

# Data-driven Stochastic Output-Feedback Predictive Control: Recursive Feasibility through Interpolated Initial Conditions

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## Abstract

This paper investigates data-driven output-feedback predictive control of linear systems subject to stochastic disturbances. The scheme relies on the recursive solution of a suitable data-driven reformulation of a stochastic Optimal Control Problem (OCP), which allows for forward prediction and optimization of statistical distributions of inputs and outputs. Our approach avoids the use of parametric system models. Instead it is based on previously recorded data and on a recently proposed stochastic variant of Willems' fundamental lemma. The stochastic variant of the lemma is applicable to linear dynamics subject to a large class of stochastic disturbances of Gaussian or non-Gaussian nature. To ensure recursive feasibility, the initial condition of the OCP—which consists of information about past inputs and outputs—is considered as an extra decision variable of the OCP. We provide sufficient conditions for recursive feasibility of the proposed scheme as well as a bound on the asymptotic average performance. Finally, a numerical example illustrates the efficacy and the closed-loop properties of the proposed scheme.

**Keywords:** Data-driven control, stochastic predictive control, Willems' fundamental lemma

## 1. Introduction

Data-driven control based on the so-called fundamental lemma by [Willems et al. \(2005\)](#) has attracted a lot of research interest, see [Markovsky and Dörfler \(2021\)](#); [De Persis and Tesi \(2020\)](#) for recent reviews. The pivotal insight of the fundamental lemma is that any controllable LTI system can be characterized by its recorded input-output trajectories provided a persistency of excitation condition to be satisfied. In the context of predictive control this implies that the prediction of future input and output trajectories can be done based on measurements of past trajectories thus alleviating the need for system identification and state estimator design ([Yang and Li, 2015](#); [Coulson et al., 2019](#); [Lian and Jones, 2021](#); [Allibhoy and Cortes, 2020](#)). Hence data-driven predictive control schemes are considered for different applications, e.g. ([Carlet et al., 2023](#); [Bilgic et al., 2022](#); [Wang et al., 2022a](#)). Rigorous guarantees for closed-loop properties are provided by [Berberich et al. \(2020, 2021\)](#); [Bongard et al. \(2023\)](#) for data-driven predictive control schemes with respect to deterministic LTI systems subjected to noisy measurements.

However, besides measurement noise, so far little has been done on data-driven predictive control for LTI systems subject to stochastic disturbances. One key challenge is the prediction of the future evolution of statistical distributions of the inputs (respectively input policies) and outputs in

a data-driven fashion. One approach is to predict the expected value of the future trajectory by the fundamental lemma while handling the stochastic uncertainties offline by probabilistic constraint tightening (Kerz et al., 2021) or directly omitting the stochastic uncertainties in the prediction (Wang et al., 2022b). Alternatively, leveraging the framework of Polynomial Chaos Expansions (PCEs) (Sullivan, 2015) a stochastic variant of Willems’ fundamental lemma has been proposed (Pan et al., 2022b). It allows to predict future statistical distributions of inputs and outputs via previously recorded data and knowledge about the distribution of the disturbance.

Extending the conceptual ideas of Pan et al. (2022b) towards stochastic data-driven predictive control with guarantees, Pan et al. (2022c) present first results in a state-feedback setting, while the output-feedback case is discussed by Pan et al. (2022a). Therein, sufficient conditions for recursive feasibility and a bound on the asymptotic average performance are provided by a data-driven design of terminal ingredients and a selection strategy of the initial condition which is similar to the model-based approach of Farina et al. (2013, 2015). The selection of initial conditions considers a binary choice: the current measured value or its predicted value based on the last optimal solution.

In this paper, we extend the data-driven stochastic output-feedback predictive scheme proposed by Pan et al. (2022a) with an improved initialization strategy. Instead of the binary selection strategy described above, the proposed scheme interpolates between the measured value and the latest prediction in a continuous fashion. In model-based stochastic predictive control this has been considered by Köhler and Zeilinger (2022); Schlüter and Allgöwer (2022); **while an alternative initialization strategy is considered by Korda et al. (2011)**. The main contribution of the present paper are sufficient conditions for recursive feasibility and a bound on the asymptotic average performance of the proposed data-driven stochastic output-feedback scheme.

## 2. Problem statement and preliminaries

We investigate a stochastic output feedback approach to control LTI systems with unknown system matrices. Hence, we first detail the considered setting, then we recall the representation of  $\mathcal{L}^2$  random variables via polynomial chaos, before we arrive at the stochastic fundamental lemma.

### 2.1. Considered system class

We consider stochastic LTI systems in AutoRegressive with eXtra input (ARX) form

$$Y_k = \Phi Z_k + D U_k + W_k, \quad Z_0 = Z_{\text{ini}}, \quad (1)$$

with input  $U_k \in \mathcal{L}^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mu; \mathbb{R}^{n_u})$ , output  $Y_k \in \mathcal{L}^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mu; \mathbb{R}^{n_y})$ , disturbance  $W_k \in \mathcal{L}^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mu; \mathbb{R}^{n_w})$  ( $n_w = n_y$ ), and extended state

$$Z_k \doteq \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{U}_{[k-T_{\text{ini}}, k-1]} \\ \mathbf{Y}_{[k-T_{\text{ini}}, k-1]} \end{bmatrix} = \left[ U_{k-T_{\text{ini}}}^\top, U_{k-T_{\text{ini}}+1}^\top, \dots, U_{k-1}^\top, Y_{k-T_{\text{ini}}}^\top, \dots, Y_{k-1}^\top \right]^\top \in \mathcal{L}^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mu; \mathbb{R}^{n_z}),$$

with  $n_z = T_{\text{ini}}(n_u + n_y)$  which contains last  $T_{\text{ini}}$  inputs and outputs.

Here,  $\Omega$  denotes the sample space,  $\mathcal{F}$  is a  $\sigma$  algebra, and  $\mu$  is the considered probability measure. With the specification of the underlying probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mu)$  to be  $\mathcal{L}^2$ , we restrict the consideration to random variables with finite expectation and finite (co)-variance. Throughout this paper, the system matrices  $\Phi \in \mathbb{R}^{n_y \times n_z}$  and  $D \in \mathbb{R}^{n_y \times n_u}$  are considered to be unknown, while the statistical distributions of initial condition  $Z_{\text{ini}}$  and disturbances  $\{W_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  are supposed to be

known. Furthermore, we consider that all  $\{W_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  are identical independently distributed (*i.i.d.*) with zero mean and finite co-variance, i.e., we assume for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\mathbb{E}[W_k] = 0$  and  $\Sigma[W_k] = \Sigma_W$ . We remark that the initial condition and the disturbances are not restricted to be Gaussian.

For a specific uncertainty outcome  $\omega \in \Omega$ , we denote the realization of  $W_k$  as  $w_k \doteq W_k(\omega)$ . Likewise, the input, output, and extended state realizations are written as  $u_k \doteq U_k(\omega)$ ,  $y_k \doteq Y_k(\omega)$ , and  $z_k \doteq Z_k(\omega)$ , respectively. Moreover, given  $z_{\text{ini}}$  and  $w_k$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , the stochastic system (1) induces the *realization dynamics*

$$y_k = \Phi z_k + D u_k + w_k, \quad z_0 = z_{\text{ini}}. \quad (2)$$

Throughout the paper, we assume the input, output, and disturbance realizations  $u_k$ ,  $y_k$ , and  $w_{k-1}$  to be measured at time instant  $k$ . For the case of unmeasured disturbances, we refer to the disturbance estimation schemes tailored to ARX models, see (Pan et al., 2022b; Wang et al., 2022b).

**Assumption 1** *There exists a minimal state-space representation*

$$X_{k+1} = A X_k + B U_k + E W_k, \quad X_0 = X_{\text{ini}}, \quad Y_k = C X_k + D U_k + W_k, \quad (3)$$

with  $(A, B)$  controllable and  $(A, C)$  observable such that for some initial condition  $X_{\text{ini}}$  and  $W_k$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , the input-output trajectories of (1) and (3) coincide.

For insights into the problem of mapping a ARX model to its minimal state-space representations, see Sadamoto (2022); Wu (2022). Moreover, consider  $Z_k$  as state, one—not necessarily minimal—state-space realization of the ARX model (1) is given by

$$Z_{k+1} = \tilde{A} X_k + \tilde{B} U_k + \tilde{E} W_k, \quad Z_0 = Z_{\text{ini}}, \quad Y_k = \Phi X_k + D U_k + W_k, \quad (4)$$

with

$$\tilde{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I_{(T_{\text{ini}}-1)n_u} & 0 & 0 \\ 0_{n_u \times n_u} & 0 & 0_{n_u \times n_y} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & I_{(T_{\text{ini}}-1)n_y} \\ \hline & & \Phi & \end{bmatrix}, \quad \tilde{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ I_{n_u} \\ 0 \\ D \end{bmatrix}, \quad \tilde{E} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ I_{n_y} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Note that due to Assumption 1 the pair  $(\tilde{A}, \tilde{B})$  is stabilizable (Bongard et al., 2023).

## 2.2. Representation of random variables via polynomial chaos expansions

It is well-known that for stochastic LTI systems subject to Gaussian disturbances, the evolution of statistical distributions of inputs (generated via affine policies) and outputs can be exactly represented by the first two moments, cf. Farina et al. (2013, 2015). However, this is not necessarily the case for non-Gaussian disturbances. Moreover, observe that already in a Gaussian setting moments constitute non-linear representations of random variables as any scalar Gaussian is given by the sum of its mean with its standard deviation (= square root of variance) times a standard normal-distributed random variable. Alternatively, one could rely on scenario-based approaches and sampling strategies (Kantas et al., 2009; Tempo et al., 2013; Schildbach et al., 2014). However, this induces substantial computational effort.

Alternatively, we employ Polynomial Chaos Expansions (PCE) to provide a tractable linear surrogate of (1) by representing  $\mathcal{L}^2$  random variables in a suitable polynomial basis. PCE dates

back to [Wiener \(1938\)](#), and we refer to [Sullivan \(2015\)](#) for a general introduction, see, e.g., ([Paulson et al., 2014](#); [Mesbah et al., 2014](#); [Ou et al., 2021](#)) for applications in control.

Consider an orthogonal polynomial basis  $\{\phi^j\}_{j=0}^\infty$  which spans  $\mathcal{L}^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mu; \mathbb{R})$ , i.e.,  $\langle \phi^i, \phi^j \rangle \doteq \int_\Omega \phi^i(\omega) \phi^j(\omega) d\mu(\omega) = \delta^{ij} \|\phi^j\|^2$ , where  $\delta^{ij}$  is the Kronecker delta and  $\|V\| \doteq \sqrt{\langle V, V \rangle}$  is the  $\mathcal{L}^2$  norm of  $V \in \mathcal{L}^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mu; \mathbb{R})$ . With respect to the basis  $\{\phi^j\}_{j=0}^\infty$ , a real-valued random scalar variable  $V \in \mathcal{L}^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mu; \mathbb{R})$  can be expressed as  $V = \sum_{j=0}^\infty v^j \phi^j$  with  $v^j = \langle V, \phi^j \rangle / \|\phi^j\|^2$ , where  $v^j \in \mathbb{R}$  is called the  $j$ -th PCE coefficient. For a vector-valued random variable  $V \in \mathcal{L}^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mu; \mathbb{R}^{n_v})$ , applying PCE component-wise, the  $j$ -th coefficient is given as  $\mathbf{v}^j = [v^{1,j} \ v^{2,j} \ \dots \ v^{n_v,j}]^\top$  with  $v^{i,j}$  as the  $j$ -th PCE coefficient of the component  $V^i$  of  $V$ .

In practice one often terminates the PCE series after a finite number of terms for more efficient computation. However, this may lead to truncation errors ([Mühlpfordt et al., 2018](#)). Fortunately, random variables that follow some widely-used distributions admit exact finite-dimensional PCEs with only two terms in suitable polynomial bases, see ([Koekoek and Swarttouw, 1998](#); [Xiu and Karniadakis, 2002](#)). For example, the Legendre basis is preferably chosen for uniformly-distributed random variables and Hermite polynomials are used for Gaussians.

**Definition 1 (Exact PCE representation ([Mühlpfordt et al., 2018](#)))** *The PCE of a random variable  $V \in \mathcal{L}^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mu; \mathbb{R}^{n_v})$  is said to be exact with dimension  $L$  if  $V - \sum_{j=0}^{L-1} v^j \phi^j = 0$ .*

Notice that with an exact PCE of finite dimension, the expected value, variance, and covariance of  $V \in \mathcal{L}^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mu; \mathbb{R}^{n_v})$  can be efficiently calculated from its PCE coefficients

$$\mathbb{E}[V] = \mathbf{v}^0, \quad \mathbb{V}[V] = \sum_{j=1}^{L-1} (v^j)^2 \|\phi^j\|^2, \quad \Sigma[V] = \sum_{j=1}^{L-1} \mathbf{v}^j \mathbf{v}^{j\top} \|\phi^j\|^2, \quad (5)$$

where  $(\mathbf{v}^j)^2 \doteq \mathbf{v}^j \circ \mathbf{v}^j$  denotes the Hadamard product ([Lefebvre, 2021](#)). Finally, observe that (finite or infinite) PCEs of  $\mathcal{L}^2$  random variables constitute linear representations of random variables.

To the end of reformulation of (1) with finite dimensional PCEs, we assume that  $Z_{\text{ini}}$  and  $W_k, k \in \mathbb{N}^+$  admit exact PCEs in the basis  $\{\phi_{\text{ini}}^j\}_{j=0}^{L_{\text{ini}}-1}$ , respectively, in the basis  $\{\varphi_k^j\}_{j=0}^{L_w-1}$ . Consider system (1) for a finite horizon  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  and the finite-dimensional joint basis

$$\{\phi^j\}_{j=0}^{L-1} = \left\{ 1, \{\phi_{\text{ini}}^j\}_{j=1}^{L_{\text{ini}}-1}, \bigcup_{i=0}^{N-1} \{\varphi_i^j\}_{j=1}^{L_w-1} \right\}, \quad L = L_{\text{ini}} + N(L_w - 1) \in \mathbb{N}^+. \quad (6)$$

Then, for all  $k \in \mathbb{I}_{[0, N-1]}$ ,  $U_k, Y_k$ , and thus  $Z_k$  also admit exact PCEs in the chosen basis if  $U_k$  is determined from an affine function of the extended state  $Z_k$ , cf. the formal proofs given in ([Pan et al., 2022a,b](#)). Note that the key aspect of  $\{\phi^j\}_{j=0}^{L-1}$  is that it is the union of the bases for  $Z_{\text{ini}}$  and  $W_k, k \in \mathbb{I}_{[0, N-1]}$ . Thus, PCE enables uncertainty propagation over any finite prediction horizon.

Replacing all random variables in (1) with their PCE representation in the basis  $\{\phi^j\}_{j=0}^{L-1}$  and projecting onto the basis functions  $\phi^j$ , we obtain the dynamics of the PCE coefficients. For given  $\mathbf{z}_{\text{ini}}^j$  and  $\mathbf{w}_k^j, k \in \mathbb{N}$ , the *dynamics of the PCE coefficients* read

$$\mathbf{y}_k^j = \Phi \mathbf{z}_k^j + D \mathbf{u}_k^j + \mathbf{w}_k^j, \quad \mathbf{z}_0^j = \mathbf{z}_{\text{ini}}^j, \quad j \in \mathbb{I}_{[0, L-1]}. \quad (7)$$

### 2.3. Data-driven system representation via a stochastic fundamental lemma

It is the linearity of the series expansion which ensures that the original stochastic system (1) and its PCE formulation (7) are structurally similar. Subsequently, we recall a stochastic variant of Willems' fundamental lemma which exploits this structural similarity.

**Definition 2 (Persistency of excitation (Willems et al., 2005))** Let  $T, t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ . An input sequence  $\mathbf{u}_{[0, T-1]}$  is said to be persistently exciting of order  $t$  if the Hankel matrix  $\mathcal{H}_t(\mathbf{u}_{[0, T-1]}) \doteq \begin{bmatrix} u_0 & \cdots & u_{T-t} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ u_{t-1} & \cdots & u_{T-1} \end{bmatrix}$  is of full row rank.

**Lemma 3 (Lem. 4, Cor. 2 (Pan et al., 2022b))** Let Assumption 1 hold. Consider system (1) and a  $T$ -length realization trajectory tuple  $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{y})_{[0, T-1]}$  of its corresponding realization dynamics (2). Let  $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w})_{[0, T-1]}$  be persistently exciting of order  $n_x + t$ . Then  $(\mathbf{U}, \mathbf{W}, \mathbf{Y})_{[0, t-1]}$  is a trajectory of (7) if and only if there exists  $G \in \mathcal{L}^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mu; \mathbb{R}^{T-t+1})$  such that  $\mathcal{H}_t(\mathbf{v}_{[0, T-1]})G = \tilde{\mathbf{V}}_{[0, t-1]}$  holds for all  $(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{V}) \in \{(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{U}), (\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{W}), (\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{Y})\}$ .

Moreover,  $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{y})_{[0, t-1]}^j, j \in \mathbb{I}_{[0, L-1]}$  is a trajectory of the dynamics of PCE coefficients (7) if and only if there exists  $\mathbf{g}^j \in \mathbb{R}^{T-t+1}$  such that  $\mathcal{H}_t(\mathbf{v}_{[0, T-1]})\mathbf{g}^j = \mathbf{v}_{[0, t-1]}^j, j \in \mathbb{I}_{[0, L-1]}$ , holds for all  $(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v}) \in \{(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u}), (\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{w}), (\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y})\}$ .  $\square$

As the page limit prohibits the detailed discussion of the above we refer to Pan et al. (2022b); Faulwasser et al. (2023) for proofs and examples. However, the key insight underlying the above results is that the dynamics of random variables (1), its realization dynamics (2), and the dynamics of PCE coefficients (7) share the same system structure and matrices. Hence, their finite-length trajectories can be linked to the trajectories of realization dynamics (2) as shown in Lemma 3. Put differently, in Lemma 3 *Hankel matrices in measured realization data* are used to predict the future evolution of random variables.

### 3. Data-driven stochastic output-feedback predictive control

In this section, we extend the data-driven stochastic output-feedback predictive control by Pan et al. (2022a) through interpolation of the initial condition. We provide sufficient conditions for recursive feasibility and a bound on the asymptotic average performance of the extended scheme.

#### 3.1. Data-driven stochastic OCP with interpolated initial conditions

Consider the stochastic LTI system (1), its realization dynamics (2), and its PCE coefficients dynamics (7) with respect to the basis  $\{\phi^j\}_{j=0}^{L-1}$ , cf. (6). Suppose that a realization trajectory  $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{y})_{[0, T-1]}$  of (2) is available with  $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w})_{[0, T-1]}$  persistently exciting of order  $n_x + N + T_{\text{ini}}$ .

In the following, consider  $\mathbf{v} \doteq [\mathbf{v}^{0\top}, \mathbf{v}^{1\top}, \dots, \mathbf{v}^{L-1\top}]^\top$  as the vectorization of PCE coefficients over PCE dimensions, and let  $\mathbf{v}_{i|k}^j$  be the predicted value of  $\mathbf{v}_{k+i}^j$  at time instant  $k$ ,  $\mathbf{v} \in \{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}\}$ . At time instant  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , given the PCE coefficients of the disturbances, i.e.  $\mathbf{w}_{k+i}, i \in \mathbb{I}_{[0, N-1]}$ , the realization of the current extended state  $z_k$ , and the predicted PCE coefficients from last step  $\mathbf{z}_{1|k-1}^*$ , we consider the following data-driven stochastic OCP

$$V_N \left( z_k, \mathbf{z}_{1|k-1}^* \right) \doteq \min_{(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z})_{\cdot|k}, \mathbf{g}^j, \mu} \sum_{j=0}^{L-1} \|\phi^j\|^2 \left( \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \left( \|\mathbf{y}_{i|k}^j\|_Q^2 + \|\mathbf{u}_{i|k}^j\|_R^2 \right) + \|\mathbf{z}_{N|k}^j\|_P^2 \right) \quad (8a)$$

$$\text{subject to} \quad \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{H}_{N+T_{\text{ini}}}(\mathbf{u}_{[0, T-1]}) \\ \mathcal{H}_{N+T_{\text{ini}}}(\mathbf{y}_{[0, T-1]}) \\ \mathcal{H}_N(\mathbf{w}_{[T_{\text{ini}}, T-1]}) \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{g}^j = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}_{[-T_{\text{ini}}, N-1]|k}^j \\ \mathbf{y}_{[-T_{\text{ini}}, N-1]|k}^j \\ \mathbf{w}_{[k, k+N-1]}^j \end{bmatrix}, \quad \forall j \in \mathbb{I}_{[0, L-1]} \quad (8b)$$

$$\mathbf{z}_{0|k} \in \mathbb{Z}_{\text{ini}} \left( \mu, z_k, \mathbf{z}_{1|k-1}^* \right) \quad (8c)$$

$$\mathbf{u}_{i|k}^0 \pm \sigma(\varepsilon_u) \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{L-1} (\mathbf{u}^j)^2 \langle \phi^j \rangle^2} \in \mathbb{U}, \mathbf{y}_{i|k}^0 \pm \sigma(\varepsilon_y) \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{L-1} (\mathbf{y}^j)^2 \langle \phi^j \rangle^2} \in \mathbb{Y}, \forall i \in \mathbb{I}_{[0, N-1]} \quad (8d)$$

$$\mathbf{u}_{i|k}^{j'} = 0, \quad \forall j' \in \mathbb{I}_{[L_{\text{ini}}+i(L_w-1), L-1]}, \quad \forall i \in \mathbb{I}_{[0, N-1]}, \quad (8e)$$

$$\mathbf{z}_{N|k}^0 \in \mathbb{Z}_f, \quad \sum_{j=1}^{L-1} \mathbf{z}_{N|k}^{j\top} \Gamma \mathbf{z}_{N|k}^j \|\phi^j\|^2 \leq \gamma, \quad (8f)$$

$$\mathbf{z}_{i|k}^j = \left[ \mathbf{u}_{[i-T_{\text{ini}}, i-1]|k}^{j\top}, \mathbf{y}_{[i-T_{\text{ini}}, i-1]|k}^{j\top} \right]^\top, \quad i \in \mathbb{I}_{[0, N]}, \quad j \in \mathbb{I}_{[0, L-1]}. \quad (8g)$$

Observe that the decision variables  $\mathbf{z}$  are redundant. They are introduced for the sake of compact notation and they can easily be avoided via (8g). The objective function (8a) penalizes the predicted input and output PCE coefficients with  $R = R^\top \succ 0$  and  $Q = Q^\top \succ 0$ . Moreover,  $P = P^\top \succ 0$  characterizes the terminal cost with respect to the PCE coefficients  $\mathbf{z}_{N|k}^j$ . Formulated in terms of PCE coefficients, the objective function (8a) is equivalent to the expected value of its counterpart with random variables (Pan et al., 2022b). The linear equalities (8b)–(8c) encode the dynamics of the PCE coefficients (7) in a non-parametric fashion and based on measured data, cf. Lemma 3.

Furthermore, (8d) is a usually conservative approximation of chance constraints with  $\sigma(\varepsilon_v) = \sqrt{(2 - \varepsilon_v)/\varepsilon_v}$ ,  $v \in \{u, y\}$  (Farina et al., 2013). The required probabilities are indicated by  $1 - \varepsilon_u$  and  $1 - \varepsilon_y$ . Causality is ensured in (8e) by specifying the PCE coefficients of  $U_{i|k}$  to be zero if they correspond to the non-past disturbances  $W_{i'}$ ,  $i' \geq i$ . The terminal constraints are specified in (8f). Specifically, considering  $Z_{N|k} \doteq \sum_{j=0}^{L-1} \mathbf{z}_{N|k}^j \phi^j$ , the terminal constraints (8f) require the expected value of  $Z_{N|k}$  to be inside of the terminal region  $\mathbb{Z}_f$  and the trace of its covariance weighted by  $\Gamma$  to be smaller than  $\gamma \in R^+$ . Precisely, the terminal ingredients satisfy the following assumption.

**Assumption 2 (Terminal ingredients (Pan et al., 2022a))** Consider system (4) given by the matrices  $\tilde{A}$ ,  $\tilde{B}$ , and  $\tilde{E}$ . There exist matrices  $P = P^\top \succ 0 \in \mathbb{R}^{n_z \times n_z}$ ,  $\Gamma = \Gamma^\top \succ 0 \in \mathbb{R}^{n_z \times n_z}$ ,  $K \in \mathbb{R}^{n_u \times n_z}$  and a positive real number  $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}^+$  such that  $A_K = \tilde{A} + \tilde{B}K$  is Schur,  $A_K^\top P A_K - P = -K^\top R K - A_K^\top \tilde{E} Q \tilde{E}^\top A_K$ ,  $A_K^\top \Gamma A_K - \Gamma = -I_{n_z}$ , and  $\gamma = \lambda_{\max}(\Gamma) \cdot \text{trace} \left( \Sigma_W \tilde{E}^\top \Gamma \tilde{E} \right)$ . Moreover, there exists a set  $\mathbb{Z}_f \subseteq \mathbb{U}^{T_{\text{ini}}} \times \mathbb{Y}^{T_{\text{ini}}}$  such that for all  $\mathbf{z}^{[0, L-1]}$  satisfying (8f), we have  $A_K \mathbf{z}^0 \in \mathbb{Z}_f$ ,  $K \mathbf{z}^0 + \sigma(\varepsilon_u) \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{L-1} (K \mathbf{z}^j)^2 \|\phi^j\|^2} \in \mathbb{U}$ , and  $\tilde{E}^\top A_K \mathbf{z}^0 + \sigma(\varepsilon_y) \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{L-1} (\tilde{E}^\top A_K \mathbf{z}^j)^2 \|\phi^j\|^2} + \mathbb{V}[W] \in \mathbb{Y}$ .

For more details on the data-driven design of the terminal ingredients, we refer to the discussions by Pan et al. (2022a).

The initial condition of OCP (8) is considered in (8c). Given  $\mathbf{z}_{1|k-1}^*$  as the predicted value of  $\mathbf{z}_k^j$  with respect to the optimal solution at time instant  $k-1$ , we specify the constraint set in (8c) as

$$\mathbb{Z}_{\text{ini}} \left( \mu, z_k, \mathbf{z}_{1|k-1}^* \right) \doteq \left\{ \mathbf{z}_{0|k} \left| \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{z}_{0|k}^0 = \mu z_k + (1 - \mu) \mathbf{z}_{1|k-1}^{0,*}, \quad 0 \leq \mu \leq 1 \\ \sum_{j=1}^{L_{\text{ini}}-1} \mathbf{z}_{0|k}^j \mathbf{z}_{0|k}^{j\top} \|\phi^j\|^2 = (1 - \mu)^2 \sum_{j=1}^{L-1} \mathbf{z}_{1|k-1}^{j,*} \mathbf{z}_{1|k-1}^{j,*\top} \|\phi^j\|^2 \\ \mathbf{z}_{0|k}^j = 0, \quad j = \mathbb{I}_{[L_{\text{ini}}, L-1]}. \end{array} \right. \right\} \quad (9)$$

Note that in (9) we consider the initial condition  $Z_{0|k} = \sum_{j=0}^{L-1} \mathbf{z}_{0|k}^j \phi^j$  to be a random variable rather than the current realization  $z_k$ . Specifically, as  $\mu \in [0, 1]$  we enforce the expected value

(the PCE coefficients with  $j = 0$ ) and the covariance of  $Z_{0|k}$  to be a convex combination of  $z_k$  and  $Z_{1|k-1}^* = \sum_{j=0}^{L-1} z_{1|k-1}^{j,*} \phi^j$  which is the predicted value of  $Z_k$ . In addition, we can design the distribution of  $Z_{0|k}$  by the choice of  $\{\phi_{\text{ini}}^j\}_{j=0}^{L_{\text{ini}}-1}$  which is equivalent to  $\{\phi^j\}_{j=0}^{L_{\text{ini}}-1}$  as shown in (6). For the sake of efficient computation, we consider  $\{\phi_{\text{ini}}^j\}_{j=1}^{L_{\text{ini}}-1}$  to be  $n_z$  dimensional i.i.d. Gaussian,

$$\phi_{\text{ini}}^0 = 1, \quad L_{\text{ini}} = n_z + 1, \quad \phi_{\text{ini}}^j \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1), \quad \forall j \in \mathbb{I}_{[1, n_z]}. \quad (10)$$

This way, we have  $Z_{0|k}$  also to be Gaussian since it is a linear combination of  $\{\phi_{\text{ini}}^j\}_{j=0}^{L_{\text{ini}}-1}$ . Notice that this choice does not prevent the consideration of non-Gaussian disturbances since the basis  $\varphi^j$  for disturbances in (6) is chosen according to the underlying distribution.

Moreover, with  $\{\phi_{\text{ini}}^j\}_{j=0}^{L_{\text{ini}}-1}$  satisfying (10), we reformulate the quadratic and nonconvex equality constraints of (9) in a linear fashion. Specifically, note that the right-hand-side matrix of the quadratic equality constraint  $Q_{\text{rhs}} \doteq \sum_{j=1}^{L-1} z_{1|k-1}^{j,*} z_{1|k-1}^{j,*\top} \|\phi^j\|^2 = Q_{\text{rhs}}^\top \succeq 0$  is known prior to solving the OCP. Hence, we can compute its eigen-decomposition  $Q_{\text{rhs}} = U_{\text{rhs}} D_{\text{rhs}} U_{\text{rhs}}^\top$ , where  $D_{\text{rhs}}$  is a diagonal matrix with non-negative elements. Then, one positive semi-definite solution of the non-convex quadratic equality constraint reads

$$[z_{0|k}^1, z_{0|k}^2, \dots, z_{0|k}^{n_z}] = (1 - \mu) U_{\text{rhs}} D_{\text{rhs}}^{\frac{1}{2}} U_{\text{rhs}}^\top, \quad (11)$$

since  $\|\phi^j\|^2 = \|\phi_{\text{ini}}^j\|^2 = 1$  holds for  $j \in \mathbb{I}_{[1, n_z]}$  if (10) is considered. Substituting the second constraint of (9) by (11), we avoid the non-convexity at the cost of computing one small-scale eigen-decomposition prior to each optimization. This reformulation may cause performance loss since it replaces the original quadratic equality with one specific feasible solution.

### 3.2. Predictive control scheme and closed-loop properties

With the interpolated initial conditions, we extend the output-feedback stochastic data-driven predictive control scheme proposed by Pan et al. (2022a) based on OCP (8).

The predictive control scheme consists of an off-line data collection phase and an on-line optimization phase. In the off-line phase, a random input and disturbance trajectory  $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w})_{[0, T-1]}$  is generated to obtain  $\mathbf{y}_{[0, T-1]}$ . Note that the disturbance trajectory  $\mathbf{w}_{[0, T-1]}$  can also be estimated from output data, cf. (Pan et al., 2022b; Wang et al., 2022b) for details. Moreover, the recorded input, output, and disturbance trajectories are used to determine the terminal ingredients and to construct the Hankel matrices for OCP (8).

In the on-line optimization phase, we assume the OCP (8) is feasible at time instant  $k = 0$  with  $z_{1|k-1}^{0,*} = z_0$ ,  $z_{1|k-1}^{j,*} = 0$ ,  $j \in \mathbb{I}_{[1, L-1]}$  in (8c) such that only the measured initial condition  $z_0$  is considered. Then at each time  $k$ , we solve OCP (8) to obtain the PCE coefficients of the first optimal input and the interpolated initial condition, i.e.  $u_{0|k}^{j,*}$  and  $z_{0|k}^{j,*}$ , respectively. Notice that  $u_{0|k}^{j,*} = 0$  holds for  $j \in \mathbb{I}_{[L_{\text{ini}}, L-1]}$  due to the causality condition (8e). Specifically, we consider the feedback input  $u_k^{\text{cl}}$  as a realization of random variable given by  $u_{0|k}^{j,*}$ , that is  $u_k^{\text{cl}} = \sum_{j=0}^{L_{\text{ini}}-1} u_{0|k}^{j,*} \phi_{\text{ini}}^j(\omega)$ , where  $\{\phi_{\text{ini}}^j(\omega)\}_{j=1}^{L_{\text{ini}}-1}$  are obtained by considering the the current measured  $z_k$  as a realization of random variable given by  $z_{0|k}^{j,*}$ , cf. (Pan et al., 2022a). With the basis for the initial condition as specified in (10),  $u_k^{\text{cl}} = \sum_{j=0}^{L_{\text{ini}}-1} u_{0|k}^{j,*} \phi_{\text{ini}}^j(\omega)$  then is a linear system of equations. Finally, the optimal solution to OCP (8) is indeed an affine feedback policy in the realizations  $\phi_{\text{ini}}^j(\omega)$ .

Applying the feedback input  $u_k^{\text{cl}}$  determined from above, the closed-loop dynamics of (2) for a given initial condition  $z_{\text{ini}}^{\text{cl}}$  and disturbances  $\{w_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  read

$$y_k^{\text{cl}} = \Phi z_k^{\text{cl}} + D u_k^{\text{cl}} + w_k, \quad z_0^{\text{cl}} = z_{\text{ini}}^{\text{cl}}. \quad (12a)$$

Moreover, we obtain the sequence  $V_{N,k} \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  corresponding to the optimal value function of (8) evaluated in the closed loop. Accordingly, considering a probabilistic initial condition  $Z_{\text{ini}}^{\text{cl}}$  and probabilistic disturbance  $W_k$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , we obtain the closed-loop dynamics in random variables

$$Y_k^{\text{cl}} = \Phi Z_k^{\text{cl}} + D U_k^{\text{cl}} + W_k, \quad Z_0^{\text{cl}} = Z_{\text{ini}}^{\text{cl}}, \quad (12b)$$

where conceptually the realization of  $U_k^{\text{cl}}$  is  $u_k^{\text{cl}}$ . Similarly, we define the probabilistic optimal cost  $\mathcal{V}_{N,k} \in \mathcal{L}^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mu; \mathbb{R})$  as  $\mathcal{V}_{N,k}(\omega) = V_{N,k}$ . The following theorem summarizes the closed-loop properties of the proposed scheme.

**Theorem 4 (Recursive feasibility and asymptotic average cost bound)** *Consider the closed-loop dynamics (12) resulting from the proposed predictive control algorithm based on OCP (8). Let Assumptions 1–2 hold. Suppose that at time instant  $k = 0$ , OCP (8) is feasible with the initial condition in (8c) as  $z_{1|0}^{0,*} = z_0^{\text{cl}} = z_{\text{ini}}^{\text{cl}}$ ,  $z_{1|0}^{j,*} = 0$ ,  $j \in \mathbb{I}_{[1, L-1]}$ . Then, OCP (8) is feasible at all time instants  $k \in \mathbb{N}^+$  with the initial condition in (8c) updated with the current measured initial condition  $z_k^{\text{cl}}$  and the predicted PCE coefficients  $z_{1|k-1}^*$  based on the optimal solution of the previous solution obtained at  $k - 1$ .*

Moreover, let  $\alpha \doteq \text{trace} \left( \Sigma_W (Q + \tilde{E}^\top P \tilde{E}) \right) \in \mathbb{R}^+$ , then the following statements hold:

(i) *The optimal performance index of OCP (8) at consecutive time instants satisfies*

$$\mathbb{E} [\mathcal{V}_{N,k+1} - \mathcal{V}_{N,k}] \leq -\mathbb{E} [\|U_k^{\text{cl}}\|_R^2 + \|Y_k^{\text{cl}}\|_Q^2] + \alpha.$$

(ii) *In addition,  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=0}^k \mathbb{E} [\|U_i^{\text{cl}}\|_R^2 + \|Y_i^{\text{cl}}\|_Q^2] \leq \alpha$ , i.e., the asymptotic average cost of the proposed algorithm is bounded from above by  $\alpha$ .*

**Proof (Sketch)** In Pan et al. (2022a), we present sufficient conditions for recursive feasibility and the asymptotic average cost bound of the aforementioned predictive scheme with binary selection of initial condition, i.e.  $\mu \in \{0, 1\}$ . The proof relies on the fact that with  $\mu = 1$  OCP (8) is recursively feasible, cf. (Pan et al., 2022a, Proposition 1). Hence, with the interpolation condition (9), i.e.  $\mu \in [0, 1]$ , the recursive feasibility naturally holds since  $\mu = 1$  is included. Moreover, due to the optimization over the initial condition, the optimal cost  $V_{N,k}$  with  $\mu \in [0, 1]$  is bounded from above by the one with  $\mu \in \{0, 1\}$ , which allows to infer the bound for the asymptotic average cost via the proof of (Pan et al., 2022a, Theorem 1).  $\blacksquare$

## 4. Numerical Example

We consider the LTI aircraft model given by Maciejowski (2002) exactly discretized with sampling time  $t_s = 0.5$  s. The system matrices are

$$\Phi = \begin{bmatrix} -0.019 & -1.440 & -0.201 & 0.256 & 0.050 & 0.160 & -0.256 & 0.0860 \\ 0.711 & -1.800 & -4.773 & 3.6875 & 0.650 & 2.982 & -2.688 & 1.707 \\ 1.444 & -26.922 & -15.746 & 12.898 & 2.319 & 10.461 & -12.897 & 5.171 \end{bmatrix},$$



and  $D = 0_{3 \times 1}$  with  $n_y = 3$ ,  $n_u = 1$ ,  $T_{\text{ini}} = 2$ , and thus  $n_z = 8$ . Its minimal state-space representation with  $n_x = 4$  can be found in (Pan et al., 2022b). As the simulated plant, we consider the system dynamics (1), where  $W_k, k \in \mathbb{N}$  are i.i.d. uniform random variables with their support on  $[-0.01, 0.01] \times [-1, 1] \times [-0.1, 0.1]$ . Note that  $Y^j$  denotes the  $j$ -th element of  $Y$ . We impose a chance constraint on  $Y^1$ , i.e.  $\mathbb{P}[Y^1 \in \mathbb{Y}^1] \geq 1 - \varepsilon_y$ , where  $\mathbb{Y}^1 = [-1, 1]$ ,  $\varepsilon_y = 0.1$ , and  $\sigma(\varepsilon_y) = \sqrt{(2 - \varepsilon_y)/\varepsilon_y} = 4.359$ . The weighting matrices are  $Q = \text{diag}([1, 1, 1])$  and  $R = 1$ .

We apply the proposed scheme with prediction horizon  $N = 10$ . In the data collection phase we record input-output trajectories of 90 steps to construct the Hankel matrices and to determine terminal ingredients  $P$ ,  $\Gamma$ ,  $\gamma$  and  $\mathbb{Z}_f$ , cf. (Pan et al., 2022a). To obtain an exact PCE for each component of  $W_k$ , we employ Legendre polynomials component-wisely such that  $L_w = 4$ . As shown in (10), we choose the basis for initial condition accordingly with  $L_{\text{ini}} = 1 + n_z = 9$ . Thus, from (6), the dimension of the overall PCE basis as  $L = 39$ .

With 50 different sampled sequences of disturbance realizations, we show the corresponding closed-loop realization trajectories of the proposed scheme in the left top of Figure 1. It can be seen that the chance constraint for output  $Y^1$  is satisfied with a high probability, while  $Y^2$  and  $Y^3$  converged to a neighborhood of 0. The averaged-in-time cost trajectories are depicted in the left bottom of Figure 1 in a semi-logarithmic plot. We see the sampled averaged asymptotic value is 251.0 and is bounded from above by  $\alpha = 295.21$ . This is in line with the insights of Theorem 4. To illustrate the evolution of statistical distributions of the closed-loop trajectories (12b), we sample a total of 1000 sequences of disturbance realizations and initial conditions around  $[0, -100, 0]^\top$ . Then, we compute the corresponding closed-loop responses. The time evolution of the normalized histograms of the output realizations  $y^2$  at  $k = 0, 5, 10, 15, 20$  is depicted in the right of Figure 1, where the vertical axis can be regarded as the approximated probability density of  $Y^2$ . As one can see, the proposed control scheme controls the system to a narrow distribution for  $Y^2$  centred at 0.

Furthermore, we compare the proposed scheme with the interpolation of initial conditions to the binary selection in Pan et al. (2022a). This is done by evaluating the 50-steps closed-loop system responses for both schemes with the same closed-loop initial condition  $z_{\text{ini}}^{\text{cl}}$  and the same disturbance sequence  $\{w_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ . The binary selection scheme takes about 100.68 s to evaluate, while the proposed interpolation scheme takes 54.44 s. The reason for this performance difference lies in the fact that the binary scheme occasionally needs to solve two OCPs. More precisely, the binary scheme solves two OCPs 28 times in the 50 time steps that is about 60% of the whole closed-loop steps. As shown in Figure 2, the system responses are almost identical for the two schemes with the maximal input difference of  $4.29 \cdot 10^{-8}$  rad. The evolution of the interpolation scalar  $\mu$  is depicted in the last plot of Figure 2.

## 5. Conclusion

This paper has investigated data-driven stochastic output-feedback predictive control of linear time-invariant systems. We have shown that the concept of interpolating initial conditions can and should be exploited in the data-driven stochastic setting. Specifically, we have given sufficient conditions for recursive feasibility and practical stability as well as a corresponding performance bound. Numerical results illustrate the efficacy of the proposed approach. Our results, which are based on a recently proposed stochastic extension to Willems' fundamental lemma, underpin that stochastic predictive control can be formulated in data-driven fashion. Future work will consider tailored numerical methods for real-time feasible implementation and less restrictive stability conditions.

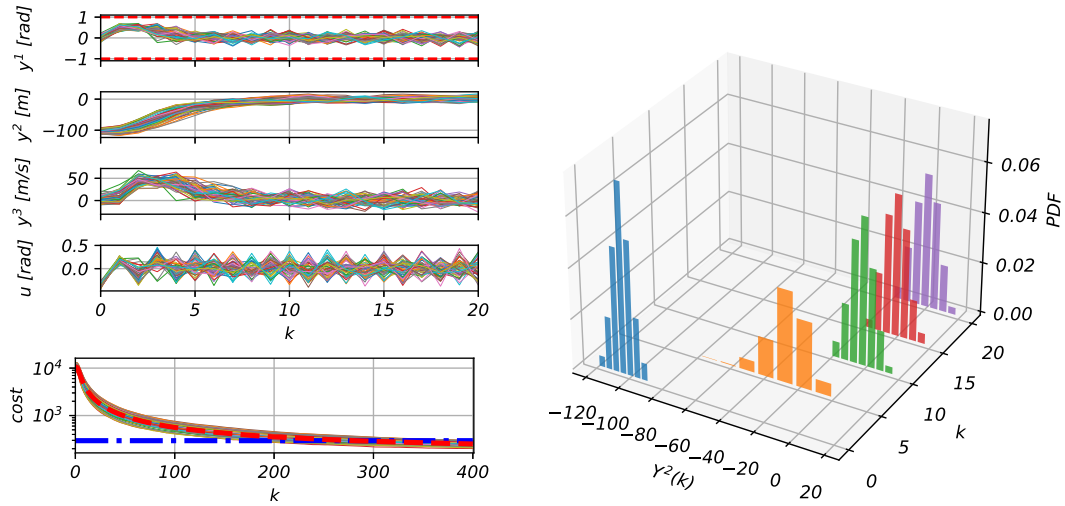


Figure 1: (Left-top) 50 different closed-loop realization trajectories. The red-dashed lines show the chance constraints. (Left-bottom) Averaged cost (over time) of 50 different closed-loop realization trajectories. The red dashed lines depict the averaged asymptotic cost over samplings; the blue dash-dotted line denotes the bound  $\alpha$  as in Theorem 4. (Right) Histograms of the output  $Y^2$  from 1000 closed-loop realization trajectories.

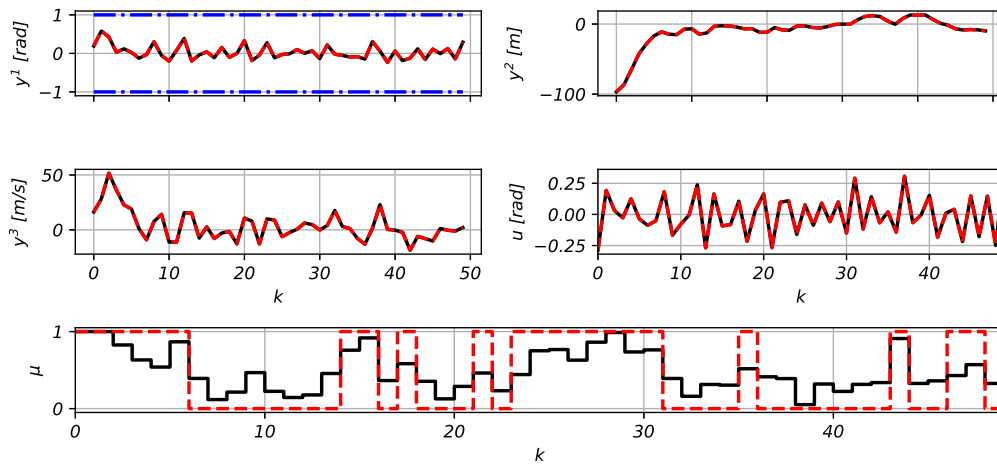


Figure 2: Comparison of system responses for schemes with the interpolation or the binary selection of the initial conditions. The black line denotes the system response of the interpolation scheme; the red dashed line denotes the system response of the binary scheme.

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