

# Steady-State Optimality Analysis of MPC Controllers

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ESCAPE 34 – PSE 24  
June 2–6, 2024

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**2-6 June 2024**

**Florence, Italy**



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# Motivation

- Distillation column
- Processing heavy oil distillates to oil fractions
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- Economical aspects – constraints manipulation alerts

Process Variable	Label	No.
Controlled	<i>CV</i>	23
Manipulated	<i>MV</i>	11
Disturbance	<i>DV</i>	13
Total		47

Process Constraint	No.
Controlled	46
Manipulated	22
Total	68

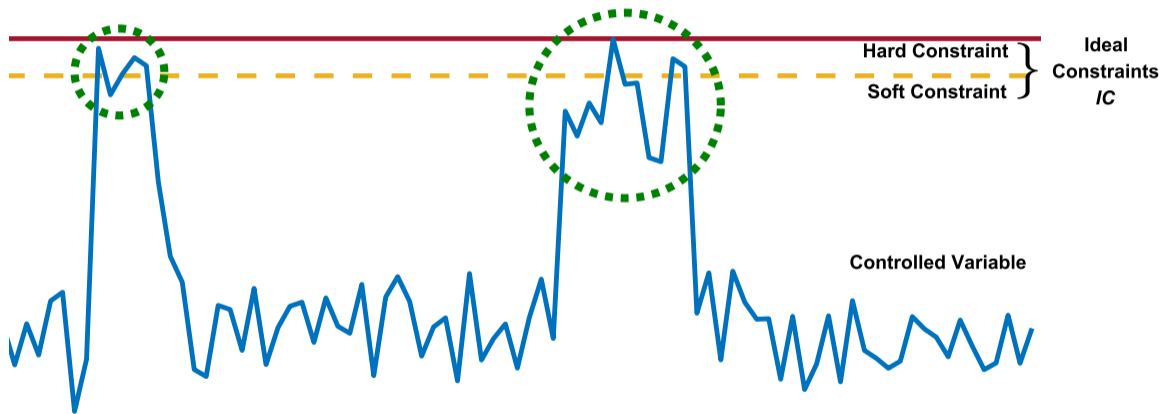
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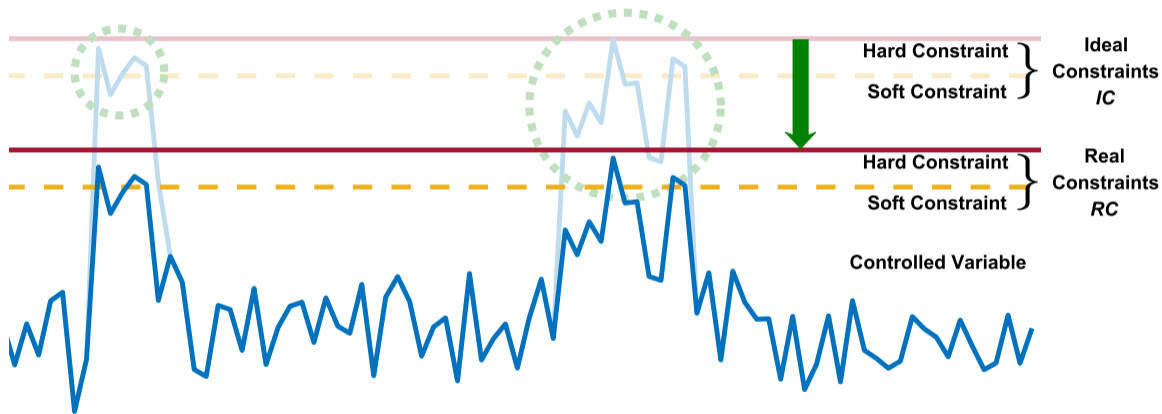
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## Fluctuations



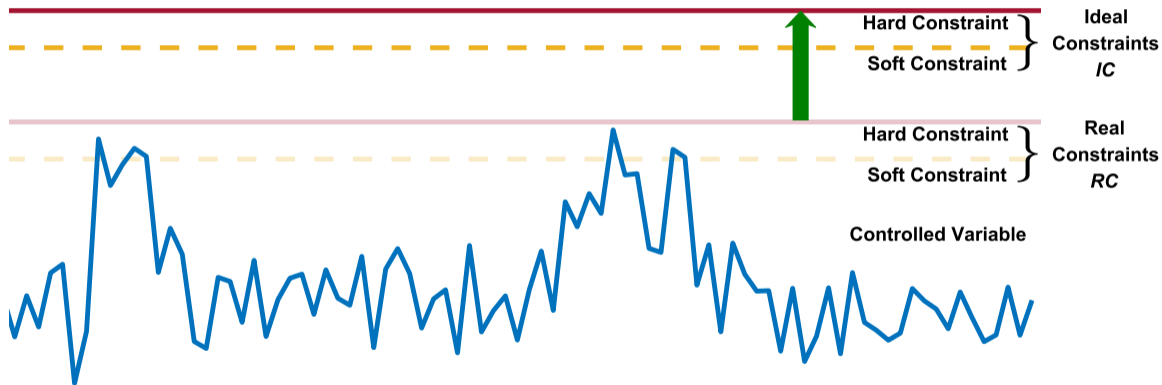
# Example of Problem

## Fluctuations



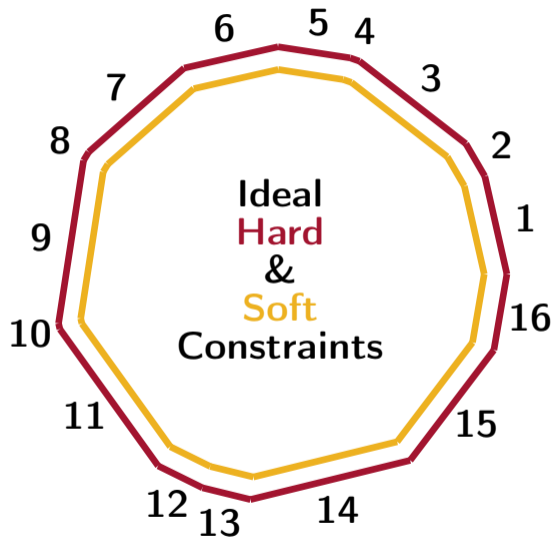
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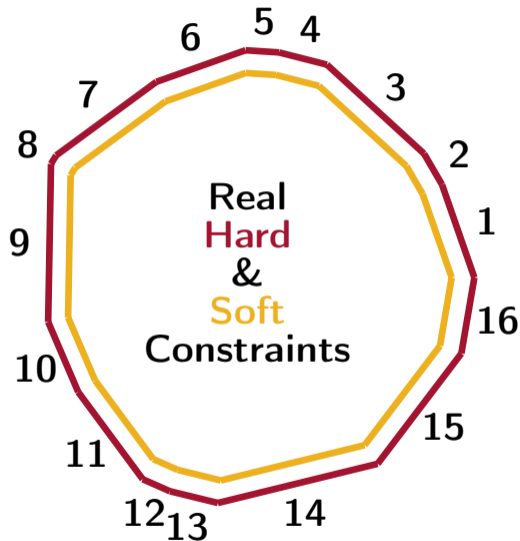




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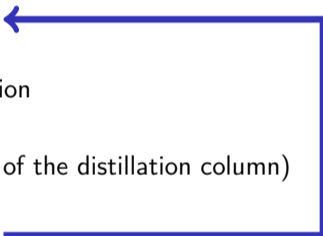


# Steady-State Problem Formulation

- Optimization problem – MPC analysis in steady-state
- Objective function  $J$ 
  - Quadratic formulation
  - Soft constraints implementation
- Constraints
  - Equality (steady-state model of the distillation column)
  - Inequality
    - Hard & soft constraints
    - Slack constraints

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  - Inequality
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Constraint change  
?  
=  
Objective function change  
=  
Profit generation change

# Sensitivity Analysis

**Local sensitivity analysis**  
(Ideal Lagrange multiplier  $\lambda_i^*$ )

$$\lambda_i^* = -\frac{\partial J_{Ideal}(x^*)}{\partial IC_i}$$

for  $i$ -th constraint

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(Real Lagrange multiplier  $\tilde{\lambda}_i^*$ )

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for each  $RC_i \neq IC_i$

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**Pro** Only 1 optimization

**Con** Works for infinitesimal  
constraint change

**Non-local sensitivity analysis**  
(Real Lagrange multiplier  $\tilde{\lambda}_i^*$ )

$$\tilde{\lambda}_i^* = \frac{J_{Real,i}(x^*) - J_{Ideal}(x^*)}{RC_i - IC_i}$$

for each  $RC_i \neq IC_i$

**Pro** Works for any size of  
constraint change

**Con**  $N + 1$  optimizations

# One Operating Point Recommendations

- Create a list of Lagrange multipliers.
- Check – constraints order (edit distance)

Priority	Constraint name	Lagrange multiplier	Verbal recommendation
1	MV 2 HL	24,000,000	Keep the constraint in place
2	CV 10 LL	21,000,000	Keep the constraint in place
3	MV 4 LL	850,000	Keep the constraint in place
4	CV 8 HL	9,999	Move the real constraint to the ideal
5	CV 20 HL	9,999	Move the real constraint to the ideal
6	CV 14 LL	1,380	Keep the constraint in place
7	CV 1 HL	100	Move the real constraint to the ideal



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Priority	Lagrange multiplier				Constraint change [rel. %]
	Constraint	LSA	NSA	Constraint	
1	CV 8 HL	9,999	9,999	CV 8 HL	0.28
2	CV 20 HL	9,999	9,999	CV 20 HL	0.57
3	CV 1 HL	100	93	CV 1 HL	1.83

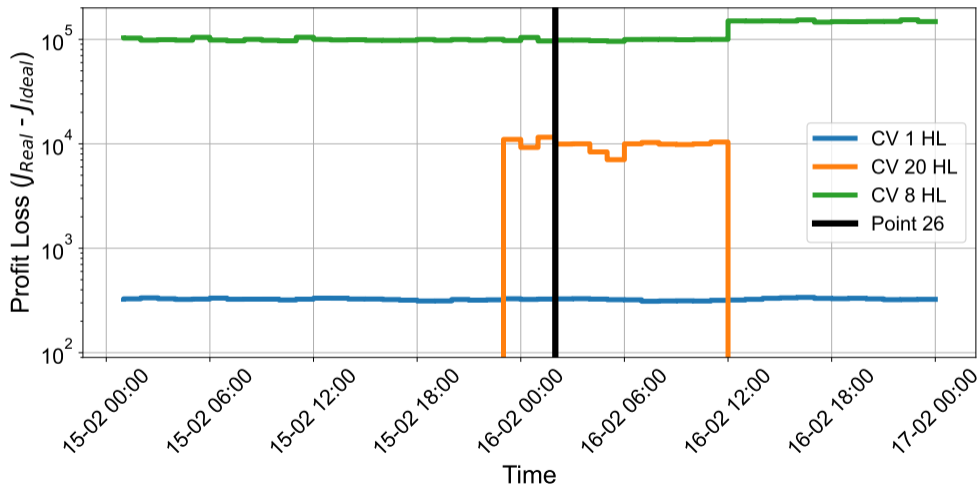
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Edit distance = 0

# Long-Term Profit Loss



# Results

- Distillation column plant
- MPC analysis in steady-state
- Constraints sensitivity
- Recommendations list
- Open-source application



Python source

Acknowledgments: APVV-21-0019, VEGA 1/0691/21, EC 101079342 (FrontSeat)

# Optimization Problem

$$\min_{CV, MV, \epsilon, E} J = \sum_{i=1}^s b_{CV,i} CV_i + \sum_{i=1}^s a_{CV,i}^2 (CV_i - CV_{0,i})^2 + \sum_{j=1}^t b_{MV,j} MV_j + \sum_{j=1}^t a_{MV,j}^2 (MV_j - MV_{0,j})^2$$

$$+ \sum_{i=1}^s Q_{CV,H,i} E_{CV,H,i} + \sum_{i=1}^s Q_{CV,L,i} E_{CV,L,i} + \sum_{j=1}^t Q_{MV,H,j} E_{MV,H,j} + \sum_{j=1}^t Q_{MV,L,j} E_{MV,L,j}$$

$$\text{s.t. } CV_i - CV_i^{SS} = \sum_{j=1}^t K_{i,j} (MV_j - MV_j^{SS}),$$

$$\lambda_i : \mathbf{CV}_{L,i} + \Delta \mathbf{CV}_{L,i} - \epsilon_{CV,L,i} \leq \mathbf{CV}_i \leq \mathbf{CV}_{H,i} - \Delta \mathbf{CV}_{H,i} + \epsilon_{CV,H,i},$$

$$\lambda_j : \mathbf{MV}_{L,j} + \Delta \mathbf{MV}_{L,j} - \epsilon_{MV,L,j} \leq \mathbf{MV}_j \leq \mathbf{MV}_{H,j} - \Delta \mathbf{MV}_{H,j} + \epsilon_{MV,H,j},$$

$$0 \leq \epsilon_{CV,H,i}, \quad 0 \leq \epsilon_{CV,L,i},$$

$$0 \leq \epsilon_{MV,H,j} \leq \Delta \mathbf{MV}_{H,j}, \quad 0 \leq \epsilon_{MV,L,j} \leq \Delta \mathbf{MV}_{L,j},$$

$$\epsilon_{CV,H,i} \leq E_{CV,H,i}, \quad \epsilon_{CV,L,i} \leq E_{CV,L,i},$$

$$\epsilon_{MV,H,j} \leq E_{MV,H,j}, \quad \epsilon_{MV,L,j} \leq E_{MV,L,j}.$$