

# Safety of Autonomous Systems with Learning-enabled Feedbacks

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**Georgia  
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# Acknowledgment

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# Modern Autonomous Systems

## Introduction



Power grids



Delivery drones



Autonomous Vehicles

- large penetration of distributed renewable units in power grids
- urban air mobility support operations including transfer of passengers and cargo
- the increase in number of self-driving learning-enabled vehicles

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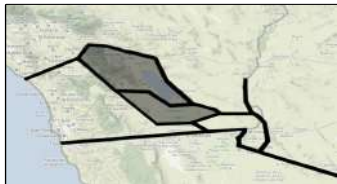
Autonomous systems in our societies are becoming **large-scale**, **interconnected** and **complex**.

# Modern Autonomous Systems

Safety and Reliability guarantees

A critical task

Desired performance while ensuring their **safety** and **reliability**.



2011 US Southwest blackout



Postal Drone hit the building



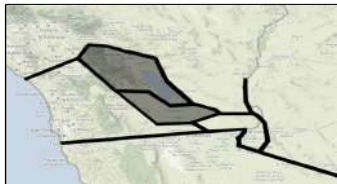
Self-driving car accident

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## My Research

Provide **guarantees** for safety and reliability of autonomous systems

**Tools:** Systems and Control (contraction theory, monotone system theory)

# Learning-enabled Autonomous Systems

## Motivations and Applications

**In this talk:** Autonomous Systems with learning-based components

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**In this talk:** Autonomous Systems with learning-based components

- Learning-based **controllers** or **motion planners** in safety-critical applications



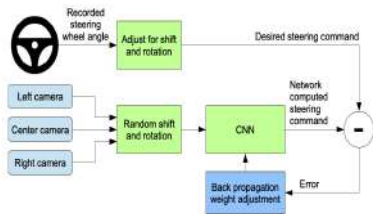
# Learning-enabled Autonomous Systems

## Motivations and Applications

**In this talk:** Autonomous Systems with learning-based components

- Learning-based **controllers** or **motion planners** in safety-critical applications
- Main issues with traditional controllers: computationally burdensome, executed by an expert, complicated representation.

Self driving vehicles:



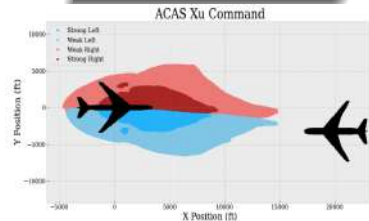
M. Bojarski, et al., NeurIPS, 2016.

Robotic motion planning:



M. Everett, et. al., IROS, 2018.

Collision avoidance:

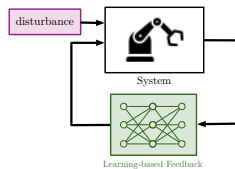


K. Julian, et. al., DASC, 2016.

# Learning-enabled Autonomous Systems

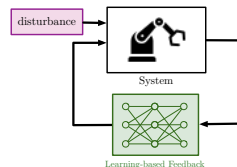
## Analysis and Design

**Goal:** ensure *safety and reliability* of the closed-loop system



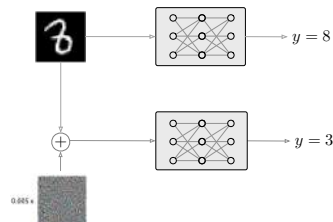
<sup>1</sup>C. Szegedy et. al. Intriguing properties of neural networks. In ICLR, 2014

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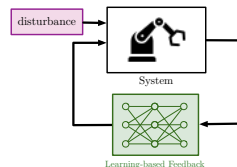
### Issues with learning algorithms:

- large # of parameters with nonlinearity
- sensitive wrt to input perturbations<sup>1</sup>
- no safety guarantee in their training



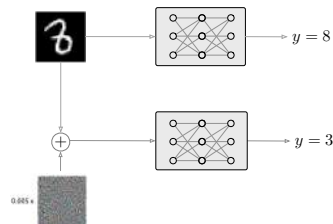
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**Analysis:** how safe is the closed-loop system? (Verification)

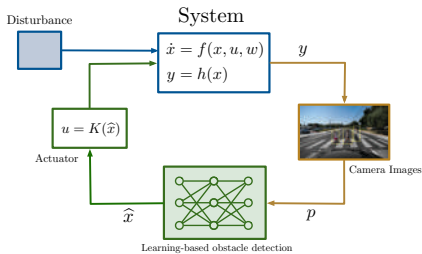
**Design:** how to design the learning component to ensure safety? (Training)

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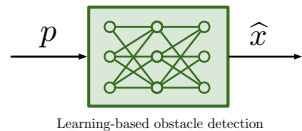
# Example: Safety in Mobile Robots

Learning-enabled controllers

## Perception-based Obstacle Avoidance



$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x} &= f(x, u, w) \\ y &= h(x)\end{aligned}$$



trained **offline** using images



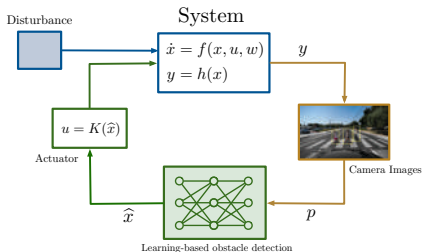
Unsafe

Goal

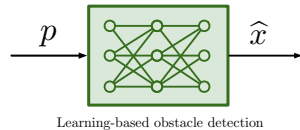
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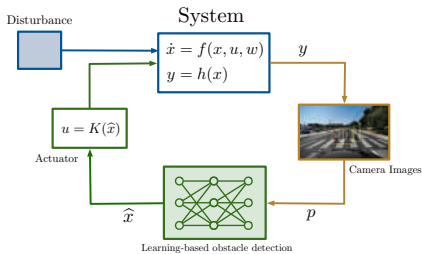
## No guarantee to avoid the obstacle:

- out of distribution images
- changes in the environment

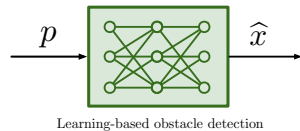
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Goal

- Reachability Analysis
- Contraction and Monotone Theory
- Analysis of Learning-enabled Feedbacks



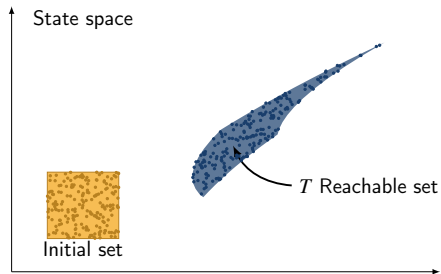
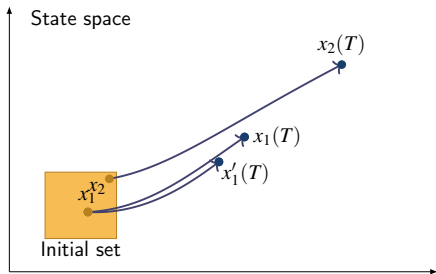
# Reachability Analysis of Systems

## Problem Statement

**System** :  $\dot{x} = f(x, w)$

**State** :  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$

**Uncertainty** :  $w \in \mathcal{W} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$



What are the possible states of the system at time  $T$ ?

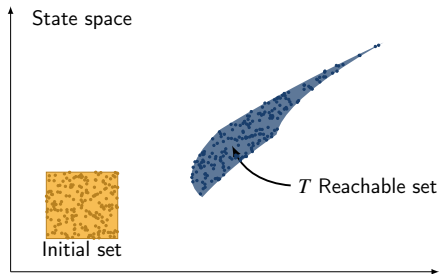
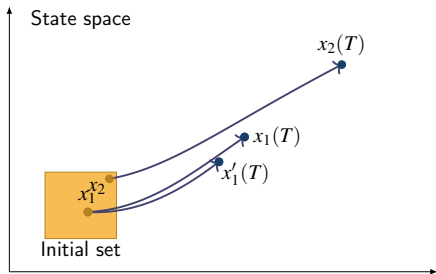
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What are the possible states of the system at time  $T$ ?

- **$T$ -reachable sets** characterize evolution of the system

$$\mathcal{R}_f(T, \mathcal{X}_0, \mathcal{W}) = \{x_w(T) \mid x_w(\cdot) \text{ is a traj for some } w(\cdot) \in \mathcal{W} \text{ with } x_0 \in \mathcal{X}_0\}$$

# Reachability Analysis of Systems

Safety verification via reachable sets

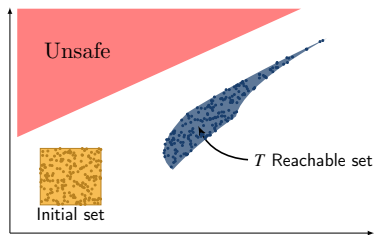
A large number of **safety specifications** can be represented using  $T$ -reachable sets

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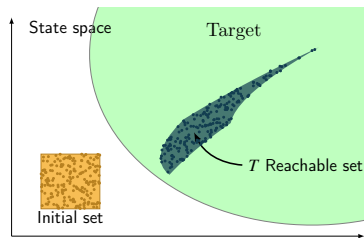
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- Example: Reach-avoid problem



$$\mathcal{R}_f(T, \mathcal{X}_0, \mathcal{W}) \cap \text{Unsafe set} = \emptyset$$



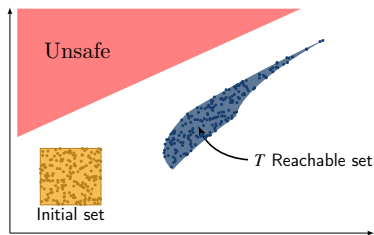
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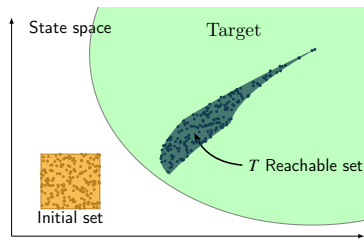
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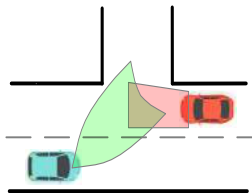
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Combining different instantiation of Reach-avoid problem  $\implies$   
**diverse range of specifications**  
(complex planning using logics, invariance, stability)

# Reachability Analysis of Systems

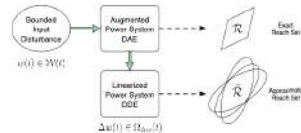
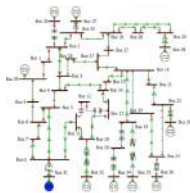
## Applications

### Autonomous Driving:



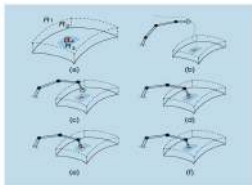
Althoff, 2014

### Power grids:

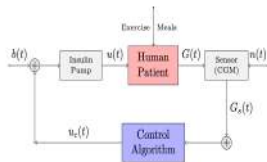
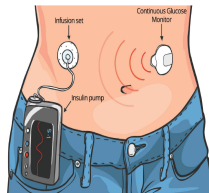


Chen and Dominguez-Garcia, 2016

### Robot-assisted Surgery:



### Drug Delivery:



Chen, Dutta, and Sankaranarayanan, 2017

# Reachability Analysis of Systems

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- for safety verification  $\implies$  over-approximations

**Over-approximation:**  $\mathcal{R}_f(T, \mathcal{X}_0, \mathcal{W}) \subseteq \overline{\mathcal{R}}_f(T, \mathcal{X}_0, \mathcal{W})$

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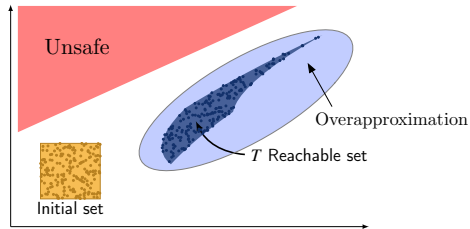
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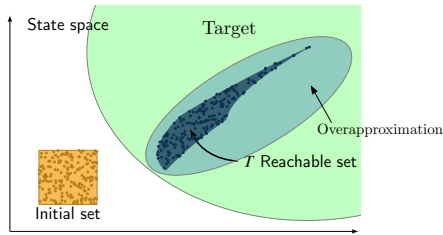
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# Reachability Analysis of Systems

## Challenges for Modern Autonomous Systems

In many autonomous systems safety cannot be **completely ensured** at the design level<sup>2</sup>. (stochastic environment, human-in-the-loop)

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<sup>2</sup>Institute for Defense Analysis, The Status of Test, Evaluation, Verification, and Validation of Autonomous Systems, 2018

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Many autonomous systems contains **data-driven** components (neural network controllers, learning-based strategies)

Many autonomous systems are **large-scale** with interconnected components (power grids, transportation networks)

Develop **reachability algorithms** that are

- computationally efficient
- adaptable to data-driven algorithms
- scalable to the size of the system

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# Reachability Analysis of Systems

Literature review

Reachability of dynamical system is an old problem:  $\sim$  1980

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Different approaches for approximating reachable sets

- Linear, and piecewise linear systems (Ellipsoidal methods) ([Kurzanski and Varaiya, 2000](#))
- Optimization-based approaches (Hamilton-Jacobi, Level-set method) ([Bansal et al., 2017](#), [Mitchell et al., 2002](#), [Herbert et al., 2021](#))
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**In this talk:** use control theoretic tools to develop computationally efficient approaches for reachability

- Reachability Analysis
- Contraction and Monotone Theory
- Analysis of Learning-enabled Feedbacks

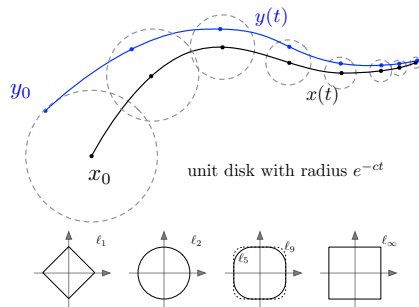
# Approach #1: Contraction Theory

A framework for stability analysis

$\dot{x} = f(x, w)$  is contracting wrt  $\| \cdot \|$  with rate  $c$  if  
the dist between every two traj is decreasing/increasing with exp rate  $c$  wrt  $\| \cdot \|$

## Applications

- convergence to reference trajectories
- efficient equilibrium point computation
- input-output robustness
- entrainment to periodic orbits



**In this talk:** contraction theory for reachability analysis

# Approach #1: Contraction Theory and Matrix Measures

## Definition and Characterization

How to characterize contractivity using vector fields?

### Matrix measure

Given a matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  and a norm  $\|\cdot\|$ :

$$\mu_{\|\cdot\|}(A) := \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\|I_n + hA\| - 1}{h}$$

Given  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n$

$$\mu_{2,\eta}(A) = \frac{1}{2} \lambda_{\max}(\text{diag}(\eta)A + A^T \text{diag}(\eta))$$

$$\mu_{1,\eta}(A) = \max_j (a_{jj} + \sum_{i \neq j} |a_{ij}| \frac{\eta_j}{\eta_i})$$

$$\mu_{\infty,\eta}(A) = \max_i (a_{ii} + \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}| \frac{\eta_j}{\eta_i})$$

- directional derivative of matrix norm  $\|\cdot\|$  in direction of  $A$  at point  $I_n$ ,
- **In the literature:** one-sided Lipschitz constant, logarithmic norm

### Classical result

$\dot{x} = f(x, w)$  is contracting wrt  $\|\cdot\|$  with rate  $c$  iff

$$\mu_{\|\cdot\|}\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x, w)\right) \leq c, \quad \text{for all } x, w$$

# Approach #1: Contraction-based Reachability

A global bound

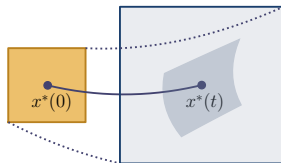
Assume  $\mu_{\|\cdot\|} \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x, w) \right) \leq c$  and  $\left\| \frac{\partial f}{\partial w}(x, w) \right\| \leq \ell$

## Theorem

If  $\mathcal{X}_0 = B_{\|\cdot\|}(r_1, x_0^*)$  and  $\mathcal{W} = B_{\|\cdot\|}(r_2, w^*)$ , then

$$\mathcal{R}_f(t, \mathcal{X}_0) \subseteq B_{\|\cdot\|}(e^{ct}r_1 + \frac{\ell}{c}(e^{ct} - 1)r_2, x^*(t))$$

where  $x^*(\cdot)$  is the solution of  $\dot{x} = f(x, w^*)$  with  $x(0) = x_0^*$ .



$$D^+ \|x(t) - x^*(t)\| \leq c \|x(t) - x^*(t)\| + \ell \|w(t) - w^*\|$$

- generalized version of Grönwall's lemma
- overly conservative since  $c$  and  $\ell$  are defined globally

# Approach #2: Monotone Dynamical Systems

## Definition and Characterization

A dynamical system  $\dot{x} = f(x, w)$  is monotone<sup>3</sup> if

$$x_u(0) \leq y_w(0) \quad \text{and} \quad u \leq w \quad \implies \quad x_u(t) \leq y_w(t) \quad \text{for all time}$$

where  $\leq$  is the component-wise partial order.

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<sup>3</sup>Angeli and Sontag, "Monotone control systems", IEEE TAC, 2003

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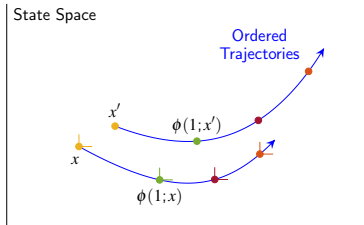
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### Monotonicity test

- 1  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x, w)$  is Metzler (off-diag  $\geq 0$ )
- 2  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial w}(x, w) \geq 0$



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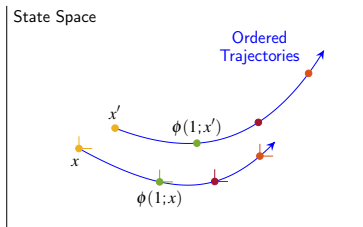
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**In this talk:** monotone system theory for reachability analysis

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# Approach #2: Reachability of Monotone Systems

Hyper-rectangular over-approximations

## Theorem (classical result)

For a monotone system with  $\mathcal{W} = [\underline{w}, \bar{w}]$

$$\mathcal{R}_f(t, [\underline{x}_0, \bar{x}_0]) \subseteq [x_{\underline{w}}(t), x_{\bar{w}}(t)]$$

where  $x_{\underline{w}}(\cdot)$  (resp.  $x_{\bar{w}}(\cdot)$ ) is the trajectory with disturbance  $\underline{w}$  (resp.  $\bar{w}$ ) starting at  $\underline{x}_0$  (resp.  $\bar{x}_0$ )

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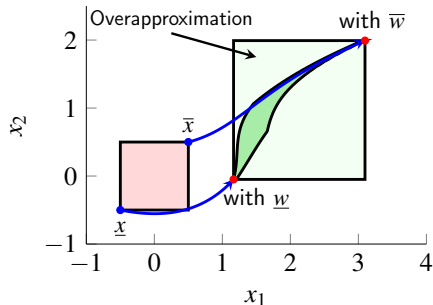
$$\mathcal{R}_f(t, [\underline{x}_0, \bar{x}_0]) \subseteq [x_{\underline{w}}(t), x_{\bar{w}}(t)]$$

where  $x_{\underline{w}}(\cdot)$  (resp.  $x_{\bar{w}}(\cdot)$ ) is the trajectory with disturbance  $\underline{w}$  (resp.  $\bar{w}$ ) starting at  $\underline{x}_0$  (resp.  $\bar{x}_0$ )

## Example:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_2^3 - x_1 + w \\ x_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathcal{W} = [2.2, 2.3] \quad \mathcal{X}_0 = \left[ \begin{bmatrix} -0.5 \\ -0.5 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 \\ 0.5 \end{bmatrix} \right]$$



# Approach #2: Non-monotone Dynamical Systems

## Reachability analysis

- For non-monotone dynamical systems the extreme trajectories do not provide any over-approximation of reachable sets

# Approach #2: Non-monotone Dynamical Systems

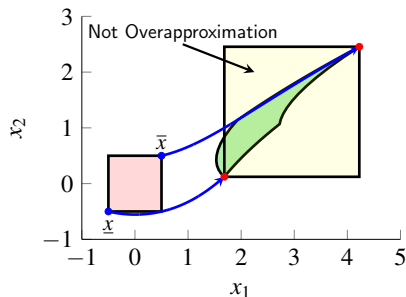
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# Approach #2: Mixed Monotone Theory

Embedding into a higher dimensional system

- **Key idea:** embed the dynamical system on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  into a dynamical system on  $\mathbb{R}^{2n}$
- Assume  $\mathcal{W} = [\underline{w}, \bar{w}]$  and  $\mathcal{X}_0 = [\underline{x}_0, \bar{x}_0]$

Original system

$$\dot{x} = f(x, w)$$

Embedding system

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\underline{x}} &= \underline{d}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}, \underline{w}, \bar{w}), \\ \dot{\bar{x}} &= \bar{d}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}, \underline{w}, \bar{w})\end{aligned}$$

$\underline{d}, \bar{d}$  are **decomposition functions** s.t.

- 1  $f(x, w) = \underline{d}(x, x, w, w)$  for every  $x, w$
- 2 **cooperative:**  $(\underline{x}, \underline{w}) \mapsto \underline{d}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}, \underline{w}, \bar{w})$
- 3 **competitive:**  $(\bar{x}, \bar{w}) \mapsto \underline{d}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}, \underline{w}, \bar{w})$
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The embedding system is a monotone dynamical system on  $\mathbb{R}^{2n}$  with respect to the **southeast** partial order  $\leq_{\text{SE}}$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ \hat{x} \end{bmatrix} \leq_{\text{SE}} \begin{bmatrix} y \\ \hat{y} \end{bmatrix} \iff x \leq y \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{y} \leq \hat{x}$$

# Approach #2: Mixed Monotone Theory

## Versatility and History

- $f$  locally Lipschitz  $\implies$  a decomposition function exists

The **best (tightest)** decomposition function is given by

$$\underline{d}_i(\underline{x}, \bar{x}, \underline{w}, \bar{w}) = \min_{\substack{z \in [\underline{x}, \bar{x}], z_i = \underline{x}_i \\ u \in [\underline{w}, \bar{w}]}} f_i(z, u), \quad \bar{d}_i(\underline{x}, \bar{x}, \underline{w}, \bar{w}) = \max_{\substack{z \in [\underline{x}, \bar{x}], z_i = \bar{x}_i \\ u \in [\underline{w}, \bar{w}]}} f_i(z, u)$$



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### A short (and incomplete) history:

J-L. Gouze and L. P. Hadeler. [Monotone flows and order intervals](#). Nonlinear World, 1994

G. Enciso, H. Smith, and E. Sontag. [Nonmonotone systems decomposable into monotone systems with negative feedback](#). Journal of Differential Equations, 2006.

H. Smith. [Global stability for mixed monotone systems](#). Journal of Difference Equations and Applications, 2008

# Approach #2: Embedding System for Linear Dynamical System

A structure preserving decomposition

- Metzler/non-Metzler decomposition:  $A = [A]^{Mzl} + [A]^{Mzl}$

- Example:  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow [A]^{Mzl} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$   $[A]^{Mzl} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

## Linear systems

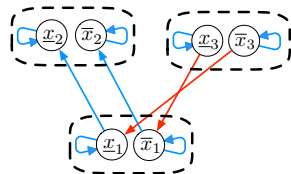
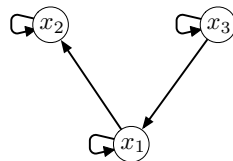
### Original system

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bw$$

### Embedding system

$$\dot{\underline{x}} = [A]^{Mzl} \underline{x} + [A]^{Mzl} \bar{x} + B^+ \underline{w} + B^- \bar{w}$$

$$\dot{\bar{x}} = [A]^{Mzl} \bar{x} + [A]^{Mzl} \underline{x} + B^+ \bar{w} + B^- \underline{w}$$



# Approach #2: Reachability using Embedding Systems

Hyper-rectangular over-approximations

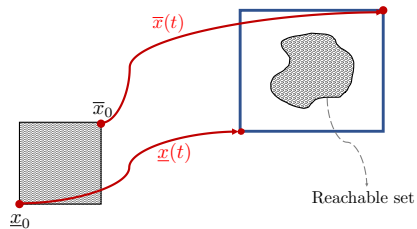
## Theorem<sup>4</sup>

Assume  $\mathcal{W} = [\underline{w}, \bar{w}]$  and  $\mathcal{X}_0 = [\underline{x}_0, \bar{x}_0]$  and

$$\dot{\underline{x}} = \underline{d}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}, \underline{w}, \bar{w}), \quad \underline{x}(0) = \underline{x}_0$$

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Then  $\mathcal{R}_f(t, \mathcal{X}_0) \subseteq [\underline{x}(t), \bar{x}(t)]$



<sup>4</sup>Coogan and Arcak, “Efficient finite abstraction of mixed monotone systems”, HSCC, 2015.

# Approach #2: Reachability using Embedding Systems

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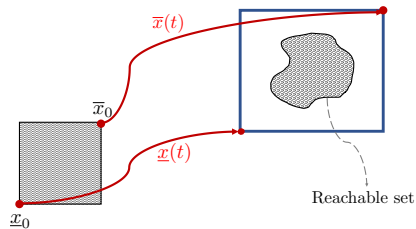
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**(Scalable)** a single trajectory of embedding system provides **lower bound** ( $\underline{x}$ ) and **upper bound** ( $\bar{x}$ ) for the trajectories of the original system.

<sup>4</sup>Coogan and Arcak, "Efficient finite abstraction of mixed monotone systems", HSCC, 2015.

# Approach #2: Reachability using Embedding Systems

## Example

### Original System:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_2^3 - x_2 + w \\ x_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathcal{W} = [2.2, 2.3] \quad \mathcal{X}_0 = \left[ \begin{bmatrix} -0.5 \\ -0.5 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 \\ 0.5 \end{bmatrix} \right]$$

blue = cooperative, red = competitive

### Decomposition function

$$\underline{d}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}, \underline{w}, \bar{w}) = \begin{bmatrix} \underline{x}_2^3 + \underline{w} \\ \underline{x}_1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} -\bar{x}_2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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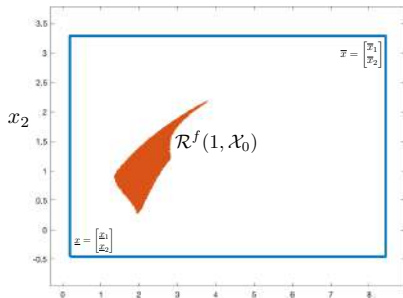
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$$\begin{bmatrix} \underline{x}_1(0) \\ \underline{x}_2(0) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.5 \\ -0.5 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} \bar{x}_1(0) \\ \bar{x}_2(0) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 \\ 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Which approach is better?

Comparison between contraction and monotone reachability

**Question:** How to compare contraction and monotone reachability?

- In general these two approaches are not comparable

Contraction Reachability: norm-ball  $\mapsto$  norm-ball  
Monotone Reachability: hyper-rectangles  $\mapsto$  hyper-rectangles

---

<sup>5</sup>Jafarpour and Coogan, “Monotonicity and contraction on polyhedral cones”, under review, 2023

# Which approach is better?

Comparison between contraction and monotone reachability

**Question:** How to compare contraction and monotone reachability?

- when contraction is wrt diagonally weighted  $\ell_\infty$ -norm: they are comparable

Theorem<sup>5</sup>

Let  $\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{x} \\ \bar{x} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \underline{d}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}, \underline{w}, \bar{w}) \\ \bar{d}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}, \underline{w}, \bar{w}) \end{bmatrix} := e(\underline{x}, \bar{x}, \underline{w}, \bar{w})$  be the embedding function with the tight decomposition functions for  $\dot{x} = f(x, w)$ . For any  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n$

$$\mu_{\infty, \eta} \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x, w) \right) \leq c \iff \mu_{\infty, \eta \otimes I_2} \left( \frac{\partial e}{\partial \begin{bmatrix} \underline{x} \\ \bar{x} \end{bmatrix}}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}, \underline{w}, \bar{w}) \right) \leq c$$

- 1 Monotone reachability is at least as accurate as contraction reachability
- 2 Monotone hyper-rectangles shrink/expand with rate of contraction of original system

<sup>5</sup>Jafarpour and Coogan, "Monotonicity and contraction on polyhedral cones", under review, 2023



- Reachability Analysis
- Contraction and Monotone Theory
- Systems with Learning-enabled Feedbacks

Given the open-loop nonlinear system with a neural network controller

$$\dot{x} = f(x, u, w),$$

$$u = N(x),$$

study reachability of the closed-loop system

$$\dot{x} = f(x, N(x), w) := f^c(x, w)$$

# Systems with Neural Network Controllers

## Safety Verification

Given the open-loop nonlinear system with a neural network controller

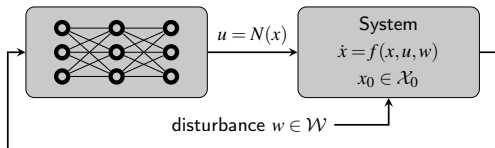
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$u = N(x)$  is  $k$ -layer feed-forward neural net

$$\begin{aligned}\xi^{(i)}(x) &= \phi^{(i)}(W^{(i-1)}\xi^{(i-1)}(x) + b^{(i-1)}) \\ x &= \xi^{(0)}, \quad u = W^{(k)}\xi^{(k)}(x) + b^{(k)} := N(x),\end{aligned}$$



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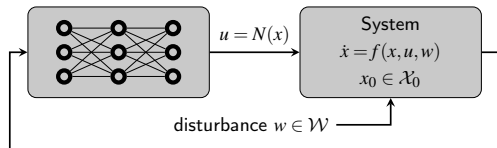
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**Challenge:** directly performing reachability on  $f^c$  is complicated

$N(x)$  is high dimensional and has a large # of parameters

Reachability of open-loop system treating  $u$  as a parameter

# Systems with Neural Network Controllers

## A Compositional Approach

Reachability of open-loop system treating  $u$  as a parameter

Neural network verification algorithm for bounds on  $u$

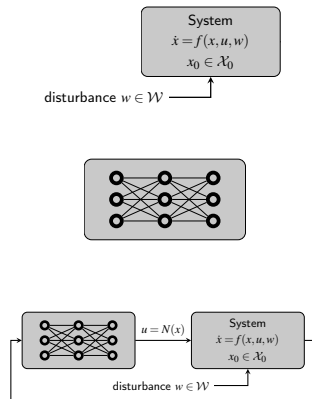
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Neural network verification algorithm for bounds on  $u$

Reachability of open-loop system + Bounds from neural network verification algorithms



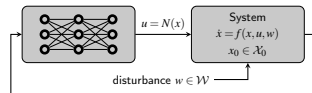
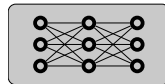
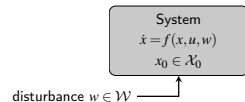
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## A Compositional Approach

Reachability of open-loop system treating  $u$  as a parameter

Neural network verification algorithm for bounds on  $u$

Reachability of open-loop system + Bounds from neural network verification algorithms



If not carefully implemented, it can lead to overly-conservative results.



# Systems with Neural Network Controllers

## Literature Review

- Everett and Habibi and Sun, and How, [Reachability analysis of neural feedback loops](#), IEEE Access, 2021
- Hu and Fazlyab and Morari and Pappas, [Reach-SDP: Reachability analysis of closed-loop systems with neural network controllers via semidefinite programming](#), CDC, 2020.
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The existing approaches in the literature are either

- only applicable to a specific class of systems and learning algorithms
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**In this talk:** computationally efficient reachability using monotone theory  
a system theoretic perspective toward composition

# Reachability of Open-loop System

## A Constructive Approach

**Jacobian-based:**  $\dot{x} = f(x, u)$  such that  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \in [\underline{J}_{[x, \bar{x}]}, \bar{J}_{[x, \bar{x}]}]$  and  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial u} \in [\underline{J}_{[u, \bar{u}]}, \bar{J}_{[u, \bar{u}]}]$ , then

$$\begin{bmatrix} \underline{d}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}, \underline{u}, \bar{u}) \\ \bar{d}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}, \underline{u}, \bar{u}) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -[\underline{J}_{[x, \bar{x}]}]^- & [\underline{J}_{[x, \bar{x}]}]^- \\ -[\bar{J}_{[x, \bar{x}]}]^+ & [\bar{J}_{[x, \bar{x}]}]^+ \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{x} \\ \bar{x} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} -[\underline{J}_{[u, \bar{u}]}]^- & [\underline{J}_{[u, \bar{u}]}]^- \\ -[\bar{J}_{[u, \bar{u}]}]^+ & [\bar{J}_{[u, \bar{u}]}]^+ \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{u} \\ \bar{u} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} f(\underline{x}, \underline{u}) \\ f(\bar{x}, \bar{u}) \end{bmatrix}$$

is a decomposition function for  $\dot{x} = f(x, u)$ .

<sup>6</sup>Harapanahalli, Jafarpour, Coogan. "A Toolbox for Fast Interval Arithmetic in numpy with an Application to Formal Verification of Neural Network Controlled Systems", 2nd WFVML, ICML, 2023

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is a decomposition function for  $\dot{x} = f(x, u)$ .

- Interval arithmetic allows computing Jacobian bounds efficiently.

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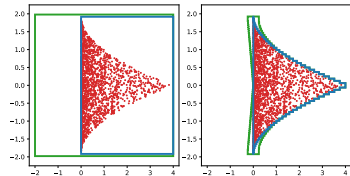
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is a decomposition function for  $\dot{x} = f(x, u)$ .

- Interval arithmetic allows computing Jacobian bounds efficiently.
- `npinterval`<sup>6</sup>: Toolbox that implements intervals as native data-type in numpy.



$$g(x_1, x_2) = [(x_1 + x_2)^2, 4 \sin((x_1 - x_2)/4)]^T$$

vs.

$$g(x_1, x_2) = [x_2^2 + 2x_1x_2 + x_1^2, 4 \sin(x_1/4) \cos(x_2/4) - 4 \cos(x_1/4) \sin(x_2/4)]^T$$

<sup>6</sup>Harapanahalli, Jafarpour, Coogan. "A Toolbox for Fast Interval Arithmetic in numpy with an Application to Formal Verification of Neural Network Controlled Systems", 2nd WFVML, ICML, 2023

**Input-output bounds:** Given a neural network controller  $u = N(x)$

$$\underline{u}_{[x,\bar{x}]} \leq N(x) \leq \bar{u}_{[x,\bar{x}]}, \quad \text{for all } x \in [x, \bar{x}]$$

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# Interval Bounds for Neural Networks

## Neural Network Verification Algorithms

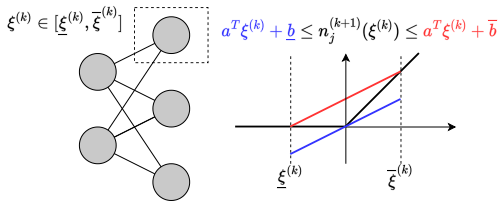
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### CROWN<sup>7</sup>

- Bounding the value of each neurons
- Linear upper and lower bounds on the activation function



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# Case Study: Bicycle Model

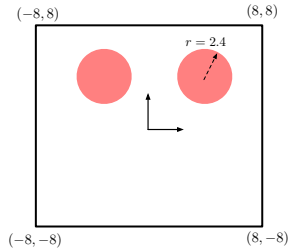
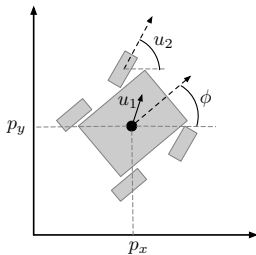
A naive compositional approach

## Dynamics of bicycle

$$\dot{p}_x = v \cos(\phi + \beta(u_2)) \quad \dot{\phi} = \frac{v}{l_r} \sin(\beta(u_2))$$

$$\dot{p}_y = v \sin(\phi + \beta(u_2)) \quad \dot{v} = u_1$$

$$\beta(u_2) = \arctan\left(\frac{l_r}{l_f + l_r} \tan(u_2)\right)$$



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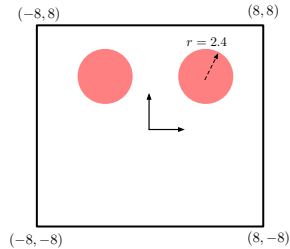
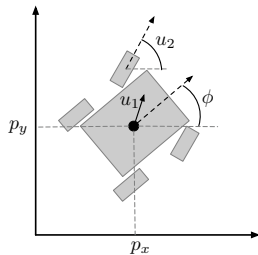
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**Goal:** steer the bicycle to the origin avoiding the obstacles

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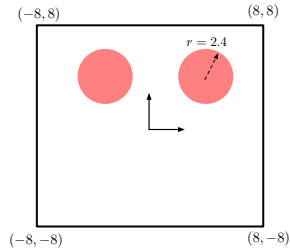
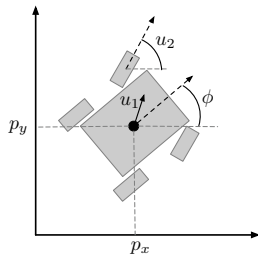
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**Goal:** steer the bicycle to the origin avoiding the obstacles

- train a feedforward neural network  $4 \mapsto 100 \mapsto 100 \mapsto 2$  with ReLU activations using data from model predictive control

# Reachability of Closed-loop System

## Case Study: Bicycle Model

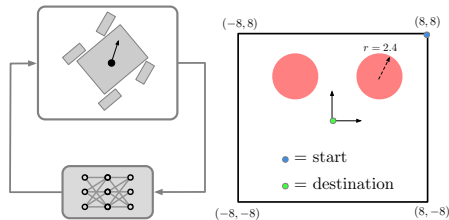
- start from  $(8, 8)$  toward  $(0, 0)$

- $\mathcal{X}_0 = [\underline{x}_0, \bar{x}_0]$  with

$$\underline{x}_0 = (7.95 \quad 7.95 \quad -\frac{\pi}{3} - 0.01 \quad 1.99)^\top$$

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- CROWN for verification of neural network



Embedding system:

$$\dot{\underline{x}} = \underline{d}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}, \underline{u}, \bar{u}, \underline{w}, \bar{w})$$

$$\dot{\bar{x}} = \bar{d}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}, \underline{u}, \bar{u}, \underline{w}, \bar{w})$$

$\underline{u} \leq N(x) \leq \bar{u}$ , for every  $x \in [\underline{x}, \bar{x}]$ .

# Reachability of Closed-loop System

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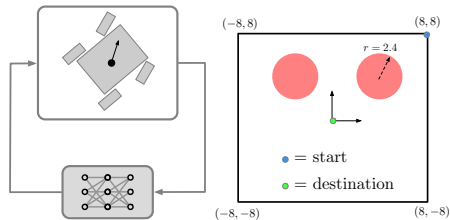
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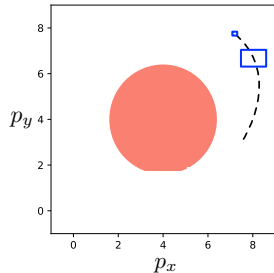
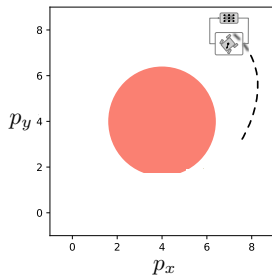


Euler integration with step  $h$ :

$$\underline{x}_1 = \underline{x}_0 + h\underline{d}(\underline{x}_0, \bar{x}_0, \underline{u}_0, \bar{u}_0, \underline{w}, \bar{w})$$

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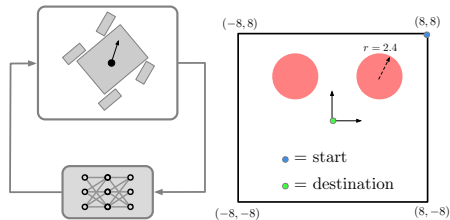
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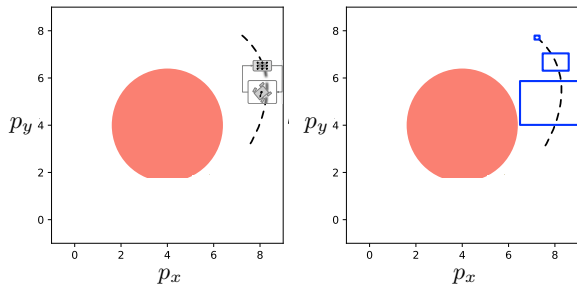


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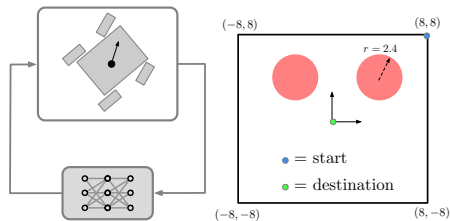
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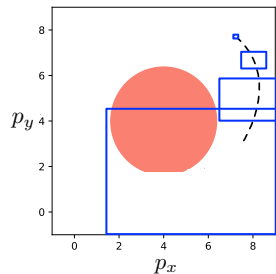
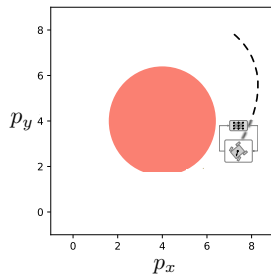


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$\underline{u}_2 \leq N(x) \leq \bar{u}_2$ , for every  $x \in [\underline{x}_2, \bar{x}_2]$ .





# Reachability of Closed-loop System

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Neural network controller as **disturbances** (worst-case scenario)  
This approach does not capture the **stabilizing** effect of the neural network.

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$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\underline{x}} &= \underline{x} + \underline{u} + \underline{w} \\ \dot{\bar{x}} &= \bar{x} + \bar{u} + \bar{w}\end{aligned}$$

System is unstable with contraction rate 1.

### Decomposition #2

First replace  $u = -Kx$  in the system, then

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\underline{x}} &= (1 - K)\underline{x} + \underline{w} \\ \dot{\bar{x}} &= (1 - K)\bar{x} + \bar{w}\end{aligned}$$

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**Recall:** monotone hyper-rectangles shrink/expand with contraction rate of the original system

We need to know the **functional** dependencies of neural network bounds

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**Functional bounds:** Given a neural network controller  $u = N(x)$

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# Functional Bounds for Neural Networks

## Function Approximation

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- Example: CROWN<sup>8</sup> can provide functional bounds.

CROWN functional bounds:

$$\underline{N}_{[\underline{x}, \bar{x}]}(x) = \underline{A}_{[\underline{x}, \bar{x}]}x + \underline{b}_{[\underline{x}, \bar{x}]},$$

$$\overline{N}_{[\underline{x}, \bar{x}]}(x) = \overline{A}_{[\underline{x}, \bar{x}]}x + \overline{b}_{[\underline{x}, \bar{x}]}$$

CROWN input-output bounds:

$$\underline{u}_{[\underline{x}, \bar{x}]} = \underline{A}_{[\underline{x}, \bar{x}]}^+ \bar{x} + \overline{A}_{[\underline{x}, \bar{x}]}^- \underline{x} + \underline{b}_{[\underline{x}, \bar{x}]},$$

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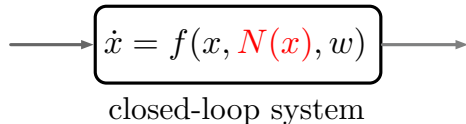
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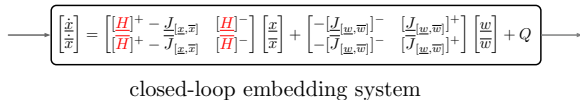
# Interaction Approach

A pictorial explanation

**Original system:**



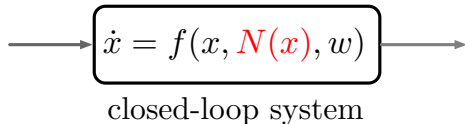
**Embedding system:**



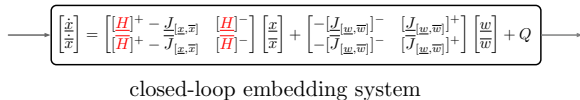
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A pictorial explanation

**Original system:**



**Embedding system:**



How does the **interaction approach** work?

- Closed-loop decomposition function = Jacobian based for  $f(x, N(x), w)$ .
- Neural Network affine functional bounds

$$\underline{N}_{[x,\bar{x}]} = \underline{A}_{[x,\bar{x}]}x + \underline{b}_{[x,\bar{x}]},$$

$$\overline{N}_{[x,\bar{x}]} = \overline{A}_{[x,\bar{x}]}x + \overline{b}_{[x,\bar{x}]}$$

are used to compute the interactions.

### Theorem<sup>9</sup>

Let  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \in [J_{[\underline{x}, \bar{x}]}, \bar{J}_{[\underline{x}, \bar{x}]}]$ ,  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial u} \in [J_{[\underline{u}, \bar{u}]}, \bar{J}_{[\underline{u}, \bar{u}]}]$ , and  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial w} \in [J_{[\underline{w}, \bar{w}]}, \bar{J}_{[\underline{w}, \bar{w}]}]$ . Then

$$\begin{bmatrix} \underline{d}_i^c(\underline{x}, \bar{x}, \underline{w}, \bar{w}) \\ \bar{d}_i^c(\underline{x}, \bar{x}, \underline{w}, \bar{w}) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} [\underline{H}]^+ - J_{[\underline{x}, \bar{x}]} & [\underline{H}]^- \\ [\bar{H}]^+ - J_{[\underline{x}, \bar{x}]} & [\bar{H}]^- \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{x} \\ \bar{x} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} -[J_{[\underline{w}, \bar{w}]}]^- & [J_{[\underline{w}, \bar{w}]}]^+ \\ -[J_{[\underline{w}, \bar{w}]}]^- & [J_{[\underline{w}, \bar{w}]}]^+ \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{w} \\ \bar{w} \end{bmatrix} + Q$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{H} &= J_{[\underline{x}, \bar{x}]} + [J_{[\underline{u}, \bar{u}]}]^+ \underline{A}_{[\underline{x}, \bar{x}]} + [J_{[\underline{u}, \bar{u}]}]^- \bar{A}_{[\underline{x}, \bar{x}]} \\ \bar{H} &= \bar{J}_{[\underline{x}, \bar{x}]} + [J_{[\underline{u}, \bar{u}]}]^+ \bar{A}_{[\underline{x}, \bar{x}]} + [J_{[\underline{u}, \bar{u}]}]^- \underline{A}_{[\underline{x}, \bar{x}]} \end{aligned}$$

is a decomposition function for the closed-loop system.

<sup>9</sup>Jafarpour, Harapanahalli, Coogan. "Efficient Interaction-aware Interval Reachability of Neural Network Feedback Loops", under review, 2021

# Case Study: Bicycle Model

## Numerical Experiments

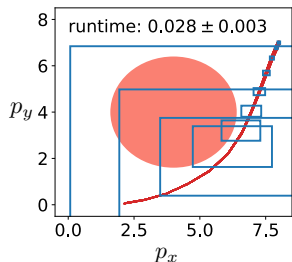
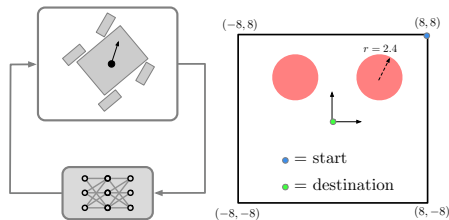
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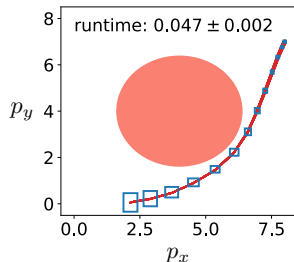
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- CROWN for verification of neural network



Naive Composition



Interaction Approach

# Case Study: Vehicle Platooning

## Scalability Experiments

Dynamics of the  $j$ th vehicle

$$\dot{p}_x^j = v_x^j, \quad \dot{v}_x^j = \tanh(u_x^j) + w_x^j,$$

$$\dot{p}_y^j = v_y^j, \quad \dot{v}_y^j = \tanh(u_y^j) + w_y^j,$$

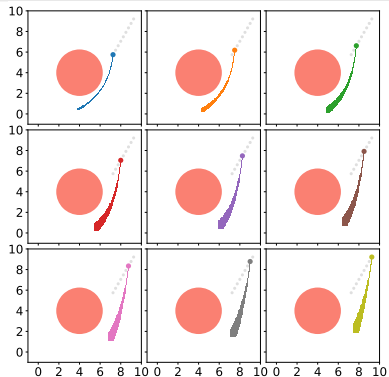
where  $w_x^j, w_y^j \sim \mathcal{U}([-0.001, 0.001])$ . First vehicle uses a neural network controller

$4 \times 100 \times 100 \times 2$ , with ReLU activations

and other vehicles use PD controller

$$u_d^j = k_p \left( p_d^{j-1} - p_d^j - r \frac{v_d^{j-1}}{\|v^{j-1}\|_2} \right) + k_v (v_d^{j-1} - v_d^j),$$

where  $d \in \{x, y\}$ .



$N$ (units)	# of states	Our Approach (s)	POLAR (s)	JuliaReach (s)
1	4	0.635	9.352	0.224
4	16	1.369	14.182	12.579
9	36	3.144	43.428	59.929
20	80	9.737	316.337	—
50	200	46.426	4256.435	—

Table: Run-time comparison with existing approaches

- Reachability as a framework for safety certification
- Contraction and monotone theory as computationally efficient methods for reachability
- Reachability of neural network controlled systems
- Contraction theory can capture the interaction between system and neural network controller

Follow-up work: Forward invariance (safety guarantees for infinite time)

Harapanahalli, Jafarpour, and Coogan. [Forward Invariance in Neural Network Controlled Systems](#). IEEE Control Systems Letters, Dec 2023

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- Use data to approximate a probability distribution for the uncertainty  $v \sim \mathcal{D}$

Stochastic dynamical system:

$$dx = f(x, w)dt + dv \text{ where } v \sim \mathcal{D}$$

**In monotone theory:** uncertainty  $w \in \mathcal{W} = [\underline{w}, \bar{w}]$  are treated as **worst-case** using  $\underline{w}$  and  $\bar{w}$

- In some applications, we can obtain some **statistical** knowledge of uncertainty  $v$ .
- In some applications we can **learn** statistics of the uncertainty.
- Use data to approximate a probability distribution for the uncertainty  $v \sim \mathcal{D}$

Stochastic dynamical system:

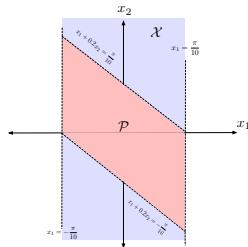
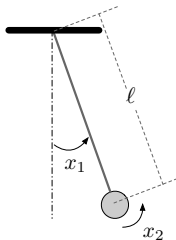
$$dx = f(x, w)dt + dv \text{ where } v \sim \mathcal{D}$$

- **Question:** how to incorporate this stochastic uncertainty in neural network algorithms?
- **Question:** how to incorporate this stochastic uncertainty in closed-loop reachability?

**Monotone theory:** hyper-rectangular over-approximation

### Monotone theory: hyper-rectangular over-approximation

- In mechanical systems, hyper-rectangular over-approximations are too conservative
- Example: no hyper-rectangular invariant sets for a simple inverted pendulum



A dynamical system  $\dot{x} = f(x, w)$  is monotone (with respect to cones  $K, C$ ) if

$$x_u(0) \preceq_K y_w(0) \quad \text{and} \quad u \preceq_C w \quad \implies \quad x_u(t) \preceq_K y_w(t) \quad \text{for all time}$$

where  $\preceq_K$  ( $\preceq_C$ ) is the partial order with induced by the cone  $K$  (cone  $C$ ).

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A **polyhedral cone** has the form

$$K = \underbrace{\{y \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid H_K y \geq 0_p\}}_{\text{halfspace rep}} = \underbrace{\{V_K y \mid y \geq 0_p\}}_{\text{vertex rep}}$$

# Future Research Directions

## Generalized Monotone Theory

A dynamical system  $\dot{x} = f(x, w)$  is monotone (with respect to cones  $K, C$ ) if

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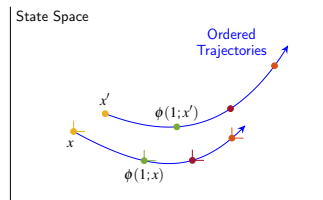
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### Monotonicity test

- 1  $H_K \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x, w) + \alpha(x, w) I_n \right) V_K \geq 0$  for some  $\alpha(x, w)$
- 2  $H_K \frac{\partial f}{\partial w}(x, w) V_C \geq 0$



- **Question:** how to extend to mixed monotone systems?
- **Question:** how to search for the cone with tightest reachable set approximation?
- **Question:** how to incorporate the knowledge of trajectories of the system from data in this approach?



**In this talk:** verification of neural networks using state-of-the-art algorithms

# Future Research Directions

## Design of Learning Algorithms

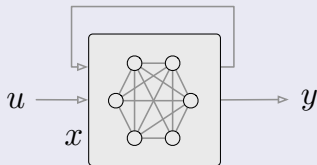
**In this talk:** verification of neural networks using state-of-the-art algorithms

How to design robust **standalone** neural networks? Input-output **Lipschitz constant**

**In this talk:** verification of neural networks using state-of-the-art algorithms

How to design robust **standalone** neural networks? Input-output **Lipschitz constant**

### Implicit/Recurrent



### Fixed-point/dynamics

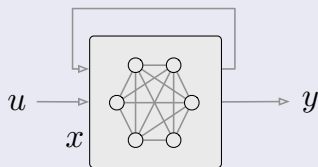
$$x = \Phi(Ax + Bu + b)$$

$$\dot{x} = -x + \Phi(Ax + Bu + b)$$

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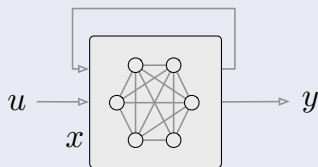
If  $\mu_\infty(A) := \max_i(a_{ii} + \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}|) < 1$  then

- 1 the dynamics is contracting with respect to  $\|\cdot\|_\infty$
- 2  $\ell_\infty$ -norm Lipschitz constant =  $\frac{\|C\|_\infty \|B\|_\infty}{1 - \mu_\infty(A)} + \|D\|_\infty$

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Closed-form expression for Lipschitz constant to train robust neural networks

- **Question:** measures of robustness for neural networks **in-the-loop**?
- **Question:** impose safety guarantees in training of learning algorithms? ex: forward invariance?