

Mixed-monotone Theory for Verification of Autonomous System

Saber Jafarpour



University of Colorado **Boulder**

September 11, 2024

Safety-critical Autonomous Systems

Introduction

Energy/power systems



Air mobility



Autonomous driving



Manufacturing



Transportation systems



Agriculture

Safety-critical Autonomous Systems

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Energy/power systems



Air mobility



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Manufacturing



Transportation systems



Agriculture

An important goal (Safe Autonomy)

Perform their tasks while ensuring **safety** and **robustness** of the system.

Learning-enabled Autonomous Systems

Motivations and Success Stories

In this talk: Autonomous systems with learning-enabled components

Learning-enabled Autonomous Systems

Motivations and Success Stories

In this talk: Autonomous systems with learning-enabled components

Machine learning is a driving force for developments in autonomous systems

Learning-enabled Autonomous Systems

Motivations and Success Stories

In this talk: Autonomous systems with learning-enabled components

Machine learning is a driving forces for developments in autonomous systems

- availability of data and computation tools
- performance and efficiency

Learning-enabled Autonomous Systems

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In this talk: Autonomous systems with learning-enabled components

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- performance and efficiency

Success stories and potential applications



NVIDIA self driving car



Amazon fulfillment centers



Manufacturing

Learning-enabled Autonomous Systems

Safety Assurance as a Challenge

But can we ensure their safety?



Tesla Slams Right Into Overturned Truck While on Autopilot

Robot accident at Amazon warehouse renews safety debate

By Felicia D'Amico
Published on Dec. 16, 2016



Waymo driverless car strikes bicyclist in San Francisco, causes minor injuries



Learning-enabled Autonomous Systems

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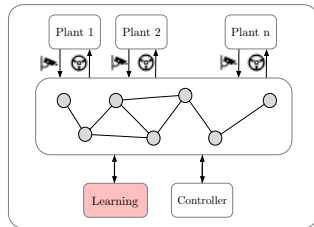
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What is different with Learning-based components?



Learning-enabled Autonomous Systems

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- limited guarantee in their design



Image credit: MIT CSAIL

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MIT
Technology
Review

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The way we train AI is fundamentally flawed

The process used to build most of the machine-learning models we use today can't tell if they will work in the real world or not—and that's a problem.

By Will Douglas Heaven

November 18, 2020

Learning-enabled Autonomous Systems

Safety Assurance as a Challenge

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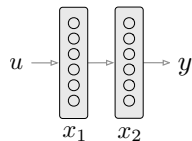
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- limited guarantee in their design
- large # of parameters with nonlinearity



$$478 \times 100 \times 100 \times 10$$

of parameters ~ 90000

of activation patterns $\sim 10^{60}$

Learning-enabled Autonomous Systems

Safety Assurance as a Challenge

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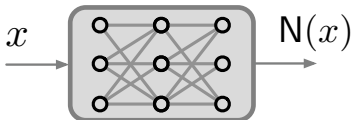
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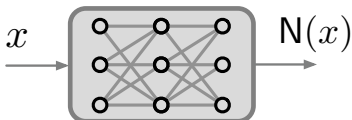
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Rigorous and **computationally efficient** methods for safety assurance

ML focus on safety and robustness of **stand-alone** learning algorithms



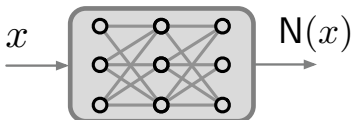
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Different approaches:

- analysis ([Goodfellow et al., 2015](#), [Zhang et al., 2019](#), [Fazlyab et al., 2023](#))
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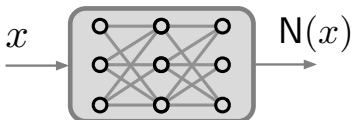


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(controller, motion planner, obstacle detection)

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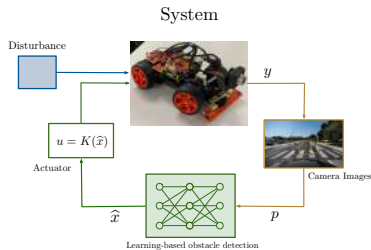
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New challenges arises when learning algorithms are used **in-the-loop**

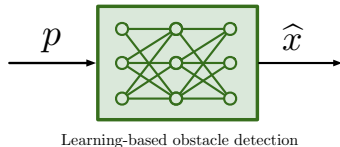
Example: Safety in Mobile Robots

In-the-loop vs. stand-alone

Perception-based Obstacle Avoidance



In-the-loop



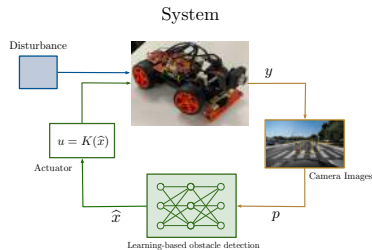
trained **offline** using images

Stand-alone

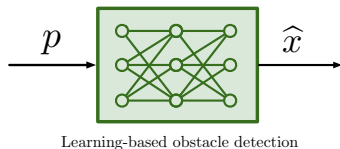
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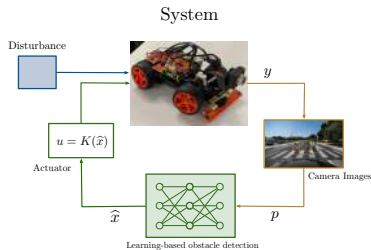
Stand-alone

- **stand-alone**: estimation of states using learning algorithm
- **in-the-loop**: closed-loop system avoid the obstacle

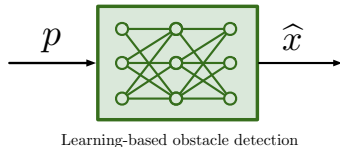
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In-the-loop: how the autonomous system perform with the learning algorithm as a part of it.

Learning-enabled Autonomous Systems

Safety from a reachability perspective

Ensure safety of the autonomous system with learning algorithms **in-the-loop**

Learning-enabled Autonomous Systems

Safety from a reachability perspective

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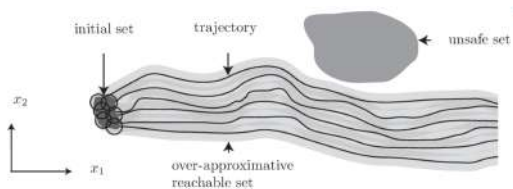
Safety of autonomous system using **reachability analysis**

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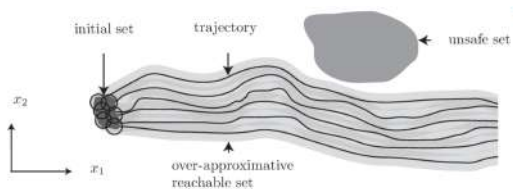
Reachability analysis estimates the evolution of the autonomous system

Learning-enabled Autonomous Systems

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Ensure safety of the autonomous system with learning algorithms **in-the-loop**

Safety of autonomous system using **reachability analysis**



Reachability analysis estimates the evolution of the autonomous system

In this talk:

- 1 control-theoretic tools for efficient and scalable reachability
- 2 applications to safety assurance of learning-enabled systems

- Reachability Analysis
- Monotone System Theory
- Neural Network Controlled Systems

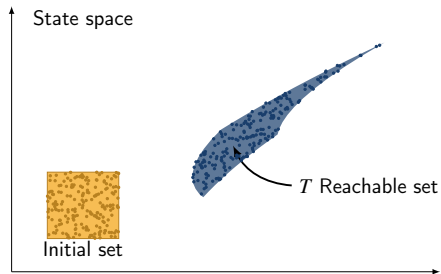
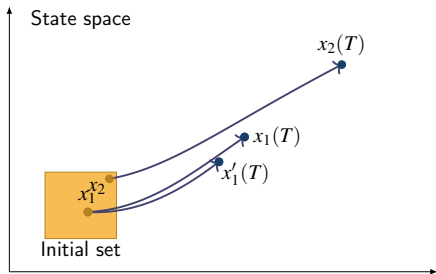
Reachability Analysis of Systems

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 ?

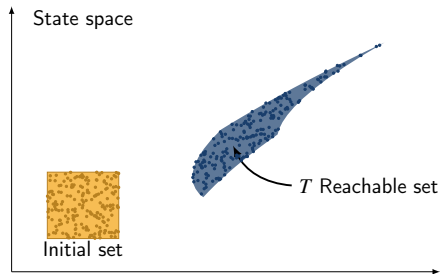
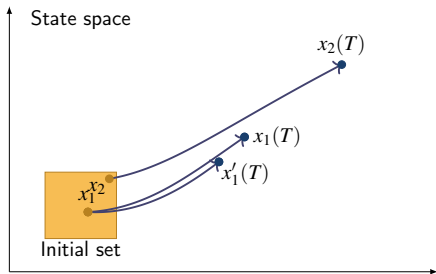
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What are the possible states of the system at time T ?

- **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 T -reachable sets

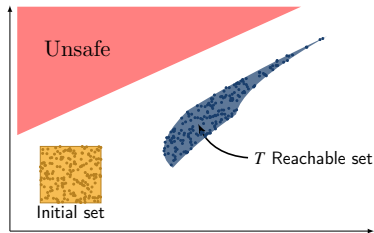
A large number of **safety specifications** can be represented using T -reachable sets

Reachability Analysis of Systems

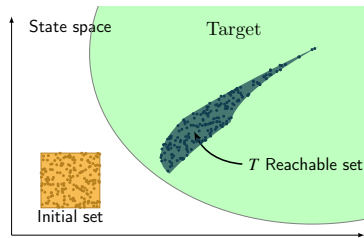
Safety verification via T -reachable sets

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

- Example: Reach-avoid problem



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



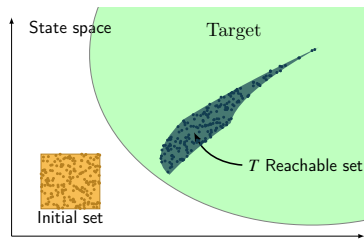
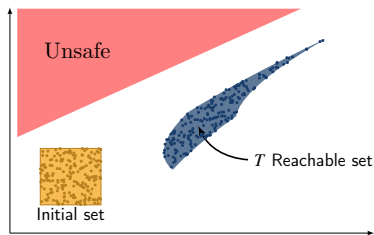
$$\mathcal{R}_f(T_{\text{final}}, \mathcal{X}_0, \mathcal{W}) \subseteq \text{Target set}$$

Reachability Analysis of Systems

Safety verification via T -reachable sets

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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

Why is it difficult?

Computing the T -reachable sets are computationally challenging

Reachability Analysis of Systems

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Solution: over-approximations of reachable sets

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

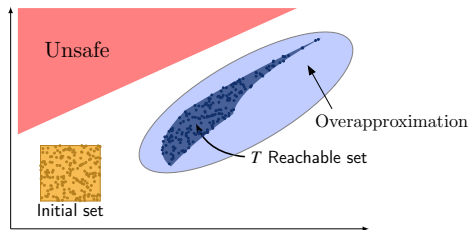
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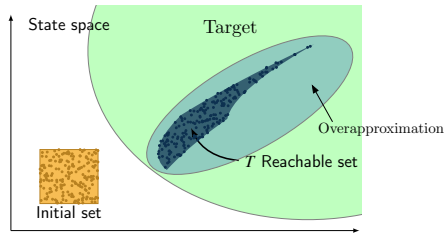
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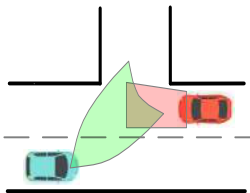


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Reachability Analysis of Systems

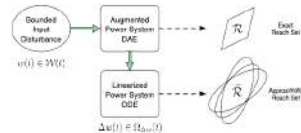
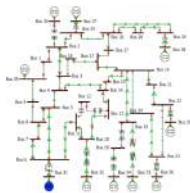
Applications

Autonomous Driving:



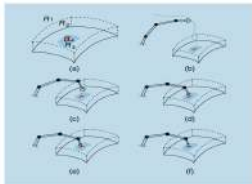
Althoff, 2014

Power grids:

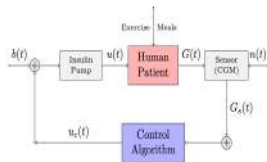
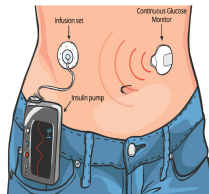


Chen and Dominguez-Garcia, 2016

Robot-assisted Surgery:



Drug Delivery:



Chen, Dutta, and Sankaranarayanan, 2017

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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Most of the classical reachability approaches are computationally heavy and not scalable to large-size systems

In this talk: use control-theoretic tools to develop scalable and computationally efficient approaches for reachability

- Reachability Analysis
- Monotone System Theory
- Neural Network Controlled Systems

Monotone Dynamical Systems

Definition and Characterization

A dynamical system $\dot{x} = f(x, w)$ is monotone 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.

¹Angeli and Sontag, "Monotone control systems", IEEE TAC, 2003

Monotone Dynamical Systems

Definition and Characterization

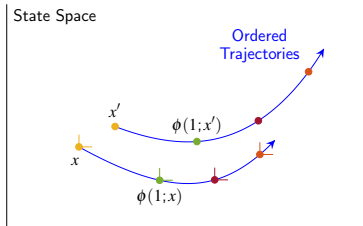
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Theorem¹: Monotonicity test

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



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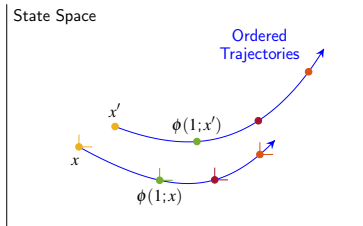
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In this talk: monotone system theory for reachability analysis

¹Angeli and Sontag, "Monotone control systems", IEEE TAC, 2003

Monotone vs. Non-monotone Systems

Examples

Monotone System

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

Non-monotone System

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

Reachability of Monotone Systems

Hyper-rectangular over-approximations

Theorem (classical result)

For a monotone system $\dot{x} = f(x, w)$ with $w \in \mathcal{W} = [\underline{w}, \bar{w}]$

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

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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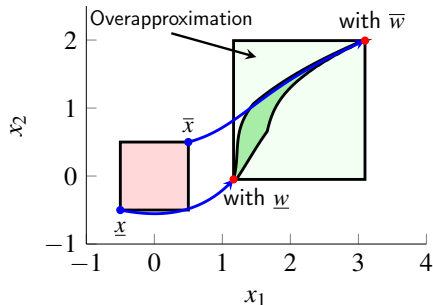
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Example:

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

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



Non-monotone Dynamical Systems

Reachability analysis

A large number of the dynamical systems are **not** monotone

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

Non-monotone Dynamical Systems

Reachability analysis

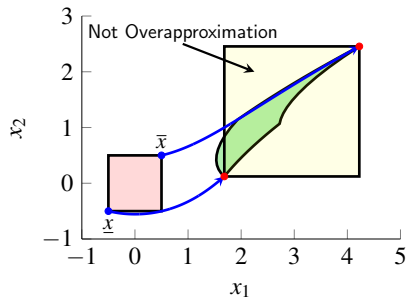
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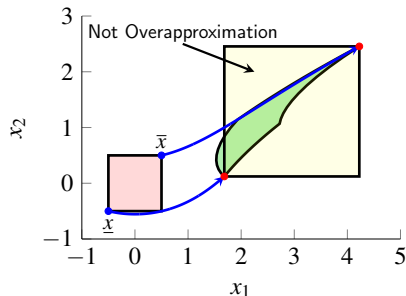
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How to over-approximate the reachable sets of non-monotone systems?

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

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

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

\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:** $(\bar{x}, \bar{w}) \mapsto \underline{d}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}, \underline{w}, \bar{w})$
- 4 the same properties for \bar{d}

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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

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

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

\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:** $(\bar{x}, \bar{w}) \mapsto \underline{d}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}, \underline{w}, \bar{w})$
- 4 the same properties for \bar{d}

f locally Lipschitz \implies a decomposition function exists

Mixed Monotone Theory

Southeast partial order on \mathbb{R}^{2n}

Southeast partial order \leq_{SE} :

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

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Theorem (Classical Result)

The embedding system is a monotone dynamical system on \mathbb{R}^{2n} with respect to the **southeast** partial order \leq_{SE} :

$$\begin{bmatrix} \underline{x}_0 \\ \bar{x}_0 \end{bmatrix} \leq_{\text{SE}} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{y}_0 \\ \bar{y}_0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} \underline{u} \\ \bar{u} \end{bmatrix} \leq_{\text{SE}} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{w} \\ \bar{w} \end{bmatrix} \implies \begin{bmatrix} \underline{x}_{[\underline{u}, \bar{u}]}(t) \\ \bar{x}_{[\underline{u}, \bar{u}]}(t) \end{bmatrix} \leq_{\text{SE}} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{y}_{[\underline{w}, \bar{w}]}(t) \\ \bar{y}_{[\underline{w}, \bar{w}]}(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

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Key idea: use monotonicity of the embedding system to study the original dynamical system

A short (and incomplete) Literature review:

J-L. Gouze and L. P. Haderl. [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

S. Coogan and M. Arcak. [Stability of traffic flow networks with a polytree topology](#). Automatica, 2016

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In this talk: use embedding system to study reachability of the original system

Original System:

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

$$\mathcal{W} = [2.2, 2.3]$$

blue = cooperative, red = competitive

Decomposition function

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

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

Mixed Monotone Embedding Systems

Example

Original System:

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

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Linear Dynamical System

A structure preserving decomposition function

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

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

Linear systems

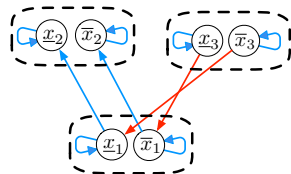
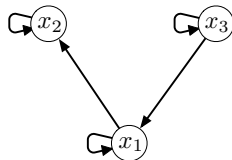
Original system

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

Embedding system

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

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



Decomposition Functions

A Jacobian-based approach

How to compute a decomposition function for a system?

- Assume $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is scalar-valued:

Mean-value Inequality

$$f(\underline{x}) + \left[\min_{z \in [\underline{x}, \bar{x}]} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right] (\bar{x} - \underline{x}) \leq f(x) \leq f(\underline{x}) + \left[\max_{z \in [\underline{x}, \bar{x}]} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right] (\bar{x} - \underline{x})$$

Then

$$\begin{bmatrix} \underline{d}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}) \\ \bar{d}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \left[\min_{z \in [\underline{x}, \bar{x}]} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right]^+ \\ \left[\max_{z \in [\underline{x}, \bar{x}]} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right]^- \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \left[\min_{z \in [\underline{x}, \bar{x}]} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right]^- \\ \left[\max_{z \in [\underline{x}, \bar{x}]} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right]^+ \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{x} \\ \bar{x} \end{bmatrix}$$

where $[A]^+ = \max\{A, 0\}$ and $[A]^- = \min\{A, 0\}$.

Decomposition Functions

A Jacobian-based approach

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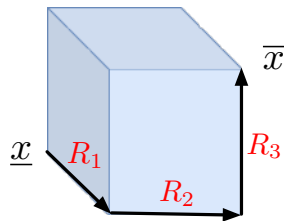
Theorem²

Jacobian-based: $\dot{x} = f(x, w)$ with differentiable f , then

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

$\underline{x} \mapsto R_1 \mapsto R_2 \mapsto \dots \mapsto R_n \mapsto \bar{x}$, then the i -th column of \underline{A} is $\min_{z \in R_i, u \in [\underline{w}, \bar{w}]} \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x}(z, u)$

- Interval analysis for computing Jacobian bounds.
- `immrax`: Toolbox that implements interval analysis in JAX.



²SJ and A. Harapanahalli and S. Coogan, L4DC, 2023

Decomposition Functions

A Jacobian-based approach

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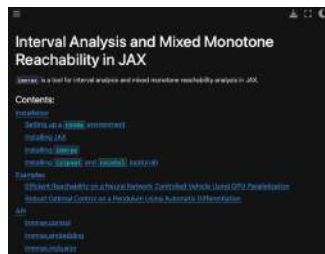
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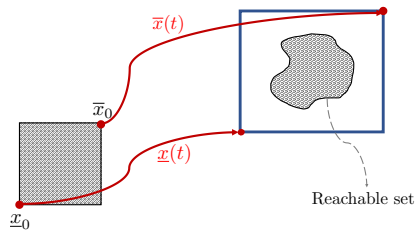
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Then $\mathcal{R}_f(t, \mathcal{X}_0, \mathcal{W}) \subseteq [\underline{x}(t), \bar{x}(t)]$



³H. Smith, Journal of Difference Equations and Applications, 2008

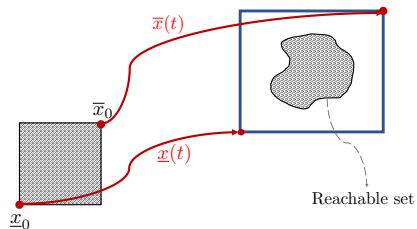
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a single trajectory of embedding system provides **lower bound** (\underline{x}) and **upper bound** (\bar{x}) for the trajectories of the original system.

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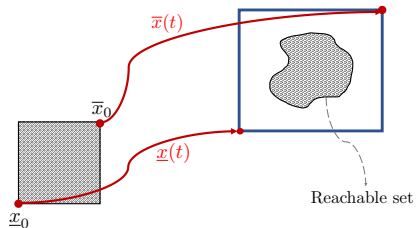
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a single trajectory of embedding system provides **lower bound** (\underline{x}) and **upper bound** (\bar{x}) for the trajectories of the original system.

(Computational efficient): solve for one trajectory of embedding system

(Scalable): embedding system is $2n$ -dimensional

³H. Smith, Journal of Difference Equations and Applications, 2008

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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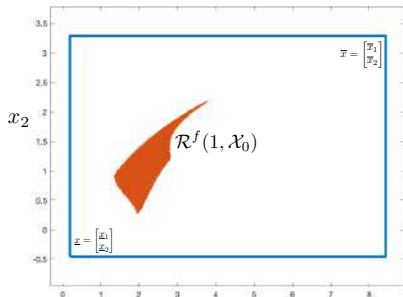
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- Reachability Analysis
- Monotone System Theory
- Neural Network Controlled Systems

Learning-based Controllers in Autonomous Systems

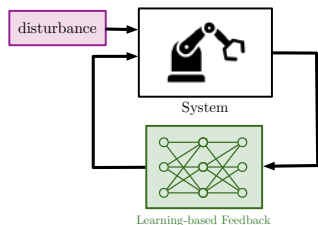
Introduction

- **In this part:** Learning-based component as a controller

Learning-based Controllers in Autonomous Systems

Introduction

- **In this part:** Learning-based component as a controller



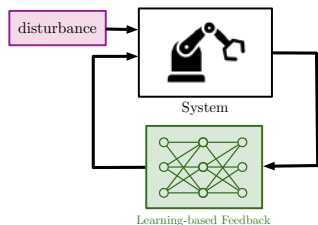
Learning-based Controllers in Autonomous Systems

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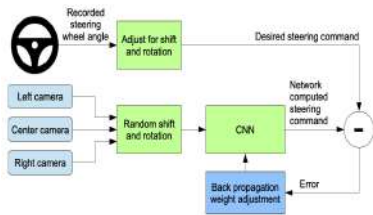
- **In this part:** Learning-based component as a controller

Issues with traditional controllers:

- 1 computationally burdensome
- 2 interaction with human
- 3 complicated representation



Self driving vehicles:



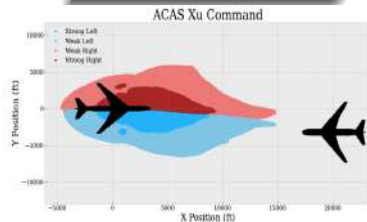
M. Bojarski, et al., NeurIPS, 2016.

Robotic motion planning:



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

Collision avoidance:



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

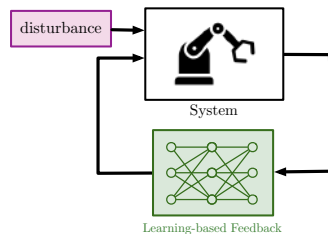
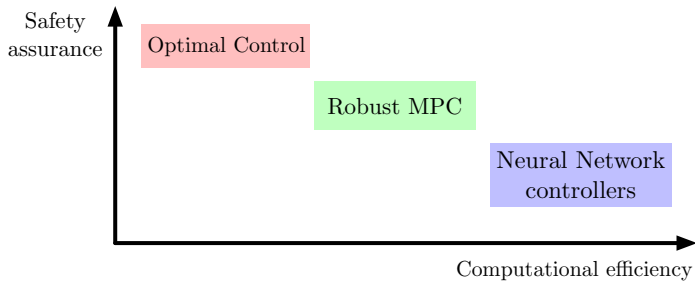
Safety of learning-enabled autonomous systems **cannot be completely ensured** at the design level⁴

⁴Institute for Defense Analysis, The Status of Test, Evaluation, Verification, and Validation of Autonomous Systems, 2018

Analysis of Learning-based Controllers

Safety Verification

Safety of learning-enabled autonomous systems **cannot be completely ensured** at the design level⁴

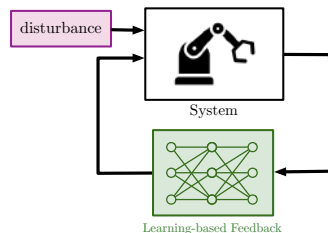
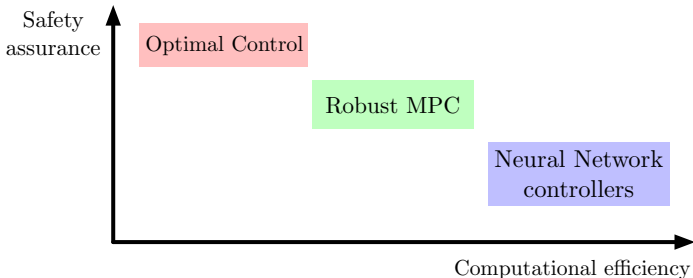


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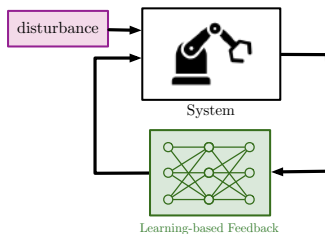
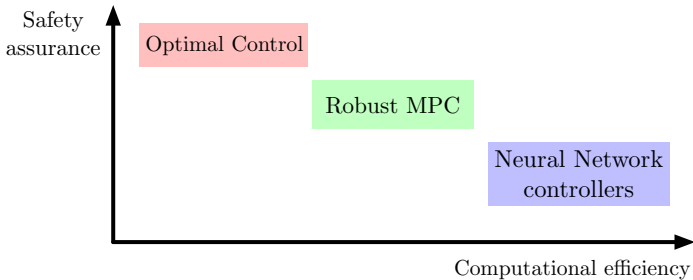
Design a mechanism that can do **run-time** safety verification

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Analysis of Learning-based Controllers

Safety Verification

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Design a mechanism that can do **run-time** safety verification

Our approach: reachable set over-approximations for some time in future.

⁴Institute for Defense Analysis, The Status of Test, Evaluation, Verification, and Validation of Autonomous Systems, 2018

Safety of Neural Network Controlled Systems

Problem Statement

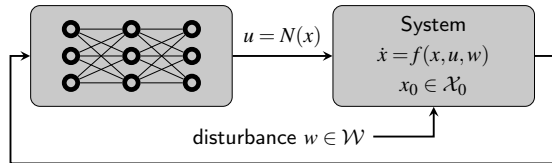
An open-loop nonlinear system with a neural network controller

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

$$u = N(x),$$

safety of the closed-loop system

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



Safety of Neural Network Controlled Systems

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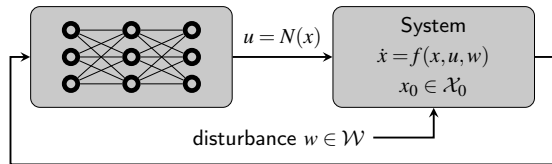
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$u = N(x)$ is **pre-trained** feed-forward neural network with k -layer:

$$\xi^{(i)}(x) = \phi^{(i)}(W^{(i-1)}\xi^{(i-1)}(x) + b^{(i-1)})$$

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Safety of Neural Network Controlled Systems

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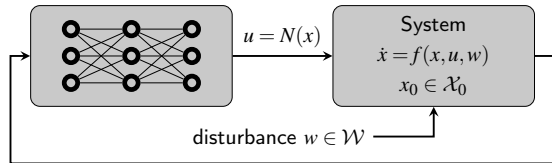
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directly performing reachability on f^c is computationally challenging

Safety of Neural Network Controlled Systems

Problem Statement

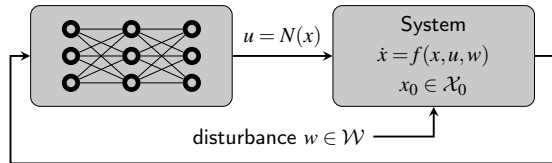
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$$\dot{x} = f(x, N(x), w) := f^c(x, w)$$



$u = N(x)$ is **pre-trained** feed-forward neural network with k -layer:

$$\xi^{(i)}(x) = \phi^{(i)}(W^{(i-1)}\xi^{(i-1)}(x) + b^{(i-1)})$$

$$x = \xi^{(0)}, \quad u = W^{(k)}\xi^{(k)}(x) + b^{(k)} := N(x),$$

Rigorousness of control tools + effectiveness of ML tools

Combine our reachability frameworks with neural network verification methods

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

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

⁵H. Zhang et al., NeurIPS 2018.

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Many neural network verification algorithms can produce these bounds.

ex. CROWN ([H. Zhang et al., 2018](#)), LipSDP ([M. Fazlyab et al., 2019](#)), IBP ([S. Gowal et al., 2018](#)).

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Neural Network Verification Algorithms

Interval Input-output Bounds

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

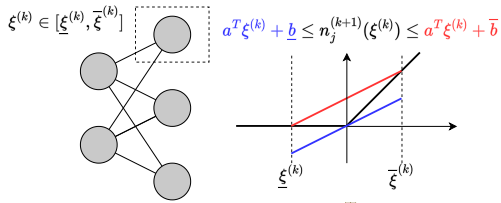
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Many neural network verification algorithms can produce these bounds.

ex. CROWN (H. Zhang et al., 2018), LipSDP (M. Fazlyab et al., 2019), IBP (S. Gowal et al., 2018).

CROWN⁵

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



⁵H. Zhang et al., NeurIPS 2018.

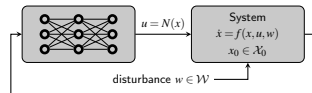
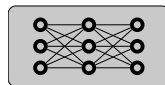
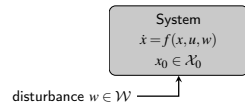
Safety of Neural Network Controlled Systems

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 + Neural network verification bounds



Safety of Neural Network Controlled Systems

A Compositional Approach

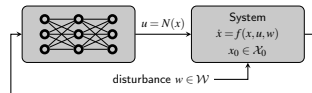
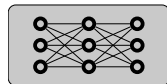
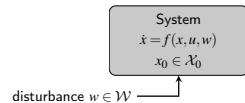
$$\dot{x} = d(x, \bar{x}, \underline{u}, \bar{u}, \underline{w}, \bar{w})$$

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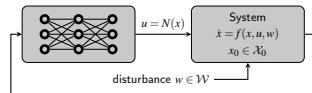
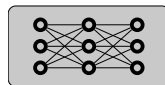
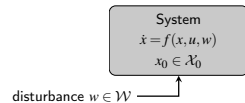
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Composition approach over-approximation:

$$\mathcal{R}_{fc}(t, \mathcal{X}_0, \mathcal{W}) \subseteq [x(t), \bar{x}(t)]$$



Safety of Neural Network Controlled Systems

A Compositional Approach

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

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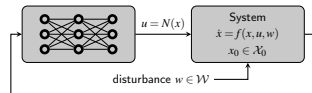
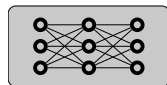
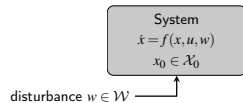
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It lead to overly-conservative estimates of reachable set



Case Study: Bicycle Model

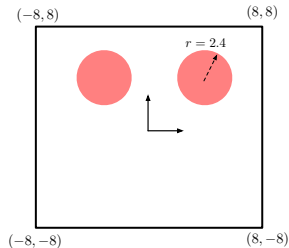
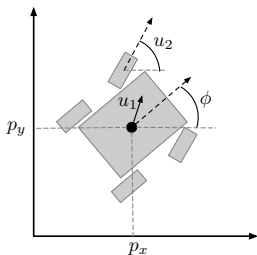
A naive compositional approach

Dynamics of bicycle

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

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

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



Case Study: Bicycle Model

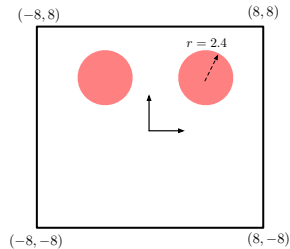
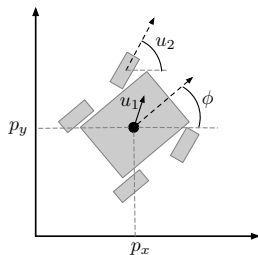
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Goal: steer the bicycle to the origin avoiding the obstacles

Case Study: Bicycle Model

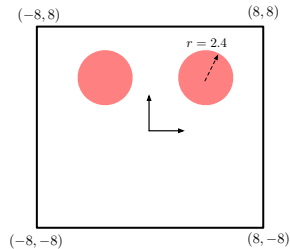
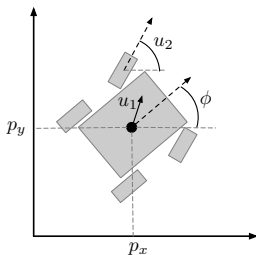
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Goal: steer the bicycle to the origin avoiding the obstacles

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

Reachability of Closed-loop System

Case Study: Bicycle Model

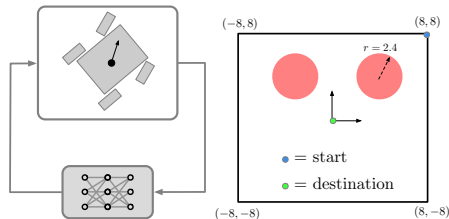
- start from $(8, 8)$ toward $(0, 0)$

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

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

$$\bar{x}_0 = (8.05 \quad 8.05 \quad -\frac{\pi}{3} + 0.01 \quad 2.01)^\top$$

- 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

Case Study: Bicycle Model

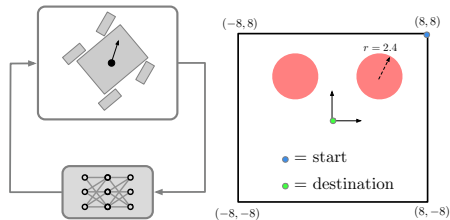
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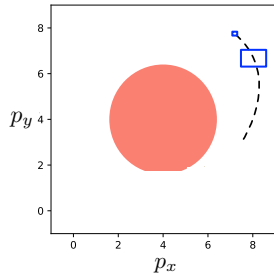
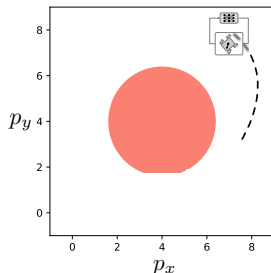


Euler integration with step h :

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

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Reachability of Closed-loop System

Case Study: Bicycle Model

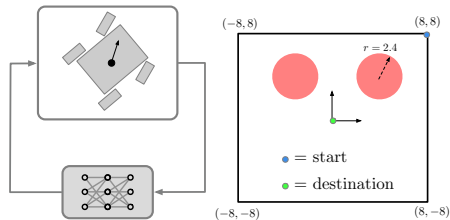
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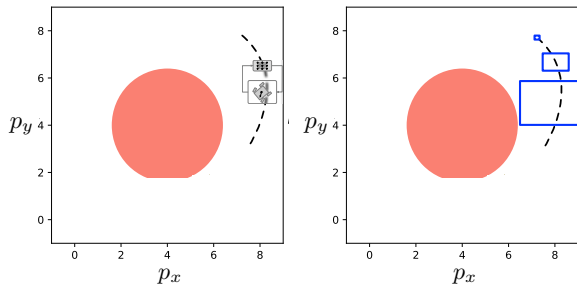


Euler integration with step h :

$$\underline{x}_2 = \underline{x}_1 + h d(\underline{x}_1, \bar{x}_1, \underline{u}_1, \bar{u}_1, \underline{w}, \bar{w})$$

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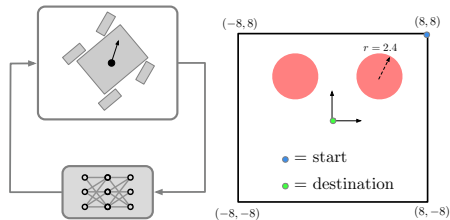
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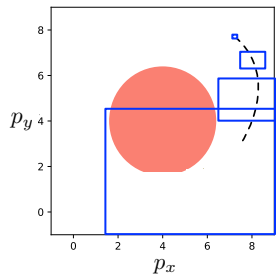
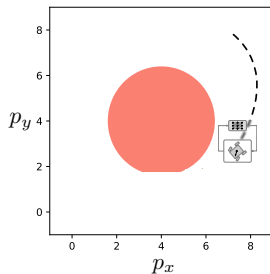


Euler integration with step h :

$$\underline{x}_3 = \underline{x}_2 + h\underline{d}(\underline{x}_2, \bar{x}_2, \underline{u}_2, \bar{u}_2, \underline{w}, \bar{w})$$

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Stabilizing Effect of Neural Network Controllers

Issues with the compositional approach

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

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An illustrative example

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Compositional approach

First find the bounds $\underline{u} \leq Kx \leq \bar{u}$, then

$$\dot{\underline{x}} = \underline{x} + \underline{u} + \underline{w}$$

$$\dot{\bar{x}} = \bar{x} + \bar{u} + \bar{w}$$

This system is unstable.

Interaction-aware approach

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

$$\dot{\underline{x}} = (1 - K)\underline{x} + \underline{w}$$

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This system is stable.

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

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

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

⁶H. Zhang et al., NeurIPS 2018.

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- Example: CROWN⁶ can provide functional bounds.

CROWN functional bounds:

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

CROWN input-output bounds:

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

⁶H. Zhang et al., NeurIPS 2018.

Theorem⁷

Original system

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

Embedding system

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\underline{x}} \\ \dot{\bar{x}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \underline{H}^+ - J_{[x,\bar{x}]} & \underline{H}^- \\ \underline{H}^+ & -J_{[x,\bar{x}]} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{x} \\ \bar{x} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} -J_{[w,\bar{w}]}^- & J_{[w,\bar{w}]}^+ \\ -J_{[w,\bar{w}]}^- & J_{[w,\bar{w}]}^+ \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{w} \\ \bar{w} \end{bmatrix} + Q$$

\underline{H} and \bar{H} capture the effect of interactions between nonlinear system and neural network.

Interaction-aware over-approximation:

$$\mathcal{R}_{fc}(t, \mathcal{X}_0, \mathcal{W}) \subseteq [\underline{x}(t), \bar{x}(t)]$$

⁷SJ and A. Harapanahalli and S. Coogan, under review, 2023

Bicycle Model Revisited

Numerical Experiments

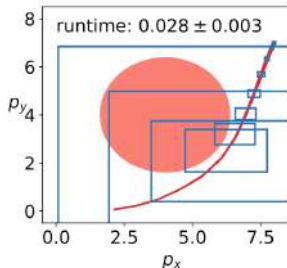
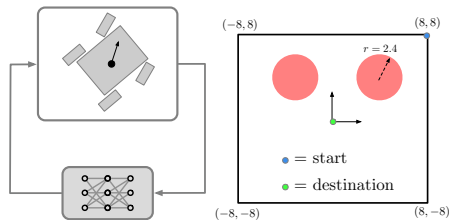
- start from $(8, 7)$ toward $(0, 0)$

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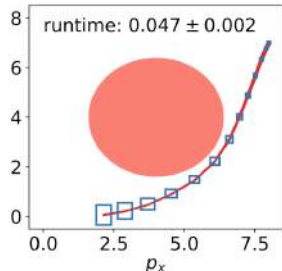
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- CROWN for verification of neural network



Composition approach



Interaction-aware approach

Case Study: Vehicle Platooning

Numerical 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 $w_x^j, w_y^j \sim \mathcal{U}([-0.001, 0.001])$.



Unsafe

Case Study: Vehicle Platooning

Numerical Experiments

Dynamics of the j th vehicle

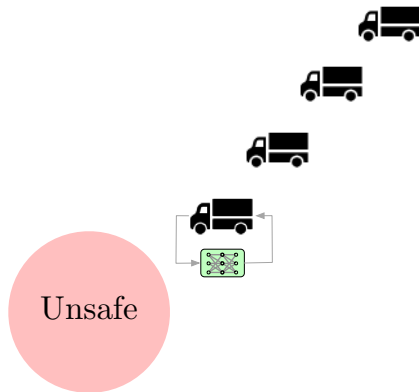
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where $w_x^j, w_y^j \sim \mathcal{U}([-0.001, 0.001])$. First vehicle uses a neural network controller

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

and is trained using trajectory data from an MPC controller for the first vehicle.



Case Study: Vehicle Platooning

Numerical Experiments

Dynamics of the j th vehicle

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

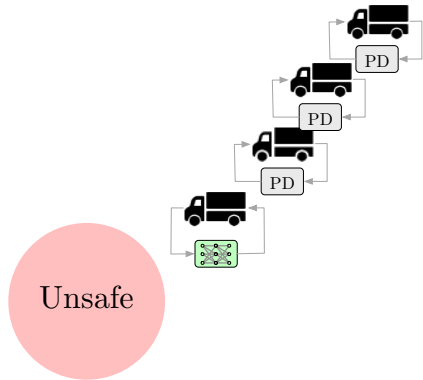
$$\dot{p}_y^j = v_y^j, \quad \dot{v}_y^j = \tanh(u_y^j) + w_y^j,$$

where $w_x^j, w_y^j \sim \mathcal{U}([-0.001, 0.001])$. 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 $d \in \{x, y\}$.



Case Study: Vehicle Platooning

Numerical Experiments

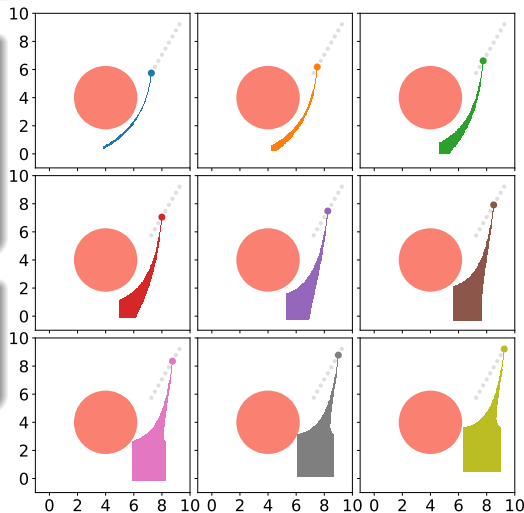
Dynamics of the j th vehicle

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

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

where $w_x^j, w_y^j \sim \mathcal{U}([-0.001, 0.001])$.

- **compositional approach**
- a platoon of 9 vehicles
- reachable overapproximations for $t \in [0, 1.5]$



Case Study: Vehicle Platooning

Numerical Experiments

Dynamics of the j th vehicle

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

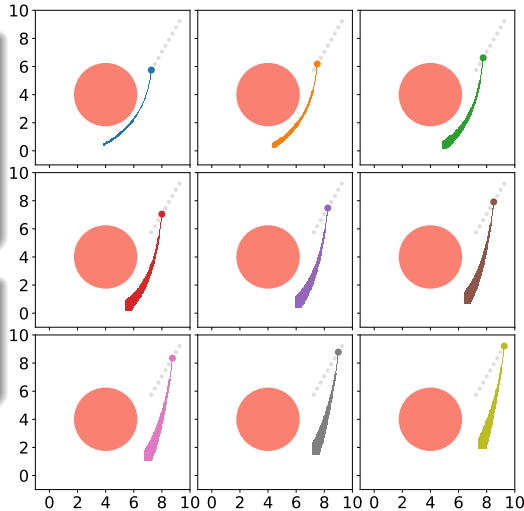
$$\dot{p}_y^j = v_y^j, \quad \dot{v}_y^j = \tanh(u_y^j) + w_y^j,$$

where $w_x^j, w_y^j \sim \mathcal{U}([-0.001, 0.001])$.

- interaction-aware approach
- a platoon of 9 vehicles
- reachable over-approximations for $t \in [0, 1.5]$

N (units)	# of states	Our Approach (s)	POLAR (s)	JuliaReach (s)
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



POLAR = C. Huang et al., ATVA 2022

JuliaReach = C. Schilling et al., AAI 2022

Conclusions

Key takeaways

- reachability as a framework for safety certification of autonomous systems
- developed computationally efficient and scalable approaches for reachability using monotone system theory
- run-time verification of neural network controlled systems
- capture stabilizing effect of learning-based components