

On ∞ -Safety of Stochastic Differential Dynamics

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—Joint work with S. Feng, B. Xue, S. Sankaranarayanan, N. Zhan—



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Stochasticity

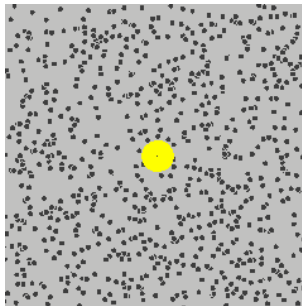


Stochasticity in Differential Dynamics



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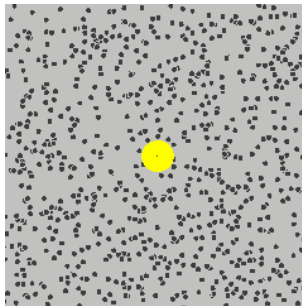
Brownian motion

Stochasticity in Differential Dynamics



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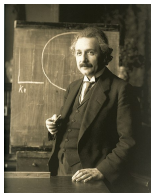
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Brownian motion

"The mathematical expectation of the speculator is zero."

[L. Bachelier, Théorie de la spéculation, 1900]

Stochasticity in Differential Dynamics



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R. Stratonovich

Stochastic Differential Equations (SDEs)

$$dX_t = b(X_t) dt + \sigma(X_t) dW_t, \quad t \geq 0.$$

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$$dX_t = b(X_t) dt + \sigma(X_t) dW_t, \quad t \geq 0.$$

The unique solution is the *stochastic process* $X_t(\omega) = X(t, \omega): [0, \infty) \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ s.t.

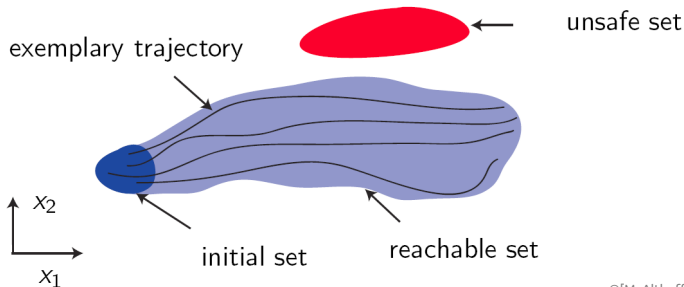
$$X_t = X_0 + \int_0^t b(X_s) ds + \int_0^t \sigma(X_s) dW_s.$$

The solution $\{X_t\}$ is also referred to as an *(Itô) diffusion process*.

Safety Verification of ODEs

Given $T \in \mathbb{R}, \mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n, \mathcal{X}_0 \subset \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X}_u \subset \mathcal{X}$, whether

$$\forall \mathbf{x}_0 \in \mathcal{X}_0: \left(\bigcup_{t \leq T} \mathbf{x}_{t, \mathbf{x}_0} \right) \cap \mathcal{X}_u = \emptyset \quad ?$$



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- System is **T -safe**, if no trajectory enters $\mathcal{X}_u$ over $[0, T]$; **Unbounded**: $T = \infty$.

∞ -Safety of SDEs

Bound the failure probability

$$P\left(\exists t \in [0, \infty): \tilde{X}_t \in \mathcal{X}_u\right), \quad \forall X_0 \in \{X \mid \text{supp}(X) \subseteq \mathcal{X}_0\},$$

∞ -Safety of SDEs

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where $\tilde{X}_t$ is the process that will stop at the boundary of $\mathcal{X}$:

$$\tilde{X}_t \triangleq X_{t \wedge \tau_{\mathcal{X}}} = \begin{cases} X(t, \omega) & \text{if } t \leq \tau(\omega), \\ X(\tau(\omega), \omega) & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

with $\tau_{\mathcal{X}} \triangleq \inf\{t \mid X_t \notin \mathcal{X}\}$.

∞ -Safety of SDEs

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with $\tau_{\mathcal{X}} \triangleq \inf\{t \mid X_t \notin \mathcal{X}\}$.

$$\phi \triangleq \text{"}\tilde{X}_t \text{ evolves within } \mathcal{X}\text{"}, \quad \psi \triangleq \text{"}\tilde{X}_t \text{ evolves into } \mathcal{X}_u\text{"}$$

$\Downarrow$

∞ -safety asks for a bound on $P(\phi \mathcal{U} \psi)$.

Overview of the Idea

Observe that for any $0 \leq T < \infty$,

$$P(\exists t \geq 0: \tilde{X}_t \in \mathcal{X}_u) \leq P(\exists t \in [0, T]: \tilde{X}_t \in \mathcal{X}_u) + P(\exists t \geq T: \tilde{X}_t \in \mathcal{X}_u).$$

⇒ S. Feng, M. Chen, B. Xue, S. Sankaranarayanan, N. Zhan : *Unbounded-time safety verification of stochastic differential dynamics*. CAV'20.

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Bounded by an *exponential barrier certificate*

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$$P(\exists t \geq 0: \tilde{X}_t \in \mathcal{X}_u) \leq \underbrace{P(\exists t \in [0, T]: \tilde{X}_t \in \mathcal{X}_u)}_{\text{Bounded by a time-dependent barrier certificate}} + \underbrace{P(\exists t \geq T: \tilde{X}_t \in \mathcal{X}_u)}_{\text{Bounded by an exponential barrier certificate}}.$$

Bounded by a *time-dependent barrier certificate*

Bounded by an *exponential barrier certificate*

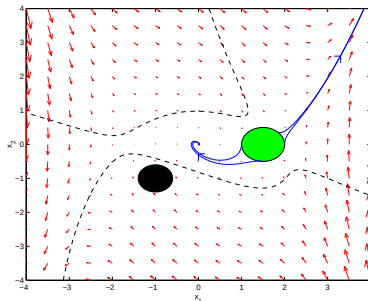
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Recap : Barrier Certificate Witnesses ∞ -Safety

$$B(\mathbf{x}) > 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}_u,$$

$$B(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}_0,$$

$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial \mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{x})b(\mathbf{x}) < 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \partial B.$$



©[S. Prajna & A. Jadbabaie, 2004]

Outline

- 1 Reducing ∞ -Safety to T -Safety
- 2 Synthesizing Stochastic BCs
- 3 Experimental Results
- 4 Concluding Remarks

Infinitesimal Generator

Definition (Infinitesimal generator [Øksendal, 2013])

Let $\{X_t\}$ be a diffusion process in $\mathbb{R}^n$. The *infinitesimal generator* $\mathcal{A}$ of X_t is defined by

$$\mathcal{A}f(s, \mathbf{x}) = \lim_{t \downarrow 0} \frac{E^{s, \mathbf{x}} [f(s + t, X_t)] - f(s, \mathbf{x})}{t}, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

Let $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{A}}$ denote the set of functions for which the limit exists for all $(s, \mathbf{x}) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n$.

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Let $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{A}}$ denote the set of functions for which the limit exists for all $(s, \mathbf{x}) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n$.

Lemma ([Øksendal, 2013])

Let $\{X_t\}$ be a diffusion process defined by an SDE. If $f \in C^{1,2}(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n)$ with compact support, then $f \in \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{A}}$ and

$$\mathcal{A}f(t, \mathbf{x}) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \sum_{i=1}^n b_i(\mathbf{x}) \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} (\sigma \sigma^T)_{ij} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}.$$

$\mathcal{A}f(t, \mathbf{x})$ generalizes the *Lie derivative* that captures the evolution of X_t along $f(t, \mathbf{x})$.

Exponential Stochastic Barrier Certificate

Theorem

Suppose there exists an essentially non-negative matrix $\Lambda \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$, together with an m -dimensional polynomial function (termed exponential stochastic barrier certificate) $V(\mathbf{x}) = (V_1(\mathbf{x}), V_2(\mathbf{x}), \dots, V_m(\mathbf{x}))^T$, with $V_i: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ for $1 \leq i \leq m$, satisfying

$$V(\mathbf{x}) \geq \mathbf{0} \quad \text{for } \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}, \quad (1)$$

$$\mathcal{A}V(\mathbf{x}) \leq -\Lambda V(\mathbf{x}) \quad \text{for } \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}, \quad (2)$$

$$\Lambda V(\mathbf{x}) \leq \mathbf{0} \quad \text{for } \mathbf{x} \in \partial\mathcal{X}. \quad (3)$$

Define a function

$$F(t, \mathbf{x}) \triangleq e^{\Lambda t} V(\mathbf{x}),$$

then every component of $F(t, \tilde{X}_t)$ is a supermartingale.

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Proof

Based on Dynkin's formula [Dynkin, 1965] and Fatou's lemma.

Doob's Supermartingale Inequality

Lemma (Doob's supermartingale inequality [Karatzas and Shreve, 2014])

Let $\{X_t\}_{t \geq 0}$ be a right continuous non-negative supermartingale adapted to a filtration $\{\mathcal{F}_t \mid t \geq 0\}$. Then for any $\lambda > 0$,

$$\lambda P\left(\sup_{t \geq 0} X_t \geq \lambda\right) \leq E[X_0].$$

A bound on the probability that a non-negative supermartingale exceeds some given value over a given time interval.

Exponentially Decreasing Bound on the Tail Failure Probability

For cases where $V(\mathbf{x})$ is a scalar function¹:

Proposition

Suppose there exists a positive constant $\Lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and a scalar exponential stochastic barrier certificate $V: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then,

$$P\left(\sup_{t \geq T} V(\tilde{X}_t) \geq \gamma\right) \leq \frac{E[V(X_0)]}{e^{\Lambda T} \gamma}$$

holds for any $\gamma > 0$ and $T \geq 0$. Moreover, if there exists $l > 0$ s.t.

$$V(\mathbf{x}) \geq l \quad \text{for all } \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}_u,$$

then

$$P(\exists t \geq T: \tilde{X}_t \in \mathcal{X}_u) \leq \frac{E[V(X_0)]}{e^{\Lambda T} l}$$

holds for any $T \geq 0$.

1. The result generalizes to the slightly more involved case where $V(\mathbf{x})$ is a vector function.

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holds for any $T \geq 0$.

Proof

Based on Doob's supermartingale inequality.

1. The result generalizes to the slightly more involved case where $V(\mathbf{x})$ is a vector function.

Exponentially Decreasing Bound on the Tail Failure Probability

$\forall \epsilon > 0. \exists \tilde{T} \geq 0$: the truncated $\tilde{T}$ -tail failure probability is bounded by ϵ :

Theorem

If there exists $\alpha > 0$, s.t. $\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}_0: V_i(\mathbf{x}) \leq \alpha$ holds for some $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$. Then for any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $\tilde{T} \geq 0$ s.t.

$$P\left(\exists t \geq \tilde{T}: \tilde{X}_t \in \mathcal{X}_u\right) \leq \epsilon.$$

Time-Dependent Stochastic Barrier Certificate

Theorem

Suppose there exists a constant $\eta > 0$ and a polynomial function (termed time-dependent stochastic barrier certificate) $H(t, \mathbf{x}): \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, satisfying

$$H(t, \mathbf{x}) \geq 0 \quad \text{for } (t, \mathbf{x}) \in [0, T] \times \mathcal{X}, \quad (4)$$

$$\mathcal{A}H(t, \mathbf{x}) \leq 0 \quad \text{for } (t, \mathbf{x}) \in [0, T] \times (\mathcal{X} \setminus \mathcal{X}_u), \quad (5)$$

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial t} \leq 0 \quad \text{for } (t, \mathbf{x}) \in [0, T] \times \partial \mathcal{X}, \quad (6)$$

$$H(t, \mathbf{x}) \geq \eta \quad \text{for } (t, \mathbf{x}) \in [0, T] \times \mathcal{X}_u. \quad (7)$$

Then,

$$P\left(\exists t \in [0, T]: \tilde{X}_t \in \mathcal{X}_u\right) \leq \frac{E[H(0, X_0)]}{\eta}.$$

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Then,

$$P\left(\exists t \in [0, T]: \tilde{X}_t \in \mathcal{X}_u\right) \leq \frac{E[H(0, X_0)]}{\eta}.$$

Proof

Based on Dynkin's formula and Doob's supermartingale inequality.

Time-Dependent Stochastic Barrier Certificate

Corollary

Suppose there exists $\beta > 0$, s.t. $H(0, \mathbf{x}) \leq \beta$ for $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}_0$. Then,

$$P\left(\exists t \in [0, T]: \tilde{X}_t \in \mathcal{X}_u\right) \leq \frac{\beta}{\eta}.$$

SDP Encoding for Synthesizing $V(\mathbf{x})$

$$\underset{a, \alpha}{\text{minimize}} \quad \alpha \quad (8)$$

$$\text{subject to} \quad V^a(\mathbf{x}) \geq 0 \quad \text{for } \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X} \quad (9)$$

$$\mathcal{A}V^a(\mathbf{x}) \leq -\Lambda V^a(\mathbf{x}) \quad \text{for } \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X} \quad (10)$$

$$\Lambda V^a(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0 \quad \text{for } \mathbf{x} \in \partial\mathcal{X} \quad (11)$$

$$V^a(\mathbf{x}) \geq 1 \quad \text{for } \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}_u \quad (12)$$

$$V^a(\mathbf{x}) \leq \alpha \mathbf{1} \quad \text{for } \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}_0 \quad (13)$$

SDP Encoding for Synthesizing $H(t, \mathbf{x})$

$$\underset{b, \beta}{\text{minimize}} \quad \beta \tag{14}$$

$$\text{subject to} \quad H^b(t, \mathbf{x}) \geq 0 \quad \text{for } (t, \mathbf{x}) \in [0, T] \times \mathcal{X} \tag{15}$$

$$\mathcal{A}H^b(t, \mathbf{x}) \leq 0 \quad \text{for } (t, \mathbf{x}) \in [0, T] \times (\mathcal{X} \setminus \mathcal{X}_u) \tag{16}$$

$$\frac{\partial H^b}{\partial t} \leq 0 \quad \text{for } (t, \mathbf{x}) \in [0, T] \times \partial \mathcal{X} \tag{17}$$

$$H^b(t, \mathbf{x}) \geq 1 \quad \text{for } (t, \mathbf{x}) \in [0, T] \times \mathcal{X}_u \tag{18}$$

$$H^b(0, \mathbf{x}) \leq \beta \quad \text{for } \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}_0 \tag{19}$$

Example : Population Dynamics

Example (Population growth [Panik, 2017])

$$dX_t = -X_t dt + \sqrt{2}/2 X_t dW_t.$$

∞ -safety setting : $\mathcal{X} = \{\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} \geq 0\}$, $\mathcal{X}_0 = \{\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} = 1\}$, $\mathcal{X}_u = \{\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} \geq 2\}$.

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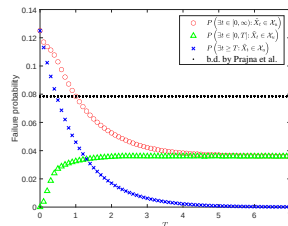
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$$V(\mathbf{x}) = 0.000001630047868 - 0.000048762786972\mathbf{x} \\ + 0.125025533525219\mathbf{x}^2 + 0.000000001603294\mathbf{x}^3.$$

$$P(\exists t \geq T: \tilde{X}_t \in \mathcal{X}_u) \leq \frac{0.12498}{e^T} \quad \forall T > 0.$$



Example : Harmonic Oscillator

Example (Harmonic oscillator [Hafstein et al., 2018])

$$dX_t = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \omega \\ -\omega & -k \end{pmatrix} X_t dt + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\sigma \end{pmatrix} X_t dW_t.$$

Constants : $\omega = 1, k = 7, \sigma = 2$.

∞ -safety setting : $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}^n, \mathcal{X}_0 = \{(x_1, x_2) \mid -1.2 \leq x_1 \leq 0.8, -0.6 \leq x_2 \leq 0.4\},$
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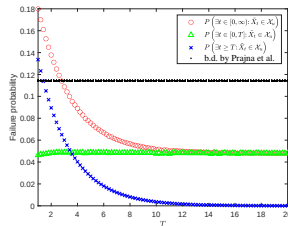
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 $\mathcal{X}_u = \{(x_1, x_2) \mid |x_1| \geq 2\}.$

$\forall T \geq 1:$

$$P(\exists t \geq T: \tilde{X}_t \in \mathcal{X}_u) \leq \frac{0.19927}{0.00005e^{0.2T} + 1.00025e^{0.4T}}.$$



Summary

For any $0 \leq T < \infty$,

$$P(\exists t \geq 0: \tilde{X}_t \in \mathcal{X}_u) \leq \underbrace{P(\exists t \in [0, T]: \tilde{X}_t \in \mathcal{X}_u)}_{\text{Bounded by a time-dependent barrier certificate}} + \underbrace{P(\exists t \geq T: \tilde{X}_t \in \mathcal{X}_u)}_{\text{Bounded by an exponential barrier certificate}}.$$

Bounded by a *time-dependent barrier certificate*

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∞ -Safety of Probabilistic Programs?