

Designing Output-Feedback Predictive Controllers by Reverse-Engineering Existing LTI Controllers

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Abstract—An approach to designing a constrained output-feedback predictive controller that has the same small-signal properties as a pre-existing output-feedback linear time invariant controller is proposed. Systematic guidelines are proposed to select an appropriate (non-unique) realisation of the resulting state observer. A method is proposed to transform a class of offset-free reference tracking controllers into the combination of an observer, steady-state target calculator and predictive controller. The procedure is demonstrated with a numerical example.

I. INTRODUCTION

Handling input and output constraints in a systematic manner is one of the main motivations for the use of model predictive control (MPC) [1]–[3] and is the keystone of its industrial success [4]. The definition of the constraints is usually obvious, corresponding to physical limitations and performance requirements. However, encoding the remaining objectives in the cost function can be difficult.

A linear time-invariant (LTI) baseline controller may already exist for a given application. If full state measurements or estimates are available, and the pre-existing controller is a static state feedback gain, then an inverse optimal cost function may be found. For the unconstrained linear quadratic regulator problem, [5] characterises the set of state feedback gains that are optimal for some quadratic cost function. When a state feedback gain satisfies these conditions, one way of computing corresponding quadratic cost weightings is to pose a linear matrix inequality (LMI) problem [6]. In [7] a quadratic cost function with time-varying weights over a finite prediction horizon is proposed allowing reproduction of a wider range of gains. In [8] a cost function with cross terms between state and input values is shown to reproduce any multivariable state feedback gain. In [7] a method is shown that can reproduce closed-loop behaviour of an output-feedback controller by including the original controller within the plant model, and (non-minimally) parameterising the state of the enlarged system in terms of a finite sequence of previous outputs and inputs. In [9] it is shown that an MPC controller can be constructed to match the unconstrained behaviour of a given H_∞ controller, which was designed using the *loop-shaping* procedure of [10].

In the present work, a method is proposed using the observer-compensator realisation of a more general class of stabilising LTI output-feedback controllers (originally proposed by [11], [12], and further developed in [13], [14]), as the basis for a state observer and cost function in an output feedback MPC controller. The methodology in this technical note is motivated by the cross standard form [14]–[16], an \mathcal{H}_2 and \mathcal{H}_∞ inverse-optimal generalised plant model whose optimal solutions are the observer-based realisations of a pre-specified output feedback controller K_0 , and builds upon [17]–[20].

The present technical note proposes methods for selecting the (non-unique) observer-based realisation, including the design of additional modes in the observer introduced in the kernel of the initial compensator gain when the plant is of higher order than the baseline controller. The method is extended to transform an LTI offset-free tracking controller into the form of an observer, MPC controller and target calculator [21]–[23].

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The remainder of this technical note is organised as follows: Section II presents pre-requisites and assumptions; Section III recapitulates the principles for obtaining a discrete-time observer-based realisation of an LTI regulator in sufficient detail to motivate the subsequent design, and proposes a systematic method to help select a non-unique realisation; Section IV transforms the resulting observer-based realisations into an output-feedback MPC regulator; Section V extends the methodology to the case where the baseline controller exhibits integral action for offset-free tracking, by transforming the baseline controller into a target calculator and constrained MPC controller; Section VI presents a numerical example; and Section VII concludes.

II. PRE-REQUISITES AND ASSUMPTIONS

Assumption 1: The LTI plant to be controlled has a minimal realisation $x(k+1) = Ax(k) + Bu(k)$, $y(k) = Cx(k)$, where $x(k) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_x}$ is the plant state, $u(k) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_u}$ is the plant input (manipulated variable), $y(k) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_y}$ is the plant output (measured variable) at time k and $\det(A) \neq 0$.

Assumption 2: The pair (C, A) is observable, and the tuple (C, A, B) is output stabilisable.

The plant model can consider integrating disturbances, so stabilisability of (A, B) is not assumed.

Assumption 3: The pre-existing output-stabilising LTI regulator for the plant in Assumption 1 has minimal realisation $x_K(k+1) = A_K x_K(k) + B_K y(k)$, $u(k) = C_K x_K(k) + D_K y(k)$, where the controller state $x_K \in \mathbb{R}^{n_K}$, $n_K \leq n_x$ and $\det(A_K) \neq 0$.

This excludes controllers including a pure time delay.

Definition 1: For a matrix T with full row rank, let T^+ denote the Moore-Penrose pseudo-inverse of T , and $\text{Ker}(T)$ denote the kernel of T . Let T^\perp be a matrix whose columns form an orthonormal basis for $\text{Ker}(T)$ and $\text{spec}(A)$ denote the set of eigenvalues of A .

III. OBSERVER-BASED CONTROLLER REALISATIONS

This section summarises the method to obtain an observer-based controller realisation, based on an adaptation of the method for low order controllers from [14] to discrete time. Systematic guidelines for selecting a particular realisation are proposed.

A. Obtaining observer-based controller realisations

When $D_K \neq 0$, a controller based on a filter-form observer is sought, enabling reproduction of the feed-through term from the measured variable to the manipulated variable. Denoting $\hat{x}(k+1|k)$ as the estimate of the state at time instant $k+1$ given measurements at time k , $\hat{x}(k|k)$ as the estimate at time k given current measurements, D_Q as a static Youla parameter [24], and $A_f = (A - AK_f C)$ for $K_f \in \mathbb{R}^{n_x \times n_y}$, this is

$$\hat{x}(k+1|k) = A_f \hat{x}(k|k) + Bu(k) + AK_f y(k) \quad (1a)$$

$$\hat{x}(k|k) = (I - K_f C) \hat{x}(k|k-1) + K_f y(k) \quad (1b)$$

$$y_Q = D_Q (y(k) - C \hat{x}(k|k-1)) \quad (1c)$$

$$u(k) = K_c \hat{x}(k|k) + y_Q(k). \quad (1d)$$

Theorem 1 (Proof in appendix): Given a stabilising regulator satisfying Assumption 3, assume that there exists $T \in \mathbb{R}^{n_K \times n_x}$ of full row rank satisfying the non-symmetric Riccati equation

$$-T(A + BD_K C) - TBC_K T + B_K C + A_K T = 0. \quad (2)$$

The regulator can be realised in the form (1), where $AK_f = T^+ B_K - BD_K + T^\perp K_N$, $K_c = D_K C + C_K T$, $D_Q = (D_K - K_c K_f)$, and $K_N \in \mathbb{R}^{(n_x - n_K) \times n_y}$ is a design parameter.

Corollary 1 (Proof in appendix): When A_K is invertible, and $D_K = C_K A_K^{-1} B_K$, then $K_c K_f = D_K$, [11] and therefore $y_Q = 0$. If $D_K = 0$, a predictor form observer based controller is sought where (defining $A_{f_p} = A - K_f C$):

$$\hat{x}(k+1|k) = A_{f_p} \hat{x}(k|k-1) + Bu(k) + K_f y(k) \quad (3a)$$

$$u(k) = K_c \hat{x}(k|k-1). \quad (3b)$$

Analogous to Theorem 1, (3) is equivalent to a (possibly non-minimal) realisation of the given controller, with $K_f = T^+ B_K + T^\perp K_N$ and $K_c = C_K T$, where $-TA - TBC_K T + B_K C + A_K T = 0$. If a predictor form is preferred, $D_K \neq 0$, and inserting a delay to force $D_K = 0$ is not acceptable, the transformation $A \leftarrow A + BD_K C$ and $D_K \leftarrow 0$ can be used, but if $u(k) = K_c \hat{x}(k|k-1)$ is replaced by a constrained controller, then a disturbance can cause an input constraint violation, since correction occurs at the next time step.

B. Selection of non-unique realisation

A realisation obtained from application of Theorem 1 (or equivalent for the predictor) is not in general unique. The specific T satisfying (2) determines the partition of the original closed loop eigenvalues between $\text{spec}(A + BK_c)$ and $\text{spec}(A - AK_f C)$ (or $\text{spec}(A - K_f C)$ for a predictor). See [11]–[14], [17], [18] for details.

Even if process and measurement noise are additive, Gaussian and white, with respective covariances Q_y and R_y , K_f designed as described in Section III-A is not (in general) the optimal Kalman gain for the plant for the given covariances. However, estimation error covariance can still be minimised within the degrees of freedom in T . For the case when $n_x = n_K$, this is summarised in Algorithm 1.

Algorithm 1: $\min_{T, K_f, P_y} \text{Tr}((I - K_f C) P_y (I - K_f C)^T + K_f R_y K_f^T)$ subject to $A_f P_y A_f^T - P_y = -AK_f R_y K_f^T A^T - Q_y$, $T(A + BD_K C) + TBC_K T = B_K C + A_K T$, and $AK_f = T^+ B_K - BD_K$.

This can be computed by enumeration of each valid T (see e.g. [13] for restrictions). When $n_K < n_x$, $n_x - n_K$ extra eigenvalues are introduced into $\text{spec}(A - AK_f C)$, corresponding to eigenvectors in $\text{Ker}(T)$ as revealed by similarity transformation on $(A - AK_f C)$. Defining $\tilde{A} = A + BD_K C$,

$$\begin{bmatrix} T \\ T^{\perp T} \end{bmatrix} [\tilde{A} - T^+ B_K C - T^\perp K_N C] \begin{bmatrix} T^+ & T^\perp \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} T \tilde{A} T^+ - B_K C T^+ & 0 \\ T^{\perp T} \tilde{A} T^+ - K_N C T^+ & T^{\perp T} \tilde{A} T^\perp - K_N C T^\perp \end{bmatrix}. \quad (4)$$

Determined by K_N , these do not change the unconstrained, closed-loop behaviour with $u(k) = K_c \hat{x}(k)$ (one can verify that $(K_c(I - K_f C) - D_Q C) T^\perp = 0$ and therefore that $T^{\perp T} \hat{x}(k|k-1)$ does not contribute to control action (1) (see Appendix)), but do affect the complete state estimate and therefore the closed-loop behaviour with constrained predictive control.

Noting that the estimate of $Tx(k)$ is in general not optimal for the given Q_y and R_y , the corresponding estimation error cannot be assumed to be Gaussian white noise, precluding de-coupled design of the estimate of $T^\perp x(k)$. For a given T satisfying (2), and defining $AK_{f0} = T^+ B_K - BD_K$, $AK_f = AK_{f0} + T^\perp K_N$ and $A_f = A - AK_f C$, minimising the trace of P_0 over stabilising K_N subject to $P_0 = A_f P_0 A_f^T + (AK_{f0} + T^\perp K_N) R (AK_{f0} + T^\perp K_N)^T$ corresponds to a dual of the static output feedback discrete-time linear quadratic control problem, which is known to be challenging [25]. Whilst algorithms exist that are often capable of identifying adequate suboptimal solutions (e.g. [26]–[28]), convergence is not guaranteed. Their use in finding a solution $AK_f = T^+ B_K + D_K C + T^\perp K_N$ in

the context of Algorithm 1 is limited if there is more than a handful of candidate matrices T to evaluate, due to computational demands.

When the set of matrices T to evaluate is larger, an optimistic approximation of the achievable estimation error may be used. Define $\hat{x}_T(k|k-1) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_K}$ as an estimate of Tx , $\hat{x}_1(k|k-1) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_x}$ as a second estimate of the full state, and L as the Kalman gain for the given uncertainty covariances Q_y and R_y , and defining $A_L = (A - ALC)$:

$$\hat{x}_T(k|k-1) = T(A_f T^+ \hat{x}_T(k) + Bu(k) + AK_f y(k)) \quad (5a)$$

$$\hat{x}_1(k|k-1) = A_L \hat{x}_1(k|k-1) + Bu(k) + ALy(k) \quad (5b)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{x}(k|k) &= K_c^+ K_c (I - K_f C) T^+ \hat{x}_T(k|k-1) \\ &\quad + K_c^\perp K_c^{\perp T} (I - LC) \hat{x}_1(k|k-1) + D_{\text{obs}} y(k) \end{aligned} \quad (5c)$$

$$D_{\text{obs}} = K_c^+ K_c K_f + K_c^\perp K_c^{\perp T} L \quad (5d)$$

$$u(k) = K_c \hat{x}(k|k) + D_Q T^+ \hat{x}_T(y(k) - CT^+ \hat{x}_T(k|k-1)). \quad (5e)$$

This structure combines the reverse-engineered observer of the component of $x(k)$ in $\text{Span}(K_c)$ with a separate estimate of $x(k)$ in $\text{Ker}(K_c)$. The covariance of the error of estimate (5c) is an approximation from below of that which could be obtained using structure (1) with K_c and AK_f from Theorem 1, and enables a computationally tractable estimate that can be used within the framework of a modified Algorithm 1 when $n_K < n_x$. For T yielding the lowest bound, K_N which approximately minimises $\text{Tr}(P_0)$ within the structure (1) with gains from Theorem 1, can be found using (e.g.) one of the algorithms of [26]–[28] (noting the cross covariance between measurement and process uncertainty, induced by AK_{f0}).

Remark 1: An alternative goal is to use K_N to force $D_Q \rightarrow 0$. Each of the $n_x - n_K$ modes of (1) in $\text{Ker}(T)$ is cancelled by a corresponding invariant zero. If the plant model is augmented with a disturbance on each channel (subject to observability), placing the resulting eigenvalues in the observer error dynamics at the origin introduces corresponding invariant zeros. However, in Section V, the Youla parameter and disturbance states are treated in the same way.

IV. INVERSE OPTIMAL PREDICTIVE REGULATOR

This section assumes a perfect plant-model match, that the observer error has converged to zero, that the Youla parameter $D_Q = 0$ (relaxed subsequently) and that exact matching of K_c is required in some neighbourhood of the origin. Define $u_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n_u}$ as a predicted input i time steps in the future, and $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n_x}$ as a predicted future state, let $\mathbf{u} = [u_0, \dots, u_{N-1}]^T$ for a finite prediction horizon $N \in \mathbb{N}^+$ and let $\hat{x}(k)$ be the current relevant state estimate $\hat{x}(k|k)$ or $\hat{x}(k|k-1)$, in this case from (1b), (3a) or (5c) with gains obtained by application of Algorithm 1 and Theorem 1 (or the predictor-form equivalent).

Algorithm 2 (Linear model predictive control): At each time step, k , let $\mathbf{u}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{u}} F_N(x_N) + \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \ell(x_i, u_i)$ subject to $x_0 = \hat{x}(k)$, $x_{i+1} = Ax_i + Bu_i$, $u_i \in \mathbb{U}$, $x_i \in \mathbb{X}$, for $i \in \{0, \dots, N-1\}$ and $x_N \in \mathbb{T}$. Apply $u(k) = u_0^*$. Increment k .

Sets $\mathbb{U} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n_u}$, $\mathbb{X} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n_x}$ and $\mathbb{T} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n_x}$ are assumed to be convex, compact, polytopic, and to contain the origin within their interiors. \mathbb{T} is assumed to be a positively invariant admissible set under the action of the controller $u(k) = K_c x(k)$: $\mathbb{T} \triangleq \{x_N : x_N \in \mathbb{T} \implies x_N \in \mathbb{X}, K_c x_N \in \mathbb{U}, (A + BK_c)x_N \in \mathbb{T}\}$.

Letting the function $c(\cdot)$ be a continuous, strictly increasing function with $c(0) = 0$, [29] shows that for appropriate $\ell(x_i, u_i) > c(\|(x_i, u_i)\|)^2$, the value function can be used as a control Lyapunov function to prove stability of the closed loop system with the predictive controller by ensuring $F_N(Ax_N + BK_c x_N) - F_N(x_N) \leq -\ell(x_N, K_c x_N)$.

The reverse engineering procedure hinges upon replacing K_c as defined in Theorem 1 with a constrained predictive regulator that is identically equivalent when constraints are not active. For $R > 0 \in \mathbb{R}^{n_u \times n_u}$, the stage cost

$$\begin{aligned} \ell_0(x_i, u_i) &= (u_i - K_c x_i)^T R (u_i - K_c x_i) \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} x_i \\ u_i \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} K_c^T R K_c & -K_c^T R \\ -R K_c & R \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_i \\ u_i \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where K_c is the gain matrix obtained from Theorem 1 gives an unconstrained optimum $u_i = K_c x_i$ [8] with infinite horizon cost-to-go, $F_N(x) = 0$, (verifiable by direct substitution into discrete-time algebraic Riccati equation with cross-terms). $\ell_0(x_i, u_i) = 0$ if $u_i = K_c x_i$; however, $\ell_0(x_i, u_i)$ is not bounded below by $c(\|x_i, u_i\|)^2$. To circumvent this, a dual-mode approach with cost

$$\ell(x_i, u_i) = \ell_0(x_i, u_i) + (x_i - z_i)^T Q_1 (x_i - z_i) \quad (7)$$

subject to slack variable $z_i \in \alpha \mathbb{T} \subset \mathbb{R}^{n_x}$, for design parameters $Q_1 > 0 \in \mathbb{R}^{n_x \times n_x}$ and $0 \leq \alpha < 1$ can be shown to guarantee finite-time entry to \mathbb{T} , wherein the unconstrained (known stabilising) control gain is recursively feasible [30].

An alternative cost, without recourse to slack variables, of the form

$$\ell_S(x_i, u_i) = x_i^T Q x_i + x_i^T S u_i + u_i^T S^T x_i + u_i^T R u_i \quad (8)$$

can be used, accompanied by terminal cost $F_N(x_N) = x_N^T P x_N$. If (A, B) is stabilisable, and there exist appropriately dimensioned $Q > 0$, $R > \epsilon I$, $S, P > \delta I$ (for scalar bounds $\epsilon > 0$ and $\delta > 0$), satisfying $Q - SR^{-1}S^T > 0$, $A^T P A - P - K_c^T (B^T P B + R) K_c + Q = 0$, $(B^T P B + R) K_c + (B^T P A + S^T) = 0$ and, letting $A_c = (A + B K_c)$,

$$A_c^T P A_c - P + Q + K_c^T R K_c + K_c^T S^T + S K_c \leq 0 \quad (9)$$

then the matrices Q, R, S and P in cost function (8) will be inverse optimal with respect to the static gain K_c , and the terminal cost $F_N(x_N)$ will be a control Lyapunov function within \mathbb{T} , enabling constrained closed-loop stability to be established using the method of [29]. This can be solved using convex methods [31], with any additional degrees of freedom used to minimise $\|S\|_2^2$.

In principle, the effect of the Youla parameter, when $D_Q \neq 0$ can be considered by substituting $\ell(x_i, u_i)$, with $\ell(x_i, u_i - y_Q(k))$ in Algorithm 2. However, whilst $y_Q(k) \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$, a given pair $(0, y_Q(k))$ is not necessarily an equilibrium pair, and it might therefore be preferable to operate within the same framework as for offset-free tracking, as elaborated subsequently.

V. REVERSE-ENGINEERED REFERENCE TRACKING CONTROLLERS

This section extends the proposed approach with the treatment of a class of offset-free reference tracking controllers. The subsequent analysis assumes a filter form observer, but analogous results hold for the predictor form.

Direct application of Theorem 1 and cost function (6) would reproduce the unconstrained controller, but the observer can be biased by disturbances, and thus prediction quality, and consequently closed loop performance in presence of constraints, can be compromised. The following development transforms a baseline controller into a widely used form for offset-free predictive control [21]–[23].

A. Further standing assumptions and pre-requisites

Assumption 4: The baseline, stabilising, linear, time-invariant, offset-free, reference tracking controller has a minimal realisation

$$x_K(k+1) = A_K x_K(k) + B_K (y(k) - r(k)) \quad (10a)$$

$$u(k) = C_K x_K(k) + D_K (y(k) - r(k)), \quad (10b)$$

where the controller state $x_K \in \mathbb{R}^{n_K}$ and $r(k) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_y}$ is a reference which tends to a constant r_∞ as $k \rightarrow \infty$. A_K has at least n_y eigenvalues at 1, with a corresponding invariant subspace orthogonal to neither the rows of C_K , nor the columns of B_K . In closed loop with this controller, the plant output $y(k)$ tends to $r(k)$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$.

Assumption 5: The pair (A, B) is stabilisable, and a matrix B_d has been chosen so that the plant model can be augmented as

$$\begin{bmatrix} x(k+1) \\ d(k+1) \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} A & B_d \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix}}_{A_a} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} x(k) \\ d(k) \end{bmatrix}}_{x_a(k)} + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} B \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{B_a} u(k) \quad (11a)$$

$$y(k) = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} C & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{C_a} \begin{bmatrix} x(k) \\ d(k) \end{bmatrix} \quad (11b)$$

where $d(k) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_y}$ is an uncontrollable disturbance state, the pair (C_a, A_a) is detectable. The input dimension $n_u \geq n_y$.

By applying Theorem 1 to plant (11) and controller (10), and separating the contributions of $r(k)$ and $y(k)$ to $u(k)$, a controller realisation with the structure of an observer estimating $x_a(k)$ and a reference pre-filter with internal state $\hat{x}_{P,a}(k) = [\hat{x}_P^T(k), \hat{d}_P^T(k)]^T$ is obtained (letting $A_{af} = (A_a - A_a K_f C_a)$):

$$\hat{x}_a(k+1|k) = A_{af} \hat{x}_a(k|k-1) + B_a u(k) + A_a K_f y(k) \quad (12a)$$

$$\hat{x}_a(k|k) = (I - K_f C) \hat{x}_a(k|k-1) + K_f y(k) \quad (12b)$$

$$y_Q(k) = D_Q (y(k) - C \hat{x}_a(k|k-1)) \quad (12c)$$

$$\hat{x}_{P,a}(k+1|k) = A_{af} \hat{x}_{P,a}(k|k-1) + A_a K_f r(k) \quad (12d)$$

$$\hat{x}_{P,a}(k|k) = (I - K_f C) \hat{x}_{P,a}(k|k-1) + K_f r(k) \quad (12e)$$

$$q_P(k) = D_Q (r(k) - C \hat{x}_{P,a}(k|k-1)) \quad (12f)$$

$$u(k) = K_c (\hat{x}_a(k|k) - \hat{x}_{P,a}(k|k)) + y_Q(k) - q_P(k). \quad (12g)$$

B. Target equilibrium pairs

Partition K_f and K_c as $K_f = \begin{bmatrix} K_{f1}^T & K_{fd}^T \end{bmatrix}^T$ and $K_c = \begin{bmatrix} K_{c1} & K_{cd} \end{bmatrix}$ where $K_{f1} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_x \times n_y}$, $K_{fd} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_y \times n_y}$, $K_{c1} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_u \times n_x}$ and $K_{cd} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_u \times n_y}$.

The pair $(x_s(k), u_s(k))$ is an equilibrium pair, satisfying $C x_s = C \hat{x}_P$ and $u(k) = K_{c1} (\hat{x}(k|k) - x_s(k)) + u_s(k)$ is equal to that of the baseline controller, if

$$\begin{bmatrix} (A-I) & B \\ C & 0 \\ -K_{c1} & I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_s(k) \\ u_s(k) \end{bmatrix} = G \begin{bmatrix} \hat{d}^T & y_Q^T & \hat{d}_P^T & \hat{x}_P^T & q_P^T \end{bmatrix}^T (k|k) \quad (13a)$$

$$\text{where } G = \begin{bmatrix} -B_d & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & C & 0 & 0 \\ K_{cd} & I & -K_{cd} & -K_{c1} & -I \end{bmatrix}. \quad (13b)$$

The final row is deduced by comparing expressions for the corresponding control actions and cancelling common terms.

Proposition 1: If there exists a vector $x_{\text{ref}}(k) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_x}$ such that

$$K_{c1} x_{\text{ref}}(k) = K_{c1} \hat{x}_P(k) + K_{cd} \hat{d}_P(k) + q_P(k) \quad (14a)$$

and there exist $\delta_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{n_x}$ and $\delta_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{n_u}$, such that

$$\begin{bmatrix} (A-I) & B \\ C & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \delta_1 \\ \delta_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ C \end{bmatrix} x_{\text{ref}} \quad (14b)$$

and that

$$\begin{bmatrix} -K_{c1} & I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \delta_1 \\ \delta_2 \end{bmatrix} = -K_{c1} x_{\text{ref}} + y_Q(k), \quad (14c)$$

then the pair $(x_s(k), u_s(k))$ is an equilibrium pair, satisfying $Cx_s = C\hat{x}_{\text{ref}}$ and the control action $u(k) = K_{c1}(\hat{x}(k|k) - x_s(k)) + u_s(k)$ is identical to that of the baseline controller, if

$$\begin{bmatrix} (A-I) & B \\ C & 0 \\ -K_{c1} & I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_s(k) \\ u_s(k) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -B_d & 0 \\ 0 & C \\ K_{cd} & -K_{c1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{d}(k|k) \\ x_{\text{ref}}(k) \end{bmatrix}. \quad (15)$$

Lemma 1: A sufficient condition for the existence of x_{ref} satisfying the conditions in Proposition 1 is that $\text{rank}(M) \leq n_x - n_u$, where

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} [-K_{c1} & I] \begin{bmatrix} (A-I) & B \\ C & 0 \end{bmatrix}^+ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ C \end{bmatrix} + K_{c1} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (16)$$

Proof: Noting that $n_y \leq n_u$, a sufficient condition for satisfaction of the conditions (14b) and (14c) can be obtained by solving (14b) for (δ_1, δ_2) and substituting into (14c) to obtain the condition $Mx_{\text{ref}} = y_Q$. However, (14a) must also be required to hold. A sufficient condition for existence is obtained by consideration of the dimensions of the left side of:

$$\begin{bmatrix} M \\ K_{c1} \end{bmatrix} x_{\text{ref}}(k) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ K_{c1} & K_{cd} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{x}_P(k|k) \\ \hat{d}_P(k|k) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} y_Q(k) \\ q_P(k) \end{bmatrix}. \quad (17)$$

Lemma 2: When K_{c1} and K_{cd} are chosen as prescribed, a solution to (15) exists.

Proof: When $Cx_{\text{ref}} = 0$, Assumption 4 implies that for any $d_\infty \in \mathbb{R}^{n_y}$, an equilibrium pair (x_∞, u_∞) must exist, such that $(A-I)x_\infty + Bu_\infty = -B_d d_\infty$ and $Cx_\infty = 0$. The observer-based realisation of the same controller, with zero reference, gives $u_\infty = K_{c1}x_\infty + K_{cd}d_\infty$. For $Cx_{\text{ref}} \neq 0$, choosing x_{ref} to satisfy (17) implies that there exists (δ_1, δ_2) satisfying (14b) and (14c). By linear superposition, the pair $(x_s, u_s) = (x_{s0} + \delta_1, u_{s0} + \delta_2)$ satisfies the required conditions. ■

Remark 2: When $\begin{bmatrix} (A-I) & B \\ C & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ has a unique inverse, (15) is equivalent to the standard conditions for equilibrium target calculation [21], [22] with reference setpoint Cx_{ref} . Otherwise, the additional constraints use the degrees of freedom to match the input from the original controller. When $D_Q = 0$, x_{ref} is a function only of the pre-filter reference state.

Remark 3: Assumption (4) states that $Cx(k) \rightarrow r(k)$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$ for the system in closed loop with (10). Controller (12) is equivalent to (10). Controller $u(k) = K_{c1}(x(k) - x_s(k)) + u_s(k)$, where $(x_s(k), u_s(k))$ satisfy (15) with x_{ref} satisfying (17), is equivalent to (12). Condition (15) implies that with the aforementioned controller $Cx(k) \rightarrow Cx_{\text{ref}}(k)$ [21]–[23]. Therefore $Cx_{\text{ref}}(k) \rightarrow r(k)$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$.

Remark 4: The objective is only to match the original controller when constraints are not active, so to avoid infeasibility in the presence of plant input and state constraints, similarly to the constraint that $Cx_s = Cx_{\text{ref}}$, it is preferable that these additional conditions $-K_{c1}x_s + u_s = K_{cd}\hat{d} - K_{c1}x_{\text{ref}}$ be implemented as “soft” constraints, that hold when state and input constraints are not active but may be violated in favour of state and input constraints.

C. Realisation as a predictive controller

The target equilibrium pair $(x_s(k), u_s(k))$, satisfying (15), where $x_{\text{ref}}(k)$ satisfies (17), and $\hat{x}_P(k|k)$, $\hat{d}_P(k|k)$, $y_Q(k)$ and $q_P(k)$ are obtained by implementing pre-filter and observer (12a-f) is used as a reference setpoint in the predictive controller with the cost function of the form (6), (7) or (8) designed to be inverse-optimal for gain K_{c1} and plant matrices (A, B) .

TABLE I
ALLOCATION OF CLOSED-LOOP DYNAMICS

Pole	1	0.976	$0.992 + j0.119$	$0.992 - j0.119$	0.558
Opt. 1	S	S	O	O	S
Opt. 2	S	O	S	S	O

(O indicates observer, S indicates state feedback)

Algorithm 3 (Linear model predictive control with reference tracking):

At each time step, k , let $\mathbf{u}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{u}} F_N(x_N - x_s) + \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \ell(x_i - x_s, u_i - u_s)$ subject to $x_0 = \hat{x}(k)$, $x_{i+1} = Ax_i + Bu_i + B_d \hat{d}(k|k)$, $u_i \in \mathbb{U}$, for $i \in \{0, \dots, N-1\}$ and $x_i \in \mathbb{X}$, for $i \in \{0, \dots, N\}$. Apply $u(k) = u_0^*$. Increment k .

VI. NUMERICAL EXAMPLE

The baseline plant and controller for this numerical example are taken from [32, ex 9.4.1] for a single axis attitude control system with angle measurement (in radians) only, and the applied torque (in Nm) as the plant input. For a sample time $T_s = 0.25$ s, the plant matrices are $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0.25 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$, $B = \frac{1}{500} \begin{bmatrix} 0.03125 \\ 0.25 \end{bmatrix}$, $C = [1 \ 0]$, $D = 0$. The controller matrices are $A_K = \begin{bmatrix} 1.4118 & -0.8235 \\ 0.5 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $B_K = [32 \ 0]^T$, $C_K = [-13.0133 \ -26.1415]$, and $D_K = -871.0478$. The poles of the baseline controller are at 1 and 0.4118, and the poles of the resulting closed-loop system are at 0.5579, $0.9115 \pm j0.1192$ and 0.9764. The augmented system (11) is formed with $B_d = B$ (i.e. a torque disturbance). The resulting closed loop system has an additional observable, but uncontrollable pole at $z = 1$. Since $D_K \neq 0$, $|D_K| \gg 0$, and $D_K \neq C_K A_K^{-1} B_K$, the filter-form observer (1) with static Youla parameter is chosen.

The integrating disturbance is uncontrollable, so must remain in $\text{spec}(A_a + B_a K_c)$, and the complex conjugate pair cannot be split, resulting in two feasible possible allocations of the closed-loop dynamics between $\text{spec}(A_a + B_a K_c)$ and $\text{spec}(A_a - A_a K_f C_a)$. For this example, $n_x = 3$ (due to the disturbance augmentation) but $n_K = 2$. Therefore, the process will introduce a single additional mode in the observer in the nullspace of T . For this example we will assume that $Q_y = \text{diag}(10^{-6}, 10^{-7}, 10^{-3})$ and $R_y = 1.2 \times 10^{-7}$. The latter corresponds to an RMS sensor error of $\approx 0.02^\circ$.

For each of the options in Table I the observer performance is evaluated in response to process and measurement noise Q_y and R_y in closed loop with the unconstrained inverse-optimal MPC using cost function (IV) regulating to the origin. The results are shown in Table II. Reproduction of the baseline control input is also verified. The maximum absolute error between the control input from the baseline realisation and the observer-based realisation is denoted u_{err} , and the RMS control inputs applied are presented to verify that the error is negligible in comparison, and denoted u_{rms} . Errors e_1 , e_2 and e_3 denote the RMS error in simulation on states 1, 2 and 3 respectively. We denote case (a) where structure (1) with gains chosen using Theorem 1 with K_N used to place $\text{spec}(T^{\perp T} (A - A K_f C) T^{\perp}) = 0$ is used as the basis for the design (for this model, this also causes $D_Q = 0$); case (b) where structure (5e) with an augmented observer is used; and case (c) where the degree of freedom K_N is used to approximately minimise the estimation error by application of [26]. The LMI solver SeDuMi [33] is used through the YALMIP interface [34] to solve for K_N and to find (Q, R, S, P) by solving (IV).

To demonstrate the inheritance of the offset-free tracking and constraint handling, realisation 1(c) is chosen (by virtue of Algorithm 1) with gains $[K_{c1}, K_{cd}] = [-83.4, -921, -1]$,

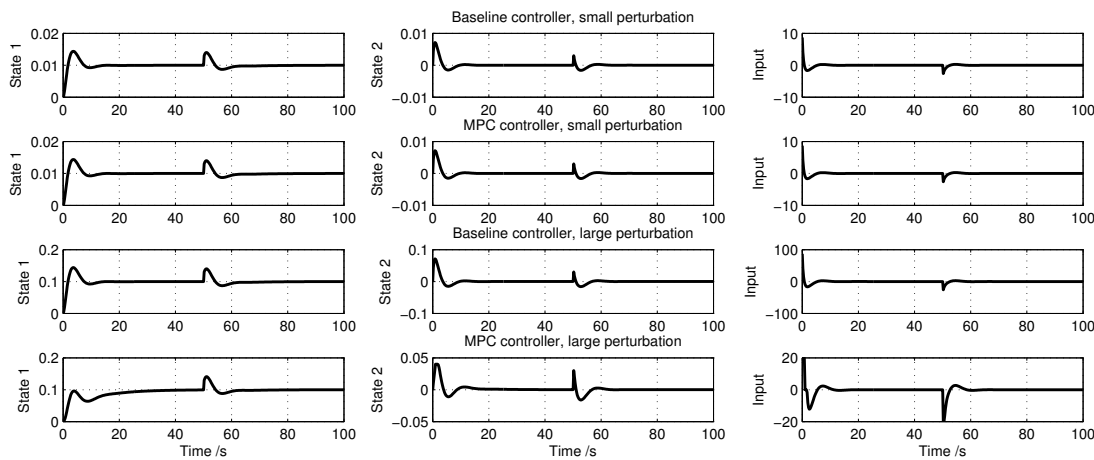


Fig. 1. Closed loop responses to step reference change and input disturbance for baseline and MPC realisation with constraints (note differences in axes)

TABLE II
EVALUATION OF OBSERVER PERFORMANCE

Option	1(a)	1(b)	1(c)
$\text{Tr}(\hat{P}_y)^{1/2}$	0.3865	0.17526	0.1830
D_Q	0	-777.0	-742.7
e_1	0.0004	0.0005	0.0016
e_2	0.0017	0.0040	0.0016
e_3	0.3659	0.1827	0.1859
u_{rms}	4.4613	4.4613	4.4613
u_{err}	4×10^{-7}	5×10^{-7}	2×10^{-6}

Option	2(a)	2(b)	2(c)
$\text{Tr}(\hat{P}_y)^{1/2}$	0.1970	0.17539	0.1857
D_Q	0	-777.0	-656.9
e_1	0.0004	0.0097	0.0006
e_2	0.0024	0.0179	0.0016
e_3	0.2127	0.1827	0.2108
u_{max}	4.4613	4.4613	4.4613
u_{err}	9×10^{-4}	2×10^{-3}	1×10^{-3}

TABLE III
STEP RESPONSE CONFIGURATIONS ($x_{(2)}$ DENOTES SECOND STATE)

Observer Realisation	Reference Value	Disturbance Magnitude	Controller	Constraints
1(c)	0.01	0.003	Baseline	—
1(c)	0.01	0.003	MPC	$ u \leq 20, x_{(2)} \leq 0.04$
1(c)	0.1	0.03	Baseline	—
1(c)	0.1	0.03	MPC	$ u \leq 20, x_{(2)} \leq 0.04$

$[AK_{f1}^T, AK_{f2}^T] = [0.2210, 0.1174, 7.7703]$. and cost matrices $Q = \begin{bmatrix} 0.0212 & 0.0019 \\ 0.0019 & 2.3454 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^3$, $R = 0.0017$ $S = \begin{bmatrix} 0.4617 \\ -0.2227 \end{bmatrix} \times 10^{-4}$,

$P = \begin{bmatrix} 0.9346 & 0.3946 \\ 0.3946 & 5.4712 \end{bmatrix}$. Figure 1 shows the responses to a step reference change at time $t = 0$ and a step input disturbance at time $t = 100$, for the magnitudes and controllers shown in Table III.

Process and measurement noise are omitted for clarity. The MPC controller performs identically to the baseline controller for the smaller reference and disturbance steps. For the larger reference and disturbance steps, the input and state constraints (which would be violated by the baseline controller), are respected and the first state converges to the reference.

VII. CONCLUSIONS

An approach to designing a constrained output-feedback predictive controller with the objective of reproducing the same small-signal properties as a pre-existing output-feedback linear time invariant controller has been proposed, with systematic guidelines to select the appropriate (non-unique) realisation of the resulting state observer. A class of offset-free reference tracking controllers is transformed into the combination of an observer, reference pre-filter, steady-state target calculator and predictive controller. The process is demonstrated in simulation for a simple offset-free tracking controller.

APPENDIX: PROOF OF SELECTED THEOREMS

Proof of Theorem 1: Consider a (non-minimal) realisation of the baseline controller

$$K_0(z) = \begin{bmatrix} A_K & 0 & B_K \\ A_{EK} & A_E & B_E \\ C_K & 0 & D_K \end{bmatrix} \quad (18)$$

where $A_{EK} \in \mathbb{R}^{(n_x - n_K) \times n_K}$, $A_E \in \mathbb{R}^{(n_x - n_K) \times (n_x - n_K)}$, $B_E \in \mathbb{R}^{(n_x - n_K) \times n_y}$ have arbitrary values, and A_E is Schur stable. T is of full row rank, $[T^T \ T^\perp]^T$ is invertible, with inverse $[T^+ \ T^\perp]$. Defining $A_c = A + BK_c$, consider the observer-based controller

$$K_{\text{obs}}(z) = \begin{bmatrix} A_c(I - K_f C) - BD_Q C & A_c K_f + BD_Q \\ K_c(I - K_f C) - D_Q C & K_c K_f + D_Q \end{bmatrix} \quad (19)$$

and a change of co-ordinates $\bar{K}_{\text{obs}}(z) = \begin{bmatrix} A_{\text{obs}} & B_{\text{obs}} \\ C_{\text{obs}} & D_{\text{obs}} \end{bmatrix}$, where

$A_{\text{obs}} = \begin{bmatrix} TM_1 T^+ & TM_1 T^\perp \\ T^{\perp T} M_1 T^+ & T^{\perp T} M_1 T^\perp \end{bmatrix}$, $M_1 = A - AK_f C + BK_c - BK_c K_f C - BD_Q C$, $B_{\text{obs}} = \begin{bmatrix} TAK_f + TBD_{\text{obs}} \\ T^{\perp T} AK_f + T^{\perp T} BD_{\text{obs}} \end{bmatrix}$, $C_{\text{obs}} = [(K_c - D_{\text{obs}} C)T^+, (K_c - D_{\text{obs}} C)T^\perp]$, $D_{\text{obs}} = K_c K_f + D_Q$. Let $\bar{K}_c = D_K C + C_K T$, $AK_f = T^+ B_K - BD_K + T^\perp K_N$, and $D_Q = D_K - K_c K_f$, then $TM_1 = TA + TBD_K C - B_K C + TBC_K T$, $B_{\text{obs}} = [B_K^T \ K_N^T]^T$, and $C_{\text{obs}} = [C_K \ 0]$. If (2) holds then $TM_1 = AK T$ and $TM_1 T^+ = AK$, and $TM_1 T^\perp = 0$. \bar{K}_{obs} is related to (19) by similarity transformation, and \bar{K}_{obs} is equal to (18) with $A_{EK} = T^{\perp T} (A + BD_K C - T^\perp K_N C) T^+ + T^{\perp T} B C_K$, $A_E = T^{\perp T} (A + BD_K C - T^\perp K_N C) T^\perp$, and $B_E = K_N$, which in turn is a (non-minimal) realisation of the original regulator. Therefore (19) is a (non-minimal) realisation of that too. ■

Proof of Corollary 1: $K_c K_f = (D_K C + C_K T) A^{-1} (T^+ B_K + T^+ K_N - B D_K) = C_K A_K^{-1} (B_K C + A_K T) A^{-1} ((T^+ - B C_K A_K^{-1}) B_K + T^+ K_N)$. By rearrangement and factorisation, $T A = (I - T B C_K A_K^{-1}) (B_K C + A_K T)$. Therefore, $B_K C + A_K T = (I - T B C_K A_K^{-1})^{-1} T A$, and $K_c K_f = C_K A_K^{-1} (I - T B C_K A_K^{-1})^{-1} (I - T B C_K A_K^{-1}) B_K = D_K$. ■

Proof that $(K_c(I - K_f C) - D_Q C) T^+ = 0$: $(K_c(I - K_f C) - D_Q C) T^+ = (C_K T + D_K C - K_c K_f C - (D_K - K_c K_f) C) T^+ = C_K T T^+ = 0$. ■

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