



Learning how to race using a predictive control approach: towards multi-agents racing

Ugo Rosolia

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California Institute of Technology

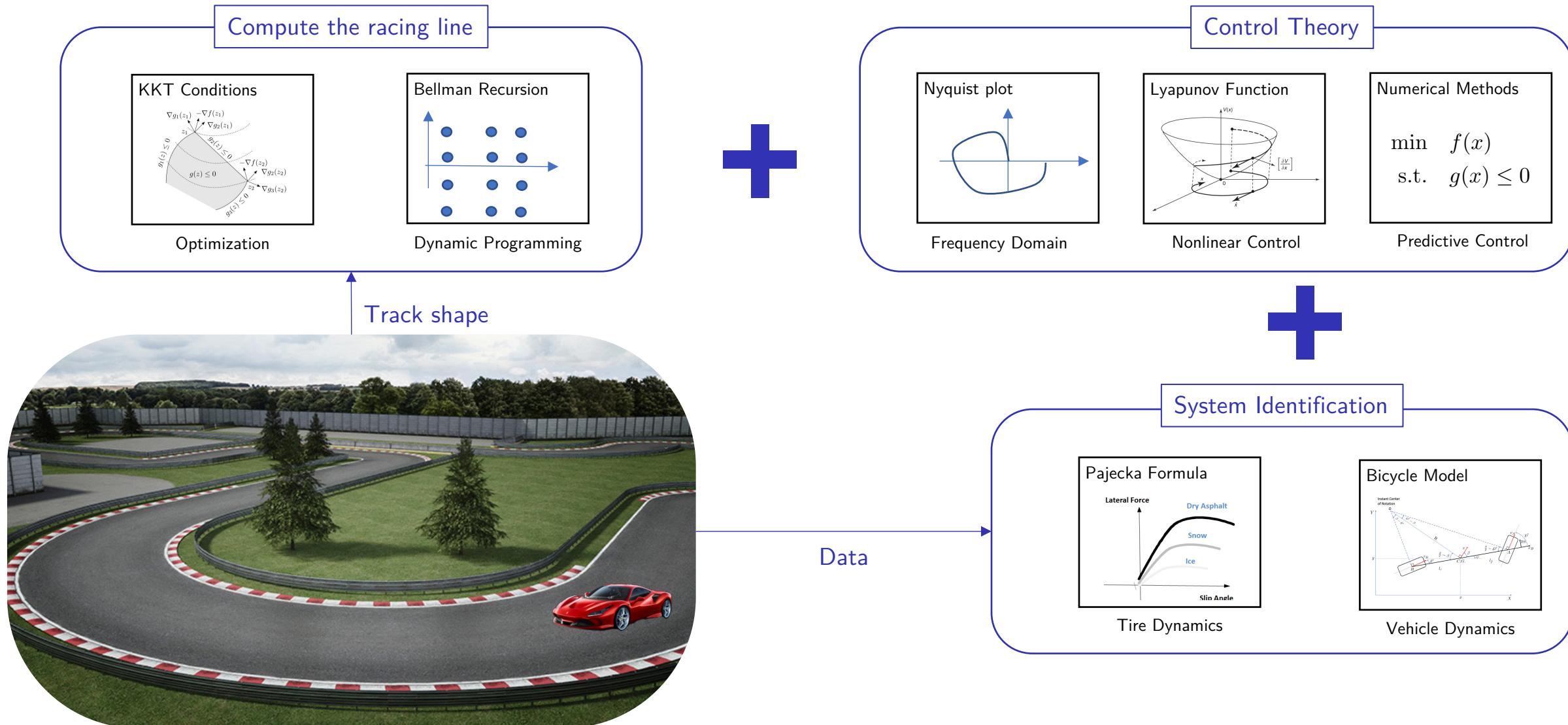
May 31st, 2021



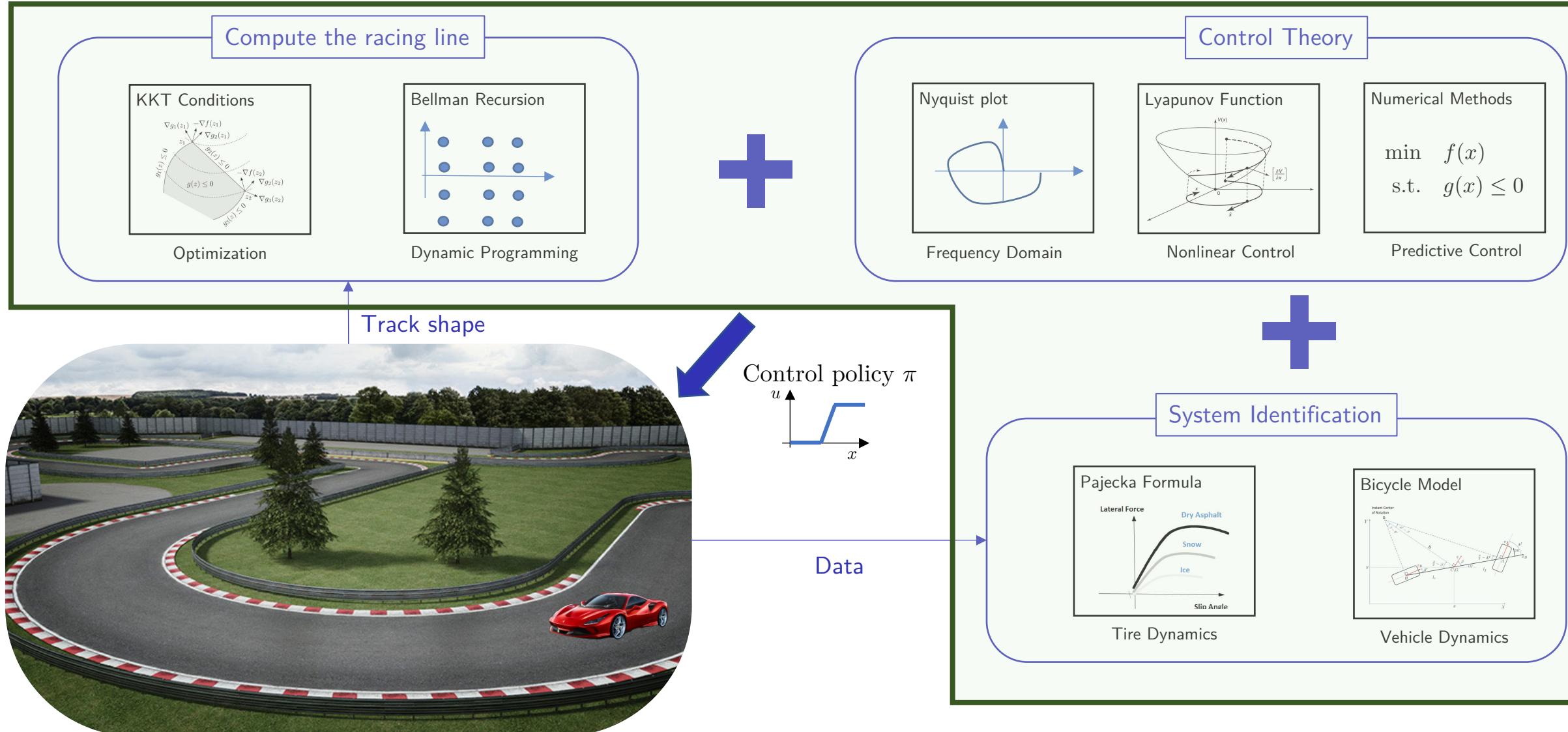
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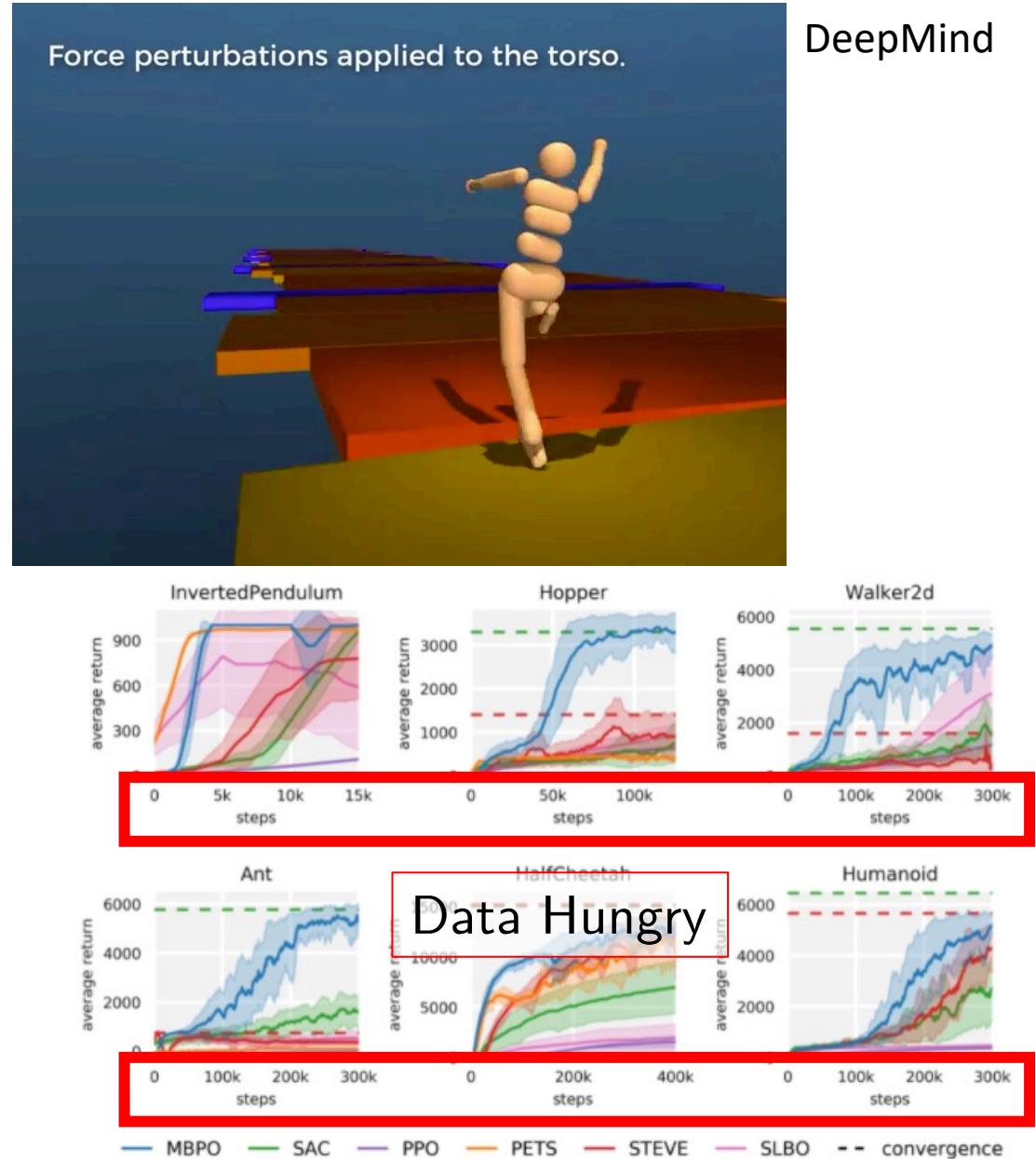
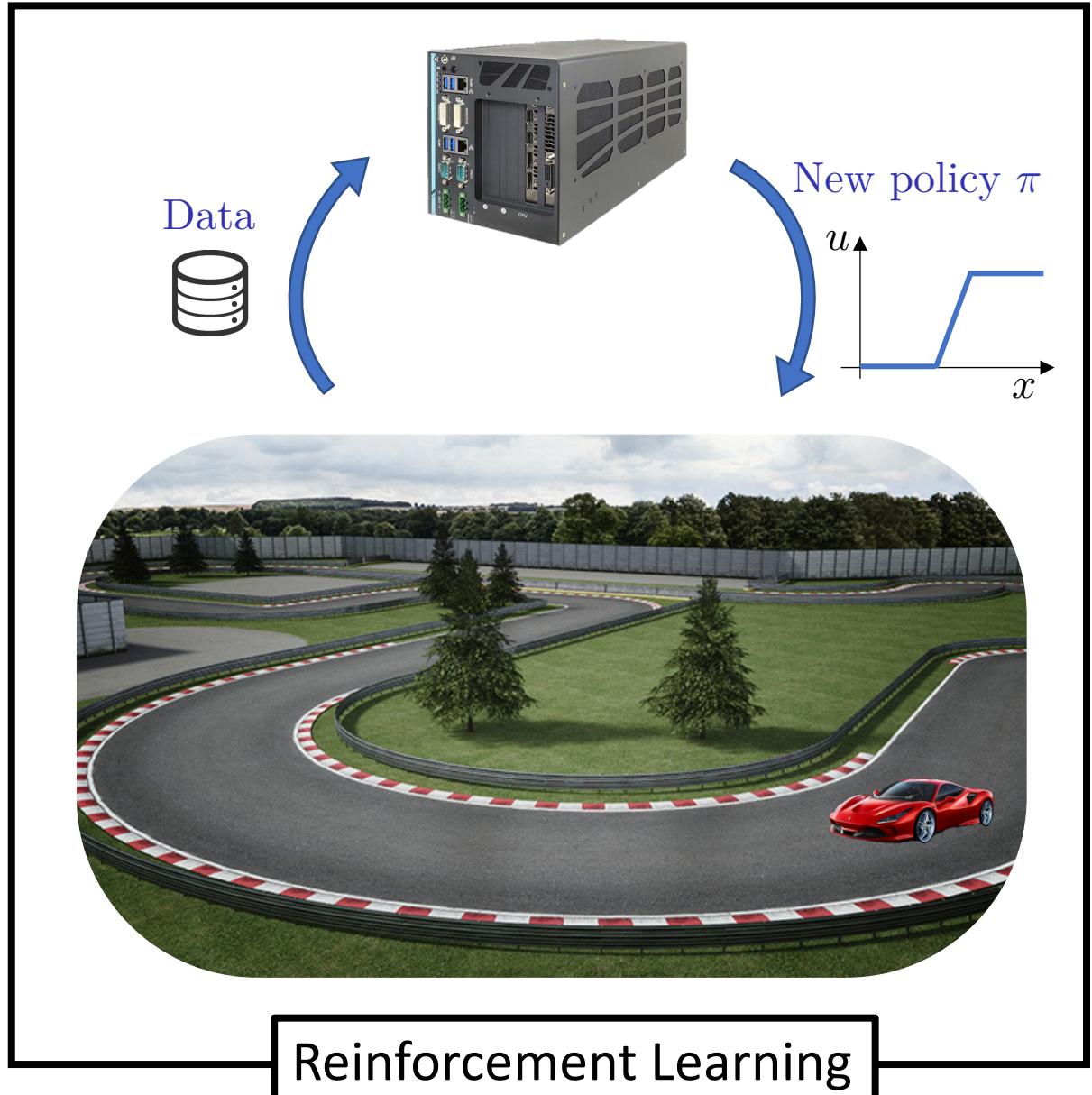
Control design for autonomous racing



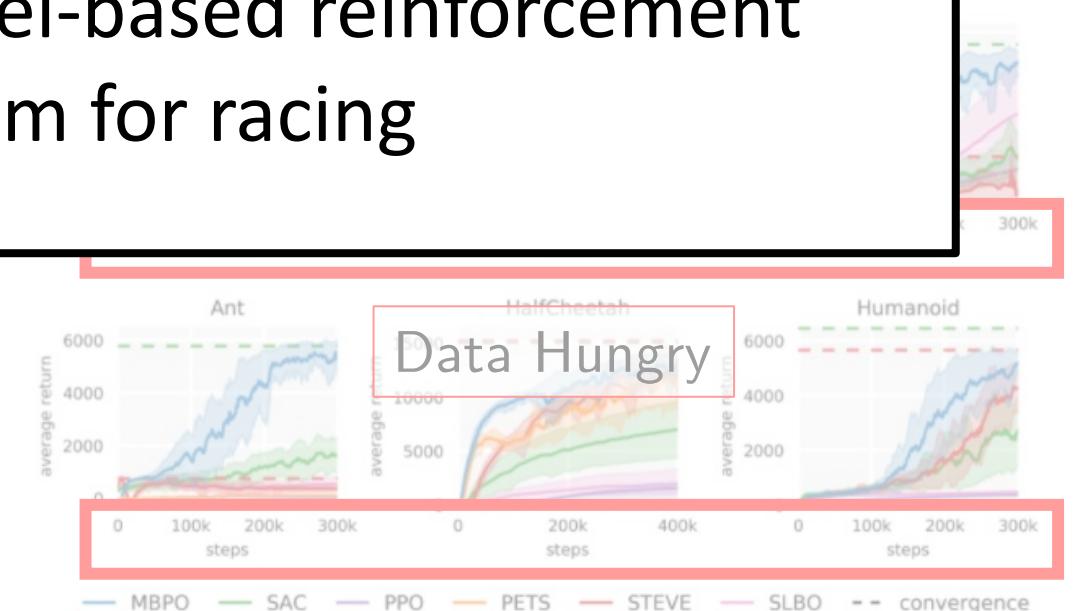
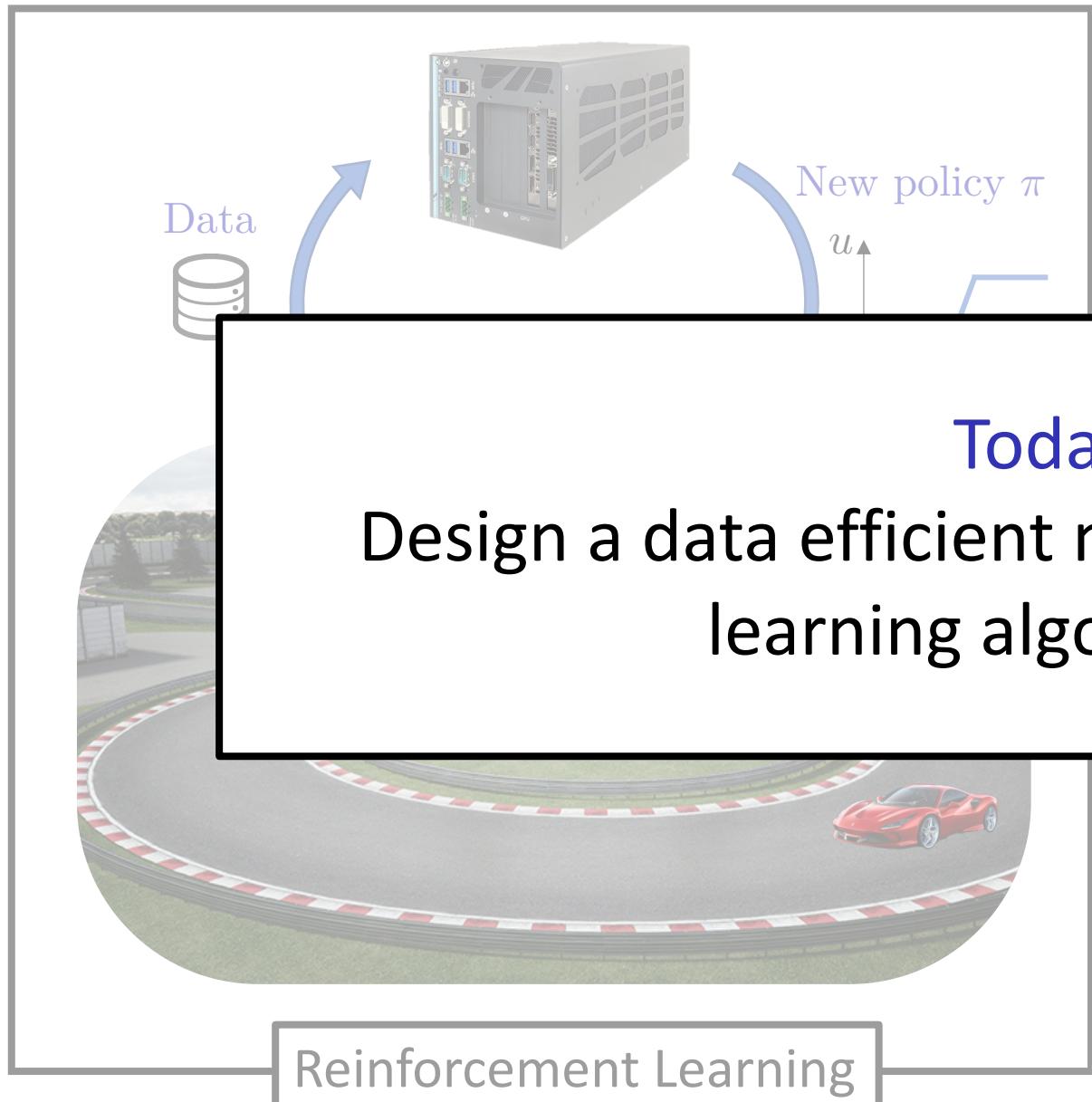
Control design for autonomous racing



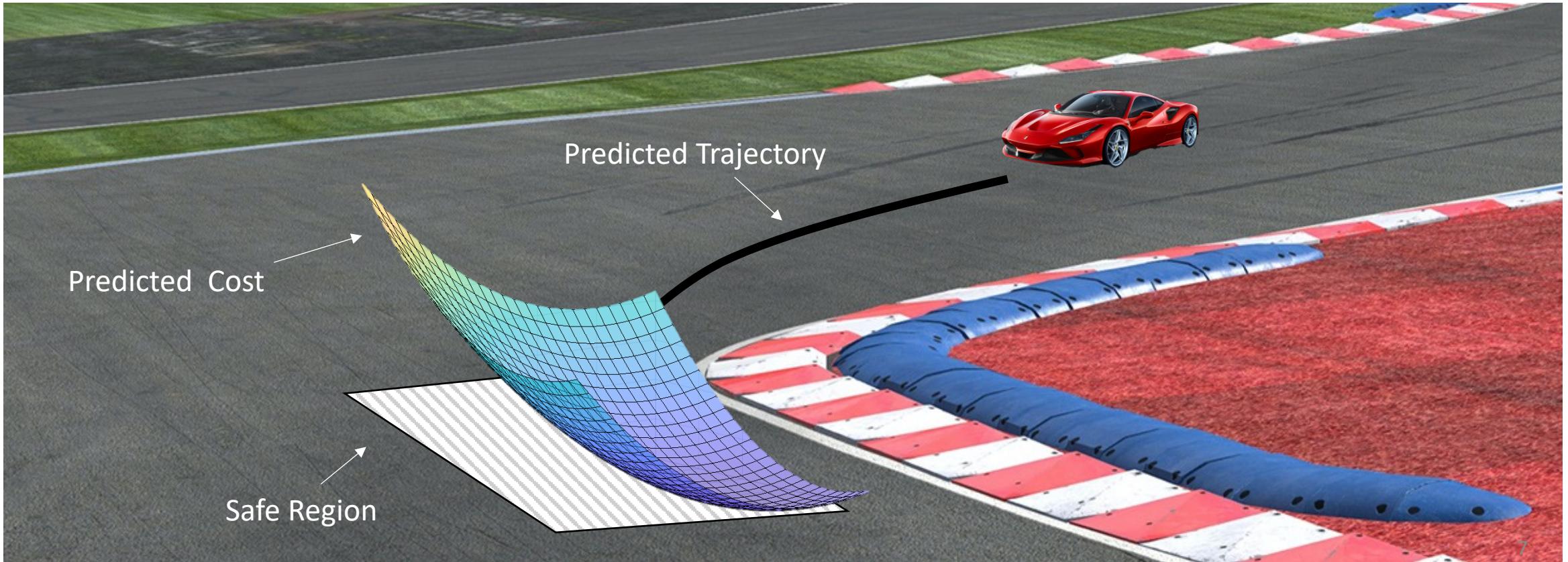
Can we simplify the control design?



Can we simplify the control design?



How to compute control actions?



- ▶ Predicted trajectory given by **Prediction Model**
- ▶ Safe region estimated by the **Safe Set**
- ▶ Predicted cost estimated by **Value Function**

Three key components to learn

Prediction Model

Model-based RL

$$\max_{\{u_k\}_{k=0}^N} \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=0}^N h(x_t, u_t) \right]$$

+

Model-free RL

$$\max_{u \in \mathcal{U}} Q^*(x, u)$$

Value Function

ϵ

π

\mathcal{S}

$$\forall x \in \mathcal{S} \rightarrow x^+ = f(x, \pi(x)) \in \mathcal{S}$$

Safety-critical Control

Safe Set

Data Efficient Learning!

Problem Formulation

Minimum Time Control Problem

$$\min_{T, \mathbf{u}} \quad T \quad \text{Control objective}$$

$$x_0 = x_s, \quad x_T = \mathcal{X}_F \quad \text{Start & end position}$$

System dynamics

System constraints

Safety constraints

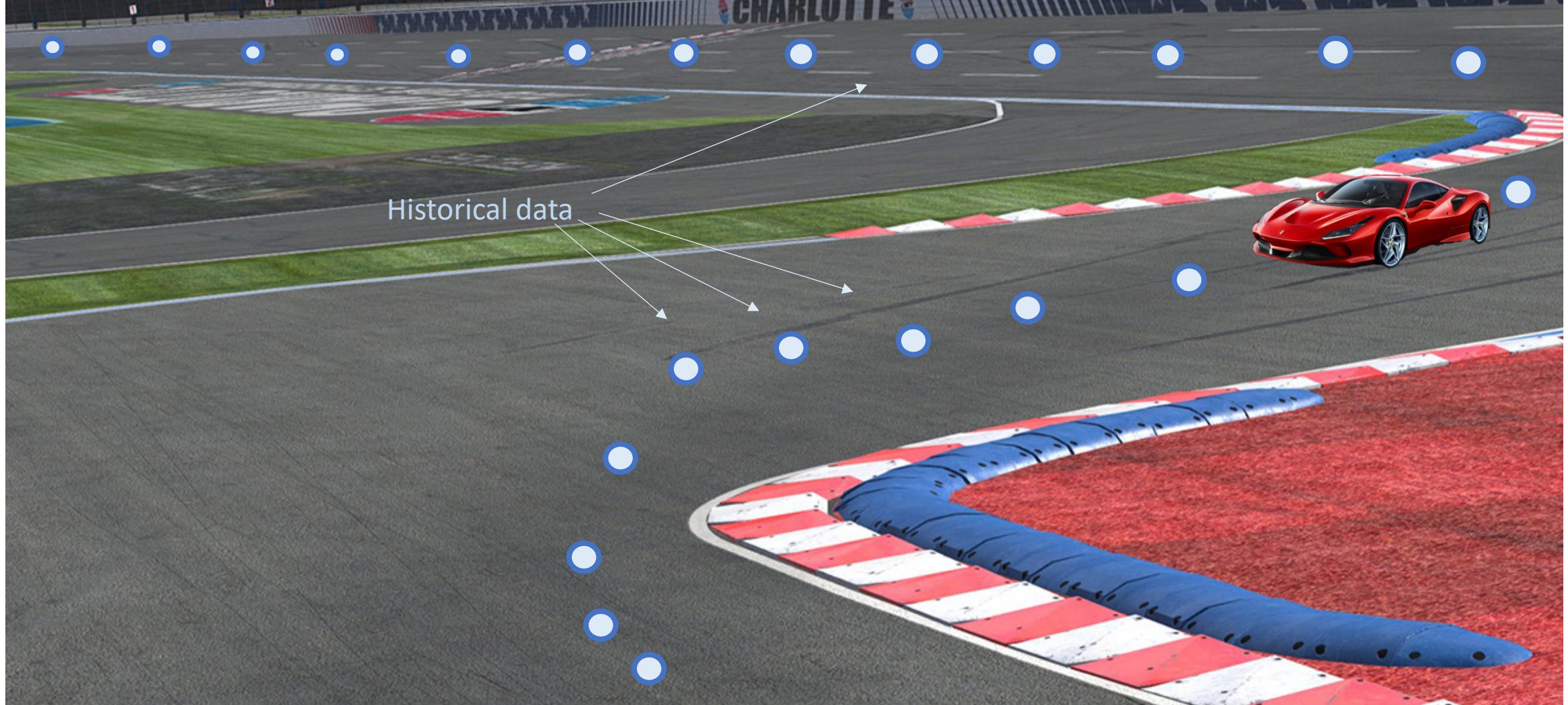
$$x_{k+1} = f(x_k, u_k), \quad \forall k \in \{0, \dots, T-1\}$$

$$x_k \in \mathcal{X}, \quad u_k \in \mathcal{U}, \quad \forall k \in \{0, \dots, T-1\}$$



Key Assumption

We are given a first feasible trajectory and/or controller



Learning Model Predictive Controller

At time t of iteration j solve the following Constrained Finite Time Optimal Control Problem (CFTOCP)

$$J_{t \rightarrow t+N}^{\text{LMPC},j}(x_t^j) = \min_{u_{t|t}^j, \dots, u_{t+N-1|t}^j} \sum_{k=t}^{t+N-1} h(x_{k|t}^j, u_{k|t}^j) + V^{j-1}(x_{t+N|t}^j, \textcolor{red}{x})$$

s.t.

$$x_{k+1|t}^j = A_{k|t}^j x_{k|t}^j + B_{k|t}^j u_{k|t}^j + C_{k|t}^j$$

$$x_{t|t}^j = x_t^j,$$

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$$x_{t+N|t}^j \in \mathcal{CS}^{j-1}(\textcolor{red}{x}),$$

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Prediction
Model

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Value Function

Safe Set

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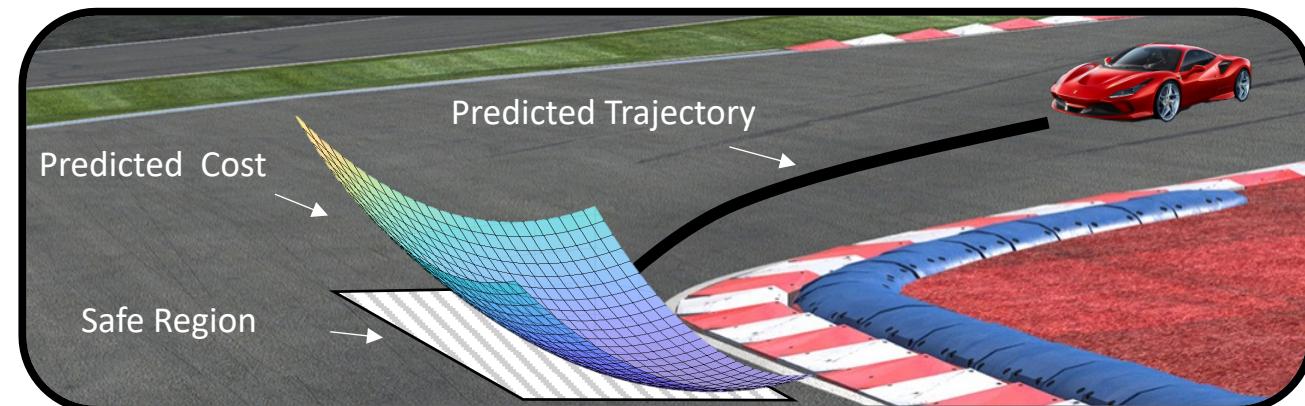
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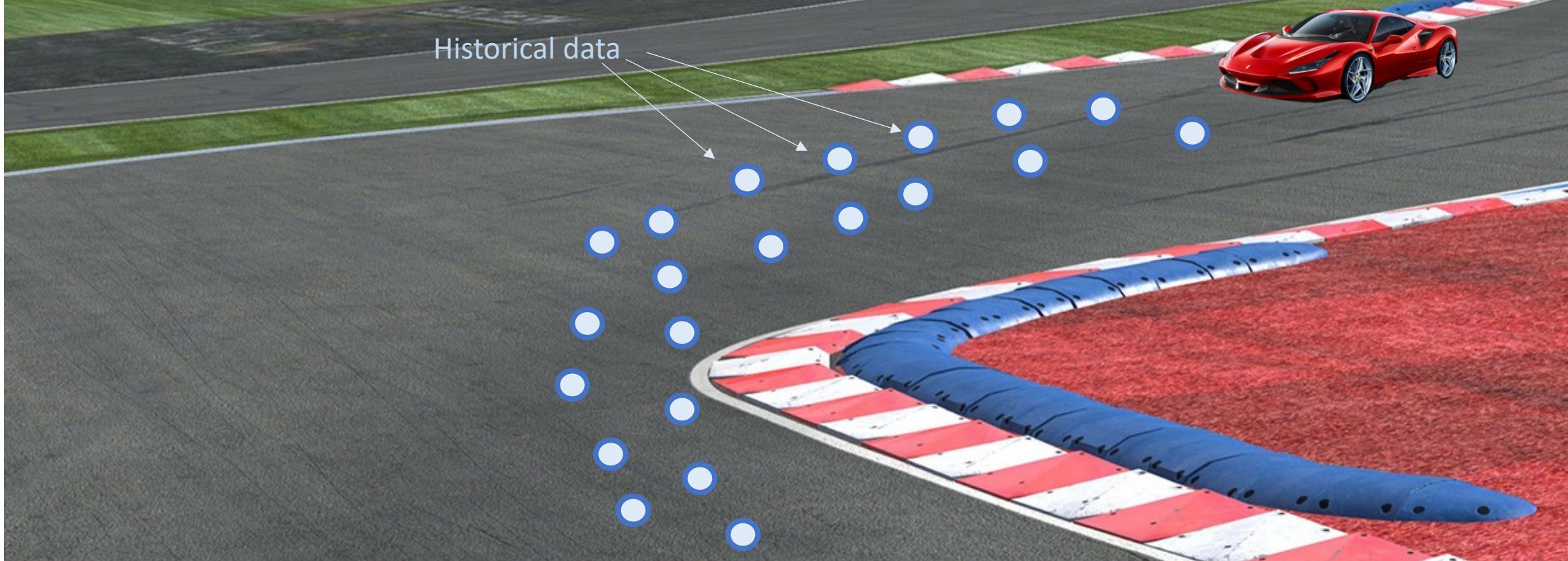


Safe Set

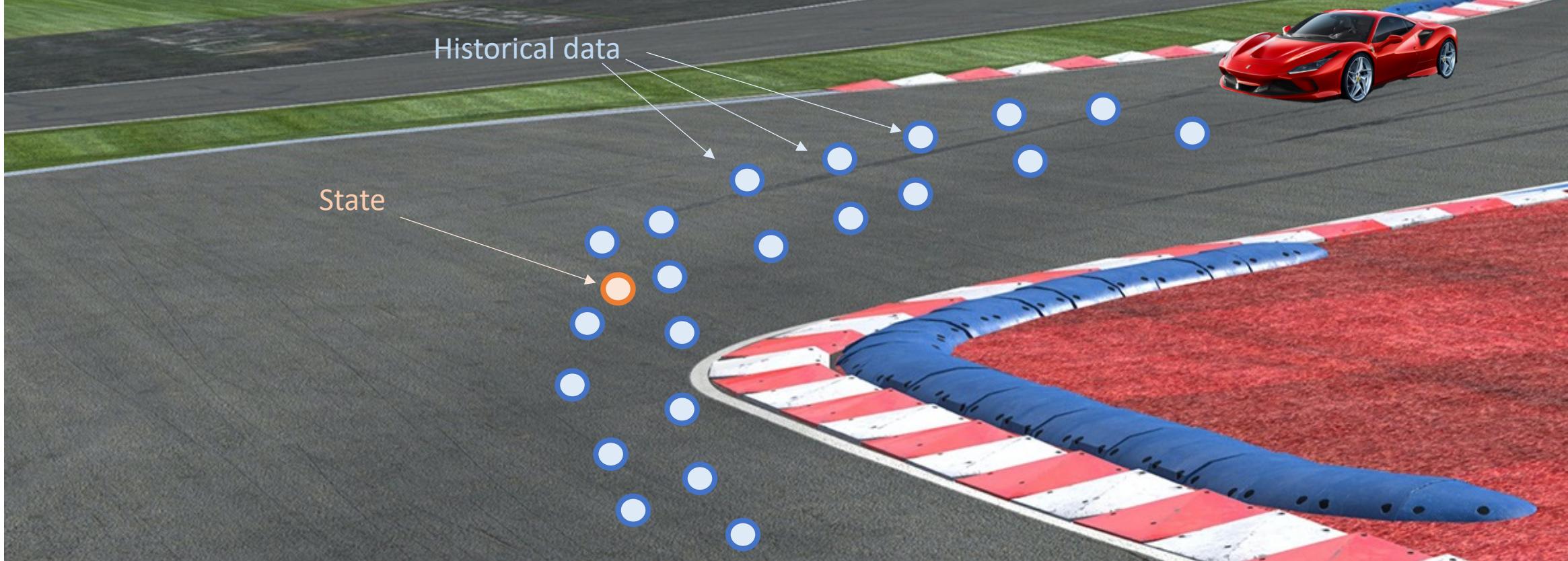
Safe Set Local Approximations



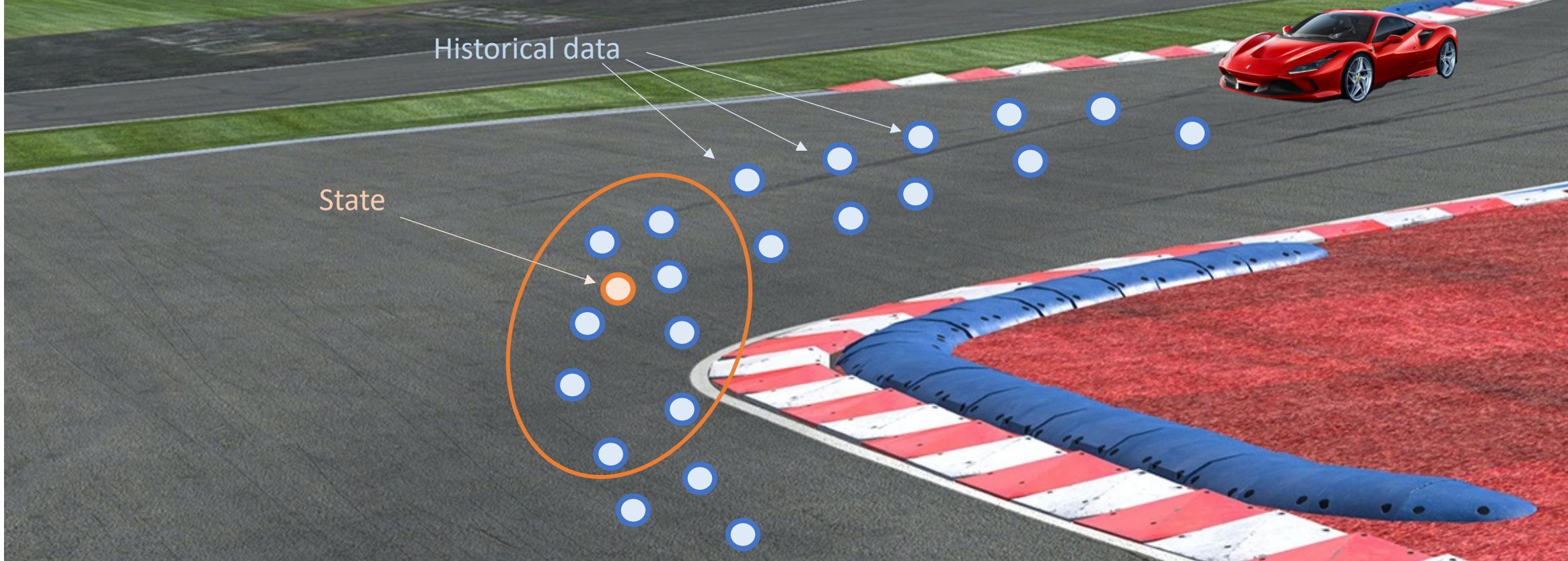
Safe Set Local Approximations



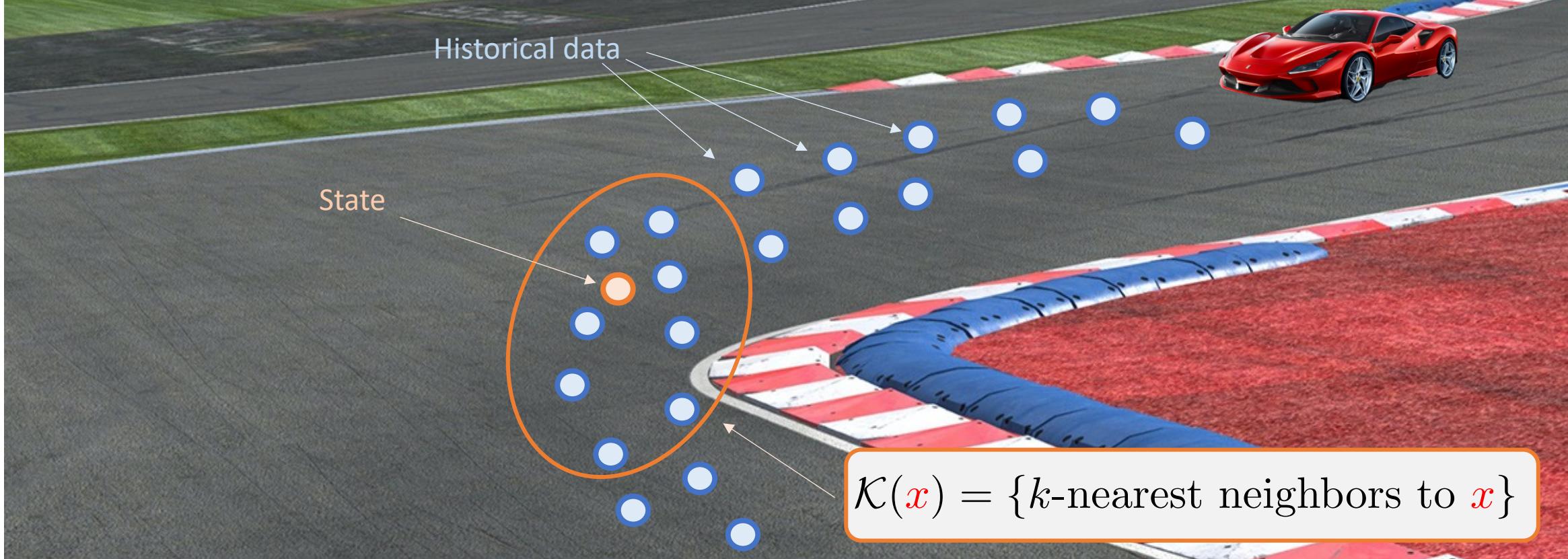
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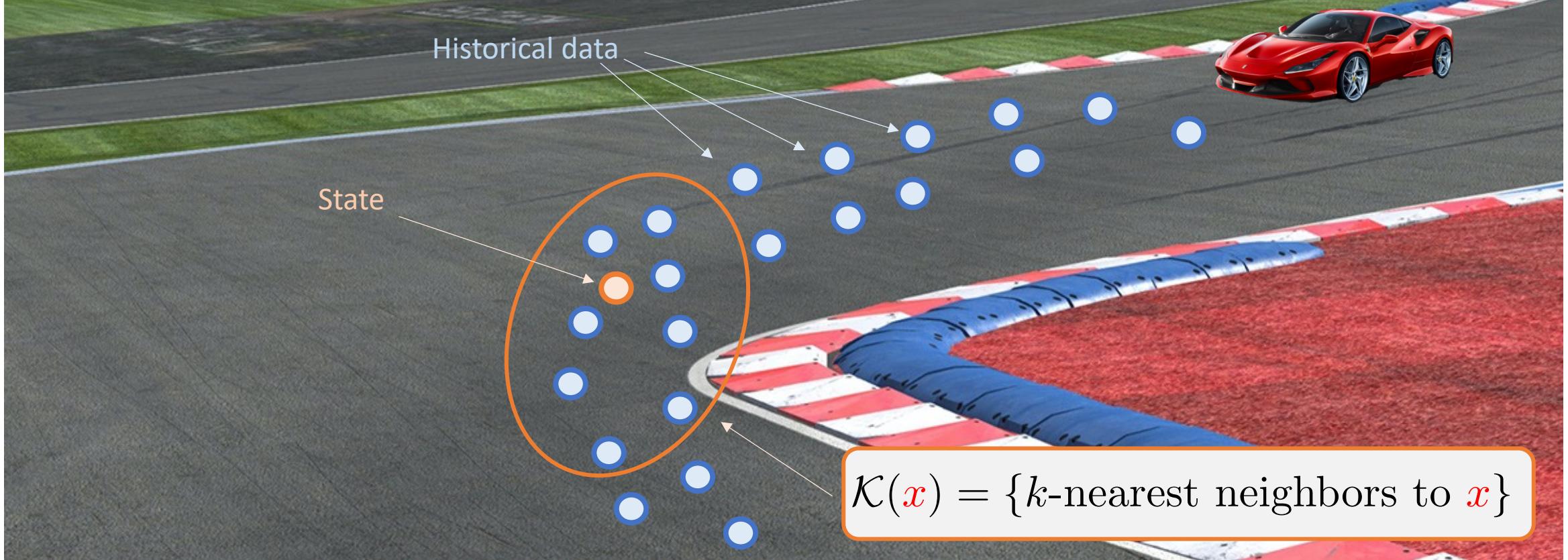
Safe Set Local Approximations



Safe Set Local Approximations



Safe Set Local Approximations



Local convex safe set approximation:

$$\mathcal{CS}^j(\textcolor{red}{x}) = \text{conv} \left(\cup_{x_t^j \in \mathcal{K}(\textcolor{red}{x})} x_t^j \right)$$

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Safe Set

where $\textcolor{red}{x} = g(\text{Previous Optimal Trajectory})$

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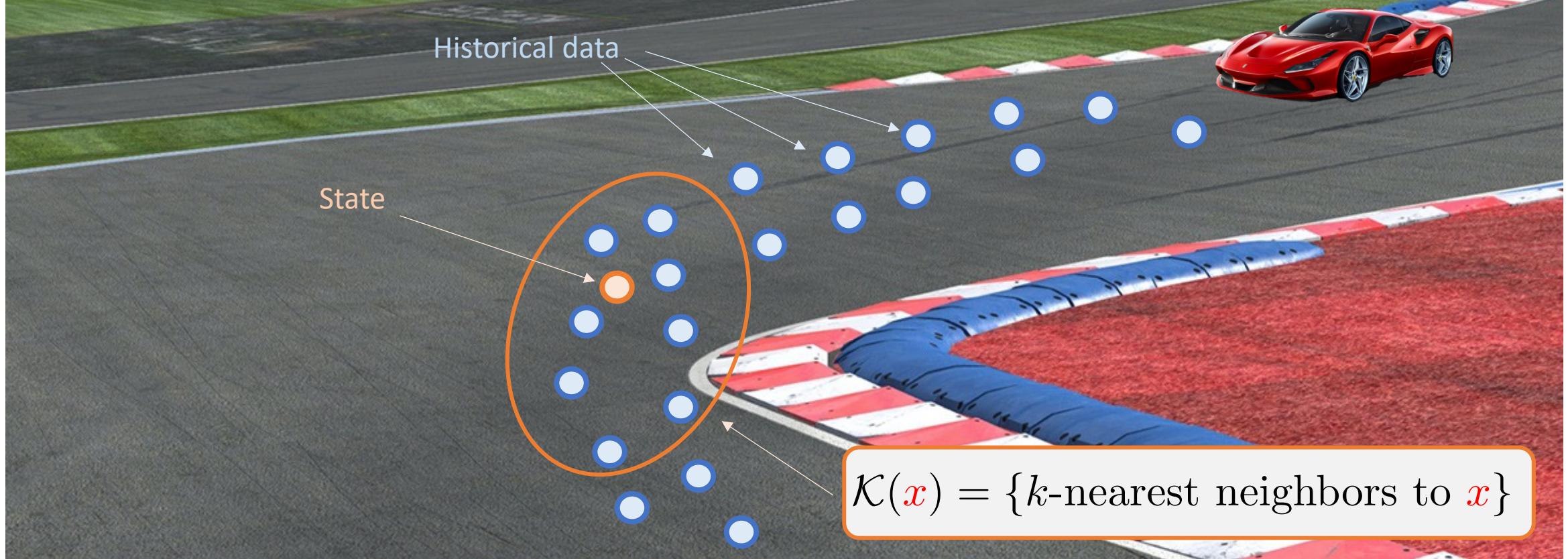
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Value Function

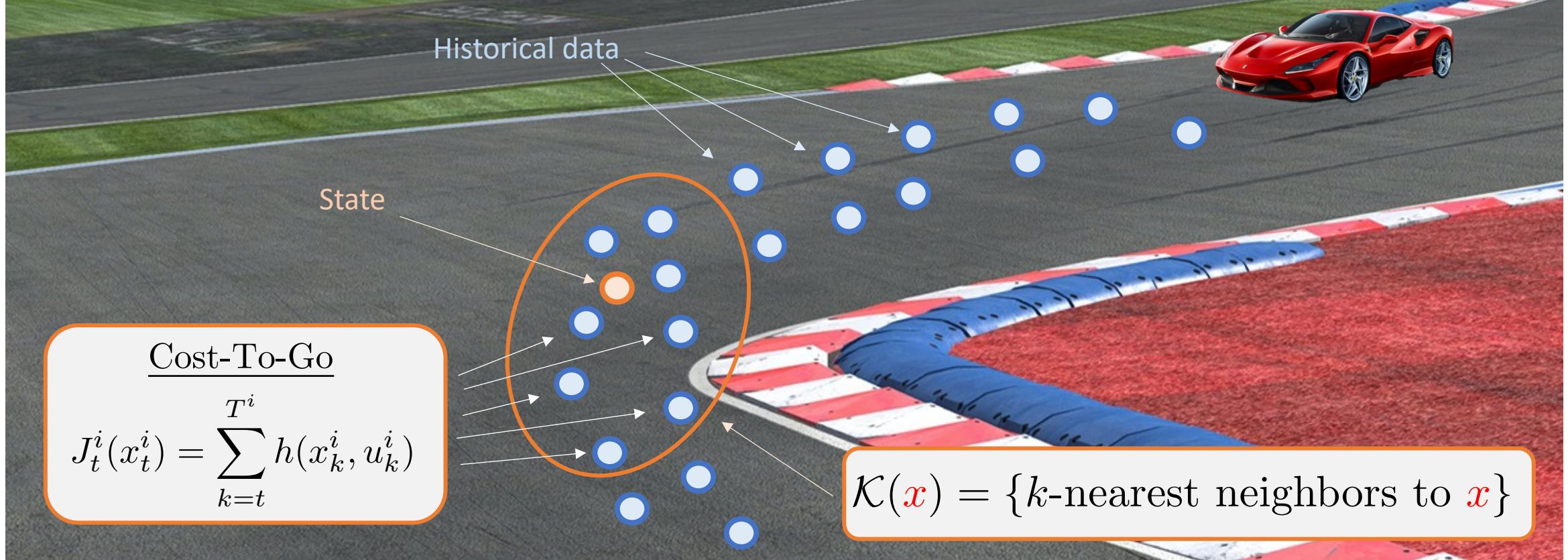
Value Function Local Approximations



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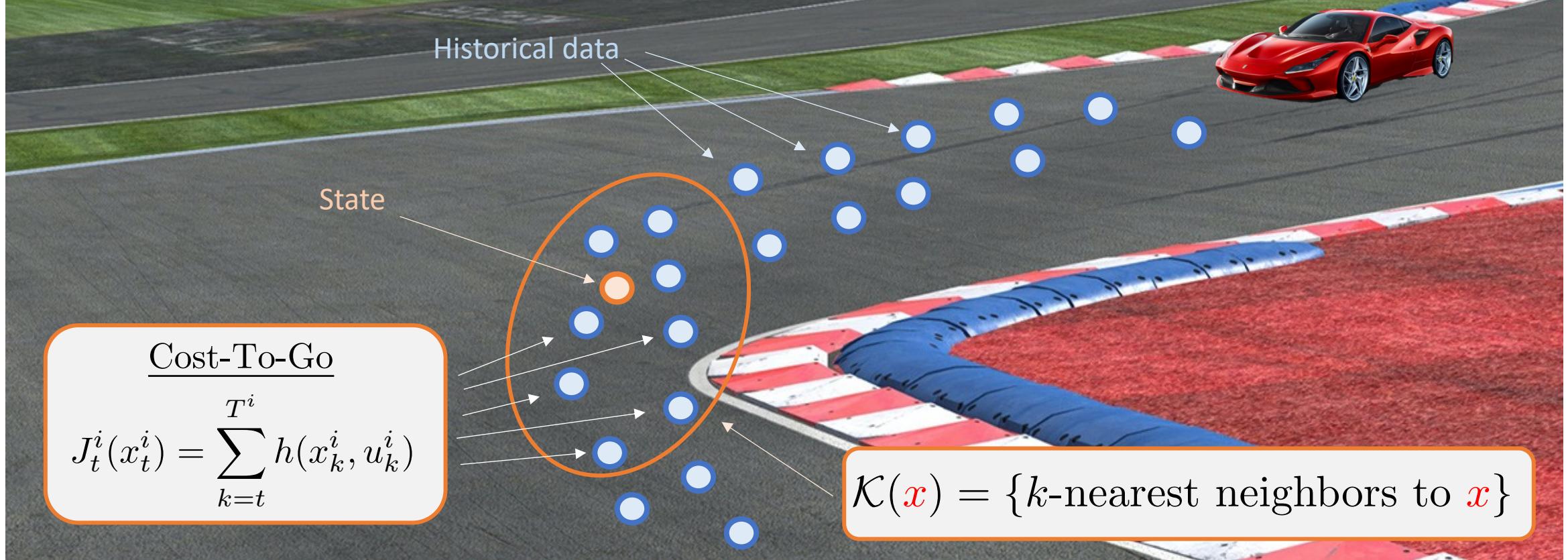
Value Function Local Approximations



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Value Function Local Approximations



Local value function approximation:

$$V^j(x, \mathbf{x}) = \text{Interpolation of the cost-to-go } J_t^i(x_t^i) = \sum_{k=t}^{T^i} h(x_k^i, u_k^i)$$

Learning Model Predictive Controller

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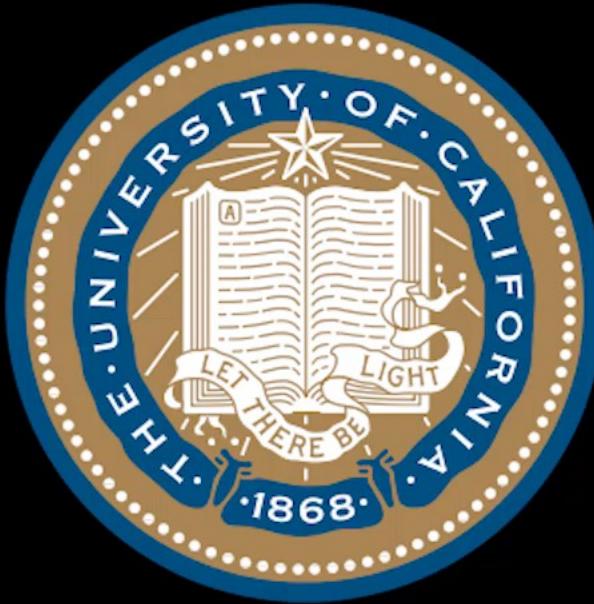
Value Function

Safe Set



Learning Model Predictive Controller full-size vehicle experiments

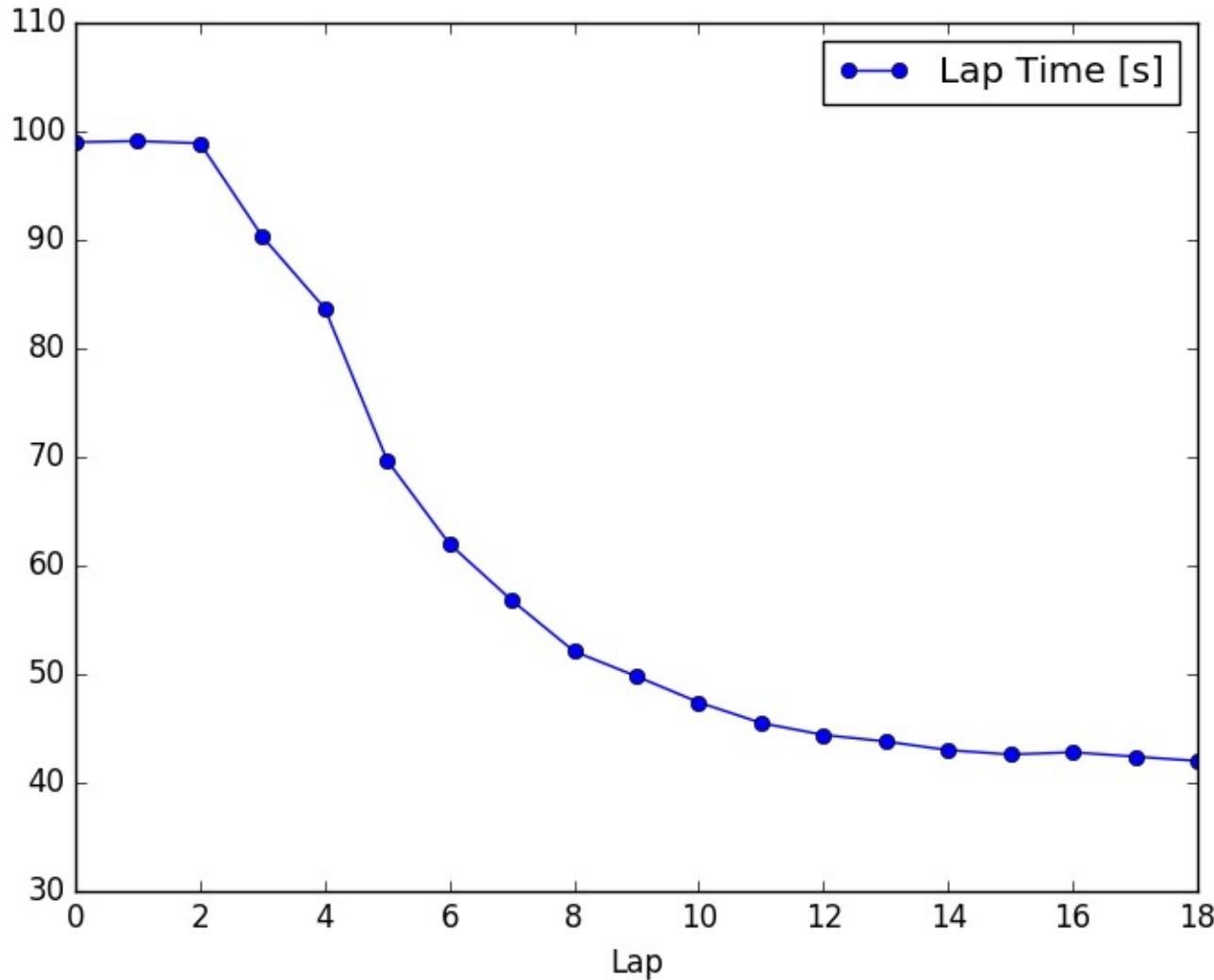
Credits: Siddharth Nair, Nitin Kapania and Ugo Rosolia



Learning Model Predictive Controller full-size vehicle experiments

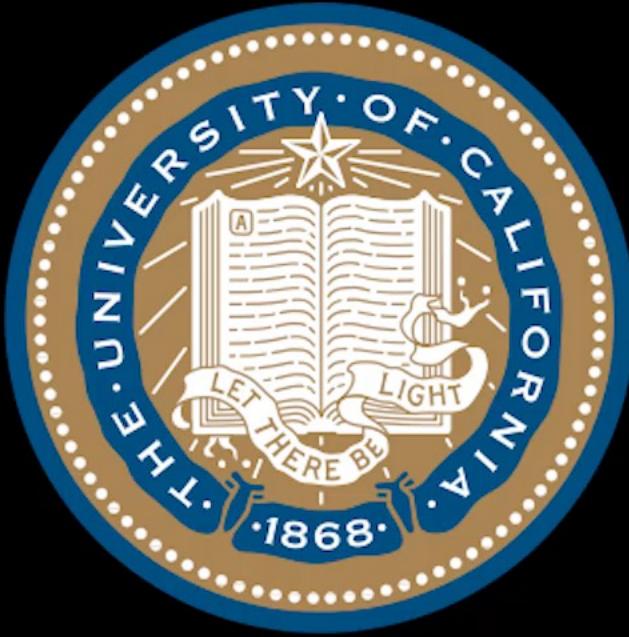
Credits: Siddharth Nair, Nitin Kapania and Ugo Rosolia

Lap Time



The control policy is constructed using ~1k data points (last 2 laps)

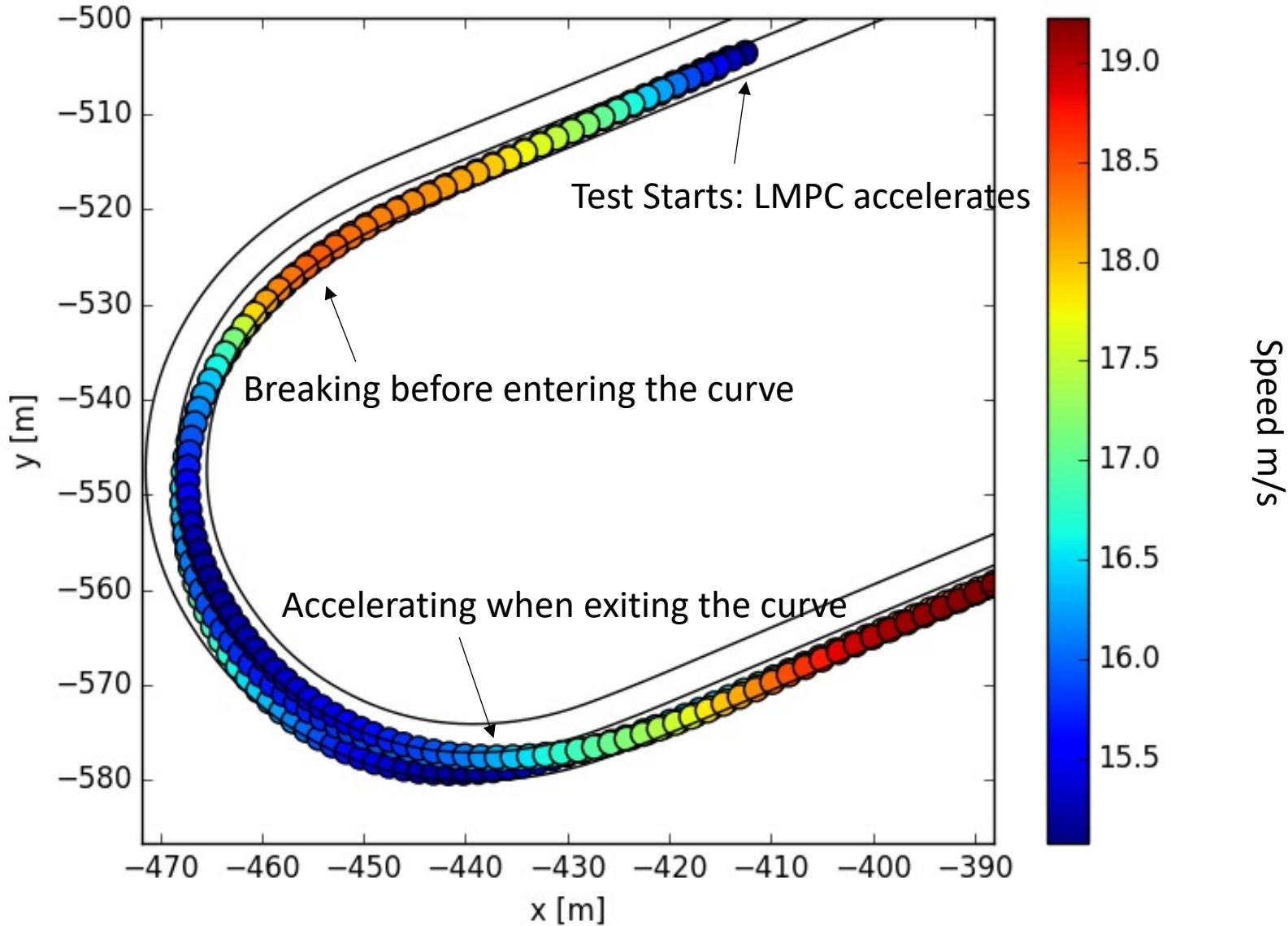
The control action is computed using ~100 data points



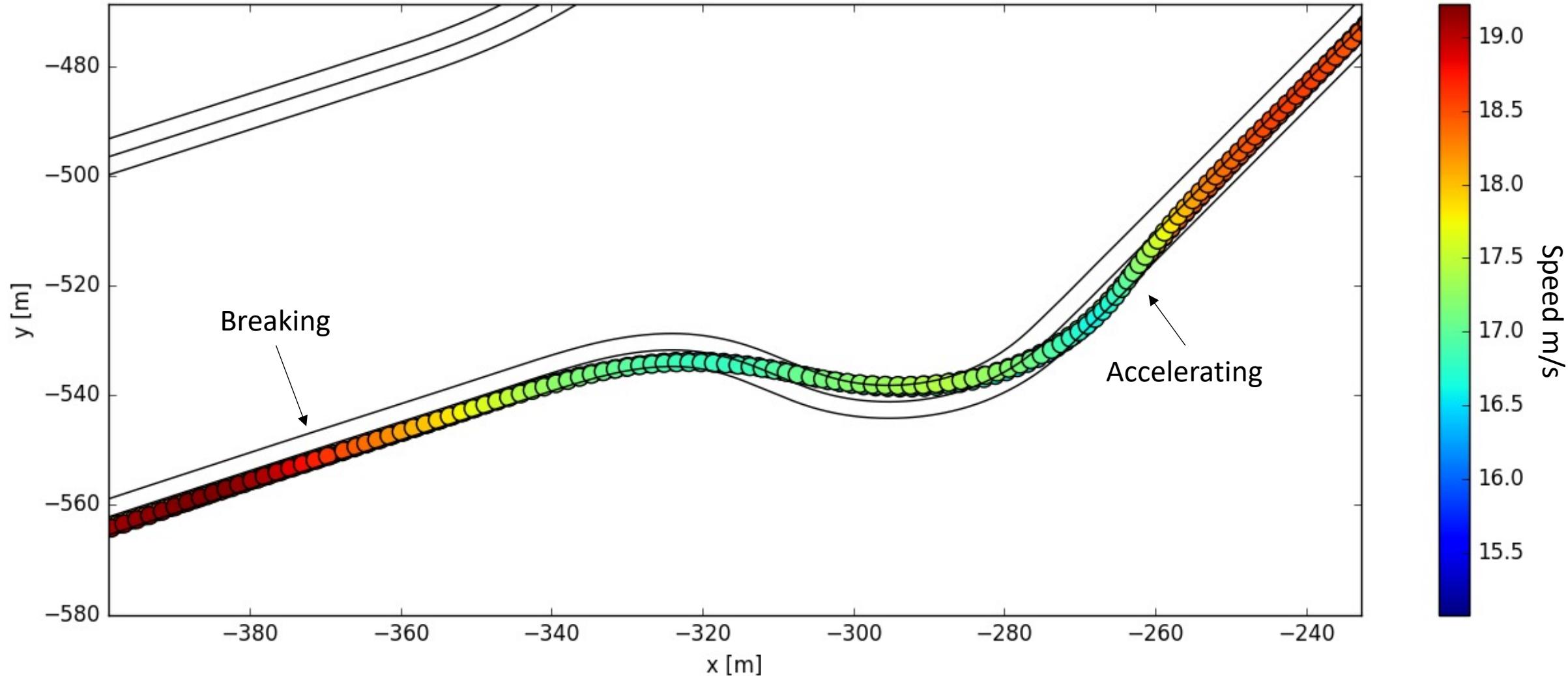
Learning Model Predictive Controller full-size vehicle experiments

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Velocity Profile at Convergence (Curve 1)

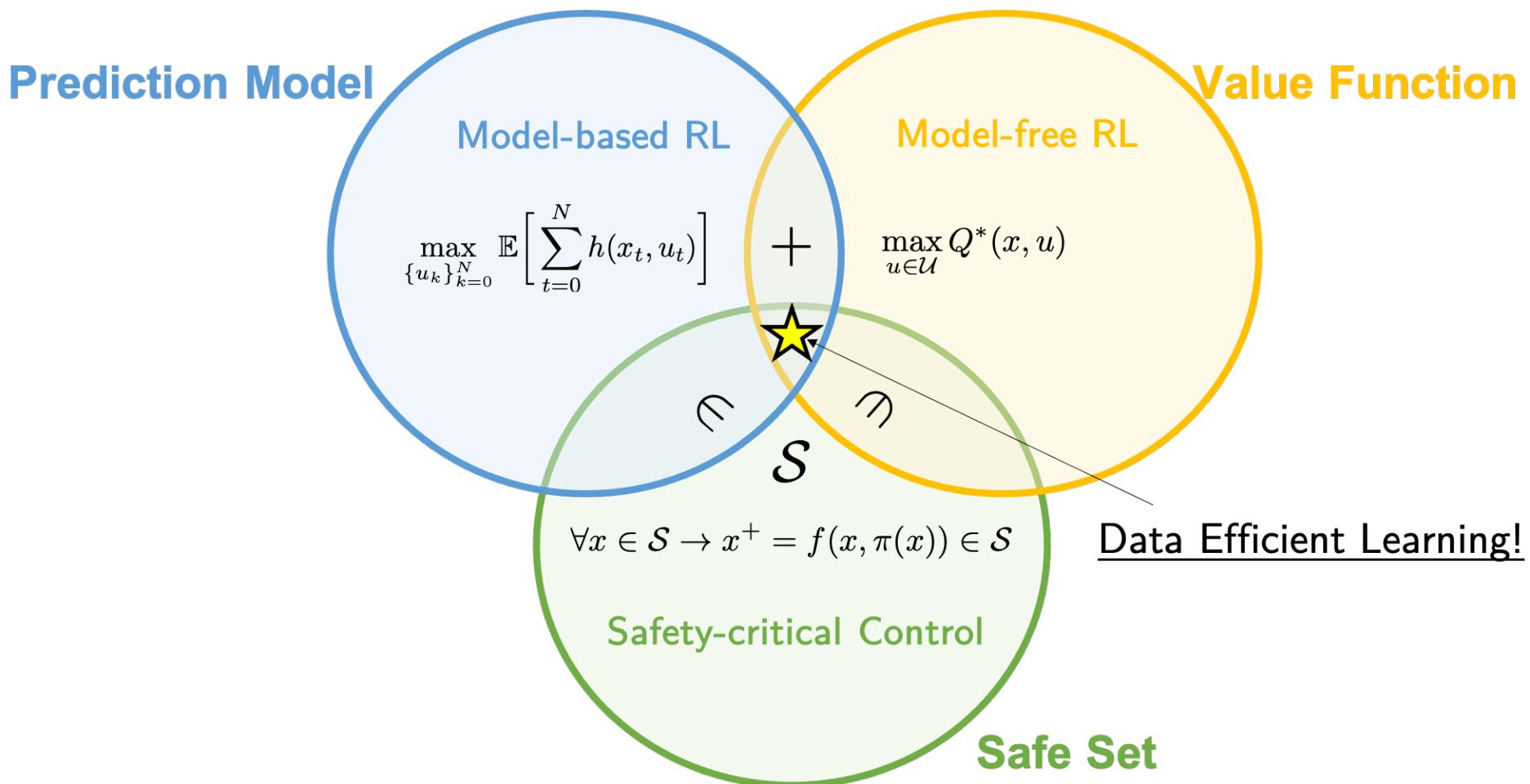


Velocity Profile at Convergence (Chicane)



The key components

- ▶ Predicted trajectory given by **prediction model**
- ▶ Predicted cost estimated by **value function**
- ▶ Safe region estimated by the **safe set**



What is next?

What is next?



Human-Machine Interaction

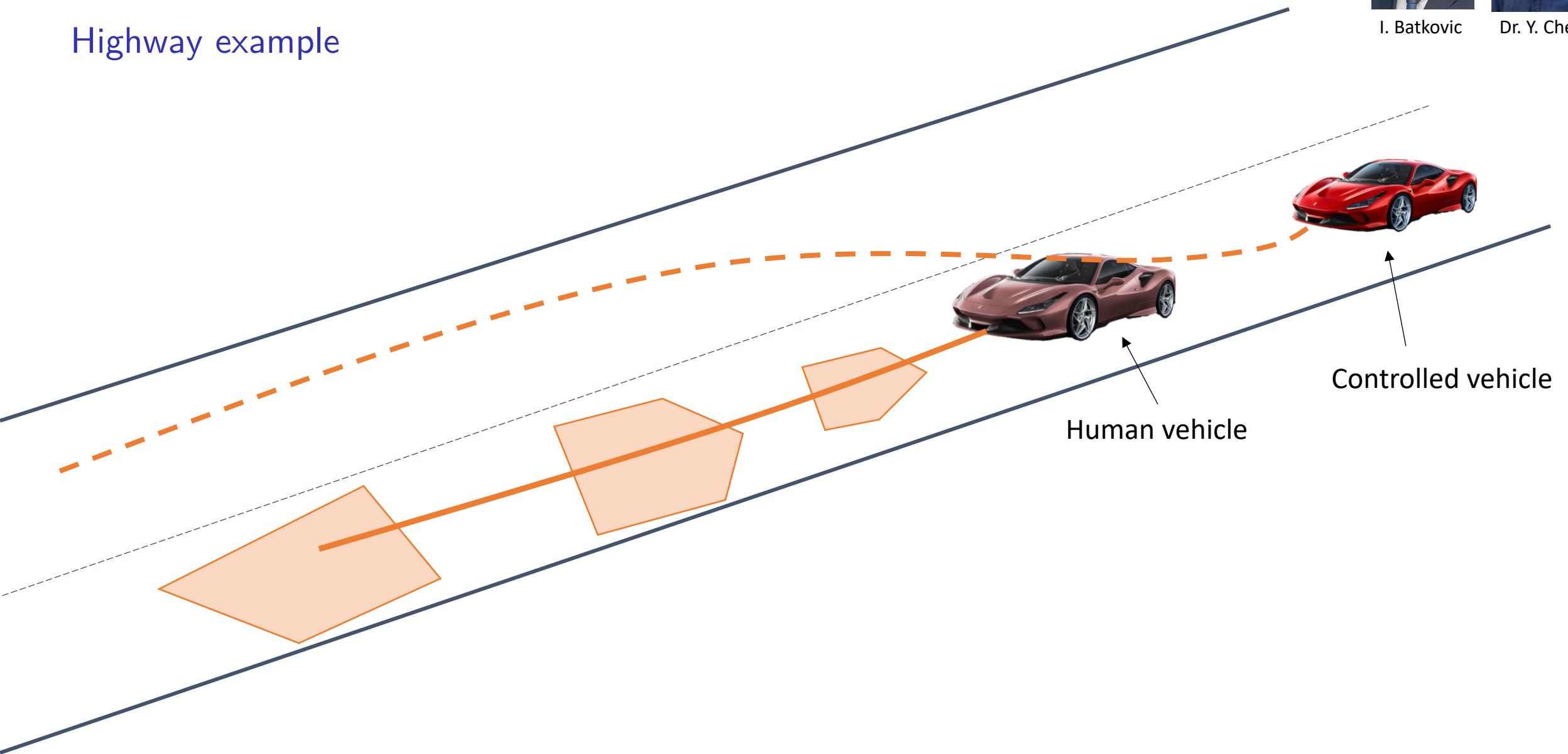
Planning Under Uncertainty



I. Batkovic

Dr. Y. Chen

Highway example



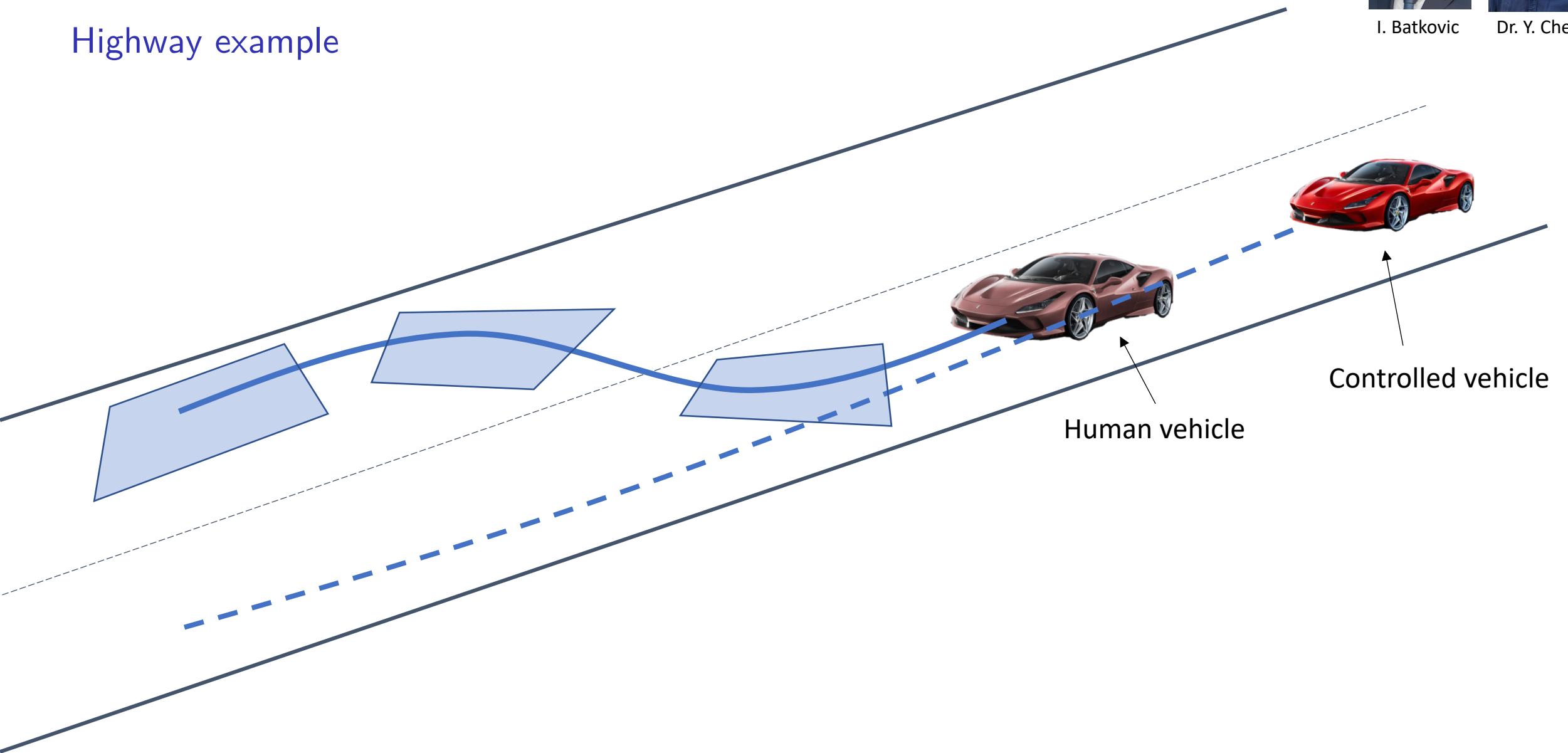
Planning Under Uncertainty



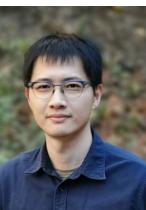
I. Batkovic

Dr. Y. Chen

Highway example



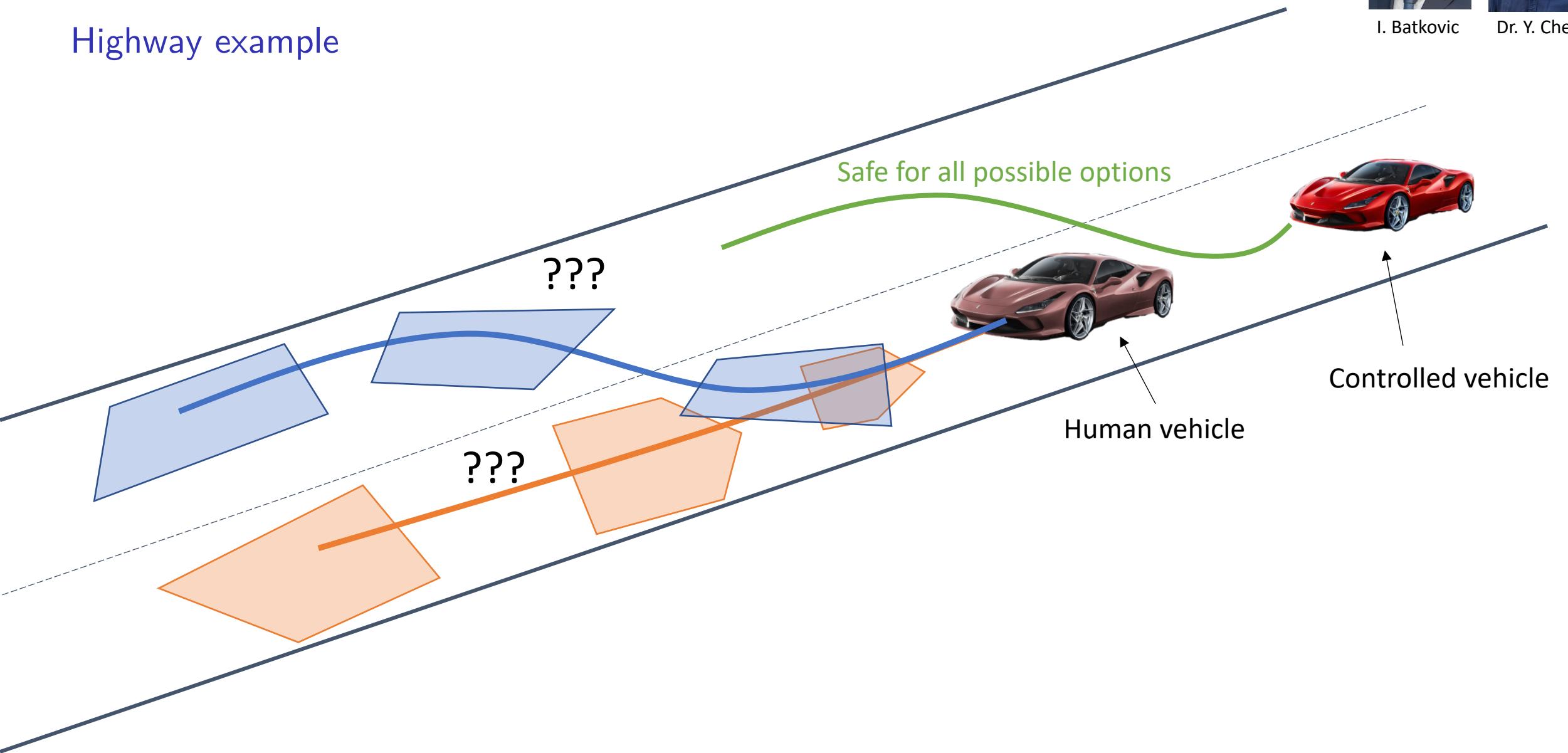
Planning Under Uncertainty



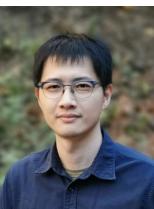
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Highway example



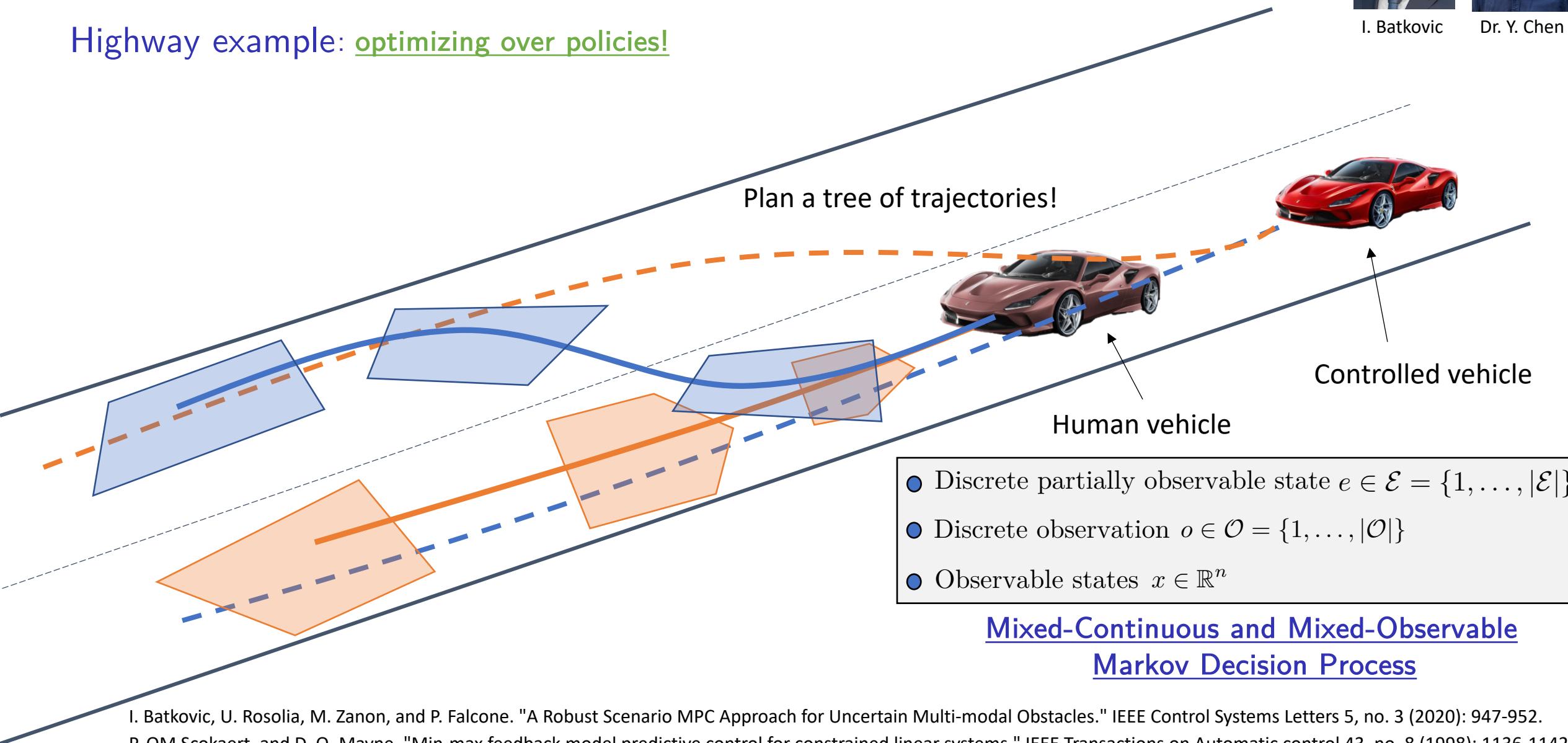
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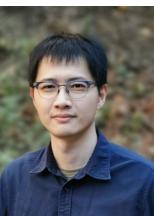


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Highway example: optimizing over policies!

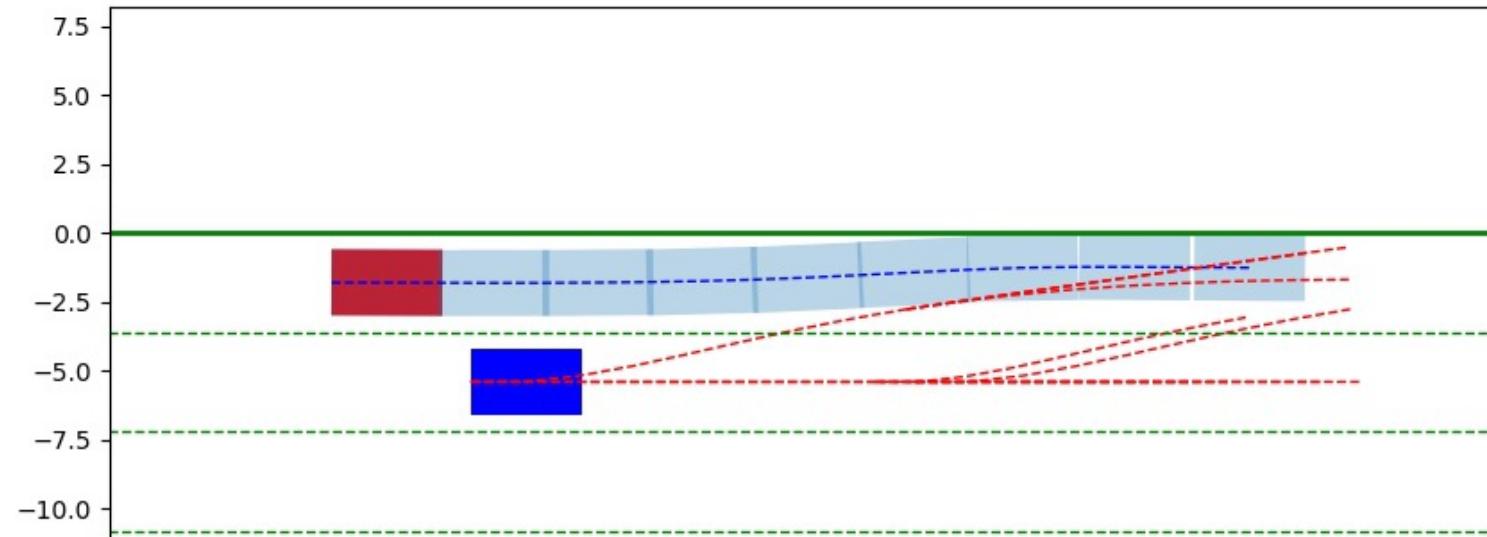




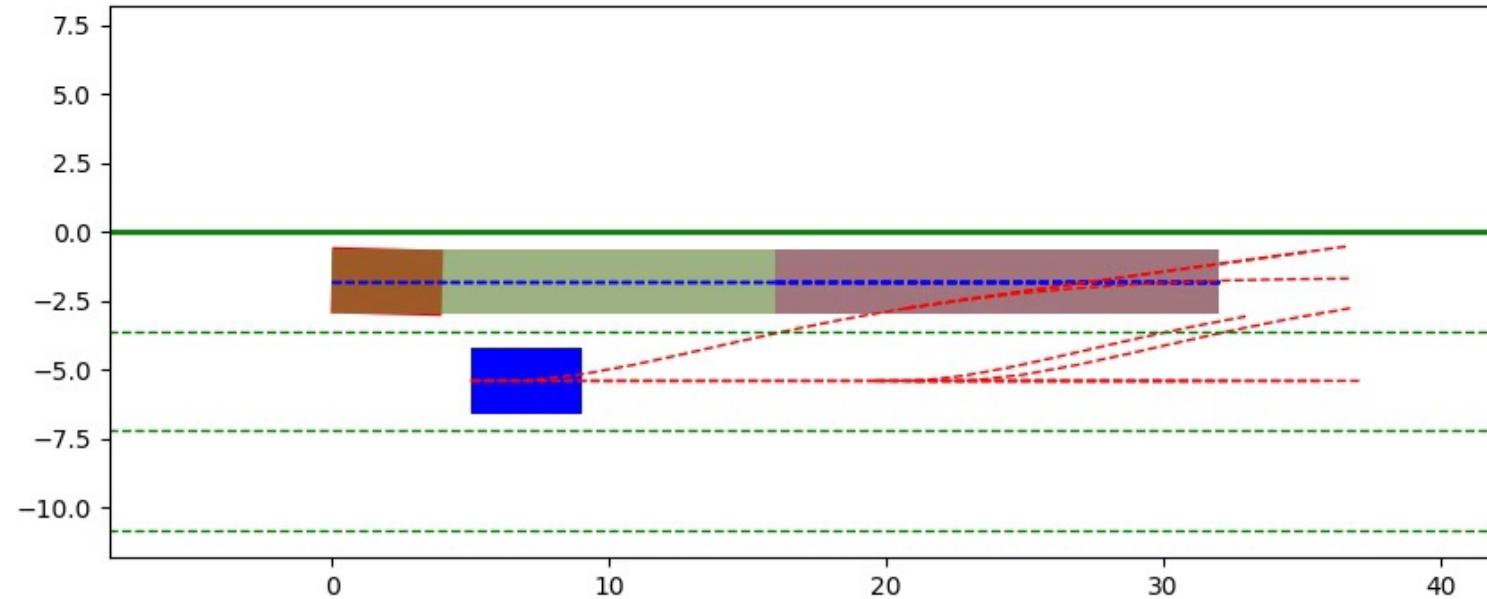
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Planning Under Uncertainty: Highway driving

Optimizing over
open-loop actions



Optimizing over
closed-loop policies



Thanks! Questions?

Code available online

The screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for 'RacingLMPC'. The repository has 12 stars and 43 forks. It contains 7 branches and 1 tag. The 'master' branch has 118 commits from 'urosolia' dated Oct 1, 2020. The commits include 'adding mpc', 'remove .idea', and 'update README'. The 'README.md' file is visible. The repository description is: 'Implementation of the Learning Model Predictive Controller for autonomous racing'. It includes a 'Readme' link. There is a 'Releases' section with 1 tag and a 'Create a new release' button. The 'Packages' section shows 'No packages published' with a 'Publish your first package' button. The 'Contributors' section lists 'urosolia', 'Ugo Rosolia', 'sarahxdean', 'Sarah Dean', and 'junzengx14', 'Jun Zeng'. The 'Languages' section shows Python at 100.0%. A plot titled 'Lap: 31' shows a blue dashed line for the 'Closed-loop trajectory' and a red dashed line for the 'Predicted Trajectory' on a race track.

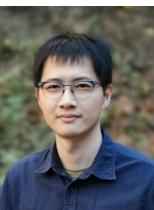
Course material online

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Topics in Machine Learning' course website for CS 159 at Caltech, Spring 2021. The page features a large image of a game controller. The main heading is 'Predictive control & model-based reinforcement learning'. Below it is the 'Lecture schedule' table:

#	Date	Subject	Resources
0	3/30	Introduction	pdf / vid
Topic 1—RL & Control			
1	3/30	Discrete MDPs	pdf / vid
2	4/01	Optimal Control	pdf / vid
3	4/06	Model Predictive Control	pdf / vid
4	4/08	Learning MPC	pdf / vid / supp
5	4/13	Model Learning in MPC	pdf / vid
6	4/15	Planning Under Uncertainty and Project Ideas	pdf / vid

Backup slides

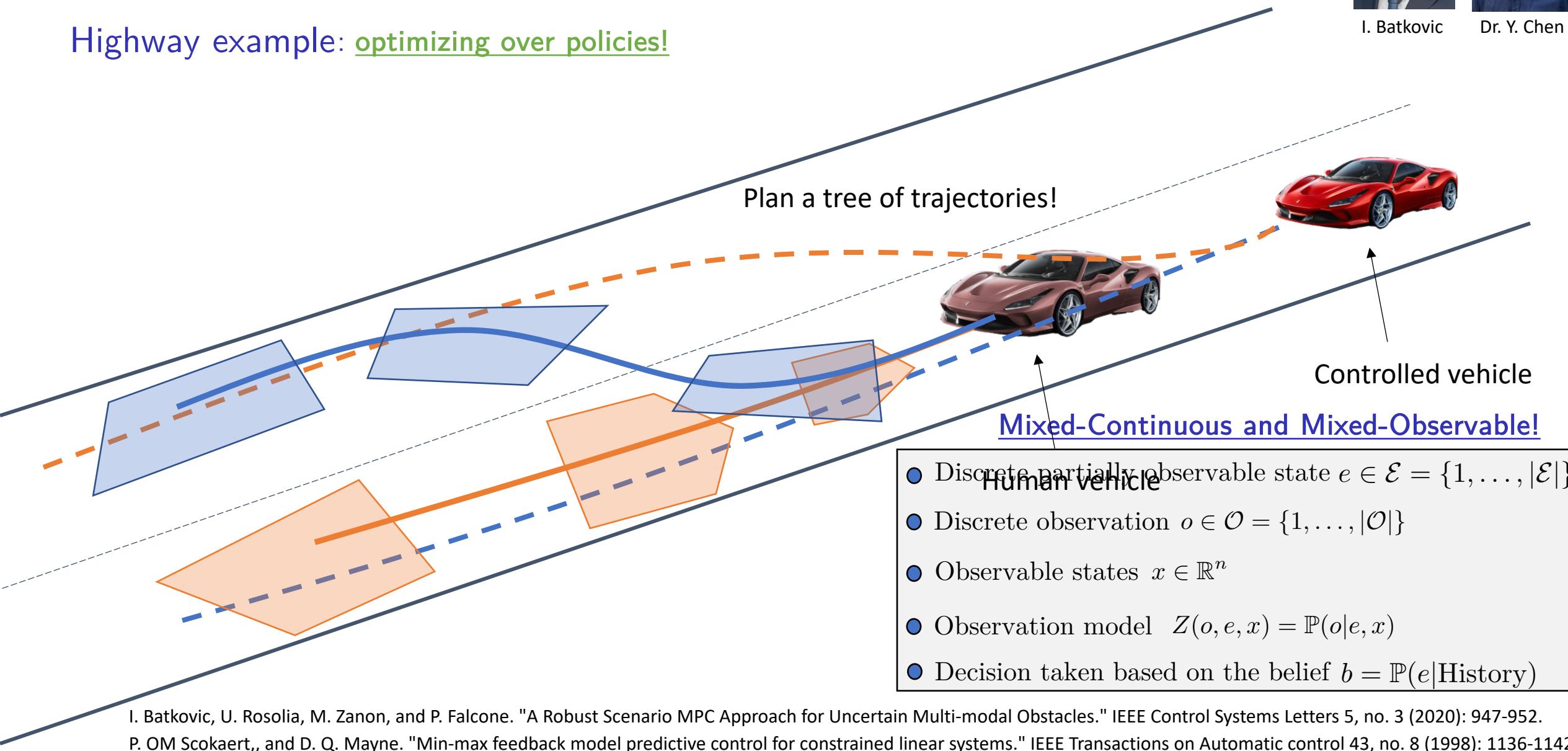
Planning Under Uncertainty



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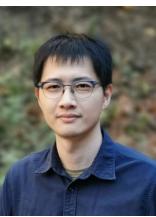
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Highway example: optimizing over policies!



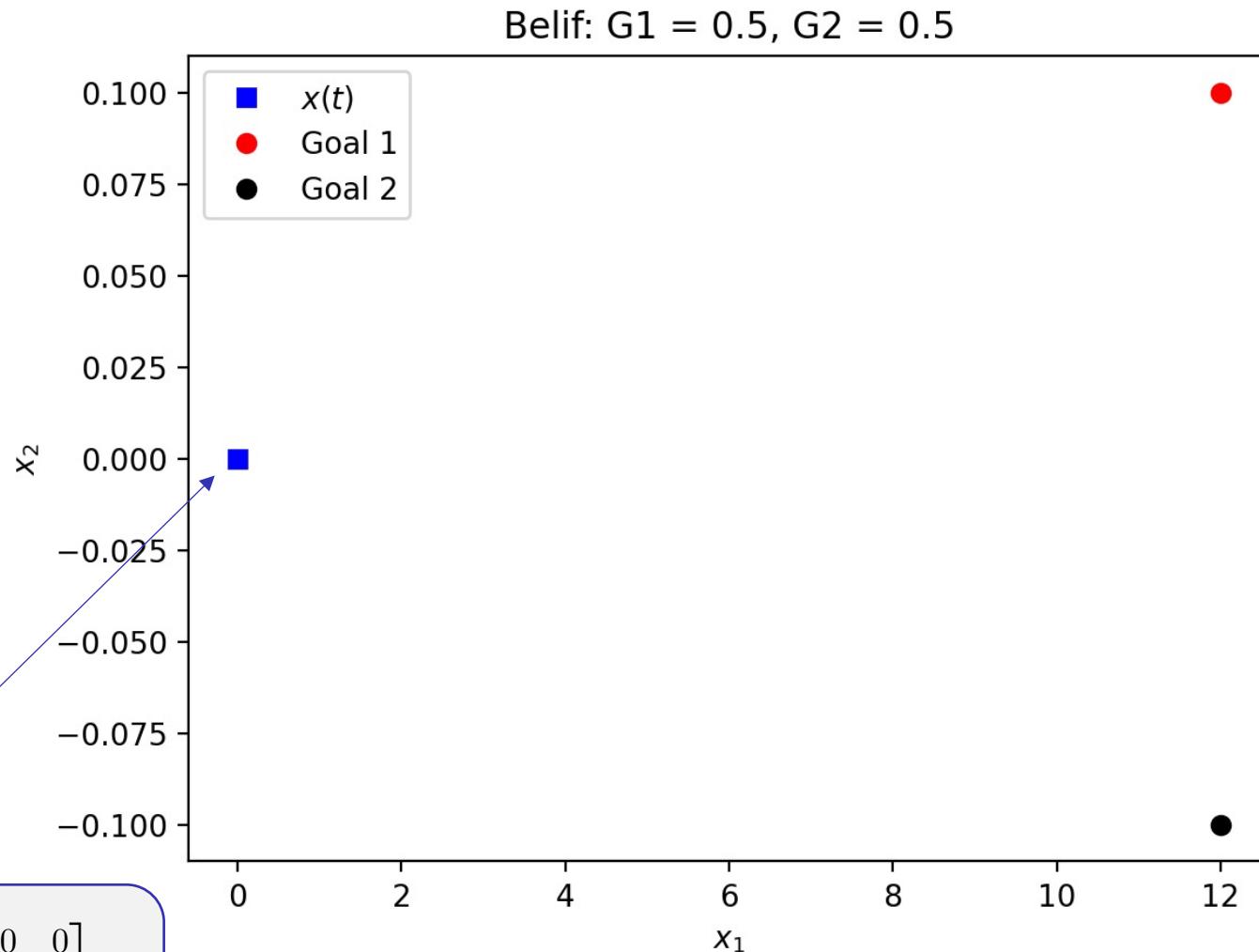
I. Batkovic, U. Rosolia, M. Zanon, and P. Falcone. "A Robust Scenario MPC Approach for Uncertain Multi-modal Obstacles." IEEE Control Systems Letters 5, no. 3 (2020): 947-952.

P. OM Scokaert,, and D. Q. Mayne. "Min-max feedback model predictive control for constrained linear systems." IEEE Transactions on Automatic control 43, no. 8 (1998): 1136-1142.



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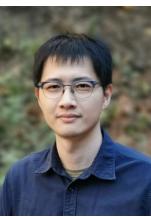
Planning Under Uncertainty: Goal Exploration



$$x_{k+1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} x_k + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} u_k$$

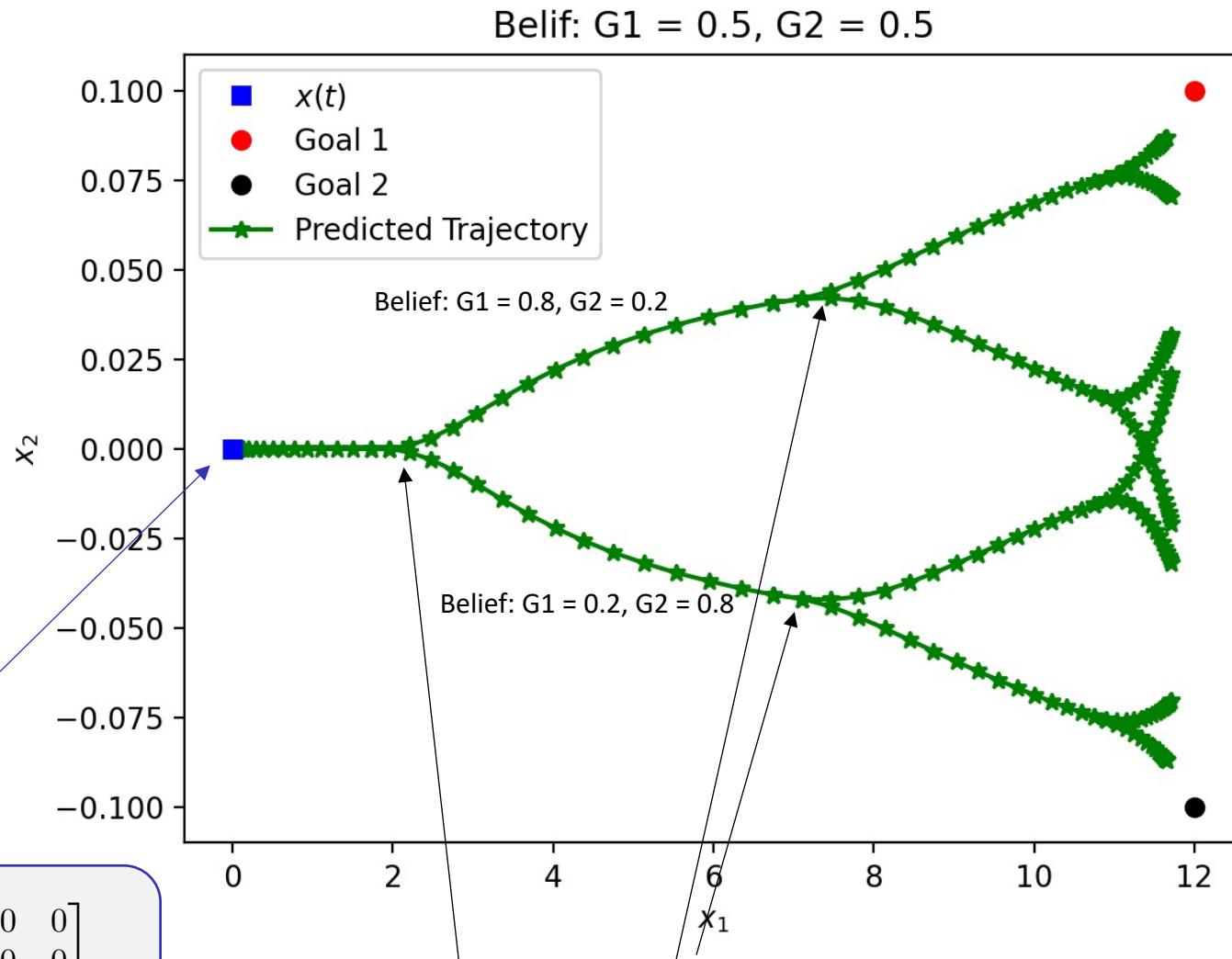
Observation Model

$$P(o = 1|goal = 1) = 0.8$$
$$P(o = 0|goal = 1) = 0.2$$



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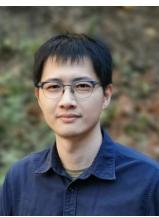
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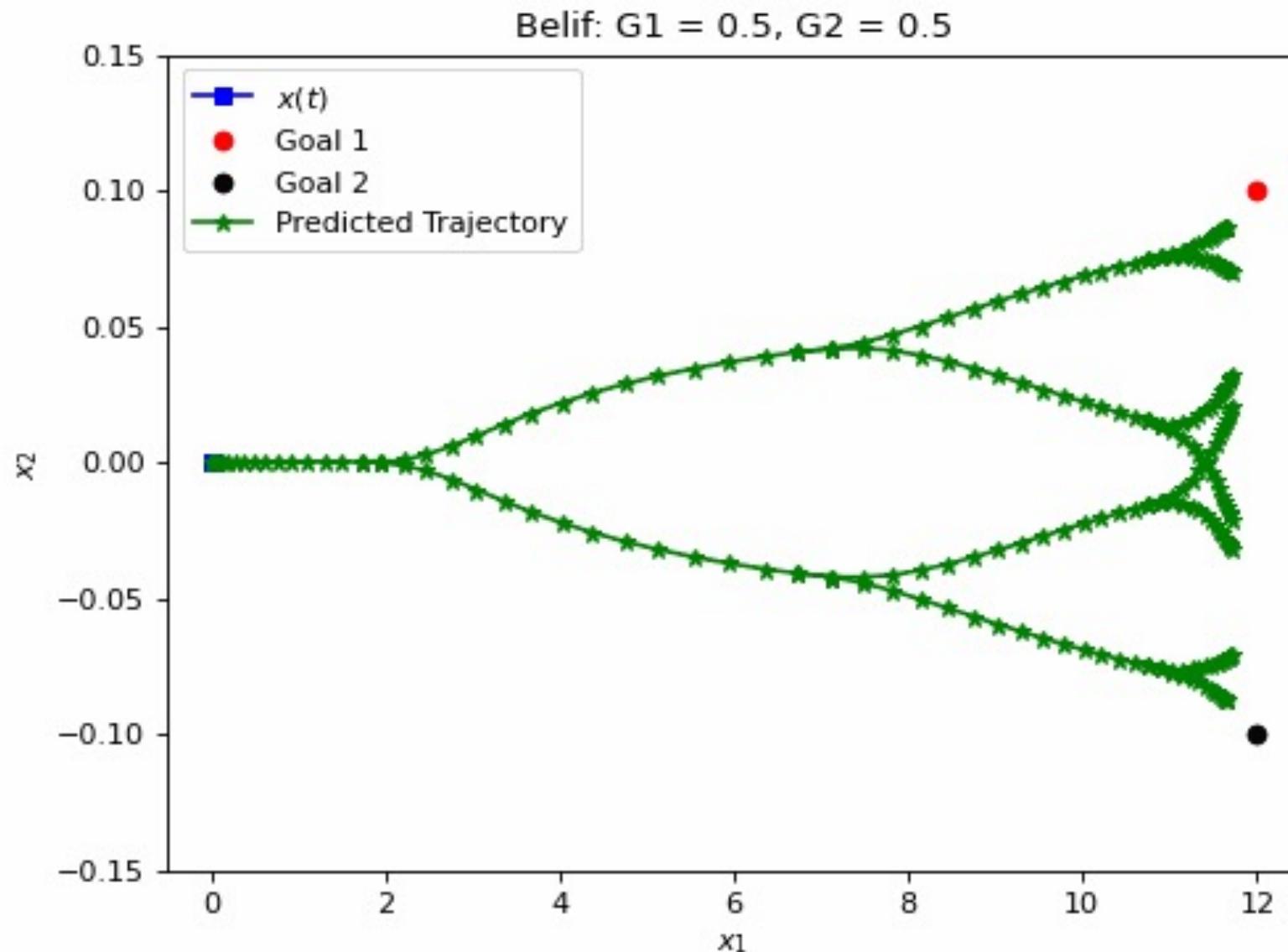
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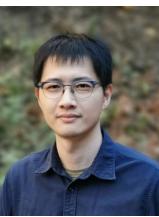
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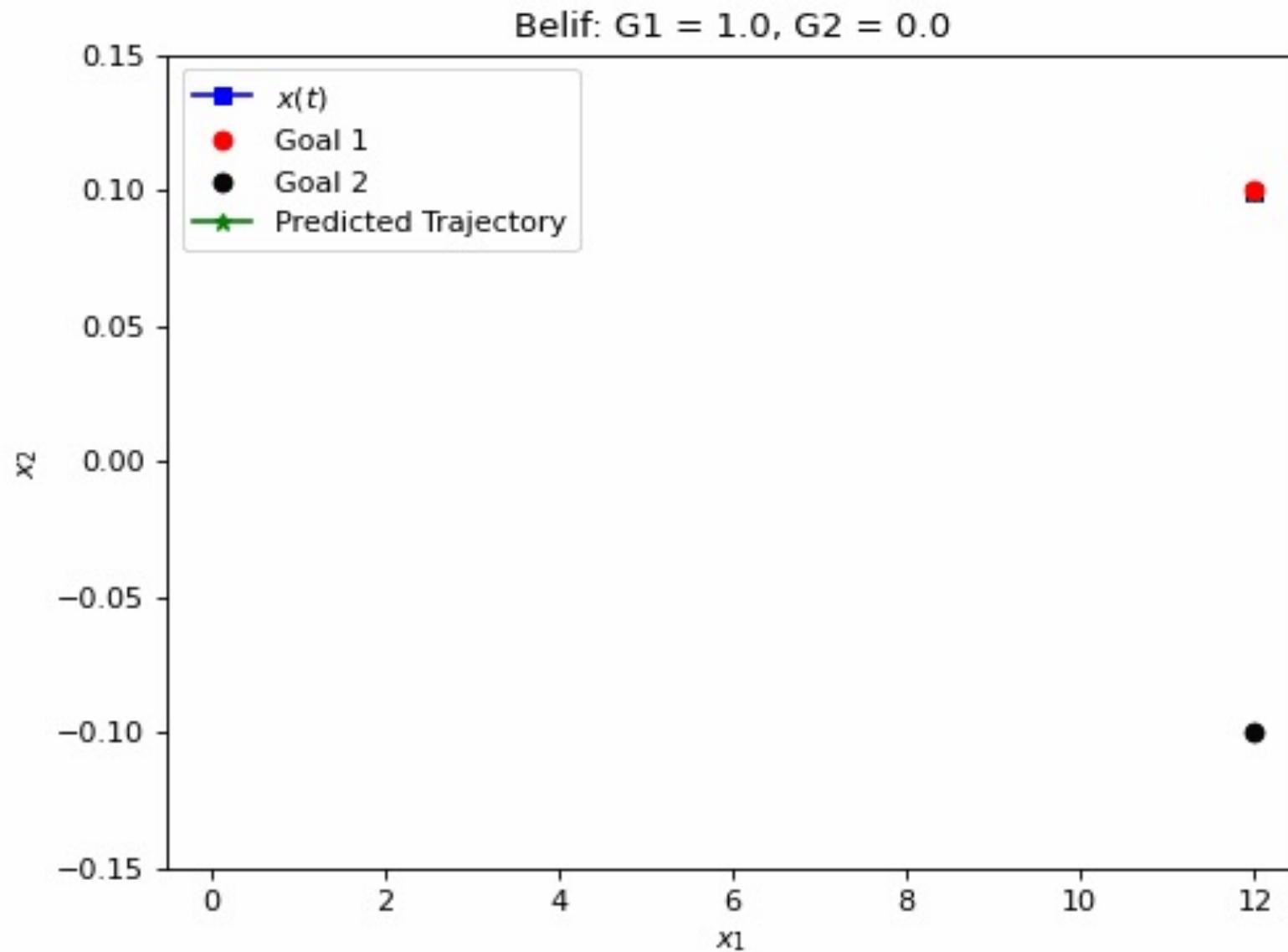
Planning Under Uncertainty: Goal Exploration



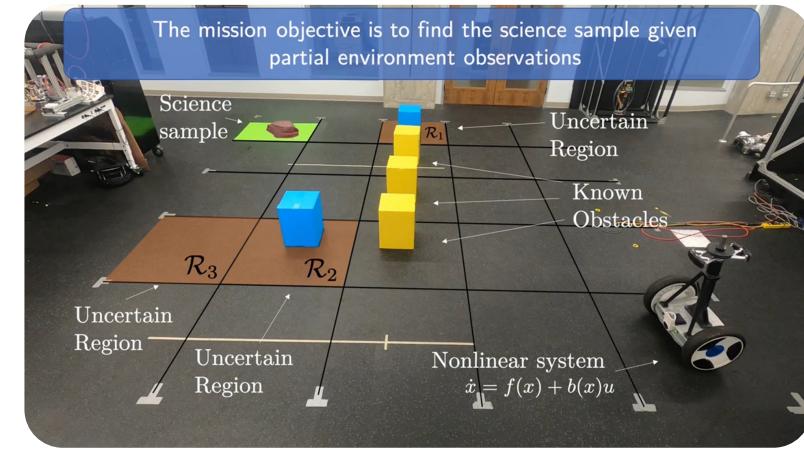
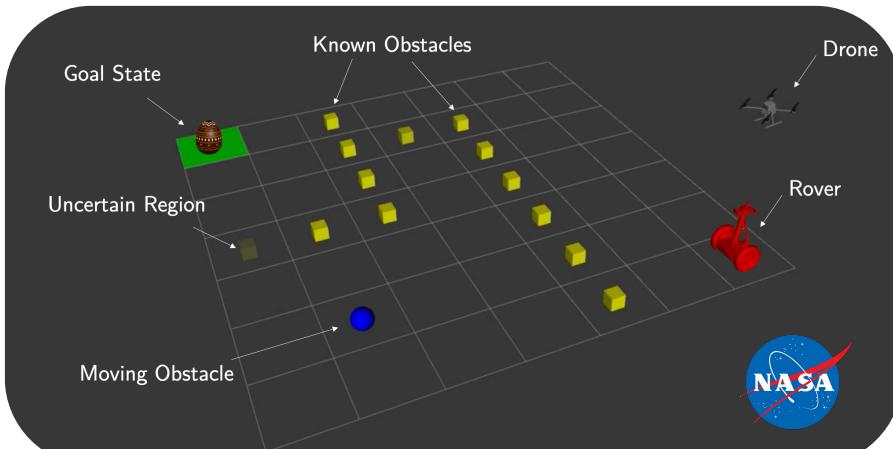
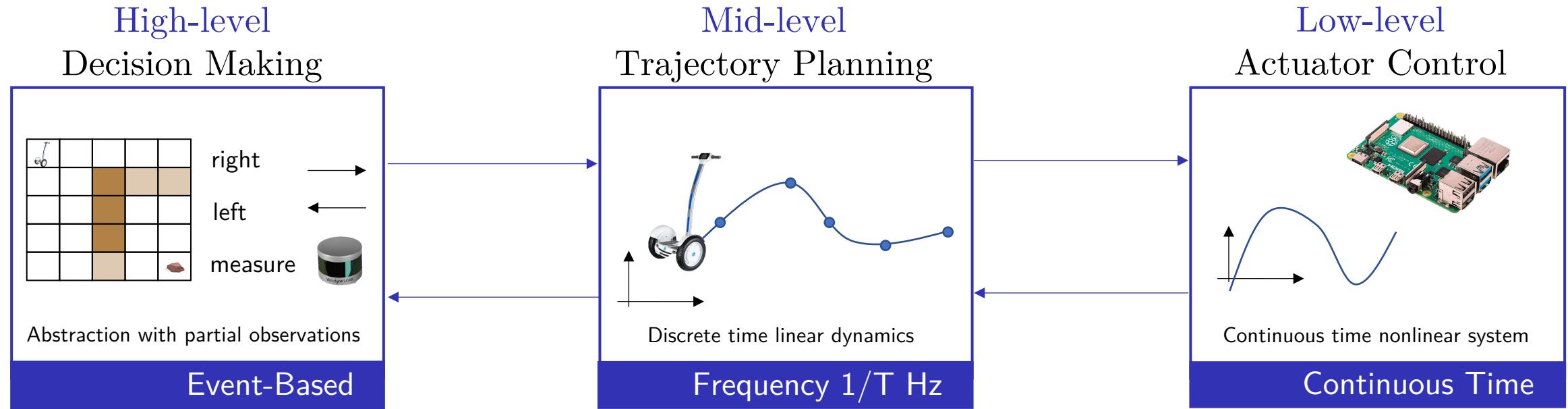


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Planning Under Uncertainty: Goal Exploration



Multi-Rate Hierarchical Control



System ID in Autonomous Racing

- Nonlinear Dynamical System,

$$\begin{aligned}\ddot{x} &= \dot{y}\dot{\psi} + \frac{1}{m} \sum_i F_{x_i} \\ \ddot{y} &= -\dot{x}\dot{\psi} + \frac{1}{m} \sum_i F_{y_i} \\ \ddot{\psi} &= \frac{1}{I_z} (a(F_{y_{1,2}}) - b(F_{y_{2,3}}) + c(-F_{x_{1,3}} + F_{x_{2,4}})) \\ \dot{X} &= \dot{x} \cos \psi - \dot{y} \sin \psi, \quad \dot{Y} = \dot{x} \sin \psi + \dot{y} \cos \psi\end{aligned}$$

System ID in Autonomous Racing

- Nonlinear Dynamical System,

$$\ddot{x} = \dot{y}\dot{\psi} + \frac{1}{m} \sum_i F_{x_i}$$

$$\ddot{y} = -\dot{x}\dot{\psi} + \frac{1}{m} \sum_i F_{y_i}$$

$$\ddot{\psi} = \frac{1}{I_z} (a(F_{y_{1,2}}) - b(F_{y_{2,3}}) + c(-F_{x_{1,3}} + F_{x_{2,4}}))$$

$$\dot{X} = \dot{x} \cos \psi - \dot{y} \sin \psi, \quad \dot{Y} = \dot{x} \sin \psi + \dot{y} \cos \psi$$

Kinematic Equations

System ID in Autonomous Racing

- ▶ Nonlinear Dynamical System,

$$\begin{aligned}\ddot{x} &= \dot{y}\dot{\psi} + \frac{1}{m} \sum_i F_{x_i} \\ \ddot{y} &= -\dot{x}\dot{\psi} + \frac{1}{m} \sum_i F_{y_i} \\ \ddot{\psi} &= \frac{1}{I_z}(a(F_{y_{1,2}}) - b(F_{y_{2,3}}) + c(-F_{x_{1,3}} + F_{x_{2,4}}) \\ \dot{X} &= \dot{x} \cos \psi - \dot{y} \sin \psi, \quad \dot{Y} = \dot{x} \sin \psi + \dot{y} \cos \psi\end{aligned}$$

Kinematic Equations

- ▶ Identifying the Dynamical System

$$x_{k+1|t}^j = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_{k+1|t} \\ \dot{y}_{k+1|t} \\ \ddot{\psi} \\ \psi_{k+1|t} \\ X_{k+1|t} \\ Y_{k+1|t} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \end{bmatrix} x_{k|t}^j + \begin{bmatrix} \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_{k|t}^j \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Linearization around predicted trajectory

System ID in Autonomous Racing

- ▶ Nonlinear Dynamical System,

$$\begin{aligned}\ddot{x} &= \dot{y}\dot{\psi} + \frac{1}{m} \sum_i F_{x_i} \\ \ddot{y} &= -\dot{x}\dot{\psi} + \frac{1}{m} \sum_i F_{y_i} \\ \ddot{\psi} &= \frac{1}{I_z}(a(F_{y_{1,2}}) - b(F_{y_{2,3}}) + c(-F_{x_{1,3}} + F_{x_{2,4}})) \\ \dot{X} &= \dot{x} \cos \psi - \dot{y} \sin \psi, \quad \dot{Y} = \dot{x} \sin \psi + \dot{y} \cos \psi\end{aligned}$$

Dynamic Equations
Kinematic Equations

- ▶ Identifying the Dynamical System

$$x_{k+1|t}^j = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_{k+1|t} \\ \dot{y}_{k+1|t} \\ \ddot{\psi} \\ \psi_{k+1|t} \\ X_{k+1|t} \\ Y_{k+1|t} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \end{bmatrix} x_{k|t}^j + \begin{bmatrix} \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_{k|t}^j \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Linearization around predicted trajectory

System ID in Autonomous Racing

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Dynamic Equations
Kinematic Equations

- ▶ Identifying the Dynamical System

Local Linear Regression

$$x_{k+1|t}^j = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_{k+1|t} \\ \dot{y}_{k+1|t} \\ \ddot{\psi} \\ \psi_{k+1|t} \\ X_{k+1|t} \\ Y_{k+1|t} \end{bmatrix} = \left[\begin{array}{c} \boxed{\arg \min \sum_{i,s} K(x_{k|t}^j - x_s^i) || \Lambda_y \begin{bmatrix} x_{k|t}^j \\ u_{k|t}^j \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - y_{s+1}^i ||}, \forall y \in \{\dot{x}, \dot{y}, \ddot{\psi}\} \\ \boxed{\text{Linearized Kinematics}} \\ \boxed{\text{Linearized Kinematics}} \\ \boxed{\text{Linearized Kinematics}} \end{array} \right] x_{k|t}^j + \left[\begin{array}{c} \boxed{\text{Linearized Kinematics}} \\ \boxed{\text{Linearized Kinematics}} \\ \boxed{\text{Linearized Kinematics}} \\ \boxed{\text{Linearized Kinematics}} \end{array} \right] \begin{bmatrix} u_{k|t}^j \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Linearization around predicted trajectory

System Identification – Design Steps

Identifying the Dynamical System

Local Linear Regression

$$x_{k+1|t}^j = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_{k+1|t} \\ \dot{y}_{k+1|t} \\ \ddot{\psi} \\ \psi_{k+1|t} \\ X_{k+1|t} \\ Y_{k+1|t} \end{bmatrix} = \left[\begin{array}{c} \arg \min \sum_{i,s} K(x_{k|t}^j - x_s^i) || \Lambda_y \begin{bmatrix} x_{k|t}^j \\ u_{k|t}^j \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - y_{s+1}^i ||, \forall y \in \{\dot{x}, \dot{y}, \ddot{\psi}\} \\ \boxed{\text{Linearized Kinematics}} \\ \boxed{\text{Linearized Kinematics}} \\ \boxed{\text{Linearized Kinematics}} \end{array} \right] x_{k|t}^j + \left[\begin{array}{c} \boxed{\text{Linearized Kinematics}} \\ \boxed{\text{Linearized Kinematics}} \\ \boxed{\text{Linearized Kinematics}} \\ \boxed{\text{Linearized Kinematics}} \end{array} \right] \begin{bmatrix} u_{k|t}^j \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Linearization around predicted trajectory

Implementation Details

System Identification – Design Steps

Identifying the Dynamical System

Local Linear Regression

$$x_{k+1|t}^j = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_{k+1|t} \\ \dot{y}_{k+1|t} \\ \ddot{\psi} \\ \psi_{k+1|t} \\ X_{k+1|t} \\ Y_{k+1|t} \end{bmatrix} = \left[\begin{array}{c} \arg \min \sum_{i,s} K(x_{k|t}^j - x_s^i) || \Lambda_y \begin{bmatrix} x_{k|t}^j \\ u_{k|t}^j \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - y_{s+1}^i ||, \forall y \in \{\dot{x}, \dot{y}, \ddot{\psi}\} \\ \hline \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \end{array} \right] x_{k|t}^j + \left[\begin{array}{c} \hline \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \end{array} \right] \begin{bmatrix} u_{k|t}^j \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Linearization around predicted trajectory

Implementation Details

- ▶ Compute trajectory to linearize around from previous optimal inputs and stored data

System Identification – Design Steps

Identifying the Dynamical System

Local Linear Regression

$$x_{k+1|t}^j = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_{k+1|t} \\ \dot{y}_{k+1|t} \\ \ddot{\psi} \\ \psi_{k+1|t} \\ X_{k+1|t} \\ Y_{k+1|t} \end{bmatrix} = \left[\begin{array}{c} \arg \min \sum_{i,s} K(x_{k|t}^j - x_s^i) || \Lambda_y \begin{bmatrix} x_{k|t}^j \\ u_{k|t}^j \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - y_{s+1}^i ||, \forall y \in \{\dot{x}, \dot{y}, \ddot{\psi}\} \\ \hline \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \end{array} \right] x_{k|t}^j + \left[\begin{array}{c} \hline \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \end{array} \right] \begin{bmatrix} u_{k|t}^j \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Linearization around predicted trajectory

Implementation Details

- ▶ Compute trajectory to linearize around from previous optimal inputs and stored data
- ▶ Enforce model-based sparsity in local linear regression

System Identification – Design Steps

Identifying the Dynamical System

Local Linear Regression

$$x_{k+1|t}^j = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_{k+1|t} \\ \dot{y}_{k+1|t} \\ \ddot{\psi} \\ \psi_{k+1|t} \\ X_{k+1|t} \\ Y_{k+1|t} \end{bmatrix} = \left[\begin{array}{c} \arg \min \sum_{i,s} K(x_{k|t}^j - x_s^i) || \Lambda_y \begin{bmatrix} x_{k|t}^j \\ u_{k|t}^j \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - y_{s+1}^i ||, \forall y \in \{\dot{x}, \dot{y}, \ddot{\psi}\} \\ \hline \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \end{array} \right] x_{k|t}^j + \left[\begin{array}{c} \hline \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \end{array} \right] \begin{bmatrix} u_{k|t}^j \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Linearization around predicted trajectory

Implementation Details

- ▶ Compute trajectory to linearize around from previous optimal inputs and stored data
- ▶ Enforce model-based sparsity in local linear regression
- ▶ Perform local linear regression at the linearization points using a subset of the stored data

System Identification – Design Steps

Identifying the Dynamical System

Local Linear Regression

$$x_{k+1|t}^j = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_{k+1|t} \\ \dot{y}_{k+1|t} \\ \ddot{\psi} \\ \psi_{k+1|t} \\ X_{k+1|t} \\ Y_{k+1|t} \end{bmatrix} = \left[\begin{array}{c} \arg \min \sum_{i,s} K(x_{k|t}^j - x_s^i) || \Lambda_y \begin{bmatrix} x_{k|t}^j \\ u_{k|t}^j \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - y_{s+1}^i ||, \forall y \in \{\dot{x}, \dot{y}, \ddot{\psi}\} \\ \hline \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \end{array} \right] x_{k|t}^j + \left[\begin{array}{c} \hline \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \\ \text{Linearized Kinematics} \end{array} \right] \begin{bmatrix} u_{k|t}^j \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Linearization around predicted trajectory

Implementation Details

- ▶ Compute trajectory to linearize around from previous optimal inputs and stored data
- ▶ Enforce model-based sparsity in local linear regression
- ▶ Perform local linear regression at the linearization points using a subset of the stored data
- ▶ Use kernel $K()$ to weight differently data as a function of distance to the linearization trajectory

Problem Formulation

Minimum Time Control Problem

$$\min_{T, \mathbf{u}} \quad T \quad \text{Control objective}$$

$$x_0 = x_s, \quad x_T = \mathcal{X}_F \quad \text{Start & end position}$$

System dynamics
System constraints

Safety constraints

$$x_{k+1} = f(x_k, u_k), \quad \forall k \in \{0, \dots, T-1\}$$

$$x_k \in \mathcal{X}, \quad u_k \in \mathcal{U}, \quad \forall k \in \{0, \dots, T-1\}$$



Problem Formulation: Assumption 1

Minimum Time Control Problem

$$\min_{T, \mathbf{u}} \quad T \quad \text{Control objective}$$

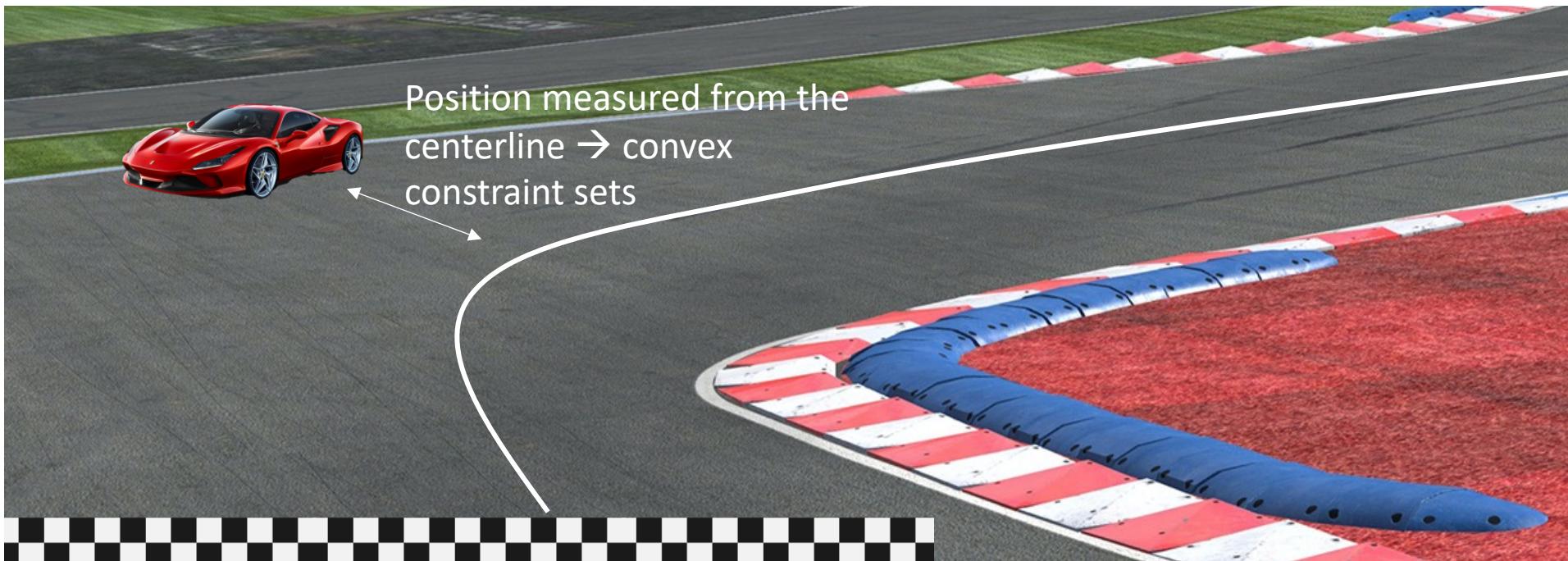
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System dynamics
System constraints

Safety constraints

$$x_{k+1} = f(x_k, u_k), \quad \forall k \in \{0, \dots, T-1\}$$

$$x_k \in \mathcal{X}, \quad u_k \in \mathcal{U}, \quad \forall k \in \{0, \dots, T-1\}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
J(x(t), b(t)) = \min_{\pi_0, \dots, \pi_{N-1}} & \quad \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{o_{N-1}}} \left[\sum_{k=0}^{N-1} h(x_k, u_k, e_k) \middle| b(t) \right] \\
\text{s.t.} & \quad x_{k+1} = Ax_k + Bu_k, \\
& \quad u_k = \pi_k(x_0, \dots, x_k, \mathbf{o_k}, b(t)), \\
& \quad x_0 = x(t), \\
& \quad u_k \in \mathcal{U}, x_k \in \mathcal{X}, \\
& \quad \forall k \in \{0, \dots, N-1\},
\end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
J(x(t), b(t)) = \min_{\mathbf{u}} \quad & \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \sum_{\mathbf{o_k} \in \mathcal{O}^k} \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}} v_k^{\mathbf{o_k}}[e] h(x_k^{\mathbf{o_k}}, u_k^{\mathbf{o_k}}, e) \\
\text{s.t.} \quad & x_{k+1}^{\mathbf{o_k}} = Ax_k^{\mathbf{o_{k-1}}} + Bu_k^{\mathbf{o_k}}, \\
& x_0^{\mathbf{o_{-1}}} = x(t), v_0^{\mathbf{o_0}} = b(t), \\
& v_k^{\mathbf{o_{k+1}}} = A_e(o_{k+1}, x_{k+1}^{\mathbf{o_k}})v_k^{\mathbf{o_k}}, \\
& u_k^{\mathbf{o_k}} \in \mathcal{U}, x_{k+1}^{\mathbf{o_k}} \in \mathcal{X}, \\
& \forall \mathbf{o_k} \in \mathcal{O}^k, \forall k \in \{0, \dots, N-1\},
\end{aligned} \tag{8}$$