

# Myopically Verifiable Probabilistic Certificate for Long-term Safety

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# Control & Learning group @ CMU

理学

Stochastic safe control  
Robust control  
Optimization  
Information theory ...

科学

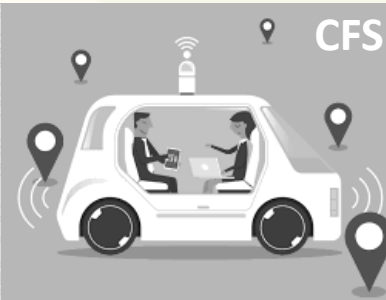


Neuroscience  
Biomolecular control...

Microfinance



CFS



工学

# Safety is critical for intelligent systems



Autonomous  
vehicles



Cobots  
Intelligent manufacturing



Drones

# Safety is critical for intelligent systems

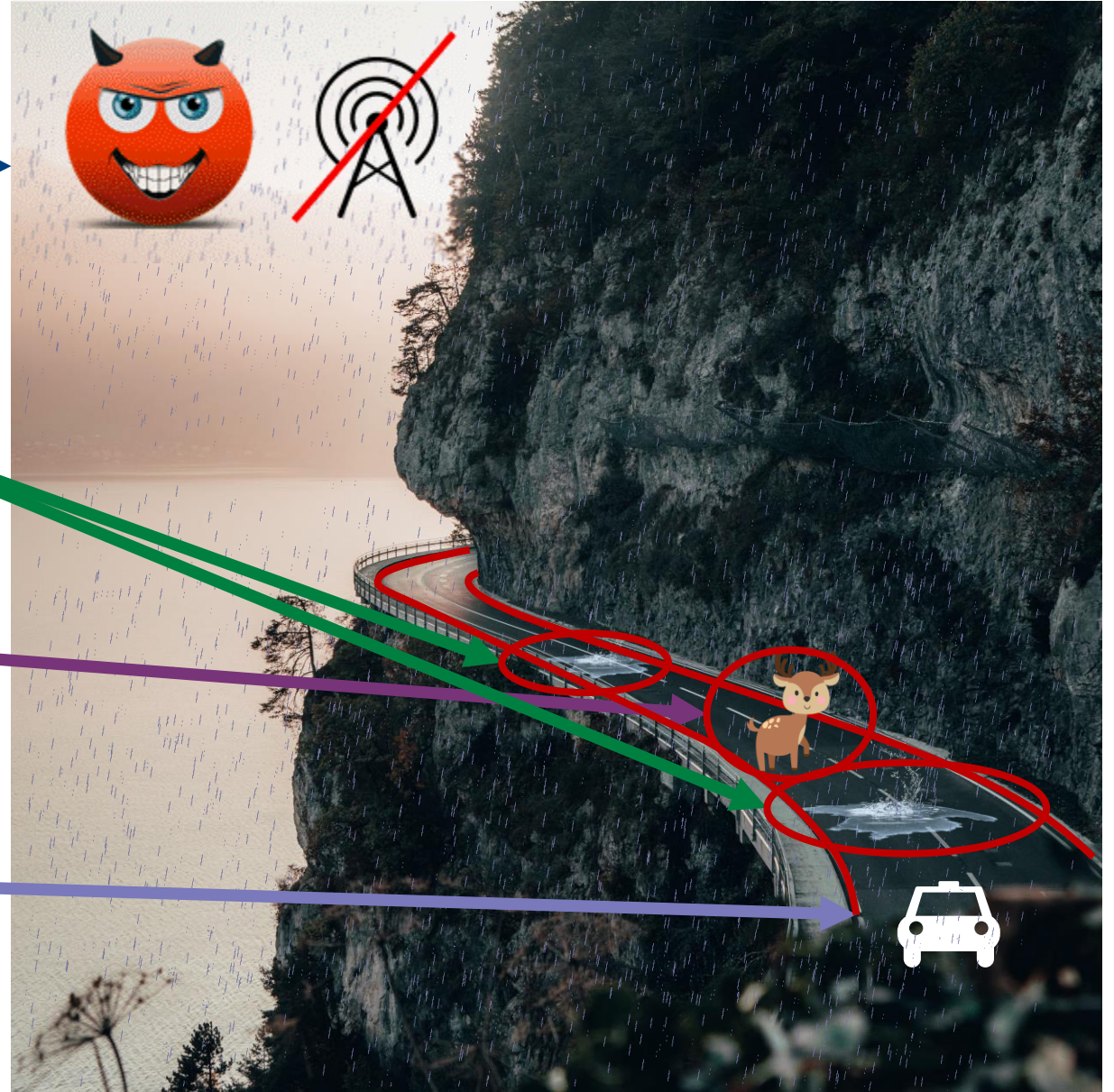
Dealing with uncertainty

Resilience

Adaptability

Collision Avoidance

Regular Operation



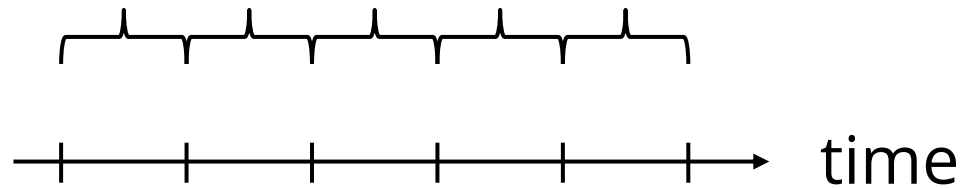
# Challenges

Deterministic system

safe at each step



safe at all time



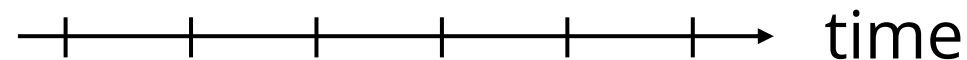
Stochastic system

safe at each step with  
probability  $1 - \delta$

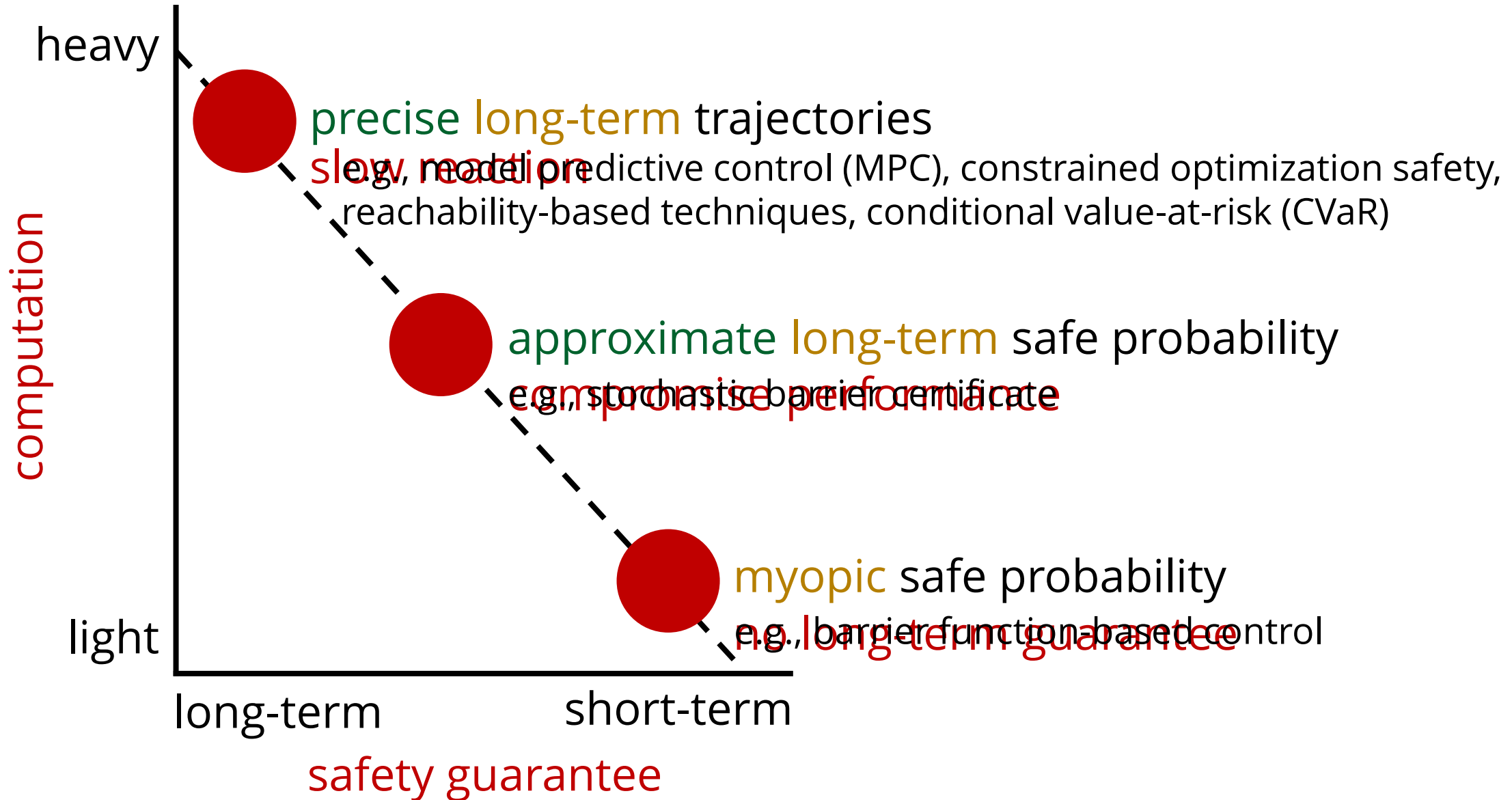


Long-term safe probability can  
scale according to

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (1 - \delta)^t = 0$$

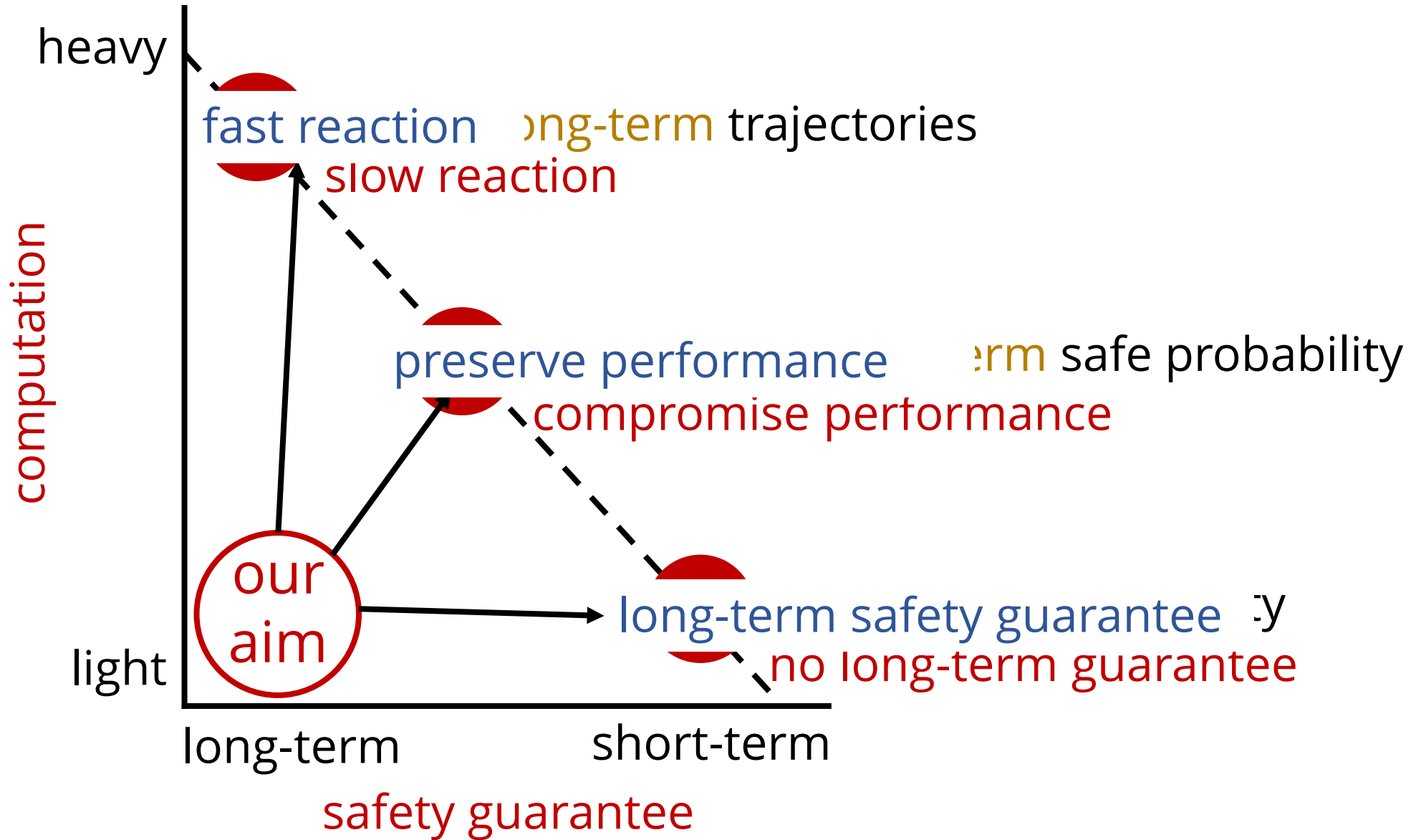


# Challenges





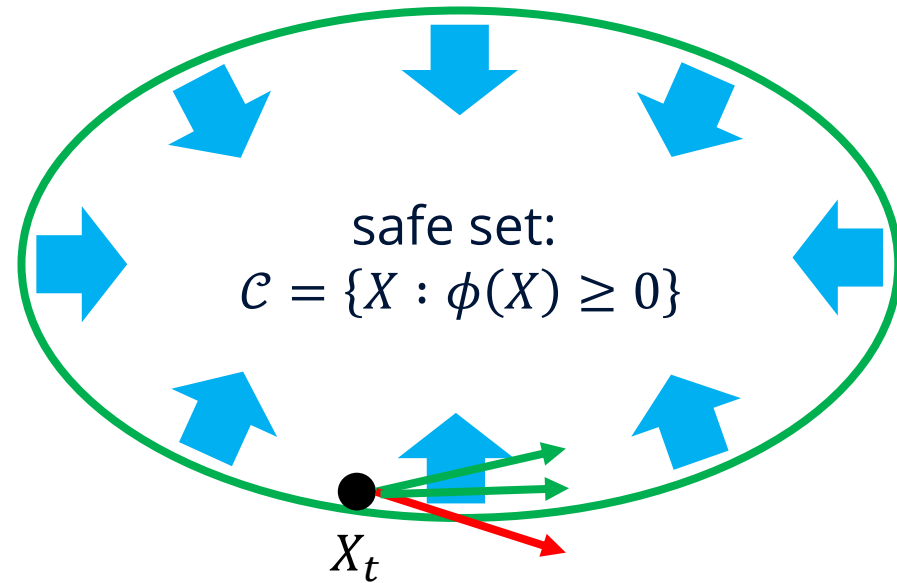
# Challenges



# Proposed Method: Intuitions

Imposing forward invariance on

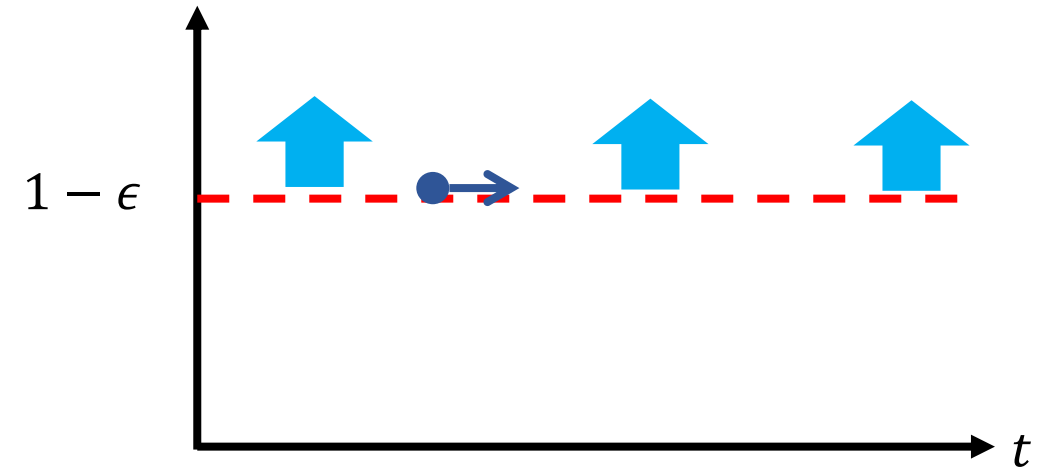
State space



Tail probability can accumulate over time

Probability space

Long-term safety probability  
 $\Pr(X_\tau \in \mathcal{C}, \tau \in [t, t + T])$

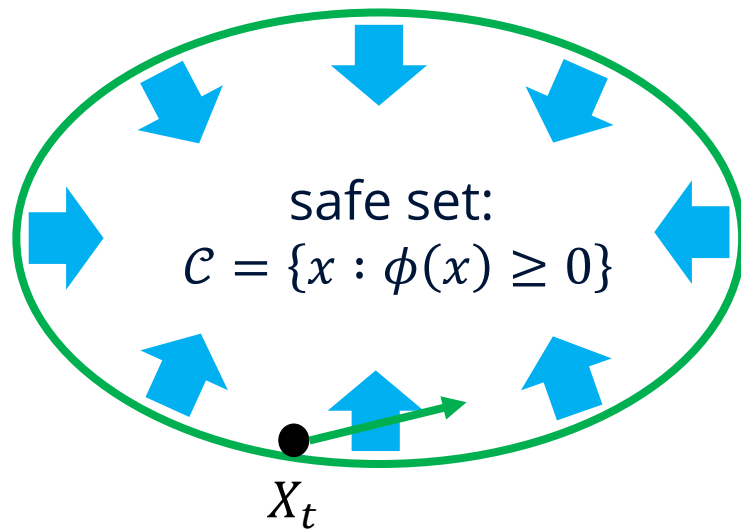


Direct control over accumulation of tail events

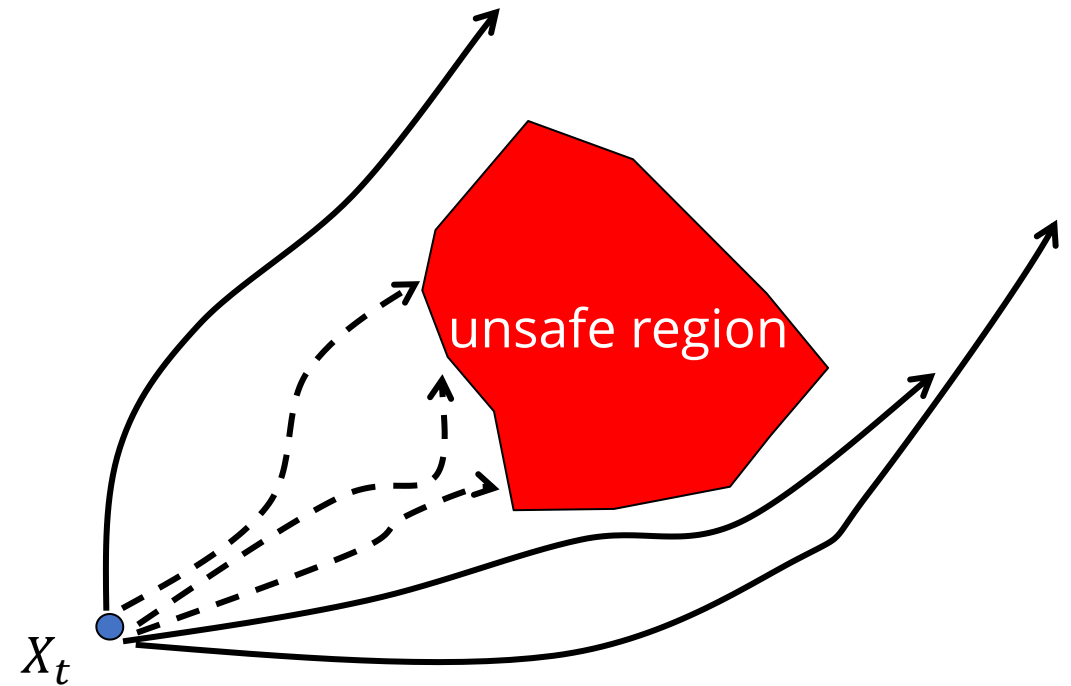


# Proposed Method: Intuition

Barrier function based  
-> Myopic evaluation



Reachability based  
-> Ensures long-term safety

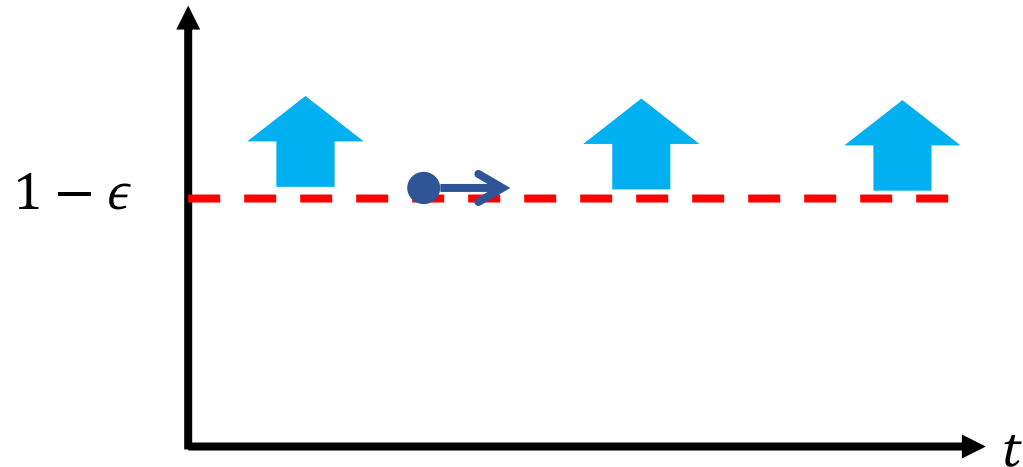


# Proposed Method: Intuition

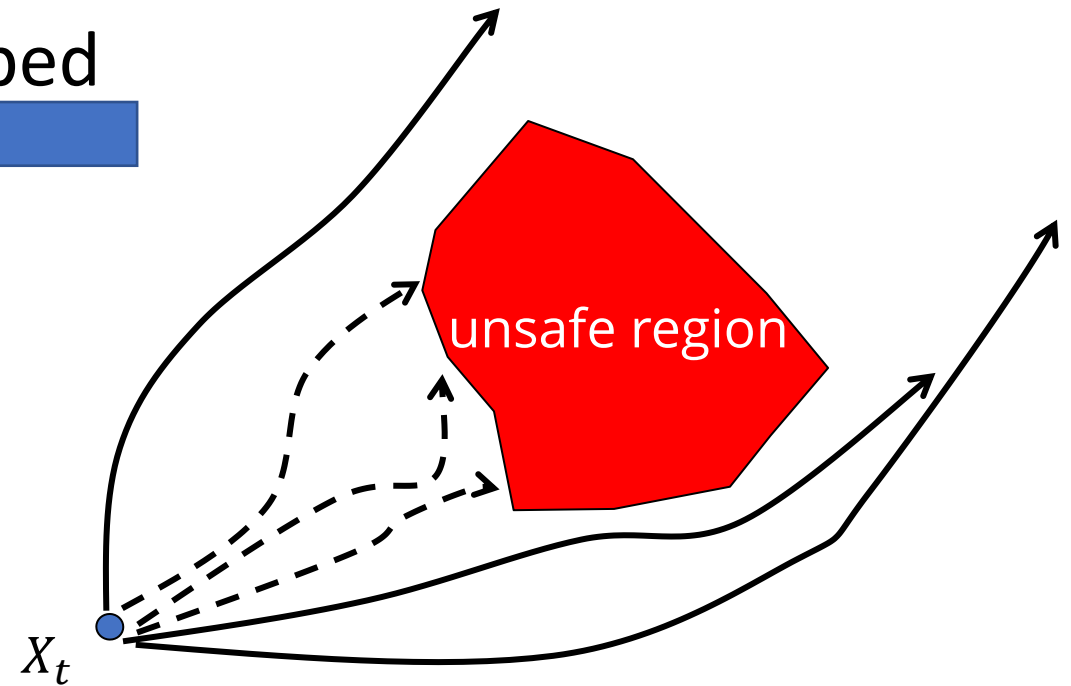
Barrier function based  
-> Myopic evaluation

Reachability based  
-> Ensures long-term safety

Long-term safety probability  
 $\Pr(X_\tau \in \mathcal{C}, \tau \in [t, t + T])$



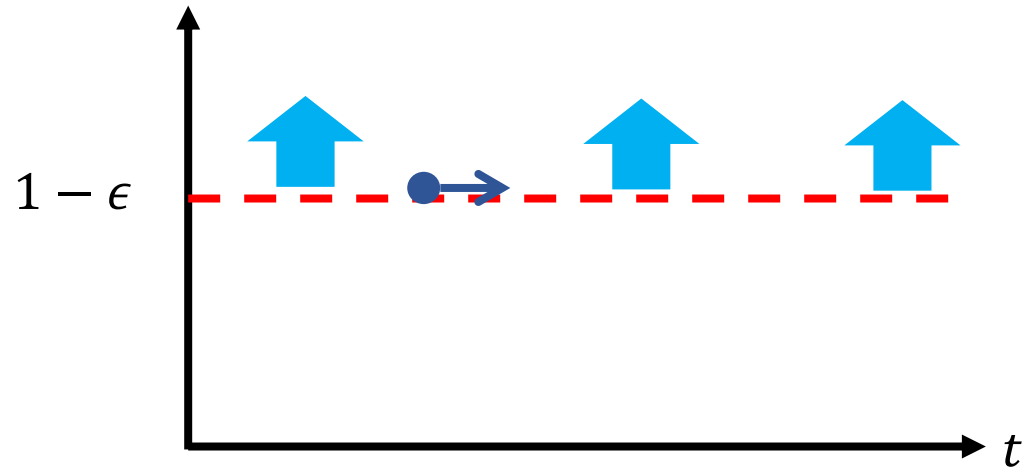
Embed



Direct control over  
accumulation of tail events

# Proposed Method

Long-term safety probability  
 $\Pr(X_\tau \in \mathcal{C}, \tau \in [t, t + T])$



Direct control over  
accumulation of tail events

$$\mathbf{F}(X_t) = \Pr(X_\tau \in \mathcal{C}, \tau \in [t, t + T] | X_t)$$

$$A\mathbf{F}(X_t) \geq -\alpha(\mathbf{F}(X_t) - (1 - \epsilon))$$

time derivative of  
safety probability

desired safety  
probability

$A$ : infinitesimal generator

$\alpha$ : monotonically increasing, concave,  $\alpha(0) \leq 0$

# Theoretical Guarantees

**Theorem:** Given

$$F(X_0) > 1 - \epsilon,$$

if we choose the control action to satisfy

$$AF(X_t) \geq -\alpha(F(X_t) - (1 - \epsilon)) \text{ for } t > 0,$$

then we have

$$\Pr(X_\tau \in \mathcal{C}, \tau \in [t, t + T]) \geq 1 - \epsilon \text{ for } \forall t > 0$$

$\alpha: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a monotonically increasing concave function that satisfies  $\alpha(0) \leq 0$ .

# Proposed Safety Condition

$$A\mathbf{F}(X_t) \geq -\alpha(\mathbf{F}(X_t) - (1 - \epsilon))$$



$$dX_t = (f(X_t) + g(X_t)U_t)dt + \sigma(X_t)dW$$

Affine control

$$\mathcal{L}_f\mathbf{F}(X_t) + (\mathcal{L}_g\mathbf{F}(X_t))\mathbf{U}_t + \frac{1}{2}\text{tr}([\sigma(X_t)]^\top \text{Hess}\mathbf{F}(X_t)[\sigma(X_t)]) \geq -\alpha(\mathbf{F}(X_t) - (1 - \epsilon))$$

linear constraints of  $U_t$

# Simulation

system dynamic:

$$dx_t = (2x_t + 2.5u_t) dt + 2dw_t$$

initial state:

$$x_0 = 3$$

safe set:

$$\mathcal{C} = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : x - 1 > 0\}$$

nominal controller:

$$N(x_t) = 2.5x_t$$

desired safety probability:

$$1 - \epsilon = 0.9$$

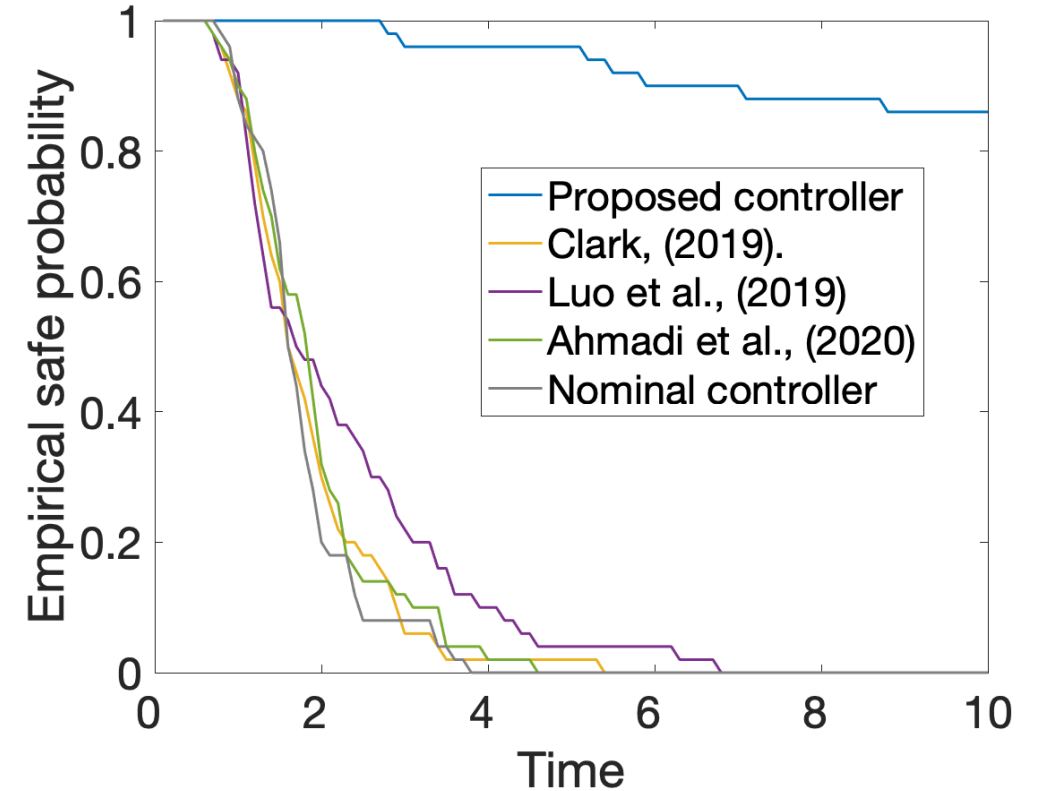
# Simulation

Proposed:  $A\mathbf{F}(X_t) \geq -\alpha(\mathbf{F}(X_t) - (1 - \epsilon))$

Clark:  $A\phi(X_t) \geq -\alpha\phi(X_t)$

Luo et al.:  $\mathbb{P}(d\phi(X_t, U_t) + \alpha\phi(X_t) \geq 0) \geq 1 - \epsilon$

Ahmadi et al.:  $\text{CVaR}_\beta(\phi(X_{t+1})) \geq \gamma\phi(X_t)$



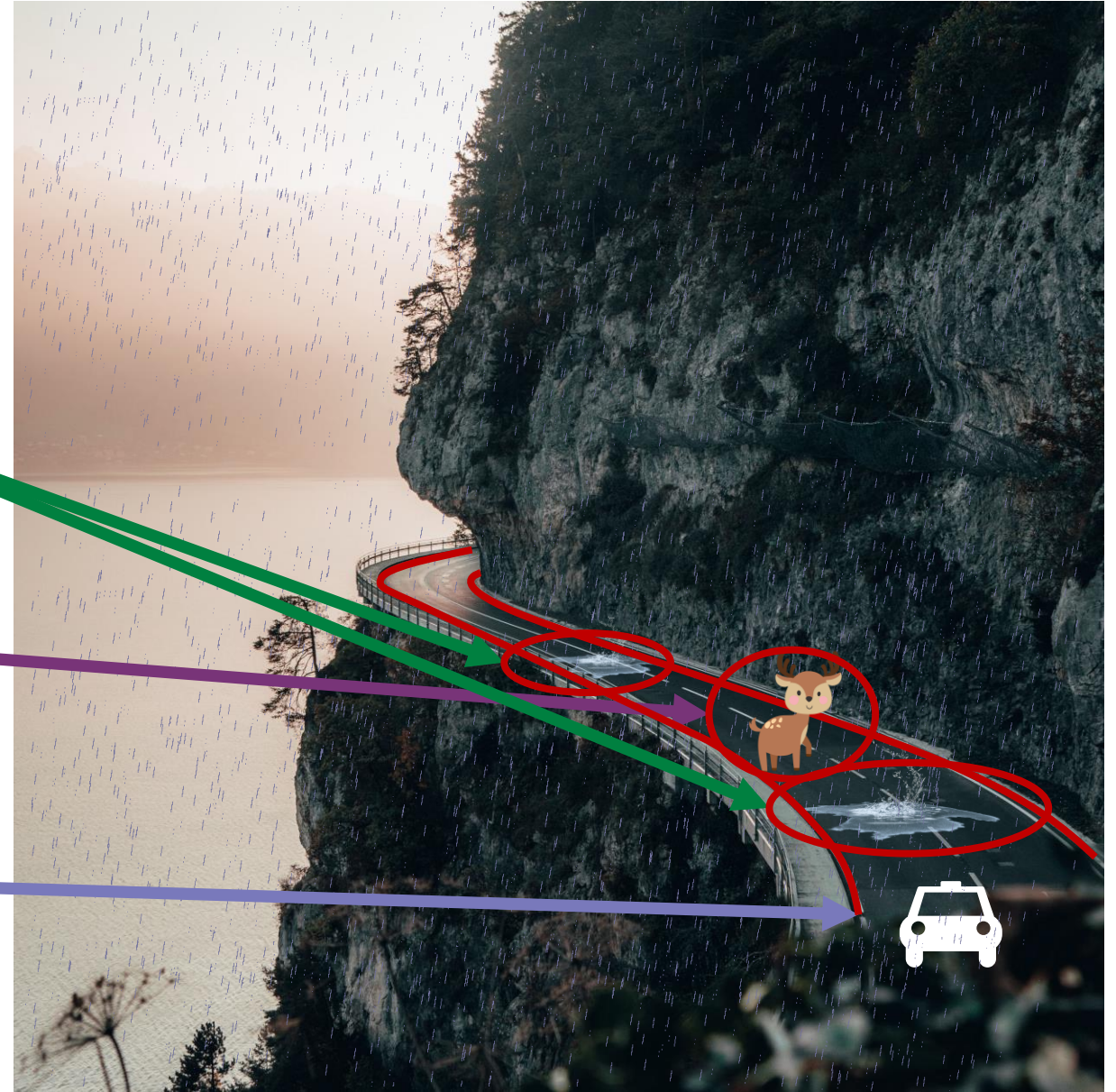


# Simulation

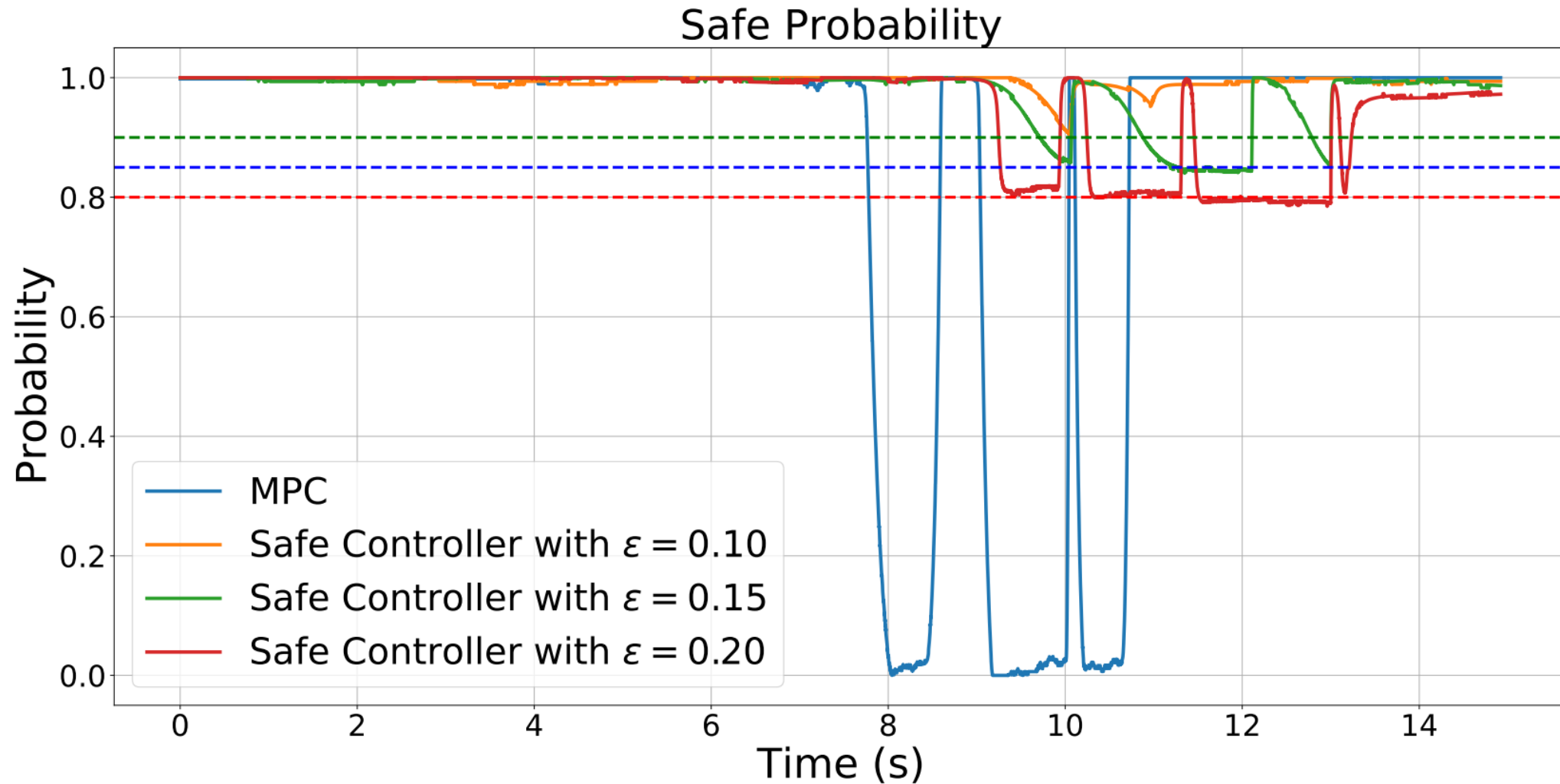
Adaptability

Collision Avoidance

Regular Operation

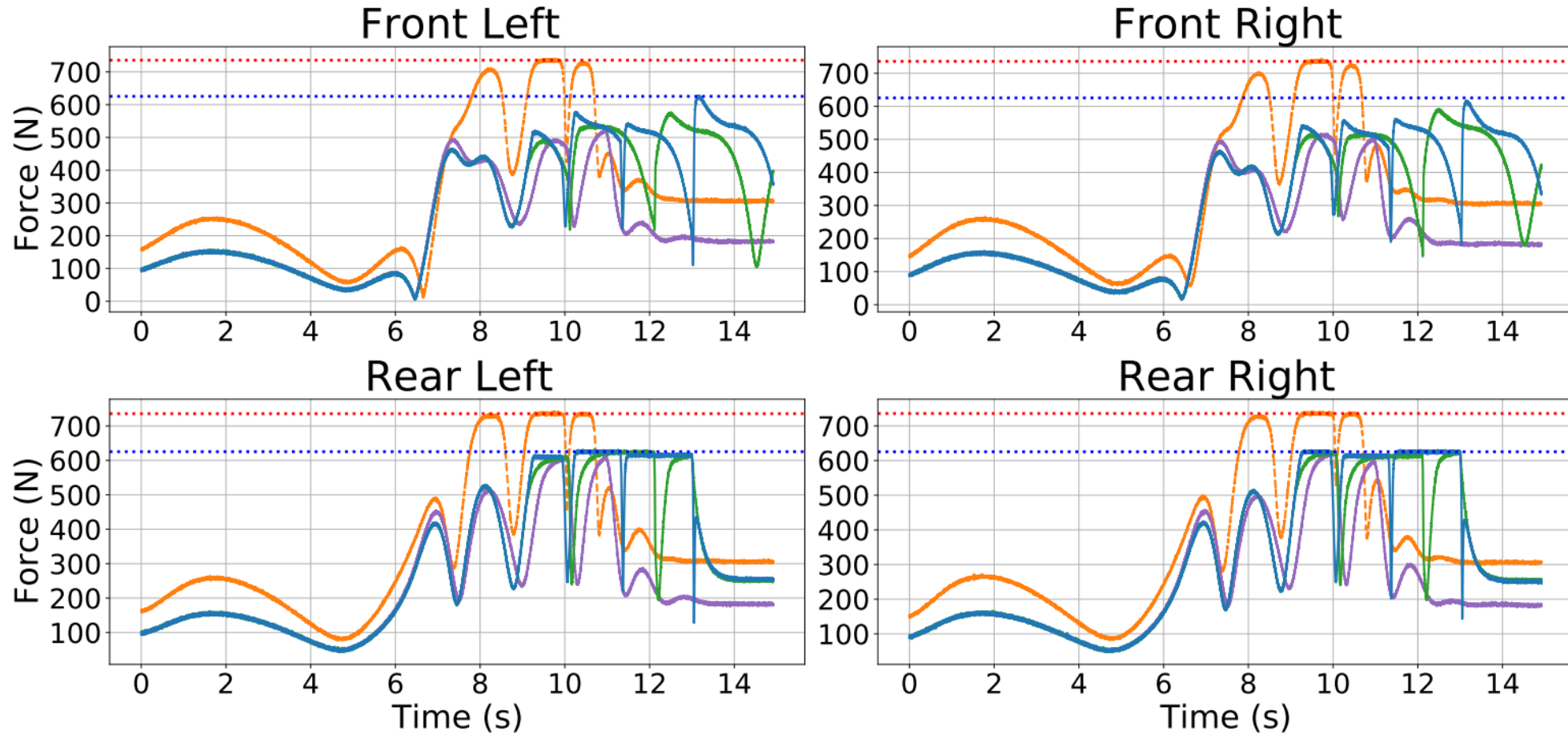


# Advantage 1: Long-term Safety Guarantee



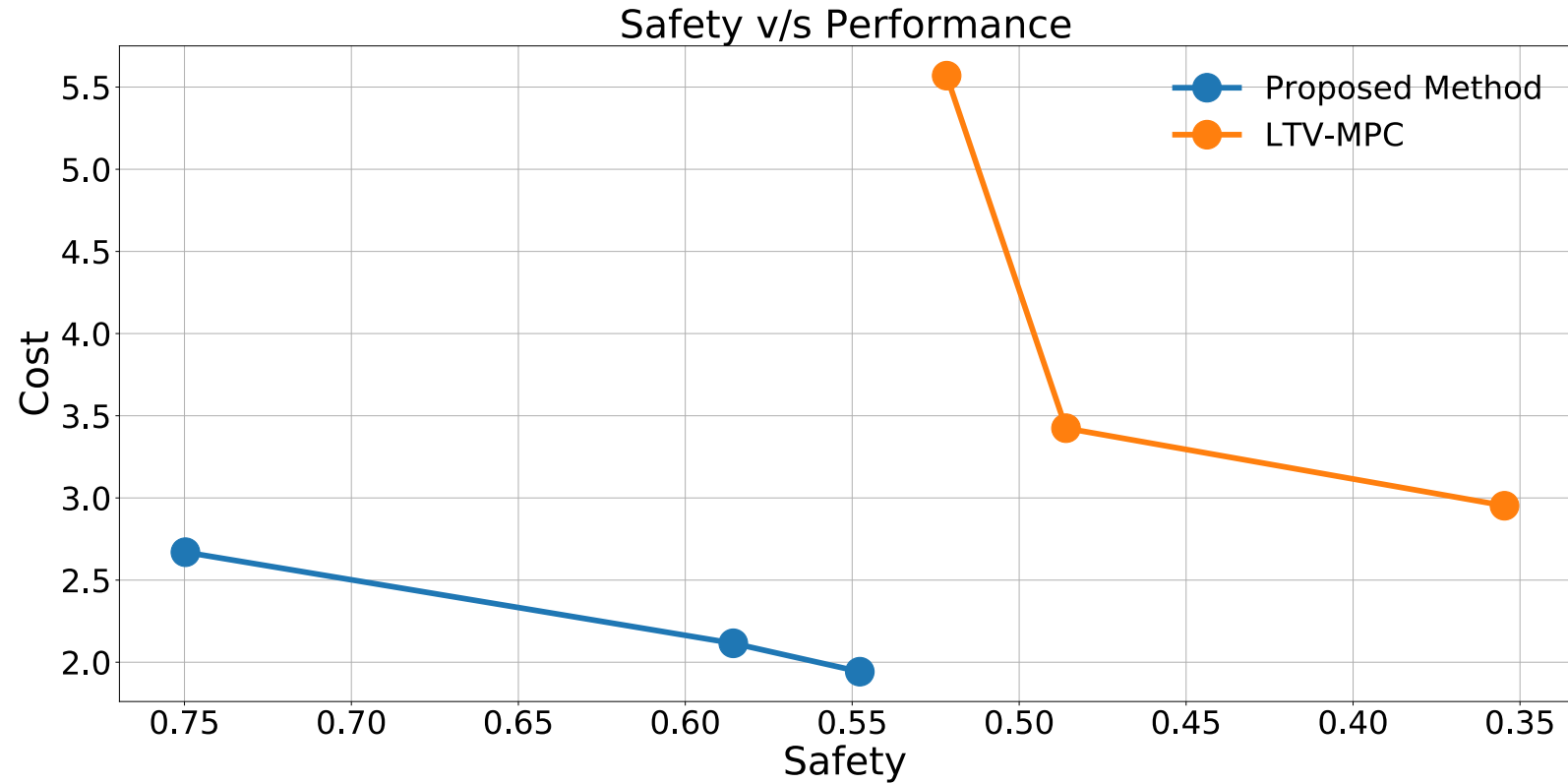
# Advantage 1: Long-term Safety Guarantee (Cont'd)

Total Tire Forces



- LTV-MPC
- Proposed Method with  $\epsilon = 0.20$
- Proposed Method with  $\epsilon = 0.10$
- Proposed Method with  $\epsilon = 0.15$
- ⋯ Maximum Tire Grip Force  $F_{sat}$
- ⋯ 85% Maximum Tire Grip Force  $F_{sat}$

# Advantage 2: Better Performance Tradeoffs

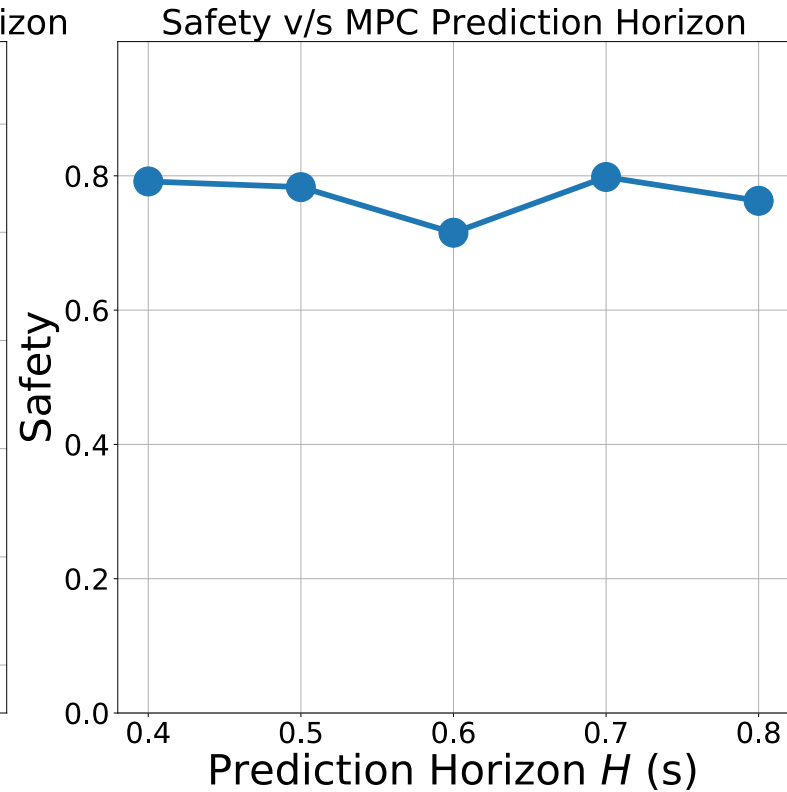
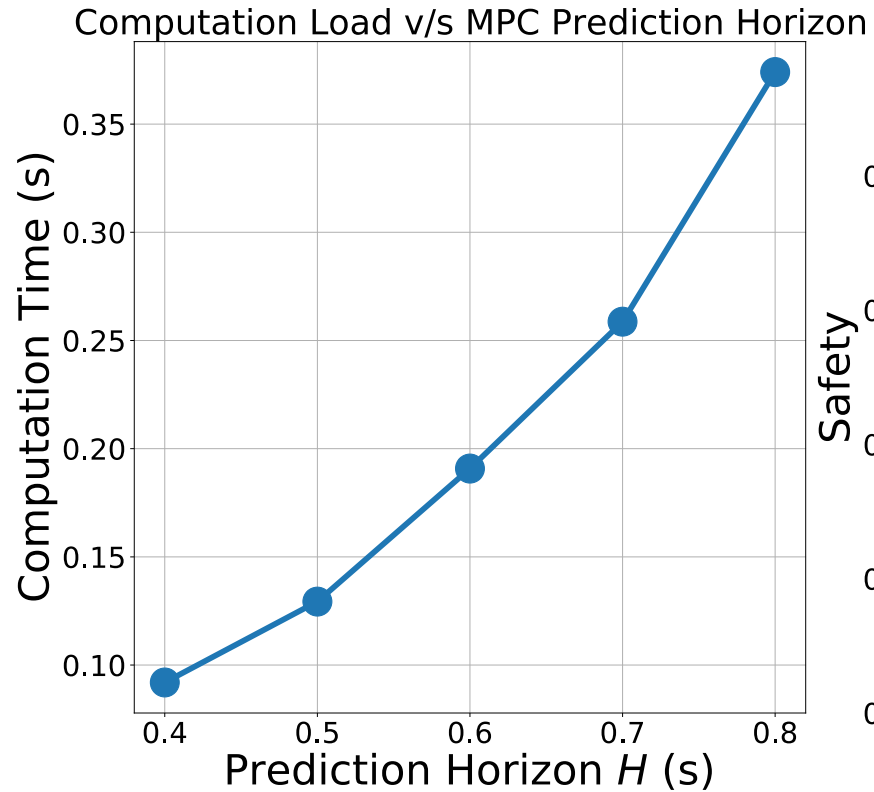


**cost:**  
deviation from  
the reference  
trajectory

**safety:** satisfaction of the tire force limits

# Advantage 3: Less Computation Costs

- Computation of MPC grows in  $O(H^3)$
- Safety will not be compromised even with short outlook horizons



# Random variables that inform safety

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Characterized the distribution of:

- **Worst-case margin:**  $\Phi_x(T) := \inf\{\phi(X_t) \in \mathbb{R} : t \in [0, T], X_0 = x\}$
- **First exit time:**  $\Gamma_x(\ell) := \inf\{t \in \mathbb{R}_+ : \phi(X_t) < \ell, X_0 = x\}$
- **Distance to the safe set:**  $\Theta_x(T) := \sup\{\phi(X_t) \in \mathbb{R}, : t \in [0, T], X_0 = x\}$
- **Recovery time:**  $\Psi_x(\ell) := \inf\{t \in \mathbb{R}_+ : \phi(X_t) \geq \ell, X_0 = x\}$

All distributions are given by the deterministic convection-diffusion equations

# Theorem 1: Worst-case margin $\Phi_x(T)$

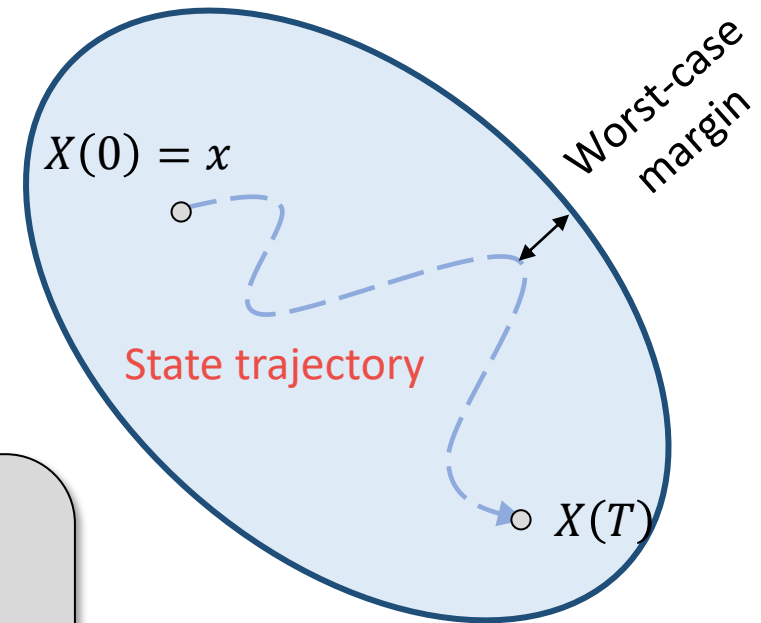
Safe set  $\mathcal{C} = \{x: \phi(x) \geq \ell\}$

The complementary cumulative distribution function of the safety margin  $\Phi_x(T)$

$$F(z, T; \ell) = P(\Phi_x(T) \geq \ell), \ell \in \mathbb{R}$$

is the solution to

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial F}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{2} \nabla \cdot (D \nabla F) + \mathcal{L}_{\rho - \frac{1}{2} \nabla \cdot D} F & z[1] \geq \ell, T > 0 \\ F(z, t) = 1 & z[1] \geq \ell, T > 0 \\ F(z, 0) = \mathbf{1}_{\{z[1] < \ell\}}(z) & z \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \end{cases}$$



$F(z, T; 0) =$  safe probability during  $[0, T]$   
 $z = [\phi(x), x]$



## Theorem 2: First exit time $\Gamma_x(\ell)$

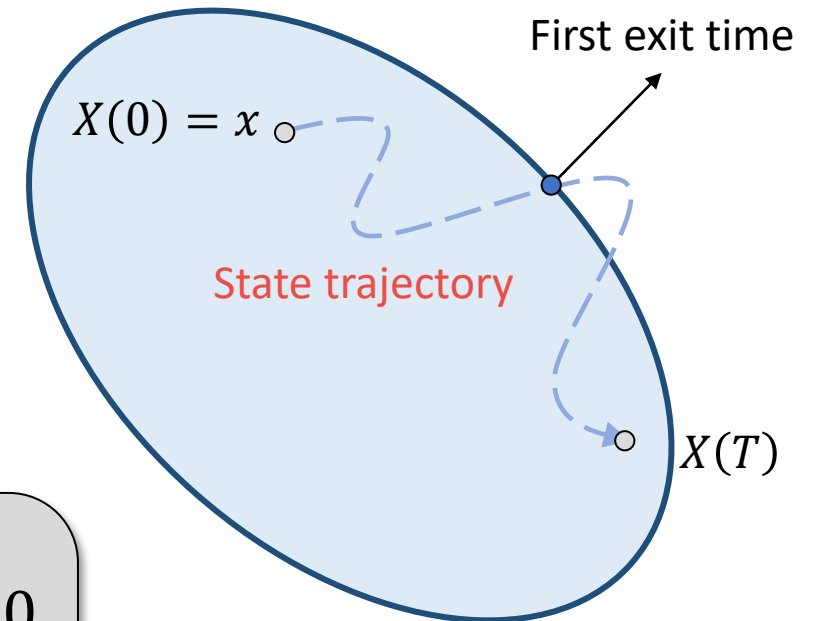
The cumulative distribution function of the first exit time  $\Gamma_x(\ell)$

$$G(z, t; \ell) = P(\Gamma_x(\ell) \leq t)$$

is the solution to

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial G}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{2} \nabla \cdot (D \nabla G) + \mathcal{L}_{\rho - \frac{1}{2} \nabla \cdot D} G & z[1] \geq \ell, t > 0 \\ G(z, t) = 1 & z[1] < \ell, t > 0 \\ G(z, 0) = \mathbb{1}_{\{z[1] < \ell\}}(z) & z \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \end{cases}$$

Safe set  $\mathcal{C} = \{x: \phi(x) \geq \ell\}$



$1 - G(z, T; 0)$  = safe probability during  $[0, T]$   
 $z = [\phi(x), x]$

# Theorem 3: Distance to the safe set $\Theta_x(T)$

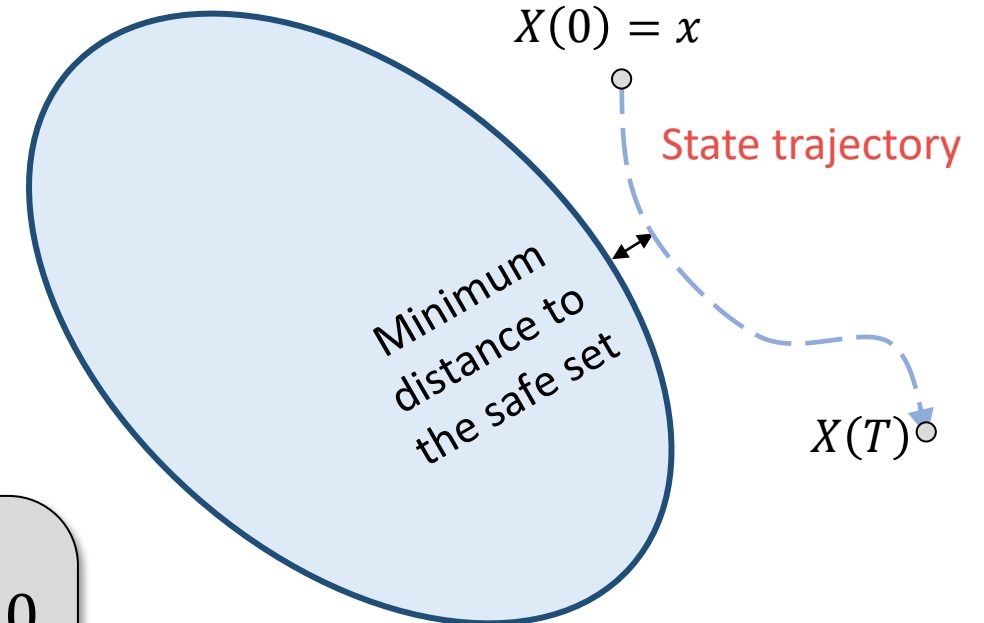
The cumulative distribution function of the distance to the safe set  $\Theta_x(T)$

$$Q(z, T; -\ell) = P(\Theta_x(T) \geq \ell), \ell \in \mathbb{R}$$

is the solution to

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial Q}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{2} \nabla \cdot (D \nabla Q) + \mathcal{L}_{\rho - \frac{1}{2} \nabla \cdot D} Q & z[1] < -\ell, T > 0 \\ Q(z, T; -\ell) = 0 & z[1] \geq -\ell, T > 0 \\ Q(z, 0; -\ell) = \mathbb{1}_{\{z[1] < \ell\}}(z) & z \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \end{cases}$$

Safe set  $\mathcal{C} = \{x: \phi(x) \geq \ell\}$



$Q(z, T; -\ell)$  = the probability of getting within  $\ell$  distance to  $\mathcal{C}$  during  $[0, T]$   
 $z = [\phi(x), x]$

# Theorem 4: First recovery time $\Psi_x(\ell)$

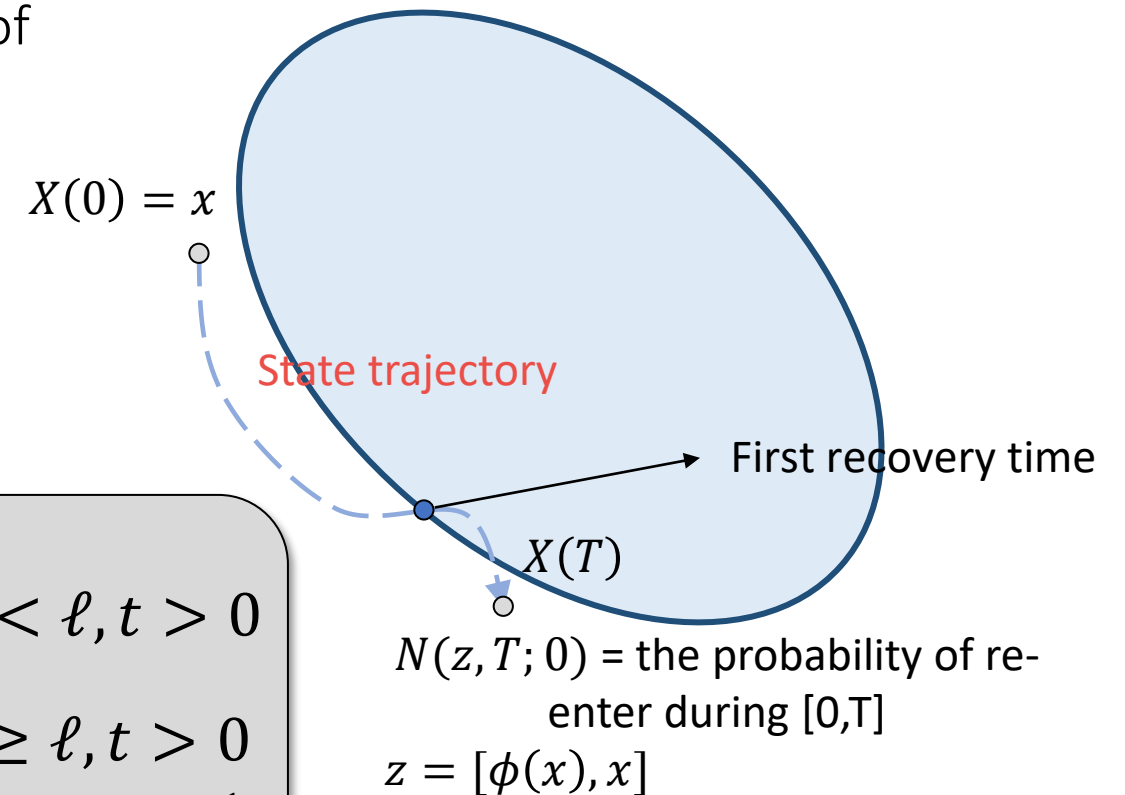
Let  $D = \zeta\zeta^T$ , the cumulative distribution function of recovery time  $\Psi_x(\ell)$

$$N(z, T; \ell) = P(\Psi_x(\ell) \leq t)$$

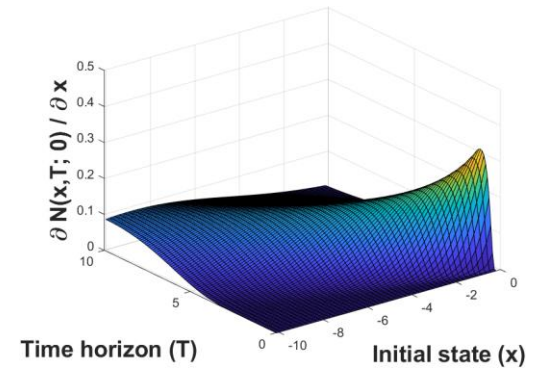
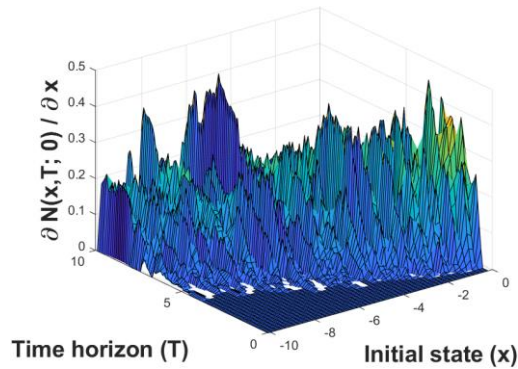
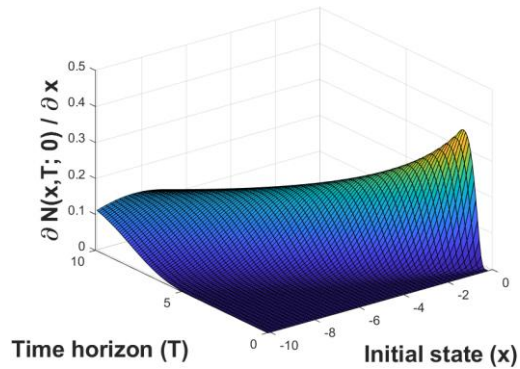
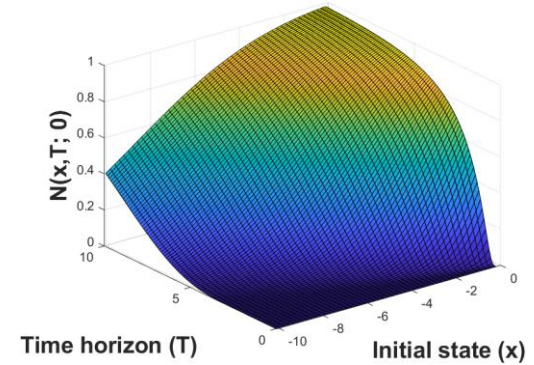
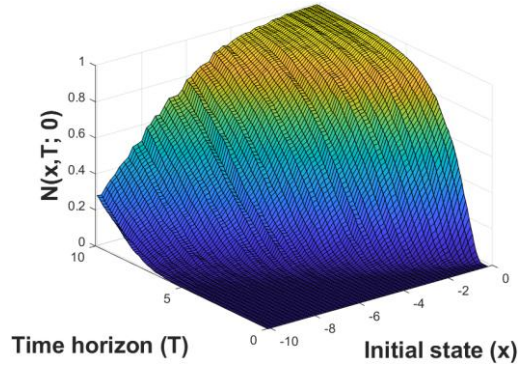
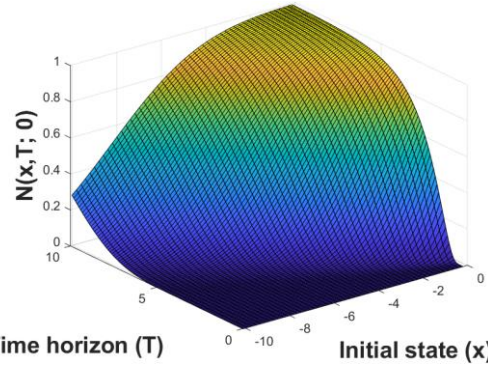
is the solution to

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Safe set  $\mathcal{C} = \{x: \phi(x) \geq \ell\}$



# Example use case



Ground truth

Monte Carlo

PDE solver

# Today's talk

理学

Stochastic safe control  
Robust control  
Optimization  
Information theory ...



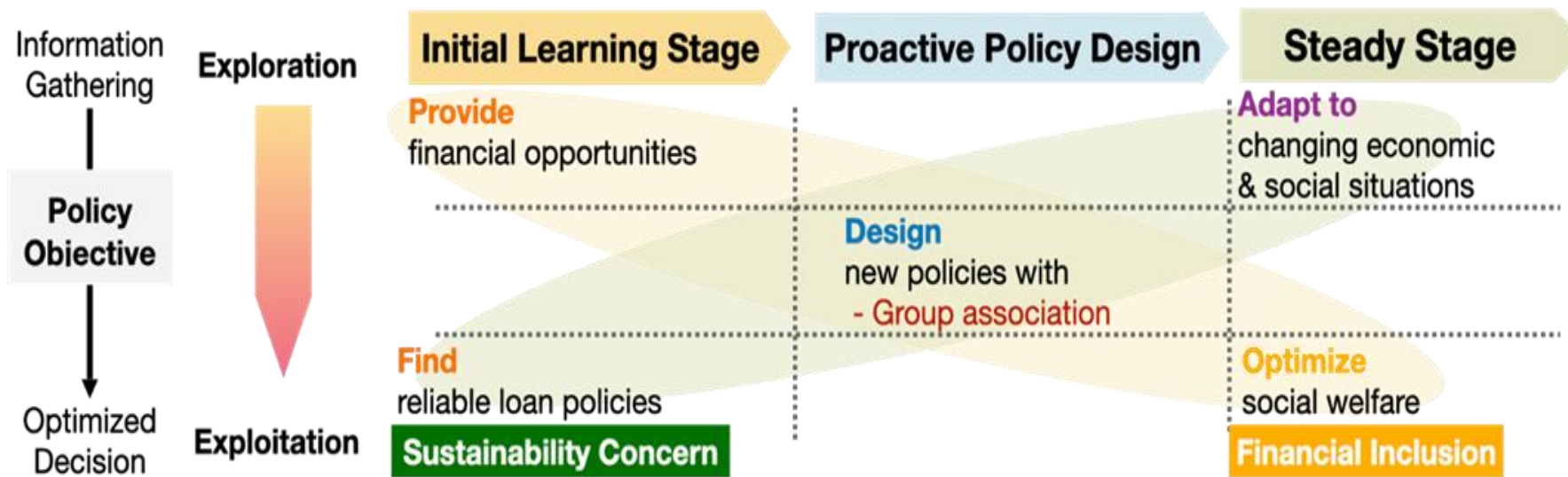
工学

# Microfinance from a control perspective

Challenges in microfinance:

1. Complexity in understanding default process
2. Asymmetry, heterogeneity, and incomplete information of individual applications
3. The scarcity of available past data
4. The dynamically evolving social and economic conditions

## Benefit in Microfinance

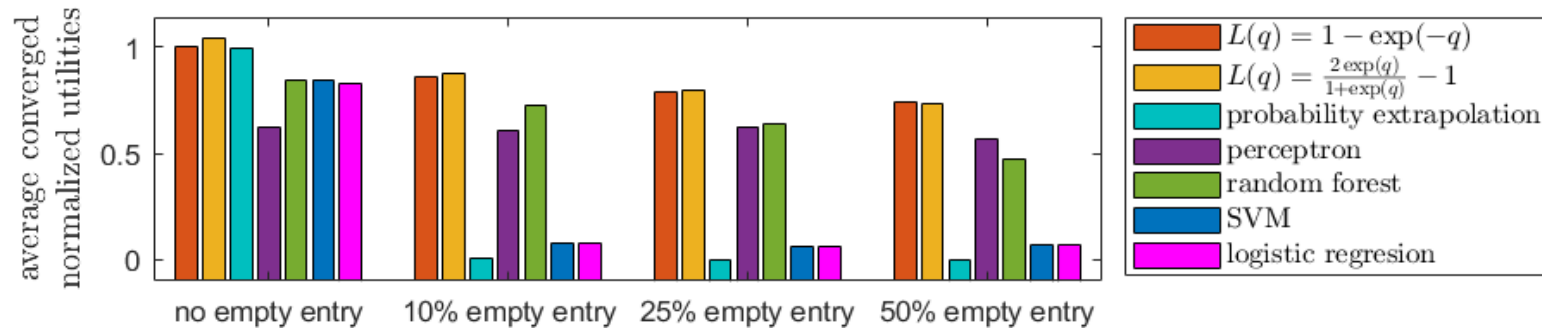


## Technical Enablers

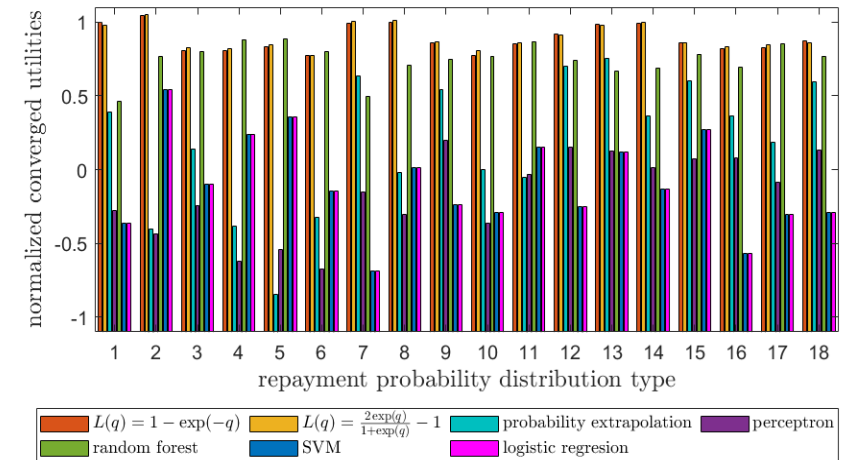
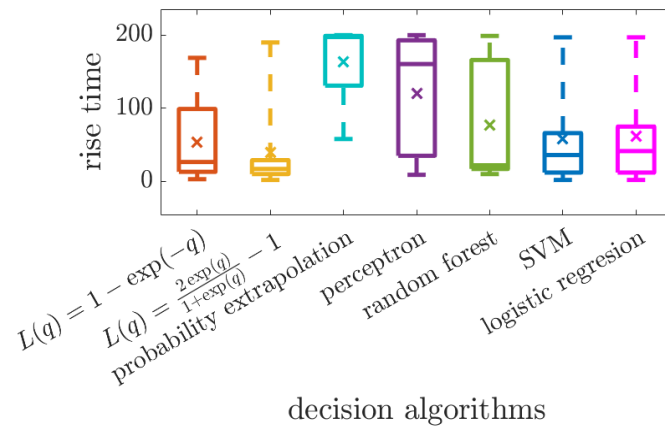
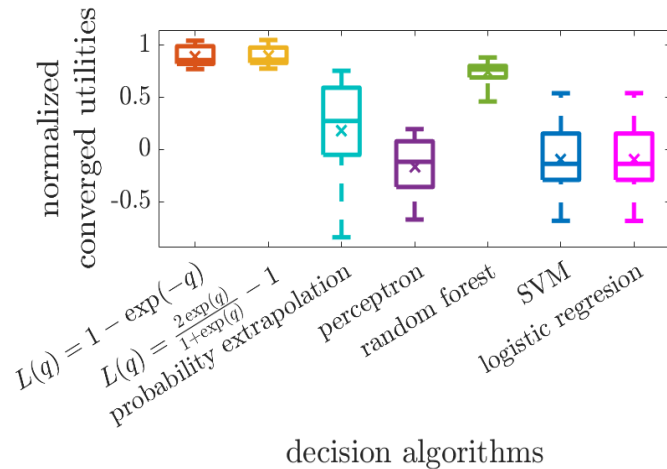
- **Systematically trade-off** exploration vs. exploitation
- **Immediate feedback** from small samples toward better policy
- **Ability** to add **new features**
- **Convergence** to optimal parameters
- **Continuously** adapt to changes

# Microfinance from a control perspective

## 1. Robustness against missing data



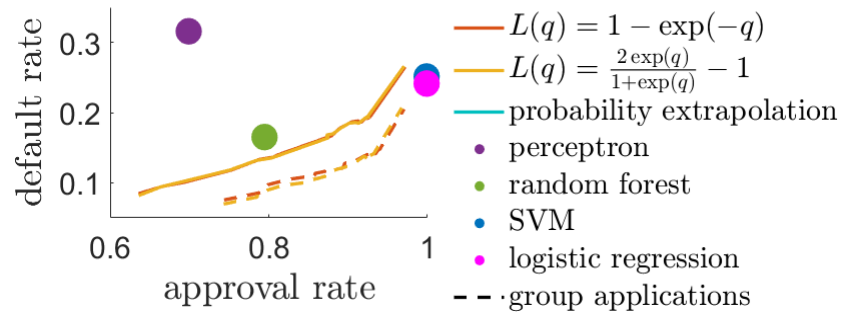
## 2. Ability to deal with diverse microfinance distributions



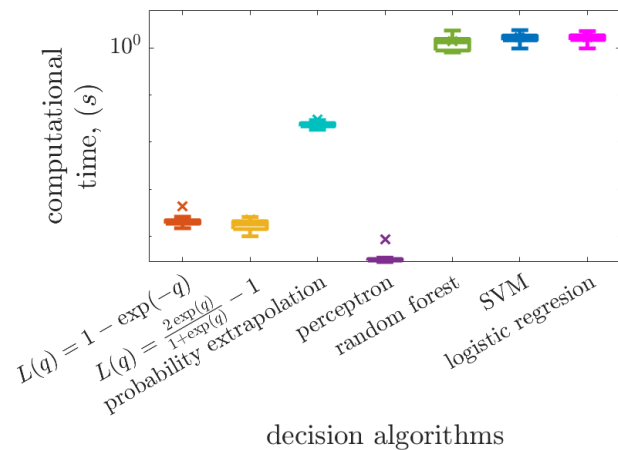


# Microfinance from a control perspective

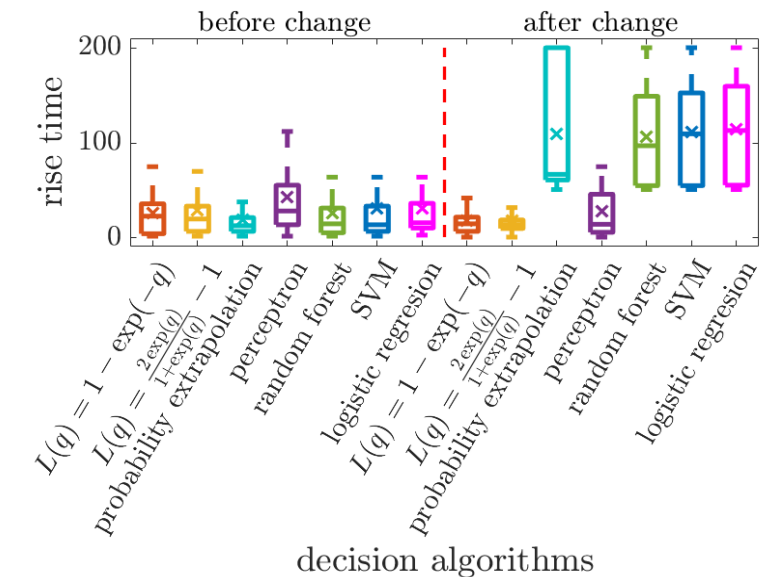
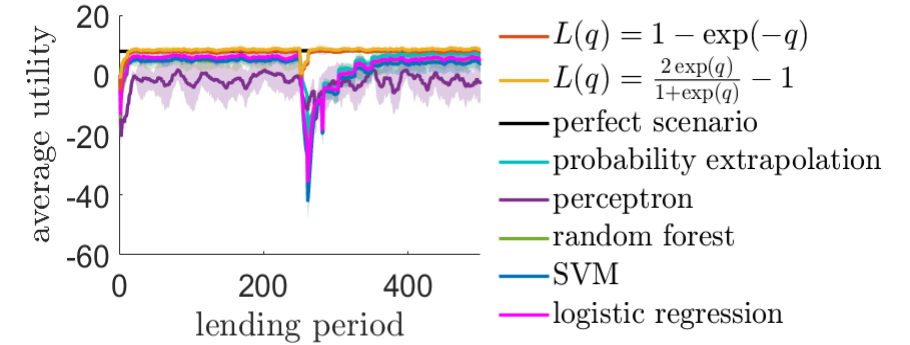
## 3. Tradeoff between default rate vs. approval rate



## 4. Cheaper computational cost



## 5. Adaptation to changes

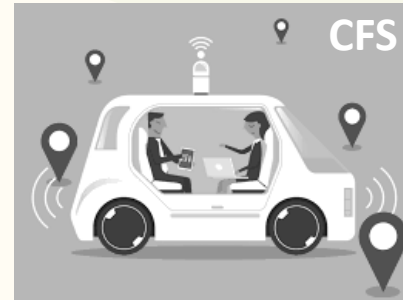


# Today's talk

科学

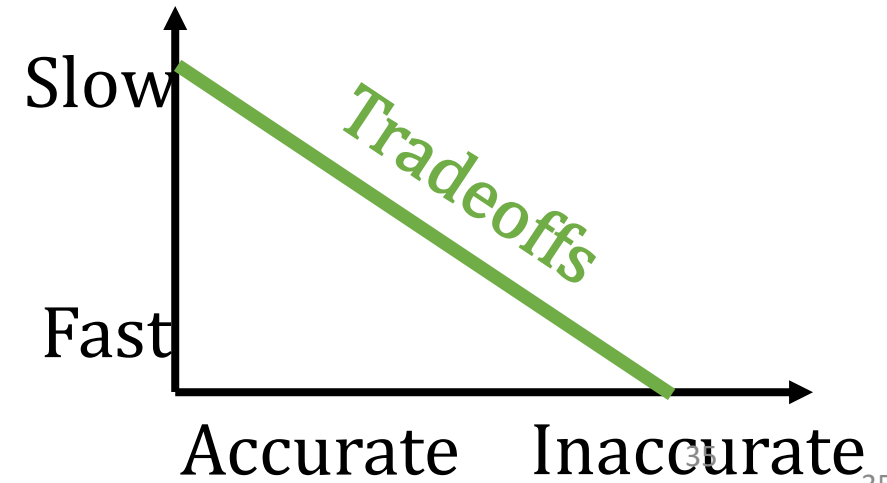
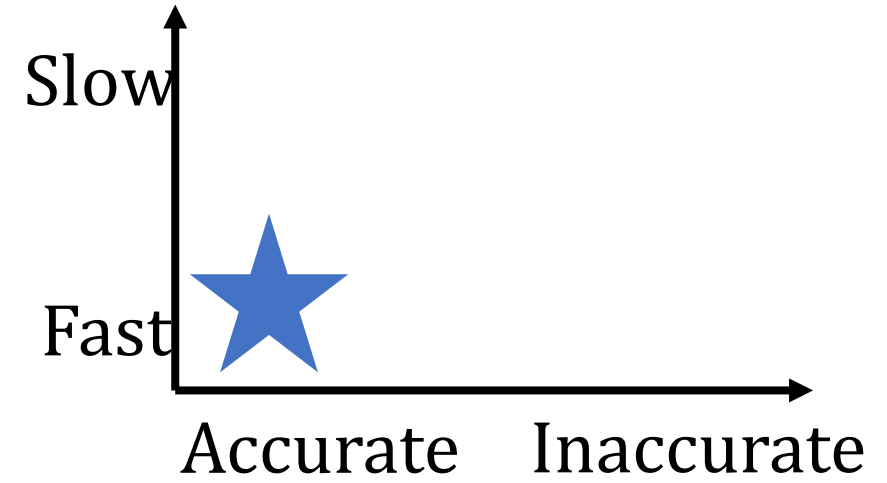


Neuroscience  
Biomolecular control...



工学

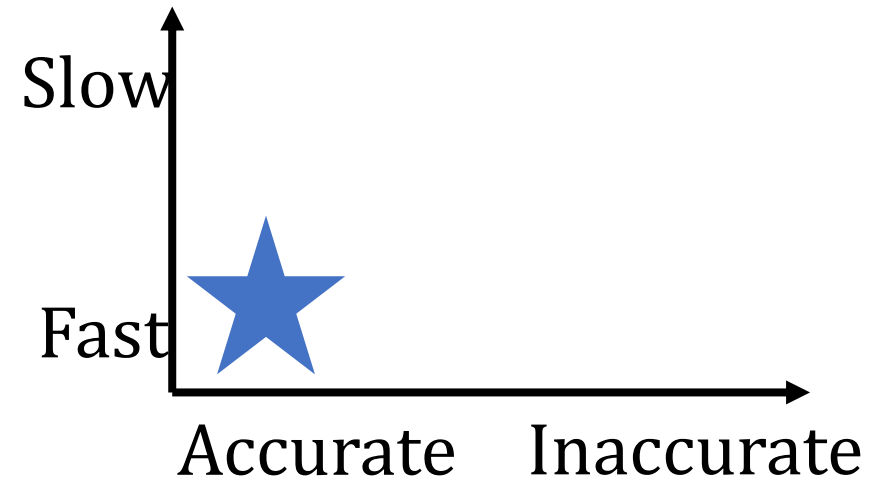
# Constraints vs robust performance in human



# Constraints vs robust performance in human

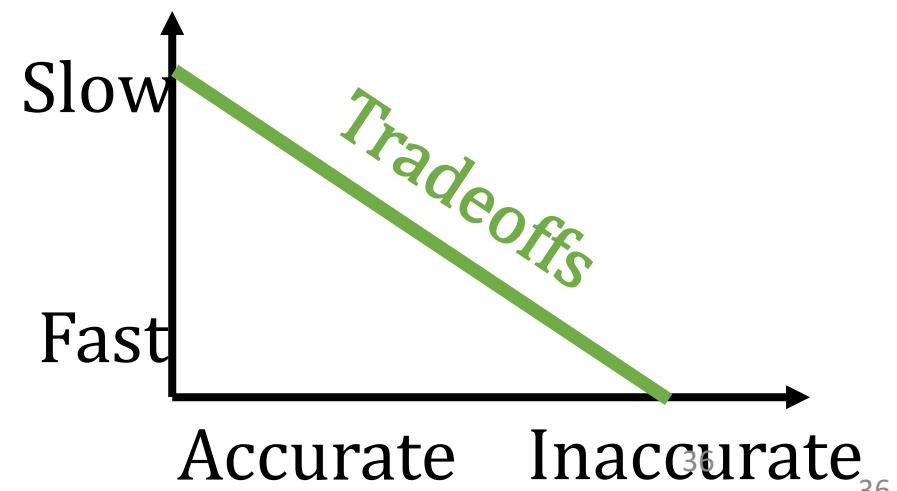
Task 1: Compensate for the head motion

Tokyo Tech



Task 2: Tracking a moving object

Tokyo Tech



# Constraints vs robust performance in human



Sensorimotor control

Biking,  
eye movement, etc.



A feedback loop  
(e.g. VOR, reflex)



Hardware  
(neurons, muscles)



Biological resources

Neurophysiology

