

# Scaling Hamilton-Jacobi Reachability Analysis for Robotics

Somil Bansal  
University of California, Berkeley

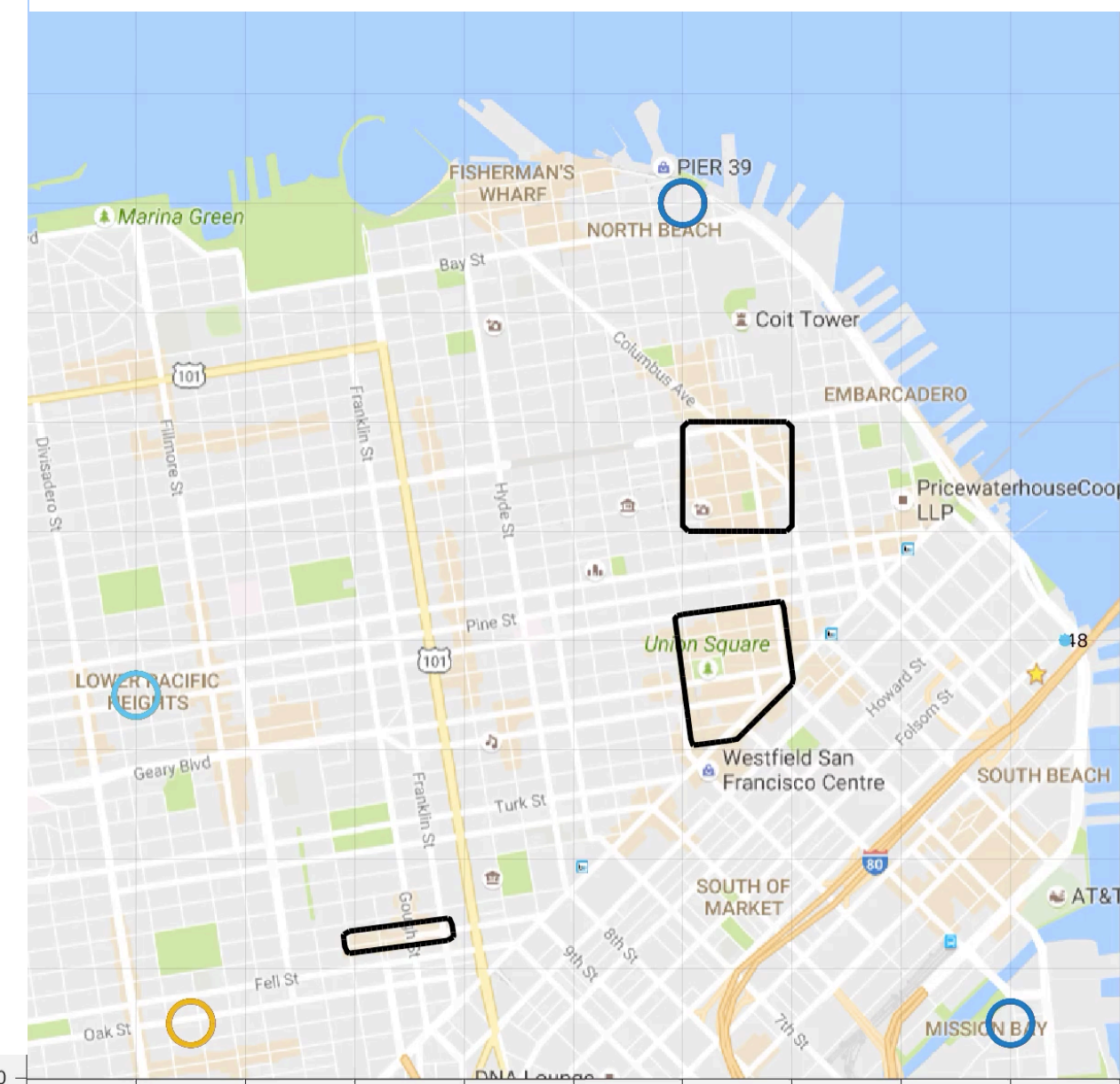




***Safety-Critical*** systems

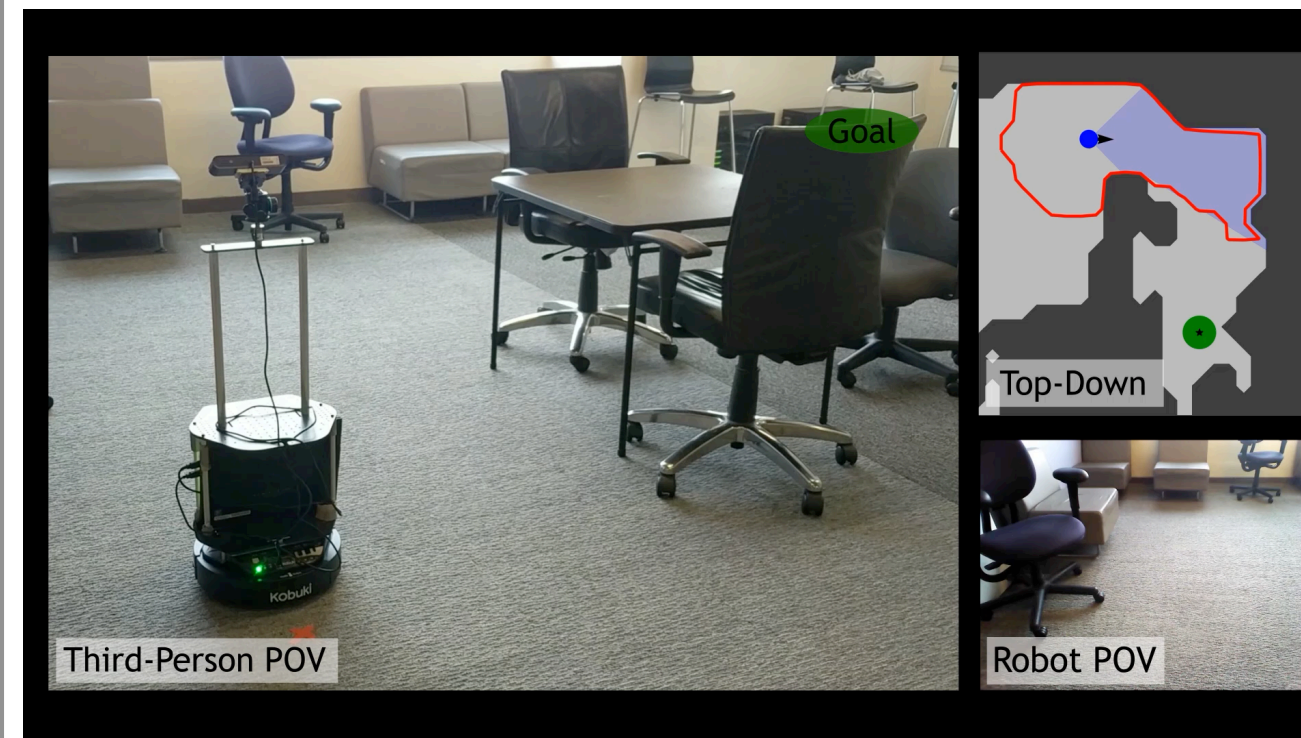
# Hamilton-Jacobi Reachability for Robotics

## Safe Multi-Vehicle Trajectory Planning



[ACC'17, TCST'17, TCST'19]

## Safe Monitoring of Learning-Enabled Systems



[CDC'19]

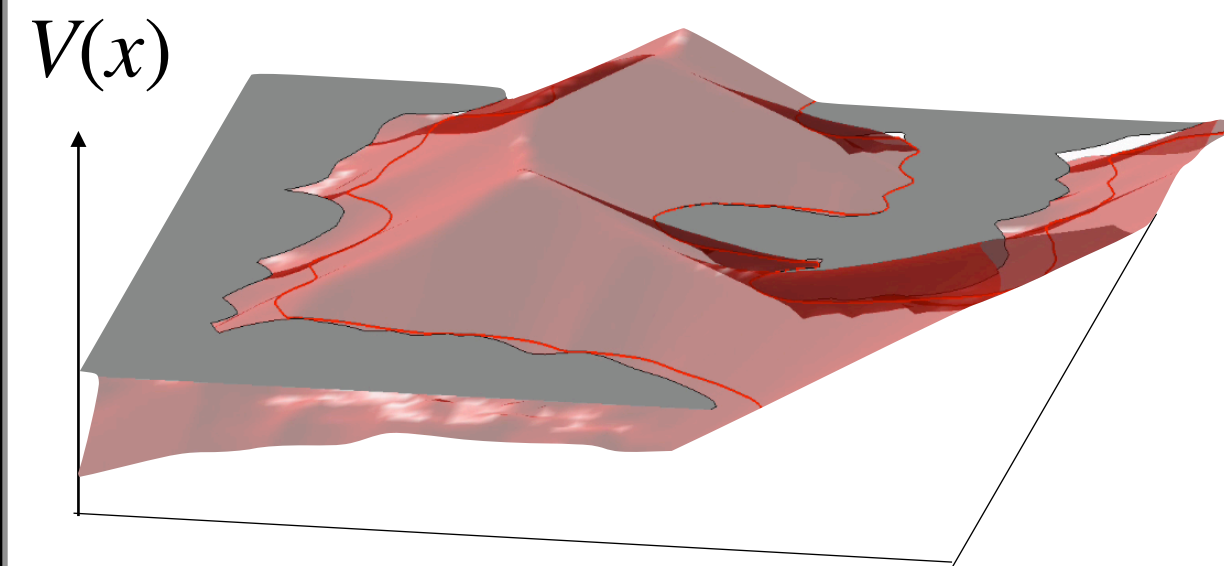
## Safe Operation Around Humans



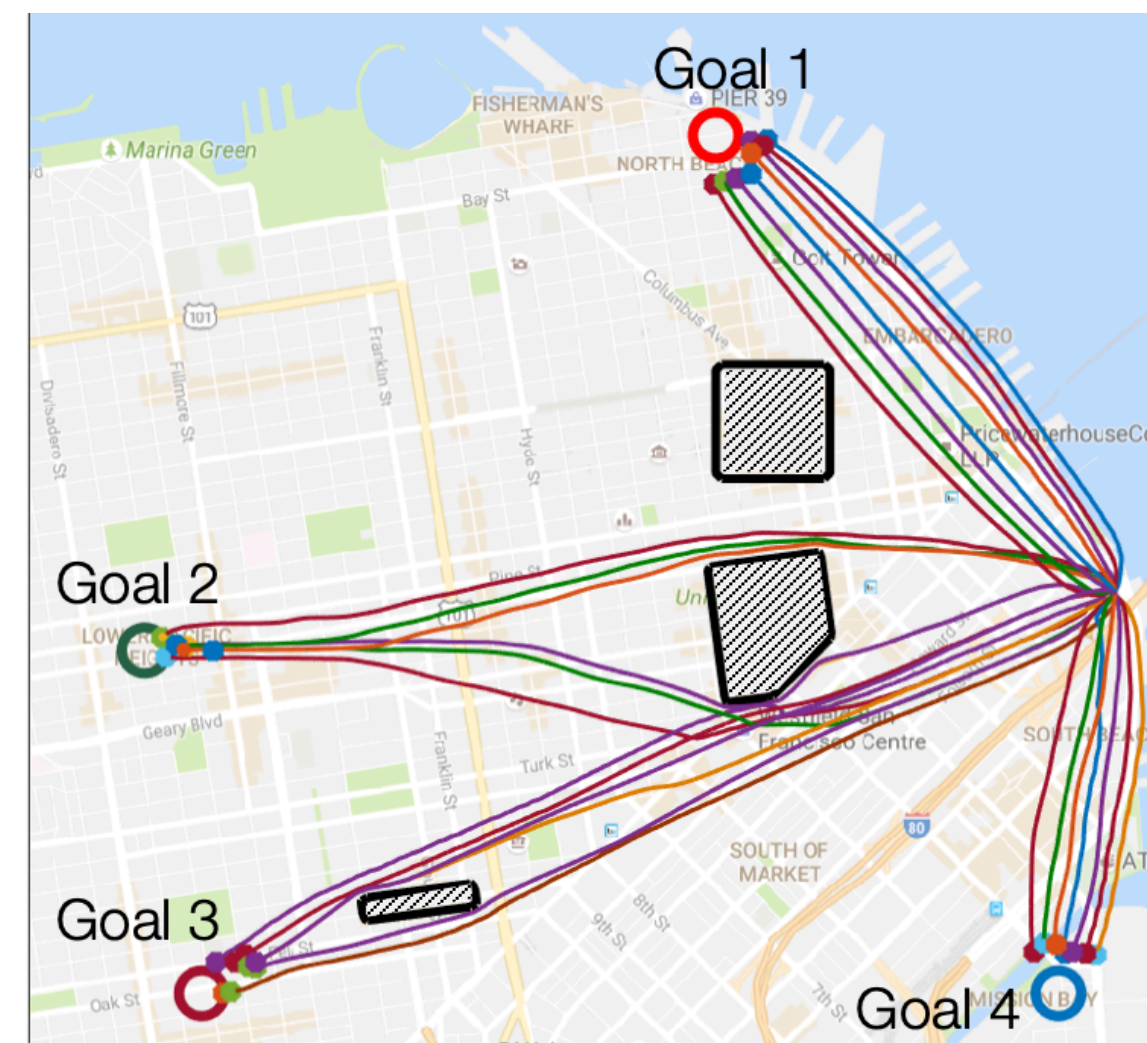
[ICRA'20]

# Outline

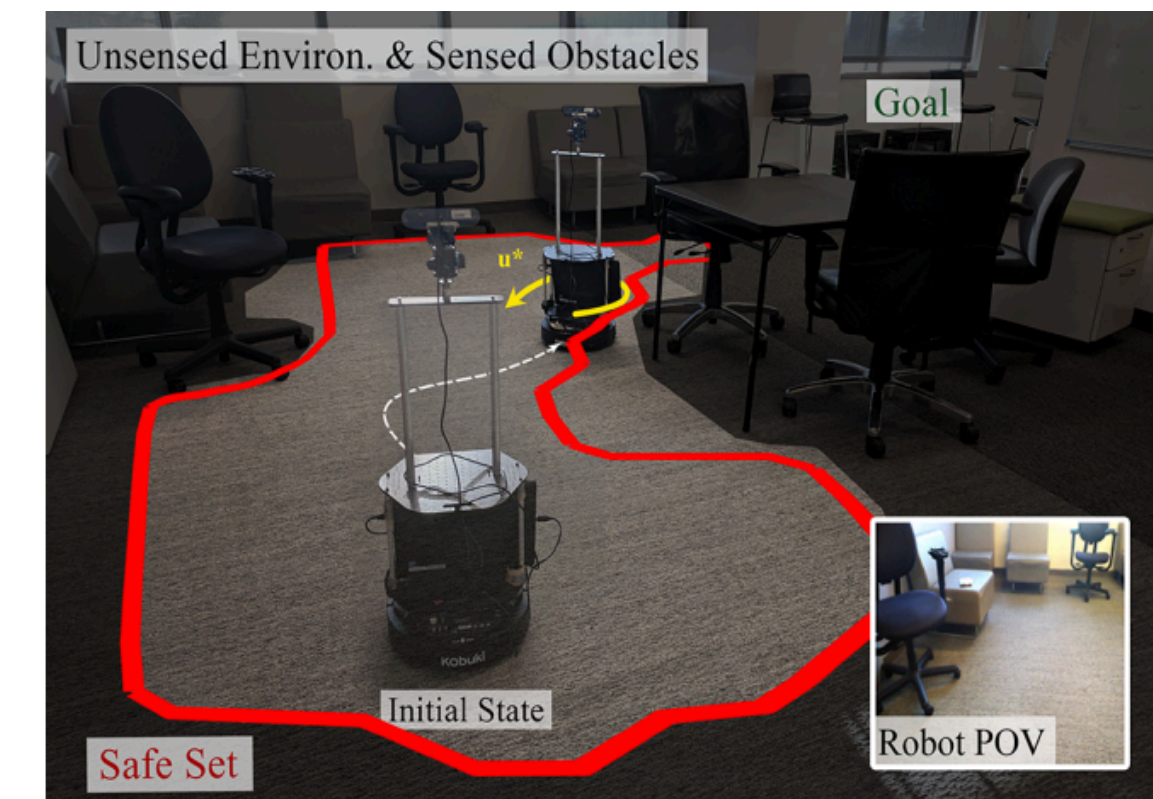
## Hamilton-Jacobi Reachability Analysis



## Safe Multi-Vehicle Trajectory Planning



## Safe Learning-based Perception Systems



$$\dot{p}_x = v \cos(\theta) + d_x$$

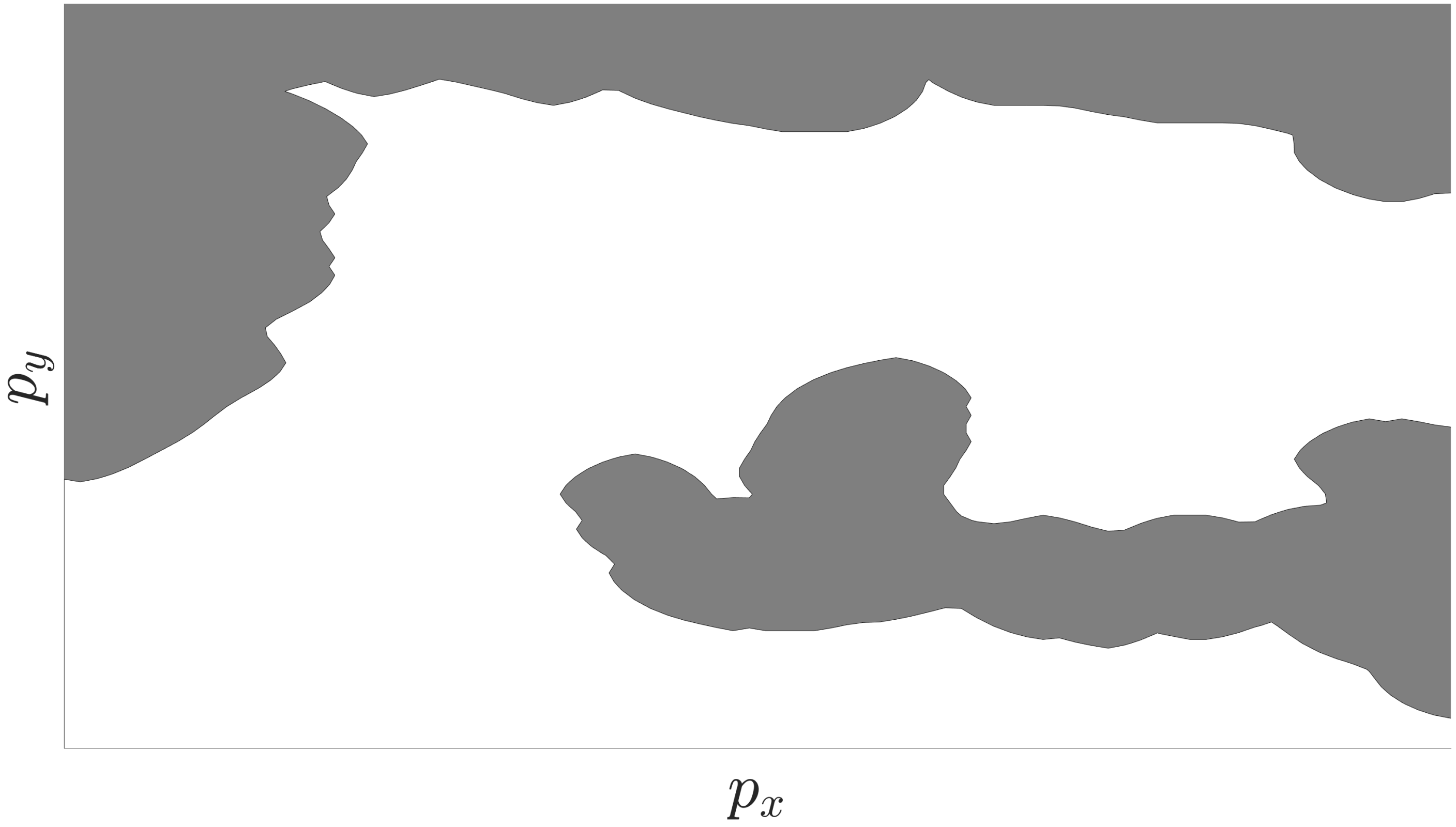
$$\dot{p}_y = v \sin(\theta) + d_y$$

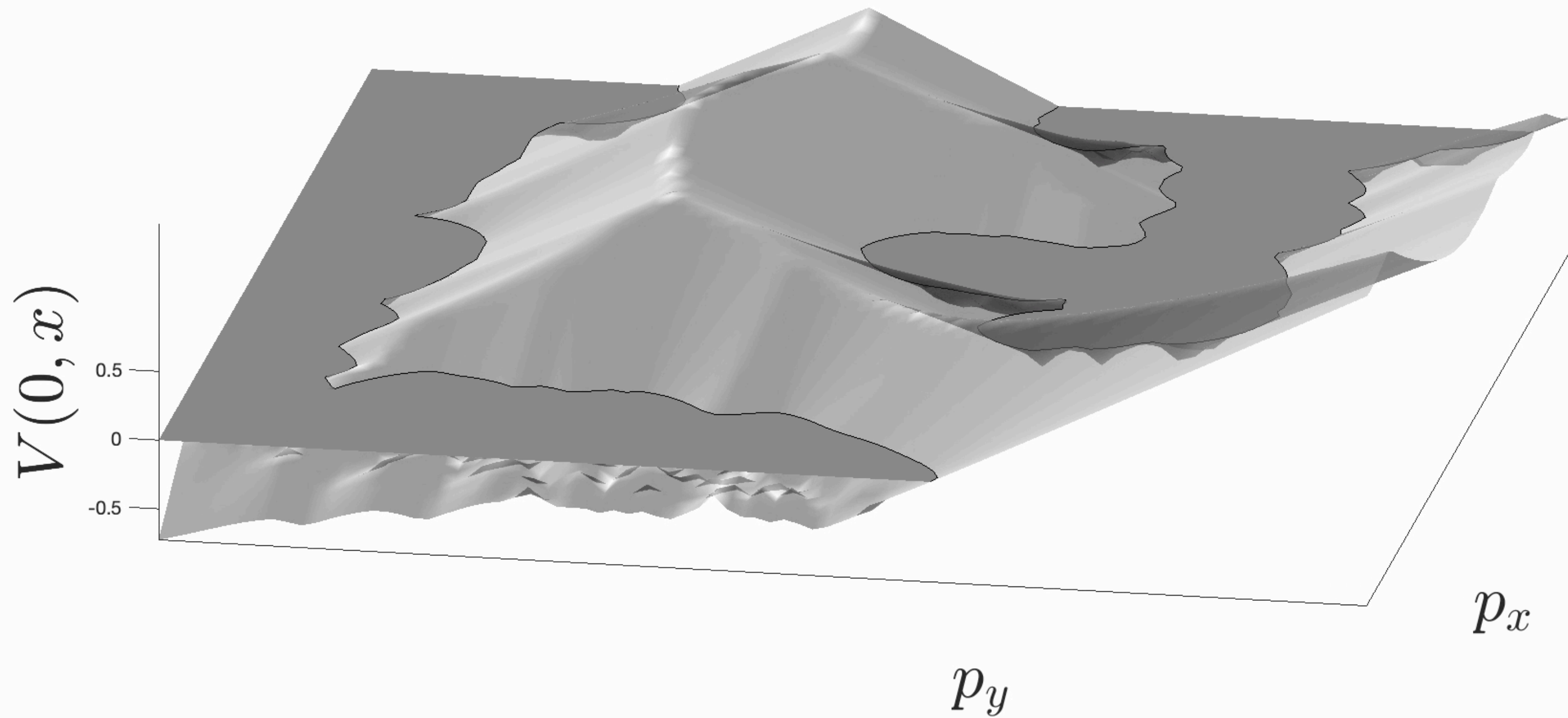
$$\dot{v} = a$$

$$\dot{\theta} = \omega$$

Obstacles

Free space



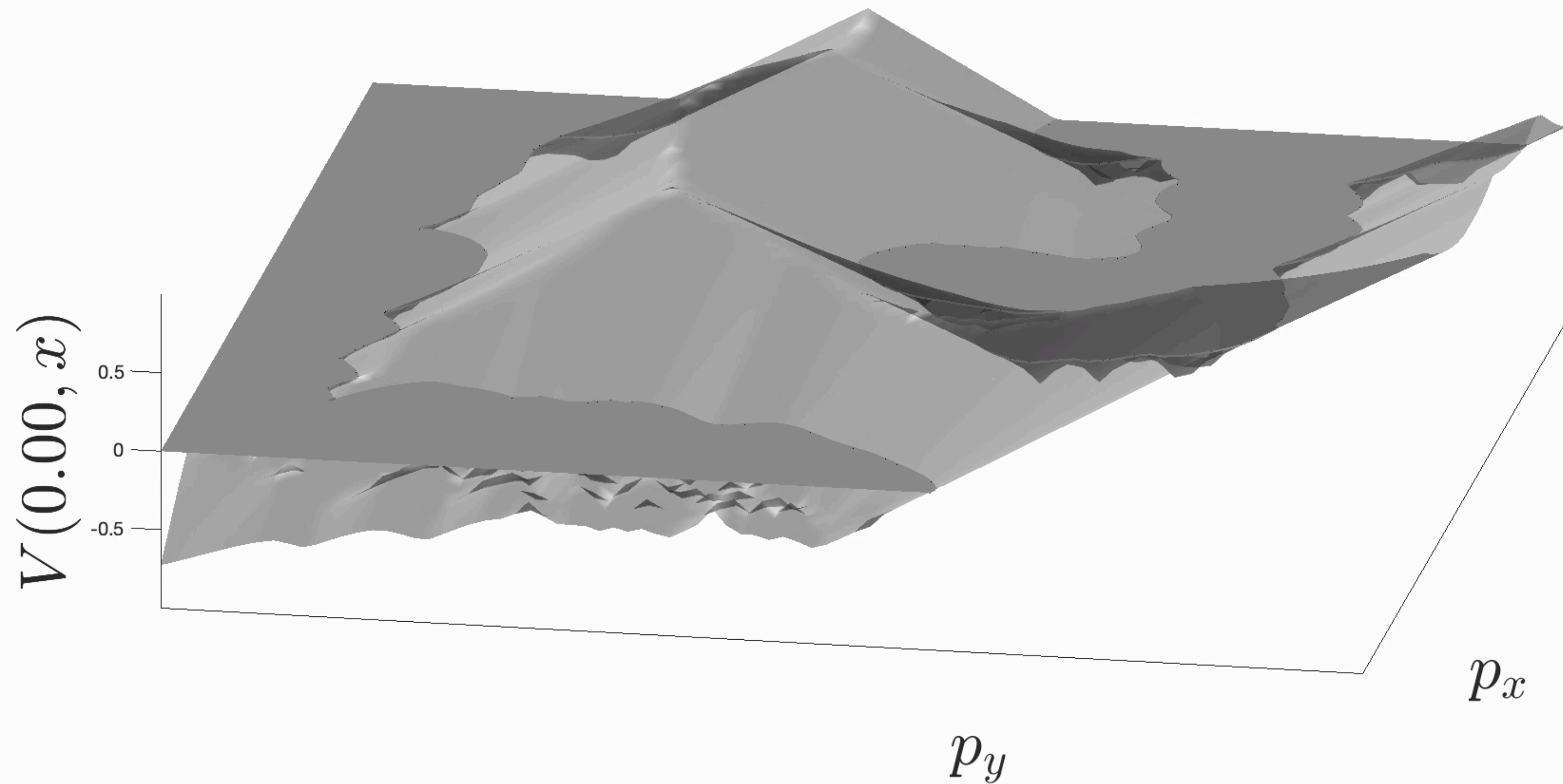


Unsafe States

$$\mathcal{L} = \{x : l(x) \leq 0\}$$

Value Function

$$V(T, x) = \min_{\mathbf{d}[\cdot]} \max_{\mathbf{u}(\cdot)} \min_{t \in [0, T]} l(\zeta(t; x, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d}[\mathbf{u}])))$$



Value Function

$$V(T, x) = \min_{\mathbf{d}[\cdot]} \max_{\mathbf{u}(\cdot)} \min_{t \in [0, T]} l(\zeta(t; x, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d}[\mathbf{u}])))$$

Dynamic Programming

$$\min \left\{ \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + H(x, \nabla V), \quad l(x) - V(t, x) \right\} = 0$$

Backward Reachable Set

$$\mathcal{V} = \{x : V(T, x) \leq 0\}$$

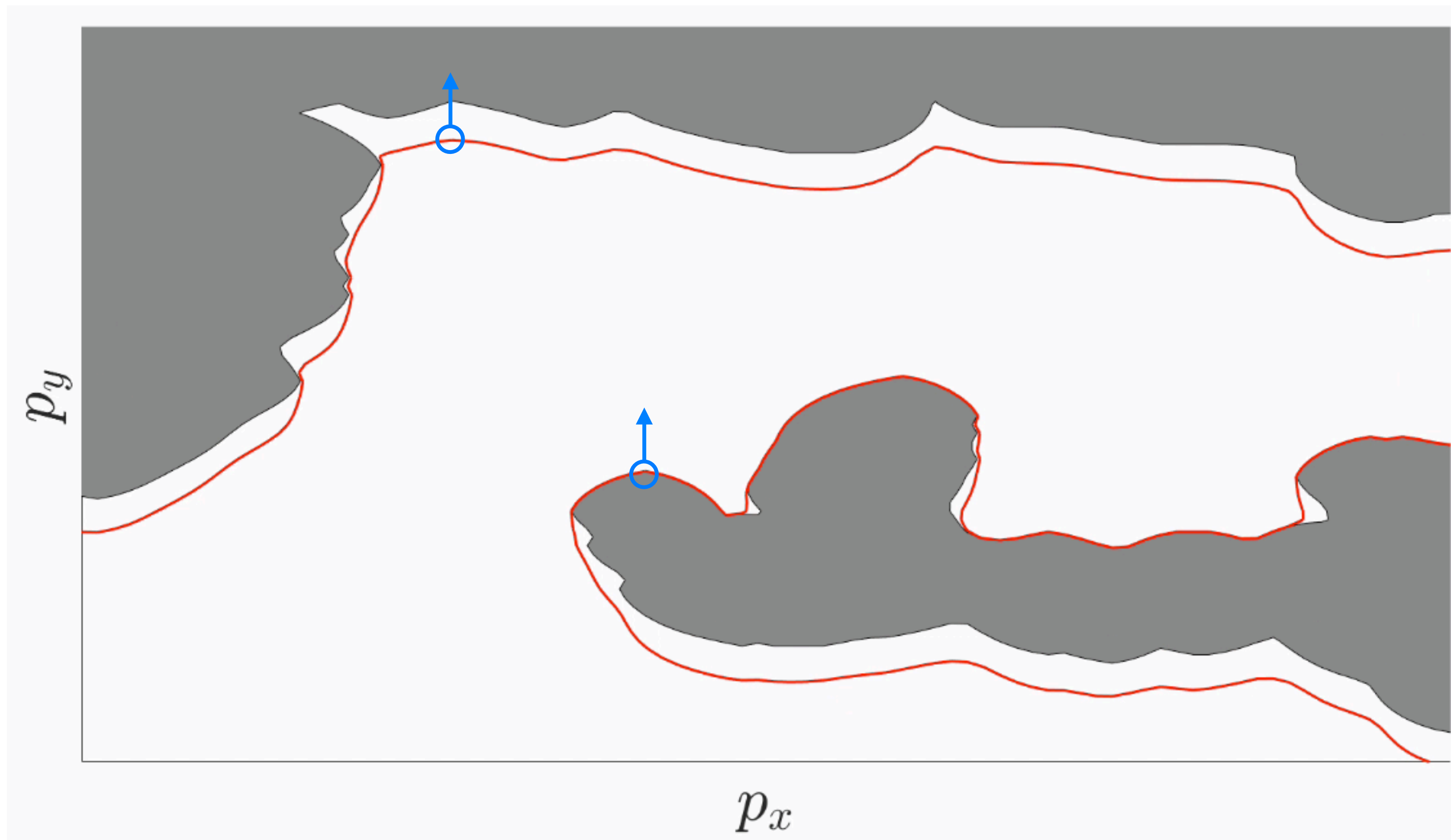
$$V(0, x) = l(x)$$

Optimal Control

$$\mathbf{u}^* = \arg \max_{\mathbf{u}} \min_{\mathbf{d}} \nabla V(t, x) \cdot f(x, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$$

Hamiltonian

$$H(x, \nabla V) = \max_{\mathbf{u}} \min_{\mathbf{d}} \nabla V(t, x) \cdot f(x, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$$



**Slice** :  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}, \quad v > 0$

Dynamics

$$\dot{p}_x = v \cos(\theta) + d_x$$

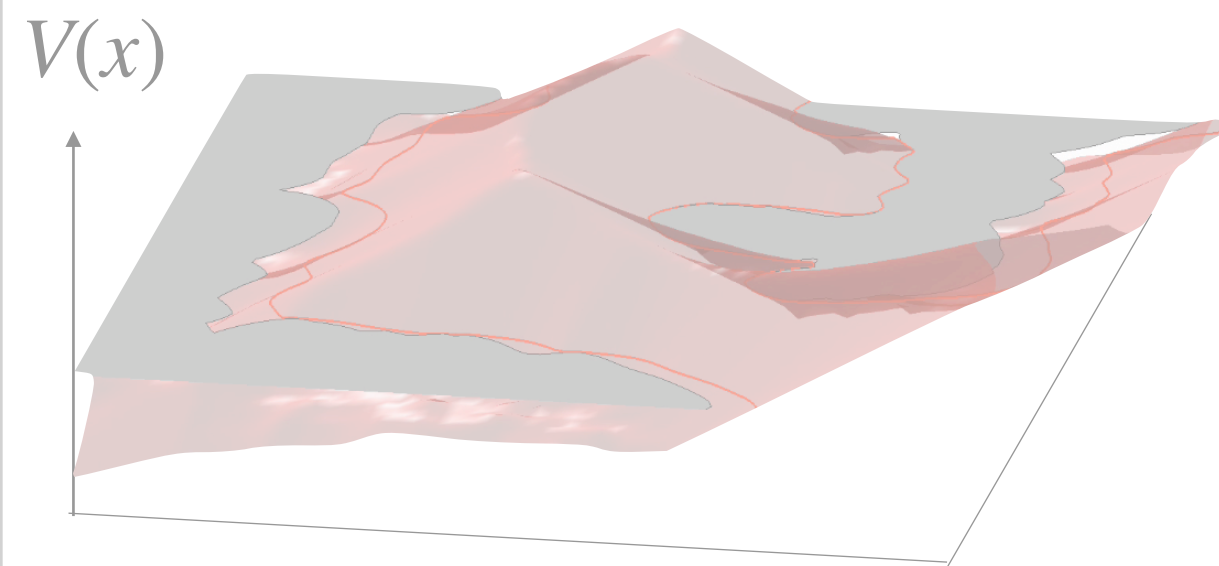
$$\dot{p}_y = v \sin(\theta) + d_y$$

$$\dot{v} = a$$

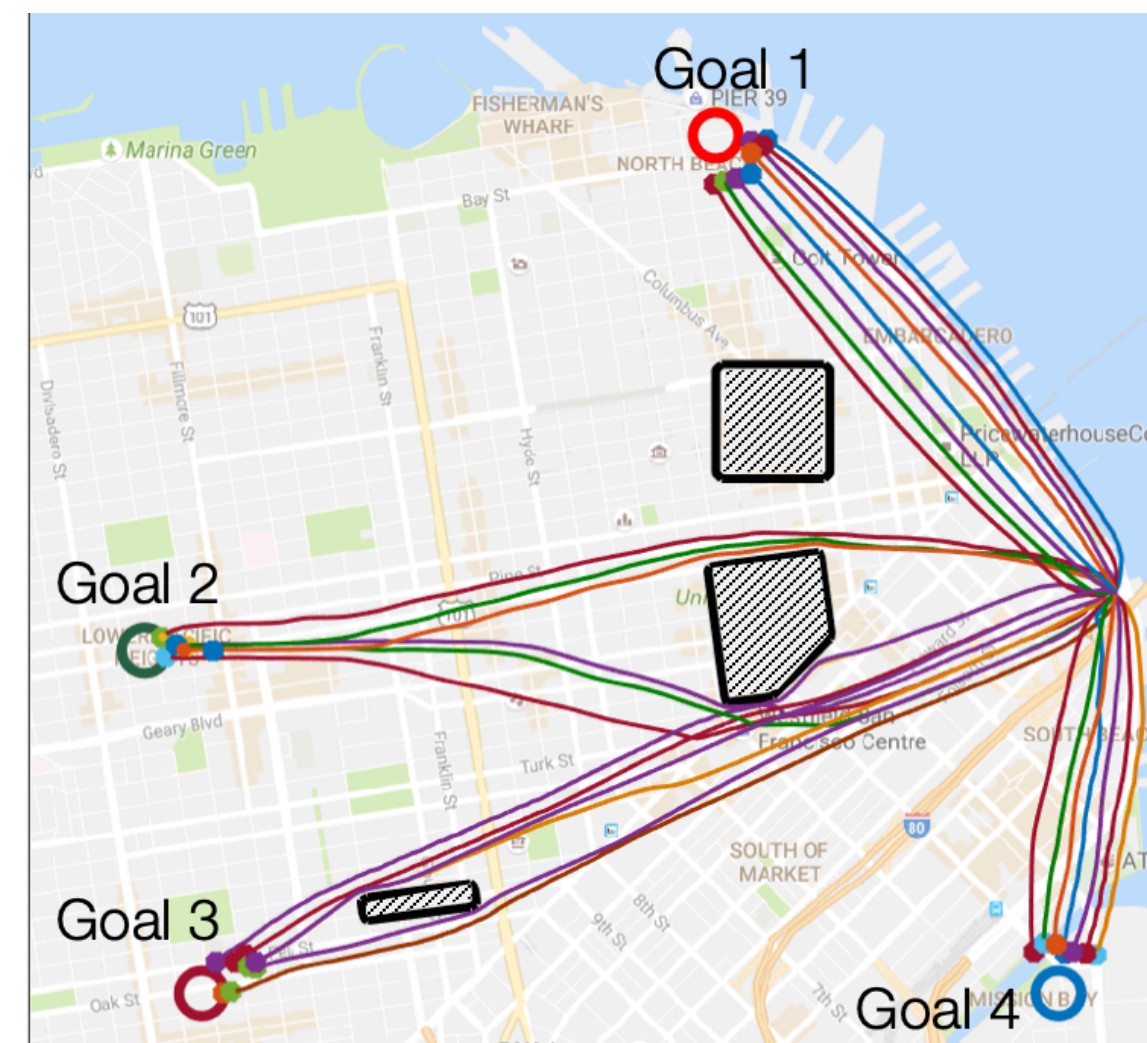
$$\dot{\theta} = \omega$$

# Outline

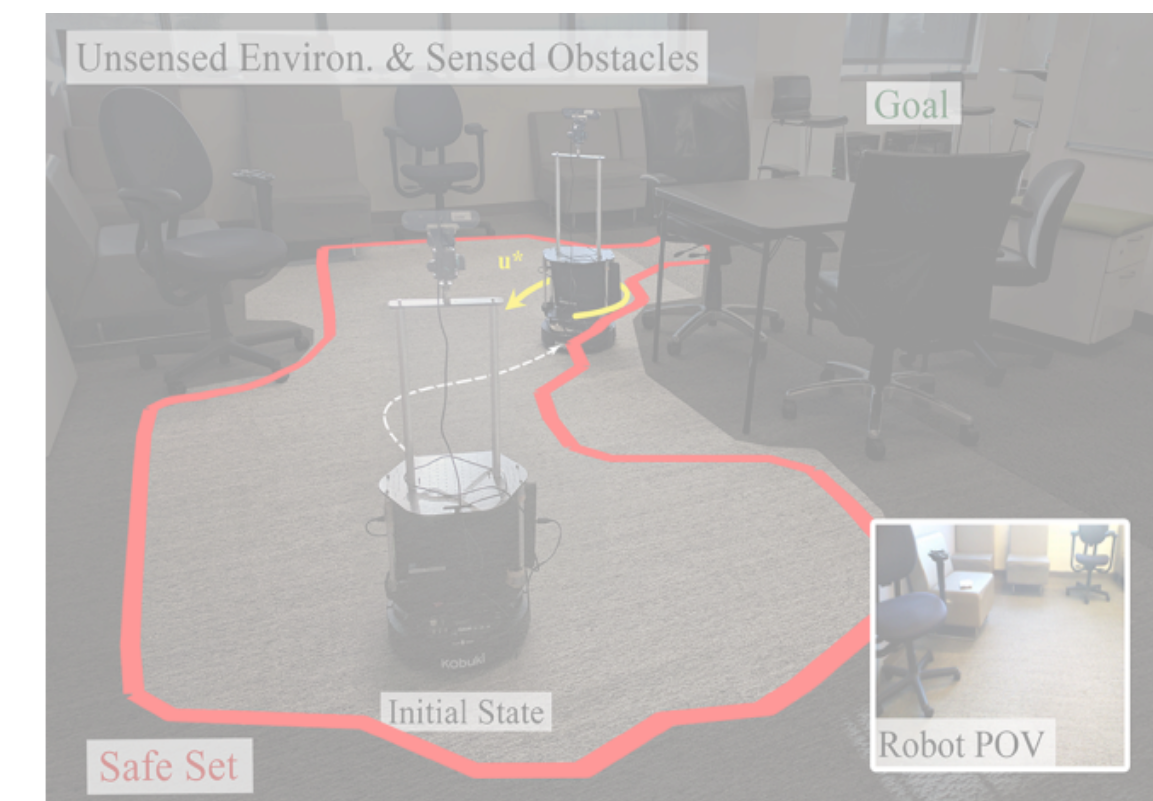
## Hamilton-Jacobi Reachability Analysis



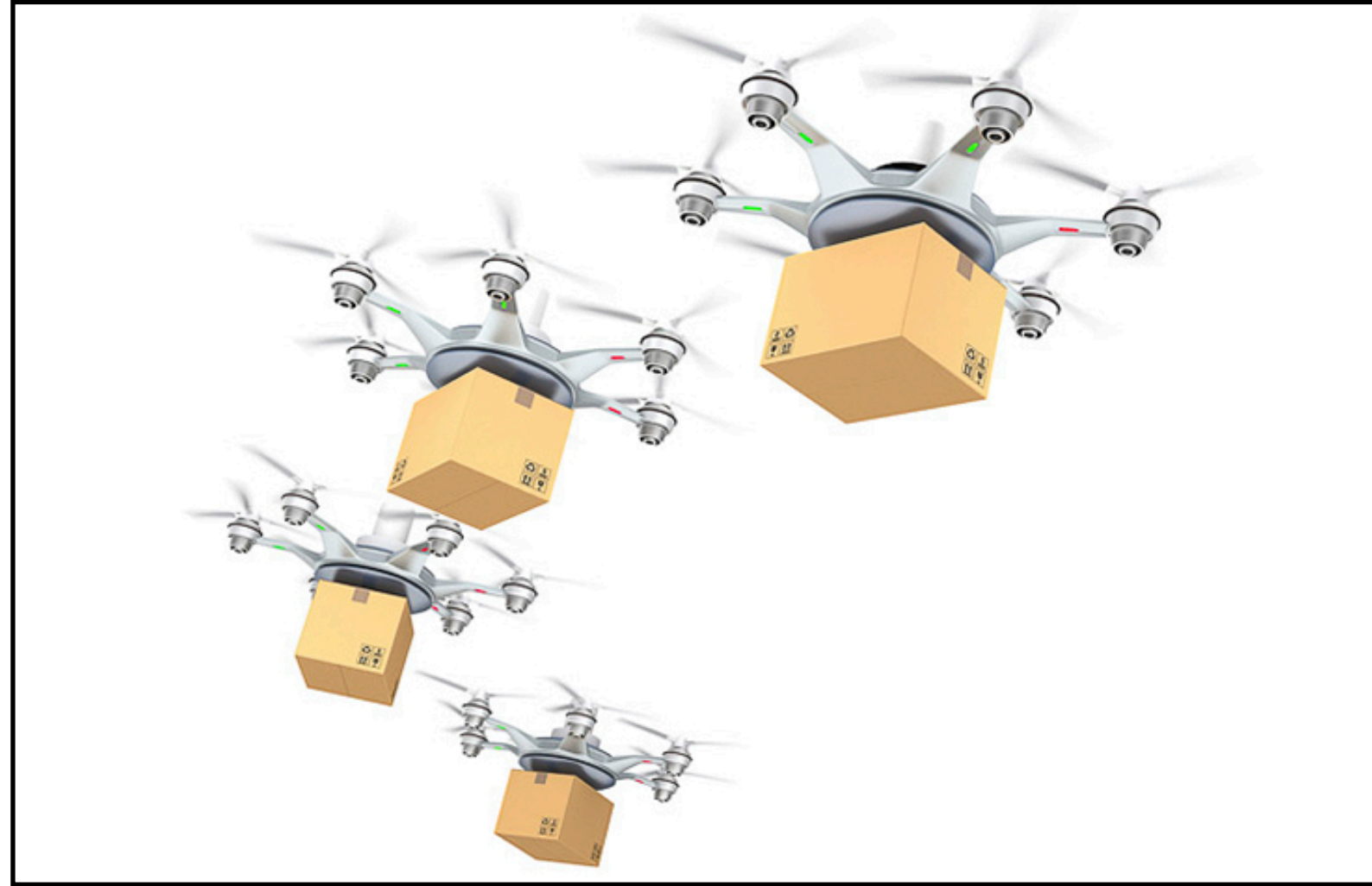
## Safe Multi-Vehicle Trajectory Planning



## Safe Learning-based Perception Systems







# Safe Multi-Vehicle Trajectory Planning

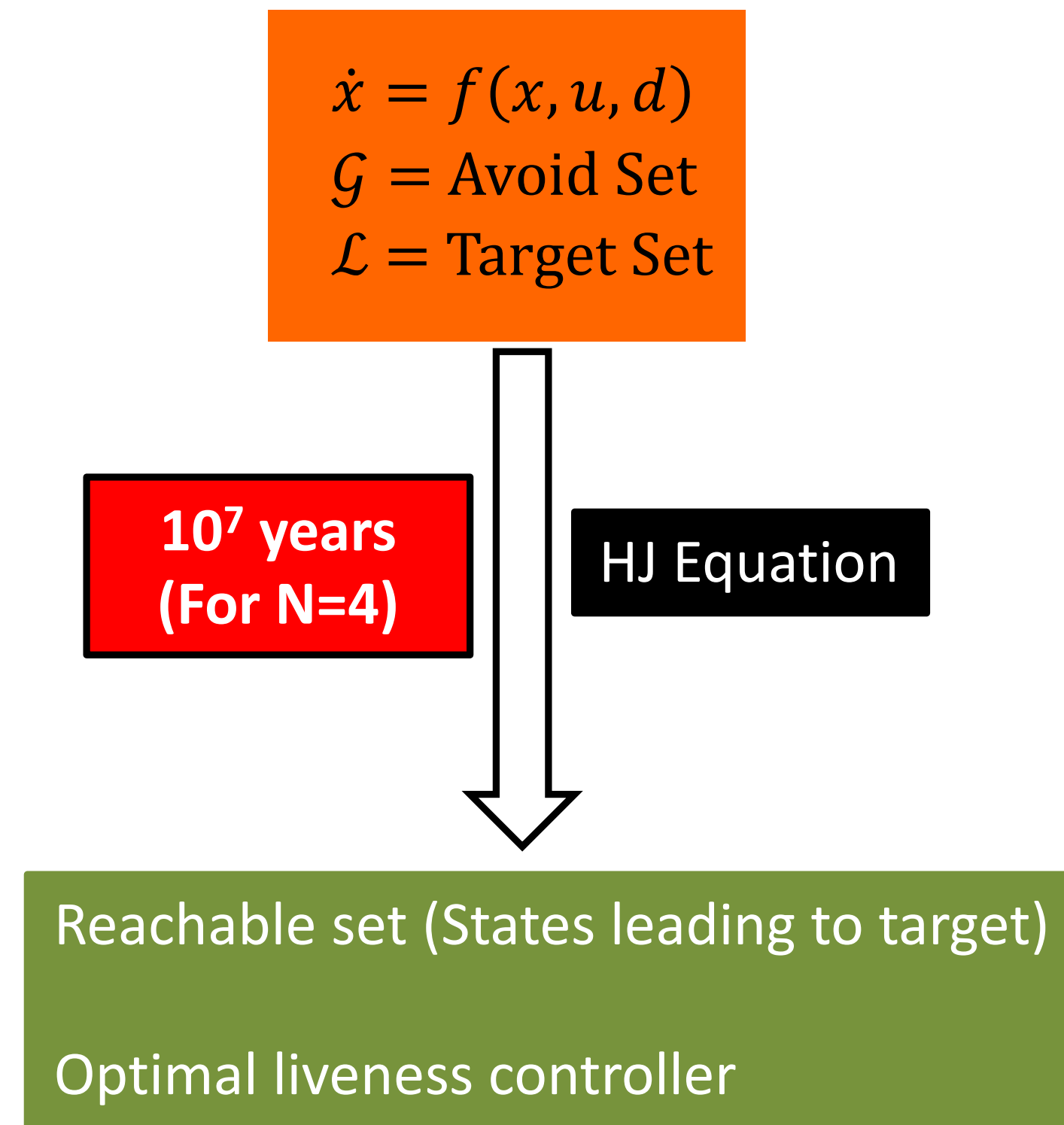


How a group of robots can reach their **goals**, **without colliding** with obstacles or other vehicles despite the presence of **external disturbances**?

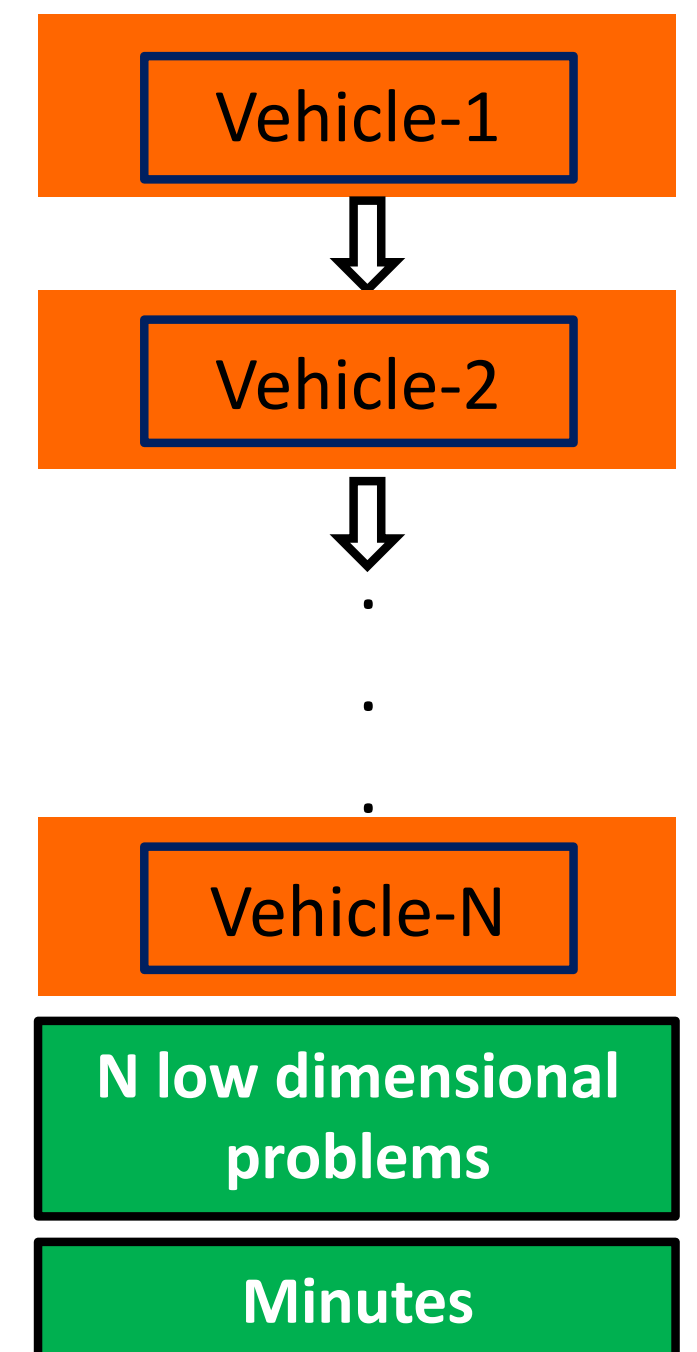
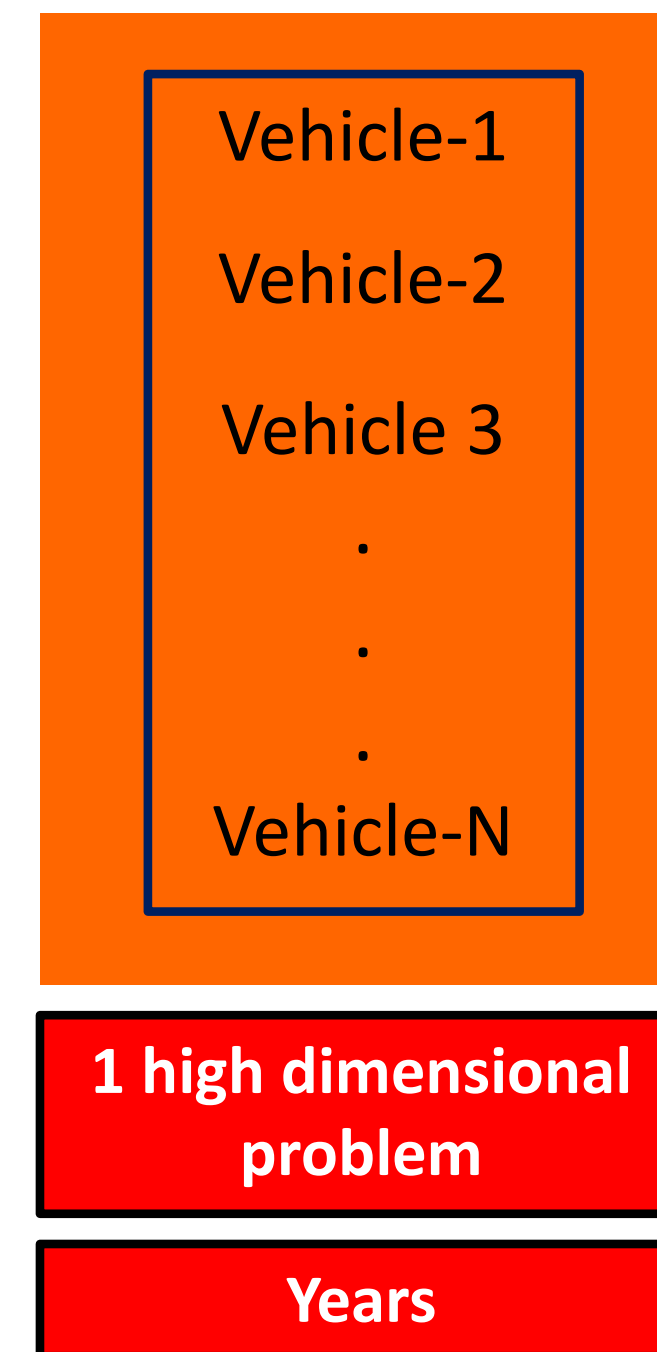
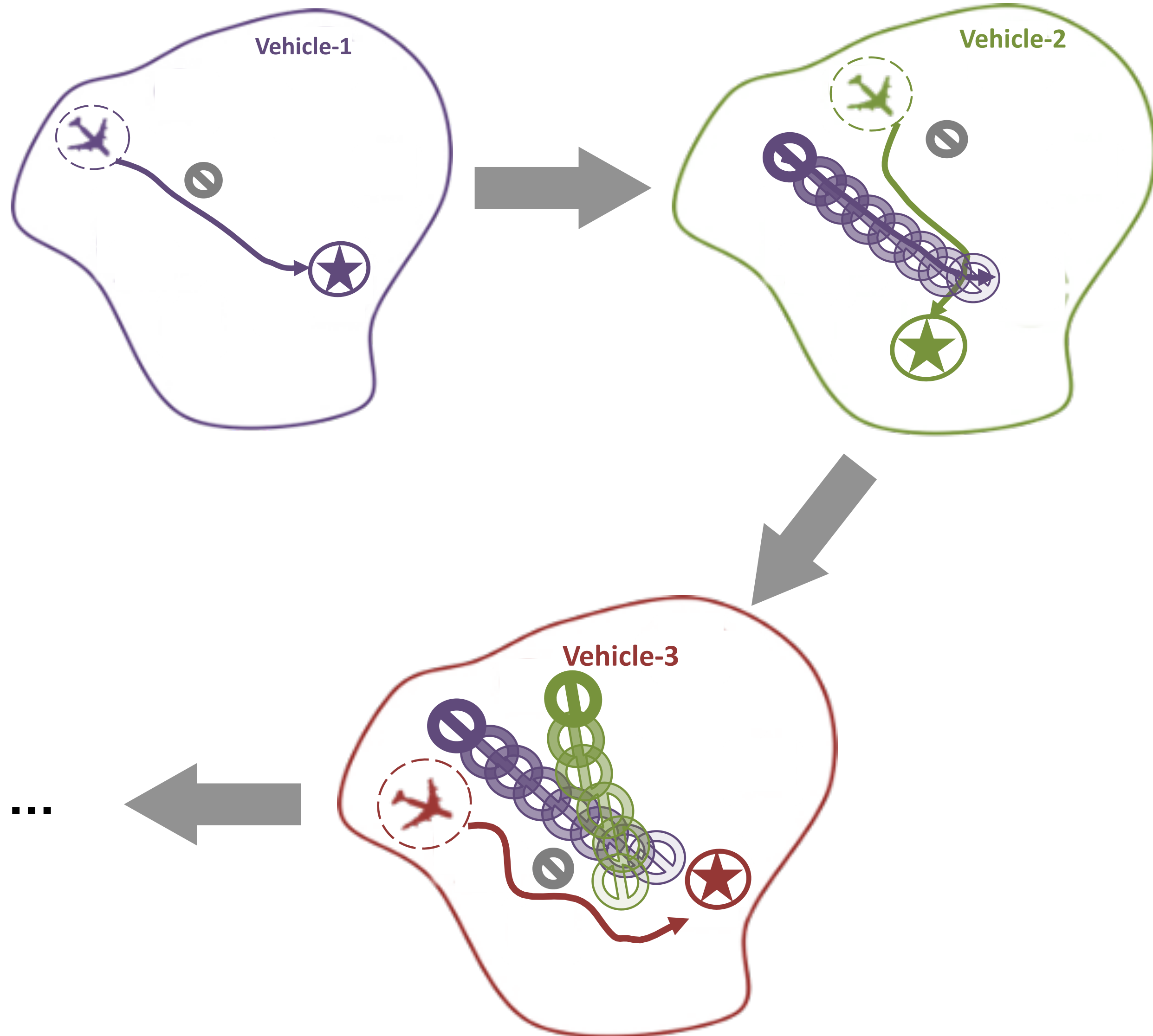


-  Vehicle
-  Goal
-  Obstacle
-  Danger zone

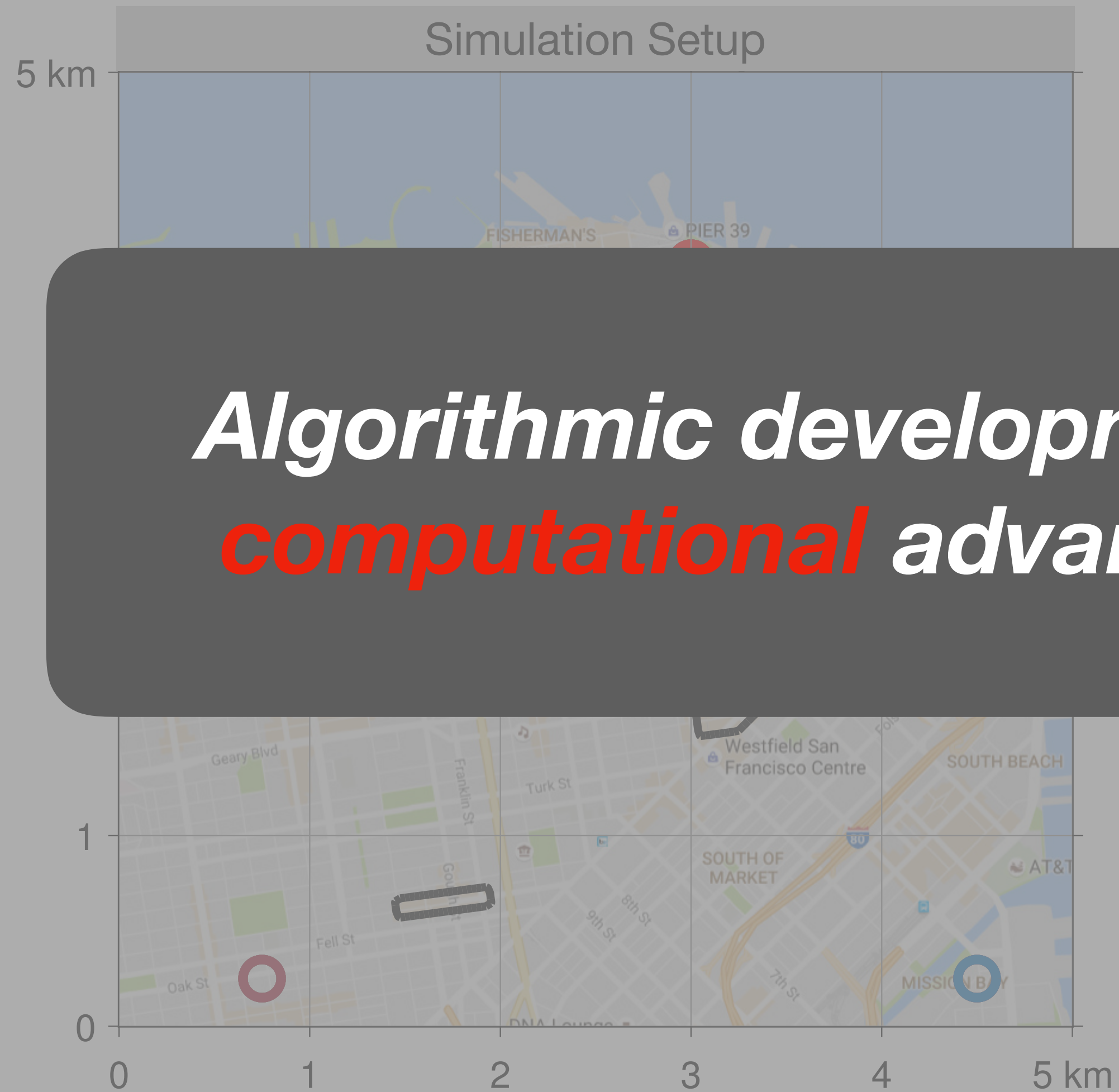
# But....Curse of Dimensionality!



# Sequential Trajectory Planning



# Large Scale Multi-Vehicle Trajectory Planning



UAV Model

$$\dot{s} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v \cos(\theta) + d_x \\ v \sin(\theta) + d_y \end{bmatrix}$$

$0 \leq v \leq 25 \text{ m/s}$   
 $|\omega| \leq 2 \text{ rad/s}$

**Algorithmic developments alone are not enough,  
*computational* advancements are also required!**

**200 seconds**  
[Level Set Toolbox]

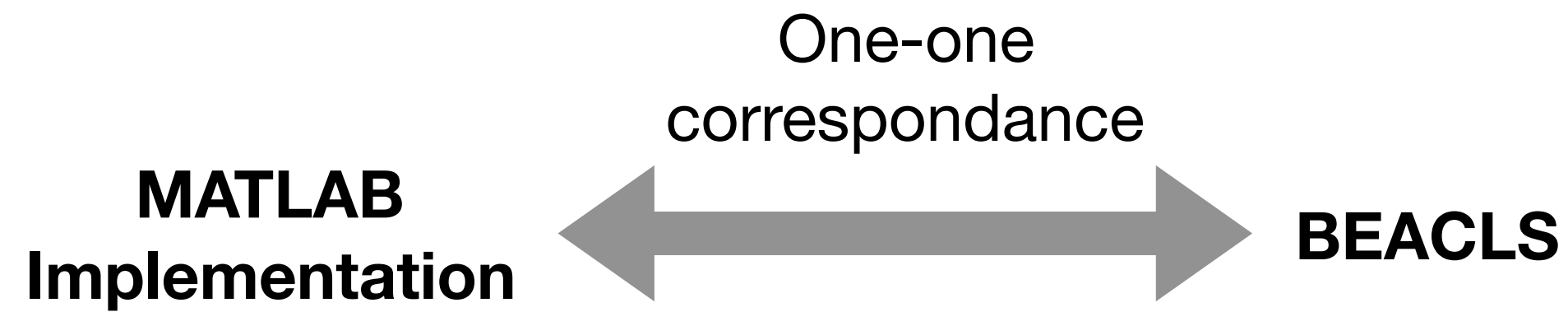
**~3 hours**  
[for 50 vehicles]

**~half a day!**  
[for 200 vehicles]

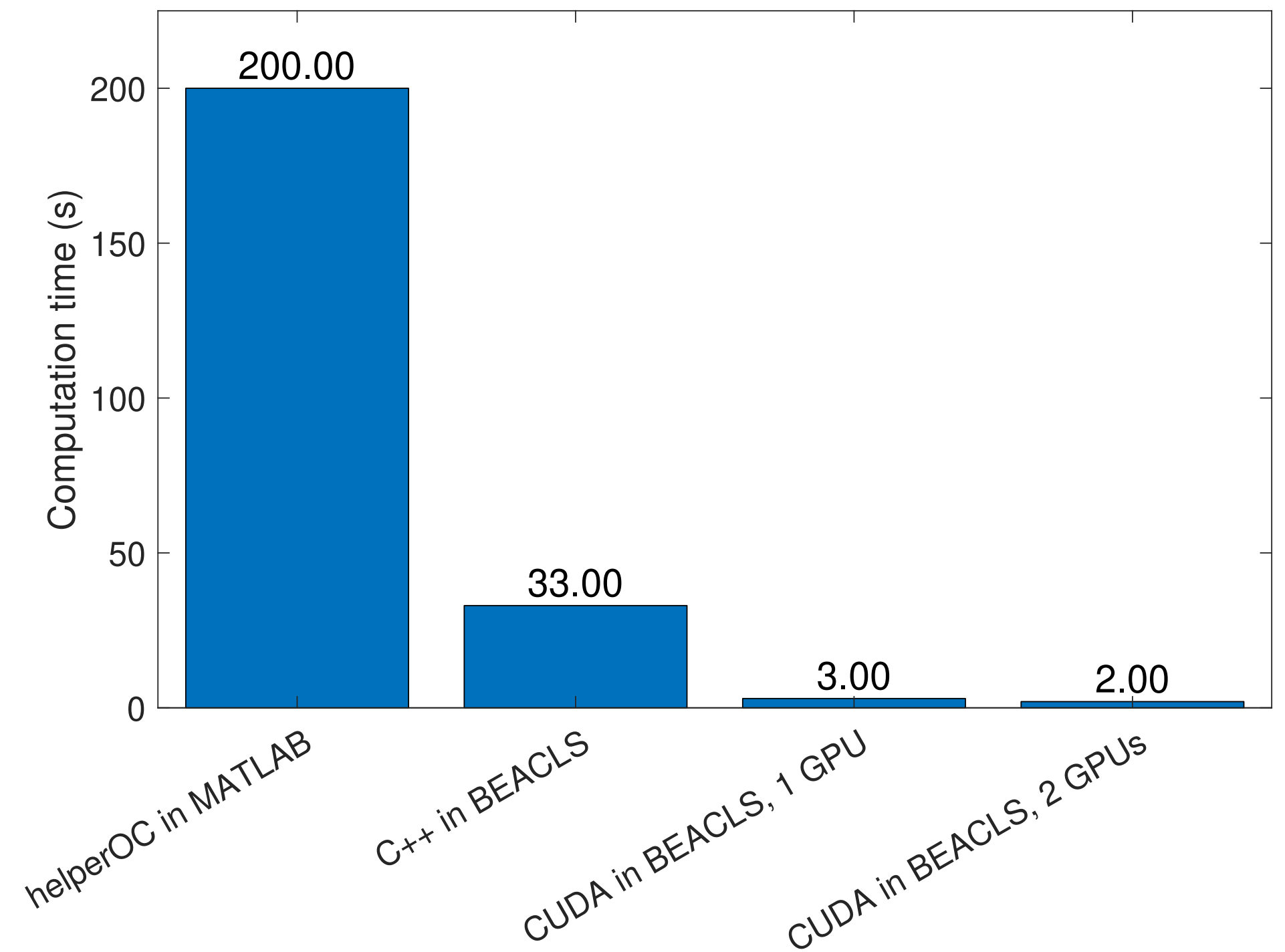
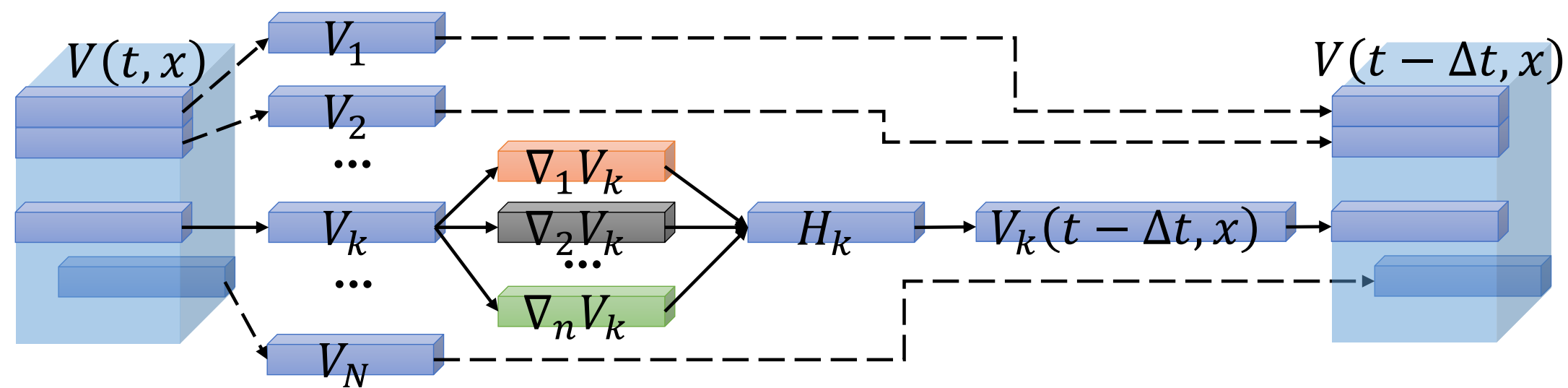
50 UAVs originating from the Blue star

Going to one of the 4 destinations (circles)

# BEACLS: Berkeley Efficient API in C++ for Level Set Methods



Parallel Computation of Value Function



**~3 hours**  
[for 50 vehicles]

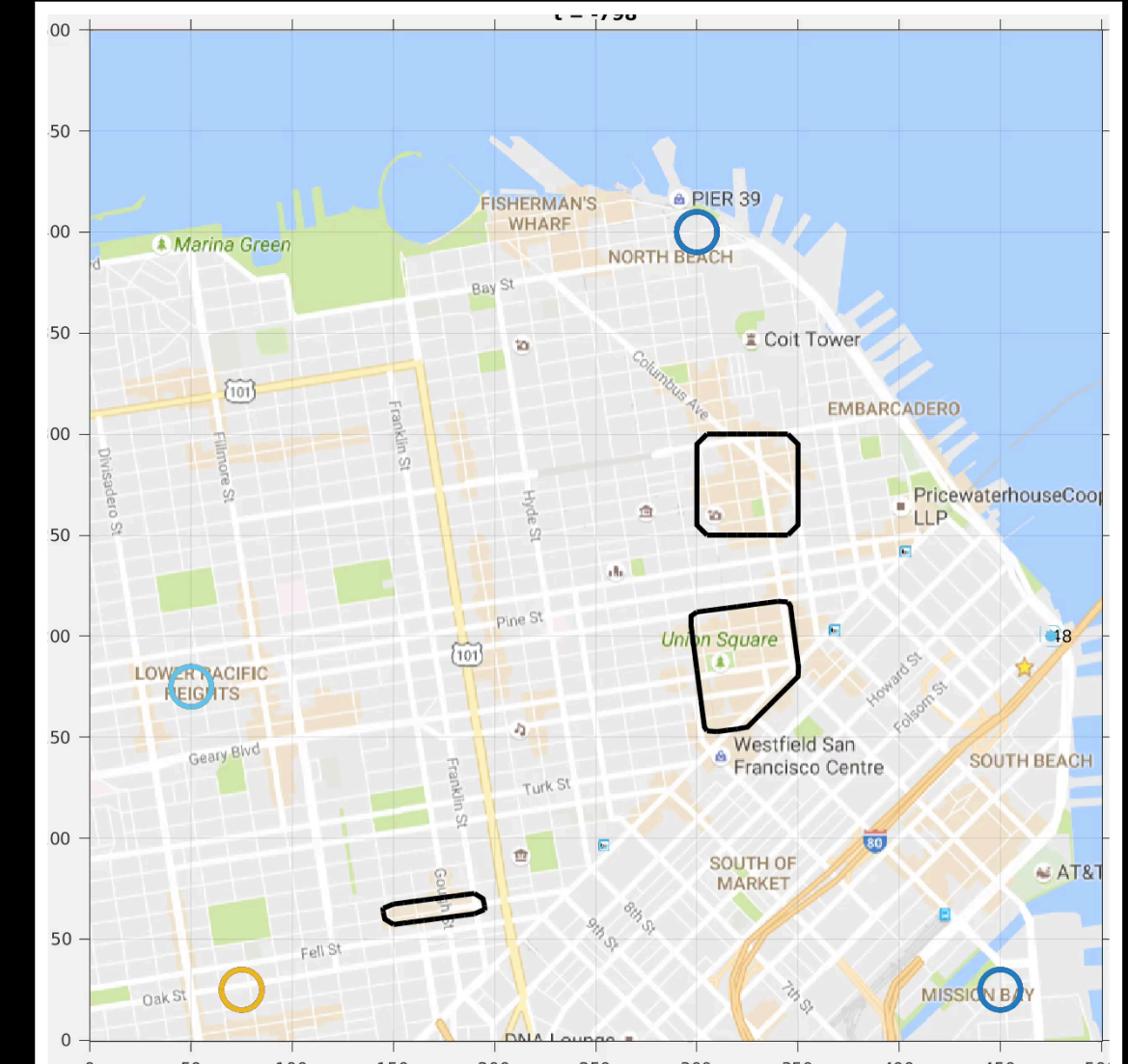
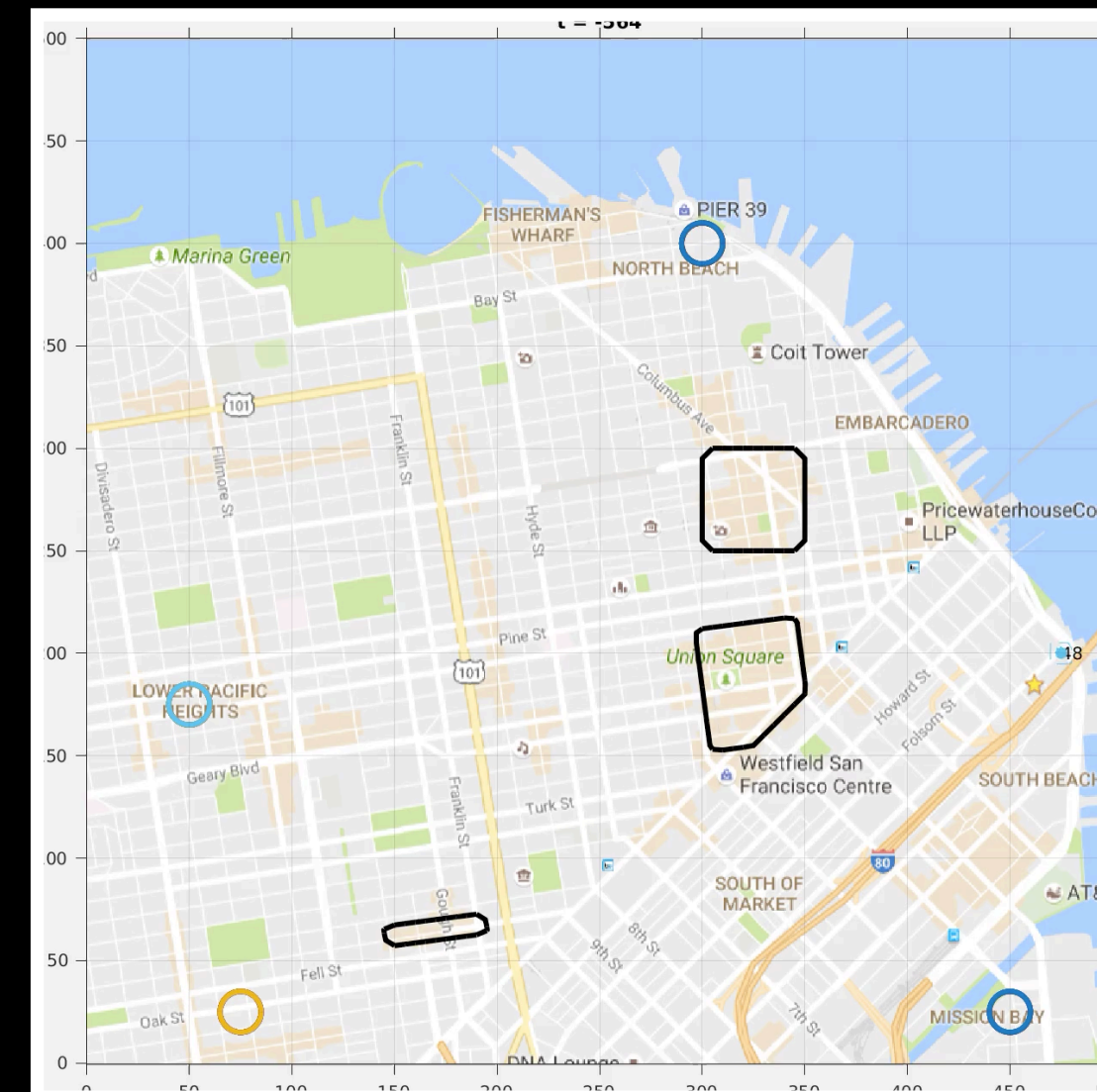
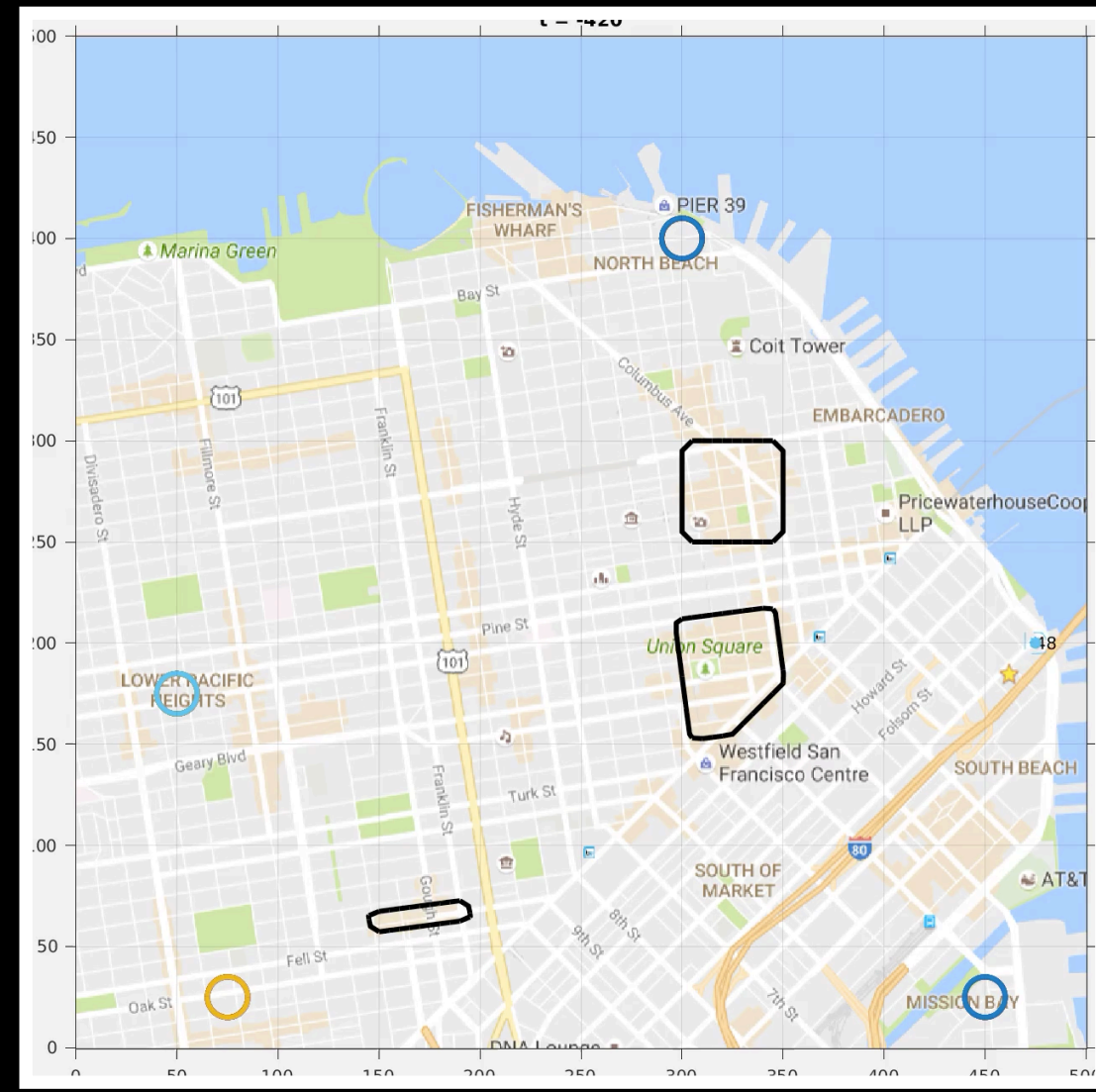
**~2 minutes**  
[for 50 vehicles]

**~half a day!**  
[for 200 vehicles]

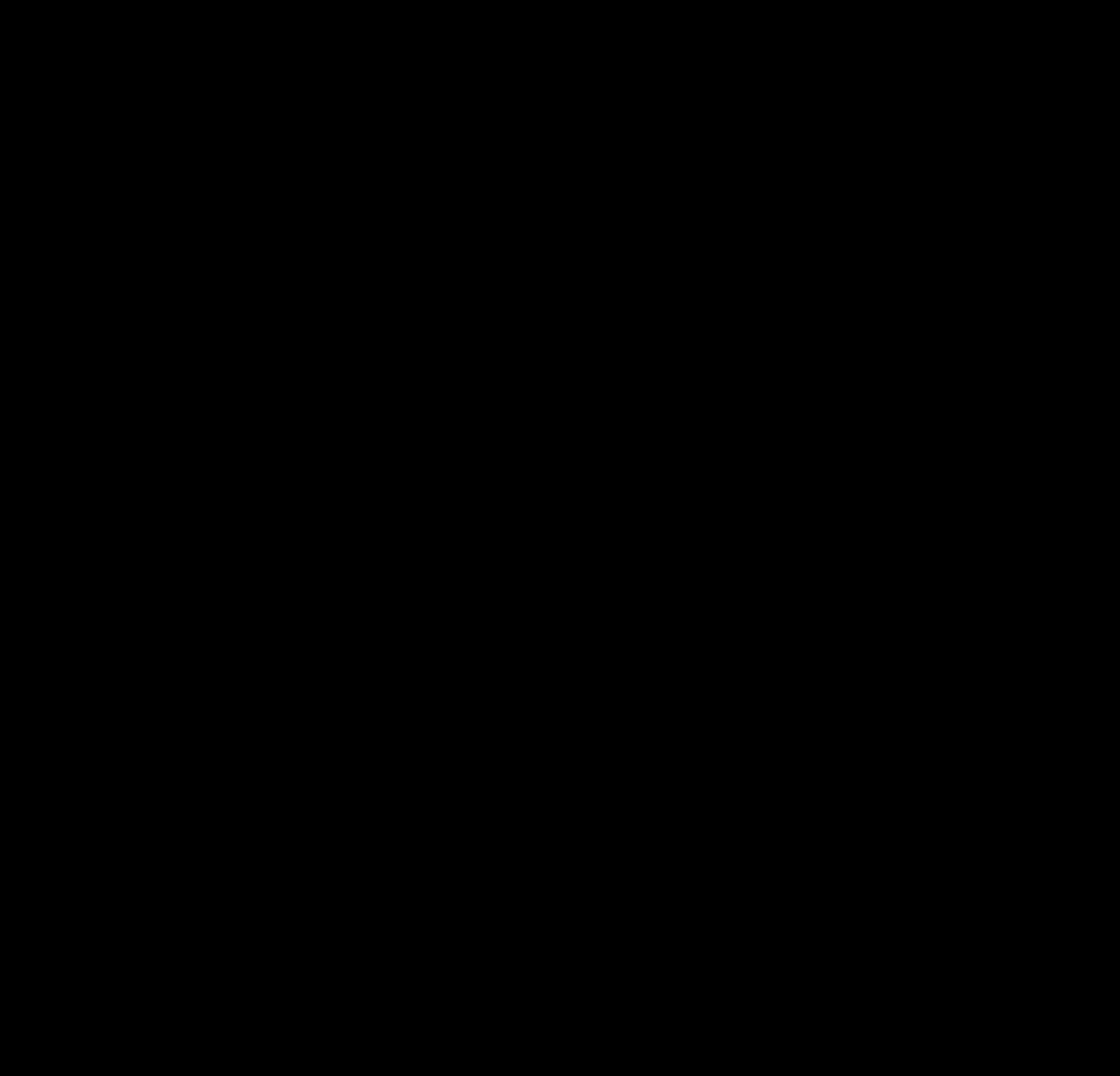
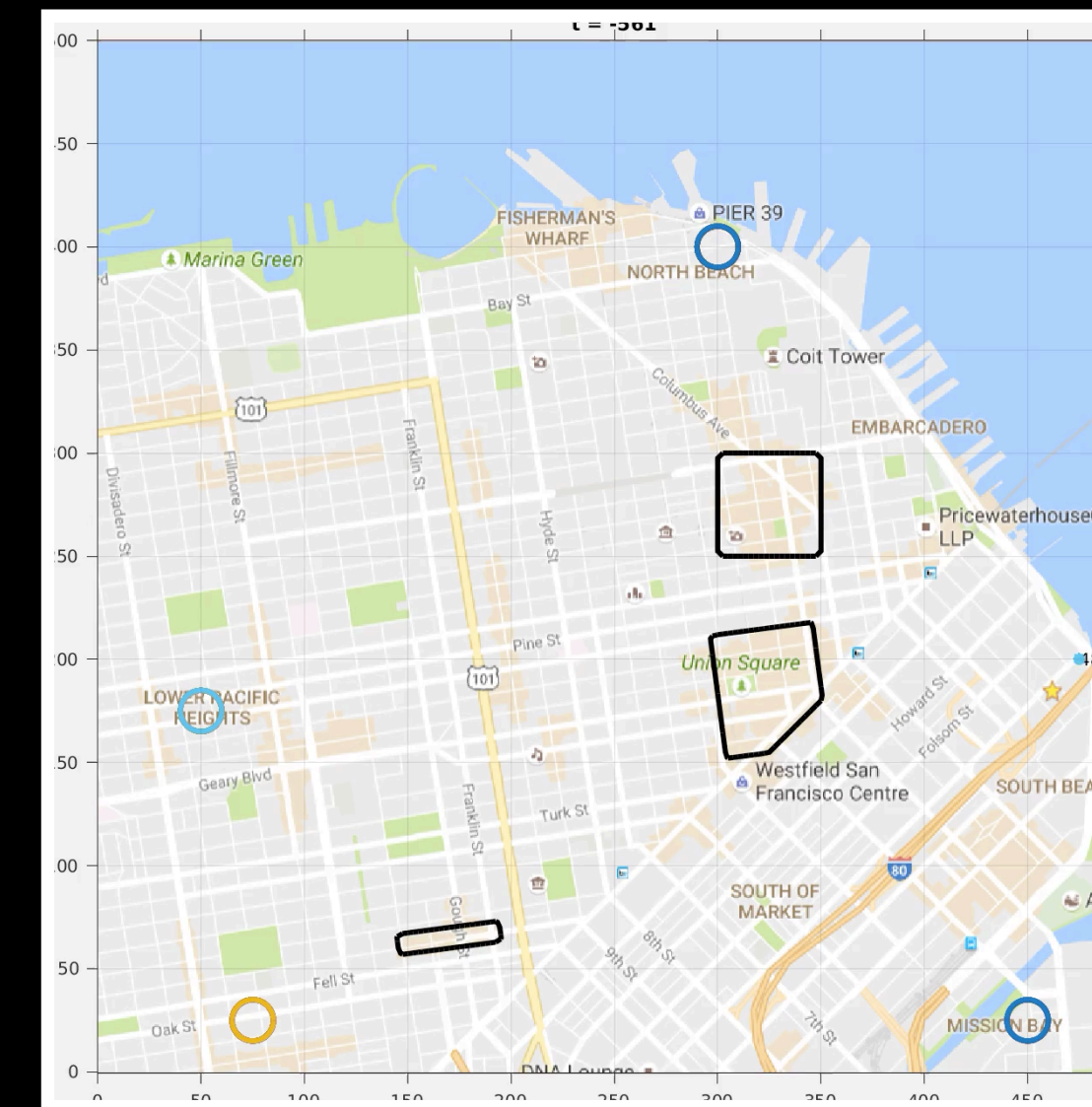
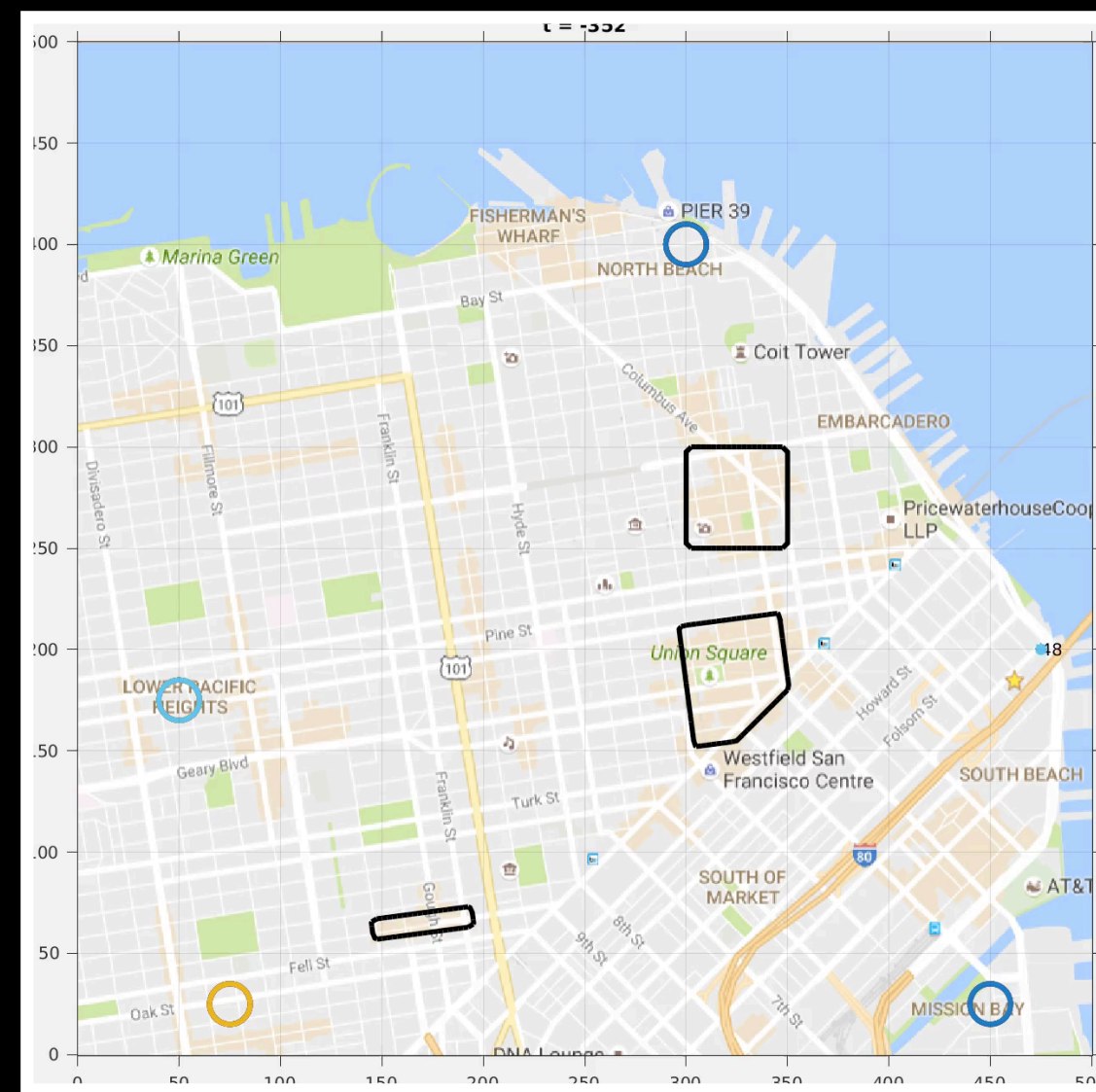
**~8 minutes**  
[for 200 vehicles]

Wind Speed

High



Low



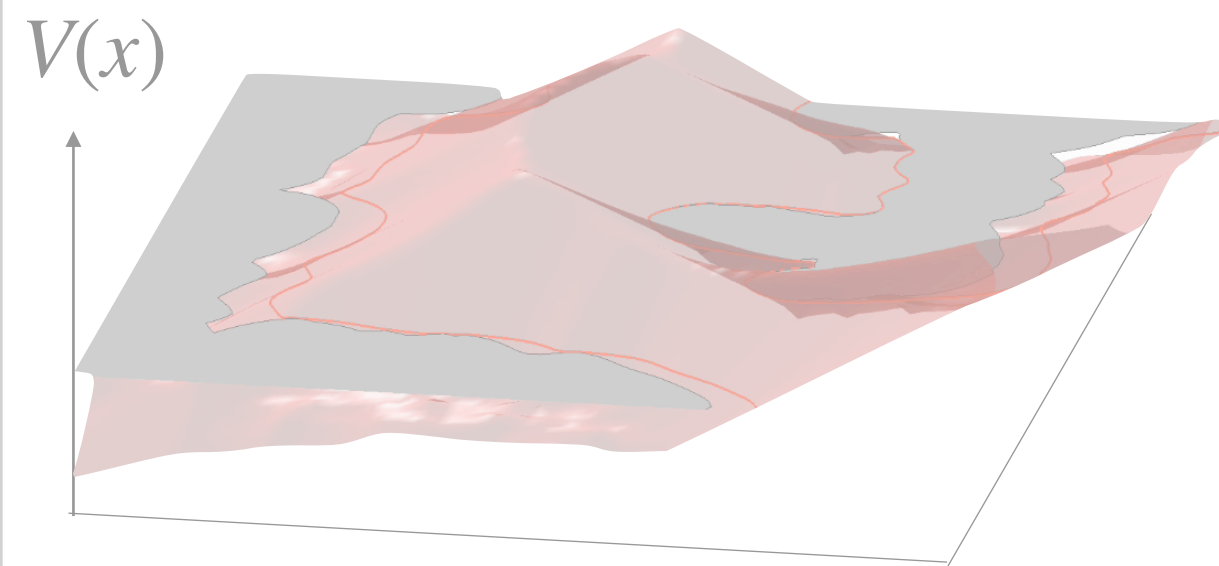
High

Medium  
Vehicle Density

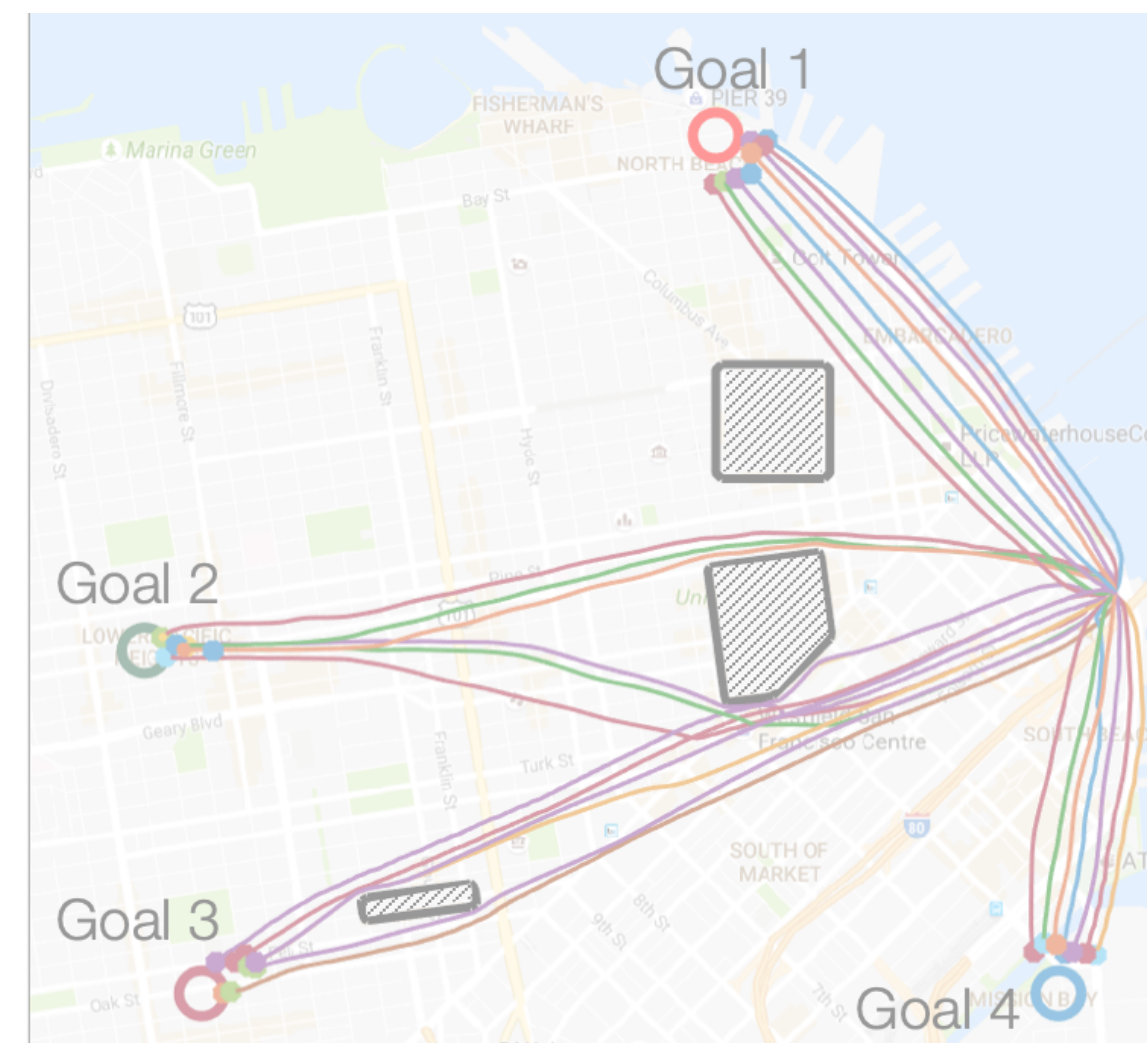
Low

# Outline

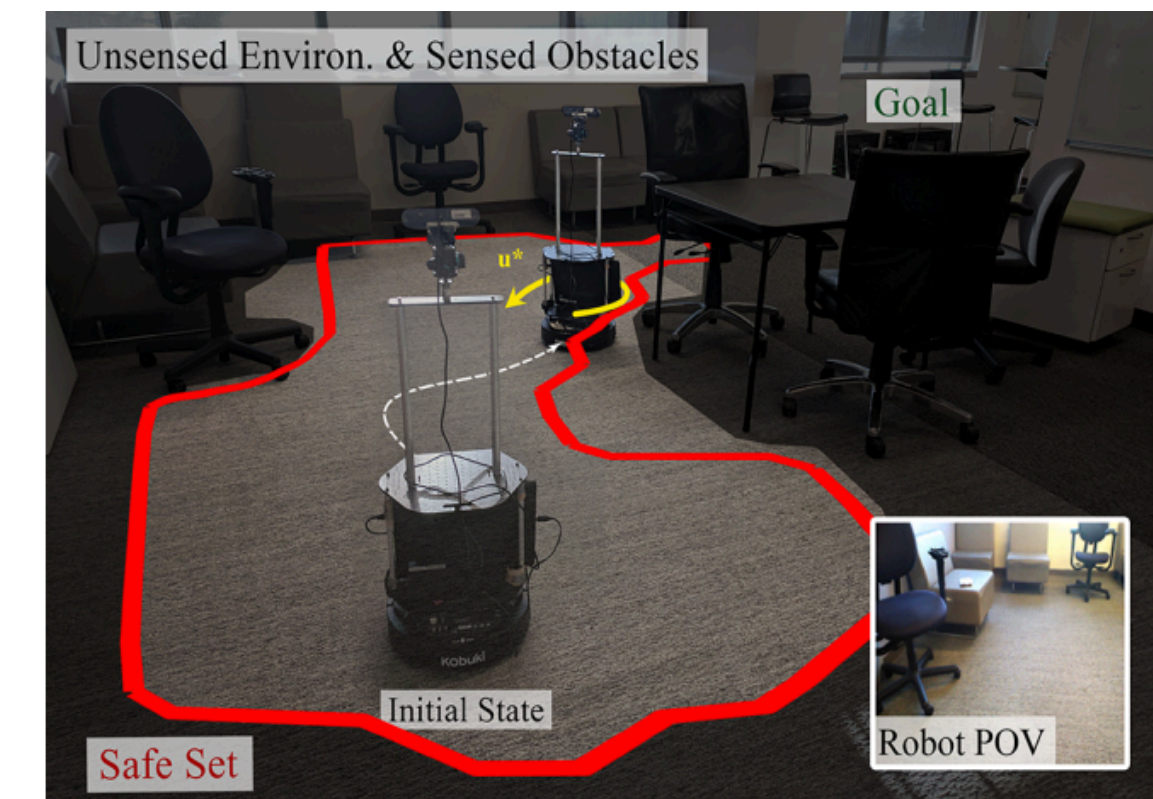
## Hamilton-Jacobi Reachability Analysis



## Safe Multi-Vehicle Trajectory Planning

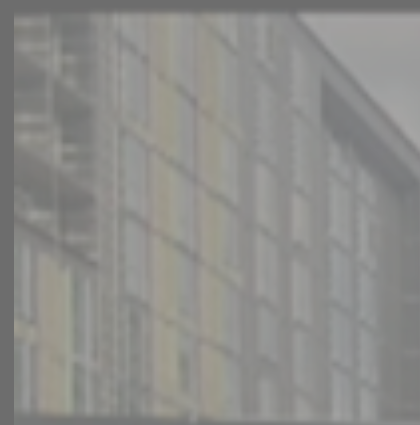


## Safe Learning-based Perception Systems



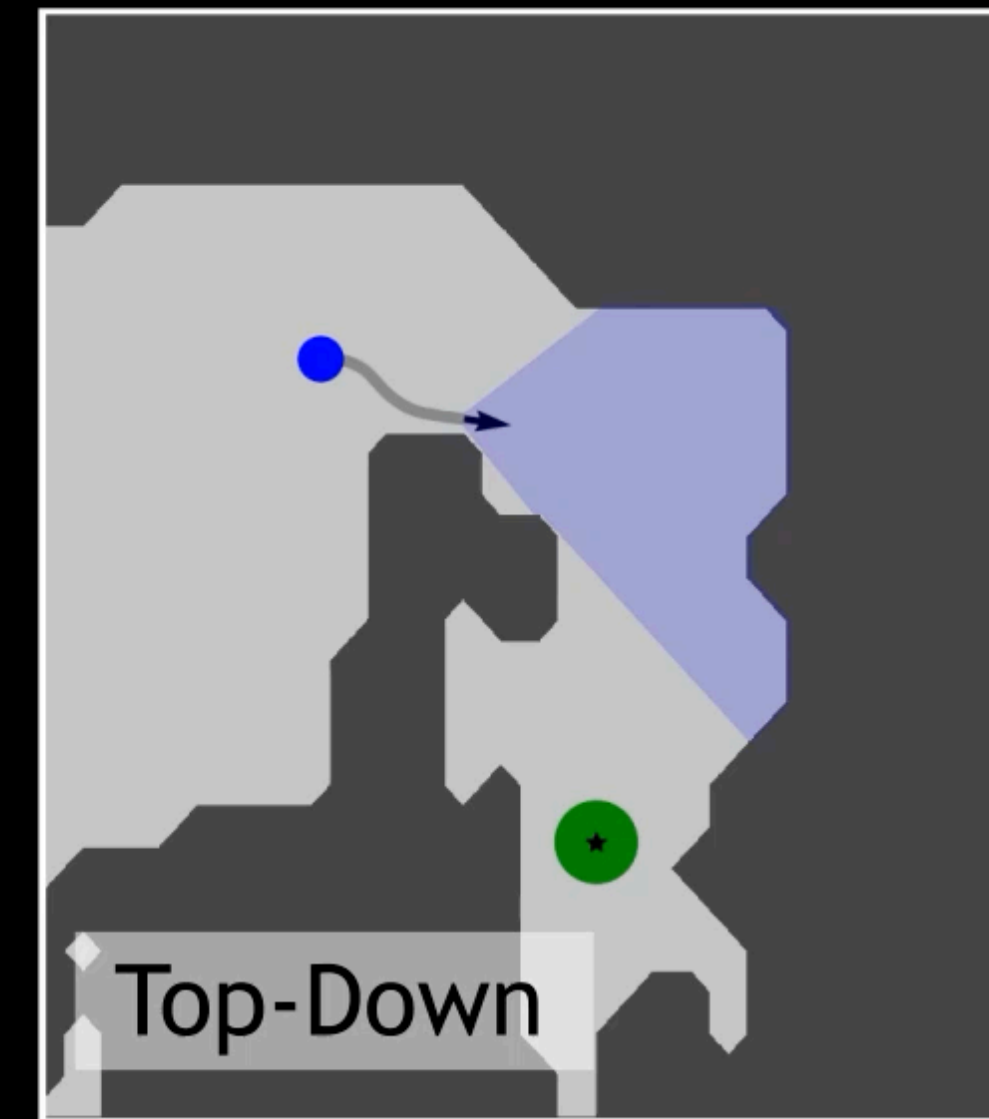


***Safety Critical*** systems need to update safety guarantees in real-time.





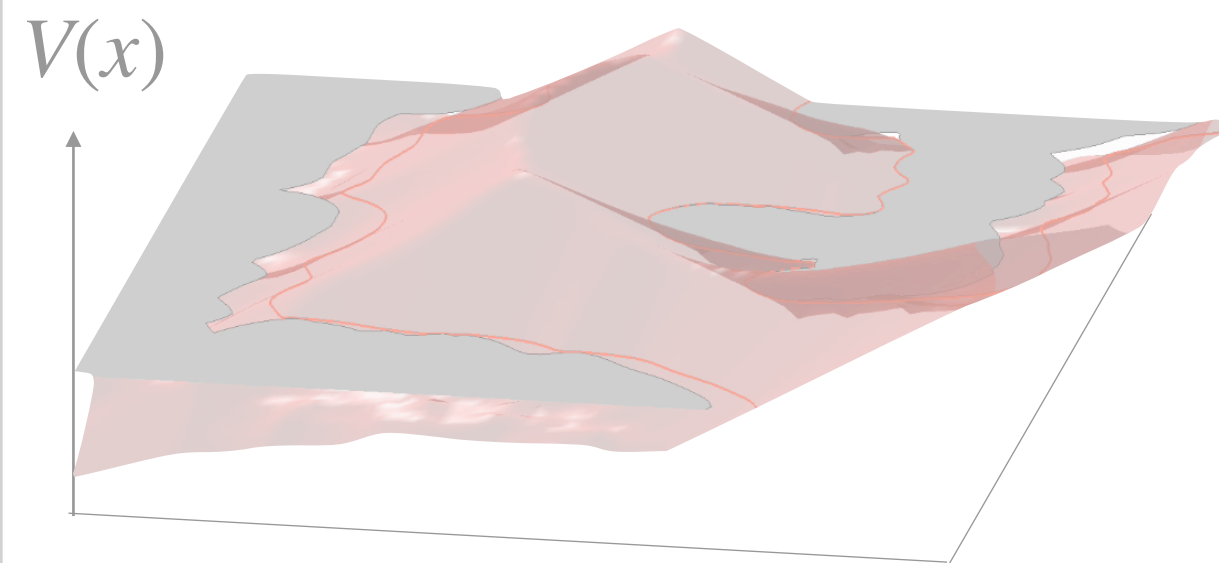
Learning-based modules can make errors  
that lead to **safety violations**



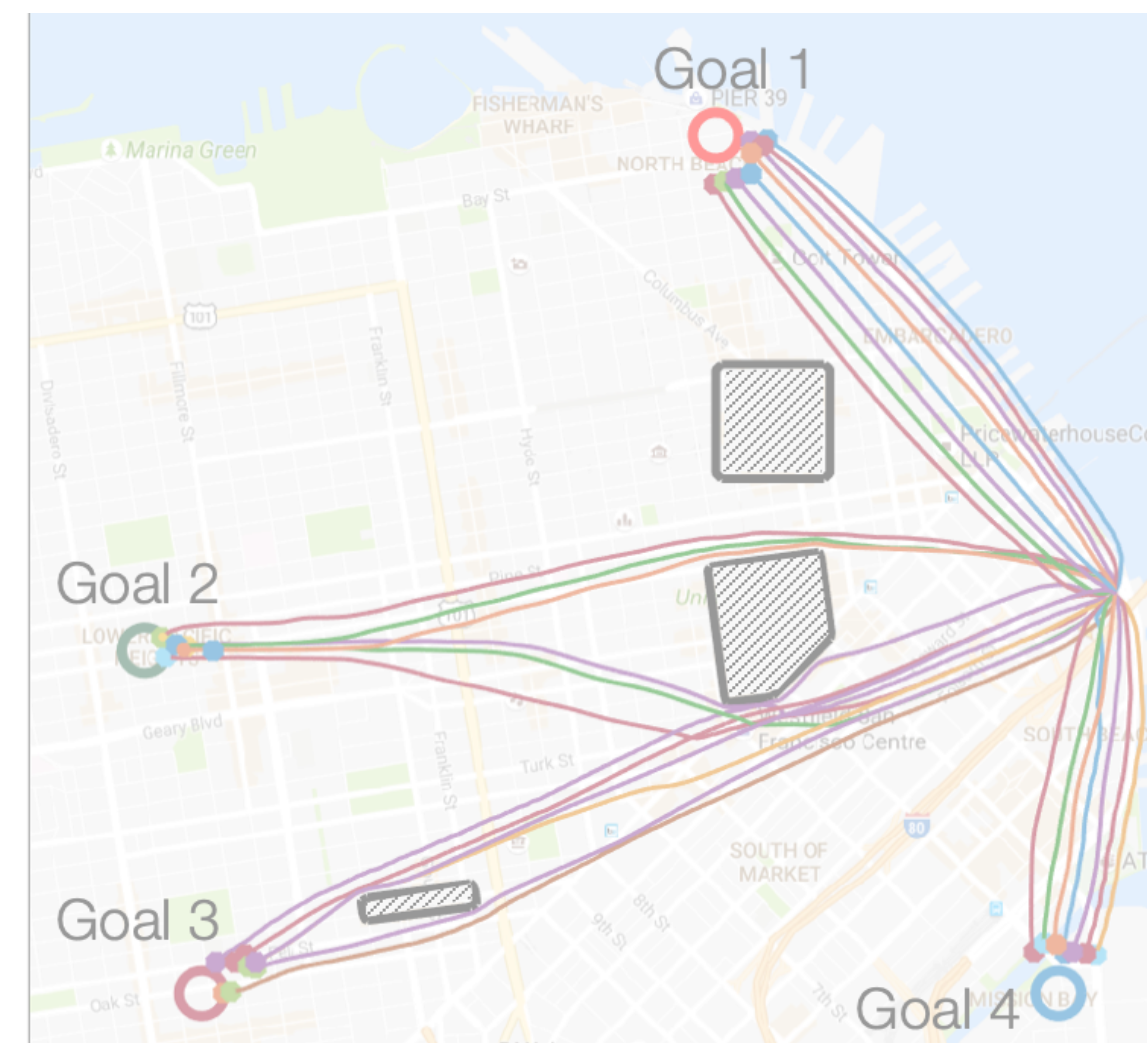
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# Outline

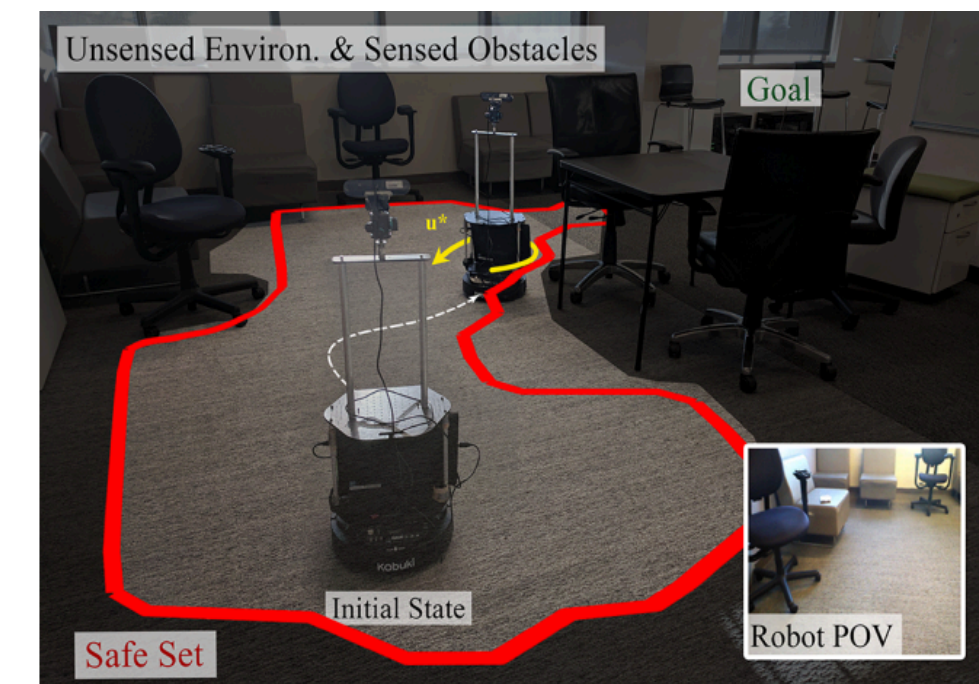
## Hamilton-Jacobi Reachability Analysis



## Safe Multi-Vehicle Trajectory Planning



## Safe Learning-based Perception Systems



## Approach

Online Safety Updates

Hardware experiments

*Key Idea:*

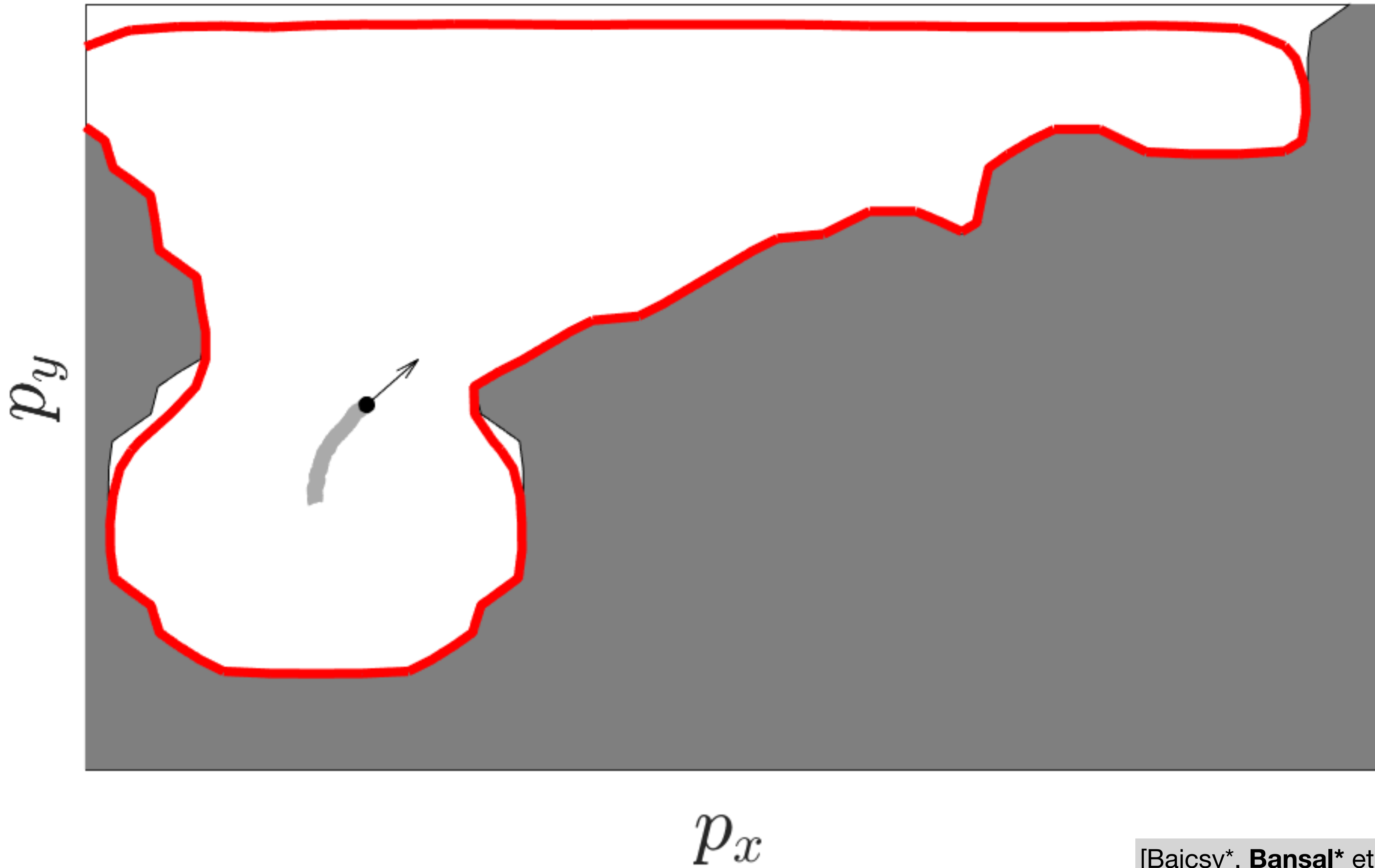
Monitor the output of **learning** module  
and provide a ***corrective safe*** action  
whenever necessary.

A black Kobuki mobile robot is positioned in the center of a room. A blue semi-transparent rectangular area is overlaid on the scene, representing the robot's field of view (FOV). The FOV is bounded by white lines that converge at the robot's camera. The room contains several office chairs, a table, and a sofa. The text 'FOV' is written in white on the blue overlay.

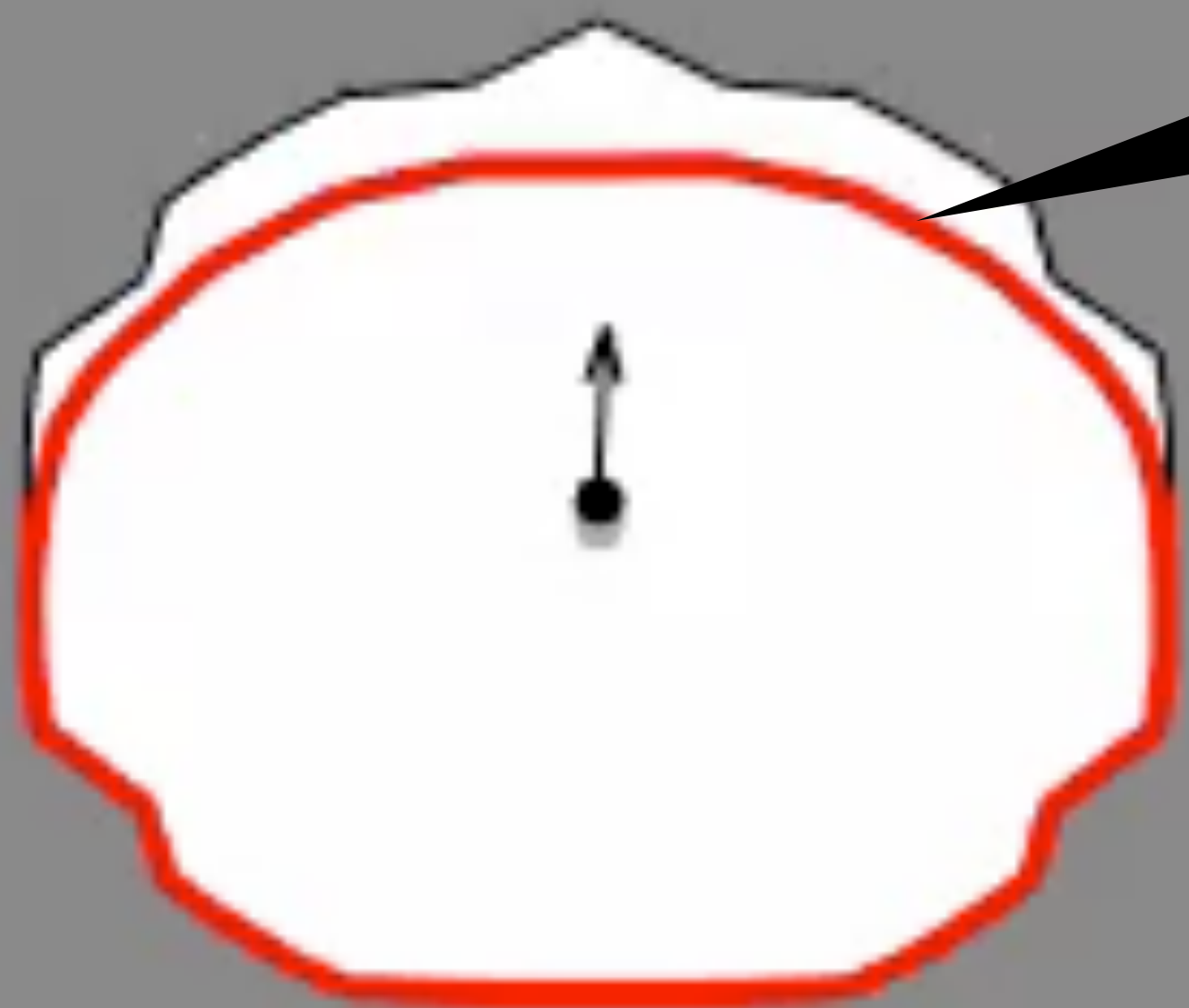
FOV

## Assumptions

1. Static environments
2. Occupancy perception is perfect within FoV



$\mathcal{P}_y$



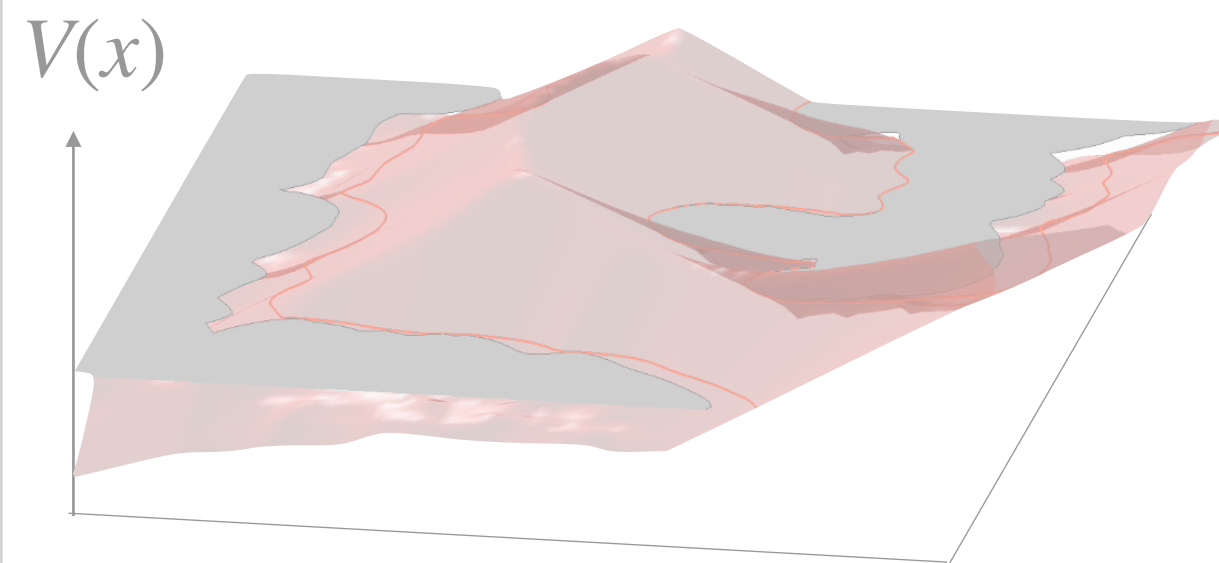
*Any planner can be used within the red boundary.*

$\mathcal{P}_x$

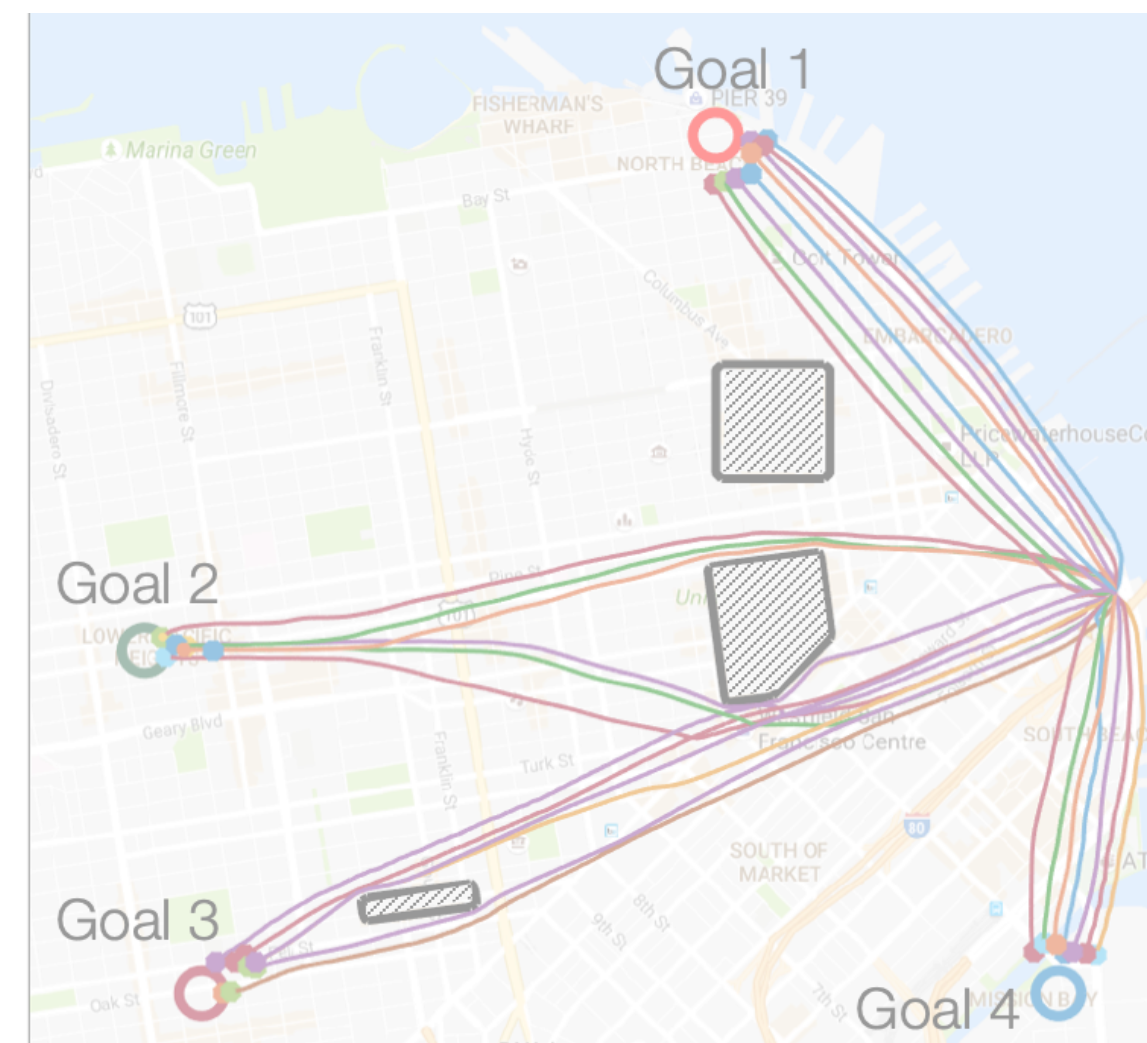


# Outline

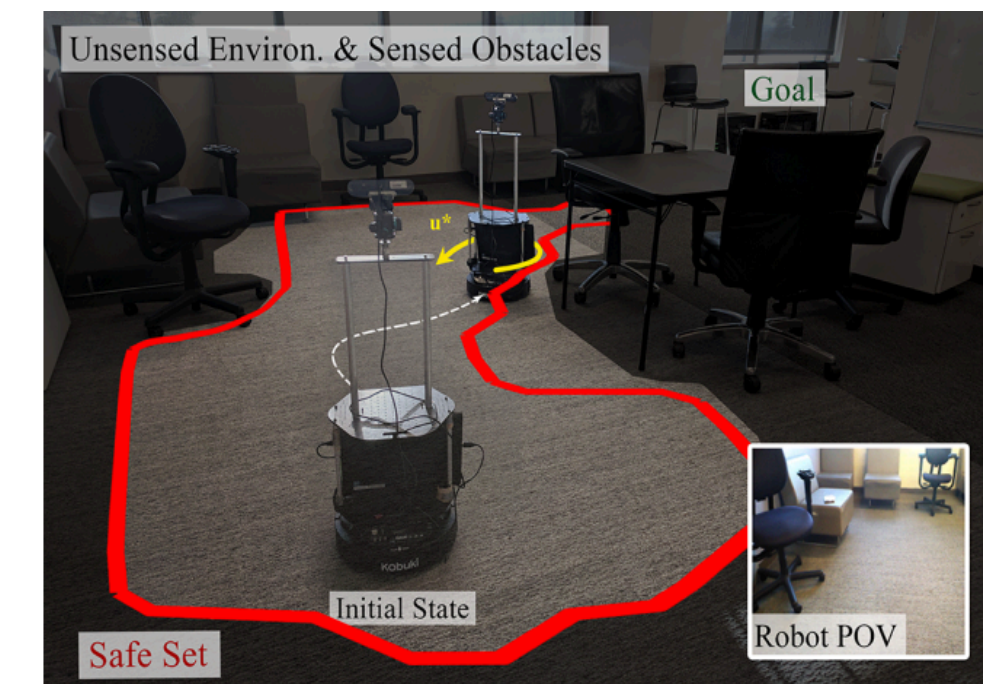
## Hamilton-Jacobi Reachability Analysis



## Safe Multi-Vehicle Trajectory Planning



## Safe Learning-based Perception Systems



Approach

Online Safety Updates

Hardware experiments

*Key Idea:*

Only *locally* update the safe set  
based on the new information  
about the environment.

# Local Update of the BRS

$$V_{old} \leftarrow V_t(0, Q)$$

$Q \leftarrow$  new free states and neighbors

while  $Q$  is not empty do:

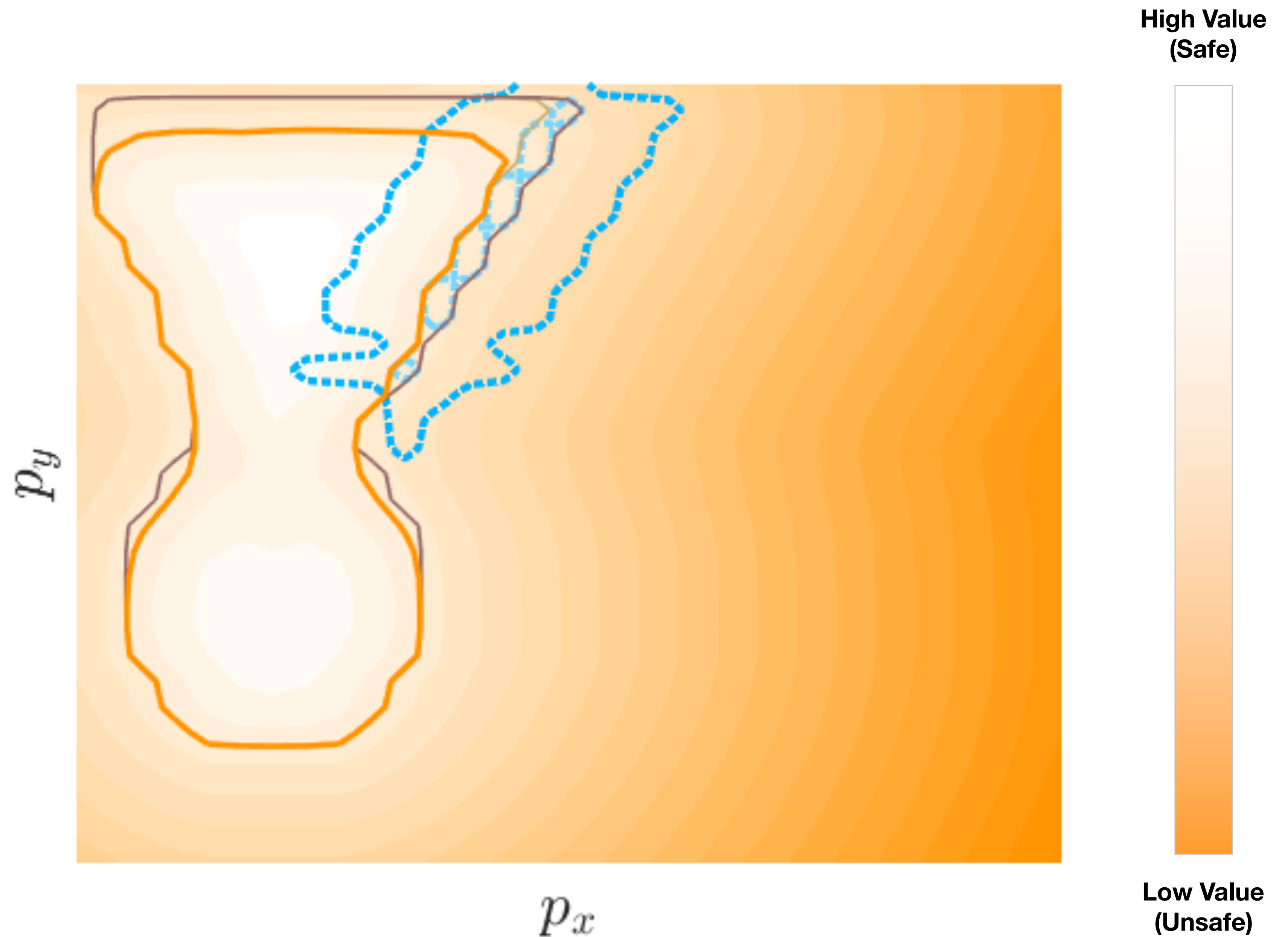
$$V_{update} \leftarrow \text{update } V_{old} \text{ for } \Delta T$$

$$\Delta V = \|V_{update} - V_{old}\|$$

$Q \leftarrow$  remove states with  $\Delta V = 0$

$Q \leftarrow$  add neighbors

$$V_{old} \leftarrow V_{update}$$

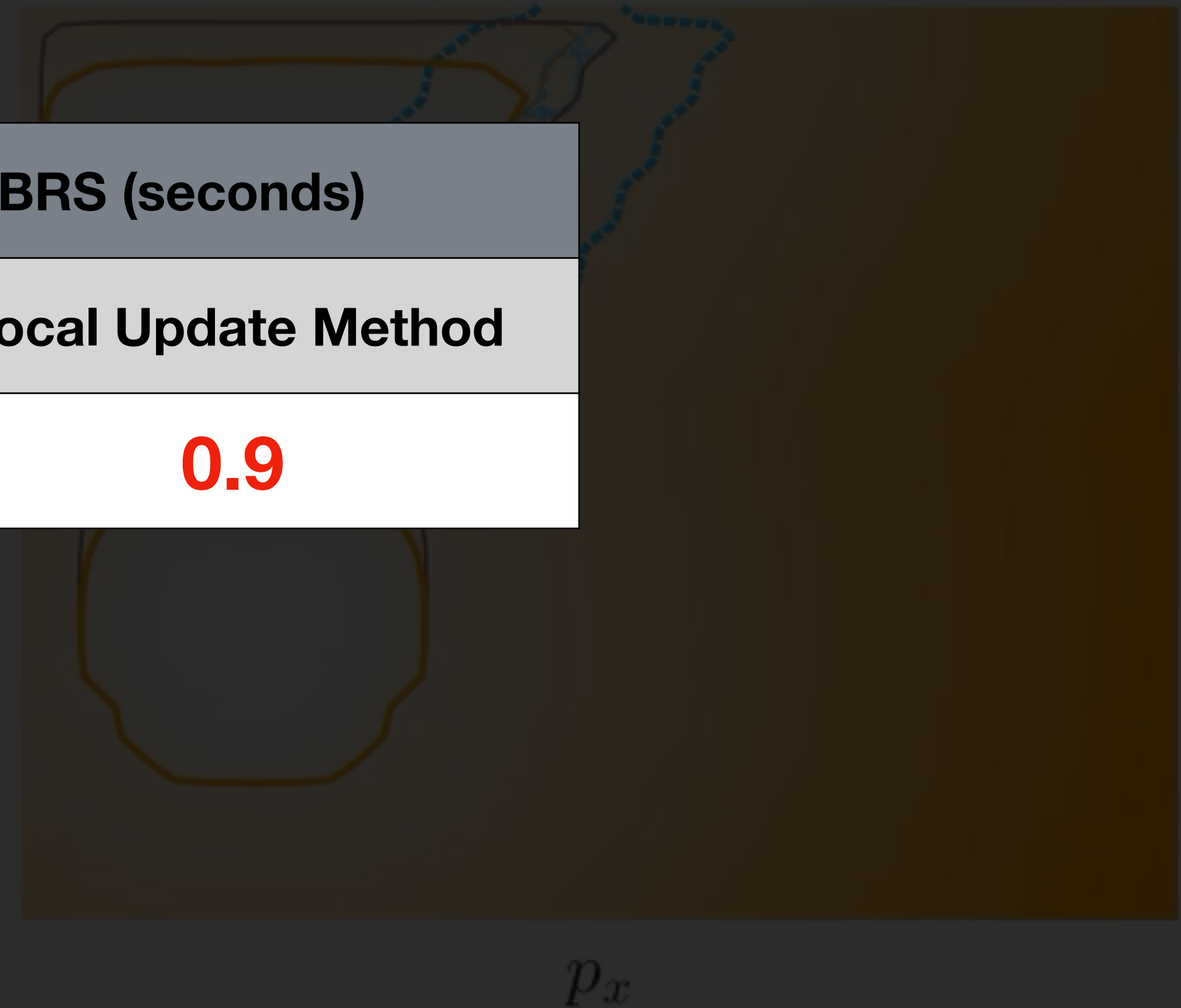
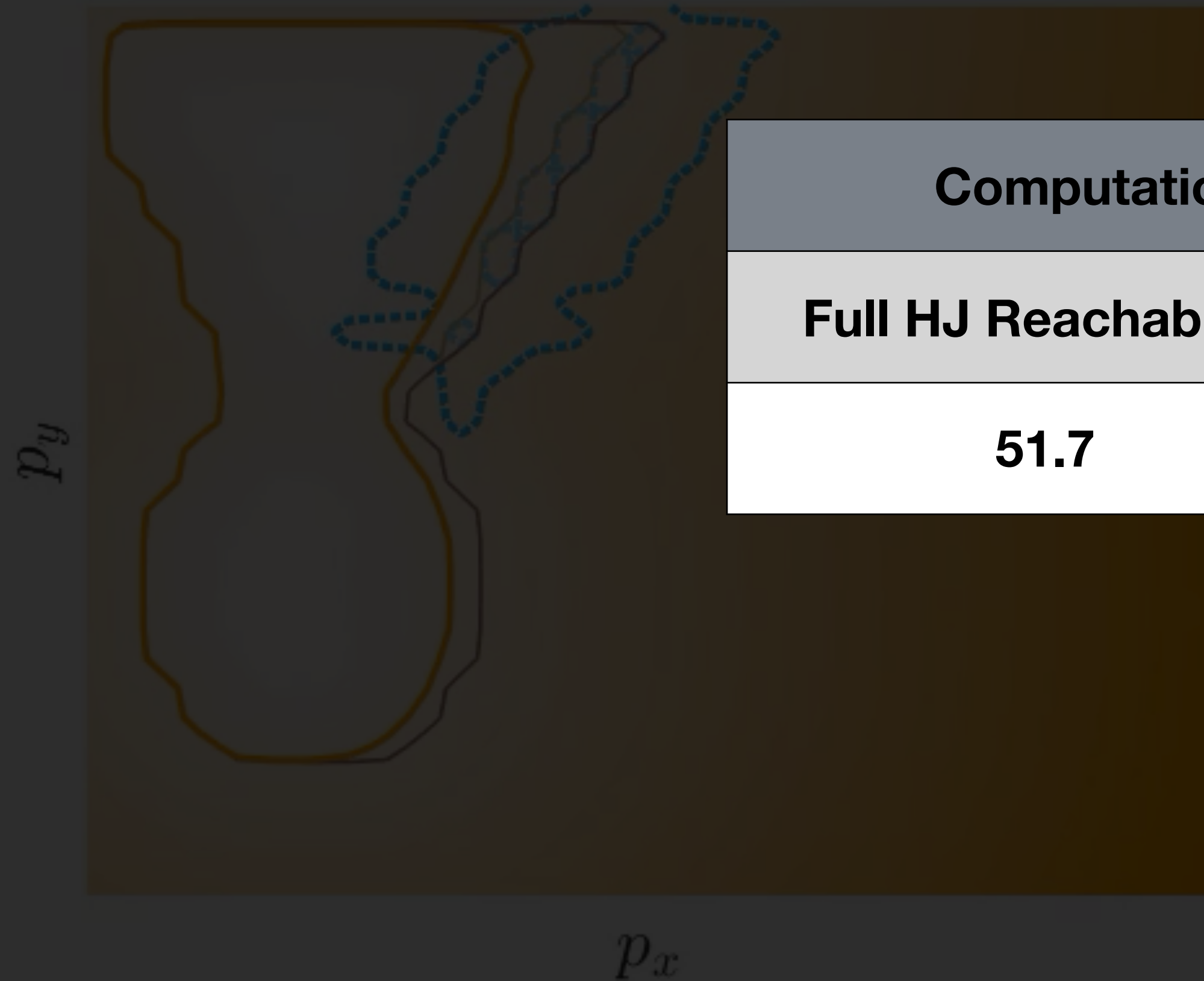


# Local Update of the BRS

Slice  $\theta = 0$

Slice  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$

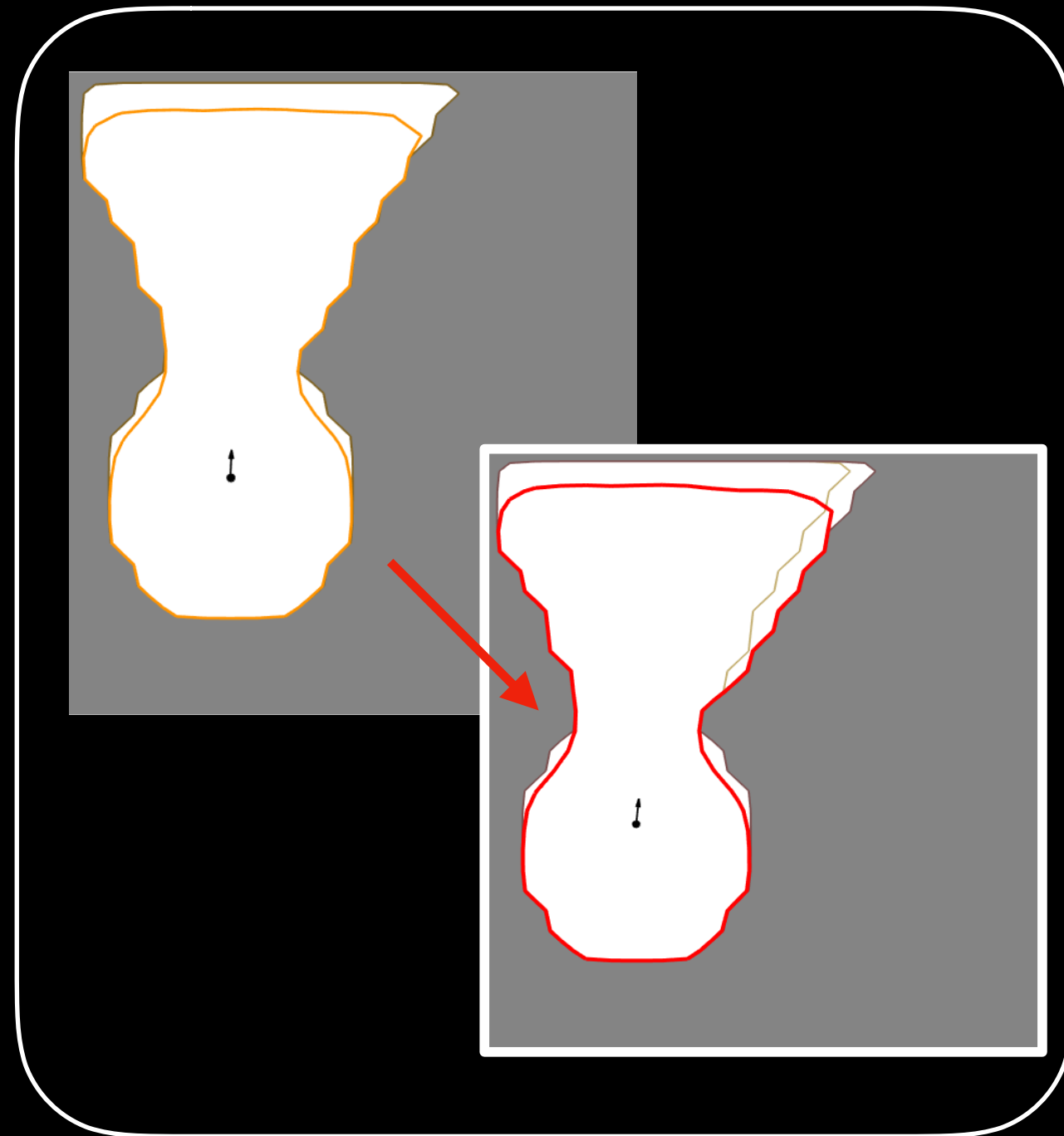
**Guaranteed under-approximation!**



Computation time for BRS (seconds)	
Full HJ Reachability	Local Update Method
51.7	<b>0.9</b>

# Local Update Beyond Obstacles...

*Unknown obstacles*



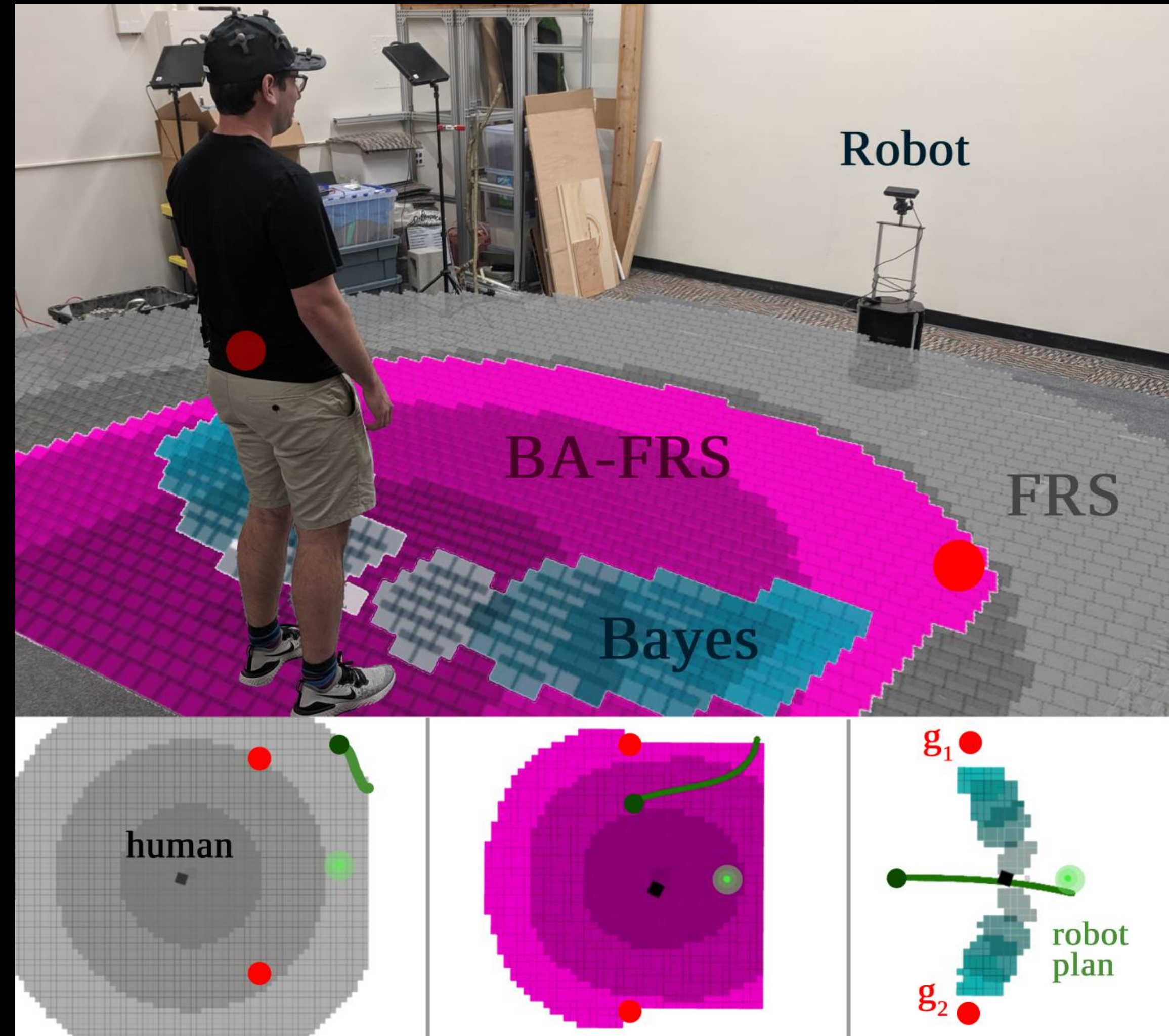
*Unknown environment conditions*



*Unknown behavior of other agents*



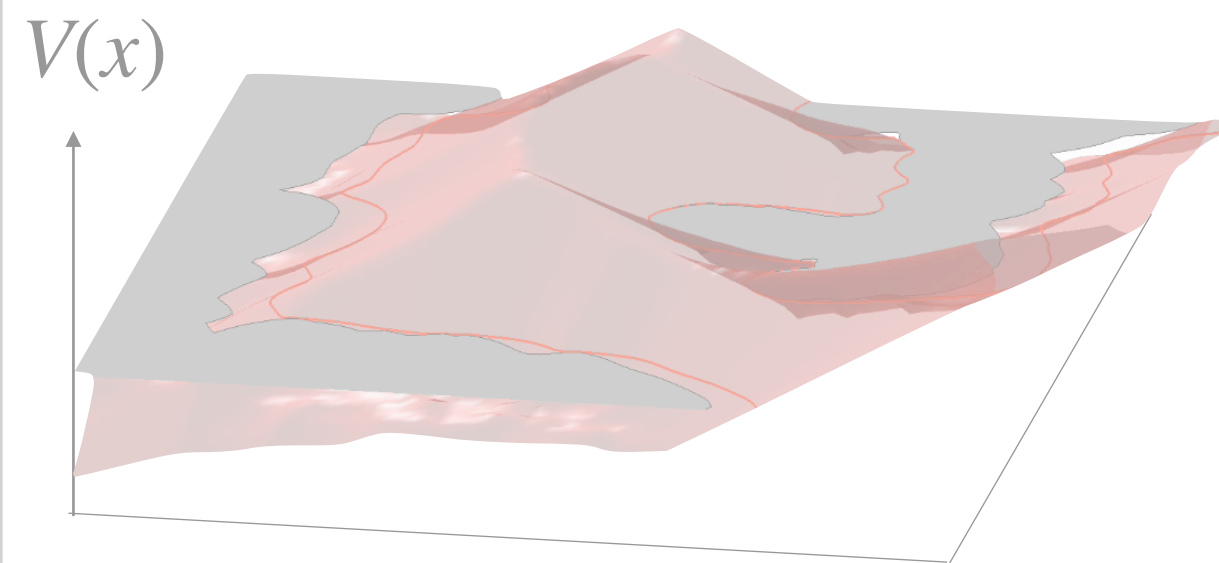
# Local Update For Safe Human Motion Prediction



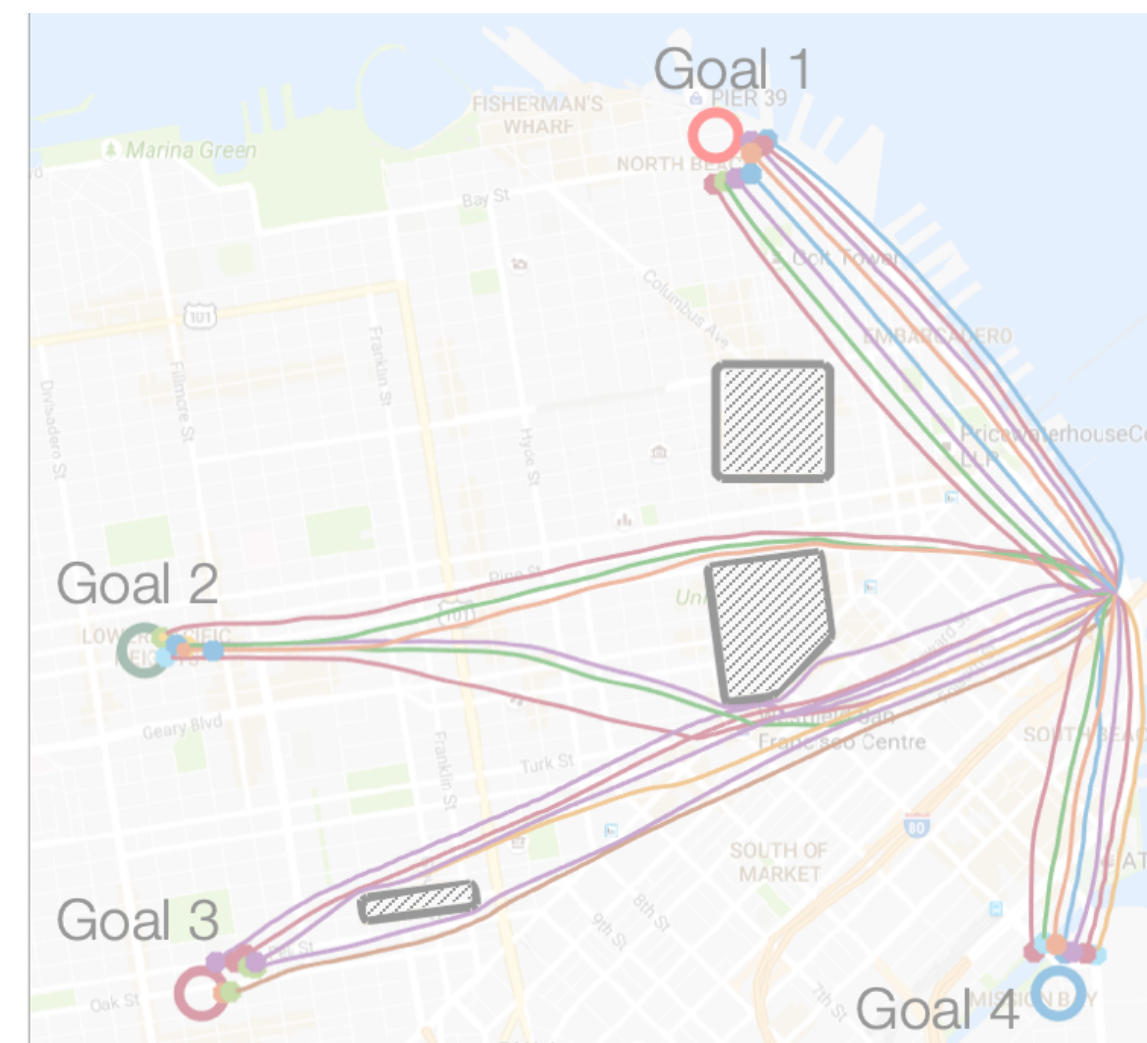
[Bansal et al, ICRA 2020]

# Outline

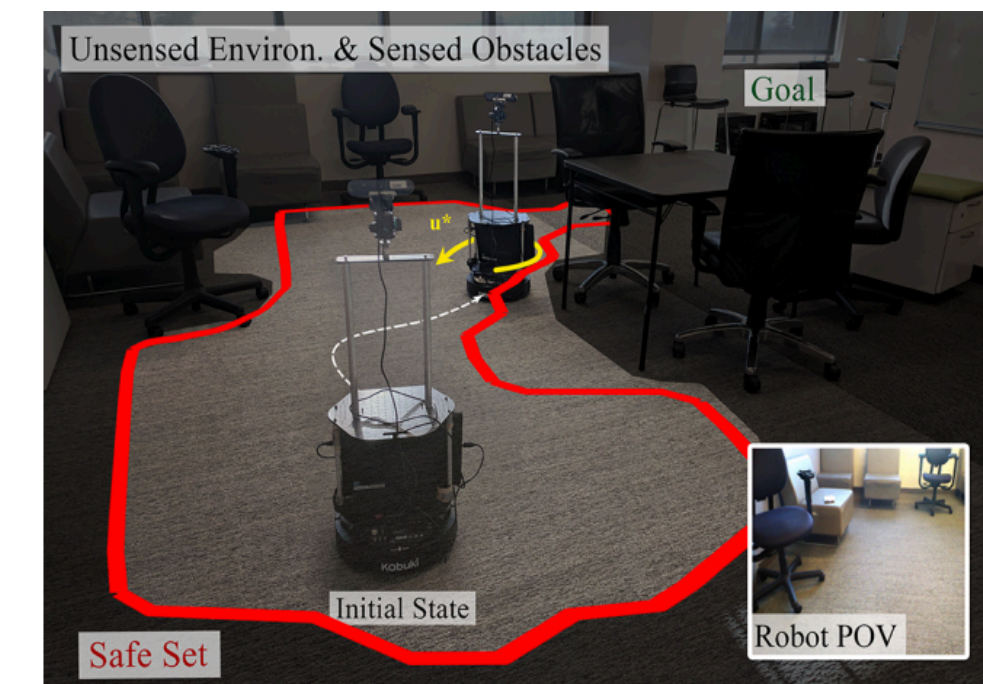
## Hamilton-Jacobi Reachability Analysis



## Safe Multi-Vehicle Trajectory Planning



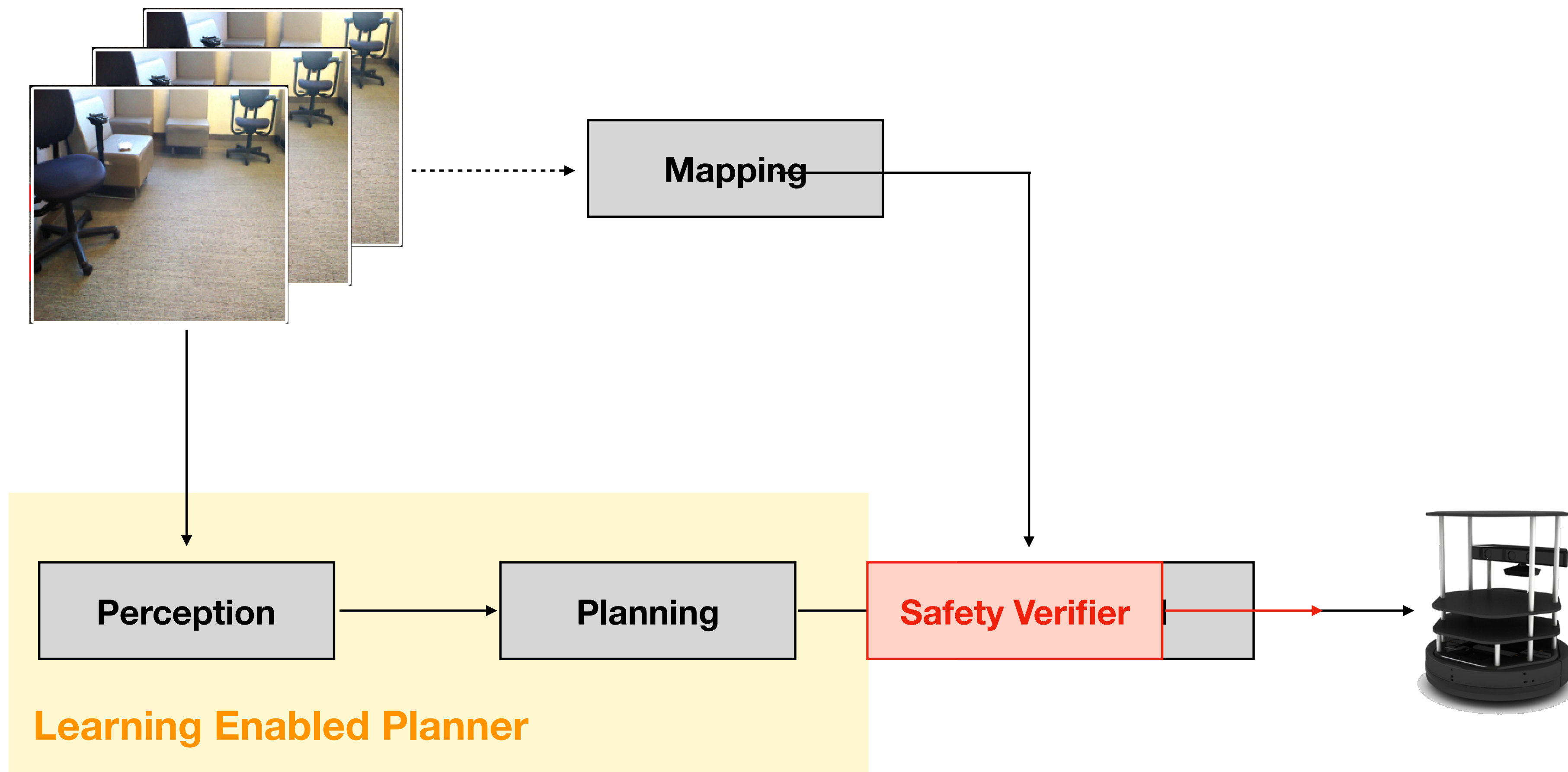
## Safe Learning-based Perception Systems



Approach

Online Safety Updates

Hardware experiments

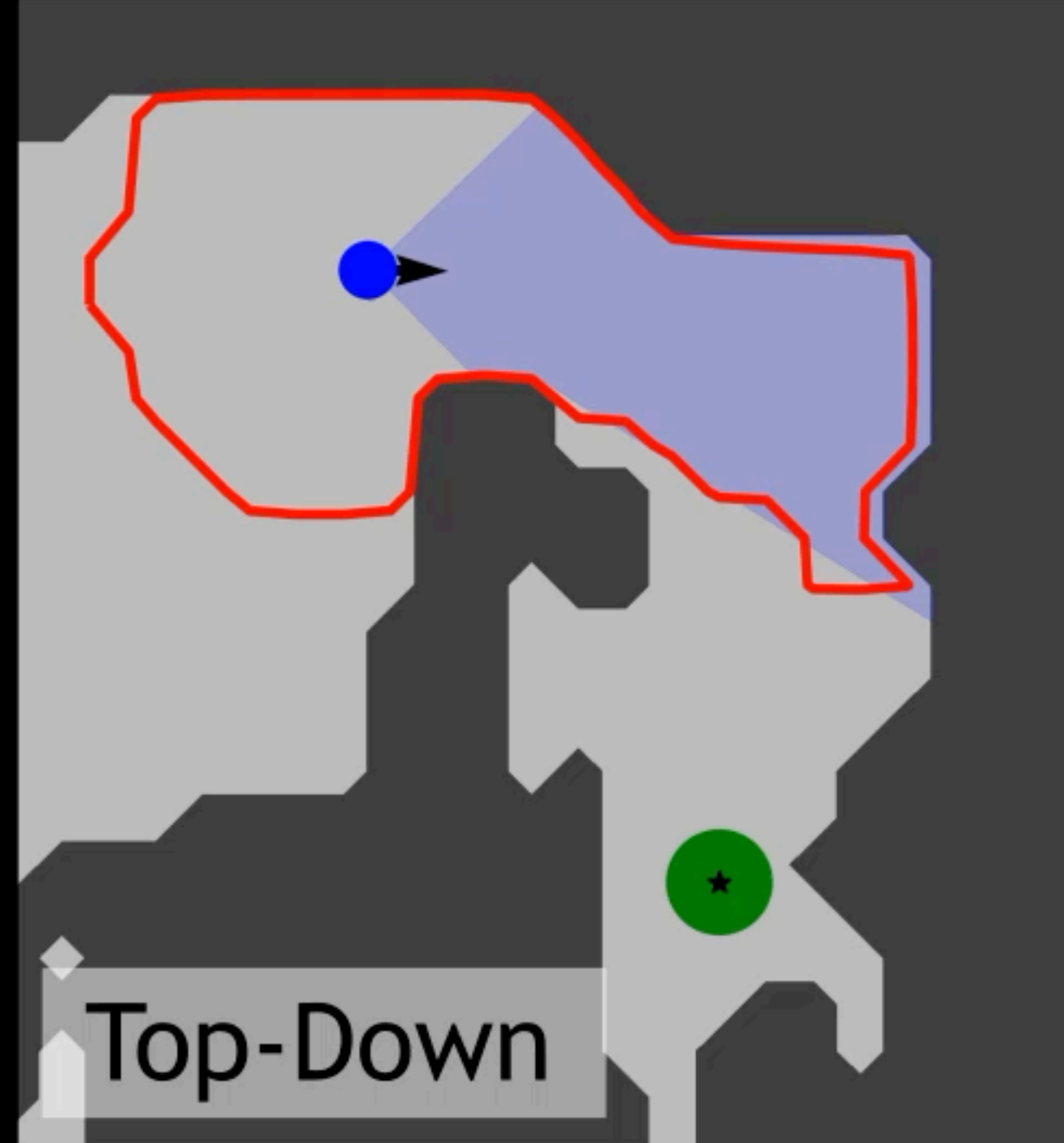


# Sample **Safe** Autonomy Stack

With Safety Controller



Third-Person POV



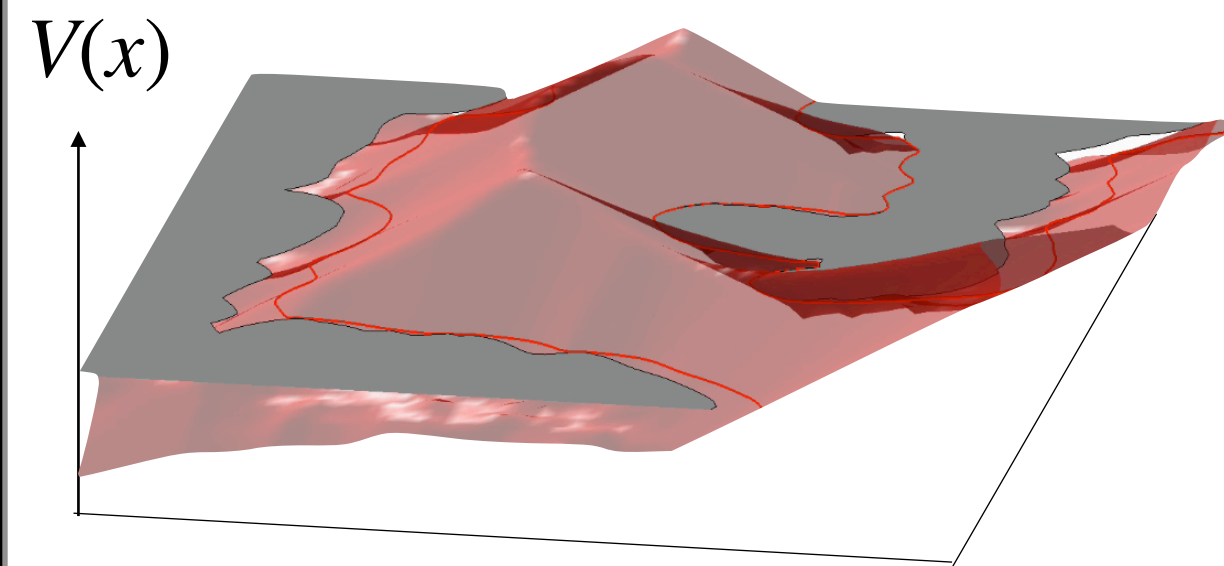
Top-Down



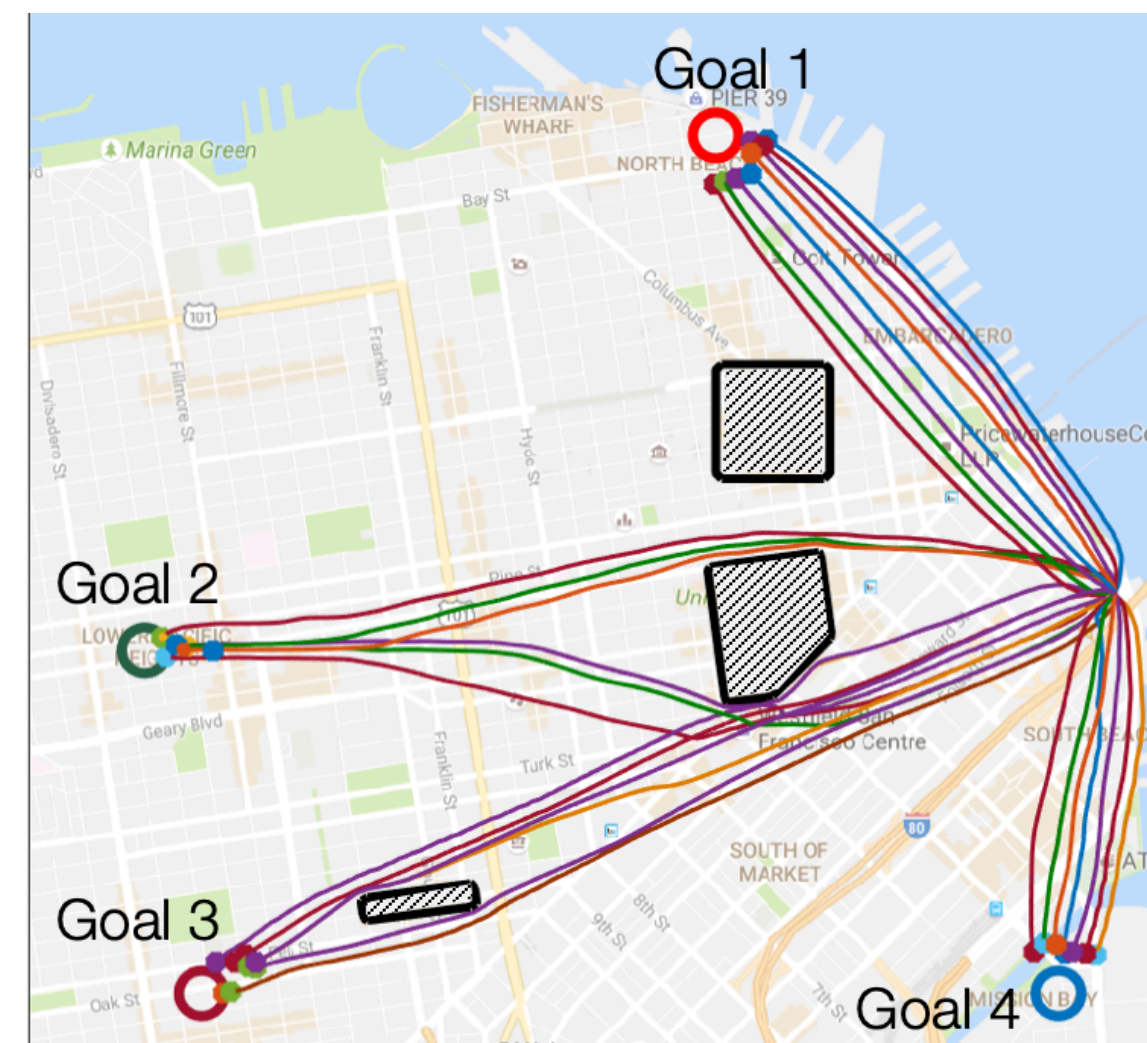
Robot POV

# Summary

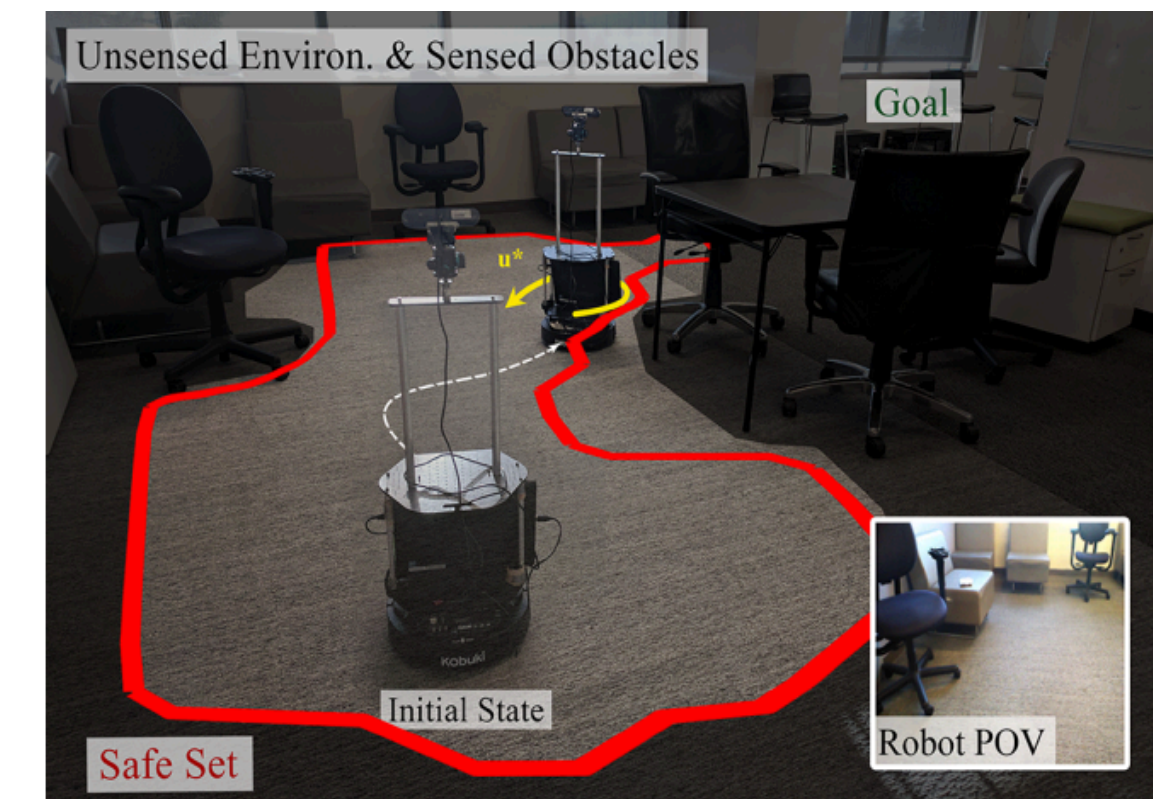
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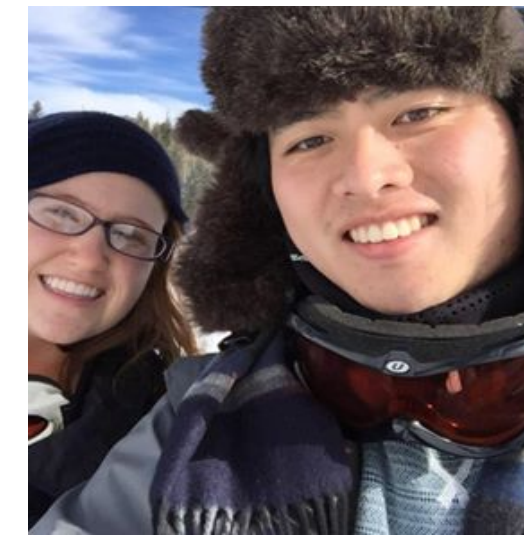
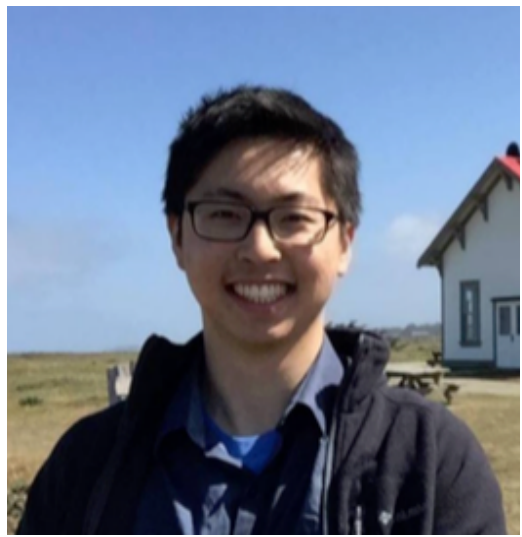
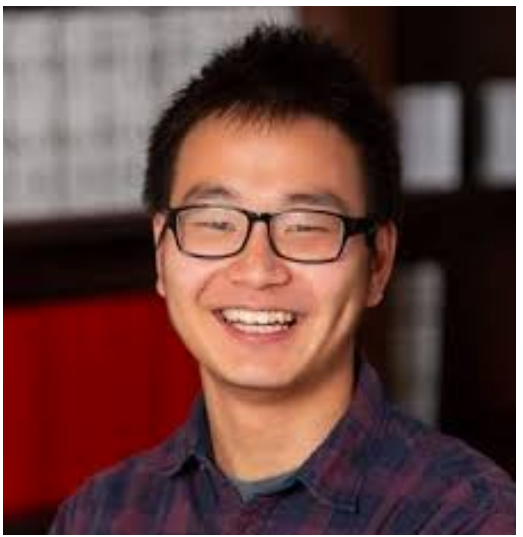
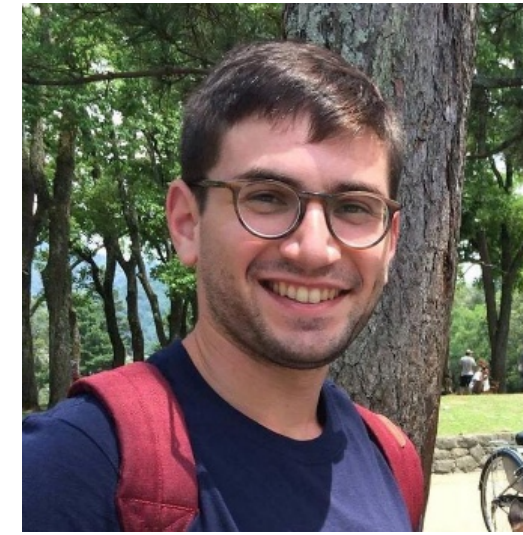
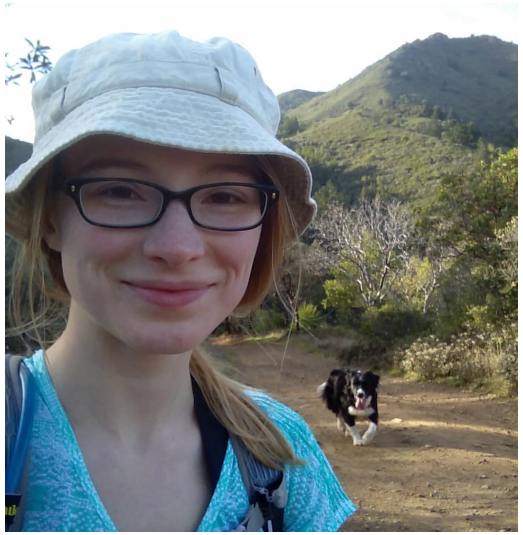
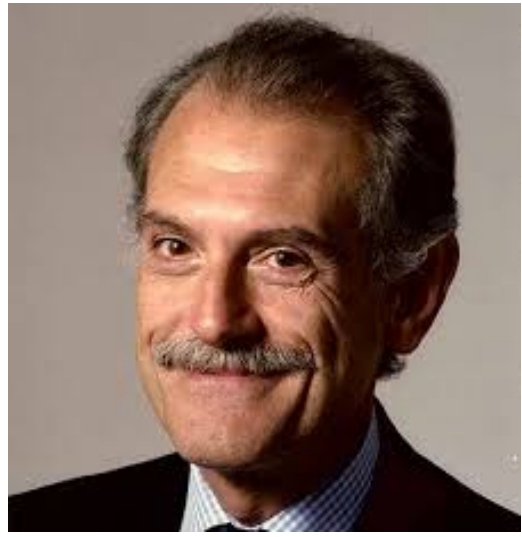
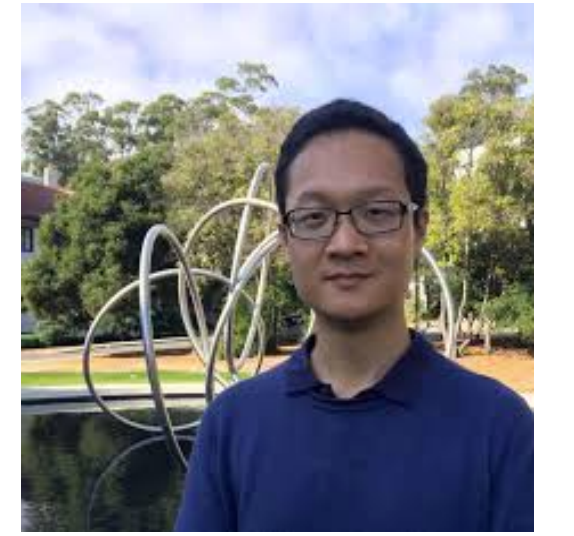


## Safe Multi-Vehicle Trajectory Planning



## Safe Learning-based Perception Systems





# Scaling Hamilton-Jacobi Reachability Analysis for Robotics

Somil Bansal

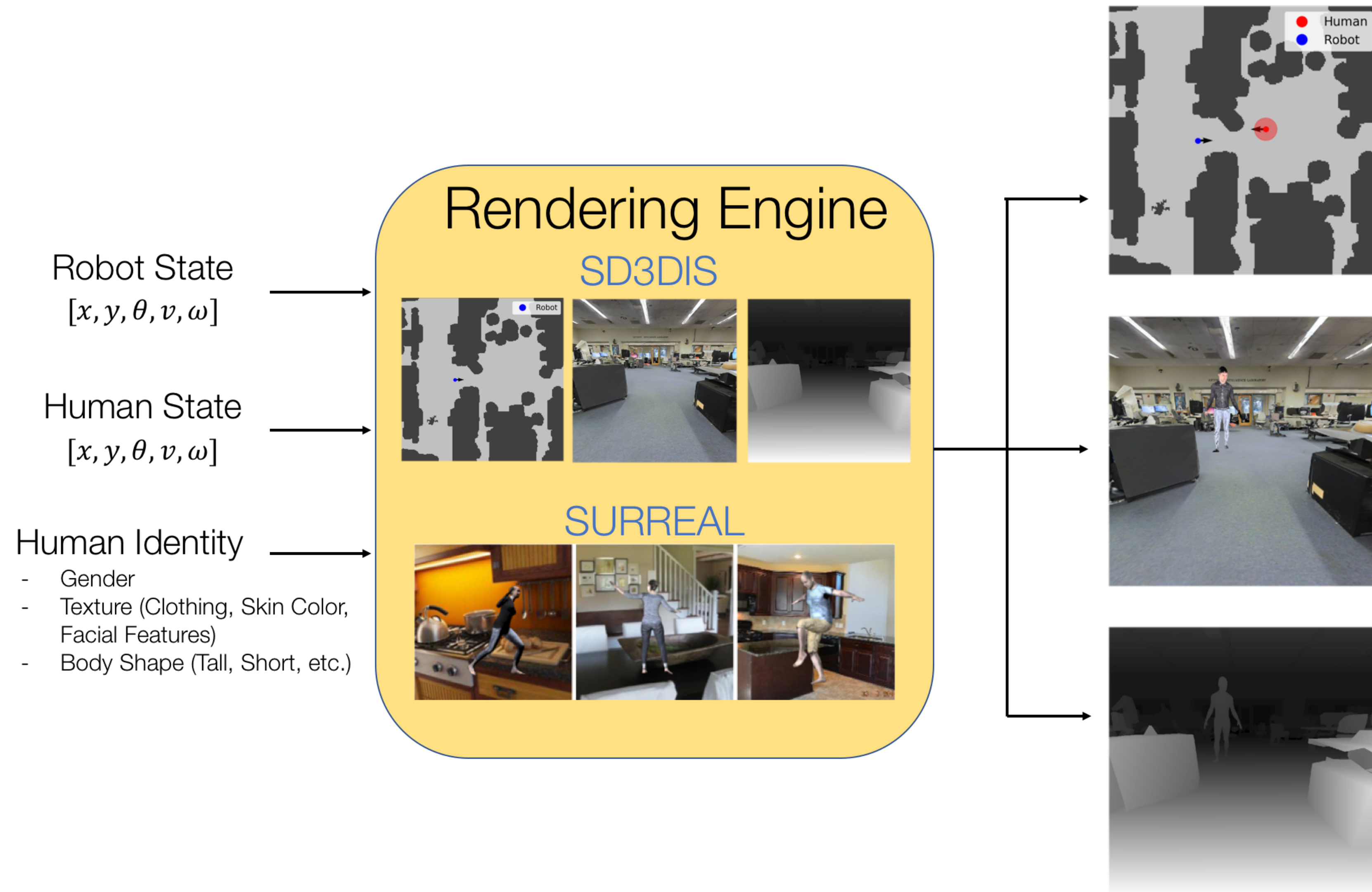
University of California, Berkeley

Thank You!

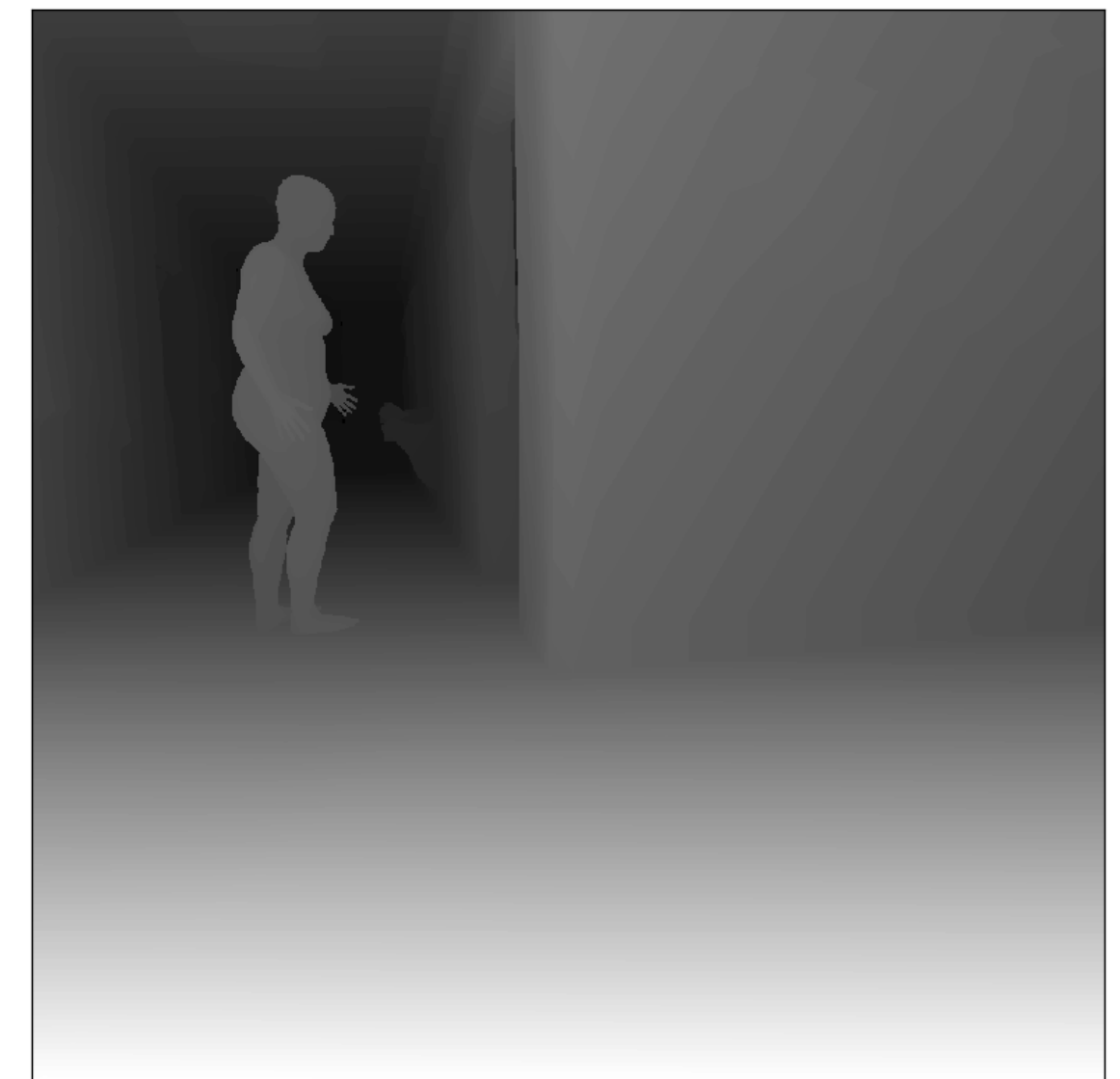
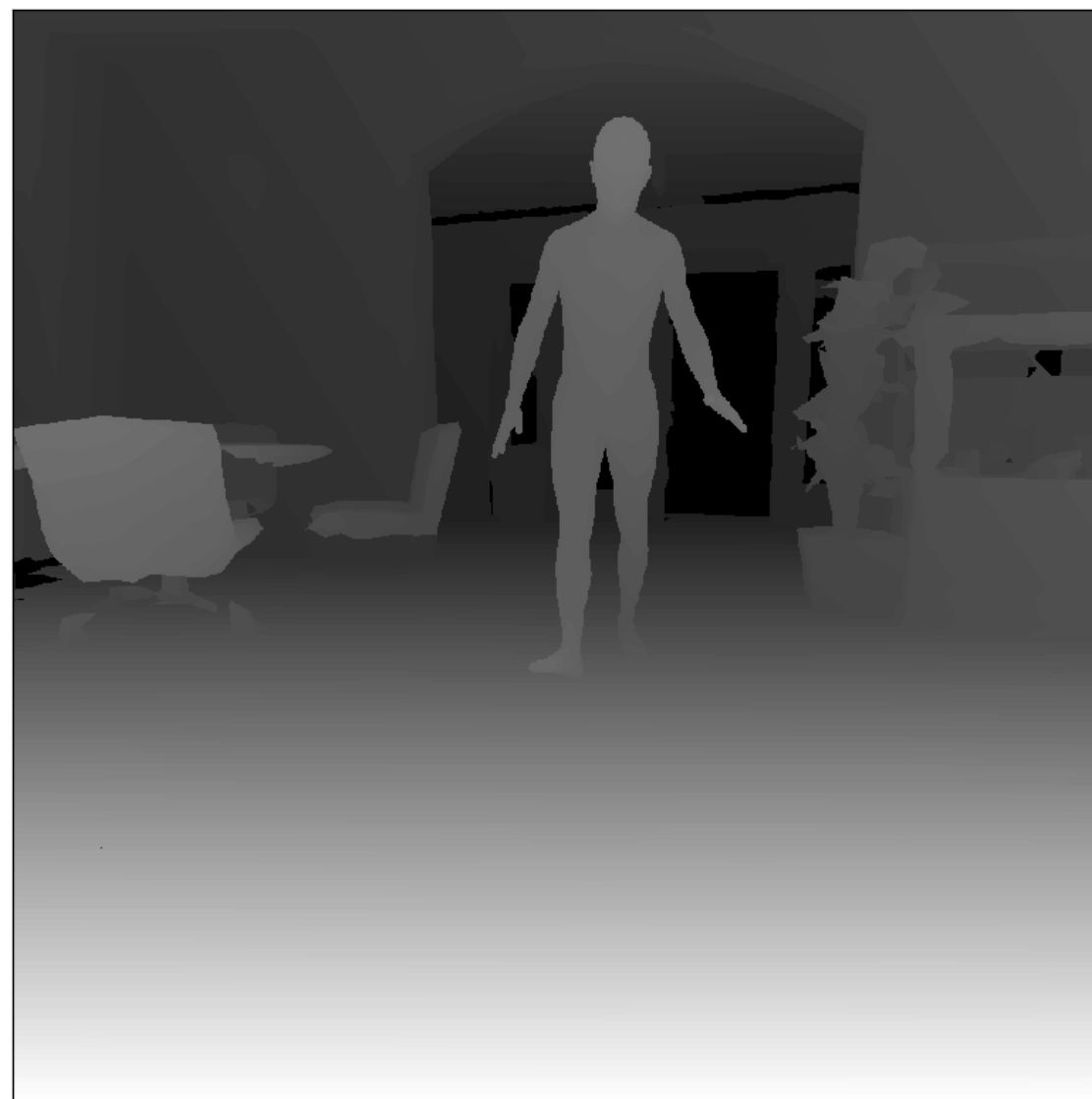
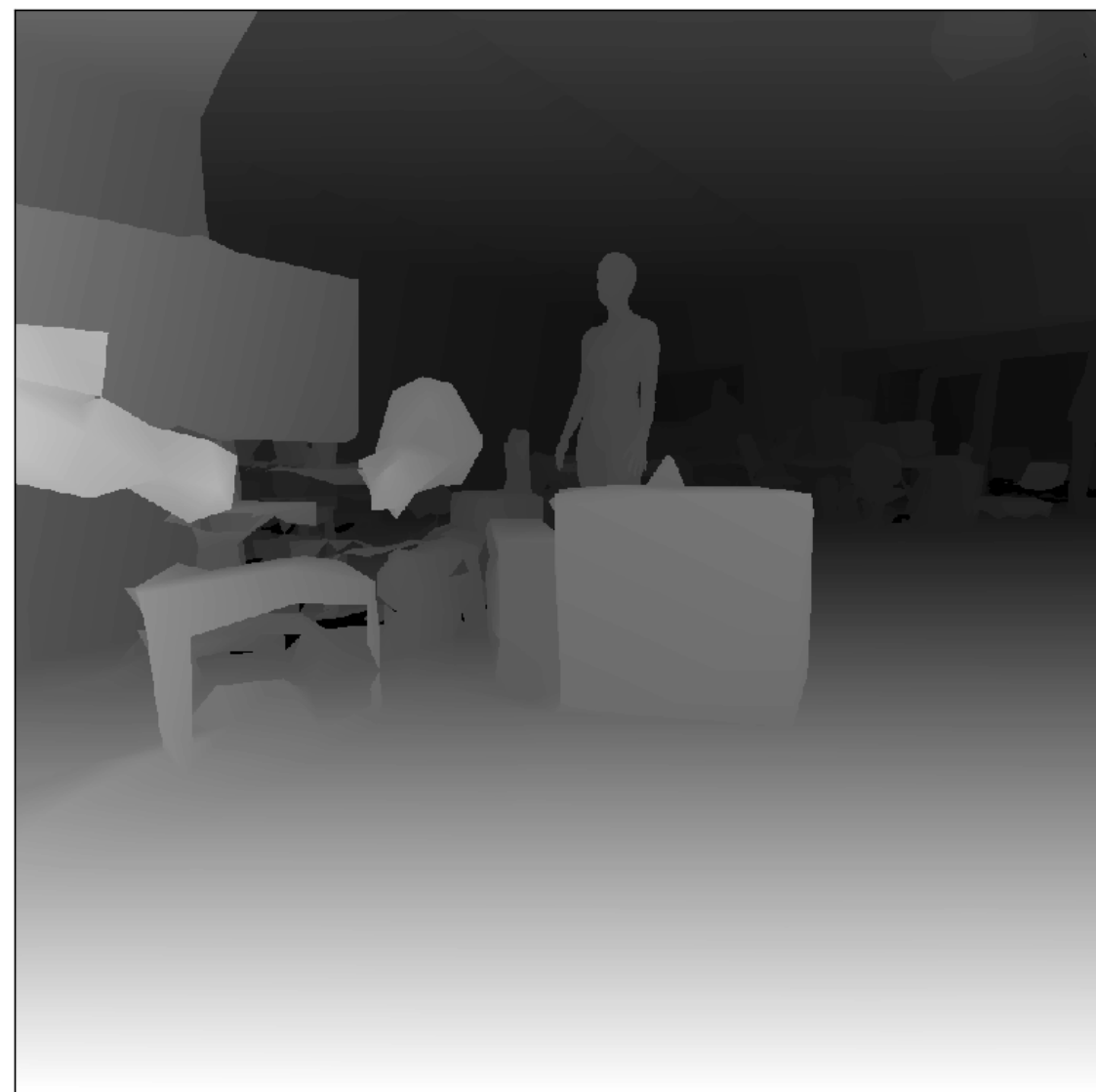
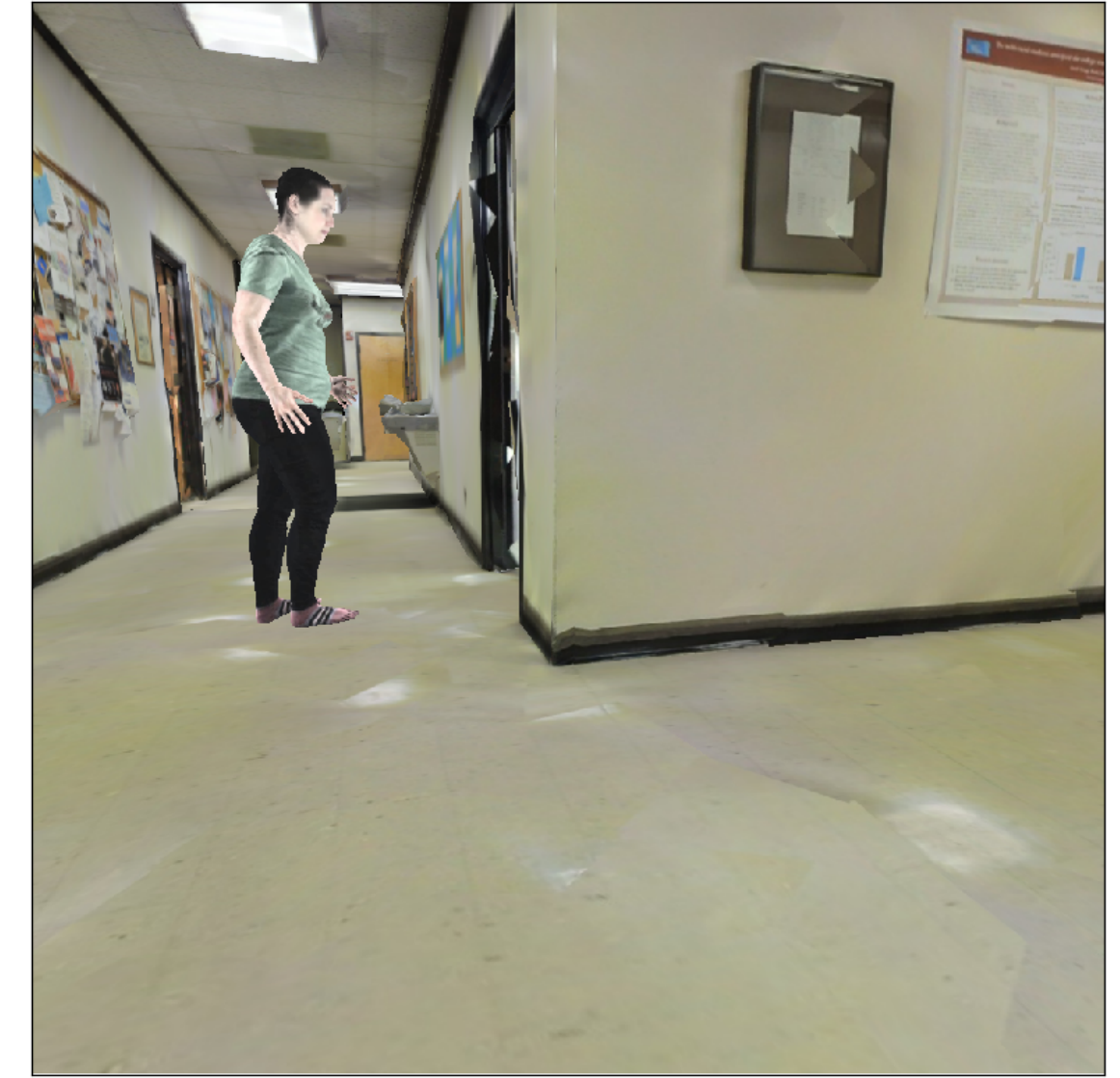
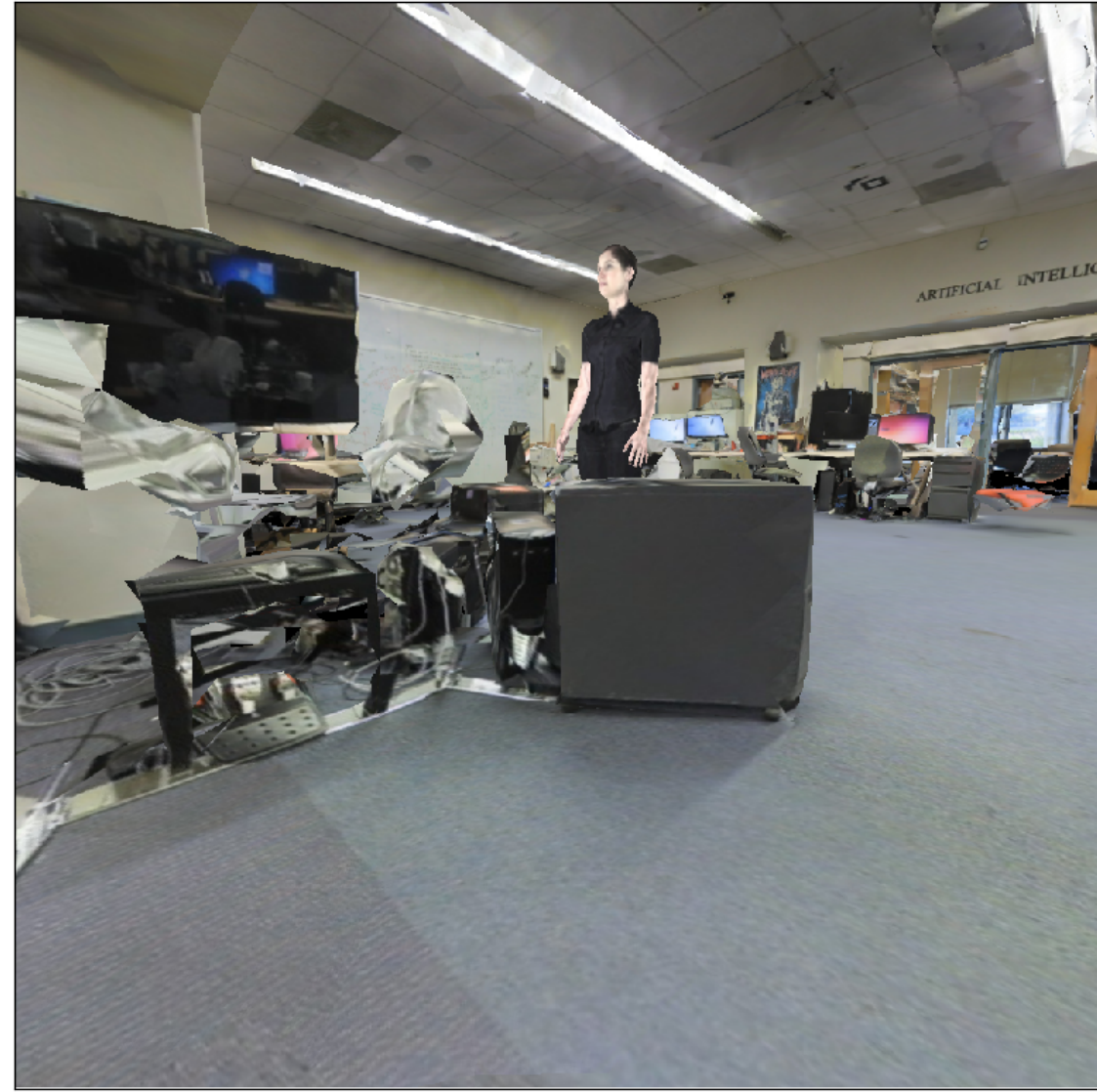
Contact: [somil@berkeley.edu](mailto:somil@berkeley.edu)

# Appendix

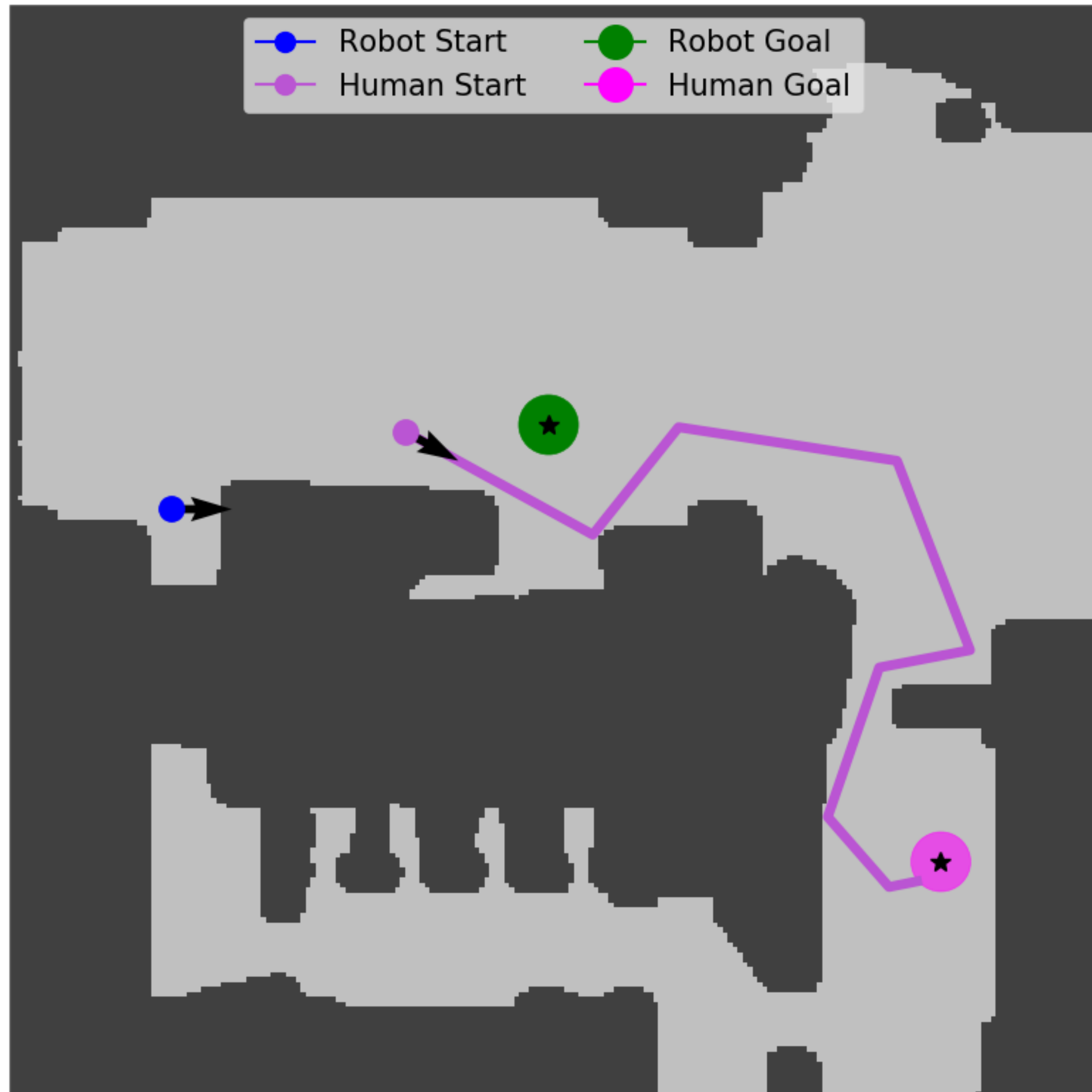
# Navigation in Human-Centric Environments



***An active dataset for navigation in human-centric environments.***



# Training Data



$$w_t^* = \operatorname{argmin}_w \sum_{i=t}^{t+H_p} J_i^V(z_i^V, u_i^V)$$

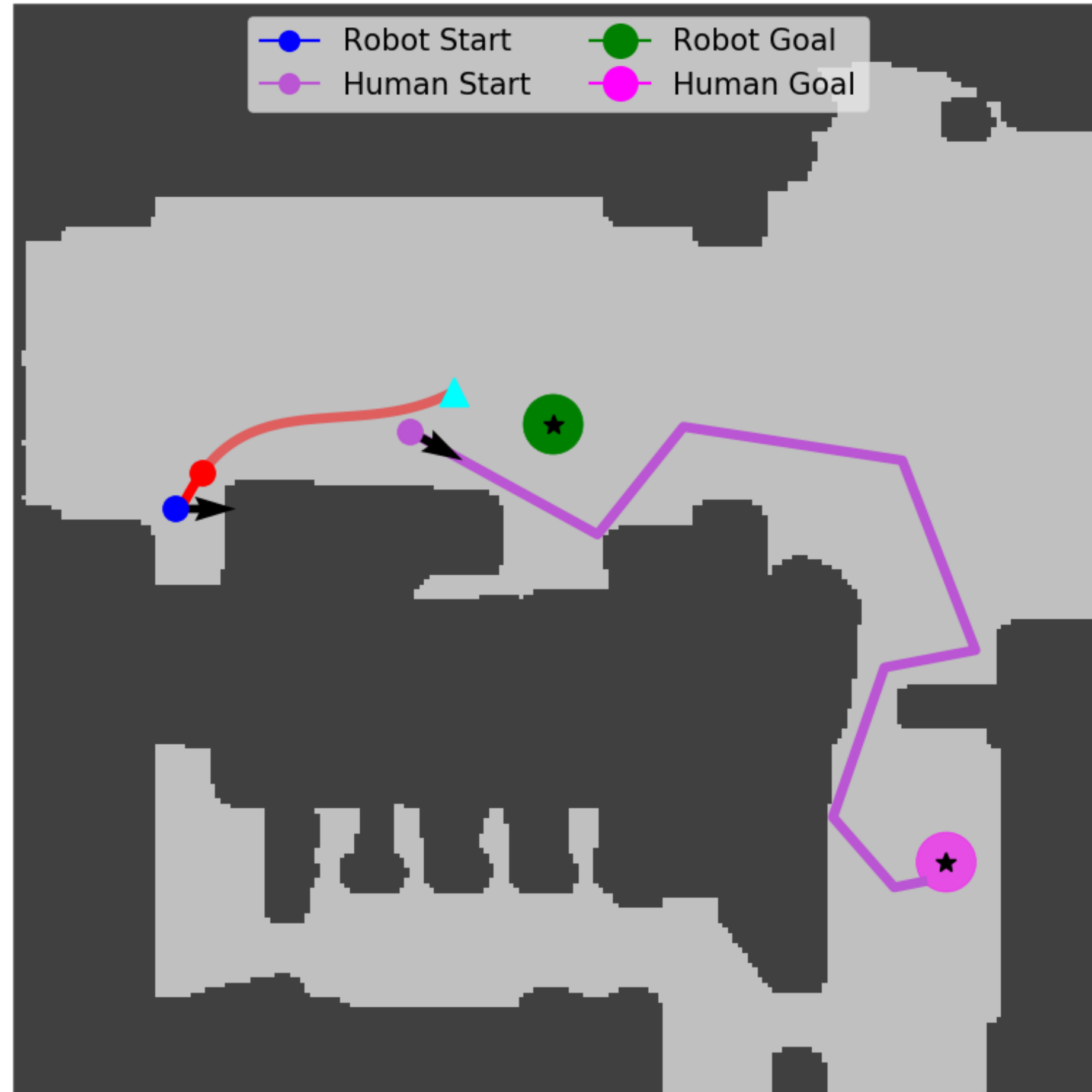
$$\text{subject to: } [(z_t^V, u_t^V), \dots, (z_{t+H_p}^V, u_{t+H_p}^V)] = \tau(z_t^V, u_t^V, w)$$

$$J_i^V(z_i^V, u_i^V) = \lambda_1 d_V^{\text{goal}}(z_i^V)^2 +$$

$$\lambda_2 (\max\{0, d_{\text{cutoff}}^{\text{obs}} - d^{\text{obs}}(z_i^V)\})^3 +$$

$$\lambda_3 (\max\{0, d_{\text{cutoff}}^{\text{human}} - d_i^{\text{human}}(z_i^V)\})^3$$

# Training Data



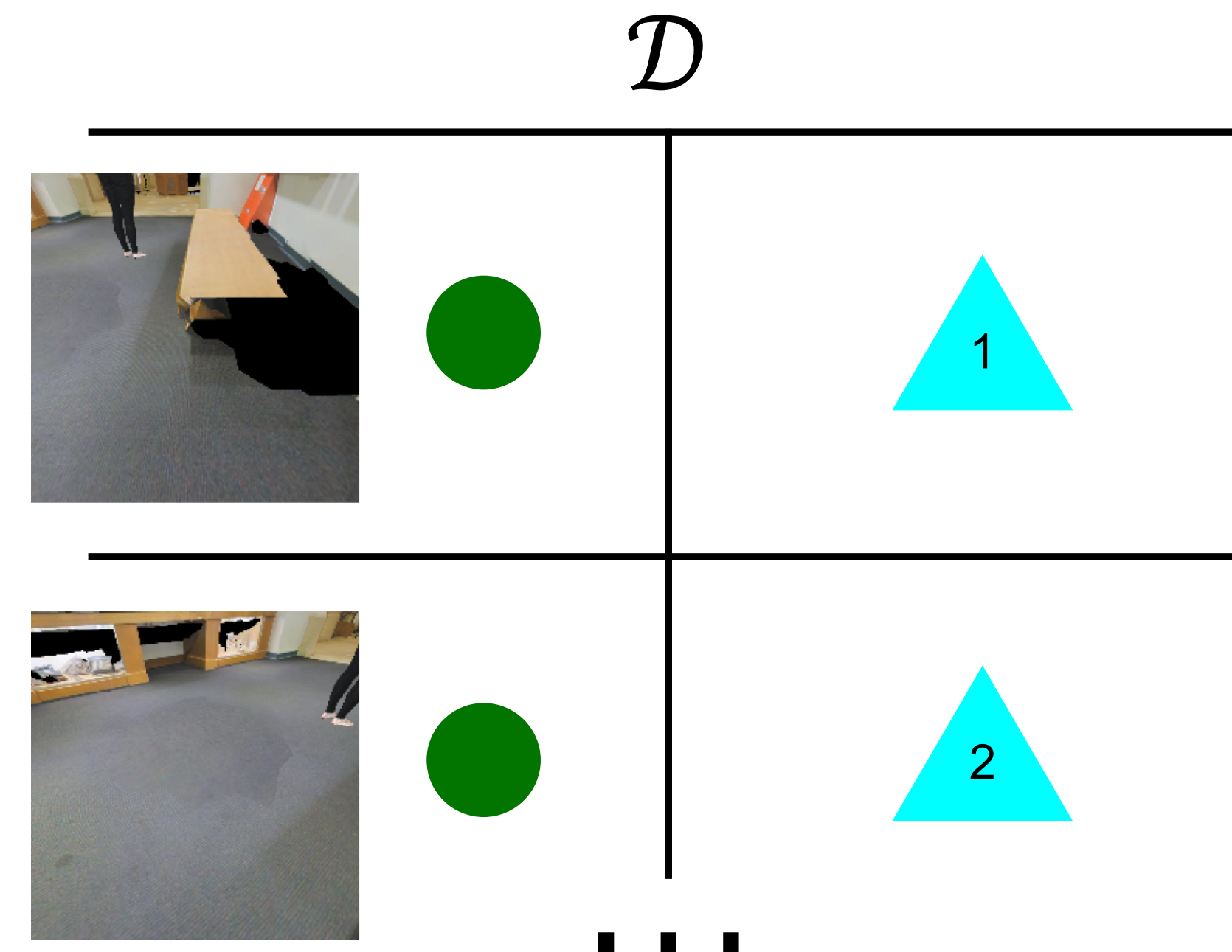
$$w_t^* = \operatorname{argmin}_w \sum_{i=t}^{t+H_p} J_i^V(z_i^V, u_i^V)$$

$$\text{subject to: } [(z_t^V, u_t^V), \dots, (z_{t+H_p}^V, u_{t+H_p}^V)] = \tau(z_t^V, u_t^V, w)$$

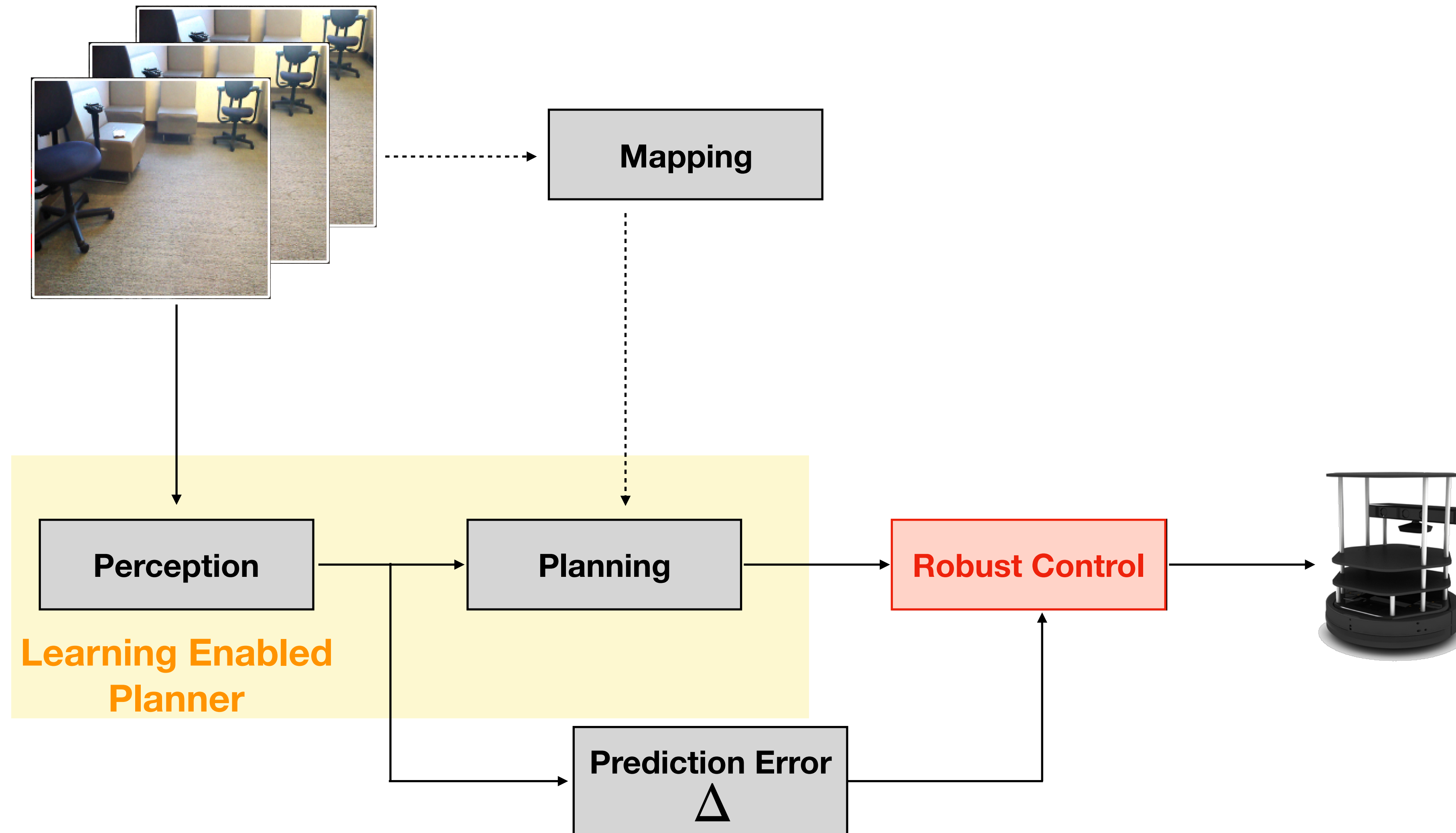
$$J_i^V(z_i^V, u_i^V) = \lambda_1 d_V^{\text{goal}}(z_i^V)^2 +$$

$$\lambda_2 (\max\{0, d_{\text{cutoff}}^{\text{obs}} - d_i^{\text{obs}}(z_i^V)\})^3 +$$

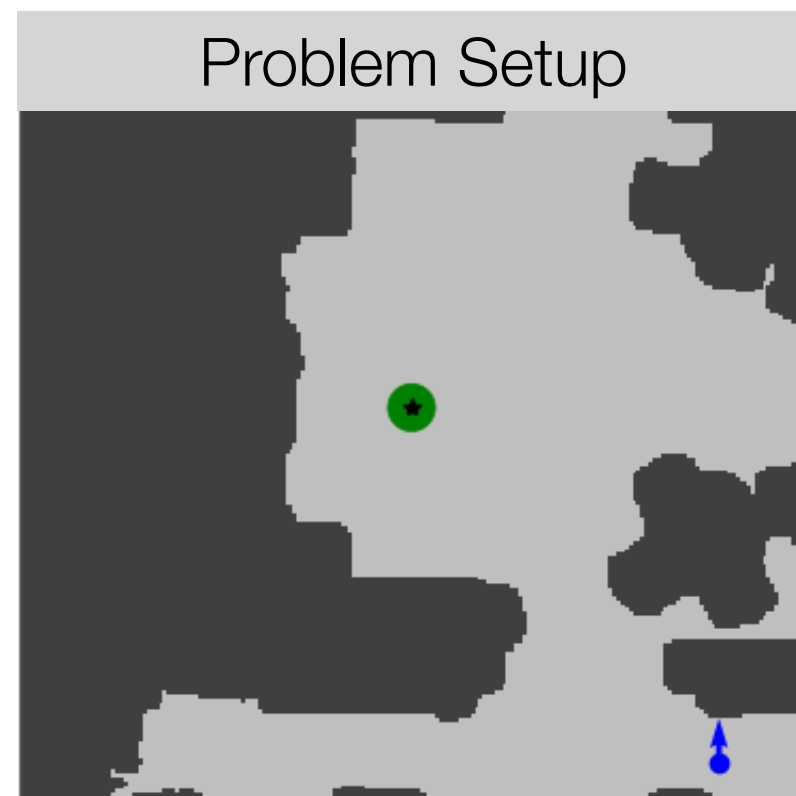
$$\lambda_3 (\max\{0, d_{\text{cutoff}}^{\text{human}} - d_i^{\text{human}}(z_i^V)\})^3$$



# Robust Interfaces Between Perception and Control



# Robust Data Generation Using Optimal Control



$$\min_{\mathbf{x}, \hat{w}} \sum_{i=0}^T \max_{\Delta} J(x_i)$$

**Cost of the trajectory**

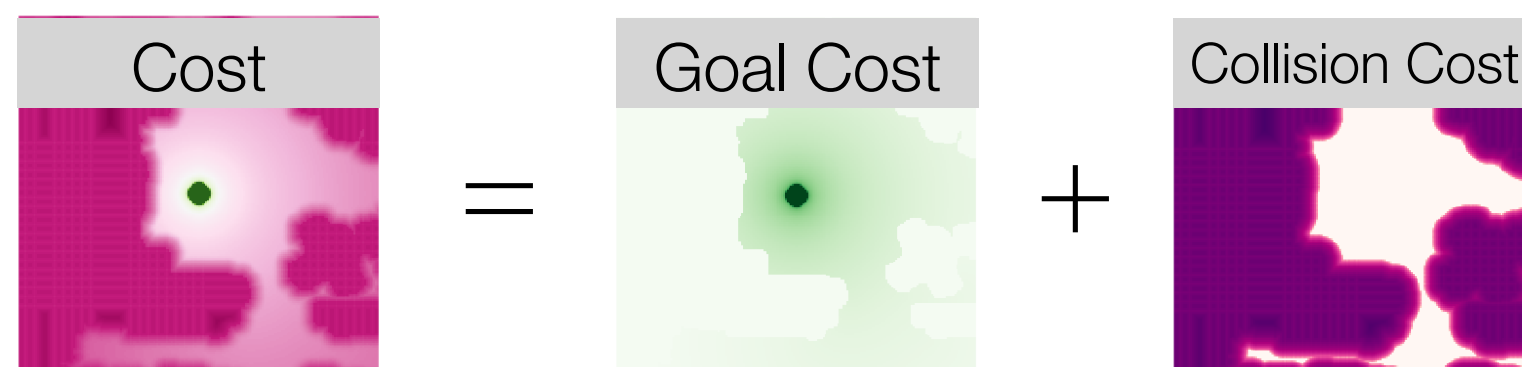
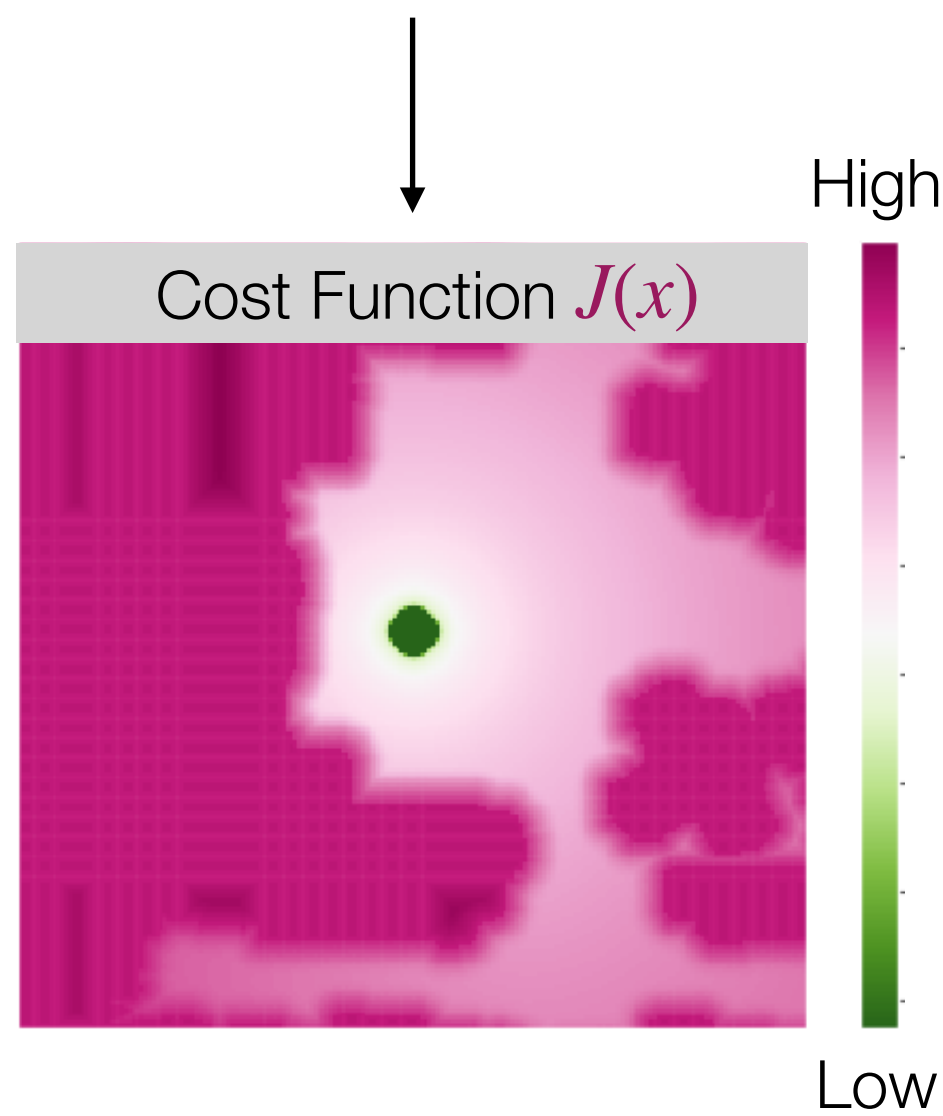
subject to  $\mathbf{x} = \text{FitSpline}(x_0, \hat{w}) + \Delta$  **Vehicle dynamics**

$$x_T = \hat{w}$$

**Waypoint**

$x_0$  – *Given*

**Current state**



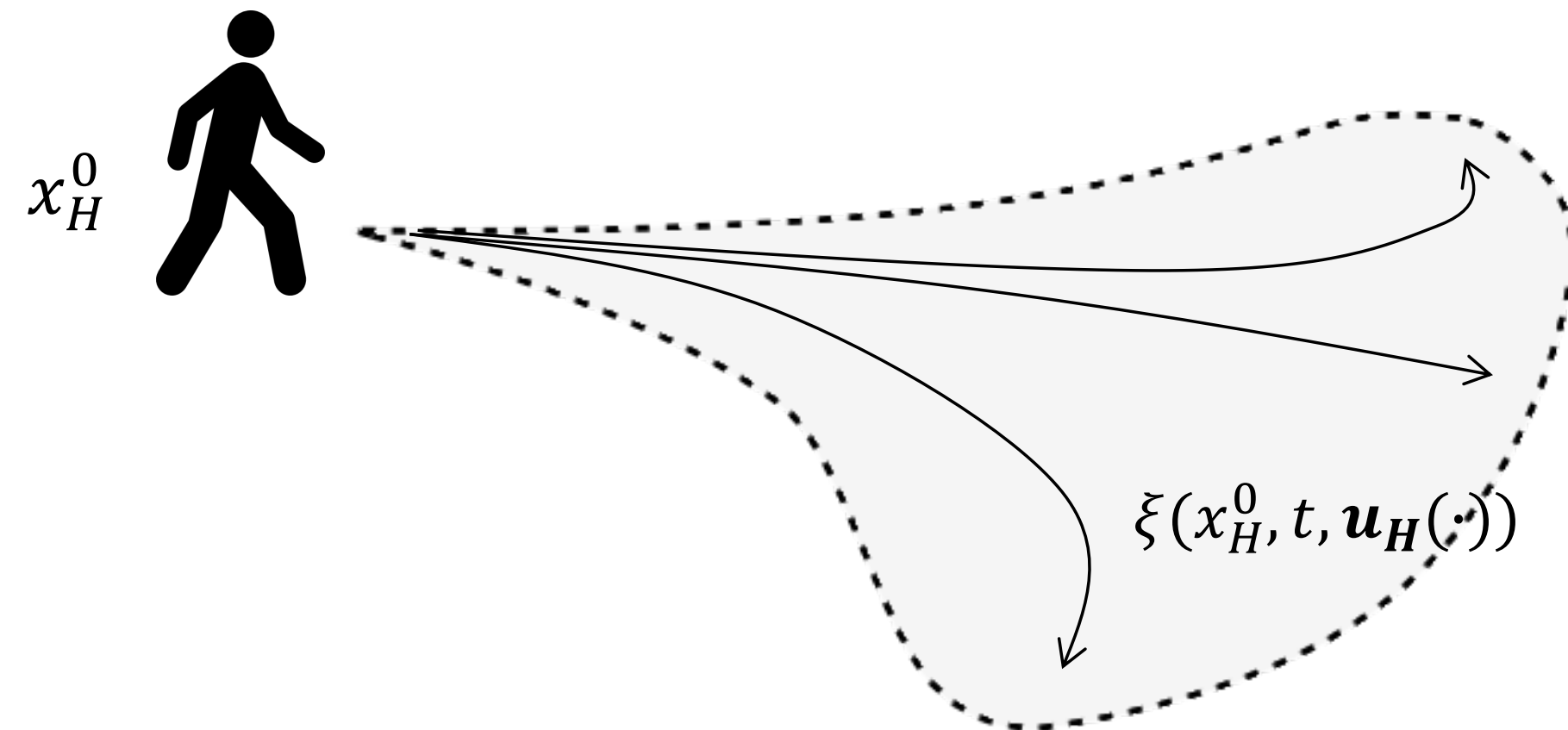


2x

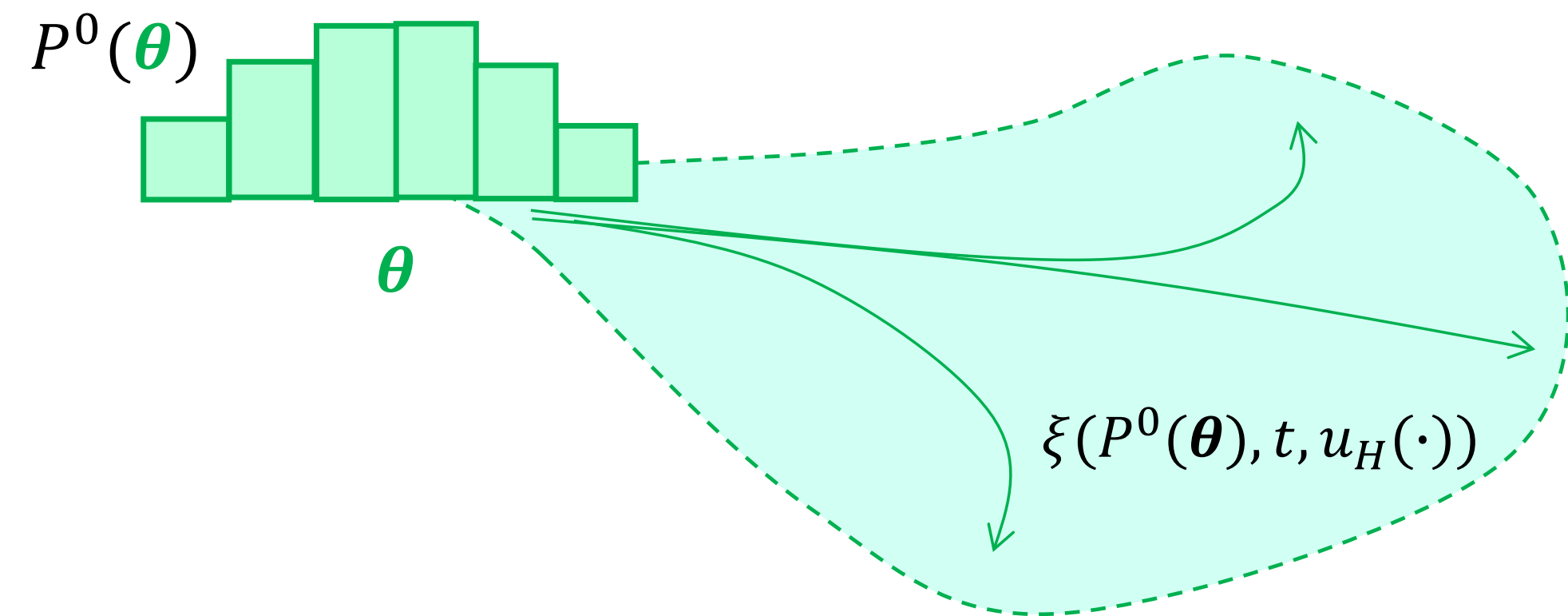
**Joint Dynamics**  $\dot{z}^t = f(z, u_H) = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{h}_x \\ \dot{h}_y \\ \dot{P}^t(\theta = \underline{\theta}) \\ \dots \\ \dot{P}^t(\theta = \bar{\theta}) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v_H \cos(u_H^t) \\ v_H \sin(u_H^t) \\ \underline{g}(P^t(\theta), u_H^t, x_H^t) \\ \dots \\ \bar{g}(P^t(\theta), u_H^t, x_H^t) \end{bmatrix}$

The dynamics are the Bayesian update and the 'input' is the human's action observation

$\dot{x}_H = f_H(x_H, u_H)$   
 $u_H \in U$



$\dot{P}^t(\theta) = g(P^t(\theta), u_H, x_H)$   
 $u_H \in U_{obs}$

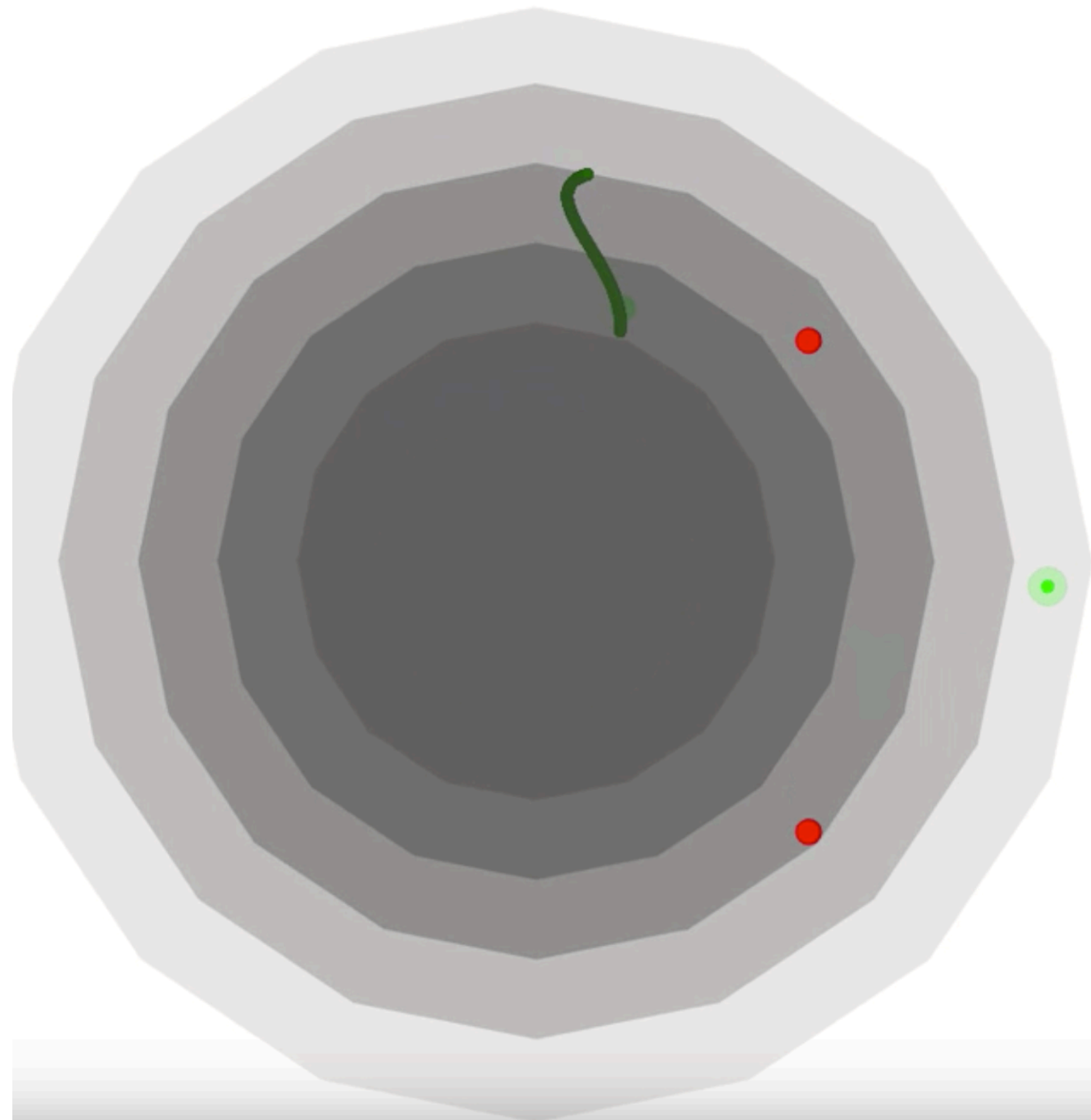


[Vinod, Oishi, 2018]

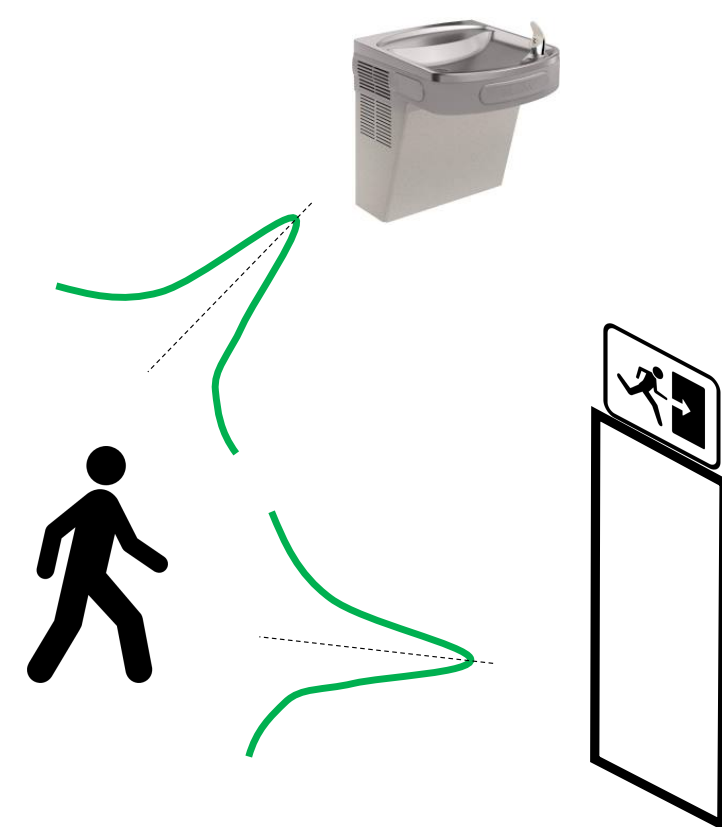
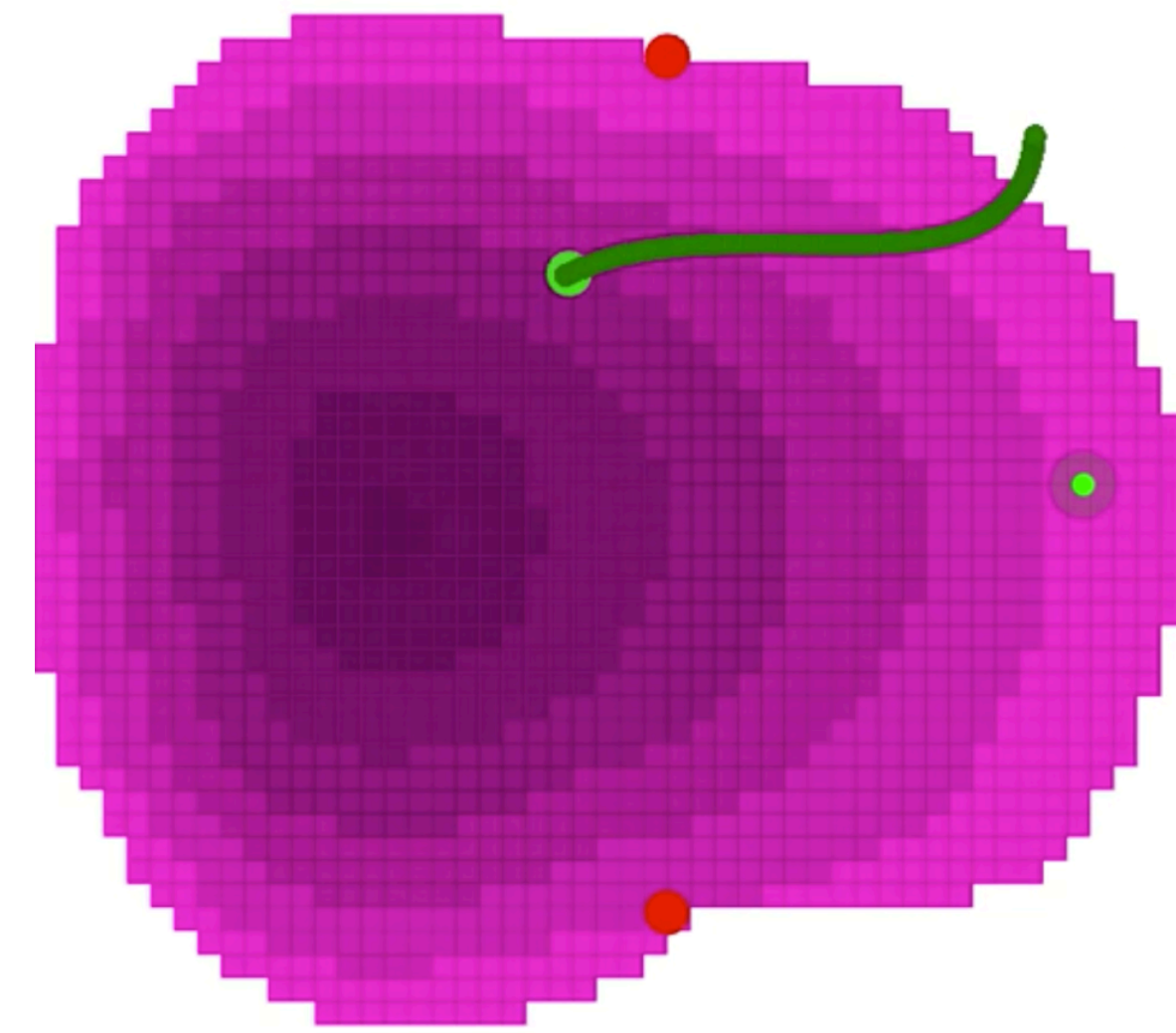
[Abate, Amin, Prandini, Lygeros, Sastry, 2007]

[Kaelbling, Littman, Cassandra, 1998]

$$U_{obs} = U$$

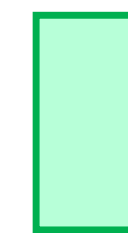


$$u_{obs}^t \sim P(u_H^t | x_H^t; \theta^t) \quad U_{obs} = \{u_H^t : P(u_H^t | z^t) \geq \delta\}$$

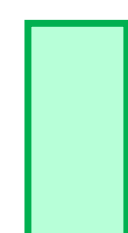


$$P^0(\theta)$$

0.5



0.5



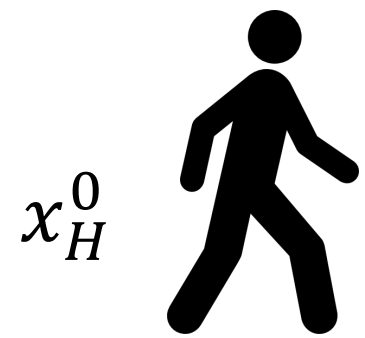
## Joint Dynamics

$$\dot{z}^t = f(z, u_H) = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{h}_x \\ \dot{h}_y \\ \dot{P}^t(\theta = \underline{\theta}) \\ \dots \\ \dot{P}^t(\theta = \bar{\theta}) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v_H \cos(u_H^t) \\ v_H \sin(u_H^t) \\ \underline{g}(P^t(\theta), u_H^t) \\ \dots \\ \bar{g}(P^t(\theta), u_H^t) \end{bmatrix}$$

The dynamics are the Bayesian update and the 'input' is the human's action observation

$$\dot{x}_H = f_H(x_H, u_H)$$

$$u_H \in U$$



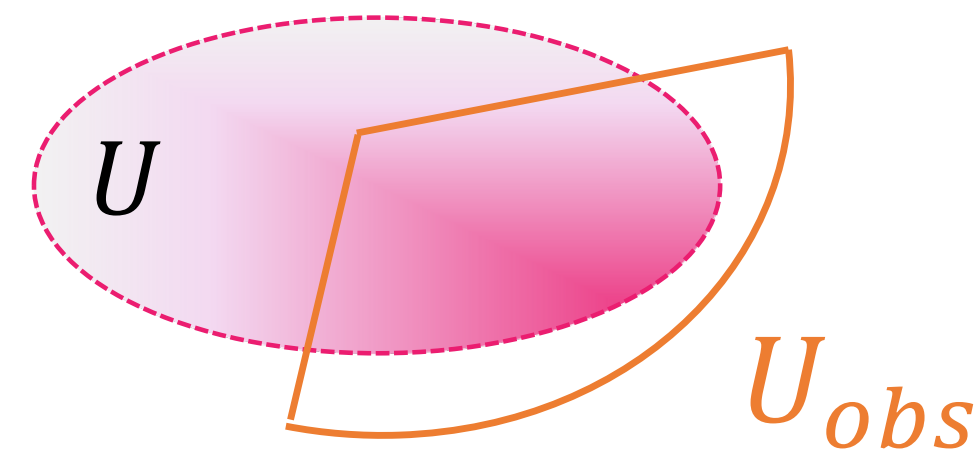
$$u_H^t \sim P(u_H^t | x_H^t; \theta^t)$$

$$\approx u_H^t \in U_{obs} \subseteq U$$

Stochastic reachability  $\rightarrow$  highly intractable!

$$U_{obs} = \{u_H^t : P(u_H^t | z^t) \geq \delta\}$$

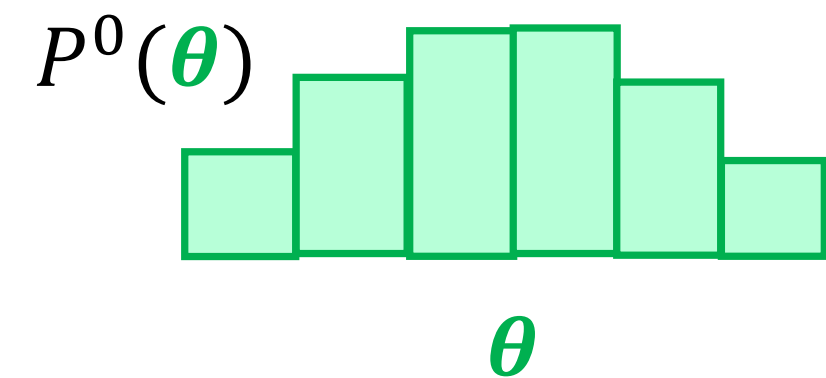
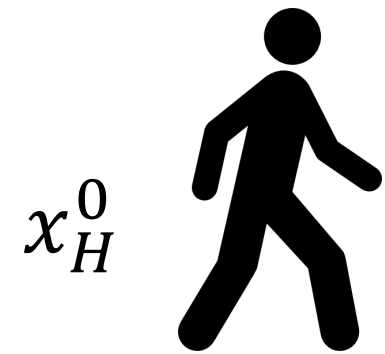
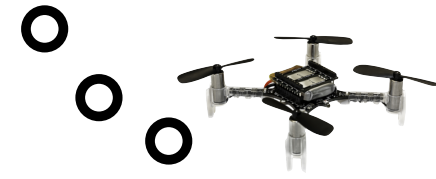
Deterministic reachability



Balanced approximation between stochastic reachability and full forward reachable set

# Deterministic Reachability Problem

$$FRS(z, t) := \{z' : \exists u_H(\cdot), z' = \xi(z, t, u_H(\cdot))\}$$



$$\dot{z}^t = f(z^t, u_H^t)$$

$$u_H \in U_{obs}$$

$$U_{obs} = \{u_H^t : P(u_H^t | z^t) \geq \delta\}$$

## Hamilton-Jacobi Reachability Analysis

### Hamilton-Jacobi Reachability: A Brief Overview and Recent Advances

Somil Bansal\*, Mo Chen\*, Sylvia Herbert\* and Claire J. Tomlin

**Abstract**—Hamilton-Jacobi (HJ) reachability analysis is an important formal verification method for guaranteeing performance and safety properties of dynamical systems; it has been applied to many small-scale systems in the past decade. Its advantages include compatibility with general nonlinear system dynamics, formal treatment of bounded disturbances, and the availability of well-developed numerical tools. The main challenge is addressing its exponential computational complexity with respect to the number of state variables. In this tutorial, we present an overview of basic HJ reachability theory and provide instructions for using the most recent numerical tools, including an efficient GPU-parallelized implementation of a Level Set Toolbox for computing reachable sets. In addition, we review some of the current work in high-dimensional HJ reachability to show how the dimensionality challenge can be alleviated via various general theoretical and application-specific insights.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

As the systems we design grow more complex, determining whether they work according to specification becomes more difficult. Consequently, verification and validation have received major attention in many fields of engineering. However, verification of systems is challenging for many reasons. First, all possible system behaviors must be accounted for. This makes most simulation-based approaches insufficient, and thus formal verification methods are needed. Second, many practical systems are affected by disturbances in the environment, which can be unpredictable, and may even contain adversarial agents. In addition, these systems often have high dimensional state spaces and evolve in continuous time with complex, nonlinear dynamics.

Hamilton-Jacobi (HJ) reachability analysis is a verification method for guaranteeing performance and safety properties of systems, overcoming some of the above challenges. In reachability analysis, one computes the reach-avoid set, defined as the set of states from which the system can be driven to a target set while satisfying time-varying state constraints at all times. A major practical appeal of this approach stems from the availability of modern numerical tools, which can compute various definitions of reachable sets [1]–[4]. For example, these numerical tools have been successfully used to solve a variety of differential games, path planning

problems, and optimal control problems. Concrete practical applications include aircraft auto-landing [5], automated aerial refueling [6], model predictive control (MPC) of quadrotors [7], [8], multiplayer reach-avoid games [9], large-scale multiple-vehicle path planning [10], [11], and real-time safe motion planning [12]. However, HJ reachability becomes computationally intractable as the state space dimension increases. Traditionally, reachable set computations involve solving an HJ partial differential equation (PDE) on a grid representing a discretization of the state space, resulting in an exponential scaling of computational complexity with respect to system dimensionality; this is often referred to as the “curse of dimensionality.” However, recent work has made a significant leap in overcoming these challenges by exploiting system structures to decompose the computation of reachable set into several small dimensional computations [13], [14]. In addition, convex optimization applied to the Hopf-Lax formula allows real-time computation of the HJ PDE solution at any desired state and time instant when the system dynamics are linear [15], [16].

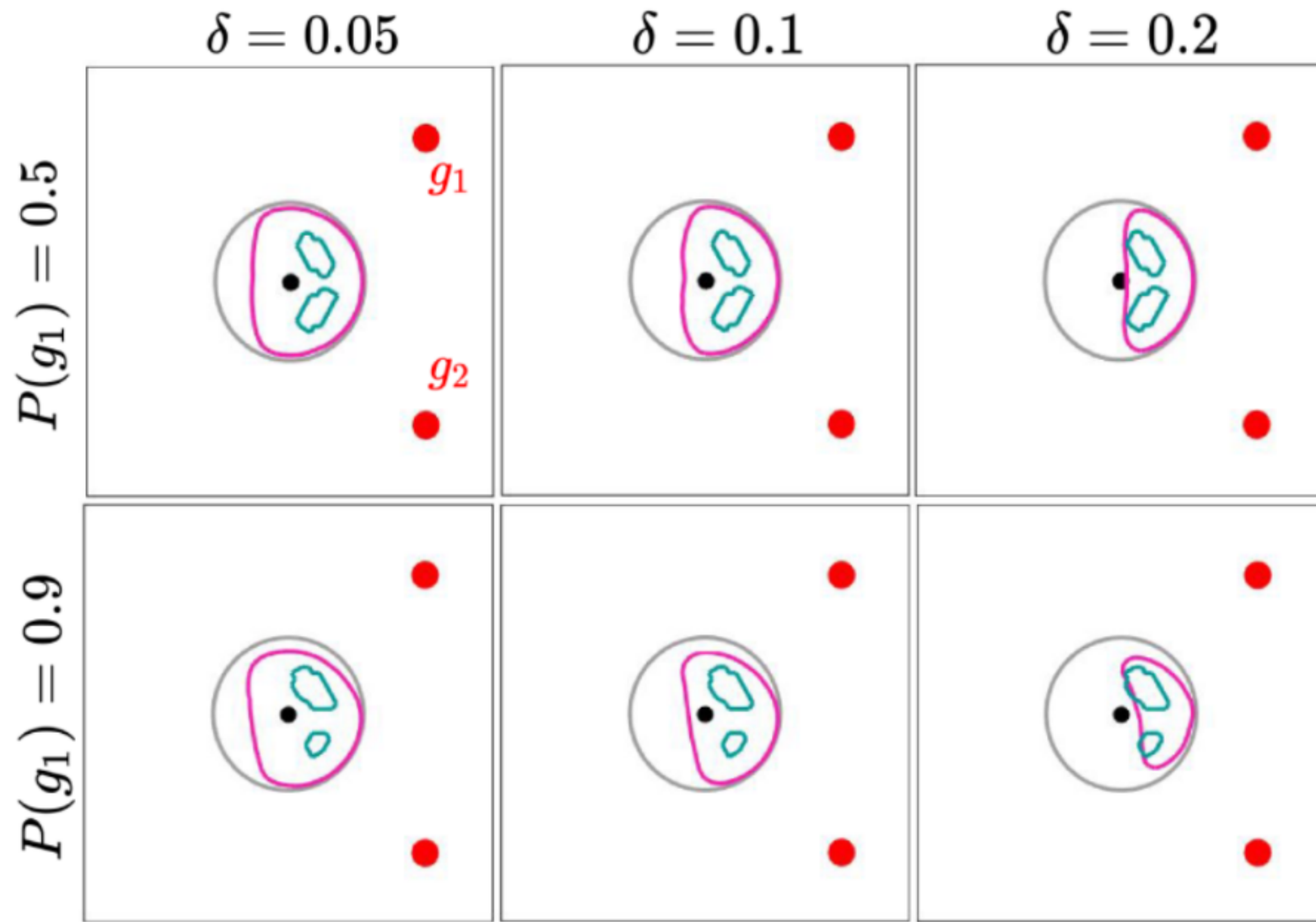
Besides HJ reachability, alternative approaches to verification exist. In particular, satisfaction of properties such as safety, liveness, and fairness in computer software and in discrete-time dynamical systems can be verified by checking whether runs of a transition system, or words of a finite automaton satisfy certain desired properties [17], [18]. These properties may be specified by a variety of logical formalisms such as linear temporal logic. For specifications of properties of interest in autonomous robots, richer formalisms have been proposed. For example, propositional temporal logic over the reals [19], [20] allows specification of properties such as time in terms of real numbers, and chance-constrained temporal logic [21] allows specification of requirements in the presence of uncertainty. Besides autonomous cars and robots, verification approaches based on discrete models have also been successfully used in the context of intelligent transportation systems [22] and human-automation interaction [23].

For continuous and hybrid systems, safety properties can be verified by checking whether the forward reachable set or an over-approximation of it intersects with a set of undesirable states, akin to checking runs of transition systems. Numerous tools such as SpaceEx [24], Flow\* [25], CORA [26], C2E2 [27], [28], and dReach [29] have been developed for this purpose; the authors in [30] present a tutorial on combining different tools for hybrid systems verification. In addition, methods that utilize semidefinite programming to search for Lyapunov functions can be used to verify safety [31], [32]. This is done, for example, by constructing

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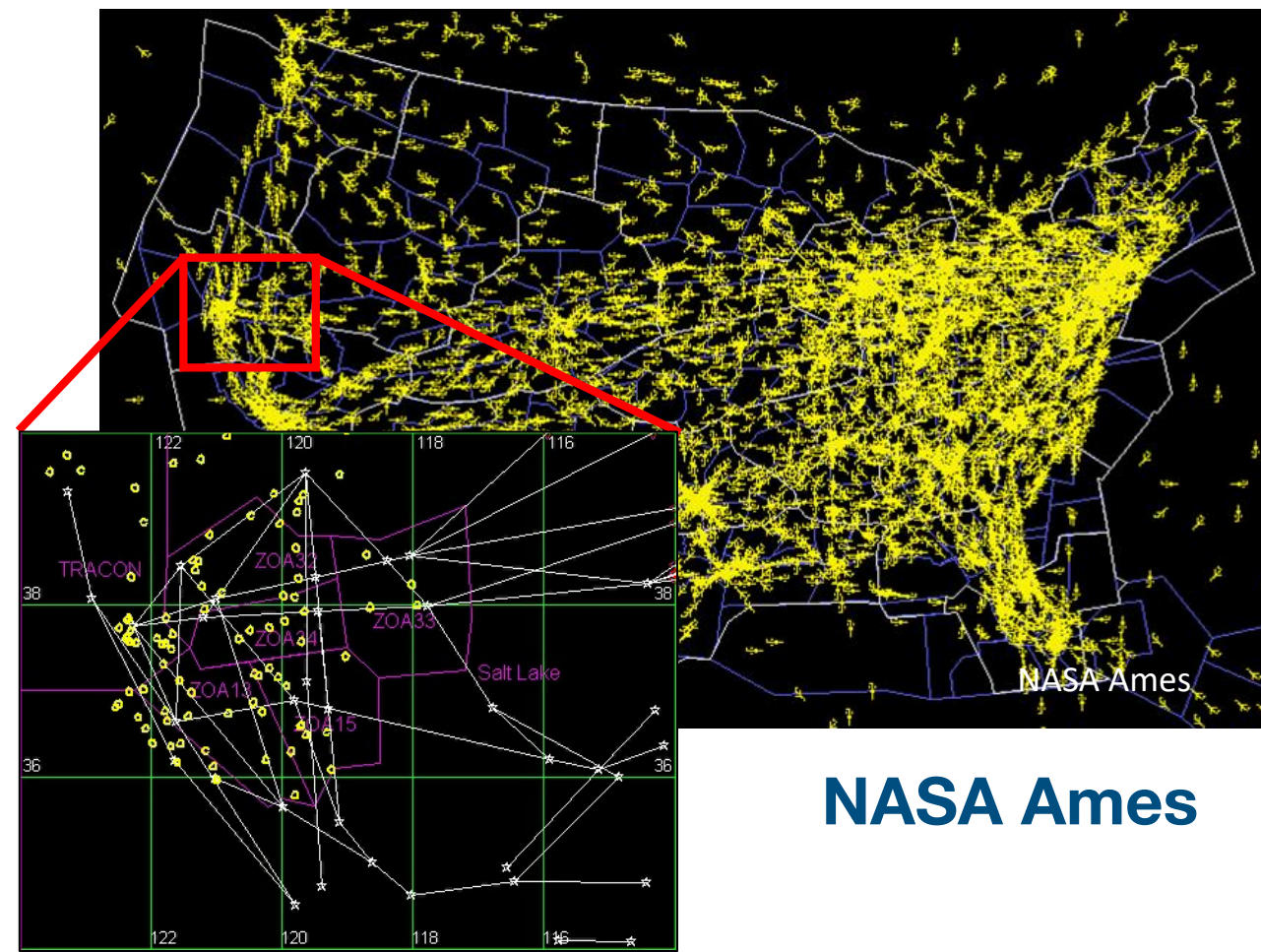
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWsfcl07nRc>



■ BA-FRS   
 ■ Bayes   
 ■ FRS   
 ● Known goal   
 ● Human pos

# Bayesian Predictor

# Air Traffic Control



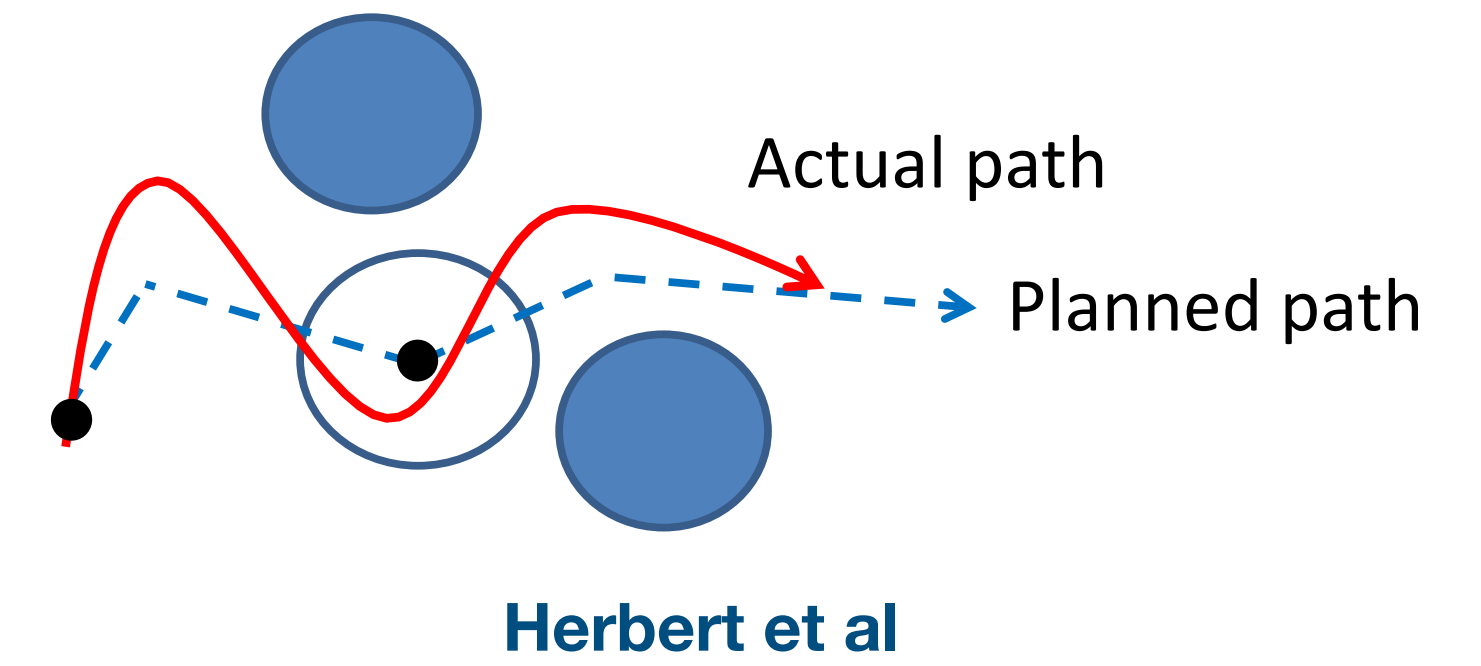
NASA Ames

# UAV Applications

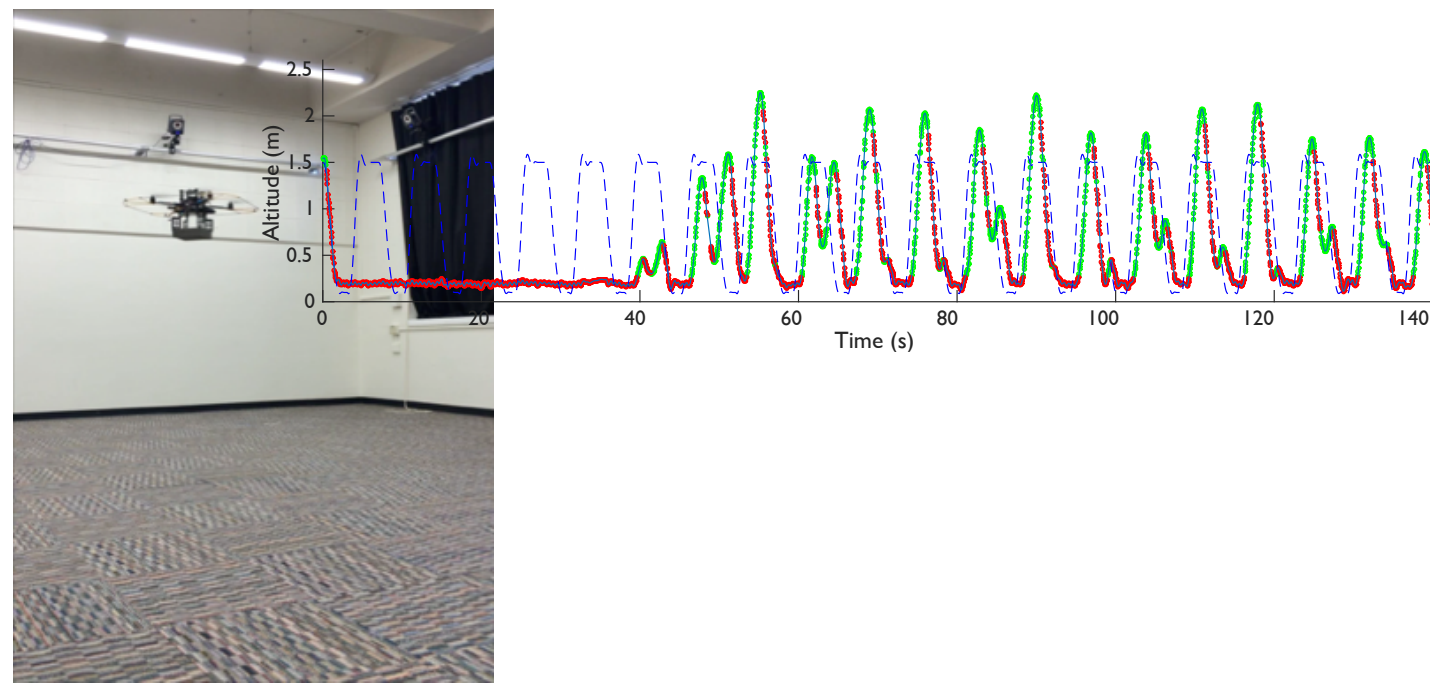


Bansal et al

# Robust Planning



# Safe Learning

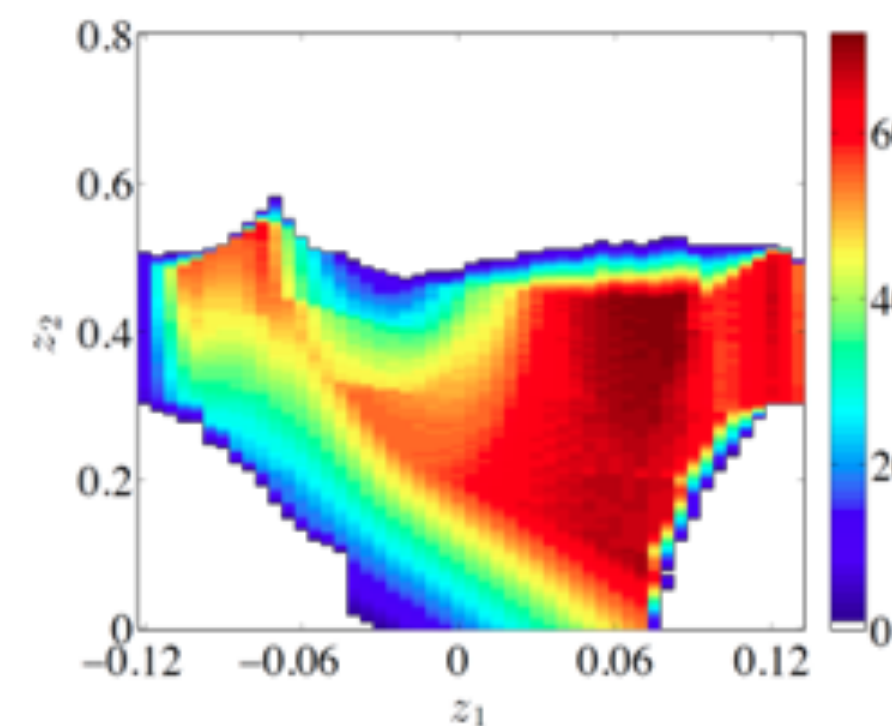


Fisac et al

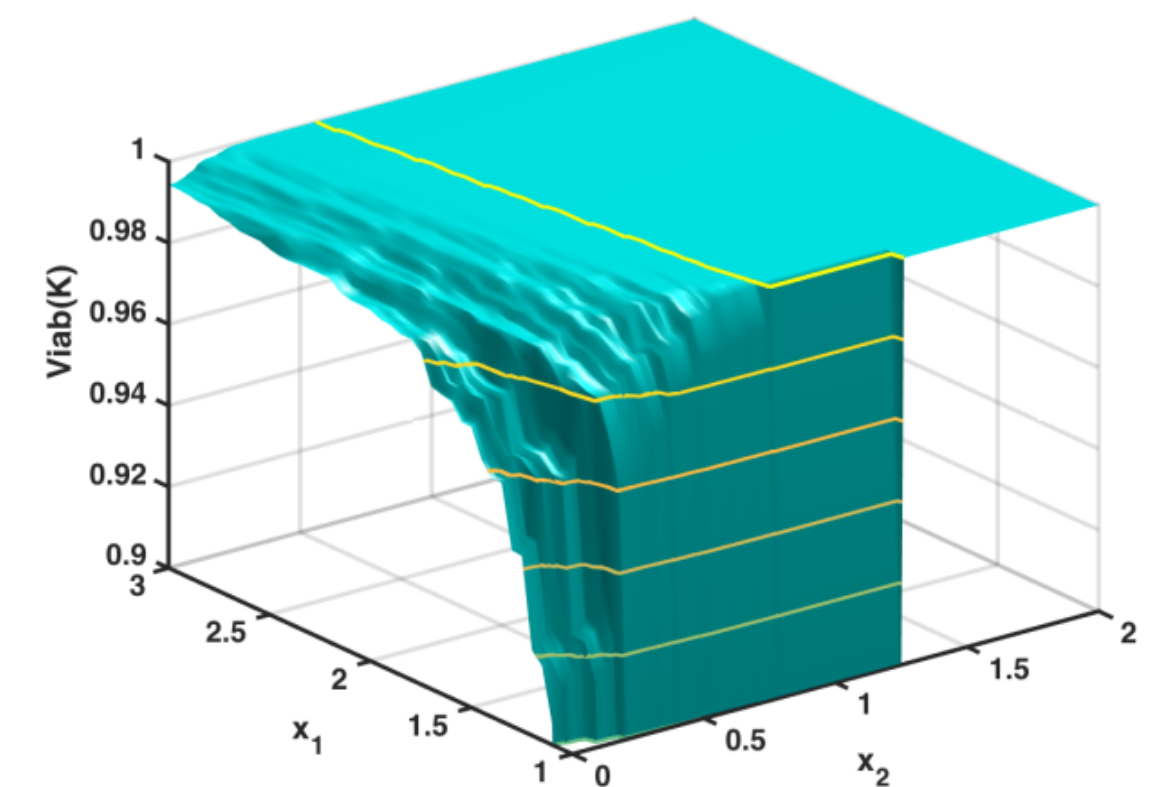
# Safe Bipedal Walking



Ames et al  
Vasudevan et al



# Safe Anesthesia Delivery



Kaynama et al