Co-design of Complex Systems: From Embodied Intelligence to Mobility Systems

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Gioele Zardini



Introductions

- > Ph.D. Candidate at ETH Zürich
- Studied at ETH Zurich, spent time in U.S. (California and Massachusetts)
- Lived and worked in Singapore
- Research efforts:

Co-designGame theoryApplied Category TheoryMobilityEmbodied intelligence



Mobility systems are under pressure



Travel demand is increasing and travel needs are changing

55% of the population resides in cities. By 2050, the proportion is expected to reach 68%



The rise of **private mobility** service providers calls for **service design** and new regulation schemes *Ride-hailing has increased by*

1,000% in NYC from 2012 to 2019



Transportation systems need to meet global **sustainability goals**

Cities are responsible for 60% of greenhouse emissions, 30% of which produced by transportation (in US)

Mobility systems are very complex socio-technical systems



Mobility providers (CEO SBB) Policy makers Politicians (Mayor ZH)

Academics Tech developers

Complexity due to many interconnected components

hardwa

An autonomous = actuation vehicle sensing computation

energetics

So many **components** (hardware, software, ...), so many **choices** to make! Nobody can understand the **whole** thing!

anthropomorphization of 21st century engineering malaise



0.140	software	behavior	•	coord	ination	
are	localization	plar	nning	S	ocial	
5		interaction	1	acc	eptance	
	control		1	•	-	
pe	erception	mapping	learning		liability	
	communica	ation	regul	ations		

We forget why we made some **choices**, and we are afraid to make **changes**...

These "computer" thingies are not helping us that much for design...



"My dear, it's simple: you lack a proper theory of **co-design**!"

Co-design across fields and scales

"Your system is just a component in another person's system"

City level

Service level

Platform level

Subsystem level













Optimal infrastructure choices

Optimal deployment

Optimal sensor and control choice

Optimal resource allocation

We leverage co-design and game theory to solve complex socio-technical problems



Large interconnected system

Mathematical theory of co-design applied category theory

Complex socio-technical system

Many agents, many (often conflicting) interests



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Many agents, many (often conflicting) interests



What is co-design?

minimize (resources usage)

subject to (functionality constraints)









A new approach to "co"-design

- A new approach to **collaborative**, **computational**, **compositional**, **continuous** design. designed to work across fields and across scales.
- Intended learning outcomes:
 - Defining "design problems" for components ("functionality", "resources"). -
 - Modeling **co-design constraints** in a complex **system**. -
 - Efficient solution to design queries.



"Co-design diagram"

Pareto front of optimal designs





"Co"-design desiderata

Computational

- Let the machine help us!

Collaborative

- Pooling knowledge from experts across fields.

Continuous

Design is not static: it should be reactive to changes in goals and contexts. -

Compositional

- My system is a component of somebody else's system.



The modeling challenge

How to find a "theory of everything" across fields...
... that is still computationally and intellectually tractable?

• Approach: focus on the interactions (co-design constraints).



An abstract view of design problems

- Across fields, design or synthesis problems are defined with 3 spaces:
 - **implementation space:** the options we can choose from;
 - **functionality space**: what we need to provide/achieve;
 - requirements/costs space: the resources we need to have available;



-	•••••
<i>mentations</i>	costs, resources (required)
choices	
plans	requirements
ueprints	dependencies
on variables	
"form"	"function"

An abstract view of design problems

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 $\langle \mathbf{R}, \leq_{\mathbf{R}} \rangle$

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choices

to minimize

implementations



Posets model trade-offs

$$\langle \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}, \leq \rangle \quad \langle \mathbb{N}, \leq \rangle$$

Croque et frites Quiche lorraine American pastries

Cordon bleu in fondue





Fondue



Cordon bleu









A poset of sensor/algorithm pairs



Design problem with implementation (DPIs)

Definition (Design problem with implementation). A design problem with im*plementation* (DPI) is a tuple

```
\langle \mathbf{F}, \mathbf{R}, \mathbf{I}, \text{prov}, \text{req} \rangle,
```

where:

- ▶ **F** is a poset, called *functionality space*;
- ▶ **R** is a poset, called *requirements space*;
- ▶ I is a set, called *implementation* space;
- \triangleright the map prov: $I \rightarrow F$ maps an implementation to the functionality it provides;
- \triangleright the map req : $I \rightarrow R$ maps an implementation to the resources it requires.



R

requirements

Transparent vs black-box models

> The **DPI model** is a "transparent" model:



> **DP** model: **direct feasibility relation** between functionality and resources ("black box").



Monotonicity assumption:

- Lower functionality does not require more resources;
- More **resources** do not provide **less functionality**.

Graphical notation for DPIs

- We use this graphical notation:
 - functionality: green continuous wires on the left
 - requirements: **dashed red wires** on the right.





Context informs the level of detail

Different scenarios will need different levels of detail.



"back of the envelope" calculation"

"vendor selection"

3Em3

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS			
	Nominal Capacity: 2600mAh (0.52A Dischar		
5.1 Capacity (25±5°C)	2.75V) Typical Capacity: 2550mAh (0.52A Disc		
	2.75V) Minimum Capacity: 2500mAh (0.5		
	Discharge, 2.75V)		
5.2 Nominal Voltage	3.7V		
5.3 Internal Impedance	≤ 70mΩ		
5.4 Discharge Cut-off Vcltage	3.0V		
5.5 Max Charge Voltage	4.20±0.05V		
5.6 Standard Charge Current	0.524		
5.7 Rapid Charge Current	1.3A		
5.8 Standard Discharge Current	0.52A		
5.9 Rapid Discharge Current	1.3A		
5.10 Max Pulse Discharge Current	2.6A		
5.11 Weight	46.5±1g		
5 12 Nay Dimension	Diameter(Ø): 18.4mm		
5. 12 Max. Dimension	Height (H): 65.2mm		
5 13 Operating Temperatura	Charge: 0 ~ 45°C		
o. to operating remperature	Discharge: -20 ~ 60°C		
5.14 Storage Temperature	During 1 month: -5 ~ 35°C During 8 months: 0		



"Catalogues": already available designs



E	jems"	
5.	BASIC CHARACTERISTICS	_
	5.1 Capacity (25±5℃)	2
	5.2 Nominal Voltage	
	5.3 Internal Impedance	
	5.4 Discharge Cut-off Vcltage	
	5.5 Max Charge Voltage	
	5.6 Standard Charge Current	
	5.7 Rapid Charge Current	
	5.8 Standard Discharge Current	
	5.9 Rapid Discharge Current	
	5.10 Max Pulse Discharge Current	
	5.11 Weight	Γ
	5.12 Max. Dimension	
	5.13 Operating Temperature	
	5.14 Storage Temperature	(

• "First-principles": analytical relations.



Data-driven, on-demand"

- The optimization algorithm will only ask for a sequence of data points specific to the _ queries. The model is constructed incrementally (experiments, black-box simulations).
- Uncertain models

Model types

LIR18650 Datasheet Li-ion Battery Edition: NOV. 2010

Normal G	apacity: 2600mAh (0.52A Discharge
75V) Typic	al Capacity: 2550mAh (0.52A Discharge)
2.75V)	Minimum Capacity: 2500mAh (0.52A
	Discharge, 2.75V)
	3.7V
	≾ 70mΩ
	3.0V
	4.20±0.05V
	0.524
	1.3A
	0.52A
	1.3A
	2.6A
	46.5±1g
	Diameter(Ø): 18.4mm
	Height (H): 65.2mm
	Charge: 0 ~ 45°C
	Discharge: -20 ~ 60°C

Re-stating existing knowledge in co-design form

• Take the usual setup for **LQG control**:



• We can manipulate known results to state this **DP theorem**:



Convex Optimization Problems are Design Problems

minimize $f_0(x)$ $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ subject to $f_i(x)$

Ax =

Theorem (Convex Optimization Problem as Monotone Map)

 $CvxOpt: \langle \mathcal{C}, \preceq_{\mathbf{C}} \rangle \times$

where $\hat{p} = \inf_{x \in \mathbb{R}} f_0(x)$ and $\mathcal{D}_f = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid f_i(x) \le 0, i \in [m], Ax = b\}.$ $x \in \mathcal{D}_f$

$$b) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m = b$$

A convex optimization problem is a monotone map CvxOpt from $\langle \mathcal{C}, \preceq_{\mathbf{C}} \rangle \times \langle \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{C}}, \preceq_{\mathbf{F}_{\mathcal{C}}} \rangle$ to $\langle \mathbb{R}, \preceq_{\mathbf{R}}^{\operatorname{op}} \rangle$.

$$\langle \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{C}}, \preceq_{\mathbf{F}_{\mathcal{C}}}
angle op_{\mathsf{Pos}} \langle \mathbb{R}, \preceq^{\mathrm{op}}_{\mathbf{R}}
angle \ \langle \mathcal{D}_{f}, f_{0}
angle \mapsto \hat{p}^{*}$$



Composition operators



"choose between two options"



- The composition of any two DPs returns a DP (closure)
- Very practical tool to decompose large problems into subproblems
- > This makes the category **DP** *traced monoidal and locally posetal*

Design queries

- Two basic design queries are:
 - **FixFunMinReq**: Fixed a lower bound on functionality, minimize the resources.
 - **FixReqMaxFun**: Fixed an upper bound on the resource, maximize the functionality



the **maximal functionality** that can be provided?

Design queries

- Two basic design queries are:
 - **FixFunMinReq**: Fixed a lower bound on functionality, minimize the resources.
 - **FixReqMaxFun**: Fixed an upper bound on the resource, maximize the functionality



- > The two problems are **dual**
- From the solutions, one can retrieve the **implementations** (design choices)

Design queries

- Two basic design queries are:
 - **FixFunMinReq**: Fixed a lower bound on functionality, minimize the resources.
 - **FixReqMaxFun**: Fixed an upper bound on the resource, maximize the functionality





- We are looking for:
 - A map from functionality to **upper sets** of feasible resources: $h : \mathbf{F} \mathcal{U}\mathbf{R}$
 - A map from functionality to **antichains** of minimal resources: $h : \mathbf{F} \to \mathcal{A}\mathbf{R}$



Given the functionality to be provided, what are the **minimal resources** required?

s: $h : \mathbf{F} - \mathcal{U}\mathbf{R}$: ces: $h : \mathbf{F} \to \mathcal{A}\mathbf{R}$

Optimization semantics

> This is the semantics of **FixFunMinReq** as a **family of optimization problems**.



objective

Monotone co-design problems are tractable

- We have a **complete solution**: guaranteed to find the set all optimal solutions, (If such set is empty, the algorithm trace is a certificate of infeasibility)
- > The complexity is **not combinatorial in the number of options** for each component



> The complexity depends on the **complexity of the interactions**: the co-design constraints.

O(a+b+c)

Compositional approach to optimization

- Assume (for now) that all posets are finite: results are finite antichains of resources.
- Suppose we are given the function $h_k : \mathbf{F}_k \to \mathcal{A}\mathbf{R}_k$ for all nodes in the co-design graph.



• How to find the map $h: \mathbf{F} \to \mathcal{A}\mathbf{R}$ for the entire diagram?

Compositional approach:

- Given that we have defined the diagram recursively using composition operations, we just need to work out the composition formulas.

solution(**composition**(a, b)) = **composition**(**solution**(a), **solution**(b))

- This is **equivalent to finding a functor** (monoidal and lattice-compatible) from the category **DP** to the category of solution maps.

FixFunMin<mark>Req</mark>

 $DP(F; \mathbf{R})$





Compositional approach to optimization

• We can *easily* write the solution for all composition operations *except feedback*.

$$A - f - g - C$$

$$A - C$$

$$h_{f_{g}g} : A \to A C$$

$$a \mapsto \min_{s \in h_{f}(a)} h_{g}(s).$$

$$h_{f} \otimes h_{g} : (A \to A)$$





$$\begin{split} h_{\mathbf{f}} \lor h_{\mathbf{g}} &: \mathbf{A} \to \mathbf{A} \, \mathbf{B}, \\ a \mapsto & \min \left(h_{\mathbf{f}}(a) \cup h_{\mathbf{g}}(a) \right). \\ & \stackrel{\leq_{\mathbf{B}}}{\overset{s_{\mathbf{B}}}{\overset{s_{\mathbf{B$$



 $\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{C} \to \mathbf{A} (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{D}),$ $\langle a, c \rangle \mapsto h_{\mathbf{f}}(a) \times h_{\mathbf{g}}(c),$

feedback is always the problem...



Compositional approach to optimization

• We can *easily* write the solution for all composition operations *except feedback*.



Developer vs. user view

Developer view

- Applied category theory
- **Domain theory**





Catalogues": already available designs

```
catalogue {
    provides capacity [J]
    requires mass [g]
    requires cost [USD]
    500 kWh ← model1 → 100 g, 10 USD
    600 kWh ← model2 → 200 g, 200 USD
    600 kWh ← model3 → 250 g, 150 USD
    700 kWh ← model4 → 400 g, 400 USD
}
```

• "First-principles": analytical relations.

```
mcdp {
    provides capacity [J]
    requires mass [kg]
    specific_energy_Li_Ion = 500 Wh / kg
    required mass >= provided capacity / specific_energy_Li_Ion
}
```

Use case: Co-design of an autonomous drone



Use case: Co-design of an autonomous drone



Co-design of an AV: systematic process

- Systematic modeling approach:
 - **Define the task** *what do we need to do?*
 - **Functional decomposition** how to decompose the functionality?
 - **Find components** *decompose until you find components* (hardware and software)
 - Find common resources In robotics, size, weight, power, computation, latency and add them.

Implementation:

- Write a skeleton - write the structure using the formal language and the dependencies.

- Populate the models:

catalogues, analytic models, simulations

Functional decomposition in autonomy

▶ It is useful to think of a task ("function") as a design problem:



• **Functional decomposition** divides functionality and sums resources:



- > Note that **composing** tasks returns a **task** (**compositionality**)
- In this example (urban driving):

follow lane lateral control maintain lane position

computation [op/s]

resources 1

total \prec resources \oplus (⊴

resources 2

urban driving

longitudinal control

brake in case of obstacles



Data flow vs. logical dependencies

▶ In robotics, we are used to think about **data flow:**



> To find **components**, it helps to reason about **logical dependencies**:



But **why** do we need a computer?

requires sensor

requires programmers

> requires computer





Co-design of an autonomous vehicle



Functional decomposition



Co-design of lateral control

• Lateral control itself can decomposed in **sub-tasks**:



Co-design of longitudinal control

• Longitudinal control can be decomposed in **sub-tasks**:



Solution of DPs





Monotonicity: Higher achievable speeds will not require **less** resources

Functional decompositions can be extended







Functional decompositions can be extended

Fix an environment Fix a task (achievable speed,



Co-design across scales: Future Mobility

- We look at the problem from the perspective of **municipalities** and **policy makers**
 - Important decisions to make: -*How many AVs should we allow? How performant should they be? How many trains should we buy?*
- Existing work only solves **specific problems** and does not **co-design** the whole system:
 - No **joint** design of **mobility solutions** and the **system** they enable
 - No **modularity** and **compositionality**: problem-specific
 - Often, not producing **actionable information** for stakeholders
- Several disciplines involved (transportation science, autonomy, economics, policy-making)
- We allow **interfaces** between them via **co-design**:
 - **Functionality: demand** to be satisfied
 - **Costs: investments** (\$), **externalities** (CO₂kg), **service level** (average waiting time, s)

• Co-design highlights the **structure** of the problem and provides **tools** to reason about it

What's the influence of AVs on public transit systems?

Mobility system co-design



Subway: **Fun**: *number* of trains to buy **Fun**: *cruise speed* **Res**: *costs* and *externalities*

Imp: acquisition *contracts*

Micro mobility:

Res: costs and *externalities* Imp: vehicle *models*

Fun: *cruise speed* **Res**: costs, *externalities*, *performance* **Imp:** vehicle *models* and autonomy

AV:



We can explode the model of the mobility system, and model AVs



Mobility systems co-design

Fixed a **demand**, we find the **Pareto front** of incomparable, minimal solutions as cost, time, and externalities (CO₂)



Which one is the best? Depends on what is at the upper level (policy-making, etc.)

investments



A lot of applications ...

Embodied intelligence

Control & Perception

Planning & Perception

Resource-aware computation

Automated soft-robot design

Electric motors design

If you come up with other applications, let's chat!

Autonomy-enabling Infrastructure

Task-driven design of swarms of robots

Nanorobot design for cancer treatment

Optimal Manufacturing

- We are in the **evangelization phase**:
 - We are writing divulgatory materials (textbook, classes).
 - We are **looking for case studies**.

Algorithmics:

- A lot to do to make algorithms more efficient...
- How to best change the **approximation** of each model **adaptively** and **dynamically**?

Theory:

- Finishing the rewrite in category theory.
- Add **space** and **time** to the resources calculus.
- Define game semantics (multiple agents). Will merge DP with *linear logic*.

Outlook

Interactions between stakeholders are characterized by different time horizons



Daily







Monthly

Every five years



- A new approach to **<u>collaborative</u>**, **<u>computational</u>**, compositional, continuous design.
 - Designed to work **across fields** and **across scales**.
 - **Compositional** horizontally and hierarchically.
 - Supports both **data-driven** and **model-based** components.
 - **Computationally tractable**.
 - Intellectually tractable.

If you are interested in using applied category theory:

- https://applied-compositional-thinking.engineering -
- New online classes series announcement soon!

Take-aways



Posetal Games

- We present **Posetal games.** In short:
 - Each **player** expresses a *partially ordered* **preference** over a set of metrics (scores) -
 - Based on **preferences**, players select an **action** from a decision space -

> Preferences over metrics **induce** preferences over the **decision space**:

b and *c* are **indifferent**

b, c, d are **preferred** over *a*

b, *c* are **incomparable** with *d*





RA-L 2022: <u>https://bit.ly/3cPsW9Y</u>

- Given the joint action profile of players, we obtain a game outcome for each player via a deterministic metric function

Current and future collaborators

• **Collaborators** for the presented works



Nicolas Lanzetti



Dejan Milojevic



Andrea Censi



Emilio Frazzoli

ETHzürich



Alessandro Zanardi



Saverio Bolognani



Florian Dörfler



Marco Pavone





> Papers I talked about and dedicated talks available at <u>https://gioele.science</u>

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