
Closed-Loop Robust Control for an Artificial Pancreas under Meal and Exercise Uncertainty

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Diabetes

Main types of diabetes



TYPE 1 DIABETES

Body does not produce enough insulin



TYPE 2 DIABETES

Body produces insulin but can't use it well



GESTATIONAL DIABETES

A temporary condition in pregnancy

Consequences

Diabetes can lead to complications in many parts of the body and increase the risk of dying prematurely.

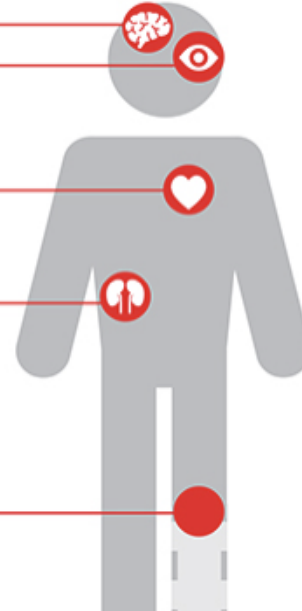
Stroke

Blindness

Heart attack

Kidney failure

Amputation



Type 1 Diabetes therapy

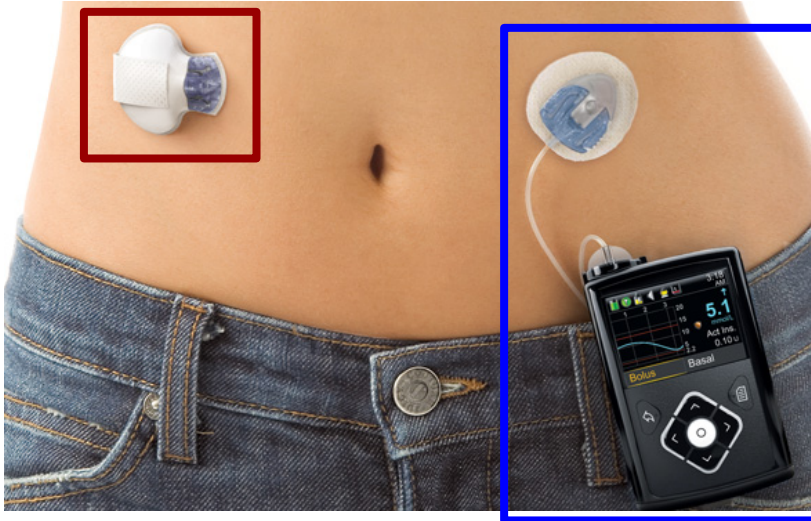


Image from: <https://www.medtronic-diabetes.com.au/pump-therapy/what-is-insulin-pump-therapy>

Insulin pump delivers two kinds of insulin:

- **Bolus:** high, on-demand dose to cover meals
- **Basal:** to cover demand outside meals

Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM) detects sugars levels under the skin, a measure of **blood glucose (BG)**

T1D therapy - limitations

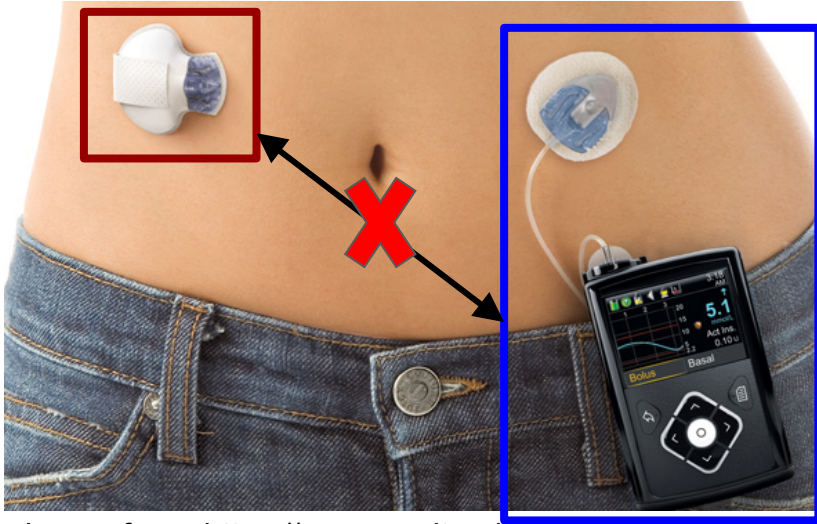


Image from: <https://www.medtronic-diabetes.com.au/pump-therapy/what-is-insulin-pump-therapy>

- Bolus is manually set by the patient → **danger of wrong dosing**
- Pump and CGM don't communicate with each other

Closed-loop control, AKA Artificial Pancreas (AP)

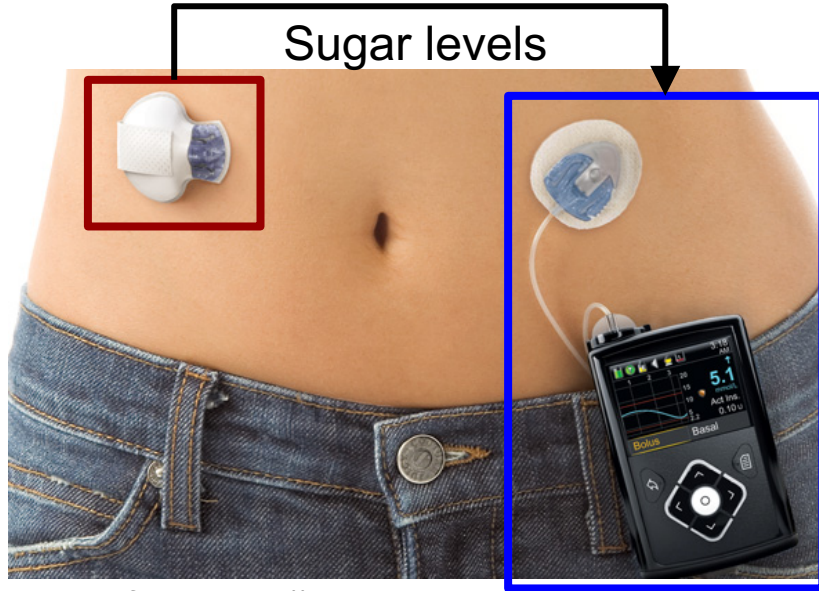


Image from: <https://www.medtronic-diabetes.com.au/pump-therapy/what-is-insulin-pump-therapy>

Challenges:

- CGM is a “derived” measure of BG
- Disturbances (Meal and Exercise)

Closed-loop control, AKA Artificial Pancreas (AP)

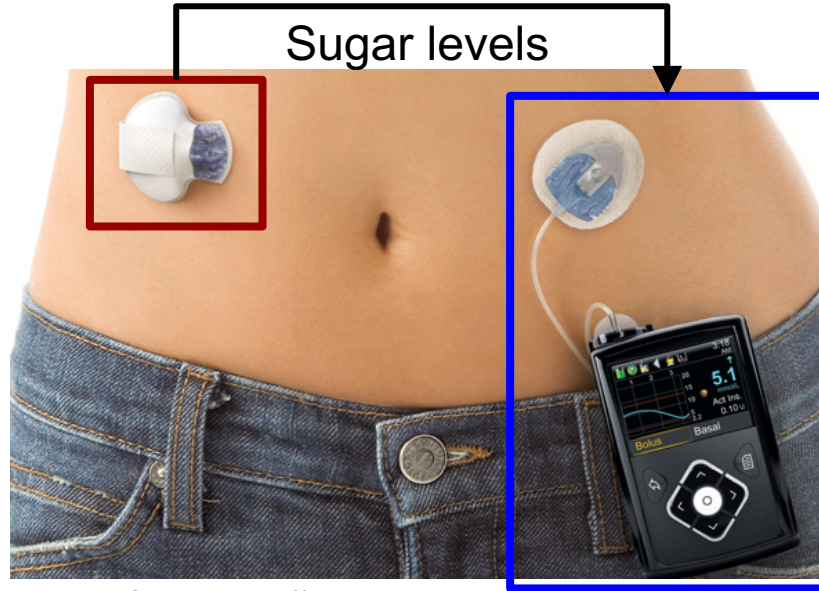


Image from: <https://www.medtronic-diabetes.com.au/pump-therapy/what-is-insulin-pump-therapy>

- Disturbances (Meal and Exercise)

THE WORLD'S FIRST
HYBRID CLOSED LOOP SYSTEM.
MINIMED® 670G SYSTEM.

- Only controls basal insulin
- Meals are still announced

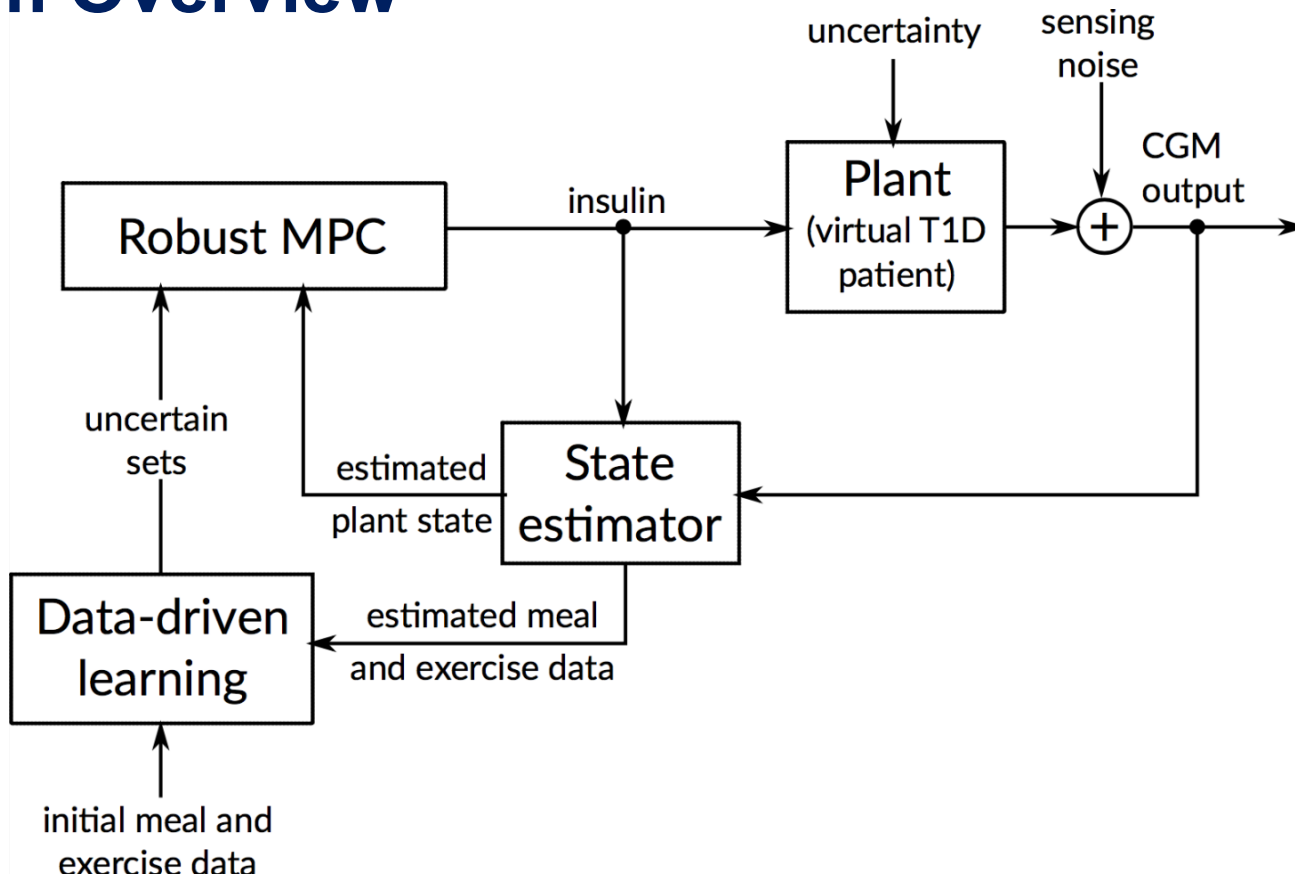


Our contribution

A **data-driven robust model predictive control (MPC)** design for the AP:

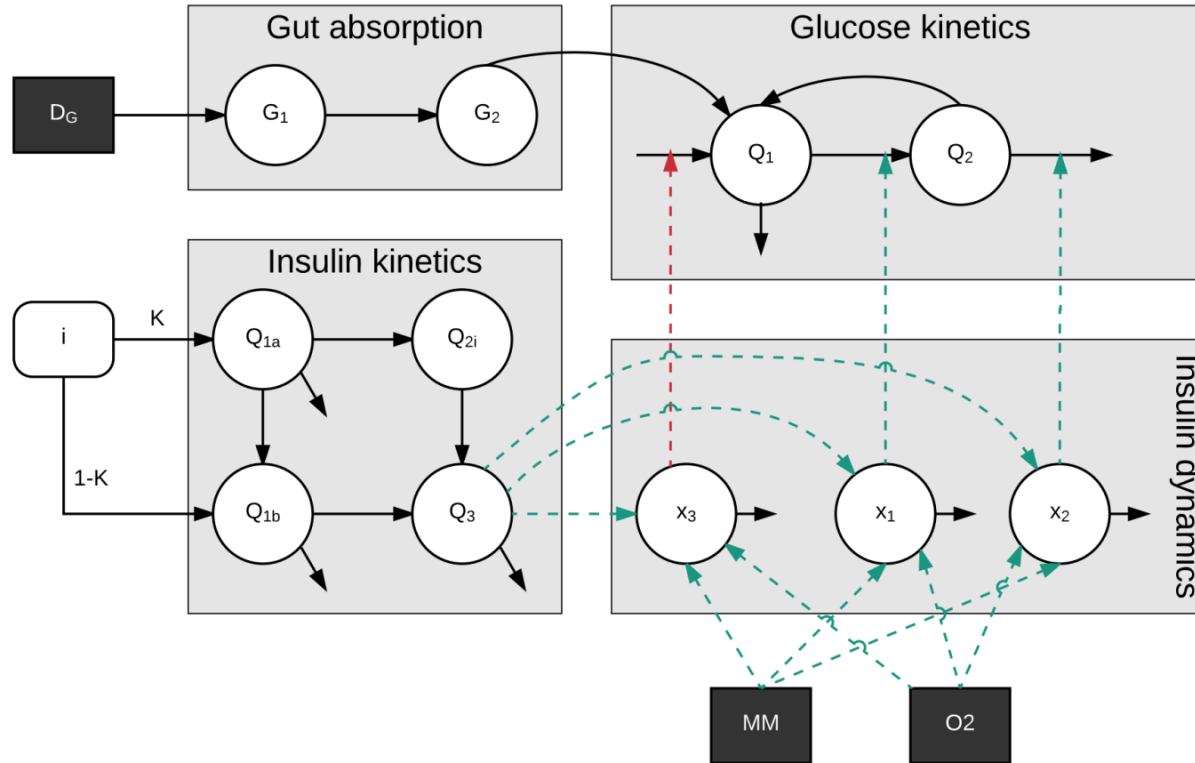
- Closed-loop control of **both basal and bolus insulin**
- Handles uncertainty by **learning from data**
- Accurate **state estimation from CGM measurements**

System Overview



Simulation Model

Plant
(virtual T1D
patient)



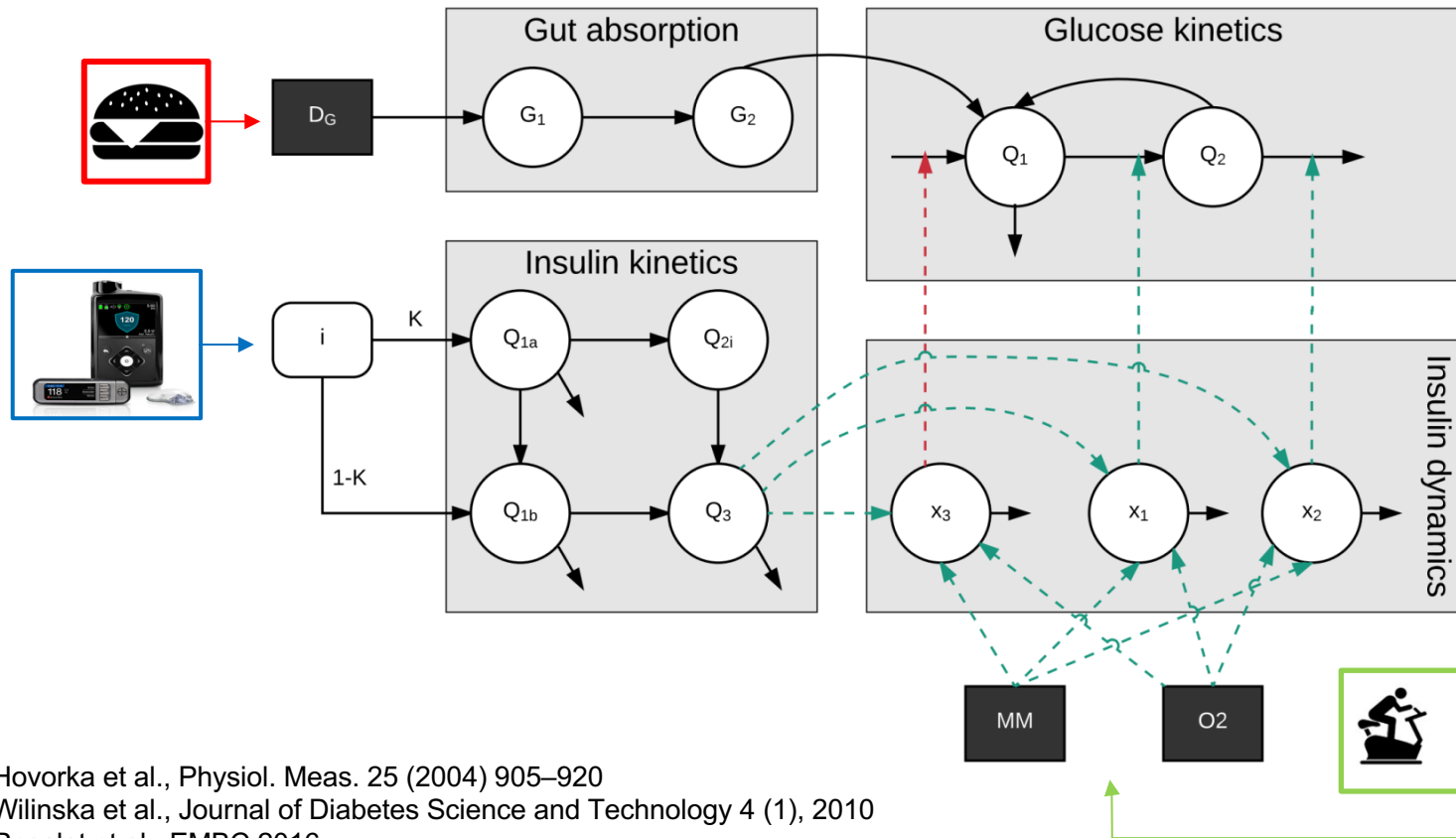
Hovorka et al., *Physiol. Meas.* 25 (2004) 905–920

Wilinska et al., *Journal of Diabetes Science and Technology* 4 (1), 2010

Resalat et al., *EMBC* 2016

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Uncertainty Sets

Data-driven
learning

Learn from data the possible realization of uncertainty parameters

$$\mathcal{U} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{u}^t \\ \mathbf{u}^{t+1} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{u}^{t+N_p-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

Model with spatial (among meal and exercise) and temporal (among times) correlation

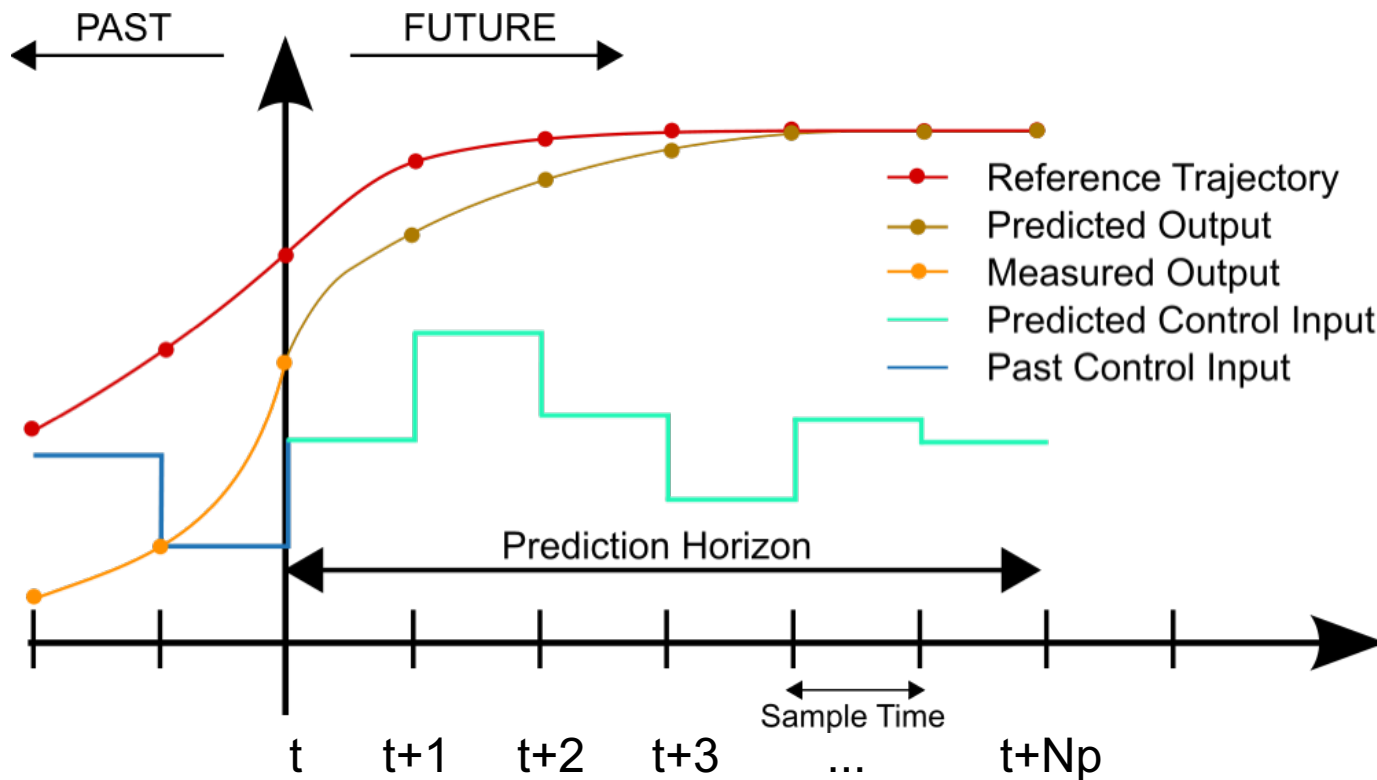
$$\mathcal{U} = \left\{ \hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}} + \mathbf{C}^T \mathbf{w} \right\}$$

mean covariance

Robust Model Predictive Control

Robust MPC

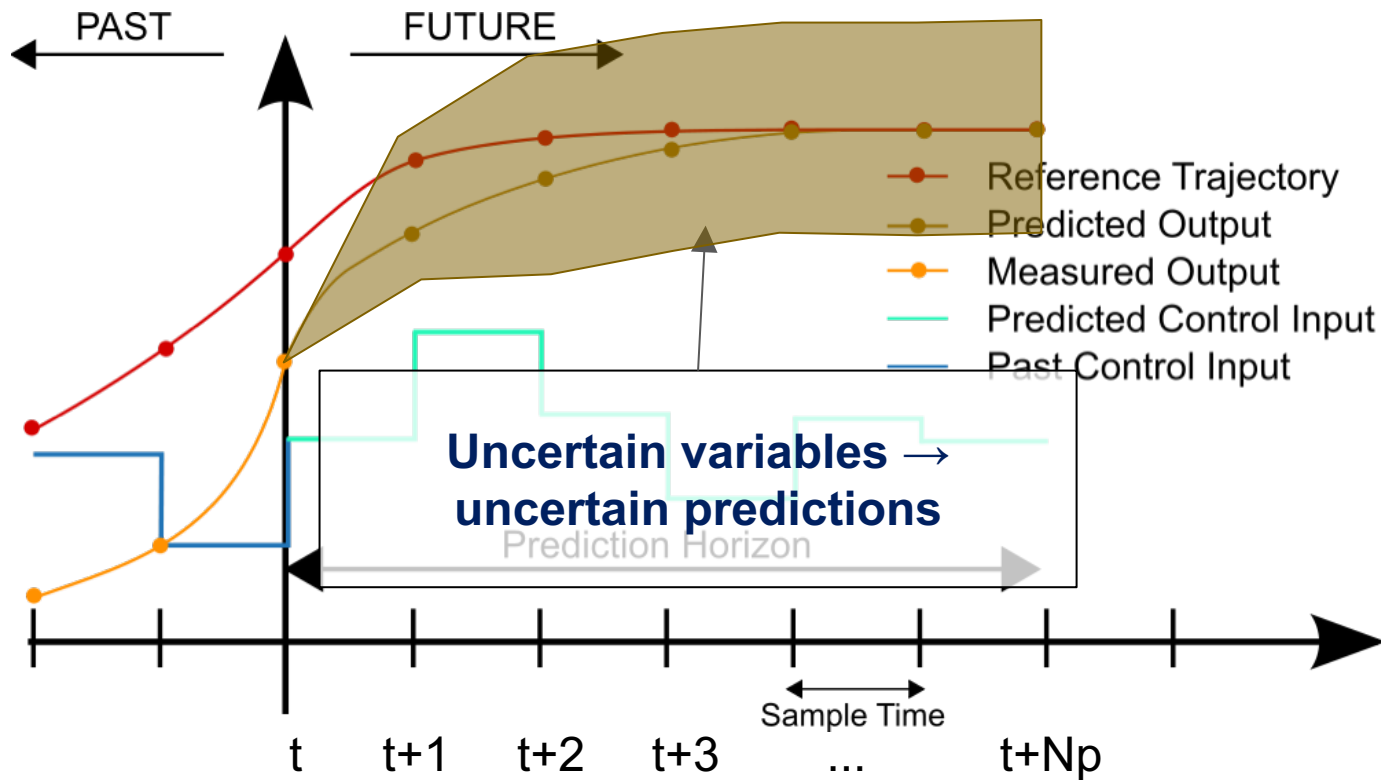
MPC:



Robust Model Predictive Control

Robust MPC

Robust
MPC:



Robust Model Predictive Control

Robust MPC

Find the insulin therapy at time $t, t+1, \dots$ that minimizes the worst case performance w.r.t. uncertainty parameters

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{\iota}^t, \dots, \boldsymbol{\iota}^{t+N_c-1}} \max_{\mathbf{u}^t, \dots, \mathbf{u}^{t+N_p-1}} \sum_{k=1}^{N_p} d(t+k) + \beta \cdot \sum_{k=0}^{N_c-1} (\Delta \boldsymbol{\iota}^{t+k})^2$$

Performance: combination of distance from target trajectory and step-wise discrepancy of control strategy

State Estimation

State
estimator

We designed a **Moving Horizon Estimator (MHE)**:

- “Estimation *a la* MPC”: uses a model to minimize distance between predicted and actual measurements, and between predicted and estimated states over a moving window of length N
- It works also as a **meal estimator**: estimates the most-likely uncertainty parameter values

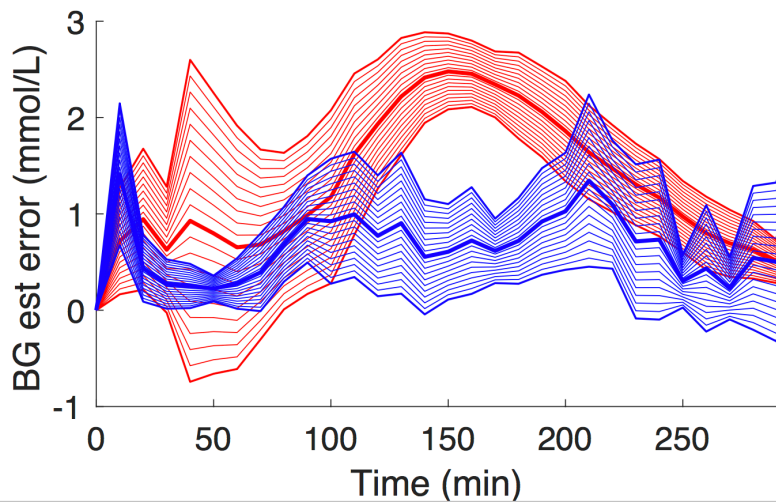
$$\min_{\mathbf{x}^{t-N}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^t, \mathbf{u}^{t-N}, \dots, \mathbf{u}^t} \left[\mu \cdot \left\| \mathbf{x}^{t-N} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}^{t-N} \right\|^2 + \sum_{k=t-N+1}^t \frac{\|v^k\|^2}{q^k} \right]$$

State Estimation

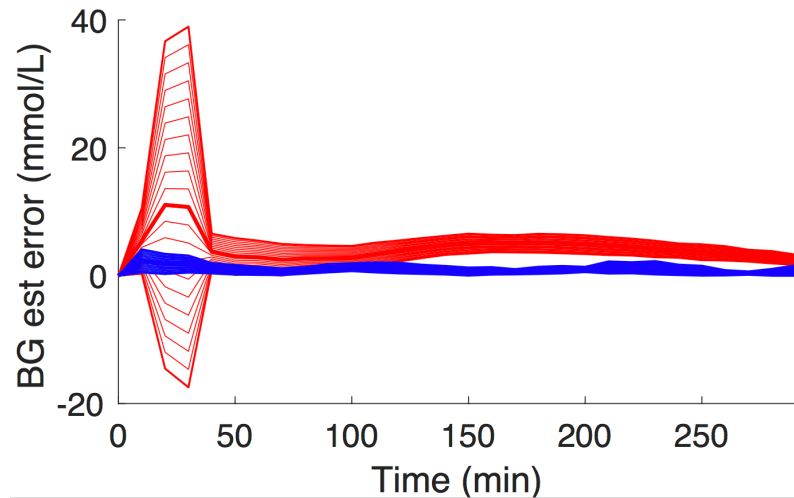
State
estimator

MHE outperforms Extended Kalman filter

Low sensor noise



High sensor noise



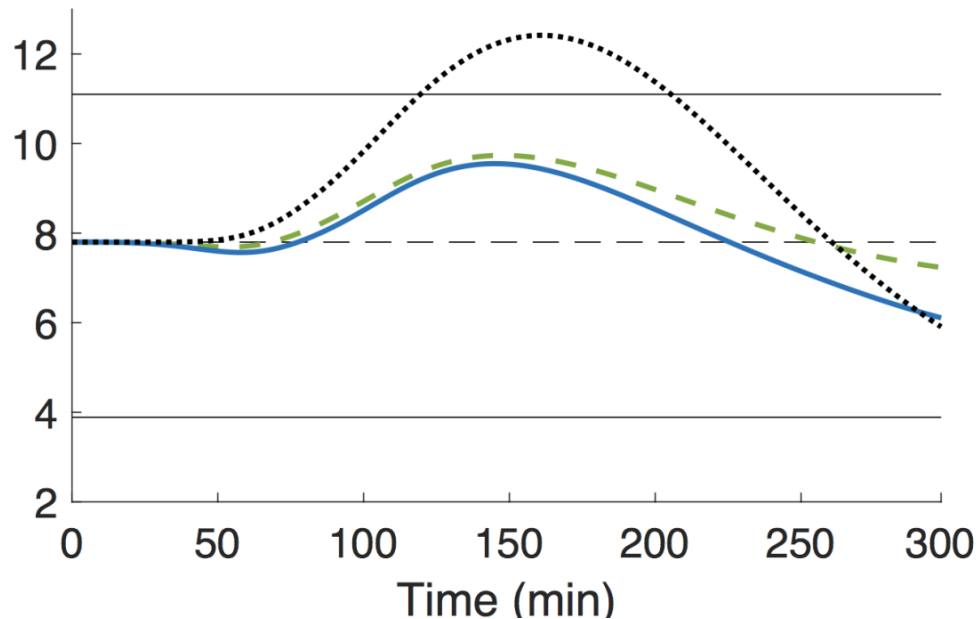
Evaluation

Robust controller compared with

- **Perfect controller:** with exact knowledge of uncertainty parameters and full state observability (no state estimation errors)
- **Only basal controller:** simulates the behavior of hybrid closed-loop insulin pumps with only automatic control of basal insulin (bolus is manual)

Scenario 1 - Meals as expected

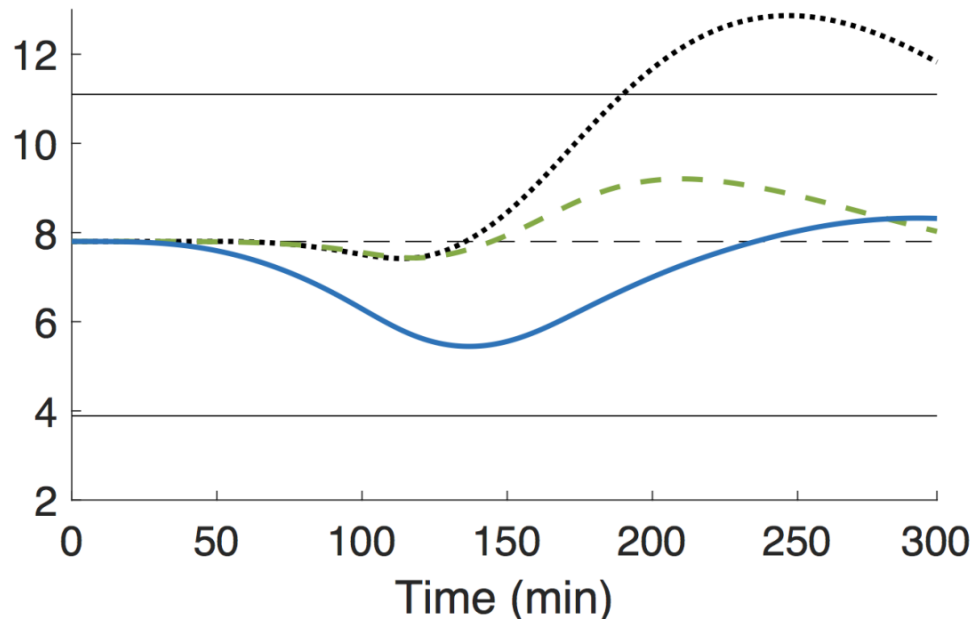
- Start: 60 ± 30 min; total carbs: 60 ± 18 g
- **Situation where uncertainty set is accurate**



	T hypo	T normal	T hyper
Perfect	0%	99.69%	0.31%
Only basal	1.6%	69.4%	29%
Robust	0.51%	97.7%	1.79%

Scenario 2 - Unexpected delays

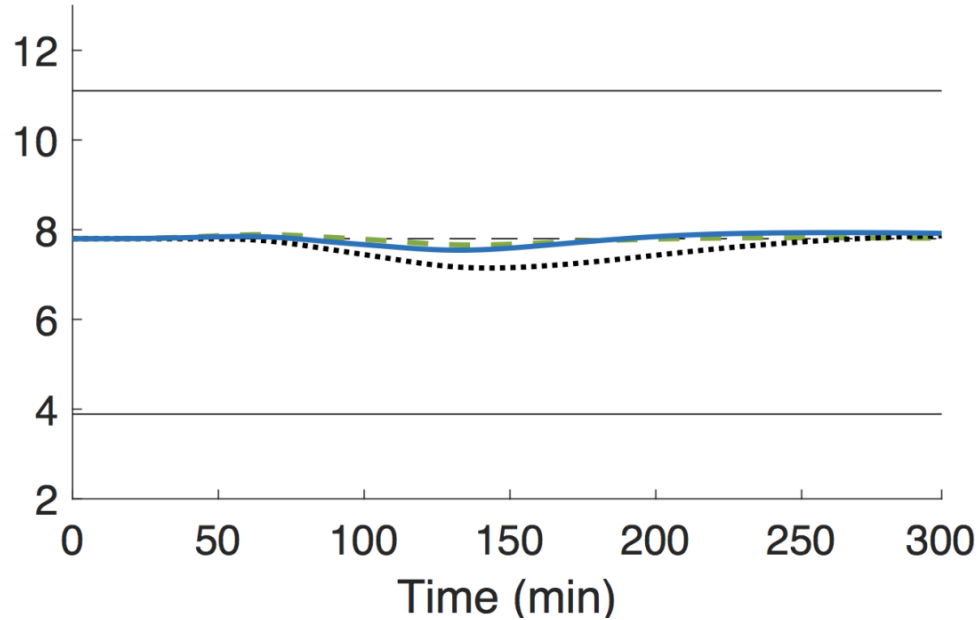
- Same as before, but start time is constantly delayed of 1 h
- **Situation where uncertainty sets are not accurate**



	T hypo	T normal	T hyper
Perfect	0%	100%	0%
Only basal	0%	67.25%	32.75%
Robust	0.79%	99.03%	0.18%

Exercise

- We reproduce a 1h exercise (30 min intense, followed by 30 min moderate)



	T hypo	T normal	T hyper
Perfect	0%	100%	0%
Only basal	0%	100%	0%
Robust	0%	100%	0%

Summary

- Robust MPC design for AP that well supports meal disturbances
- Based on deriving uncertainty sets from patient data
- Towards fully closed-loop diabetes therapy

Ongoing and future work

- Longer scenarios (1, 2, 7, ... days)
- Data from CDC's NHANES database
- More tractable formulation (linearization, convex programming, simpler model)
- More advanced patient behavioral model