

# Stealthy Sensor Attacks for Violating Detectability of Discrete Event Systems

Yuling Zhang, Tenglong Kang, Abdulrahman Al-Ahmari, and Zhiwu Li, *Fellow, IEEE*

## 1 All examples in the manuscript

**Example 1.1.** Consider the plant  $G_{nd}$  in Fig. 1(a), where  $X = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ ,  $X_0 = \{0\}$ , and  $\Sigma = \Sigma_o = \{a, b, c\}$ . The observer of  $G_{nd}$  is depicted in Fig. 1(b). Assume that  $\Sigma_{ins} = \{a\}$  and  $\Sigma_{era} = \{b\}$ . The attacker observer  $G_{obs}^{att}$  and the operator observer  $G_{obs}^{opr}$  are shown in Fig. 2.  $\diamond$

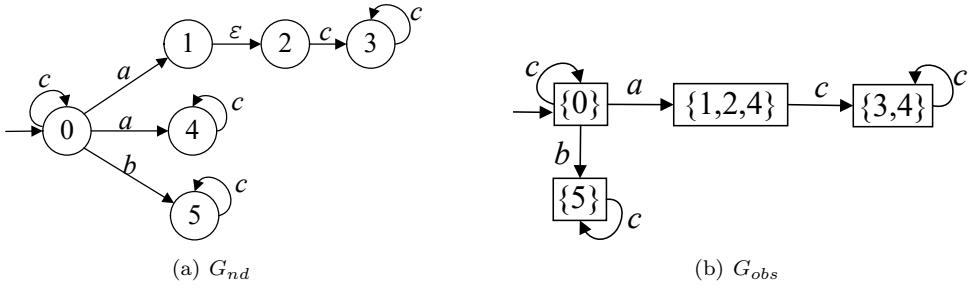


Figure 1: (a) A plant  $G_{nd}$  and (b) its observer  $G_{obs}$ .

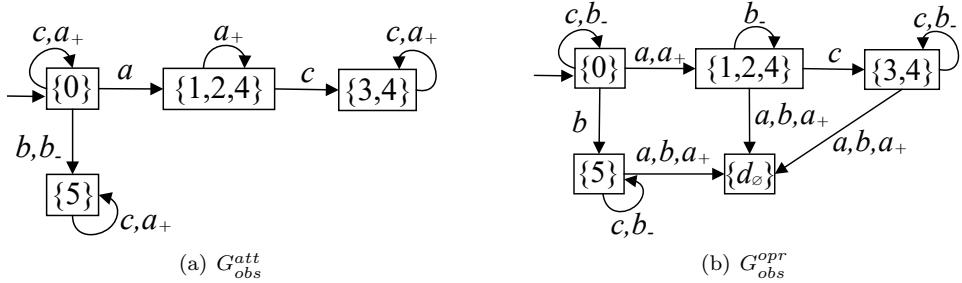
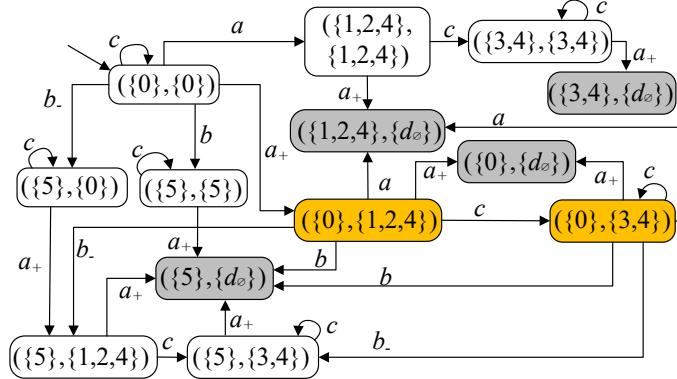
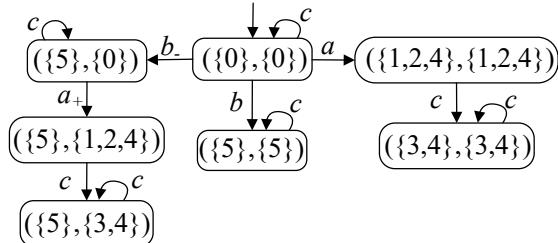


Figure 2: (a) Attacker observer  $G_{obs}^{att}$  and (b) Operator observer  $G_{obs}^{opr}$ .

The joint observer  $G_{obs}^J$  for  $G_{nd}$  in Fig. 1(a) and stealthy joint observer  $G_{obs}^{SJ}$  w.r.t.  $\Sigma_{era} = \{b\}$  and  $\Sigma_{ins} = \{a\}$  are portrayed in Fig. 3.



(a) Joint observer  $G_{obs}^J$



(b) Stealthy joint observer  $G_{obs}^{SJ}$

Figure 3: (a) Joint observer and (b) Stealthy joint observer w.r.t.  $E_{era} = \{b\}$  and  $E_{ins} = \{a\}$ .

Note: The initial state of an NFA is numbered starting from 1 in programs, whereas in figures, the initial state is labeled as 0.

**Input:**

```
% NFA for the figure (G_nd)
n = 6;
E = {'a','b','c'}; % a=1, b=2, c=3 ; epsilon=0
T = [
1, 3, 1; % 0 --c--> 0 (self-loop)
1, 1, 2; % 0 --a--> 1
1, 1, 5; % 0 --a--> 4
1, 2, 6; % 0 --b--> 5
2, 0, 3; % 1 --epsilon--> 2
3, 3, 4; % 2 --c--> 3
4, 3, 4; % 3 --c--> 3 (self-loop)
5, 3, 5; % 4 --c--> 4
6, 3, 6; % 5 --c--> 5
];
X0 = [1]; % initial state is 0 in the figure
Xm = [];% no marked states shown
Gn = {n, E, T, X0, Xm};
Sigma_o = {'a','b','c'}; % e.g., all observable
```

```

Sigma_ins = {'a'};           % insertable events
Sigma_era = {'b'};           % erasable events

```

**Output:**

```

===== Joint Observer (G_J) Statistics =====
G_J states count      : 13
G_J transitions count : 27

===== Stealthy Joint Observer (SJ) Statistics =====
SJ states count      : 7
SJ transitions count : 11

===== SJ states mapped to y-sets =====
( 0) ({1} , {1})
( 1) ({2 3 5} , {2 3 5})
( 2) ({6} , {6})
( 3) ({6} , {1})
( 4) ({4 5} , {4 5})
( 5) ({6} , {2 3 5})
( 6) ({6} , {4 5})

===== SJ transitions with y-sets =====
({1} , {1}) -- a --> ({2 3 5} , {2 3 5})
({1} , {1}) -- b --> ({6} , {6})
({1} , {1}) -- c --> ({1} , {1})
({1} , {1}) -- b_- --> ({6} , {1})
({2 3 5} , {2 3 5}) -- c --> ({4 5} , {4 5})
({6} , {6}) -- c --> ({6} , {6})
({6} , {1}) -- c --> ({6} , {1})
({6} , {1}) -- a_+ --> ({6} , {2 3 5})
({4 5} , {4 5}) -- c --> ({4 5} , {4 5})
({6} , {2 3 5}) -- c --> ({6} , {4 5})
({6} , {4 5}) -- c --> ({6} , {4 5})

```

**Example 1.2.** Consider the plant on the left of Fig. 4 with its observer depicted on the middle. Assume that  $\Sigma_{era} = \{d, e\}$  and  $\Sigma_{ins} = \emptyset$ . The stealthy joint observer for the plant is shown on the right of Fig. 4.

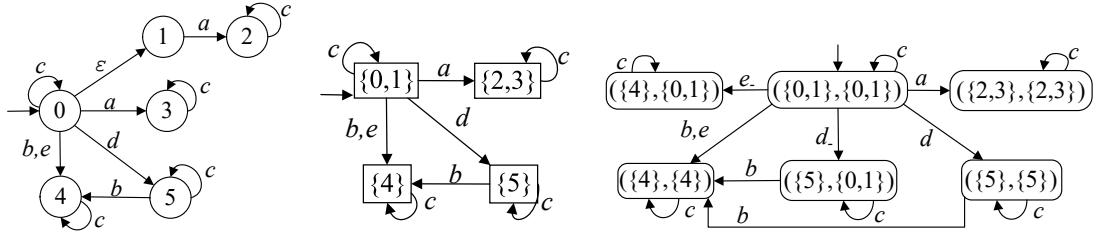


Figure 4: Plant (left), its observer (middle), and stealthy joint observer (right).

#### Input:

```

n = 6;
E = {'a','b','c','d','e'};    % a=1, b=2, c=3, d=4, e=5;  epsilon=0
T = [
1, 3, 1;    % 0 --c--> 0
1, 0, 2;    % 0 --epsilon--> 1
1, 1, 4;    % 0 --a--> 3
1, 4, 6;    % 0 --d--> 5
1, 2, 5;    % 0 --b--> 4
1, 5, 5;    % 0 --e--> 4
2, 1, 3;    % 1 --a--> 2
3, 3, 3;    % 2 --c--> 2
4, 3, 4;    % 3 --c--> 3
6, 2, 5;    % 5 --b--> 4
6, 3, 6;    % 5 --c--> 5
5, 3, 5;    % 4 --c--> 4
];
X0 = [1];      % initial state is node 0 in the figure
Xm = [] ;      % (no marked states in the figure)
Gn = {n, E, T, X0, Xm};
Sigma_o   = {'a','b','c','d','e'};
Sigma_ins = {};
Sigma_era = {'d','e'};

```

#### Output:

```

===== Joint Observer (G_J) Statistics =====
G_J states count      : 6
G_J transitions count : 14

```

```

===== Stealthy Joint Observer (SJ) Statistics =====
SJ states count      : 6
SJ transitions count : 14

===== Stealthy Trimmed Observers =====
GSJ1_A states count      : 0
GSJ1_A transitions count : 0
GSJ1_B states count      : 0
GSJ1_B transitions count : 0

===== SJ states mapped to y-sets =====
( 0) ({1 2} , {1 2})
( 1) ({3 4} , {3 4})
( 2) ({5} , {5})
( 3) ({6} , {6})
( 4) ({6} , {1 2})
( 5) ({5} , {1 2})

===== SJ transitions with y-sets =====
({1 2} , {1 2}) -- a --> ({3 4} , {3 4})
({1 2} , {1 2}) -- b --> ({5} , {5})
({1 2} , {1 2}) -- c --> ({1 2} , {1 2})
({1 2} , {1 2}) -- d --> ({6} , {6})
({1 2} , {1 2}) -- e --> ({5} , {5})
({1 2} , {1 2}) -- d_- --> ({6} , {1 2})
({1 2} , {1 2}) -- e_- --> ({5} , {1 2})
({3 4} , {3 4}) -- c --> ({3 4} , {3 4})
({5} , {5}) -- c --> ({5} , {5})
({6} , {6}) -- b --> ({5} , {5})
({6} , {6}) -- c --> ({6} , {6})
({6} , {1 2}) -- b --> ({5} , {5})
({6} , {1 2}) -- c --> ({6} , {1 2})
({5} , {1 2}) -- c --> ({5} , {1 2})

```

**Example 1.3.** Let us reconsider the plant  $G_{nd}$  in Fig. 1(a). Suppose that  $\Sigma_{ins} = \{a\}$  and  $\Sigma_{era} = \{a, b\}$ . The stealthy joint observer  $G_{obs}^{SJ}$  is shown in Fig. 5, while the structure in the orange dotted box is  $G_{obs}^{SJ,1}$ . On the other hand,  $G_{obs}^{SJ,2}$  is obtained by removing the portion from the initial state to  $(\{5\}, \{5\})$  from  $G_{obs}^{SJ}$ .

In the observer of  $G_{nd}$ , there are two detectable cycles ( $cl_1 = \{0\} \xrightarrow{c} \{0\}$  and  $cl_2 = \{5\} \xrightarrow{c} \{5\}$ ) and one undetectable cycle ( $cl = \{3, 4\} \xrightarrow{c} \{3, 4\}$ ). It is verified that each detectable cycle has an ambiguity-inducing cycle, and each undetectable cycle has a determinacy-inducing cycle (see Example 4.6 in the manuscript for more details). Therefore, condition C1 or C2 in Theorem 4.5 is satisfied, indicating the existence of a successful attacker.

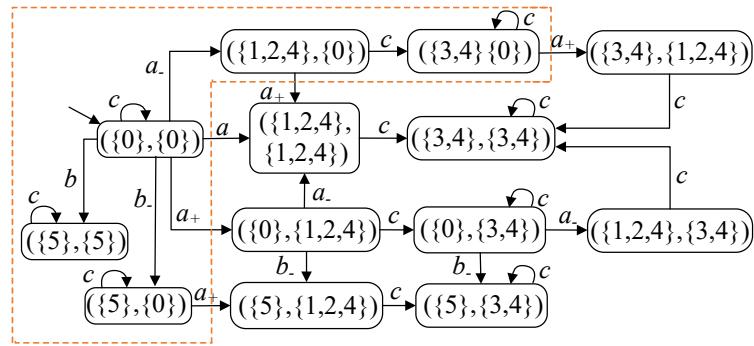


Figure 5: Stealthy joint observer  $G_{obs}^{SJ}$  for  $E_{era} = \{a, b\}$  and  $E_{ins} = \{a\}$ .

◇

### Output:

```
===== GSJ1_A =====
GSJ1_A states count      : 5
GSJ1_A transitions count : 8

===== GSJ1_B =====
GSJ1_B states count      : 12
GSJ1_B transitions count : 23

===== GSJ1_B states with y-sets =====
( 0) ({1} , {1})
( 1) ({2 3 5} , {2 3 5})
( 2) ({1} , {2 3 5})
( 3) ({2 3 5} , {1})
( 4) ({6} , {1})
( 5) ({4 5} , {4 5})
( 6) ({1} , {4 5})
( 7) ({6} , {2 3 5})
( 8) ({4 5} , {1})
( 9) ({2 3 5} , {4 5})
```

```

(10) ({6} , {4 5})
(11) ({4 5} , {2 3 5})

```

```

===== GSJ1_B transitions with y-sets =====
({1} , {1}) -- a --> ({2 3 5} , {2 3 5})
({1} , {1}) -- c --> ({1} , {1})
({1} , {1}) -- a_+ --> ({1} , {2 3 5})
({1} , {1}) -- a_- --> ({2 3 5} , {1})
({1} , {1}) -- b_- --> ({6} , {1})
({2 3 5} , {2 3 5}) -- c --> ({4 5} , {4 5})
({1} , {2 3 5}) -- c --> ({1} , {4 5})
({1} , {2 3 5}) -- a_- --> ({2 3 5} , {2 3 5})
({1} , {2 3 5}) -- b_- --> ({6} , {2 3 5})
({2 3 5} , {1}) -- c --> ({4 5} , {1})
({2 3 5} , {1}) -- a_+ --> ({2 3 5} , {2 3 5})
({6} , {1}) -- c --> ({6} , {1})
({6} , {1}) -- a_+ --> ({6} , {2 3 5})
({4 5} , {4 5}) -- c --> ({4 5} , {4 5})
({1} , {4 5}) -- c --> ({1} , {4 5})
({1} , {4 5}) -- a_- --> ({2 3 5} , {4 5})
({1} , {4 5}) -- b_- --> ({6} , {4 5})
({6} , {2 3 5}) -- c --> ({6} , {4 5})
({4 5} , {1}) -- c --> ({4 5} , {1})
({4 5} , {1}) -- a_+ --> ({4 5} , {2 3 5})
({2 3 5} , {4 5}) -- c --> ({4 5} , {4 5})
({6} , {4 5}) -- c --> ({6} , {4 5})
({4 5} , {2 3 5}) -- c --> ({4 5} , {4 5})
Qp (idx 0-based): 0 4 8
0 : ({1} , {1})
4 : ({6} , {1})
8 : ({4 5} , {1})
===== SUMMARY =====
Detected 3 obs-cycles; detectable=2, undetectable=1
GSJ1 cycles: 4, GSJ2 cycles: 6
C1 (determinacy for undetectable cycles) => 1
C2 (ambiguity for detectable cycles) => 1
=> At least one of C1 or C2 holds -> a successful attacker exists
C1_all_true: 1
C2_all_true: 1
exists_attack: 1

```

## 2 The case study in the manuscript

As depicted in Fig. 6, the set of states is  $X = \{1, 2, \dots, 9\}$ , the set of events is  $\Sigma = \{a, b, c, d\}$ . We assume that there is an attacker who can insert and erase events  $b$  and  $d$ , i.e.,  $\Sigma_{ins} = \Sigma_{era} = \{b, d\}$ . Fig. 7 is the stealthy joint observer  $G_{obs}^{SJ}$  for the plant. It is computed that  $G_{obs}^{SJ,1} = \emptyset$  and  $G_{obs}^{SJ,2} = G_{obs}^{SJ}$ . There is only one detectable cycle  $cl = \{5\} \xrightarrow{a} \{4\} \xrightarrow{b} \{7\} \xrightarrow{c} \{5\}$  in the observer of the plant. It is seen that  $cl' = (\{5\}, \{2, 9\}) \xrightarrow{a} (\{4\}, \{6, 8\}) \xrightarrow{b} (\{7\}, \{6, 8\}) \xrightarrow{c} (\{5\}, \{2, 9\})$  is an ambiguity-inducing cycle of  $cl$  in  $G_{obs}^{SJ,2}$ . Therefore, a stealthy attacker exists that can violate the detectability of the plant.

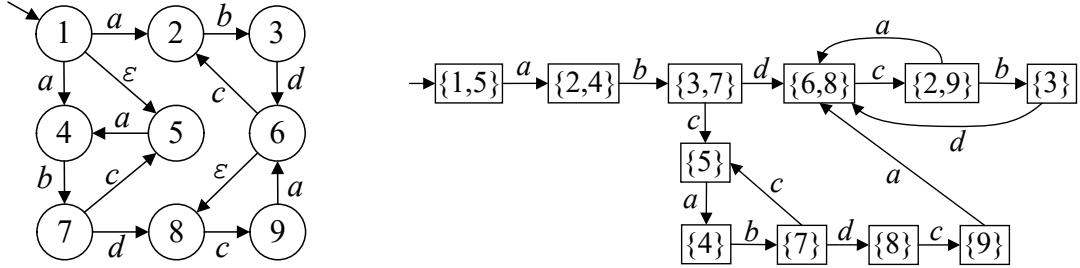


Figure 6: Plant and its observer for the case study in the manuscript.

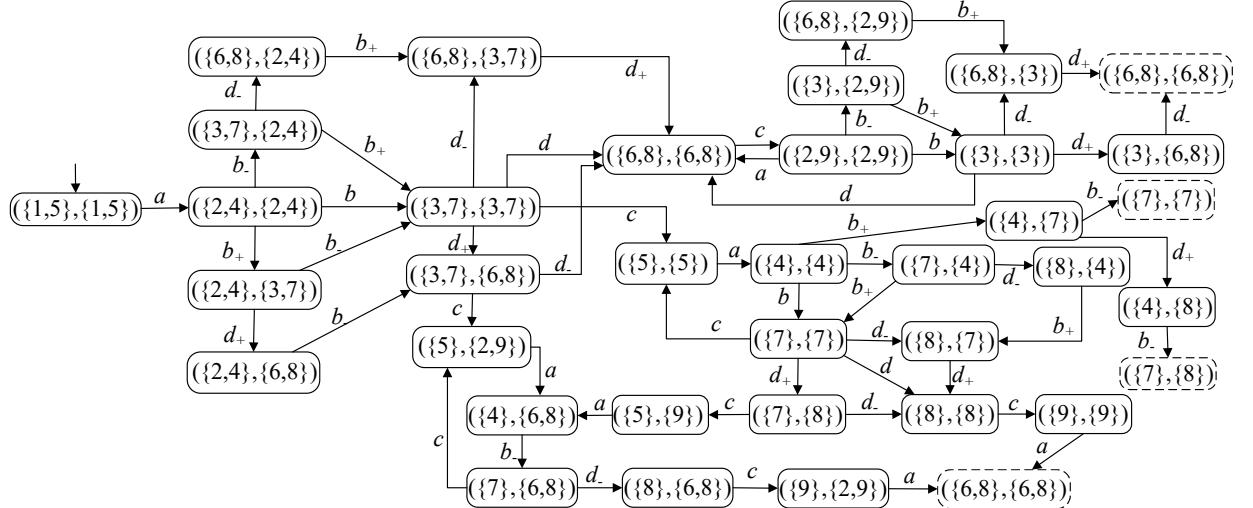


Figure 7: Stealthy joint observer for the plant.

### Output:

```
===== Joint Observer (G_J) Statistics =====
G_J states count      : 60
G_J transitions count : 183

===== Stealthy Joint Observer (SJ) Statistics =====
SJ states count       : 33
SJ transitions count  : 55
```

===== Stealthy Trimmed Observers =====

```
GSJ1_A states count      : 0
GSJ1_A transitions count : 0
GSJ1_B states count      : 33
GSJ1_B transitions count : 55
```

===== SUMMARY =====

```
Detected 3 obs-cycles; detectable=1, undetectable=2
GSJ1 cycles: 0, GSJ2 cycles: 12
C1 (determinacy for undetectable cycles) => 0
C2 (ambiguity for detectable cycles) => 1
=> At least one of C1 or C2 holds -> a successful attacker exists
```