


Overview of Uncertain Control Co-Design

NSF Workshop on Control Co-Design Research

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Introduction

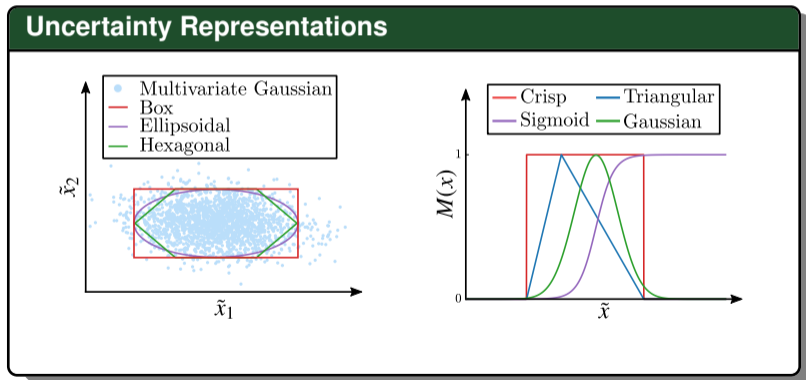
→ Introduction

- Often some of the elements of CCD problem are **inherently uncertain** or **not entirely known**; we refer to these characteristics as **uncertainties**
- These uncertainties are related to the amount of **information** that is available to the designer at different stages
- The goal is to identify
 - ✓ ways for the mathematical **representation** of uncertainties,
 - ✓ approaches for their **integration** into CCD activity,
 - ✓ **solution strategies** for solving the resulting uncertain CCD (UCCD) problems

→ Representation of Uncertainties (continued)

Any uncertain variable may be represented in three ways¹:

- **Stochastic**
- **Crisp**
- **Possibilistic**



¹ Beyer and Sendhoff 2007

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Elements of UCCD Problem

→ Elements of UCCD Problem

- **Control trajectories** may be uncertain, for example due to electrical noise, actuator imprecision, etc.
 - ✓ Robust control used for a class of uncertain systems via disturbance observer-based control for a nonlinear MAGnetic LEViation (MAGLEV) suspension system¹
- **State trajectories** may be uncertain due to uncertainties in $(\tilde{u}, \tilde{p}, \tilde{d})$, uncertain initial/final conditions, noise, mismodeled, and neglected dynamics, etc.
 - ✓ Robust adaptive fuzzy tracking controller developed to deal with parametric and unmodeled dynamics for a hypersonic flight vehicle²
- **Time-independent optimization variables** may be uncertain due to imperfect manufacturing processes, plant measurement errors, mass productions of plants, plant aging (model plant mismatch)
 - ✓ Robust design optimization used for the UCCD of a hybrid-electric vehicle powertrain with time-independent uncertainties³

¹ Yang et al. 2011 ² X. Hu, Xu, and C. Hu 2018 ³ Azad and Alexander-Ramos 2021

→ Elements of UCCD Problem (continued)

- **Objective function** may be uncertain, but it can be added to the set of constraints through the addition of a new variable; this is known as the **epigraph** form
 - ✓ Epigraph representation demonstrated for an uncertain objective function¹
- **Equality constraints** must be satisfied if they describe the laws of nature (i.e. Type I), otherwise then can be relaxed²
 - ✓ Equality constraints under uncertainties discussed in detail³
- **Risk** is characterized through some **measure** that maps the outcomes from an uncertain space into a quantity that can be easily interpreted; it captures the designer's attitude towards uncertainties through risk-averse, risk-neutral, or risk-taking approaches
 - ✓ Risk-averse approach implemented for optimal motion planning of a robot⁴
- **Inequality (path) constraints** can take different forms depending on the **availability of information** and the **risk attitude** of the designer

¹ Azad and Herber 2022a ² Azad and Herber 2022b ³ Mattson and Messac 2003 ⁴ Nakka and Chung 2022

→ Elements of UCCD Problem (continued)

Inequality constraints $\mathbb{E}[\bar{g}_i(t, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{\mathbf{d}})]$ can be modeled in different ways:

- **Nominal:** $g_i(t, \mathbf{u}_N, \boldsymbol{\xi}_N, \mathbf{p}_N, \mathbf{d}_N) \leq 0$
 - ✓ Nominal rough road profile used for CCD active suspension¹
- **Expected value:** $g_{\mu,i}(t, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{\mathbf{d}}) \leq 0$
 - ✓ Risk neutral expected value bidding model used for wind power²
- **Higher-order moments** (often with mean value): $\sqrt{\mathbb{E}[g_i(\cdot)^2] - g_{\mu,i}(\cdot)^2} = g_{i,\sigma}(\cdot) \leq \sigma_{a,i}$
 - ✓ Aircraft robust trajectory optimization performed using higher-order moments³

¹ Allison, Guo, and Han 2014 ² AlAshery and Qiao 2018 ³ X. Li et al. 2014

→ Elements of UCCD Problem (continued)

- **Probabilistic chance-constrained:** $\mathbb{P}[g_i(t, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{\mathbf{d}}) \geq 0] \leq \mathbb{P}_{f,i}$
 - ✓ Trajectory optimization of robotic spacecraft simulator¹
- **Worst-case** is a conservative approach whose solution is feasible for all realizations within the uncertainty set \mathcal{R} : $\underset{(\cdot) \in \mathcal{R}}{\text{maximize}} \{g_i(t, \mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\xi}, \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{d})\} \leq 0$
 - ✓ Robust UCCD of an aircraft thermal management system²
- Other characterizations are possible including usage of expected utility theory, evidence theory, min-max regret, and possibilistic formulations

¹ Nakka and Chung 2022 ² Nash, Pangborn, and Jain 2021

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Solution Strategies

→ Solution Methods

- Uncertainty propagation (UP) methods are needed to solve UCCD problems with probabilistic representation of uncertainties
- In UCCD literature, UP methods are based on
 - **Sampling** methods, such as Monte Carlo Simulation¹
 - **Local expansion** methods, such as first-order second moment (FOSM)²
 - **Functional expansion** methods such as generalized Polynomial Chaos (gPC)³
 - **Most-probable point** methods such as first-order reliability method (FORM)⁴
- The **worst-case robust** approach has been used when uncertainties in the UCCD problem are represented as crisp sets⁵

¹ Azad and Herber 2022a ² Azad and Alexander-Ramos 2020a; Azad and Alexander-Ramos 2021 ³ Azad and Herber 2022a; Behtash and Alexander-Ramos 2021 ⁴ Azad and Alexander-Ramos 2020b; Cui, Allison, and Wang 2020; Cui, Allison, and Wang 2021 ⁵ Nash, Pangborn, and Jain 2021; Nash and Jain 2019

→ Some Potential Future Directions for UCCD Research

- **Comparing** different UCCD formulations and solution strategies to gain insights into questions regarding computational time, scalability, and impact
- Identifying additional solution strategies, with an emphasis on **time-dependent**, **possibilistic**, and **hybrid** representation of uncertainties
- Discovering efficient methods for solving UCCD problems of **complex and large-scale systems** by
 - ✓ Improving **guidelines on selecting solution strategies** for different classes of problems
 - ✓ Investigating **decomposition methods** for more efficient UCCD problem structure

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Questions?

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Appendix A

→ Representation of Uncertainties

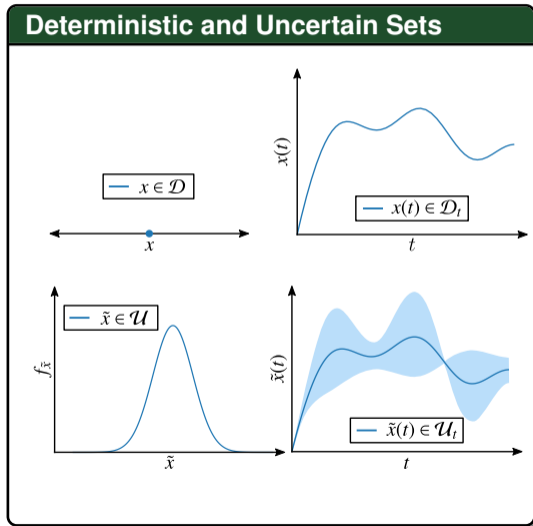
Each element in a UCCD problem belongs to one of four sets:

- Time-independent deterministic \mathcal{D}
- Time-dependent deterministic

$$\mathcal{D}_t := \{x(t) \mid t \in [t_0, t_f], x(t) \in \mathcal{D}\}$$

- Time-independent uncertain \mathcal{U}
- Time-dependent uncertain

$$\mathcal{U}_t := \{\tilde{x}(t) \mid t \in [t_0, t_f], \tilde{x}(t) \in \mathcal{U}\}$$



→ Deterministic CCD

Here, we introduce the nominal continuous-time, deterministic, all-at-once (AAO), simultaneous, CCD problem¹:

- $\mathbf{u}(t) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_u}$ is open-loop control
- $\boldsymbol{\xi}(t) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_s}$ is state
- $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_p}$ is time-independent optimization variables:
 - \mathbf{p}_p plant optimization variables
 - \mathbf{p}_c is control gains
- $\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_d}$ is problem data

Deterministic CCD

$$\text{minimize}_{\mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\xi}, \mathbf{p}}: \quad o = \int_{t_0}^{t_f} \ell(t, \mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\xi}, \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{d}) dt + m(\mathbf{p}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_0, \boldsymbol{\xi}_f, \mathbf{d})$$

$$\text{subject to:} \quad \mathbf{g}(t, \mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\xi}, \mathbf{p}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_0, \boldsymbol{\xi}_f, \mathbf{d}) \leq \mathbf{0}$$

$$\mathbf{h}(t, \mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\xi}, \mathbf{p}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_0, \boldsymbol{\xi}_f, \mathbf{d}) = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\dot{\boldsymbol{\xi}} - \mathbf{f}(t, \mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\xi}, \mathbf{p}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_0, \boldsymbol{\xi}_f, \mathbf{d}) = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\text{where:} \quad \boldsymbol{\xi}(t_0) = \boldsymbol{\xi}_0, \quad \boldsymbol{\xi}(t_f) = \boldsymbol{\xi}_f, \quad \mathbf{u}(t) = \mathbf{u}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\xi}(t) = \boldsymbol{\xi}, \quad \mathbf{d}(t) = \mathbf{d}$$

¹ Allison and Herber 2014; Herber and Allison 2019

→ A Generalized UCCD Formulation

Without any loss of generality, a generalized UCCD formulation can be defined in probability space¹:

- $\tilde{\bullet}$ is a time-independent uncertain variable
- $\tilde{\bullet}(t)$ is a stochastic process
- $\bar{\bullet}(\cdot)$ is a function composition of $\bullet(\cdot)$, e.g.,
 - $\bar{o}(\cdot)$ is a function of the original objective function $o(\cdot)$
 - $\bar{g}(\cdot)$ is a function of the original inequality constraint vector $g(\cdot)$

A Universal UCCD Formulation

$$\text{minimize: } \mathbb{E} \left[\bar{o}(t, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{\mathbf{d}}) \right]$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}$$

$$\text{subject to: } \mathbb{E} \left[\bar{\mathbf{g}}(t, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{\mathbf{d}}) \right] \leq \mathbf{0}$$

$$\mathbf{h}(t, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{\mathbf{d}}) = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\dot{\tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}}(t) - \mathbf{f}(t, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{\mathbf{d}}) = \mathbf{0}$$

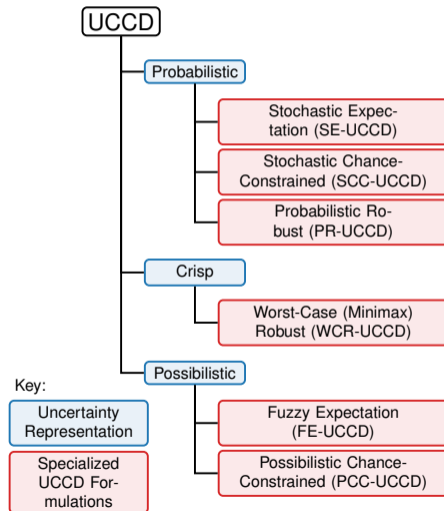
$$\text{where: } \tilde{\mathbf{u}}(t) = \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \quad \dot{\tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}}(t) = \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \quad \tilde{\mathbf{d}}(t) = \tilde{\mathbf{d}}$$

$$\tilde{\bullet} \in \mathcal{V}_u, \quad \tilde{\bullet}(t) \in \mathcal{T}_u(t)$$

¹ Azad and Herber 2022b

→ Specialized Formulations

Six specialized formulations can be derived from the generalized UCCD formulation on Slide 19



→ Stochastic Expectation and Stochastic Chance-Constrained

Stochastic in Expectation UCCD¹

$$\underset{\tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}}{\text{minimize:}} \quad o_{\mu}(t, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{\mathbf{d}})$$

$$\text{subject to:} \quad \mathbf{g}_{\mu}(t, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{\mathbf{d}}) \leq \mathbf{0}$$

$$(t, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{\mathbf{d}}) \in \mathcal{E}$$

Stochastic Chance-Constrained UCCD²

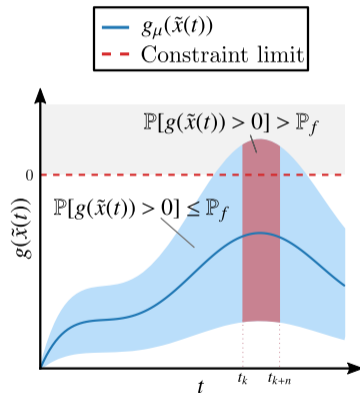
$$\underset{\tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}}{\text{minimize:}} \quad o_{\mu}(t, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{\mathbf{d}})$$

$$\text{subject to:} \quad \mathbb{P}[g_i(t, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{\mathbf{d}}) > 0] \leq \mathbb{P}_{f,i}$$

$$i = 1, \dots, n_g$$

$$(t, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{\mathbf{d}}) \in \mathcal{E}$$

Uncertain Probabilistic Constraint



¹ Andrieu, Cohen, and Vázquez-Abad 2007 ² Azad and Alexander-Ramos 2020b

→ Probabilistic Robust UCCD

Probabilistic Robust UCCD¹

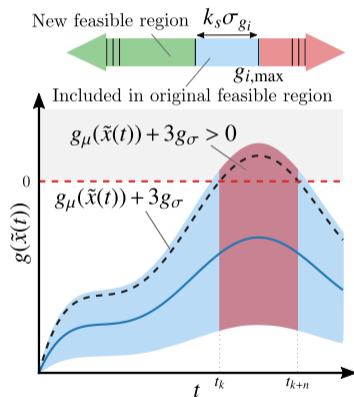
minimize: $\alpha_w o_\mu(t, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{\mathbf{d}}) + (1 - \alpha_w) o_\sigma(t, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{\mathbf{d}})$
 $\tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}$

subject to: $\mathbf{g}_\mu(t, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{\mathbf{d}}) + k_s \mathbf{g}_\sigma(t, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{\mathbf{d}}) \leq \mathbf{0}$
 $(t, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{\mathbf{d}}) \in \mathcal{E}$

minimize: $\alpha_w o_\mu(t, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{\mathbf{d}}) + (1 - \alpha_w) o_\sigma(t, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{\mathbf{d}})$
 $\tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}$

subject to: $\mathbf{g}_\mu(t, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{\mathbf{d}}) \leq \mathbf{0}$
 $\mathbf{g}_\sigma(t, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{\mathbf{d}}) - \sigma_a \leq \mathbf{0}$
 $(t, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, \tilde{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{\mathbf{d}}) \in \mathcal{E}$

PR Constraint



¹ Nagy and Braatz 2004; Azad and Alexander-Ramos 2021; X. Li et al. 2014

→ Worst-Case Robust UCCD

- A solution is robust if it remains feasible for all uncertainty realizations **within the uncertainty set**
- Resembles a game between the optimizer and adversarial opponent¹
- Uncertainties belong to their associated sets²

$$\mathcal{R}(\hat{q}) = \{\mathcal{R}(\hat{p}) \times \mathcal{R}(\hat{d})\} \subseteq \mathcal{X}_{\text{crisp}}$$

$$\mathcal{R}_i(\hat{q}) = \{\mathcal{R}(\hat{u}) \times \mathcal{R}(\hat{\xi}) \times \mathcal{R}(\hat{d})\} \subseteq \mathcal{X}_{\text{crisp}}(t)$$

¹ Bryson and Ho 1975 ² Rahal and Z. Li 2021

Worst-case Robust UCCD

minimize: v
 $\hat{u}, \hat{\xi}, \hat{p}$

subject to: $\Phi_i(t, \hat{u}, \hat{\xi}, \hat{p}, \hat{d}) \leq 0$ for $i = 1, \dots, n_g$

$(t, \hat{u}, \hat{\xi}, \hat{p}, \hat{d}) \in \mathcal{E}$

$\psi(\hat{u}, \hat{\xi}, \hat{p}, \hat{d}) \leq 0$

$\Phi_i(t, \hat{u}, \hat{\xi}, \hat{p}, \hat{d})$:

maximize: $g_i(t, u, \xi, p, d)$
 u, ξ, p, d

subject to: $(t, u, \xi, p, d) \in \mathcal{E}$

$(u, \xi, d) \in \mathcal{R}_i(\hat{q}_t)$

$p \in \mathcal{R}(\hat{q})$

→ Fuzzy Expected Value and Possibilistic Chance-Constrained

Fuzzy Expected Value UCDD¹

$$\text{minimize: } \mathbb{E}[o(t, \tilde{u}, \tilde{\xi}, \tilde{p}, \tilde{d})]$$

$\tilde{u}, \tilde{\xi}, \tilde{p}$

$$\text{subject to: } \mathbb{E}[\bar{g}(t, \tilde{u}, \tilde{\xi}, \tilde{p}, \tilde{d})] \leq \mathbf{0}$$

$(t, \tilde{u}, \tilde{\xi}, \tilde{p}, \tilde{d}) \in \mathcal{E}$

Possibilistic Chance-Constrained²

$$\text{minimize: } \mathbb{E}[o(t, \tilde{u}, \tilde{\xi}, \tilde{p}, \tilde{d})]$$

$\tilde{u}, \tilde{\xi}, \tilde{p}$

$$\text{subject to: } \text{POS}[g_i(t, \tilde{u}, \tilde{\xi}, \tilde{p}, \tilde{d}) > 0] \leq \text{POS}_{f,i}$$

$(t, \tilde{u}, \tilde{\xi}, \tilde{p}, \tilde{d}) \in \mathcal{E}$

¹ Zhu 2009; Liu 2002 ² Liu 2002

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Appendix B

→ Discussion

Norm-Induced Sets

- Generally, norm-induced uncertainty sets are used in WCR formulations:

$$\mathcal{N} := \{ \mathbf{q} \mid z(\hat{\mathbf{q}} - \mathbf{q}) \leq \eta_{\mathbf{q}} \}$$

- $z(\cdot)$ is a specified (norm) function that represents the geometry of the uncertainty set¹
- The size of the uncertainty set $\eta_{\mathbf{q}}$ can be a modeling choice, so one can optimally leverage the uncertainty set's size, shape, and structure to obtain a meaningful solution for a given metric through **adjustable uncertainty sets**².
- To avoid the conservativeness of the WCR, other formulations such as the *min-max* regret have been developed³

Linking SCC and WCR Formulations

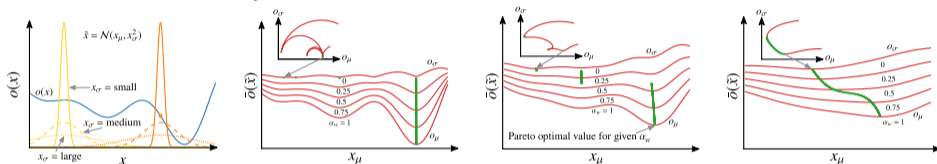
- Strict satisfaction of (infinitely many) hard constraints in WC is equivalent to the satisfaction of probabilistic constraints in SCC with an infinitesimally small failure probability

¹ Rahal and Z. Li 2021 ² Zhang et al. 2017; Kim et al. 2018 ³ Schöbel 2014

→ Discussion (continued)

Robustness in the PR-UCCD Formulation

- PR-UCCD is not always a risk-averse formulation¹



- Such limitations are addressed through concepts from normative decision theory such as representation theorems that result in a mathematical description of decision-maker's preferences through a utility function²

Insights From:

- Robust control theory³, stochastic control theory⁴, model predictive control⁵ should be used when appropriate

¹ Azad and Herber 2022b; Malak, Baxter, and Hsiao 2015

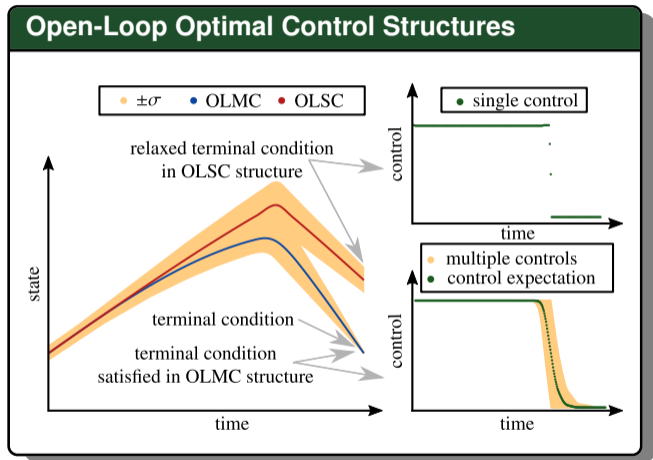
² Briggs 2019; Malak, Baxter, and Hsiao 2015

³ Paraskevopoulos 2017 ⁴ Yong 2020 ⁵ Bemporad and Morari 1999

→ Discussion (continued)

Open-Loop Optimal Control Structure

- **Open-loop single-control (OLSC)** finds a single control command and is related to concepts from robust control theory and centralized control¹
- **Open-loop multiple-control (OLMC)** elicits a range of optimal control responses based on the realization of uncertainties and is related to concepts from decentralized control



¹ Azad and Herber 2022a; Bejarano, Fridman, and Poznyak 2009