

Exploiting Structure in Feedback Systems with Learning-based Components

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Modern societal autonomous systems

Introduction



Power grids



Transportation networks



Learning-based systems

- large penetration of distributed renewable units in power grids
- unprecedented demand is pushing transportation networks to their capacity
- increasing deployment of learning algorithms in safety-critical systems

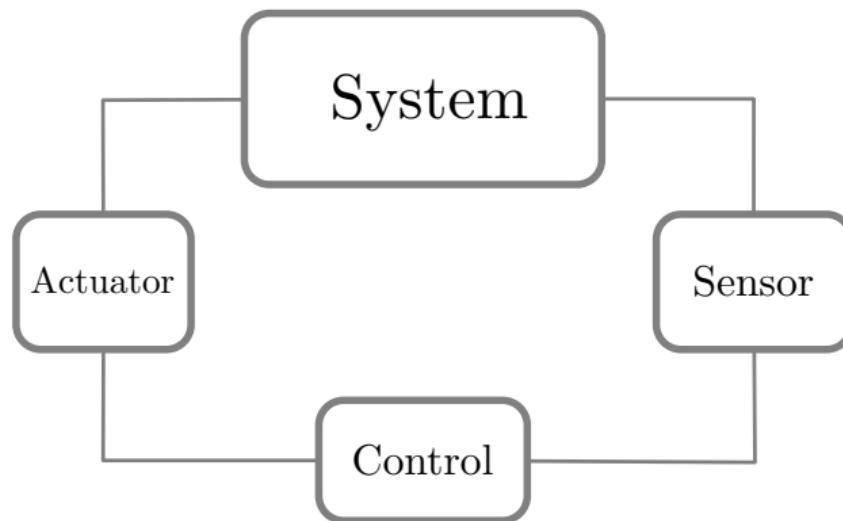
societal autonomous systems are becoming **large-scale** with
interconnected and **complex** components

reconsider the traditional approaches for **monitoring** and **control** of
autonomous systems

Feedback control of autonomous systems

Opportunities and challenges

Feedback is a central paradigm in control theory

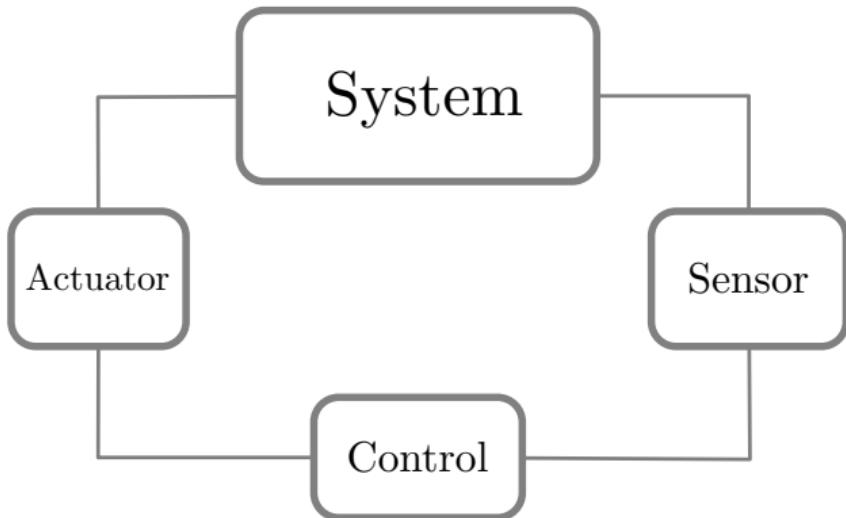


Magic of feedback^a: robustness, shape behavior, command tracking, etc.

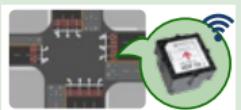
^aKarl J. Astrom, Automatic Control - A Perspective, 2019

Feedback control of autonomous systems

Opportunities and challenges



Agents have wide range of **communication** capabilities



Enhanced processing units allow new **computational** approaches



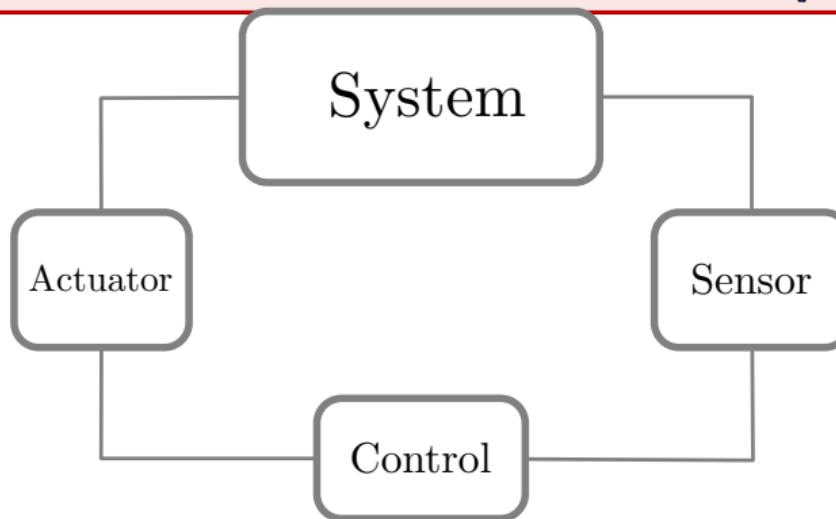
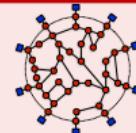
Large number of measurement devices for sensing



Feedback control of autonomous systems

Opportunities and challenges

Systems are becoming **large-scale** with **heterogenous** and **interconnected** components



Controllers contain **high-dimensional**, **learning-based**, and **complex** parts

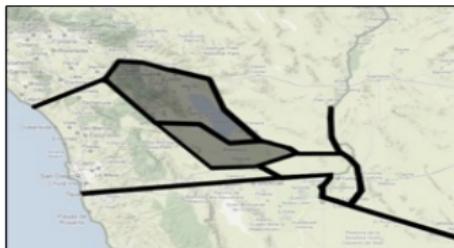


My research

Safety and robustness in control of autonomous systems

A critical task

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



2011 US Southwest blackout



Traffic congestion in Beijing



Self-driving car accident

My Contribution

Exploit **structure** to ensure safety and resilience in control of
large-scale autonomous systems

Tools: control theory, dynamical systems, optimization

Research summary

My past and current research

Analysis of large-scale power grids

- threshold of frequency synchronization ([TAC 2018, SICON 2019](#))
- multi-stability via partitioning the state-space ([SIAM Review 2021, Nature Com 2022](#))
- dynamic stability of low-inertia power grids ([TCNS 2019](#))

Contraction theory

- weak and semi-contraction theory ([TAC 2021](#))
- non-Euclidean contraction theory ([TAC 2022](#))
- time-varying optimization ([TAC 2021](#))
- non-Euclidean monotone operator theory ([CDC 2022](#))

Nonlinear controllability

- small time local controllability ([SICON 2020](#))
- locally convex topologies and control theory ([MCSS 2016](#))

Learning algorithms

- implicit neural networks ([NeurIPS 2021, L4DC 2022](#))
- interval reachability of neural networks ([L4DC 2022](#))
- safety verification of neural feedback loops

Learning-based feedback

Introduction

Learning-based feedback

Feedback controller or some elements of it are learned from data



Aerial vehicles



Self-driving cars



GaTech A1 robot

Why data-driven feedback?

- models are complicated or not available
- environment is unknown or varying
- traditional methods are cumbersome

Learning-based feedback

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Learning-based feedback

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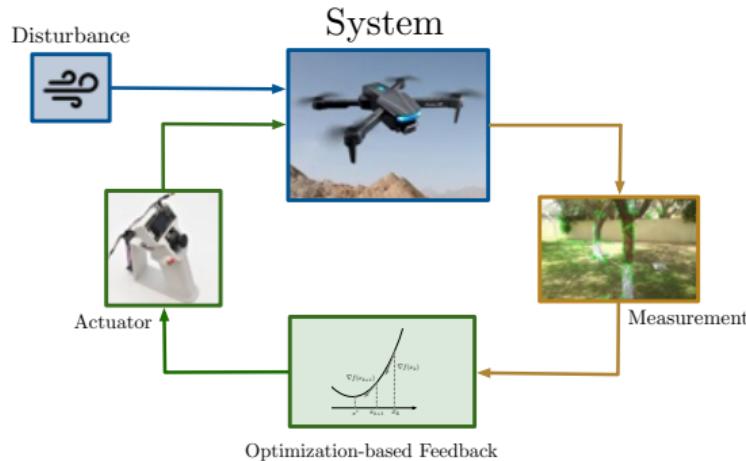
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- traditional methods are cumbersome

Learning-based feedback

A data-driven approach to controller design

Assumption: An (approximate) model of the system is available

Optimization-based control

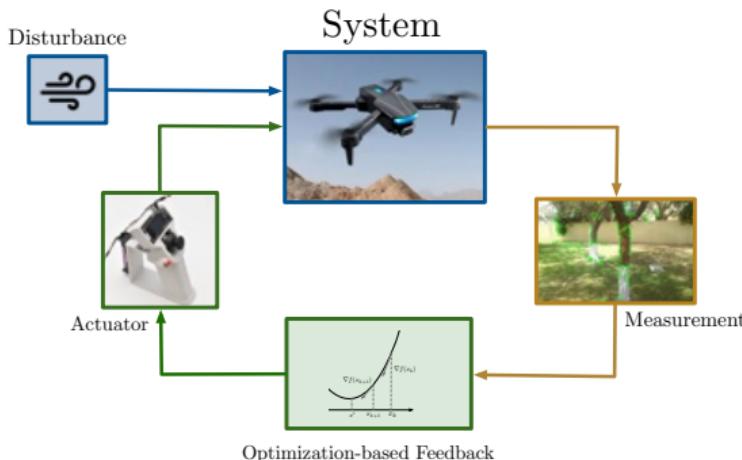


Learning-based feedback

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Optimization-based control



- **Example method:** Model Predictive Control (MPC)

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{u(0), \dots, u(N-1)} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \ell(x(t), u(t)) + \phi(x(N)), \\ & x(t+1) = x(t) + \alpha f(x(t), u(t)), \\ & x(t) \in \mathcal{X}, \quad t \in \{1, \dots, N\} \\ & u(t) \in \mathcal{U}, \quad t \in \{0, \dots, N-1\} \\ & x(0) = x \end{aligned}$$

- \mathcal{X} and \mathcal{U} are safety constraints

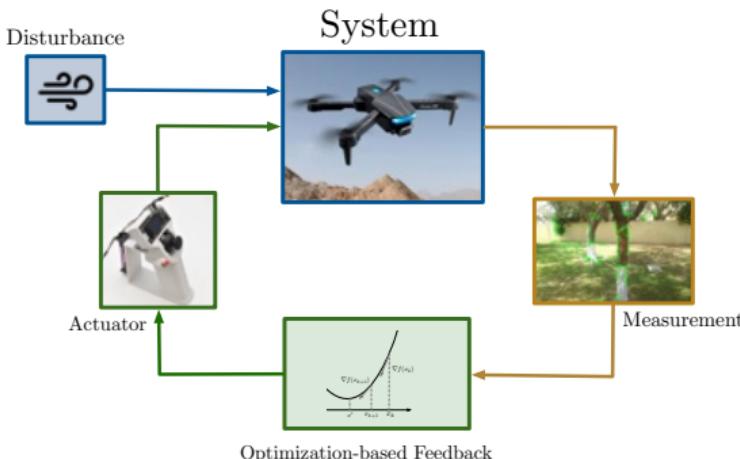
Feedback law: $u(0) = K(x)$

Learning-based feedback

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Optimization-based control



- Example issues: set \mathcal{X} is learned online

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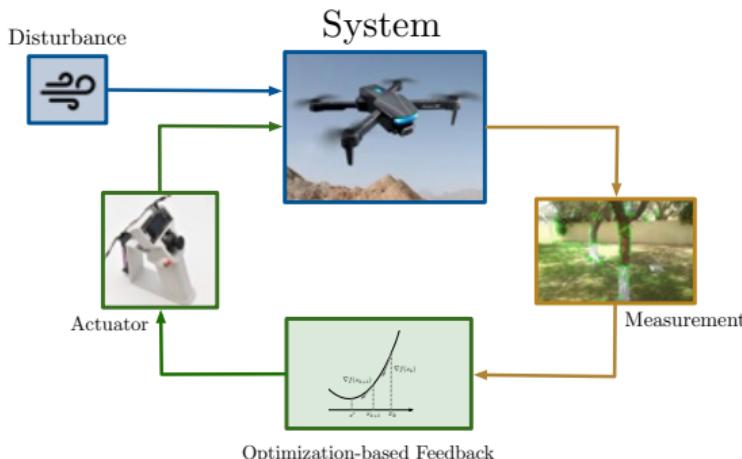
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Learning-based feedback

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Optimization-based control



- **Example issues:** the optimization problem is **computationally complicated**

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{u(0), \dots, u(N-1)} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \ell(x(t), u(t)) + \phi(x(N)), \\ & x(t+1) = x(t) + \alpha f(x(t), u(t)), \\ & x(t) \in \mathcal{X}, \quad t \in \{1, \dots, N\} \\ & u(t) \in \mathcal{U}, \quad t \in \{0, \dots, N-1\} \\ & x(0) = x \end{aligned}$$

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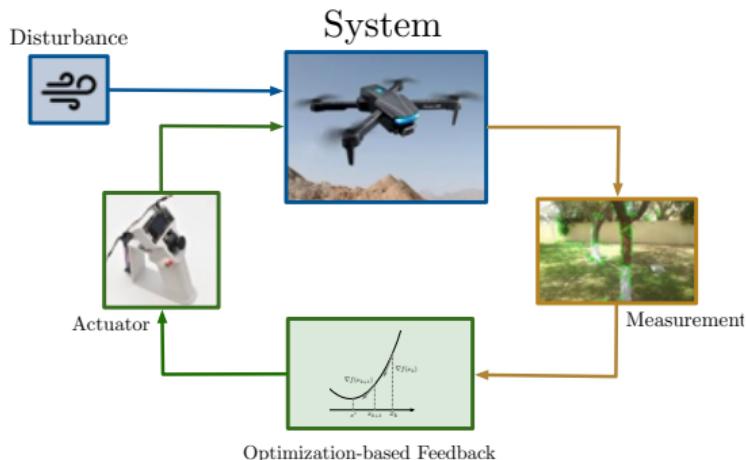
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Learning-based feedback

A data-driven approach to controller design

Assumption: An (approximate) model of the system is available

Optimization-based control



- full knowledge of environment
- computationally complexity

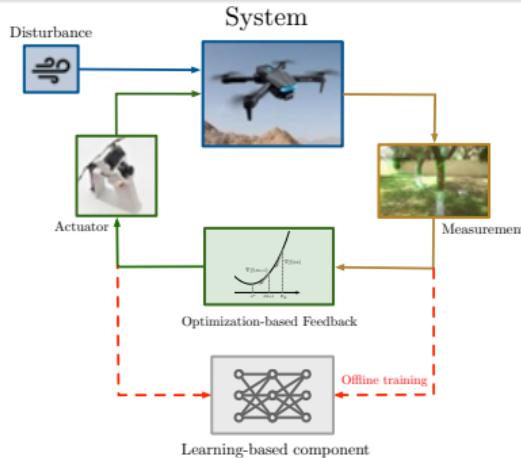
replace (some part of) the controller with a learning-based component

Learning-based feedback

A data-driven approach to controller design

Assumption: An (approximate) model of the system is available

Offline training



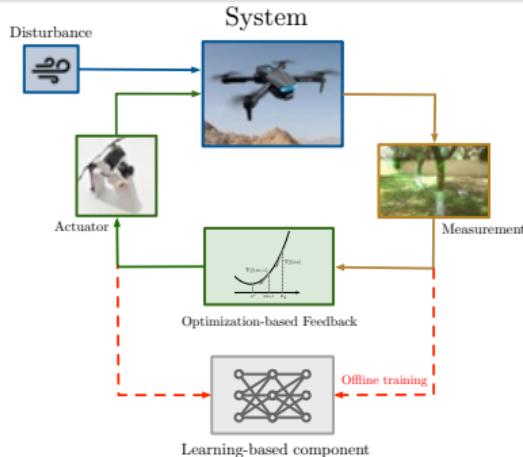
- overly conservative constraints
- solve the optimization offline
- data to train the learning algorithm

Learning-based feedback

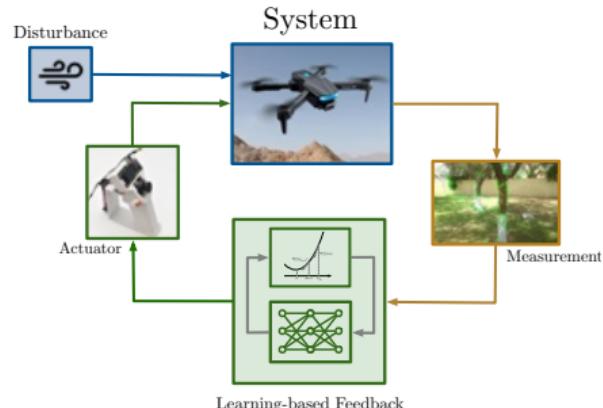
A data-driven approach to controller design

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Offline training



Online implementation



- overly conservative safety guarantees
- solve the optimization offline
- data to train the learning algorithm

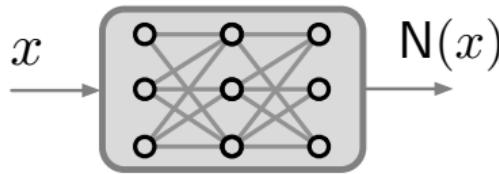
- efficient implementation
- partial knowledge of environment
- **limited** safety guarantees

Reachability analysis

A paradigm for safety assurance

Isolated learning component

- Robustness of learning algorithms



- An input perturbation set \mathcal{X}
- Safe output domain \mathcal{Y}

Output perturbations

$$\mathbf{N}(\mathcal{X}) = \{\mathbf{N}(x) \mid x \in \mathcal{X}\}$$

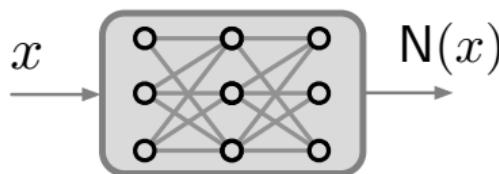
Goal: ensure that $\mathbf{N}(\mathcal{X}) \subset \mathcal{Y}$.

Reachability analysis

A paradigm for safety assurance

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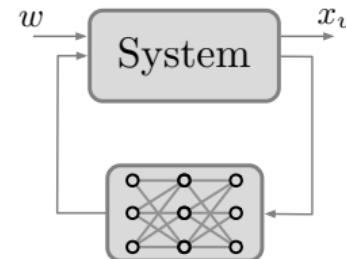
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Goal: ensure that $N(\mathcal{X}) \subset \mathcal{Y}$.

Interconnected learning-based system

- Safety of closed-loop system



- An input perturbation set \mathcal{W}
- Safe output domain \mathcal{S}

Reachable sets

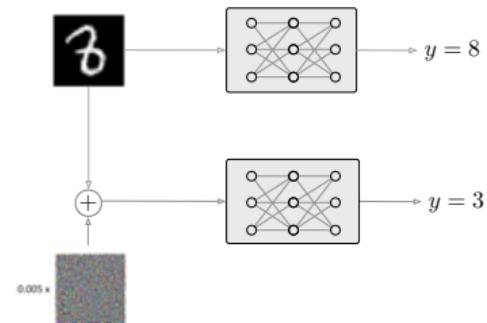
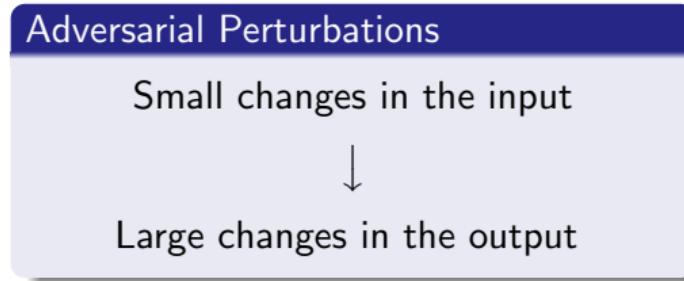
$$\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{W}, t) = \{x_w(t) \mid w \in \mathcal{W}\}$$

Goal: ensure that $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{W}, t) \subset \mathcal{S}$

Robustness of learning algorithms

Verification and training

- ① learning algorithms are fragile wrt input perturbations

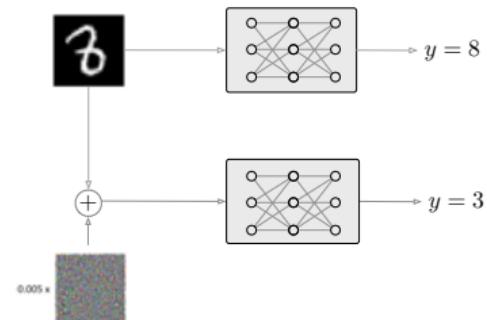
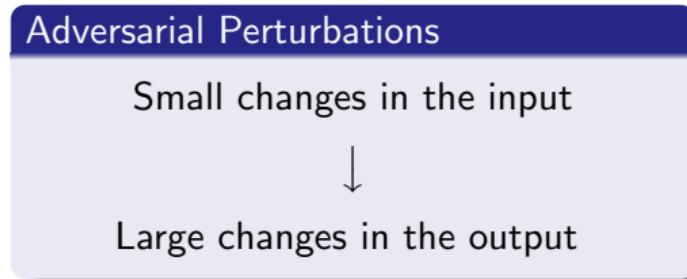


C. Szegedy and et. al. Intriguing properties of neural networks. In *ICLR*, 2014

Robustness of learning algorithms

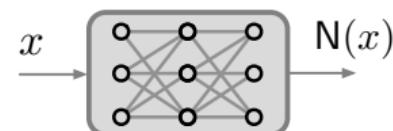
Verification and training

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C. Szegedy and et. al. Intriguing properties of neural networks. In *ICLR*, 2014

- ② learning algorithms have large number of parameters and are highly nonlinear



Reachability of learning-based systems

The role of the structure

- Reachability of dynamical system is an old problem: ~ 1980
 - ▶ Example approaches: [Hamilton-Jacobi](#), [Ellipsoidal methods](#)

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not scalable to large-scale systems

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- ① structure of the learning algorithm
- ② Interconnection structure of the system

Structure lead to tractable algorithms

- **Contractivity**, to ensure computational efficiency
- **Mixed monotonicity**, a key property of neural network loops

- Contraction theory and mixed monotonicity
- Isolated learning algorithms
- Learning-based feedback loops
- Future research directions

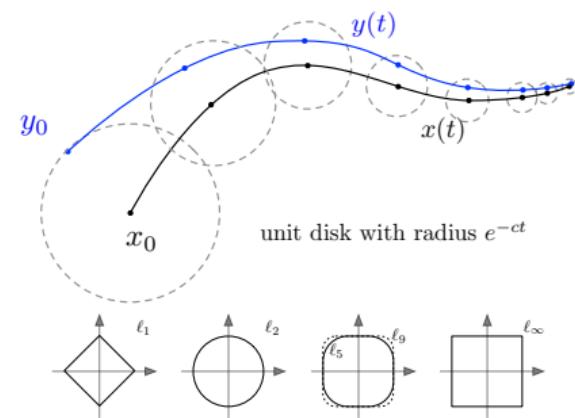
Tool #1: Contraction theory

A framework for stability analysis

Definition (Contraction)

$\dot{x} = f(x, u)$ is contracting wrt $\|\cdot\|$ if

the distance between every two trajectory is decreasing exponentially with rate c wrt $\|\cdot\|$



Tool #1: Contraction theory

A framework for stability analysis

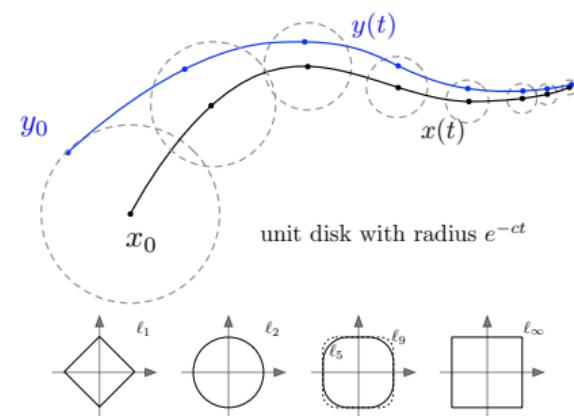
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Transient and asymptotic behavior:

- unique globally exponential stable equilibrium
- efficient equilibrium point computation
- input-output robustness
- modularity and interconnection properties
- ...



Differential and integral characterization of contractivity

Tool #1: Contraction theory

Logarithmic norm and weak pairings

Differential condition

Logarithmic norm

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

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

- Directional derivative of norm $\|\cdot\|$ in direction of A ,

$$\mu_2(A) = \frac{1}{2}\lambda_{\max}(A + A^\top)$$

$$\mu_1(A) = \max_j (a_{jj} + \sum_{i \neq j} |a_{ij}|)$$

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

¹A. Davydov, S. Jafarpour, F. Bullo, TAC 2022

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Integral condition

Weak pairing¹

Given a norm $\|\cdot\|$, the associated weak pairing is $[\cdot, \cdot] : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$:

- Subadditive and weakly homogeneity
- Positive definite
- Cauchy-Schwarz inequality
- $[\cdot, \cdot] = \|\cdot\|^2$

$$[x, y]_2 = y^\top x$$

$$[x, y]_1 = \text{sign}(y)^\top x$$

$$[x, y]_\infty = \max_{i \in I_\infty(x)} x_i y_i$$

$$I_\infty(x) = \{i \mid |x_i| = \|x\|_\infty\}$$

¹A. Davydov, S. Jafarpour, F. Bullo, TAC 2022

Tool #1: Contraction theory

Characterization for non-Euclidean norms

Theorem²

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

Differential: $\mu_{\|\cdot\|}(D_x f(x, u)) \leq -c,$ for all x, u

Integral: $\llbracket f(x, u) - f(y, u), x - y \rrbracket \leq -c \|x - y\|^2,$ for all x, y, u

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- Connection between **contraction theory** and **monotone operator theory**

f is a contracting vector field wrt to $\|\cdot\|_2$
iff

$-f$ is a strongly monotone operator wrt to the inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle.$



Tool #1: Contraction theory

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$-f$ is a strongly monotone operator wrt to the weak pairing $\llbracket \cdot, \cdot \rrbracket.$



Tool #2: Mixed monotonicity

Cooperative and competitive dynamics

Original system

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

Embedding system

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

g is a **decomposition function** s.t.

- ① $f(x, u) = g(x, x, u, u)$ for every x, u
- ② cooperative: $(\underline{x}, \underline{u}) \mapsto g(\underline{x}, \bar{x}, \underline{u}, \bar{u})$
- ③ competitive: $(\bar{x}, \bar{u}) \mapsto g(x, \bar{x}, u, \bar{u})$

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- f locally Lipschitz \implies mixed monotonicity

Tool #2: Mixed monotonicity

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- f locally Lipschitz \implies mixed monotonicity
- g is not unique: structure of the system to construct one.

Tool #2: Mixed monotonicity

Reachability analysis

Theorem³

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

¹S. Coogan, M. Arcak, HSCC 2015

Tool #2: Mixed monotonicity

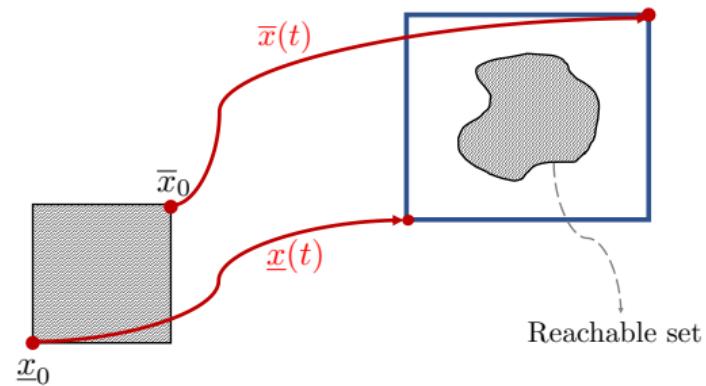
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Embedding system

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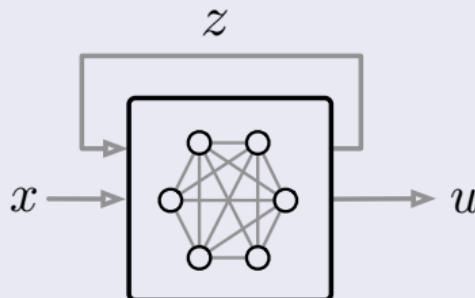


¹S. Coogan, M. Arcak, HSCC 2015

- Contraction theory and mixed monotonicity
- Isolated learning algorithms
- Learning-based feedback loops
- Future research directions

Generalized neural networks

Fixed-point equations



- Generalized neural networks:

$$z = \Phi(Az + Bx + b)$$

$$u = Cz + c$$

- $\Phi(y_1, \dots, y_n) = (\phi_1(y_1), \dots, \phi_n(y_n))^T$ with ϕ_i satisfies $0 \leq \frac{\phi_i(x) - \phi_i(y)}{x - y} \leq 1$.



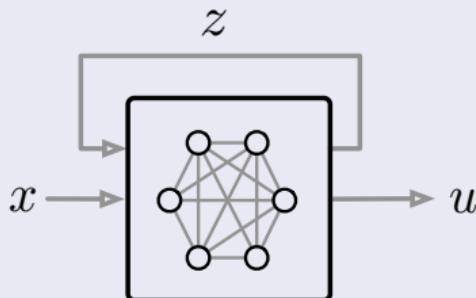
S. Bai, J. Z. Kolter, and V. Koltun. Deep equilibrium models. In *NeurIPS*, 2019



L. El Ghaoui, F. Gu, B. Travacca, A. Askari, and A. Y. Tsai. Implicit deep learning. *SIMODS*, 2019

Generalized neural networks

Fixed-point equations



Notion of layer

Output is an **implicit** function of input
(e.g., fixed-point equation, differential
equations, optimization problem)

Why implicit models?

- Representation
- Performance
- Memory

- Generalized neural networks:

$$z = \Phi(Az + Bx + b)$$

$$u = Cz + c$$

- $\Phi(y_1, \dots, y_n) = (\phi_1(y_1), \dots, \phi_n(y_n))^\top$ with ϕ_i satisfies $0 \leq \frac{\phi_i(x) - \phi_i(y)}{x - y} \leq 1$.



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Main Questions

$$z = \Phi(Az + Bx + b)$$

$$u = Cz + c$$

- ① Existence and computation of solutions?
- ② How to estimate the input-output $x \mapsto u$ robustness?

Neural Networks

A dynamical system perspective

Main Questions

$$z = \Phi(Az + Bx + b)$$

$$u = Cz + c$$

- ① Existence and computation of solutions?
- ② How to estimate the input-output $x \mapsto u$ robustness?

Key insight

Fixed-point equation

$$\iff$$

Dynamical system

$$z = \Phi(Az + Bx + b)$$

$$\dot{z} = -z + \Phi(Az + Bx + b)$$

fixed-points

$$\iff$$

equilibrium points

robustness

$$\iff$$

forward reachability ($t = \infty$)

- We can use tools from dynamical systems to study generalized neural networks

Fixed-points of neural network

A non-Euclidean contracting approach

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Fixed-point of} & \iff & \text{Equilibrium point of} \\ z = \Phi(Az + Bx + b) & & \dot{z} = -z + \Phi(Az + Bx + b) \end{array}$$

- **Contraction theory:** Sufficient condition for existence a globally stable equilibrium point.

Fixed-points of neural network

A non-Euclidean contracting approach

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$$\|\Phi(Az_1 + Bx + b) - \Phi(Az_2 + Bx + b), z_1 - z_2\|_\infty < \|z_1 - z_2\|_\infty^2$$

⁵S. Jafarpour, A. Davydov, A. Proskurnikov, F. Bullo, NeurIPS 2022

Fixed-points of neural network

A non-Euclidean contracting approach

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Fixed-point of} & \iff & \text{Equilibrium point of} \\ z = \Phi(Az + Bx + b) & & \dot{z} = -z + \Phi(Az + Bx + b) \end{array}$$

- **Contraction theory:** Sufficient condition for existence a globally stable equilibrium point.

$$a_{ii} + \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}| < 1 \implies [\Phi(Az_1 + Bx + b) - \Phi(Az_2 + Bx + b), z_1 - z_2]_\infty < \|z_1 - z_2\|_\infty^2$$

⁵S. Jafarpour, A. Davydov, A. Proskurnikov, F. Bullo, NeurIPS 2022

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Theorem⁴

If $a_{ii} + \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}| < 1$ then

- ① $z = \Phi(Az + Bx + b)$ has a unique solution z_x^*
- ② z_x^* can be computed using average iterations for $z = \Phi(Az + Bx + b)$

⁵S. Jafarpour, A. Davydov, A. Proskurnikov, F. Bullo, NeurIPS 2022

Robustness of neural network

A mixed monotone contracting approach

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{robustness of} & \iff & \text{forward reachability of} \\ z = \Phi(Az + Bx + b) & & \dot{z} = -z + \Phi(Az + Bx + b) \end{array}$$

Robustness of neural network

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

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

Robustness of neural network

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Theorem⁵

The neural network is mixed monotone with a decomposition function:

$$G(\underline{z}, \bar{z}, \underline{x}, \bar{x}) = -\underline{z} + \Phi([A]^{\text{Mzl}} \underline{z} + [A]^{\text{Mzr}} \bar{z} + [B]^+ \underline{x} + [B]^- \bar{x} + b)$$

⁶S.Jafarpour, M. Abate, A. Davydov, F. Bullo, S. Coogan, L4DC 2022

Robustness of neural network

A mixed monotone contracting approach

Theorem⁶

If $a_{ii} + \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}| < 1$ and $x \in [\underline{x}, \bar{x}]$

- ① $z = \Phi(Az + Bx + b)$ has a unique solution z_u^*
- ② $\begin{bmatrix} \underline{z} \\ \bar{z} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} G(\underline{z}, \bar{z}, \underline{x}, \bar{x}) \\ G(\bar{z}, z, \bar{x}, x) \end{bmatrix}$ has a unique solution $\begin{bmatrix} \underline{z}^* \\ \bar{z}^* \end{bmatrix}$
- ③ $\underbrace{([C]^+ [C]^-) \begin{bmatrix} \underline{z}^* \\ \bar{z}^* \end{bmatrix} + c}_{\underline{u}} \leq u \leq \underbrace{([C]^- [C]^+) \begin{bmatrix} \underline{z}^* \\ \bar{z}^* \end{bmatrix} + c}_{\bar{u}}$

⁷S.Jafarpour, M. Abate, A. Davydov, F. Bullo, S. Coogan, L4DC 2022

Robustness of neural network

A mixed monotone contracting approach

Theorem⁶

If $a_{ii} + \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}| < 1$ and $x \in [\underline{x}, \bar{x}]$

① $z = \Phi(Az + Bx + b)$ has a unique solution \underline{z}_u^*

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③ $\underbrace{([C]^+ [C]^-) \begin{bmatrix} \underline{z}^* \\ \bar{z}^* \end{bmatrix} + c}_{\underline{u}} \leq u \leq \underbrace{([C]^- [C]^+) \begin{bmatrix} \underline{z}^* \\ \bar{z}^* \end{bmatrix} + c}_{\bar{u}}$

- **Verification:** find robustness margin of generalized neural networks
- **Training:** design robust generalized neural networks

- $a_{ii} + \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}| < 1$ as a constraint to the training problem
- a regularization term $\mathcal{R}(\underline{u}, \bar{u})$ to the training cost

⁷S.Jafarpour, M. Abate, A. Davydov, F. Bullo, S. Coogan, L4DC 2022

Numerical experiments

MNIST dataset classification

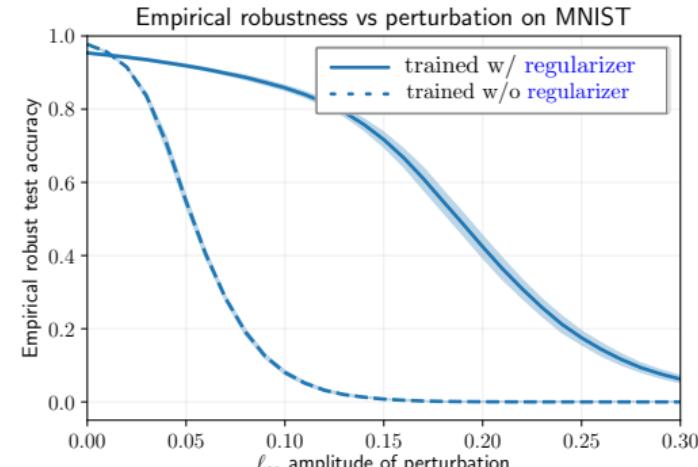
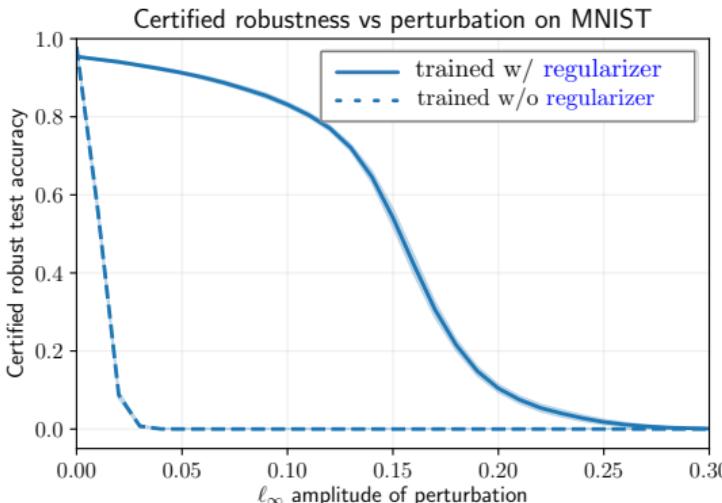
- MNIST dataset: 28×28 pixel handwritten digits between 0 – 9.
- hidden layer of neural network $n = 100$
- ϵ = size of perturbation, $\mathcal{X} = [x - \epsilon \mathbf{1}_{784}, x + \epsilon \mathbf{1}_{784}]$.



Numerical experiments

MNIST dataset classification

- MNIST dataset: 28×28 pixel handwritten digits between 0 – 9.
- hidden layer of neural network $n = 100$
- ϵ = size of perturbation, $\mathcal{X} = [x - \epsilon \mathbf{1}_{784}, x + \epsilon \mathbf{1}_{784}]$.



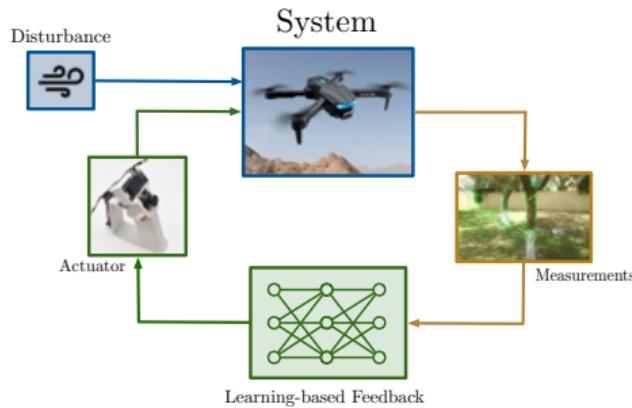
- Certified robustness = all the elements of $[\underline{u}(\epsilon), \bar{u}(\epsilon)]$ classify as the correct digit
- Empirical robustness = Projected Gradient Descent (PGD) attack

- Contraction theory and mixed monotonicity
- Isolated learning algorithms
- Learning-based feedback loops
- Future research directions

Learning-based feedback

Safety guarantees for the neural feedback loops

Run-Time Assurance mechanism (RTA): monitor + predict



Closed-loop safety
for $t \mapsto t + T$

$$x \leq \underline{x}_b$$

or

$$x \geq \overline{x}_b$$



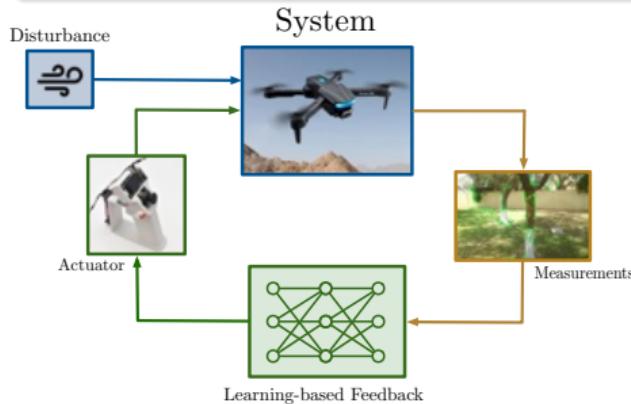
RTA Mechanism

Learning-based feedback

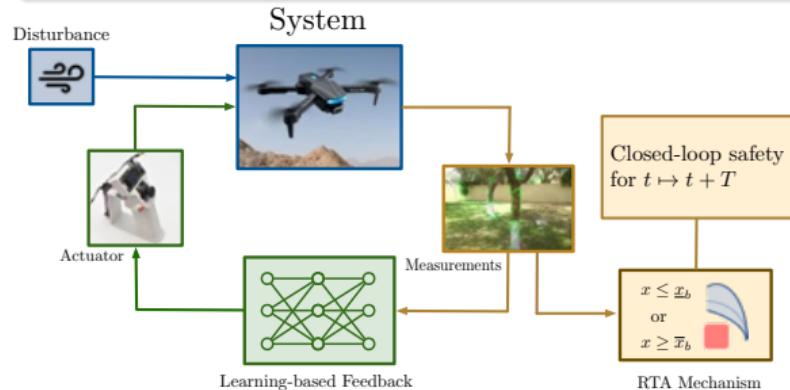
Safety guarantees for the neural feedback loops

Run-Time Assurance mechanism (RTA): monitor + predict

Closed-loop system without RTA



Closed-loop system with RTA

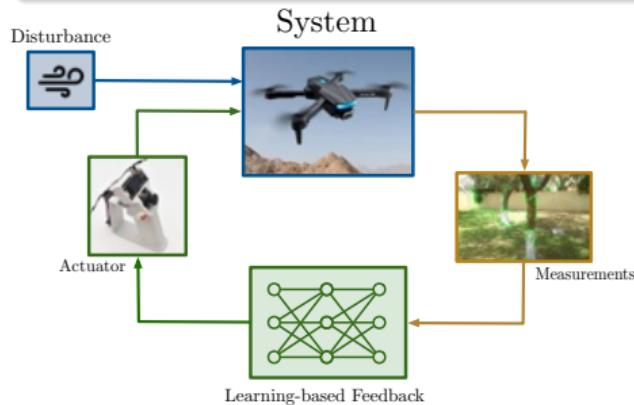


Learning-based feedback

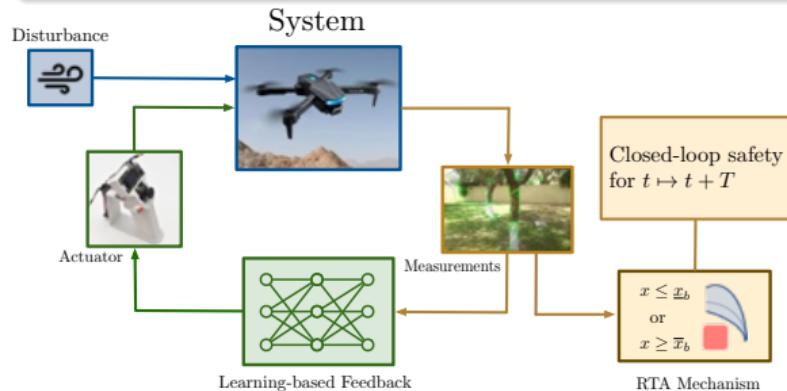
Safety guarantees for the neural feedback loops

Run-Time Assurance mechanism (RTA): monitor + predict

Closed-loop system without RTA



Closed-loop system with RTA



Mixed monotonicity offers a computationally efficient framework

Design of RTA mechanism

Compositional approach

System dynamics is mixed monotone with a decomposition function g

Design of RTA mechanism

Compositional approach

System dynamics is mixed monotone with a decomposition function g

A neural network verification algorithm, for all
 $x \in [\underline{x}, \bar{x}]$,

$$\underline{L}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}) \leq \mathsf{N}(x) \leq \bar{L}(\underline{x}, \bar{x})$$

Design of RTA mechanism

Compositional approach

System dynamics is mixed monotone with a decomposition function g

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

Embedding system

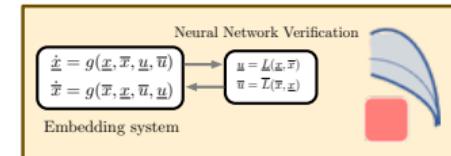
A neural network verification algorithm, for all $x \in [\underline{x}, \bar{x}]$,

$$\underline{L}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}) \leq N(x) \leq \bar{L}(\underline{x}, \bar{x})$$

$$\begin{aligned}\underline{u} &= \underline{L}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}) \\ \bar{u} &= \bar{L}(\bar{x}, \underline{x})\end{aligned}$$

Neural Network Verification

RTA mechanism = Embedding system + Neural network verification

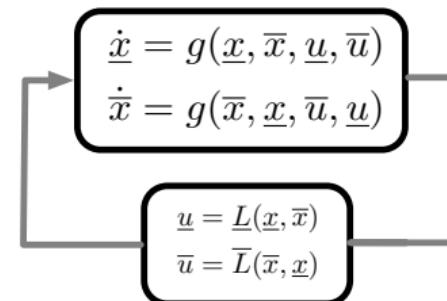


Design of RTA mechanism

Compositional approach

Naive compositional approach:

For $x \in [\underline{x}, \bar{x}]$ feed the output of neural network verification algorithm into the embedding system



In practice this approach is overly-conservative

New approach: closed-loop perspective toward learning-based system

Idea: find a decomposition function for closed-loop system

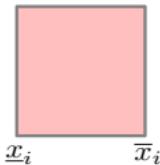
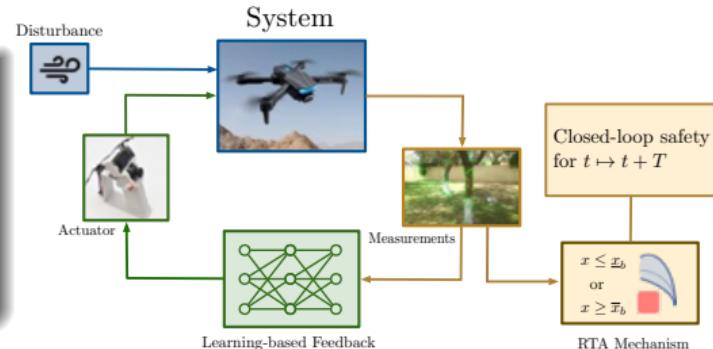
Design of RTA mechanism

A mixed monotone approach

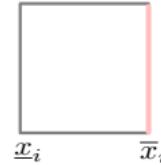
Theorem⁷

The closed-loop system is mixed-monotone with a decomposition function

$$h_i(\bar{x}, \underline{x}) = g_i(\bar{x}, \underline{x} \quad \overline{L}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}), \quad \underline{L}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}))$$



$$\begin{aligned} \underline{u} &= \underline{L}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}) \leq N(x), & \text{for all } x \in [\underline{x}, \bar{x}] \\ N(x) &\leq \bar{L}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}) = \bar{u} & \text{for all } x \in [\underline{x}, \bar{x}] \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \underline{u} &= \underline{L}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}) \xrightarrow{\underline{x}_i \mapsto \bar{x}_i} \leq N(x) & \text{for all } x \in \left[\begin{pmatrix} \bar{x}_i \\ \underline{x}_{-i} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \bar{x}_i \\ \bar{x}_{-i} \end{pmatrix} \right] \\ N(x) &\leq \bar{L}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}) \xrightarrow{\underline{x}_i \mapsto \bar{x}_i} = \bar{u} & \text{for all } x \in \left[\begin{pmatrix} \bar{x}_i \\ \underline{x}_{-i} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \bar{x}_i \\ \bar{x}_{-i} \end{pmatrix} \right] \end{aligned}$$

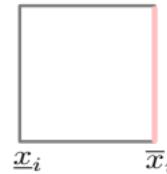
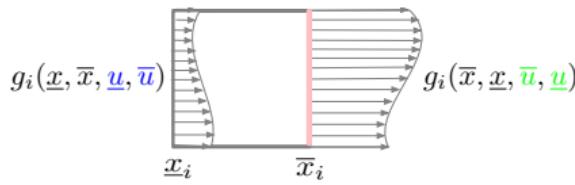
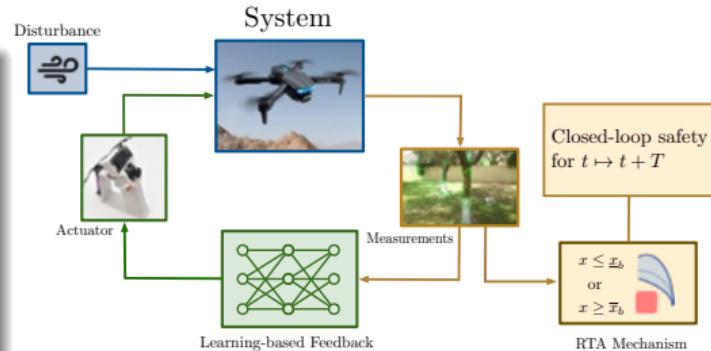
Design of RTA mechanism

A mixed monotone approach

For the dynamical system

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\underline{x}}_i &= g_i(\underline{x}, \bar{x}), \quad \underline{L}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}), \quad \bar{L}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}) \quad \underline{x}_i(0) = (\underline{x}_0)_i \\ \dot{\bar{x}}_i &= g_i(\bar{x}, \underline{x}), \quad \bar{L}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}), \quad \underline{L}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}) \quad \bar{x}_i(0) = (\bar{x}_0)_i \end{aligned}$$

we have $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{X}_0, t) \subseteq [\underline{x}(t), \bar{x}(t)]$ for all $t \geq 0$.



$$\textcolor{red}{\underline{u}} = \underline{L}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}) \overset{\underline{x}_i \mapsto \bar{x}_i}{\leq} N(x) \quad \text{for all } x \in \left[\begin{pmatrix} \bar{x}_i \\ \underline{x}_{-i} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \bar{x}_i \\ \bar{x}_{-i} \end{pmatrix} \right]$$

$$N(x) \leq \bar{L}(\underline{x}, \bar{x}) \overset{\underline{x}_i \mapsto \bar{x}_i}{=} \textcolor{red}{\bar{u}} \quad \text{for all } x \in \left[\begin{pmatrix} \bar{x}_i \\ \underline{x}_{-i} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \bar{x}_i \\ \bar{x}_{-i} \end{pmatrix} \right]$$

Vehicle with neural network controller

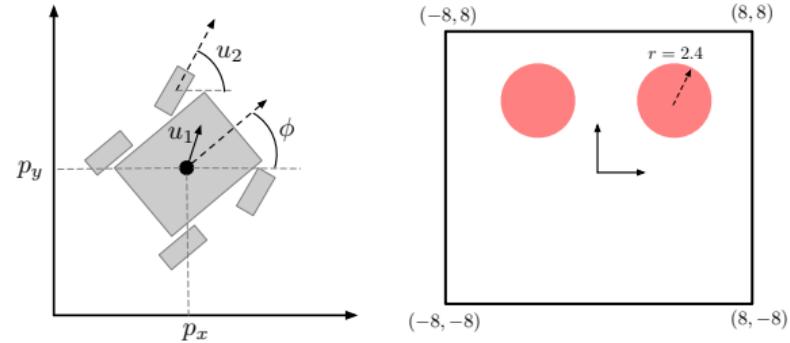
Design of the neural network

Dynamics of vehicle

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

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

$$\beta(u_2) = \arctan \left(\frac{\ell_r}{\ell_f + \ell_r} \tan(u_2) \right)$$



Goal: steer the vehicle to the origin avoiding the obstacles

Vehicle with neural network controller

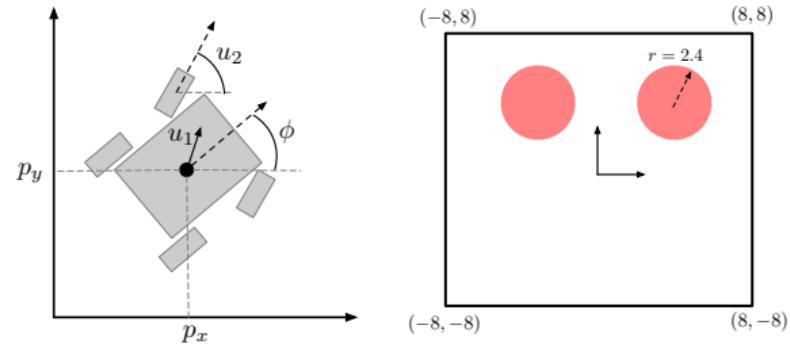
Design of the neural network

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Goal: steer the vehicle to the origin avoiding the obstacles

- **offline controller:** MPC with hard constraint to avoid the obstacles
- run MPC for 65000 randomly chosen initial condition (20 sample per trajectory)
- train a feedforward neural network $4 \mapsto 100 \mapsto 100 \mapsto 2$ with this data

Vehicle with neural network controller

Design of RTA mechanism

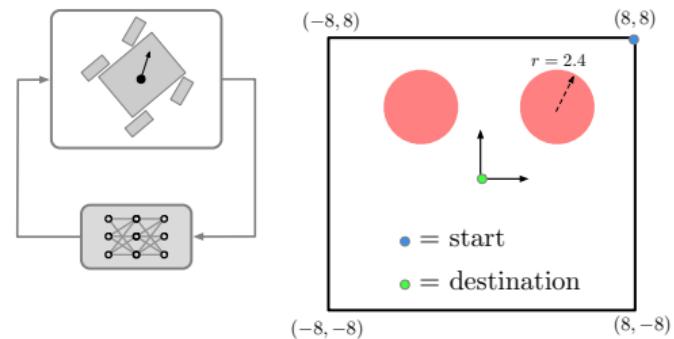
- start from $(8, 8)$ toward $(0, 0)$

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

$$\underline{x}_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 7.9 & 7.9 & -\frac{2\pi}{3} - 0.01 & 1.99 \end{pmatrix}^\top$$

$$\bar{x}_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 8.1 & 8.1 & -\frac{2\pi}{3} + 0.01 & 2.01 \end{pmatrix}^\top$$

- CROWN for verification of neural network



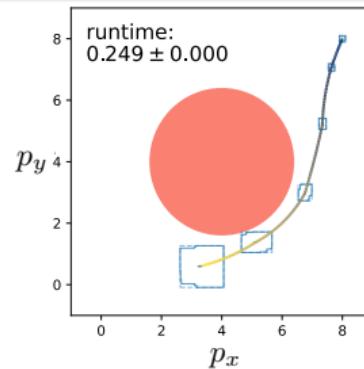
Vehicle with neural network controller

Design of RTA mechanism

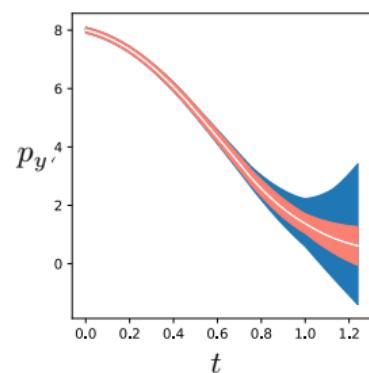
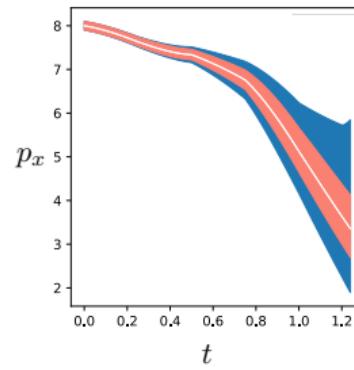
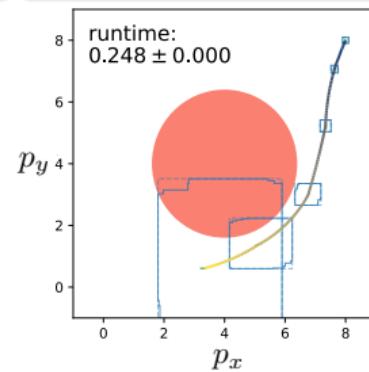
- partition the states to improve accuracy
- very small increase in computational time
- significant improvement in accuracy
- mixed monotone approach **certify** that closed-loop system is avoiding the obstacle

blue = reachable set of **naive compositional**
red= reachable set of **mixed monotone**

mixed monotone approach



naive compositional approach

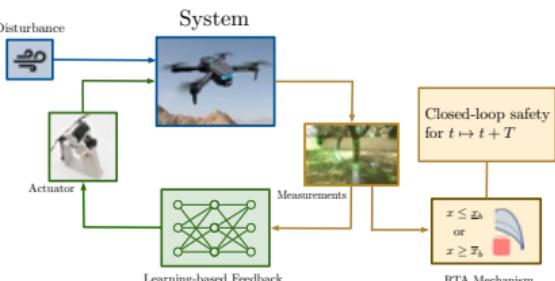


Conclusions

- A computationally efficient framework for reachability of dynamical systems
- Exploit the structure in **isolated neural networks** and **neural network feedback loops**



- This framework naturally leads to tractable analysis of generalized neural networks
 - ▶ Sufficient conditions for their well-posedness
 - ▶ Hyper-rectangular over-approximation of reachable sets
- Mixed monotone approach to design run-time assurance algorithm for closed-loop systems with neural network controllers



- Contraction theory and mixed monotonicity
- Isolated learning algorithms
- Learning-based feedback loop
- Future research directions

Scalable analysis and control of large-scale Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS)

contraction theory as a unifying framework

Verification and design of closed-loop learning-based systems

closed-loop dynamical system perspective

Security and fault protection in large-scale modern power grids

a network perspective to penetration of renewable generators to the grid

Acknowledgment

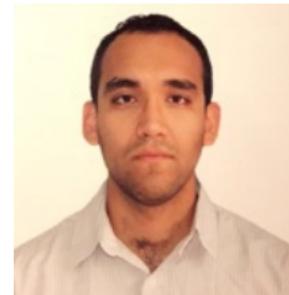
Collaborators



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Politecnico di Torino



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Samuel Coogan
Georgia Tech

Thank you for your attention!

Generalized neural networks

Origin and motivations

- Origins:

-  S. Bai, J. Z. Kolter, and V. Koltun. Deep equilibrium models. In *NeurIPS*, 2019
 -  L. El Ghaoui, F. Gu, B. Travacca, A. Askari, and A. Y. Tsai. Implicit deep learning. *SIMODS*, 2019
 -  A. Kag, Z. Zhang, and V. Saligrama. RNNs incrementally evolving on an equilibrium manifold: A panacea for vanishing and exploding gradients? In *ICLR*, 2020

- Generalizing feedforward neural networks to fully-connected synaptic matrices

Intuition: $z^{i+1} = \phi_i(A_i z^i + b_i) \iff z = \Phi(Ax + Bu + b)$, where A has upper diagonal structure.

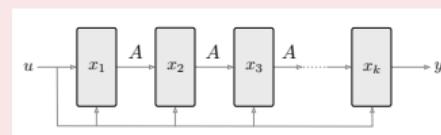
Generalized neural networks

Origin and motivations

- comparable accuracy to traditional neural networks with significant memory reduction

 S. Bai, J. Z. Kolter, and V. Koltun. Deep equilibrium models. In *NeurIPS*, 2019

Intuition: generalized neural network = weight-tied infinite-layer network



$$z^{i+1} = \phi_i(Az^i + B_i x + b_i) \implies \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} z^i = x^* \text{ solution to the generalized neural network}$$

- suitable for learning constrained optimization problems

 A. Agrawal, B. Amos, S. Barratt, S. Boyd, S. Diamond, and J. Z. Kolter. Differentiable convex optimization layers. In *NeurIPS*, 2019

Intuition: casting KKT condition as an implicit layer

Generalized neural networks

Origin and Motivations

- vanishing and exploding gradient

 A. Kag, Z. Zhang, and V. Saligrama. RNNs incrementally evolving on an equilibrium manifold: A panacea for vanishing and exploding gradients? In *ICLR*, 2020

Intuition: the notion of “autapse” (time-delayed self-feedback) from neuroscience

$$A_{\text{upper-diagonal}} = \begin{matrix} & \text{---} \\ & | \\ \text{---} & \text{---} \\ & | \\ & \text{---} \end{matrix} \quad \rightarrow \quad A_{\text{Autapse}} = \begin{matrix} & \text{---} \\ & | \\ \text{---} & \text{---} \\ & | \\ & \text{---} \end{matrix}$$

- suitable for learning stiff problems or problems with discontinuity

 S. Pfrommer, M. Halm, and M. Posa. ContactNets: Learning discontinuous contact dynamics with smooth, implicit representations. *arXiv preprint*, 2020

Generalized Structure

Comparison with feedforward neural networks

- Feedforward neural networks:

$$z^{(\ell+1)} = \Phi(A_\ell z^{(\ell)} + b_\ell), \quad z^{(0)} = x$$

$$u = A_k z^{(k)} + b_k$$

- Generalized neural networks:

$$z = \Phi(Az + Bx + b)$$

$$u = Cz + c$$

$$z = \Phi \left(\begin{array}{c|c} \text{Diagram of a sparse matrix with non-zero elements in a diagonal band} & z \\ \hline & + \end{array} \right) x + b$$

$$u = \begin{array}{c|c} \text{Diagram of a vector with one element highlighted} & z \end{array} + b_k$$

$$z = \Phi \left(\begin{array}{c|c} \text{Diagram of a full matrix} & z \\ \hline & + \end{array} \right) x + b$$

$$u = \begin{array}{c|c} \text{Diagram of a vector with all elements highlighted} & z \end{array} + c$$

Training generalized neural networks

Promoting robustness via regularization

- ① loss function \mathcal{L} and training data $(\hat{x}_i, \hat{u}_i)_{i=1}^N$
- ② $\epsilon = \text{size of } \ell_\infty\text{-perturbation in input: } \mathcal{X} = [\underbrace{\underline{x}}_{x} - \epsilon \mathbb{1}_r, \underbrace{\bar{x}}_{x} + \epsilon \mathbb{1}_r]$

Training generalized neural networks

$$\min_{A, B, b, c} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathcal{L}(\hat{u}_i, Cz_i + c)$$
$$z_i = \Phi(Az_i + B\hat{u}_i + b),$$
$$a_{ii} + \sum_{j=1} |a_{ij}| \leq \gamma \quad \text{well-posedness}$$

Training FFNNs

$$\min_{A, B, b, c} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathcal{L}(\hat{u}_i, Cz_i^{(k)} + c)$$
$$z_i^{(\ell+1)} = \Phi(A_\ell z_i^{(\ell)} + b_\ell), \quad \ell \in \{1, \dots, k-1\}$$

Training generalized neural networks

Promoting robustness via regularization

- ① loss function \mathcal{L} and training data $(\hat{x}_i, \hat{u}_i)_{i=1}^N$
- ② ϵ = size of ℓ_∞ -perturbation in input: $\mathcal{X} = [\underbrace{\underline{x}}_{x} - \epsilon \mathbb{1}_r, \underbrace{\bar{x}}_{x} + \epsilon \mathbb{1}_r]$

$$\text{output } u \in [\underline{u}(\epsilon), \bar{u}(\epsilon)]$$

Training generalized neural networks

$$\min_{A, B, b, c} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathcal{L}(\hat{u}_i, Cz_i + c) + \kappa \underbrace{\mathcal{R}(\underline{u}_i(\epsilon), \bar{u}_i(\epsilon))}_{\text{robustness}}$$

$$z_i = \Phi(Az_i + B\hat{u}_i + b),$$

$$a_{ii} + \sum_{j=1} |a_{ij}| \leq \gamma < 1 \quad \text{well-posedness}$$

Training FFNNs (S. Gowal, et. al., 2018)

$$\min_{A, B, b, c} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathcal{L}(\hat{u}_i, Cz_i^{(k)} + c) + \kappa \underbrace{\mathcal{R}(\underline{u}_i(\epsilon), \bar{u}_i(\epsilon))}_{\text{robustness}}$$

$$z_i^{(\ell+1)} = \Phi(A_\ell z_i^{(\ell)} + b_\ell), \quad \ell \in \{1, \dots, k-1\}$$

- $\mathcal{R}(\underline{u}(\epsilon), \bar{u}(\epsilon))$ uses $\underline{u}(\epsilon)$ and $\bar{u}(\epsilon)$ to estimate robustness margin
- κ, ϵ, γ are hyperparameters