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Exploring Optimization and Robust Control Techniques for use in Control Design of Nonlinear Dynamic Systems

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2021 Engineering Sciences Research Foundation External Review

Flash Talks: Spanning R-D-A Spectrum in Engineering Sciences

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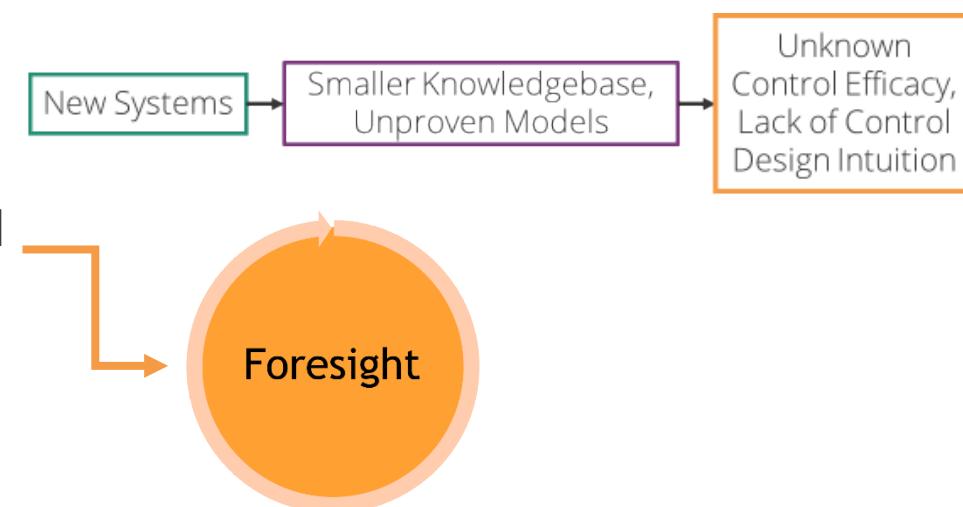
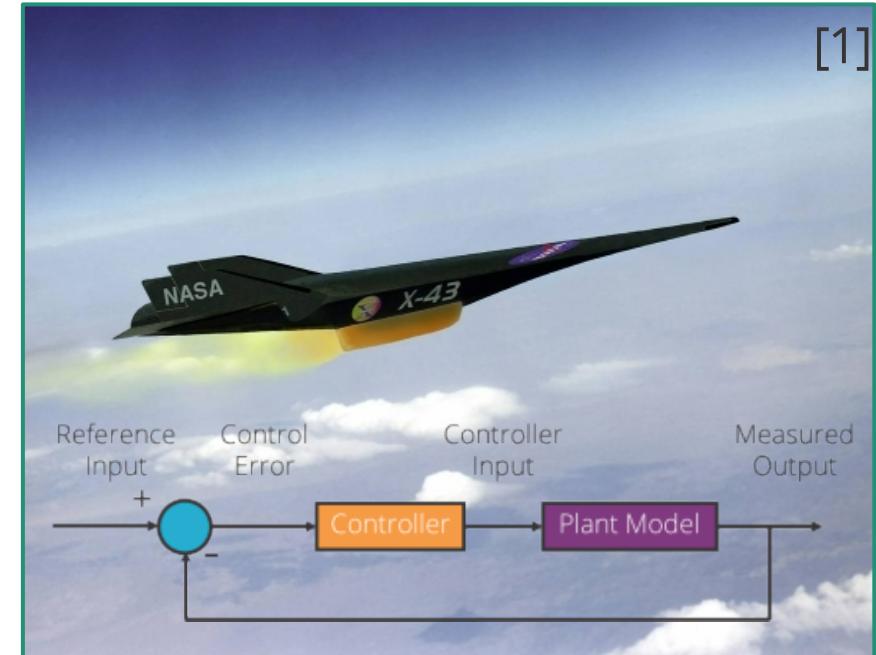
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Background and Motivation

- Developing complex control systems can require substantial intuition and experience
- Traditional control design techniques can be combined with black-box or white-box optimization methods
- Creating these tools now will increase the efficacy of the control design process and decrease the design burden



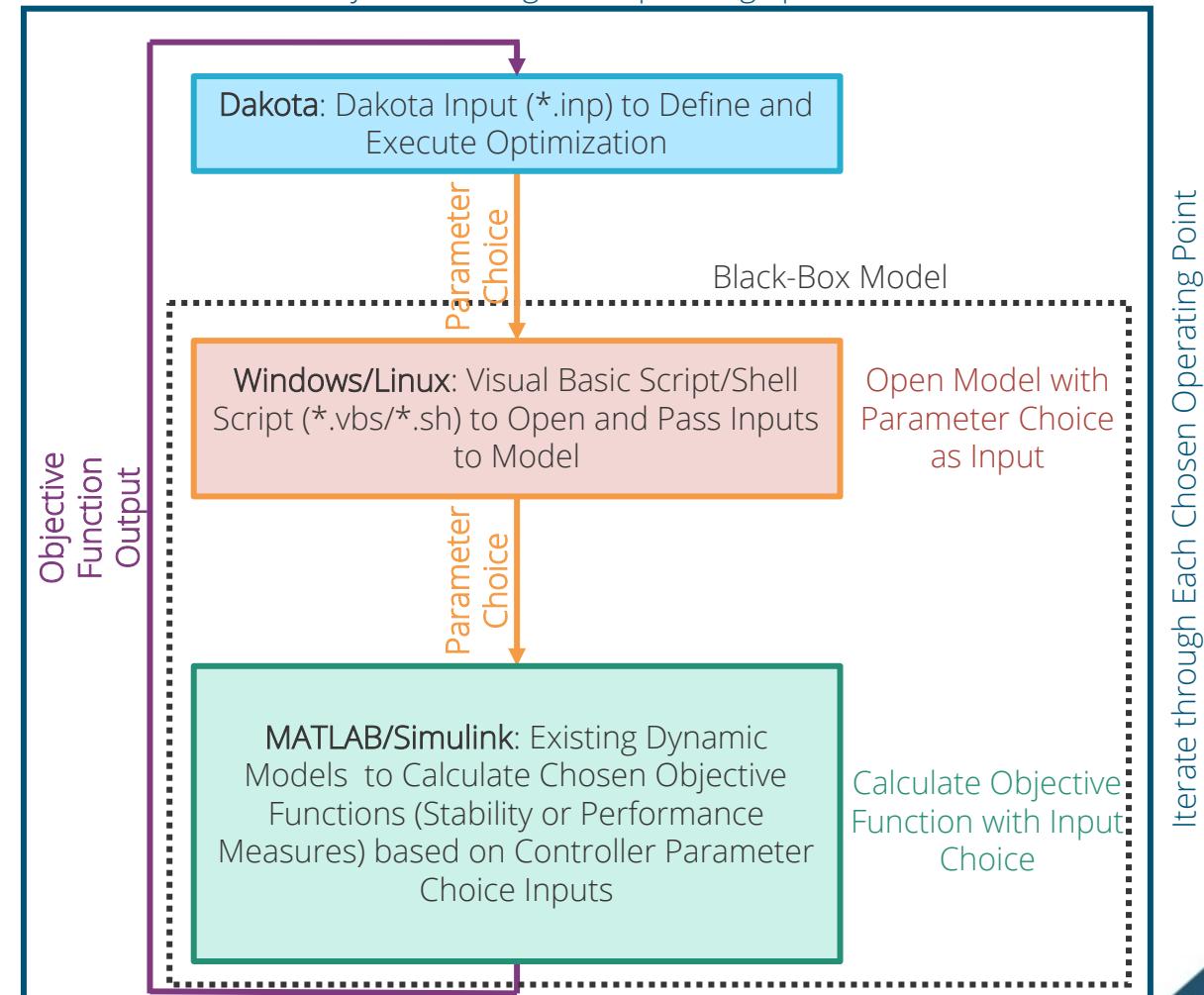


Introduction of Dakota and Pyomo



- Dakota and Pyomo offer open-source solutions to optimization for control design [2,3]
 - Both were developed at Sandia National Laboratories
- They can be leveraged alongside models of dynamic systems and their controllers
 - Dakota can be applied to existing MATLAB/Simulink models
 - Pyomo requires a new model to be developed inside the Python-based environment
- Both approaches can be applied to complex nonlinear control problems

Batch File (*.vbs/*.sh) to Obtain Gain Tables for System throughout Operating Space



[2] Hart, W.E., Laird, C.D., Watson, J.P., Woodruff, D.L., Hackebeil, G.A., Nicholson, B.L., and Siirola, J.D. (2017). Pyomo – Optimization Modeling in Python. Second Edition. Vol. 67. Springer.

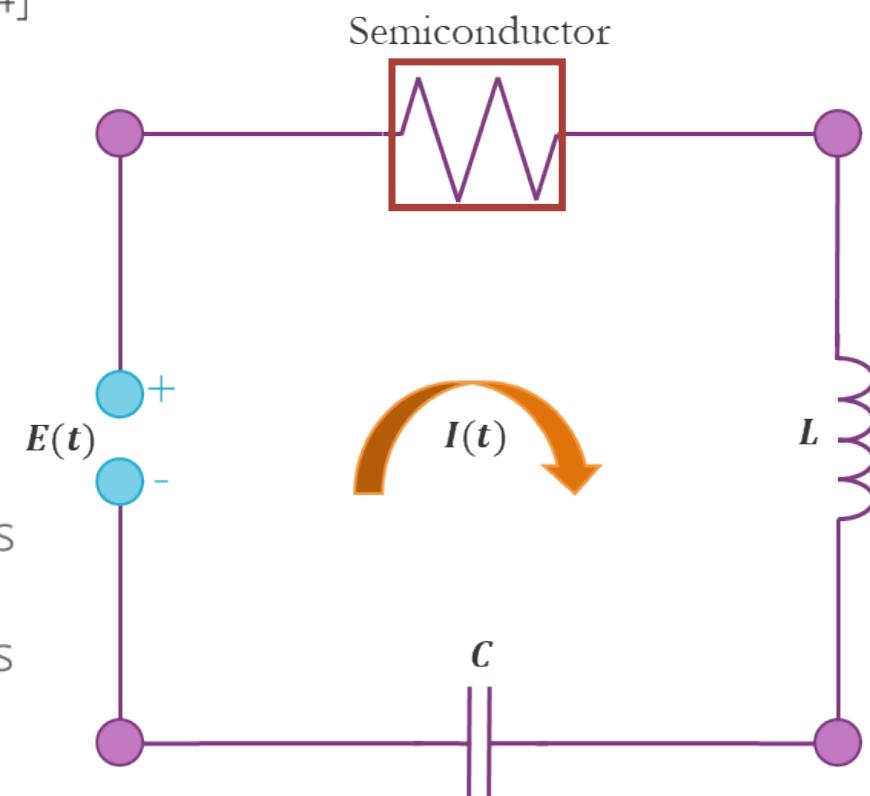
[3] Adams, B.M., Bohnhoff, W.J., Dalbey, K.R., Ebeida, M.S., Eddy, J.P., Eldred, M.S., Hooper, R.W., Hough, P.D., Hu, K.T., Jakeman, J.D., Khalil, M., Maupin, K.A., Monschke, J.A., Ridgway, E.M., Rushdi, A.A., Seidl, D.T., Stephens, J.A., Swiler, L.P., and Winokur, J.G. (2020). Dakota, A Multilevel Parallel Object-Oriented Framework for Design Optimization, Parameter Estimation, Uncertainty Quantification, and Sensitivity Analysis: Version 6.12 User's Manual, Sandia Technical Report SAND2020-12495.

Example Nonlinear Dynamic System

- An example system to show the application of these methods is a Van der Pol (VDP) oscillator for optimizing feedback linearization (FBL) pole location [4]
- Using the circuit diagram representation, the equation of motion for the system is expressed as:

$$L\ddot{I} + I(3bI^2 - a) + \frac{1}{C}I = E \quad (1)$$

- I : Current [A]
- C : Capacitance [F]
- L : Inductance [H]
- a : Semiconductor parameter used in definition of voltage drop across element [Vs/A]
- b : Semiconductor parameter used in definition of voltage drop across element [Vs/A³]
- E : Input voltage of the circuit [V]





Control Applied to Example Nonlinear Dynamic System

- Expressing the VDP oscillator in state-space form:

$$x_1 = I \quad (2)$$

$$x_2 = \dot{I} \quad (3)$$

$$\dot{x}_1 = x_2 \quad (4)$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = \frac{1}{L} \left(-x_2(3bx_1^2 - a) - \frac{1}{C}x_1 + E \right) \quad (5)$$

- This leads to the following definition for the FBL controller input:

$$E = x_2(3bx_1^2 - a) + \frac{1}{C}x_1 + Lv \quad (6)$$

- Using this input results in the following dynamics:

$$\dot{x}_1 = x_2 \quad (7)$$

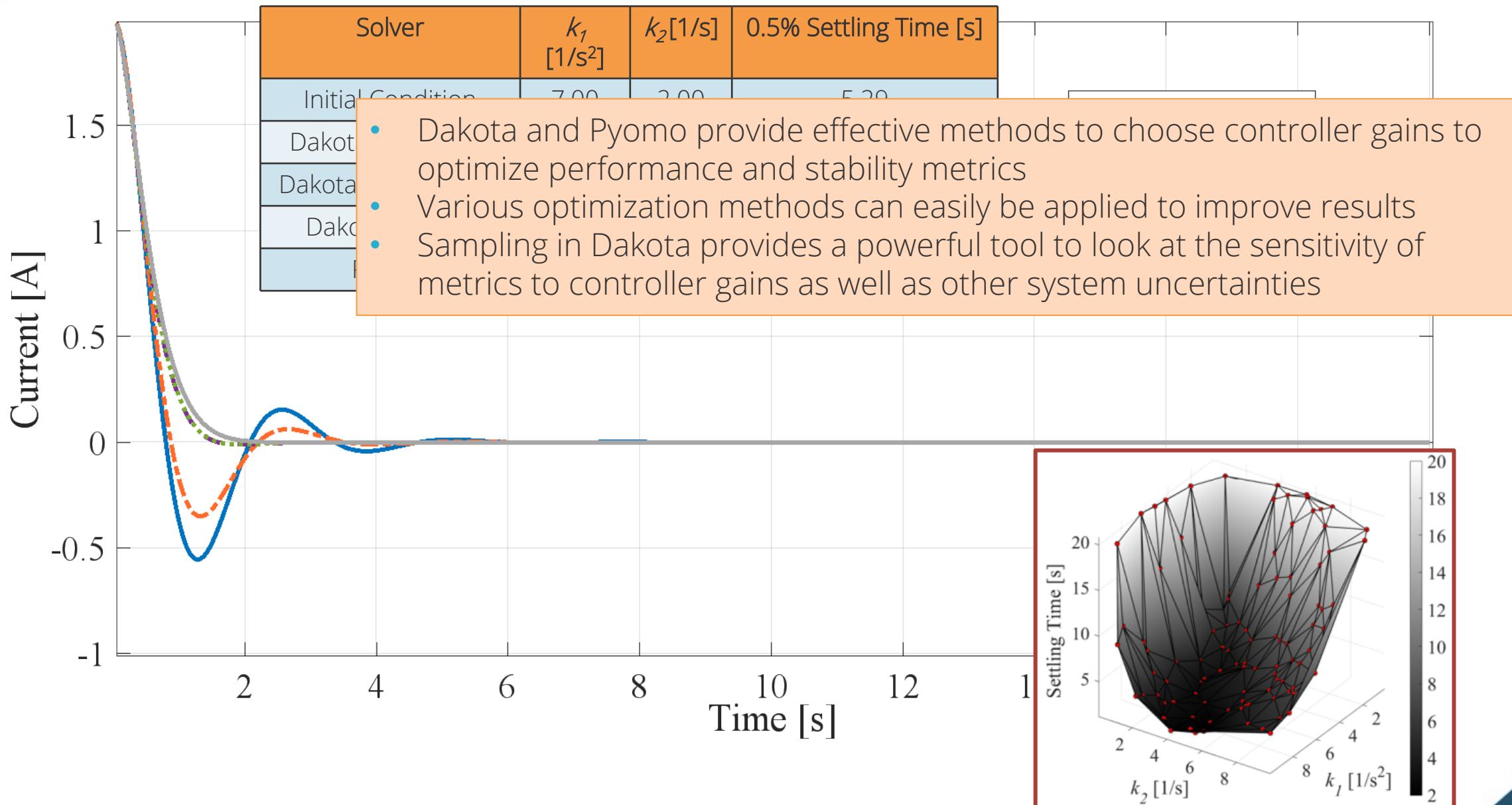
$$\dot{x}_2 = v \quad (8)$$

- To allow for simple definition of the poles of the system, v can be selected as:

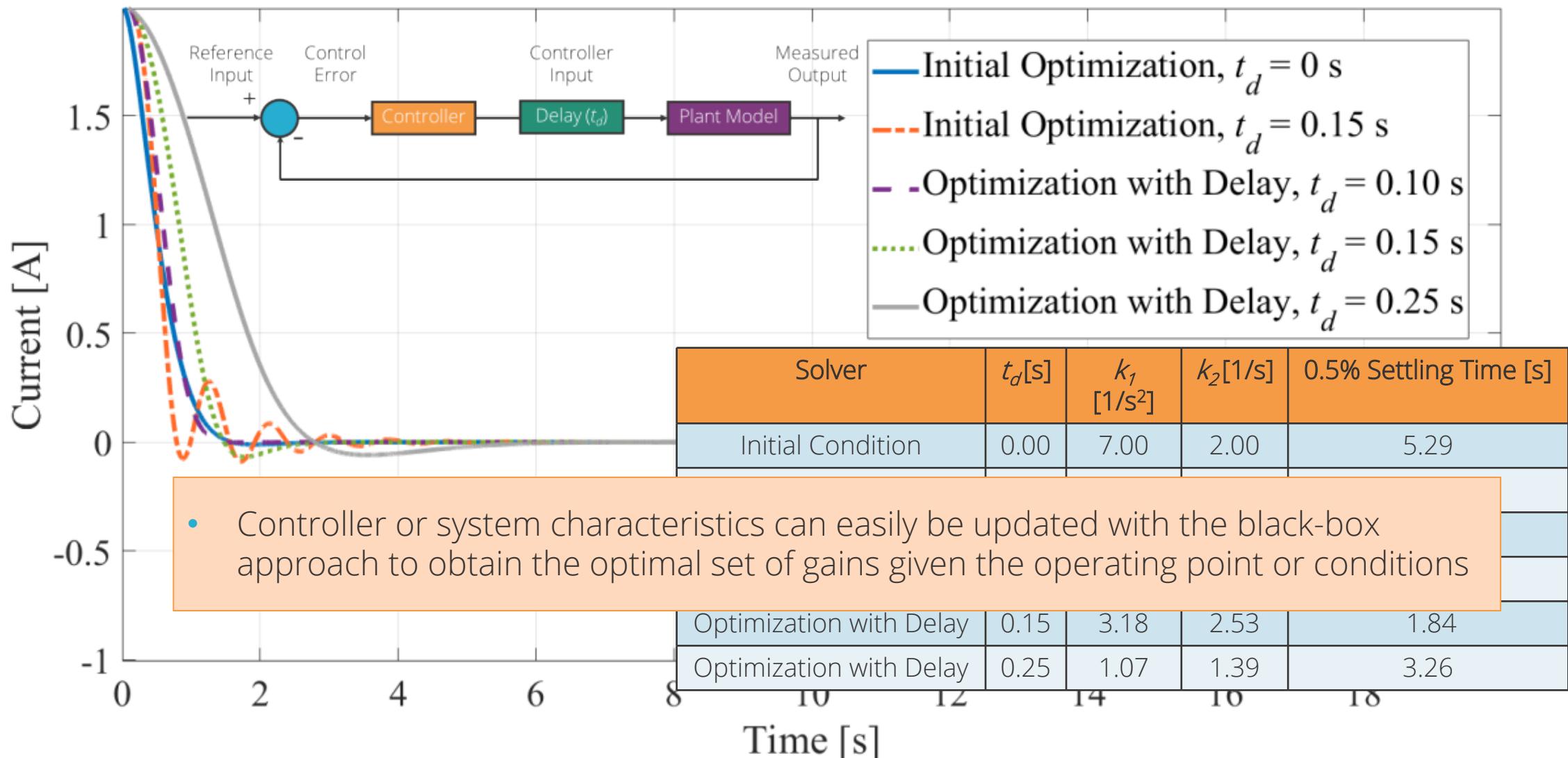
$$v = -k_1 x_1 - k_2 x_2 \quad (9)$$

- k_1 and k_2 are controller gains that can be selected for desirable system performance

Application of Dakota and Pyomo to Example System



Developing Gains for Control Delay in Example System



Advantages and Disadvantages of Dakota and Pyomo

- Mutual Advantages:
 - Both methods offer a powerful approach to determine effective control parameters throughout a system's operating space
 - Offers open-source solution to control development that decreases burden for new systems or staff



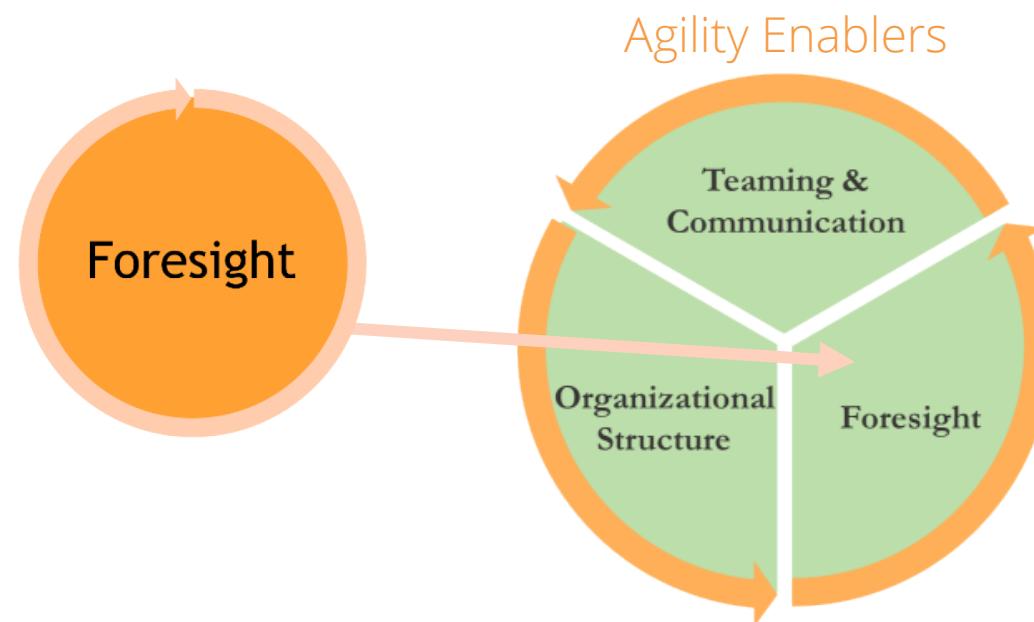
- Advantages:
 - Can leverage existing models in tools like MATLAB
 - Built-in capabilities of MATLAB/Simulink can be leveraged in the black-box approach
- Disadvantages:
 - Computation time is directly related to simulation time of model



- Advantages:
 - Computation times are significantly faster (~1/10th of equivalent Dakota run)
- Disadvantages:
 - Significant model development can be onerous and time consuming
 - Some control-related metrics are difficult to calculate within existing Python-based Pyomo framework

Conclusions

- Dakota and Pyomo offer powerful open-source solutions to decrease the development burden of new controllers and dynamic systems
 - Beginning to introduce these tools in the design process enables agility in control design and system development
 - These tools also allow staff members to learn more about the influence of system/controller parameters on system response
- These tools and workflows provide the **foresight** to address the future impact of rapidly changing operating spaces or reduced design cycles on the control design and dynamic modeling process



Acknowledgements

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- Thank you for your attention! Are there any questions?



References

- [1] Gibbs, Y. (2017). NASA Armstrong Fact Sheet: Hyper-X Program. NASA, Retrieved April 15, 2020 from <https://www.nasa.gov/centers/armstrong/news/FactSheets/FS-040-DFRC.html>.
- [2] Hart, W.E., Laird, C.D., Watson, J.P.,]Woodruff, D.L., Hackebeil, G.A., Nicholson, B.L., and Siirola, J.D. (2017). Pyomo – Optimization Modeling in Python. Second Edition. Vol. 67. Springer.
- [3] Adams, B.M., Bohnhoff, W.J., Dalbey, K.R., Ebeida, M.S., Eddy, J.P., Eldred, M.S., Hooper, R.W., Hough, P.D., Hu, K.T., Jakeman, J.D., Khalil, M., Maupin, K.A., Monschke, J.A., Ridgway, E.M., Rushdi, A.A., Seidl, D.T., Stephens, J.A., Swiler, L.P., and Winokur, J.G. (2020). Dakota, A Multilevel Parallel Object-Oriented Framework for Design Optimization, Parameter Estimation, Uncertainty Quantification, and Sensitivity Analysis: Version 6.12 User's Manual, Sandia Technical Report SAND2020-12495.
- [4] Borrelli, R.L. (1992). Differential Equations Laboratory Workbook: A Collection of Experiments, Explorations, and Modeling Projects for the Computer. John Wiley & Sons, Inc..