

Table 1: Summary of notation

$x \in \mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{d_x}$	Design parameters (controlled by system designer)
$y \in \mathcal{Y} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{d_y}$	Exogenous parameters (not controlled by designer)
$\xi \in \Xi \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{d_\xi}$	Behavior of a system (e.g. the simulation trace)
$S : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y} \mapsto \xi$	Simulator model of the system's behavior given design and exogenous parameters
$J : \Xi \mapsto R$	Cost function
$J_r : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y} \mapsto R$	Risk-adjusted cost function
$p_{x,0}(x), p_{y,0}(y)$	Prior probability distributions for design and exogenous parameters

## Summary of notation

Table 1 provides a summary of notation used in this paper.

## Sampling algorithms

Algorithm 1 relies on an MCMC subrouting for sampling from probability distributions given a non-normalized likelihood. Algorithms 2 and 3 provide examples of gradient-based (Metropolis-adjusted Langevin, or MALA) and gradient-free (random-walk Metropolis-Hastings, or RMH), respectively.

---

### Algorithm 2: Metropolis-adjusted Langevin algorithm (MALA, [16, 21])

---

**Input:** Initial  $x_0$ , steps  $K$ , stepsize  $\tau$ , density  $p(x)$ .

**Output:** A sample drawn from  $p(x)$ .

```

1 for  $i = 1, \dots, K$  do
2   Sample  $\eta \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 2\tau I)$  ▷ Gaussian noise
3    $x_{i+1} \leftarrow x_i + \tau \nabla \log p(x_i) + \eta$  ▷ Propose next state
4    $P_{accept} \leftarrow \frac{p(x_{i+1})e^{-\|x_i - x_{i+1} - \tau \nabla \log p(x_{i+1})\|^2/(4\tau)}}{p(x_i)e^{-\|x_{i+1} - x_i - \tau \nabla \log p(x_i)\|^2/(4\tau)}}$ 
5   With probability  $1 - \min(1, P_{accept})$ :
6    $x_{i+1} \leftarrow x_i$  ▷ Accept/reject proposal
7 return  $x_K$ 

```

---



---

### Algorithm 3: Random-walk Metropolis-Hastings (RMH, [25])

---

**Input:** Initial  $x_0$ , steps  $K$ , stepsize  $\tau$ , density  $p(x)$ .

**Output:** A sample drawn from  $p(x)$ .

```

1 for  $i = 1, \dots, K$  do
2   Sample  $\eta \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 2\tau I)$  ▷ Gaussian noise
3    $x_{i+1} \leftarrow x_i + \eta$  ▷ Propose next state
4    $P_{accept} \leftarrow \frac{p(x_{i+1})e^{-\|x_i - x_{i+1}\|^2/(4\tau)}}{p(x_i)e^{-\|x_{i+1} - x_i\|^2/(4\tau)}}$ 
5   With probability  $1 - \min(1, P_{accept})$ :
6    $x_{i+1} \leftarrow x_i$  ▷ Accept/reject proposal
7 return  $x_K$ 

```

---

## AC Power Flow Problem Definition

The design parameters  $x = (P_g, |V|_g, P_l, Q_l)$  include the real power injection  $P_g$  and AC voltage amplitude  $|V|_g$  at each generator in the network and the real and reactive power draws at each load  $P_l, Q_l$ ; all of these parameters are subject to minimum and maximum bounds that we model using a uniform prior distribution  $p_{x,0}$ . The exogenous parameters are the state  $y_i \in \mathbb{R}$  of each transmission line in the network; the admittance of each line is given by  $\sigma(y_i)Y_{i,nom}$  where  $\sigma$  is the sigmoid function and  $Y_{i,nom}$  is the nominal admittance of the line. The prior distribution  $p_{y,0}$  is an independent Gaussian for each line with a mean chosen so that  $\int_{-\infty}^0 p_{y_i,0}(y_i)dy_i$  is equal to the likelihood of any individual line failing (e.g. as specified by the manufacturer; we use 0.05 in our experiments). The simulator  $\mathcal{S}$  solves the nonlinear AC power flow equations [26] to determine the state of the network, and the cost function combines the economic cost of generation  $c_g$  (a quadratic function of  $P_g, P_l, Q_l$ ) with the total violation of constraints on generator capacities, load requirements, and voltage amplitudes:

$$J = c_g + v(P_g, P_{g,min}, P_{g,max}) + v(Q_g, Q_{g,min}, Q_{g,max}) \quad (4)$$

$$+ v(P_l, P_{l,min}, P_{l,max}) + v(Q_l, Q_{l,min}, Q_{l,max}) \quad (5)$$

$$+ v(|V|, |V|_{min}, |V|_{max}) \quad (6)$$

where  $v(x, x_{min}, x_{max}) = L([x - x_{max}]_+ + [x_{min} - x]_+)$ ,  $L$  is a penalty coefficient ( $L = 100$  in our experiments), and  $[o]_+ = \max(o, 0)$  is a hinge loss.

Efficient solutions to SCOPF are the subject of active research [27] and an ongoing competition run by the U.S. Department of Energy [28]. In addition to its potential economic and environmental impact [26], SCOPF is also a useful benchmark problem for 3 reasons: 1) it is highly non-convex, 2) it has a large space of possible failures, and 3) it can be applied to networks of different sizes to test an algorithm's scalability. We conduct our studies on one network with 14 nodes and 20 transmission lines (32 design parameters and 20 exogenous parameters) and one with 57 nodes and 80 lines (98 design parameters, 80 exogenous parameters)

The simulator  $\mathcal{S}$  solves the nonlinear AC power flow equations [5, 29] for the AC voltage amplitudes and phase angles  $(|V|, \theta)$  and the net real and reactive power injections  $(P, Q)$  at each bus (the behavior  $\xi$  is the concatenation of these values). We follow the 2-step method described in [29] where we first solve for the voltage and voltage angles at all buses by solving a system of nonlinear equations and then compute the reactive power injection from each generator and the power injection from the slack bus (representing the connection to the rest of the grid). The cost function  $J$  is a combination of the generation cost implied by  $P_g$  and a hinge loss penalty for violating constraints on acceptable voltages at each bus or exceeding the power generation limits of any generator, as specified in Eq. 6. The data for each test case (minimum and maximum voltage and power limits, demand characteristics, generator costs, etc.) are loaded from the data files included in the MATPOWER software [30].

This experiment can be run with the `solve_scacopf.py` script in the `experiments/power_systems` directory.

## Search-Evasion Problem Definition

This problem includes  $n_{seek}$  seeker robots and  $n_{hide}$  hider robots. Each robot is modeled using single-integrator dynamics and tracks a pre-planned trajectory using a proportional controller with saturation at a maximum speed chosen to match that of the Robotarium platform [24]. The trajectory  $\mathbf{x}_i(t)$  for each robot is represented as a Bezier curve with 5 control points  $\mathbf{x}_{i,j}$ ,

$$\mathbf{x}_i(t) = \sum_{j=0}^4 \binom{4}{j} (1-t)^{4-j} t^j \mathbf{x}_{i,j}$$

The design parameters are the 2D position of the control points for the trajectories of the seeker robots, while the exogenous parameters are the control points for the hider robots. The prior dis-

405 tribution for each set of parameters is uniform over the width and height of the Robotarium arena  
 406 ( $3.2 \text{ m} \times 2 \text{ m}$ ).

407 We simulate the behavior of the robots tracking these trajectories for 100 s with a discrete time step  
 408 of 0.1 s (including the effects of velocity saturation that are observed on the physical platform), and  
 409 the cost function is

$$J = \sum_{i=1}^{n_{hide}} \left( \min_{t=t_0, \dots, t_n} \left( \min_{j=1, \dots, n_{seek}} \left\| \mathbf{p}_{hide,i}(t) - \mathbf{p}_{seek,j}(t) \right\| - r \right) \right)$$

410 where  $r$  is the sensing range of the seekers (0.5 m for the  $n_{seek} = 2$  case and 0.25 m for the  $n_{seek} =$   
 411 3 case);  $\widetilde{\min}(\circ) = -\frac{1}{b} \log \text{sumexp}(-b \circ)$  is a smooth relaxation of the element-wise minimum  
 412 function where  $b$  controls the degree of smoothing ( $b = 100$  in our experiments);  $t_0, \dots, t_n$  are  
 413 the discrete time steps of the simulation; and  $\mathbf{p}_{hide,i}(t)$  and  $\mathbf{p}_{seek,j}(t)$  are the  $(x, y)$  position of the  
 414  $i$ -th hider and  $j$ -th seeker robot at time  $t$ , respectively. In plain language, this cost is equal to the  
 415 sum of the minimum distance observed between each hider and the closest seeker over the course of  
 416 the simulation, adjusted for each seeker’s search radius.

417 This experiment can be run with the `solve_hide_and_seek.py` script in the  
 418 `experiments/hide_and_seek` directory.

## 419 Formation Control Problem Definition

420 This problem includes  $n$  drones modeled using double-integrator dynamics, each tracking a pre-  
 421 planned path using a proportional-derivative controller. The path for each drone is represented as a  
 422 Bezier, as in the pursuit-evasion problem.

423 The design parameters are the 2D position of the control points for the trajectories, while the ex-  
 424 ogenous parameters include the parameters of a wind field and connection strengths between each  
 425 pair of drones. The wind field is modeled using a 3-layer fully-connected neural network with tanh  
 426 saturation at a maximum speed that induces 0.5 N of drag force on each drone.

427 We simulate the behavior of the robots tracking these trajectories for 30 s with a discrete time step  
 428 of 0.05 s, and the cost function is

$$J = 10 \|COM_T - COM_{goal}\| + \max_t \frac{1}{\lambda_2(q_t) + 10^{-2}}$$

429 where  $COM$  indicates the center of mass of the formation and  $\lambda_2(q_t)$  is the second eigenvalue of the  
 430 Laplacian of the drone network in configuration  $q_t$ . The Laplacian  $L = D - A$  is defined in terms  
 431 of the adjacency matrix  $A = \{a_{ij}\}$ , where  $a_{ij} = s_{ij} \sigma(20(R^2 - d_{ij}^2))$ ,  $d_{ij}$  is the distance between  
 432 drones  $i$  and  $j$ ,  $R$  is the communication radius, and  $s_{ij}$  is the connection strength (an exogenous  
 433 parameter) between the two drones. The degree matrix  $D$  is a diagonal matrix where each entry is  
 434 the sum of the corresponding row of  $A$ .

435 This experiment can be run with the `solve.py` script in the `experiments/formation2d` directory.

## 436 Hyperparameters

437 Table 2 includes the hyperparameters used for each environment.

Table 2: Hyperparameters used for each environment.

Environment	$n_x$	$n_y$	$\tau$	$K$	$M$	Quench rounds
Formation (5 agents)	5	5	$10^{-3}$	50	5	5
Formation (10 agents)	5	5	$10^{-3}$	50	5	5
Search-evasion (6 seekers, 10 hiders)	10	10	$10^{-2}$	100	10	25
Search-evasion (12 seekers, 20 hiders)	10	10	$10^{-2}$	100	10	25
Power grid (14-bus)	10	10	$10^{-6}$ for $x$ $10^{-2}$ for $y$	100	10	10
Power grid (57-bus)	10	10	$10^{-6}$ for $x$ $10^{-2}$ for $y$	100	10	10