

Linear Quadratic Optimal Control for (In)-Finite Discrete Time Systems

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Contents

1	Notation	1
2	Finite Time Case	1
3	Infinite Time Case	4

1 Notation

Let A, B, C be sets. The function arrow is right associative. That is to say $f : A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C$ has to be parsed as $f : A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow C)$. Meaning that f is a function from A to the set of all functions with domain B and codomain C .

Let $a \in A, b \in B, c \in C$. Function application is denoted by a white space. That is to say $f a$ has to be parsed as f applied to a . The white space is also sometimes removed, in the case of two brackets $()$ wrapping the thing the function is applied to. Function application is left associative. That is to say that $f a b c$ has to be parsed as $((f a) b) c$.

The $\$$ sign denotes infix function application. The infix priority of $\$$ is set such that it is parsed after equal signs and before all other infix operators. For example the expression

$$3 = A \circ B \$ v + 3 \cdot w, \quad (1)$$

where A, B, v, w are such that the expression makes sense, has to be parsed as

$$3 = (A \circ B) (v + 3 \cdot w). \quad (2)$$

2 Finite Time Case

Throughout this section let X, Y, U Hilbert spaces and $A \in L(X), B \in L(U, X), C \in L(X, Y), D \in L(U, Y)$. Let $L_{\geq 0}(X)$ be the set of all symmetric and non-negative linear operators $X \rightarrow X$. Let

$$S := \{(k, N) \in \mathbb{N}^2 : k < N\} \quad (3)$$

and $\text{range} : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{P} \mathbb{N}$

$$\text{range } n \ m := \{k \in \mathbb{N} : n \leq k \leq m\}. \quad (4)$$

Definition 1 (Solution map). Define $\text{soln} : S \rightarrow \text{Mor Set}$ (Mor Set = the "set" of all functions between sets) by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{soln}(k, N) : \text{range } k \ N \rightarrow X &\rightarrow (\text{range } k \ (N-1) \rightarrow U) \rightarrow (\text{range } k \ N \rightarrow X) \\ \text{soln}(k, N) \ x_0 \ u \ k &:= x_0, \\ \text{soln}(k, N) \ x_0 \ u \ (n+1) &:= A (\text{soln}(k, N) \ x_0 \ u \ n) + B(u \ n) \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Proposition 2. Let $(k, N) \in S, x_0 \in X$ and $u_1, u_2 \in \text{range } k(N-1) \rightarrow U$. Let $x_1 := \text{soln}(k, N) x_0 u_1$, $x_2 := \text{soln}(k, N) x_0 u_2$ and $x := \text{soln}(k, N) x_0 (u_1 - u_2)$. Then

$$x_1 - x_2 = x. \quad (6)$$

Proof. By induction:

$$x_1 k - x_2 k = x_0 - x_0 = 0 = x k. \quad (7)$$

Assume that the assertion in the proposition is true for $n \in \text{range } k(N-1)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} x_1(n+1) - x_2(n+1) &= A(x_1 n) + B(u_1 n) - A(x_2 n) - B(u_2 n) \\ &= A(x_1 n - x_2 n) + B(u_1 n - u_2 n) \\ &= A(x n) - B((u_1 - u_2) n) = x(n+1). \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

□

Proposition 3. Let $(k, N) \in S$. Then $T : \ell^2(\text{range } k(N-1), U) \rightarrow \ell^2(\text{range } k N, X)$ defined by $T := \text{soln}(k, N) x_0$ is linear and bounded.

Proof. Let $u \in \ell^2(\text{range } k(N-1), U)$ and $x := T u$. Then for all $n \in \text{range}(k+1) N$:

$$x n = \sum_{j=0}^{n-k-1} A^j(B u(n-j-1)). \quad (9)$$

The proof is by induction:

$$x(k+1) = A(x k) + B(u k) = B(u k). \quad (10)$$

Let $n \in \text{range}(k+1)(N-1)$ and assume that the above equation for $x n$ is true. Then

$$\begin{aligned} x(n+1) &= A(x n) + B(u n) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{n-k-1} A^{j+1}(B u(n-j-1)) + B(u n) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{(n+1)-k-1} A^j(B u((n+1)-j-1)) + B(u n) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{(n+1)-k-1} A^j(B u((n+1)-j-1)). \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

Since A and B and the evaluation maps are linear and bounded it follows that $p_i \circ T$, where p_i is the i -th coordinate projection, is linear and bounded for all $i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$, which in turn implies the linearity and the boundedness of T . □

Definition 4 (Output map). Define $\text{out} : S \rightarrow \text{Mor Set}$ by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{out}(k, N) : X &\rightarrow (\text{range } k(N-1) \rightarrow U) \rightarrow (\text{range } k N \rightarrow Y) \\ \text{out}(k, N) x_0 u &:= C \circ (\text{soln}(k, N) x_0 u) + D \circ u. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Definition 5 (Cost functional). Define $J : L_{\geq 0}(X) \rightarrow S \rightarrow \text{Mor Set}$ by

$$\begin{aligned} J P_0(k, N) : X &\rightarrow (\text{range } k(N-1) \rightarrow U) \rightarrow [0, \infty) \\ J P_0(k, N) x_0 u &:= \sum_{n=k}^{N-1} (\|y n\|^2 + \|u n\|^2) + \langle (x N, P_0(x N)), \\ &\text{where } y := \text{out}(k, N) x_0 u, x := \text{soln}(k, N) x_0 u. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

In the remainder of this subsection let $N \in \mathbb{N}$ be fixed.

Proposition 6 (Existence and uniqueness of minimizer). For all $P_0 \in L_{\geq 0}(X), k \in \text{range } 1(N-1), x_0 \in X : J P_0(k, N) x_0$ has a unique minimizer.

Proof. Let $P_0 \in P_0 \in L_{\geq 0}(X)$ and $k \in \text{range } 1(N-1)$. Let $H := X \times \ell^2(\text{range } k(N-1), Y) \times \ell^2(\text{range } k(N-1), U)$. Define $V : X \rightarrow \mathcal{P} H$ by

$$V x_0 := \{(x, y, u) \in H : x = \sqrt{P_0}(\text{soln } k x_0 u N), y = \text{out } k x_0 u\}. \quad (14)$$

Then for all $x_0 \in X$ finding a minimum of $J P_0(k, N) x_0$ is the same as finding a minimum of the norm squared on $V x_0 \neq \emptyset$.

Now $V 0$ is a closed subspace of H , because it is the graph of a bounded linear operator (follows from proposition 3).

Furthermore $\forall x_0 \in X : V x_0 = v + V 0$, where $v \in V x_0$ arbitrary (follows from proposition 2). Let P be the orthogonal projection onto the orthogonal complement of $V 0$. Then, by a standard result, $V x_0$ contains a unique element with minimal norm given by $P v_0$ where $v_0 \in V x_0$ is arbitrary. \square

Definition 7 (Minimizer map). Define $M : L_{\geq 0}(X) \rightarrow \text{range } 1(N-1) \rightarrow \text{Mor Set}$ by letting $M P_0 k : X \rightarrow (\text{range } k(N-1) \rightarrow U)$ be the map that sends x_0 to the unique minimizer of $J P_0(k, N) x_0$.

Proposition 8 (Bellmans principle of optimality). Let $x_0 \in X, P_0 \in L_{\geq 0}(X)$ and $k \in \text{range } 1(N-1)$. Let $u_0 := M P_0 1 x_0$ and $u_1 := M P_0 k(\text{soln}(1, N) x_0 u_0 k)$. Then for all $n \in \text{range } k(N-1)$:

$$u_0 n = u_1 n. \quad (15)$$

Proof. Let $k \in \text{range } 1(N-1)$ and $u \in \text{range } 1(N-1) \rightarrow U$. Let $y := \text{out}(1, N) x_0 u$, $x := \text{soln}(1, N) x_0 u$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} J P_0(1, N) x_0 u &= \sum_{n=1}^{N-1} (\|y_n\|^2 + \|u_n\|^2) + \langle (x N, P_0(x N)) \rangle \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{k-1} (\|y_n\|^2 + \|u_n\|^2) + J P_0(k, N)(x k) u \dots \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

The first term and the value of $x k$ is independent of the values of u for indices strictly larger than $k-1$. Define $\tilde{u} : \text{range } 1(N-1) \rightarrow U$ by $\tilde{u}_j := u_0 j$ if $j < k$ and $u_1 j$ else. Then $J P_0(1, N) x_0 \tilde{u} \leq J P_0(1, N) x_0 u_0$ by definition of the minimizer and the above equation shows the reverse inequality. The uniqueness of the minimizer implies the desired result. \square

Proposition 9. Let $P_0 \in L(X)$ self-adjoint and non-negative. Let $x_0 \in X$. Define $G : U \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ by

$$G u := \|C x_0 + D u\|^2 + \|u\|^2 + \langle P_0(A x_0 + B u), (A x_0 + B u) \rangle. \quad (17)$$

Then G has a unique global minimum at

$$u_m := -(Q^{-1} \circ R) x_0 \quad (18)$$

and

$$G u_m = \langle x_0, (C^* \circ C + A^* \circ P_0 \circ A - R^* \circ Q^{-1} \circ R) x_0 \rangle, \quad (19)$$

where R, Q are defined below in the proof.

Proof. Let $u \in U$, then

$$\begin{aligned} G u &= \langle C x_0, C x_0 \rangle + \langle u, (D^* \circ D) u \rangle + 2 \text{Re} \langle (D^* \circ C) x_0, u \rangle + \langle u, u \rangle \\ &\quad + \langle (P_0 \circ A) x_0, A x_0 \rangle + 2 \text{Re} \langle (B^* \circ P_0 \circ A) x_0, u \rangle + \langle u, (B^* \circ P_0 \circ B) u \rangle \\ &= \underbrace{\langle C x_0, C x_0 \rangle + \langle (P_0 \circ A) x_0, A x_0 \rangle}_{=:q} \\ &\quad + 2 \text{Re} \langle \underbrace{(D^* \circ C + B^* \circ P_0 \circ A)}_{=:R} x_0, u \rangle \\ &\quad + \langle u, \underbrace{(D^* \circ D + I + B^* \circ P_0 \circ B)}_{=:Q} u \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

Note that Q is symmetric and $Q > 0$ (hence it is invertible). It is left to complete the square: For all $u, h \in U$:

$$\langle u - h, Q(u - h) \rangle = \langle u, Qu \rangle - 2 \text{Re} \langle u, Qh \rangle + \langle h, Qh \rangle. \quad (21)$$

And so in particular: Let $u_m := -(Q^{-1} \circ R)x_0$ and $y_0 := q - \langle u_m, Q u_m \rangle$, then for all $u \in U$:

$$G u = \langle u - u_m, Q(u - u_m) \rangle + y_0. \quad (22)$$

Therefore G has a global minimum at u_m with value y_0 . \square

Proposition 10 (Main Theorem). Let $P_0 \in L(X)$ self-adjoint and non-negative and $x_0 \in X$. Let $u := M P_0^{-1} x_0$. Let $x := \text{soln}(1, N) x_0 u$. Let $P : \text{range } 1 N \rightarrow L(X)$ defined by $P N := P_0$ and

$$\begin{aligned} P k &:= C^* \circ C + A^* \circ P(k+1) \circ A \\ &\quad - (C^* \circ D + A^* \circ P(k+1) \circ B) \\ &\quad \circ (D^* \circ D + I + B^* \circ P(k+1) \circ B)^{-1} \\ &\quad \circ (D^* \circ C + B^* \circ P(k+1) \circ A). \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Then for all $k \in \text{range } 1 (N-1)$:

$$u k = -(D^* \circ D + I + B^* \circ P(k+1) \circ B)^{-1} \circ (D^* \circ C + B^* \circ P(k+1) \circ A) x k \quad (24)$$

and

$$J P_0(k, N)(x k) f = \langle x k, P k(x k) \rangle, \quad (25)$$

where $f : \text{range } k (N-1) \rightarrow U$, $f j := u j$ (f is the optimal input for the cost to go). In particular

$$J P_0(1, N) x_0 u = \langle x_0, P 1 x_0 \rangle. \quad (26)$$

Proof. By Bellmans principle of optimality $u(N-1) = M P_0(N-1)(x(N-1))(N-1)$. The right hand side matches the formula in the proposition by the preceding proposition. The other assertion (for the $N-1$ case) also follows from that proposition.

Assume that the conclusion of the proposition holds for $k \in \{2, \dots, N-1\}$. Let $v \in U$ and define $f : \text{range}(k-1)(N-1) \rightarrow U$ by $f(k-1) := v$ and $f j := u j$. Then by definition and the assumption

$$J P_0(k-1, N)(x(k-1)) f = (\|C(x(k-1)) + Dv\|^2 + \|v\|^2) + \langle x k, P k(x k) \rangle \quad (27)$$

and $P k$ is bounded, self-adjoint and non-negative. Again by Bellmans principle of optimality $u(k-1) = M P_0(k-1)(x(k-1))(k-1)$. The right hand side is given by the formula in the proposition by the preceding proposition and the above equation. The preceding proposition also concludes that $J P_0(k-1, N)(x(k-1)) u = \langle x(k-1), P(k-1)(x(k-1)) \rangle$. \square

3 Infinite Time Case

Let X, Y, U Hilbert spaces and $A \in L(X), B \in L(U, X), C \in L(X, Y), D \in L(U, Y)$. In this section \mathbb{N} does not contain 0.

Definition 11. Define $\text{soln}_\infty : X \rightarrow (\mathbb{N} \rightarrow U) \rightarrow (\mathbb{N} \rightarrow X)$ by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{soln}_\infty x_0 u 1 &:= x_0 \\ \text{soln}_\infty x_0 u (n+1) &:= A(\text{soln}_\infty x_0 u n) + B(u n). \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

Define $\text{out}_\infty : X \rightarrow (\mathbb{N} \rightarrow U) \rightarrow (\mathbb{N} \rightarrow Y)$ by

$$\text{out}_\infty x_0 u := C \circ (\text{soln}_\infty x_0 u) + D \circ u. \quad (29)$$

Consider the cost functional $J_\infty : X \rightarrow \ell^2(\mathbb{N}, U) \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ defined by

$$J_\infty x_0 u := \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (\|\text{out}_\infty x_0 u n\|^2 + \|u n\|^2). \quad (30)$$

Definition 12 (Optimizability). The discrete time system is called optimizable if for every $x_0 \in X$ there is $u \in \ell^2(\mathbb{N}, U)$ with $J_\infty x_0 u < \infty$.

Proposition 13 (Existence and uniqueness of minimizer). Assume that the system is optimizable, then $J_\infty x_0$ has a unique minimizer for all $x_0 \in X$.

Proof. The proof is almost the same as in the finite time case (only the deviation is written here). Let $H := \ell^2(\mathbb{N}, Y) \times \ell^2(\mathbb{N}, U)$. Define $V : X \rightarrow \mathcal{P} H$ by

$$V x_0 := \{(y, u) \in H : y = \text{out}_\infty x_0 u\}. \quad (31)$$

By the optimizability $\forall x_0 \in X : V x_0 \neq \emptyset$. In particular $V 0$ is a subspace of H . Furthermore $V x_0 = v_0 + V 0$ for $v_0 \in V x_0$ arbitrary. $V 0$ is closed: Let $(y, u) : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow V 0$ convergent to $(y_0, u_0) \in H$. Let $i \in \mathbb{N}$ and p_i the i -th coordinate projection. Then $p_i \circ y$ converges to $p_i y_0$ since ℓ^2 convergence implies pointwise convergence. Now equation 9 (adapted to the infinite time case) shows that $p_i \circ y$ converges to $p_i(\text{out}_\infty 0 u_0)$. Since i is arbitrary this implies that $y_0 = \text{out}_\infty 0 u_0$ and therefore $V 0$ is closed. The remainder of the proof is exactly the same as in the finite case. \square

Proposition 14. Let $T : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow L(X)$ be an increasing sequence of symmetric, non-negative operators with

$$\forall x \in X \exists M \in (0, \infty) : \forall n \in \mathbb{N} : \langle T n x, x \rangle \leq M. \quad (32)$$

Then T converges strongly to $T_\infty \in L_{\geq 0}(X)$ with $T_\infty \geq T n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Proof. T is uniformly bounded, because the condition on T implies the uniform boundedness of $\sqrt{\cdot} \circ T$ via the uniform boundedness principle, which in turn implies the uniform boundedness of T (because of the C^* -identity). Now for all $x_0 \in X$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \langle x_0, T n x_0 \rangle \quad (33)$$

exists and is ≥ 0 , because the sequence is monotonically increasing and bounded from above. The polarisation identity together with the above implies, that $\forall x_0, x_1 \in X$:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \langle x_0, T n x_1 \rangle \quad (34)$$

exists. Therefore $s : X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{K}$, $s x_0 x_1 := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \langle x_0, T n x_1 \rangle$ is a well defined, conjugate symmetric, positive semi-definite, sesquilinear form. Furthermore for all $x_0, x_1 \in X$:

$$|s x_0 x_1| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |\langle x_0, T n x_1 \rangle| \leq \sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \|T n\| \cdot \|x_0\| \cdot \|x_1\|. \quad (35)$$

Therefore s is continuous and so there exists a symmetric and non-negative operator $T_\infty \in L(X)$ with for all $x_0, x_1 \in X$:

$$s x_0 x_1 = \langle x_0, T_\infty x_1 \rangle. \quad (36)$$

Evidently $T_\infty \geq T n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Define $S : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow L_{\geq 0}(X)$ by $S n := T_\infty - T n$. Then $S \rightarrow 0$ in the weak operator topology. For all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $x \in X$:

$$\|S n x\|^2 \leq \sup_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \|S m\| \cdot \langle S n x, x \rangle. \quad (37)$$

Which implies that $T \rightarrow T_\infty$ strongly (the inequality in the above equation follows from the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality and using the $\sqrt{\cdot}$). \square

Definition 15. Define $T : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow L(X)$ as follows: $T 1 := 0$ and

$$\begin{aligned} T N &:= C^* \circ C + A^* \circ T(N-1) \circ A \\ &\quad - (C^* \circ D + A^* \circ T(N-1) \circ B) \\ &\quad \circ (D^* \circ D + I + B^* \circ T(N-1) \circ B)^{-1} \\ &\quad \circ (D^* \circ C + B^* \circ T(N-1) \circ A). \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

Proposition 16. For all $N \in \mathbb{N}$:

1. $\forall x_0 \in X : \langle x_0, T N x_0 \rangle = \inf_{u \in \ell^2(\text{range } 1(N-1), U)} J 0(1, N) x_0 u$.
2. $0 \leq T N \leq T(N+1)$.

Proof. To the first point: Let $N \in \mathbb{N}$. Define $P : \text{range } 1 \dots N \rightarrow L(X)$ by $P j := T(N + 1 - j)$, then evidently $P N = 0$ and $P 1 = T N$. Furthermore by definition for all $j \in \text{range } 1 \dots (N - 1)$

$$\begin{aligned} P j &= C^* \circ C + A^* \circ P(j + 1) \circ A \\ &\quad - (C^* \circ D + A^* \circ P(j + 1) \circ B) \\ &\quad \circ (D^* \circ D + I + B^* \circ P(j + 1) \circ B)^{-1} \\ &\quad \circ (D^* \circ C + B^* \circ P(j + 1) \circ A). \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

The main theorem of the last section concludes. The second point is a consequence of the first. \square

Proposition 17 (Main theorem). *Assume that the discrete time system is optimizable. Then*

1. T converges strongly to $\Pi \in L_{\geq 0}(X)$ with $\Pi \geq T^n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.
2. Π satisfies the algebraic riccati equation (ARE):

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi &= C^* \circ C + A^* \circ \Pi \circ A \\ &\quad - (C^* \circ D + A^* \circ \Pi \circ B) \\ &\quad \circ (D^* \circ D + I + B^* \circ \Pi \circ B)^{-1} \\ &\quad \circ (D^* \circ C + B^* \circ \Pi \circ A). \end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

3. Any other symmetric non-negative solution Π_2 to the ARE satisfies $\Pi \leq \Pi_2$.
4. For all $x_0 \in X$: Define $\tilde{u} : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow U$ by

$$\tilde{u} k := -(D^* \circ D + I + B^* \circ \Pi \circ B)^{-1} \circ (D^* \circ C + B^* \circ \Pi \circ A) \$(\text{soln}_\infty x_0 \tilde{u} k). \quad (41)$$

Then

$$\inf_{u \in \ell^2} J_\infty x_0 u = J_\infty x_0 \tilde{u} = \langle x_0, \Pi x_0 \rangle. \quad (42)$$

Proof. The first assertion follows from the optimizability and the preceding two propositions. That Π solves the ARE follows from the definition of T and the strong convergence.

To "4.": Let $x_0 \in X$. For all $N \in \mathbb{N}$:

$$\langle x_0, T^N x_0 \rangle = \inf_{u \in \ell^2} J_0(1, N) x_0 u \leq \inf_{u \in \ell^2} J_\infty x_0 u. \quad (43)$$

This implies that $\langle x_0, \Pi x_0 \rangle \leq \inf_{u \in \ell^2} J_\infty x_0 u$. On the other hand

$$\inf_{u \in \ell^2} J_\infty x_0 u \leq J_\infty x_0 \tilde{u} = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} J_0(1, N) x_0 \tilde{u}|_{\dots} \leq \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} J \Pi(1, N) x_0 \tilde{u}|_{\dots} = \langle x_0, \Pi x_0 \rangle. \quad (44)$$

Where the second inequality is due to the fact that Π is non-negative and the last equality due to the fact that Π solves the ARE together with the main theorem of the preceding section. The fact that $\tilde{u} \in \ell^2$ follows from $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \|\tilde{u} n\|^2 \leq \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} J \Pi(1, N) x_0 \tilde{u}|_{\dots} < \infty$.

To "3.": Let $x_0 \in X$ and define \tilde{u} as in point "4." of the proposition, but with Π_2 in place of Π . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \langle x_0, \Pi x_0 \rangle &= \inf_{u \in \ell^2} J_\infty x_0 u \leq J_\infty x_0 \tilde{u} = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} J_0(1, N) x_0 \tilde{u}|_{\dots} \\ &\leq \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} J \Pi_2(1, N) x_0 \tilde{u}|_{\dots} = \langle x_0, \Pi_2 x_0 \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (45)$$

Therefore $\Pi \leq \Pi_2$. \square

Proposition 18. *Let $\Pi_2 \in L_{\geq 0}(X)$ be a solution to the ARE. Then the system is optimizable.*

Proof. Let $x_0 \in X$ and define \tilde{u} as in point "4." of the preceding proposition, but with Π_2 in place of Π . Then

$$\begin{aligned} J_\infty x_0 \tilde{u} &= \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} J_0(1, N) x_0 \tilde{u}|_{\dots} \\ &\leq \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} J \Pi_2(1, N) x_0 \tilde{u}|_{\dots} = \langle x_0, \Pi_2 x_0 \rangle < \infty. \end{aligned} \quad (46)$$

\square