Model predictive scheduling of semi-cyclic discrete-event systems using switching max-plus linear models

with an application in railway traffic management

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Contents

1st part: Scheduling of semi-cyclic discrete-event systems.

- Switching max-plus linear systems + Dynamic graphs.
- Examples of SMPL systems.
- Scheduling with SMPL systems.
- Model Predictive Scheduling.

2nd part: Application on Railway traffic management.

- Basic Railway traffic model.
- Distributed Model Predictive Scheduling.
- Disruption management.

Part 1: Scheduling of semi-cyclic discrete-event systems.

Scheduling is the process of deciding how to allocate a set of jobs to limited resources over time in such a way that one or more objectives are optimized.

Operational scheduling or *rescheduling* deals with adaptive on-line scheduling in response to the unexpected events.

Cyclic discrete-event system: Jobs appear in a repatative way.

Semi-cyclic discrete-event system: Changes in jobs and resources per cycle may occur.

Max-Plus Algebra

Define
$$\varepsilon = -\infty$$
 and $\mathbb{R}_{\varepsilon} = \mathbb{R} \cup \{\varepsilon\}$.
 $x \oplus y = \max(x, y)$ $x \otimes y = x + y$
 $[A \oplus B]_{ij} = [A]_{ij} \oplus [B]_{ij} = \max([A]_{ij}, [B]_{ij})$
 $[A \otimes C]_{ij} = \bigoplus_{k=1}^{n} [A]_{ik} \otimes [C]_{kj} = \max_{k=1,...,n} ([A]_{ik} + [C]_{kj})$
 $[A \odot B]_{ij} = [A]_{ij} + [B]_{ij}$

Let $v \in \mathbb{B}_{\varepsilon} = \{0, \varepsilon\}$ be a max-plus binary variable. The adjoint variable $\overline{v} \in \mathbb{B}_{\varepsilon}$ is defined as follows:

$$\bar{v} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } v = \varepsilon \\ \varepsilon & \text{if } v = 0 \end{cases}$$

Max-plus linear systems

Max-plus linear system:

$$x(k) = A(k) \otimes x(k-1) \oplus B(k) \otimes u(k)$$

where

$k\in\mathbb{Z}$	= event counter.
$A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}_{\varepsilon}$	= system matrix in cycle k .
$B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}_{\varepsilon}$	= system matrix in cycle k .

Switching max-plus linear system:

The system can run in different modes $\ell(k) \in \{1, \ldots, n_m\}$:

SMPL system:

$$x(k) = A(\ell(k), k) \otimes x(k-1) \oplus B(\ell(k), k) \otimes u(k)$$

Switching function:

$$\ell(k) = \phi_{s}(x(k-1), \ell(k-1), u(k), v(k))$$

Implicit SMPL system:

$$x(k) = \left(\bigoplus_{i=0}^{\bar{\mu}} A^{(i)}(\ell(k), k) \otimes x(k-i)\right) \oplus B(\ell(k), k) \otimes u(k)$$

Dynamic graph (Murota)

Definition:

A dynamic graph

 $G = (G_0^1, \dots, G_n^1, G_0^2, \dots, G_n^2, \dots, G_0^m, \dots, G_n^m)$

is a sequence of graphs, where $G_0^k = (X^k, E_0^k)$ is a directed graph with only nonpositive circuit weights, and $G_{\mu}^k = (X^k, X^{k-\mu}, E_{\mu}^k)$, $\mu = 1, \ldots, n$ is a directed bipartite graph where E_{μ}^k being the set of edges from $X^{k-\mu}$ to X^k . The nodes X_k represent the state of a system at event step k. The weight of the edge of G_0^k from node $[X^k]_j$ to $[X^k]_i$ is equal to $[A^{(0)}(\ell(k))]_{ij}$. The weight of the edge of G_{μ}^k from node $[X^{k-\mu}]_j$ to $[X^k]_i$ is equal to $[A^{(\mu)}(\ell(k))]_{ij}$.

Examples of SMPL systems

- production system
- printer
- legged robot
- container terminal
- railway network



 $\begin{aligned} x_1(k) &= \max(x_1(k-1) + d_1, u_1(k)) \\ x_2(k) &= \max(x_2(k-1) + d_2, u_2(k)) \\ x_3(k) &= \max(x_1(k) + d_1, x_3(k-1) + d_3) \\ x_4(k) &= \max(x_2(k) + d_2, x_4(k-1) + d_4) \\ x_5(k) &= \max(x_3(k) + d_3, x_4(k) + d_4, x_5(k-1) + d_5) \\ y(k) &= x_5(k) + d_5 \end{aligned}$

leading to the following matrices for the first mode:

Second mode:

$$x_1(k) = \max(x_1(k-1) + d_1, u_1(k))$$

$$x_2(k) = \max(x_2(k-1) + d_2, u_2(k))$$

$$x_3(k) = \max(x_2(k) + d_2, x_3(k-1) + d_3)$$

$$x_4(k) = \max(x_1(k) + d_1, x_4(k-1) + d_4)$$

$$x_5(k) = \max(x_3(k) + d_3, x_4(k) + d_4, x_5(k-1) + d_5)$$

$$y(k) = x_5(k) + d_5$$

System matrices for the second mode:

The dynamic graph for mode 1 in cycle k and mode 2 in cycle k + 1:



Printer



Duplex printing:

$$x_1(k) = \max(u(k) + \tau_1, x_3(k-2) + \tau_2)$$

$$x_2(k) = \max(x_1(k) + \tau_2 + \tau_3, x_2(k-1) + \tau_2 + \tau_3)$$

$$x_3(k) = \max(x_1(k+1) + \tau_2, x_2(k) + \tau_4)$$

$$x_4(k) = x_3(k) + \tau_2 + \tau_5$$



Simplex printing:



Legged robots



Tripod gait $\mathcal{L}_1 = \{2, 3, 6\}$ and $\mathcal{L}_2 = \{1, 4, 5\}$. Tetrapod gait: $\mathcal{L}_1 = \{1, 4\}$, $\mathcal{L}_2 = \{3, 6\}$ and $\mathcal{L}_3 = \{2, 5\}$.

$$x(k) = \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon & \tau_f \otimes E \\ \hline P & \varepsilon \end{bmatrix} \otimes x(k) \oplus \begin{bmatrix} E & \varepsilon \\ \hline \tau_g \otimes E \oplus Q & E \end{bmatrix} \otimes x(k-1)$$

where

$$\begin{split} [P]_{pq} &= \begin{cases} \tau_{\Delta}, & \forall j \in \{1, m-1\}; \forall p \in \mathcal{L}_{j+1}; \forall q \in \mathcal{L}_{j} \\ \varepsilon & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ [Q]_{pq} &= \begin{cases} \tau_{\Delta}, & \forall p \in \mathcal{L}_{1}; \forall q \in \mathcal{L}_{m} \\ \varepsilon & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \end{split}$$

Tripod gait $\mathcal{L}_1 = \{2, 3, 6\}$ and $\mathcal{L}_2 = \{1, 4, 5\}$. Tetrapod gait: $\mathcal{L}_1 = \{1, 4\}$, $\mathcal{L}_2 = \{3, 6\}$ and $\mathcal{L}_3 = \{2, 5\}$. System matrices for tripod gait:

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 and

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$ au_g$	arepsilon	arepsilon	arepsilon	arepsilon	E	0	${\mathcal E}$	${\cal E}$	${\mathcal E}$	${\cal E}$	ε
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Container terminal



 $\begin{array}{ll} k & = \mbox{ be the number of the container,} \\ x_{{\rm q},i}(k) & = \mbox{ time of loading }k\mbox{th container on AGV at point B,} \\ x_{{\rm s},i}(k) & = \mbox{ time of unloading }k\mbox{th container from AGV at point C.} \end{array}$

Define:

- Q(k) = quay crane that is handles container k,
- V(k) = AGV that handles container k,
- S(k) = stack crane that handles container k.
- $au_{
 m q}(k)$ = time quay crane needs to lift container from the ship,
- $\tau_{\rm s}(k)$ = time stack crane needs to put container in the yard,

 $\tau_{\mathrm{u},j,i}(k) = \mathrm{transp.}$ time of unloaded vehicle from stack crane j to quay crane i, $\tau_{\mathrm{l},j,i}(k) = \mathrm{transp.}$ time of loaded vehicle from quay crane i to stack crane j. Define the state

$$\begin{aligned} x(k) &= \begin{bmatrix} x_{\mathrm{q}}^{T}(k) & x_{\mathrm{s}}^{T}(k) \end{bmatrix}^{T} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} x_{\mathrm{q},1}(k) & \cdots & x_{\mathrm{q},N_{\mathrm{q}}}(k) & x_{\mathrm{s},1}(k) & \cdots & x_{\mathrm{s},N_{\mathrm{s}}}(k) \end{bmatrix}^{T} \end{aligned}$$

For $x_{\mathbf{q},i}(k)$ and $x_{\mathbf{s},j}(k)$ we derive

$$x_{q,i}(k) = \begin{cases} \max\left(x_{q,i}(k-1) + \tau_{q}(k), x_{s,j}(k-m(k)) + \tau_{u,j,i}(k)\right)\right) \\ \text{if } i = Q(k), j = S(k-m(k)) \\ x_{q,i}(k-1) & \text{if } i \neq Q(k) \end{cases}$$
$$x_{s,j}(k) = \begin{cases} \max\left(x_{q,i}(k) + \tau_{1,i,j}(k), x_{s,j}(k-1)\right) \\ \text{if } j = S(k) \text{ and } i = Q(k) \\ x_{s,i}(k-1) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where

$$m(k) = \max_{\ell > 0} \{ \ell | V(k - \ell) = V(k) \},\$$

State matrices A_i , i = 0, 1, ...:

$$\begin{split} [A^{(0)}]_{ij}(k) &= \begin{cases} \tau_{\mathrm{l},i,j}(k) & \text{if } j = S(k) \text{ and } i = Q(k) \\ \varepsilon & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ \\ [A^{(1)}(k)]_{ij} &= \begin{cases} \tau_{\mathrm{q}}(k) & \text{if } i = j, i = Q(k), i \leq N_{\mathrm{q}} \\ \tau_{\mathrm{q}}(k) & \text{if } i = j, i = N_{\mathrm{q}} + S(k), i > N_{\mathrm{q}} \\ 0 & \text{if } i = j, i \neq Q(k) \\ \tau_{\mathrm{u},j,i}(k) & \text{if } i \neq j, m(k) = 1, i = Q(k), \\ j = S(k-1) \\ \varepsilon & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ \\ [A^{(\mu)}(k)]_{ij} &= \begin{cases} \tau_{\mathrm{u},j,i}(k) & \text{if } i \neq j, m(k) = \mu, i = Q(k), \\ j = S(k-\mu) \\ \varepsilon & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \end{split}$$

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Consider a small container terminal with $N_q = N_v = N_s = 2$.

$$\begin{bmatrix} Q(k-1) Q(k) Q(k+1) Q(k+2) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} V(k-1) V(k) V(k+1) V(k+2) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} S(k-1) S(k) S(k+1) S(k+2) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



Scheduling with SMPL systems

Derive Switching Max-Plus-Linear model with 3 basic types of decisions:

- Routing
- Ordering
- Synchronization

Routing

Job with (p-1) operations



$$x_{2}(k) \geq x_{1}(k) + \tau_{1}(k)$$

$$x_{3}(k) \geq x_{2}(k) + \tau_{2}(k)$$

$$\vdots$$

$$x_{p}(k) \geq x_{p-1}(k) + \tau_{p-1}(k)$$

In max-plus matrix notation this can be written as

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1(k) \\ x_2(k) \\ \vdots \\ x_p(k) \end{bmatrix} \ge \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon & \varepsilon & \dots & \varepsilon \\ \tau_1(k) & \varepsilon & & \varepsilon \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \varepsilon & \dots & \tau_{p-1}(k) & \varepsilon \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} x_1(k) \\ x_2(k) \\ \vdots \\ x_p(k) \end{bmatrix}$$

or in short notation

 $x(k) \ge A_{\mathrm{job}}(k) \otimes x(k)$

Multiple cycles state equation:

$$A_{\rm job}(k) = \bigoplus_{\mu=1}^{L} w_{\mu} \otimes A_{\rm job}^{(\mu)}(k) \otimes x(k-\mu)$$

L alternative routes \longrightarrow L different system matrices:

$$A^{(\mu)}_{\mathrm{job},\ell}(k)$$
 for $\ell=1,\ldots,L$

Max-plus binary variables $\omega_i(k)$, $i = 1, \ldots, L$ such that for route ℓ we have

$$\omega_\ell(k)=0$$
 and $\omega_i(k)=arepsilon$ for $i
eq\ell$

Job-system matrices:

$$A_{\rm job}^{(\mu)}(\omega(k),k) = \bigoplus_{\ell=1}^{L} \omega_{\ell}(k) \otimes A_{\rm job,\ell}^{(\mu)}(k)$$

Ordering operations on resources



n operations *N* resources *L* alternative routes $\omega_{\ell}(k)$ routing variables

 $[P_{\ell}]_{ij} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if operation } i \text{ and operation } j \text{ are on same resource} \\ \varepsilon & \text{if operation } i \text{ and operation } j \text{ are } \underline{\text{not}} \text{ on same resource} \end{cases}$

Matrix $P(\omega(k))$ for selection of the resources:

$$P(\omega(k)) = \bigoplus_{\ell=1}^{L} \omega(k) \otimes P_{\ell}$$

Separation matrix

 $[H]_{i,j}(k) = \begin{cases} \tau_{i,j}^{o}(k) & \text{if operations } i \text{ and } j \text{ may be on same resource} \\ \varepsilon & \text{if operations } i \text{ and } j \text{ are } \underline{\text{never}} \text{ on same resource} \end{cases}$

Order max-plus binary decision matrices

 $\begin{cases} Z^{(\mu)}]_{i,j}(k) = \\ 0 & \text{if operation } i \text{ in cycle } k \text{ is after operation } j \text{ in cycle } k + \mu \\ \varepsilon & \text{if operation } i \text{ in cycle } k \text{ is before operation } j \text{ in cycle } k + \mu \end{cases}$

Ordering system matrices

 $A_{\mathrm{ord}}^{(\mu)}(\omega(k),\gamma^{(\mu)}(k),k) = P(\omega(k)) \odot Z^{((\mu))}(\gamma^{\mu}(k)) \odot H(k)$

Ordering constraints in the system

$$x(k) \ge \bigoplus_{\mu=\mu_{\min}}^{\mu_{\max}} A_{\text{ord}}^{(\mu)}(\omega(k), \gamma^{(\mu)}(k), k) \otimes x(k-\mu)$$

Synchronization of operations



Synchronization between operations in different jobs, e.g.

- synchronization of legs in a legged robot.
- two trains on platform give passengers opportunity to change trains.

Define synchronization modes $\ell = 1, \ldots, L_{sync}$.

$$[A_{\mathrm{syn},\ell}^{(\mu)}(k)]_{ij} = \begin{cases} \tau_{i,j}^{\mathrm{s}}(k) & \text{if operation } j \text{ in cycle } k \text{ may be scheduled after} \\ & \text{operation } i \text{ in cycle } k + \mu \\ \varepsilon & \text{elsewhere} \end{cases}$$

Define max-plus binary synchronization variable s(k). The synchronization system matrix is given by

$$A_{\rm syn}^{(\mu)}(\sigma(k),k) = \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^{L_{\rm syn}} \sigma_{\ell}(k) \otimes A_{{\rm syn},\ell}^{(\mu)}(k)$$

and the operation synchronization constraints become:

$$x(k) \ge \bigoplus_{\mu=1}^{\bar{\mu}} A_{\text{syn}}^{(\mu)}(s(k), k) \otimes x(k-\mu).$$

Overall MPL system

Max-plus binary decision variables

- Routing: w(k)
- Ordering: $\gamma^{(\mu)}(k)$
- Synchronization: s(k)

Stack all decision variables into one vector

$$v(k) = \begin{bmatrix} w(k) \\ \gamma^{(0)}(k) \\ \vdots \\ \gamma^{(\bar{\mu})}(k) \\ s(k) \end{bmatrix} \in (\mathbb{B}_{\varepsilon})^{L_{\text{tot}}}$$

where L_{tot} is the total number of scheduling variables.

Define overall system matrix

$$\begin{aligned} A^{(\mu)}(v(k),k) &= A^{(\mu)}_{\text{job}}(\omega(k),k) \oplus A^{(\mu)}_{\text{ord}}(\omega(k),\gamma^{(\mu)}(k),k) \oplus A^{(\mu)}_{\text{syn}}(\sigma(k)) \\ &= \bigoplus_{\ell=1}^{L_{\text{tot}}} v_{\ell}(k) \otimes A^{(\mu)}_{\text{tot},\ell}(k) \end{aligned}$$

Matrix $A^{(\mu)}$ is max-plus affine in the control variables v(k). The scheduling model is as follows

$$x(k) = \bigoplus_{\mu=0}^{\bar{\mu}} A^{(\mu)}(v(k), k) \otimes x(k-\mu) \oplus r(k)$$

Control vector v(k) decides on mode of operation.

Model Predictive Scheduling

Receding horizon principle

- Not schedule for the complete task
- In several iterations with prediction horizon (only jobs in nearest future)

Model Predictive Scheduling problem at time t:

$$\min_{\substack{v(k+j,t), j=0,...,N_{\rm p}-1}} J(k,t)$$

subject to

$$x(k+j,k+j,t) = \bigoplus_{\mu=0}^{\bar{\mu}} A^{(\mu)}(v(k+j,t),k+j,t) \otimes x(k+j-\mu,t) \oplus r(k+j)$$

where the performance index J(k,t) is usually given by

$$J(k,t) = \delta \max_{i=1,...,n} x_i(k+N_{\rm p},t) + \sum_{j=0}^{N_{\rm p}-1} \sum_{i=1}^n \kappa_{j,i} x_i(k+j,t) + \sum_{j=0}^{N_{\rm p}-1} \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \max\left(x_i(k+j,t) - x_{{\rm d},i}(k+j), 0\right) - \sum_{j=0}^{N_{\rm p}-1} \sum_{m=1}^{n_u} \rho_{j,m} u_m(k+j,t) + \sum_{l=1}^{L_{\rm tot}} \sigma_{j,l} v_l^{\flat}(k+j,t).$$

where

$$v_l^\flat(k+j,t) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } v_l(k+j,t) = \varepsilon \\ 1 & \text{for } v_l(k+j,t) = 0 \end{cases}$$

is a conventional binary variable.

Mixed-Integer Linear Programming

The model predictive scheduling problem can be recast into a mixed-integer linear programming problem as follows:

• Use the following approximation

 $v_i(k,t) = \beta \left(1 - v_i^{\flat}(k,t)\right)$

where $\beta \ll 0$ is a very large (in absolute value) negative number.

- Max-plus constraints become linear constraints.
- Object function becomes linear function.

There exist fast and reliable solvers (e.g. CPLEX, Xpres) for MILP.

Part II: Application on Railway traffic management

- Dutch railway network
- Minimize sum of delays
- Disturbances: small perturbations handled by reordering trains.
- Disruptions: blocked tracks lead to large decrease in network capacity.
- Develop decision support systems for the dispatchers.
- Model predictive scheduling approach.
- Centralized MPS \longrightarrow Distributed MPS.
- Macroscopic model with some specific microscopic features.

Railway traffic model

A max-plus linear model is used to predict the effects of the dispatching actions.

- local management of routing in stations and interlocking area.
- station and interlocking area are modeled as single point.
- track between points modeled as single segment.
- block sections/signaling not modeled explicitly.
- time separation \rightarrow headway constraints.

State:
$$x(k) = \begin{bmatrix} d_1(k) \\ \vdots \\ d_n(k) \\ a_1(k) \\ \vdots \\ a_n(k) \end{bmatrix}$$

Max-plus linear

Running time constraint models a train traversing a track. Continuity constraint models a train dwelling at a station. Headway constraints ensure a safe distance between trains on the same track. Connection constraint models the transfers at stations.

The general form of these four constraints is:

 $x_i \ge x_j + \tau_{ij}$

 $x_i, x_j \in \mathbb{R}$ are departure and arrival times at stations. $\tau_{ij} \in \mathbb{R}$ is the minimum process time (dwell, running, headway, separation, or connection time).

Timetable constraints: For $r_i \in \mathbb{R}$ is the scheduled departure time

 $x_i \ge r_i$

Switching max-plus linear model

For changing the order of the trains we adapt constraints with control variables

$$x_i \ge x_j + \tau_{ij} + (\gamma_{ij} + \omega_{ij}) \tag{1}$$

$$x_j \ge x_i + \tau_{ji} + (\bar{\gamma}_{ij} + \omega_{ij}),, \qquad (2)$$

where γ_{ij} and ω_{ij} are max-plus binary control variables. Ordering variable γ_{ij} "enables" and "disables" constraints. Routing variable ω_{ij} decides if train iand j use the same track.

Model predictive scheduling of Dutch railway network

Dutch railway network:

- 326 train runs
- 1930 continuous variables
- 2744 binary variables
- 22050 constraints

Distributed Model Predictive Scheduling

- MILP is split up into several interacting smaller MILPs
- Each smaller MILP is solved separately
- Coordination between smaller MILPs to reach good traffic control
- For $N_p = 75$ minutes: computation time is less than 60 seconds.





Birmingham - June 18, 2018

Disruption management

- Define disrupted region
- Cancelling trains
- Short-turn trains
- Shunting trains
- Platform assignment
- Distributed model predictive scheduling of disrupted network







A. Station Dordrecht

B. Station Lage-Zwaluwe

Discussion

- semi-cyclic discrete-event systems can be modeled as SMPL systems
- switching max-plus linear systems in the context scheduling
- scheduling problem can be recast as a mixed-integer linear program
- rescheduling of the Dutch disturbed railway network
- rescheduling of the Dutch disrupted railway network
 - 1. Cancelling trains
 - 2. Short-turn trains
 - 3. Shunting trains
 - 4. Platform assignment
- future work:
 - 1. study the effect of noise in SMPL systems
 - 2. reduce computation effort