

SAFETY ANALYSIS UNDER PROBABILISTIC TARGET CONSTRAINTS

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This work focuses on a safety analysis problem under probabilistic target constraints. Given a probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ and filtration $(\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$, we consider a controlled stochastic differential equation $X_s = X_{t,x}^u(s)$ in \mathbb{R}^d :

$$\begin{aligned} dX(s) &= b(s, X(s), u(s))ds + \sigma(s, X(s), u(s))dW(s), & s \in [t, T], \\ X(t) &= x, \end{aligned}$$

where $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $T > 0$, u belongs to the control set \mathcal{U} (the set of progressively measurable functions taking values in a given compact set U), $W(s)$ is an m -dimensional Brownian motion, and $\sigma : [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d \times U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d \times m}$ and $b : [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d \times U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ are given functions.

Given a non empty closed set \mathcal{C} of \mathbb{R}^d , the problem consists in finding the set Ω_t^ρ of all points x such that there exists some control law u and an associated process $X_{t,x}^u$ that belongs to \mathcal{C} at time T with probability larger than ρ :

$$\mathbb{P}[X_{t,x}^u(T) \in \mathcal{C}] \geq \rho,$$

where $t > 0$ and $\rho \in [0, 1]$ corresponds to a given probability of success we want to achieve.

The main motivation of this study is the collision avoidance problem under uncertainties on the dynamics. Usually this class of problems is studied in the two-player games setting, where the (deterministic) uncertainties are modeled as a second player and the safety regions are determined by considering the "worst-case" on the uncertainties. Here, our aim is to decompose the domain into different safety regions corresponding to different levels of risk.

In order to characterize Ω_t^ρ , one can extend the level-set approach and consider a control problem with probabilistic state constraints. Such problems have been recently studied, see for instance [1].

Here, we investigate a simpler idea, and consider the control problem

$$v(t, x) := \operatorname{ess\,sup}_{u \in \mathcal{U}} \mathbb{P}[X_{t,x}^u(T) \in \mathcal{C}].$$

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With this single control problem, each level set of $v(t, \cdot)$ will correspond to a safety region Ω_t^ρ with an adequate risk level ρ . Moreover, the value v can be characterized in terms of a second order Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman equation. An approximation procedure will be proposed, using a new semi-Lagrangian scheme, based on ideas of [2, 3].

This study will be illustrated on a simple model of collision avoidance involving an UAV (unmanned aircraft vehicle) and an intruder aircraft (see for instance [4]).

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