

Distributed Negotiation Methods for Multi-Agent Dynamical Systems

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Coordination in Multi-agent Systems



Goldbeter, Bulletin of Mathematical Biology 2006

Aggregation of Dictyostelium

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Team-Players or Selfish?



Origins Space Missions

mission success depends on precise coordination and control of all agents in the system

all agents acting to achieve a common team objective

optimization perspective

$$\min_{x_i} J(x_1, \ldots, x_n)$$



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Team-Players or Selfish?



Minority Report

Automated Transportation Networks

coordination of agents is only needed to safely complete their individual mission

all agents acting to minimize selfish objectives

optimization perspective





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This Talk...

A Preference Agreement Problem

a team of *selfish* dynamical systems

coupled by a strict *team constraint*

real-time requirements

Shrinking Horizon Preference Agreement Algorithm



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Preliminaries

a collection of *n* agents

*discrete time*integrator dynamics

preference is captured by associated objective functions

*quadratic objective
*different weights and desired
state for each agent

$$\vec{J}_i(t_0, T, x_i, u_i) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{t=t_0}^{T-1} q_i (x_i(t+1) - \xi_i)^2 + r_i u_i(t)^2 \right)$$

agents coupled by a terminal time agreement constraint

$$x_i(T) = \dots = x_n(T)$$

 $x_i(t+1) = x_i(t) + u_i(t)$

 \mathcal{X}_{i}



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Preliminaries

agents can communicate over a network

*fixed spanning tree

 $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$

 $E(\mathcal{G}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n-1}$ node-edge incidence matrix

$$E(\mathcal{G}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



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Preliminaries

agents can communicate over a network

*fixed spanning tree

agents coupled by a *terminal* time agreement constraint





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the centralized approach

$$OCP(t_0, T, x_0) : \min_{x, u} \qquad \sum_{i=1}^n J_i(t_0, T, x_i, u_i)$$

s.t.
$$x(t+1) = x(t) + u(t), \ x(t_0) = x_0$$
$$E(\mathcal{G})' x(T) = 0.$$



can be reformulated as a *quadratic program*

 $x(t) = \begin{bmatrix} x_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ x_n(t) \end{bmatrix}$



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the centralized approach

$$OCP(t_0, T, x_0) : \min_{x, u} \qquad \sum_{i=1}^n J_i(t_0, T, x_i, u_i)$$

s.t.
$$x(t+1) = x(t) + u(t), \ x(t_0) = x_0$$
$$E(\mathcal{G})' x(T) = 0.$$

$$\min_{x,u} \frac{1}{2} \left(\begin{bmatrix} x^T & u^T \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Q & \\ & R \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ u \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} F(Q,\xi)^T & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ u \end{bmatrix} \right)$$
s.t. $A \begin{bmatrix} x \\ u \end{bmatrix} = b$



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recall: Quadratic programs with only equality constraints have an *analytic solution*

QP:
$$\min_{x} \quad \frac{1}{2}x^{T}Qx + c^{T}x$$

s.t. $Ax = b$

1) Form the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}(x,\lambda) = \frac{1}{2}x^TQx + c^Tx + \frac{\lambda^T(Ax - b)}{Lagrange'}$$

(2) First-order optimality conditions a linear equation! $\nabla_{x}\mathcal{L}(x,\lambda) = Qx + c + A^{T}\lambda = 0$ $\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} Q & A^{T} \\ A & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ \lambda \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -c \\ b \end{bmatrix}$ $\nabla_{\lambda}\mathcal{L}(x,\lambda) = Ax - b = 0$



recall: Quadratic programs with only equality constraints have an *analytic solution*

QP:
$$\min_{x} \quad \frac{1}{2}x^{T}Qx + c^{T}x$$

s.t. $Ax = b$

1) Form the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}(x,\lambda) = \frac{1}{2}x^TQx + c^Tx + \frac{\lambda^T(Ax - b)}{Lagrange'}$$

2 First-order optimality conditions

$$\nabla_x \mathcal{L}(x,\lambda) = Qx + c + A^T \lambda = 0$$

 $\Rightarrow x^* = -Q^{-1}(A^T\lambda + c)$ optimal solution is parameterized by the Lagrange multiplier



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recall: Quadratic programs with only equality constraints have an *analytic solution*

QP: $\min_{x} \quad \frac{1}{2}x^{T}Qx + c^{T}x$ s.t. Ax = b

3 Form the 'dual' function

$$g(\lambda) = \min_{x} \frac{1}{2} x^{T} Q x + c^{T} x + \lambda^{T} (A x - b)$$

$$\Rightarrow g(\lambda) = -\frac{1}{2} \lambda^{T} A Q^{-1} A^{T} \lambda - b^{T} \lambda \quad (c = 0)$$

$$\Rightarrow x^{*} = -Q^{-1} (A^{T} \lambda + c)$$

) Solve the 'dual problem'

$$\max_{\lambda} g(\lambda)$$

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the centralized approach

$$OCP(t_0, T, x_0) : \min_{x, u} \qquad \sum_{i=1}^n J_i(t_0, T, x_i, u_i)$$

s.t.
$$x(t+1) = x(t) + u(t), \ x(t_0) = x_0$$
$$E(\mathcal{G})' x(T) = 0.$$

Lagrange duality motivates an iterative algorithm to solve a quadratic program



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A Distributed Algorithm

$$OCP(t_0, T, x_0) : \min_{x, u} \qquad \sum_{i=1}^n J_i(t_0, T, x_i, u_i)$$

s.t. $x(t+1) = x(t) + u(t), \ x(t_0) = x_0$
 $E(\mathcal{G})' x(T) = 0.$

dual sub-gradient algorithm

the (partial) Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mu) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} J_i(t_0, T, \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{u}_i) + \underline{\mu' E(\mathcal{G})' \mathbf{x}(T)}$$
Multipliers are associ

separable form of the Lagrangian

Multipliers are associated with the *edges* in the graph

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \gamma) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} J_i(t_0, T, \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{u}_i) + \frac{\gamma' \mathbf{x}(T)}{\mathbf{u}_{iii}}$$

uniquely defined on "nodes"

$$\gamma = E(\mathcal{G})\mu$$



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A Distributed Algorithm

the (partial) Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mu) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} J_i(t_0, T, \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{u}_i) + \mu' E(\mathcal{G})' \mathbf{x}(T)$$

recall the first-order optimality conditions

(separable form)

$$\nabla_{\mu} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \mu) = E(\mathcal{G})' \mathbf{x}(T)$$
$$\nabla_{\gamma} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, \gamma) = \mathbf{x}(T)$$

the dual problem

 $\max_{\mu} g(\mu)$ A quadratic program!

can be solved using a gradient ascent!



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A Distributed Algorithm

dual sub-gradient algorithm

Solve *local* quadratic program QP_i(k)

 (\$\mathbf{x}_i^{[k+1]}\$, \$\mathbf{u}_i^{[k+1]}\$) = arg min_{\$\mathbf{x}_i^{[k]}\$, \$\mathbf{u}_i^{[k]}\$]} J_i(t_0, T, \$\mathbf{x}_i^{[k]}\$, \$\mathbf{u}_i^{[k]}\$) + \$\hat{\gamma}_i^{[k]}\$ \$\mathbf{x}_i^{[k]}\$ (\$T\$) s.t. Dynamic Constraints
 Update multipliers

$$\hat{\gamma}_i^{[k+1]} = \hat{\gamma}_i^{[k]} + \alpha^{[k]} L(\mathcal{G}) \hat{\mathbf{x}}^{[k+1]}(T) \qquad {}^*L(\mathcal{G}) = E(\mathcal{G}) E(\mathcal{G})^T$$

* multiplier updated by inter-agent communication
* choice of step-size is non-trivial - required for convergence
* asymptotically converges to the primal optimal solution



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Not good enough...

$$\lim_{k \to \infty} (\mathbf{\hat{x}}^{[k]}, \mathbf{\hat{u}}^{[k]}, \hat{\gamma}^{[k]}) = (\overline{\mathbf{x}}, \overline{\mathbf{u}}, E(\mathcal{G})\overline{\mu})$$
$$OCP(t_0, T, x_0)$$

infinity is a *long* time! $\infty > T$

*assume T is a hard deadline
*agents do not want to wait around
to compute their trajectories
*communication also takes time



"wait and solve" can lead to significant disagreement



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'Real-Time' Modification

$$\lim_{k \to \infty} (\mathbf{\hat{x}}^{[k]}, \mathbf{\hat{u}}^{[k]}, \hat{\gamma}^{[k]}) = (\overline{\mathbf{x}}, \overline{\mathbf{u}}, E(\mathcal{G})\overline{\mu})$$
$$OCP(t_0, T, x_0)$$

Requirements

*at each time-step, agents *move* in a direction they consider optimal

*agents communicate at each timestep to *negotiate* the terminal-state constraint

*trajectories are updated to reflect progress in the negotiation process





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agents are trying to estimate

the multiplier value

Shrinking Horizon Preference Agreement (SHPA) Algorithm

for t := 0 to T-1 do

$$\gamma^t = E\mu(t), \,\tilde{T} = T - t$$

1) Solve *local* quadratic program $QP_i(k)$

$$\min_{\mathbf{\hat{x}}_{i}(t),\mathbf{\hat{u}}_{i}(t)} J_{i}(t, T, \mathbf{\hat{x}}_{i}^{t}, \mathbf{\hat{u}}_{i}^{t}) + \gamma_{i}^{t} \mathbf{\hat{x}}_{i}^{t}(T)$$

s.t. $\mathbf{\hat{x}}_{i}^{t} = \mathbb{1}_{\tilde{T}} x_{i}(t) + B_{\tilde{T}} \mathbf{\hat{u}}_{i}^{t}$



Propagate physical state and update multipliers

$$x_i(t+1) = x_i(t) + \hat{\mathbf{u}}_i^t(t), \ i = 1, \dots, n$$
$$\mu(t+1) = \mu(t) + \alpha(t)E'\hat{\mathbf{x}}^t(T)$$

* optimization horizon is "shrinking" from "the left"
*choice of step-size is non-trivial

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 $\hat{\gamma}_i^2 \neq E(\mathcal{G})\overline{\mu}$

t

agent moves along optimal trajectory from previous time step

multiplier has been updated, forcing agent to adjust its planned trajectory



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Does it Work?

Algorithm 1: Shrinking Horizon Preference Agreement Algorithm

 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{Data: Initial conditions } x_i(0) = x_{i0} \text{ and } \mu(0) = \mu_0; t = 0. \\ \textbf{begin} \\ \hline \textbf{for } t := 0 \text{ to } T\text{-}1 \text{ do} \\ \gamma^t = E\mu(t), \tilde{T} = T - t \\ \text{Each agent solves the sub-problem } QP_i(t): \\ & \min_{\hat{\mathbf{x}}_i(t), \hat{\mathbf{u}}_i(t)} J_i(t, T, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_i^t, \hat{\mathbf{u}}_i^t) + \gamma_i^t \hat{\mathbf{x}}_i^t(T) \text{ s.t. } \hat{\mathbf{x}}_i^t = \mathbbm{}_{\bar{T}} x_i(t) + B_{\bar{T}} \hat{\mathbf{u}}_i^t \\ & \text{The physical state and multipliers are propagated forward using the solution of } QP_i(t): \\ & x_i(t+1) = x_i(t) + \hat{\mathbf{u}}_i^t(t), \ i = 1, \dots, n \\ & \mu(t+1) = \mu(t) + \alpha(t) E(\mathcal{G})' \hat{\mathbf{x}}^t(T) \\ & \text{where } \alpha(t) \text{ satisfies some step-size rule.} \end{array}$

*does this generate optimal trajectories?
*do the multiplier estimates converge to the optimal multipliers?
*if not, how good is it? what analysis tools are suitable for this problem?

Theorem: The shrinking horizon preference agreement algorithm is equivalent to a time-varying linear dynamical system.



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LTV Systems

discrete-time linear dynamical systems

x(t+1) = Ax(t) + Bu(t) $x(0) = x_0$

 $x(t) = A^{t}x(0) + A^{t-1}Bu(0) + A^{t-2}Bu(1) + \dots + Bu(t-1)$

Theorem: The discrete-time linear dynamical system is asymptotically stable if and only if all the eigenvalues of the state matrix satisfy $|\lambda_i(A)| < 1$



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Linear Time-Varying (LTV) dynamical system

x(t+1) = A(t)x(t)

Definition: The discrete-time autonomous linear timevarying dynamical system is said to be *uniformly decreasing* if

||x(t+1)|| < ||x(t)||

for each time t and independent of the initial condition.

a useful notion for *finite-time* problems



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$$\begin{bmatrix} x(t+1) \\ \mu(t+1) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I - P(\tilde{T}) & -R^{-1}K(\tilde{T})E(\mathcal{G}) \\ \alpha(t)E(\mathcal{G})'K(\tilde{T}) & I - \alpha(t)E(\mathcal{G})'Q^{-1}P(\tilde{T})E(\mathcal{G}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x(t) \\ \mu(t) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} P(\tilde{T}) \\ E(\mathcal{G})'\left(I - \alpha(t)K(\tilde{T})\right) \end{bmatrix} \xi$$

proof:

not here...too messy!

but look here ...

- analytic solutions of QP
- Sherman-Morrison-Woodbury-Schur formula
- derivation of recursions
- Kalman Filter



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$$\begin{bmatrix} x(t+1) \\ \mu(t+1) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I - P(\tilde{T}) & -R^{-1}K(\tilde{T})E(\mathcal{G}) \\ \alpha(t)E(\mathcal{G})'K(\tilde{T}) & I - \alpha(t)E(\mathcal{G})'Q^{-1}P(\tilde{T})E(\mathcal{G}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x(t) \\ \mu(t) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} P(\tilde{T}) \\ E(\mathcal{G})'\left(I - \alpha(t)K(\tilde{T})\right) \end{bmatrix} \xi$$

$$P_{i}(\tilde{T}+1) = \frac{1 + \frac{r_{i}}{q_{i}}P_{i}(\tilde{T})}{1 + \frac{r_{i}}{q_{i}} + \frac{r_{i}}{q_{i}}P_{i}(\tilde{T})},$$

$$K_{i}(\tilde{T}+1) = \frac{r_{i}}{q_{i}}\frac{K_{i}(\tilde{T})}{1 + \frac{r_{i}}{q_{i}} + \frac{r_{i}}{q_{i}}P_{i}(\tilde{T})},$$

$$P_i(1) = \frac{q_i}{r_i + q_i}$$
$$K_i(1) = \frac{r_i}{r_i + q_i}.$$

$$P_i(\tilde{T})$$
 is the finite-time LQR gain!

*can be computed off-line **independent* of graph, number of agents, stepsize, etc...



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$$\begin{bmatrix} x(t+1) \\ \mu(t+1) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I - P(\tilde{T}) & -R^{-1}K(\tilde{T})E(\mathcal{G}) \\ \alpha(t)E(\mathcal{G})'K(\tilde{T}) & I - \alpha(t)E(\mathcal{G})'Q^{-1}P(\tilde{T})E(\mathcal{G}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x(t) \\ \mu(t) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} P(\tilde{T}) \\ E(\mathcal{G})' \left(I - \alpha(t)K(\tilde{T})\right) \end{bmatrix} \xi$$

$$I - \alpha(t)E(\mathcal{G})'Q^{-1}P(\tilde{T})E(\mathcal{G})$$

acts like a weighted consensus algorithm!*

LQR gains also used in the negotiation process

* the consensus protocol is a distributed averaging scheme $\dot{x} = -L(\mathcal{G})x$



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$$\begin{bmatrix} x(t+1) \\ \mu(t+1) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I - P(\tilde{T}) & -R^{-1}K(\tilde{T})E(\mathcal{G}) \\ \alpha(t)E(\mathcal{G})'K(\tilde{T}) & I - \alpha(t)E(\mathcal{G})'Q^{-1}P(\tilde{T})E(\mathcal{G}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x(t) \\ \mu(t) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} P(\tilde{T}) \\ E(\mathcal{G})'\left(I - \alpha(t)K(\tilde{T})\right) \end{bmatrix} \xi$$

lpha(t) is the *only* design parameter

choice of step-size now akin to a *stabilization* problem

linear systems theory is the correct tool to analyze performance of SHPA



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$$\begin{bmatrix} x(t+1) \\ \mu(t+1) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I - P(\tilde{T}) & -R^{-1}K(\tilde{T})E(\mathcal{G}) \\ \alpha(t)E(\mathcal{G})'K(\tilde{T}) & I - \alpha(t)E(\mathcal{G})'Q^{-1}P(\tilde{T})E(\mathcal{G}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x(t) \\ \mu(t) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} P(\tilde{T}) \\ E(\mathcal{G})'\left(I - \alpha(t)K(\tilde{T})\right) \end{bmatrix} \xi$$

Two important error signals

*multiplier error

$$\epsilon(t) = \mu(t) - \overline{\mu}^t$$

*predicted disagreement

$$\mathbf{e}(t) = E(\mathcal{G})' \mathbf{\hat{x}}^t(T)$$





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Corollary: The optimal multipliers associated with the problem OCP(t,T,x(t)) evolves according to a time-varying linear dynamical system

$$\overline{\mu}^t = \left(E(\mathcal{G})'Q^{-1}P(\tilde{T})E(\mathcal{G}) \right)^{-1} E(\mathcal{G})' \left[K(\tilde{T})(x(t) - \xi) + \xi \right]$$

want this...

$$\lim_{t \to T} \|\mu(t) - \overline{\mu}^t\| \to 0$$

analyze multiplier error dynamics

$$\epsilon(t) = \mu(t) - \overline{\mu}^t$$

V

Theorem: The multiplier error dynamics evolves according to a time-varying linear dynamical system.

$$\epsilon(t+1) = \left((E(\mathcal{G})'Q^{-1}P(\tilde{T}-1)E(\mathcal{G}))^{-1} - \alpha(t)I \right) E(\mathcal{G})'Q^{-1}P(\tilde{T})E(\mathcal{G})\epsilon(t)$$

Lemma: There exists a step-size rule such that the multiplier error dynamics is uniformly decreasing if and only if the following LMI condition is feasible

$$-I \le L_t^{1/2} L_{t+1}^{-1} L_t^{1/2} - \alpha(t) L_t \le I$$

$$L_t = E(\mathcal{G})'Q^{-1}P(\tilde{T})E(\mathcal{G})$$



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$$-I \le L_t^{1/2} L_{t+1}^{-1} L_t^{1/2} - \alpha(t) L_t \le I$$
$$L_t = E(\mathcal{G})' Q^{-1} P(\tilde{T}) E(\mathcal{G})$$

insight gained by considering a simplified problem set-up

$$Q = qI$$
 $R = rI$

all agents have the same state and control weight (but different preferences)

Corollary: There exists a step-size rule such that the multiplier error dynamics is uniformly decreasing if and only if

$$\frac{\lambda_{\max}(E(\mathcal{G})'E(\mathcal{G}))}{\lambda_{\min}(E(\mathcal{G})'E(\mathcal{G}))} < 3 + 2\left(\left(\frac{q}{r}\right)^2 + 3\frac{q}{r}\right)$$



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Theorem: The predicted disagreement evolves according to a time-varying linear dynamical system.

$$\mathbf{e}(t+1) = \left(I - \alpha(t)E(\mathcal{G})'Q^{-1}P(\tilde{T}-1)E(\mathcal{G})\right)\mathbf{e}(t)$$

want this...

 $\lim_{t \to T} \|\mathbf{e}(t)\| \to 0$



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$$\mathbf{e}(t+1) = \left(I - \alpha(t)E(\mathcal{G})'Q^{-1}P(\tilde{T}-1)E(\mathcal{G})\right)\mathbf{e}(t)$$

Corollary: The predicted disagreement is uniformly decreasing if and only if $0 < \alpha(t) < 2\lambda_{\max}^{-1}(E(\mathcal{G})'Q^{-1}P(\tilde{T}-1)E(\mathcal{G}))$

 $Q = qI \quad R = rI$

Corollary: The predicted disagreement is uniformly decreasing if and only if $0 < \alpha(t) < 2 \frac{q}{P(T-1)\lambda_{max}(E(\mathcal{G})'E(\mathcal{G}))}$



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an interesting observation...



stephisizes exclisis algae gomenantee codis a green heet made arbitrarily steparle a set in itertime the multiplier error



Simulation Examples





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Simulation Examples





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Simulation Examples

Optimality Gap

$$\Delta = \frac{\mathcal{L}(x, u, \overline{\mu})}{\mathcal{L}(\overline{\mathbf{x}}, \overline{\mathbf{u}}, \overline{\mu})}$$





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"similar" analytic results

uniformly jointly connected graphs

interesting results

 simulations using a random graph model to generate switching signal



Edge probability: p = 0.1



"similar" analytic results

uniformly jointly connected graphs

interesting results

 simulations using a random graph model to generate switching signal



Edge probability: p = 0.01 (not enough communication)



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- "similar" analytic results
 - uniformly jointly connected graphs



Edge probability: p = 0.15



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Concluding Remarks

SHPA algorithm is an attempt to understand the complexities of *real-time distributed optimization problems*

*interplay between dynamic systems and distributed optimization
*step-size, graph structure, preferences
*simple set-up, non-trivial results

limitless extensions...

*state-dependent graphs, random graphs
*more sophisticated dynamics
*saddle-point problems and multi-agent
systems
*and more...





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Questions?



הפקולטה להנדסת אוירונוטיקה וחלל Faculty of Aerospace Engineering