

Solving Mission-Wide Chance-Constrained Optimal Control Using Dynamic Programming

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Overview

Background

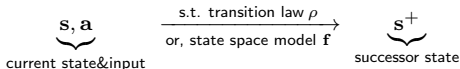
- Markov Control Models
- Chance Constraints
- Mission-Wide Chance-Constrained Optimal Control

Contributions

- How Does Standard Dynamic Programming Work?
- Functional State Augmentation

Markov Control Model

State transition:



- (Valid) transition probability function

$$\rho(\mathbf{s}^+ | \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) : \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$$

such that

$$\mathbb{P}[\mathbf{s}_{k+1} \in \mathbb{B} | \mathbf{s}_k, \mathbf{a}_k] = \int_{\mathbb{B}} \rho(\mathbf{s}' | \mathbf{s}_k, \mathbf{a}_k) d\mathbf{s}', \quad \text{for all } \mathbb{B} \subseteq \mathcal{S}.$$

- In classic control, it is specified by the equation of the form

$$\mathbf{s}_{k+1} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{s}_k, \mathbf{a}_k, \mathbf{w}_k),$$

where $\{\mathbf{w}_k\}$ is i.i.d with values in \mathcal{W} and distribution μ , independent of \mathbf{s}_0 .

- Model ρ is more “general”; Model \mathbf{f} is more “intuitive”. Relation:

$$\int_{\mathbb{B}} \rho(\mathbf{s}' | \mathbf{s}_k, \mathbf{a}_k) d\mathbf{s}' = \int_{\mathcal{W}} \mathbf{1}_{\mathbb{B}}(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{s}_k, \mathbf{a}_k, \mathbf{w})) \mu(\mathbf{w}) d\mathbf{w}, \quad \text{given } \mathbf{s}_k, \mathbf{a}_k.$$

Markov Control Model

State transition: $\underbrace{\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}}$ $\xrightarrow[\text{or, state space model } \mathbf{f}]{\text{s.t. transition law } \rho}$ $\underbrace{\mathbf{s}^+}$
current state&input successor state

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Markov Control Model

Finite-horizon performance criterion:

$$J(\boldsymbol{\pi}, \mathbf{s}_0) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}_0}^{\boldsymbol{\pi}} \left[\sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \ell(\mathbf{s}_k, \mathbf{a}_k) + \ell_N(\mathbf{s}_N) \right],$$

- Mission horizon: N
- stage cost ℓ , and terminal cost ℓ_N
- Deterministic Markov policy: $\boldsymbol{\pi} = (\boldsymbol{\pi}_0, \boldsymbol{\pi}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\pi}_{N-1}) \in \Pi$

Chance Constraints

Mission-wide chance constraint:

$$\mathbb{P}[\mathbf{s}_{1,\dots,N} \in \mathbb{S} \mid \mathbf{s}_0, \boldsymbol{\pi}] \geq 1 - \varepsilon$$

- \mathbb{S} is regarded as a safe region
- $\varepsilon \in [0, 1]$ is a predefined risk bound
- describe a reasonable reliability concerning the whole mission

Stage-wise chance constraints:

$$\mathbb{P}[s_k \in \mathbb{S}] \geq 1 - \epsilon_k, \quad \forall k \in \{0, \dots, N\}$$

- describe reliability only at individual stages

Cumulative chance constraints:

$$\sum_{k=0}^N \mathbb{P}[x_k \in \mathbb{S}] \geq r$$

- safe approximations of mission-wide chance constraint if one sets $r = 1 - \varepsilon$, i.e., a feasible policy here must be feasible for the mission-wide chance constraint too.

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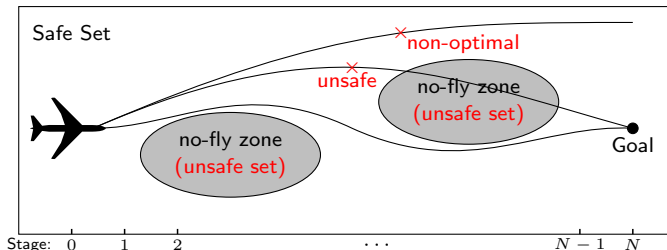
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Mission-Wide Chance-Constrained Optimal Control



Mission-wide chance constrained optimal control problem:

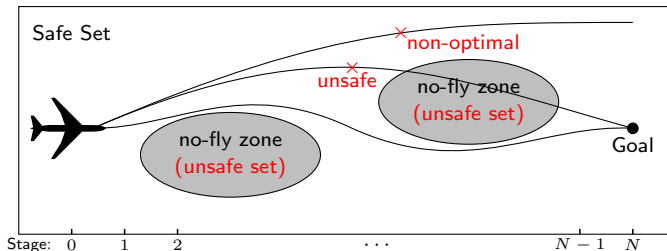
$$J^*(\mathbf{s}_0) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \min_{\pi \in \Pi} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}_0}^{\pi} \left[\sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \ell(\mathbf{s}_k, \mathbf{a}_k) + \ell_N(\mathbf{s}_N) \right]$$

s.t. $\mathbb{P}[\mathbf{s}_{1,\dots,N} \in \mathbb{S} \mid \mathbf{s}_0, \pi] \geq 1 - \varepsilon.$

- assume that this problem is well-defined and non-trivial, and attains its minimum value
- The goal is to find an optimal policy $\pi^* \subseteq \Pi$ for all feasible $\mathbf{s}_0 \in \mathbb{S}$.

In this paper, we provide a Dynamic Programming (DP) algorithm, finding both the value function J^* and an optimal policy π^* .

Mission-Wide Chance-Constrained Optimal Control



Mission-wide chance constrained optimal control problem:

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How does Standard DP work?

The classic way: transform the constraint into objective via penalty function

- First, define functions:

$$V_k^\pi(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbb{P}[\mathbf{s}_{k+1}, \dots, N \in \mathbb{S} \mid \mathbf{s}_k = \mathbf{s}] \text{ and } V_0^\pi(\mathbf{s}_0) = \mathbb{P}[\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, N \in \mathbb{S} \mid \mathbf{s}_0, \pi]$$

- By Lemma 1 in the paper

$$V_k^\pi(\mathbf{s}_k) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}_{k+1}} [V_{k+1}^\pi(\mathbf{s}_{k+1}) \mid \mathbf{s}_k]$$

- Transform the constraint into objective function via penalty function

$$\tilde{J}^*(\mathbf{s}_0) = \min_{\pi} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}_0}^\pi \left[\sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \ell(\mathbf{s}_k, \mathbf{a}_k) + \ell_N(\mathbf{s}_N) \right] + \zeta(V_0^\pi(\mathbf{s}_0))$$

where $\zeta : [0, 1] \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty]$ is some penalty functions.

What would function ζ be like to ensure that DP algorithms exist?

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$$\tilde{J}^\star(\mathbf{s}_0) = \min_{\pi} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}_0}^\pi \left[\sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \ell(\mathbf{s}_k, \mathbf{a}_k) + \ell_N(\mathbf{s}_N) \right] + \zeta(V_0^\pi(\mathbf{s}_0))$$

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How does DP work?

Solving: $\tilde{J}^*(\mathbf{s}_0) = \min_{\pi} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}_0}^{\pi} \left[\sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \ell(\mathbf{s}_k, \mathbf{a}_k) + \ell_N(\mathbf{s}_N) \right] + \zeta(V_0^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}_0))$ **via DP.**

Proposition 1: If the penalty function ζ commutes with the expectation operator $\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}_{k+1}}$, i.e.,

$$\zeta(V_k^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}_k)) = \zeta(\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}_{k+1}}[V_{k+1}^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}_{k+1}) | \mathbf{s}_k]) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}_{k+1}}[\zeta(V_{k+1}^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}_{k+1})) | \mathbf{s}_k].$$

Then the DP solutions are given by the following recursion:

$$\tilde{J}_N(\mathbf{s}_N) = \ell_N(\mathbf{s}_N) + \zeta(V_N(\mathbf{s}_N))$$

$$\tilde{J}_k(\mathbf{s}_k) = \min_{\mathbf{a}_k \in \mathcal{A}} \ell(\mathbf{s}_k, \mathbf{a}_k) + \int_S \tilde{J}_{k+1}(\mathbf{s}_{k+1}) \rho(\mathbf{s}_{k+1} | \mathbf{s}_k, \mathbf{a}_k) d\mathbf{s}_{k+1}$$

Remark:

- If ζ is an affine function, then **Proposition 1** holds.
- However, to enforce exact penalty of mission-wide chance constraint, ζ is of the form:

$$\zeta(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \geq 1 - \epsilon \\ +\infty, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

which does not commute with the expectation operator. **Proposition 1 fails to apply.**

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Functional State Augmentation

State Augmentation: enlarge the state information, based on which one makes decisions

- First, define forward dynamics:

$$F_0(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbf{1}_{\mathbb{S}}(\mathbf{s}), \text{ and } F_{k+1}(\mathbf{s}) = \int_{\mathbb{S}} F_k(\mathbf{s}') \rho[\mathbf{s} | \mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}_k] d\mathbf{s}'.$$

such that

$$\int_{\mathbb{S}} F_k(\mathbf{s}) d\mathbf{s} = \mathbb{P}[\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, k \in \mathbb{S} | \mathbf{s}_0, \boldsymbol{\pi}] \text{ and } \int_{\mathbb{S}} F_N(\mathbf{s}) d\mathbf{s} = \mathbb{P}[\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, N \in \mathbb{S} | \mathbf{s}_0, \boldsymbol{\pi}]$$

- Transform the constraint into objective function via penalty function:

$$J^*(\mathbf{s}_0) = \min_{\boldsymbol{\pi}} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}_0}^{\boldsymbol{\pi}} \left[\sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \ell(\mathbf{s}_k, \mathbf{a}_k) + \ell_N(\mathbf{s}_N) \right] + \zeta \left(\int_{\mathbb{S}} F_N(\mathbf{s}) d\mathbf{s} \right)$$

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State Augmentation: adding F_k to the state components

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{s}_{k+1} \\ F_{k+1}(\mathbf{s}) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{s}_k, \mathbf{a}_k, \mathbf{w}_k) \\ \int_{\mathbb{S}} F_k(\mathbf{s}') \rho[\mathbf{s} | \mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}_k] d\mathbf{s}' \end{pmatrix}$$

Proposition 2: By defining $\delta_k = (\mathbf{s}_k, F_k)$ as the new state, then the DP solutions are given by the following recursion:

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Remark:

- \mathbf{s}_k is stochastic, but the functional state F_k is deterministic.
- Penalty only applies to the final state, specifically, F_N .
- Functional state F_k are infinite-dimensional.

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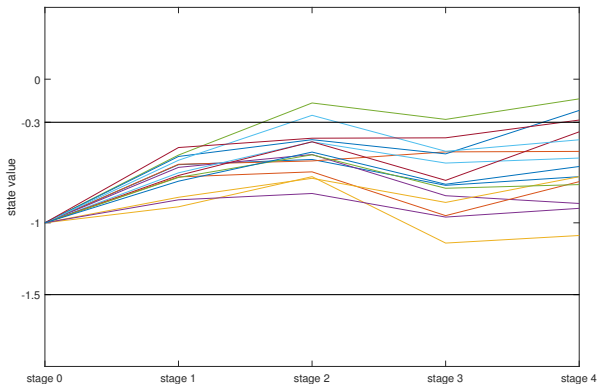
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Case Study

Linear systems (one dimensional) with additive Gaussian disturbance

$$\mathbf{s}_{k+1} = 0.95\mathbf{s}_k + 1.05\mathbf{a}_k + \mathbf{w}_k, \quad \mathbf{w}_k \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 0.11^2)$$

$\mathbb{S} = [-1.5, -0.3]$; $\mathcal{A} = \{-0.2, -0.1, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3\}$; $N = 4$; $\ell(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = 5\mathbf{s}^2 + \mathbf{a}^2$;
 $\ell_N(\mathbf{s}) = 5.7\mathbf{s}^2$; $\mathbf{s}_0 = -1$; safety bound 0.8.



- Running 10^5 missions, we get empirical safety is 0.84, satisfying the safety guarantee.
- we get empirical cost 12.98, close to the theoretical minimum $J^*(-1) = 12.99$.

Summary

Conclusions

- Mission-wide chance constraints express a meaningful reliability of the whole mission
- Standard DP only works on the cases where the penalty function commutes with expectation operator.
- We derive a DP algorithm by adding an additional functional state

Future work:

- investigate some approximation methods based on the proposed DP scheme to make numerical simulations tractable
- make use of data-driven method e.g., reinforcement learning to solve this mission-wide chance-constrained OCPs.

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