



# Tool for Probabilistic Safety Verification of Stochastic Hybrid Systems

Author: Nandita Andromeda Mitra, Rutgers University  
Mentors: Saurabh Amin and Alessandro Abate

## Abstract

Many safety critical systems like air traffic control involve modeling their behavior as *hybrid systems*. The effect of uncertain system dynamics and external inputs can be incorporated by modeling the system as a controlled stochastic hybrid system (SHS). Design of controllers for SHS that guarantees a certain safety criterion can be posed as a quantitative verification problem. The goal of this project is to develop a computational tool for stochastic reachability analysis of a benchmark SHS.

## Introduction

Stochastic hybrid systems (SHS) model probabilistic uncertainty in hybrid systems. An important problem in SHS is probabilistic reachability:

- With what probability the system can reach a certain set during some time horizon?
- (If possible), select a *control input* to ensure that the system remains outside the set with *sufficiently high probability*
- When the set is unsafe, the problem becomes a *quantitative safety verification problem*.

- Temperature in two rooms is controlled by one heater. Safe set for both rooms is 20 – 25 (°F).
- Goal is to keep the temperatures within corresponding safe sets with a high probability.
- SHS model

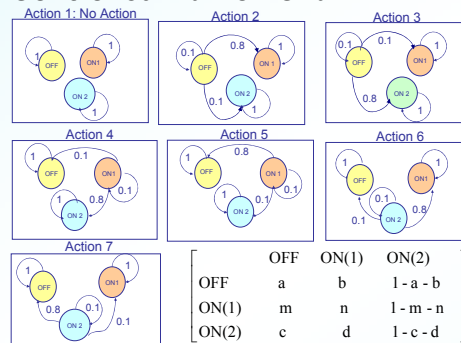
- Two continuous states:
- Three modes: OFF, ON (Room 1), ON (Room 2)
- Continuous evolution in mode ON (Room 1)

$$x_1(k+1) = x_1(k) + \{\alpha_1(x_a - x_1(k)) + \alpha_c(x_2(k) - x_1(k)) + k_1\}\Delta t + n_1(k)$$

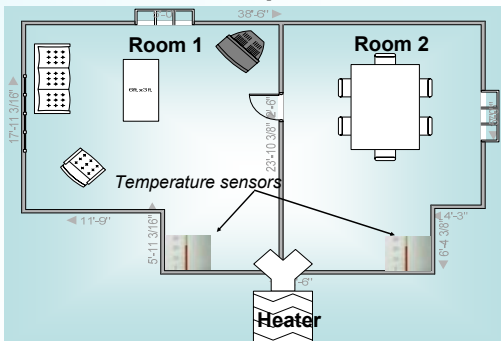
$$x_2(k+1) = x_2(k) + \{\alpha_2(x_a - x_2(k)) + \alpha_c(x_1(k) - x_2(k))\}\Delta t + n_2(k)$$

- Mode switches defined by controlled Markov chain with seven discrete actions.

## Controlled Markov Chain



## Motivational Example



## Maximal Probabilistic Safe set Computation

For safety level  $(1 - \epsilon)$ , the maximal safe set

$$S^* = \{s \in \mathcal{S} : \inf_{\mu \in \mathcal{M}_m} P_s^{\mu}(A) \leq \epsilon\}$$

Dynamic programming (DP) recursion

Define the functions  $V_k^* : \mathcal{S} \rightarrow [0, 1]$  by

$$V_0^*(s) = 1_{A^c}(s)$$

$$V_k^*(s) = \sup_{\mu \in \mathcal{M}_m} 1_{A^c}(s) \int_{\mathcal{S}} V_{k+1}^*(s_{k+1}) T_k(ds_{k+1} | s, \mu, \sigma)$$

Then,  $V_0^*(s) = 1 - \inf_{\mu \in \mathcal{M}_m} P_s^{\mu}(A)$  for all  $s \in \mathcal{S}$  so,

$$S^* = \{s \in \mathcal{S} : V_0^*(s) \geq 1 - \epsilon\}$$

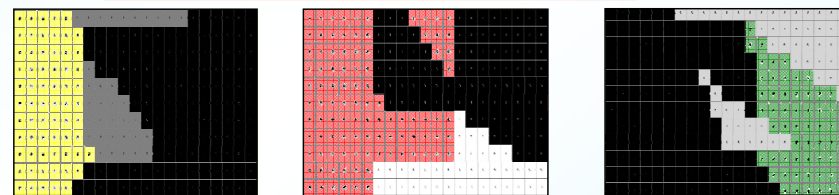
Optimal policy is shown to be

$$\mu_k^*(s) = \arg \sup_{\mu \in \mathcal{M}_m} \int_{\mathcal{S}} 1_{A^c}(s) \int_{\mathcal{S}} V_{k+1}^*(s_{k+1}) T_k(ds_{k+1} | s, \mu, \sigma)$$

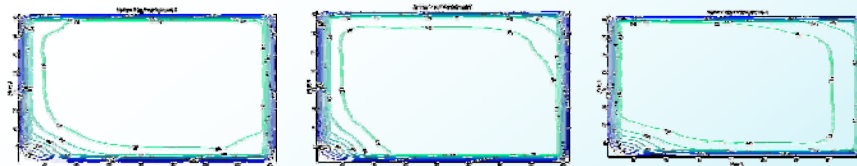
## Results

Stochastic DP implemented for time horizon of 150 minutes using time step of 1 minute and spatial discretization of 0.25 °F.

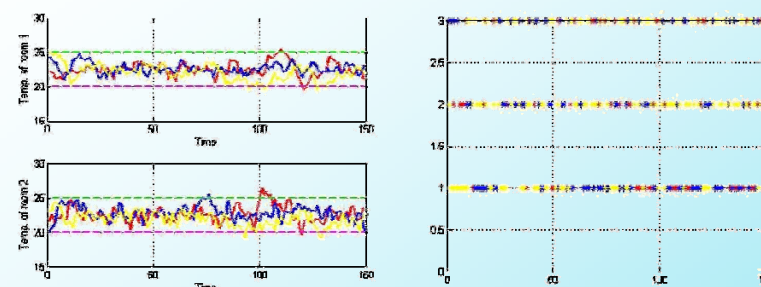
Optimal actions for 149<sup>th</sup> minute and three modes



Optimal safety probability for three modes



Three hybrid trajectories using optimal control law



## Conclusions and Future Work

- Implemented stochastic DP algorithm with multiplicative cost function for computing probabilistic maximal safe sets and optimal feedback policy for probabilistic safety verification of a two-room thermostat modeled as a controlled discrete time SHS.
- Future work will include efficient implementation of stochastic DP for multi-room, multi-heater case to address computational issues.
- Application to other applications such as air traffic control.

