Galvão [2013]



Consider a polytope $P \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ given by

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} x \le \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



and its complement $\mathcal{C}(P)$ by

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} x \le \begin{bmatrix} -1 + M\alpha_1 \\ -1 + M\alpha_2 \\ -1 + M\alpha_3 \\ -1 + M\alpha_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

in the classical MI formulation.



and its complement $\mathcal{C}(P)$ by

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} x \le \begin{bmatrix} -1 + M(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2) \\ -1 + M(1 - \lambda_1 + \lambda_2) \\ -1 + M(1 + \lambda_1 - \lambda_2) \\ -1 + M(2 - \lambda_1 - \lambda_2) \end{bmatrix}$$

in the reduced MI formulation.



In the reduced representation only $N_0 = \lceil \log_2 4 \rceil = 2$ binary variables are needed.

For region $\mathcal{R}^{-}(\mathcal{H}_2)$ associate tuple $(\lambda_1^2, \lambda_2^2) = (0, 1)$ which leads to the mapping

$$\alpha_2 = 1 + \lambda_1 - \lambda_2$$

MIP for hyperplane arrangements – I

Reminder :

• hyperplane arrangement :

 $\mathcal{A}(\mathbb{H}) = \bigcup_{\sigma_l \in \sum_N} \mathcal{A}(\sigma_l).$

• interdicted and feasible tuples :

$$\begin{split} \bar{\sum}_{N} &= \{ \boldsymbol{\sigma} : \mathcal{A}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) \subseteq \mathbf{S} \} \\ \sum_{N} &\setminus \bar{\sum}_{N} = \{ \boldsymbol{\sigma} : \mathcal{A}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) \cap \mathbf{S} = \emptyset \} \end{split}$$

There are several possible formulations of the feasible region :

- by making at least a constraint from each obstacle active
- as union of feasible (merged) cells
- explicitly forbid the cells describing obstacles



MIP for hyperplane arrangements – II

• by making at least a constraint from each obstacle active :

 $\mathcal{C}(\mathbb{S}) = \bigcap_{I} \mathcal{C}(S_{I})$

- as union of feasible (merged) cells :
 - $\mathcal{C}(\mathbb{S}) = \bigcup_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \mathcal{A}(\sigma_j^*)$
- explicitly forbid the cells describing obstacles ($\sigma_l \in \bar{\Sigma}_N$)

$\begin{array}{c} -h_{i_l} x \leq -k_{i_l} + M \alpha_{i_l}, \, \forall i_l \in \mathcal{I}_l \\ \sum\limits_{i_l \in \mathcal{I}_l} \alpha_{i_l} \leq \# \mathcal{I}_l - 1 \end{array}$

. . .



Characteristics :

- the number of binary variables depends on the complexity of the obstacles
- efficient in the logarithmic formulation

MIP for hyperplane arrangements – II

• by making at least a constraint from each obstacle active :

 $\mathcal{C}(\mathbb{S}) = \bigcap \mathcal{C}(S_l)$

• as union of feasible (merged) cells :



• explicitly forbid the cells describing obstacles ($\sigma_l \in \bar{\Sigma}_N$)



Characteristics :

- the number of binary variables depends on the complexity of $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \mathbb{S}$
- efficient when using merged cells and logarithmic formulation
- difficult to compute the feasible cells and merge them

MIP for hyperplane arrangements – II



Characteristics :

• the number of binary variables does not depend on the number of forbidden cells

Numerical aspects

For a hyperplane arrangement we associate a truth table :

- '0' for forbidden tuples
- '1' for tuples describing part of the feasible domain
- '*' for tuples which result in empty cells



The resulting Boolean function (written as sum-of-products) describes the feasible cells of the hyperplane arrangements :

- the canonic form leads to merged cells
- the greatest time is spent finding the feasible tuples \Rightarrow don't look for them
 - merge in the truth table all the cells which are not explicitly forbidden
 - discard the combinations which have no geometrical meaning

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Caveat emptor

We use hyperplane arrangements in order to reduce the complexity of the non-convex representation.

Nonetheless, this pre-processing can be difficult itself :

- computation of the hyperplane arrangement increases exponentially with space dimension and number of hyperplanes Avis and Fukuda [1996]
- computing merged cells is relatively easy (the union of two cells which differ through a single bit is always convex) Geyer et al. [2008]
- we can use sub-optimal strategies
 - heuristic Boolean minimizer (the Espresso solver)
 - write conservatively the truth-table Stoican et al. [2013]

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Applications for the control of multi-agent dynamical systems

Aircraft formation



Blake and Multhopp [1998] Richards and How [2002]

Astronomical observations



Massion et al. [2008] Mora and Solar [2010]

Mobile Offshore Base



Sousa et al. [2000] Girard et al. [2005]

Model Predictive Control (MPC) Propoi [1963], Richalet et al. [1978], Cutler and Ramaker [1980]



Obstacle avoidance problems

(Prodan et al., Springer'11)

Consider 4 obstacles and a single agent defined by a LTI dynamics.

- 14 hyperplanes;
- 106 regions obtained with hyperplane arrangements;
- 10 cells describing the forbidden regions ;
- 96 cells describing the feasible region ;
- $N_0 = 4$ the number of the binary variables;
- apply an MPC optimization problem $(N_p = 3, Q = 10^5 \cdot I_4, R = I_2, P = 10^5 \cdot I_4).$





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Conclusion : 72% complexity reduction of binary variables.

The corner cutting problem

Stoican, Grotli, Prodan, 2015

One challenging and not extensively studied issue in obstacle avoidance is the corner cutting problem.

Avoidance constraints are usually imposed at the sampling time without regards to the intra-sample behavior of the dynamics.

Current results Richards and Turnbull [2015], Maia and Galvão [2009], Deits and Tedrake [2015] are

- conservative in their description
- do not treat efficiently the case of multiple obstacles

Main ideas :

- the future position should not lie in the shadow of the obstacle(s)
- consider exact and approximate descriptions



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Shadow region description

We can define the "shadow" region $\mathcal{B}(S, x)$ as the collection of all the points from \mathbb{R}^n which are "in the shadow" from the point of view of x:

 $\mathcal{B}(S,x) = \{y : [x,y] \cap S \neq \emptyset\}$

- S is the obstacle
- x is the sensor/agent



If the segment [x, y] intersects S it means that point y is "hidden" by obstacle S and therefore is not "visible" from the point of view of x.

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$$\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{S},\mathbb{X}) = \bigcap_{k=1}^{N_a} \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{S}, x_k) = \bigcap_{k=1}^{N_a} \left[\begin{pmatrix} N_o \\ \bigcup \\ I_{l=1} \end{pmatrix} \mathcal{B}(S_l, x_k) \right]$$
$$= \bigcap_{k=1}^{N_a} \begin{pmatrix} N_o \\ \bigcup \\ I_{l=1} \end{pmatrix} \mathcal{B}(S_l, x_k)$$

- $\mathbb{S} \triangleq \bigcup_{l=1}^{N_o} S_l$ is the collection of obstacles
- X ≜ {x₁,...,x_{N_a}} is the collection of sensors/agents



If the segment [x, y] intersects *S* it means that point *y* is "hidden" by obstacle $S \in S$ and therefore is not "visible" from the point of view of $x \in X$.

Shadow area construction

Let there be $S = \mathcal{A}(\sigma^{\bullet})$ where $\sigma^{\bullet} \in \Sigma^{\bullet}$, then we define the auxiliary set

$$\mathcal{E}(\sigma^{\bullet}, x) = \mathcal{A}(\sigma^{\bullet}) \cap \left(\bigcup_{x \notin \mathcal{H}_i^{\sigma^{\bullet}(i)}} \mathcal{H}_i\right) \cap \left(\bigcup_{x \in \mathcal{H}_i^{\sigma^{\bullet}(i)}} \mathcal{H}_i\right)$$



which denotes the tangent points of S from the viewpoint of x.

For any $x \in \mathcal{A}(\sigma^{\circ})$ we have that $\mathcal{E}(\sigma^{\bullet}, x)$ remains fixed :

$$\mathcal{E}(\sigma^{\bullet}, \sigma^{\circ}) = \mathcal{A}(\sigma^{\bullet}) \cap \left(\bigcup_{\sigma^{\circ}(i) \neq \sigma^{\bullet}(i)} \mathcal{H}_i\right) \cap \left(\bigcup_{\sigma^{\circ}(i) = \sigma^{\bullet}(i)} \mathcal{H}_i\right)$$

 $\mathcal{E}(\sigma^{\bullet}, x)$ is parametrized after $\sigma^{\circ} \in \Sigma^{\circ} \Rightarrow$ it remains constant with respect to σ° !

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For dynamics $x_{k+1} = Ax_k + Bu_k$ we impose that $x_{k+1} \notin \bigcup_{\sigma^{\bullet} \in \Sigma^{\bullet}} \mathcal{B}(\sigma^{\bullet}, \sigma_k)$



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A word about the coverage problem

In this talk the shadow region has been used to characterize the (in)feasible future position of an agent.

Alternatively we can use the the region to characterize the area under shadow



and use it for

- static approach : multiple agents shuffle their positions until they minimize (cancel) the unobserved space
- dynamic approach : successive points are taken such that an agent passing through them minimizes (cancels) the unobserved space – the agent dynamic has to be considered
- a combination of the previous approaches

Centralized/Distributed/Decentralized MPC for formation control

Two-stage procedure :

- Solve the task assignment problem (re-evaluated at each time step)
- Solve the mixed-integer optimization problem :

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{u}_{\mathcal{I}}^* &= \arg\min_{\mathbf{u}_{\mathcal{I}}(k), \dots, \mathbf{u}_{\mathcal{I}}(k+N_{p}-1)} V_{n}(\mathbf{x}_{\mathcal{I}}(k), \mathbf{u}_{\mathcal{I}}(k), \dots, \mathbf{u}_{\mathcal{I}}(k+N_{p}-1)) \\ \text{subject to}: \quad \begin{cases} \mathbf{x}_{\mathcal{I}}(k+s+1) = \mathbf{A}_{\mathcal{I}} \mathbf{x}_{\mathcal{I}}(k+s) + \mathbf{B}_{\mathcal{I}} \mathbf{u}_{\mathcal{I}}(k+s), \quad s = 0: N_{p} - 1, \\ \mathbf{x}_{\mathcal{I}}(k+s) \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbb{S}), \quad s = 1: N_{p}, \end{cases} \end{split}$$

where the cost function is minimized in the target positions.

agents motion - "on-line"



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4 heterogeneous agents

MIP-based solution for trajectory tracking of multi-agent formation

(Prodan et al., IFAC World Congress'11, Springer'13)

Centralized predictive control with non-convex state constraints

Decentralized predictive control with non-convex state constraints

FDI adjusted reference governor

Stoican and Olaru, Wiley, 2013

Fix $z \ (z \in S_z)$ and let x_{ref} be the decision variable :

 $D_{X_{ref}} \triangleq \left\{ \mathbf{x}_{ref} : \left(\{ -C_i \mathbf{x}_{ref} \} \oplus N_i^F \right) \cap (C_i S_z \oplus N_i) = \emptyset, \ i = 1 \dots N \right\}.$

Reference governor (Stoican et al. [2010]) :

$$u_{ref[0,\tau-1]}^{*} = \underset{u_{ref[0,\tau-1]}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{i=0}^{\tau-1} \left(||r_{[i]} - x_{ref[i]}||_{Q_{r}} + ||u_{ref[i]}||_{R_{r}} \right)$$

subject to :

$$\begin{aligned} x^+_{ref[i]} &= Ax_{ref[i]} + Bu_{ref[i]} \\ x^+_{ref[i]} &\in D_{x_{ref}} \end{aligned}$$

Characteristics :

- fix gain
- flexible reference



Dynamic models of the microgrid components

(Prodan and Zio, Int. Journal of Electrical Power and Energy Systems, 2014) Consider the dynamic model of the electrical storage units S_j :

$$x_{j}(t+1) = (1 - \sigma_{j})x_{j}(t) + \sum_{M_{gs}(i,j) \neq 0} u_{gs}^{ij}(t) - \sum_{M_{sd}(i,j) \neq 0} u_{sd}^{jk}(t) - \sum_{M_{se}(j,k) \neq 0} u_{se}^{j}(t) + w_{j}(t),$$

with the *mixed-integer conditions* :

 $\begin{cases} 0 \leq u_{gs}^{ij}(t) \leq M\alpha_j(t), & \forall i \text{ with } M_{gs}(i,j) \neq 0, \\ 0 \leq u_{sd}^{ik}(t) \leq M(1 - \alpha_j(t)), & \forall k \text{ with } M_{sd}(j,k) \neq 0, \\ 0 \leq u_{se}^{i}(t) \leq M(1 - \alpha_j(t)), & \text{if } \exists j \text{ with } M_{se}(j) \neq 0, \end{cases}$

- x_j(t) ∈ ℝ represents the amount of energy stored in S_i at time step t;
- α_j(t) ∈ {0,1} are the auxiliary binary variables which govern the mode switching ;
- $\sigma_j \in \mathbb{R}^+$ hourly self-discharge decay ;
- *M_{ab}* adjacency matrix characterizing the links between components.



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- Develop and bring to light new insights in the use of mixed-integer (MI) formulations for efficiently describing non-convex and non-connected regions appearing in a wide range of applications in control theory.
- Once the overall problem is brought to an improved formulation specialized solvers like CPLEX, Gurobi or SCIP are employed.
- Mixed-integer formulations provide one of the best ways of dealing with optimization problems with conflicting objectives.



Research interactions

Work done together with

- Sorin Olaru, Silviu Niculescu (L2S, CentraleSupélec)
- Morten Hovd (NTNU), Esten Grotli (SINTEF)
- Mircea Strutu, Dan Popescu (UPB)
- Enrico Zio (Chair EDF, CentraleSupélec)



Springer Brief (in work)

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Illustrative example

Consider a triangle from \mathbb{R}^2 given by





Illustrative example

and its complement

 $\begin{array}{rcl} -h_1 x & \leq -k_1 + M\alpha_1 \\ -h_2 x & \leq -k_2 + M\alpha_2 \\ -h_3 x & \leq -k_3 + M\alpha_3 \end{array}$



in the classical MI formulation.

and its complement

 $\begin{array}{rcl} -h_1 x & \leq -k_1 + M(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2) \\ -h_2 x & \leq -k_2 + M(1 - \lambda_1 + \lambda_2) \\ -h_3 x & \leq -k_3 + M(1 + \lambda_1 - \lambda_2) \end{array}$



in the reduced MI formulation.

In the reduced representation only $N_0 = \lceil \log_2 3 \rceil = 2$ binary variables are needed.

For region $\mathcal{R}^-(\mathcal{H}_2)$ associate tuple $(\lambda_1^2, \lambda_2^2) = (1, 0)$ which leads to the mapping $\alpha_2(\lambda) = 1 - \lambda_1 + \lambda_2$