



# Learning Model Predictive Control for Iterative Tasks

## Theory and Application

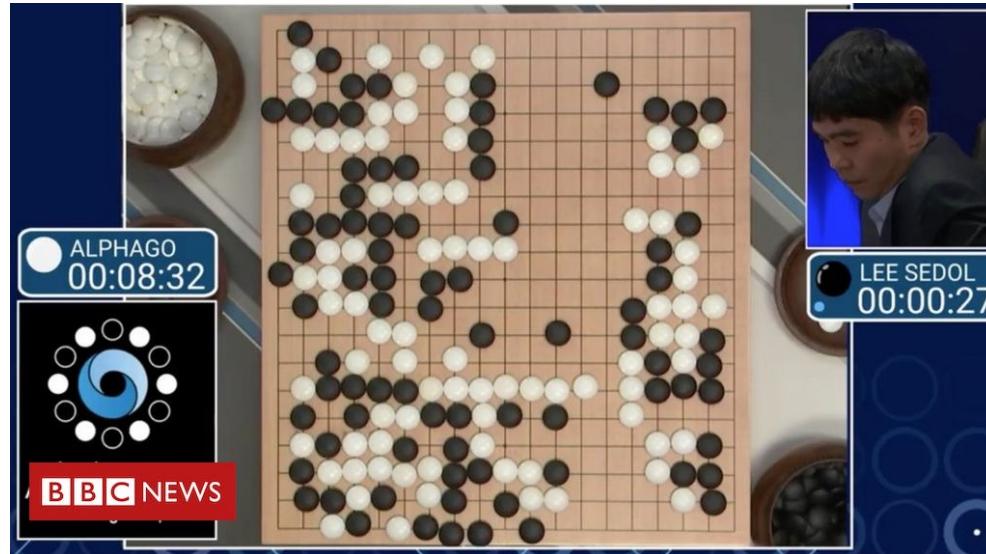
Ugo Rosolia

AMBER Lab  
California Institute of Technology

June 10th, 2021

# Success Stories from AI

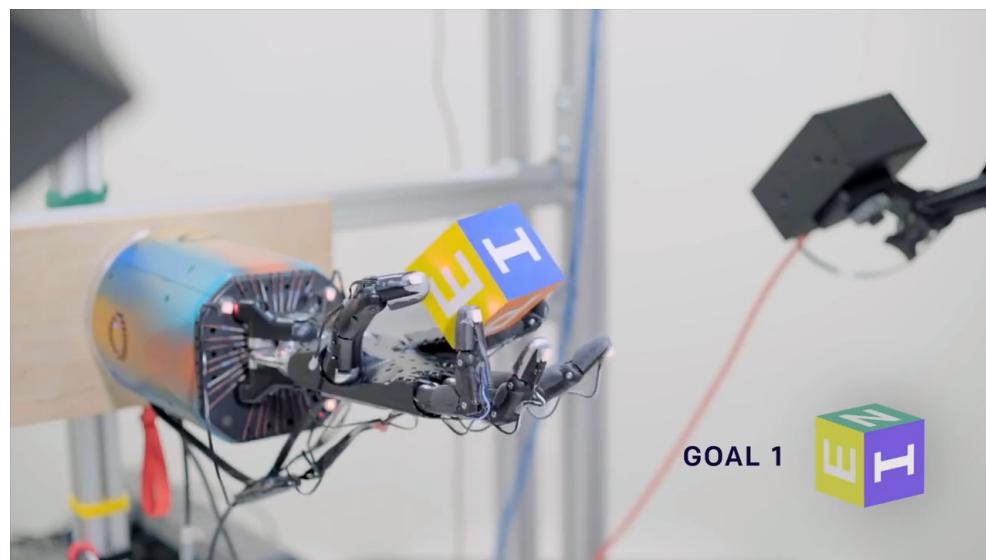
Alpha GO



WayMo's Perception Module



OpenAI



Google



# Success Stories from Control Theory

Boston Dynamics



Stanford Dynamic Design Lab



# Success Stories from Control Theory

Boston Dynamics

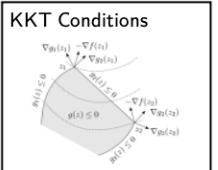


Stanford Dynamic Design Lab

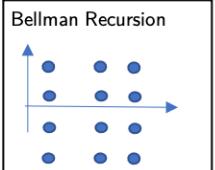


## Standard Control Pipeline

### Optimal Trajectory

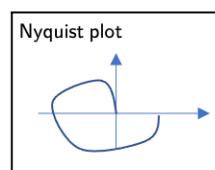


Optimization

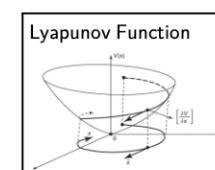


Dynamic Programming

### Trajectory Tracking



Frequency Domain

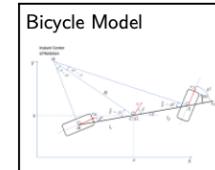


Nonlinear Control

### System Identification

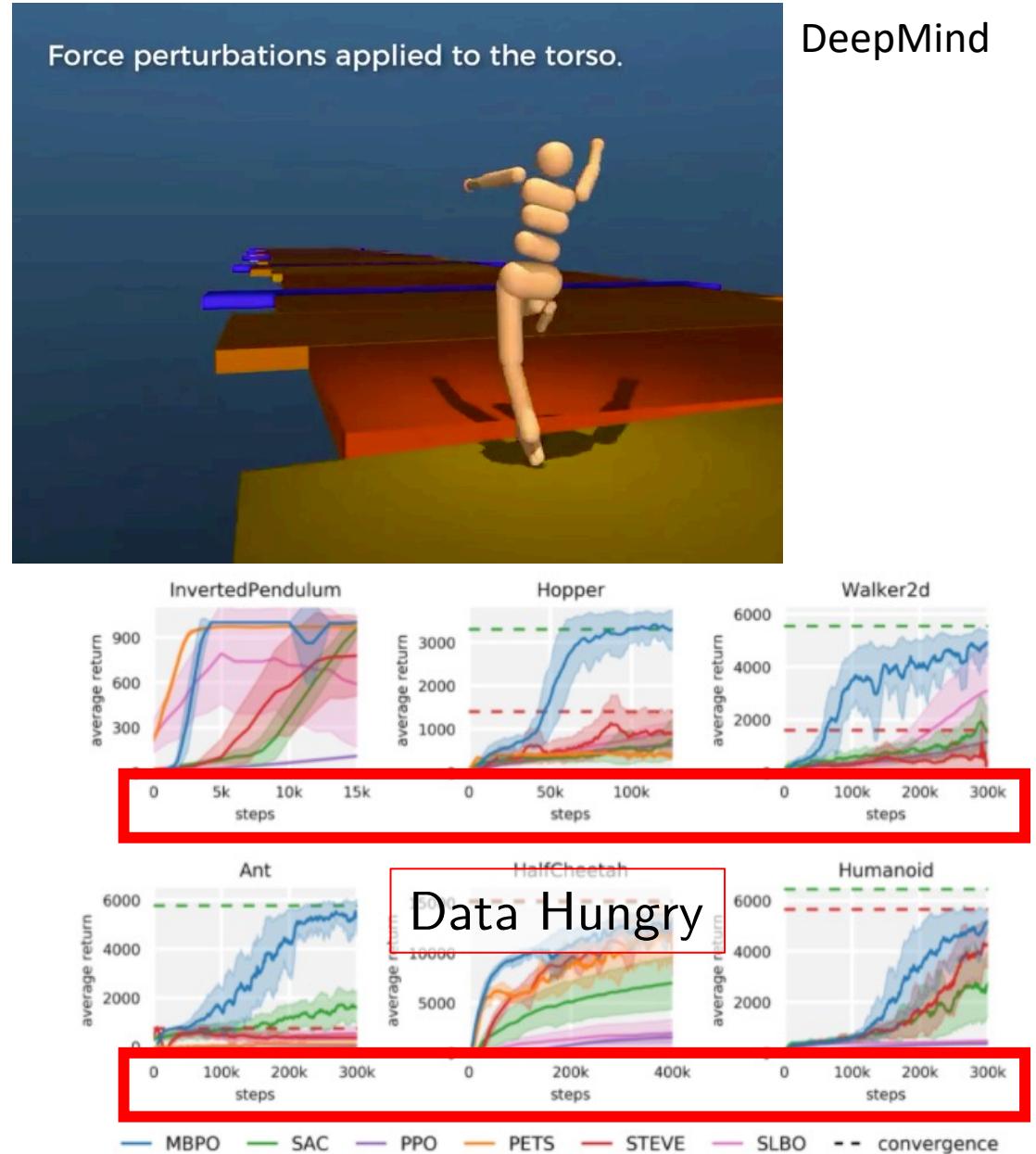
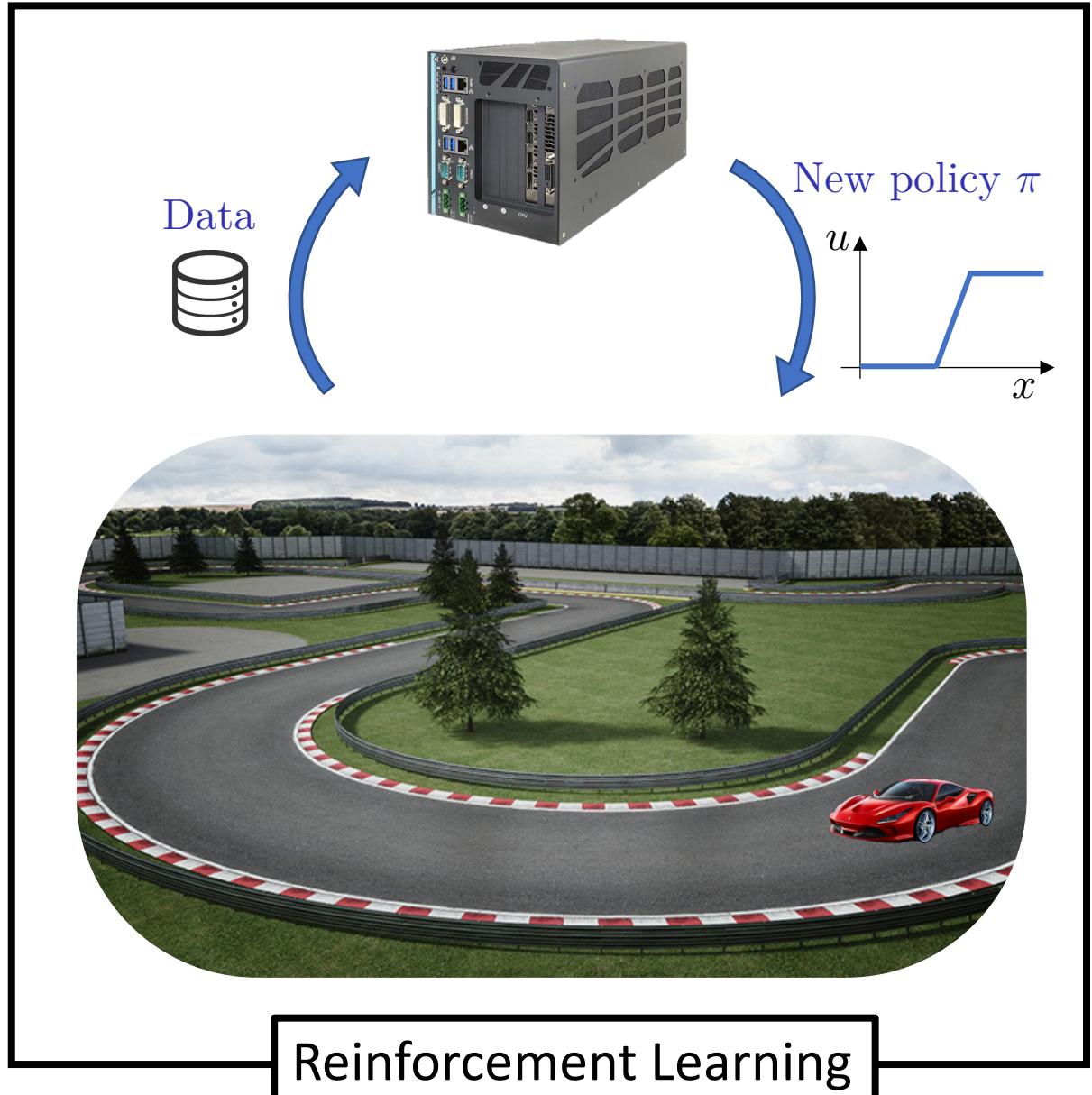


Tire Dynamics



Vehicle Dynamics

# Can we simplify the control design?



# Can we simplify the control design?



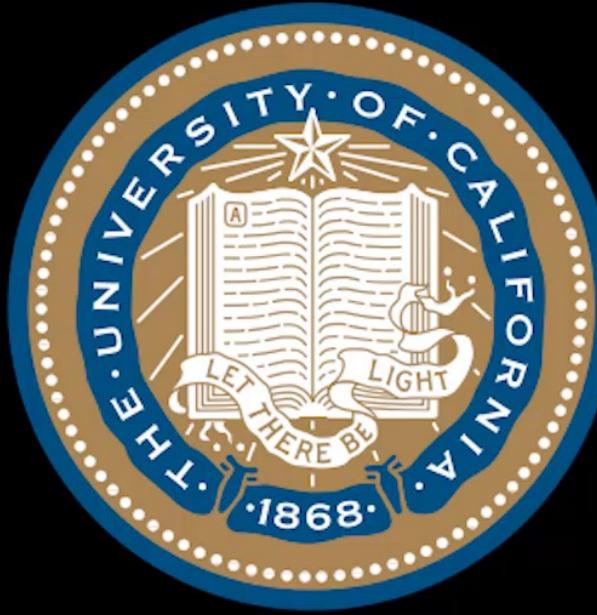
**Today's goals:**  
Design efficient model-based RL framework



Reinforcement Learning



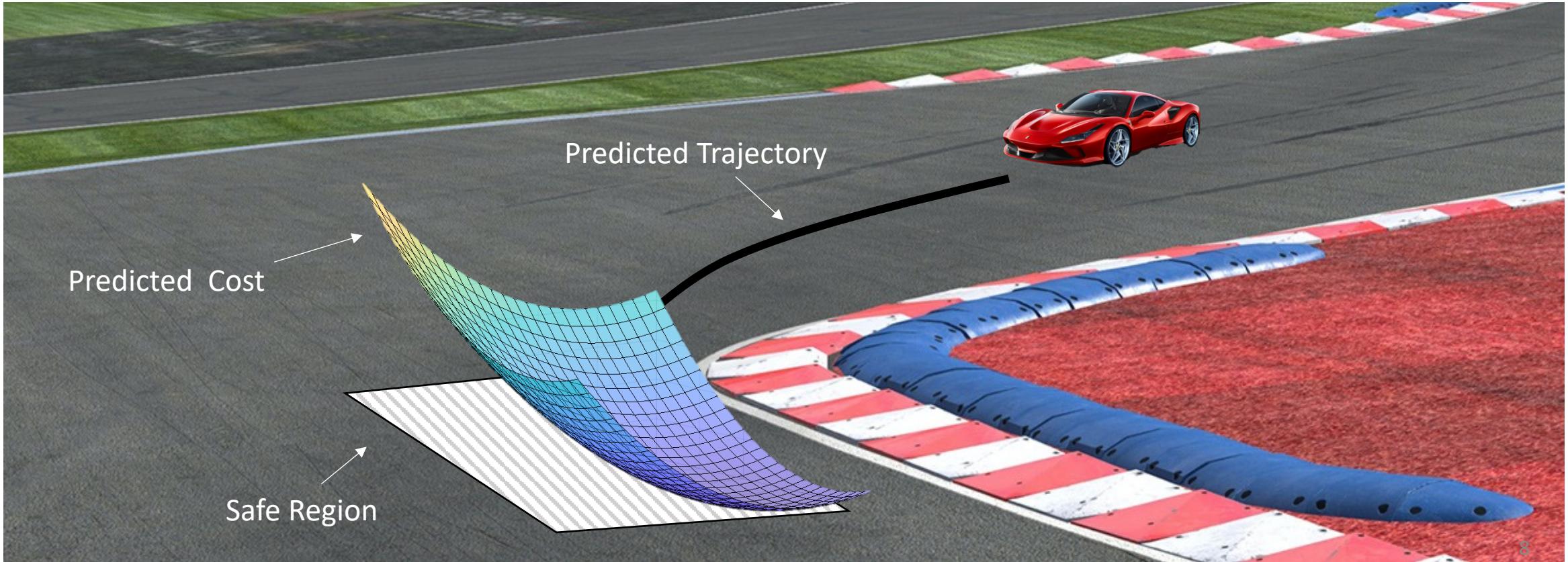
# Today's Example



Learning Model Predictive Controller full-size  
vehicle experiments

Credits: Siddharth Nair, Nitin Kapania and Ugo Rosolia

# Lesson from Predictive Control



8

- ▶ 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

$$\min_{\{u_k\}_{k=0}^N} \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{t=0}^N h(x_t, u_t) \right] + \min_{u \in \mathcal{U}} Q^*(x, u)$$

Value Function

Model-free RL

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

Safety-critical Control

Safe Set

$$\mathcal{S} \cap (\mathcal{C} \cup \mathcal{D})$$

Data Efficient Learning!

# Iterative Control Synthesis

Controller

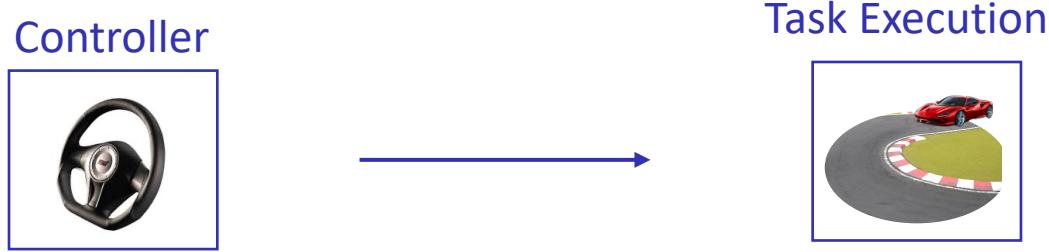


# Iterative Control Synthesis

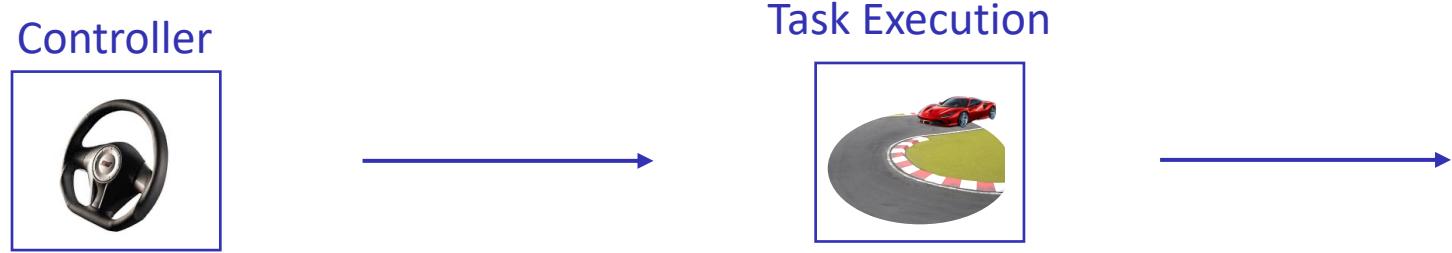
Controller



# Iterative Control Synthesis



# Iterative Control Synthesis



# Iterative Control Synthesis

Controller



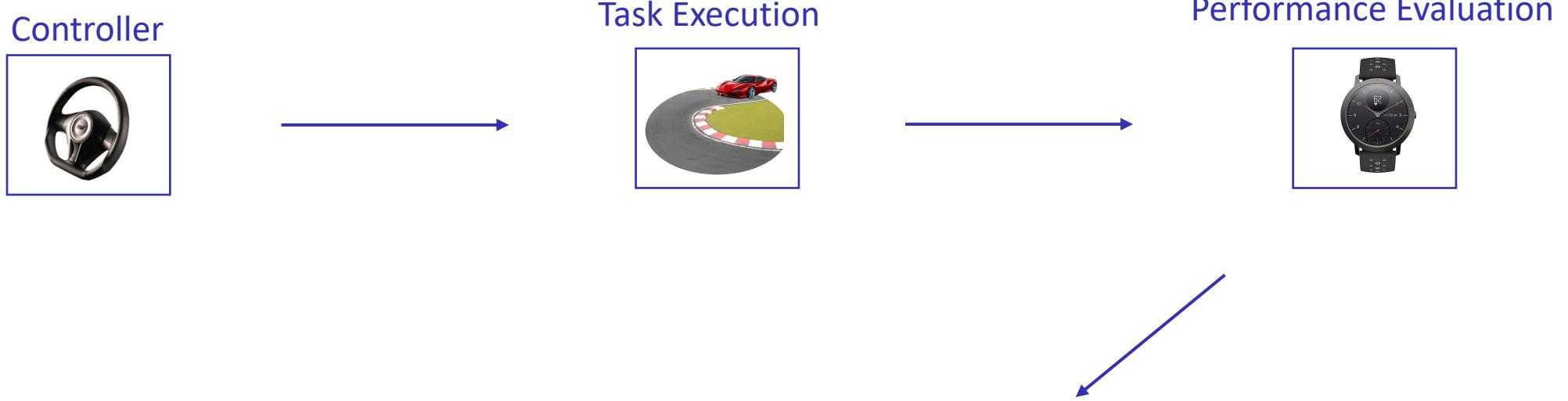
Task Execution



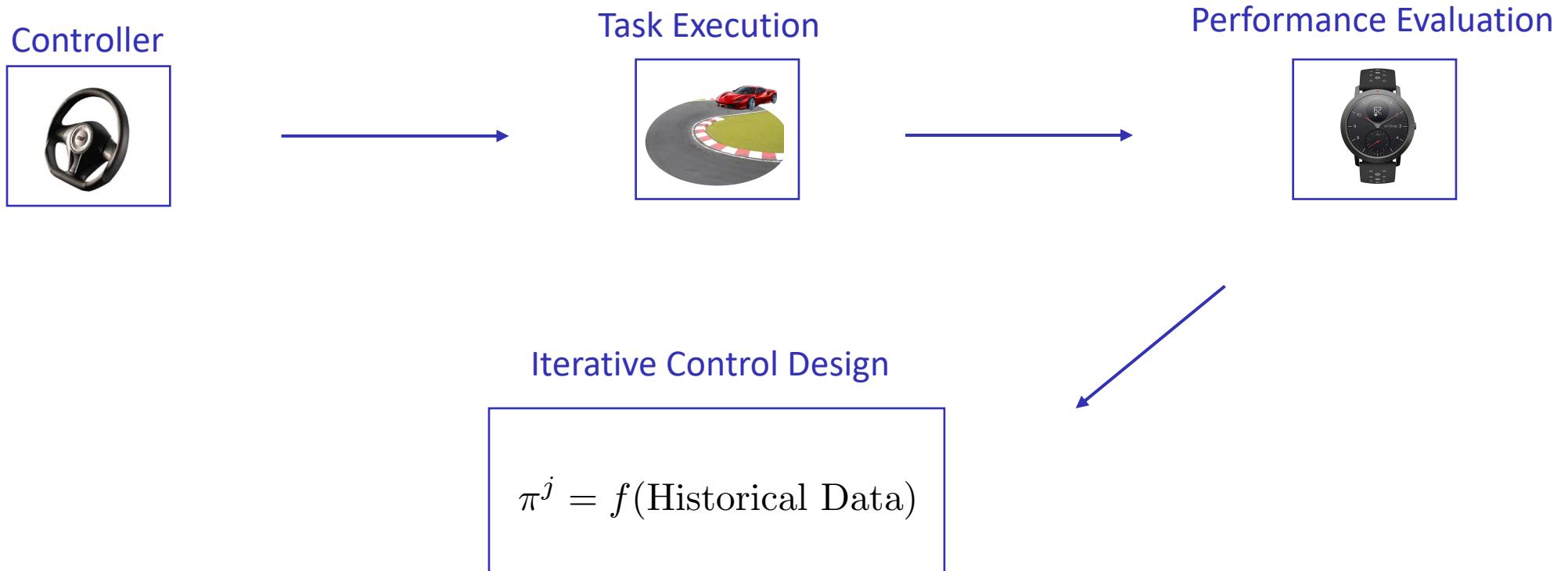
Performance Evaluation



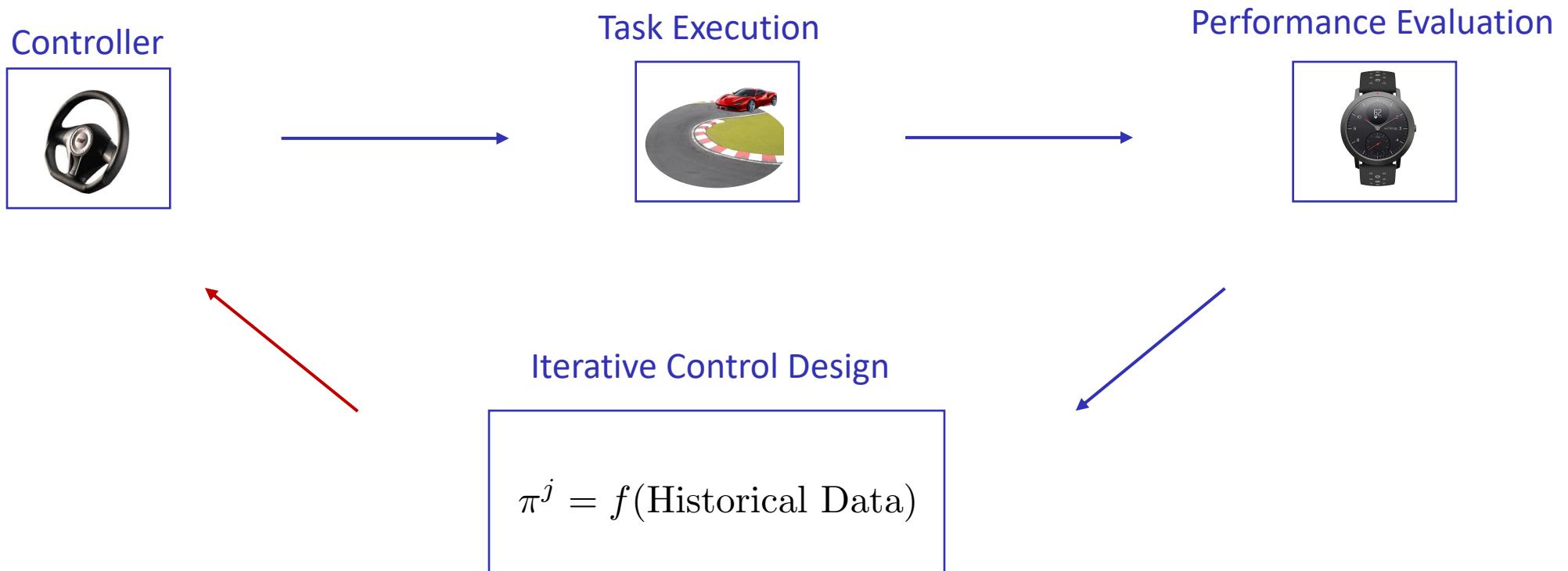
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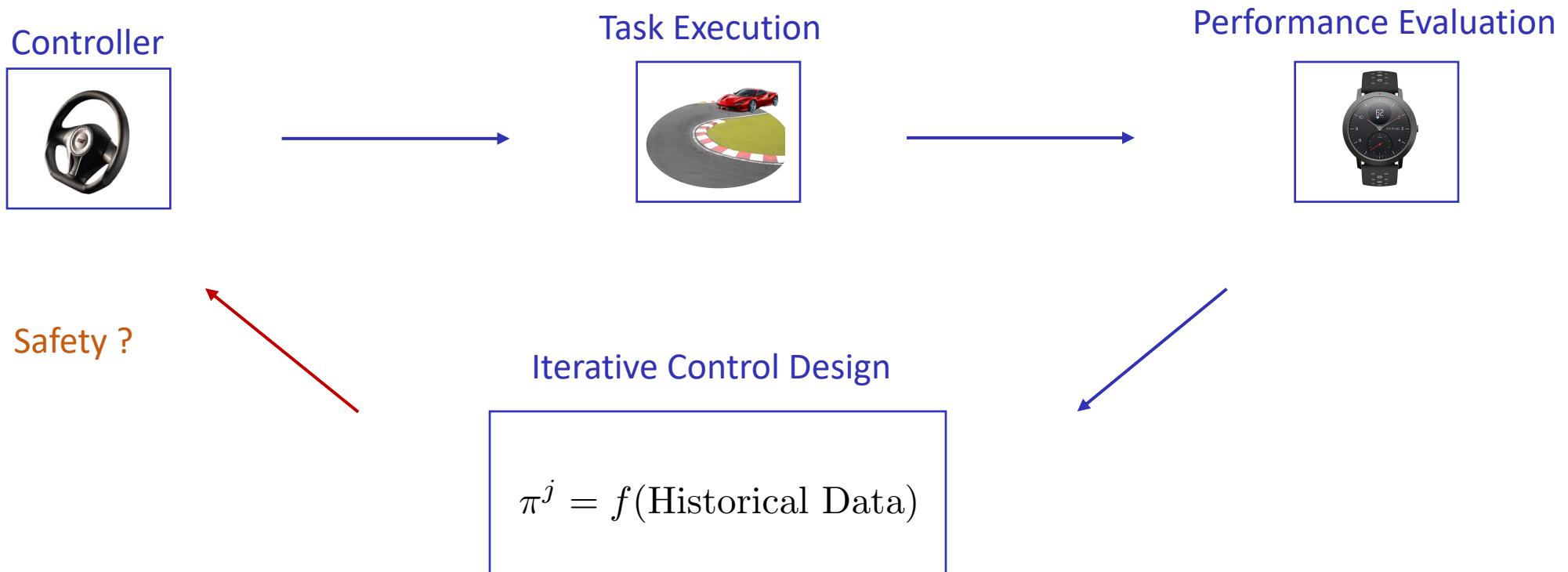
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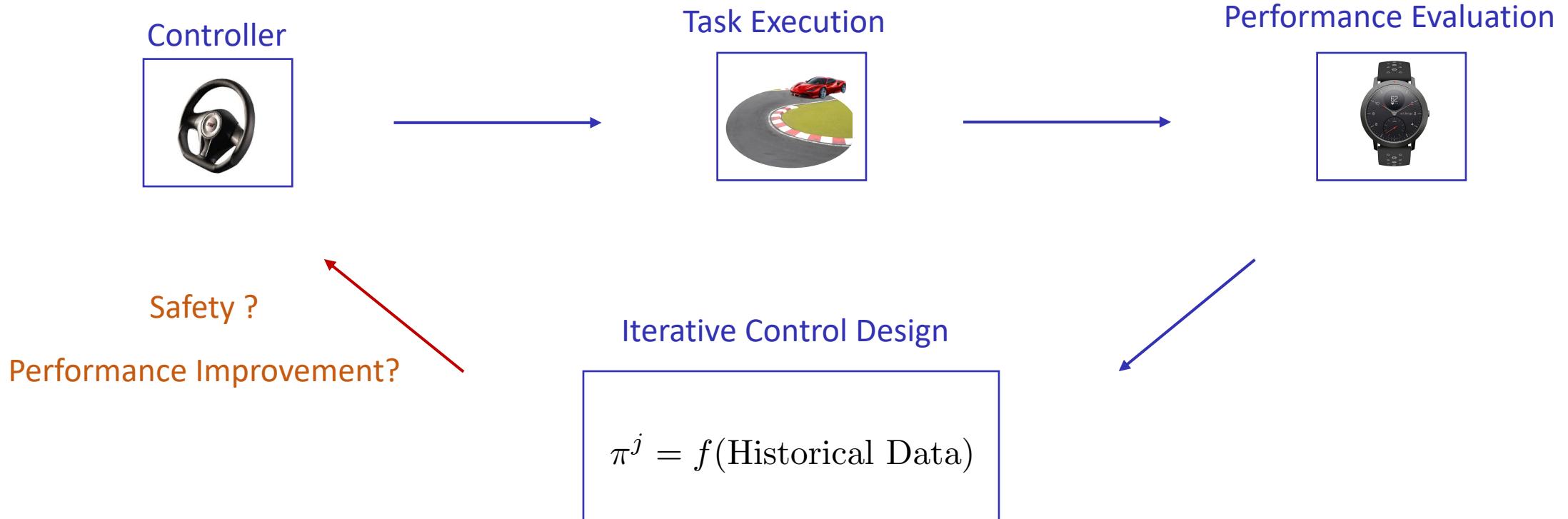
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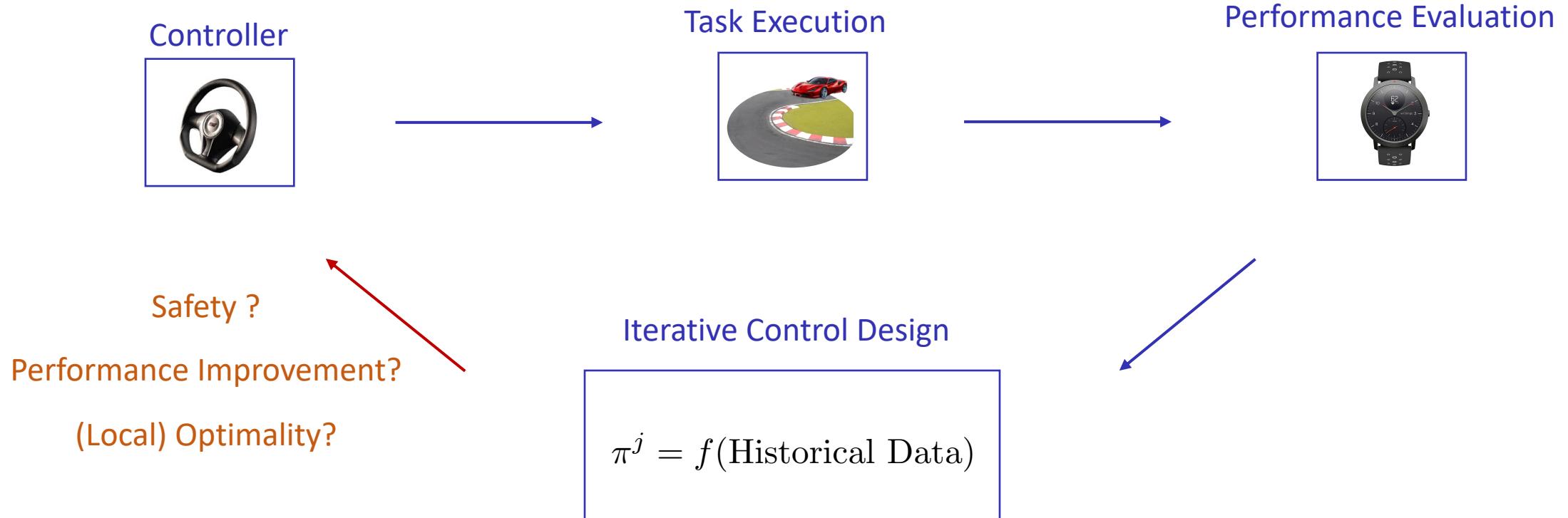
# Iterative Control Synthesis



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# Outline

- ▶ Iterative Control Design for Deterministic Systems
- ▶ Autonomous Racing Experiments

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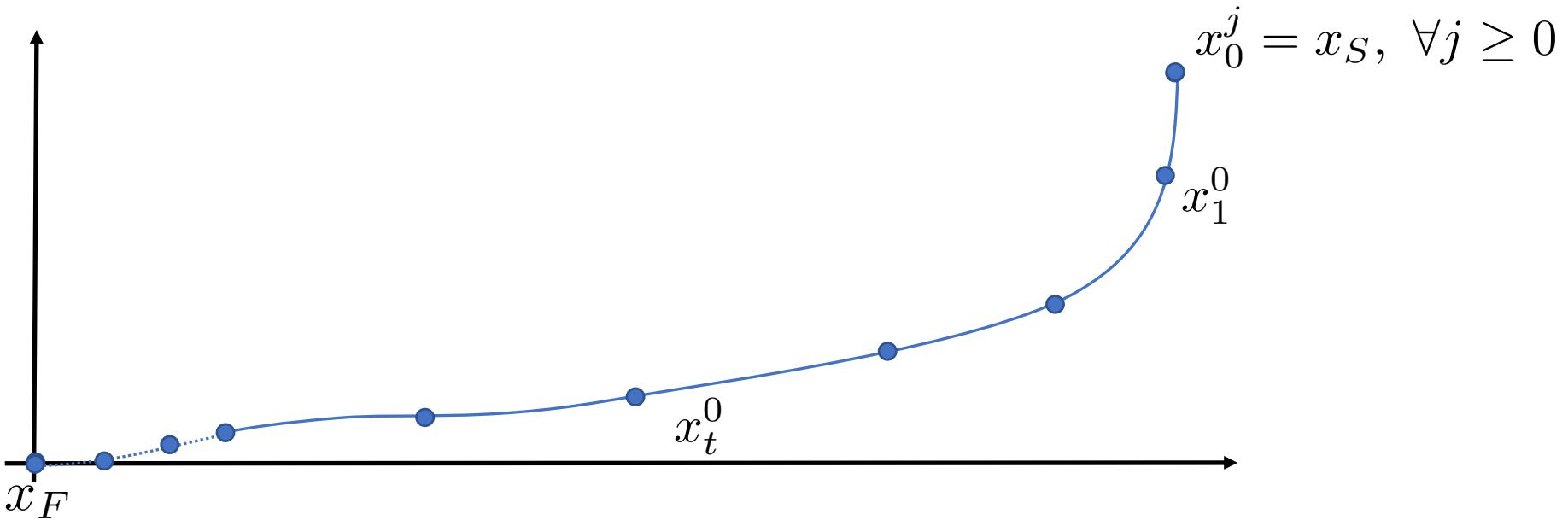
- ▶ Iterative Control Design for Deterministic Systems
- ▶ Autonomous Racing Experiments

# Episodic Settings

Iterative data collection and policy update

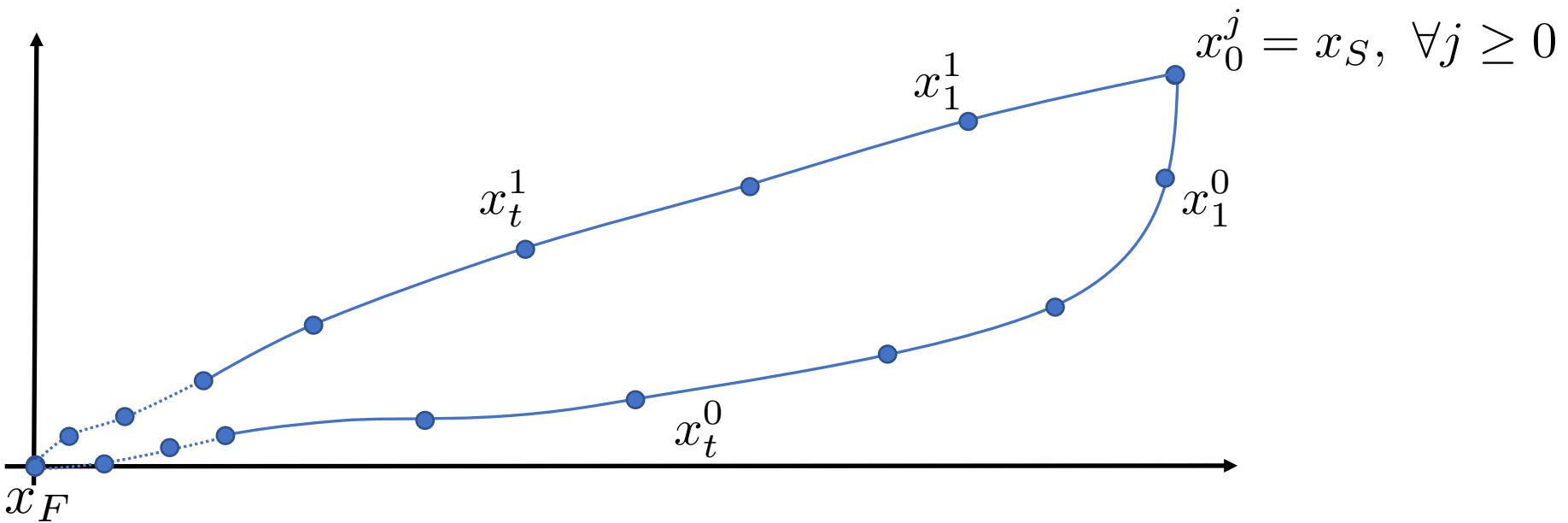
# Iterative Tasks – Problem Setup

- ▶ One task execution referred to as “iteration” or “episode”
- ▶ Same initial and terminal state at each iteration



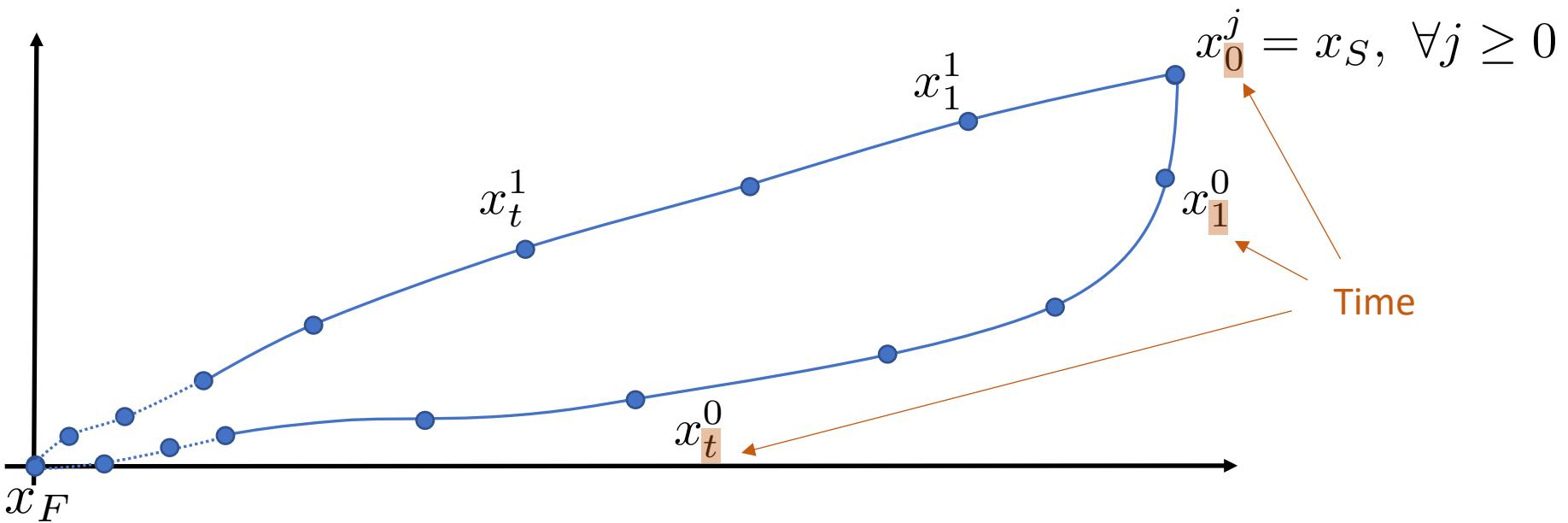
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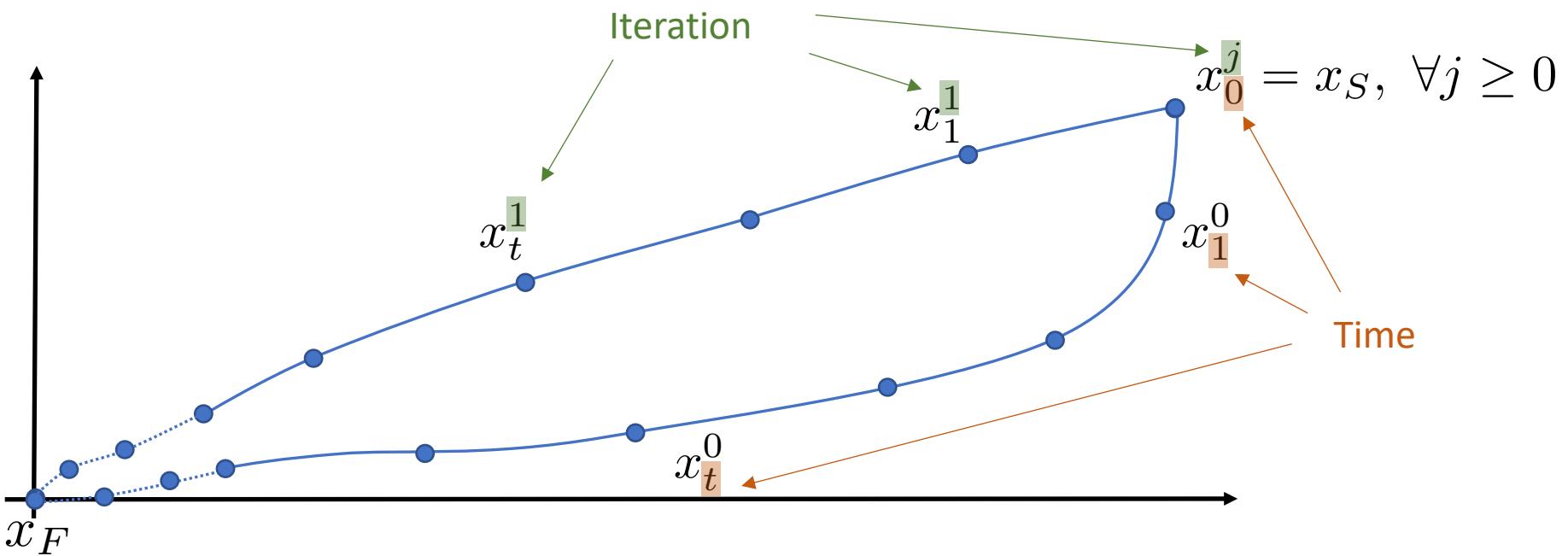
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# Learning Model Predictive Control

Exploit historical data

# Learning Model Predictive Control (LMPC) – Key Idea

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

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Value Function

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s.t.

$$x_{k+1|t}^j = f(x_{k|t}^j, u_{k|t}^j), \quad \forall k \in [t, \dots, t+N-1]$$

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Value Function

Prediction  
Model

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**Prediction Model**  $x_{k|t}^j \in \mathcal{X}, \quad u_{k|t}^j \in \mathcal{U}, \quad \forall k \in [t, \dots, t+N-1]$

**Value Function**

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$$x_{k|t}^j \in \mathcal{X}, \quad u_{k|t}^j \in \mathcal{U}, \quad \forall k \in [t, \dots, t+N-1]$$

$$x_{t+N|t}^j \in \mathcal{SS}^{j-1},$$

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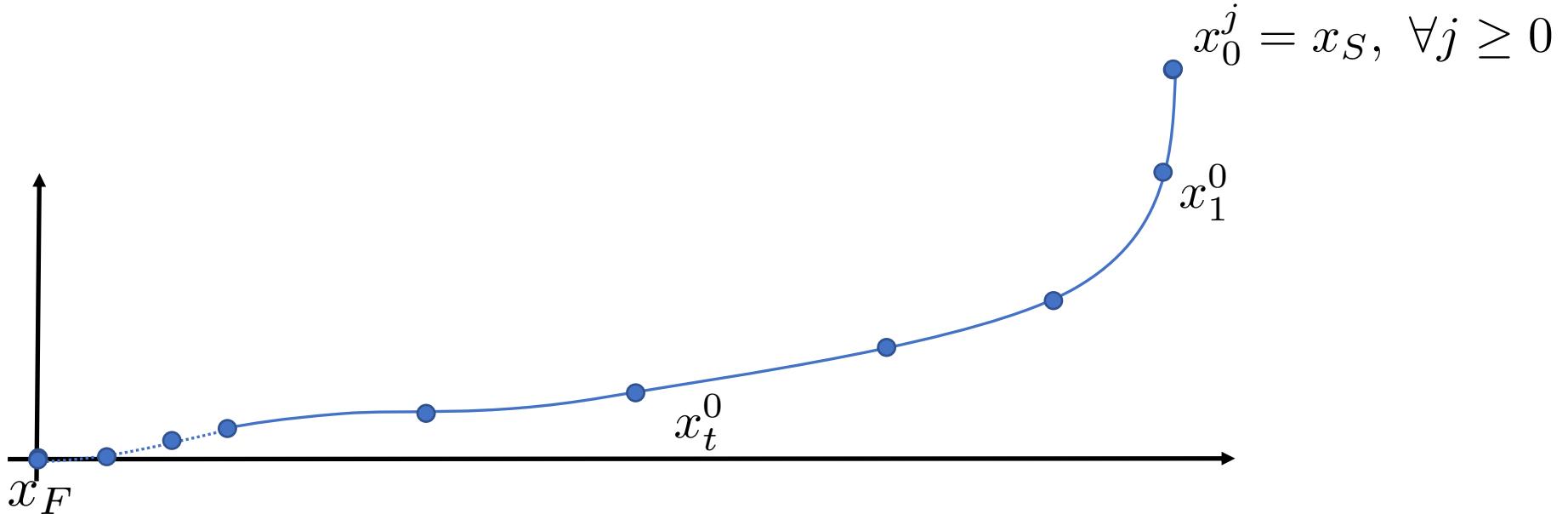
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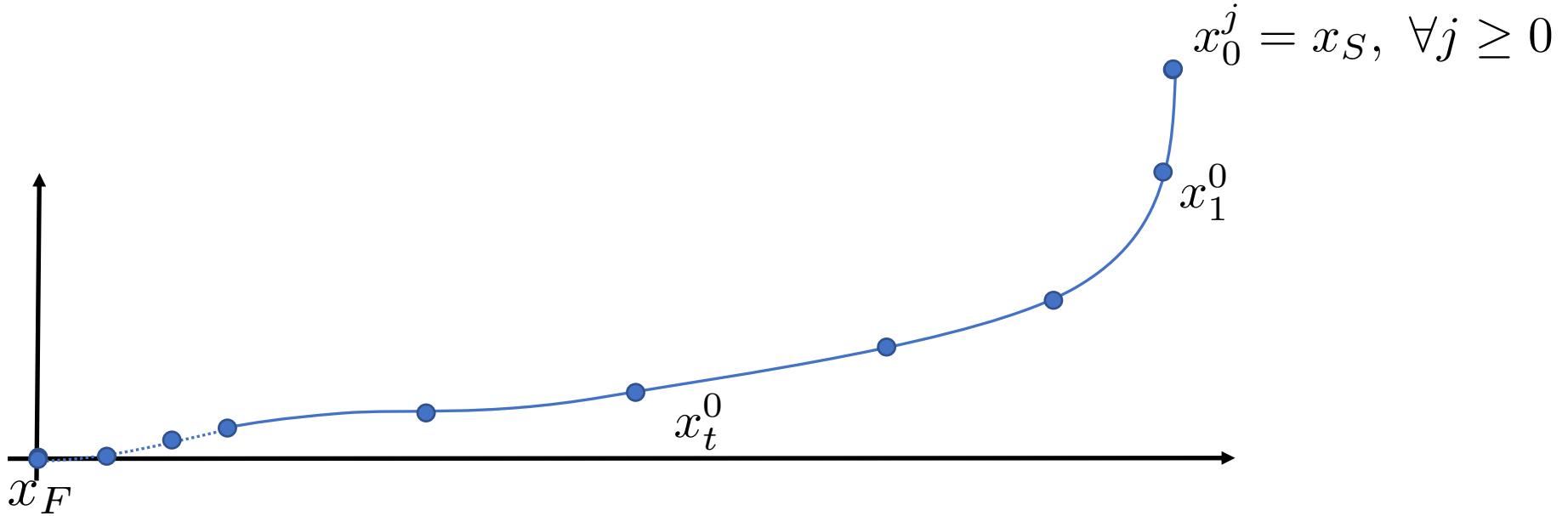
# Iteration 0

Assume that at iteration 0 a feasible trajectory is known



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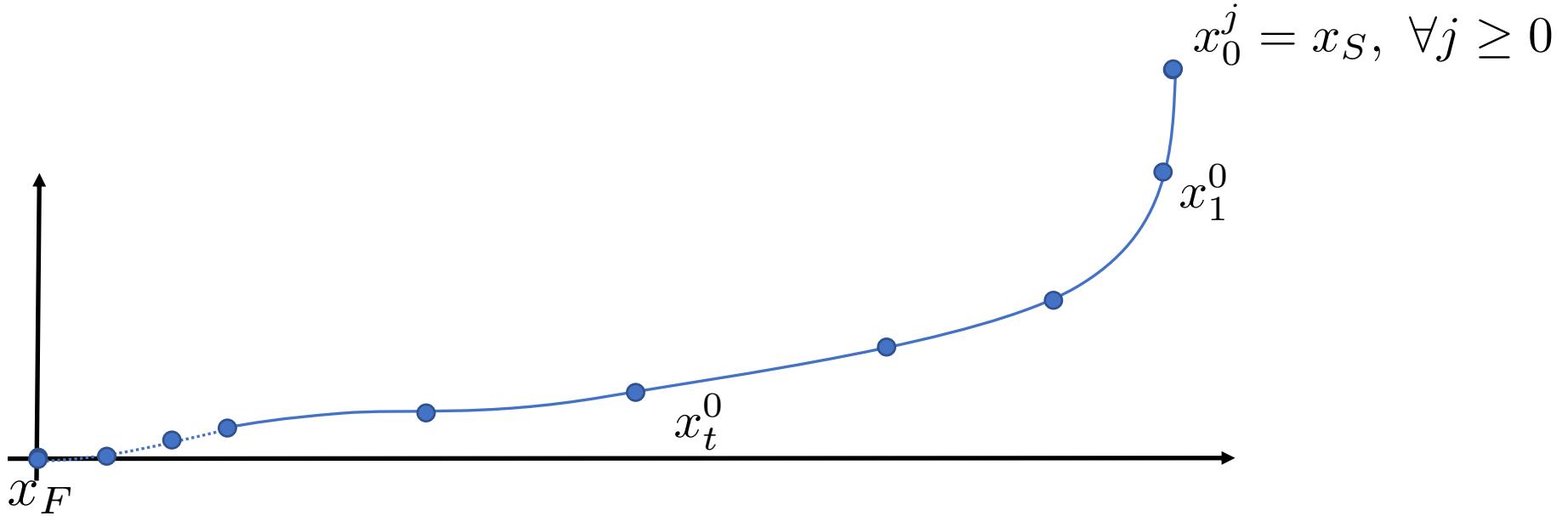


Definition: Sampled Safe Set

$$\mathcal{SS}^0 = \left\{ \bigcup_{t=0}^{\infty} x_t^0 \right\}$$

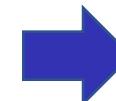
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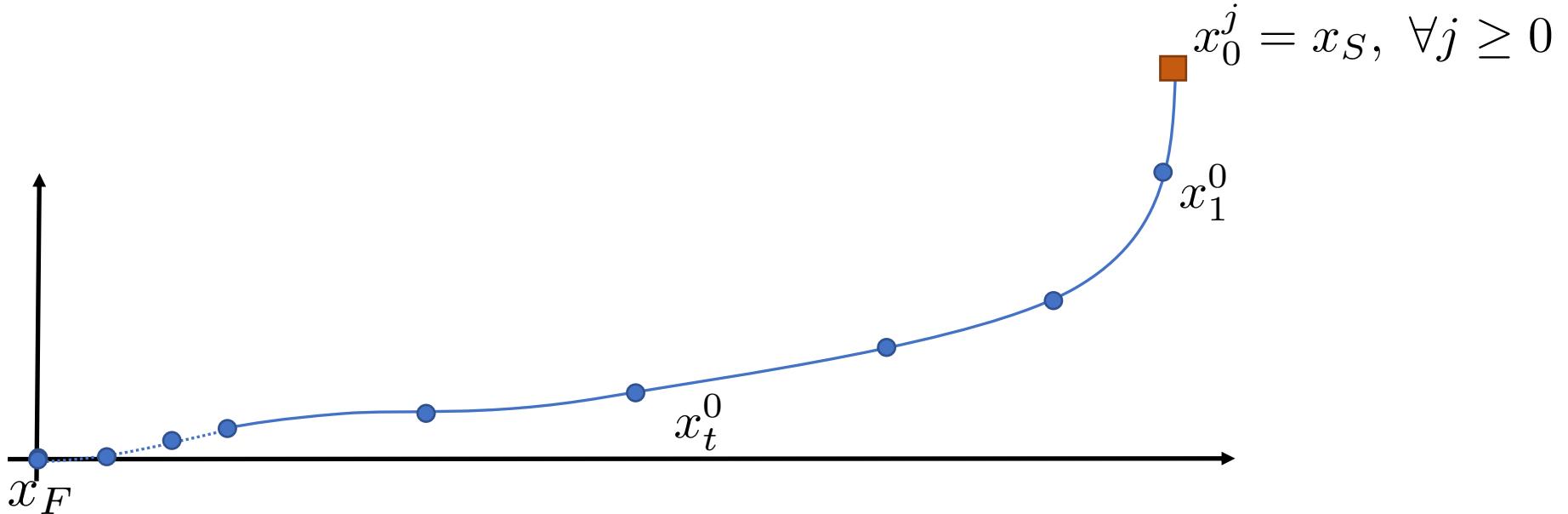


At iteration 0  
A Control Invariant Set  
for Constrained Nonlinear  
Dynamical Systems

# Iteration 1, Step 0

Use  $\mathcal{SS}^0$  as terminal set at Iteration 1

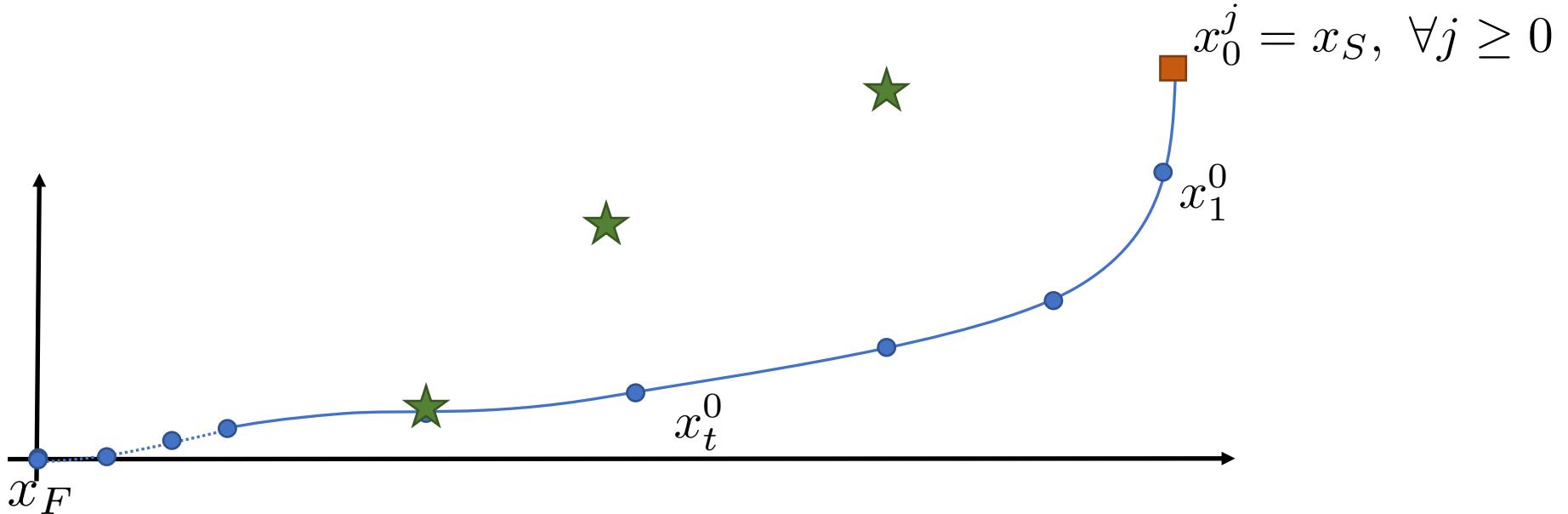
- Sampled Safe Set at iteration 0
- Closed-loop at time 0 of iteration 1



# Iteration 1, Step 0

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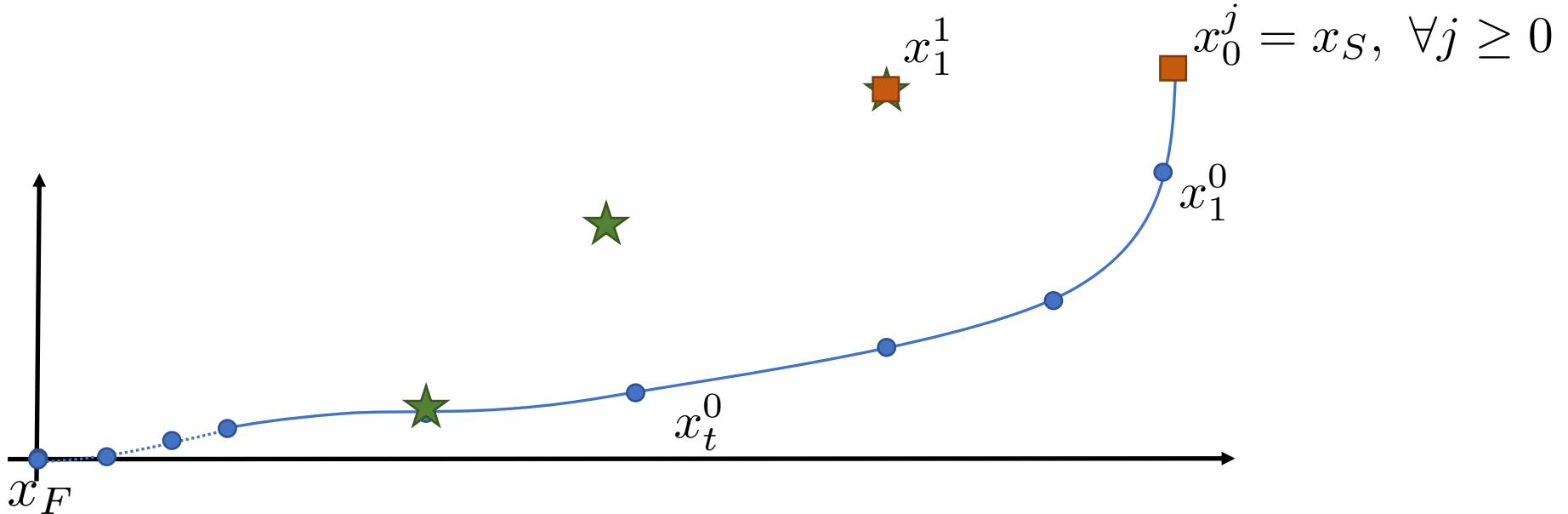
- Sampled Safe Set at iteration 0
- Closed-loop at time 0 of iteration 1
- ★ Predicted Trajectory at time 0



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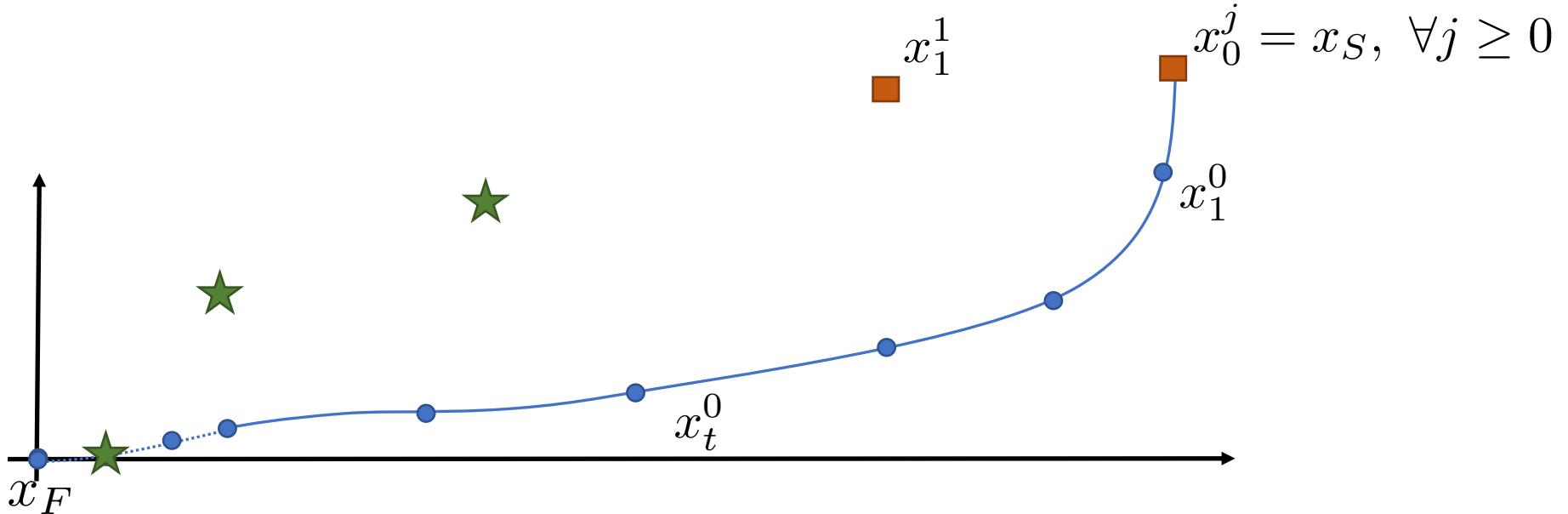
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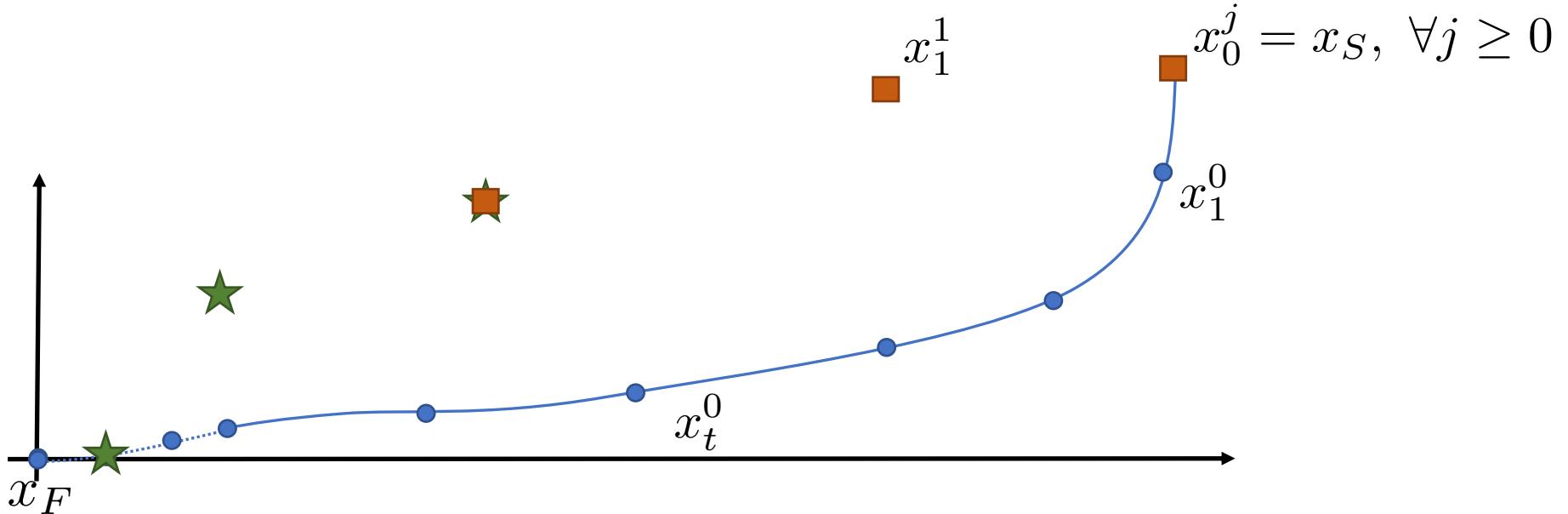
- Sampled Safe Set at iteration 0
- Closed-loop at time 1 of iteration 1
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# Iteration 1, Step 2

Use  $\mathcal{SS}^0$  as terminal set at Iteration 1

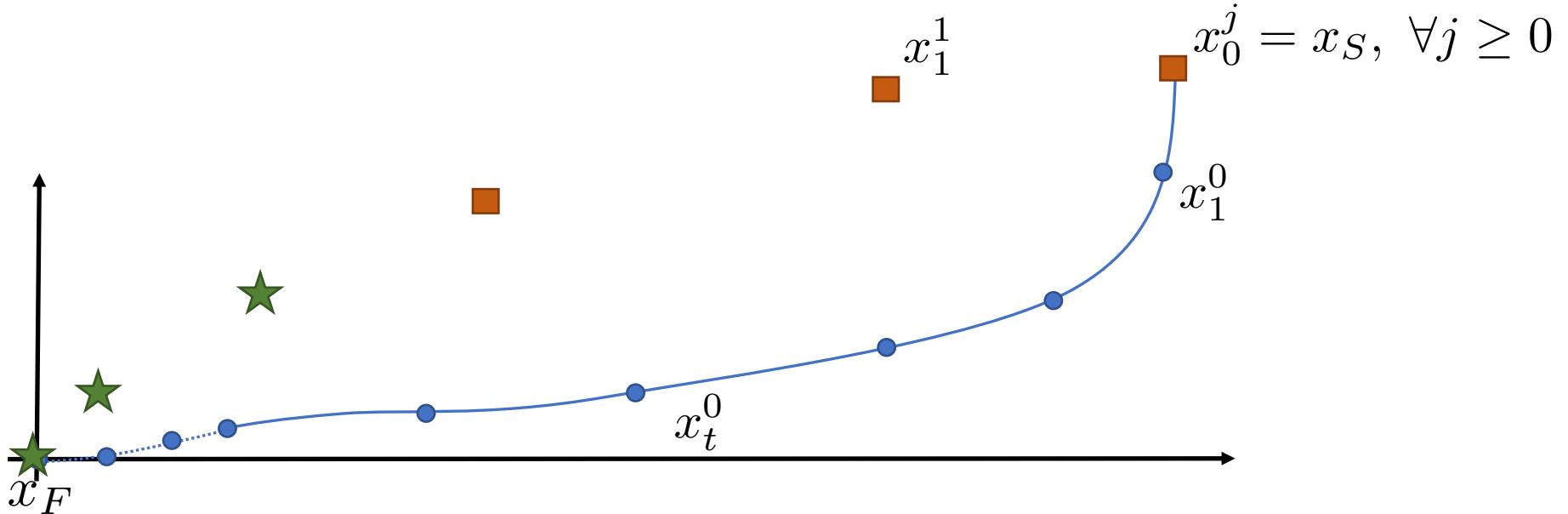
- Sampled Safe Set at iteration 0
- Closed-loop at time 2 of iteration 1
- ★ Predicted Trajectory at time 0



# Iteration 1, Step 2

Use  $\mathcal{SS}^0$  as terminal set at Iteration 1

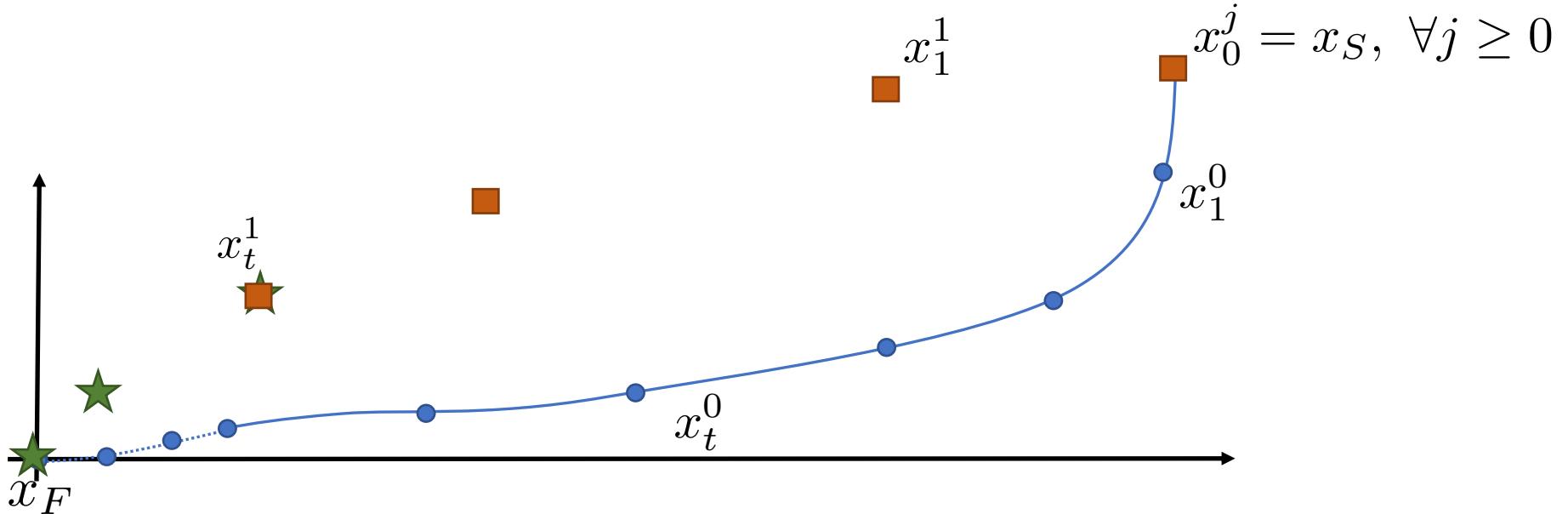
- Sampled Safe Set at iteration 0
- Closed-loop at time 2 of iteration 1
- ★ Predicted Trajectory at time 0



# Iteration 1, Step 3

Use  $\mathcal{SS}^0$  as terminal set at Iteration 1

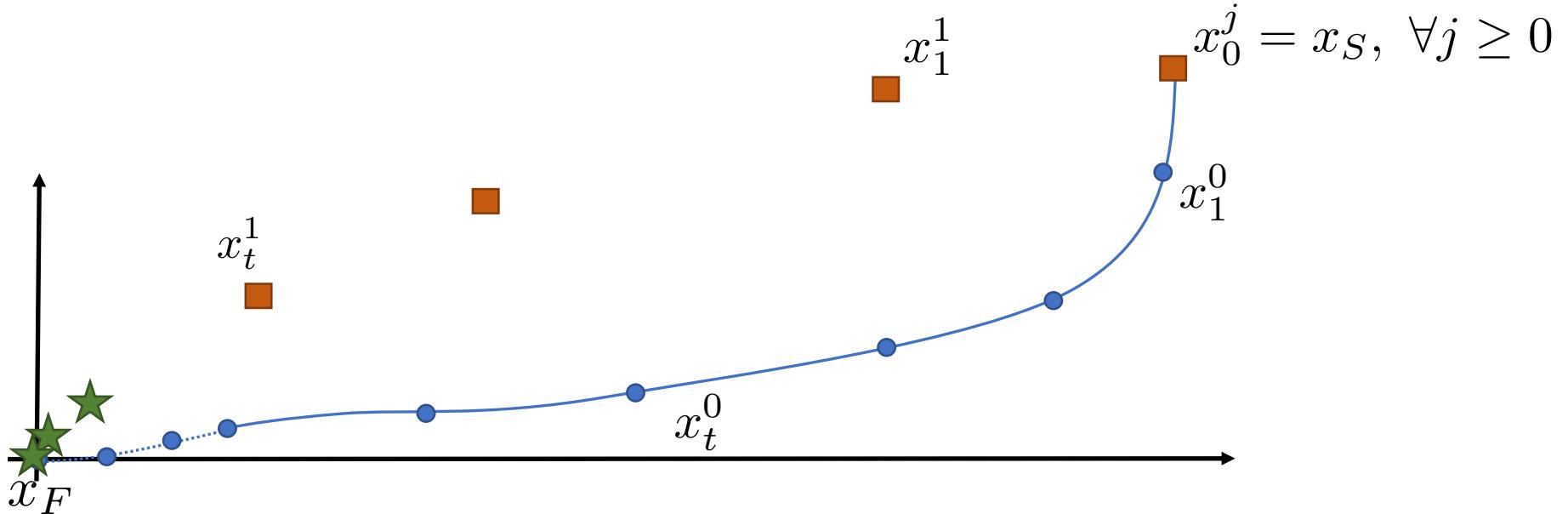
- Sampled Safe Set at iteration 0
- Closed-loop at time 3 of iteration 1
- ★ Predicted Trajectory at time 0



# Iteration 1, Step 3

Use  $\mathcal{SS}^0$  as terminal set at Iteration 1

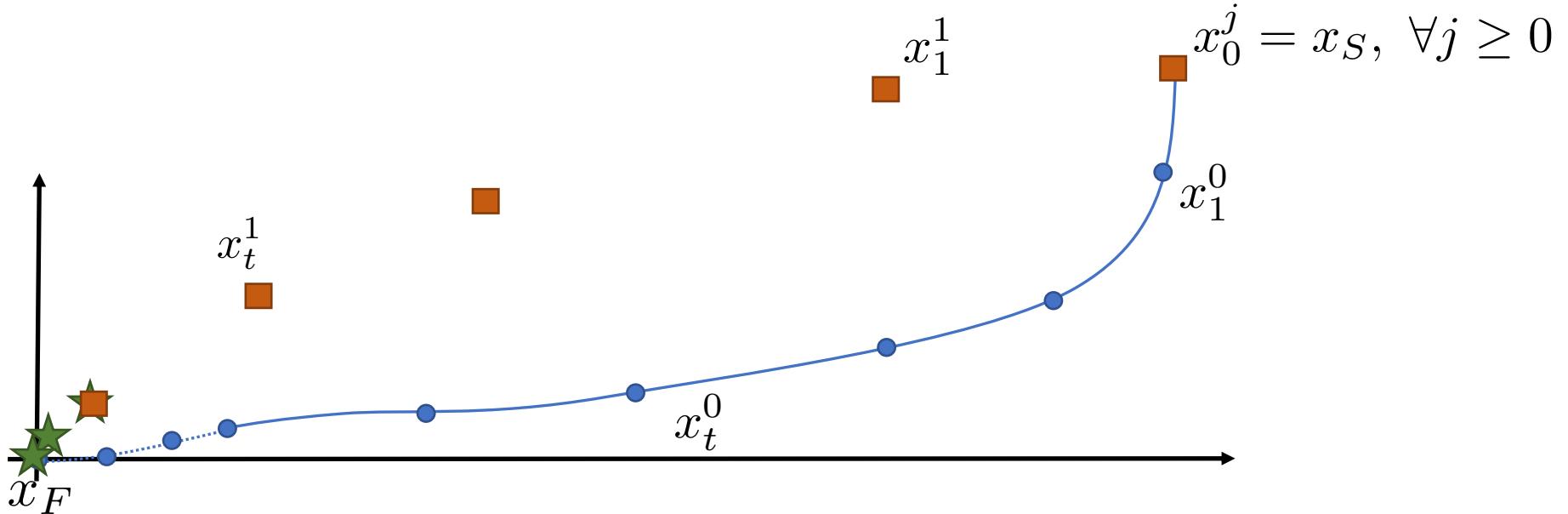
- Sampled Safe Set at iteration 0
- Closed-loop at time 3 of iteration 1
- ★ Predicted Trajectory at time 0



# Iteration 1, Step 4

Use  $\mathcal{SS}^0$  as terminal set at Iteration 1

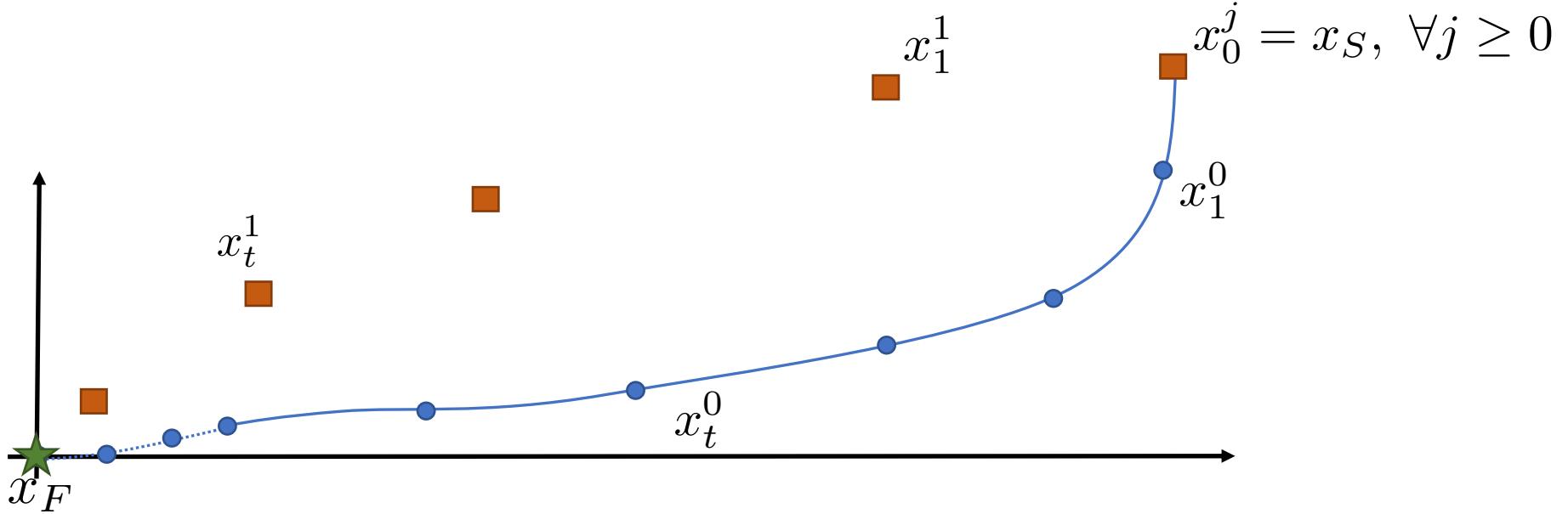
- Sampled Safe Set at iteration 0
- Closed-loop at time 4 of iteration 1
- ★ Predicted Trajectory at time 0



# Iteration 1, Step 4

Use  $\mathcal{SS}^0$  as terminal set at Iteration 1

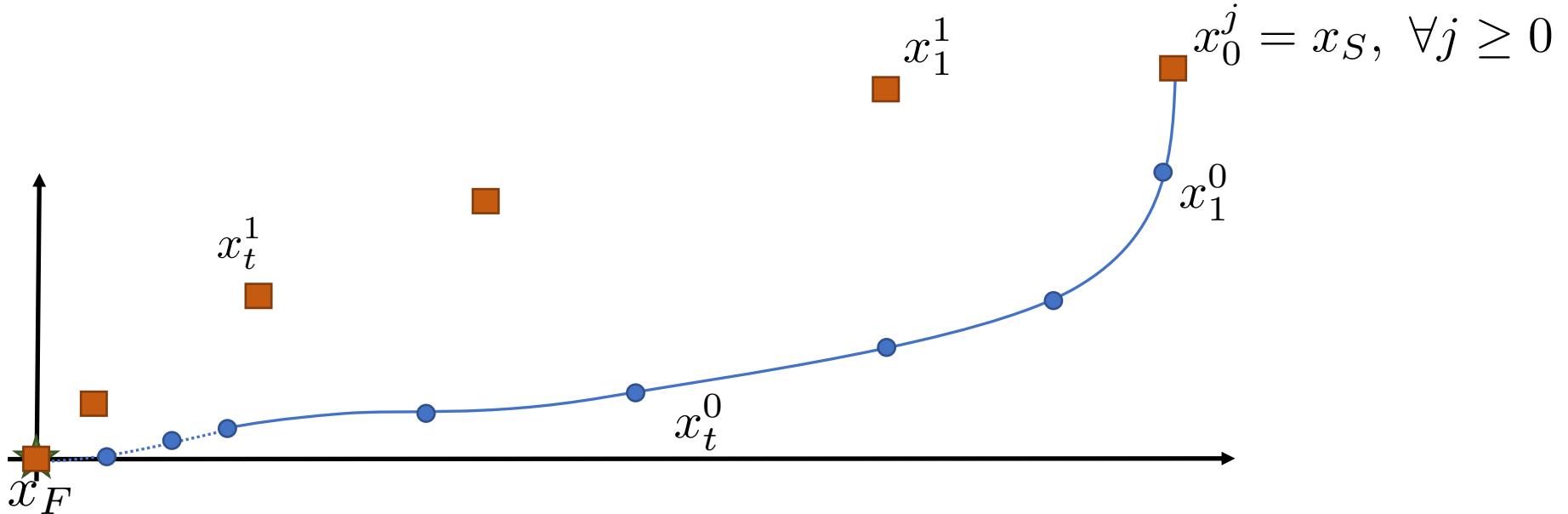
- Sampled Safe Set at iteration 0
- Closed-loop at time 4 of iteration 1
- ★ Predicted Trajectory at time 0



# Iteration 1, Step 5

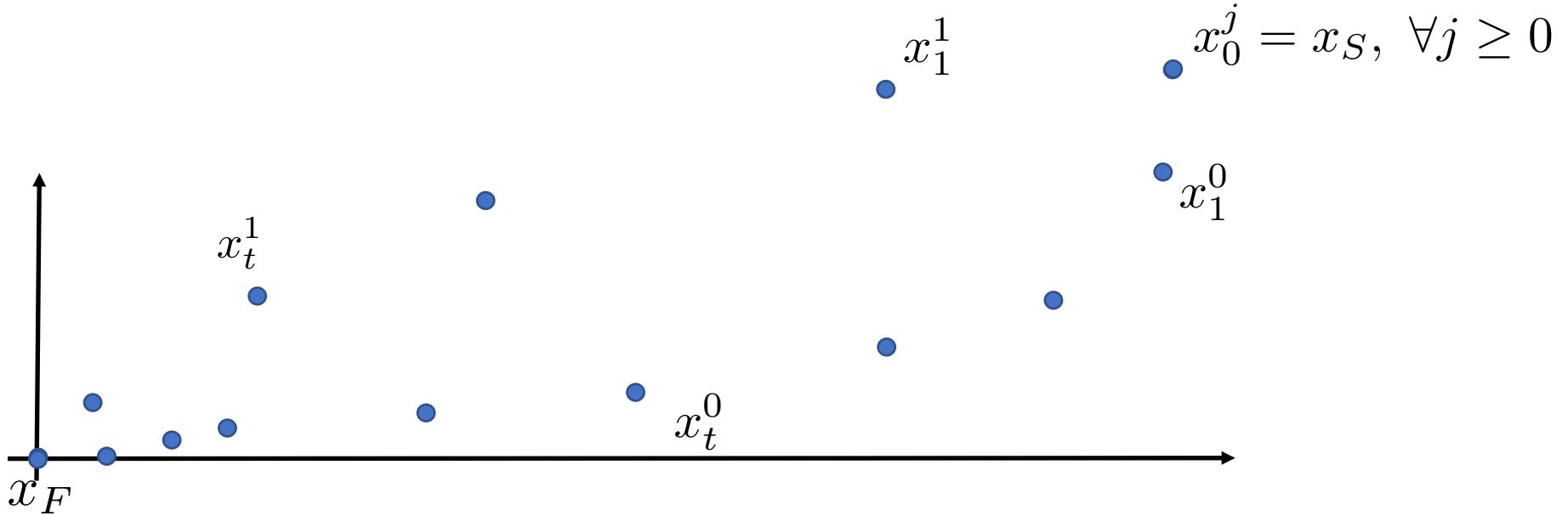
Use  $\mathcal{SS}^0$  as terminal set at Iteration 1

- Sampled Safe Set at iteration 0
- Closed-loop at time 5 of iteration 1
- ★ Predicted Trajectory at time 0



# Iteration 1 Safe Set

Update the safe set with the new closed-loop trajectory

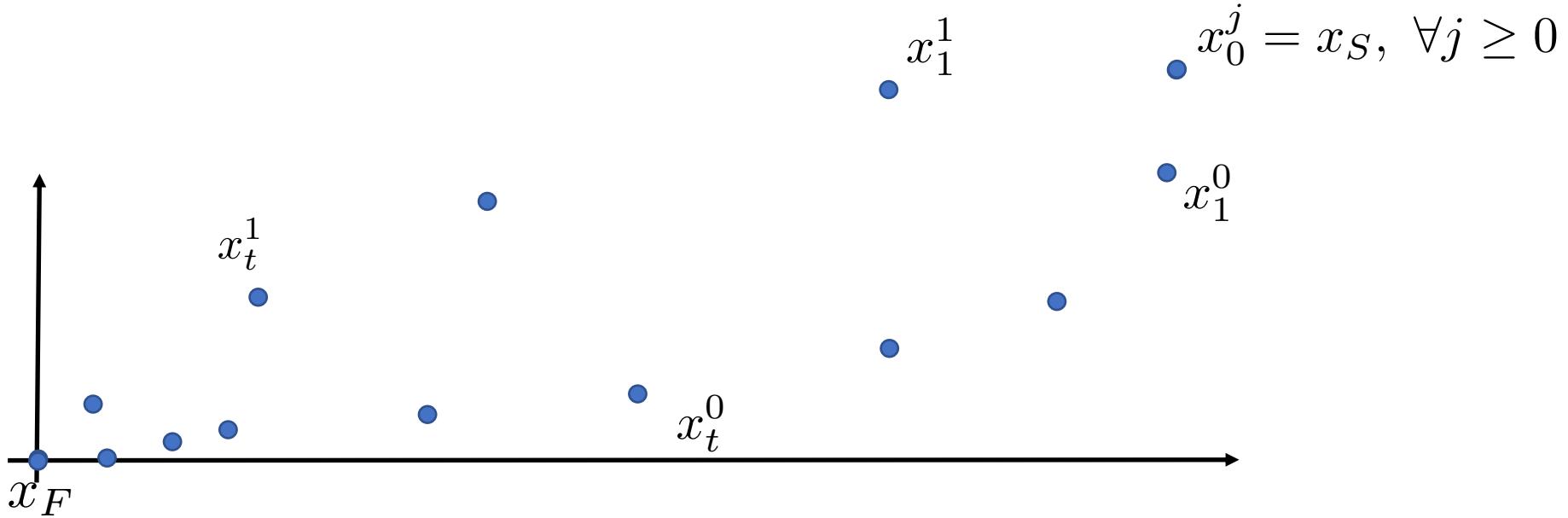


Definition: Sampled Safe Set

$$\mathcal{SS}^1 = \left\{ \bigcup_{i=0}^1 \bigcup_{t=0}^{\infty} x_t^i \right\} \supseteq \mathcal{SS}^0$$

# Iteration $j$ Safe Set

Update the safe set with the new closed-loop trajectory

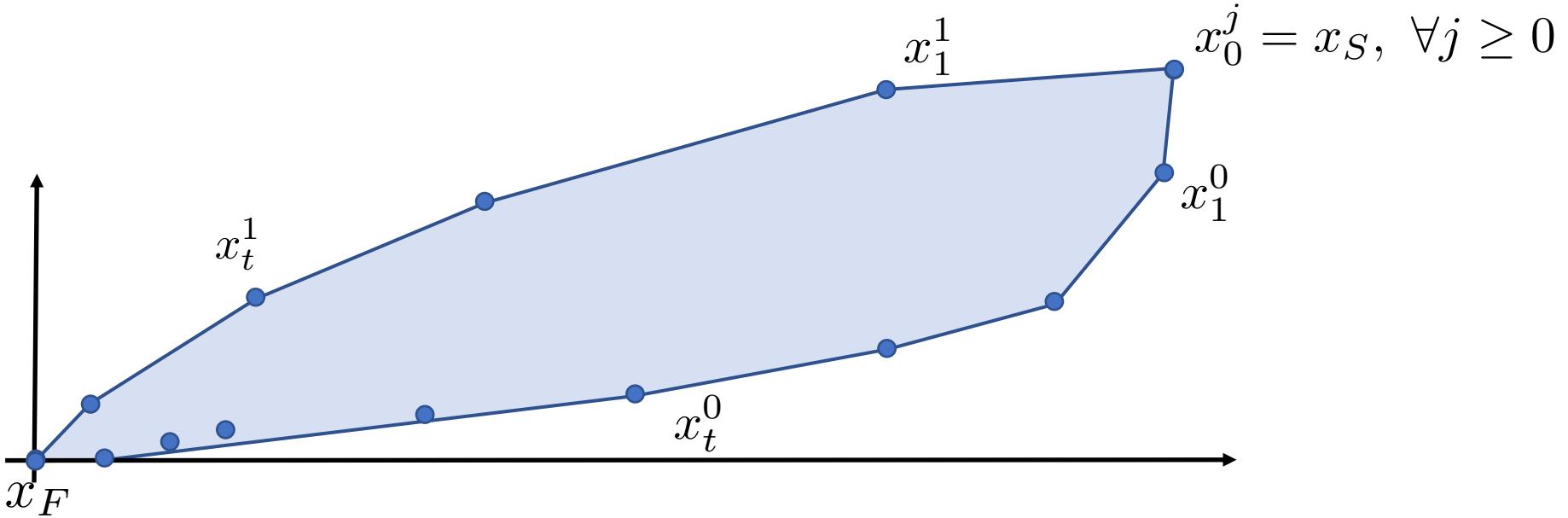


Definition: Sampled Safe Set

$$\mathcal{SS}^j = \left\{ \bigcup_{i=0}^j \bigcup_{t=0}^{\infty} x_t^i \right\} \supseteq \mathcal{SS}^{j-1}$$

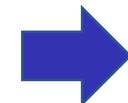
# Terminal Set: Convex hull of Sample Safe Set

Update the safe set with the new closed-loop trajectory



Definition: Convex Safe Set

$$\mathcal{CS}^j = \text{Conv}(\mathcal{SS}^j) = \text{Conv}\left(\left\{\bigcup_{k=0}^j \bigcup_{t=0}^{\infty} x_t^i\right\}\right)$$



At every iteration  $j$   
A Control Invariant Set  
for Constrained Linear Dynamical  
Systems

# Learning Model Predictive Control (LMPC) – Key Idea

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

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

s.t.

$$x_{k+1|t}^j = f(x_{k|t}^j, u_{k|t}^j), \quad \forall k \in [t, \dots, t+N-1]$$

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

$$x_{k|t}^j \in \mathcal{X}, \quad u_{k|t}^j \in \mathcal{U}, \quad \forall k \in [t, \dots, t+N-1]$$

$$x_{t+N|t}^j \in \mathcal{SS}^{j-1},$$

Safe Set

Then apply to the system the control input  $u_t^j = u_{t|t}^{*,j}$

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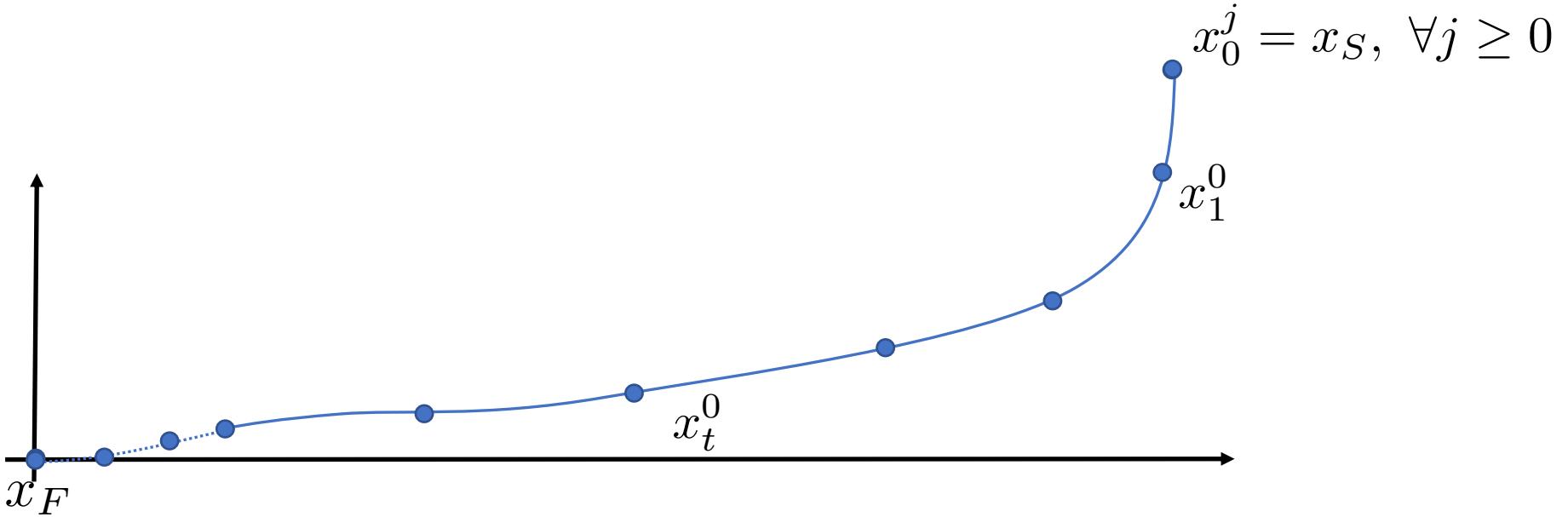
$$x_{k|t}^j \in \mathcal{X}, \quad u_{k|t}^j \in \mathcal{U}, \quad \forall k \in [t, \dots, t+N-1]$$

$$x_{t+N|t}^j \in \mathcal{SS}^{j-1},$$

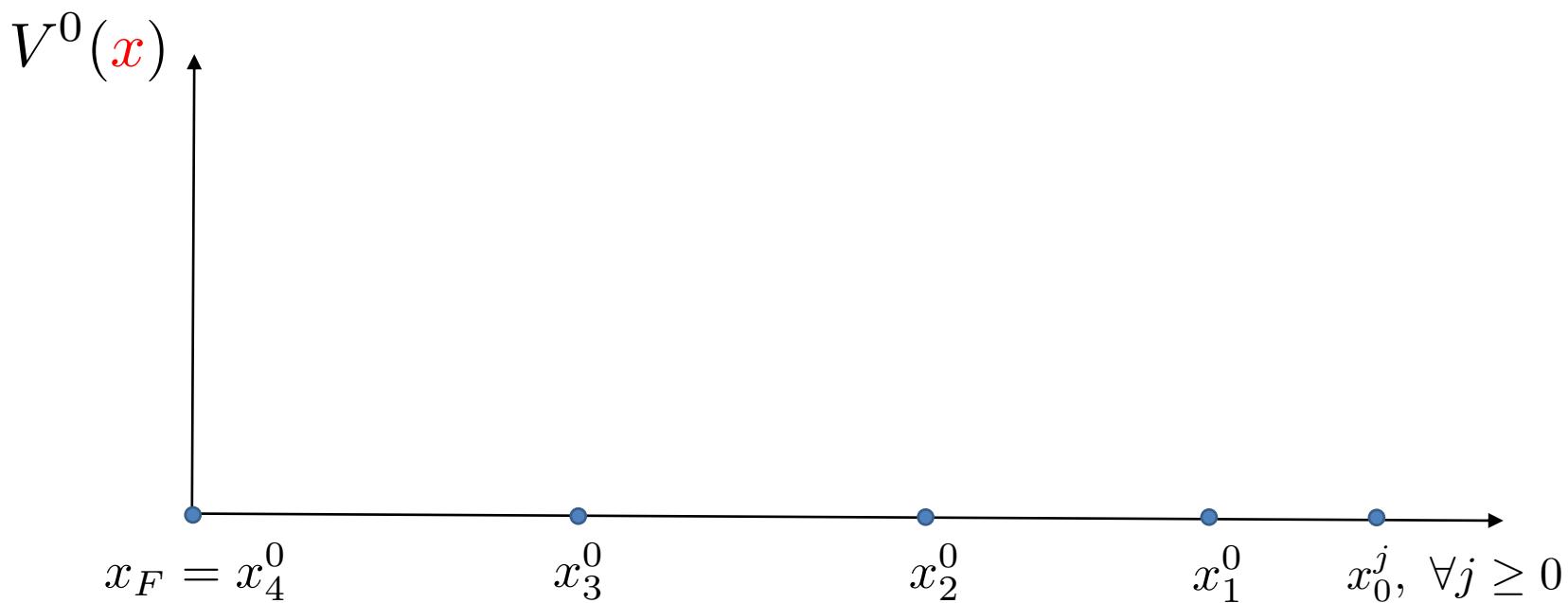
Value Function

Then apply to the system the control input  $u_t^j = u_{t|t}^{*,j}$

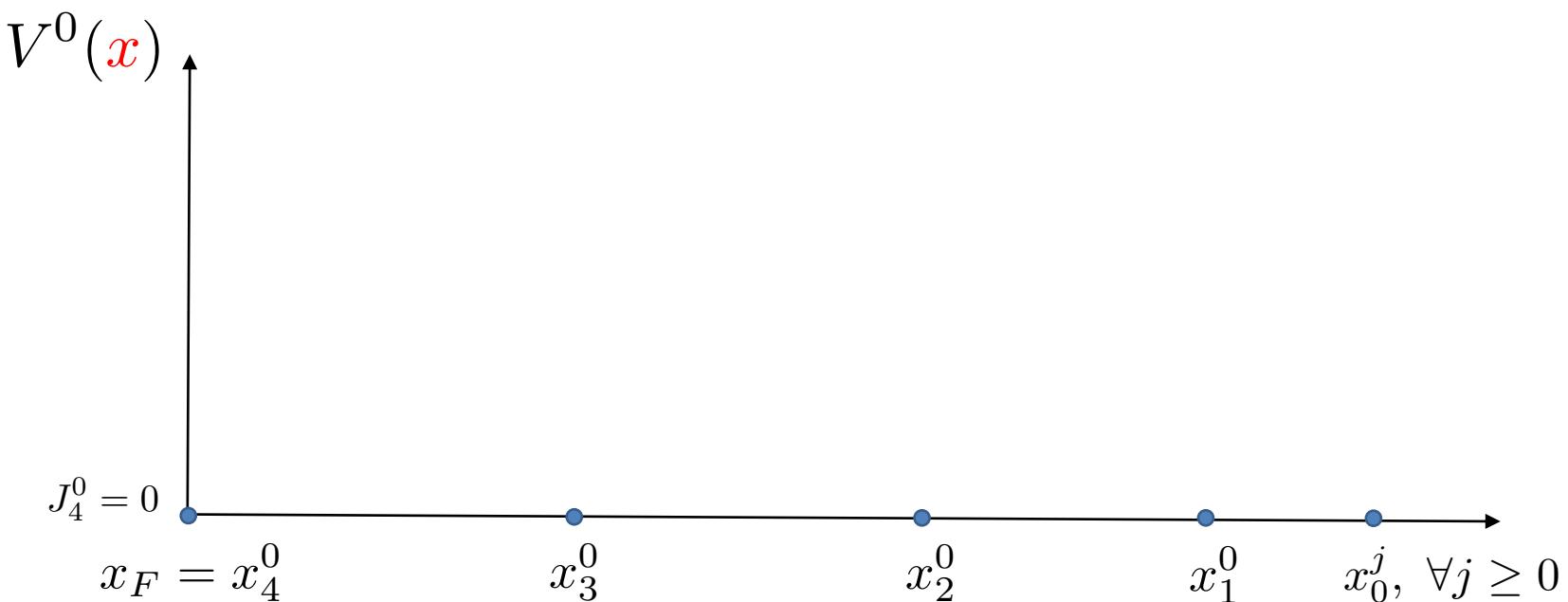
# Terminal Cost at Iteration 0



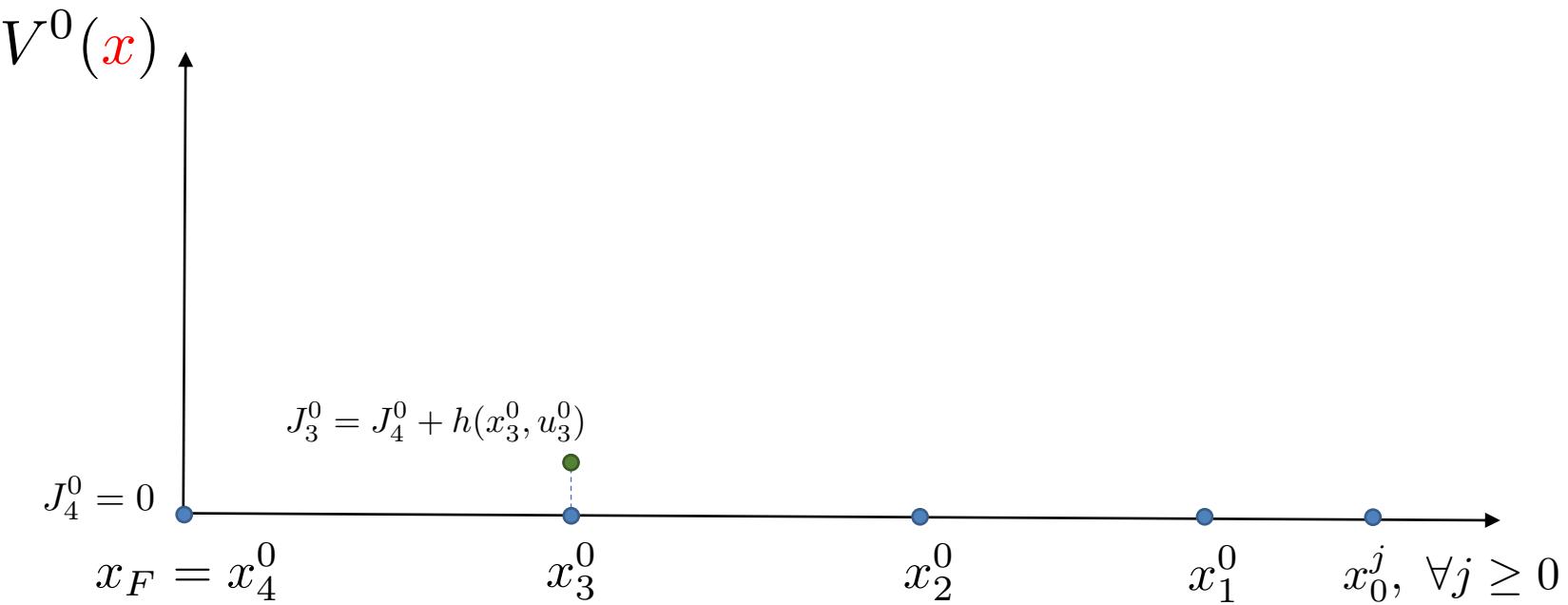
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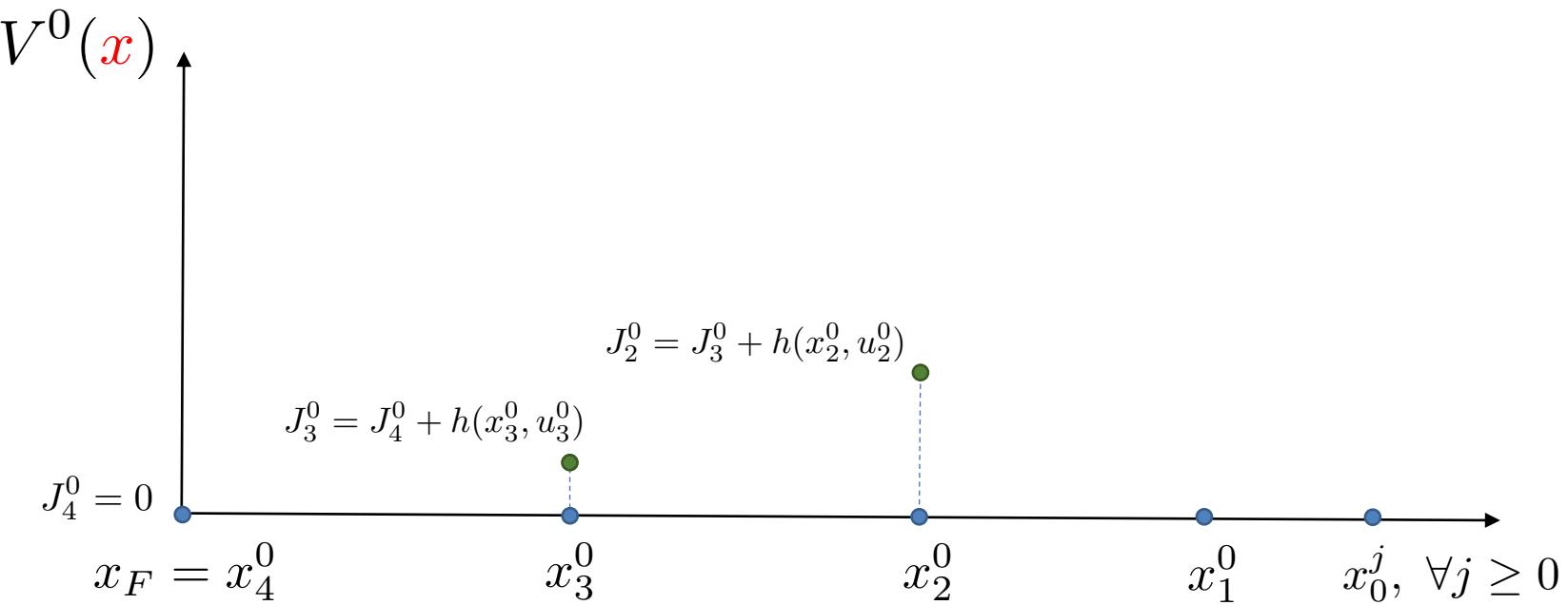
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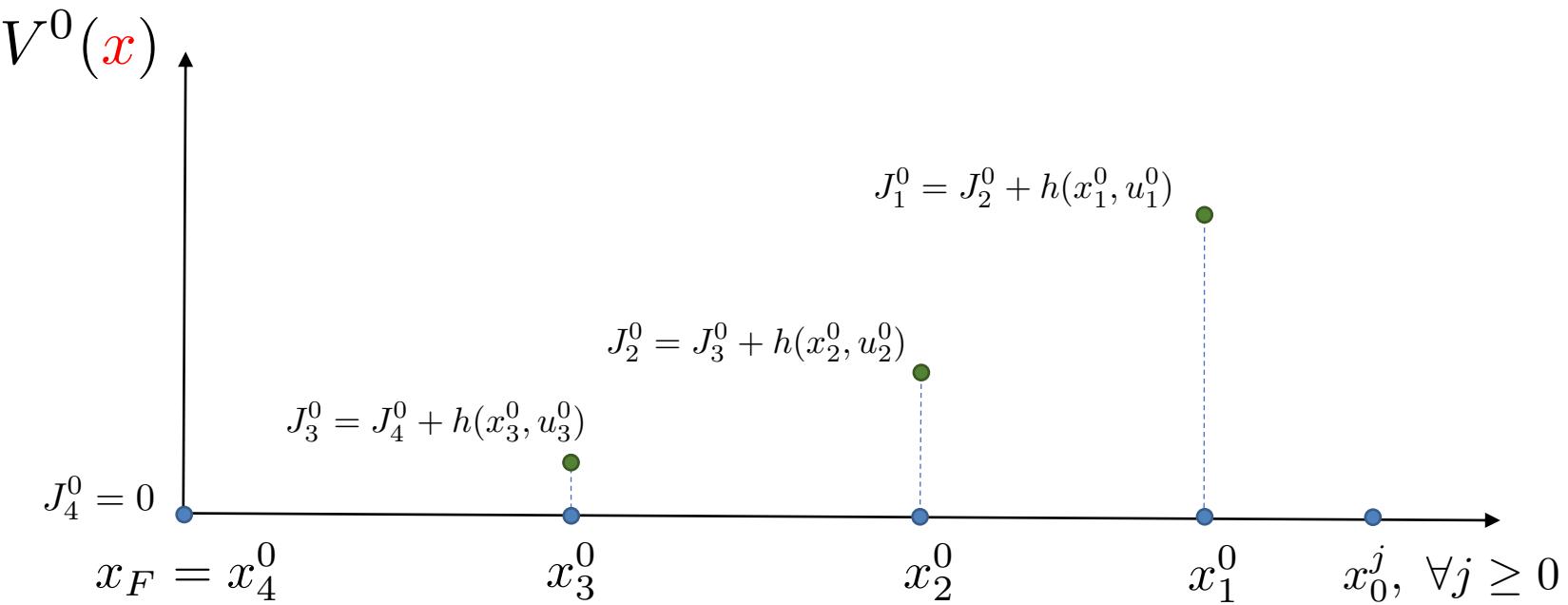
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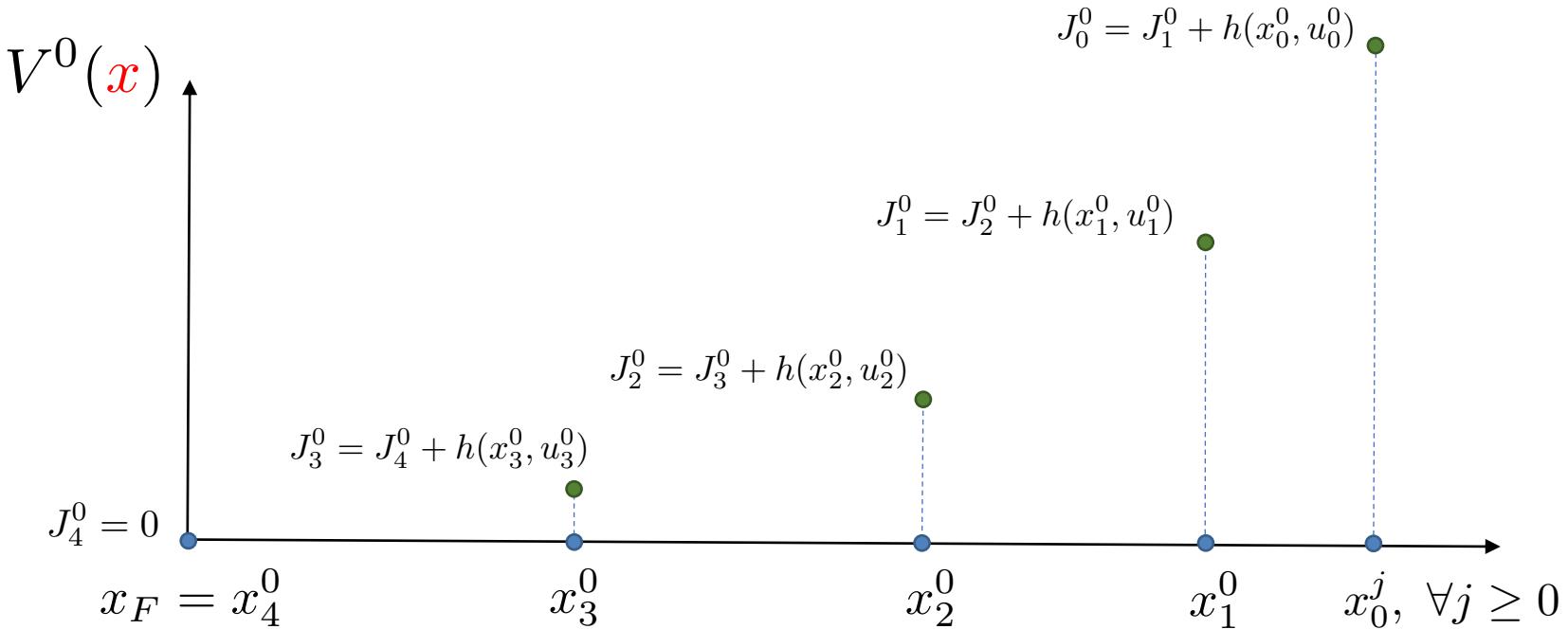
# Terminal Cost at Iteration 0



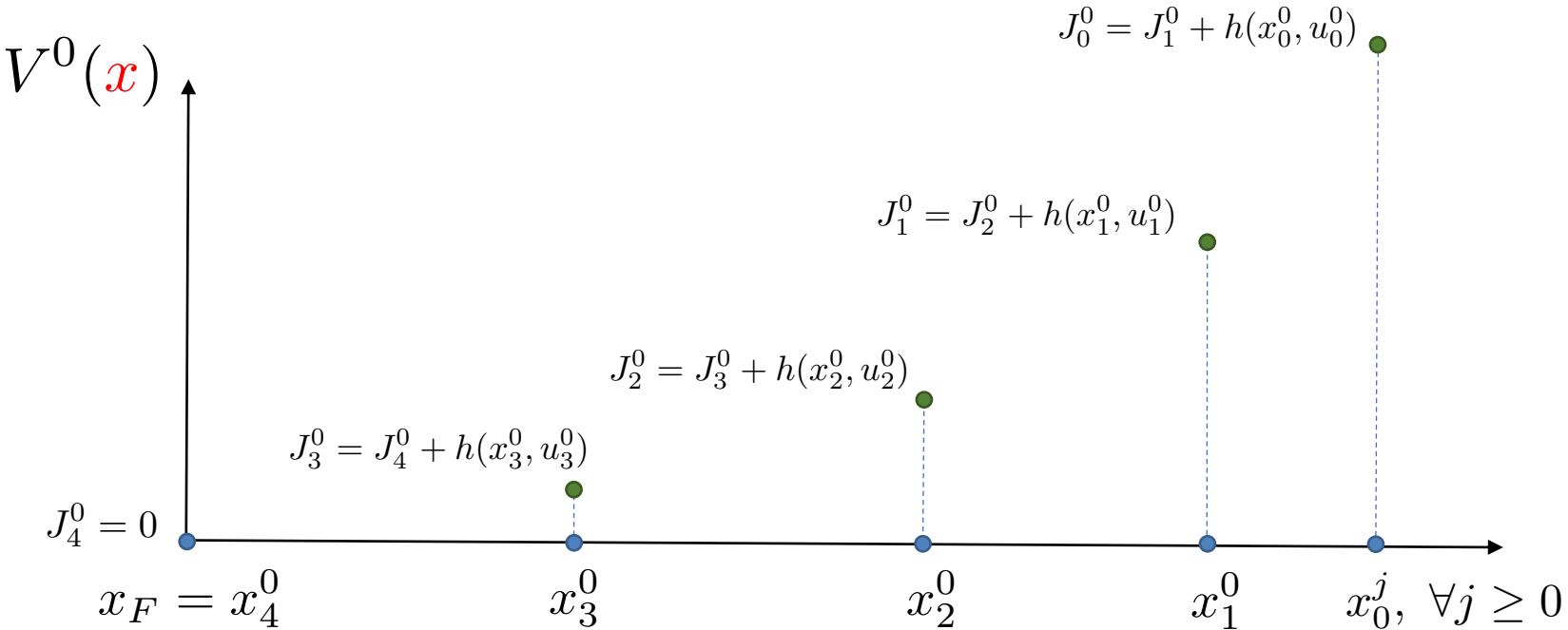
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# Terminal Cost at Iteration 0

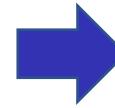


# Terminal Cost at Iteration 0



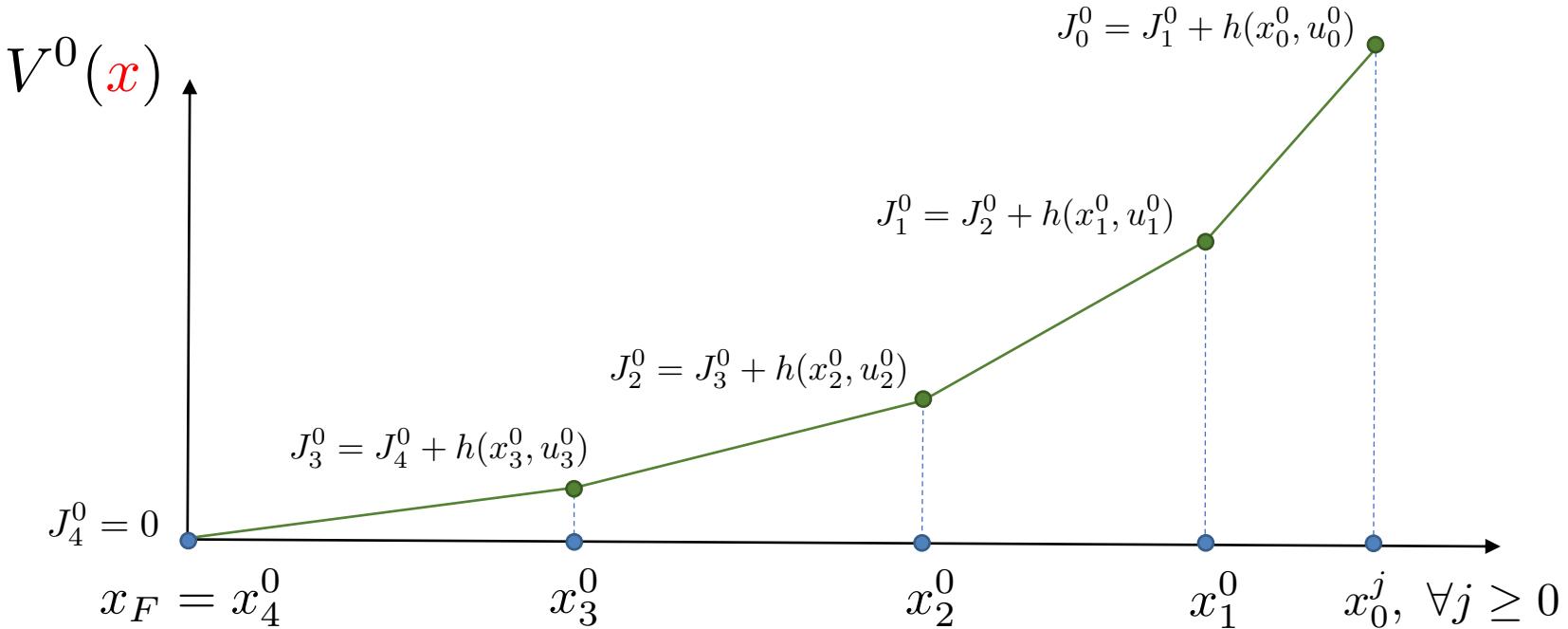
Definition: V-function

$$V^0(\textcolor{red}{x}) = \begin{cases} \sum_{k=t}^{\infty} h(x_k^0, u_k^0), & \text{if } \textcolor{red}{x} = x_t^0 \in \mathcal{SS}^0 \\ +\infty, & \text{if } \textcolor{red}{x} \notin \mathcal{SS}^0 \end{cases}$$

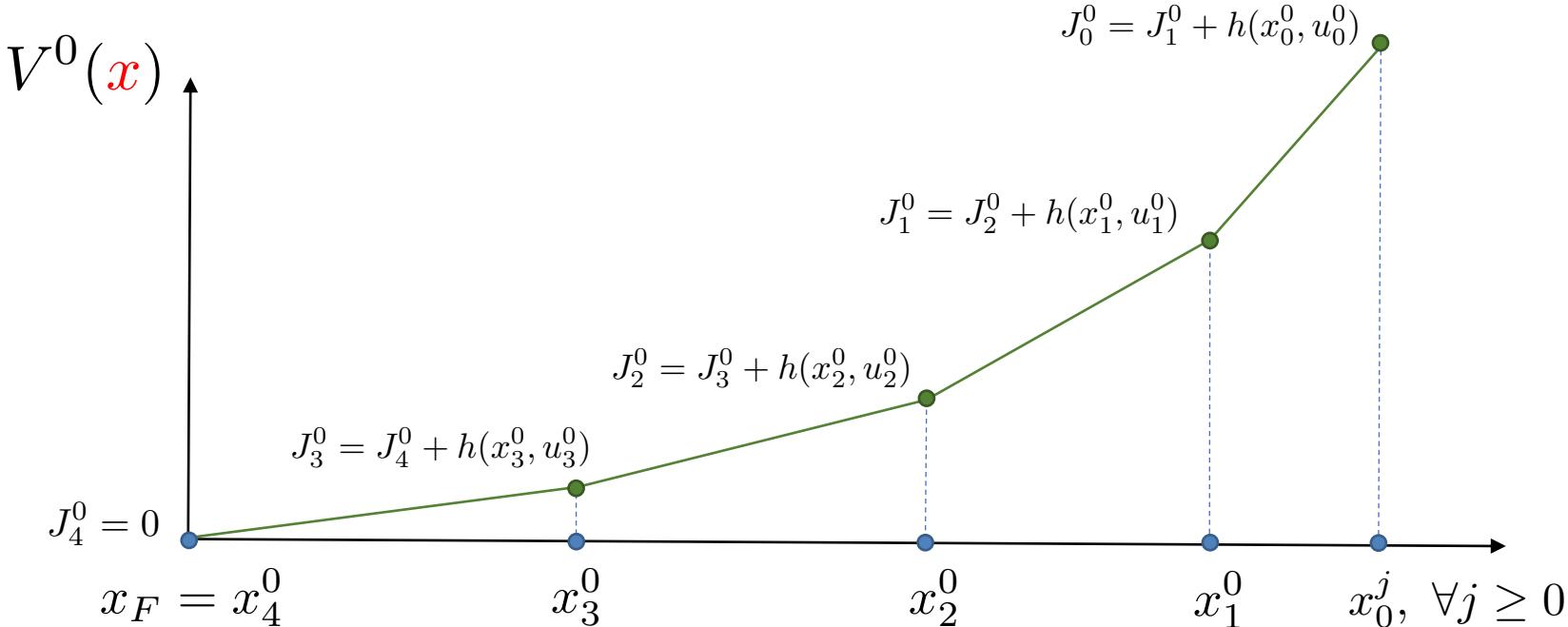


At iteration 0  
A Control Lyapunov  
Function  
for Constrained Nonlinear  
Dynamical Systems

# Convex Terminal Cost at Iteration 0



# Convex Terminal Cost at Iteration 0

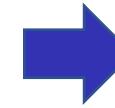


## Value Function Approximation

$$V_c^0(\textcolor{red}{x}) = \min_{\lambda_i^0 \in [0,1]} \sum_i J_i^0 \lambda_i^0$$

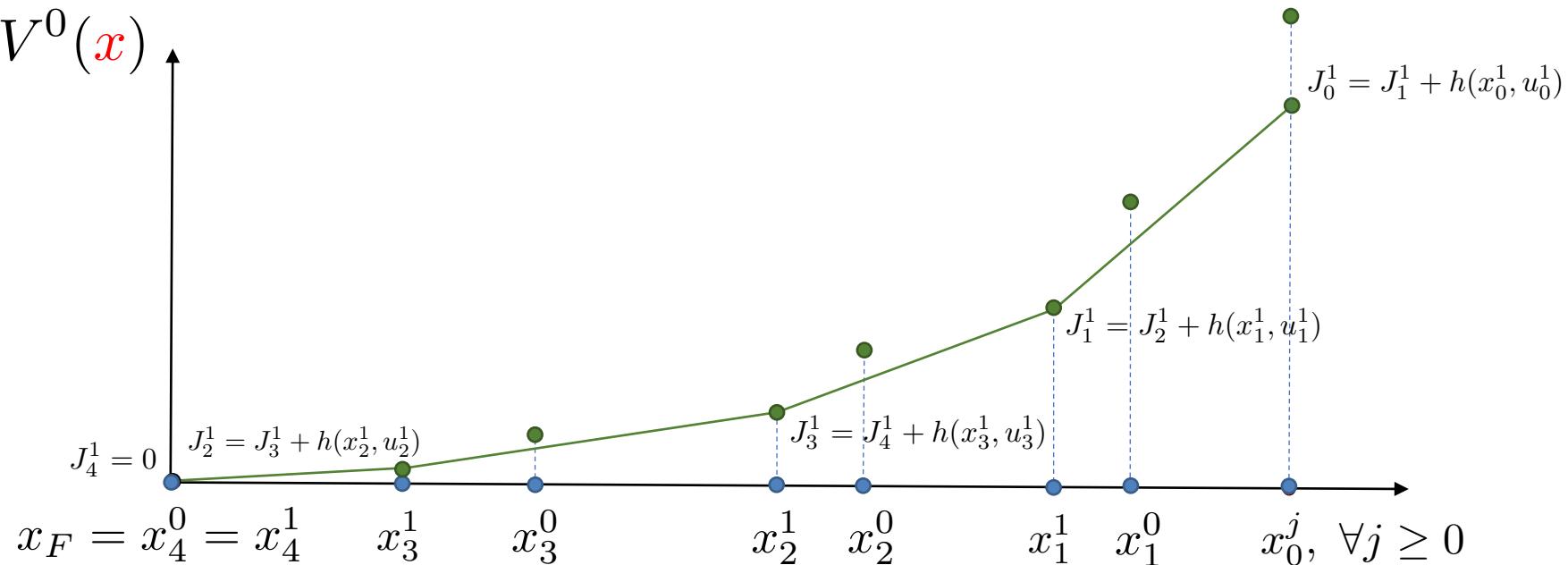
s.t

$$\sum_i x_i^0 \lambda_i^0 = \textcolor{red}{x}$$
$$\sum_i \lambda_i^0 = 1$$



At iteration 0  
A Control Lyapunov  
Function  
for Constrained Linear  
Dynamical Systems

# Convex Terminal Cost at Iteration 1



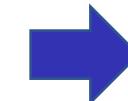
## Value Function Approximation

$$V_c^j(\textcolor{red}{x}) = \min_{\lambda_i^j \in [0,1]} \sum_i \sum_j J_i^j \lambda_i^j$$

s.t

$$\sum_i \sum_j x_i^j \lambda_i^j = \textcolor{red}{x},$$

$$\sum_i \sum_j \lambda_i^j = 1$$



At every iteration  $j$   
A Control Lyapunov  
Function  
for Constrained Linear  
Dynamical Systems

# LMPC Summary

At each time  $t$  of iteration  $j$ , solve

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

s.t.

$$x_{k+1|t}^j = f(x_{k|t}^j, u_{k|t}^j), \quad \forall k \in [t, \dots, t+N-1]$$

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

$$x_{k|t}^j \in \mathcal{X}, \quad u_{k|t}^j \in \mathcal{U}, \quad \forall k \in [t, \dots, t+N-1]$$

$$x_{t+N|t}^j \in \mathcal{SS}^{j-1},$$

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Constructed using  
historical data

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$$x_{t+N|t}^j \in \mathcal{SS}^{j-1},$$

Constructed using  
historical data

## Guarantees for constrained (linear) systems [1,2]

The properties of the (convex) safe set and (convex) Q-function allows us to guarantee:

- ▶ **Safety**: constraint satisfaction at iteration  $j \rightarrow$  satisfaction at iteration  $j+1$
- ▶ **Non-decreasing Performance**: closed-loop cost at iteration  $j \geq$  closed-loop cost at iteration  $j+1$
- ▶ **Performance Improvement**: closed-loop cost strictly decreasing at each iteration (LICQ required)
- ▶ **(Global) optimality**: steady state trajectory is optimal for the original problem (LICQ required)

[1] U. Rosolia, F. Borrelli. "Learning model predictive control for iterative tasks. a data-driven control framework." *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control* (2018).

[2] U. Rosolia, F. Borrelli. "Learning model predictive control for iterative tasks: A computationally efficient approach for linear system." *IFAC-PapersOnLine* (2017)

# Practical Implementation

LMPC convex formulation and the constrained LQR example

# Linear(ized) LMPC

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

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

s.t.

$$x_{k+1|t} = Ax_{k|t} + Bu_{k|t}, \quad \forall k \in [t, \dots, t+N-1]$$

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

$$x_{k|t} \in \mathcal{X}, \quad u_{k|t} \in \mathcal{U}, \quad \forall k \in [t, \dots, t+N-1]$$

$$x_{t+N|t} \in \mathcal{CS}^{j-1}$$

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s.t.

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$$x_{t+N|t} = \sum_{i=0}^{j-1} \sum_k x_k^i \lambda_k^i, \quad \sum_{i=0}^{j-1} \sum_k \lambda_k^i = 1, \quad \lambda_k^i \geq 0.$$

$$x_{t+N|t} \in \mathcal{CS}^{j-1}$$

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

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$$\begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\hspace{-1cm}} \\ V_c^{j-1}(x_{t+N|t}) \end{array}$$

$$x_{t+N|t} = \sum_{i=0}^{j-1} \sum_k x_k^i \lambda_k^i, \quad \sum_{i=0}^{j-1} \sum_k \lambda_k^i = 1, \quad \lambda_k^i \geq 0. \iff x_{t+N|t} \in \mathcal{CS}^{j-1}$$

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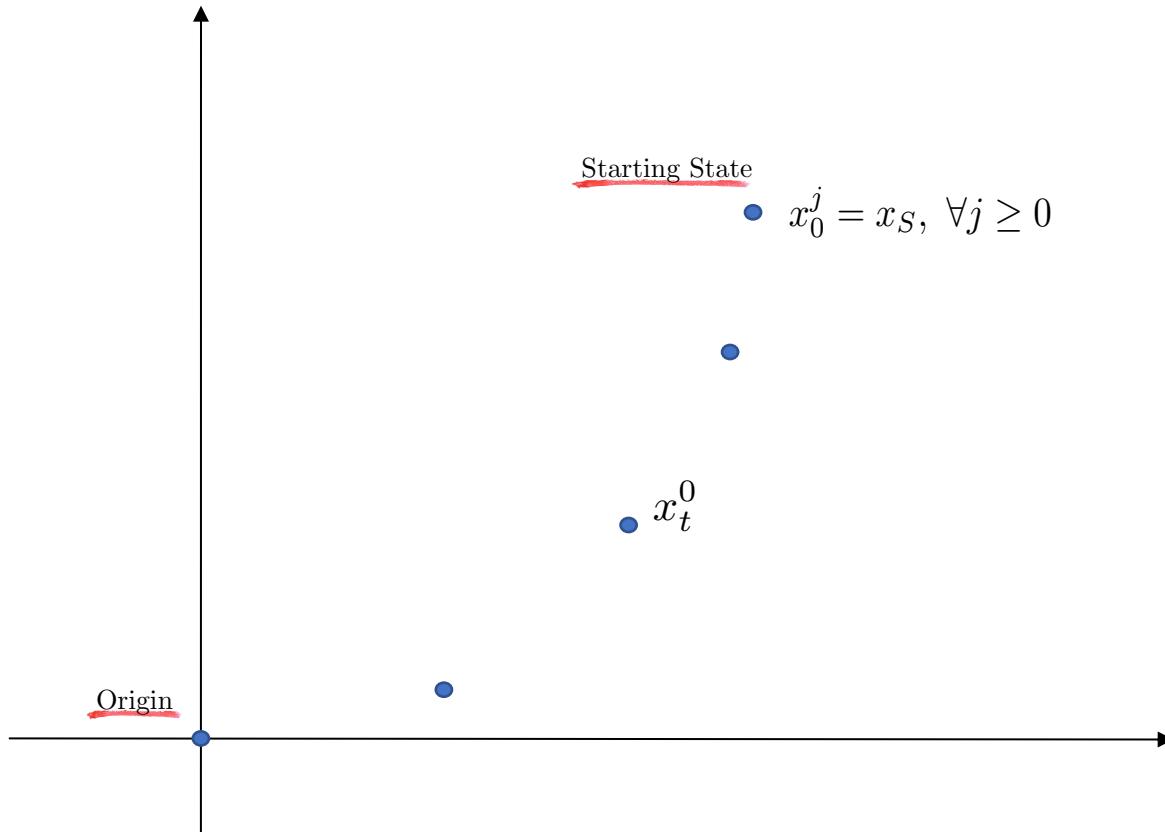
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- ▶ Convex optimization problem over inputs and lambdas
- ▶ Safety and performance improvement guarantees still hold (simple proofs as before)
- ▶ Converges to global optimal solution (Constraints Qualification Condition required)

# Example I: Constrained LQR



## Infinite Time Optimal Control Problem

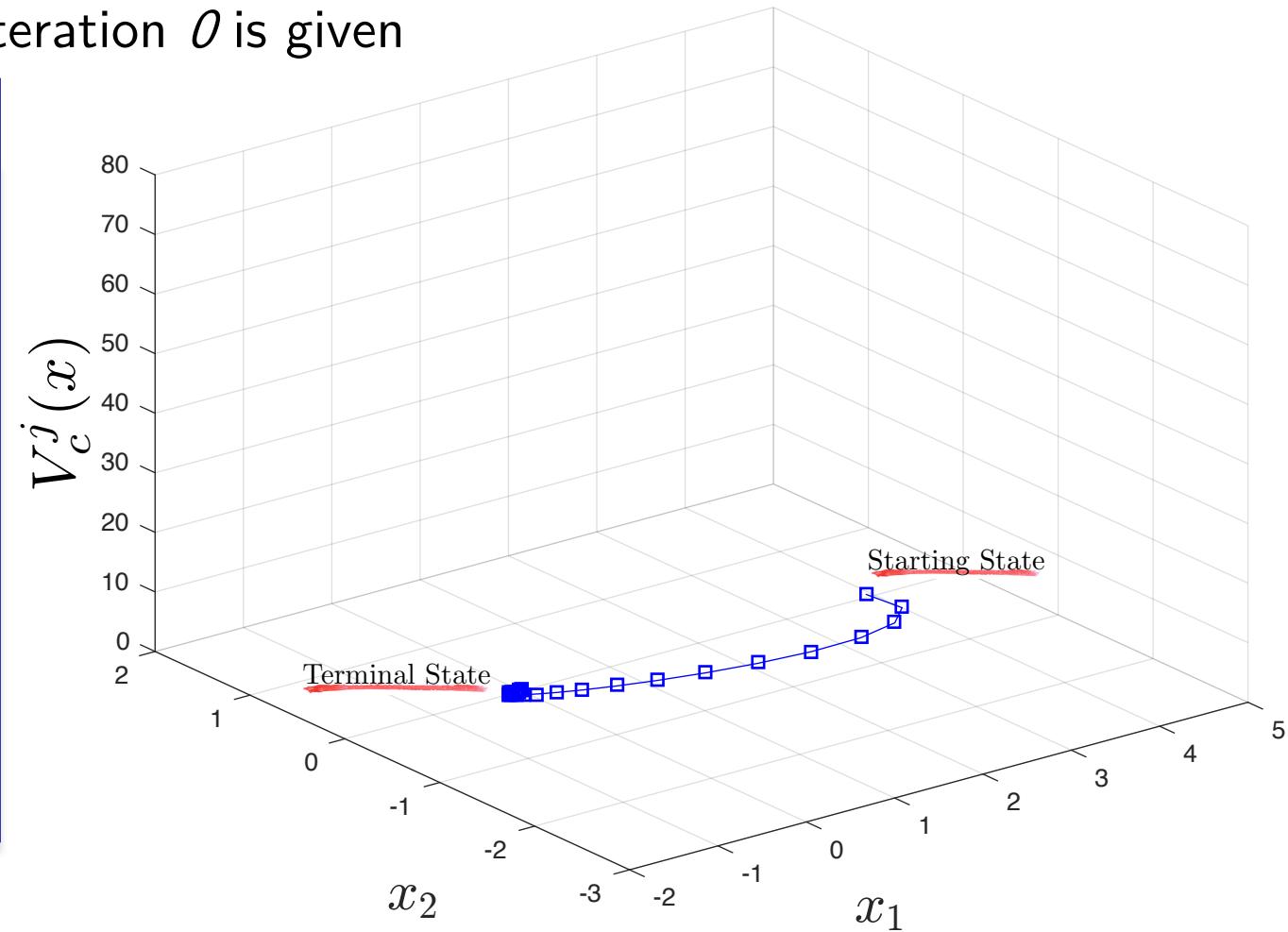
The goal of the control design is to solve the following constrained LQR problem for the double integrator system,

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{u_0, u_1, \dots} \quad \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x_k^\top Q x_k + u_k^\top R u_k \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x_0 = x_S, \\ & x_{k+1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} x_k + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} u_k, \\ & x_k \in \mathcal{X}, \quad u_k \in \mathcal{U}, \quad \forall k \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

# Example I: Constrained LQR

Assumption: A first feasible trajectory at iteration  $\theta$  is given

Iterative LMPC



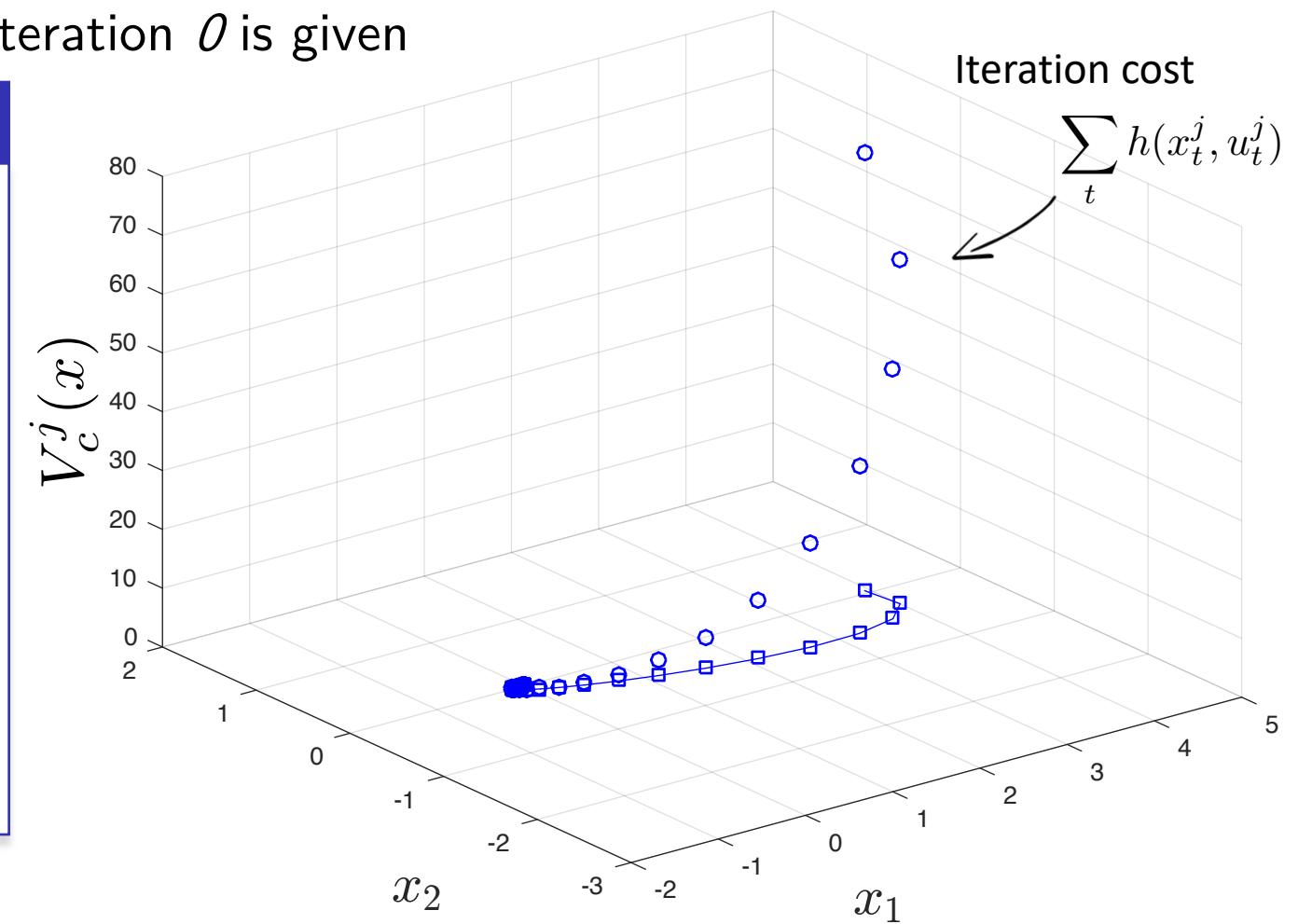
# Example I: Constrained LQR

Assumption: A first feasible trajectory at iteration  $j=0$  is given

## Iterative LMPC

Step 0: Set iteration counter  $j=0$

Step 1: Compute the roll-out cost for the recorded data up to iteration  $j$

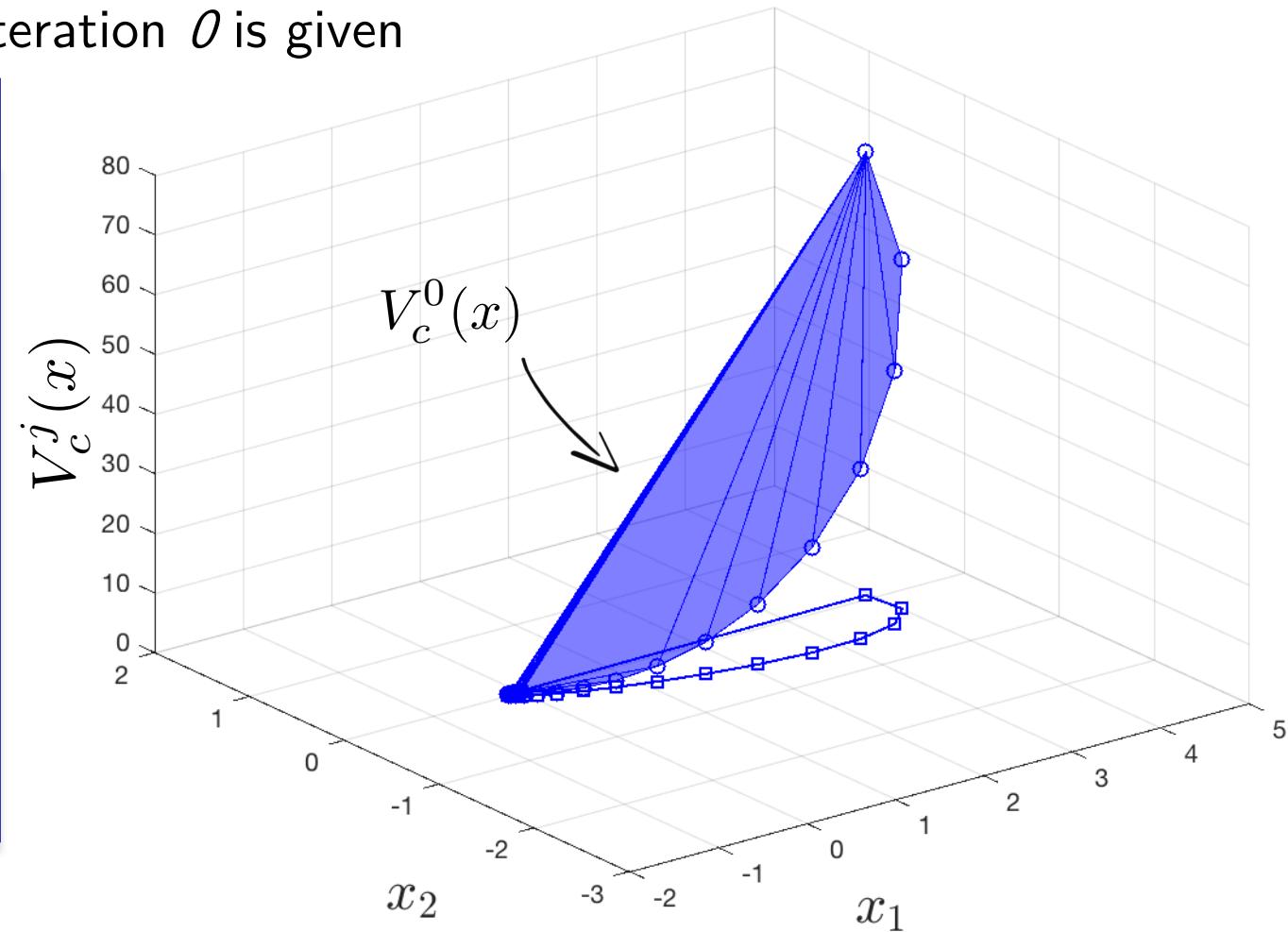


# Example I: Constrained LQR

Assumption: A first feasible trajectory at iteration  $0$  is given

## Iterative LMPC

- Step 0: Set iteration counter  $j=0$
- Step 1: Compute the roll-out cost for the recorded data up to iteration  $j$
- Step 2: Define  $V^j$  which interpolates linearly the roll-out cost

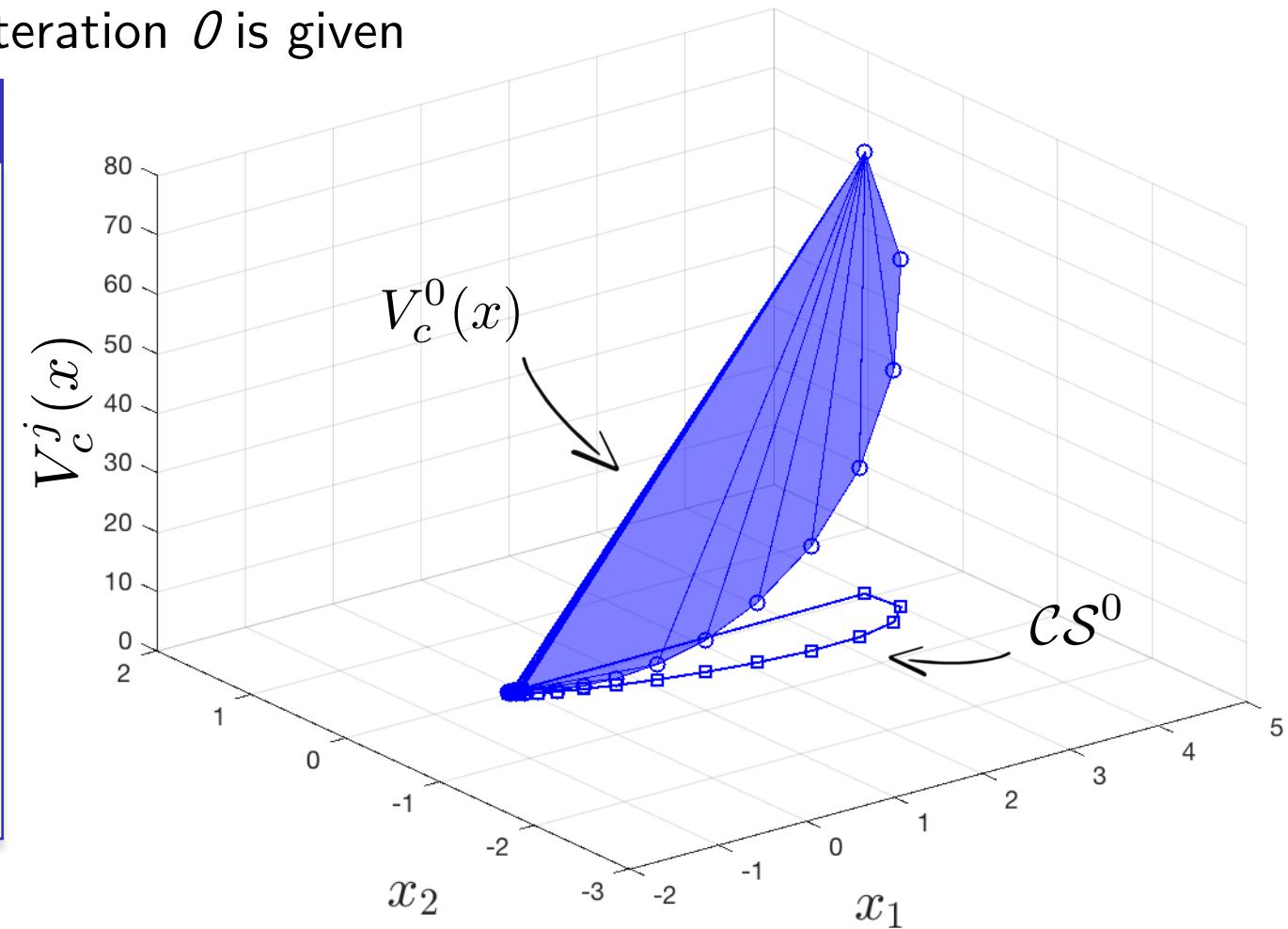


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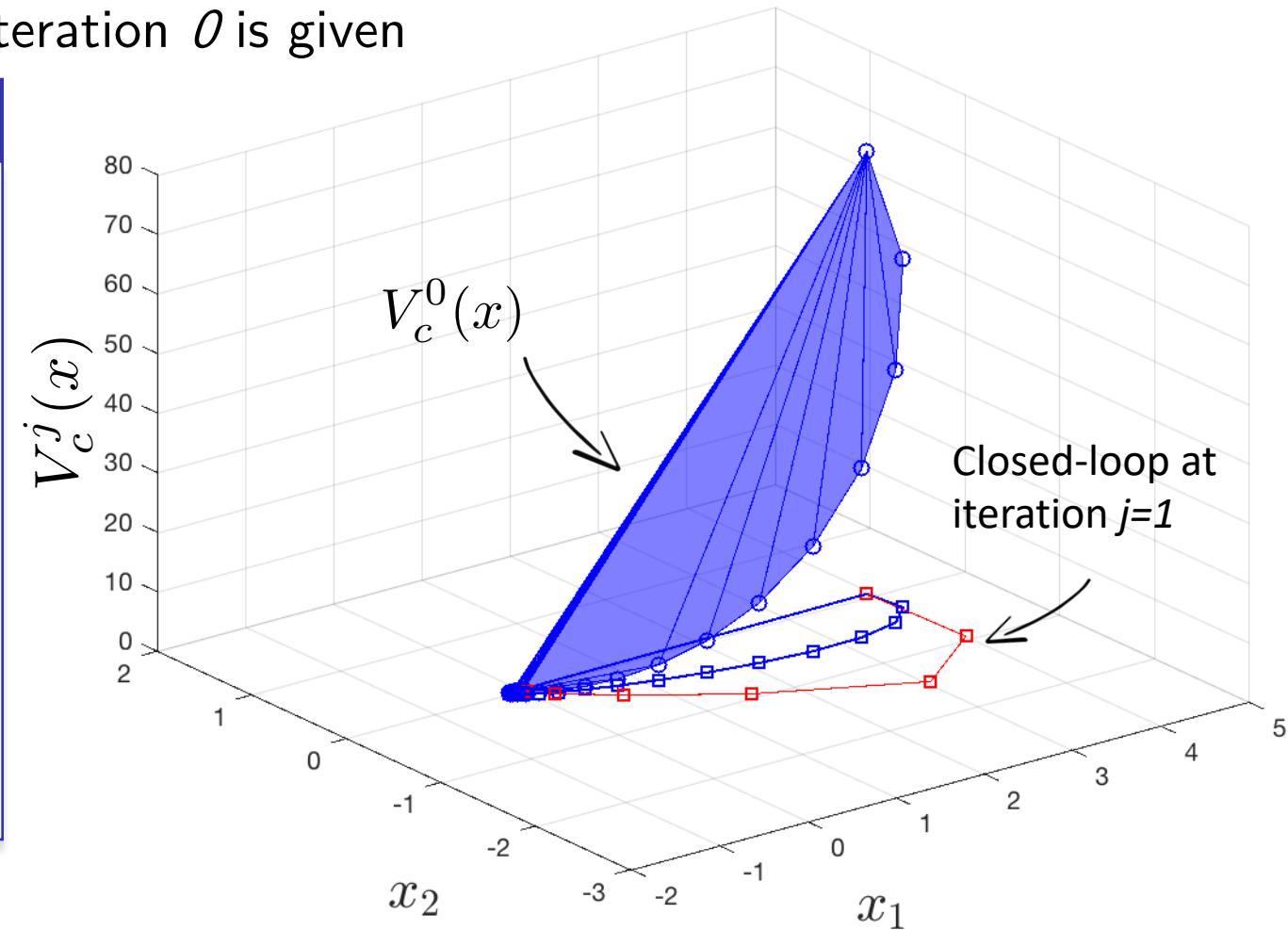


# Example I: Constrained LQR

Assumption: A first feasible trajectory at iteration  $j=0$  is given

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- Step 3: Run a closed-loop simulation at iteration  $j+1$

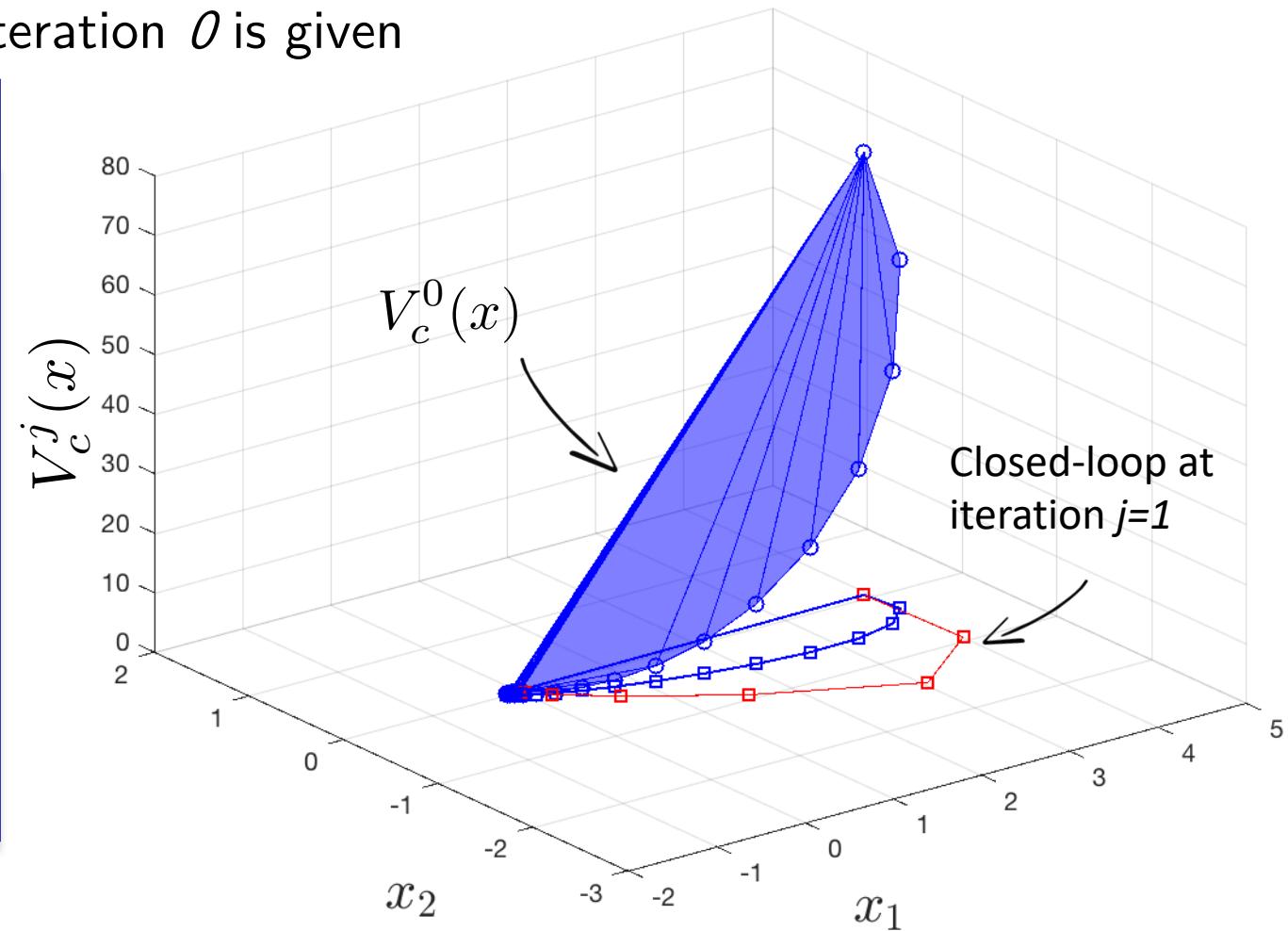


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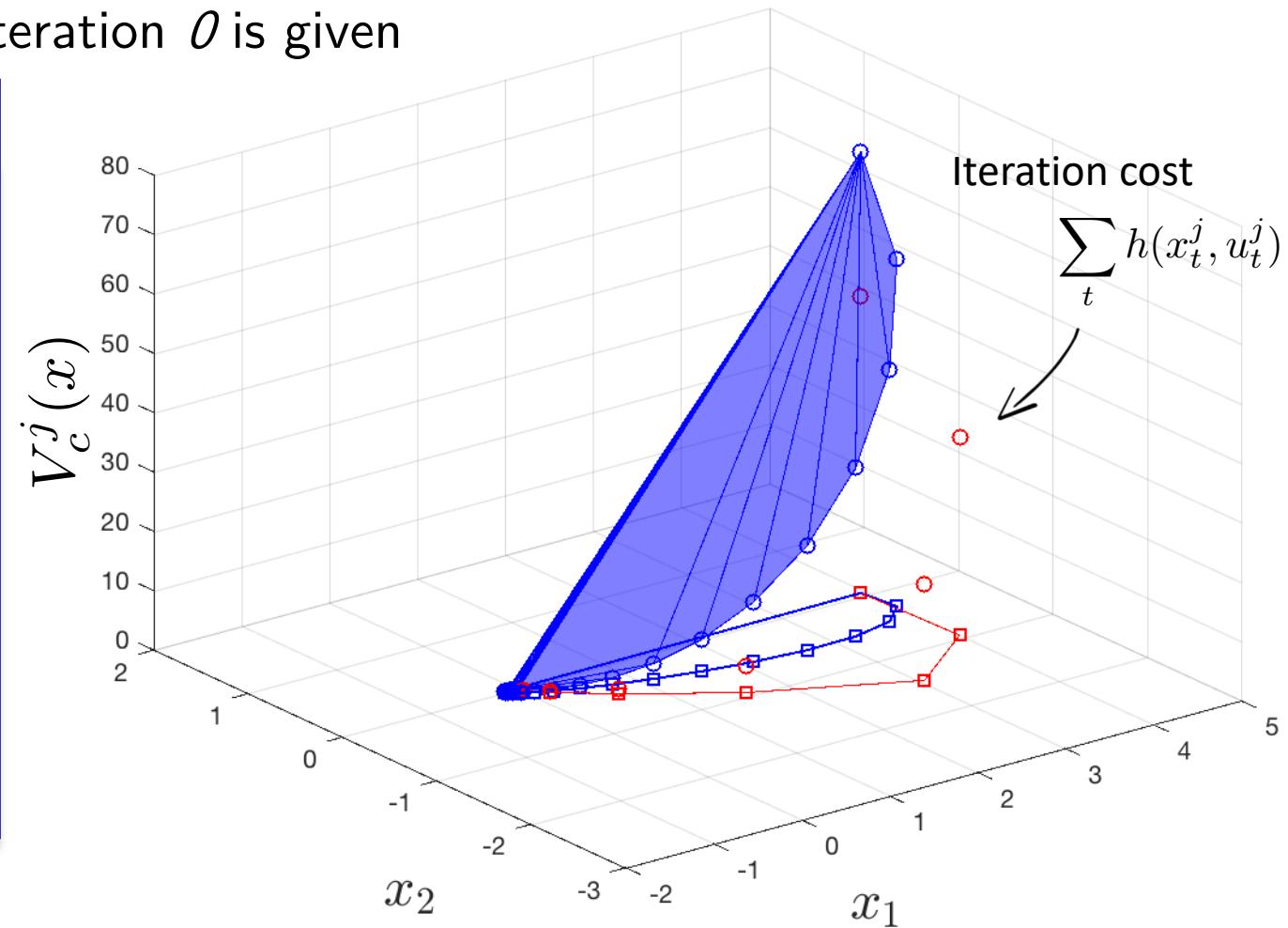


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Assumption: A first feasible trajectory at iteration  $j$  is given

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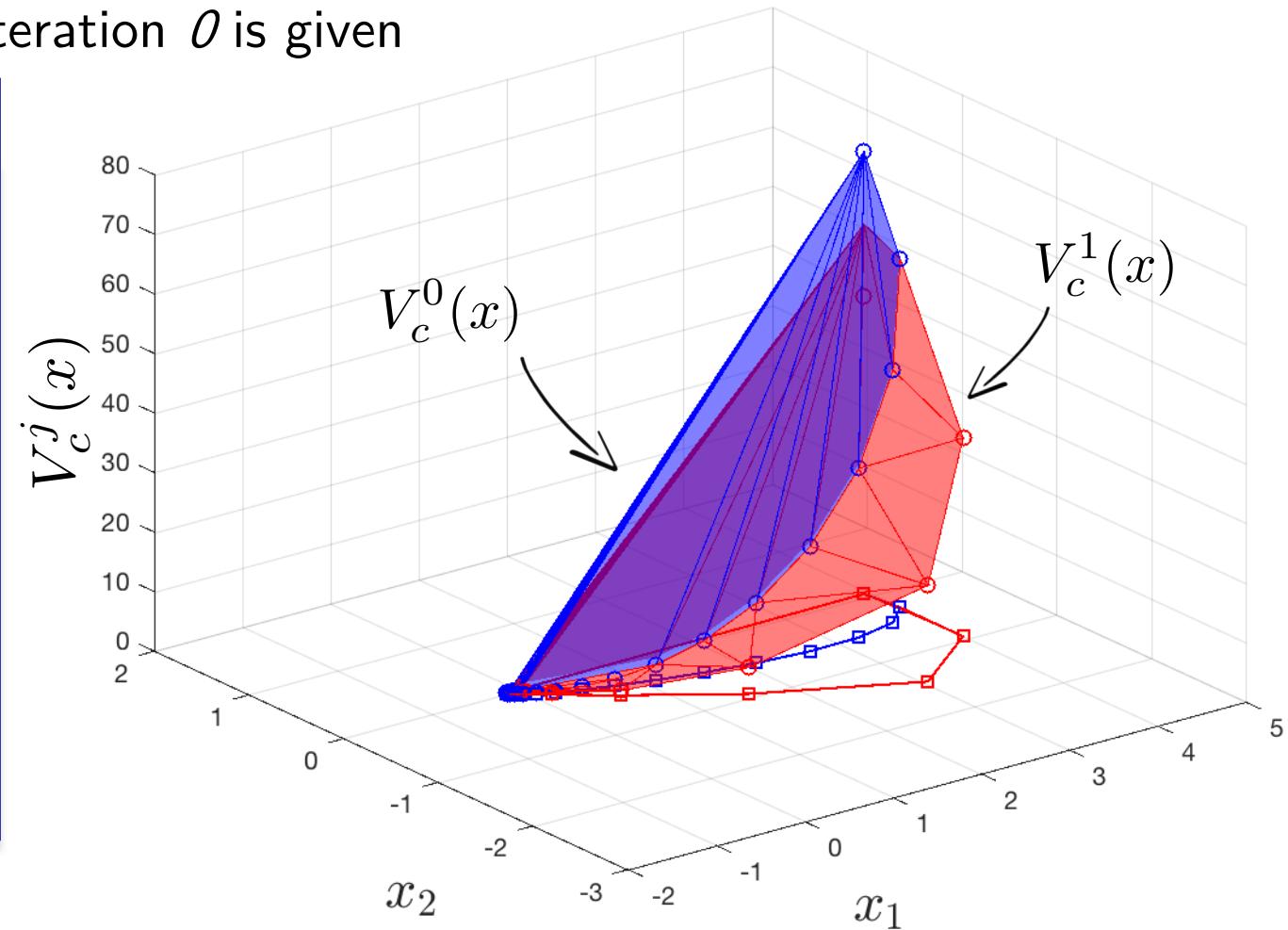


# Example I: Constrained LQR

Assumption: A first feasible trajectory at iteration  $\mathcal{O}$  is given

## Iterative LMPC

- Step 0: Set iteration counter  $j=0$
- Step 1: Compute the roll-out cost for the recorded data up to iteration  $j$
- Step 2: Define  $V^j$  which interpolates linearly the roll-out cost
- Step 3: Run a closed-loop simulation at iteration  $j+1$
- Step 5: Set iteration counter  $j = j+1$ . Go to Step 1

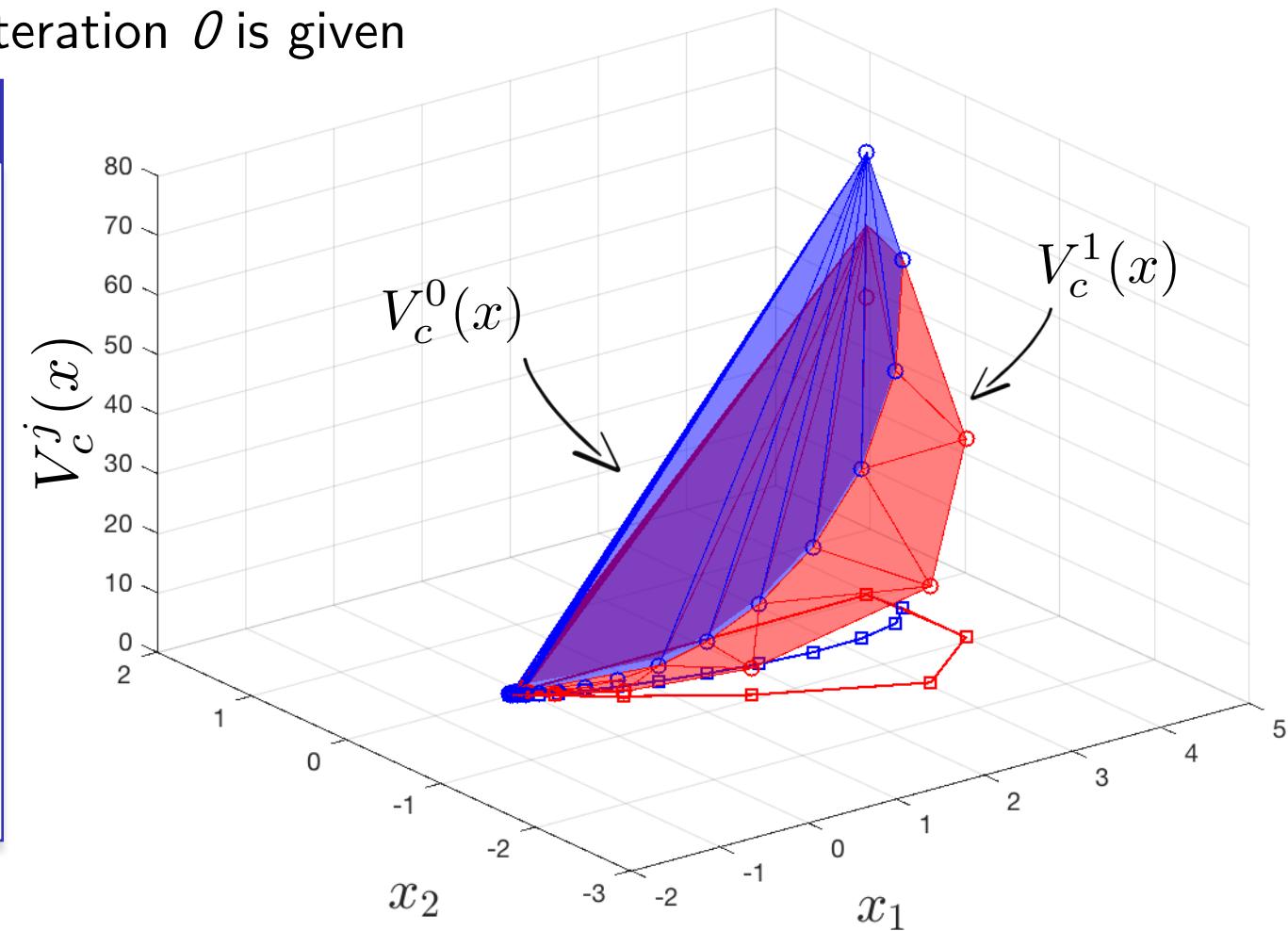


# Example I: Constrained LQR

Assumption: A first feasible trajectory at iteration  $\mathcal{O}$  is given

## Iterative LMPC

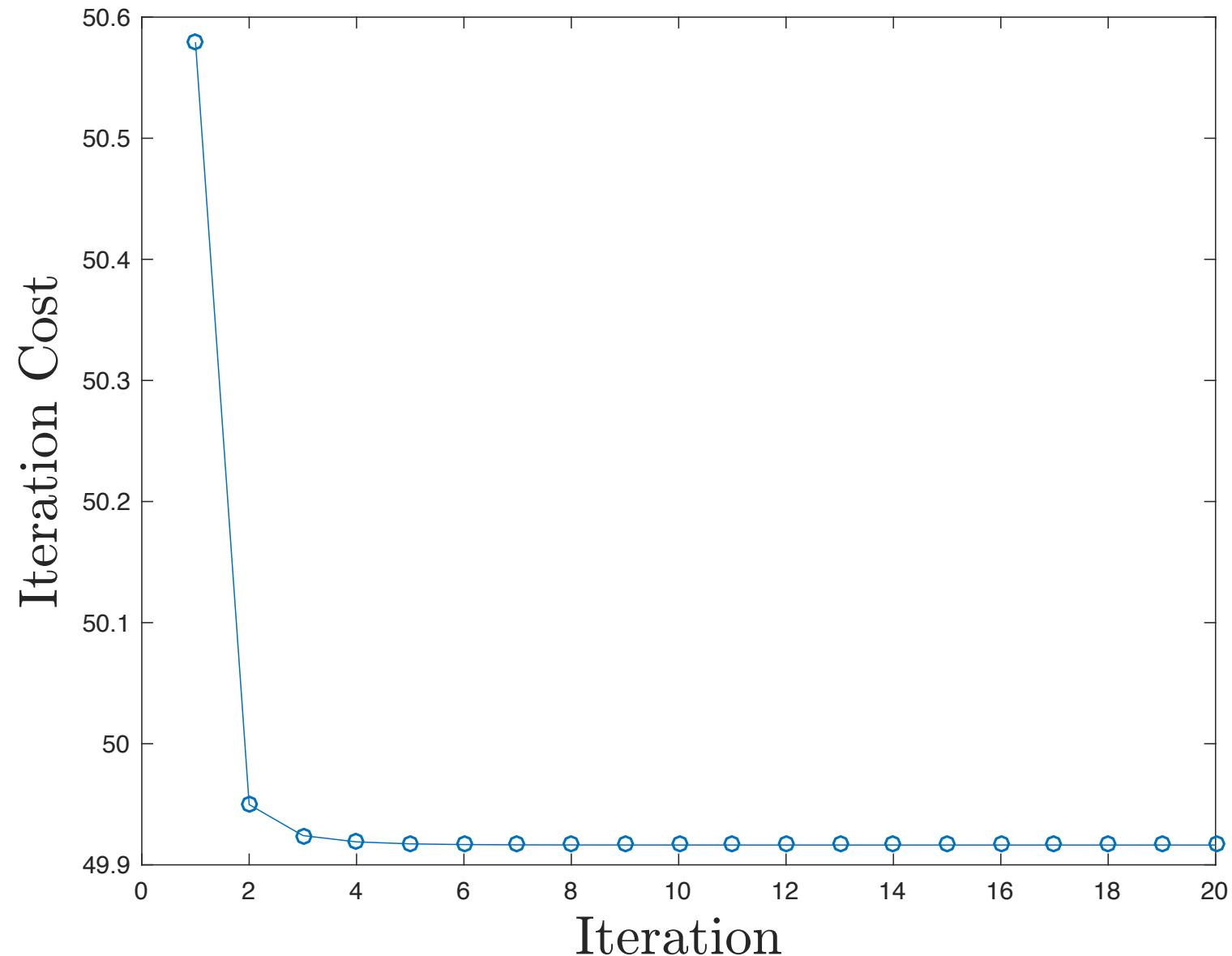
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- Step 5: Set iteration counter  $j = j+1$ . Go to Step 1



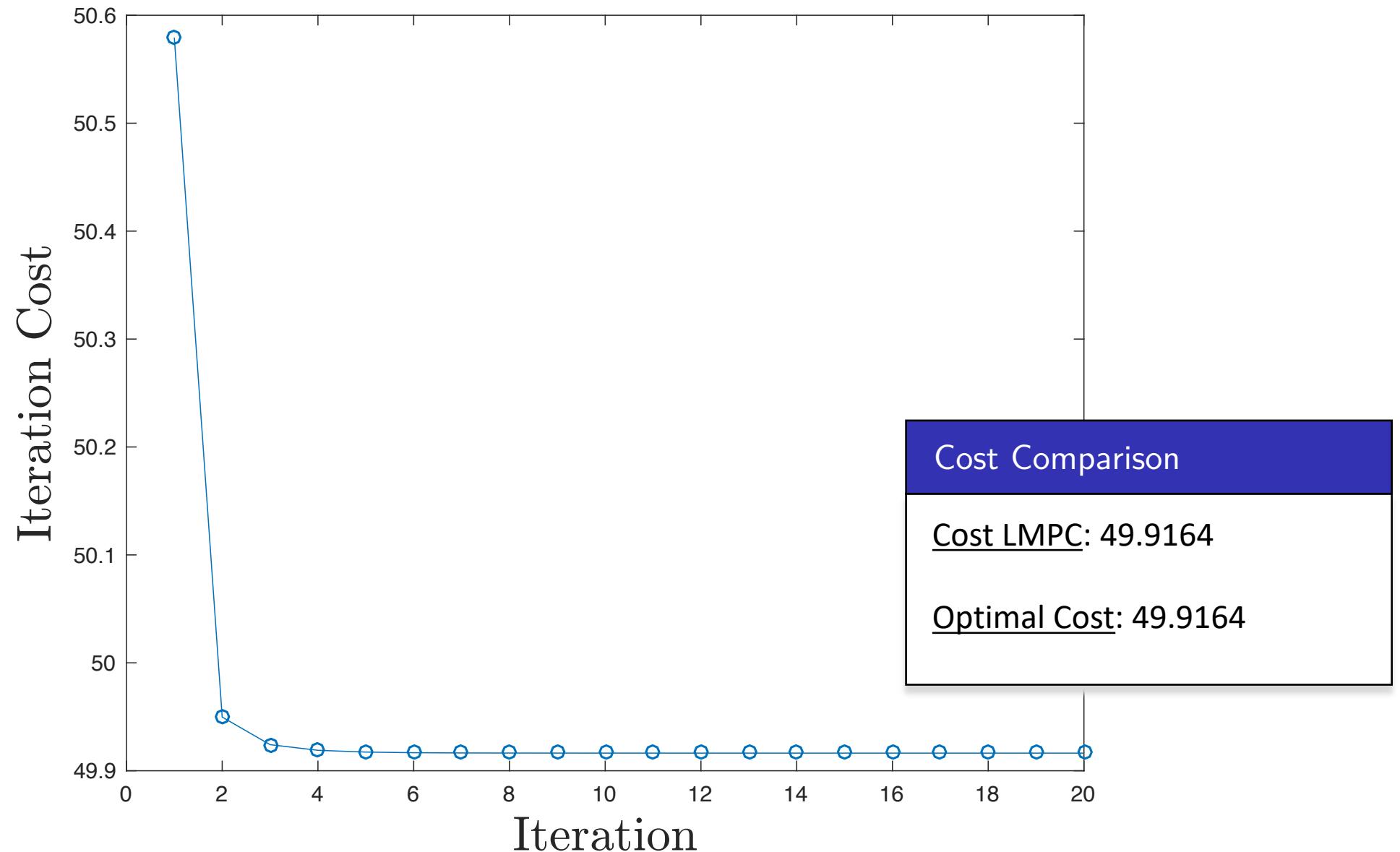
## Key Messages:

- ▶ The cost function is defined on a **subset** of the state space.
- ▶ The LMPC **explores** the state space in order to enlarge the terminal cost domain.

# Iteration Cost

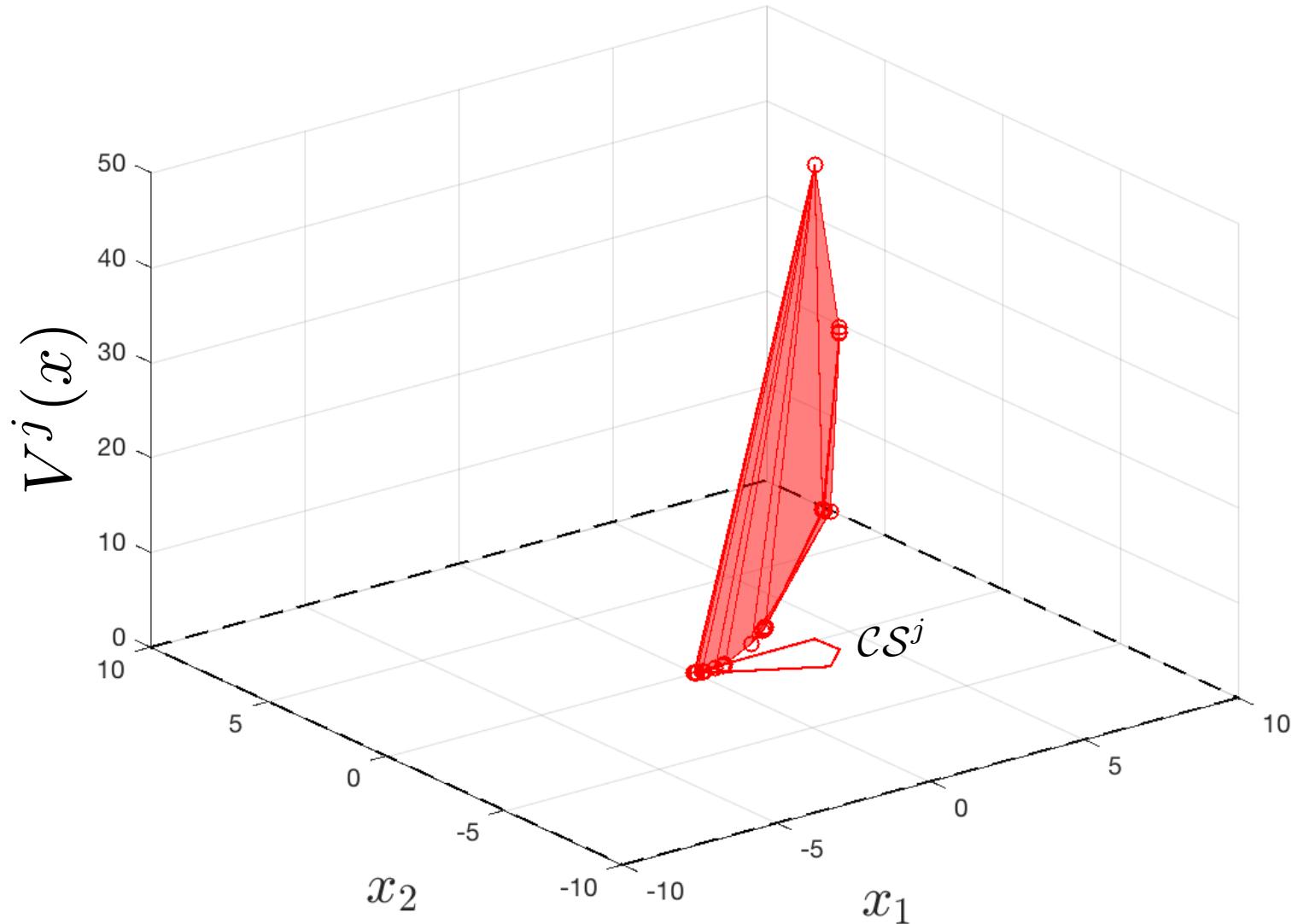


# Iteration Cost

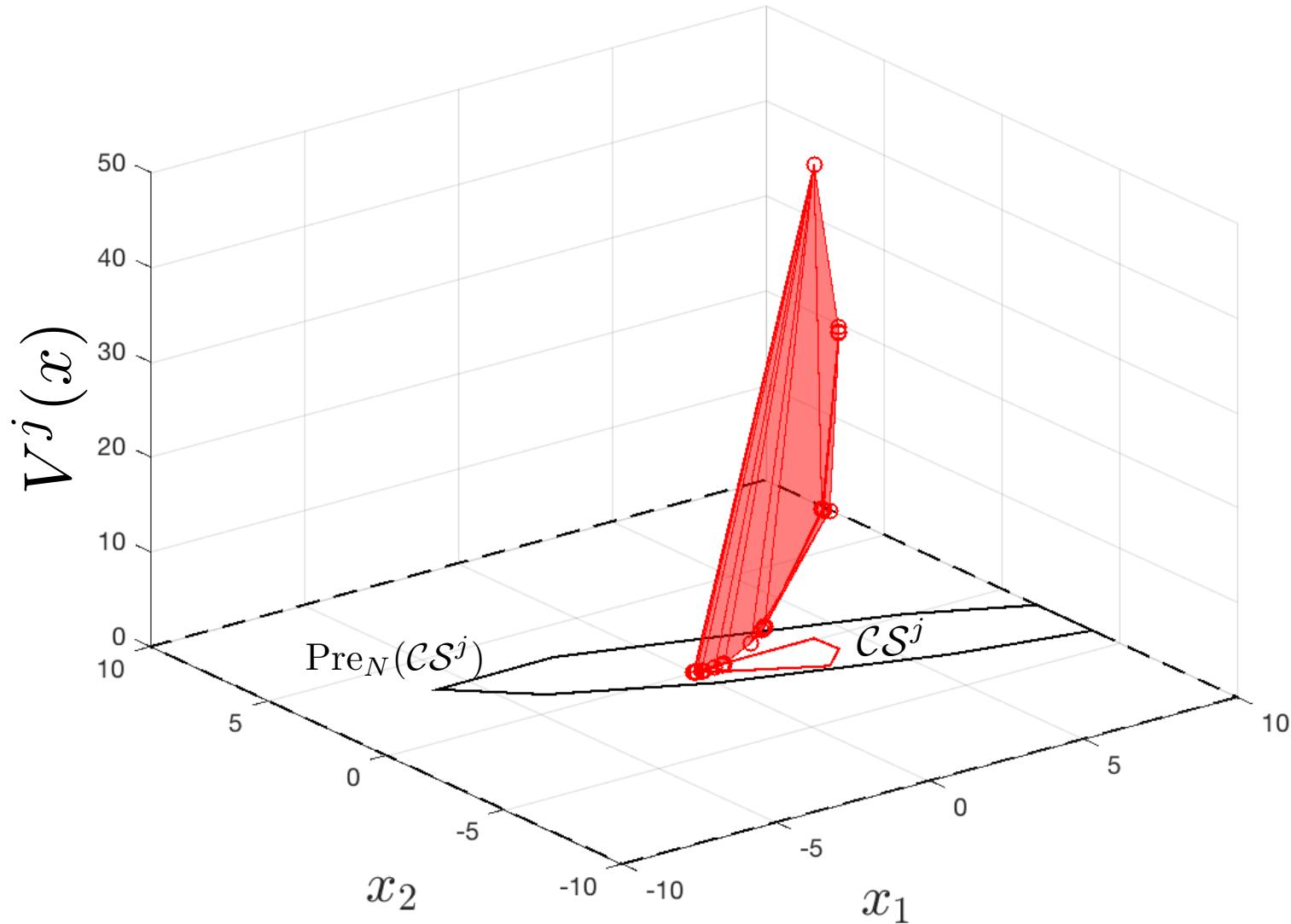


# Constrained LQR: LMPC region of attraction

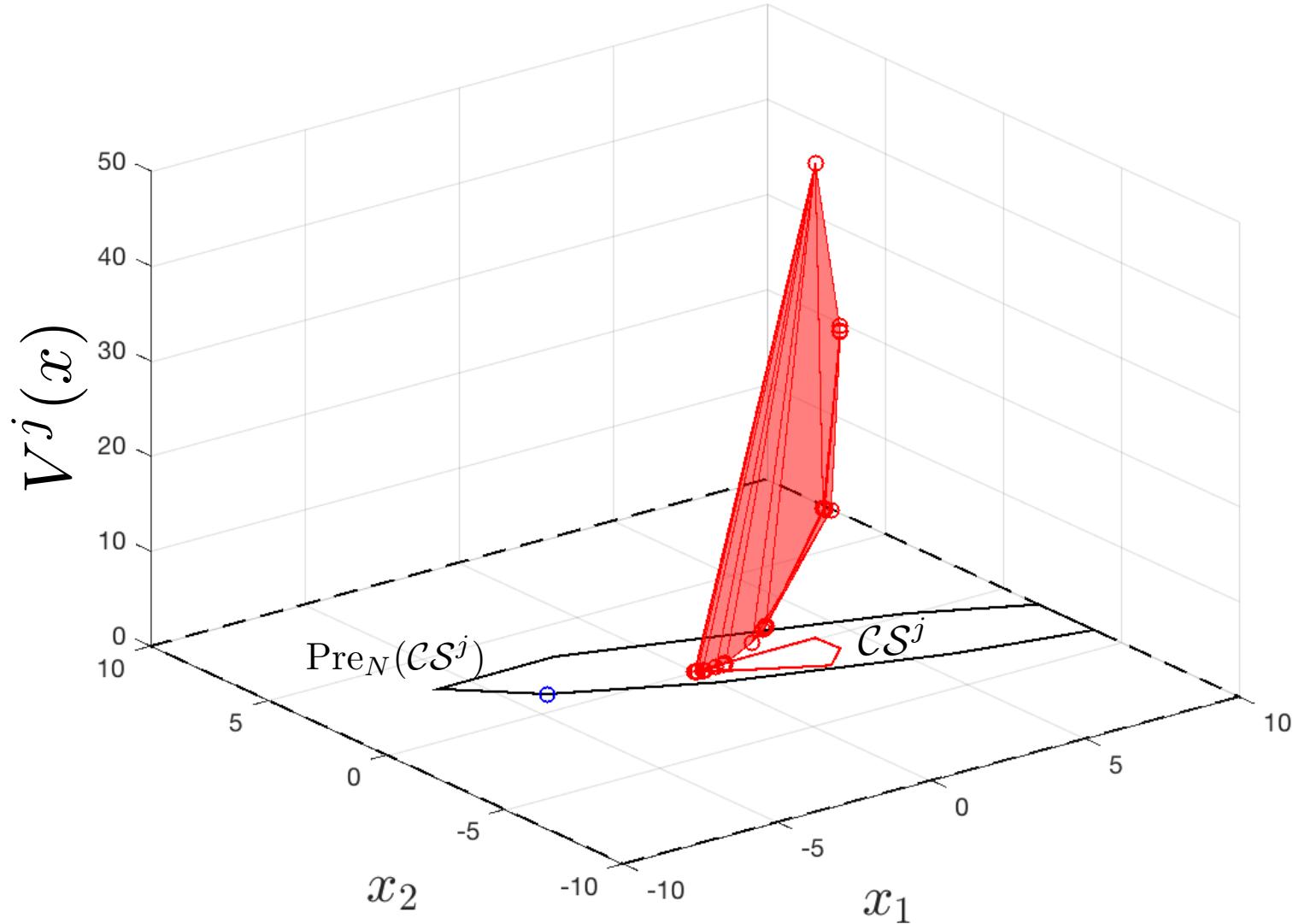
# Constrained LQR: LMPC region of attraction



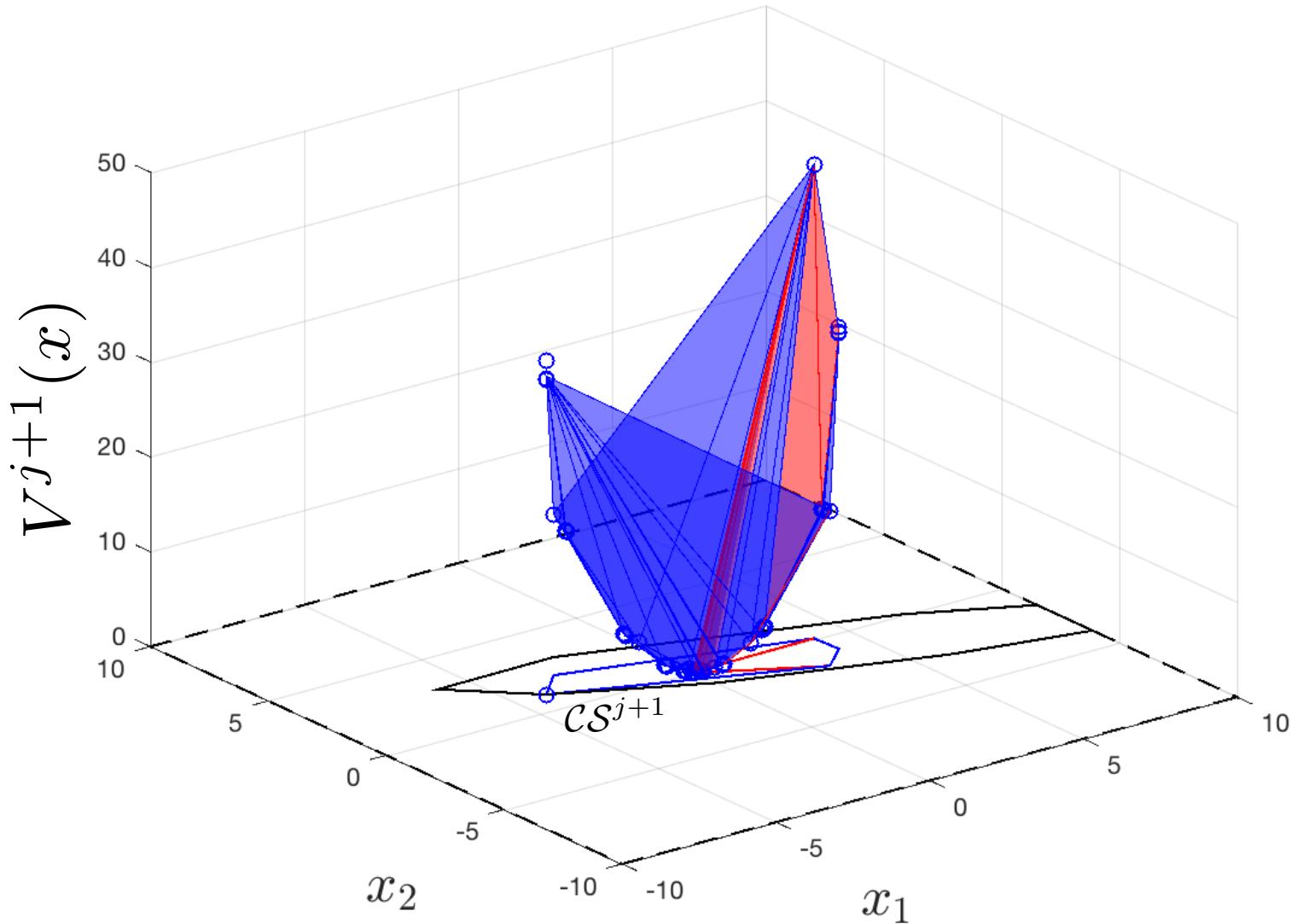
# Constrained LQR: LMPC region of attraction



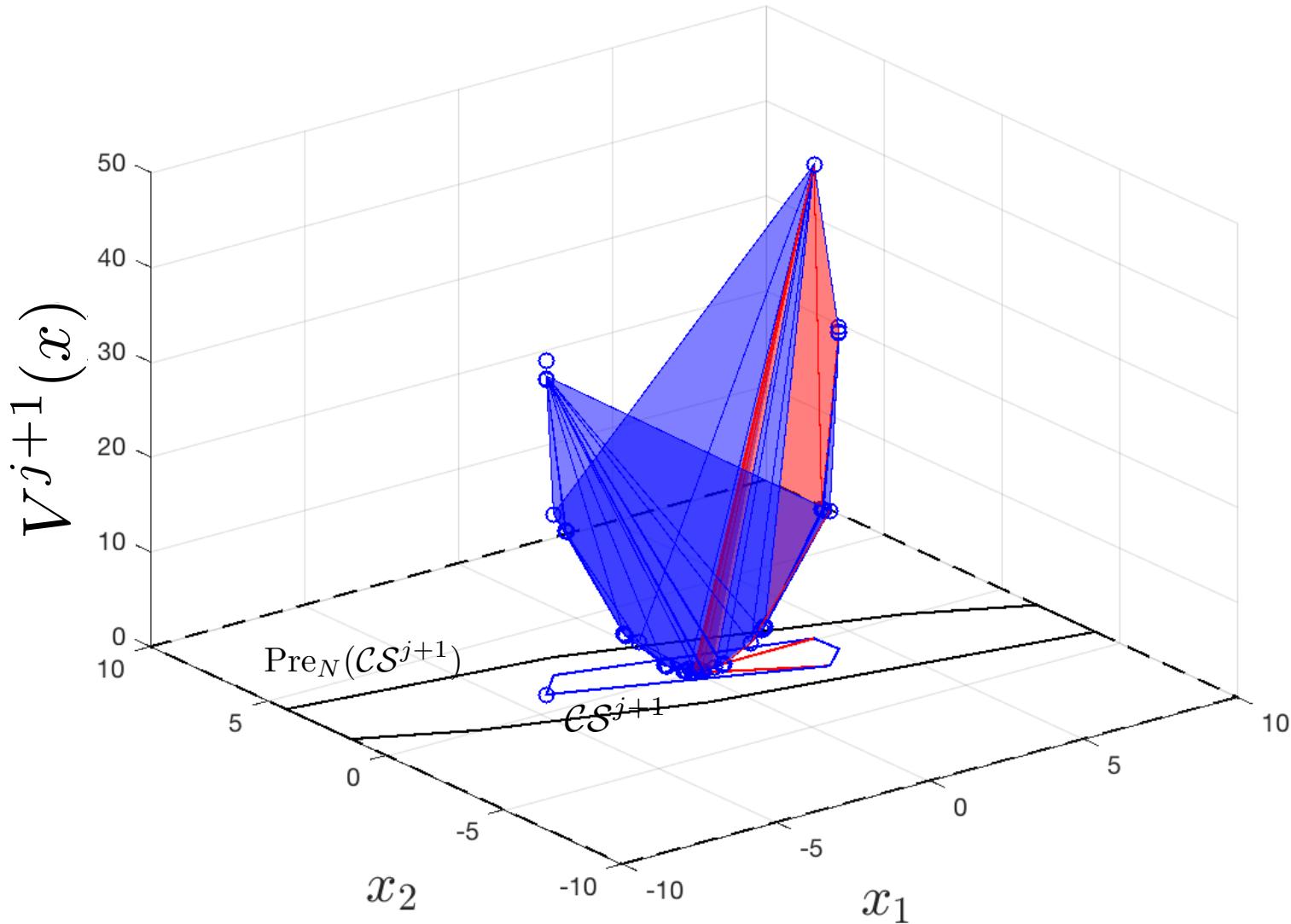
# Constrained LQR: LMPC region of attraction



# Constrained LQR: LMPC region of attraction



# Constrained LQR: LMPC region of attraction



# Comparison with Approximate DP (aka RL)

- ▶ Some references:
  - ❖ Bertsekas paper connecting MPC and ADP [1], books on RL and OC [2,3]
  - ❖ Lewis and Vrabie survey [4]
  - ❖ Recht survey [5]
  
- ▶ LMPC highlights
  - ❖ Continuous state and action formulation
  - ❖ Constraints satisfaction and Sampled Safe Sets
  - ❖ V-function constructed locally based on cost/model driven exploration
  - ❖ V-function at stored state is “exact” and upperbounds at intermediate points

[1] D. Bertsekas, “Dynamic programming and suboptimal control: A survey from ADP to MPC.” European Journal of Control 11.4-5 (2005)

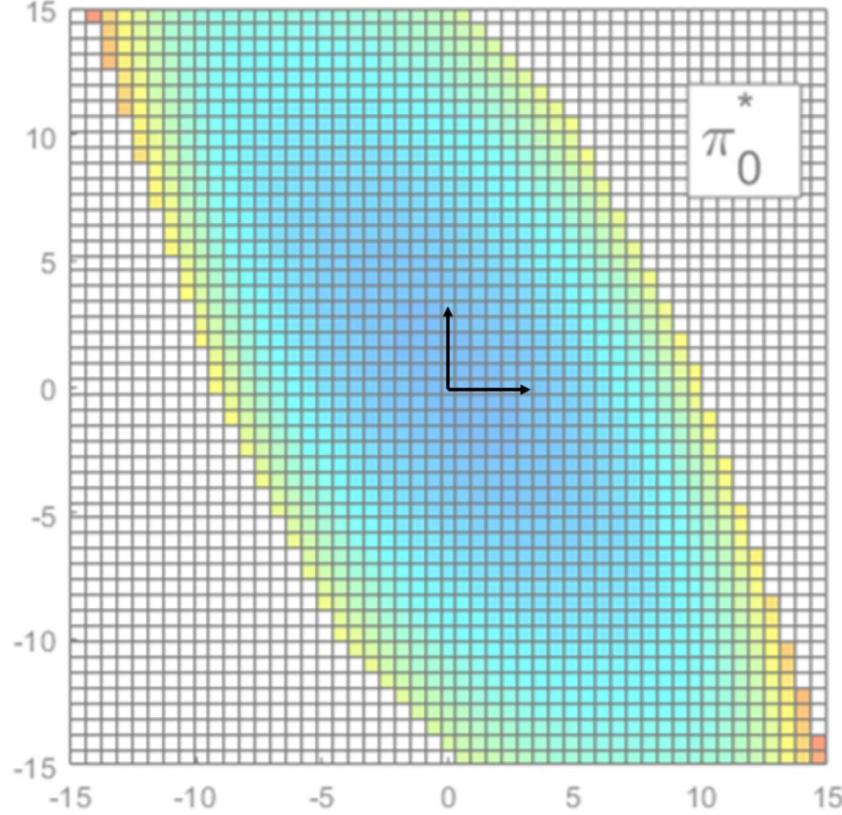
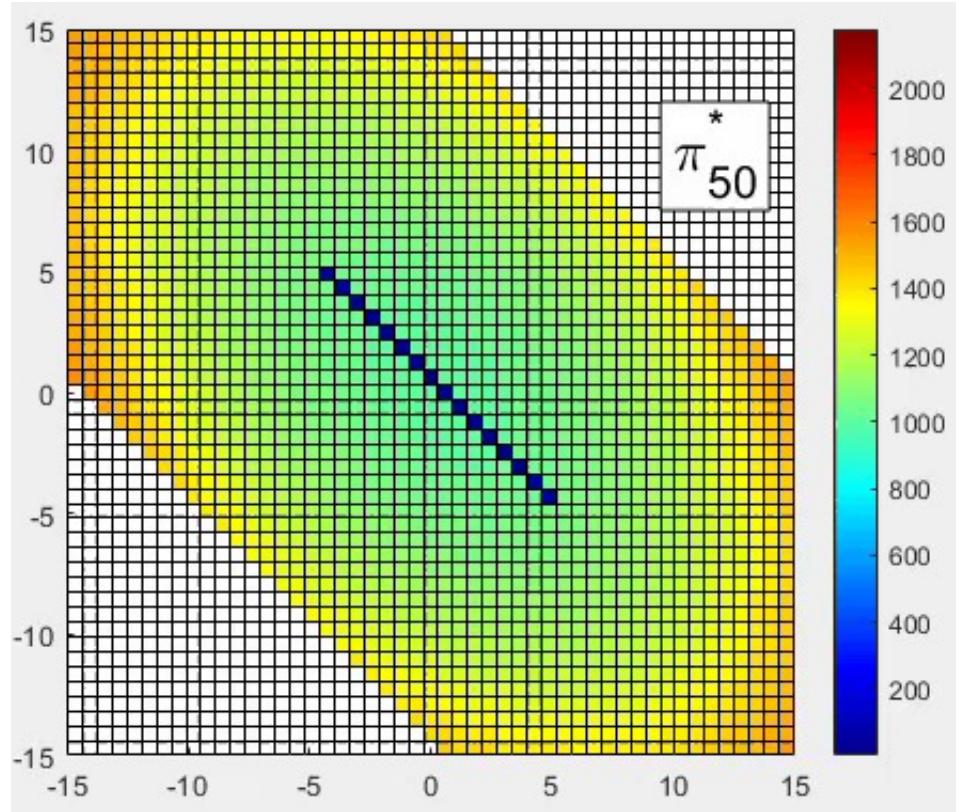
[2] D. Bertsekas, “Reinforcement learning and optimal control.” Athena Scientific, 2019.

[3] D. Bertsekas, “Distributed Reinforcement Learning” [http://web.mit.edu/dimitrib/www/RL\\_2\\_Rollout\\_&\\_PI.pdf](http://web.mit.edu/dimitrib/www/RL_2_Rollout_&_PI.pdf)

[4] F. Lewis, Frank, and D. Vrabie. "Reinforcement learning and adaptive dynamic programming for feedback control." IEEE circuits and systems magazine 9.3 (2009)

[5] R. Benjamin. "A tour of reinforcement learning: The view from continuous control." Annual Review of Control, Robotics, and Autonomous Systems 2 (2019)

# Forward Value Iteration



## Dynamic Programming:

- ▶ Gridding, global properties
- ▶ Backward, one-step iteration

## LMPC:

- ▶ No Gridding, local properties
- ▶ Forward, multi-step prediction
- ▶ LICQ required for optimality

# Outline

- ▶ Iterative Control Design for Deterministic Systems
- ▶ Autonomous Racing Experiments

# Learning MPC for Autonomous Racing

Real-time implementation on the Berkeley Autonomous Race Car (BARC)

# Problem Formulation

## Minimum Time Control Problem

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

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

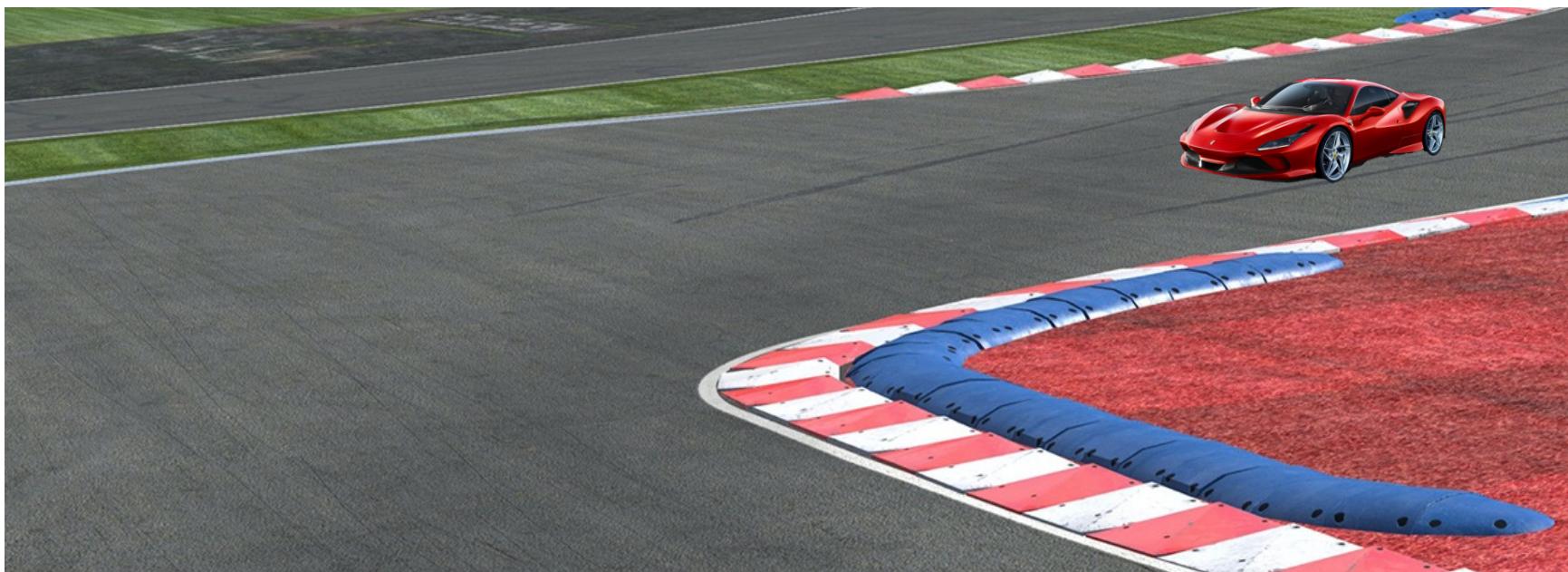
System dynamics

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

## Minimum Time Control Problem

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

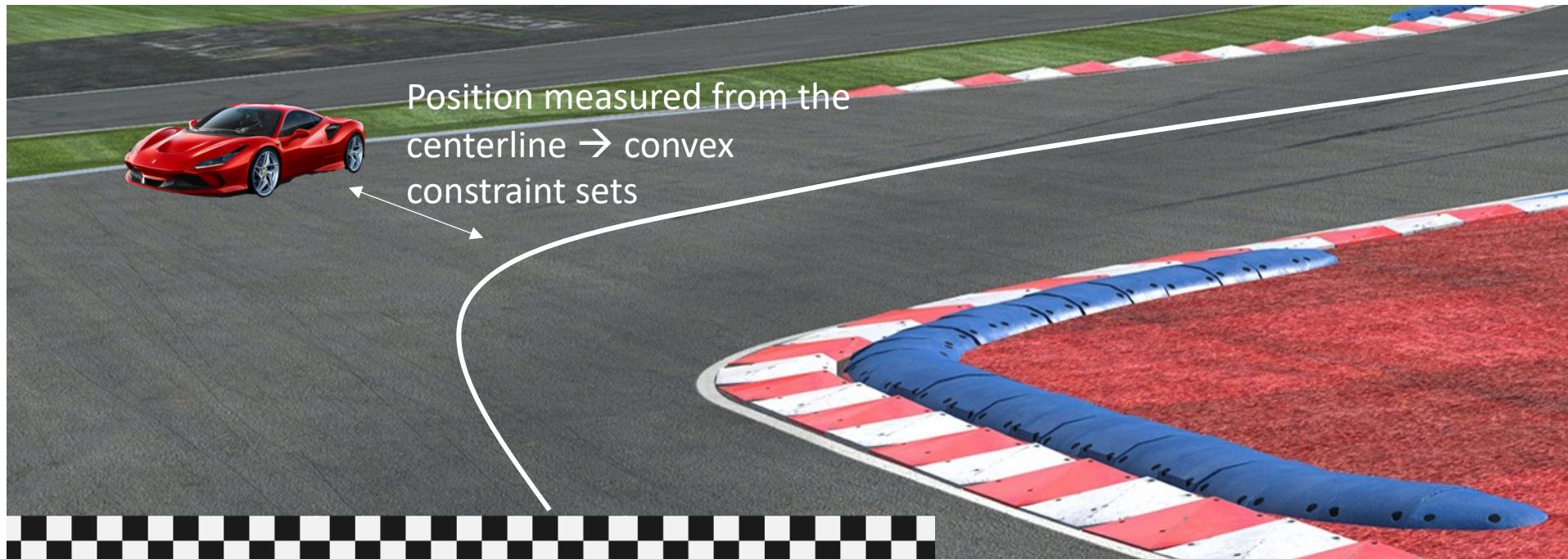
$$x_0 = x_s, \quad x_T = \mathcal{X}_F \quad \text{Start & end position}$$

System dynamics  
System constraints

Safety constraints

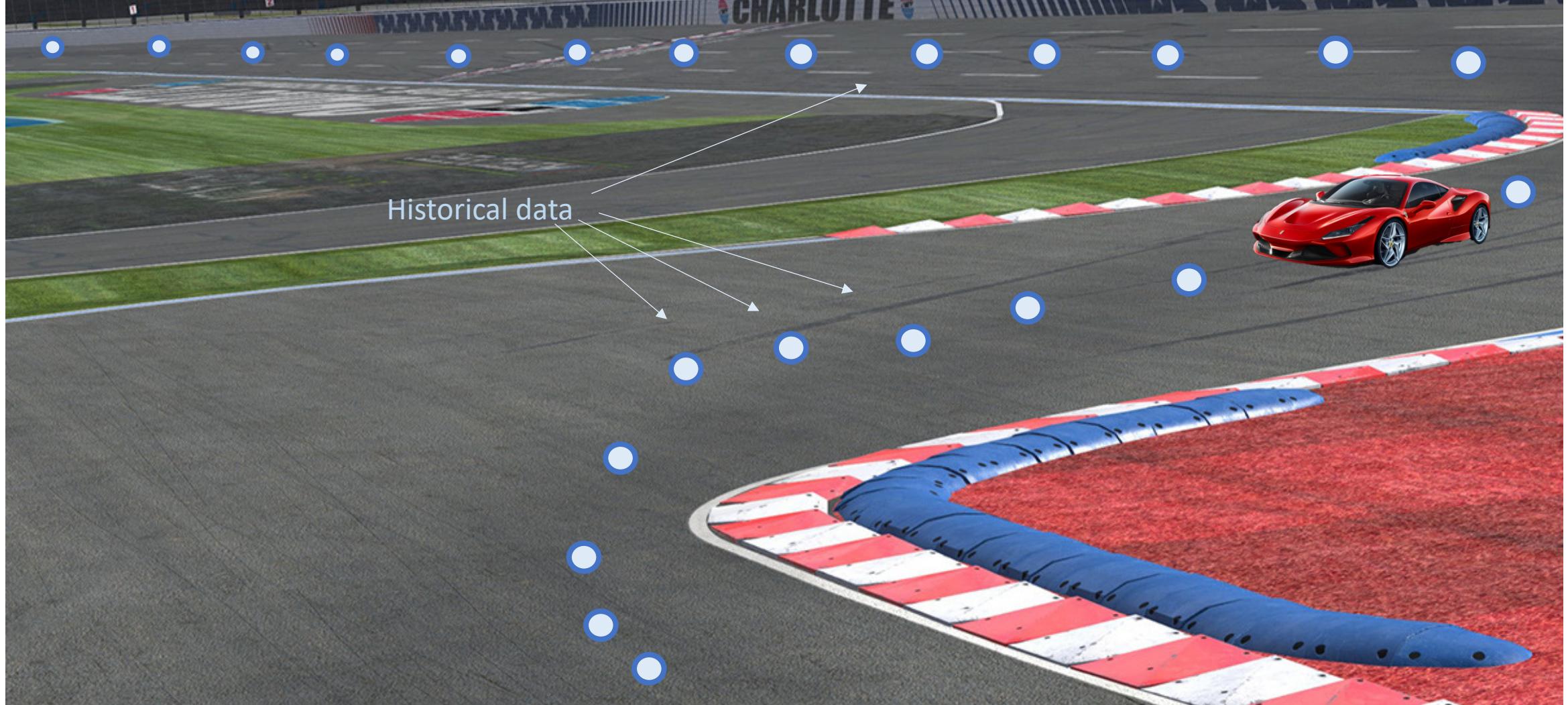
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$$x_k \in \mathcal{X}, \quad u_k \in \mathcal{U}, \quad \forall k \in \{0, \dots, T-1\}$$



# 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.

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

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

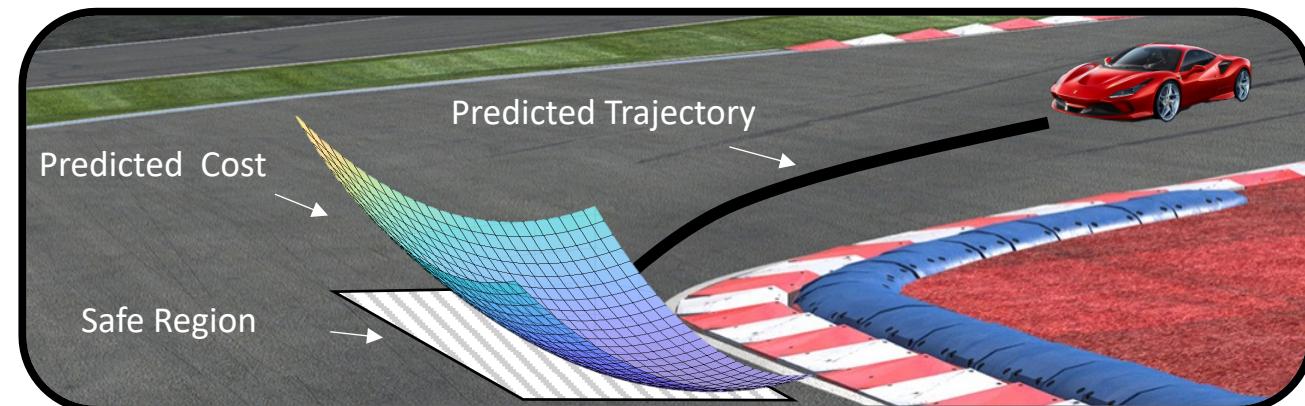
Prediction  
Model

$$x_{k|t}^j \in \mathcal{X}, \quad u_{k|t}^j \in \mathcal{U}, \quad \forall k \in [t, \dots, t+N-1]$$

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

Safe Set

Value Function



# Learning Model Predictive Controller

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

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

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

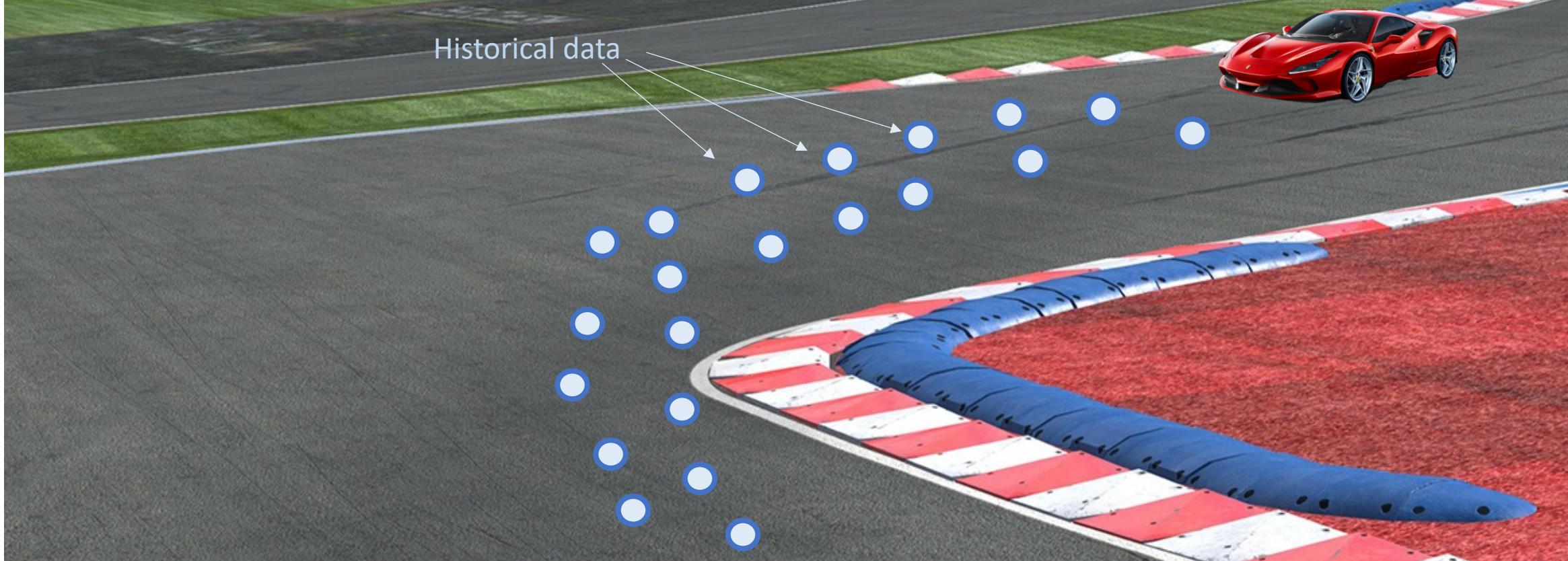


**Safe Set**

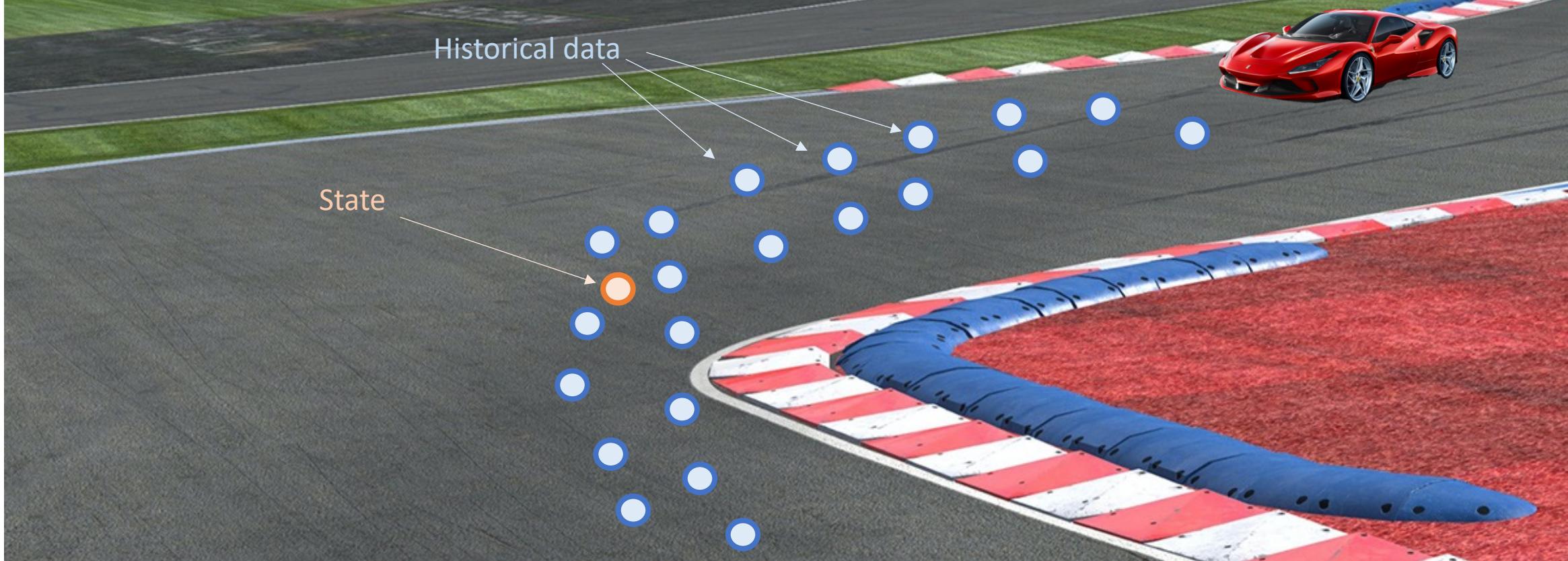
# Safe Set Local Approximations



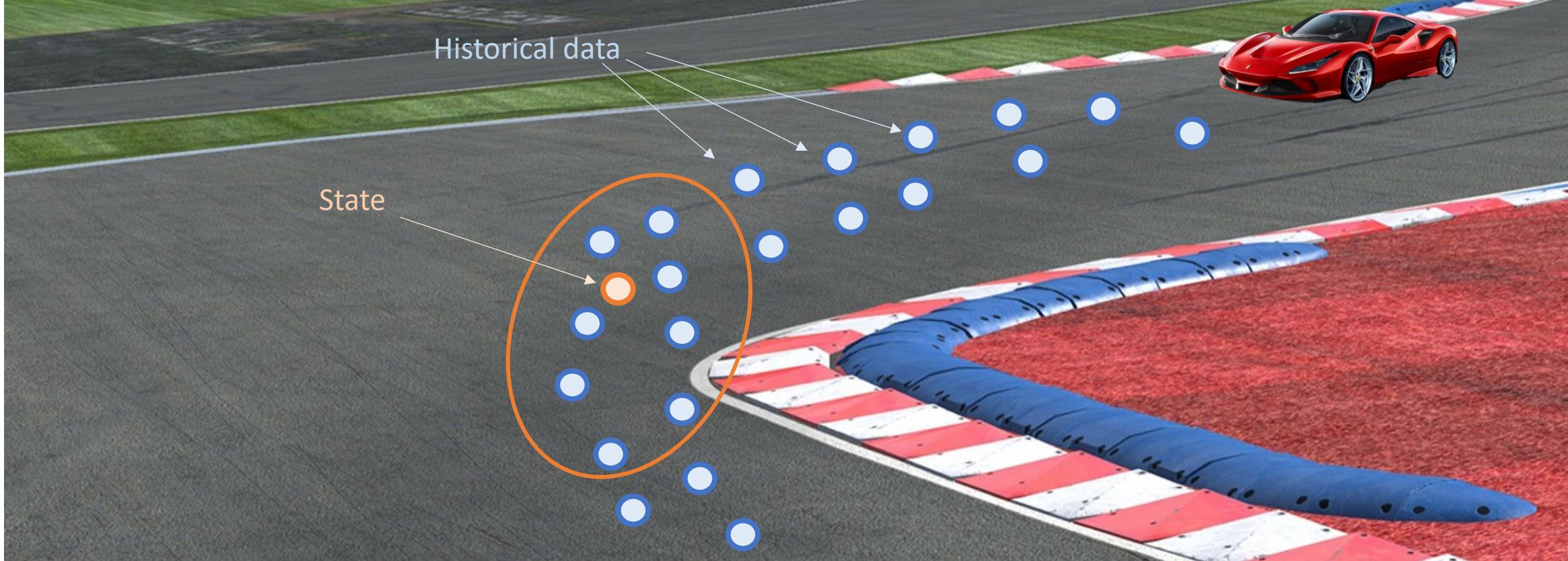
# Safe Set Local Approximations



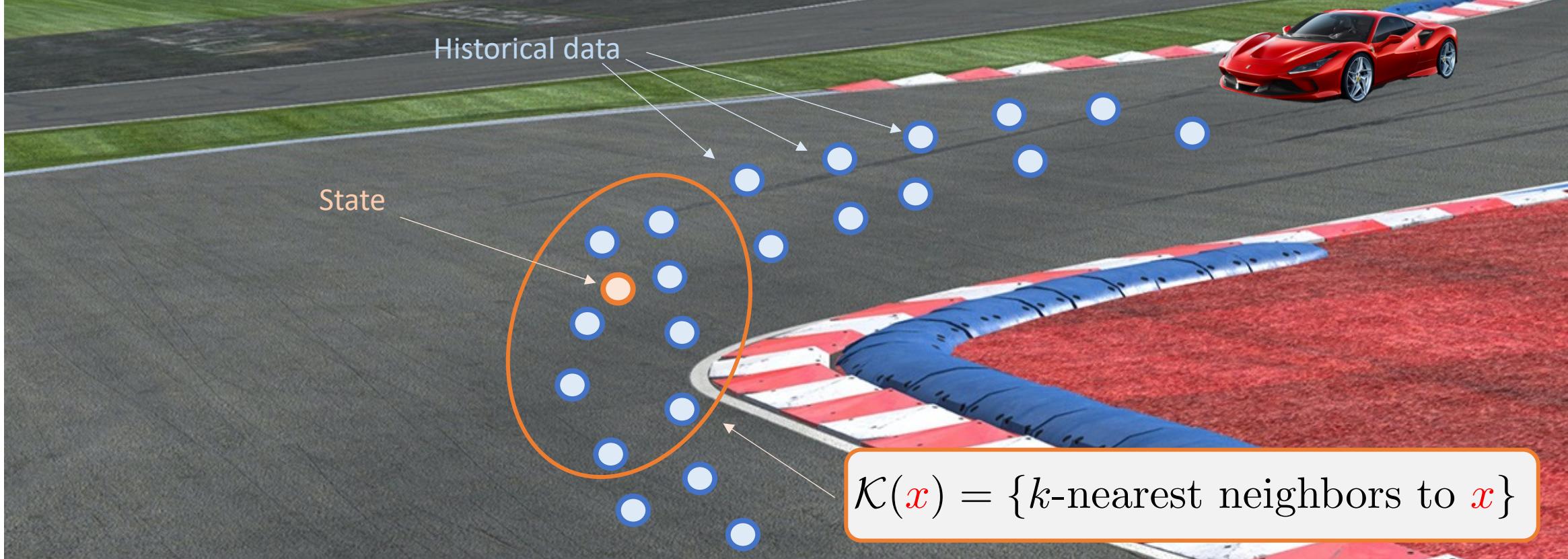
# Safe Set Local Approximations



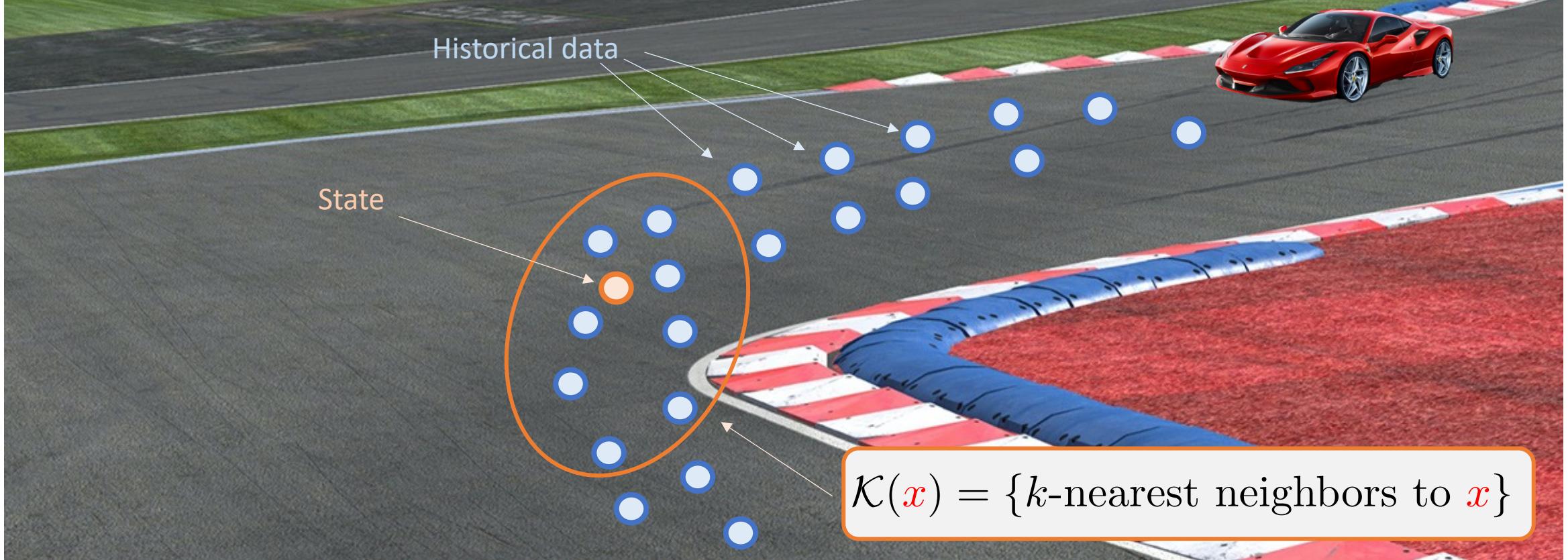
# Safe Set Local Approximations



# Safe Set Local Approximations



# Safe Set Local Approximations



Local convex safe set approximation:

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

# Learning Model Predictive Controller

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

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

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



**Safe Set**

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

# Learning Model Predictive Controller

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

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

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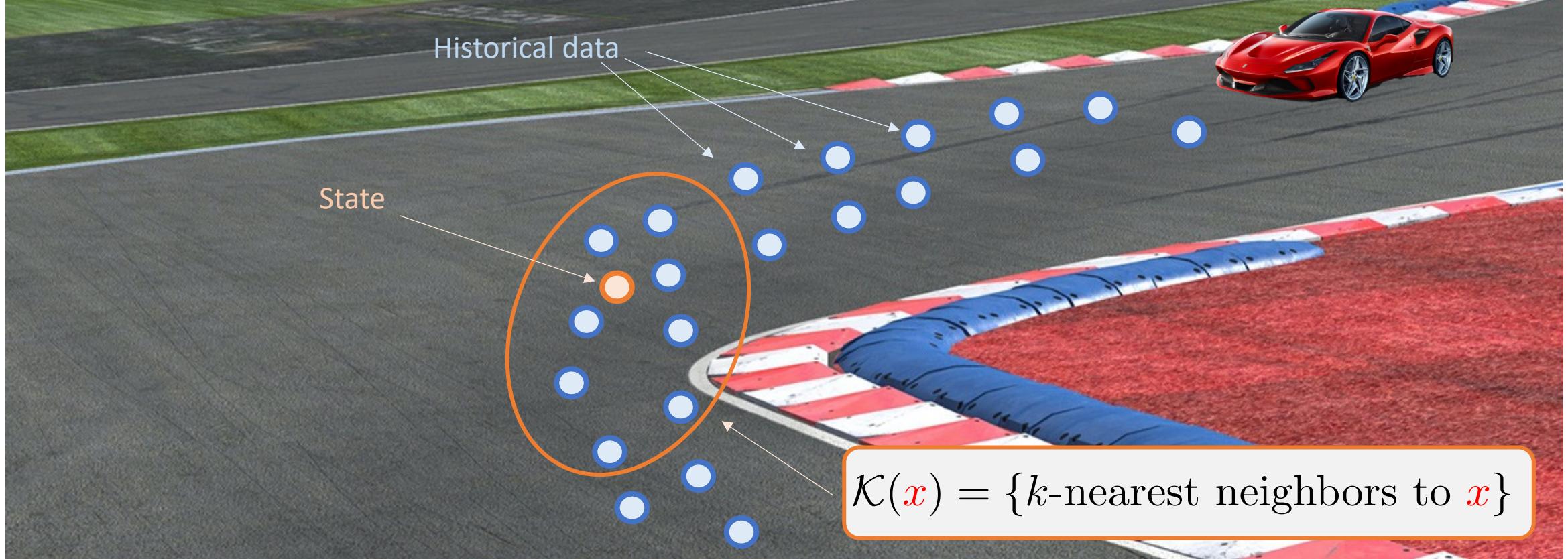
$$x_{k|t}^j \in \mathcal{X}, \quad u_{k|t}^j \in \mathcal{U}, \quad \forall k \in [t, \dots, t+N-1]$$

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



**Value Function**

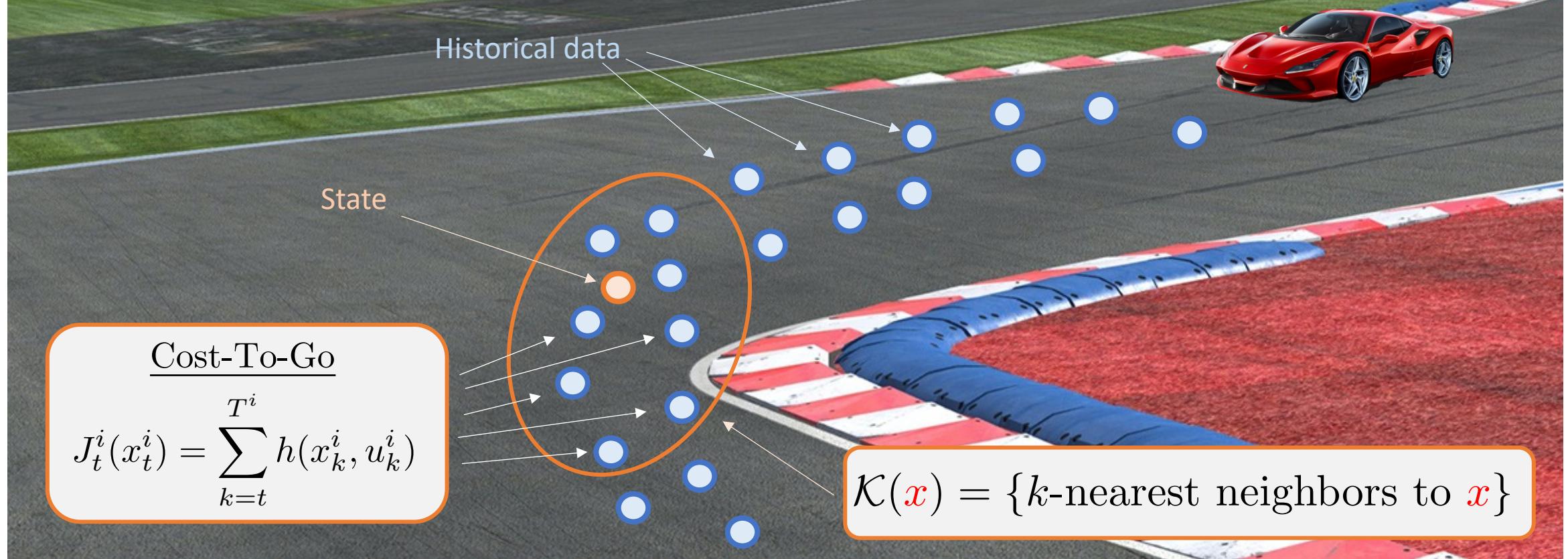
# Value Function Local Approximations



Local convex safe set approximation:

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

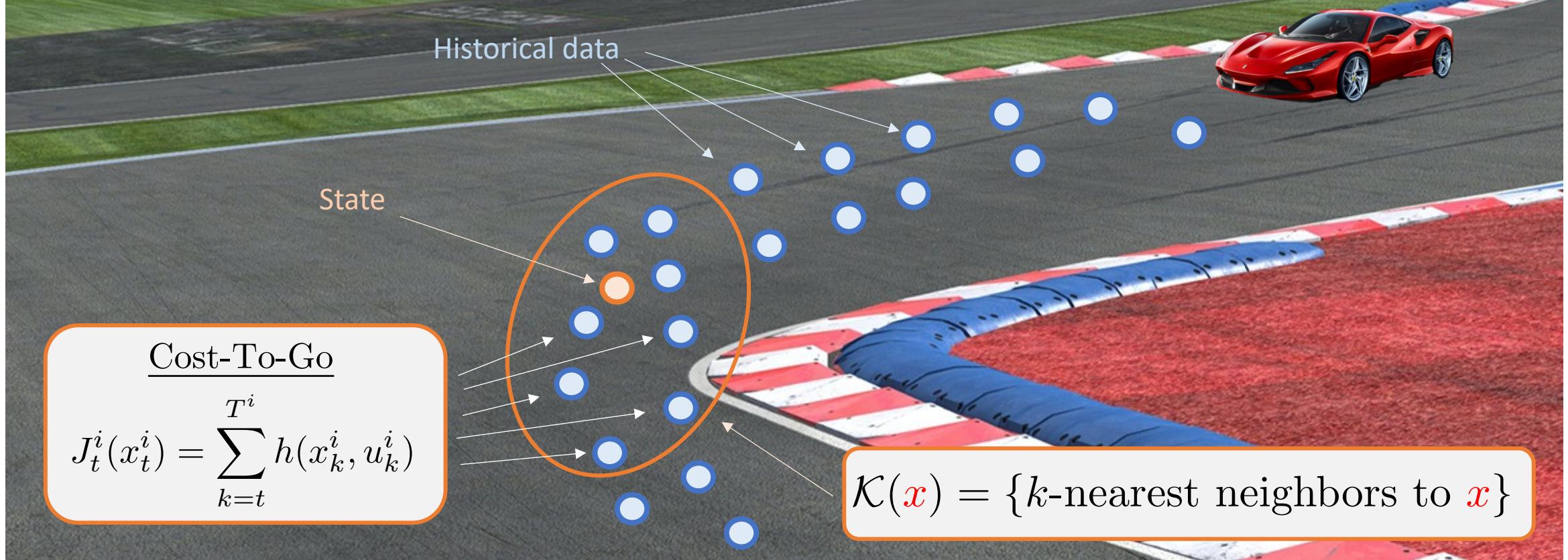
# Value Function Local Approximations



Local convex safe set approximation:

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

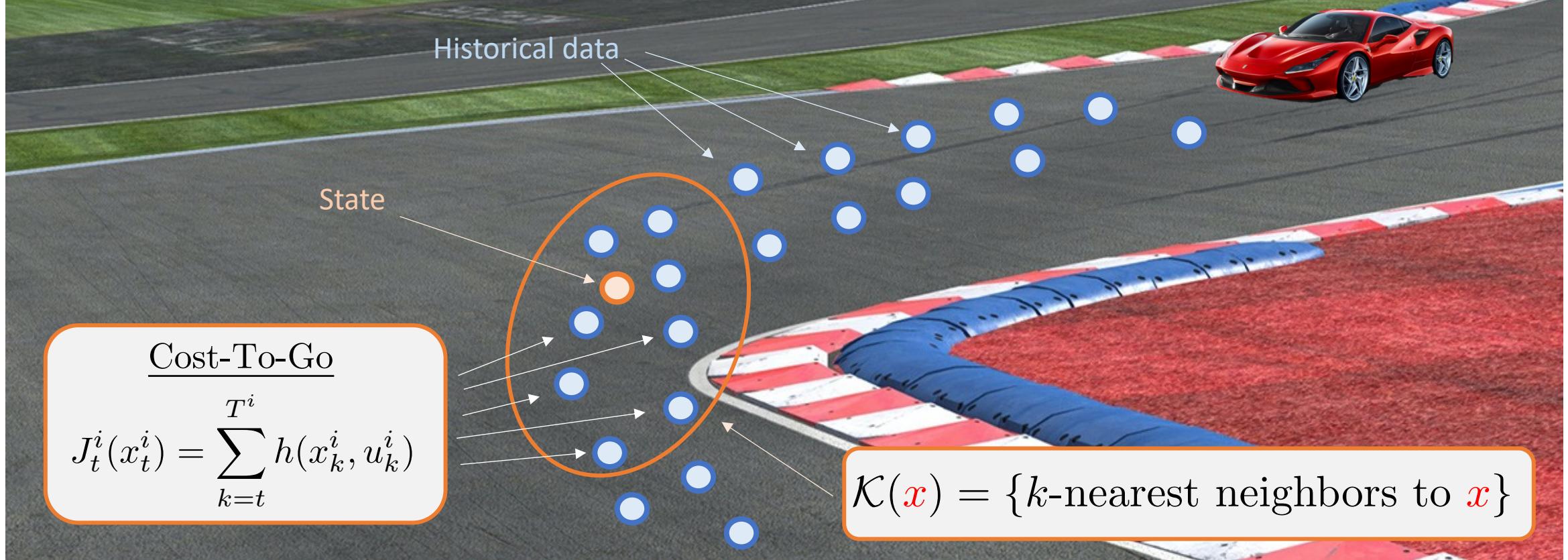
# Value Function Local Approximations



Local value function approximation:

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

# Value Function Local Approximations



Local value function approximation:

$$V^j(x, \textcolor{red}{x}) = \min_{\lambda_t^i \geq 0} \quad \sum_{x_t^i \in \mathcal{K}^j(\textcolor{red}{x})} J_t^i(x_t^i) \lambda_t^i$$

subject to  $\sum_{x_t^i \in \mathcal{K}^j(\textcolor{red}{x})} x_t^i \lambda_t^i = \bar{x}, \sum_i \sum_t \lambda_t^i = 1$

# Learning Model Predictive Controller

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

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

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

Prediction  
Model



# 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

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

Linearization around predicted trajectory

# System Identification – Design Steps

## Identifying the Dynamical System

Local Linear Regression

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

Linearization around predicted trajectory

## Implementation Details

# System Identification – Design Steps

## Identifying the Dynamical System

Local Linear Regression

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

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

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

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

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

Linearization around predicted trajectory

## Implementation Details

- ▶ 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

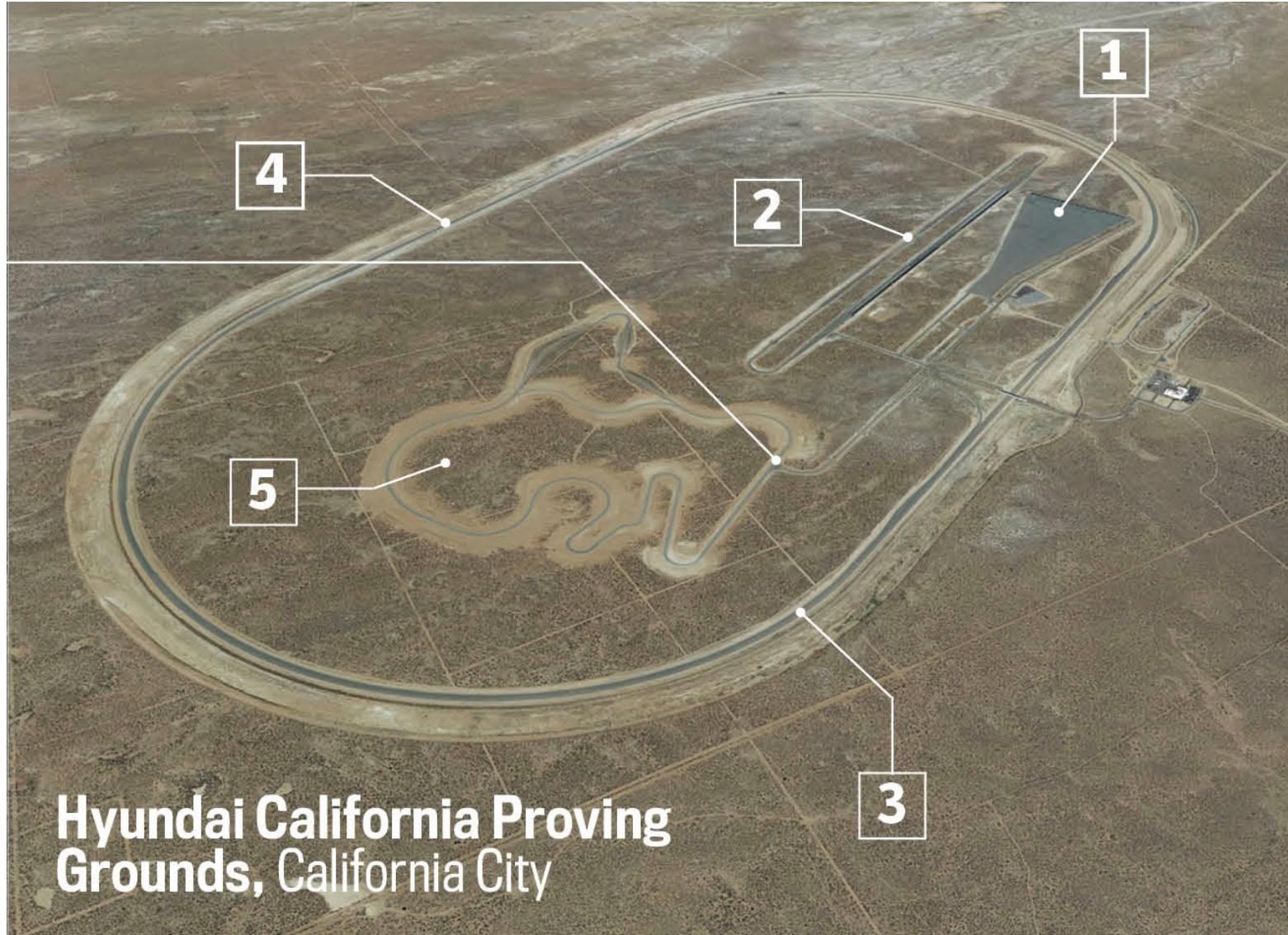
$$x_{k+1|t}^j = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_{k+1|t} \\ \dot{y}_{k+1|t} \\ \ddot{\psi} \\ \psi_{k+1|t} \\ X_{k+1|t} \\ Y_{k+1|t} \end{bmatrix} = \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{argmin}_{\Lambda_y} \sum_{i,s} K(x_{k|t}^j - x_s^i) || \Lambda_y \begin{bmatrix} x_s^i \\ u_s^i \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - y_{s+1}^i ||,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

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

# Hyundai California Proving Ground



# Hyundai California Proving Ground

Starting Line



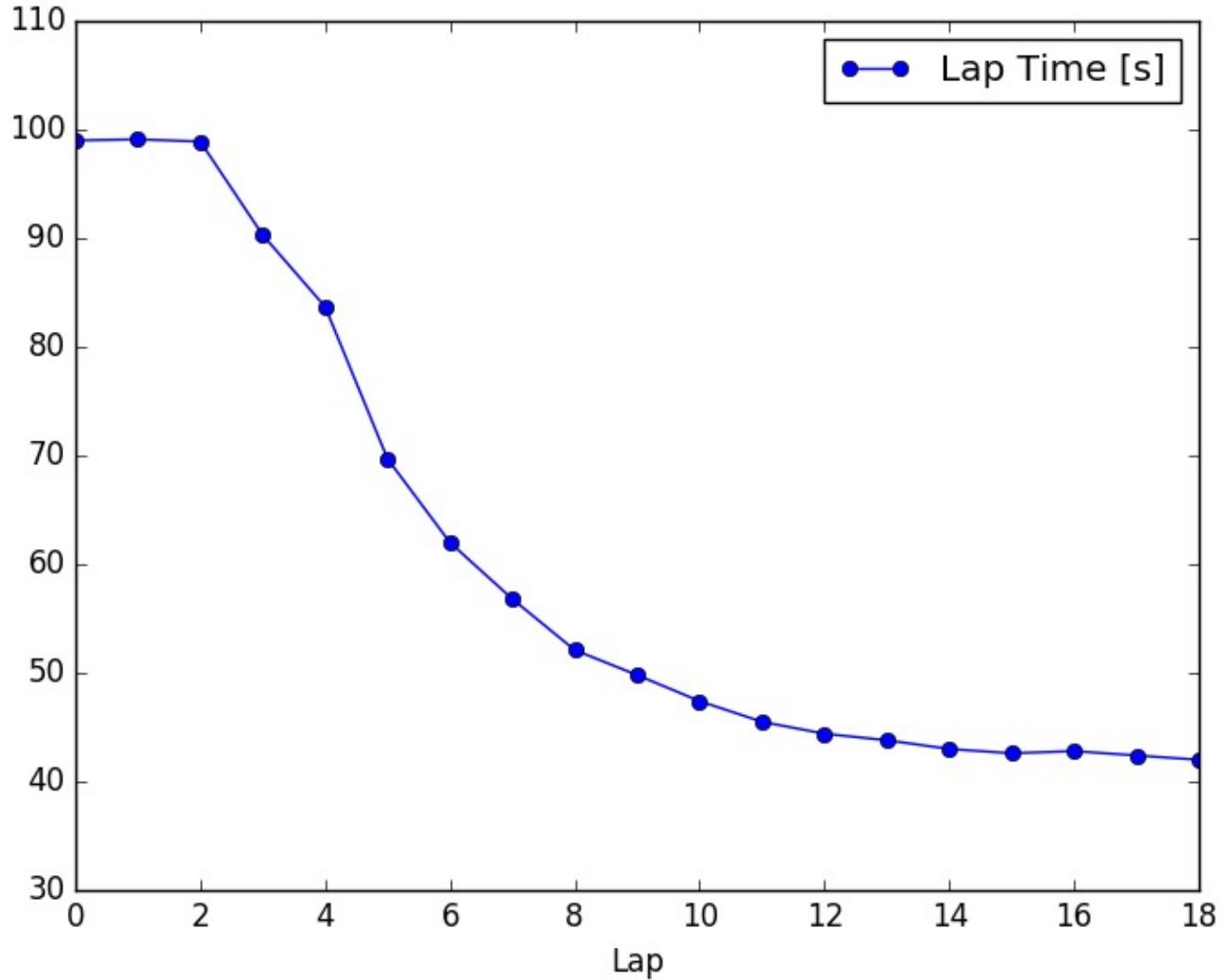
Finish Line

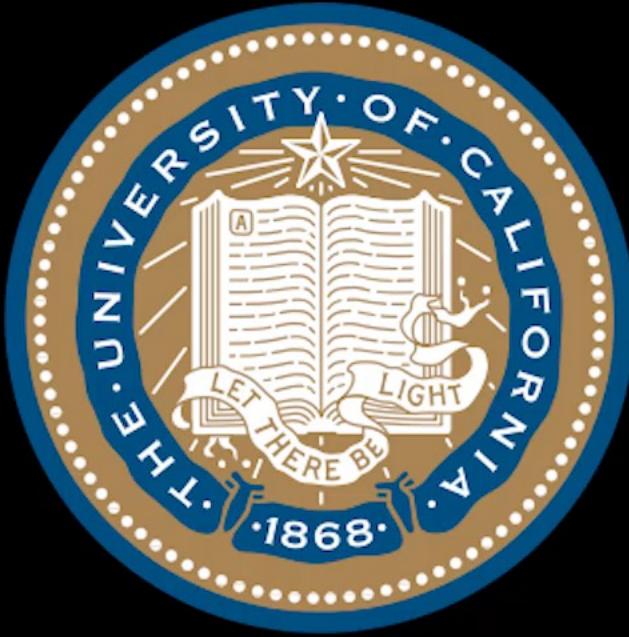


# Learning Model Predictive Controller full-size vehicle experiments

Credits: Siddharth Nair, Nitin Kapania and Ugo Rosolia

# Lap Time

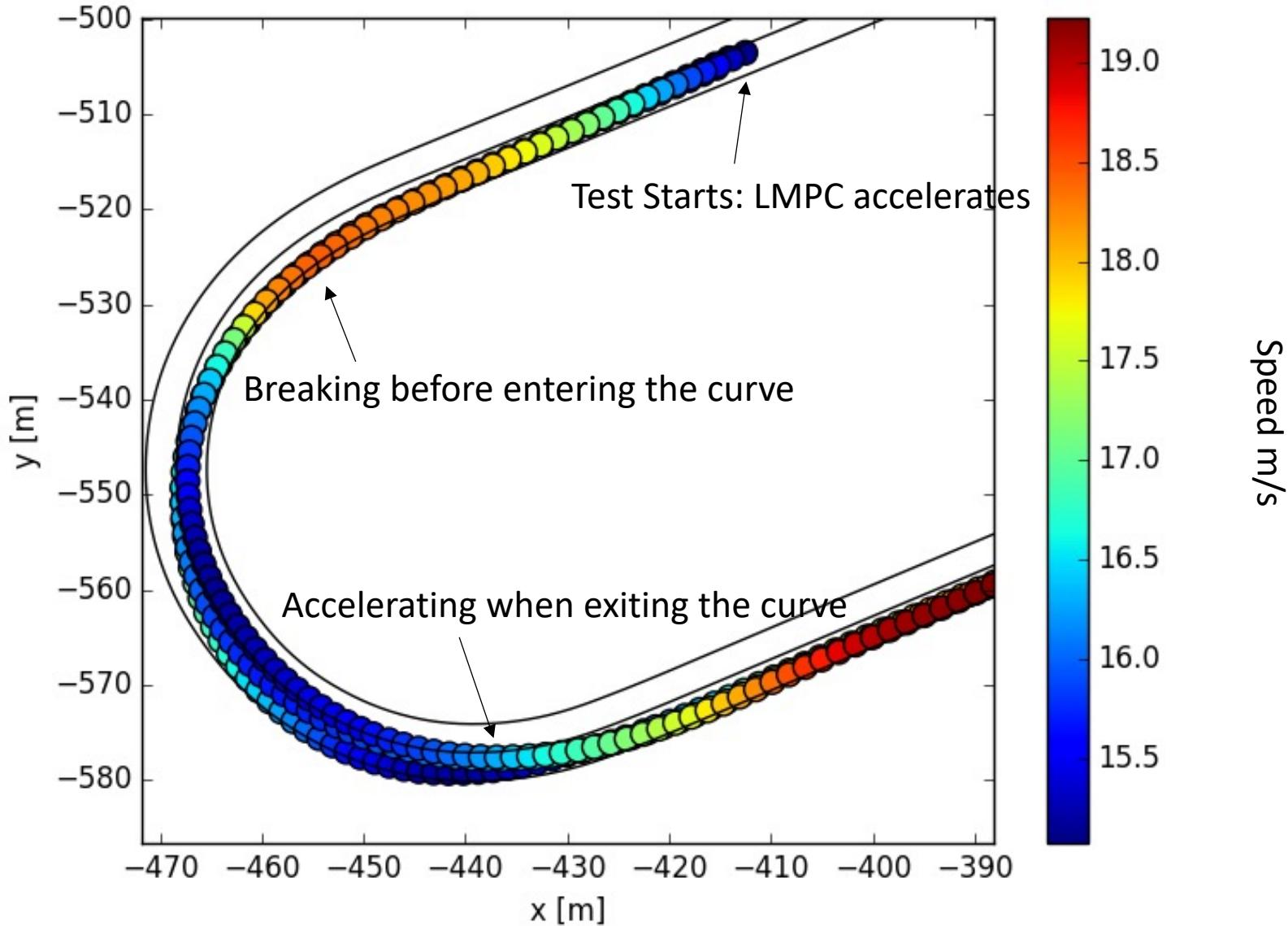




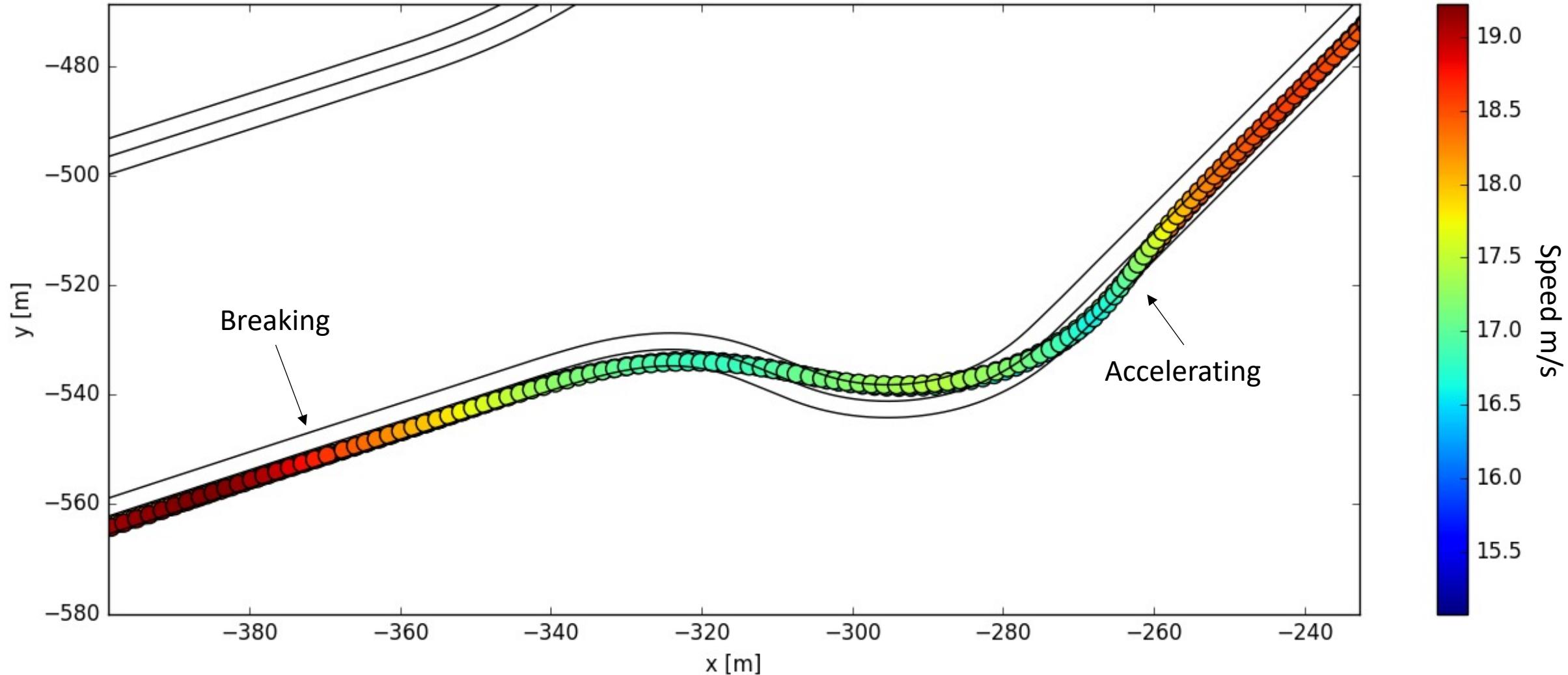
# Learning Model Predictive Controller full-size vehicle experiments

Credits: Siddharth Nair, Nitin Kapania and Ugo Rosolia

# Velocity Profile at Convergence (Curve 1)



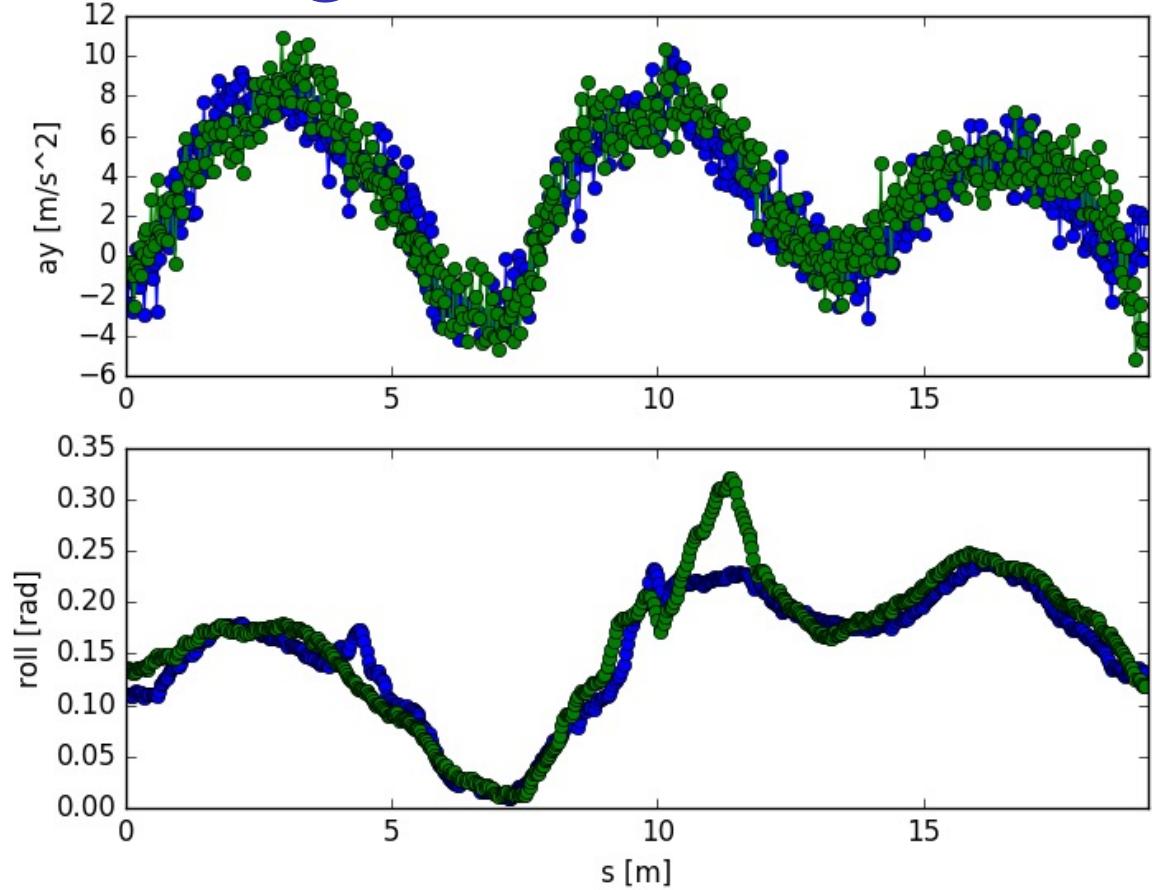
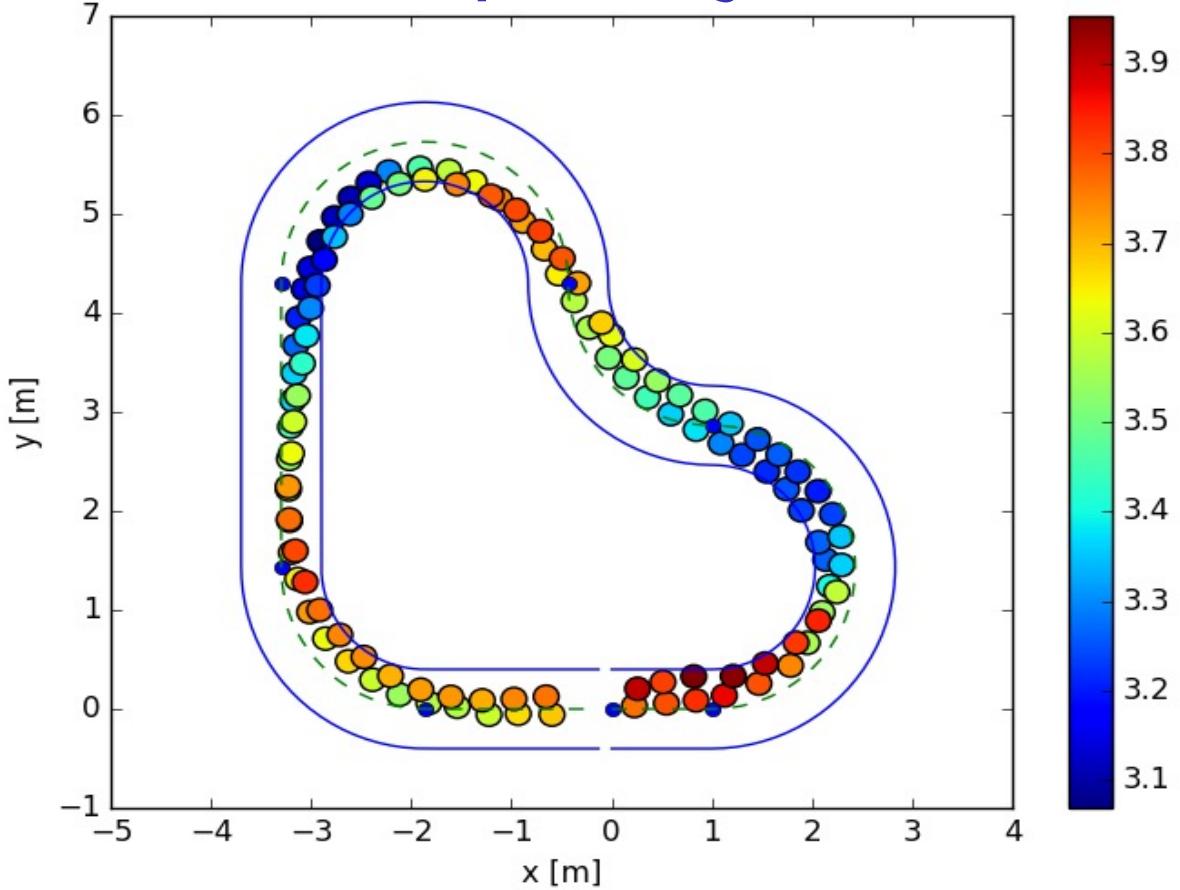
# Velocity Profile at Convergence (Chicane)





# Learning Model Predictive Control for Autonomous Racing

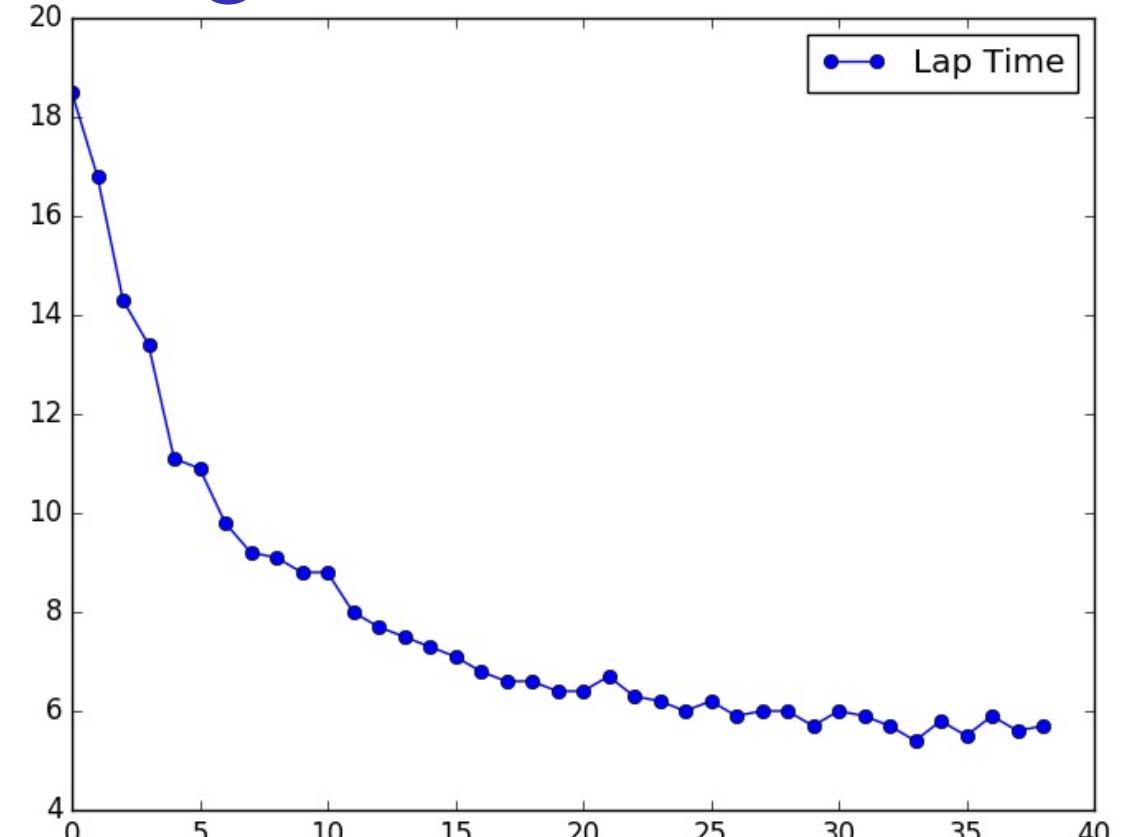
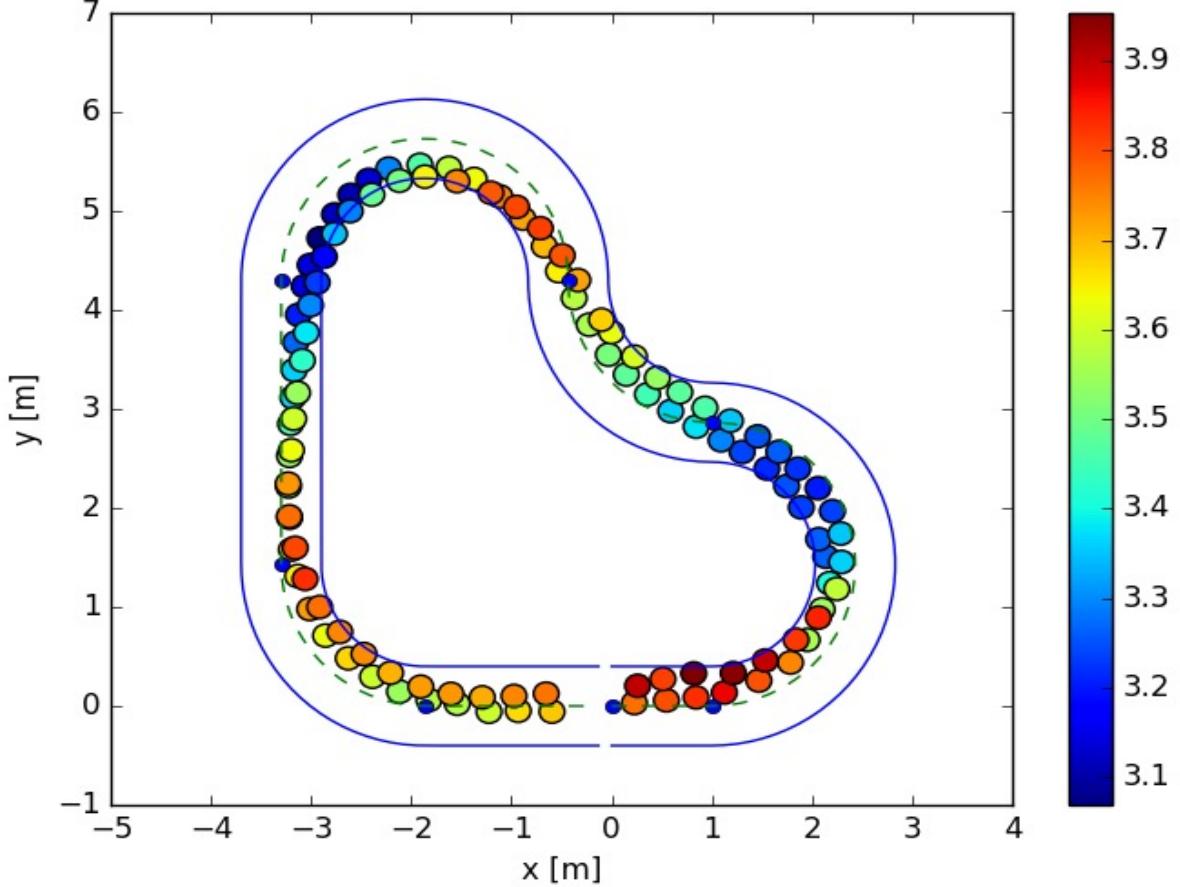
# Closed-loop Trajectories at Convergence



## Remarks

- ▶ A **reference trajectory is not needed** for the controller implementation
- ▶ The controller converges after few laps: the learning process is data efficient
- ▶ The **controller safely explores the state space** iteratively improving the lap time

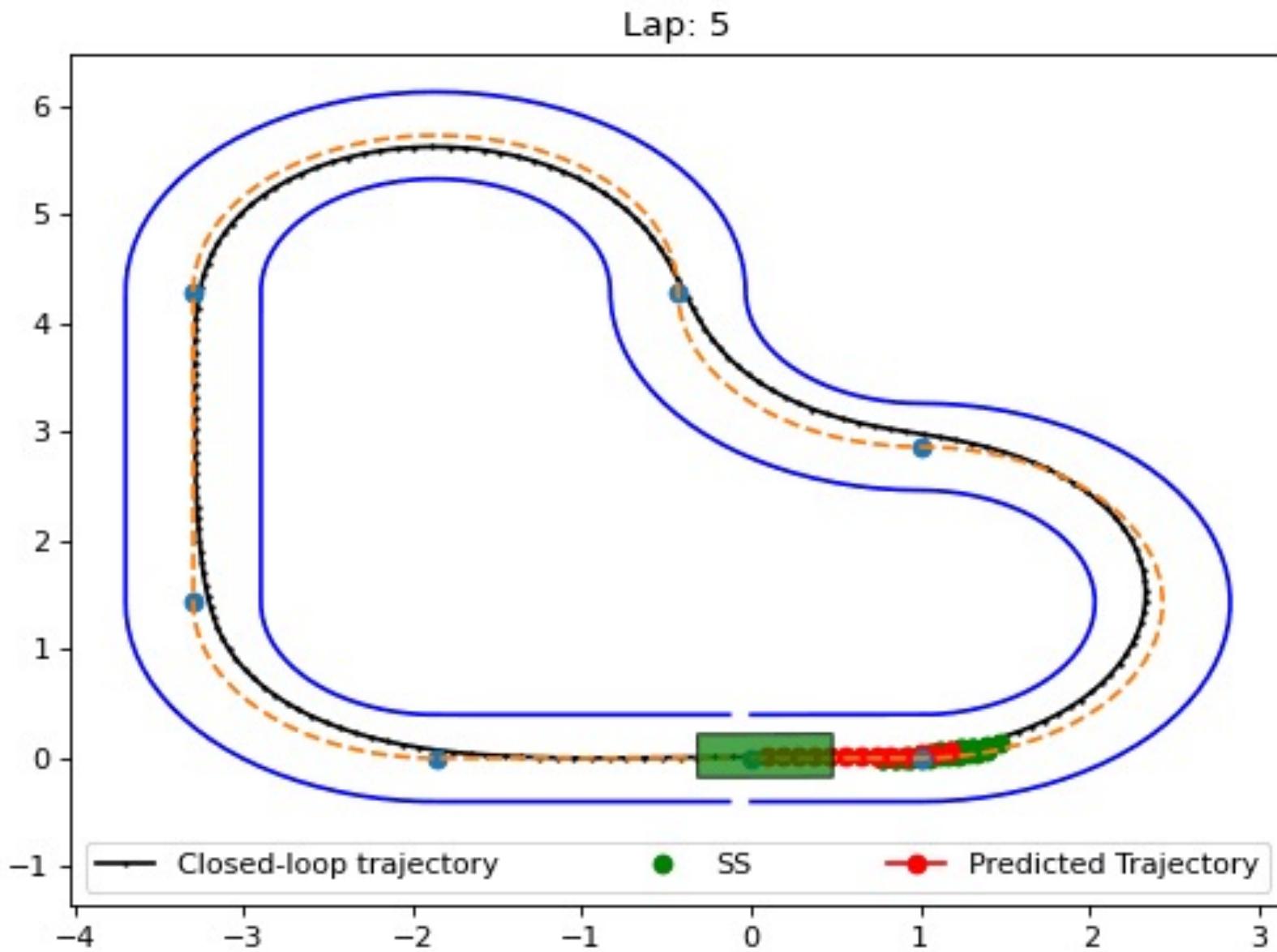
# Closed-loop Trajectories at Convergence



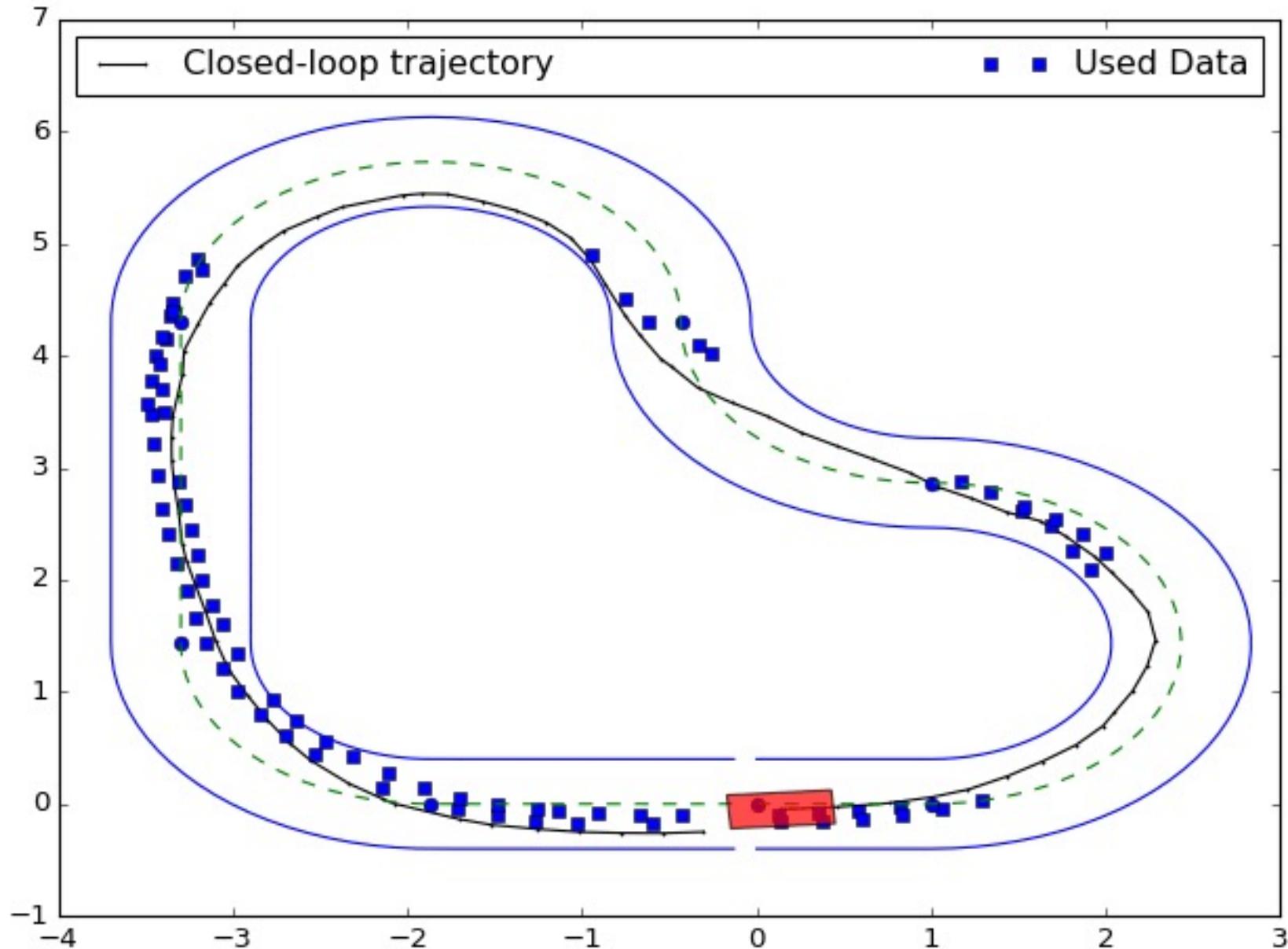
## Remarks

- ▶ A **reference trajectory is not needed** for the controller implementation
- ▶ The controller converges after few laps: the learning process is data efficient
- ▶ The **controller safely explores the state space** iteratively improving the lap time

# Learning Safe Sets and Value Functions

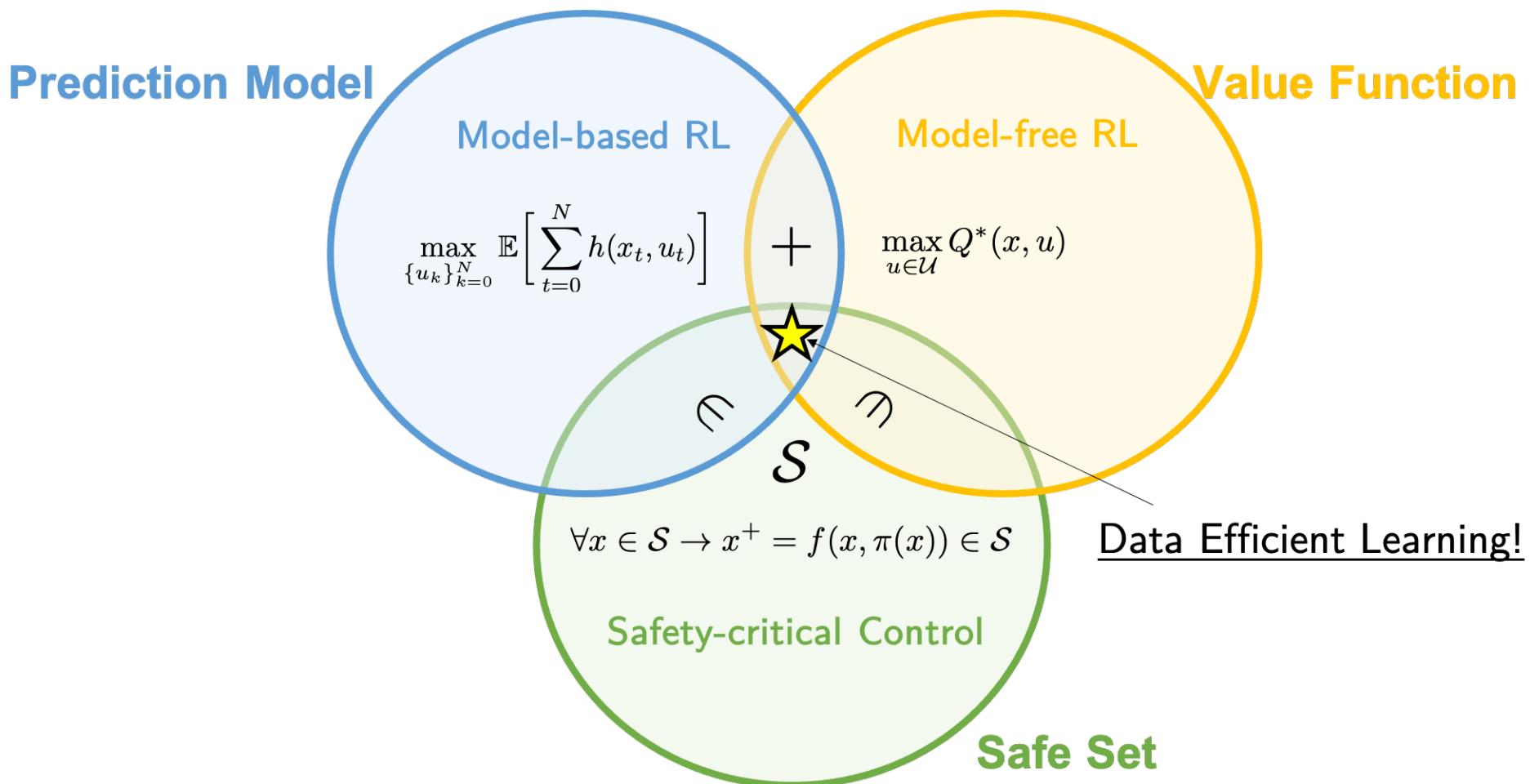


# Learning the Vehicle Model



# The key components

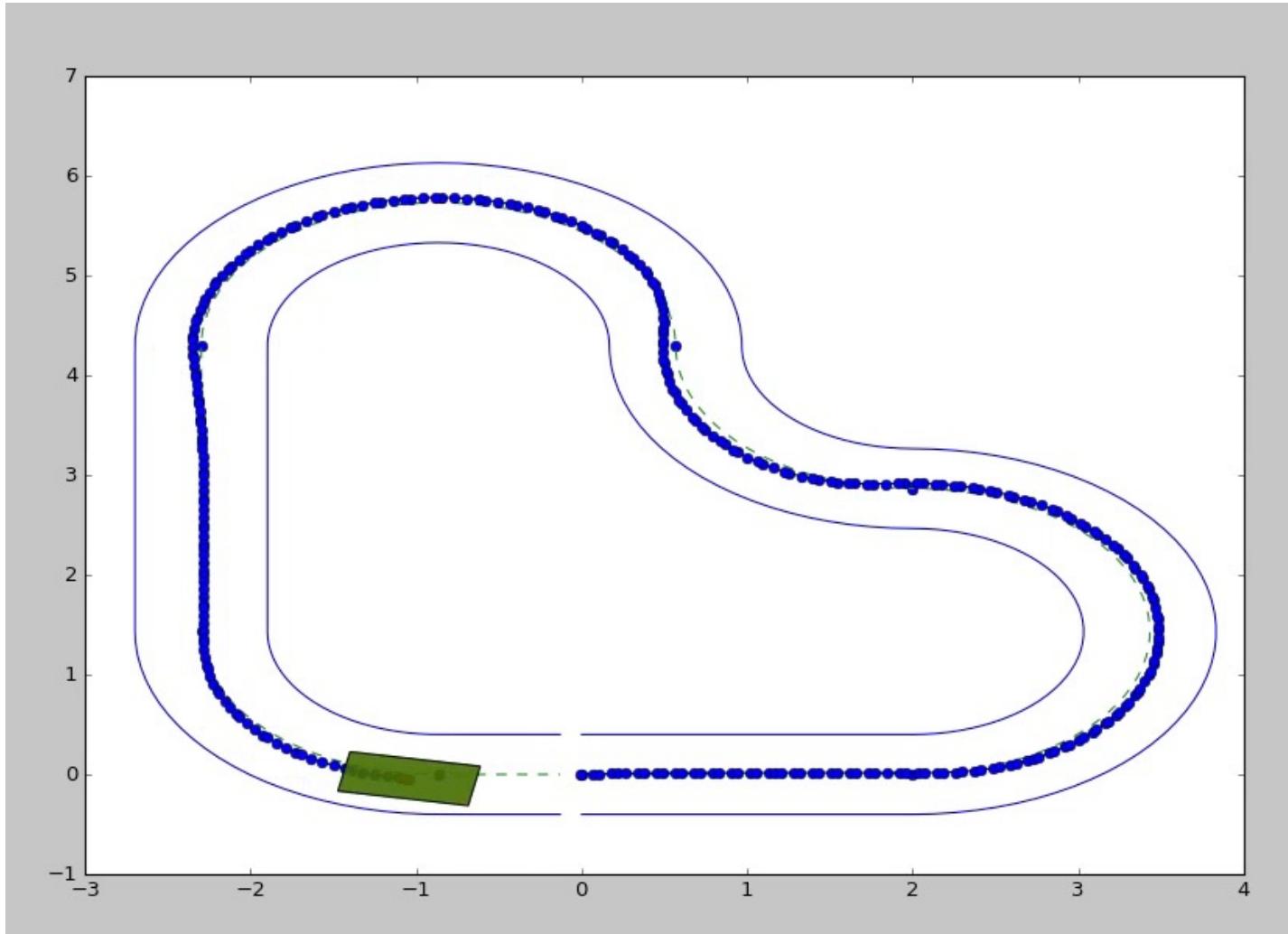
- ▶ Predicted trajectory given by **prediction model**
- ▶ Predicted cost estimated by **value function**
- ▶ Safe region estimated by the **safe set**



# Do you need the safe set? – Yes

## LMPC without Invariant Set

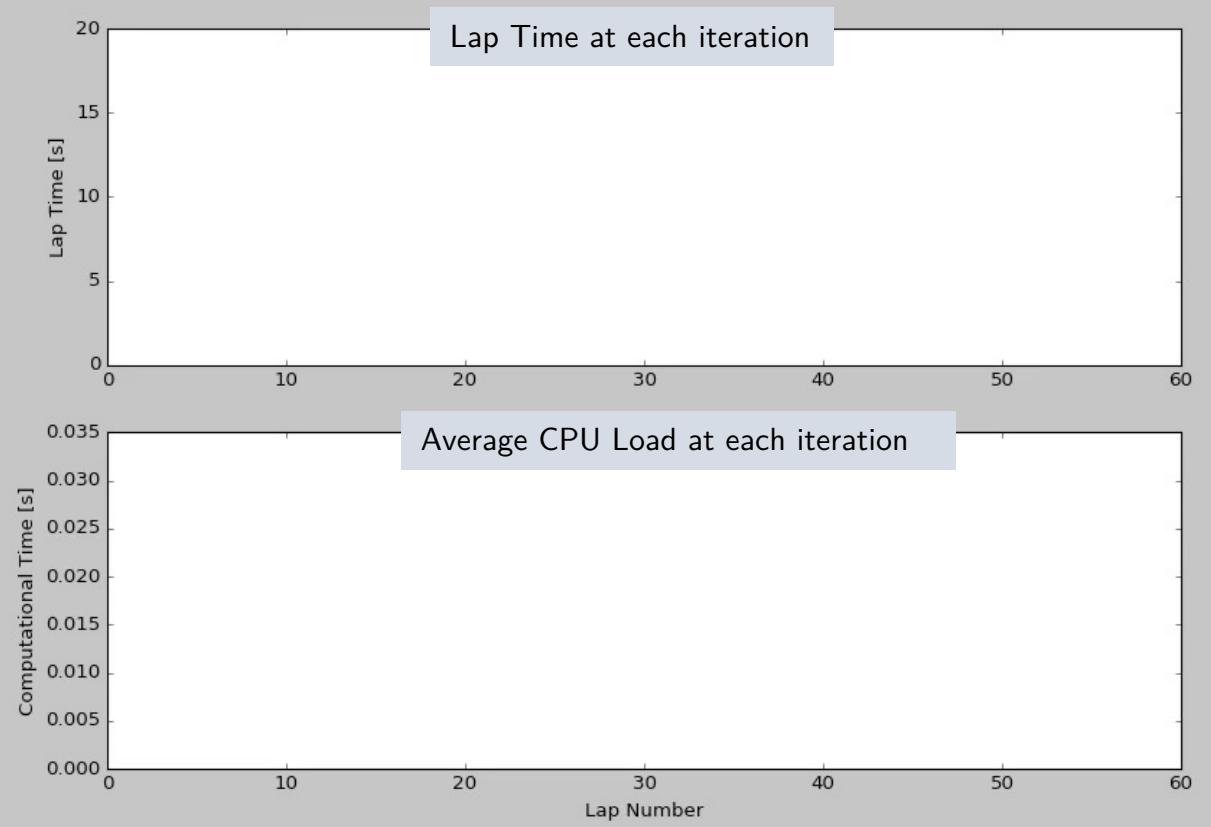
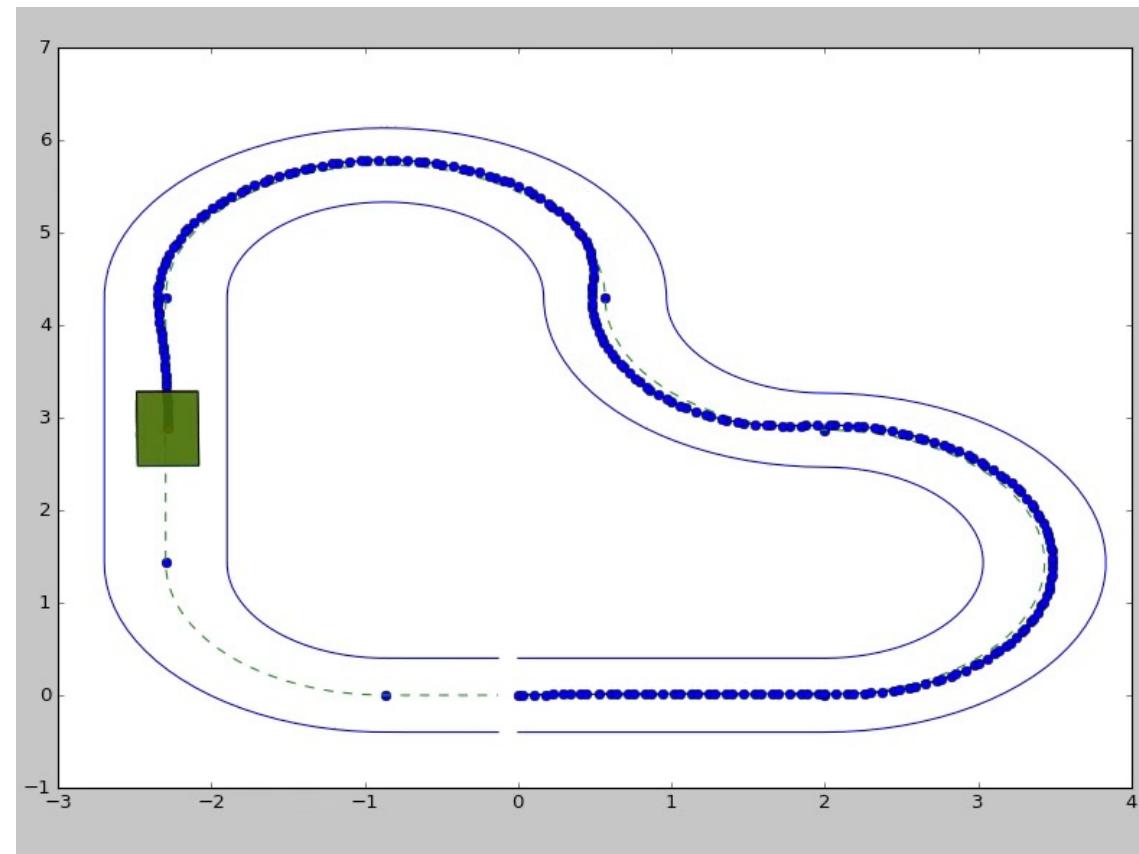
The controller extrapolates the Q-function on the Vx dimension



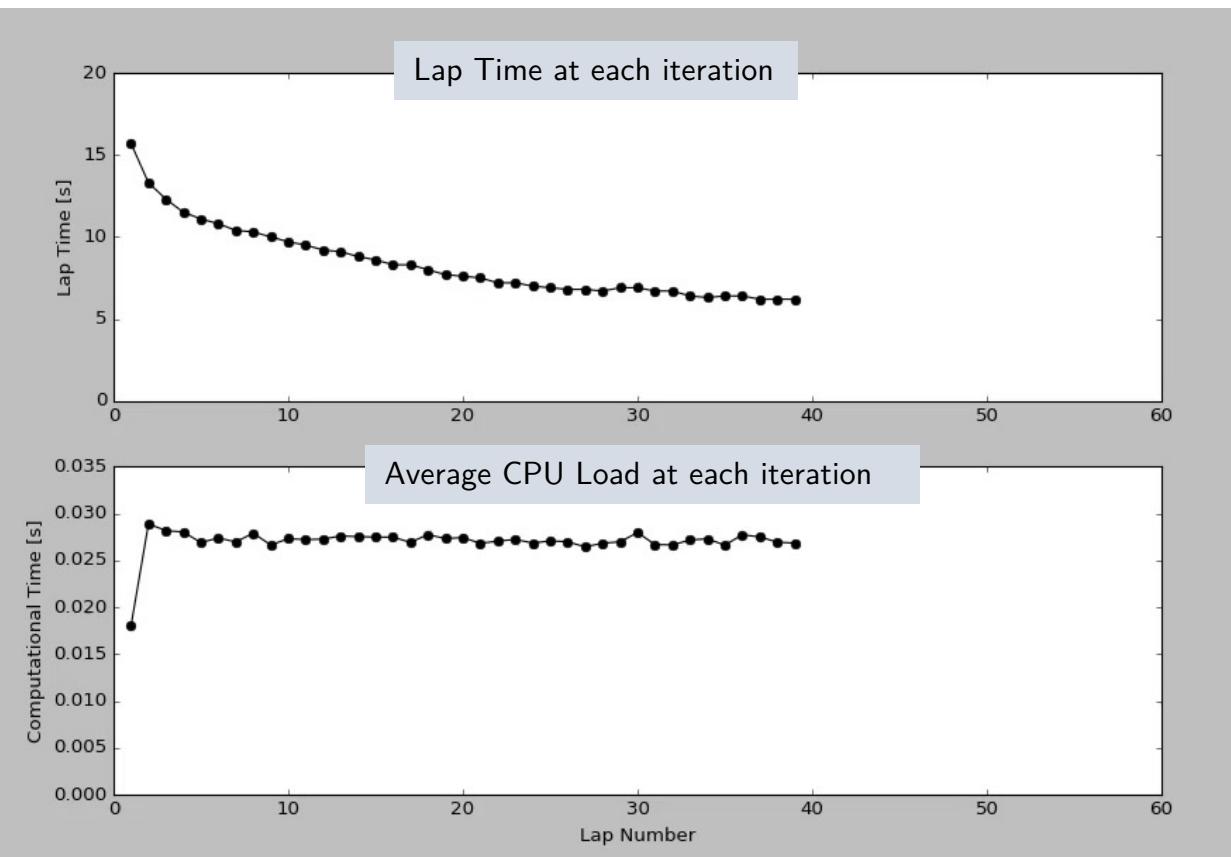
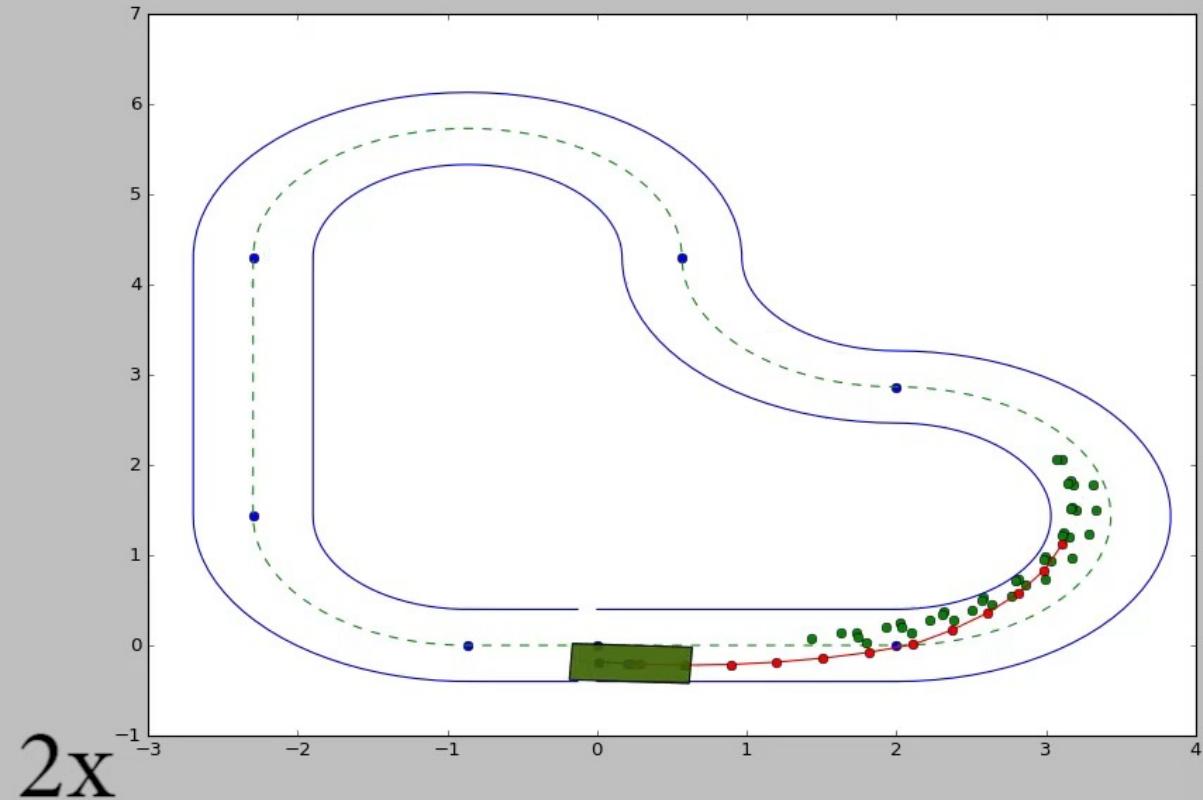
# Do you need to Predict to Learn? Yes

When the LMPC horizon is  $N = 1$  the controller

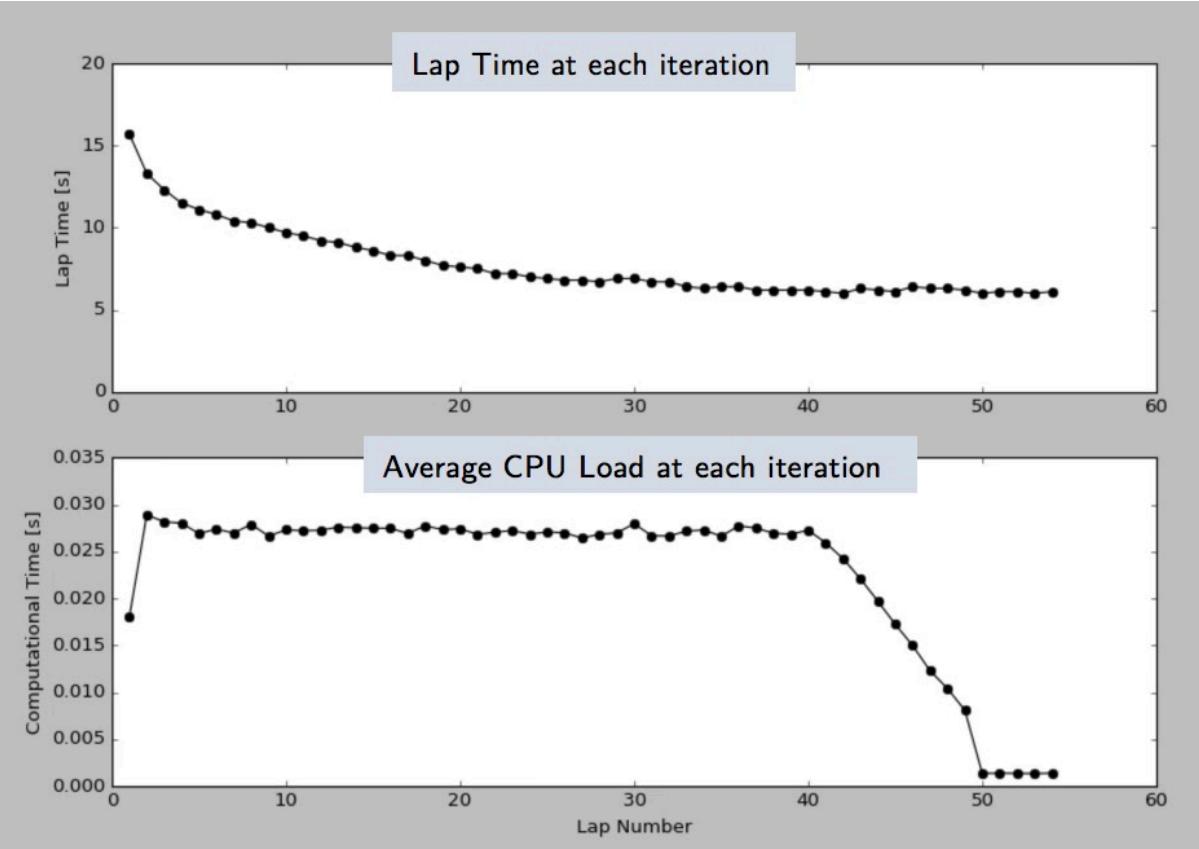
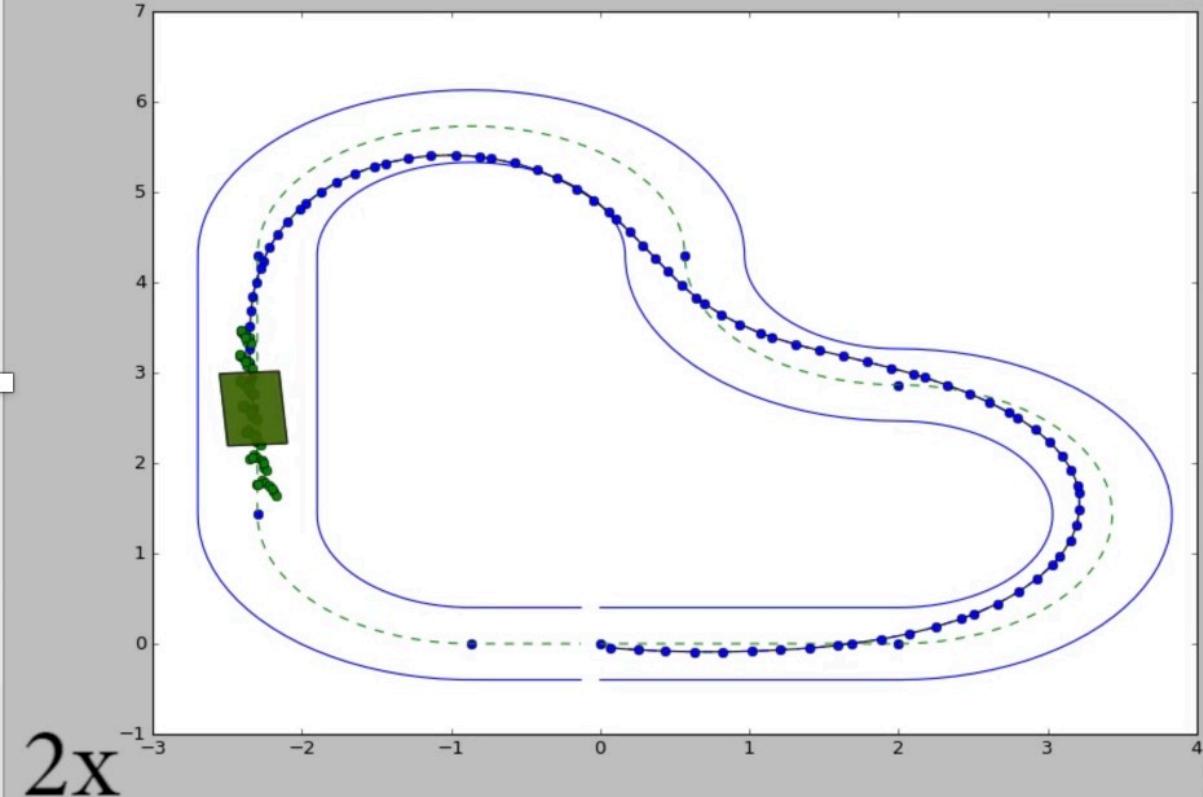
- ▶ solves the Bellman equation using the Q-function as value function approximation
- ▶ does not explore the state space as it cannot plan outside the safe set



# Do you need to Predict at Convergence? No



# Do you need to Predict at Convergence? No



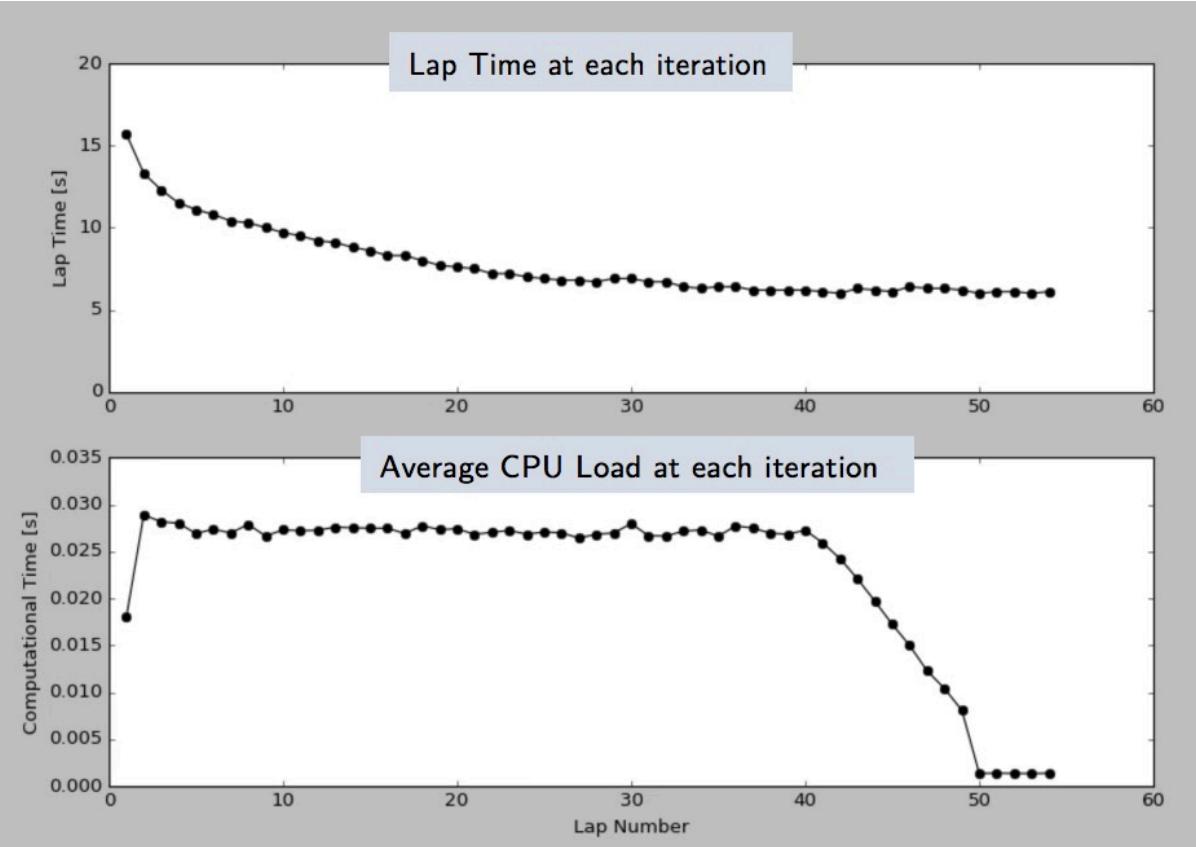
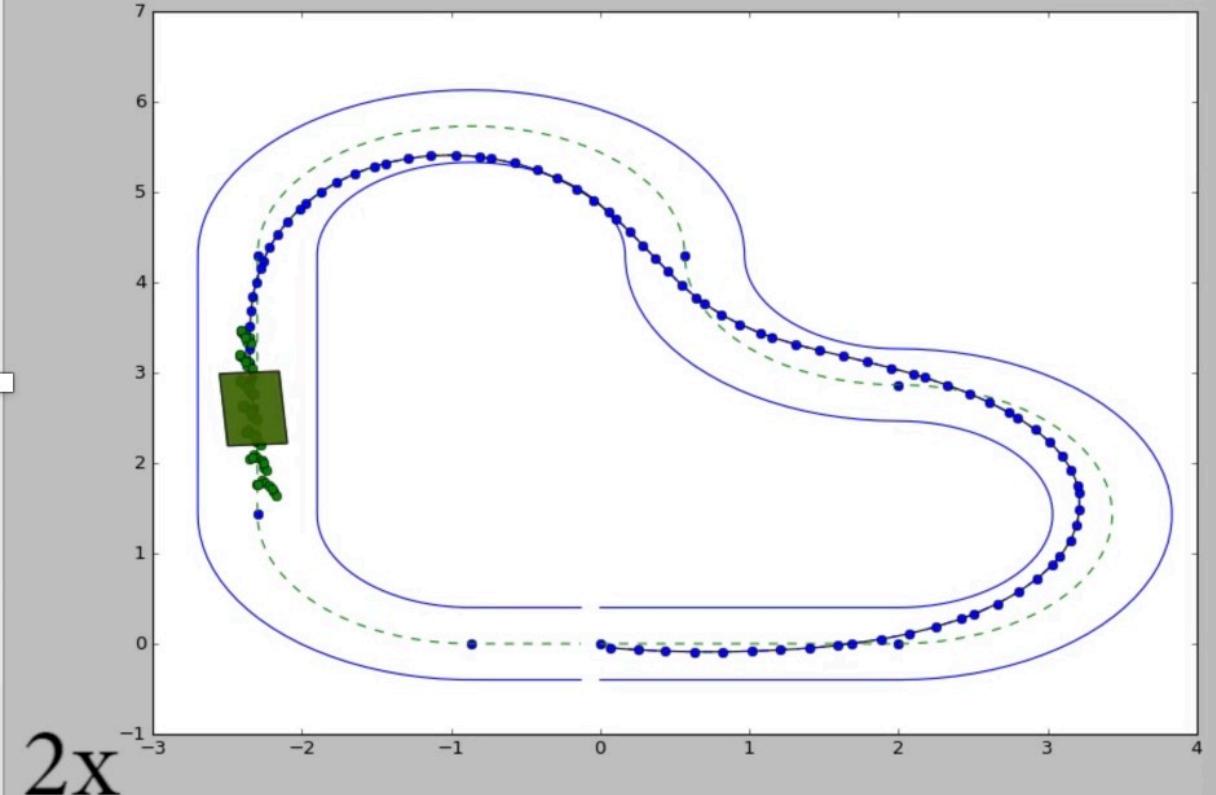
## Value Function Approximation

$$[\lambda_0^{0,*}, \dots, \lambda_i^{j,*}] = \arg \min_{\lambda_i^j \in [0,1]} \quad \sum_i \sum_j J_i^j \lambda_i^j$$

s.t

$$\sum_i \sum_j x_i^j \lambda_i^j = x(t),$$
$$\sum_i \sum_j \lambda_i^j = 1$$

# Do you need to Predict at Convergence? No



## Value Function Approximation

$$[\lambda_0^{0,*}, \dots, \lambda_i^{j,*}] = \arg \min_{\lambda_i^j \in [0,1]} \sum_i \sum_j J_i^j \lambda_i^j$$

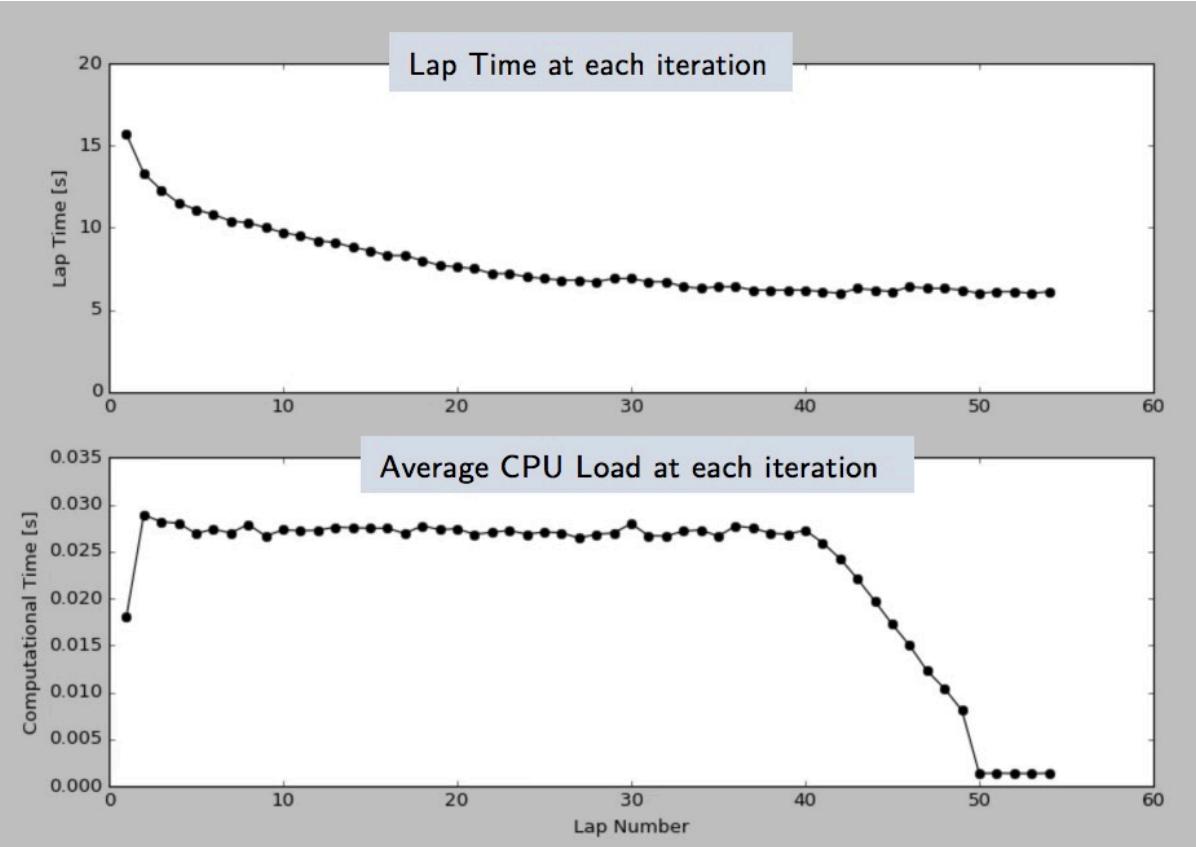
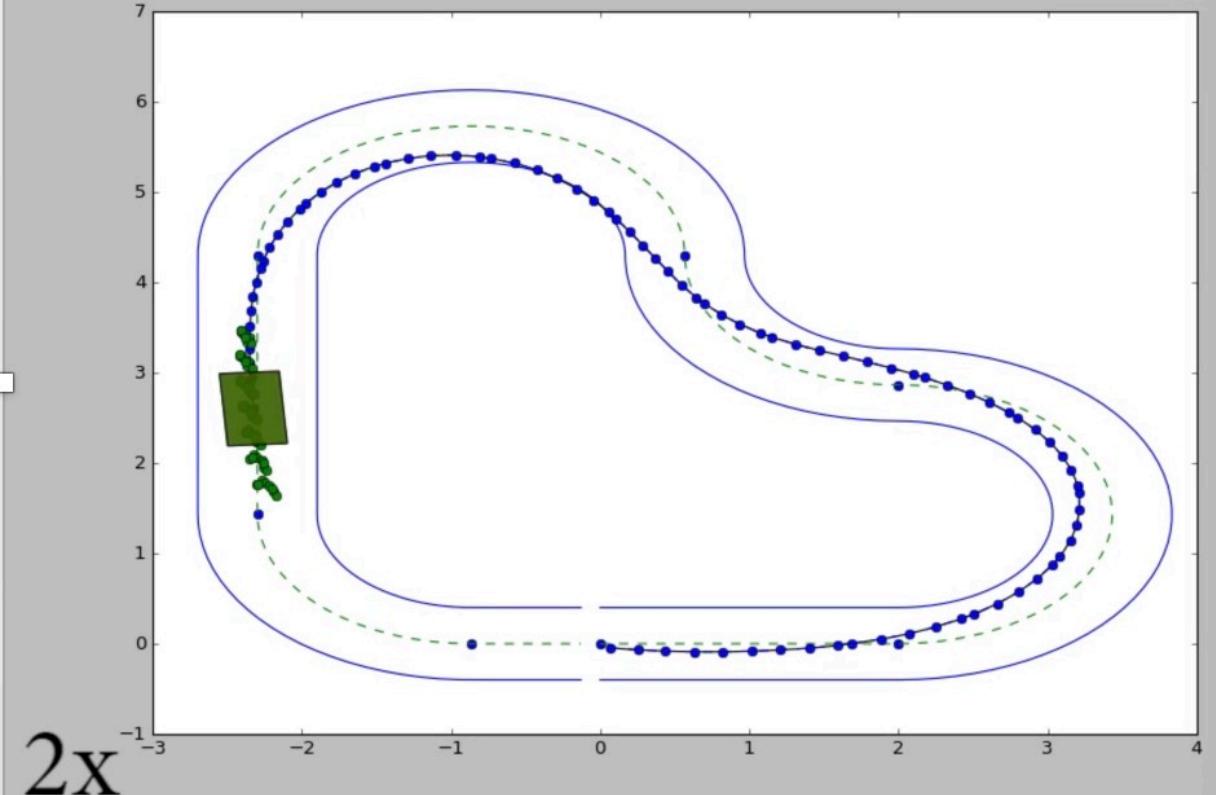
s.t

$$\sum_i \sum_j x_i^j \lambda_i^j = x(t),$$
$$\sum_i \sum_j \lambda_i^j = 1$$

## Control Policy

$$\pi(x(t)) = \sum_i \sum_j u_i^j \lambda_i^{j,*}$$

# Do you need to Predict at Convergence? No



## Value Function Approximation

$$[\lambda_0^{0,*}, \dots, \lambda_i^{j,*}] = \arg \min_{\lambda_i^j \in [0,1]} \sum_i \sum_j J_i^j \lambda_i^j$$

s.t.

$$\sum_i \sum_j x_i^j \lambda_i^j = x(t),$$
$$\sum_i \sum_j \lambda_i^j = 1$$

## Control Policy

Stored Data

$$\pi(x(t)) = \sum_i \sum_j u_i^j \lambda_i^{j,*}$$

# LMPC Summary

At each time  $t$  of iteration  $j$ , solve

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

s.t.

$$x_{k+1|t}^j = f(x_{k|t}^j, u_{k|t}^j), \quad \forall k \in [t, \dots, t+N-1]$$

Identified  
online

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

$$x_{k|t}^j \in \mathcal{X}, \quad u_{k|t}^j \in \mathcal{U}, \quad \forall k \in [t, \dots, t+N-1]$$

$$x_{t+N|t}^j \in \mathcal{SS}^{j-1},$$

Constructed using  
LMPC strategy



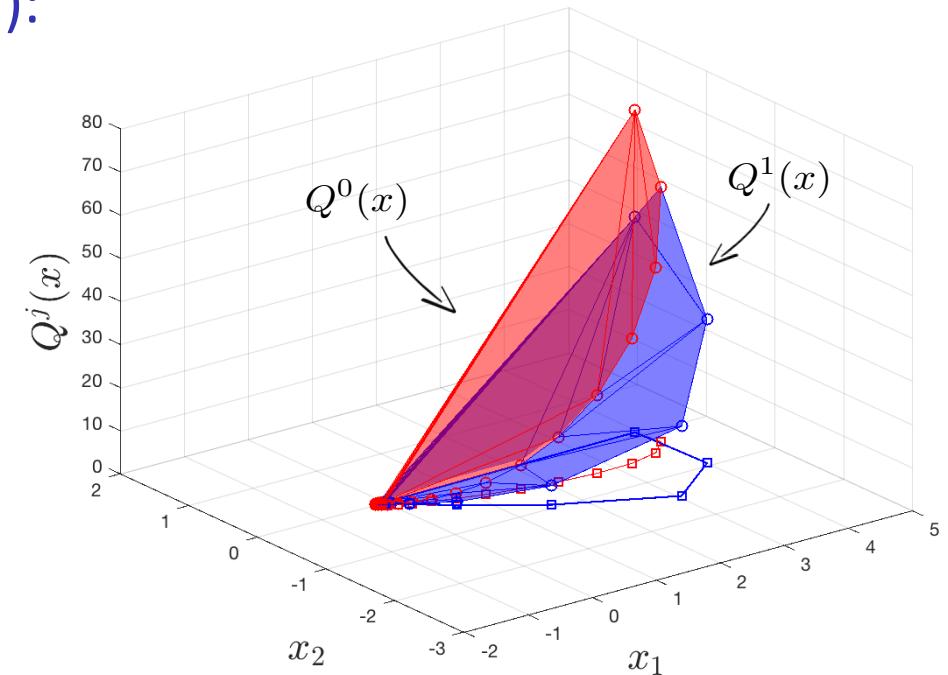
# Conclusions

- ▶ Terminal Cost function (Value function approximation):

- Defined on a subset of the state space
- Constructed using a subset of the stored data

- ▶ Control Policy defined using MPC guarantees:

- Safety (w/ some probability for sample-based LMPC)
- Convergence (or ISS for expected cost)
- Exploration and performance improvement (also for deterministic systems)



# 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 track with green and red markers.

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 navigation bar includes 'Control' and 'Learning'. The main content area is titled 'Predictive control & model-based reinforcement learning'. Below it is a 'Lecture schedule' table:

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