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# Stability and robustness of nonlinear predictive control without stabilizing terminal constraints

Lars Grüne

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in collaboration with

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Nils Altmüller (Bayreuth), Thomas Jahn (Bayreuth),  
Jürgen Pannek (Perth), Karl Worthmann (Bayreuth)



supported by DFG priority research program 1305  
“Control theory for digitally networked dynamical systems”

SADCO Kick-Off Meeting, Paris, March 2011

# Setup

We consider **nonlinear discrete time** control systems

$$x(n+1) = f(x(n), u(n))$$

with  $x(n) \in X$ ,  $u(n) \in U$ ,  $X, U$  arbitrary metric spaces

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possibly subject to state/control constraints

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We obtain a feedback law  $F_N$  by a moving horizon technique

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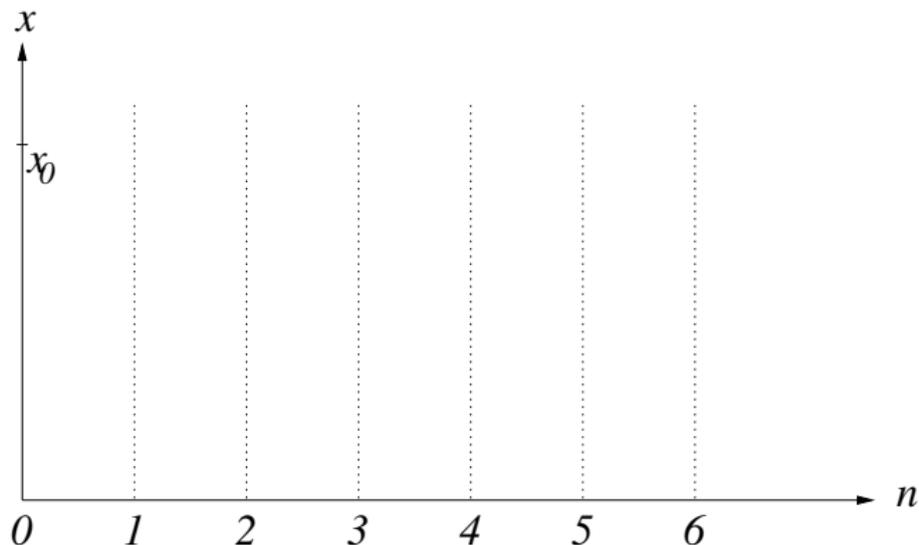
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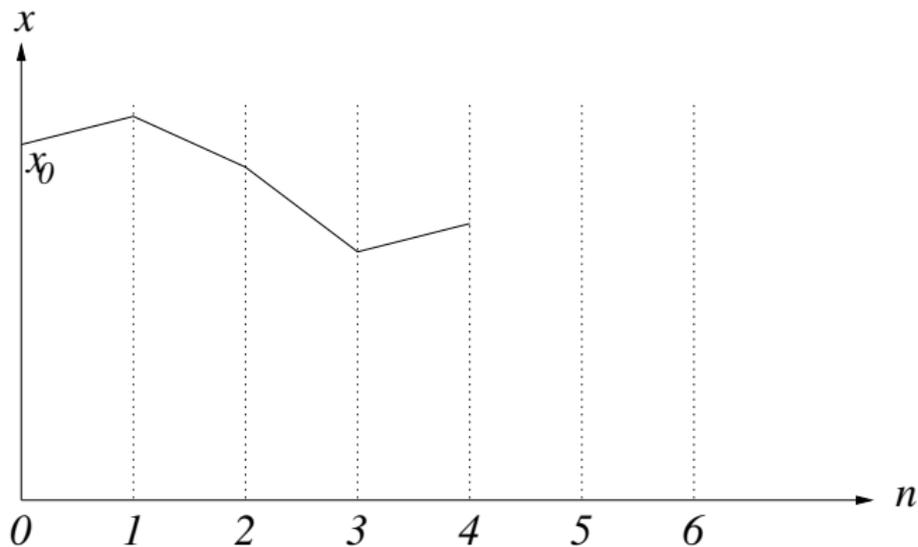
↪ **feedback controlled system** (“**closed loop**”)

$$x(n+1) = f(x(n), F_N(x(n))) = f(x^{opt}(0), u^{opt}(0)) = x^{opt}(1)$$

# MPC from the trajectory point of view

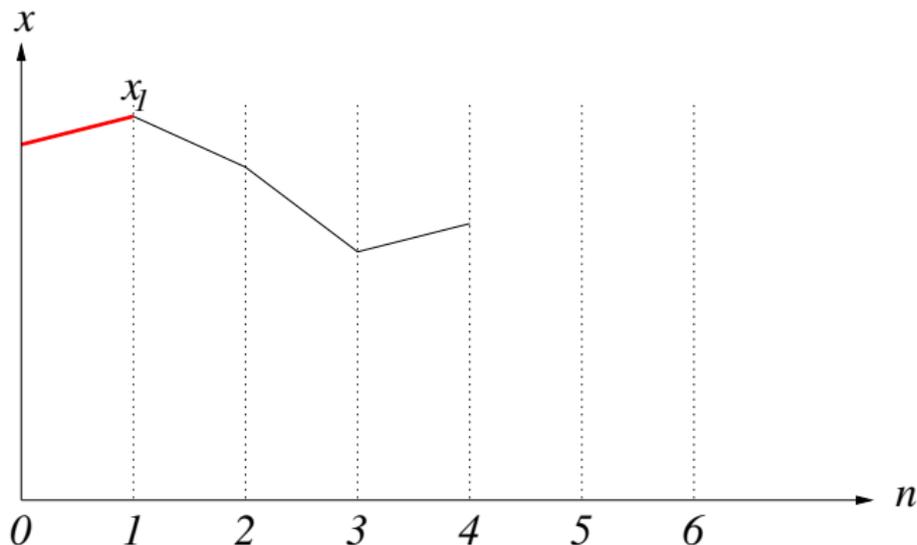


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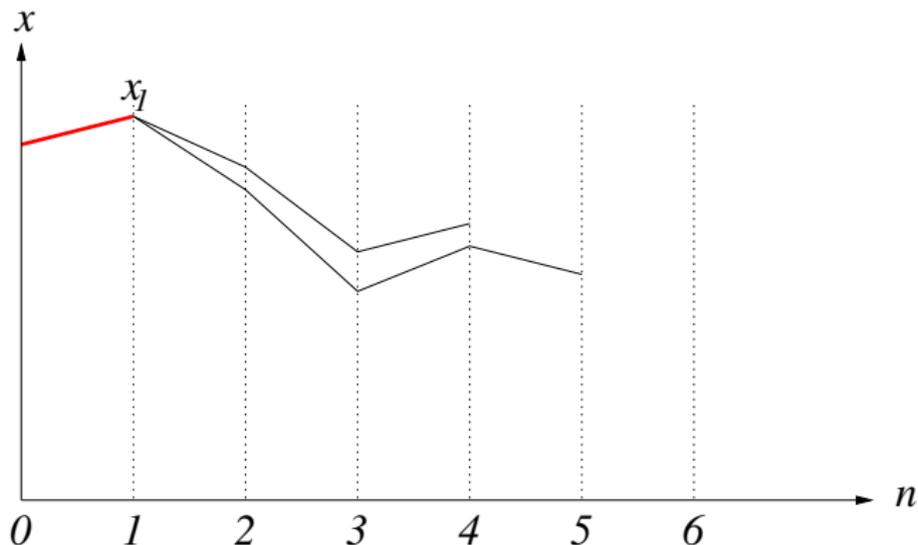
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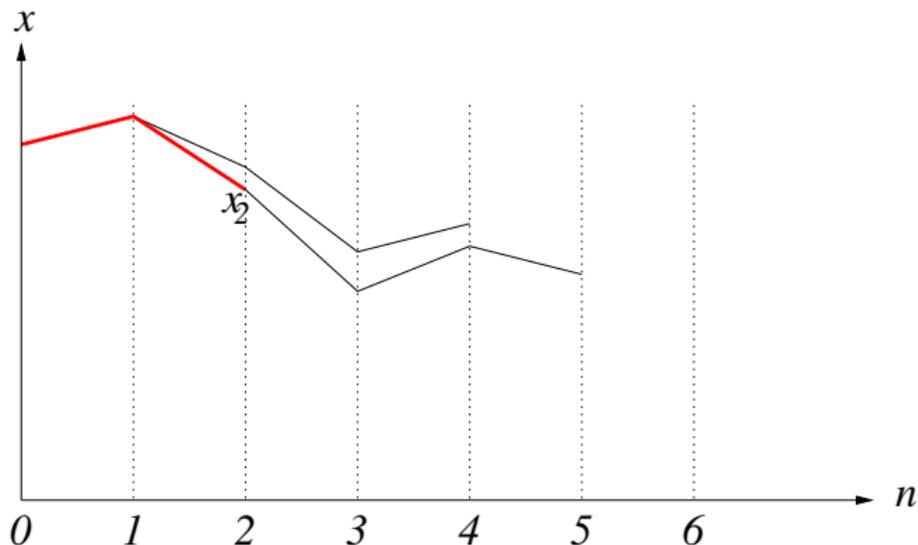
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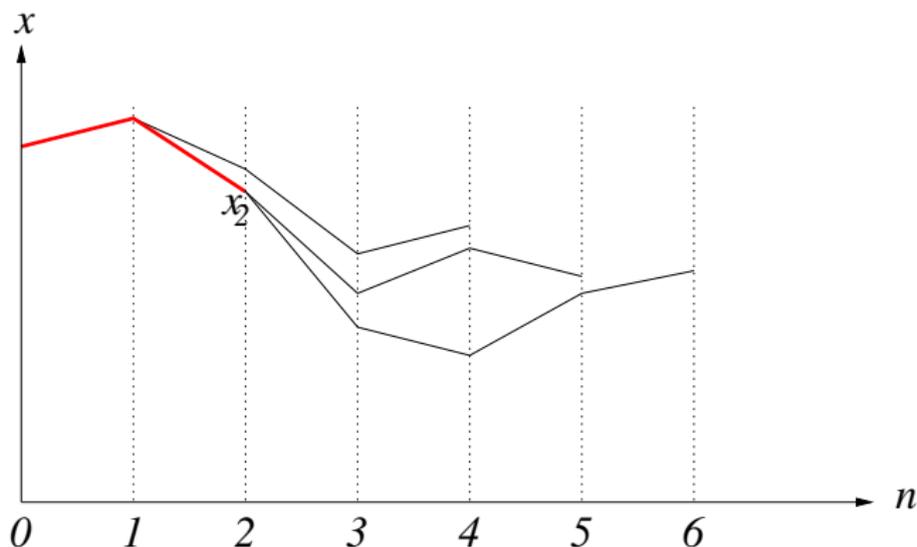
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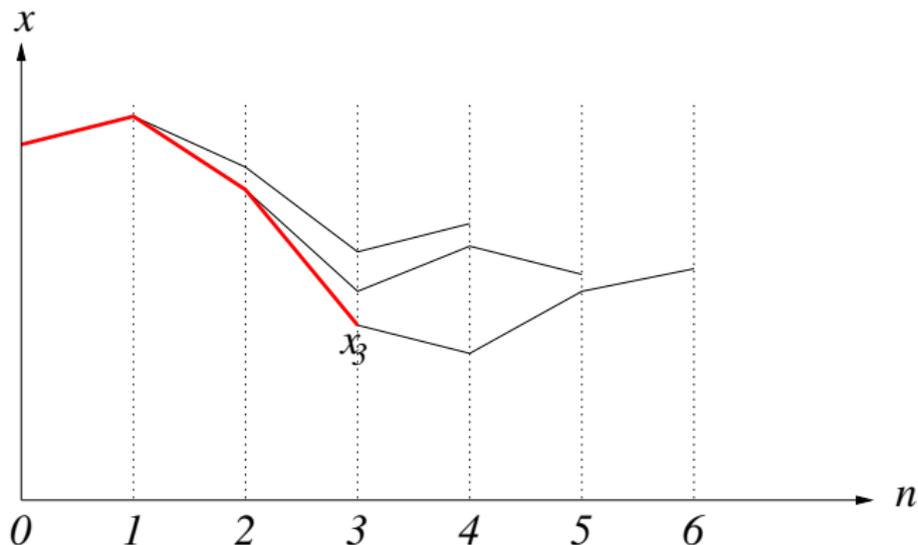
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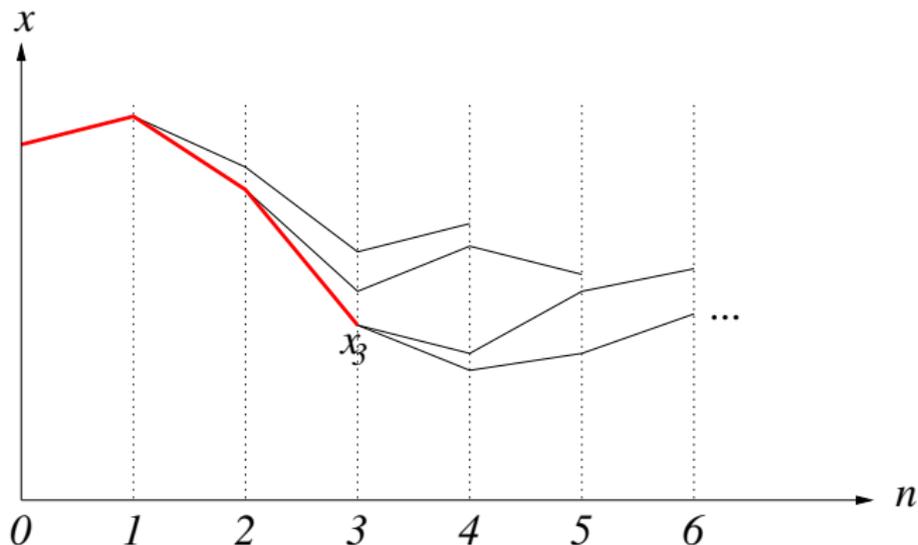
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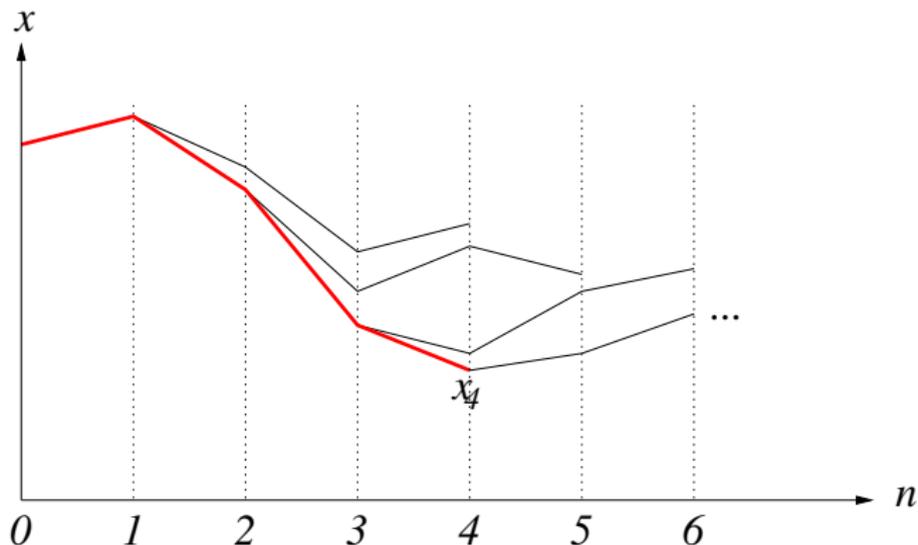
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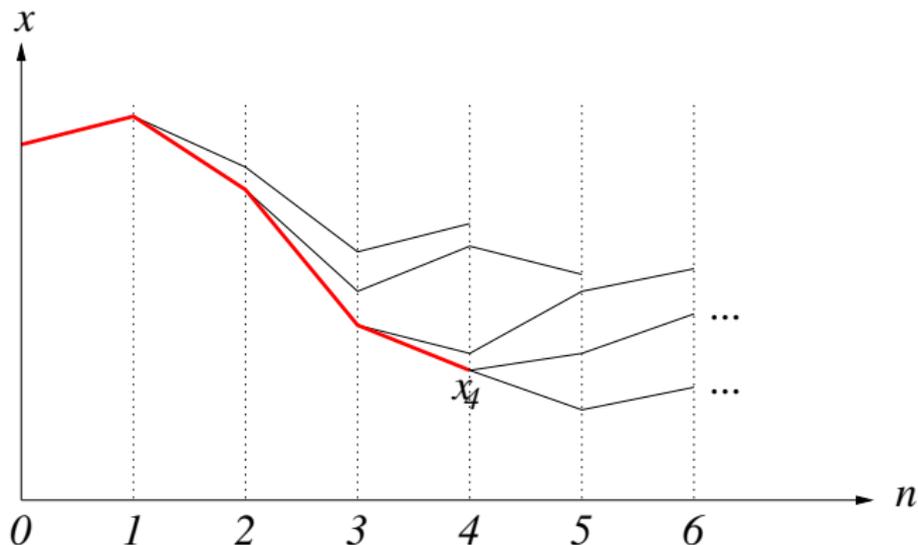
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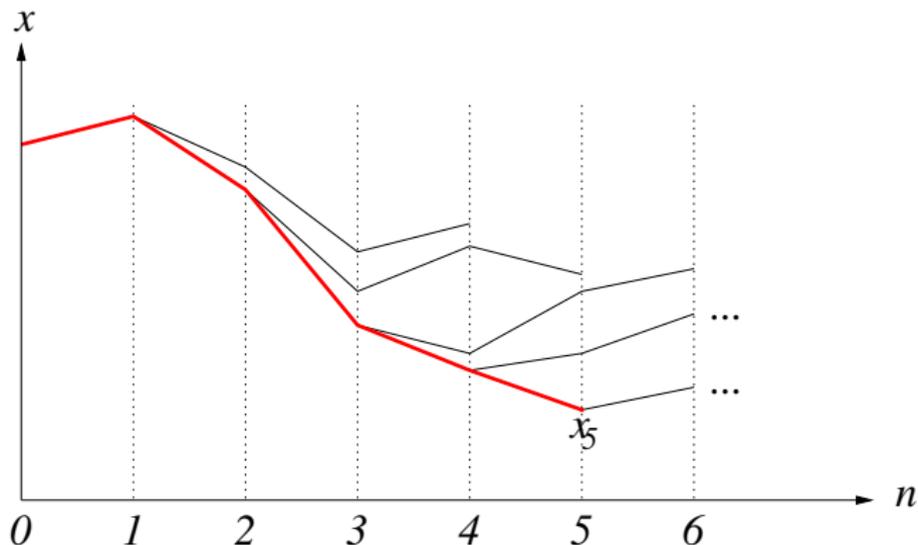
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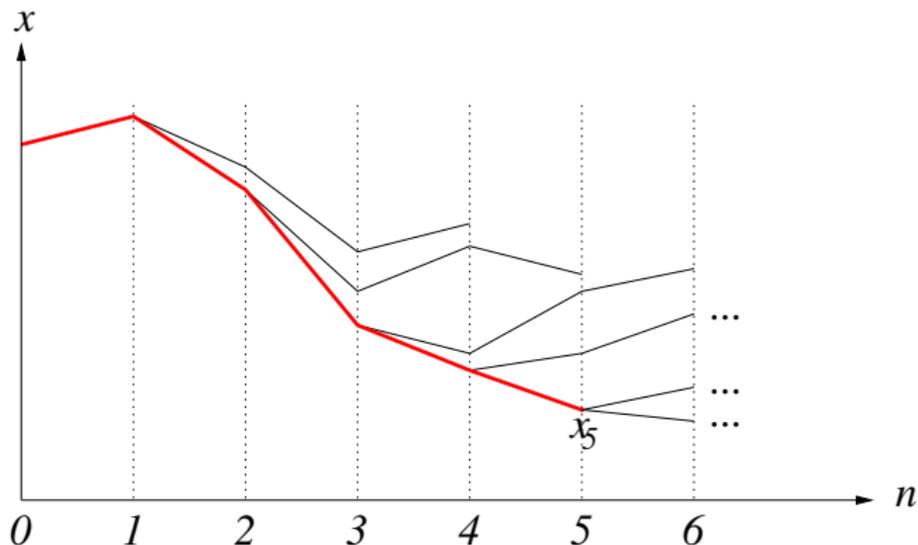
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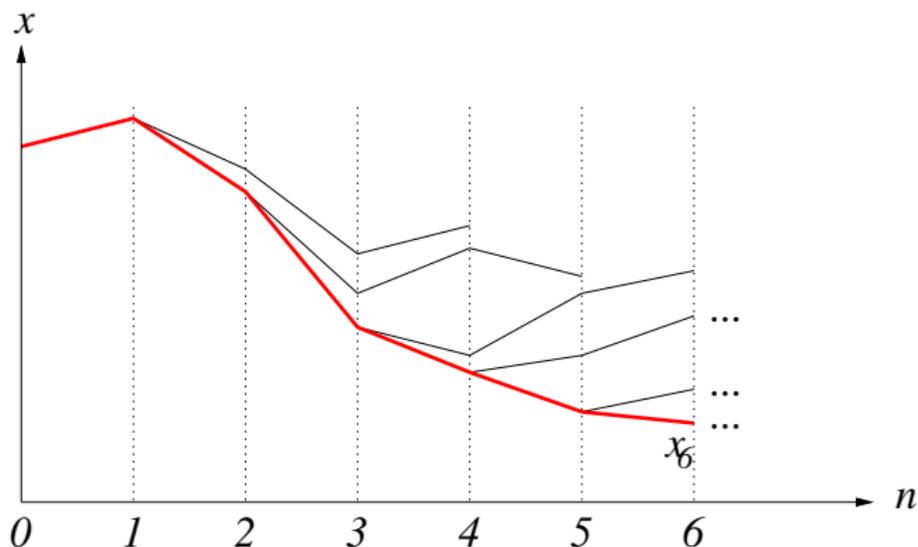
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How large is “sufficiently large”?

# Estimating $N$

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A suitable condition is “**exponential controllability through  $\ell$** ”:

there exist real numbers  $C > 0$ ,  $\sigma \in (0, 1)$  such that for each  $x(0) \in X$  there is  $u(\cdot)$  with

$$\ell(x(n), u(n)) \leq C\sigma^n \ell^*(x(0))$$

with  $\ell^*(x) = \min_u \ell(x, u)$

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**Theorem:** If  $\alpha > 0$ , then the MPC feedback  $F_N$  stabilizes all  $C$ ,  $\sigma$ -exponentially controllable systems and we get

$$J_\infty(x, F_N) \leq \inf_{u \in U^\infty} J_\infty(x, u) / \alpha$$

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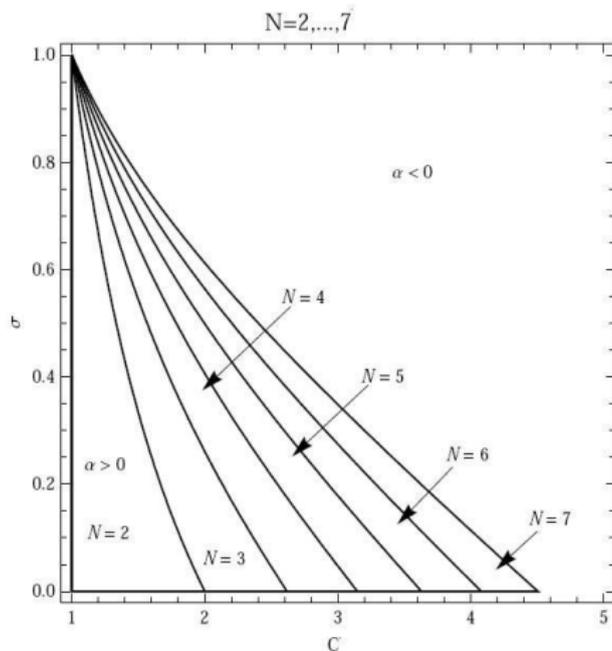
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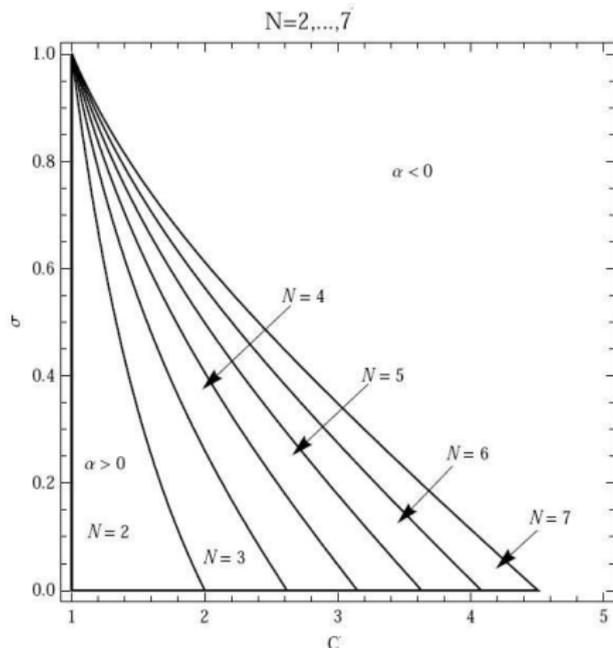
Moreover,  $\alpha \rightarrow 1$  as  $N \rightarrow \infty$

# Stability chart for $C$ and $\sigma$



(Figure: Harald Voit)

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(Figure: Harald Voit)

**Conclusion:** try to reduce  $C$ , e.g., by choosing  $\ell$  appropriately

# A PDE example

We illustrate this with the 1d controlled PDE

$$y_t = y_x + \nu y_{xx} + \mu y(y + 1)(1 - y) + u$$

with

domain  $\Omega = [0, 1]$

solution  $y = y(t, x)$

boundary conditions  $y(t, 0) = y(t, 1) = 0$

parameters  $\nu = 0.1$  and  $\mu = 10$

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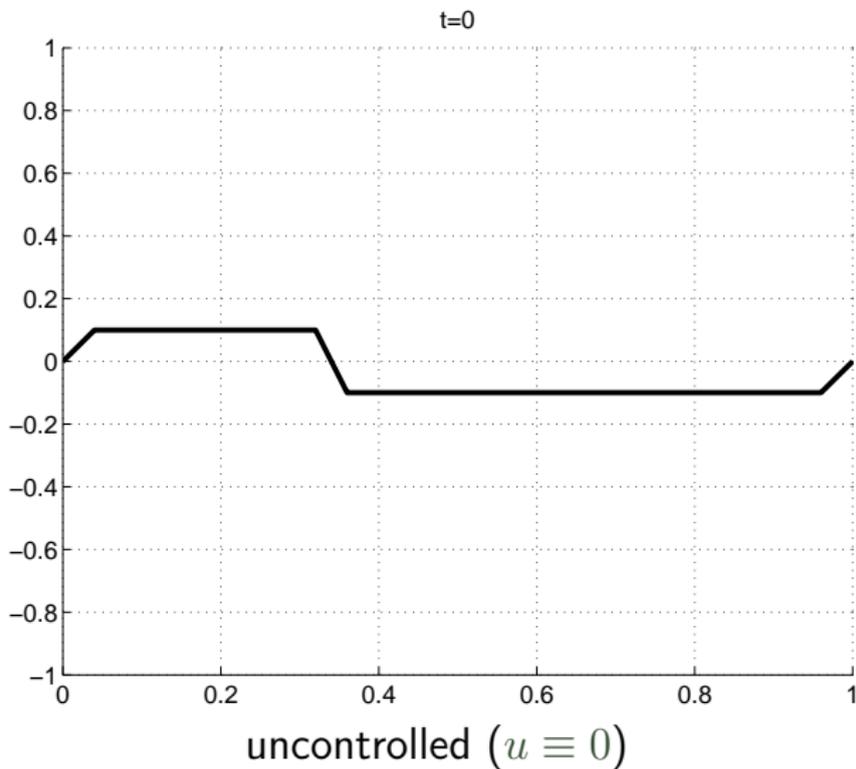
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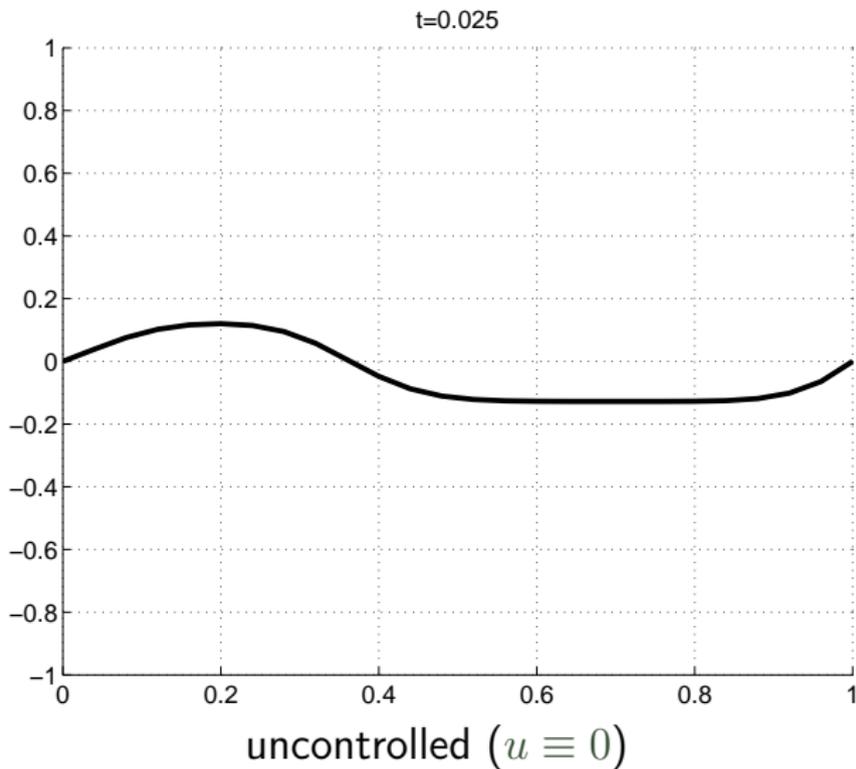
Discrete time system:  $y(n) = y(nT, \cdot)$  for some  $T > 0$

(“sampled data system with sampling time  $T$ ”)

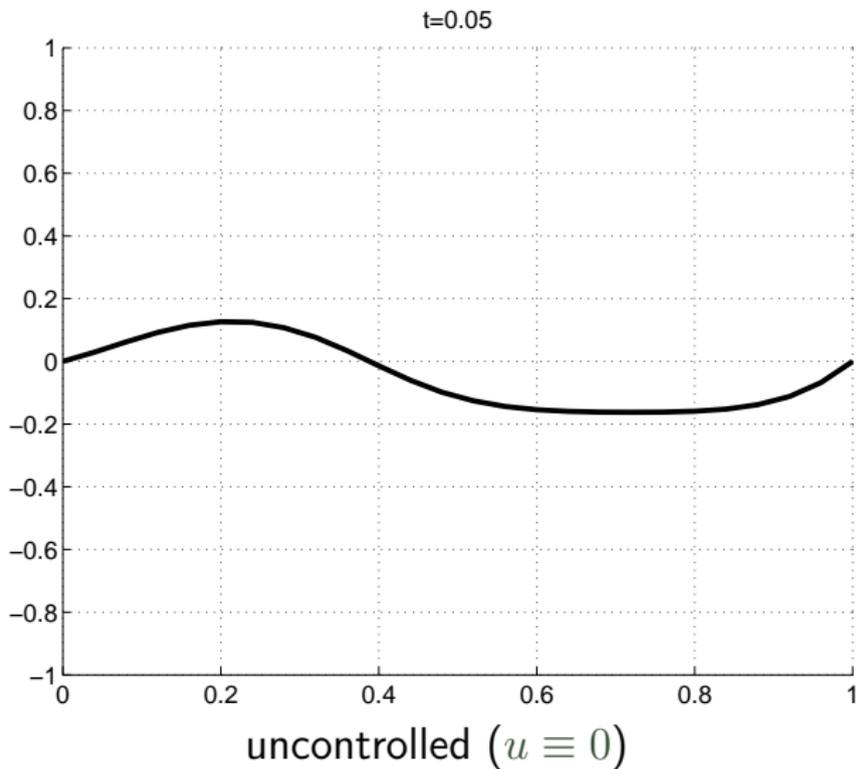
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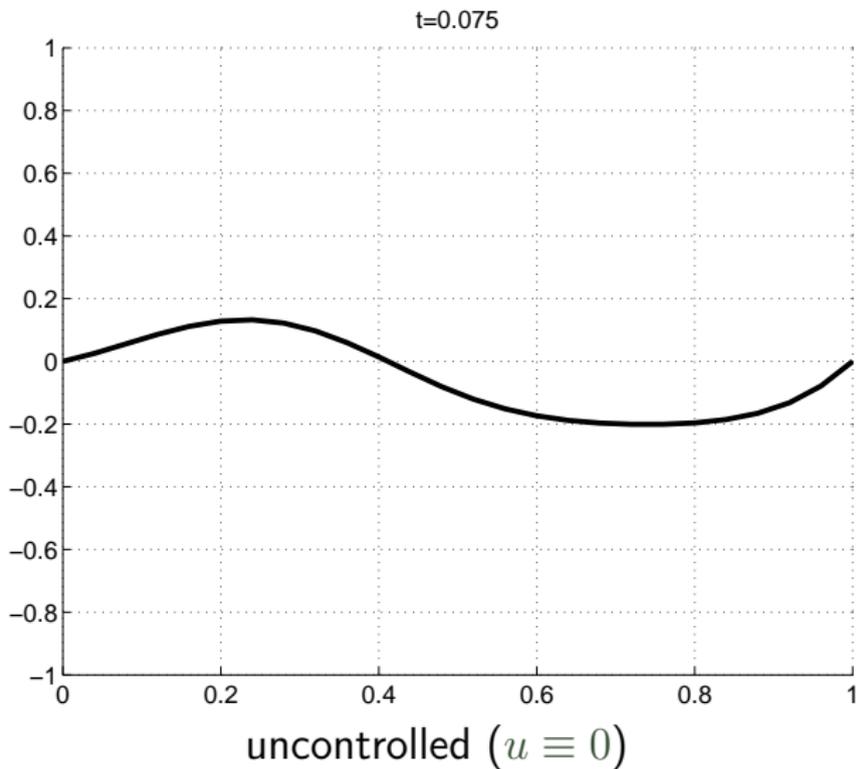
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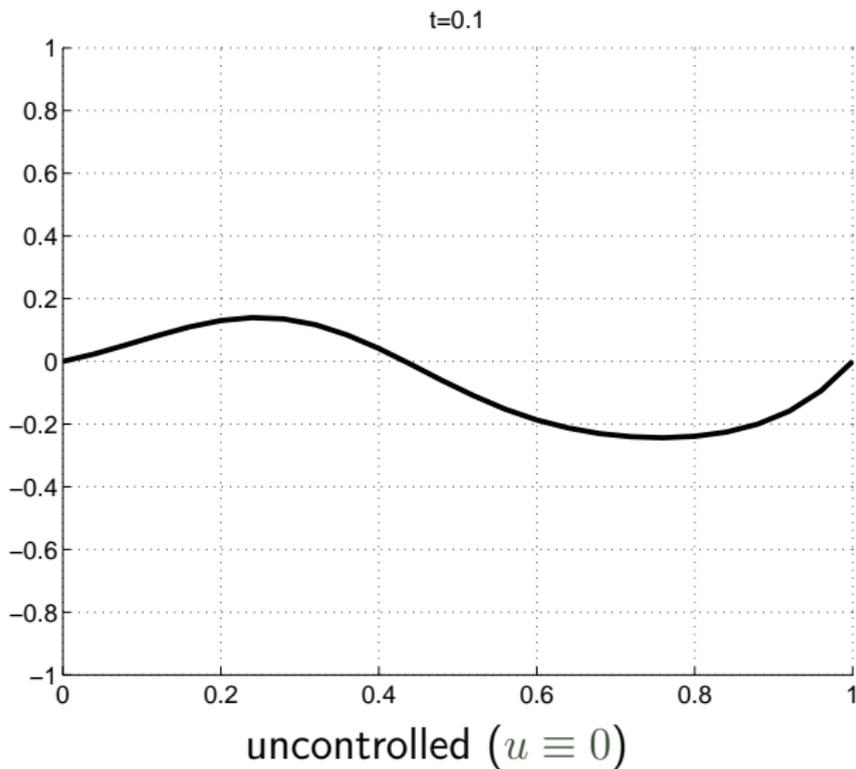
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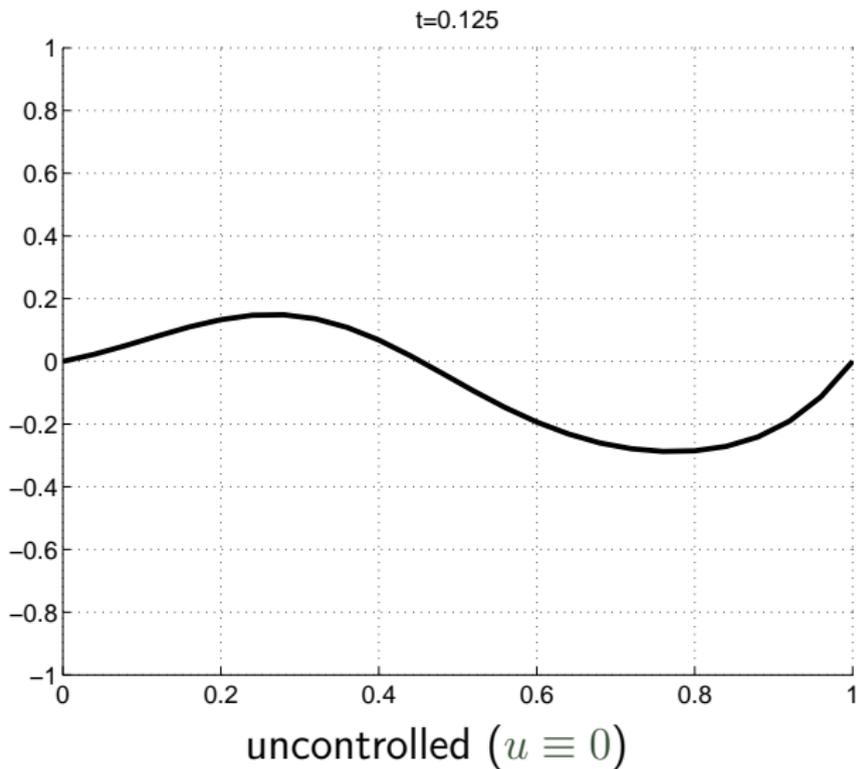
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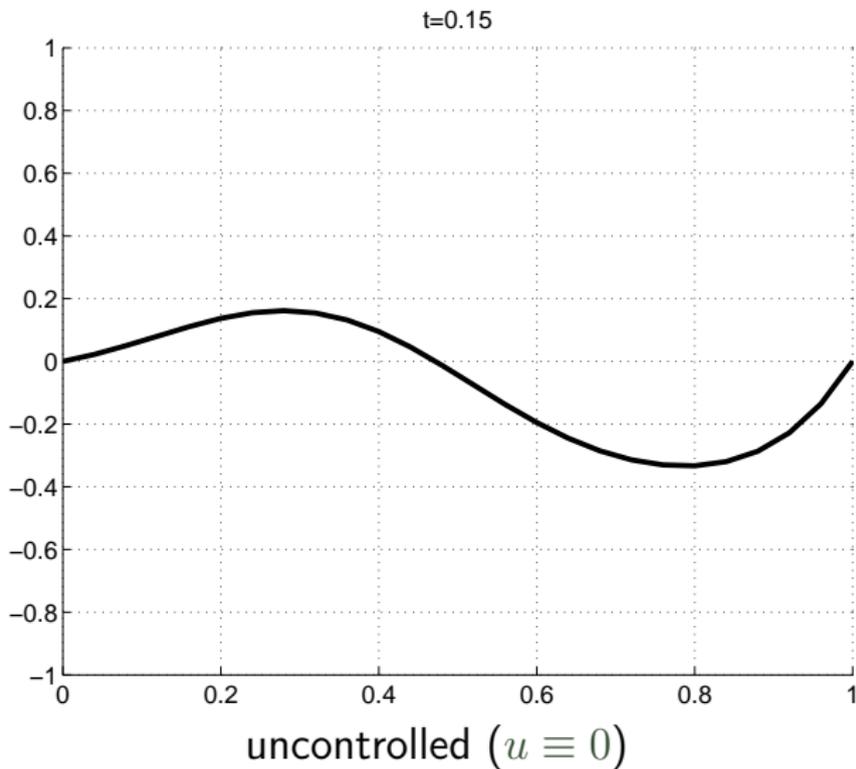
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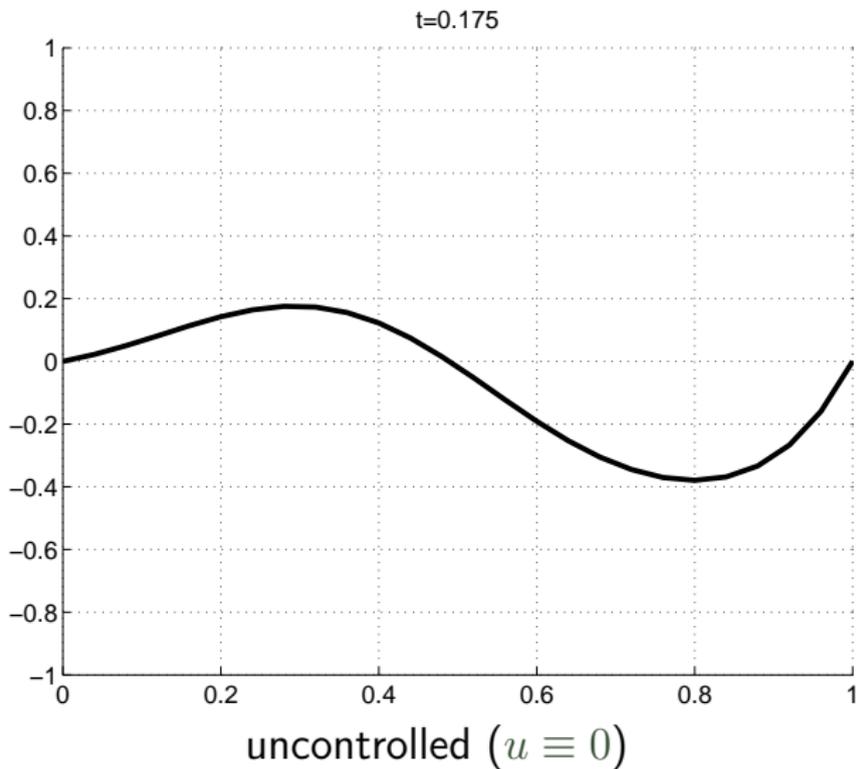
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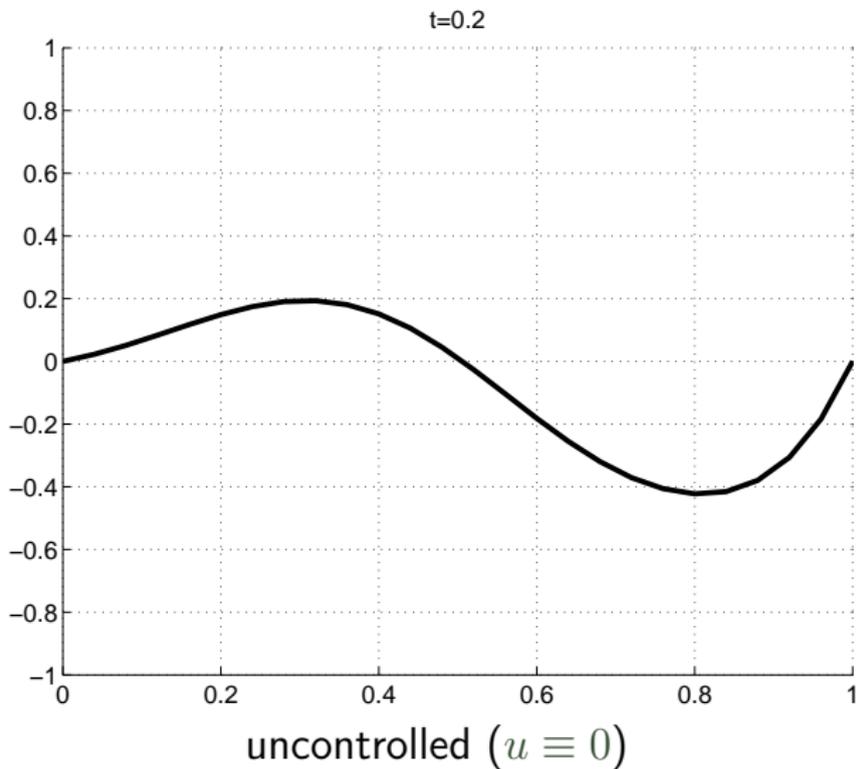
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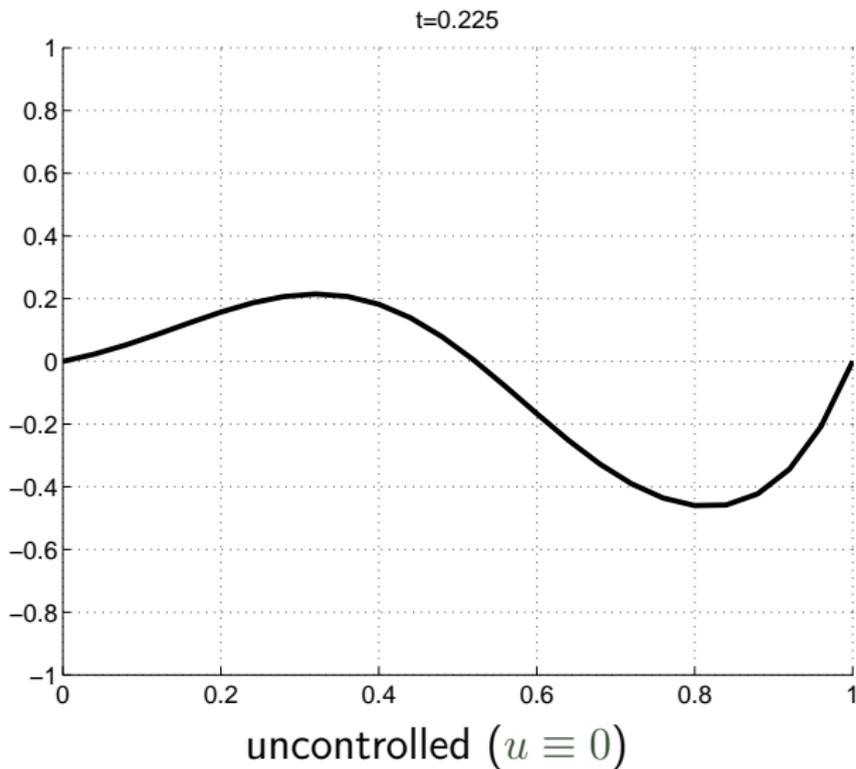
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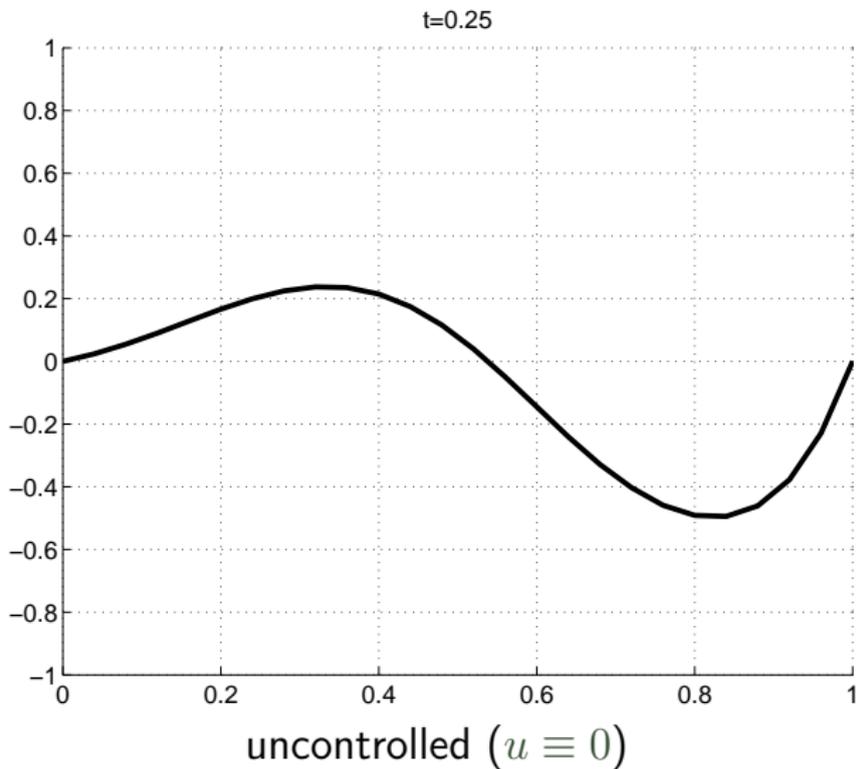
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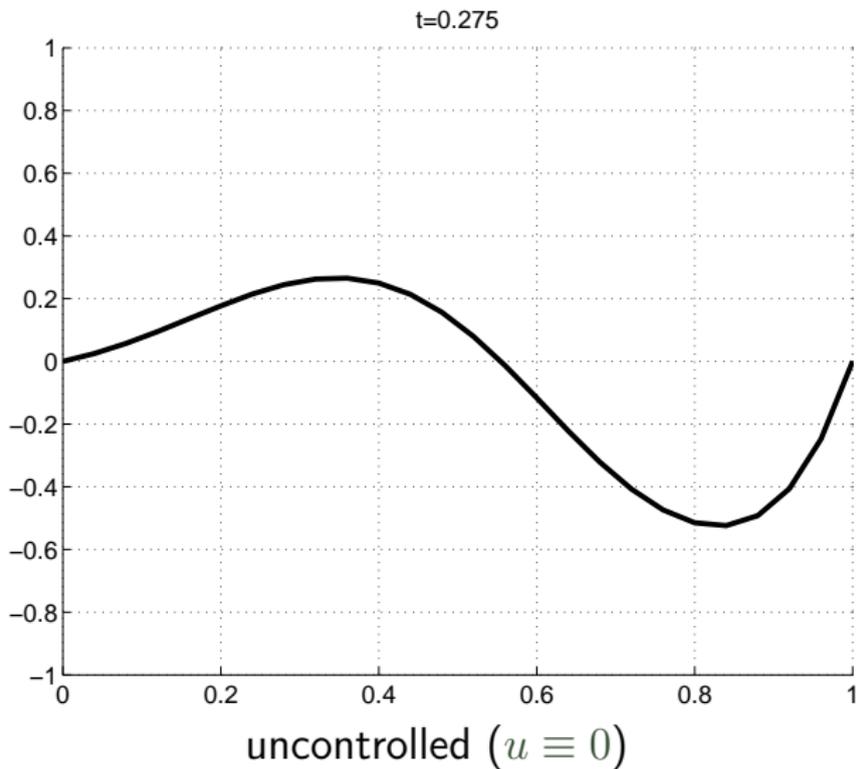
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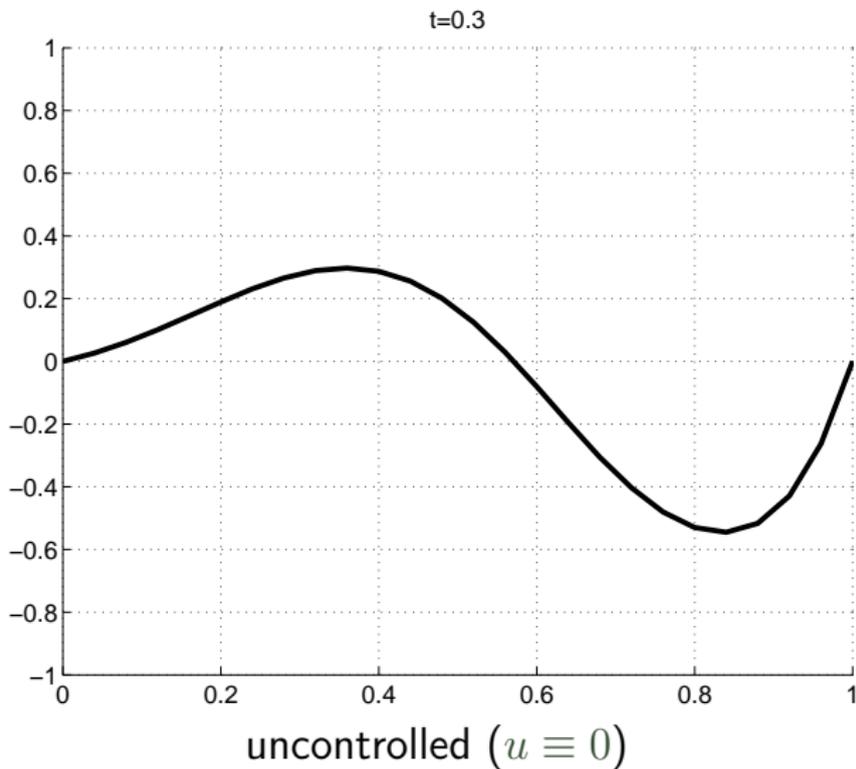
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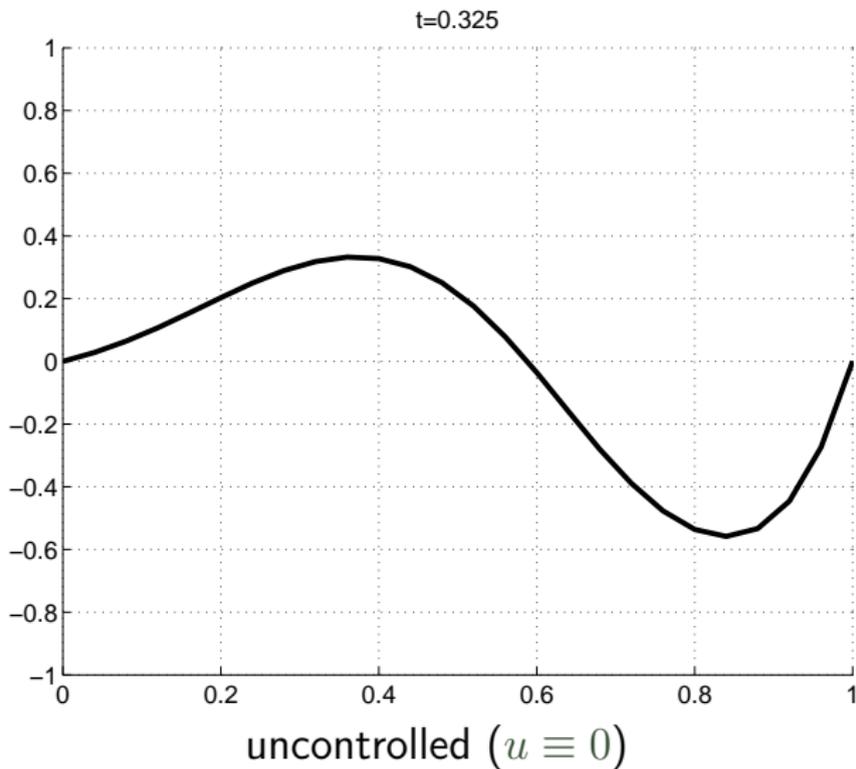
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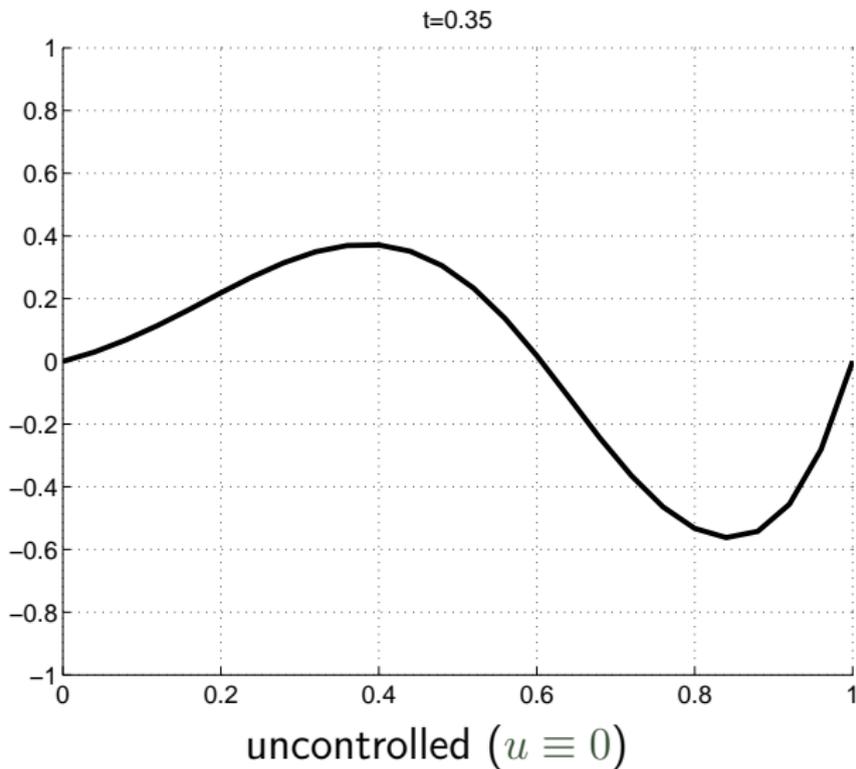
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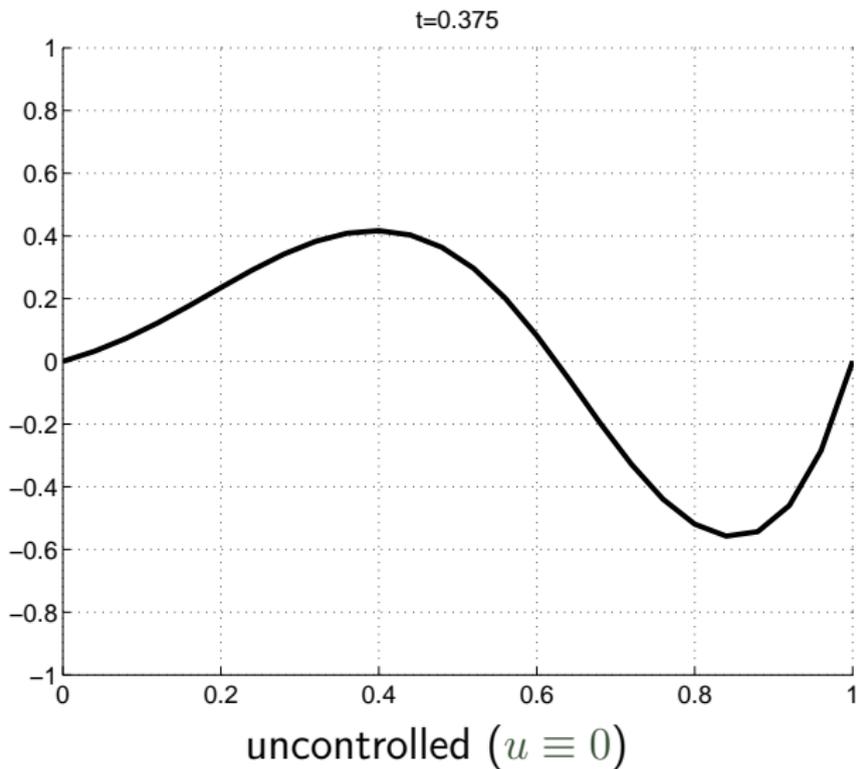
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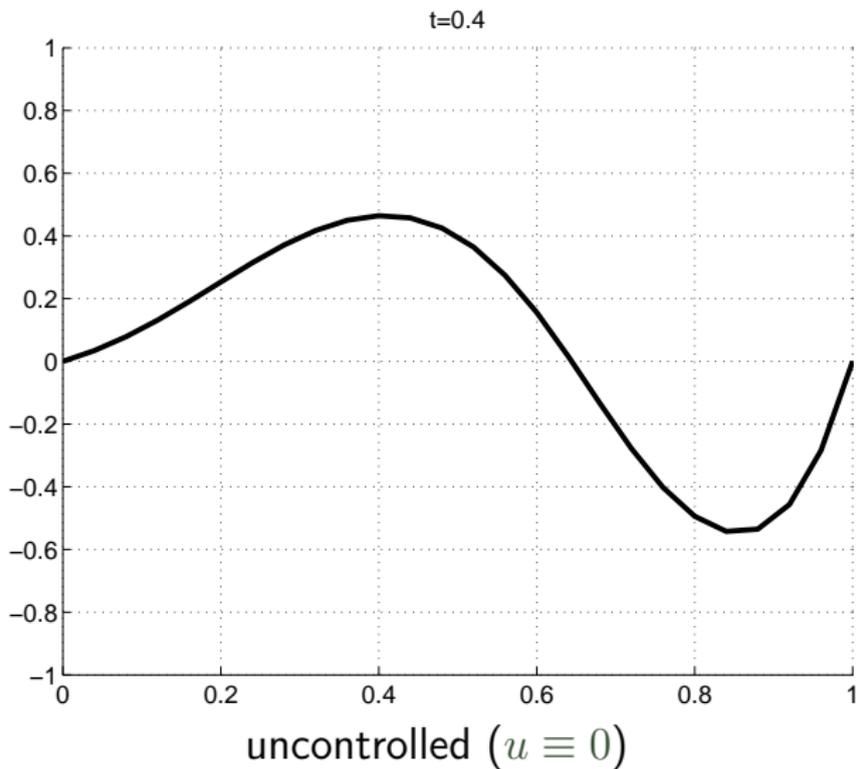
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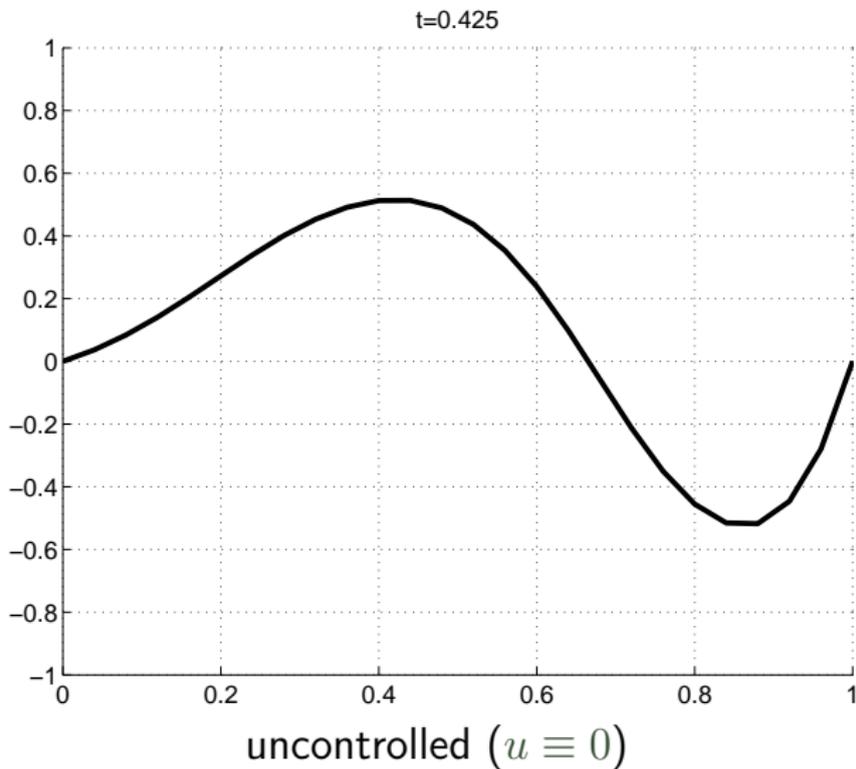
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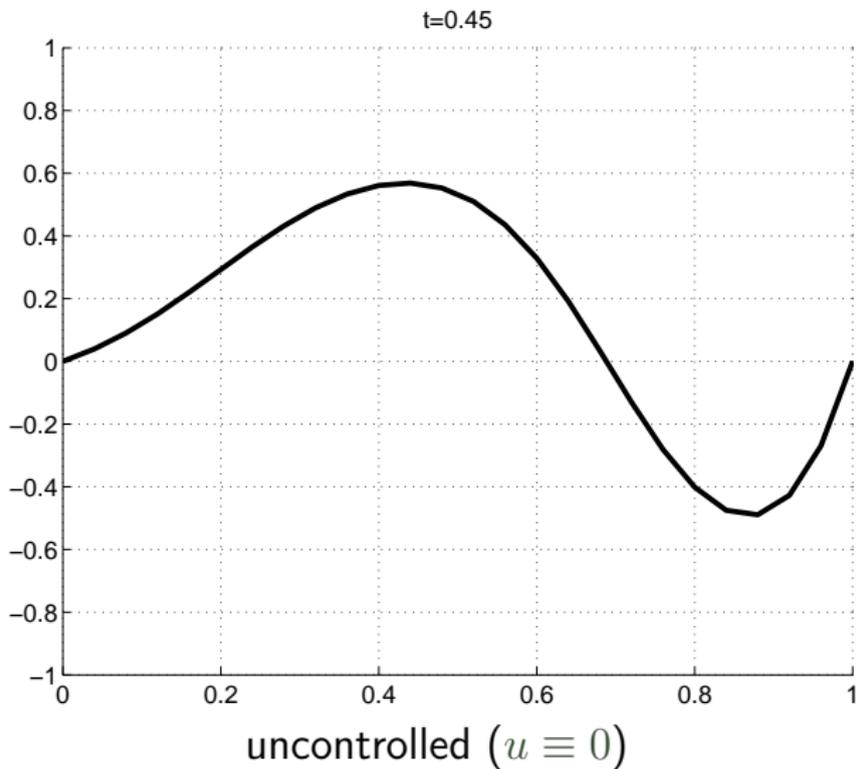
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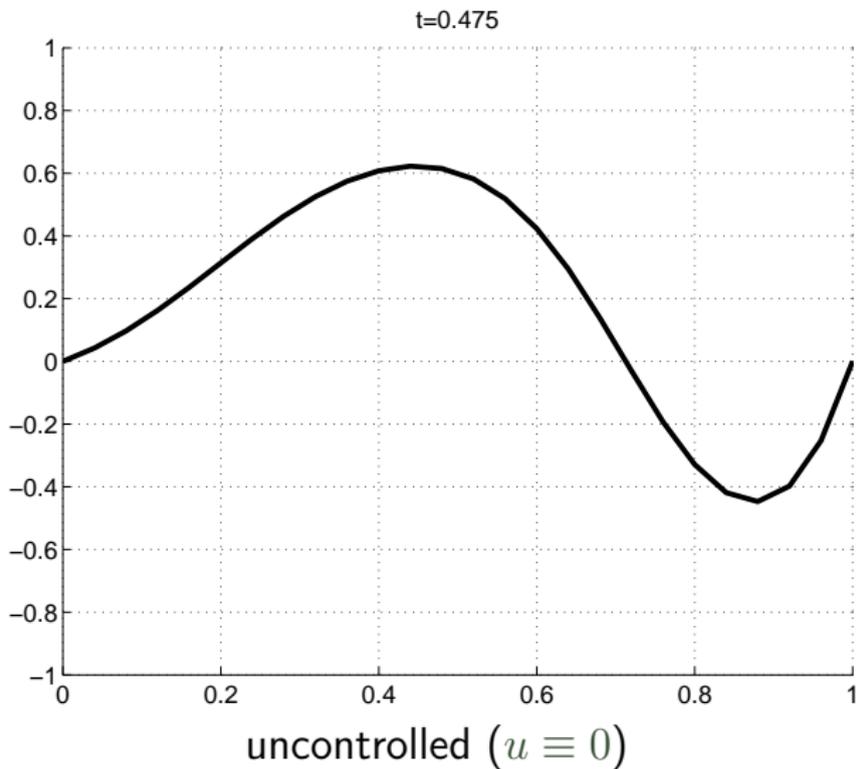
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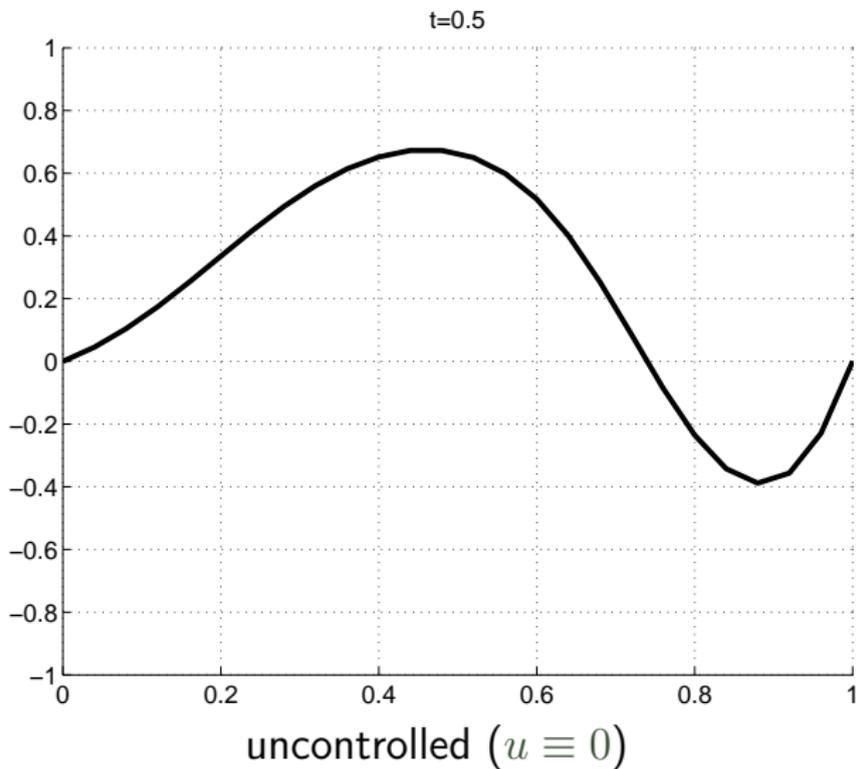
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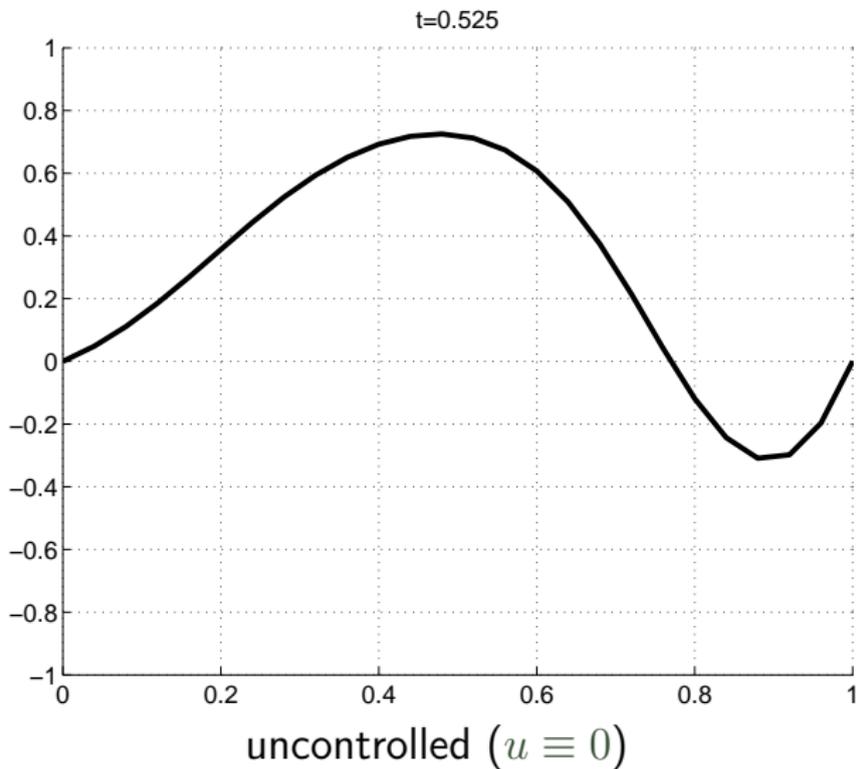
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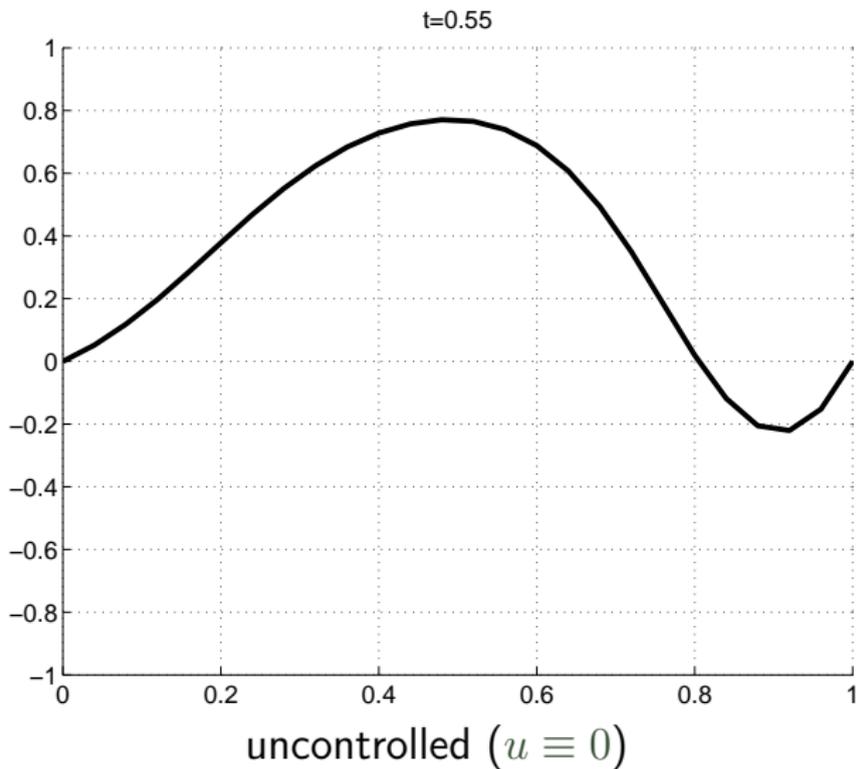
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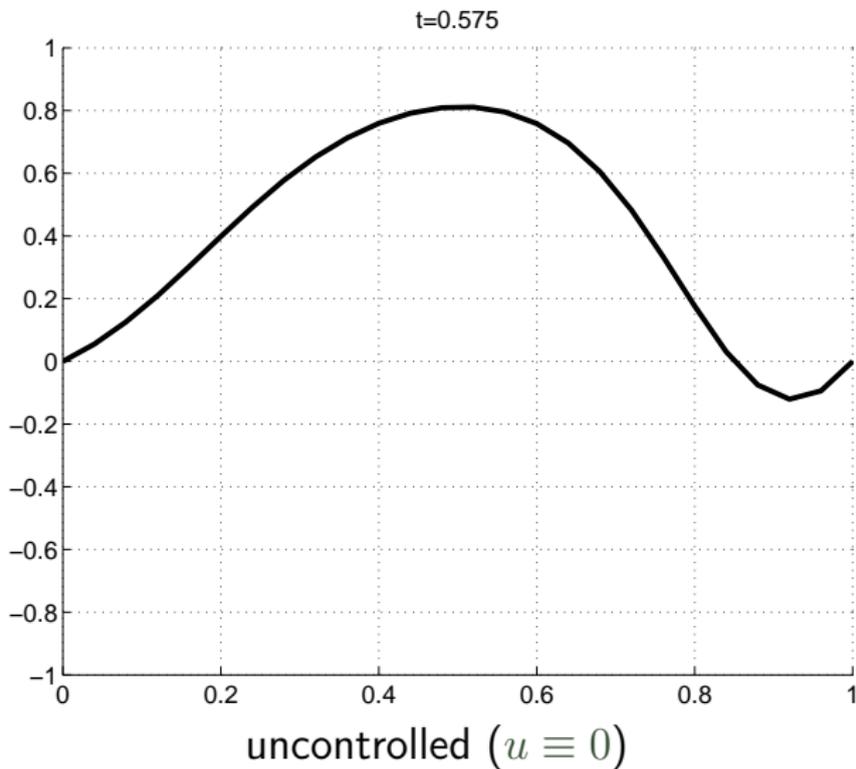
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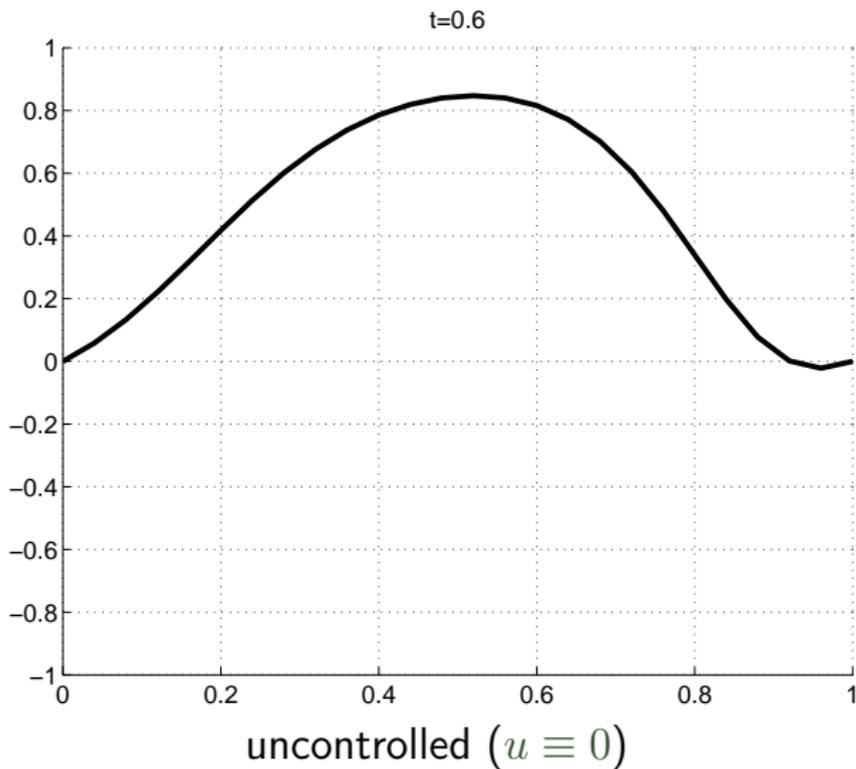
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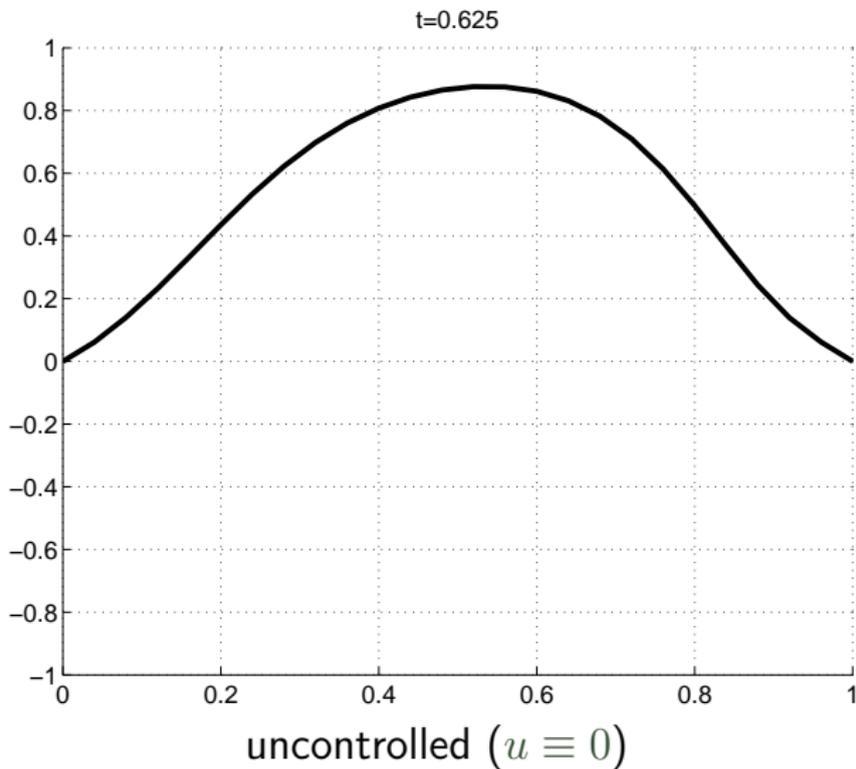
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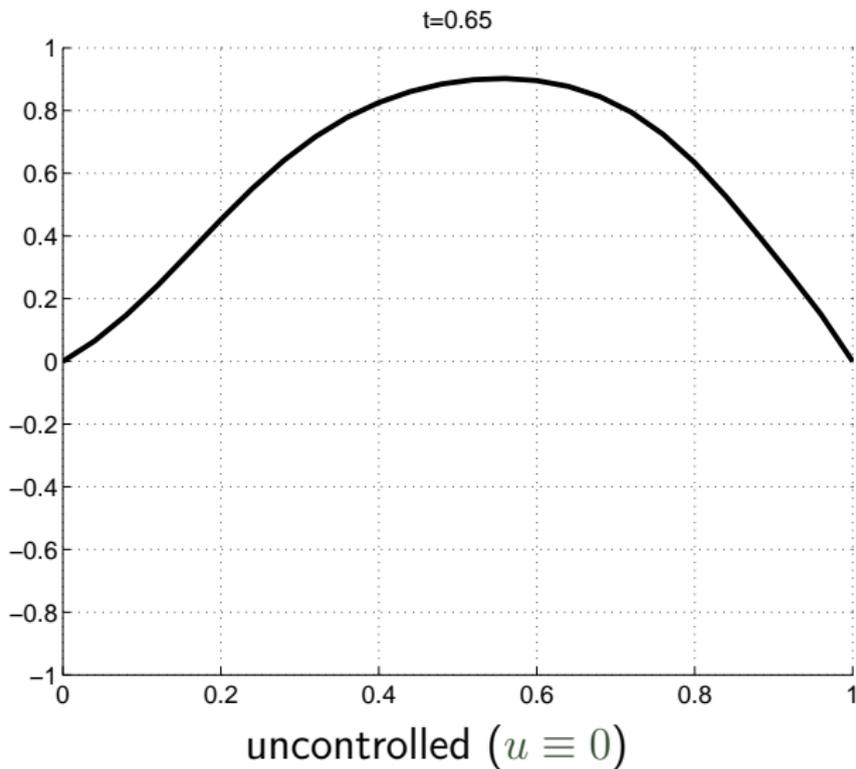
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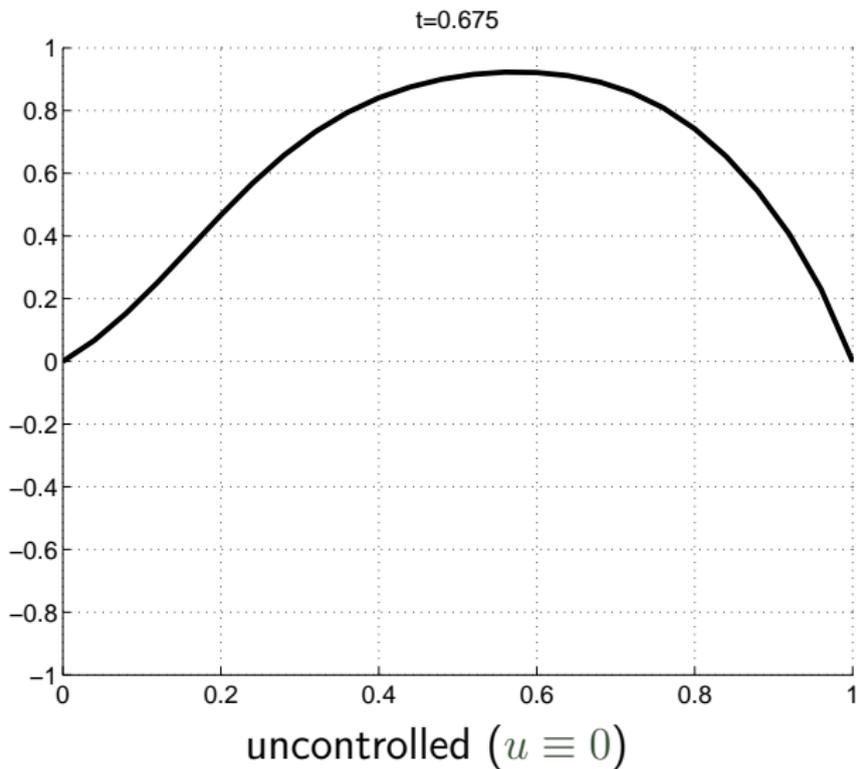
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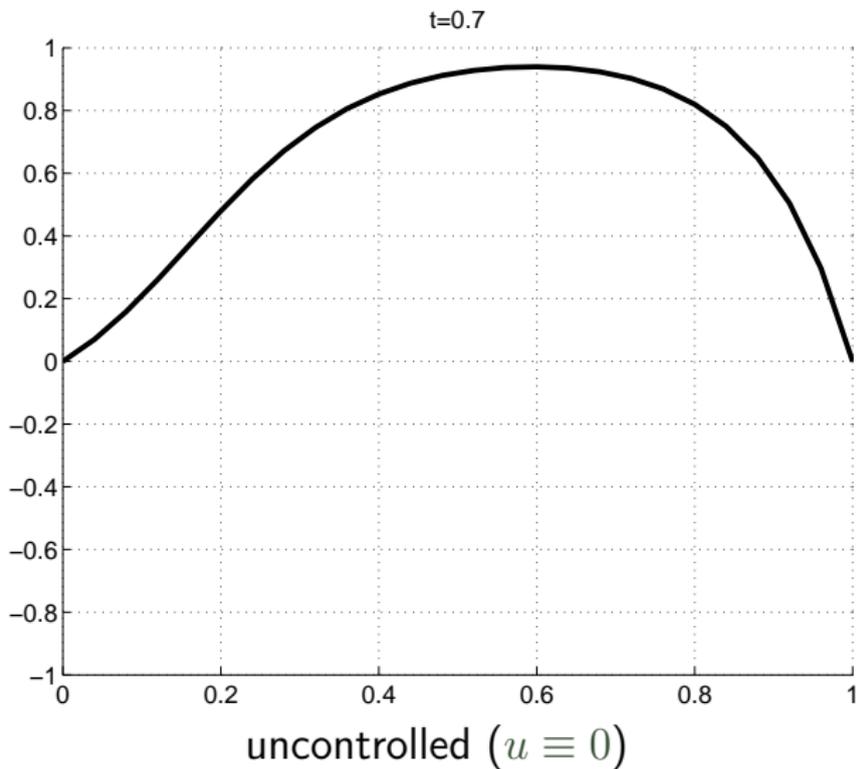
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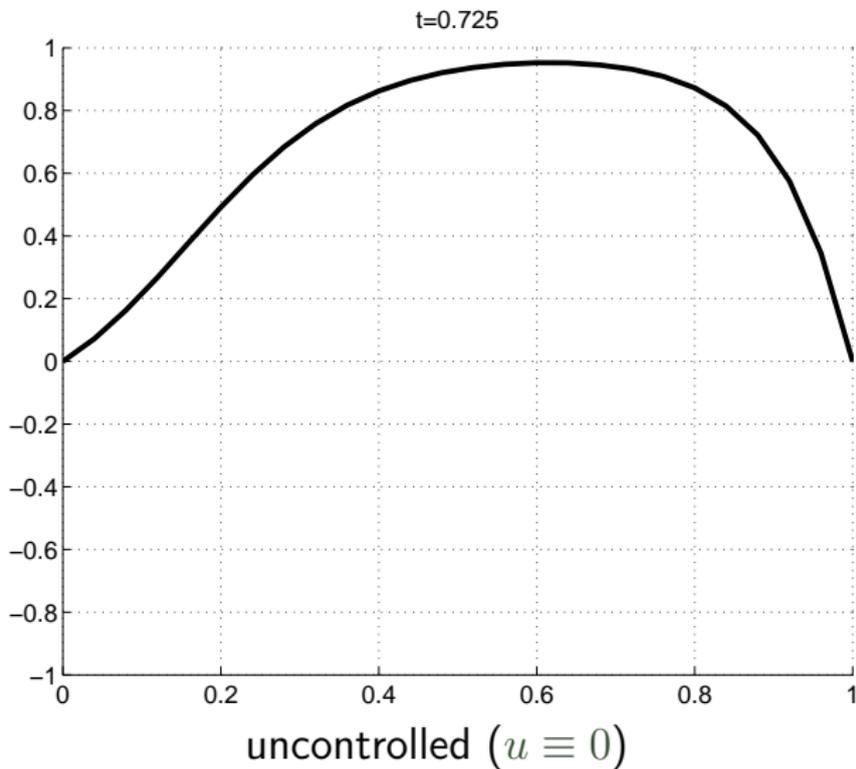
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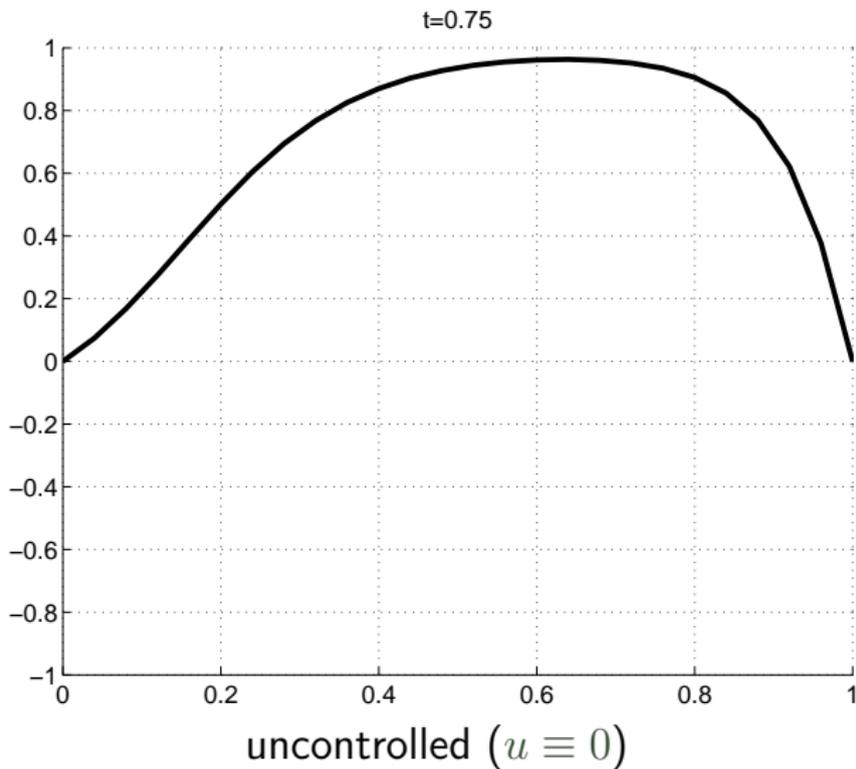
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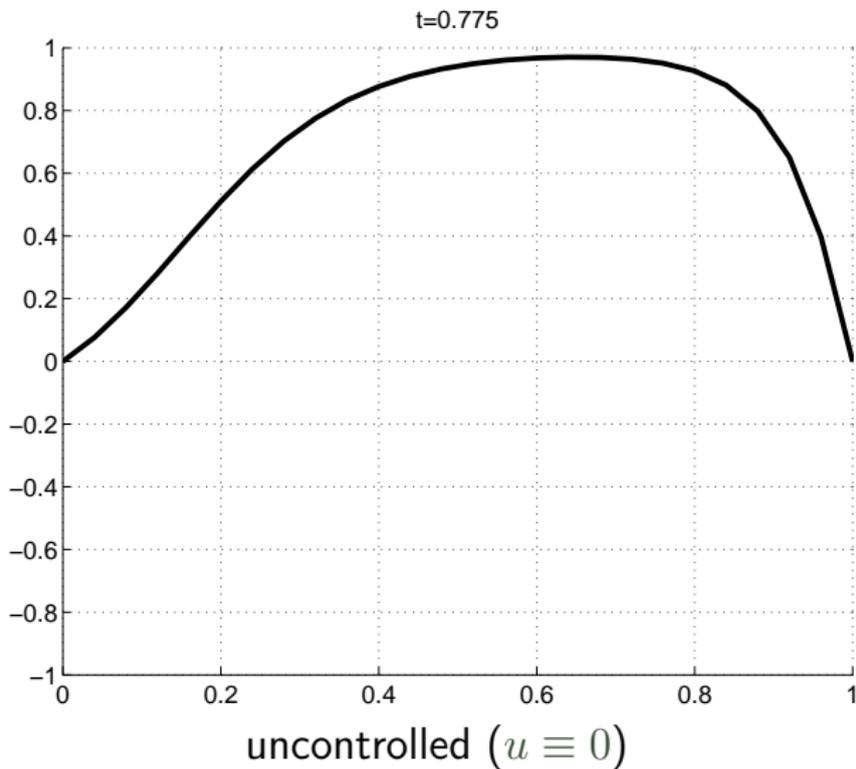
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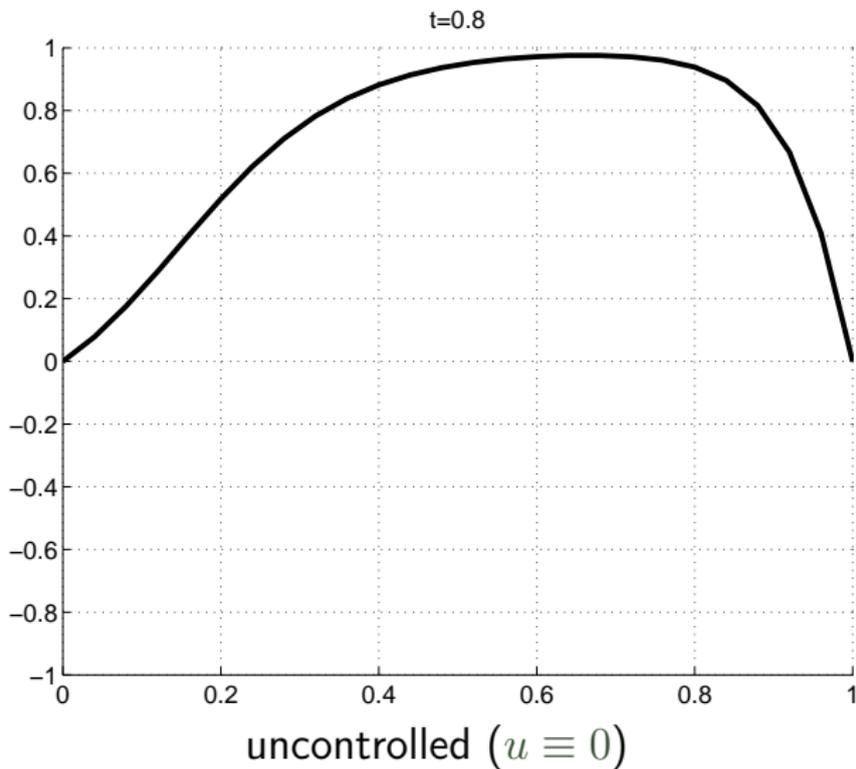
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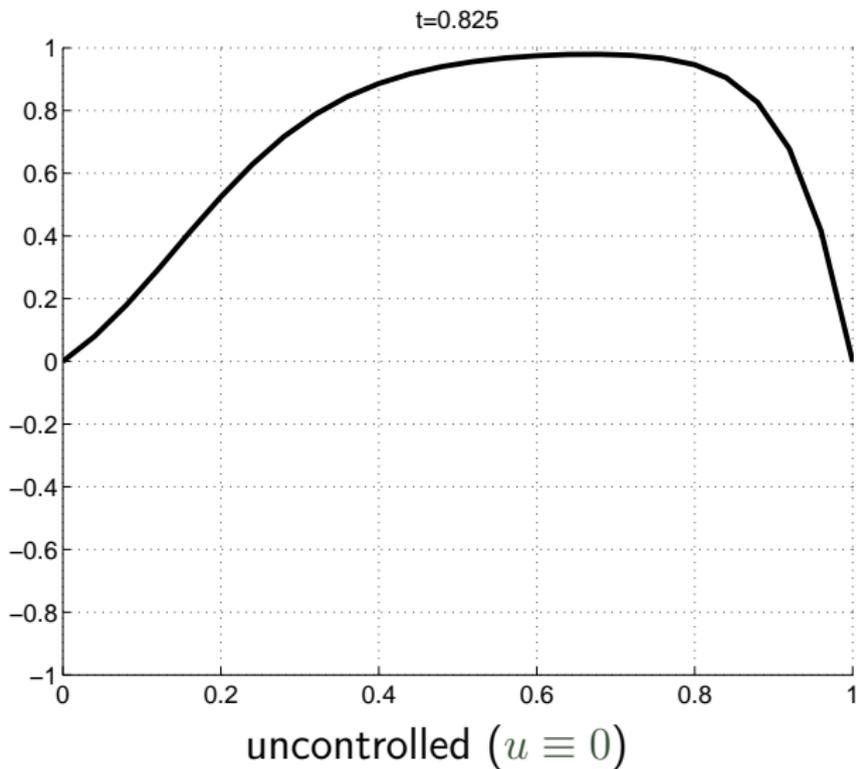
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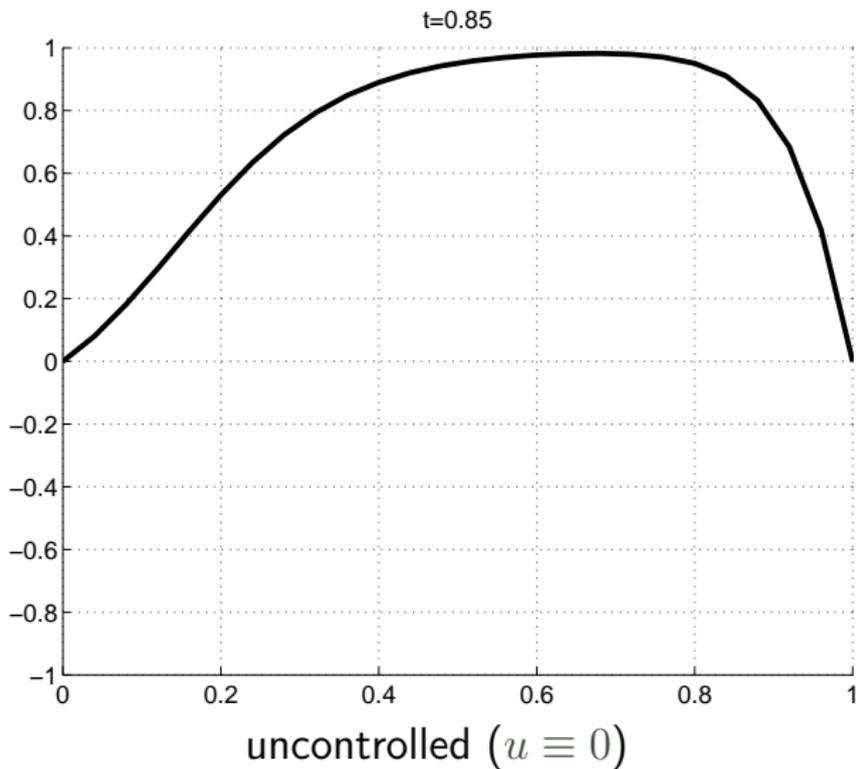
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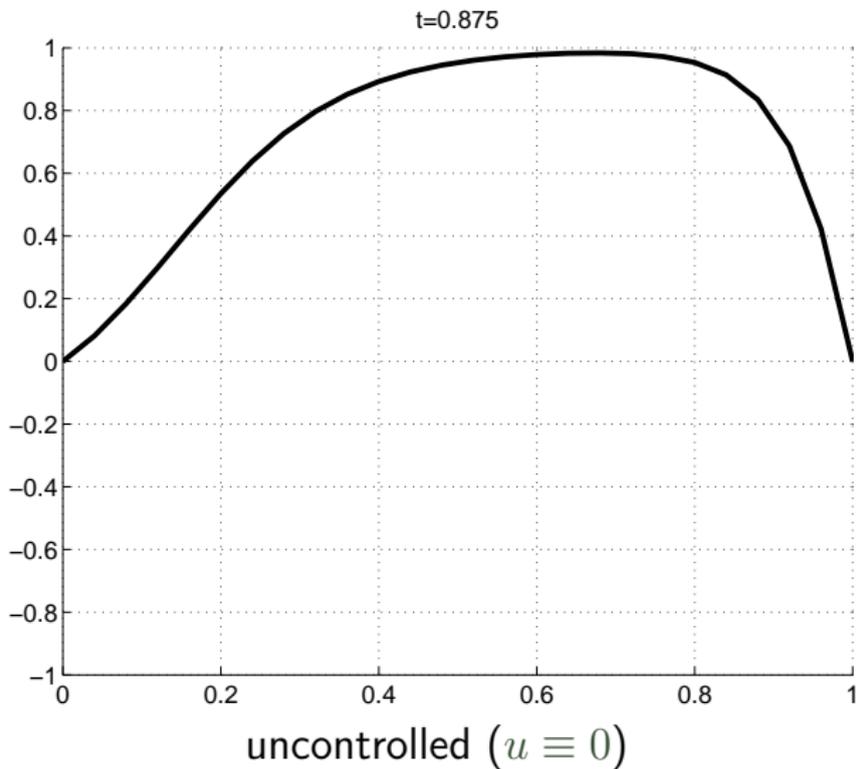
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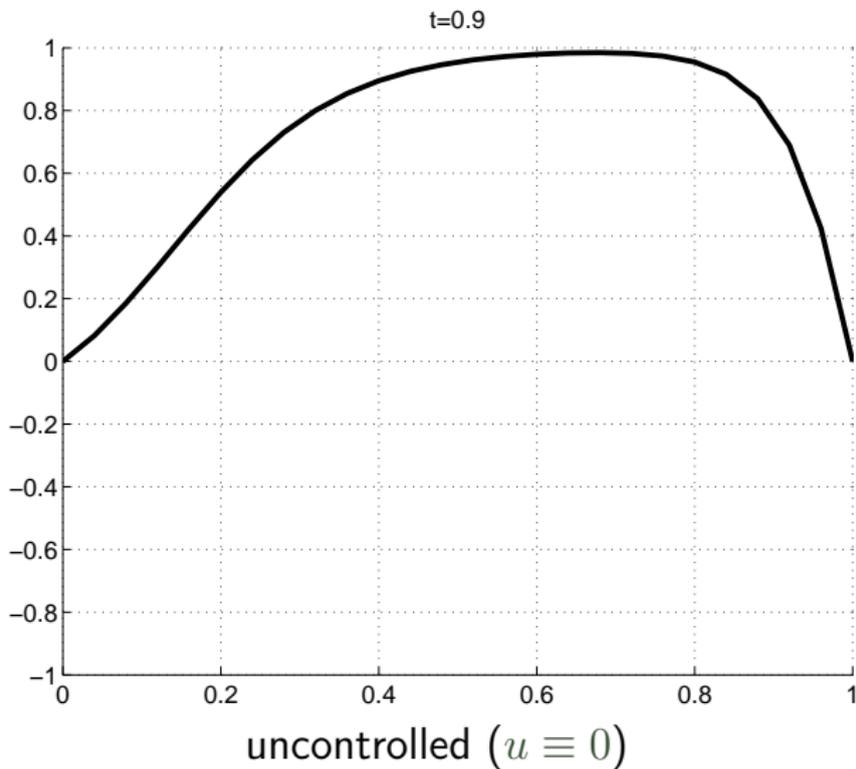
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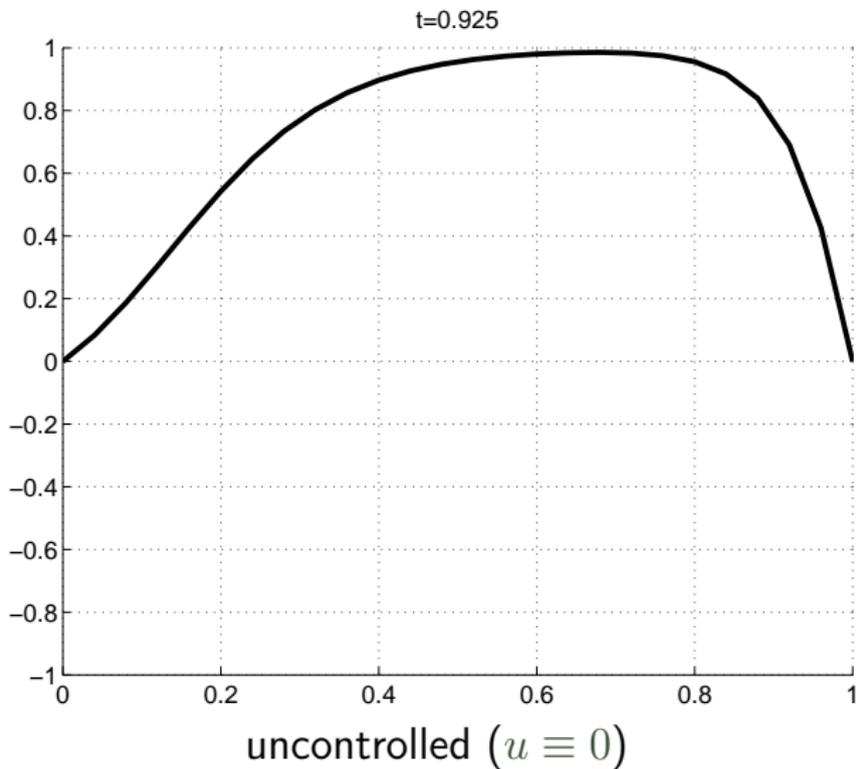
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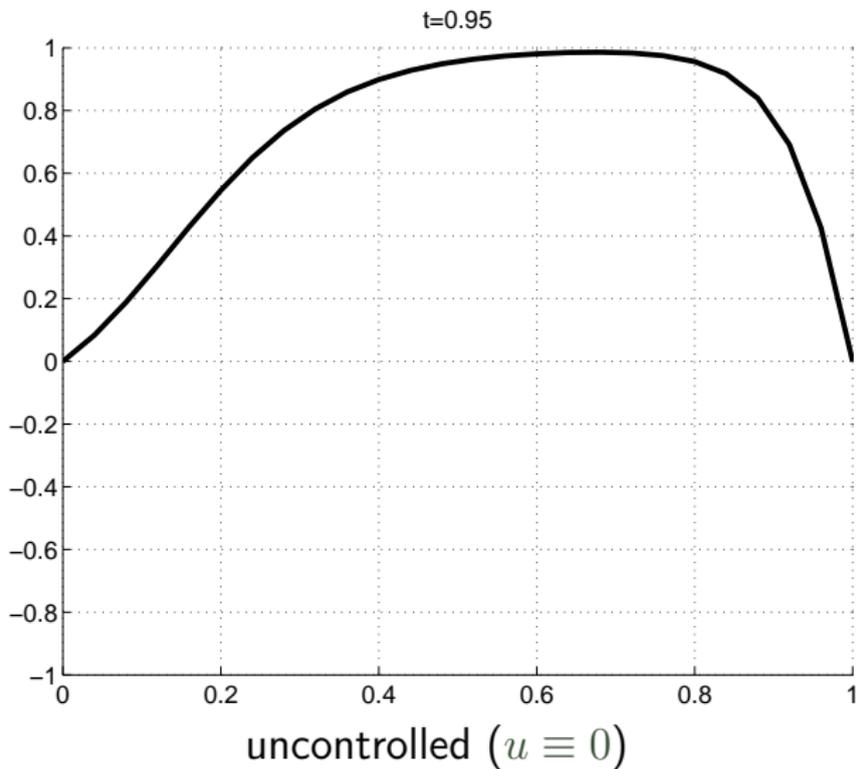
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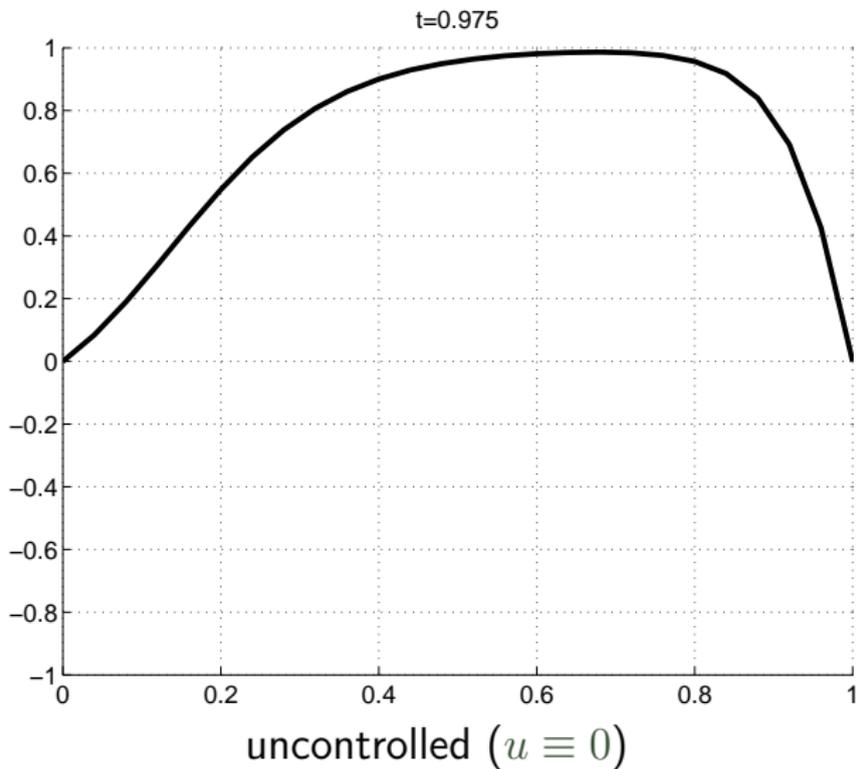
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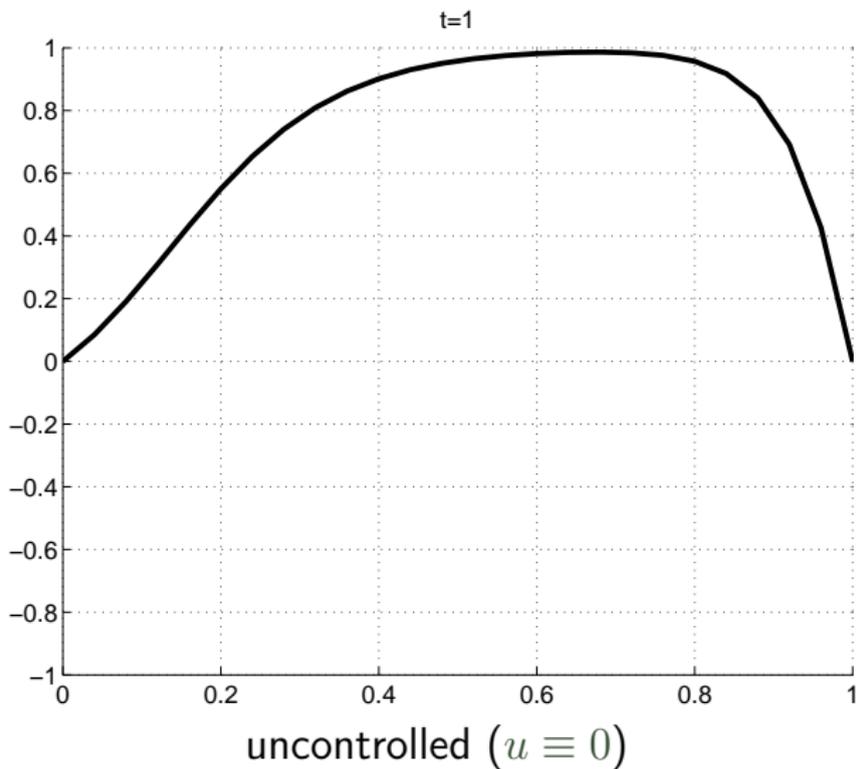
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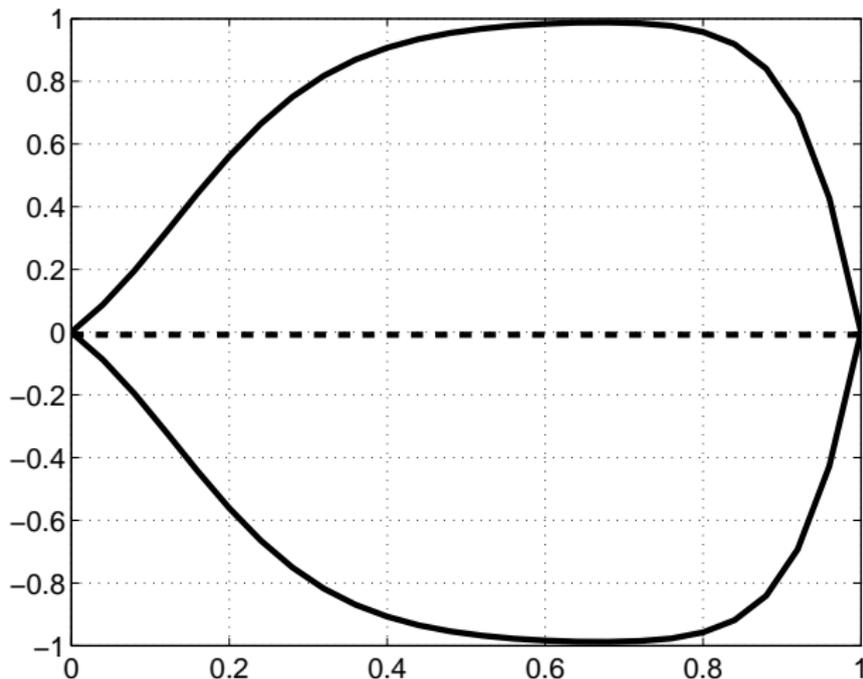
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all equilibrium solutions

# MPC for the PDE example

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For the (usual) **quadratic**  $L^2$  cost

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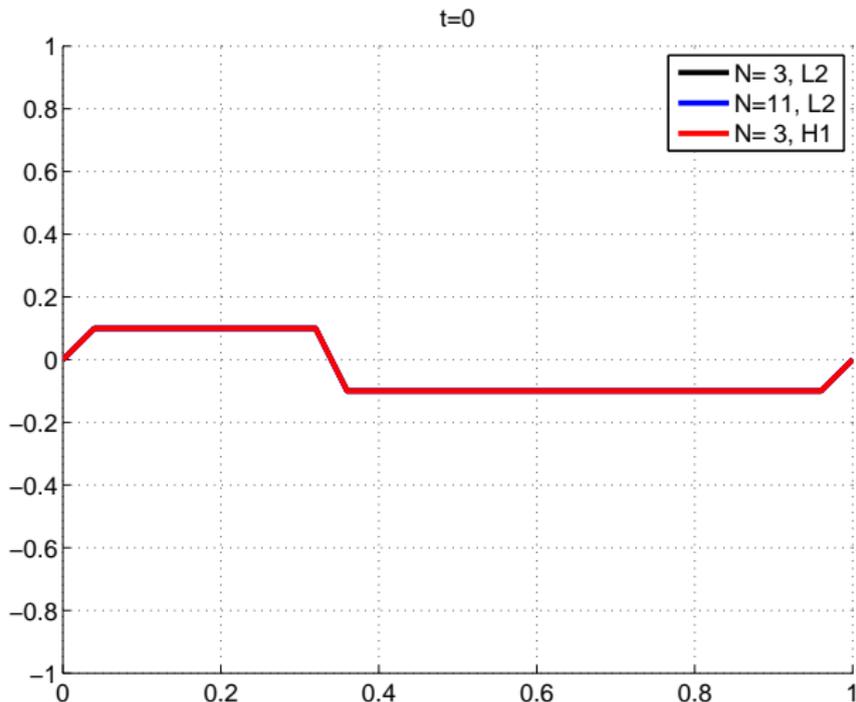
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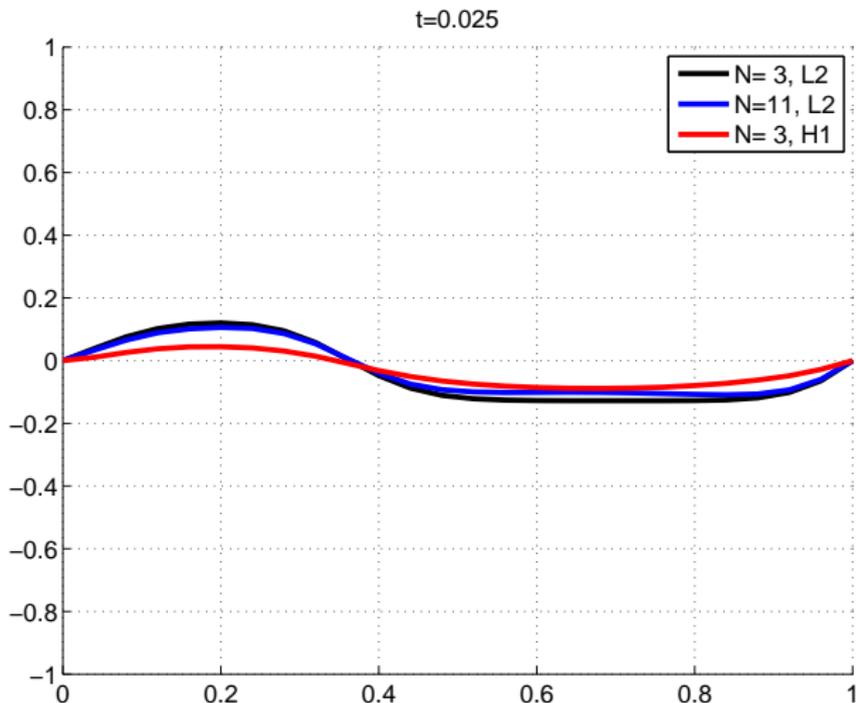
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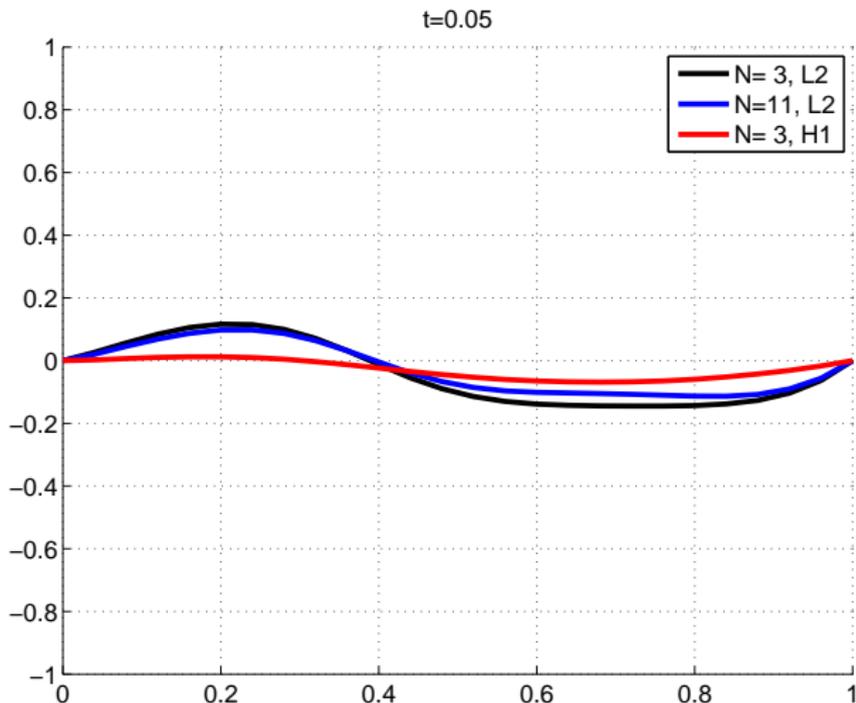
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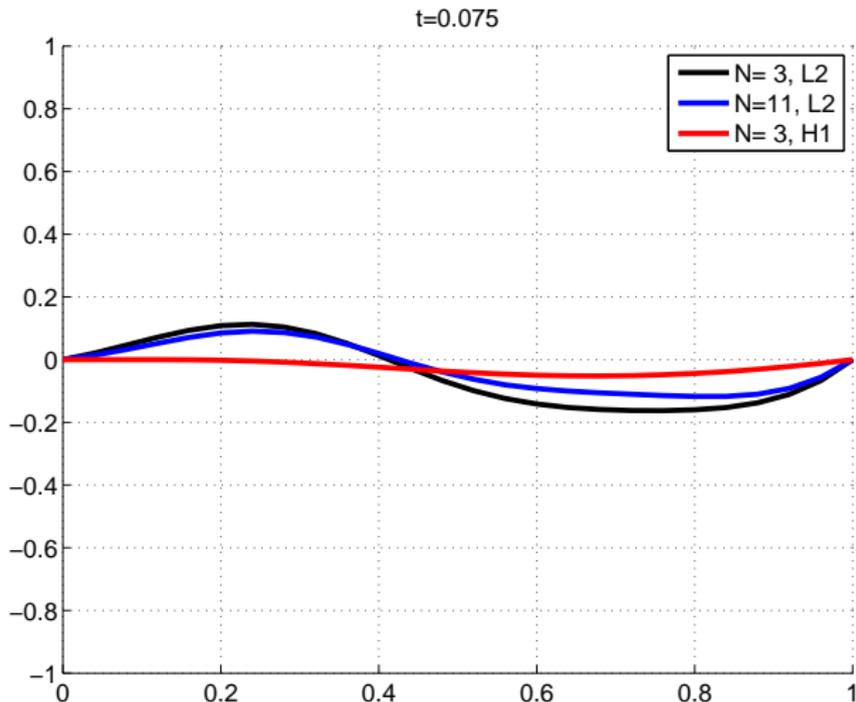
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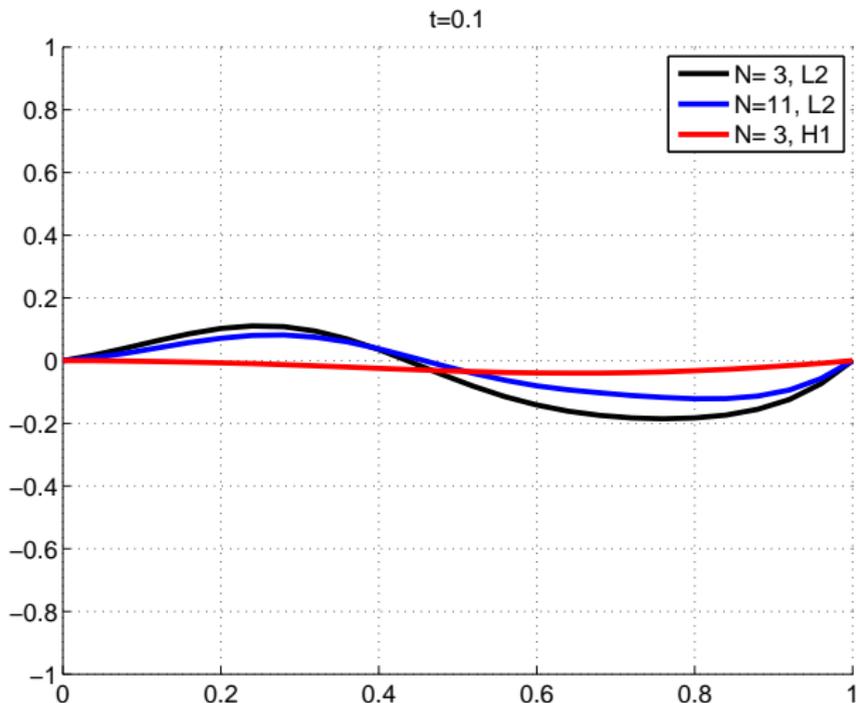
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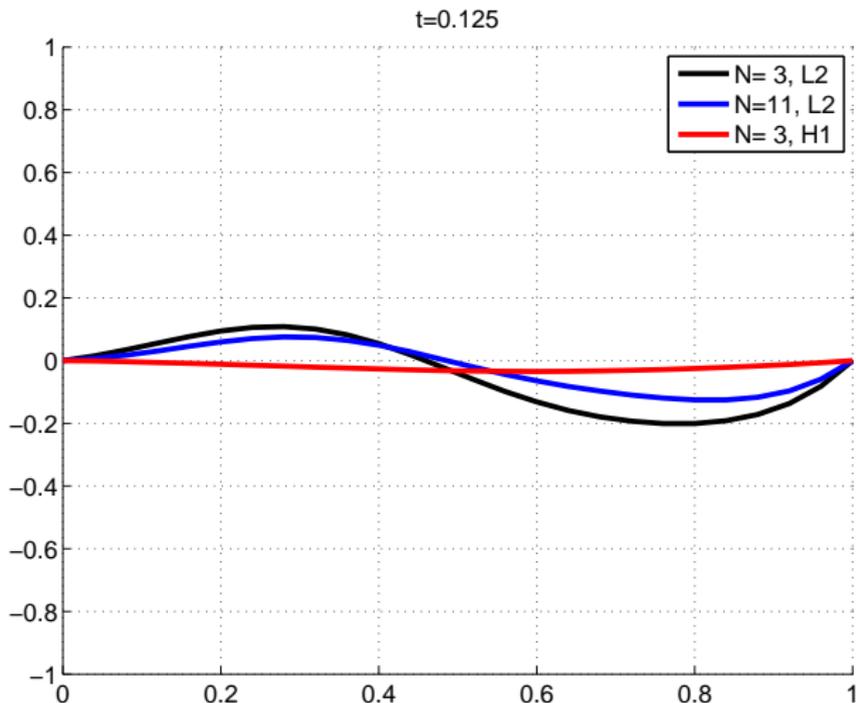
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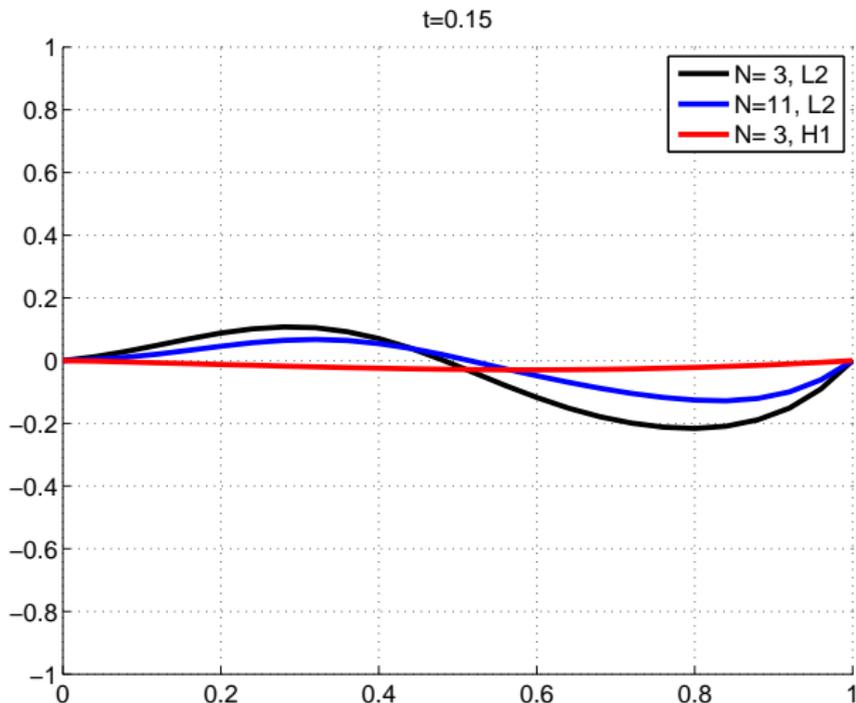
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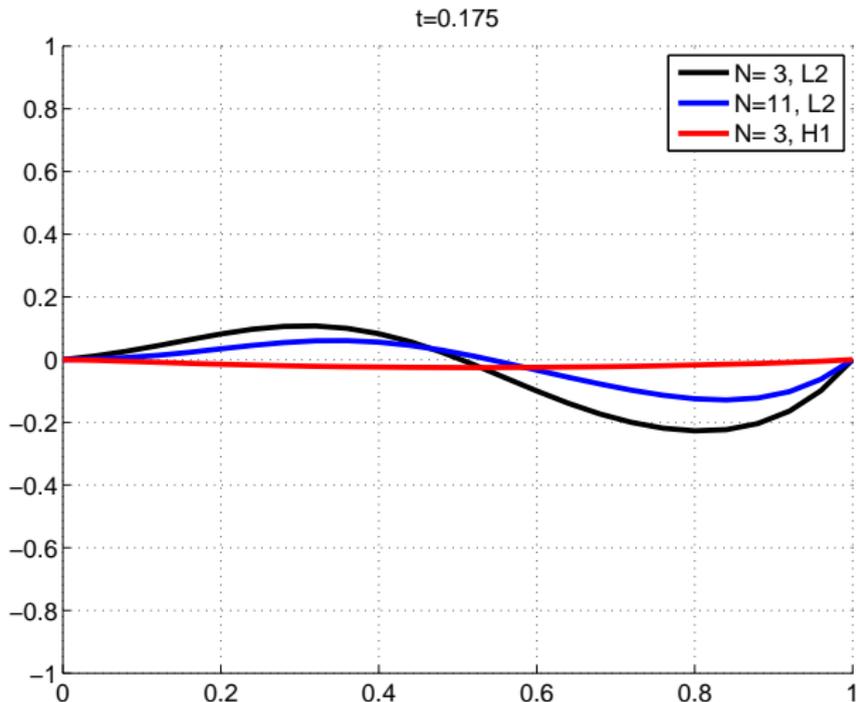
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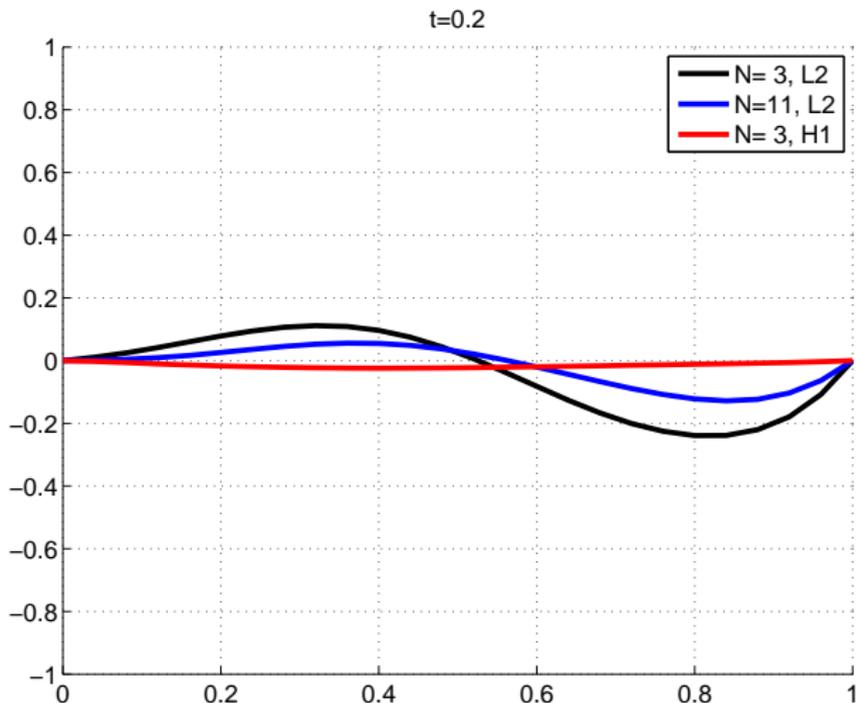
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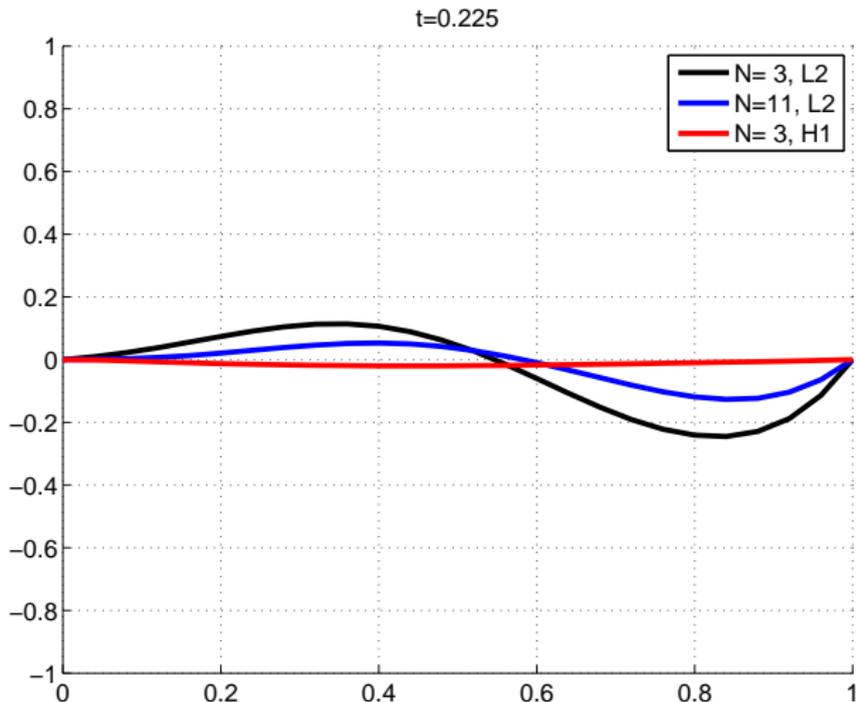
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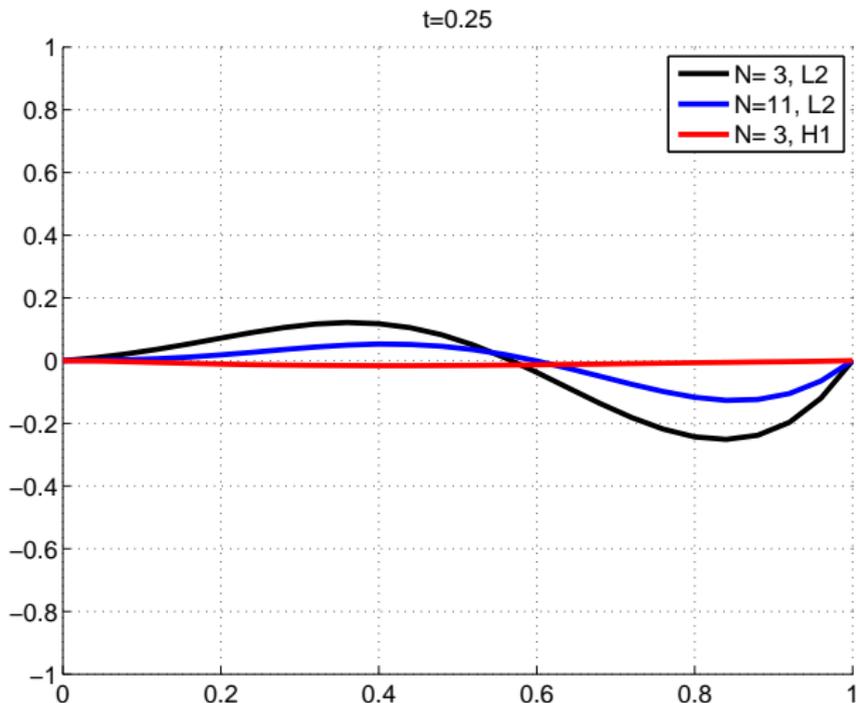
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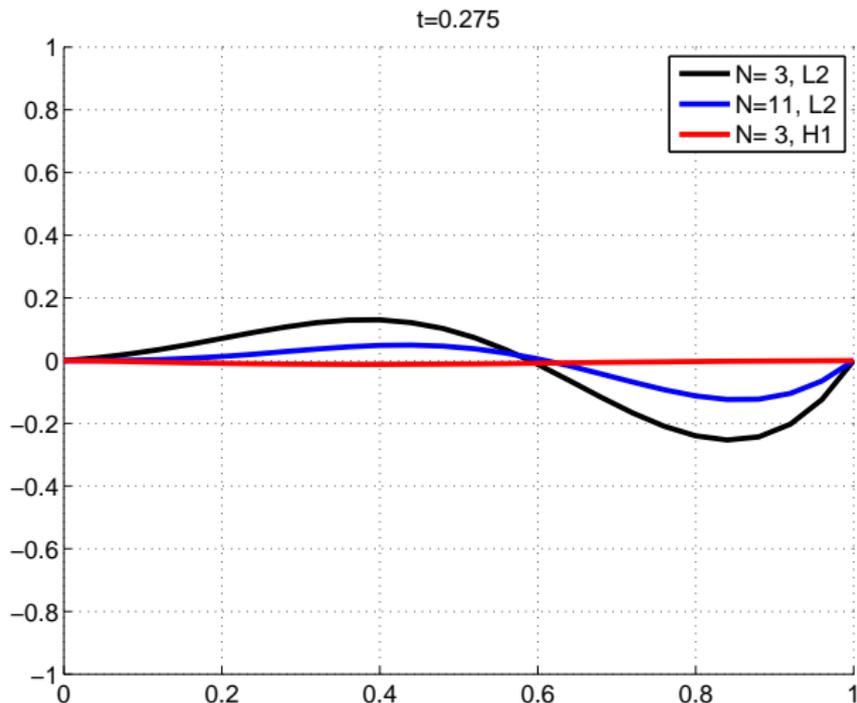
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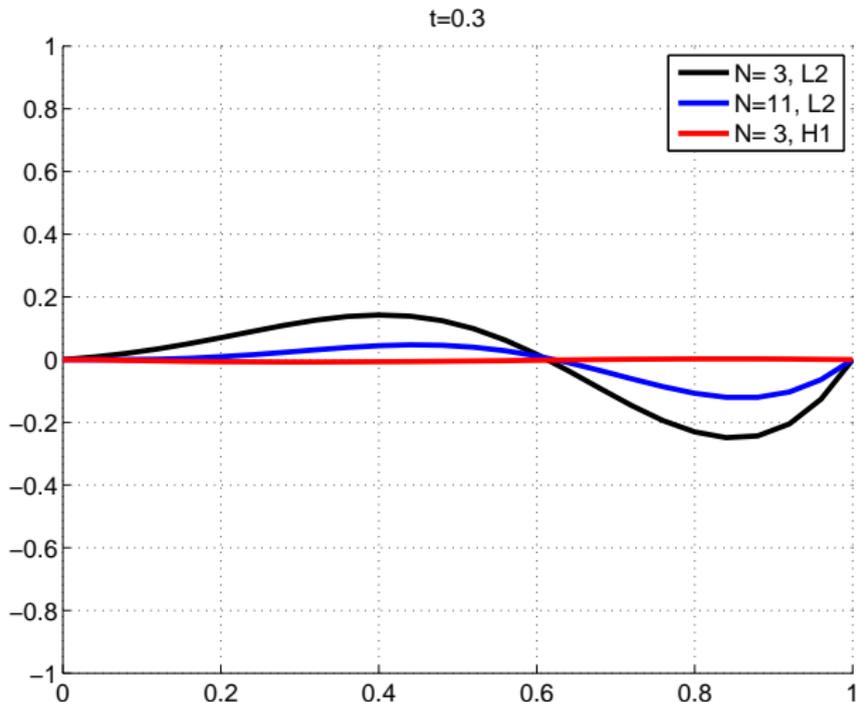
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Now we change our PDE from distributed to (Dirichlet-) boundary control, i.e.

$$y_t = y_x + \nu y_{xx} + \mu y(y + 1)(1 - y)$$

with

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solution  $y = y(t, x)$

boundary conditions  $y(t, 0) = u_0(t)$ ,  $y(t, 1) = u_1(t)$

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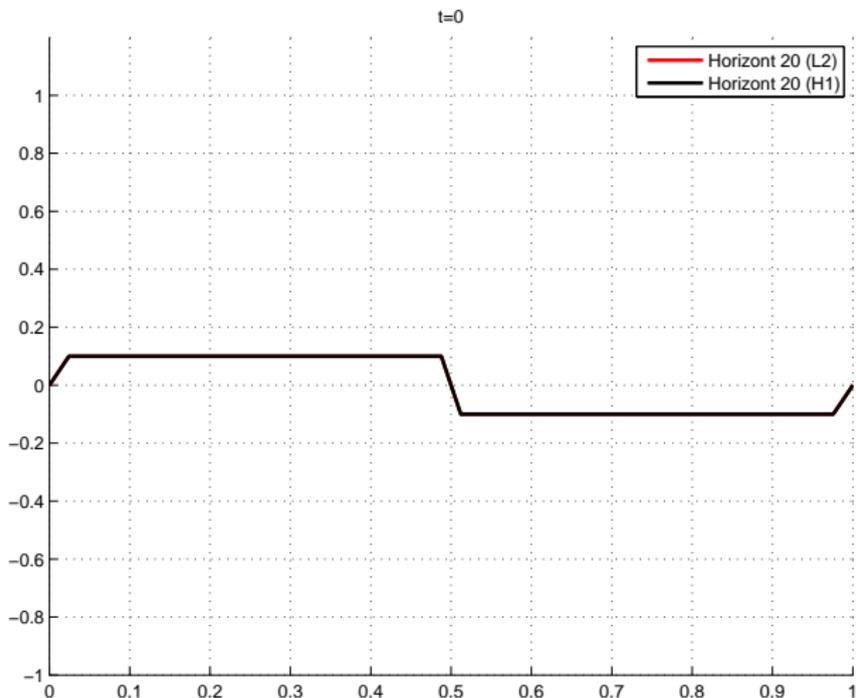
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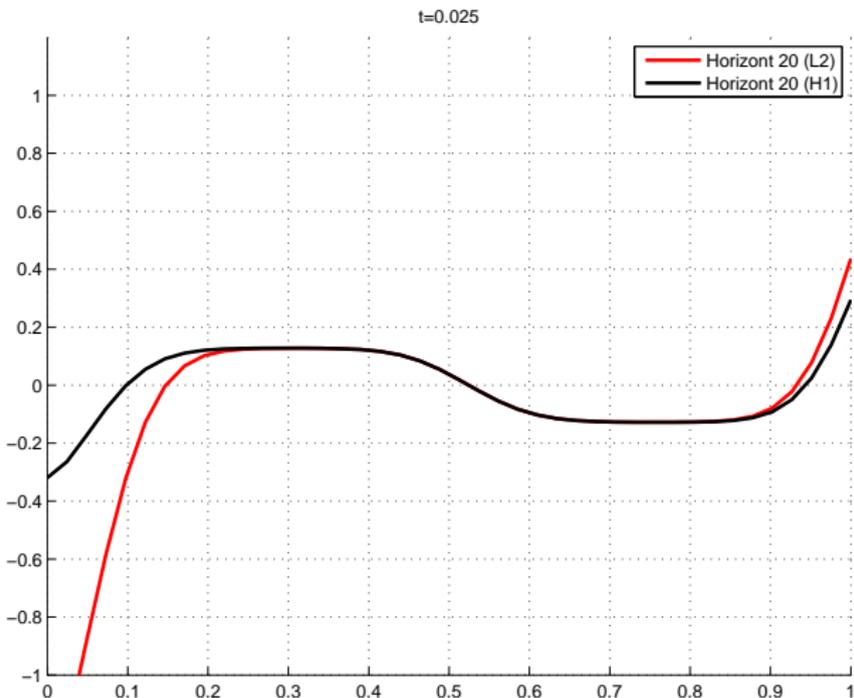
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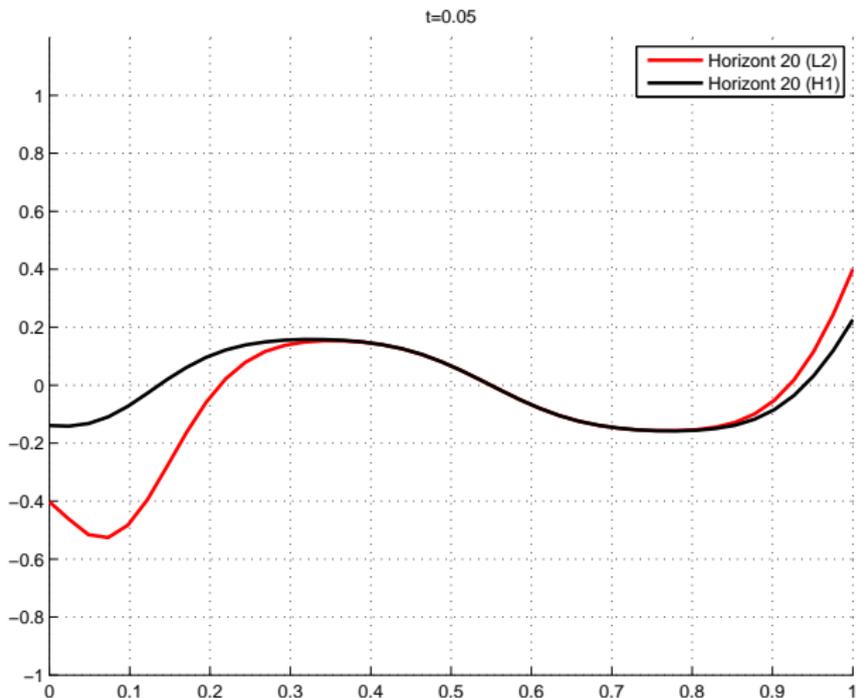
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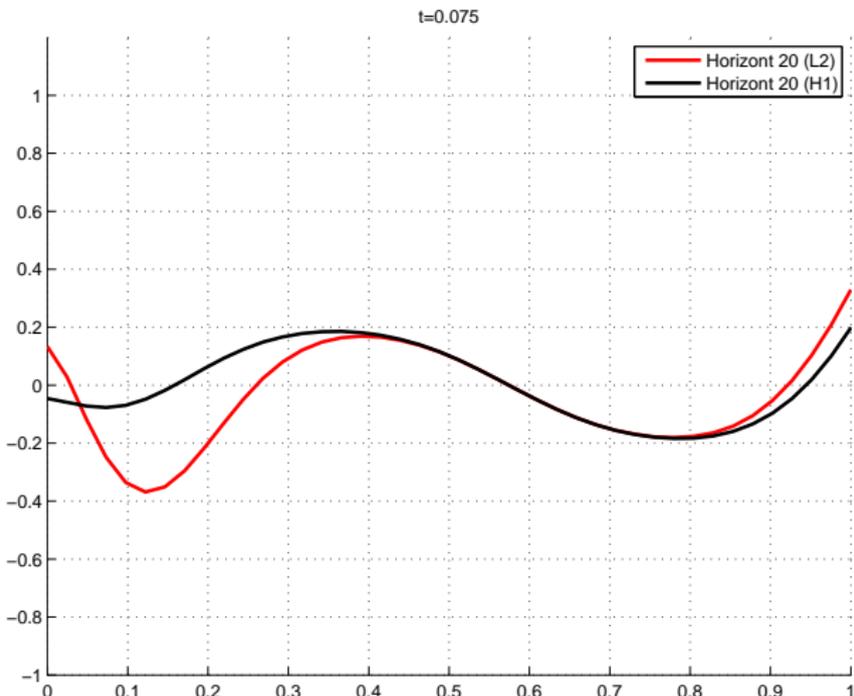
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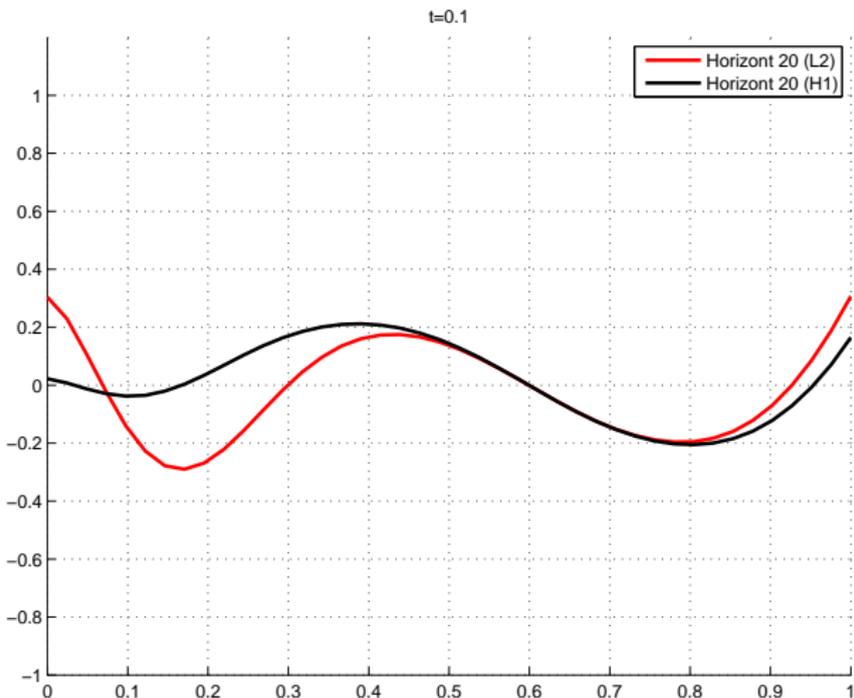
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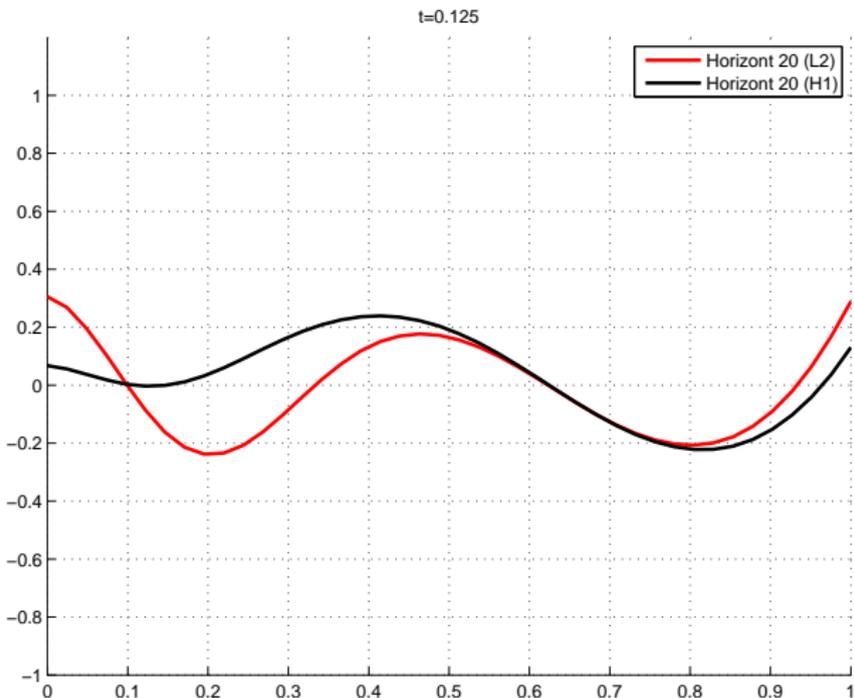
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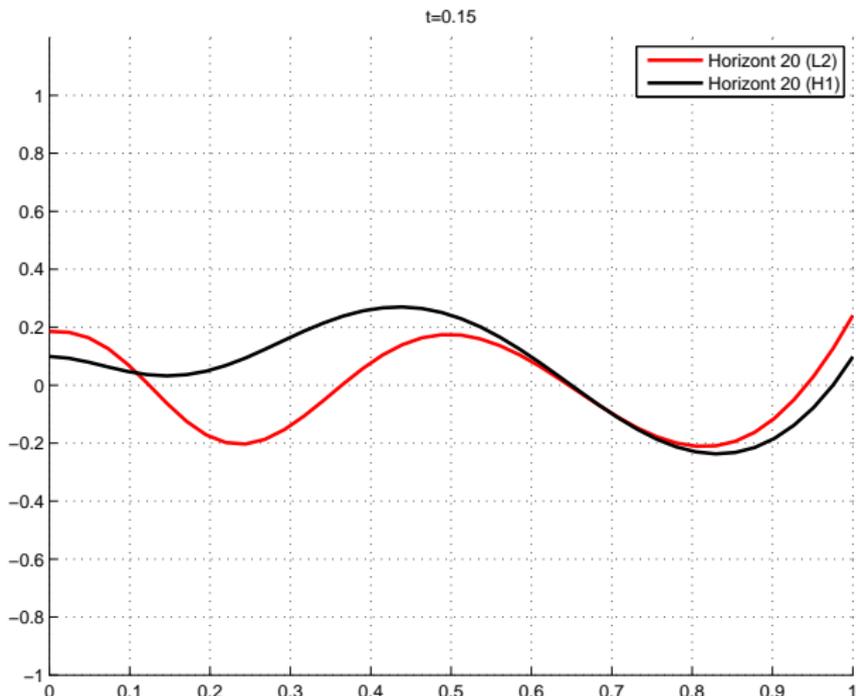
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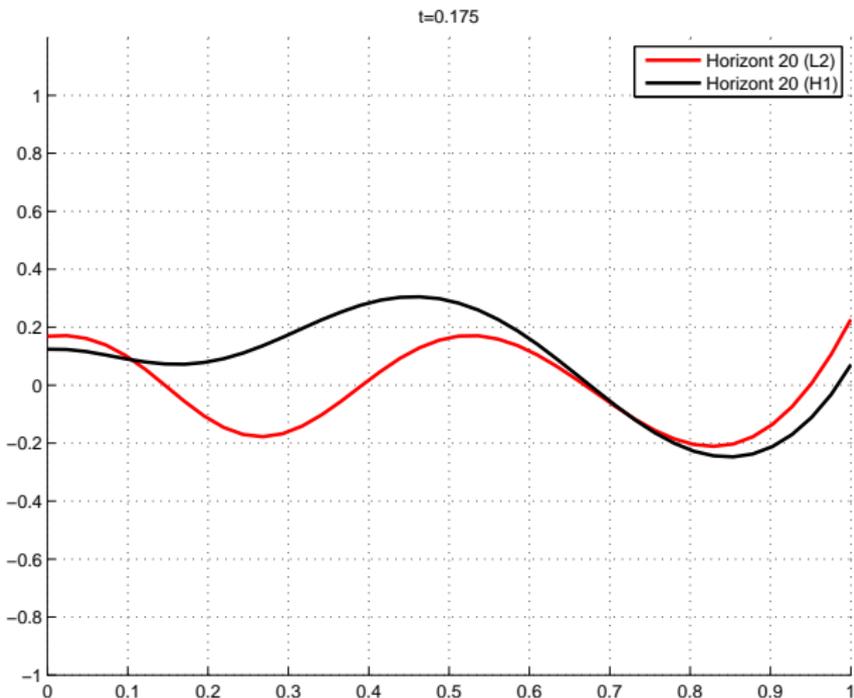
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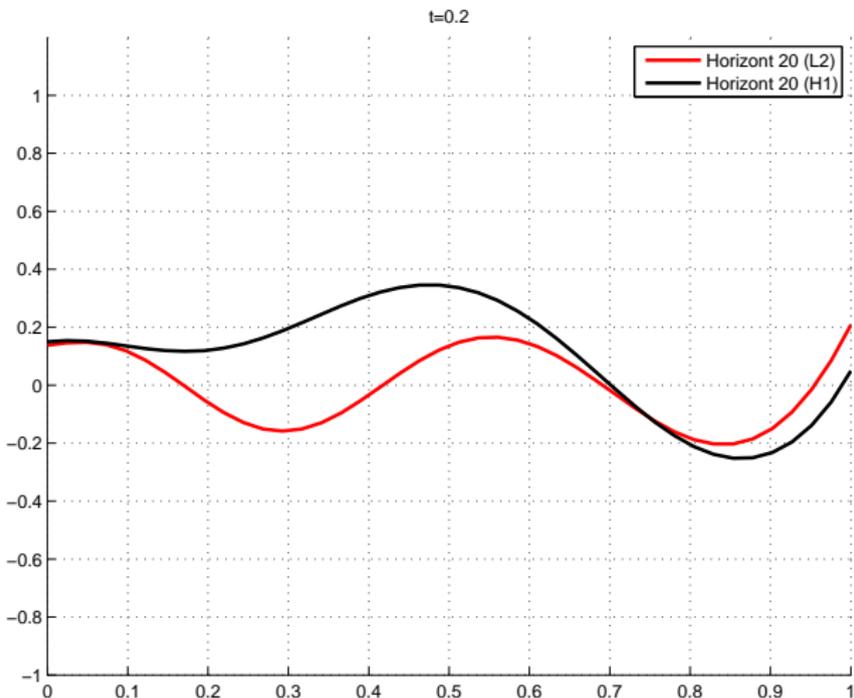
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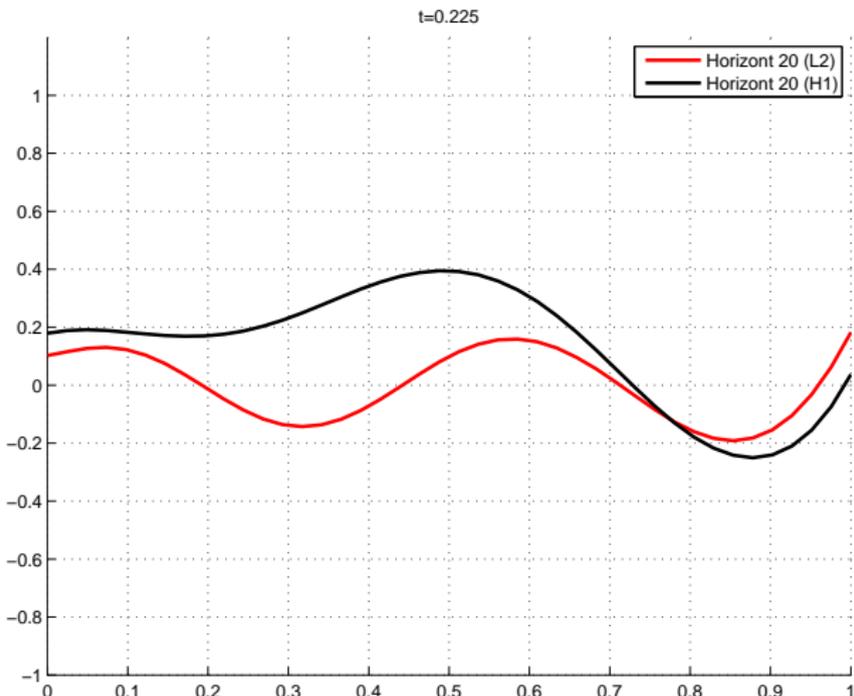
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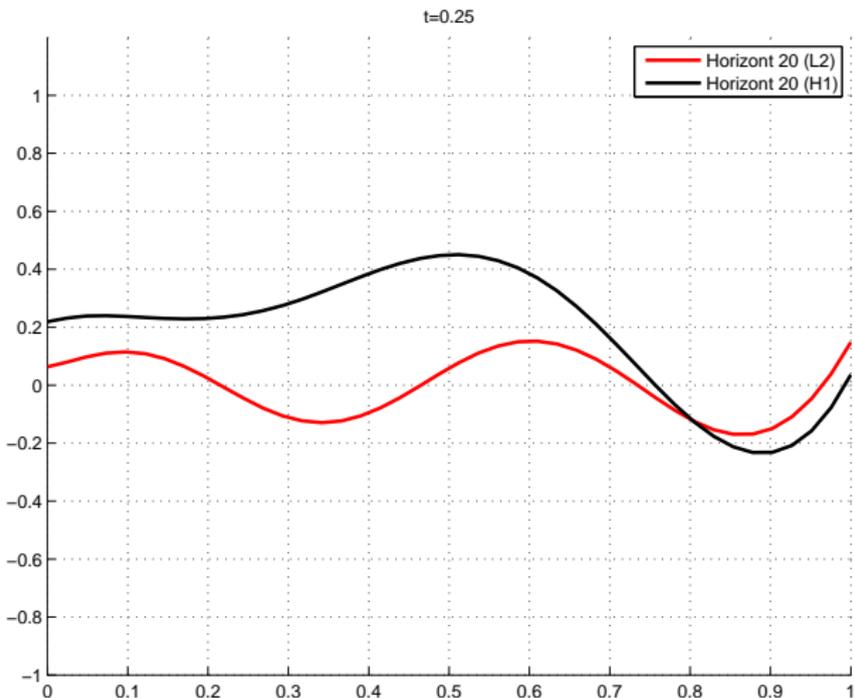
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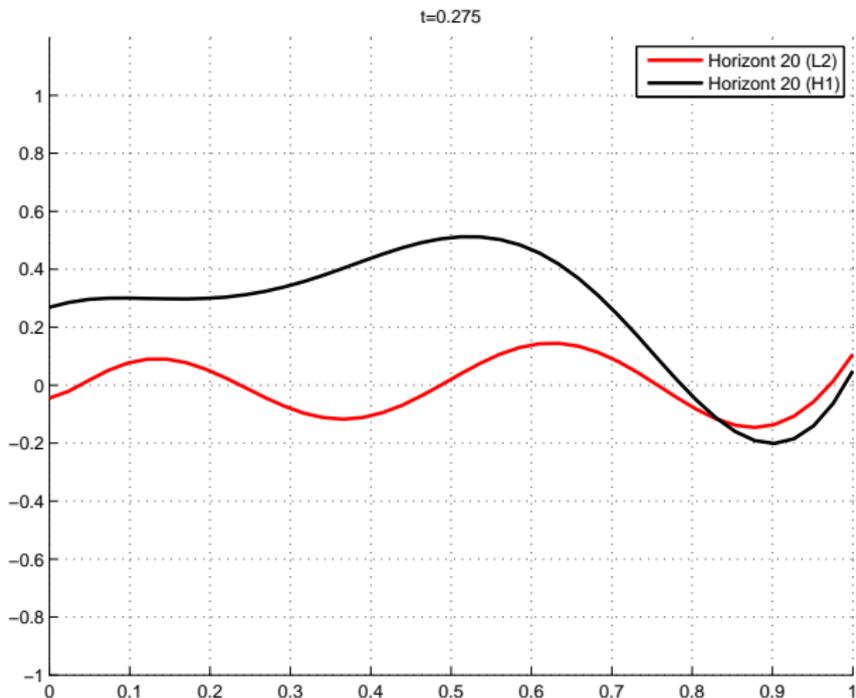
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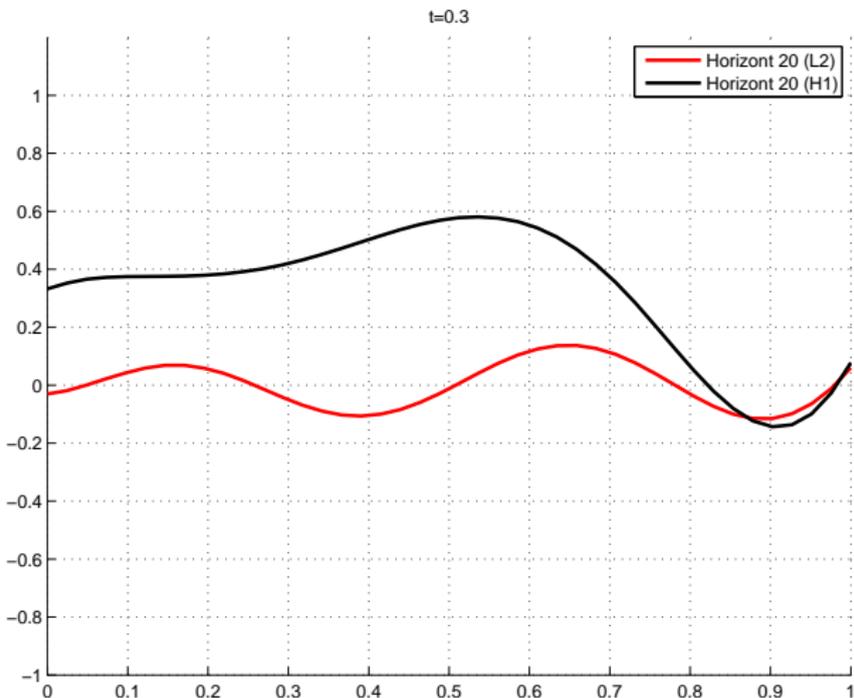
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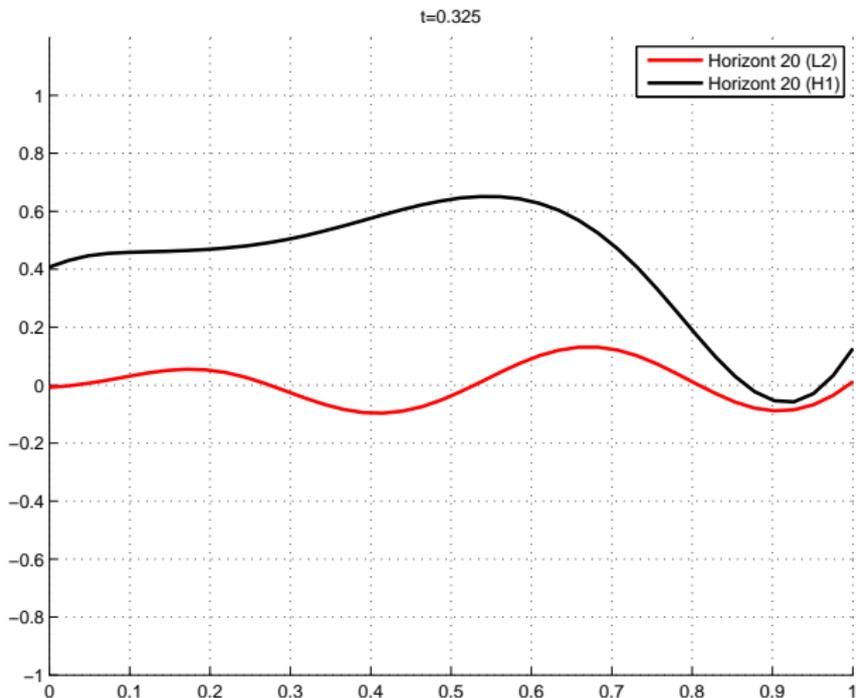
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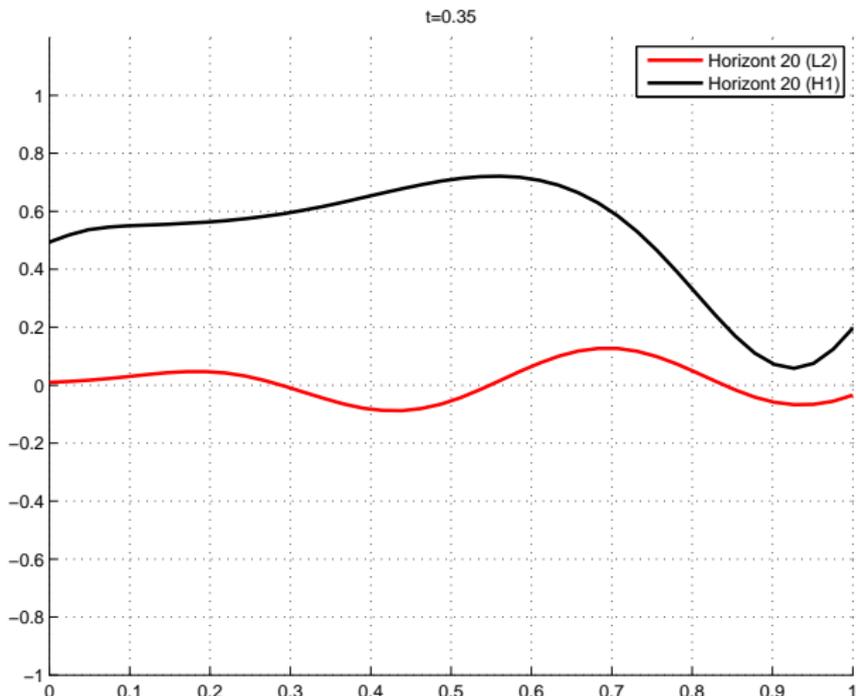
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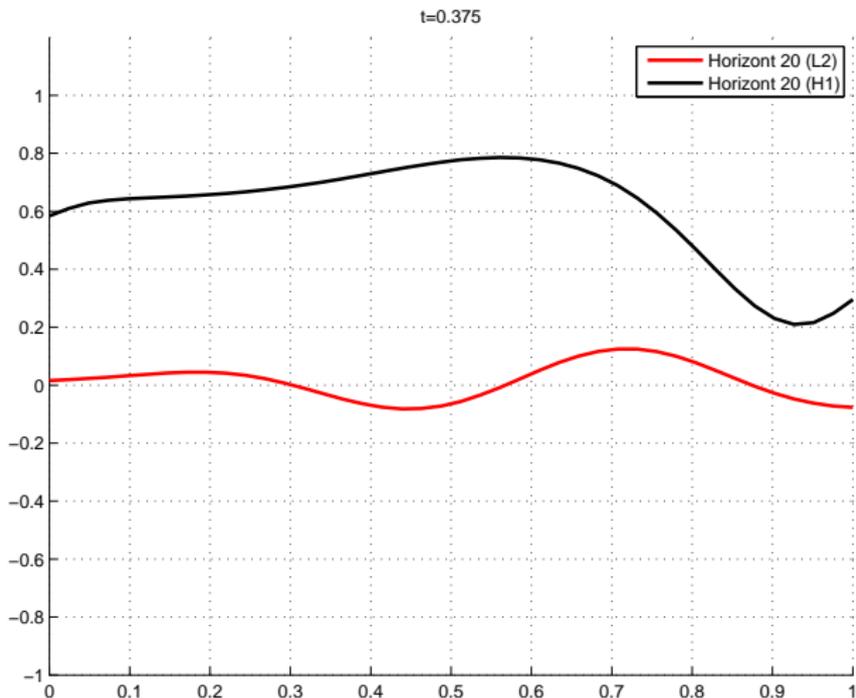
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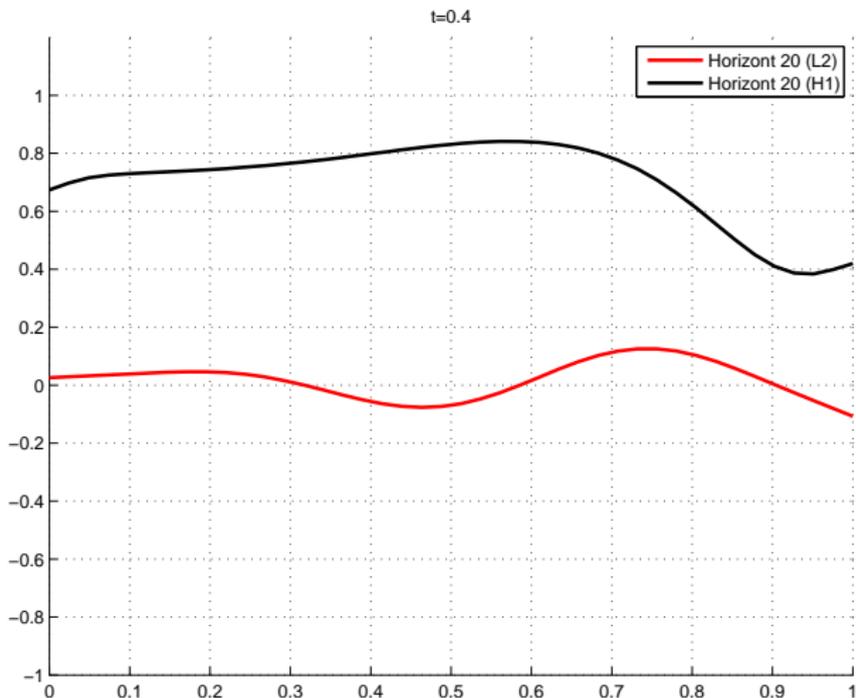
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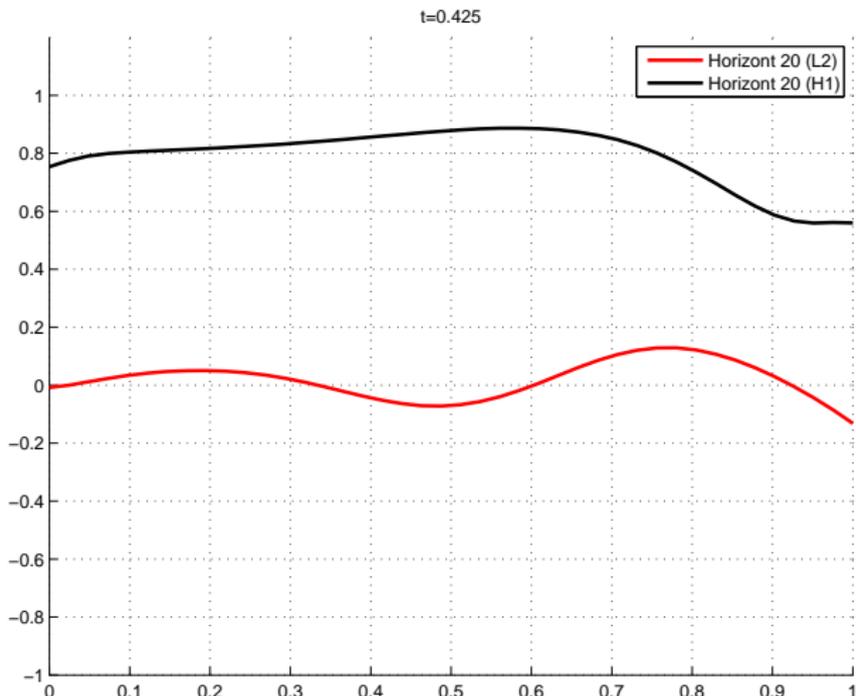
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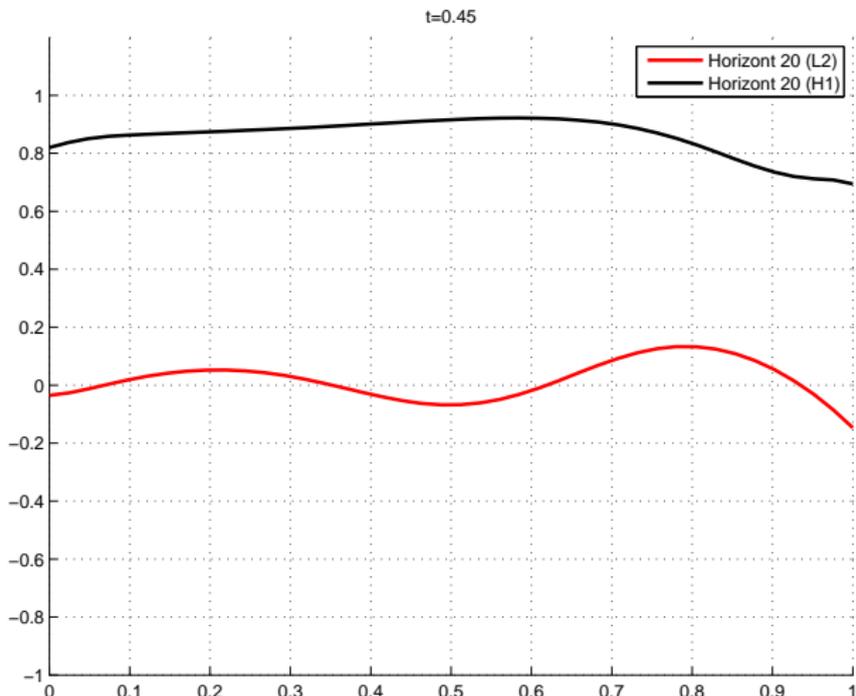
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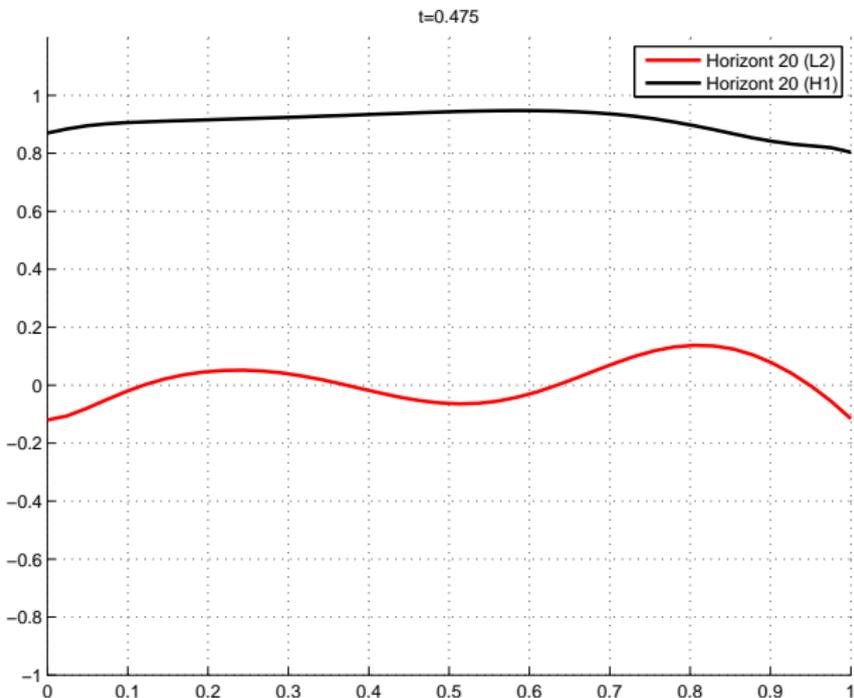
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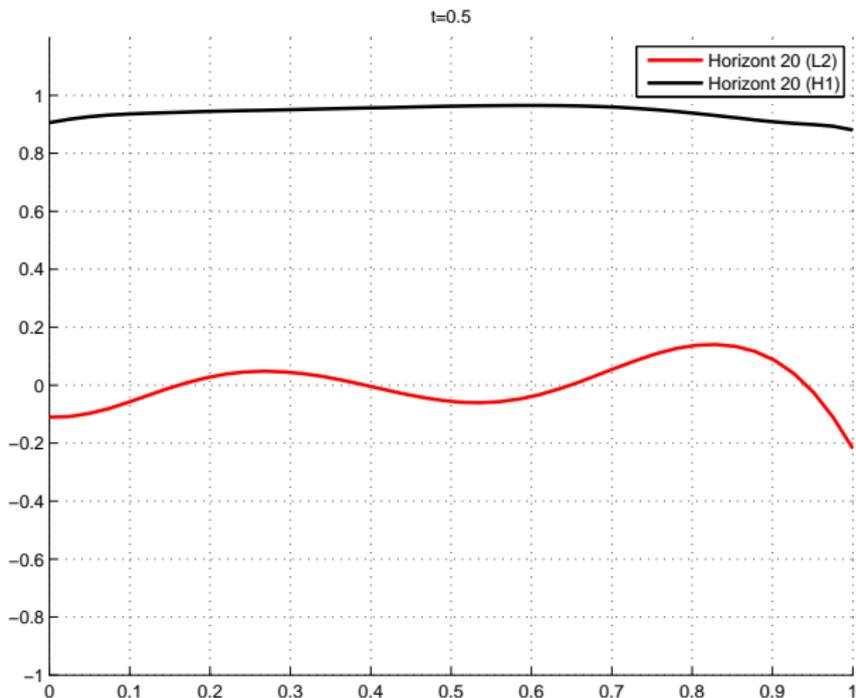
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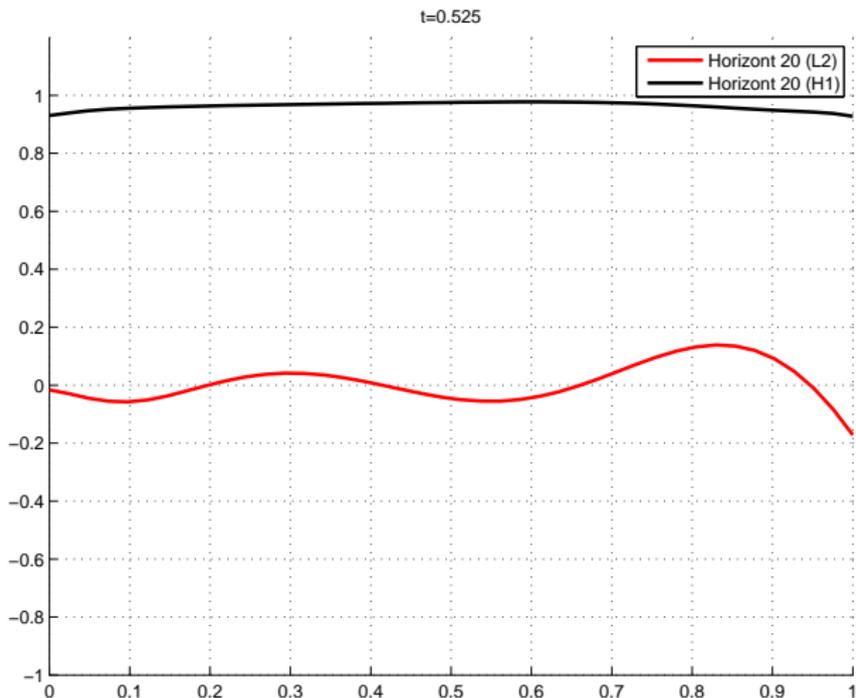
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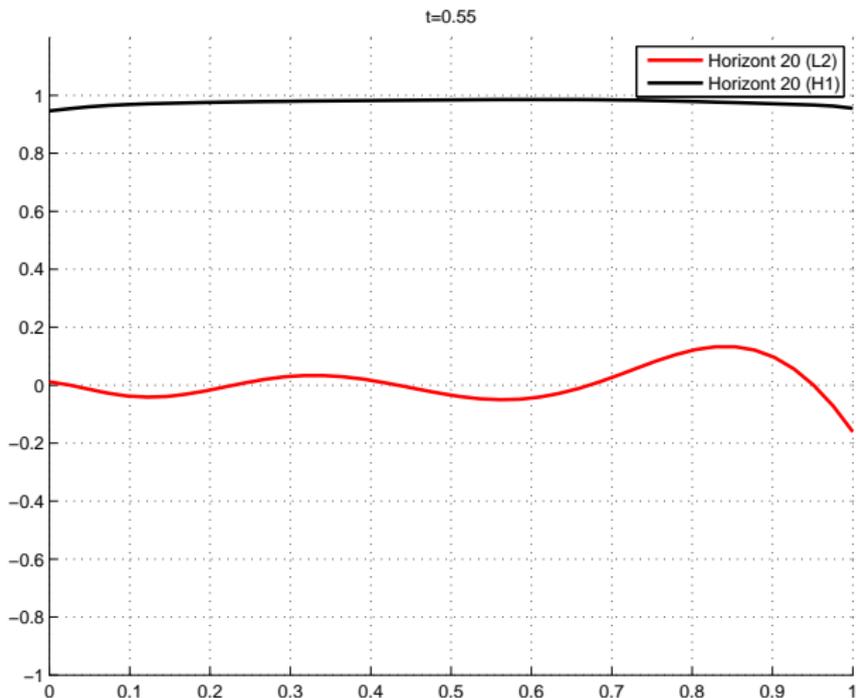
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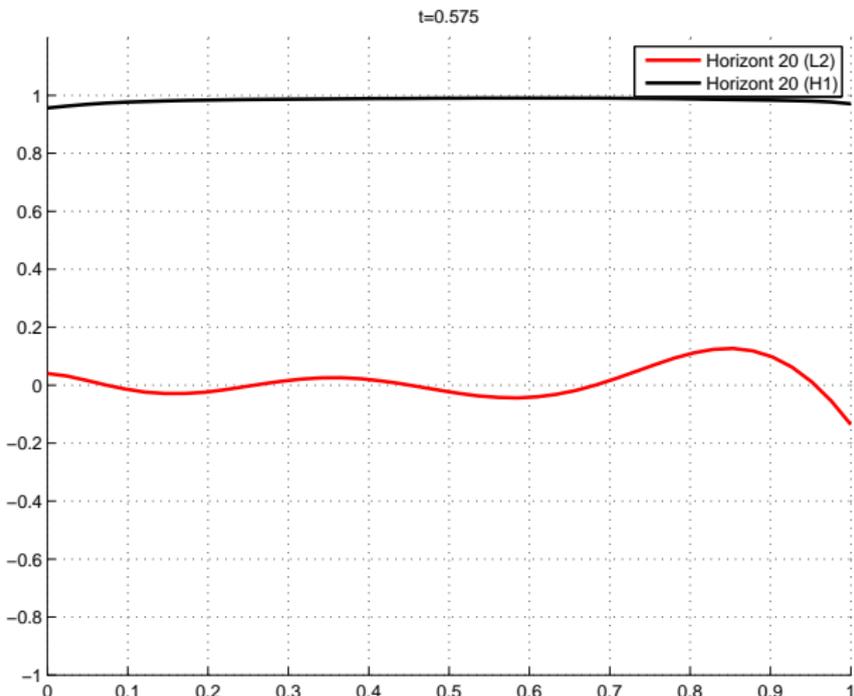
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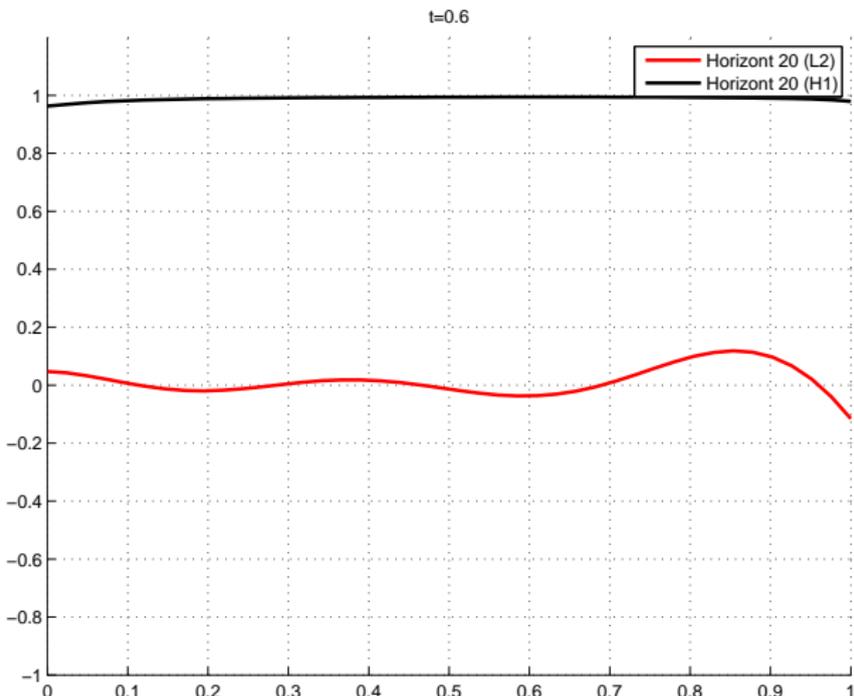
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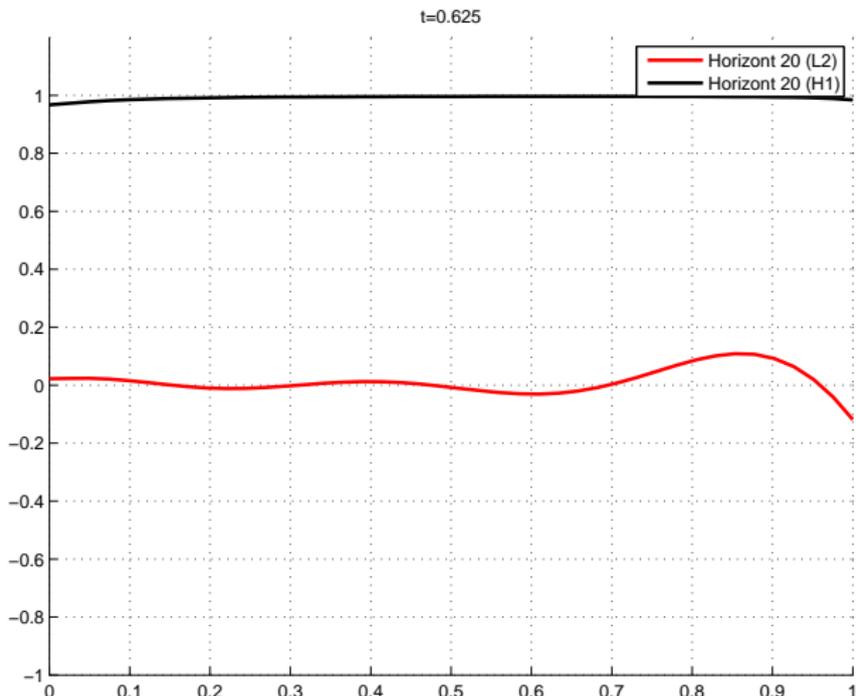
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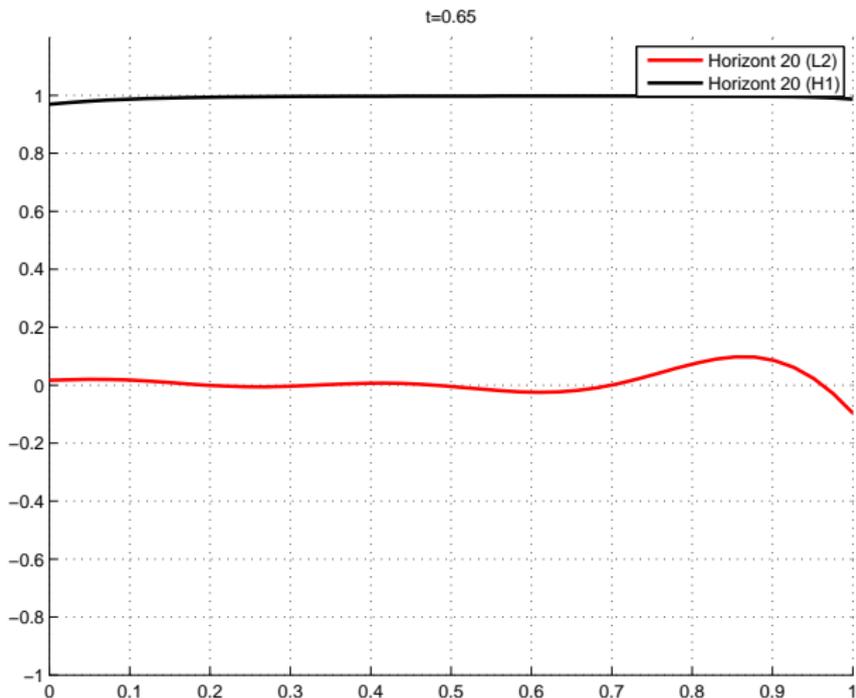
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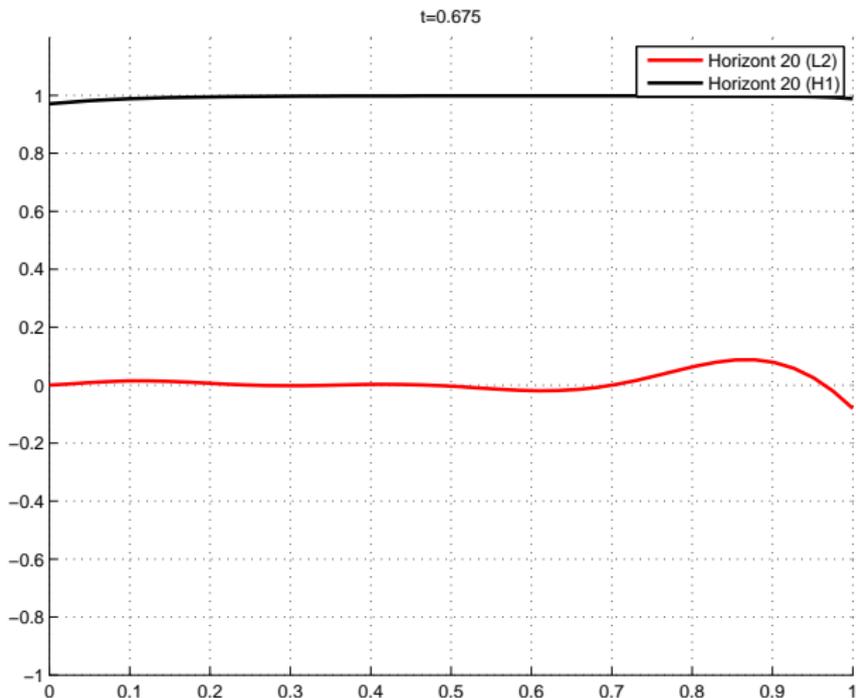
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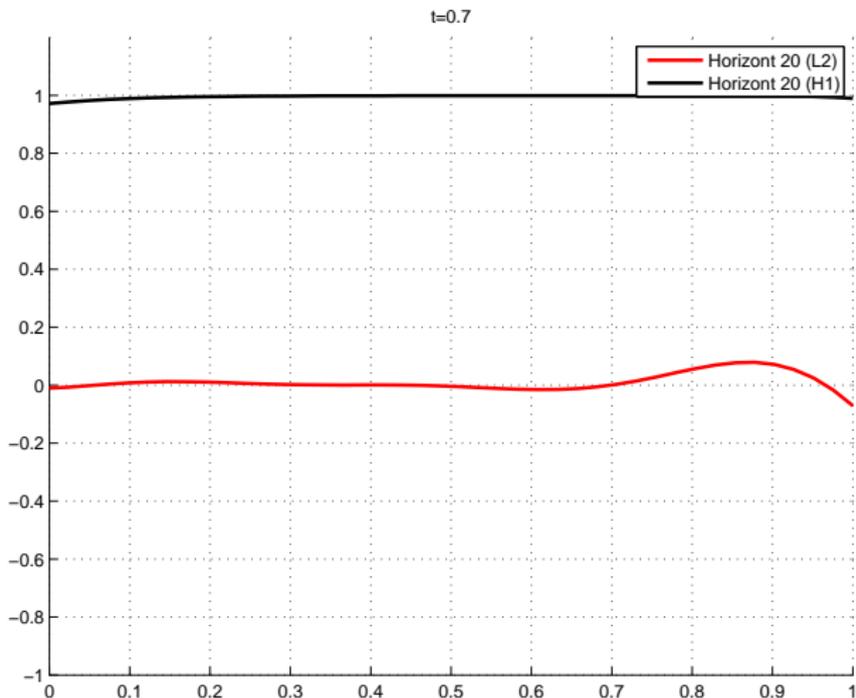
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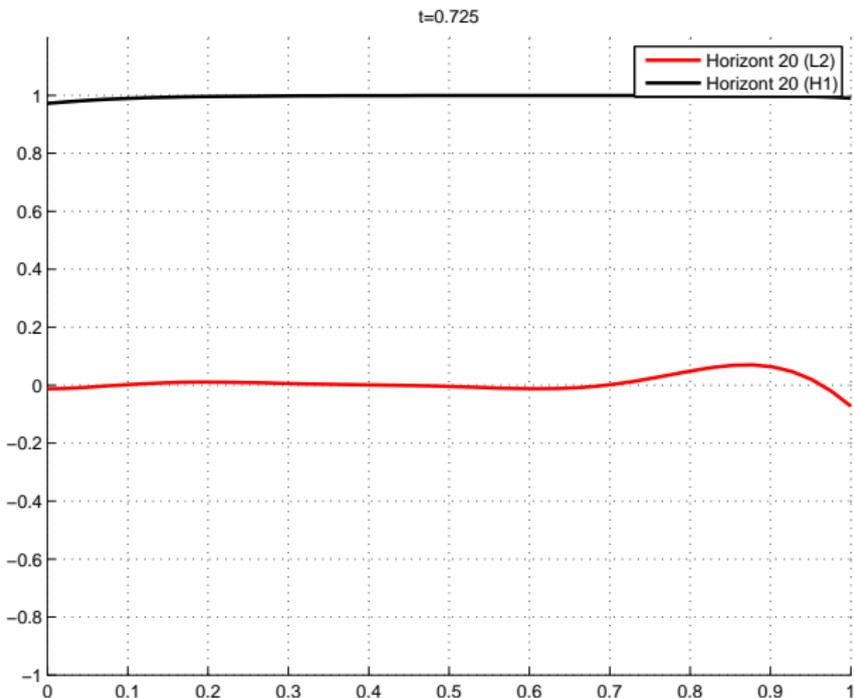
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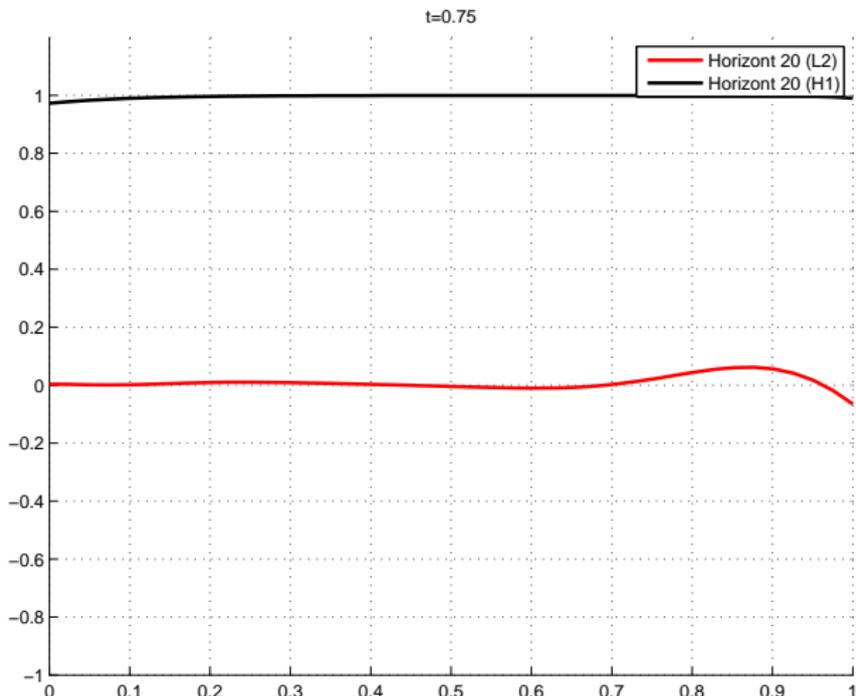
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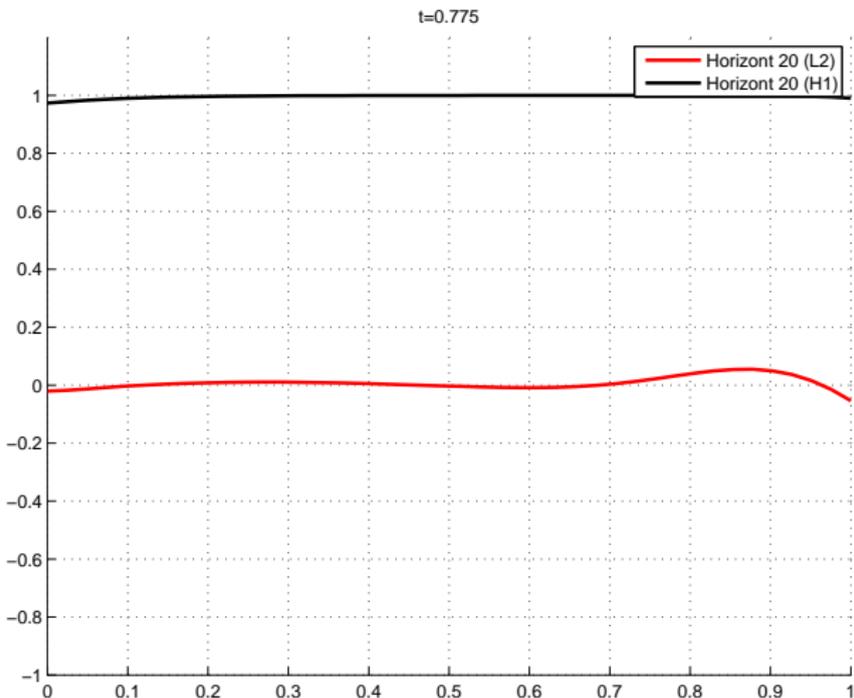
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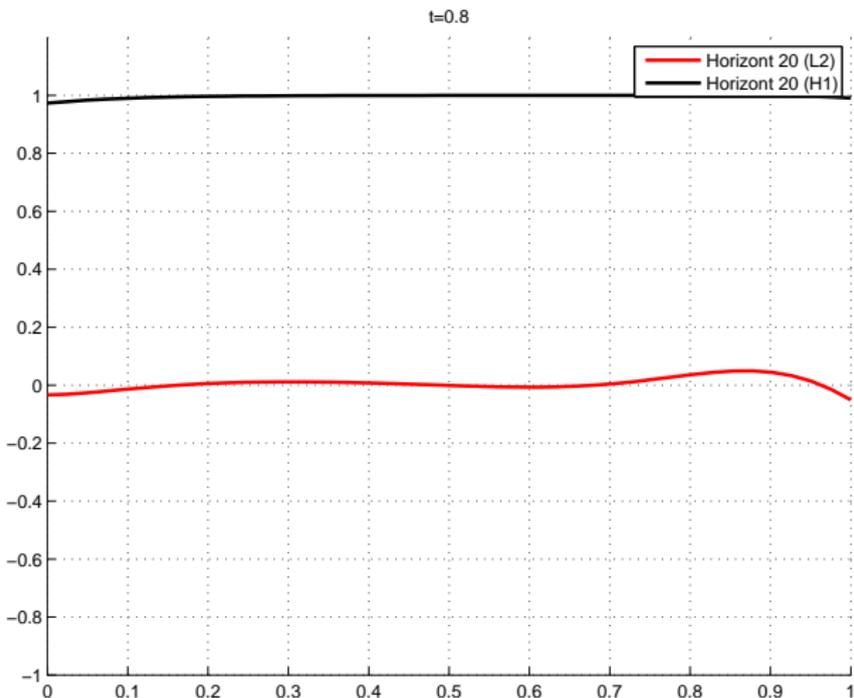
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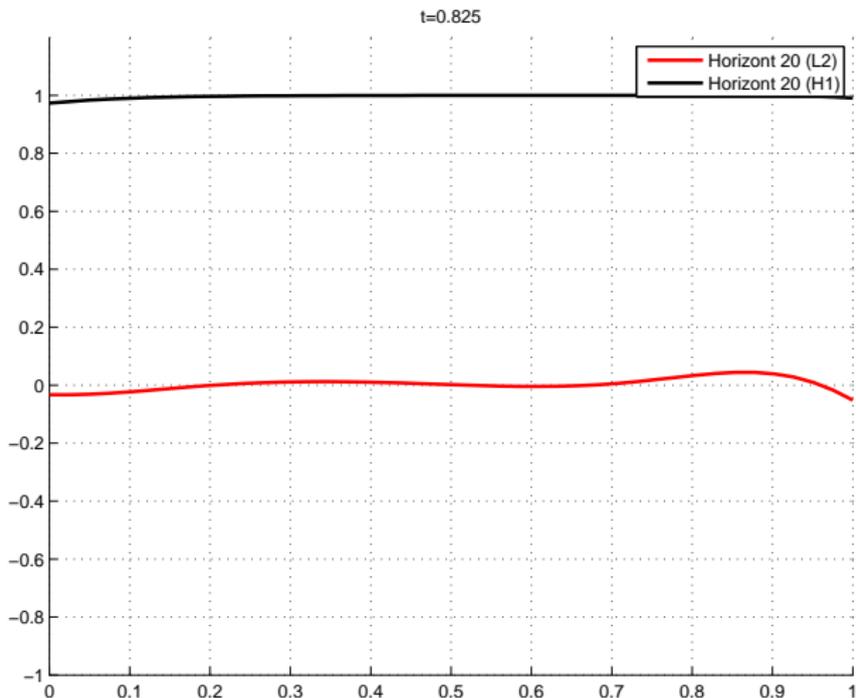
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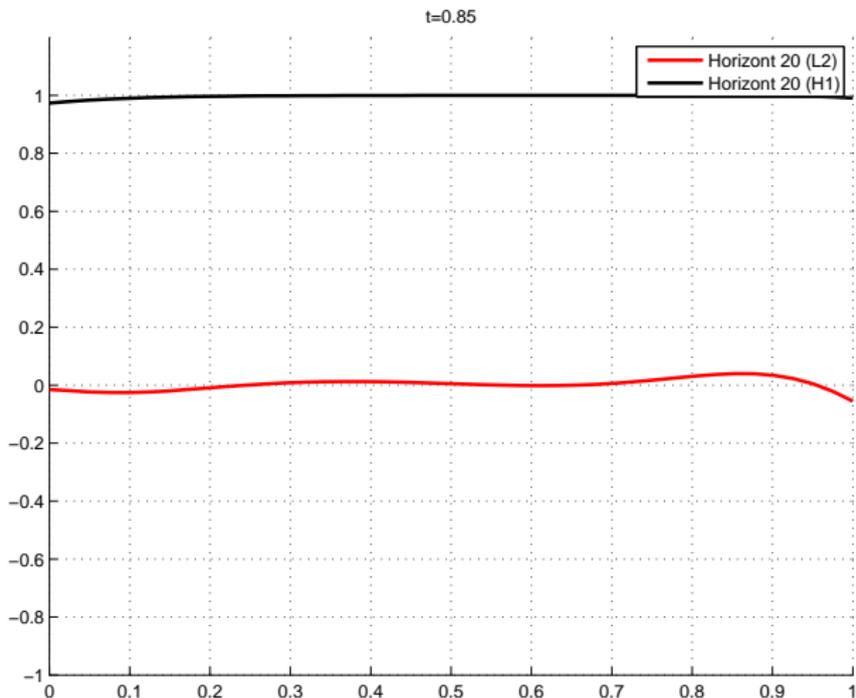
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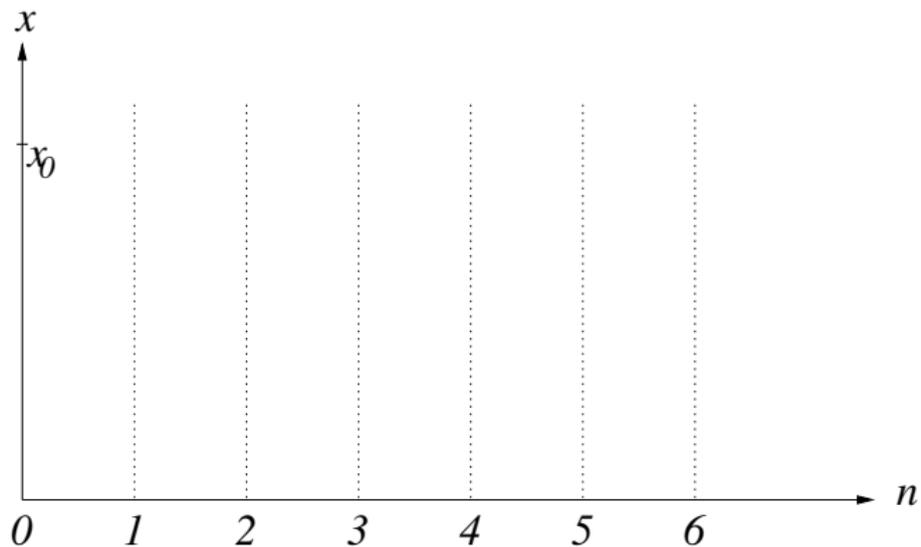
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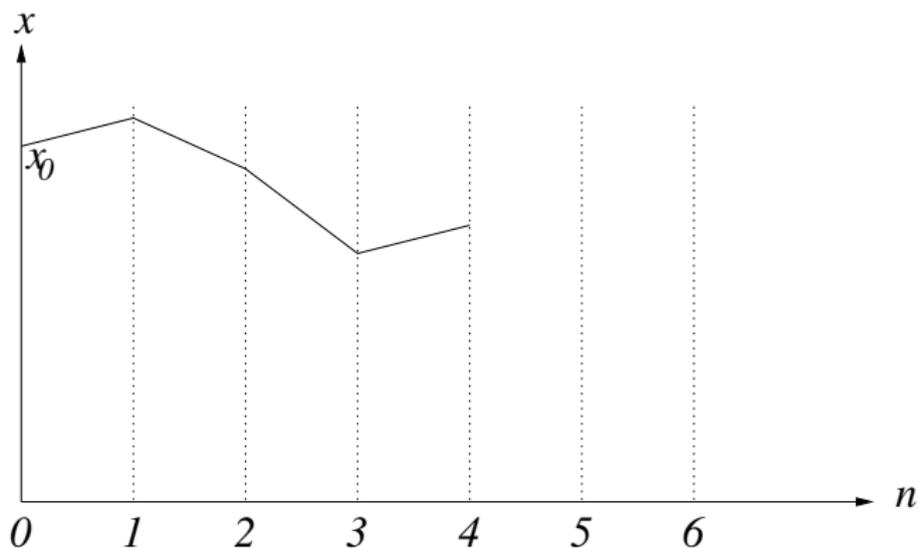
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**Robustness** : $\Leftrightarrow$  the system still approaches/stays within a **neighborhood** of the stable equilibrium for small  $d(n)$

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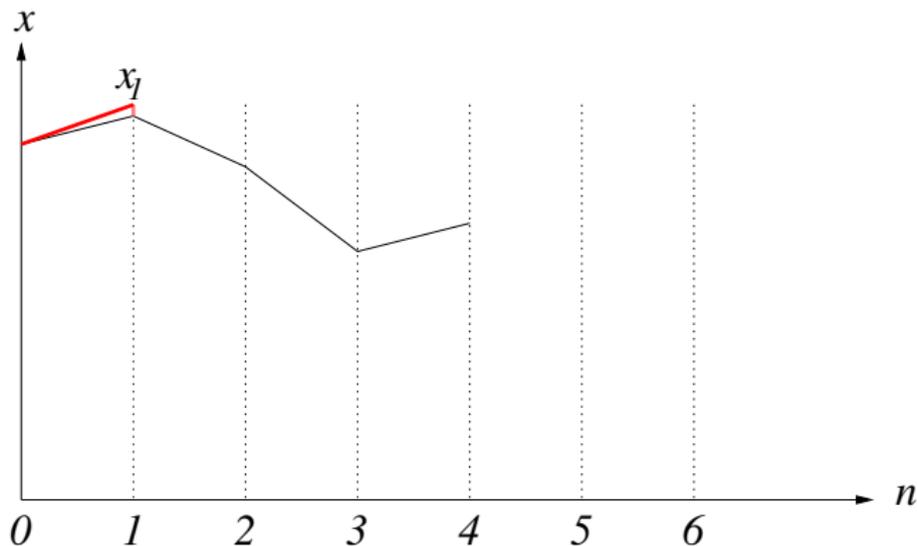


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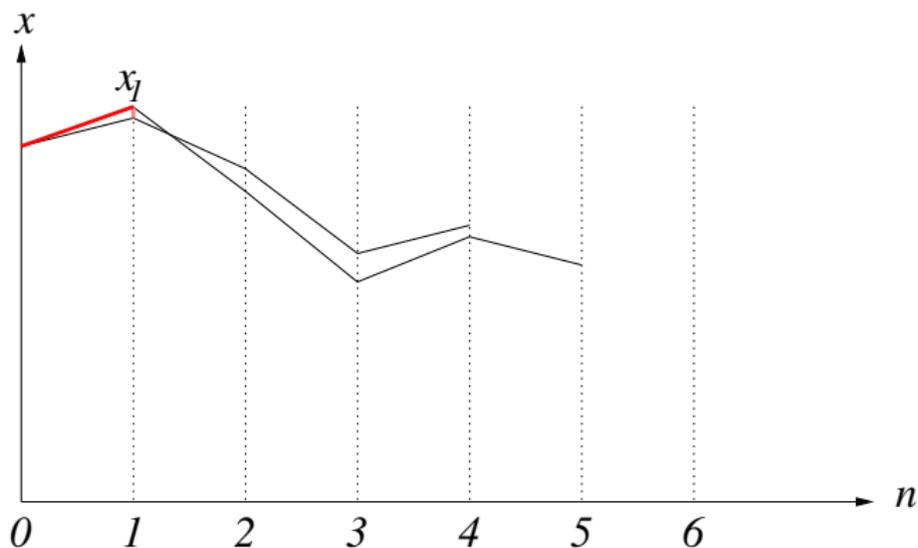
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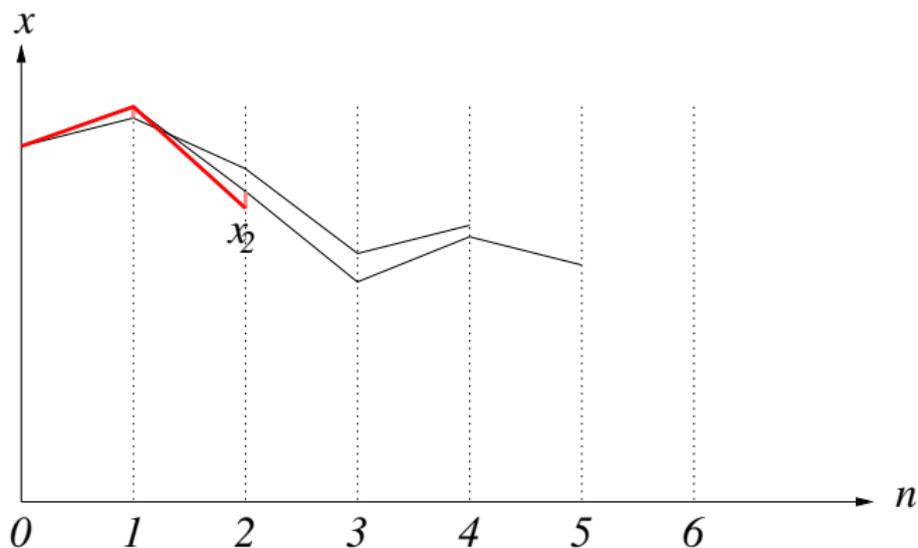
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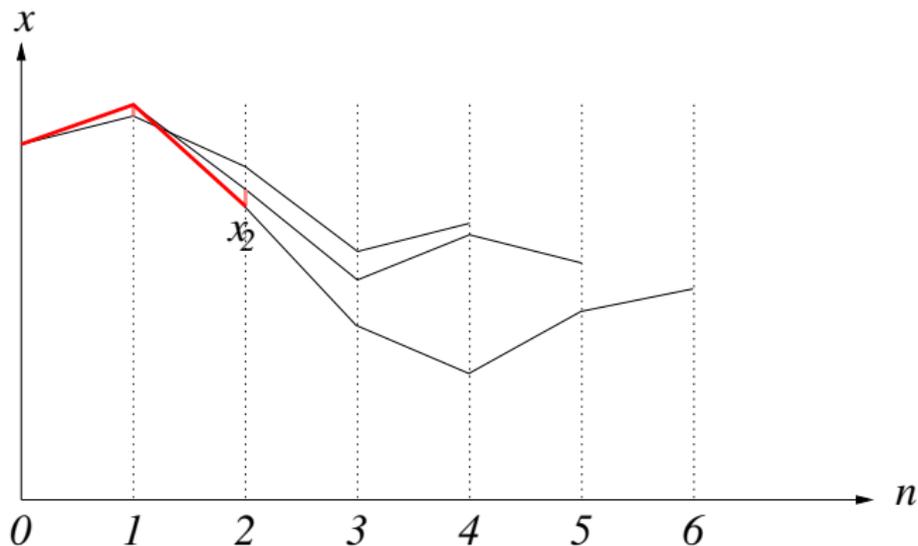
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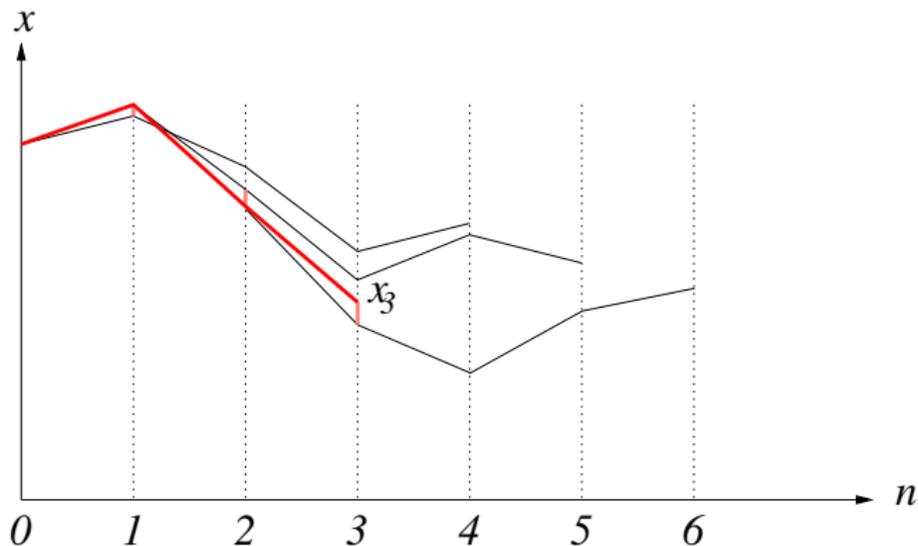
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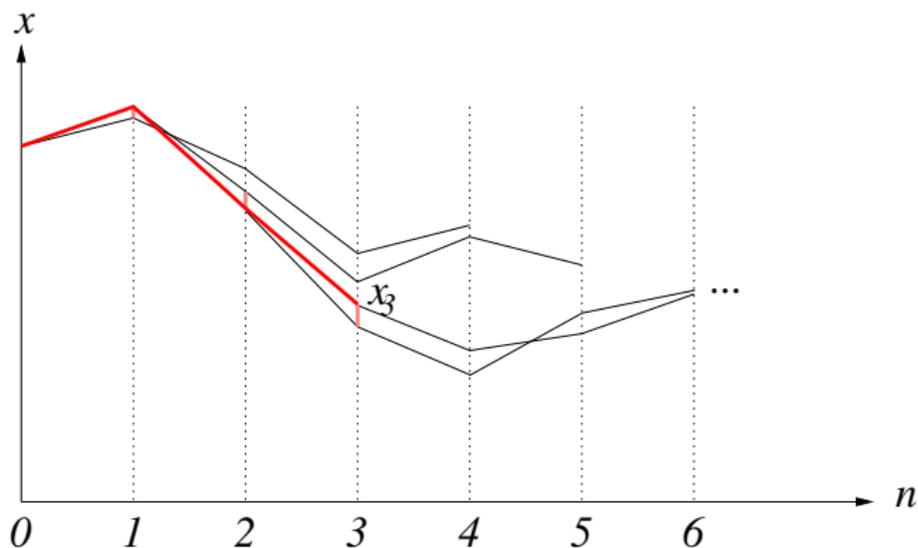
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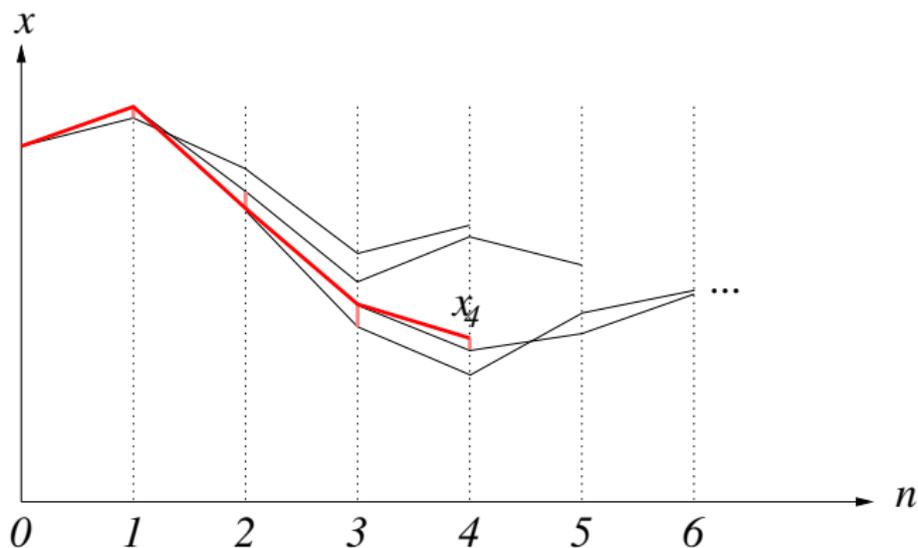
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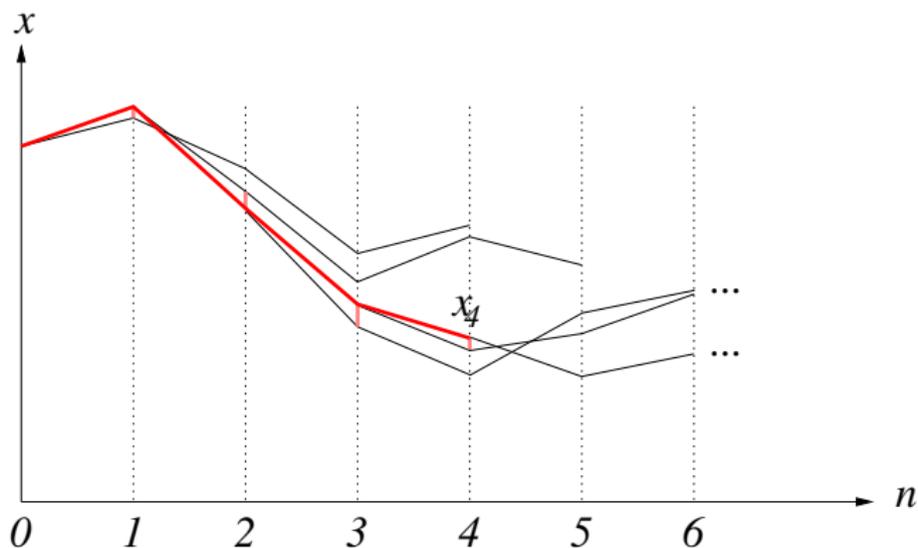
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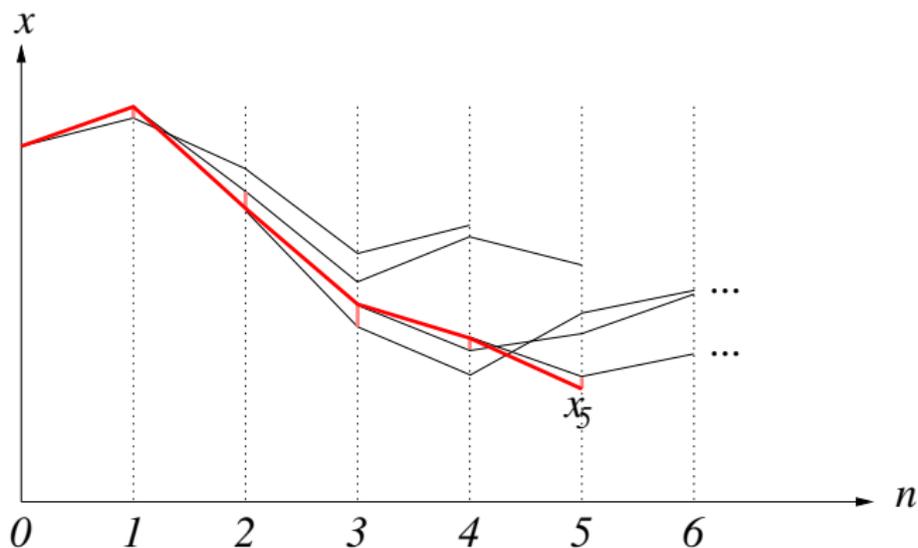
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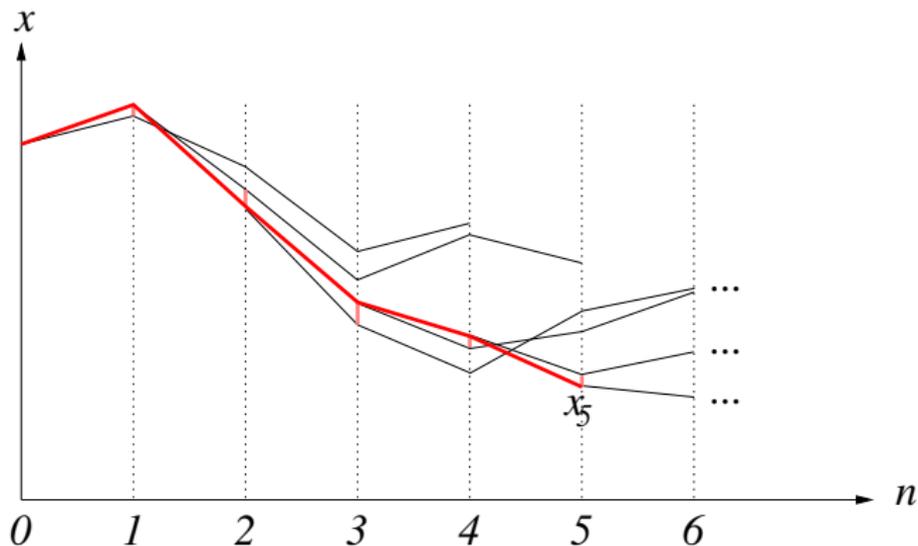
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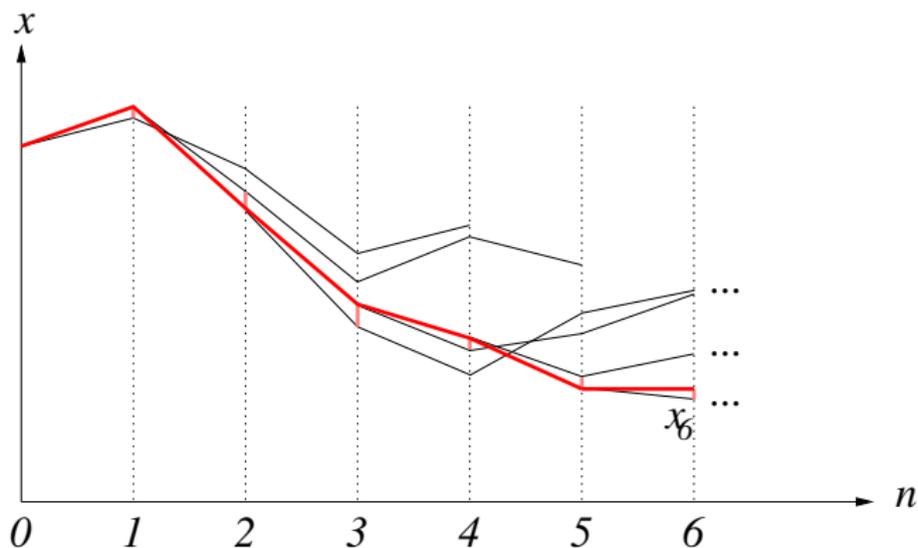
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Robustness can be ensured, e.g., by

- (uniform) continuity of the optimal value function  $V_N(x) = \inf_u J_N(x, u)$ , which serves as a Lyapunov function [De Nicolao/Magni/Scattolini '96; Nešić/Teel/Kokotović '99; Gr./Pannek '11]

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In the latter case, stability and robustness analysis must be carried out **in an integrated way**

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Back to the **unperturbed case**:

The computationally most **expensive** part of an MPC controller is the optimization

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Many approaches exist for increasing the **efficiency of the optimization algorithm**, see, e.g. [Diehl et al. '01ff.]

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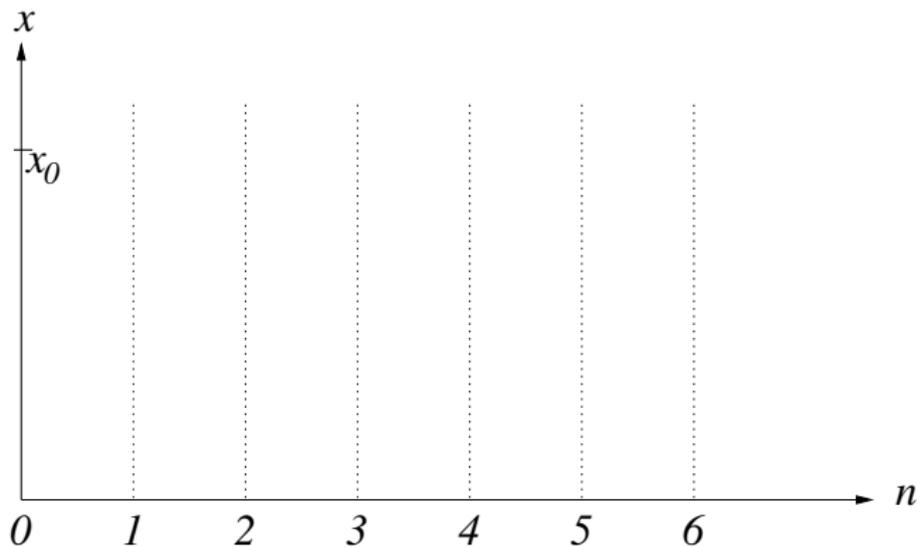
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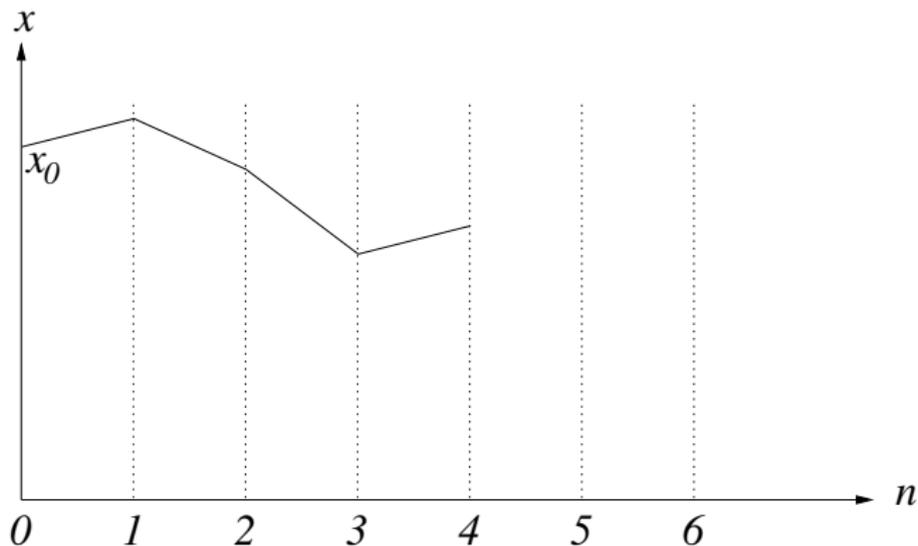
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A more systems theoretic approach: perform **re-optimization less often**

# Schematic illustration of the idea

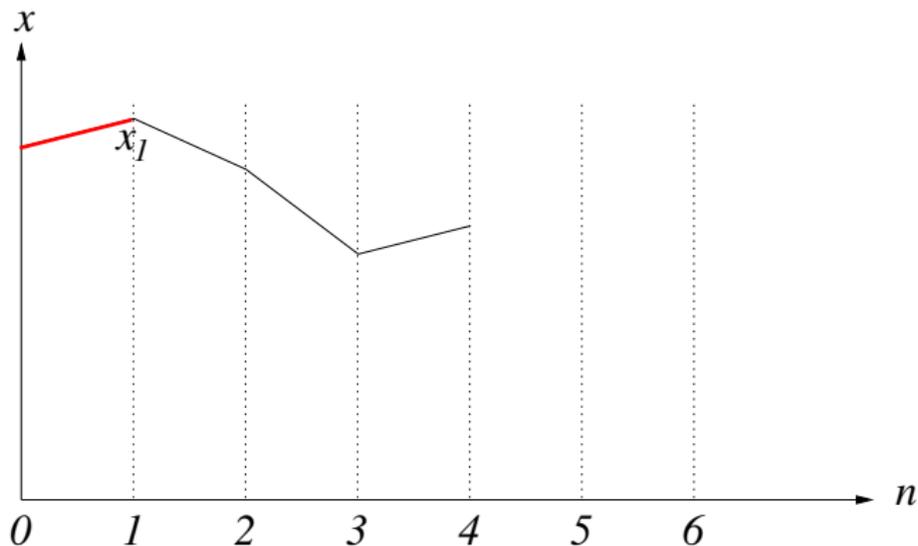


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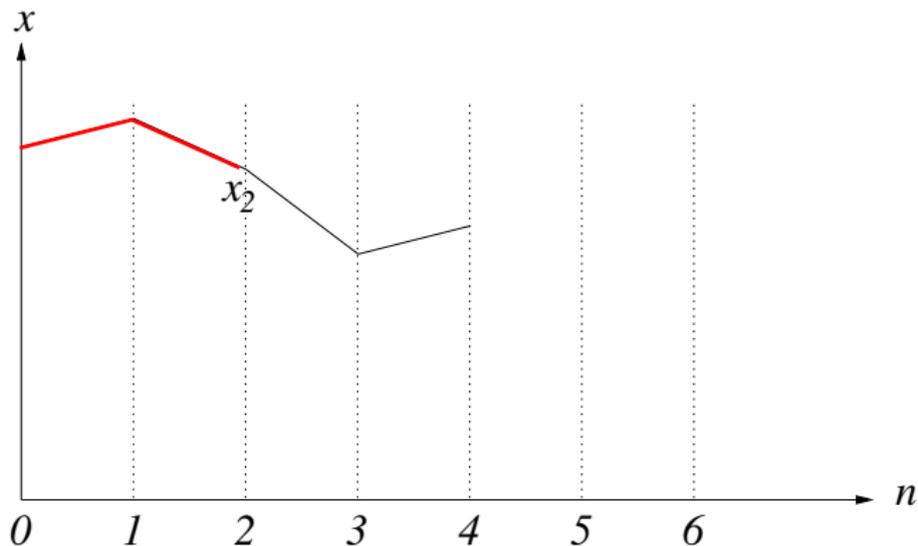
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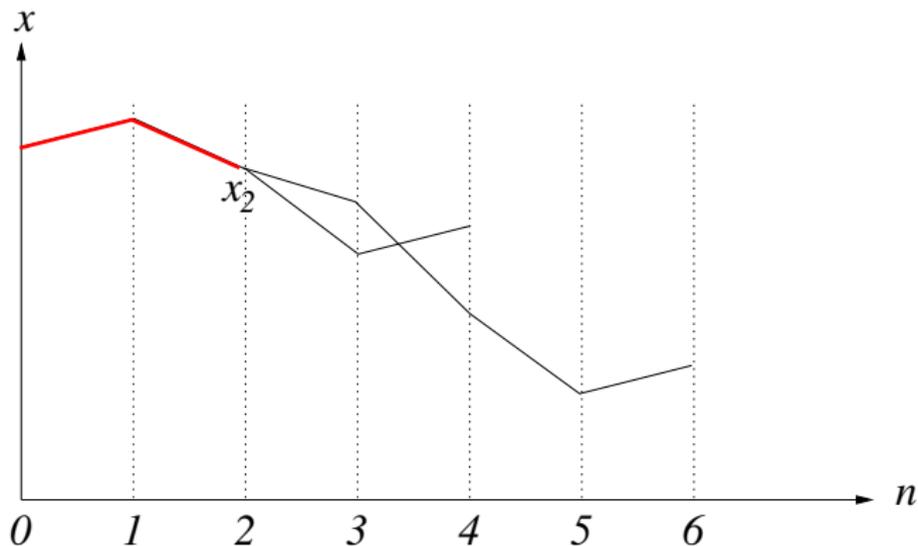
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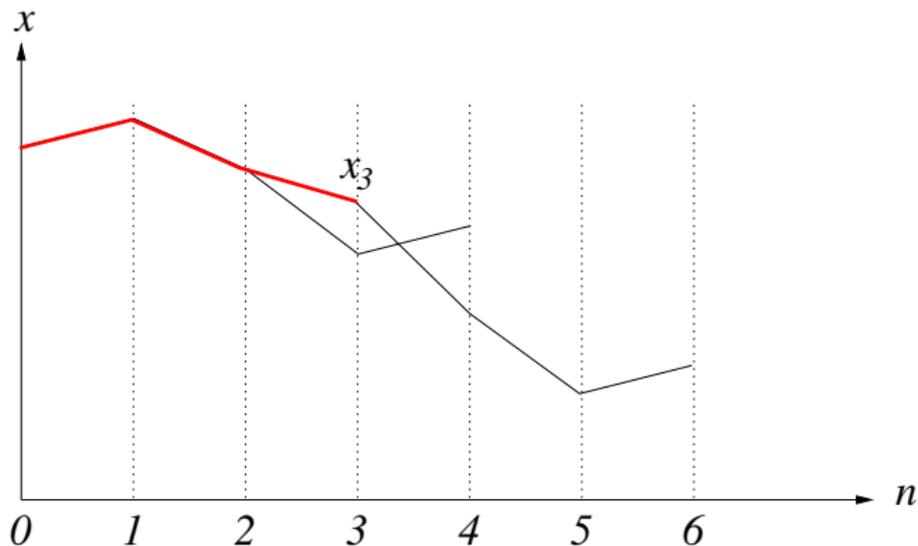
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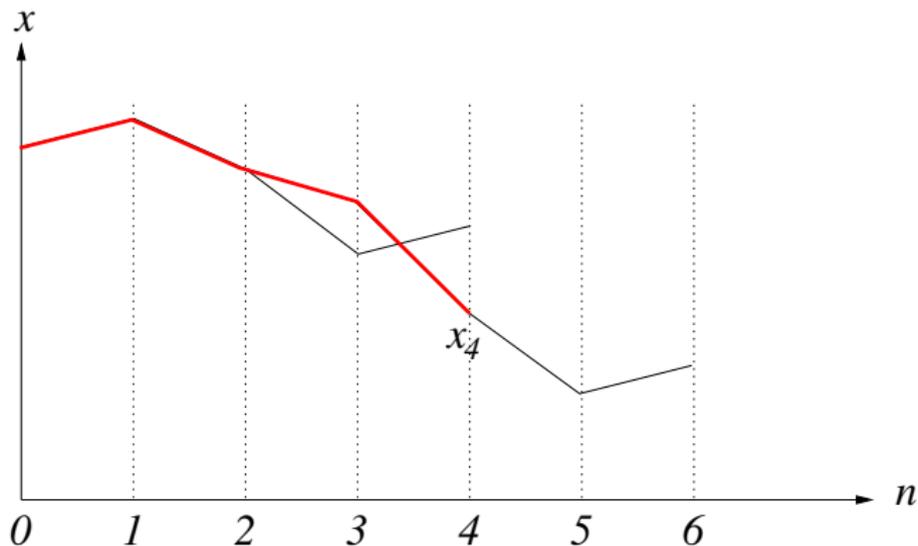
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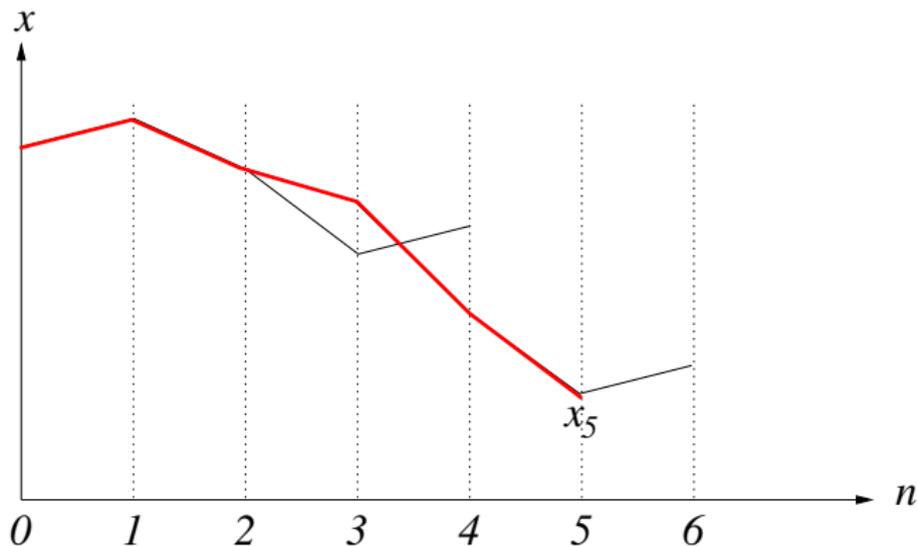
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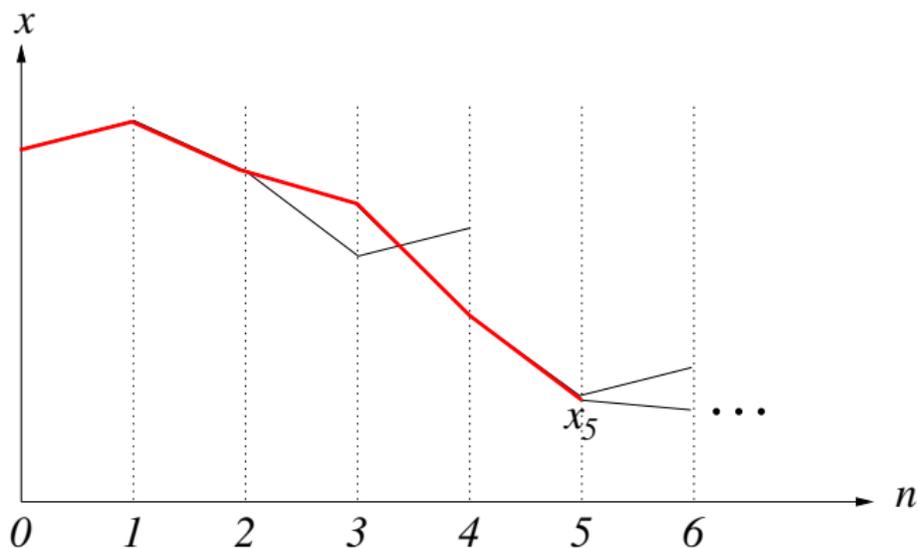
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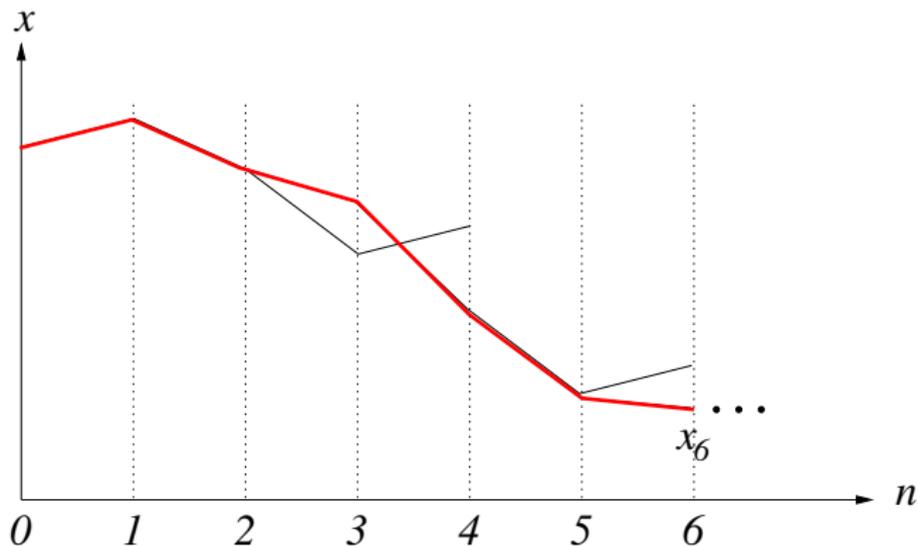
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Then the stability and performance analysis extends to time-varying control horizons if we use  $\alpha = \min_{m_j} \alpha(m_j)$  where

$$\alpha(m) = 1 - \frac{\prod_{i=m+1}^N (\gamma_i - 1) \prod_{i=N-m+1}^N (\gamma_i - 1)}{\left( \prod_{i=m+1}^N \gamma_i - \prod_{i=m+1}^N (\gamma_i - 1) \right) \left( \prod_{i=N-m+1}^N \gamma_i - \prod_{i=N-m+1}^N (\gamma_i - 1) \right)}$$

with  $\gamma_i = \sum_{k=0}^{i-1} C \sigma^k$

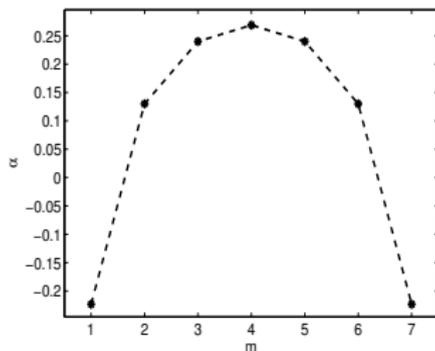
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**Theorem:** The values  $\alpha(m)$  satisfy

$$\alpha(m) = \alpha(N-m), \quad m = 1, \dots, N-1$$

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$$\alpha(m) \leq \alpha(m+1), \quad m = 1, \dots, \lceil N/2 \rceil$$



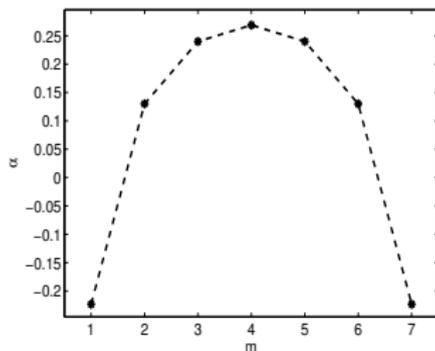
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**Corollary:** If  $N$  is such that all  $C, \sigma$ -exponentially controllable systems are stabilized with “classical” MPC ( $m = 1$ ), then they are **stabilized for arbitrary varying control horizons**  $m_i \in \{1, \dots, N - 1\}$

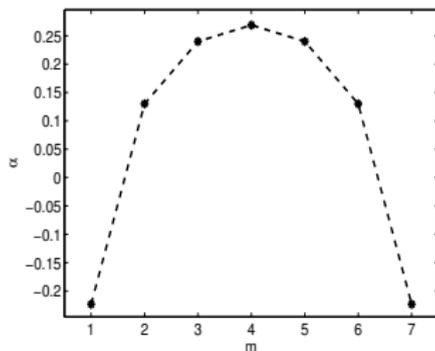
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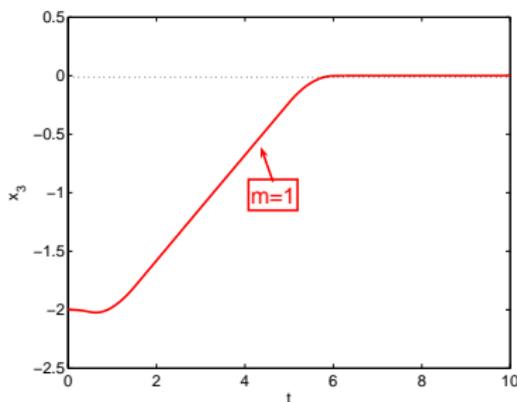
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How does  $\alpha(m)$  look like for a **single system**?

## Example: linearized inverted pendulum

$$\dot{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ g & -k & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} x + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} u, \quad x_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

sampling time  $T = 0.5$ ,  $\ell(x, u) = 2\|x\|_1 + 4\|u\|_1$ ,  $N = 11$

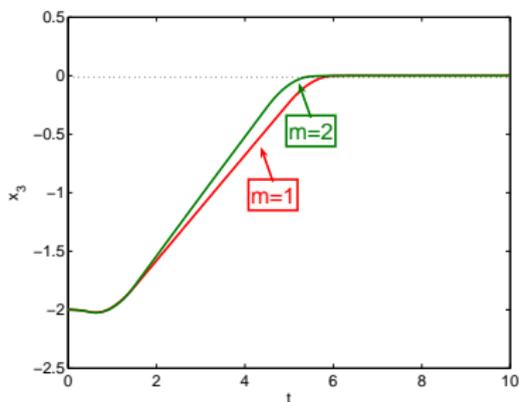


$x_3$  component of trajectory (cart position) for different  $m$

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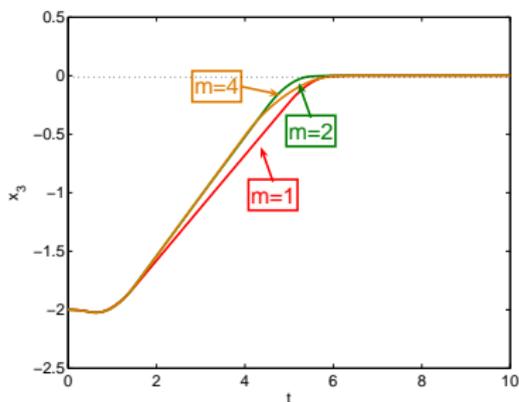


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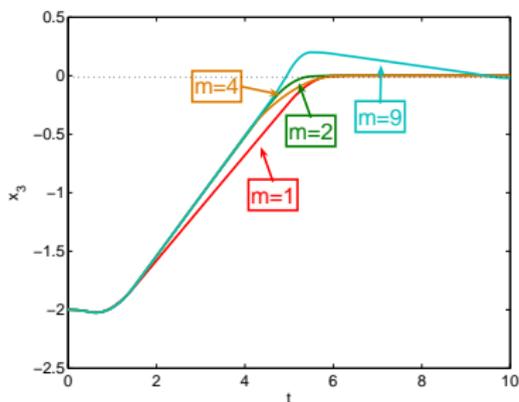


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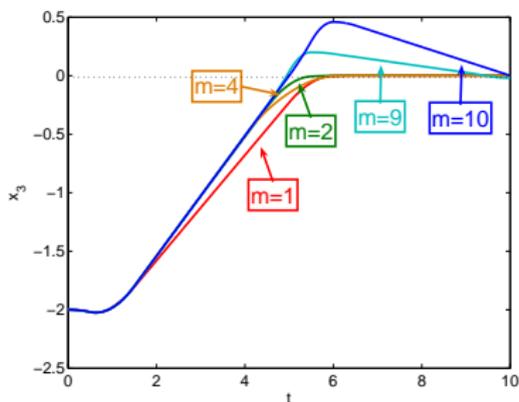


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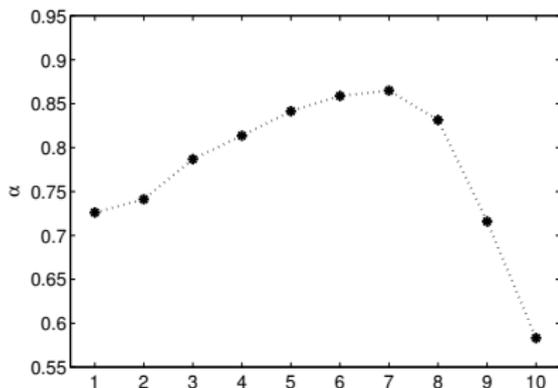


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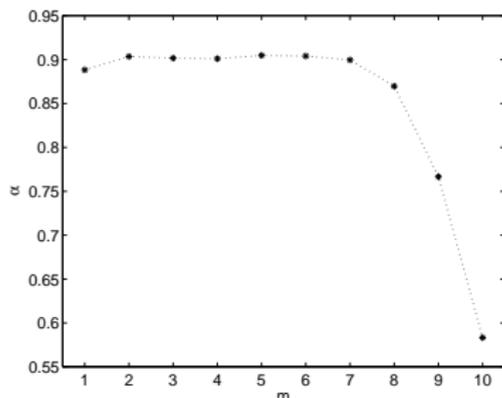
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$\alpha$  after 1<sup>st</sup> MPC step



$\alpha$  at time  $n = 20$

# Discussion of the approach

## Conclusion:

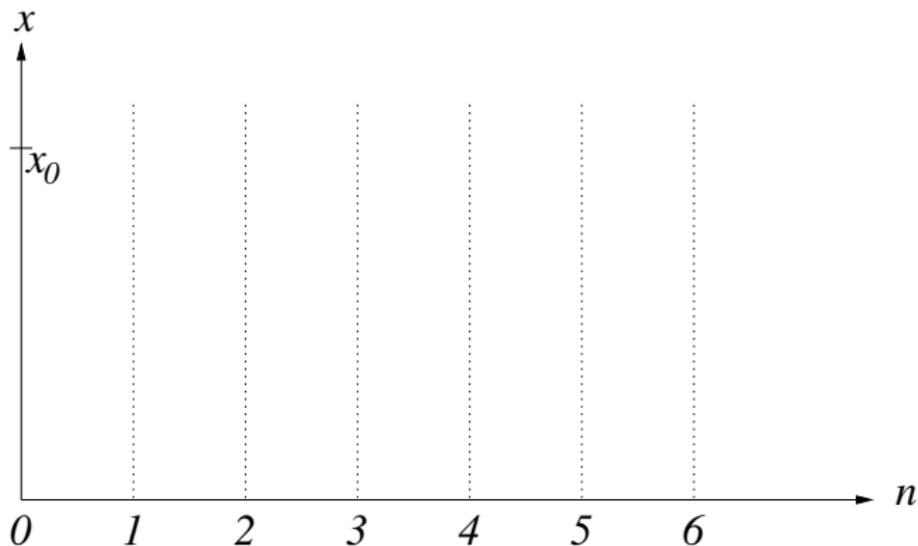
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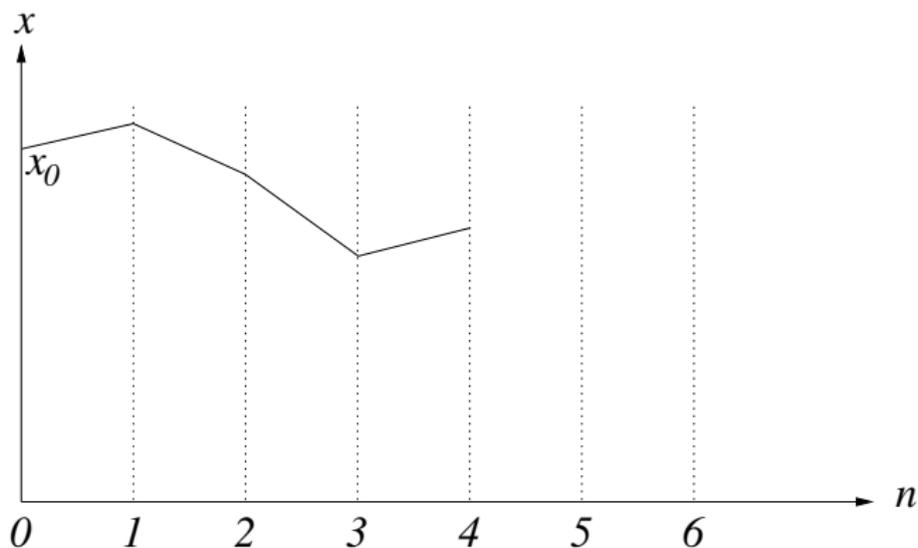
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- but: longer control horizons **may reduce robustness**

# Problem of the approach: less robustness

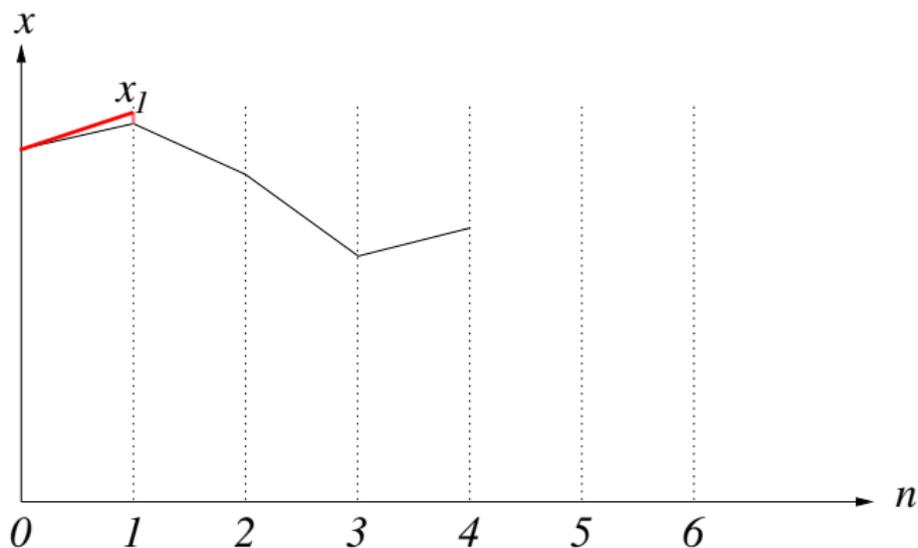


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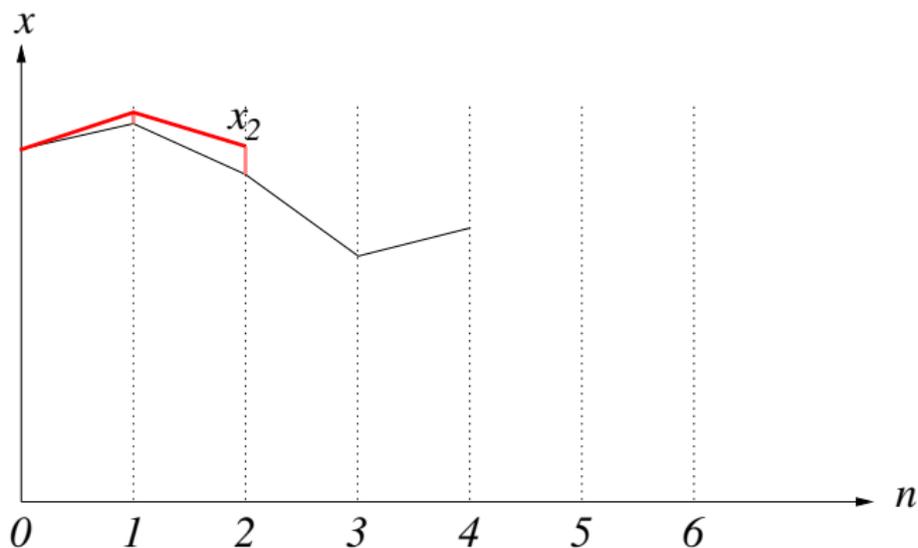
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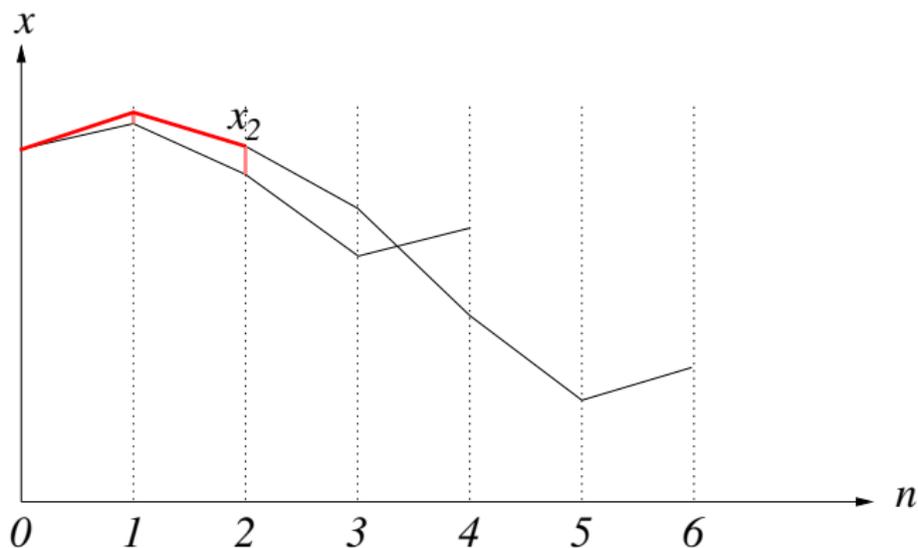
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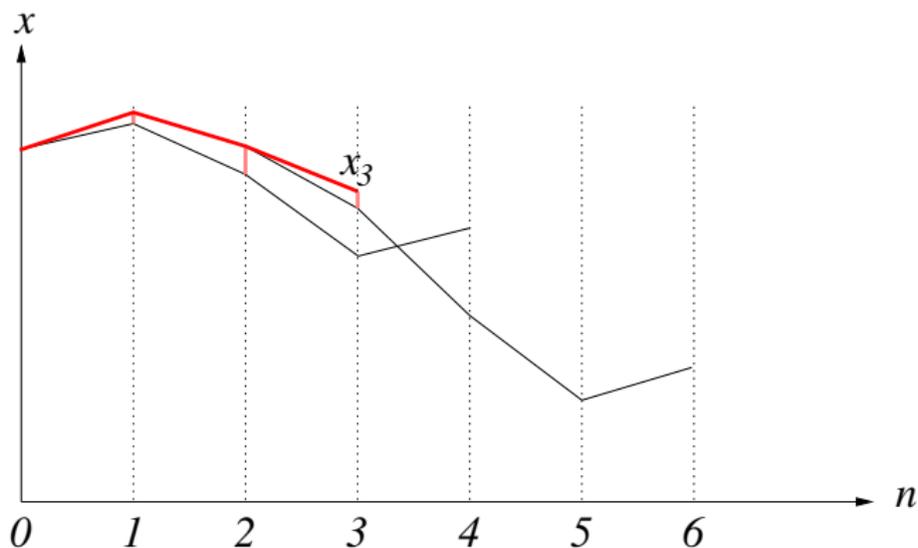
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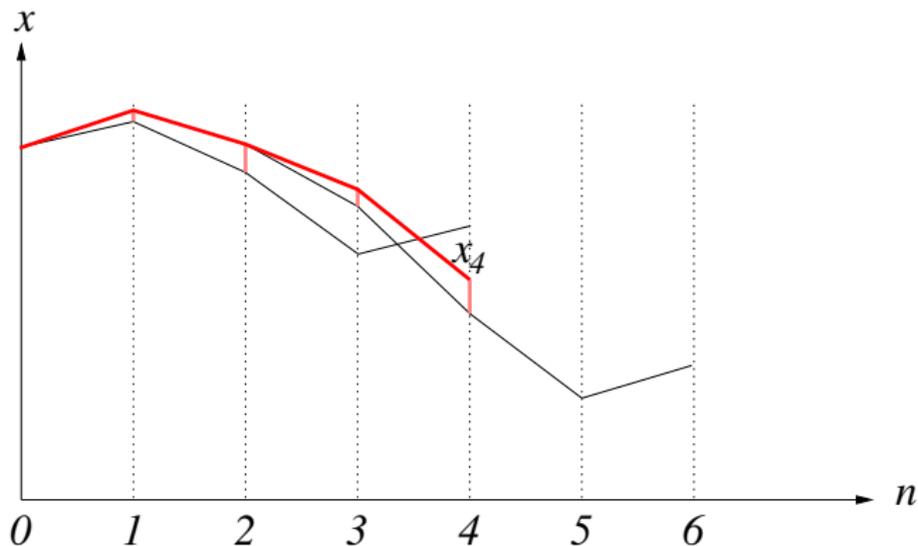
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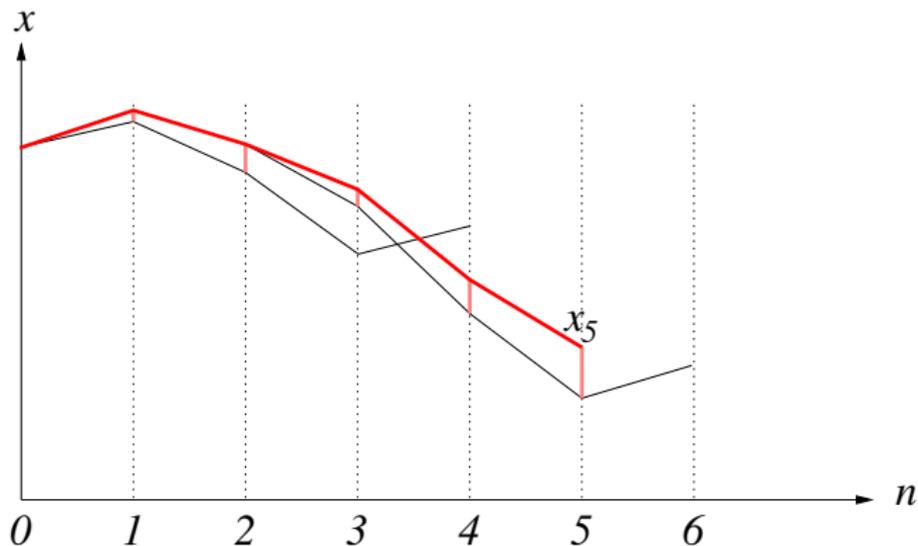
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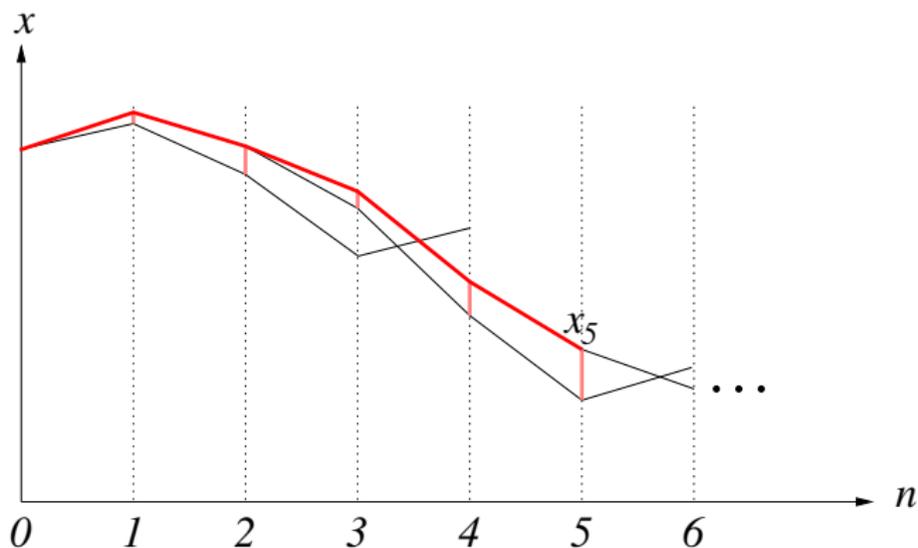
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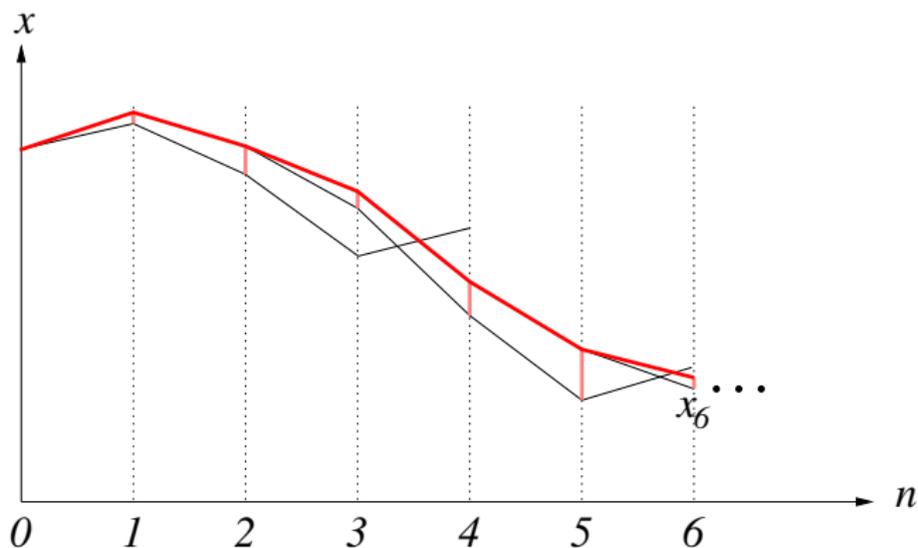
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## Conclusion:

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## Remedy:

- use **sensitivity based techniques** to update the “tails” of the optimal control sequences
- perform an **integrated robustness and stability analysis**

This will be the starting point for SADCO Task 3.3

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