

Data-Driven Stochastic Control via Non-i.i.d. Trajectories: Foundations and Guarantees

Abolfazl Lavaei

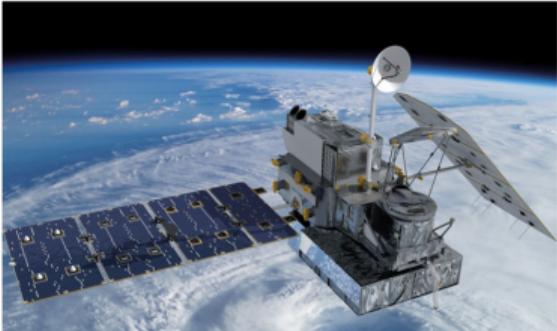
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Stochastic Control Systems



Stochastic Control: Challenges



- Potential difficulties:
- Stochastic nature of dynamics

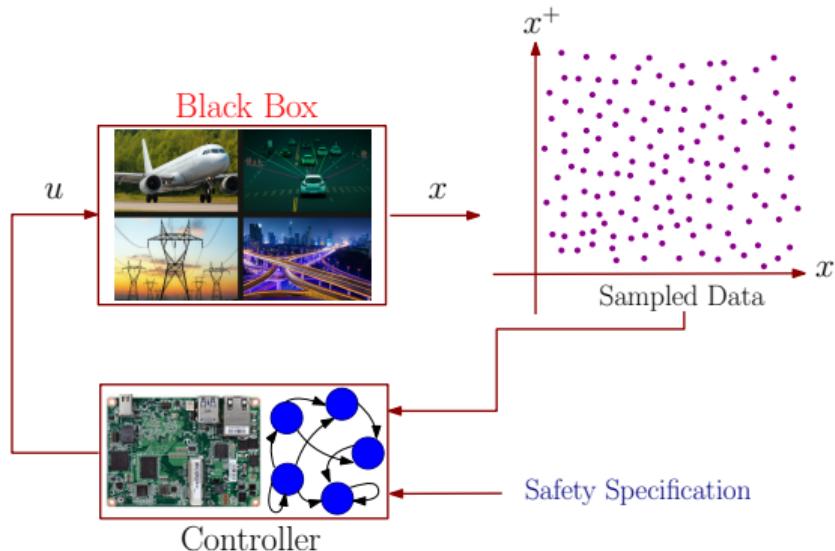
Stochastic Control: Challenges



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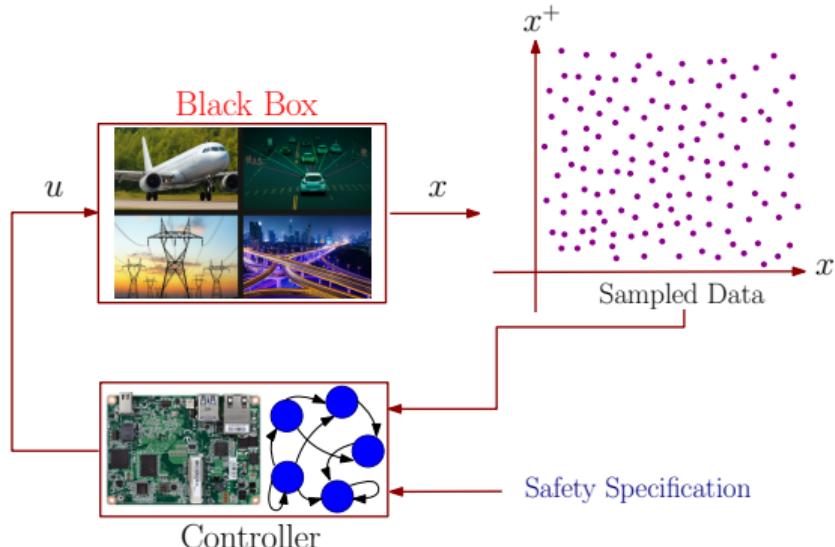
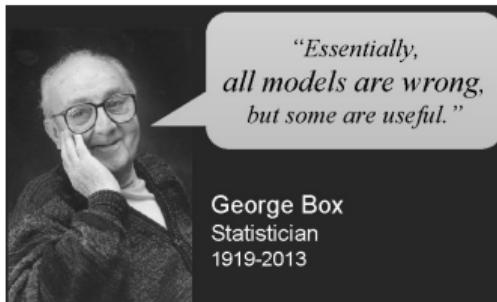
- **Stochastic** nature of dynamics
- **Lack** of mathematical models

Data-Driven Analysis with Provable Guarantees

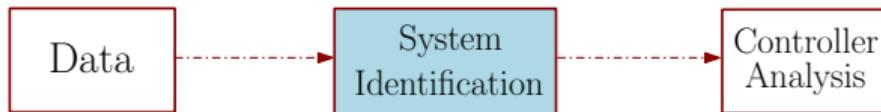


Data-Driven Analysis with Provable Guarantees

- Closed-form models: not available or too complex to deal with
- Model-based techniques cannot be useful

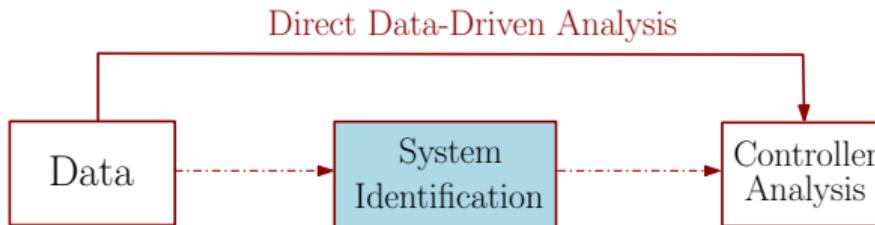


Data-Driven Control: Indirect vs. Direct Methods



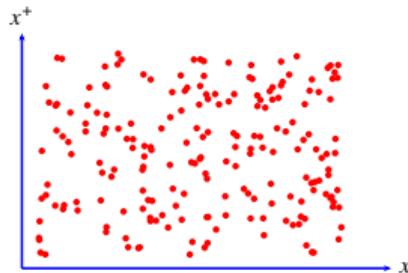
- Indirect data-driven techniques: System identification followed by model-based methods
- Two-level computational complexity

Data-Driven Control: Indirect vs. Direct Methods



- Indirect data-driven techniques: **System identification** followed by model-based methods
 - Two-level computational complexity
- Direct data-driven techniques: **Directly** employ system measurements
 - More samples for robustness guarantees

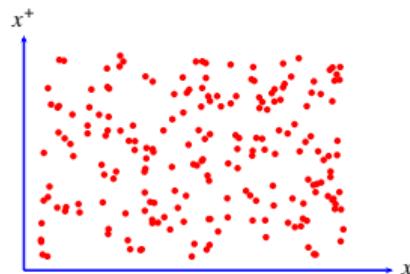
Scenario-based Approach



- i.i.d. samples

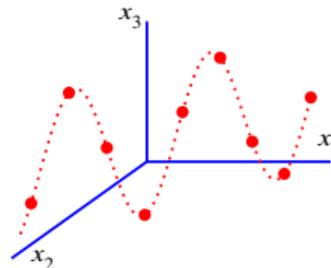
Direct Data-Driven Control: Scenario-based vs. Trajectory-based Approaches

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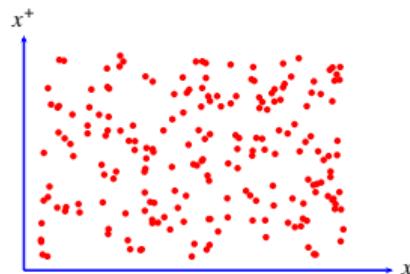
Trajectory-based Approach



- One set of (non-i.i.d.) time-series data

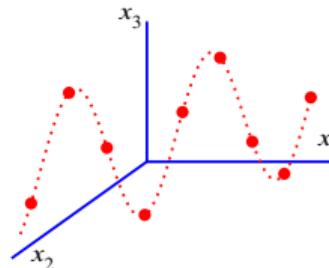
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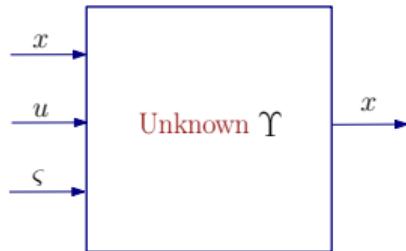


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Question of interest

How to design safety controllers with probabilistic confidence using trajectory-based approaches for stochastic control systems with unknown models?

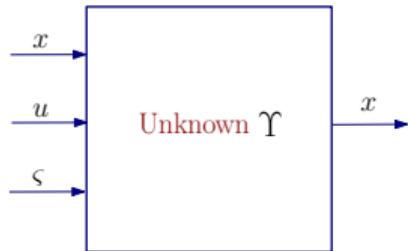
Discrete-time Nonlinear Polynomial Systems (dt-NPS)



$$\Upsilon: x^+ = f(x) + g(x)u + \varsigma$$

- $x \in X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ and $u \in U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$
- $f: X \rightarrow X$ and $g: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$
- $\varsigma \in Z \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, where $\|\varsigma\| \leq \varpi \in \mathbb{R}_0^+$

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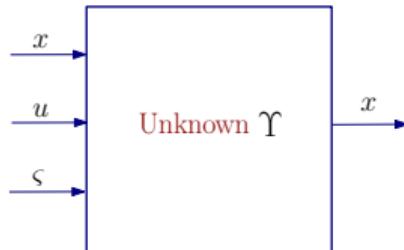
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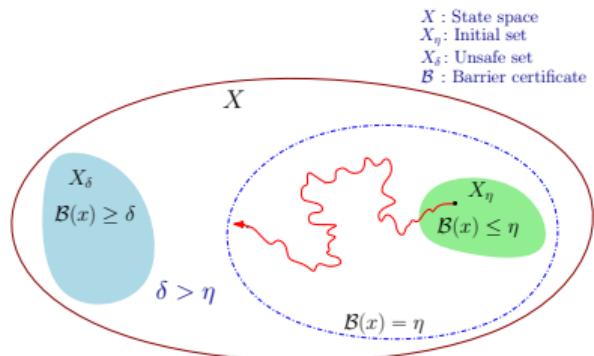
- ▷ A and B are **unknown**
- ▷ $\mathcal{F}(x)$ and $\mathcal{G}(x)$: Access to **extended dictionary** (i.e., library or family of functions)

R-CBC and R-SC¹

Consider a dt-NPS Υ with $X_\eta, X_\delta \subseteq X$. Suppose there exist $\mathcal{B} : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$ and $\eta, \delta, \rho \in \mathbb{R}_0^+$, with $\delta > \eta$, and $\kappa \in (0, 1)$, such that:

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- $\forall x \in \tilde{X} = \{x \in X : \mathcal{B}(x) < \delta\}, \exists u \in U$, such that $\forall \varsigma \in Z$:

$$\mathcal{B}(A\mathcal{F}(x) + B\mathcal{G}(x)u + \varsigma) \leq \kappa\mathcal{B}(x) + \rho\|\varsigma\|^2$$



[1] O. Akbarzadeh, M.H. Ashoori, and A. Lavaei, "Learning Robust Safety Controllers for Uncertain Input-Affine Polynomial Systems", *CDC 2025*.

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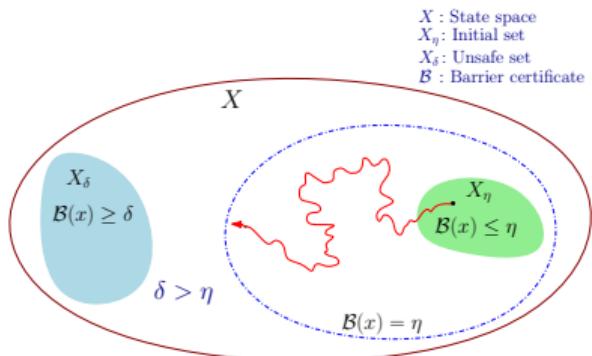
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If

$$\rho\varpi \leq \delta(1 - \kappa),$$

then $x_{x_0 u w}(k) \notin X_\delta$ for any $x_0 \in X_0$ and $k \in \mathbb{N}$ under signals $u(\cdot)$ and $\varsigma(\cdot)$.



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Data-Driven Design of R-CBC and R-SC

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▷ **R-CBC:** $\mathcal{B}(x) = x^\top Px$

▷ **Robust Safety Controller:** $u = \mathcal{K}(x)x$

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$$\vec{\mathbb{X}}_j = A\mathbb{F}_j + B\mathbb{G}_j + \mathbb{Z}_j = \Phi\mathbb{H}_j + \mathbb{Z}_j, \quad j \in \{1, \dots, T\} \quad \text{where} \quad \Phi = [A \ B], \quad \mathbb{H}_j = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbb{F}_j \\ \mathbb{G}_j \end{bmatrix}$$

▷ $\mathbb{Z}_j = \vec{\mathbb{X}}_j - \Phi\mathbb{H}_j$

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$$\mathbb{Z}_j\mathbb{Z}_j^\top \preceq \varpi^2 \mathbb{I}_n$$

$$\text{▷ } (\vec{\mathbb{X}}_j - \Phi\mathbb{H}_j)(\vec{\mathbb{X}}_j - \Phi\mathbb{H}_j)^\top - \varpi^2 \mathbb{I}_n \preceq 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad \begin{bmatrix} \mathbb{I}_n \\ \Phi^\top \end{bmatrix}^\top \begin{bmatrix} \vec{\mathbb{X}}_j \vec{\mathbb{X}}_j^\top - \varpi^2 \mathbb{I}_n & -\vec{\mathbb{X}}_j \mathbb{H}_j^\top \\ * & \mathbb{H}_j \mathbb{H}_j^\top \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbb{I}_n \\ \Phi^\top \end{bmatrix} \preceq 0$$

Data-Driven Design of R-CBC and R-SC: Main Result

Main Result: R-CBC and R-SC Design

Given an unknown dt-NPS Υ , let there exist $\bar{\eta}, \bar{\delta} \in \mathbb{R}^+$, with $\bar{\eta} > \bar{\delta}$, $\kappa \in (0, 1)$, matrices $\bar{P} \succ 0$ and $\bar{\mathcal{K}}(x)$, and $\alpha_{j=1,\dots,T}(x): \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$, such that

- $\bar{P} - \bar{\eta} z_\eta z_\eta^\top \succeq 0, \quad \forall x \in X_\eta, \quad \text{with } X_\eta \subseteq \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n: x x^\top \preceq z_\eta z_\eta^\top, z_\eta \in \mathbb{R}^n\},$
- $\bar{P} - \bar{\delta} z_\delta z_\delta^\top \preceq 0, \quad \forall x \in X_\delta, \quad \text{with } X_\delta \subseteq \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n: x x^\top \succeq z_\delta z_\delta^\top, z_\delta \in \mathbb{R}^n\},$
- $$\begin{bmatrix} -\kappa \bar{P} & 0 \\ * & 0 \\ * & * \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \mathcal{J}(x) \bar{P} \\ \mathcal{G}(x) \bar{\mathcal{K}}(x) \end{bmatrix} - \sum_{j=1}^T \alpha_j(x) \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{R}^{DC_j} & 0 \\ * & 0 \end{bmatrix} \preceq 0, \quad \forall x \in X,$$

with

$$\mathcal{R}^{DC_j} = \begin{bmatrix} \overrightarrow{\mathbb{X}}_j \overrightarrow{\mathbb{X}}_j^\top - \varpi^2 \mathbb{I}_n & -\overrightarrow{\mathbb{X}}_j \mathbb{H}_j^\top \\ * & \mathbb{H}_j \mathbb{H}_j^\top \end{bmatrix}.$$

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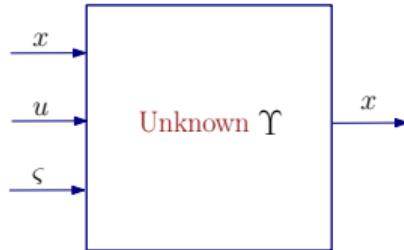
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Then, $\mathcal{B}(x) = x^\top P x$, with $P = \bar{P}^{-1}$, and $\mathbf{u} = \mathcal{K}(x)x$, with $\mathcal{K}(x) = \bar{\mathcal{K}}(x)\bar{P}^{-1} = \bar{\mathcal{K}}(x)P$. In addition, $\eta = \bar{\eta}^{-1}$, $\delta = \bar{\delta}^{-1}$ (where $\eta < \delta$), and $\rho = (1 + \mu^{-1})\|\sqrt{P}\|^2$.

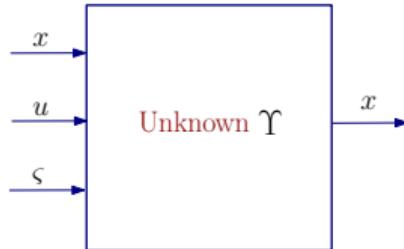
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- $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}_\Omega, \mathbb{P}_\Omega)$
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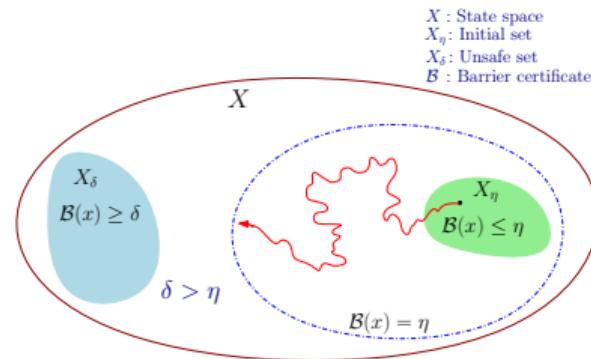
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S-CBC and Safety Controller²

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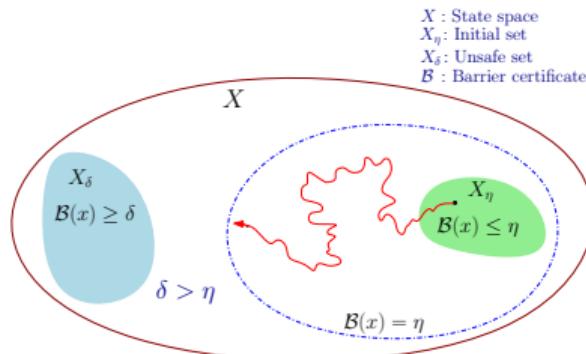
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Then:

$$\mathbb{P} \left\{ x_{x_0 u} \notin X_\delta \text{ for all } k \in [0, \mathcal{T}] \mid x_0 \right\} \geq 1 - \beta_1,$$

where $\beta_1 = \frac{\eta + \psi \mathcal{T}}{\delta}$.



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Data-Driven Design of S-CBC and Safety Controller

For all $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$:

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- $\mathbb{F}^i = [\mathcal{F}(x(0)) \ \mathcal{F}(x^i(1)) \ \dots \ \mathcal{F}(x^i(T-1))]$
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For all $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$:

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- $\mathbb{X}^i = [x(0) \ x^i(1) \ \dots \ x^i(T-1)]$
- $\mathbb{U} = [u(0) \ u(1) \ \dots \ u(T-1)]$
- $\mathbb{Z}^i = [\varsigma^i(0) \ \varsigma^i(1) \ \dots \ \varsigma^i(T-1)]$
- $\mathbb{F}^i = [\mathcal{F}(x(0)) \ \mathcal{F}(x^i(1)) \ \dots \ \mathcal{F}(x^i(T-1))]$
- $\mathbb{G}^i = [\mathcal{G}(x(0))u(0) \ \mathcal{G}(x^i(1))u(1) \ \dots \ \mathcal{G}(x^i(T-1))u(T-1)]$

Problem of interest

Given an unknown dt-SNPS with process noise ς , design an **S-CBC and its safety controller**, while quantifying the **probabilistic safety level** $\beta_1 \in (0, 1]$ and **confidence level** $\beta_2 \in (0, 1]$ purely based on data, *i.e.*,

$$\mathbb{P}\left\{\mathbb{P}\{\Upsilon \models \mathbb{S}\} \geq 1 - \beta_1\right\} \geq 1 - \beta_2.$$

Data-Driven Design of S-CBC and Safety Controller

$$\mathbb{E}[\boldsymbol{\varsigma}\boldsymbol{\varsigma}^\top] = \boldsymbol{\Sigma} + \boldsymbol{\mu}\boldsymbol{\mu}^\top \preceq \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}} + \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}}$$

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Lemma 1: Formalizing Empirical Approximation

Let $\mathbb{Z}_{(\cdot)}^1, \dots, \mathbb{Z}_{(\cdot)}^N \in \mathbb{R}^n$ be N independent samples drawn from $\varsigma \in \mathbb{R}^n$, where $\mu \mu^\top \preceq \Gamma_\mu$ and $\Sigma \preceq \Gamma_\Sigma$. Then

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\left\|\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{Z}_{(\cdot)}^i \mathbb{Z}_{(\cdot)}^{i\top} - \mathbb{E}[\varsigma \varsigma^\top]\right\| < \epsilon\right) \geq 1 - \bar{\beta}_2,$$

with $\bar{\beta}_2 = \frac{1}{N\epsilon^2} (\text{Tr}(\Gamma_\Sigma^2) + (\text{Tr}(\Gamma_\Sigma))^2 + 2\lambda_{\max}(\Gamma_\Sigma) \text{Tr}(\Gamma_\mu) + 2 \text{Tr}(\Gamma_\Sigma) \text{Tr}(\Gamma_\mu))$.

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Lemma 2: Data-Conformity Constraint

Under Lemma 1, the following statement holds true with a confidence of at least $1 - \bar{\beta}_2$:

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$$\rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \mathbb{I}_n \\ \Phi^\top \end{bmatrix}^\top \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{X}_j^i \mathbb{X}_j^{i\top} - (\Gamma_\Sigma + \Gamma_\mu + \epsilon \mathbb{I}_n) & -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{X}_j^i \mathbb{H}_j^{i\top} \\ * & \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{H}_j^i \mathbb{H}_j^{i\top} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbb{I}_n \\ \Phi^\top \end{bmatrix} \preceq 0$$

Data-Driven Design of S-CBC and Safety Controller: Main Result

Main Result: S-CBC and Safety Controller Design

Given an unknown dt-NPS Υ , let there exist $\bar{\eta}, \bar{\delta} \in \mathbb{R}^+$, with $\bar{\eta} > \bar{\delta}$, $\kappa \in (0, 1)$, matrices $\bar{P} \succ 0$ and $\bar{\mathcal{K}}(x)$, and $\alpha_{j=1,\dots,T}(x): \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$, such that

- $\bar{P} - \bar{\eta} z_\eta z_\eta^\top \succeq 0, \quad \forall x \in X_\eta, \quad \text{with } X_\eta \subseteq \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n: x x^\top \preceq z_\eta z_\eta^\top, z_\eta \in \mathbb{R}^n\},$
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- $$\begin{bmatrix} -\kappa \bar{P} & 0 & 0 \\ * & 0 & \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{J}(x) \bar{P} \\ \mathcal{G}(x) \bar{\mathcal{K}}(x) \end{bmatrix} \\ * & * & -(1 + \rho)^{-1} \bar{P} \end{bmatrix} - \sum_{j=1}^T \alpha_j(x) \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{R}^{DC_j} & 0 \\ * & 0 \end{bmatrix} \preceq 0, \quad \forall x \in X,$$

with

$$\mathcal{R}^{DC_j} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \overrightarrow{\mathbb{X}}_j^i \overrightarrow{\mathbb{X}}_j^{i\top} - (\Gamma_\Sigma + \Gamma_\mu + \epsilon \mathbb{I}_n) & -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \overrightarrow{\mathbb{X}}_j^i \mathbb{H}_j^{i\top} \\ * & \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{H}_j^i \mathbb{H}_j^{i\top} \end{bmatrix}, \text{ where } \mathbb{H}_j^i = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbb{F}_j^i \\ \mathbb{G}_j^i \end{bmatrix}.$$

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Then, $\mathcal{B}(x) = x^\top P x$, with $P = \bar{P}^{-1}$, and $\mathcal{u} = \mathcal{K}(x)x$, with $\mathcal{K}(x) = \bar{\mathcal{K}}(x)\bar{P}^{-1}$. In addition, $\eta = \bar{\eta}^{-1}$, $\delta = \bar{\delta}^{-1}$ ($\eta < \delta$), and $\psi = (1 + \rho^{-1}) \text{Tr}(P\Gamma_\mu) + \text{Tr}(P\Gamma_\Sigma)$, with a confidence of at least $1 - \beta_2$, where $\beta_2 = T\bar{\beta}_2$.

Require: The state set X , extended dictionaries $\mathcal{F}(x), \mathcal{G}(x)$, and bounds $\Gamma_\mu, \Gamma_\Sigma$

1: Collect $\overrightarrow{\mathbb{X}}^i, \mathbb{X}^i$, and \mathbb{U} , where $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$

2: Construct \mathbb{F}^i and \mathbb{G}^i

3: Initialize the desired ϵ and N , and compute $\bar{\beta}_2$

4: Initialize $\kappa \in (0, 1)$ and $\rho \in \mathbb{R}^+$

5: Solve conditions using SeDuMi and SOSTOOLS and compute $P = \bar{P}^{-1}$, $\mathcal{K}(x) = \bar{\mathcal{K}}(x)\bar{P}^{-1} = \bar{\mathcal{K}}(x)P$, $\eta = \bar{\eta}^{-1}$, and $\delta = \bar{\delta}^{-1}$

6: Compute ψ

7: Quantify β_1 and $\beta_2 = T\bar{\beta}_2$

Ensure: S-CBC $\mathcal{B}(x) = x^\top Px$, safety controller $u = \mathcal{K}(x)x$, and guaranteed probabilistic safety

$$\mathbb{P}\left\{\mathbb{P}\{\Upsilon \models \mathbb{S}\} \geq 1 - \beta_1\right\} \geq 1 - \beta_2$$

- **Robust vs. Stochastic Analysis.** If $\varsigma \in Z = [-0.2, 0.2]^n$, then $\varpi^2 = 0.04n$ (yielding $0.04n\mathbb{I}_n$ in robust condition). In contrast, if $\varsigma \sim \mathcal{U}(\underbrace{-0.2}_a, \underbrace{0.2}_b)^n$, then

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- **Trade-off Between ϵ and $\bar{\beta}_2$.** Demanding higher accuracy (i.e., smaller ϵ) reduces the confidence level $(1 - \bar{\beta}_2)$. This closed-form relation gives a lower bound for N based on ϵ and $\bar{\beta}_2$ as

$$N \geq \frac{1}{\bar{\beta}_2\epsilon^2}(\text{Tr}(\Gamma_\Sigma^2) + (\text{Tr}(\Gamma_\Sigma))^2 + 2\lambda_{\max}(\Gamma_\Sigma)\text{Tr}(\Gamma_\mu) + 2\text{Tr}(\Gamma_\Sigma)\text{Tr}(\Gamma_\mu)).$$

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- **Multiple Noise Realizations.** While N trajectories should be collected to capture the stochastic behavior of dt-SNPs, the proposed matrix inequality condition needs to be solved only once.

- **Infinite-Horizon Guarantees.** If noise is multiplicative *i.e.*, $\varsigma \odot x$, then $\psi = 0$. Accordingly,

$$\mathbb{P}\left\{ (x_{x_0 u} \notin X_\delta \text{ for all } k \in [0, \infty) \mid x_0 \right\} \geq 1 - \beta_1,$$

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- **Stability Analysis.** The proposed data-driven method can be naturally utilized to assess other essential system properties, such as [mean-square stability](#).
- **Limitations.**

- The class of nonlinear systems is restricted to [polynomial dynamics](#).
- S-CBC is restricted to [quadratic](#), *i.e.* $\mathcal{B}(x) = x^\top P x$. How about higher-order polynomials $\mathcal{B}(x) = \mathcal{F}(x)^\top P \mathcal{F}(x)$?

Case Studies

System	N	T	\mathcal{T}	ϵ	Γ_μ	Γ_Σ	β_1	$\bar{\beta}_2$	β_2	RT1 (sec)	RT2 (sec)	MU (Mb)
Lorenz	77	10	100	0.1	0_3	$0.006 \mathbb{I}_3$	0.08	5×10^{-4}	0.005	0.01	1.58	13.54
Chen	328	7	100	0.2	0_3	$0.008 \mathbb{I}_3$	0.05	5×10^{-5}	0.00035	0.01	0.74	8.84
Spacecraft	1283	8	20	0.01	0_3	$0.0075 \mathbb{I}_3$	0.07	0.005	0.04	0.03	1.37	12.73

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Spacecraft System:

$$\Upsilon: \begin{cases} x_1^+ = x_1 + \tau \left(\frac{J_2 - J_3}{J_1} x_2 x_3 + \frac{1}{J_1} u_1 \right) + \varsigma_1 \\ x_2^+ = x_2 + \tau \left(\frac{J_3 - J_1}{J_2} x_1 x_3 + \frac{1}{J_2} u_2 \right) + \varsigma_2 \\ x_3^+ = x_3 + \tau \left(\frac{J_1 - J_2}{J_3} x_1 x_2 + \frac{1}{J_3} u_3 \right) + \varsigma_3 \end{cases}$$

Regions of Interest: $X = [-10, 10]^3$,
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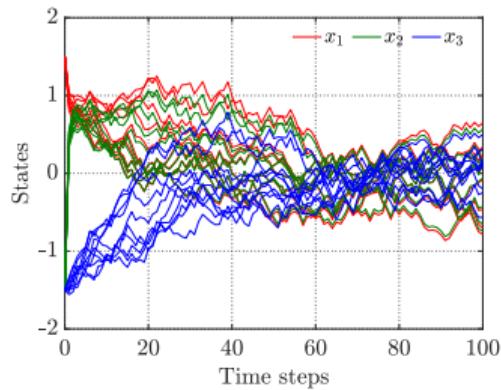
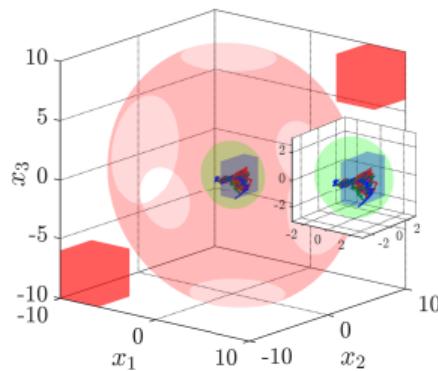
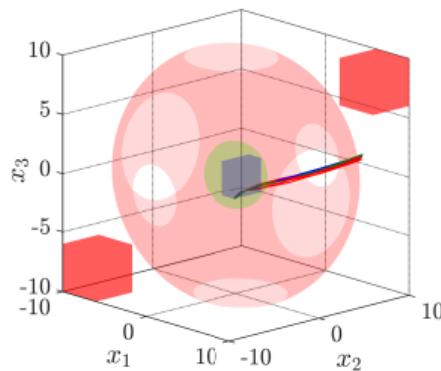
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- $Z = [-0.15, 0.15]^3$, accordingly $\varpi^2 = 0.0675$
- $\Gamma_\Sigma + \Gamma_\mu + \epsilon\mathbb{I}_3 = 0.0175\mathbb{I}_3$ (74% smaller in each entry)

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Simulation Results: Lorenz System



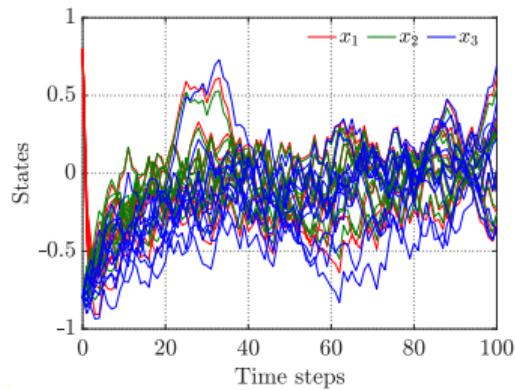
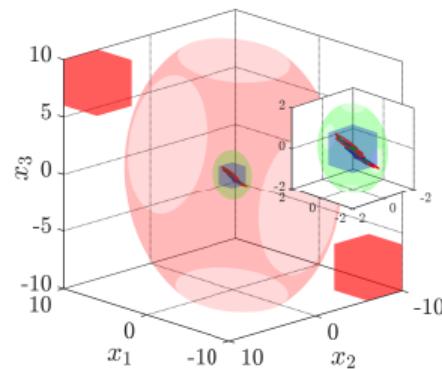
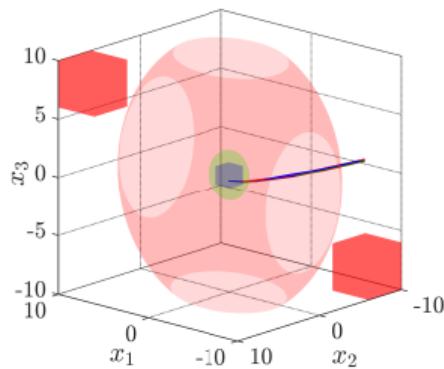
- **Designed S-CBC Matrix P :**

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 33450.3 & 3339.99 & 656.04 \\ 3339.99 & 38333 & 1417.8 \\ 656.04 & 1417.8 & 34290.3 \end{bmatrix}$$

- **Designed Controller:**

$$\begin{aligned} u = & -1.4389 x_1^2 - 1.4844 x_1 x_2 - 0.50617 x_1 x_3 + 1.7463 x_2^2 + 0.62559 x_2 x_3 + 0.1802 x_3^2 \\ & - 1.9406 x_1 - 28.1245 x_2 + 0.1565 x_3 \end{aligned}$$

Simulation Results: Chen System



- **Designed S-CBC Matrix P :**

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 65587.8 & 20628.6 & 486.86 \\ 20628.6 & 103532 & 984.94 \\ 486.86 & 984.94 & 60375.3 \end{bmatrix}$$

- **Designed Controller:**

$$\begin{aligned} u = & 0.016422 x_1^2 - 0.12604 x_1 x_2 - 0.48379 x_1 x_3 + 0.0019506 x_2^2 + 2.2790 x_2 x_3 + 0.030116 x_3^2 \\ & + 4.9195 x_1 - 32.3368 x_2 + 0.38473 x_3 \end{aligned}$$

Core Insights

- When robust analysis is feasible, it can be more advantageous, as it ensures safety without introducing any **risk** to the system.
- Otherwise, despite introducing some probabilistic risk, stochastic analysis can be **less conservative** than robust analysis.

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[3] M.H. Ashoori, A. Aminzadeh, A. Nejati, and A. Lavaei, "Physics-Informed Data-Driven Control of Nonlinear Polynomial Systems with Noisy Data", *IEEE TAC*, under review, 2025.

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Thank you for your attention!



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