Design and Assessment of Safe Autonomous Vehicles

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Q1: What vulnerabilities exist in Autonomous Vehicles?

Q2: Are these vulnerabilities worse than existing vulnerabilities in non-AVs?

Q3: Can these vulnerabilities be used for attacks?

Q4: How do we make the AVs safer?

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Autonomous Systems in the Wild!

Promise

AVs advertised as transformative





Uber accident: Multiple failure points: (a) object flickering, (b) distracted safety operator, (c) disabled emergency braking

Autonomous Systems in the Wild!





Al-operated service robot fell on the elevator and knocks two people

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Pwx3U4vJKw

Al-operated service cart spins out-of-control nearly destroying an aircraft

Source: https://www.thrillist.com/news/nation/chicago-ohare-airport-cart-out-of-control

Challenges that Threaten Safety

Source: nvidia.com

SAMPLE OF DISENGAGEMENT REPORTS FROM THE CA DMV DATASET

Manufacturer	Raw Disengagement Report (Log)	Category	Tags
Nissan	1/4/16 — 1:25 PM — Software module froze. As a result driver safely disengaged and resumed	System	Software
Nissan	manual control. — City and highway — Sunny/Dry 5/25/16 — 11:20 AM — Leaf #1 (Alfa) — The AV didn't see the lead vehicle, driver safely disengaged and resumed manual control.	ML/Design	Recognition System
Waymo Volkswagen	May-16 — Highway — Safe Operation — Disengage for a recklessly behaving road user 11/12/14 — 18:24:03 — Takeover-Request — watchdog error	ML/Design System	Environment Computer System

We use the "—" to denote field separators.

Note that log formats vary across manufacturers and time.

Bold-face text represents phrases analyzed by the NLP engine to categorize log lines.

➤ Model uncertainty, weather, ...

- AVs 15-4000x worse than humans
- Failures equally attributed to hardware/software, environment and ML for Waymo

DSN 2018

ediction

model

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Are AVs more exposed than non-AVs?



Accessible in the open



Connect to the internet with IoT devices and phones

Vehicles in general are most exposed safety-critical system in the world!

Are AVs more exposed than non-AVs?

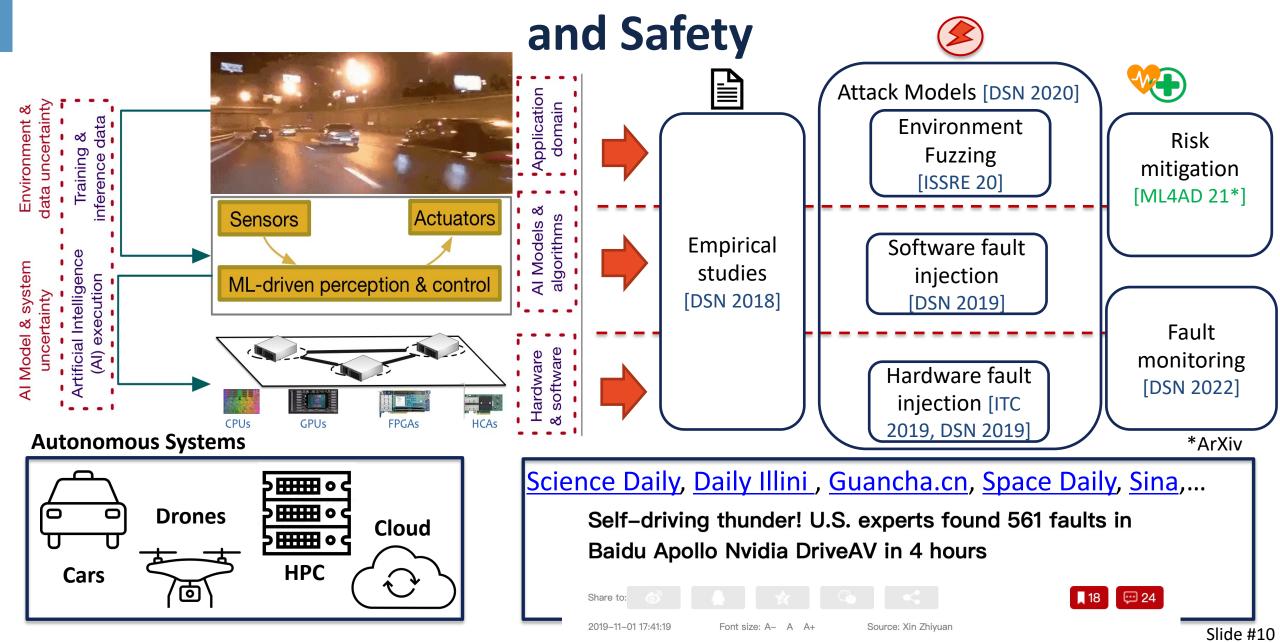
Resounding Yes!

Increased attack surface

AV ecosystem is more decentralized

- More software components that are hard to verify
 - Trojans, ML uncertainty, training data quality, unknown unknowns, etc.

AV Research Overview for Vulnerability Assessment



Q1: What vulnerabilities exist in Autonomous Vehicles?

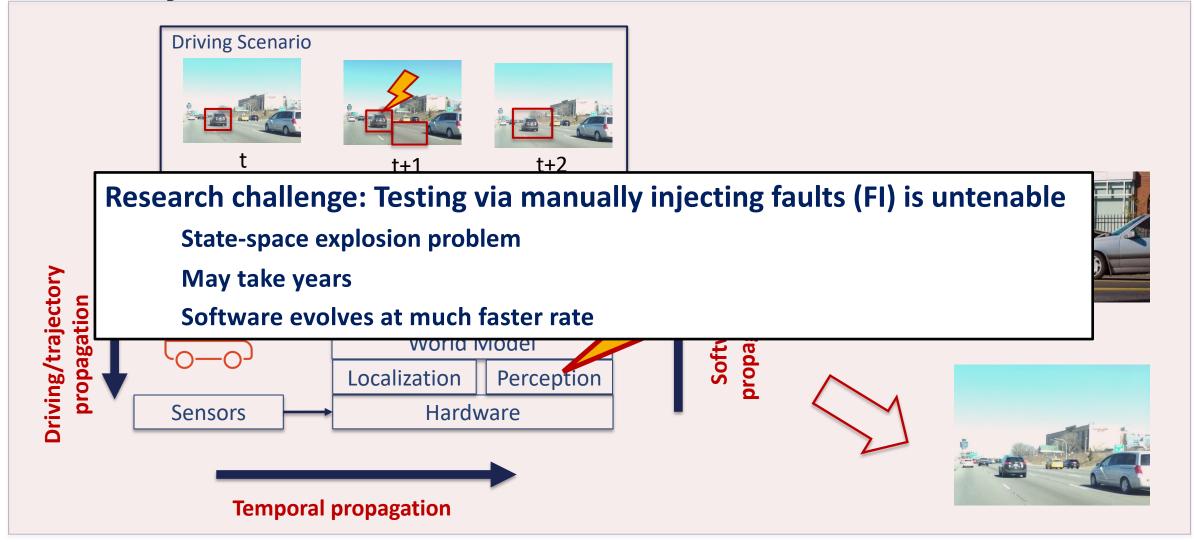
Q2: Are these vulnerabilities worse than existing vulnerabilities in non-Avs?

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ML-Based Fault Injection for Autonomous Vehicles: A Case for Bayesian Fault Injection, DSN 2019

Identify vulnerabilities that lead to collision?



Our Solution: Bayesian Fault Injection (BFI)

Goals: To accelerate testing to identify faults (in hardware or software) that can lead to safety hazards

Key Ideas:

- ☐ Explicitly model fault propagation in software using Probabilistic Graph Models (PGMs)
- ☐ Explicitly model fault propagation in environment using kinematics and safety model
- ☐ Train with observational data from field tests (or simulations)
- ☐ Model fault injection as an inference query on the PGM model

Accelerated testing by:

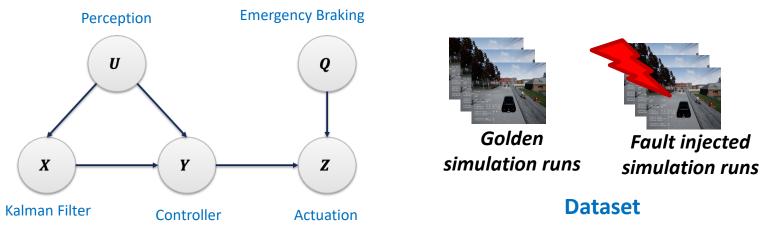
- ☐ Replacing FI with ML inference (conduct FI only when ML inference predicts safety violation)
- ☐ Pruning the state space

Results:

- ✓ Demonstrated on Baidu Apollo AV agent
- ✓ Test accelerated by 3690x (4 hours vs 2 years for traditional fault injection)

Approach Overview

S1: Construct and train probabilistic graph model

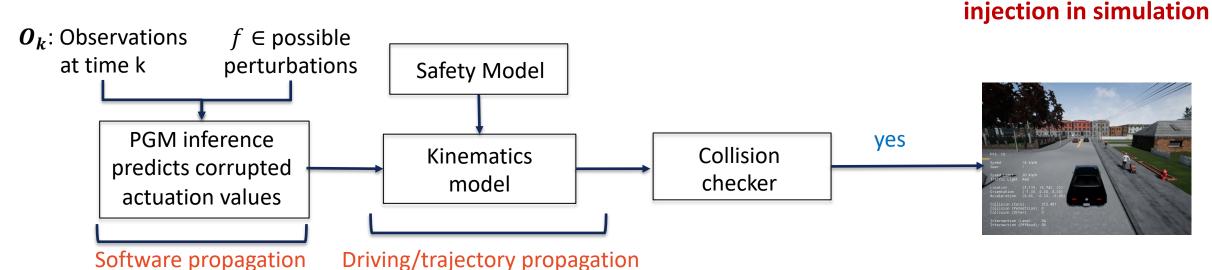


 $P(U,X,Y,Z,Q) = P(Z | Q,Y) \times P(Y | U,X) \times P(X | U) \times P(U) \times P(Q)$

Learn Conditional Probability Table

S3: Validate using real fault

S2: Predict outcome of fault injection using PGM inference



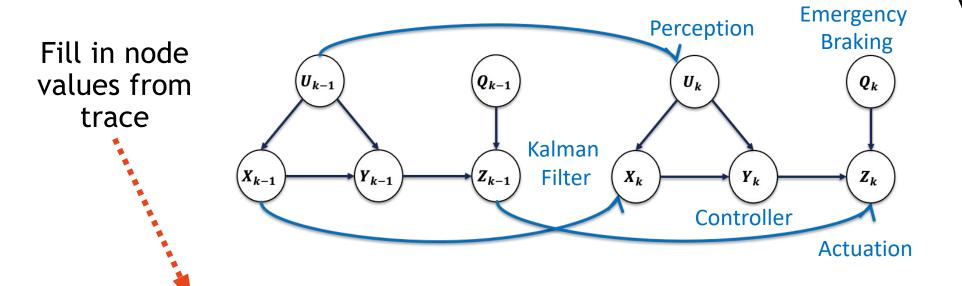
Construct Probabilistic Graph Model Emergency Front Vehicle: Braking: {0,1} {0,1} **Emergency Step 1: Extract DFG and construct causal model** Perception **Braking** Static analysis U_{k-1} Q_{k-1} **ADS Software** Code instrumentation X_{k-1} Controller **Leverage lineage and dependency information** Kalman Actuation Filter **brake:**{0_k1} Ego acc: Front acc: **{-1,0,1} {-1,0,1}**

Step 2: Learn the parameters of the observational distribution

$$P(Z_k|Q_k, Y_k, Z_{k-1}) \times P(Y_k|U_k, X_k) \times P(X_k|U_k, X_{k-1}) \times P(U_k|U_{k-1}) \times P(Q_k) \times P(U_{k-1}) \times P(Q_{k-1})$$

Reduces state-space: Example, Z_k depends only on Z_{k-1} , Y_k and Q_k Conditioning on Z_{k-1} and Y_k blocks the effect of other variables If Y_k has no effect on $Z_k => X_k$ and U_k have no effect on Z_k

Training: Learning Conditional Distribution



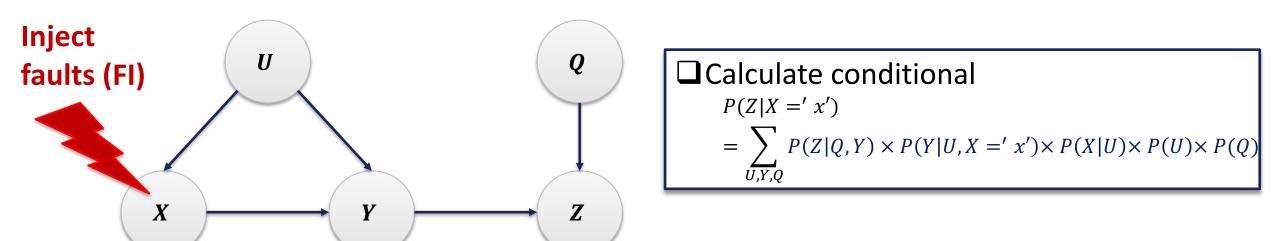
Determine CPD values that will minimize difference between predicted and actual car measurements

Gaussian distribution: Mean, variance

or

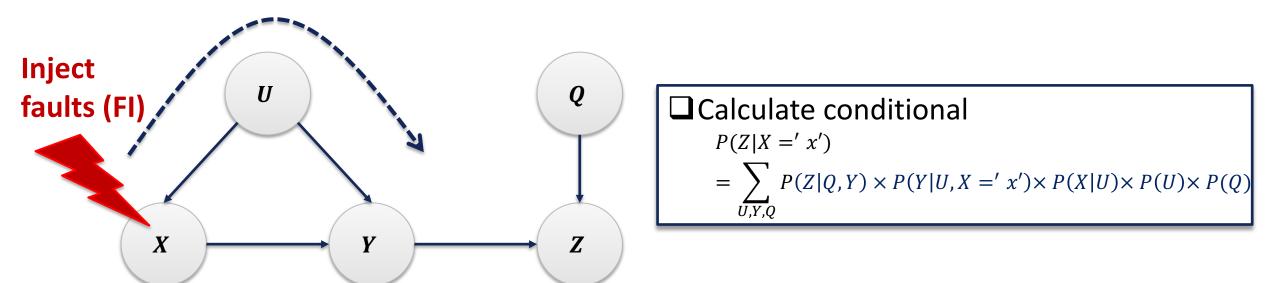
Multinomial: Normalized histogram Conditional Probability Distribution:
Parent to child matrix with
probabilities
(discretized estimation for continuous
variables)

Inference: Fault injection as a conditional query



No real fault injection is begin conducted on software or hardware!

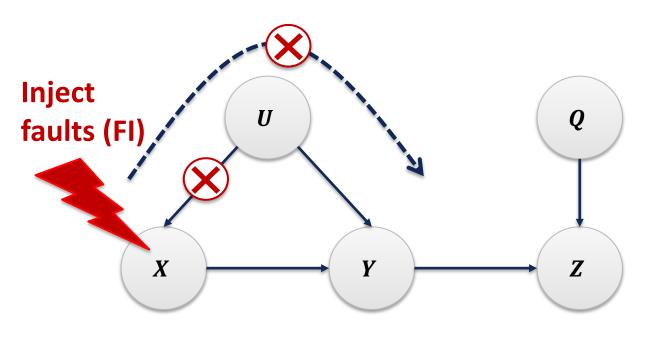
Inference: Fault injection as a conditional query



- \triangleright Conditioning on X influences the distribution of U, which influences the distribution of Y
- In realty, FI does not influence U and only influences Y (as information does not flow backwards in function invocations)

Research challenge: adjust for confounding variables

Inference: Fault injection as an interventional query



Estimating intervention queries using observational data & causal analysis

- Leverage do-calculus [Pearl 95]
- ☐ Backdoor & front door criteria

> Joint: $P(U, Y, Z, Q)|do(X =' x') = P(Z|Q, Y) \times P(Y|U, X =' x') \times 1 \times p(U) \times P(Q)$

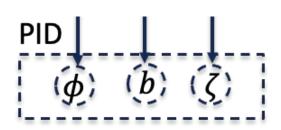
- $P(Z|do(X='x')) = \sum_{U,Y,Q} p(Z|Q,Y) \times p(Y|U,X='x') \times 1 \times p(U) \times p(Q)$
- > Leveraged Rule 2 of do-calculus (backdoor-criteria)

Modeling Propagation to Driving Behavior (forward simulation)

 ϕ : steer

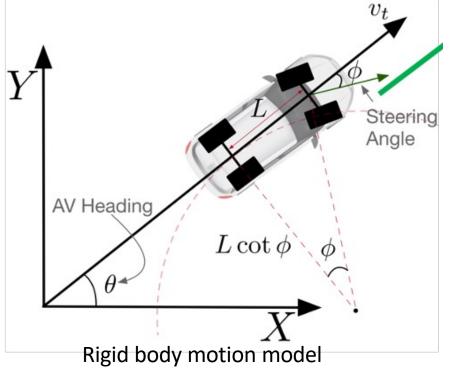
b: brake

 ζ : throttle



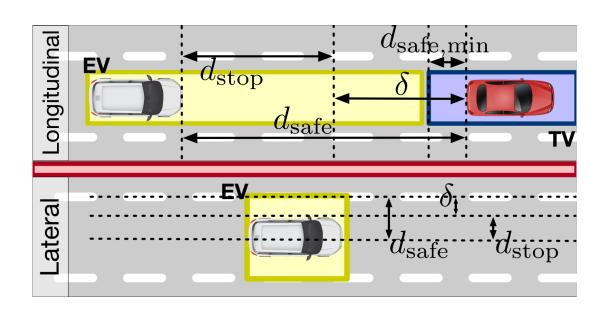
Kinematics model

$$v_t = f(\zeta_t, b_t, \phi_t)$$
 $\frac{dx_t}{dt} = v_t \cos \theta_t$
 $\frac{dy_t}{dt} = v_t \sin \theta_t$
 $\frac{d\theta_t}{dt} = \frac{(v_t \tan \phi_t)}{L}$



Forward simulation can be also modeled using NNs [DSN 2020]

Accounting for temporal compensation (Safety Model)



d_{safe}: Safe ego car distance from other objects

d_{stop}: Minimum distance ego car needs to stop

$$\delta = d_{safe} - d_{stop}$$

Emergency stop maneuver (assume max deceleration)

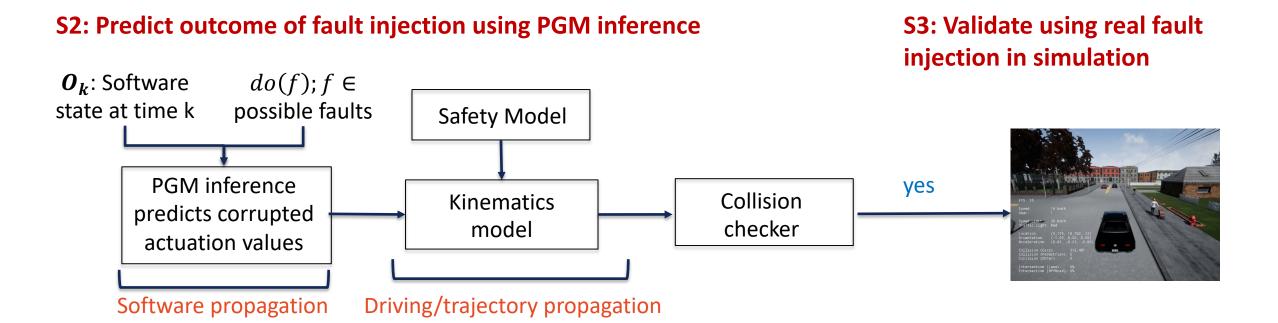
$$\left. rac{dx_t}{dt}
ight|_{t=t_{
m stop}} = 0 \,\, {
m and} \,\, \left. rac{dy_t}{dt}
ight|_{t=t_{
m stop}} = 0.$$

$$rac{dv_t}{dt} = -a_{ ext{max}} ext{ and } rac{d\phi_t}{dt} = 0.$$

$$d_{ ext{stop}} = \mathcal{P}(a_{ ext{max}}, v_0, \theta_0, \phi_0, x_0, y_0)$$

Other collision models: NVIDIA safety force field, Intel RSS

Summary: Inference and Validation



Injection Targets: Fault Models Encapsulates What and Where

•	Measured velocity (min, max)	•	Steer (min)		(disappear)		(pedestrian)
•	Tracked object velocity (max)	•	Steer (max)	•	Camera object classification	•	LiDAR classification (cyclist)
•	Tracked object velocity (min)	•	Brake (min)		(vehicle) Camera object classification	•	LiDAR Obstacle distance (min)
•	Tracked object acceleration	•	Brake (max)	•	(pedestrian)	•	LiDAR Obstacle distance (max)
_	(min)	•	Obstacle classification	•	Camera Obstacle distance	•	Lane disappear
•	Tracked object acceleration (max)		(disappear)		(min)	•	Lane type (dashed)
•	Measured acceleration (min)	•	Obstacle classification (vehicle)	•	Camera Obstacle distance (max)	•	Lane type (solid)
•	Measured acceleration (max)	•	Obstacle classification	•	Camera object classification	•	Lane width (double)
•	PID input (half)		(pedestrian)		(cyclist)	•	Lane width (half)
•	PID input (double)		Obstacle classification (cyclist)		LiDAR classification (disappear)		Camera frame (noise)
•	Throttle (min)	•	Obstacle distance (min)	•	LiDAR classification (vehicle)	•	LiDAR frame (noise)
•	Throttle (max)	•	Obstacle distance (max)	•	LiDAR classification		

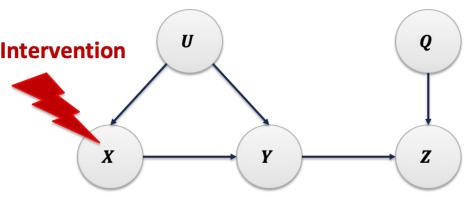
Camera object classification

Results

- ☐ Modeling data/control flow as probabilistic graphs Intervention
- ☐ Model faults as interventions
- ☐ Leverage forward simulation techniques for checking safety

Results:

- ✓ Demonstrated on Baidu Apollo AV agent
- ✓ Able to find 561 faults that lead to collisions (found 0 via random sampling); >3690x speed up over enumeration
- ✓ Replicated 460 (82%) faults in "software-in-the-loop" simulation









Curious Case of Stop Signs

- Most attacks focus on altering detection outputs
 - Misclassification or misdetection of objects
 - Boloor et al., Eykholt et al., and Lu et al.



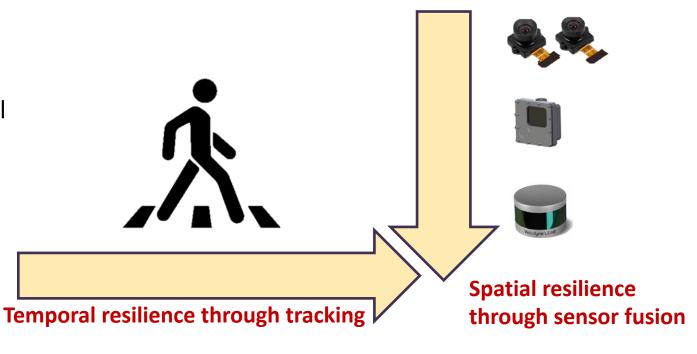






Stop signs can be fooled

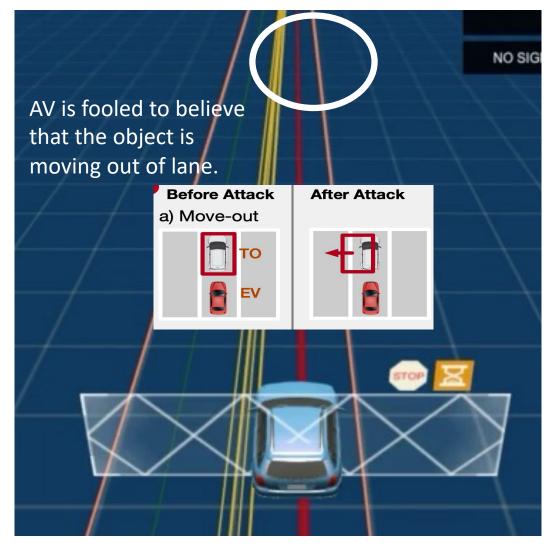
- Low chance of causing safety hazards
 - Kalman filter or other state-space model
 - Redundancy from multiple sensors (sensor fusion)
 - Redundancy in time (continuous tracking)
 - Timing of attack



Our Attack: Situationally Aware ML-driven Malware

Malware characteristics

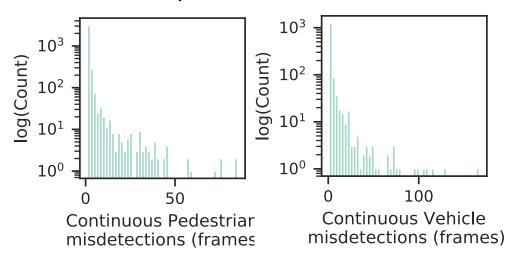
- End-to-end attack --- perturbs Kalman Filter to overcome both temporal and spatial resilience
- Masquerade attacks as failures
- Leads to safety hazards --- collisions and emergency braking



Demonstration using **Apollo** autonomous driving agent and **LGSVL** world simulator

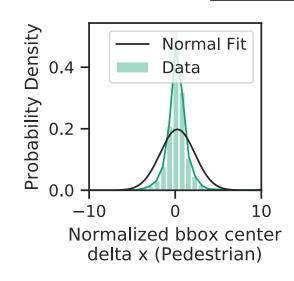
Key Insight

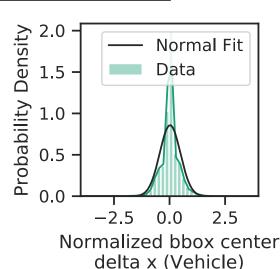
- State-of-the-art object detectors (Yolo and FCNN) are highly noise
 - 99th %ile continuous misdetection rate for pedestrian is 31 and vehicles is 59.4 frames
 - Position estimates (i.e, bounding box) can be miscalculated by up to 10 m
- Perception systems rely on Kalman filters and sensor fusion models to compensate for errors/noise



Misdetections

Bounding box errors



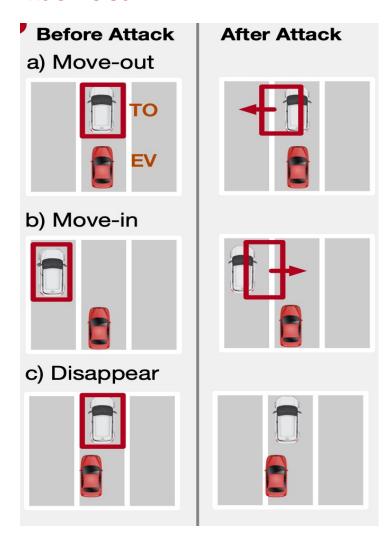


Launching Attacks is Not Easy!

- Gain access to the system
- Persist on the system without getting notice
- Monitor the state of the system to launch the attack
- Execute the attack such that safety hazard occurs
- Hold the attack for sufficiently small duration to evade detection and mitigation

Situationally Aware ML-driven Malware

Attack Goal



Methodology

What to attack?

Perception module to alter perceived object trajectories

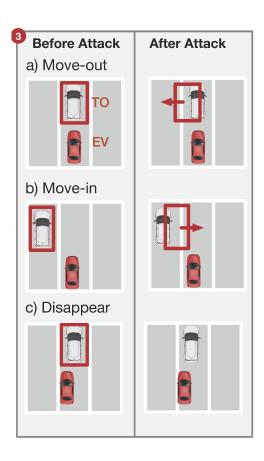
How to attack?

Perturbs either camera pixels or object detection outputs

When to attack?

Safety potential is low, and time needed to cause safety hazard is minimal.

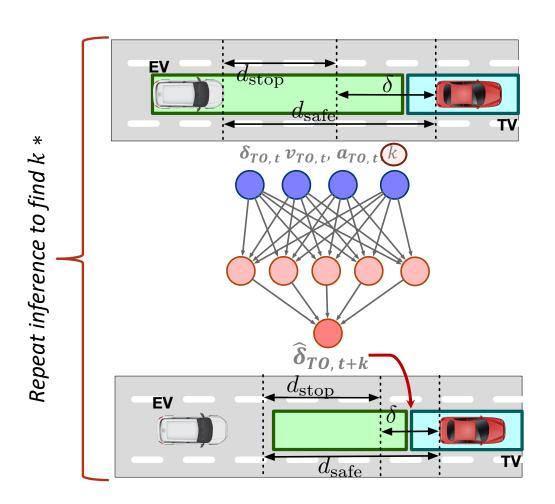
Step 1: Scenario Matching (What to attack?)



- Infer the closest-in-path-object or target object (CIPO or TO)'s position and trajectory
- Choose the attack vector based on the table as follows
- Provides Situational Awareness

Target object trajectory	Target object location			
	AV lane	Non-AV lane		
Moving in		Move_Out/Disappear		
Lane Keeping	Move_Out/Disappear	Move_In		
Moving out	Move_In			

Step 2: Safety Hijacking (When to attack?)



- Safety hijacking uses a 3-layer-fully-connected neural network to decide the attack launch time
 - **Learns:** ADS's behavior and change in safety potential $\widehat{oldsymbol{\delta}}$
 - Input: Target object (TO) kinematics (v, a), safety state (δ) and attack duration (k)

$$input = (\boldsymbol{\delta_{T0,t}} \, \boldsymbol{v_{T0,t}}, \, \boldsymbol{a_{T0,t}}, k)$$

• Output: predicted safety potential after the attack

$$output = FCNN(input) = \hat{\delta}_{TO,t+k}$$

- Optimal attack duration (k^*) search:
 - Given input, FCNN model, and targeted safety distance $\boldsymbol{\delta}_h$, find the optimal k^*

$$k^* = min \{ k \mid \widehat{\delta}_{TO, t+k} < \delta_h \}$$

Step 3: Trajectory Hijacking (How to attack?)

- Perturbs camera feed around target object (TO) with adversarial patches for k^* time steps to impact sensor fusion outputs
 - Modifies perceived object trajectories and impacts decision making
- Disguise such perturbation as noise
 - Small shift for Move_In and Move_Out to avoid tracker evasion (within detector noise characteristics)
- Trajectory hijacking can be skipped if attacker has access to onboard software

Attacking Kalman Filters (refer to the paper for details)

$$\max_{\vec{\omega}_t} \mathbf{M} \ (o_t^i + \vec{\omega}_t, \ \hat{s}_{t-1}^i)$$

s.t.
$$\mathbf{M} \leq \lambda$$
,

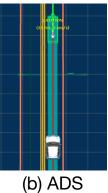
$$IoU(o_t^i + \vec{\omega}_t, \text{ patch}) \ge \gamma,$$

$$\vec{\omega}_t \in [\mu - \sigma, \mu + \sigma]$$

- 1. SM chooses move-out attack vector as the target object is in-path in lane keep mode.
- 2. **SH** identifies the current state and time optimal for attack.



(a) simulation view

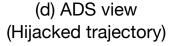


view



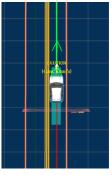
(c) simulation view (Perturbed pixels)

- 4. TH changed object trajectory to move-out.
- 3. **TH** perturbed perturbed the pixels within the bbox for k time-steps (Perturbed pixel shown in white).



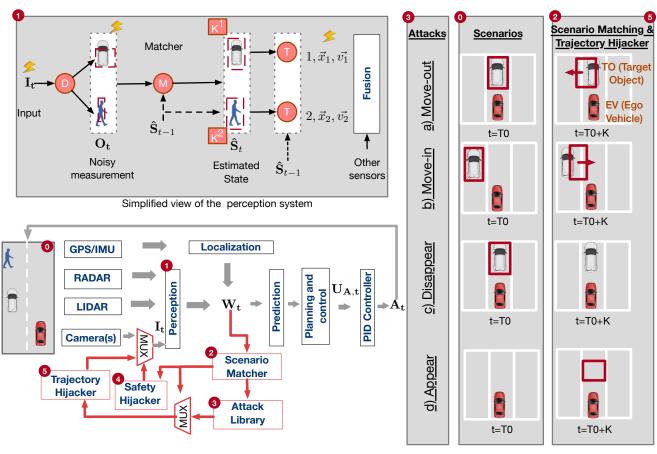


(e) Simulation view (collision)



(f) ADS view (collision)

RoboTack: Putting it all together



Evaluation platform

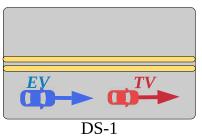
- Apollo 5.0 (Al agent)
- LGSVL 2019.2 (world-simulator)

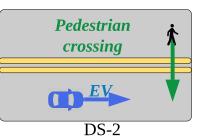
Experiment details

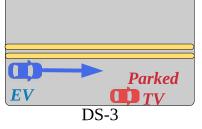
- ~260 hours of simulation on 3 machines
- ~1400 evaluation experiments
- 5 driving scenarios

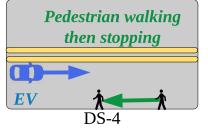
Scenarios

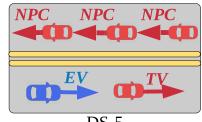
RoboTack Malware











Evaluation and Results

Scenario ID	k^* (# frames)	% Emergency Braking			% Crashes			
		RoboTack	Scenario matching + Trajectory hijacking	Baseline	RoboTack	Scenario matching + Trajectory hijacking	Baseline	
Vehicle - Move_Out	65	37.3	7.3	2.20/	17.3	2.8	09/	
Pedestrian -Move_Out	32	97.8	6.6	2.3%	84.1	3.5	0%	

Baseline attack (random object, random duration, random time)

Note: complete evaluation on RoboTack performance of all the scenarios is in the paper

- Highly efficient in targeting AV safety compared to state-of-the-art methods; across all experiments
 - caused forced emergency braking in 75.2% cases (33x more), and
 - caused accident in 52.6% of cases compared to zero accidents
- Highlights the need for assuring safety of AI systems
 - Temporal and spatial resilience is not sufficient
 - Safety oriented co-design of AI and systems

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Q3: Can these vulnerabilities be used for attacks?

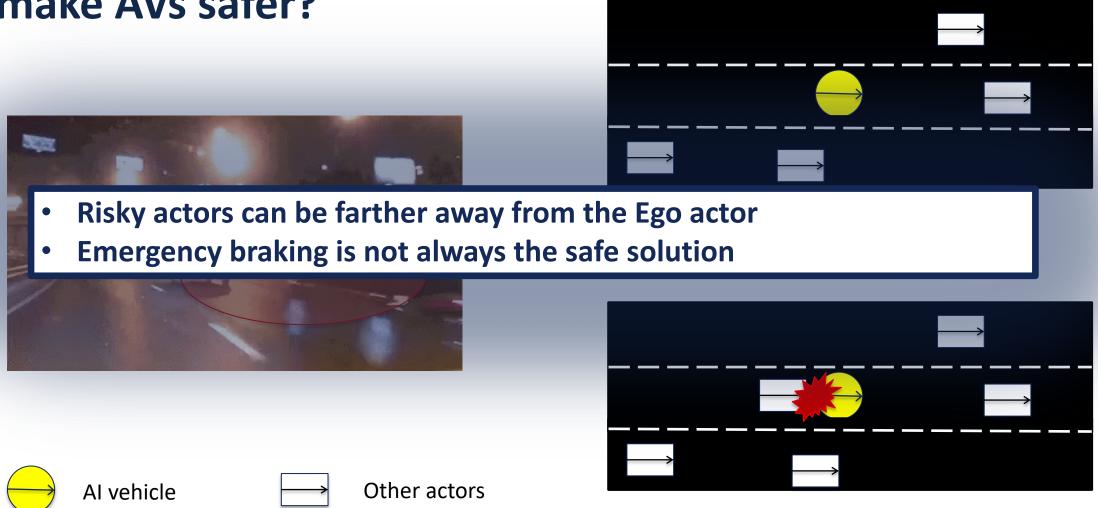
Q4: How do assess the threat at runtime for safety?

Watch Out for the Safety Threatening Actors: How do we make AVs safer?



- Driving is invariably a risky task
- Availability of backup plans (multiple choices) key to dealing with threat posed by actors / what if analysis
- Predicting safety threatening actors is the key to safety assessment and mitigation

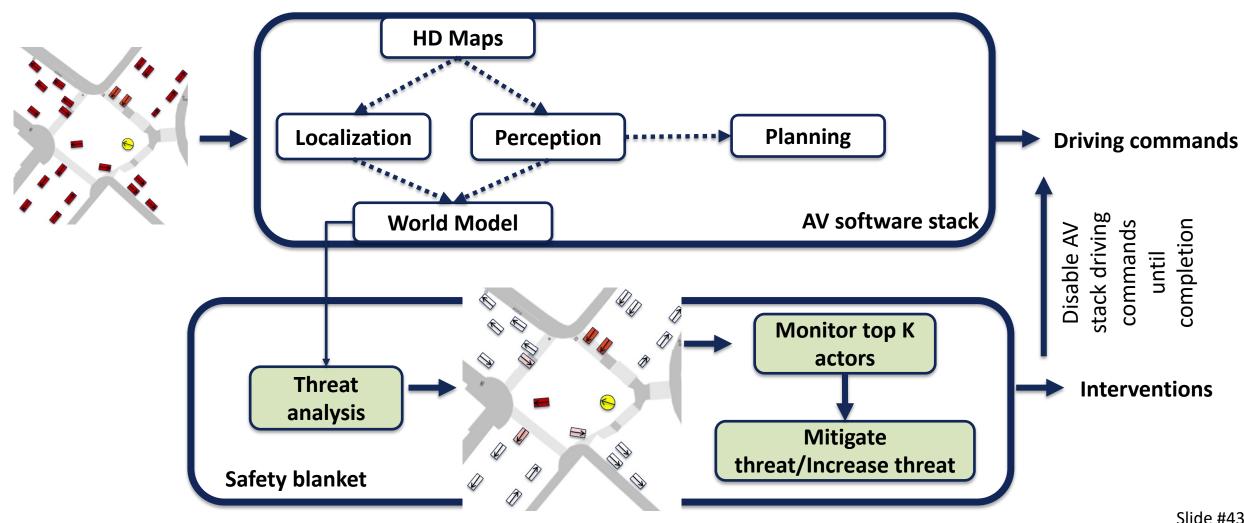
Watch Out for the Safety Threatening Actors: How do we make AVs safer?



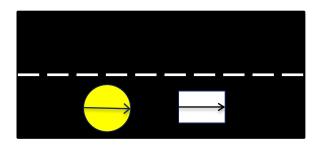
Humans continuously assess the importance of each actor and the risk posed by them while driving!

Question: How do we bring a similar actionable intelligence to autonomous driving?

Our Solution: Threat-aware Safety Blanket

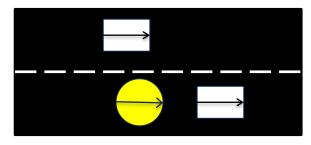


How Do We Assess Threat?



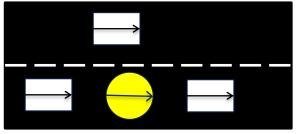
Possible trajectories:

- Follow vehicle
- Move to left lane
- Brake



Possible trajectories:

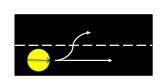
- Follow vehicle
- Move to left lane
- Brake

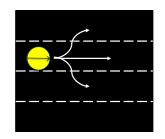


Possible trajectories:

- Follow vehicle
- Move to left lane
- Brake

Attention required to drive increases from left to right Intuition: available trajectories/drivable area decreases





#diverse trajectories also depends on the map

How Do We Assess Threat?



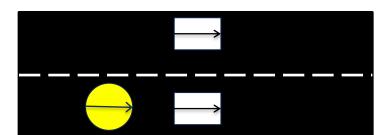




Attention required increases with the increase in uncertainty of another actor's behavior

Actor's Influence on Decision Making

Driving Scenario



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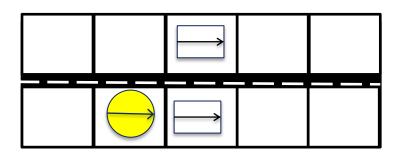
Current state

Predicted/given future states

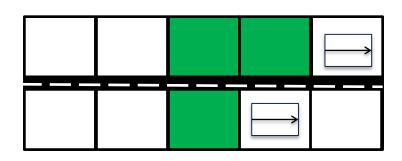


T+1

Internal representation



Τ

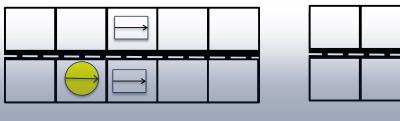


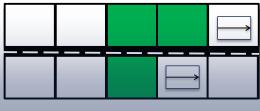
T+1

Actor's Influence on Decision Making

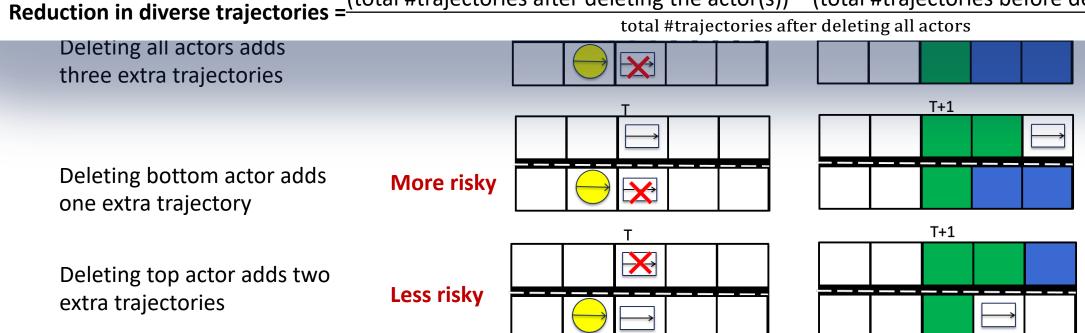
Quantifying decrease in diverse trajectories due to an actor

Original driving scenario and trajectories





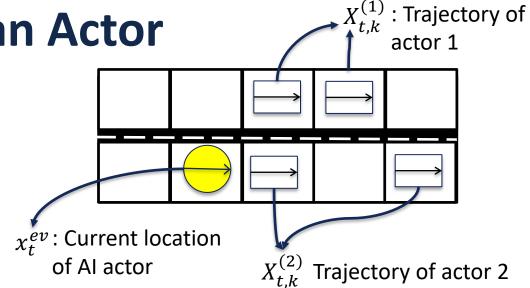
Reduction in diverse trajectories = (total #trajectories after deleting the actor(s)) – (total #trajectories before deleting the actor) total #trajectories after deleting all actors



Slide #47 T+1

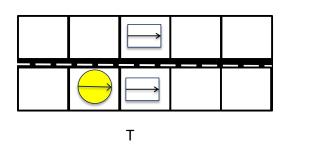
Formalizing Threat Posed by an Actor

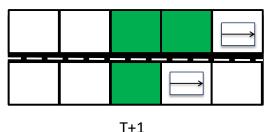
Defining driving scenario: $\mathbb{S} = <\mathbb{M}, \mathbb{X}_{t,k}, x_t^{ev} >$



Possible driving trajectories from t to t + k:

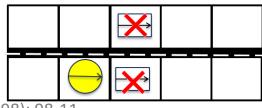
$$\mathbb{Z}_{t,k} = f_p(\mathbb{M}, \mathbb{X}_{t,k}, x_t^{ev})$$
Planner that finds all reachable cells (we use RRT*)

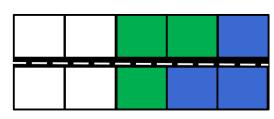




Possible driving trajectories when no actors are present:

$$\mathbb{Z}_{t,k}^{\phi} = f_p(\mathbb{M}, \phi, x_t^{ev})$$

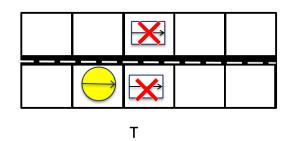


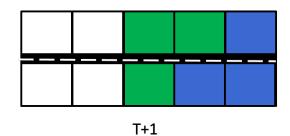


Formalizing Threat Posed by an Actor

Quantifying total reduction in driving trajectories:

$$\rho_{t,k} = \frac{\mathbb{Z}_{t,k}^{\emptyset} - \mathbb{Z}_{t,k}}{\mathbb{Z}_{t,k}^{\emptyset}}$$

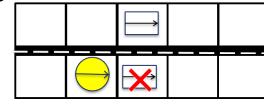


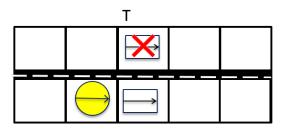


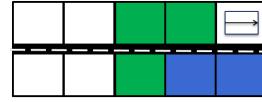
Quantifying reduction in driving trajectories due to an actor:

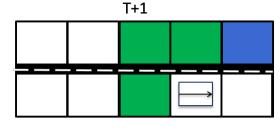
$$\mathbb{Z}_{t,k} = f_p(\mathbb{M}, \mathbb{X}_{t,k}, x_t^{ev})$$

$$\rho_{t,k}^i = \frac{\mathbb{Z}_{t,k}^{/i} - \mathbb{Z}_{t,k}}{\mathbb{Z}_{t,k}^{\phi}}$$









T+1 Slide #49

Accounting for Uncertainty

Joint distribution modeling the uncertainty in the estimates

$$\bar{X}_{t,t+k}^{(i)} = p(\bar{x}_t^{(i)},...,\bar{x}_{t+k}^{(i)}|o_1^{(1)},...,o_t^{(N)})$$
 Output of DNN-based object detection model

Sample trajectories from the joint distribution and calculate possible set of future driving trajectories for the Ego actor

Risk with no uncertainty in future trajectories:

$$\rho_{t,k}^i = \frac{\mathbb{Z}_{t,k}^{/i} - \mathbb{Z}_{t,k}}{\mathbb{Z}_{t,k}^{\phi}}$$

Probability distribution of drivable future trajectories before and after deletion of actor i

Risk under uncertainty in future trajectories:

$$\rho_{t,k}^i = P^{\mathbb{Z}_{t,k}^{/i}} - P^{\mathbb{Z}_{t,k}}$$

KL divergence or sampling or means

Formalizing Threat Posed by an Actor

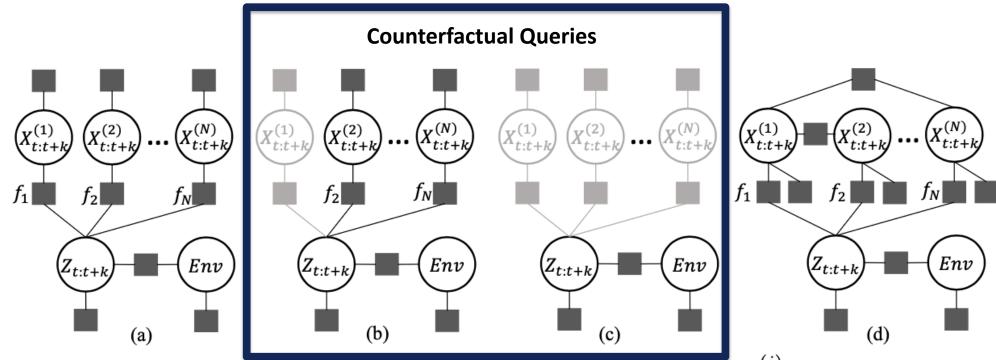
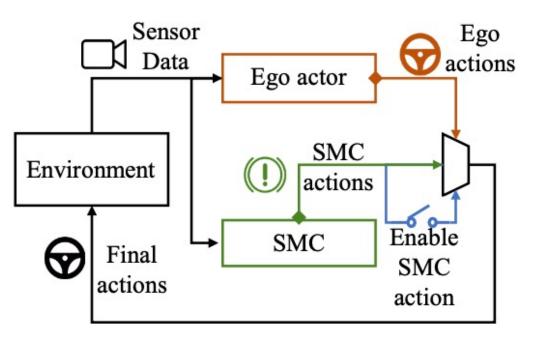


Figure 2: The factor graph representation of the counterfactual query. $X_{t:t+k}^{(i)}$ represents the trajectories of actor i from time t to time t+k, $Z_{t:t+k}$ is the set of ego actor's safe future trajectories, and Env represents the static environment. Circle are nodes representing an actor's distribution and squares are factor functions. Factor Graph (a) All actor presence, (b) One actor removed, (c) All actors removed, and (d) Actor-actor influence included.

Proactive Threat Mitigation



Design of Safety Hazard Mitigation Controller (SMC)

Formulated as Partially Observable Markov Decision Process (PoMDP)

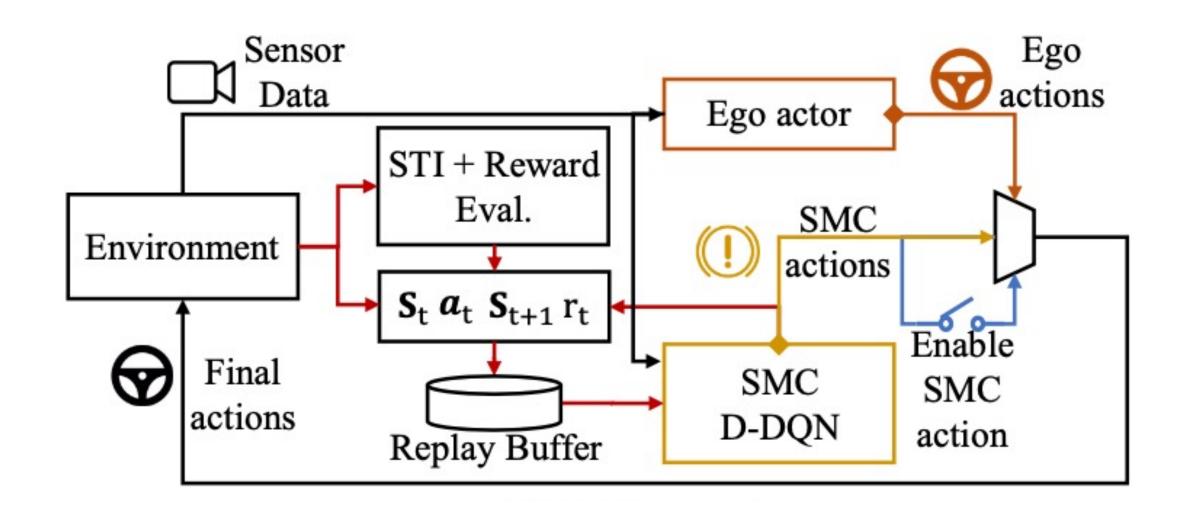
Ego actor's policy $\phi \sim \Phi$, where Φ is the policy distribution.

u be the overall autonomous system, and M be the SMC a_t be the action taken at time t S_t be the observed system state SMC policy $\psi \sim \Psi$, where Ψ is the mitigation policy distribution

$$a_t = \mathcal{U}(\mathbf{S}_t; \phi, \psi) = f_{actagg}(\mathcal{A}(\mathbf{S}_t; \phi), \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{S}_t; \psi)) = f_{actagg}(a_t^{smc}, a_t^{ego})$$

$$r_t = \alpha_0(1 - STI) + \alpha_1 r_{pc} + \alpha_2 p_{am} + \alpha_3 r_{comfort} + \dots + \alpha_n r_{nth_factor}$$

Training SMC using Reinforcement Learning



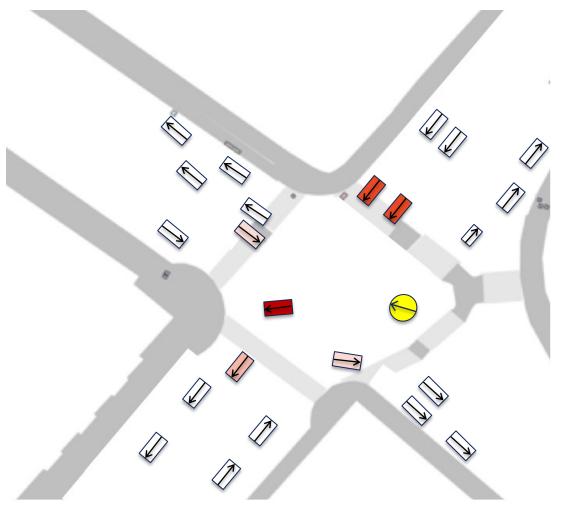
Proactive Threat Mitigation



Mitigation policy	# acc./# T.runs
LBC	565/1000 (0.565)
RIP (WCM)	478/1000 (0.478)
LBC+SMC (ours)	128/1000 (0.128)

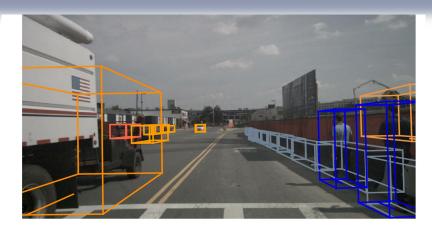
Table 2: Comparison of mitigation policies (i) LBC agent [7], (ii) RIP agent with the worst case model (WCM) [9], and (iii) LBC agent with SMC (ours); # acc.: number of runs with accident, #T.runs: total number of runs.

Curating Evaluation Dataset: Characterizing Threat in Existing Datasets



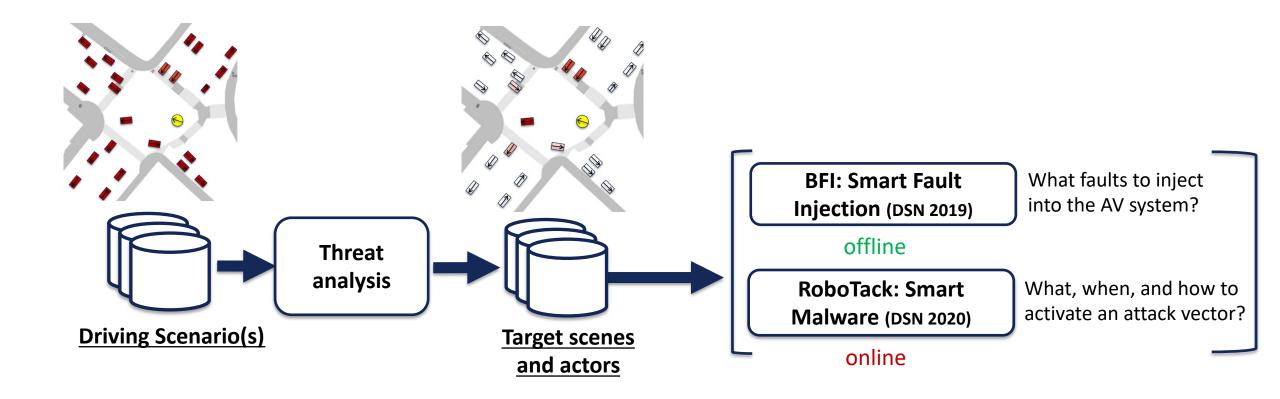
Intensity of red indicates the level of risk

- Evaluated on Argoverse dataset (1000 driving hrs)
- 50th, 75th, 90th, and 99th percentiles of the actor STI values are 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, and 0.4, respectively



Extracted driving scenario from nuScenes

Accelerated Assessment



24x speedup for BFI40% more accurate in the case of RoboTack

Conclusion

AVs have significantly higher #vulnerabilities than Non-AVs

 Vulnerabilities can be used for attack (perhaps not as trivial to launch as we think) --- multiple weaknesses needs to be leverage for complete automation

 Assessment of safety hazards can prevent many of these attacks in deployment

 Attacker and mitigator learn from each other which is an ever-evolving game (need for game-theoretic models)