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# Scalable Kernel Inverse Optimization

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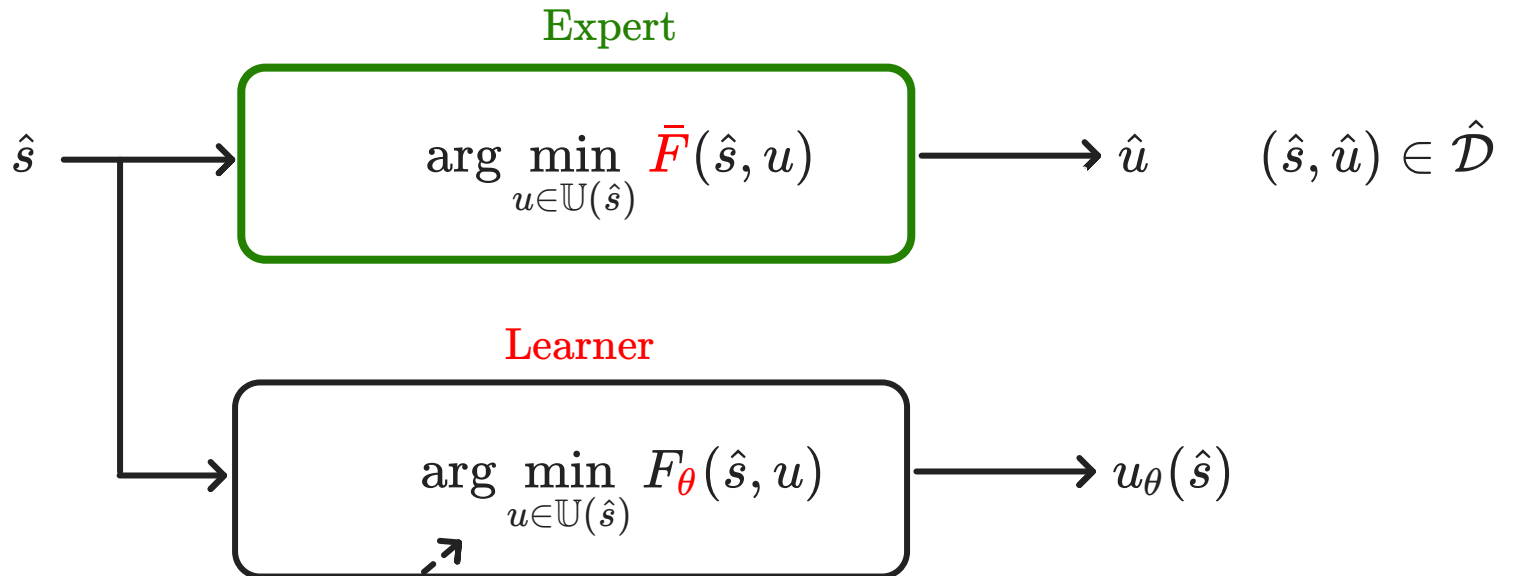
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# Inverse Optimization

Assumption:

The **expert** optimizes an **unknown cost** to make a decision.



Forward optimization problem (FOP)

# Inverse Optimization

## Supervised Learning Perspective

1) Hypothesis class of FOP:  $\{F_\theta | \theta \in \Theta\}$

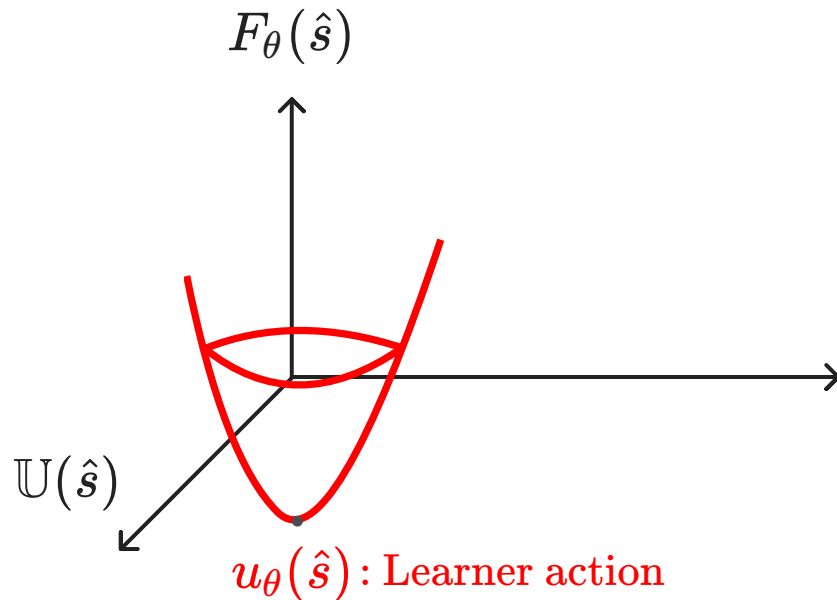
2) Loss function:  $\ell(\hat{u}, u_\theta(\hat{s}))$

3) Optimization Algorithm:  $\min_{\theta \in \Theta} \mathcal{L}(\theta)$

# Inverse Optimization

## Supervised Learning Perspective

1) Hypothesis class of FOP: Quadratic  $F_\theta$



$$F_\theta(\hat{s}) = u^\top u + \phi(s)^\top \theta_{su} u$$

$$u_\theta(\hat{s}) = \arg \min_{u \in \mathbb{U}(\hat{s})} F_\theta(\hat{s}, u)$$

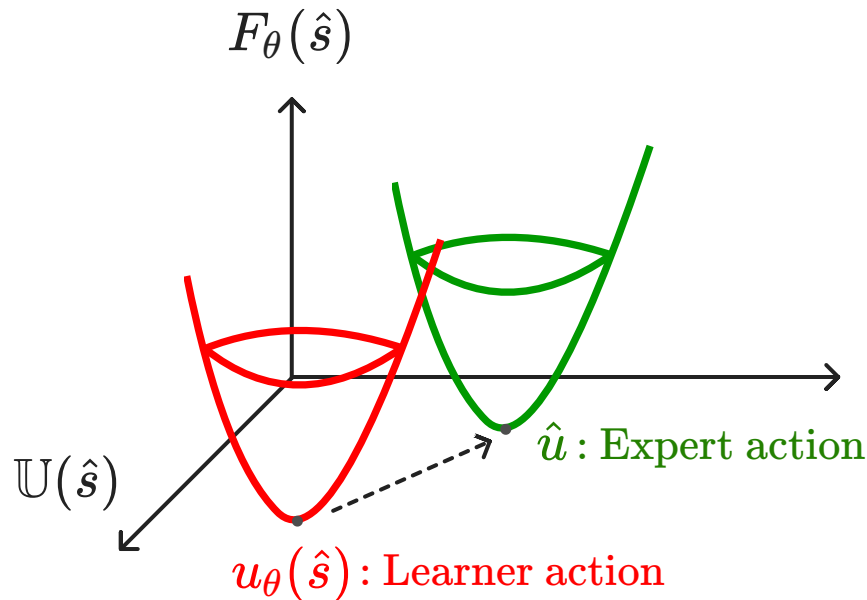
2) Loss function:  $\ell(\hat{u}, u_\theta(\hat{s}))$

3) Optimization:  $\min_{\theta \in \Theta} k\mathcal{R}(\theta) + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \ell(\hat{u}, u_\theta(\hat{s}))$

# Inverse Optimization

## Supervised Learning Perspective

2) Loss function: **Suboptimality loss**<sup>1</sup>



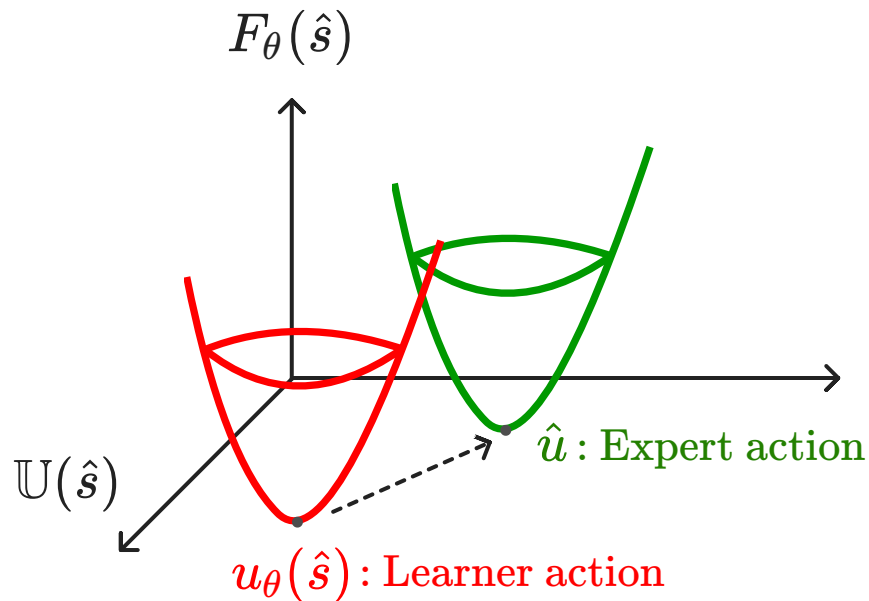
$$u_{\theta}(\hat{s}) = \arg \min_{u \in \mathbb{U}(\hat{s})} F_{\theta}(\hat{s}, u)$$

$$\ell(\hat{u}_i, \hat{s}_i, \theta) = \min_{u_i \in \mathbb{U}(\hat{s}_i)} \{ F_{\theta}(\hat{s}_i, \hat{u}_i) - F_{\theta}(\hat{s}_i, u_i) \} \quad \text{Convex !}$$

# Inverse Optimization

## Supervised Learning Perspective

3) Optimization Algorithm: Semidefinite Program (SDP) solver



Primal Problem

LMI reformulation<sup>1</sup>

$$\min_{\theta \in \Theta} k \|\theta\|^2 + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \ell(\hat{u}, \hat{s})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{minimize} \quad & x^{\top} c \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & G(x) \succcurlyeq 0 \\ & Ax = 0 \end{aligned}$$

[1] Akhtar S A, Kolarijani A S, Esfahani P M. Learning for control: An inverse optimization approach. IEEE Control Systems Letters, 2021, 6: 187-192.

# Kernel Inverse Optimization

Can we generalize the function class of  $F$ ?    Yes!

# Kernel Inverse Optimization

Can we generalize the function class of  $F$ ? **Yes!**

$$\mathcal{L} : \theta \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$\min_{\theta \in \Theta} k \|\theta\|^2 + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \ell(\hat{u}_i, \hat{s}_i, \theta)$$

$\Theta$ : Parameter space



$$\mathcal{L} : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$\min_{f \in \mathcal{H}} k \|f\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \ell(\hat{u}_i, \hat{s}_i, f)$$

$\mathcal{H}$ : Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Space



# Kernel Inverse Optimization

The resulting Problem is Convex!

$$\mathcal{L} : \theta \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$\min_{\theta \in \Theta} k \|\theta\|^2 + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \ell(\hat{u}, \hat{s}, \theta)$$

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$\mathcal{H}$ : Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Space

$$\arg \min_{u \in \mathbb{U}(\hat{s})} u^\top u + \phi(s)^\top \theta_{su} u$$

Quadratic FOP



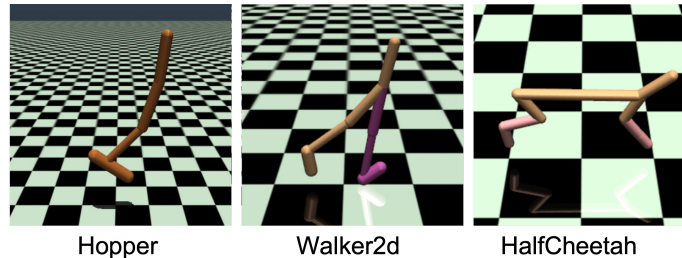
$$\arg \min_{u \in \mathbb{U}(\hat{s})} u^\top u + \sum_{i=1}^N \kappa(\hat{s}, \hat{s}_i) \alpha_i^\top u$$

Kernelized FOP

# Kernel Inverse Optimization

## Performance Evaluation

MuJoCo<sup>1</sup> Benchmark on D4RL<sup>2</sup> dataset!



Kernelized FOP

Quadratic FOP

Medium quality  
data collecting agent

Task	KIO (5k)	IO (5k)	TD3	CQL	Teacher
Hopper	<b>50.2</b>	20.6	30.0	29.0	47.2
Walker	<b>74.6</b>	0.0	11.4	6.6	68.1
HalfCheetah	<b>39.0</b>	-3.1	<b>36.6</b>	<b>36.1</b>	40.7

[1] E. Todorov, T. Erez and Y. Tassa, "MuJoCo: A physics engine for model-based control," 2012 IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems, Vilamoura-Algarve, Portugal, 2012

[2] Justin Fu, Aviral Kumar, Ofir Nachum, George Tucker, & Sergey Levine (2020). D4RL: Datasets for Deep Data-Driven Reinforcement Learning. CoRR, abs/2004.07219.

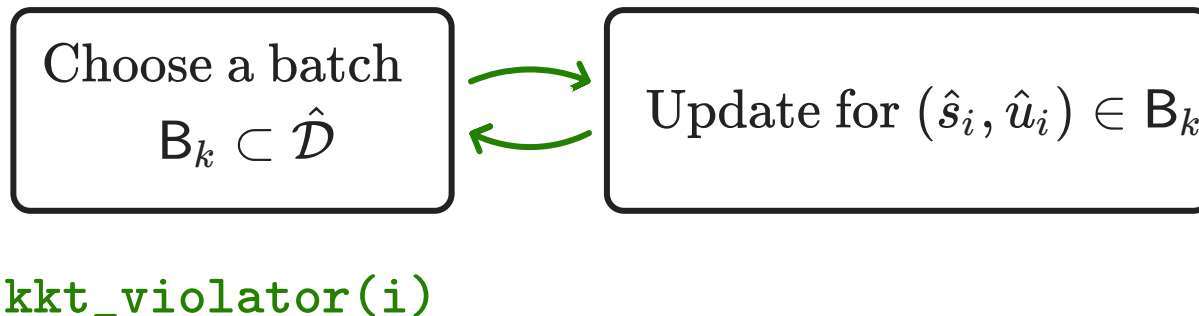
# Scalable Kernel Inverse Optimization

## Sequential Selection Optimization (SSO)

The memory complexity is  $\mathcal{O}(N^2)$ .

$$\text{FOP}(\hat{s}; \alpha_i) = \arg \min_{u \in \mathbb{U}(\hat{s})} u^\top u + \sum_{i=1}^N \kappa(\hat{s}, \hat{s}_i) \alpha_i^\top u$$

SSO: Coordinate descent<sup>1</sup> based algorithm



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[1] Nesterov, Y. (2012). Efficiency of Coordinate Descent Methods on Huge-Scale Optimization Problems. SIAM Journal on Optimization, 22(2), 341-362.

# Scalable Kernel Inverse Optimization

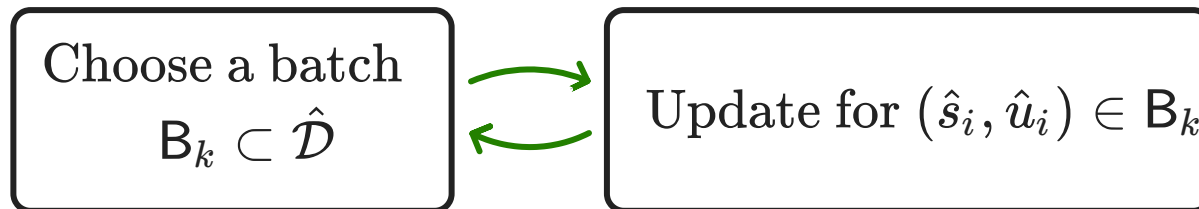
## Sequential Selection Optimization (SSO)

Converges to the same global optimal!

$$\text{FOP}(\hat{s}; \alpha_i) = \arg \min_{u \in \mathbb{U}(\hat{s})} u^\top u + \sum_{i=1}^N \kappa(\hat{s}, \hat{s}_i) \alpha_i^\top u$$

Task	KIO	KIO-SSO
Hopper	50.2	51.8
Walker	74.6	74.9
HalfChetah	39.0	39.7

SSO: Coordinate descent<sup>1</sup> based algorithm



`kkt_violator(i)`

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# Scalable Kernel Inverse Optimization

## Conclusion

Convex Problem

Generalization capabilities with relatively low-data

Possible extensions via sophisticated kernels

The cost of evaluating the FOP is  $\mathcal{O}(N)$

Lack of convergence guarantees for SSO with `kkt_violator`