

REQUIREMENTS AND RISKS

II: PLANNING FOR MISTAKES

Eunsuk Kang

LEARNING GOALS:

- Evaluate the risks of mistakes from ML components using the fault tree analysis (FTA)
- Design strategies for mitigating the risks of failures due to AI mistakes

RISK ANALYSIS

WHAT IS RISK ANALYSIS?

WHAT IS RISK ANALYSIS?

- What can possibly go wrong in my system, and what are potential impacts on system requirements?

WHAT IS RISK ANALYSIS?

- What can possibly go wrong in my system, and what are potential impacts on system requirements?
- Risk = Likelihood * Impact

WHAT IS RISK ANALYSIS?

- What can possibly go wrong in my system, and what are potential impacts on system requirements?
- Risk = Likelihood * Impact
- A number of methods:
 - Failure mode & effects analysis (FMEA)
 - Hazard analysis
 - Why-because analysis
 - Fault tree analysis (FTA) <= Today's focus!
 - ...

FAULT TREE ANALYSIS (FTA)



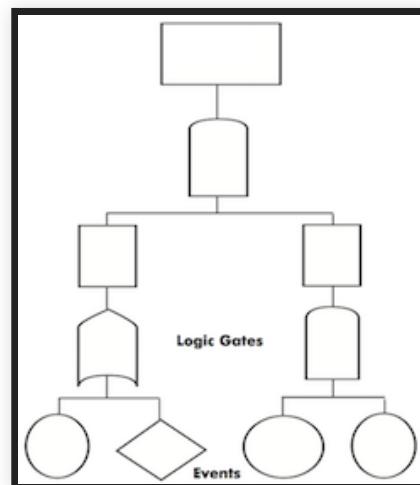
FAULT TREE ANALYSIS (FTA)

- Fault tree: A top-down diagram that displays the relationships between a system failure (i.e., requirement violation) and its potential causes.
 - Identify sequences of events that result in a failure
 - Prioritize the contributors leading to the failure
 - Inform decisions about how to (re-)design the system
 - Investigate an accident & identify the root cause



FAULT TREE ANALYSIS (FTA)

- Fault tree: A top-down diagram that displays the relationships between a system failure (i.e., requirement violation) and its potential causes.
 - Identify sequences of events that result in a failure
 - Prioritize the contributors leading to the failure
 - Inform decisions about how to (re-)design the system
 - Investigate an accident & identify the root cause
- Often used for safety & reliability, but can also be used for other types of requirements (e.g., poor performance, security attacks...)



FAULT TREE ANALYSIS & ML

- ML is increasingly used in safety-critical domains such as automotive, aeronautics, industrial control systems, etc.,

FAULT TREE ANALYSIS & ML

- ML is increasingly used in safety-critical domains such as automotive, aeronautics, industrial control systems, etc.,
- ML models are just one part of the system

FAULT TREE ANALYSIS & ML

- ML is increasingly used in safety-critical domains such as automotive, aeronautics, industrial control systems, etc.,
- ML models are just one part of the system
- ML models will EVENTUALLY make mistakes
 - Output wrong predictions/values
 - Fail to adapt to the changing environment
 - Confuse users, etc.,

FAULT TREE ANALYSIS & ML

- ML is increasingly used in safety-critical domains such as automotive, aeronautics, industrial control systems, etc.,
- ML models are just one part of the system
- ML models will EVENTUALLY make mistakes
 - Output wrong predictions/values
 - Fail to adapt to the changing environment
 - Confuse users, etc.,
- How do mistakes made by ML contribute to system failures? How do we ensure their mistakes do not result in a catastrophic outcome?

FAULT TREES: BASIC BUILDING BLOCKS



Figure from *Fault Tree Analysis and Reliability Block Diagram* (2016), Jaroslav Menčík.

FAULT TREES: BASIC BUILDING BLOCKS



- Event: An occurrence of a fault or an undesirable action
 - (Intermediate) Event: Explained in terms of other events
 - Basic Event: No further development or breakdown; leafs of the tree

Figure from *Fault Tree Analysis and Reliability Block Diagram* (2016), Jaroslav Menčík.

FAULT TREES: BASIC BUILDING BLOCKS



- Event: An occurrence of a fault or an undesirable action
 - (Intermediate) Event: Explained in terms of other events
 - Basic Event: No further development or breakdown; leafs of the tree
- Gate: Logical relationship between an event & its immediate subevents
 - AND: All of the sub-events must take place
 - OR: Any one of the sub-events may result in the parent event

Figure from *Fault Tree Analysis and Reliability Block Diagram* (2016), Jaroslav Menčík.

FAULT TREE EXAMPLE

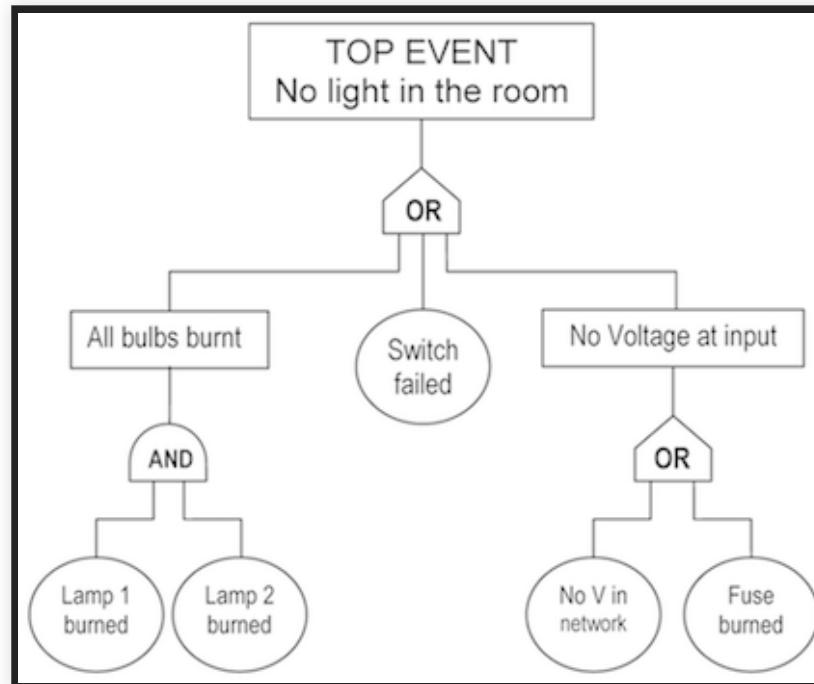


Figure from *Fault Tree Analysis and Reliability Block Diagram* (2016), Jaroslav Menčík.

FAULT TREE EXAMPLE



- Every tree begins with a TOP event (typically a violation of a requirement)

Figure from *Fault Tree Analysis and Reliability Block Diagram* (2016), Jaroslav Menčík.

FAULT TREE EXAMPLE



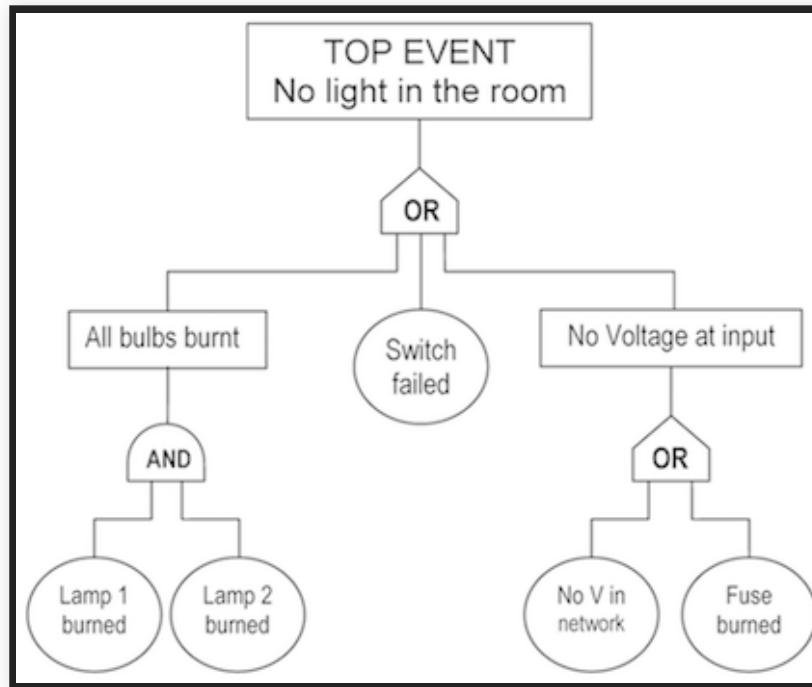
- Every tree begins with a TOP event (typically a violation of a requirement)
- Every branch of the tree must terminate with a basic event

Figure from *Fault Tree Analysis and Reliability Block Diagram* (2016), Jaroslav Menčík.

ANALYSIS

- What can we do with fault trees?
 - Qualitative analysis: Determine potential root causes of a failure through *minimal cut set analysis*
 - Quantitative analysis: Compute the probability of a failure

MINIMAL CUT SET ANALYSIS



- Cut set: A set of basic events whose simultaneous occurrence is sufficient to guarantee that the TOP event occurs.
- *Minimal* cut set: A cut set from which a smaller cut set can be obtained by removing a basic event.
- Q. What are minimal cut sets in the above tree?

FAILURE PROBABILITY ANALYSIS

FAILURE PROBABILITY ANALYSIS

- To compute the probability of the top event:
 - Assign probabilities to basic events (based on domain knowledge)
 - Apply probability theory to compute probabilities of intermediate events through AND & OR gates
 - (Alternatively, as sum of prob. of minimal cut sets)

FAILURE PROBABILITY ANALYSIS

- To compute the probability of the top event:
 - Assign probabilities to basic events (based on domain knowledge)
 - Apply probability theory to compute probabilities of intermediate events through AND & OR gates
 - (Alternatively, as sum of prob. of minimal cut sets)
- In this class, we won't ask you to do this.
 - Why is this especially challenging for software?

FTA PROCESS

FTA PROCESS

1. Specify the system structure

- Environment entities & machine components
- Assumptions (ENV) & specifications (SPEC)

FTA PROCESS

1. Specify the system structure
 - Environment entities & machine components
 - Assumptions (ENV) & specifications (SPEC)
2. Identify the top event as a requirement violation (REQ)

FTA PROCESS

1. Specify the system structure
 - Environment entities & machine components
 - Assumptions (ENV) & specifications (SPEC)
2. Identify the top event as a requirement violation (REQ)
3. Construct the fault tree
 - Derive intermediate events from a violation of ENV or SPEC
 - Decompose the intermediate events further down based on the knowledge of the domain or components

FTA PROCESS

1. Specify the system structure
 - Environment entities & machine components
 - Assumptions (ENV) & specifications (SPEC)
2. Identify the top event as a requirement violation (REQ)
3. Construct the fault tree
 - Derive intermediate events from a violation of ENV or SPEC
 - Decompose the intermediate events further down based on the knowledge of the domain or components
4. Analyze the tree
 - Identify all possible minimal cut sets

FTA PROCESS

1. Specify the system structure
 - Environment entities & machine components
 - Assumptions (ENV) & specifications (SPEC)
2. Identify the top event as a requirement violation (REQ)
3. Construct the fault tree
 - Derive intermediate events from a violation of ENV or SPEC
 - Decompose the intermediate events further down based on the knowledge of the domain or components
4. Analyze the tree
 - Identify all possible minimal cut sets
5. Consider design modifications
 - Eliminate certain cutsets, or
 - Increase the size of min cutsets

FTA PROCESS

1. Specify the system structure

- Environment entities & machine components
- Assumptions (ENV) & specifications (SPEC)

2. Identify the top event as a requirement violation (REQ)

3. Construct the fault tree

- Derive intermediate events from a violation of ENV or SPEC
- Decompose the intermediate events further down based on the knowledge of the domain or components

4. Analyze the tree

- Identify all possible minimal cut sets

5. Consider design modifications

- Eliminate certain cutsets, or
- Increase the size of min cutsets

6. Repeat

EXAMPLE: BACK TO LANE ASSIST



- REQ: The vehicle must be prevented from veering off the lane.
- SPEC: Lane detector accurately identifies lane markings in the input image; the controller generates correct steering commands
- ENV: Sensors are providing accurate information about the lane; driver responses when given warning; steering wheel is functional

BREAKOUT: FTA FOR LANE ASSIST



- Draw a fault tree for the lane assist system with the top event as “Vehicle fails to stay within the lane”
- Draw on paper, scan & upload into Slack #lecture
- Or use the Google Slide template provided; make your own copy and paste the link into Slack

EXAMPLE: FTA FOR LANE ASSIST

FTA: CAVEATS

- In general, building a **complete** tree is impossible
 - There are probably some faulty events that you missed
 - "Unknown unknowns"
- Domain knowledge is crucial for improving coverage
 - Talk to domain experts; augment your tree as you learn more
- FTA is still very valuable for risk reduction!
 - Forces you to think about & explicitly document possible failures
 - A good starting basis for designing mitigations

STRATEGIES FOR HANDLING FAULTS IN ML- BASED SYSTEMS

ELEMENTS OF FAULT-TOLERANT DESIGN

ELEMENTS OF FAULT-TOLERANT DESIGN

- Assume that:
 - Software/ML components will make mistakes at some point
 - Environment evolves, violating some of its assumptions

ELEMENTS OF FAULT-TOLERANT DESIGN

- Assume that:
 - Software/ML components will make mistakes at some point
 - Environment evolves, violating some of its assumptions
- Goal: Minimize the impact of mistakes/violations on the overall system

ELEMENTS OF FAULT-TOLERANT DESIGN

- Assume that:
 - Software/ML components will make mistakes at some point
 - Environment evolves, violating some of its assumptions
- Goal: Minimize the impact of mistakes/violations on the overall system
- Detection
 - Monitoring
 - Redundancy

ELEMENTS OF FAULT-TOLERANT DESIGN

- Assume that:
 - Software/ML components will make mistakes at some point
 - Environment evolves, violating some of its assumptions
- Goal: Minimize the impact of mistakes/violations on the overall system
- Detection
 - Monitoring
 - Redundancy
- Response
 - Graceful degradation (fail-safe)
 - Redundancy (fail over)
 - Human in the loop
 - Undoable actions

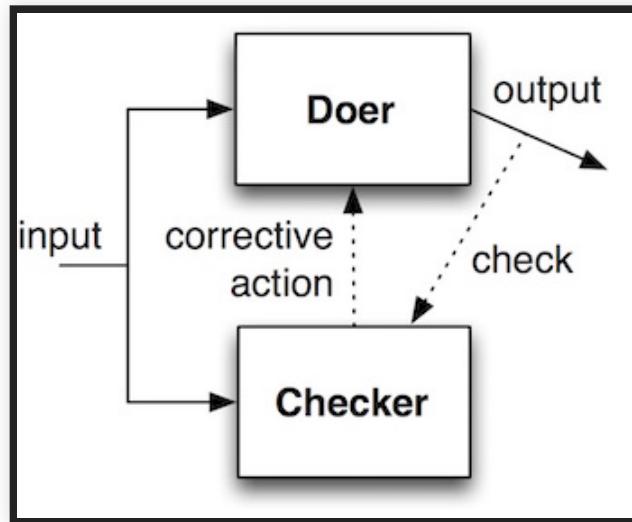
ELEMENTS OF FAULT-TOLERANT DESIGN

- Assume that:
 - Software/ML components will make mistakes at some point
 - Environment evolves, violating some of its assumptions
- Goal: Minimize the impact of mistakes/violations on the overall system
- Detection
 - Monitoring
 - Redundancy
- Response
 - Graceful degradation (fail-safe)
 - Redundancy (fail over)
 - Human in the loop
 - Undoable actions
- Containment
 - Decoupling & isolation

DETECTION: MONITORING

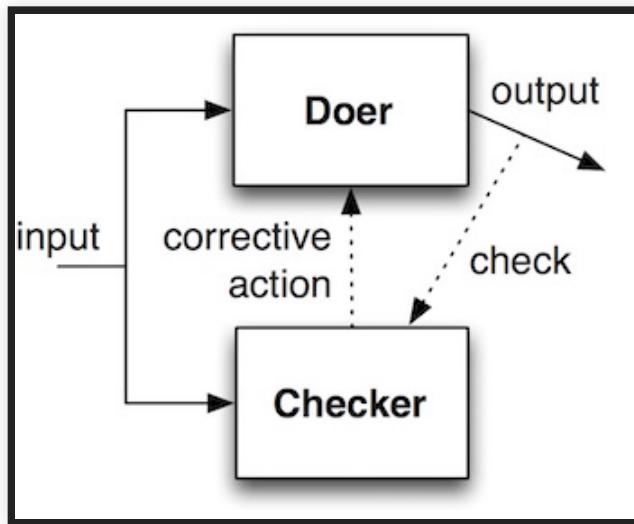


DETECTION: MONITORING



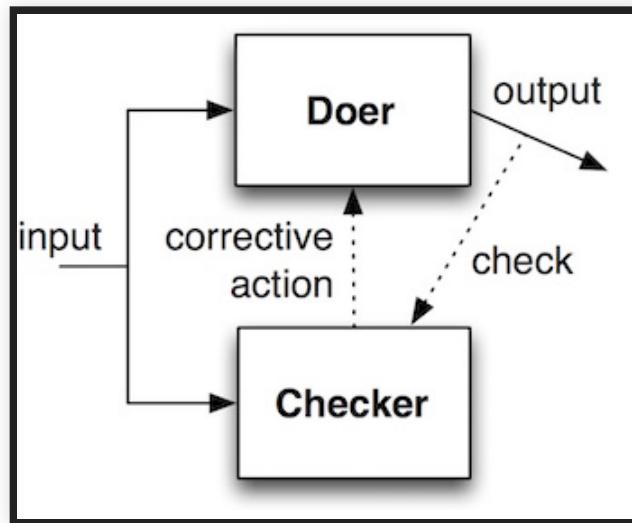
- Goal: Detect when a component failure occurs

DETECTION: MONITORING



- Goal: Detect when a component failure occurs
- Monitor: Periodically checks the output of a component for errors
 - Challenge: Need a way to recognize errors
 - e.g., corrupt sensor data, slow or missing response

DETECTION: MONITORING



- Goal: Detect when a component failure occurs
- Monitor: Periodically checks the output of a component for errors
 - Challenge: Need a way to recognize errors
 - e.g., corrupt sensor data, slow or missing response
- Doer-Checker pattern
 - Doer: Perform primary function; untrusted and potentially faulty
 - Checker: If doer output is faulty, perform a corrective action (e.g., default safe output, shutdown); should be trustworthy

DOER-CHECKER EXAMPLE: AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE

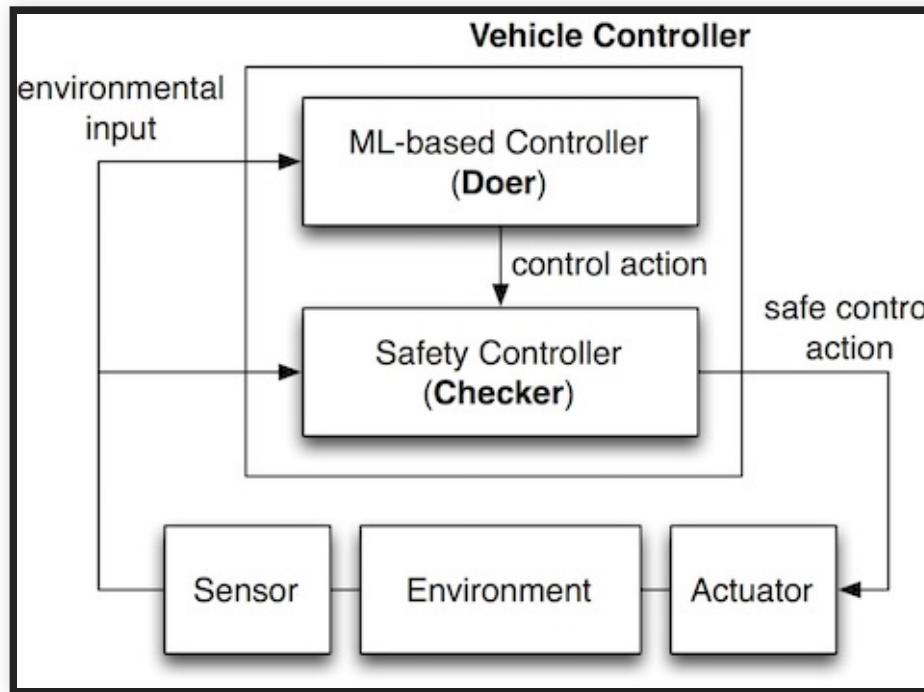


DOER-CHECKER EXAMPLE: AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE



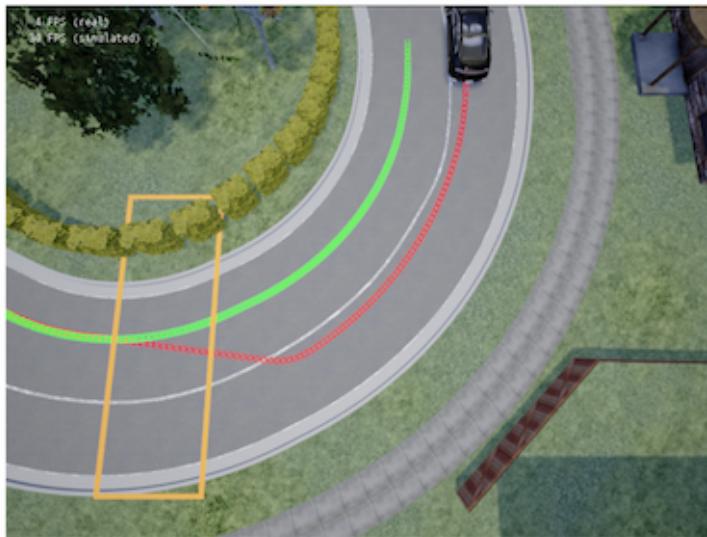
- ML-based controller (doer): Generate commands to steer the vehicle
 - Complex DNN; makes performance-optimal control decisions

DOER-CHECKER EXAMPLE: AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE

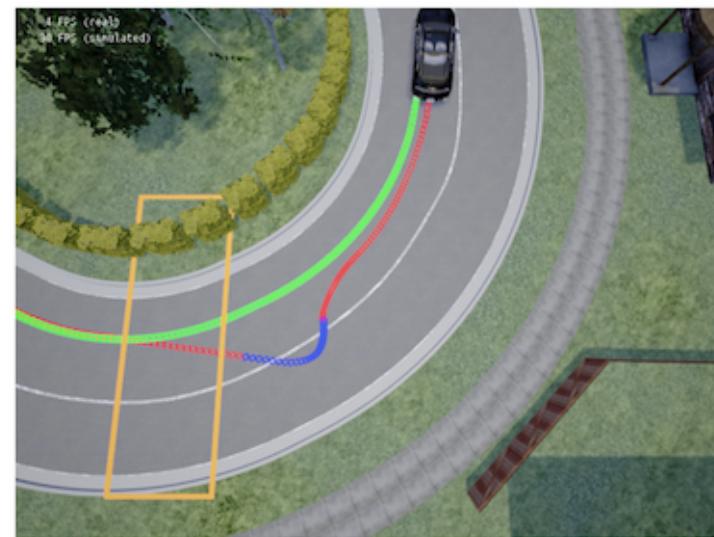


- ML-based controller (doer): Generate commands to steer the vehicle
 - Complex DNN; makes performance-optimal control decisions
- Safe controller (checker): Checks commands from ML controller; overrides it with a safe default command if the ML action is risky
 - Simpler, based on verifiable, transparent logic; conservative control

DOER-CHECKER EXAMPLE: AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE

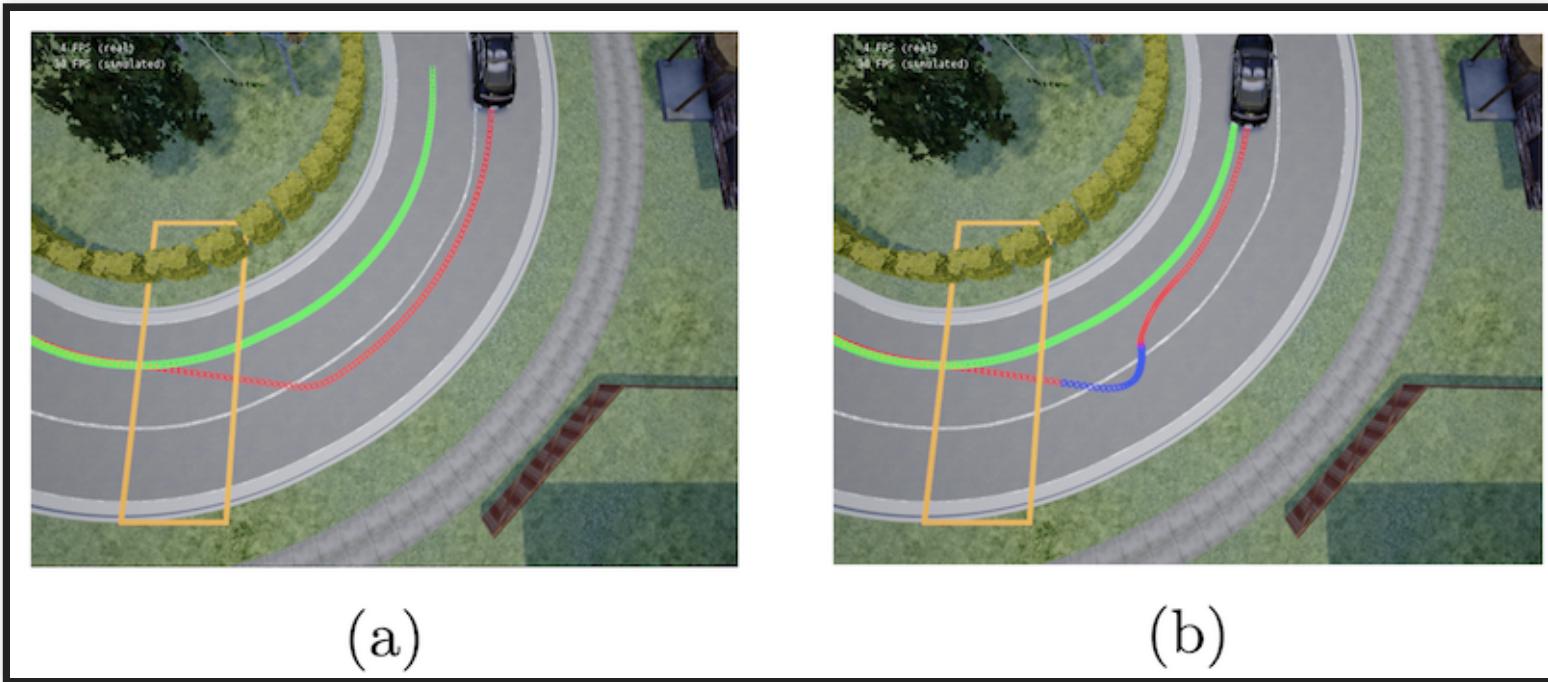


(a)



(b)

DOER-CHECKER EXAMPLE: AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE



- Yellow region: Slippery road, causes loss of traction; unexpected by ML

DOER-CHECKER EXAMPLE: AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE



- Yellow region: Slippery road, causes loss of traction; unexpected by ML
- ML-based controller (doer): Model ignores traction loss; generates unsafe maneuvering commands (a)

DOER-CHECKER EXAMPLE: AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE

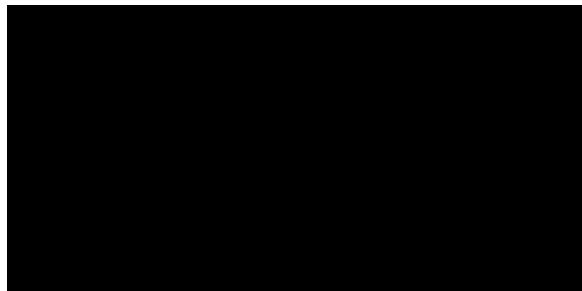


- Yellow region: Slippery road, causes loss of traction; unexpected by ML
- ML-based controller (doer): Model ignores traction loss; generates unsafe maneuvering commands (a)
- Safe controller (checker): Overrides with safe steering commands (b)

RESPONSE: GRACEFUL DEGRADATION (FAIL-SAFE)

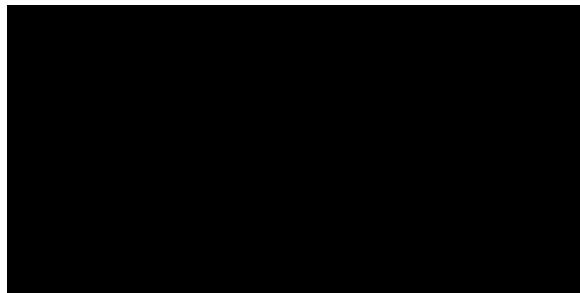


RESPONSE: GRACEFUL DEGRADATION (FAIL-SAFE)



- Goal: When a component failure occurs, continue to provide safety (possibly at reduced functionality and performance)

RESPONSE: GRACEFUL DEGRADATION (FAIL-SAFE)



- Goal: When a component failure occurs, continue to provide safety (possibly at reduced functionality and performance)
- Relies on a monitor to detect component failures

RESPONSE: GRACEFUL DEGRADATION (FAIL-SAFE)

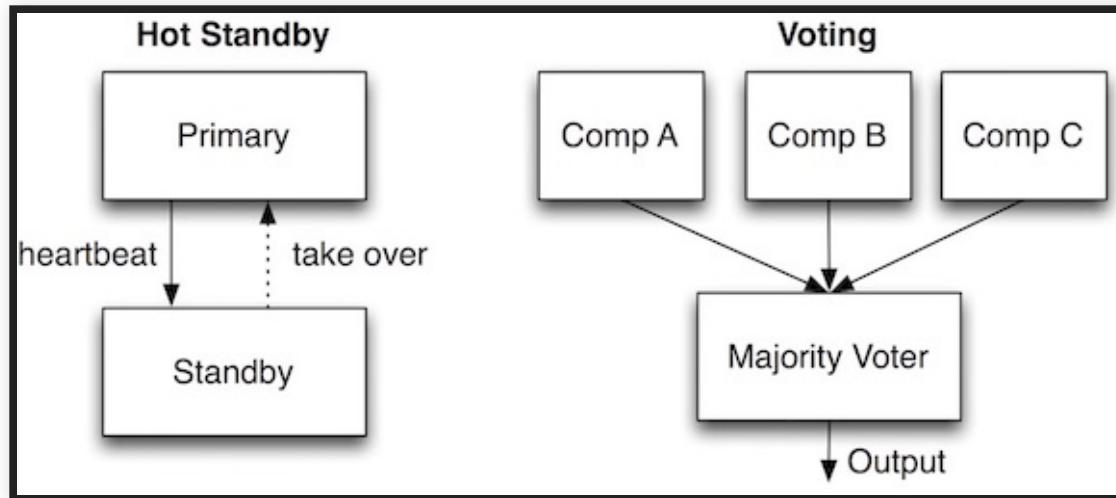


- Goal: When a component failure occurs, continue to provide safety (possibly at reduced functionality and performance)
- Relies on a monitor to detect component failures
- Example: Perception in autonomous vehicles
 - If Lidar fails, switch to a lower-quality detector & be more conservative about maintaining distance

DETECTION & RESPONSE: REDUNDANCY

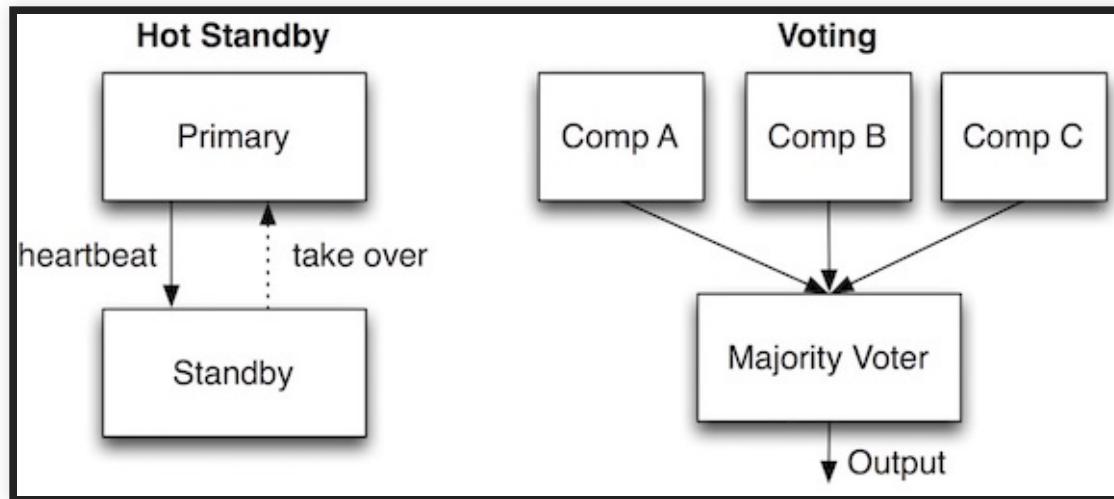


DETECTION & RESPONSE: REDUNDANCY



- Detection: Compare output from redundant components

DETECTION & RESPONSE: REDUNDANCY



- Detection: Compare output from redundant components
- Response: When a component fails, continue to provide the same functionality

DETECTION & RESPONSE: REDUNDANCY



- Detection: Compare output from redundant components
- Response: When a component fails, continue to provide the same functionality
- Hot Standby: Standby watches & takes over when primary fails

DETECTION & RESPONSE: REDUNDANCY



- Detection: Compare output from redundant components
- Response: When a component fails, continue to provide the same functionality
- Hot Standby: Standby watches & takes over when primary fails
- Voting: Select the majority decision

DETECTION & RESPONSE: REDUNDANCY



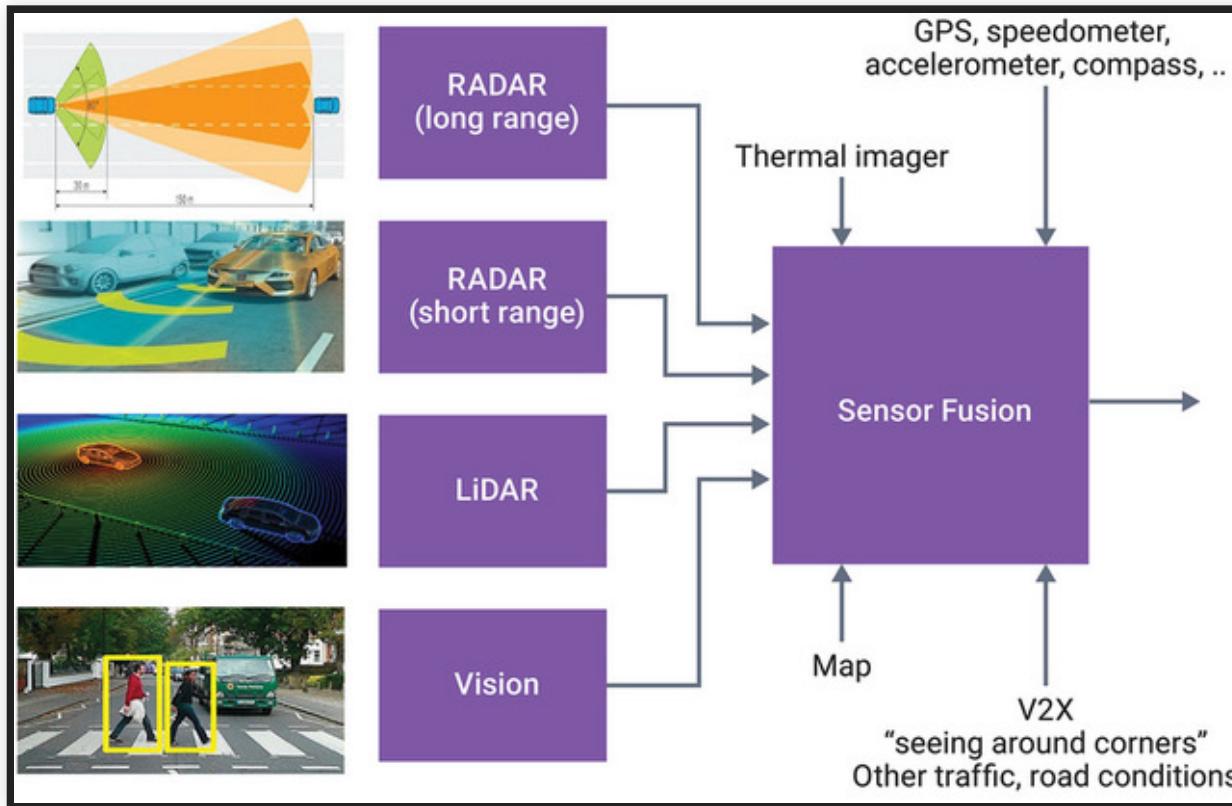
- Detection: Compare output from redundant components
- Response: When a component fails, continue to provide the same functionality
- Hot Standby: Standby watches & takes over when primary fails
- Voting: Select the majority decision
- Caution: Do components fail independently?
 - Reasonable assumption for hardware/mechanical failures
 - Q. What about ML components?

REDUNDANCY EXAMPLE: ENSEMBLE LEARNING



- An example of redundancy by voting

REDUNDANCY EXAMPLE: SENSOR FUSION



- Combine data from a wide range of sensors
- Provides partial information even when some sensor is faulty
- A critical part of modern self-driving vehicles

RESPONSE: HUMAN IN THE LOOP

Provide less forceful interaction, make suggestions, or ask for confirmation

RESPONSE: HUMAN IN THE LOOP

Provide less forceful interaction, make suggestions, or ask for confirmation

- AI and humans are good at predictions in different settings
 - AI better at statistics at scale and many factors
 - Humans understand context and data generation process; often better with thin data

RESPONSE: HUMAN IN THE LOOP

Provide less forceful interaction, make suggestions, or ask for confirmation

- AI and humans are good at predictions in different settings
 - AI better at statistics at scale and many factors
 - Humans understand context and data generation process; often better with thin data
- AI for prediction, human for judgment?

RESPONSE: HUMAN IN THE LOOP

Provide less forceful interaction, make suggestions, or ask for confirmation

- AI and humans are good at predictions in different settings
 - AI better at statistics at scale and many factors
 - Humans understand context and data generation process; often better with thin data
- AI for prediction, human for judgment?
- But be aware of:
 - Notification fatigue, complacency, just following predictions; see *Tesla autopilot*
 - Compliance/liability protection only?

RESPONSE: HUMAN IN THE LOOP

Provide less forceful interaction, make suggestions, or ask for confirmation

- AI and humans are good at predictions in different settings
 - AI better at statistics at scale and many factors
 - Humans understand context and data generation process; often better with thin data
- AI for prediction, human for judgment?
- But be aware of:
 - Notification fatigue, complacency, just following predictions; see *Tesla autopilot*
 - Compliance/liability protection only?
- Deciding when and how to interact

RESPONSE: HUMAN IN THE LOOP

Provide less forceful interaction, make suggestions, or ask for confirmation

- AI and humans are good at predictions in different settings
 - AI better at statistics at scale and many factors
 - Humans understand context and data generation process; often better with thin data
- AI for prediction, human for judgment?
- But be aware of:
 - Notification fatigue, complacency, just following predictions; see *Tesla autopilot*
 - Compliance/liability protection only?
- Deciding when and how to interact
- Lots of UI design and HCI problems

RESPONSE: HUMAN IN THE LOOP

Provide less forceful interaction, make suggestions, or ask for confirmation

- AI and humans are good at predictions in different settings
 - AI better at statistics at scale and many factors
 - Humans understand context and data generation process; often better with thin data
- AI for prediction, human for judgment?
- But be aware of:
 - Notification fatigue, complacency, just following predictions; see *Tesla autopilot*
 - Compliance/liability protection only?
- Deciding when and how to interact
- Lots of UI design and HCI problems
- Q. Examples?

Speaker notes

Cancer prediction, sentencing + recidivism, Tesla autopilot, military "kill" decisions, powerpoint design suggestions

RESPONSE: UNDOABLE ACTIONS

Design the system to reduce the consequences of wrong predictions, allowing humans to override or undo

Examples?

Speaker notes

Smart home devices, credit card applications, Powerpoint design suggestions

EXAMPLE: LANE ASSIST



Possible mitigation strategies? Discuss with your neighbors

EXAMPLE: LANE ASSIST

CONTAINMENT: DECOUPLING & ISOLATION

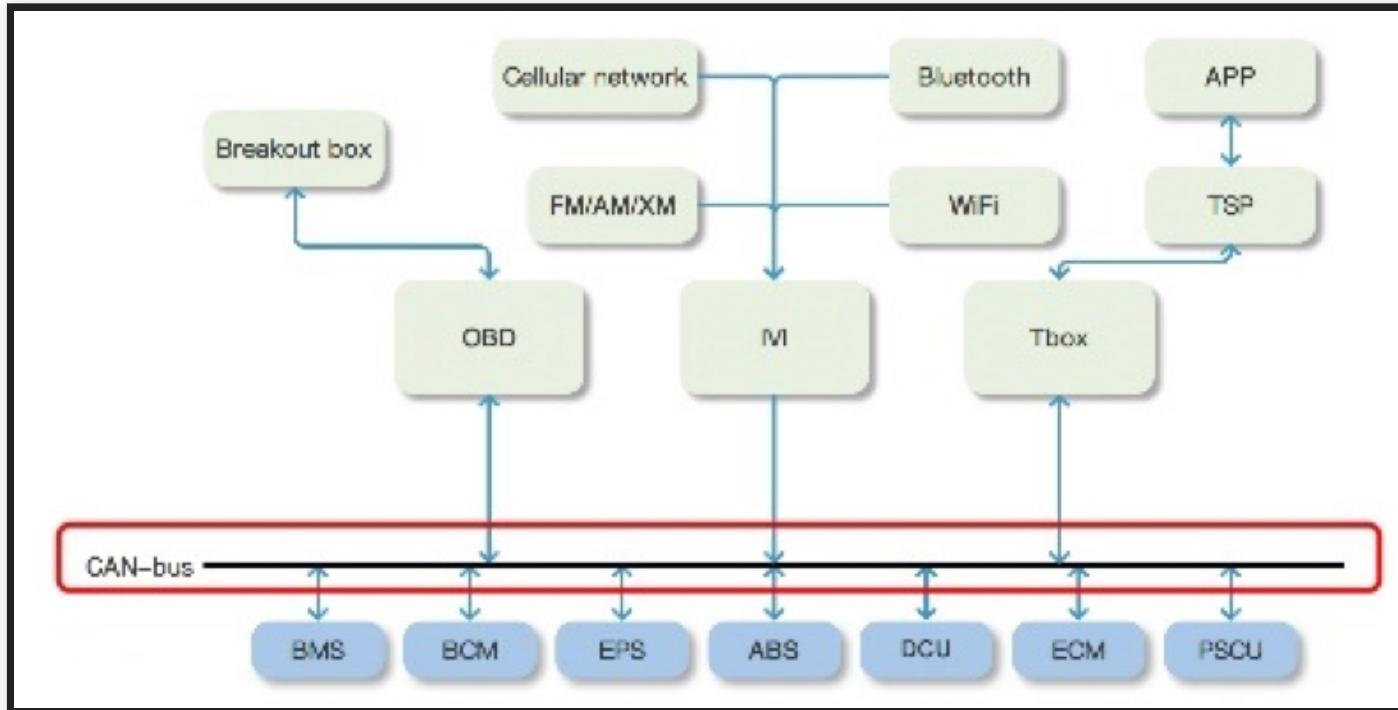
- **Design principle:** Faults in a low-critical (LC) components should not impact high-critical (HC) components

POOR DECOUPLING: USS YORKTOWN (1997)



- Invalid data entered into DB; divide-by-zero crashes entire network
- Required rebooting the whole system; ship dead in water for 3 hours
- Lesson: Handle expected component faults; prevent propagation

POOR DECOUPLING: AUTOMOTIVE SECURITY



- Main components connected through a common CAN bus
 - Broadcast; no access control (anyone can read/write)
- Can control brake/engine by playing a malicious MP3

Experimental Security Analysis of a Modern Automobile, Koscher et al., (2010)

CONTAINMENT: DECOUPLING & ISOLATION

- **Design principle:** Faults in a low-critical (LC) components should not impact high-critical (HC) components

CONTAINMENT: DECOUPLING & ISOLATION

- **Design principle:** Faults in a low-critical (LC) components should not impact high-critical (HC) components
- Apply the principle of least privilege
 - LC components should be allowed to access min. necessary functions

CONTAINMENT: DECOUPLING & ISOLATION

- **Design principle:** Faults in a low-critical (LC) components should not impact high-critical (HC) components
- Apply the principle of least privilege
 - LC components should be allowed to access min. necessary functions
- Limit interactions across criticality boundaries
 - Deploy LC & HC components on different networks
 - Add monitors/checks at interfaces

CONTAINMENT: DECOUPLING & ISOLATION

- **Design principle:** Faults in a low-critical (LC) components should not impact high-critical (HC) components
- Apply the principle of least privilege
 - LC components should be allowed to access min. necessary functions
- Limit interactions across criticality boundaries
 - Deploy LC & HC components on different networks
 - Add monitors/checks at interfaces
- Is an ML component in my system performing an LC or HC task?
 - If HC, can we "demote" it into LC?
 - Alternatively, replace HC ML components with non-ML ones
 - Q. Examples?

SUMMARY

- Accept that a failure is inevitable
 - ML components will eventually make mistakes
 - Environment may evolve over time, violating its assumptions
- Use risk analysis to identify and mitigate potential problems
- Design strategies for detecting and mitigating the risks from mistakes by ML