

# Interval Contractors to Solve Dynamical Geometrical Equations with Application to Underwater Robotics

L. Jaulin

Seminar of LSU Mathematics, Louisiana  
2022, March 11



# 1. Secure a zone

# INFO OBS. Un sous-marin nucléaire russe repéré dans le Golfe de Gascogne



*Le navire a été repéré en janvier. Ce serait la première fois depuis la fin de la Guerre Froide qu'un tel sous-marin, doté de missiles nucléaires, se serait aventuré dans cette zone au large des côtes françaises.*



Bay of Biscay 220 000 km<sup>2</sup>

Secure a zone  
Intervals  
Cooperative localization



An intruder

Several robots  $\mathcal{R}_1, \dots, \mathcal{R}_n$  at positions  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  are moving in the ocean.

If the intruder is in the visibility zone of one robot, it is detected.[5]

# Complementary approach

We assume that a virtual intruder exists inside  $\mathbb{G}$ .

We localize it with a set-membership observer inside  $\mathbb{X}(t)$ .

The secure zone corresponds to the complementary of  $\mathbb{X}(t)$ .

## Assumptions

The intruder satisfies

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} \in \mathbb{F}(\mathbf{x}(t)).$$

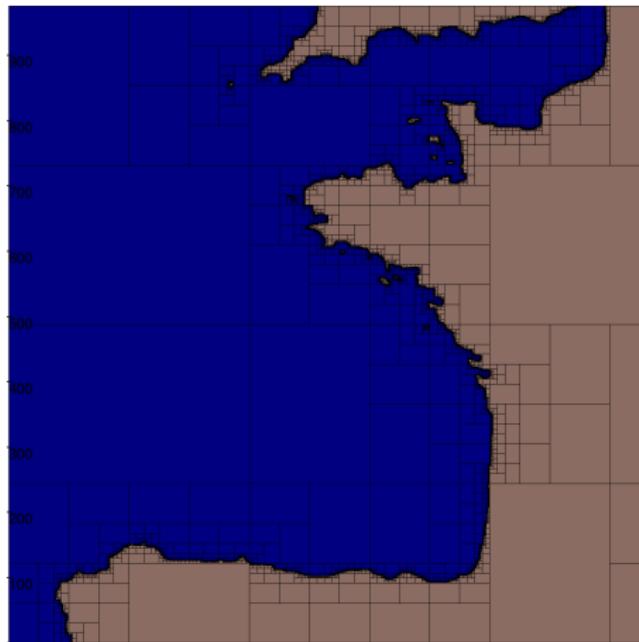
Each robot  $\mathcal{R}_i$  has the visibility zone  $g_{\mathbf{a}_i}^{-1}([0, d_i])$  where  $d_i$  is the scope.

**Theorem.** An (undetected) intruder has a state vector  $\mathbf{x}(t)$  inside the set

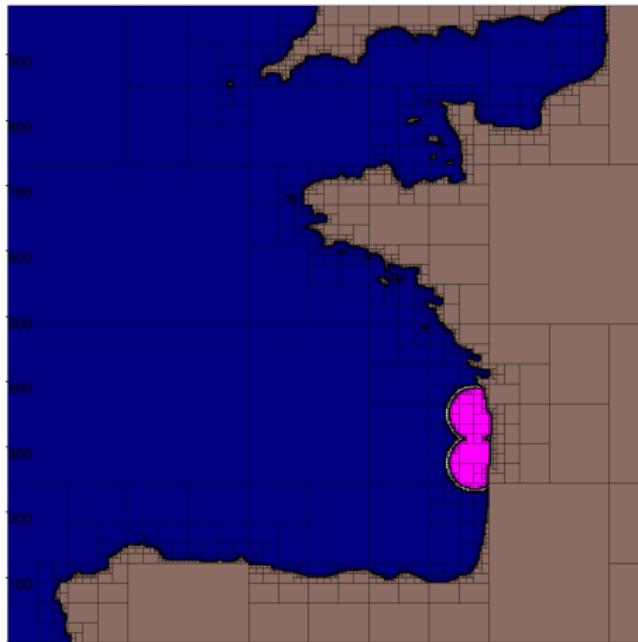
$$\mathbb{X}(t) = \mathbb{G} \cap (\mathbb{X}(t - dt) + dt \cdot \mathbb{F}(\mathbb{X}(t - dt)) \cap \bigcap_i g_{\mathbf{a}_i(t)}^{-1}([d_i(t), \infty])),$$

where  $\mathbb{X}(0) = \mathbb{G}$ . The secure zone is

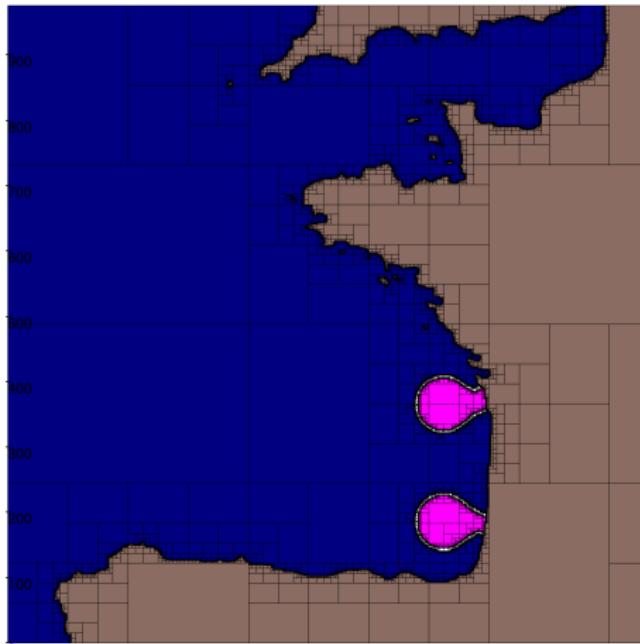
$$\mathbb{S}(t) = \overline{\mathbb{X}(t)}.$$



Set  $\mathbb{G}$  in blue



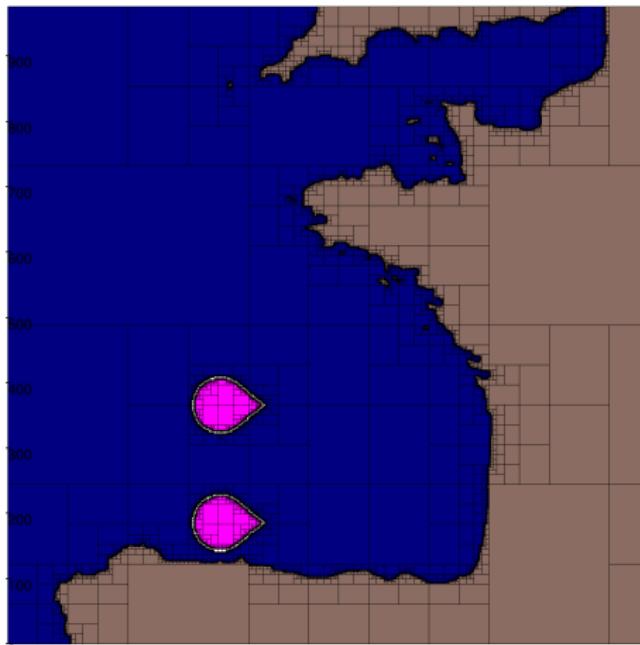
Magenta:  $\mathbb{G} \cap \bigcup_i g_{\mathbf{a}_i(t)}^{-1}([0, d_i(t)])$  Blue:  $\mathbb{G} \cap \bigcap_i g_{\mathbf{a}_i(t)}^{-1}([d_i(t), \infty])$



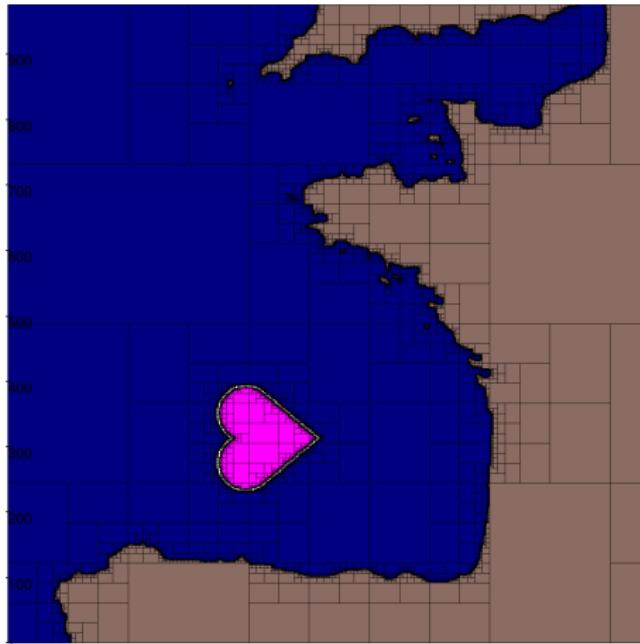
Blue:

$$\mathbb{X}(t) = \mathbb{G} \cap (\mathbb{X}(t - dt) + dt \cdot \mathbb{F}(\mathbb{X}(t - dt))) \cap \bigcap_i g_{\mathbf{a}_i(t)}^{-1}([d_i(t), \infty]).$$

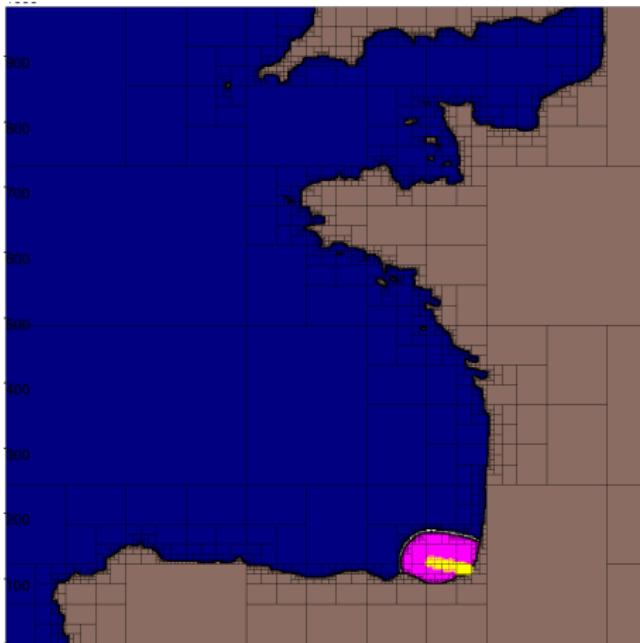
Secure a zone  
Intervals  
Cooperative localization



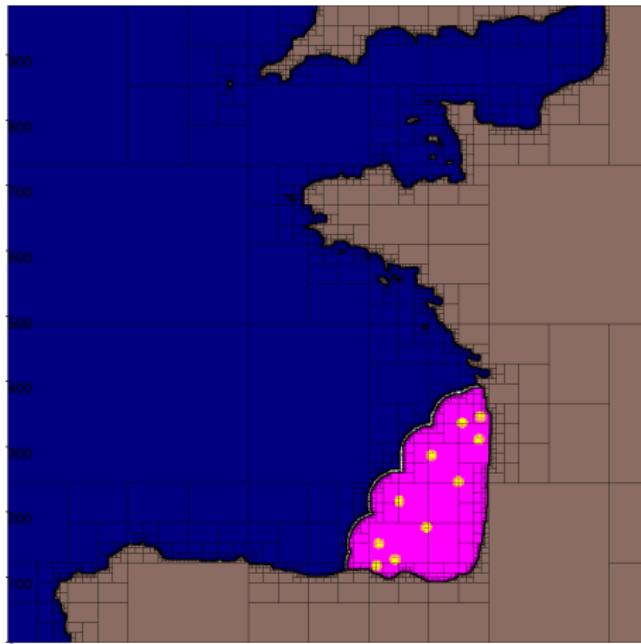
Secure a zone  
Intervals  
Cooperative localization



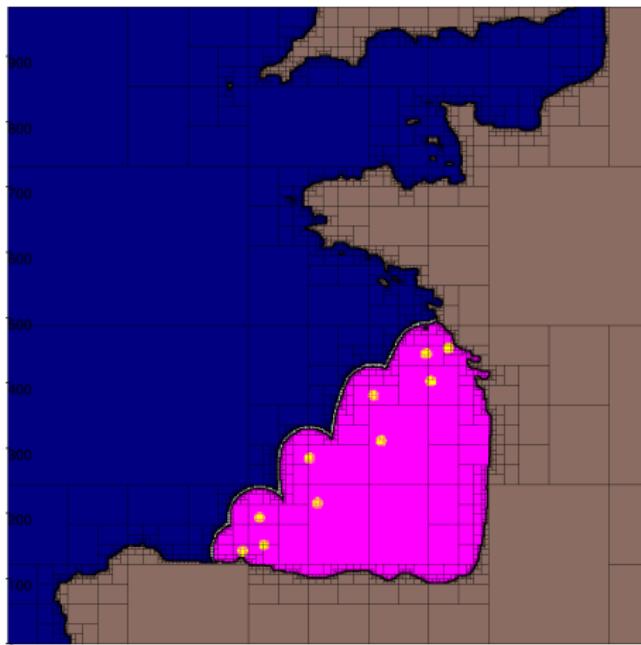
Secure a zone  
Intervals  
Cooperative localization

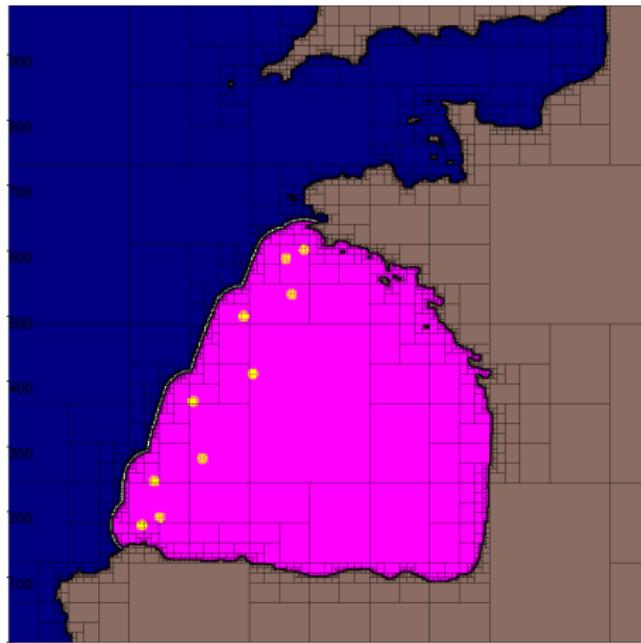


Secure a zone  
Intervals  
Cooperative localization



Secure a zone  
Intervals  
Cooperative localization





Video : youtube

Idea: Take into account the future.

The feasible set can be obtained by the following contractions

$$\begin{aligned}\overrightarrow{\mathbb{X}}(t) &= \overrightarrow{\mathbb{X}}(t) \cap (\mathbb{X}(t - dt) + dt \cdot \mathbb{F}(\mathbb{X}(t - dt))) \\ \overleftarrow{\mathbb{X}}(t) &= \overleftarrow{\mathbb{X}}(t) \cap (\mathbb{X}(t + dt) - dt \cdot \mathbb{F}(\mathbb{X}(t + dt))) \\ \mathbb{X}(t) &= \overrightarrow{\mathbb{X}}(t) \cap \overleftarrow{\mathbb{X}}(t)\end{aligned}$$

with the initialization

$$\mathbb{X}(t) = \overrightarrow{\mathbb{X}}(t) = \overleftarrow{\mathbb{X}}(t) = \mathbb{G}.$$

## 2. Intervals

**Problem.** Given  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and a box  $[x] \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , prove that

$$\forall x \in [x], f(x) \geq 0.$$

Interval arithmetic can solve efficiently this problem.

**Example.** Is the function

$$f(x) = x_1 x_2 - (x_1 + x_2) \cos x_2 + \sin x_1 \cdot \sin x_2 + 2$$

always positive for  $x_1, x_2 \in [-1, 1]$  ?

## Interval arithmetic

$$\begin{aligned} [-1, 3] + [2, 5] &= [1, 8], \\ [-1, 3] \cdot [2, 5] &= [-5, 15], \\ \text{abs}([-7, 1]) &= [0, 7] \end{aligned}$$

The interval extension of

$$f(x_1, x_2) = x_1 \cdot x_2 - (x_1 + x_2) \cdot \cos x_2 + \sin x_1 \cdot \sin x_2 + 2$$

is

$$\begin{aligned}[f]([x_1], [x_2]) &= [x_1] \cdot [x_2] - ([x_1] + [x_2]) \cdot \cos [x_2] \\ &\quad + \sin [x_1] \cdot \sin [x_2] + 2.\end{aligned}$$

## Theorem (Moore, 1970)

$$[f]([x]) \subset \mathbb{R}^+ \Rightarrow \forall x \in [x], f(x) \geq 0.$$

# Contractors

The operator  $\mathcal{C} : \mathbb{IR}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{IR}^n$  is a *contractor* [2] for the equation  $f(\mathbf{x}) = 0$ , if

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \mathcal{C}([\mathbf{x}]) \subset [\mathbf{x}] & \text{(contractance)} \\ \mathbf{x} \in [\mathbf{x}] \text{ and } f(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{C}([\mathbf{x}]) & \text{(consistence)} \end{array} \right.$$

# Tubes

A trajectory is a function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ . [4, 3]. For instance

$$f(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos t \\ \sin t \end{pmatrix}$$

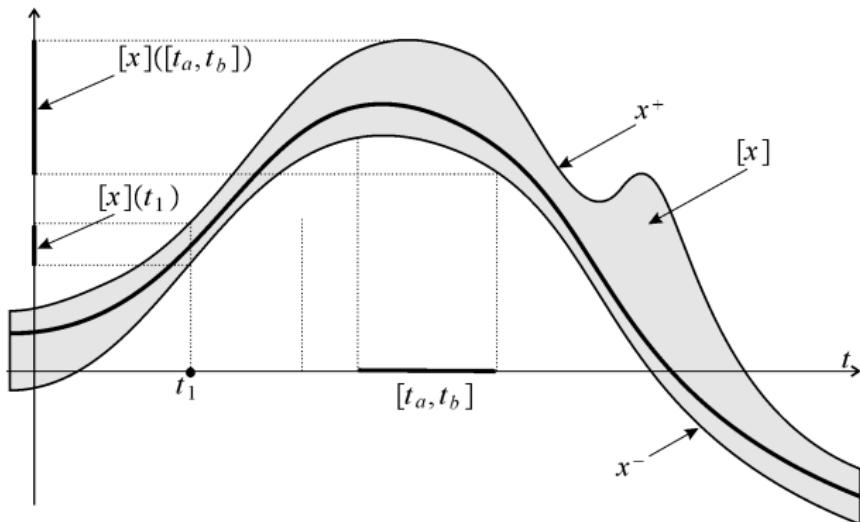
is a trajectory.

## Order relation

$$\mathbf{f} \leq \mathbf{g} \Leftrightarrow \forall t, \forall i, f_i(t) \leq g_i(t).$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{h} &= \mathbf{f} \wedge \mathbf{g} \Leftrightarrow \forall t, \forall i, h_i(t) = \min(f_i(t), g_i(t)), \\ \mathbf{h} &= \mathbf{f} \vee \mathbf{g} \Leftrightarrow \forall t, \forall i, h_i(t) = \max(f_i(t), g_i(t)).\end{aligned}$$



The set of trajectories is a lattice. Interval of trajectories (tubes) can be defined.

# Propagation

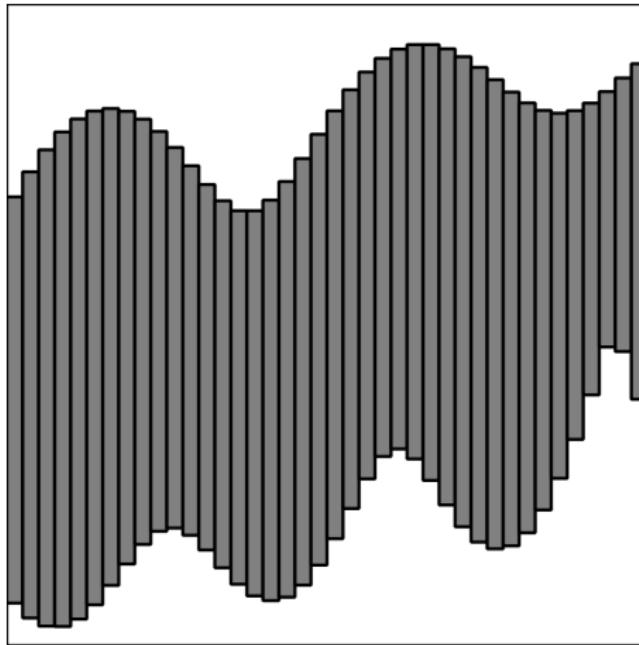
**Example.** Consider  $x(t) \in [x](t)$  with the constraint

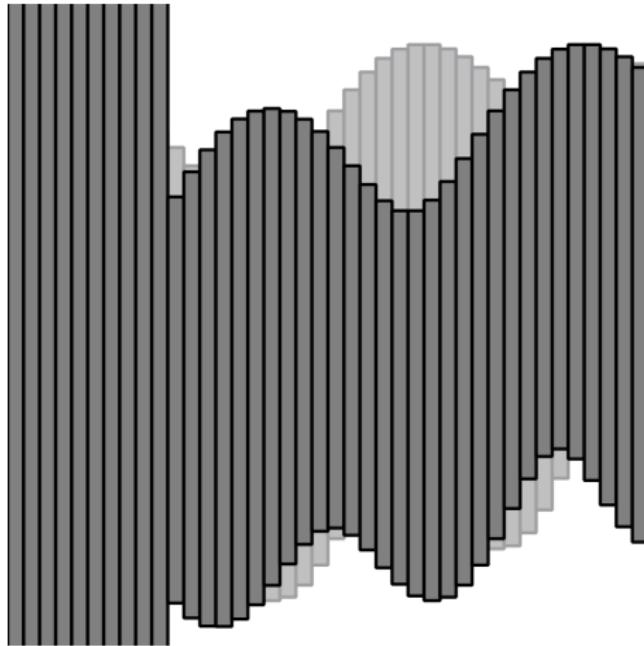
$$\forall t, x(t) = x(t+1)$$

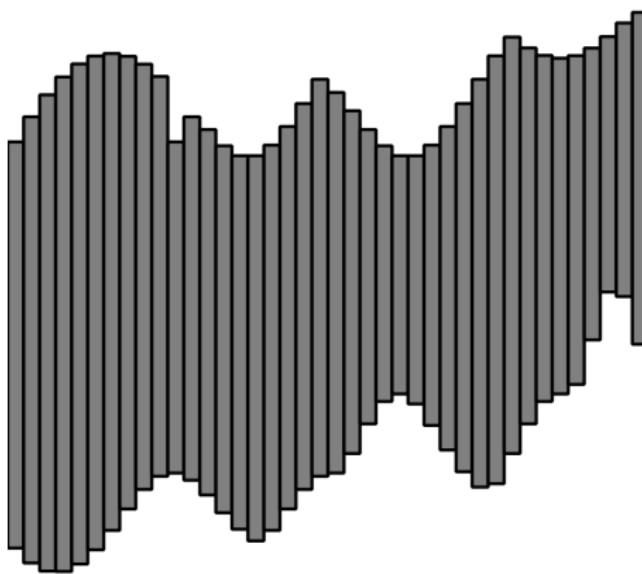
Contract the tube  $[x](t)$ .

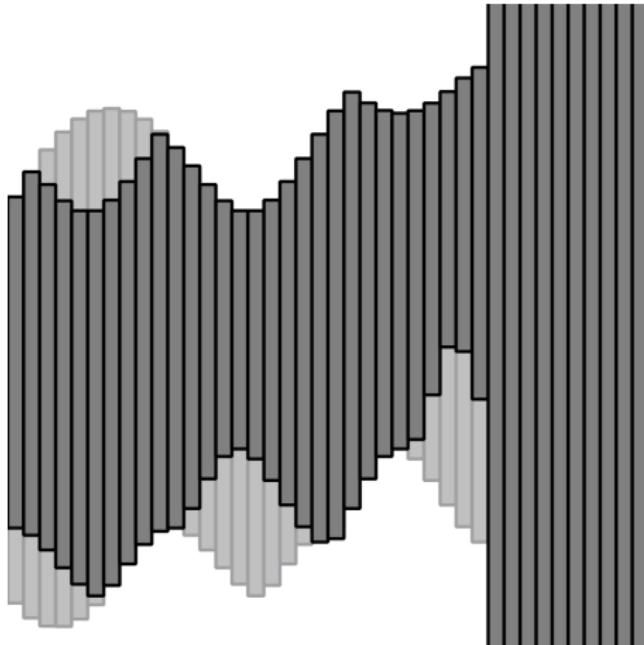
We first decompose into primitive trajectory constraints

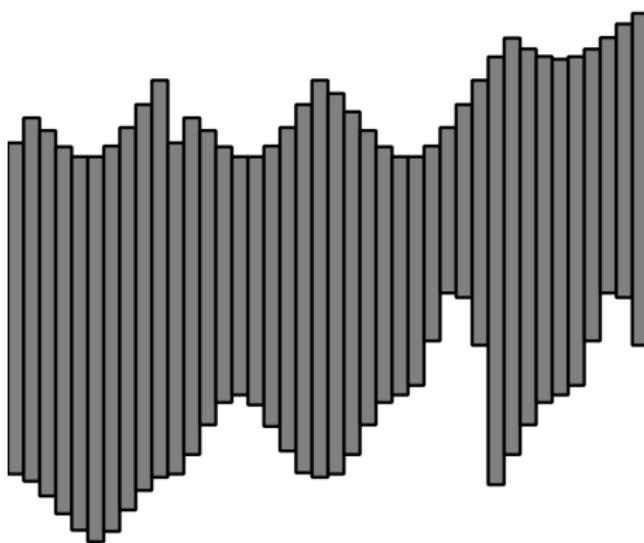
$$\begin{aligned}x(t) &= a(t+1) \\x(t) &= a(t).\end{aligned}$$

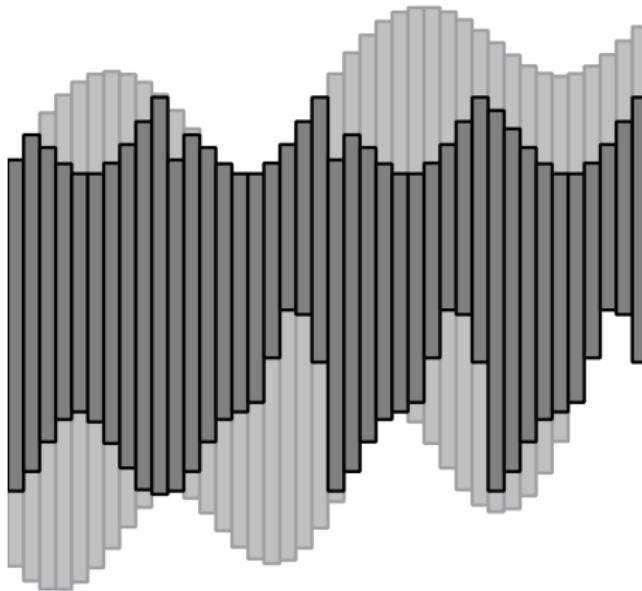


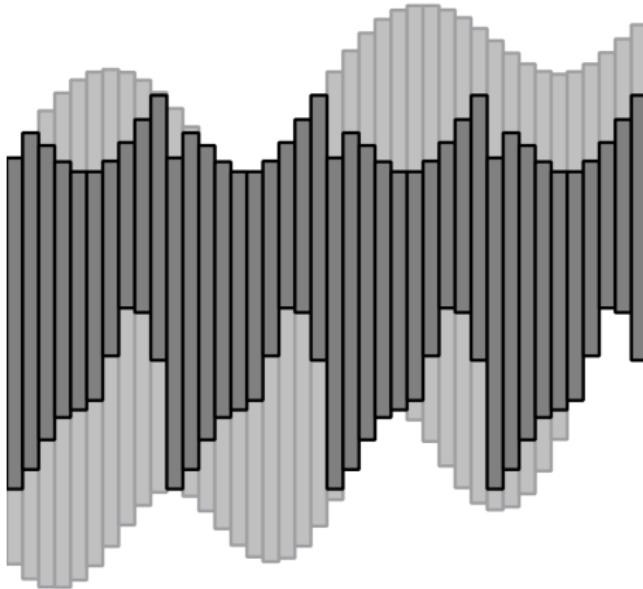


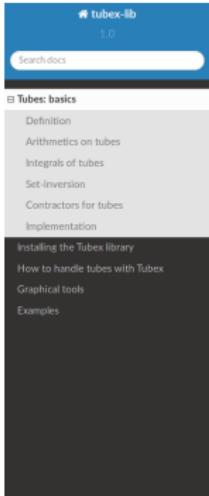












## Definition

A tube  $[x](\cdot)$  is defined as an envelope enclosing an uncertain trajectory  $x(\cdot) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ . It is built as an interval of two functions  $[x^-(\cdot), x^+(\cdot)]$  such that  $\forall t, x^-(t) \leq x^+(t)$ . A trajectory  $x(\cdot)$  belongs to the tube  $[x](\cdot)$  if  $\forall t, x(t) \in [x](t)$ . Fig. 1 illustrates a tube implemented with a set of boxes. This sliced implementation is detailed hereinafter.

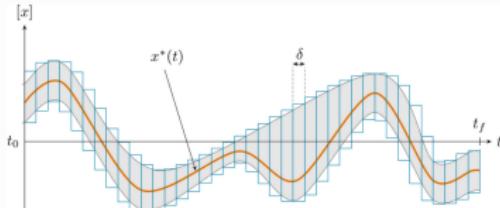


Fig. 1 A tube  $[x](\cdot)$  represented by a set of slices. This representation can be used to enclose signals such as  $x^*(\cdot)$ .

### Code example:

```
float timestep = 0.1;
Interval domain(0,10);
Tube x(domain, timestep, Function("t", "(t-5)^2 + [-0.5,0.5]"));
```

<http://codac.io/> [4]

### 3. Cooperative localization

## Classical state estimation

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) &= \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t)) & t \in \mathbb{R} \\ \mathbf{0} &= \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}(t), t) & t \in \mathbb{T} \subset \mathbb{R}. \end{cases}$$

Space constraint  $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}(t), t) = 0$ .

## Example.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \dot{x}_1 = x_3 \cos x_4 \\ \dot{x}_2 = x_3 \sin x_4 \\ \dot{x}_3 = u_1 \\ \dot{x}_4 = u_2 \\ (x_1(5) - 1)^2 + (x_2(5) - 2)^2 - 4 = 0 \\ (x_1(7) - 1)^2 + (x_2(7) - 2)^2 - 9 = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

With time-space constraints

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t)) & t \in \mathbb{R} \\ \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{x}(t'), t, t') & (t, t') \in \mathbb{T} \subset \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}. \end{cases}$$

**Example.** An ultrasonic underwater robot with state

$$\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots) = (x, y, \theta, v, \dots)$$

At time  $t$  the robot emits an omni-directional sound. At time  $t'$  it receives it

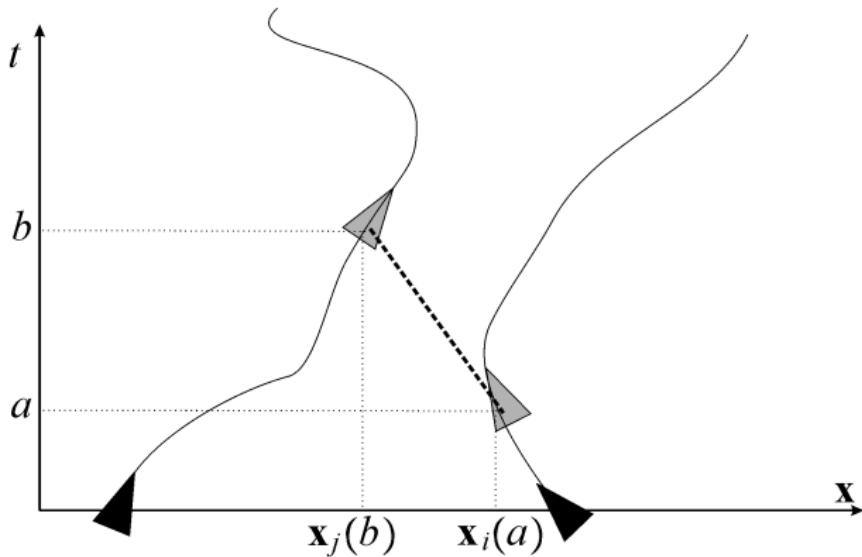
$$(x_1 - x'_1)^2 + (x_2 - x'_2)^2 - c(t - t')^2 = 0.$$

Consider  $n$  robots  $\mathcal{R}_1, \dots, \mathcal{R}_n$  described by

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}_i = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{u}_i), \mathbf{u}_i \in [\mathbf{u}_i].$$

Omnidirectional sounds are emitted and received.

A *ping* is a 4-uple  $(a, b, i, j)$  where  $a$  is the emission time,  $b$  is the reception time,  $i$  is the emitting robot and  $j$  the receiver.



With the time space constraint

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}_i = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{u}_i), \mathbf{u}_i \in [\mathbf{u}_i].$$

$$g(\mathbf{x}_{i(k)}(a(k)), \mathbf{x}_{j(k)}(b(k)), a(k), b(k)) = 0$$

where

$$g(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j, a, b) = \|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2\| - c(b - a).$$

Clocks are uncertain. We only have measurements  $\tilde{a}(k), \tilde{b}(k)$  of  $a(k), b(k)$  thanks to clocks  $h_i$ . Thus

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}_i = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{u}_i), \mathbf{u}_i \in [\mathbf{u}_i].$$

$$g(\mathbf{x}_{i(k)}(a(k)), \mathbf{x}_{j(k)}(b(k)), a(k), b(k)) = 0$$

$$\tilde{a}(k) = h_{i(k)}(a(k))$$

$$\tilde{b}(k) = h_{j(k)}(b(k))$$

The drift of the clocks is bounded

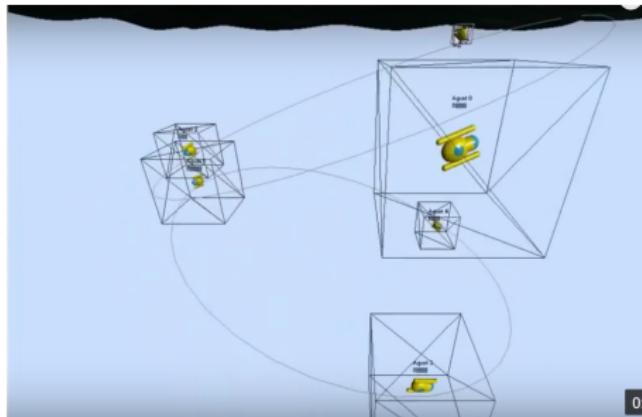
$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}_i = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{u}_i), \mathbf{u}_i \in [\mathbf{u}_i].$$

$$g(x_{i(k)}(a(k)), x_{j(k)}(b(k)), a(k), b(k)) = 0$$

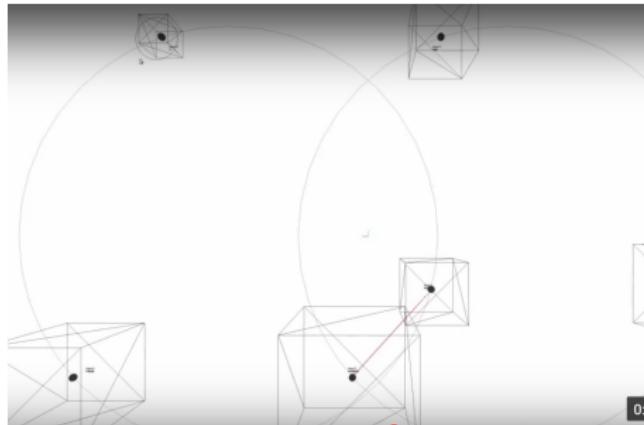
$$\tilde{a}(k) = h_{i(k)}(a(k))$$

$$\tilde{b}(k) = h_{j(k)}(b(k))$$

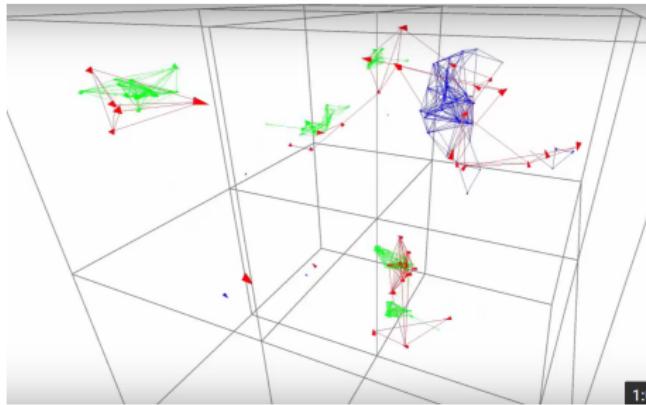
$$\dot{h}_i = 1 + n_h, \quad n_h \in [n_h]$$



[Youtube \[1\]](#)



[Youtube](#)



[Youtube](#)

-  A. Bethencourt and L. Jaulin.  
Cooperative localization of underwater robots with unsynchronized clocks.  
*Journal of Behavioral Robotics*, 4(4):233–244, 2013.
-  G. Chabert and L. Jaulin.  
Contractor Programming.  
*Artificial Intelligence*, 173:1079–1100, 2009.
-  S. Rohou.  
*Reliable robot localization: a constraint programming approach over dynamical systems.*  
PhD dissertation, Université de Bretagne Occidentale,  
ENSTA-Bretagne, France, december 2017.
-  S. Rohou, L. Jaulin, M. Mihaylova, F. L. Bars, and S. Veres.  
Guaranteed Computation of Robots Trajectories.  
*Robotics and Autonomous Systems*, 93:76–84, 2017.



K. Vencatasamy, L. Jaulin, and B. Zerr.  
Secure the zone from intruders with a group robots.  
*Special Issue on Ocean Engineering and Oceanography,*  
*Springer, 2018.*