Trajectory Optimization for Walking

Optimization-based Robot Control

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Introduction

Task-Space Inverse Dynamics needs reference trajectories.

How to compute them for a walking robot?

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Limits of Instantaneous Control

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Example of car moving towards wall.

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Solution
Use traj-opt offline to compute reference trajectory.

Use TSID online to track reference trajectory.

Trajectory Optimization through Contacts

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Stiff differential equations $\rightarrow$ Veeeery slow!

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Solution
Use rigid contacts, but fix contact sequence $\rightarrow$ Time-varying dynamical system (not hybrid!)

Trajectory Optimization for locomotion

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Common models for locomotion:

- Inverted Pendulum
- Linear Inverted Pendulum
- Centroidal Dynamics (i.e. single rigid body dynamics)

Linear Inverted Pendulum Model (LIPM)

Center of Mass and Angular Momentum

Newton equation (center-of-mass dynamics):

$$m(\ddot{c} + g) = \sum_i f_i \tag{1}$$

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where:

- c: center of mass (CoM)
- l: angular momentum (expressed at CoM)
- m: robot mass
- g: gravity acceleration
- f_i: i-th contact force
- p_i: i-th contact point

Flat Ground (1/2)

Assume:

- contacts with flat ground: $p_i^z = 0$
- constant angular momentum: $\dot{l} = 0$
- constant CoM height: $\dot{c}^z = \ddot{c}^z = 0$

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Then we get (Wieber, Tedrake, and Kuindersma 2015):

$$c^{xy} - \frac{c^z}{g^z}\ddot{c}^{xy} = \underbrace{\frac{\sum_i f_i^z p_i^{xy}}{\sum_i f_i^z}}_{\text{Center of Pressure}} \tag{3}$$

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$$f_i^z \geq 0 \impliedby z^{xy} \triangleq \frac{\sum_i f_i^z p_i^{xy}}{\sum_i f_i^z} \in \text{conv}(p_i^{xy})$$

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Rearrange (3) as:

$$\ddot{c}^{xy} = \frac{g^z}{c^z}(c^{xy} - z^{xy}) \tag{4}$$

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Same dynamics as linearized Inverted Pendulum.

LIPM as Linear Dynamical System

Rewrite (3) as:

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \dot{c}^{xy} \\ \ddot{c}^{xy} \end{bmatrix}}_{\dot{x}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I \\ \omega^2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} c^{xy} \\ \dot{c}^{xy} \end{bmatrix}}_{x} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -\omega^2 \end{bmatrix} \underbrace{z^{xy}}_{u} \tag{5}$$

where $\omega^2 \triangleq \frac{g^z}{c^z}$.

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where $\omega^2 \triangleq \frac{g^z}{c^z}$.

Discretize with time step δt:

$$x^+ = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \cosh(\omega\delta t) & \omega^{-1}\sinh(\omega\delta t) \\ \omega\sinh(\omega\delta t) & \cosh(\omega\delta t) \end{bmatrix}}_{A} x + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1-\cosh(\omega\delta t) \\ -\omega\sinh(\omega\delta t) \end{bmatrix}}_{B} u \quad (6)$$

Center of Mass Trajectory Optimization with LIPM

Key Idea

Follow reference trajectory of:

- CoP $P = \begin{bmatrix} p_0 & \dots & p_{N-1} \end{bmatrix}$ (i.e. foot steps),
- CoM position $C^{ref} = \begin{bmatrix} c_0^{ref} & \dots & c_N^{ref} \end{bmatrix}$
- CoM velocity $\dot{C}^{ref} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{c}_0^{ref} & \dots & \dot{c}_N^{ref} \end{bmatrix}$

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Foot steps and timing P predefined by user.

Keep CoP close to foot center for robustness.

C^{ref} could be straight line.

Formulation

$$
\begin{aligned}
\underset{C,\dot{C},U}{\text{minimize}} \quad & \sum_k \frac{\beta}{2}||c_k - c_k^{ref}||^2 + \frac{\gamma}{2}||\dot{c} - \dot{c}^{ref}||^2 + \quad \frac{\alpha}{2}||u_k - p_k||^2 \\
\text{subject to} \quad & p_k - \frac{s}{2} \leq u_k \leq p_k + \frac{s}{2} \qquad k = 0 \dots N-1 \\
& x_{k+1} = Ax_k + Bu_k \qquad k = 0 \dots N-1 \\
& x_0 = x_{initial} \\
& x_N = x_{final}
\end{aligned} \tag{7}
$$

where:

- $s \in \mathbb{R}^2 =$ foot size in x and y directions
- $C = \begin{bmatrix} c_0 & \dots & c_N \end{bmatrix}$
- $\dot{C} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{c}_0 & \dots & \dot{c}_N \end{bmatrix}$
- $x_k = (c_k, \dot{c}_k)$
- $\alpha, \beta, \gamma =$ user-defined weights

Foot-step Planning

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Optimize for foot step positions, but...

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Add P to decision variables $\rightarrow$ Problem remains QP! (Herdt et al. 2010)

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Bound distance between successive foot steps.

CoM Trajectory Optimization with Foot-Step Planning

$$
\begin{aligned}
\underset{C,\dot{C},U,P}{\text{minimize}} \quad & \sum_k \frac{\beta}{2}||c_k - c_k^{ref}||^2 + \frac{\gamma}{2}||\dot{c} - \dot{c}^{ref}||^2 + \quad \frac{\alpha}{2}||u_k - p_k||^2 & \\
\text{subject to} \quad & p_k - \frac{s}{2} \leq u_k \leq p_k + \frac{s}{2} & k = 0 \ldots N-1 \\
& x_{k+1} = Ax_k + Bu_k & k = 0 \ldots N-1 \\
& x_0 = x_{initial} & \\
& x_N = x_{final} & \\
& p_{k+1} - p_k \in \mathcal{P}_k & k = 0 \ldots N-1
\end{aligned} \tag{8}
$$

Implementation in Python

Code

```
# Inverted pendulum parameters:
# ----------------------------
foot_length = conf.lxn + conf.lxp   # foot size in x direction
foot_width  = conf.lyn + conf.lyp   # foot size in y direciton
nb_dt_per_step        = int(conf.T_step/conf.dt_mpc)
N  = conf.nb_steps * nb_dt_per_step  # nb of time steps
```

Code

```
# CoM initial state: [x_0, xdot_0].T
#                    [y_0, ydot_0].T
# ----------------------------------
x_0 = np.array([conf.foot_step_0[0], 0.0])
y_0 = np.array([conf.foot_step_0[1], 0.0])
```

Code

```
# compute foot steps
foot_steps  = manual_foot_placement(conf.foot_step_0,
                              conf.step_length, conf.nb_steps)
foot_steps[1:,0] -= conf.step_length
```

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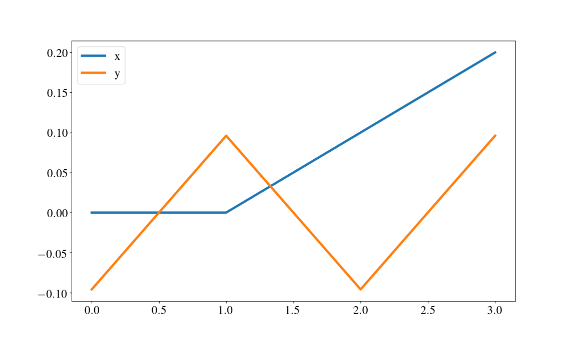

Figure 1: Foot steps.

Code

```
# compute CoP reference trajectory:
cop_ref = create_CoP_trajectory(conf.nb_steps,
                        foot_steps, N, nb_dt_per_step)
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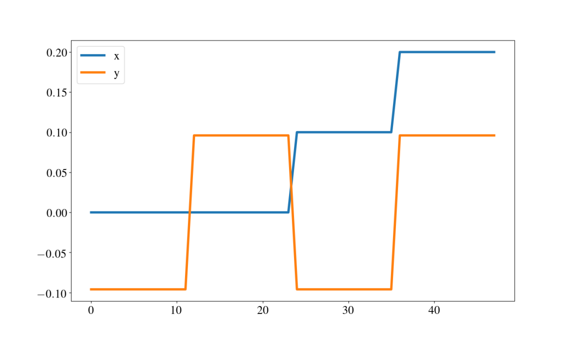

Figure 2: Foot steps and CoP.

Open script

```
cd orc/lipm
python3  lipm_ocp.py
```

Connection with TSID

LIPM to Whole-Body Model

Two issues:

1. Different time steps
2. Foot trajectories

Interpolation

Input: CoM (pos, vel) and CoP trajectories with traj-opt (large) time step.

Output: CoM (pos, vel, acc) with control (small) time step.

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Compute pos-vel with:

$$\begin{bmatrix} c \\ \dot{c} \end{bmatrix}^{+} = \begin{bmatrix} \cosh(\omega \delta t) & \omega^{-1} \sinh(\omega \delta t) \\ \omega \sinh(\omega \delta t) & \cosh(\omega \delta t) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c \\ \dot{c} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 - \cosh(\omega \delta t) \\ -\omega \sinh(\omega \delta t) \end{bmatrix} u \quad (9)$$

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Compute acc with:

$$\ddot{c} = \frac{g^z}{c^z}(c - z) \quad (10)$$

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- initial pos
- initial vel (zero)
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For instance: 3rd order with constraints:

- initial pos
- initial vel (zero)
- final pos
- final vel (zero)

Use higher order if you wanna add constraints (e.g., zero initial/final acc).

Run script

```
cd orc/lipm
python lipm_to_tsid.py
cd orc/reactive_control/tsid
python ex_4_walking.py
```

References

Herdt, Andrei et al. (2010). “Online Walking Motion Generation with Automatic Foot Step Placement”. In: *Advanced Robotics* 24.5-6.

Wieber, Pierre-Brice, Russ Tedrake, and Scott Kuindersma (2015). “Modeling and Control of Legged Robots”. In: *Springer Handbook of Robotics*. Ed. by Bruno Siciliano and Khatib Oussama. 2nd. Chap. 48.