

Resilient Supervisory Control Against Smart Cyberattacks in Discrete-Event Dynamic Systems

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Outline

□ Introduction

□ Preliminaries on DES supervisory control

□ Introduction to sensor attacks

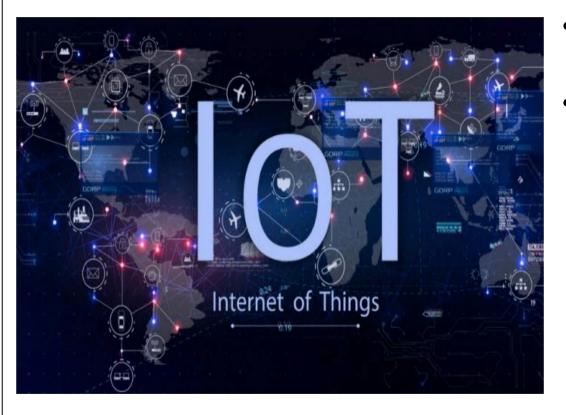
□ Introduction to actuator attacks

□ An illustration example

Conclusions



The Age of Networks



- 31B IoT devices in 2020,
 35B in 2021, 75B in 2025
- IoT adoptions in 2020^[1]:
 - 93% of enterprises;
 - **80%** of manufacturing companies
 - 90% of cars connected to the web;
 - **3.5B** Cellular IoT connections installed.

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A⁴ = Anyone, Anything, Anywhere and Anytime

^[1] Gilad David Maayan. The IoT rundown for 2020: stats, risks, and solutions, Security Today, 13/1/2020.



The Downside of Networked Society – Cybercrimes^[2]

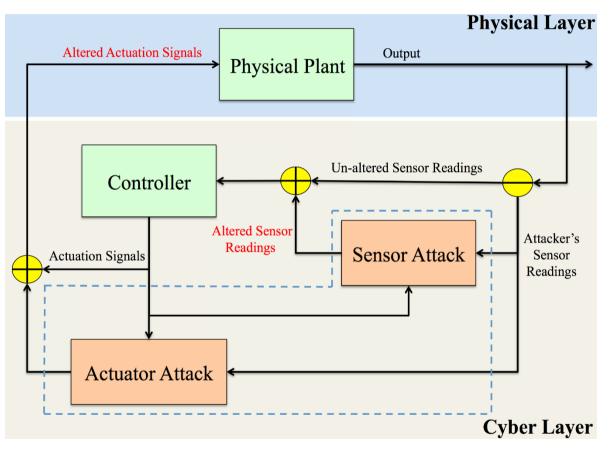
- Estimated cybercrime damages cost the world **\$3 trillion** in 2015, and is expected to reach **\$6 trillion** annually by 2021.
- Yahoo hack affected 3 billion users, and Equifax breach in 2017 affected 145.5 million customers. Others included WannaCry, NotPetya 14 seconds per ransom attack, cost \$5 billion in 2017 in USA.
- Main types of attacks: **DDoS** attacks, **ransomware**, **zero-day exploits**.
- Five most attacked industries in 2015-2016 (and beyond)
 - Healthcare, manufacturing, financial, government, transportation.
 - Nearly 50% attacks were committed to small businesses.
 - Confidentiality, availability, authentication, integrity, non-repudiation.

^[2] Steve Morgan. 2017 Official annual cybercrime report. Cybercrime Magazine. Oct. 16, 2017.



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A Cyber-Physical System (CPS) Perspective



 $\dot{x} = f(t, x, u, w, \eta(t, \alpha, \beta))$

A generic CPS model^[3]:

- *x*: plant state
- *u*: control action
- *w*: disturbance
 - η : cyber state function
- α : attacker's action
- β : defender's action

Possible control goals:

- To keep x(t) in some D.
- To reach *D* optimally.

^[3] Seyed Mehran Dibaji, Mohammad Pirani, David Bezalel Flamholz, Anuradha M. Annaswamy, Karl H. Johansson, Aranya Chakraborty . A systems and control perspective of CPS security. *Annual Reviews in Control*, vol. 47, pp. 394-411, 2019.



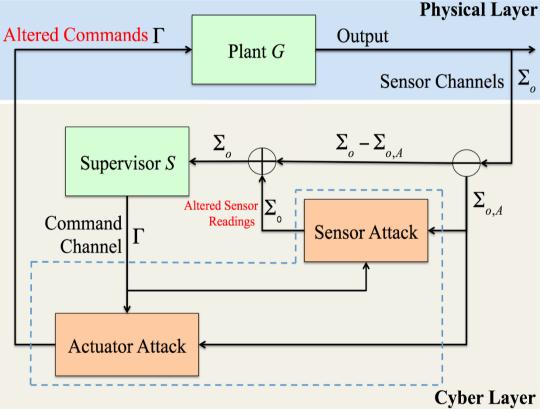
A Discrete-Event System (DES) View of CPS

- A DES is event driven, usually with a discrete set of states and events.
- A DES describes the **functional** evolution of a system.
- DES is common in industry, e.g.,
 - Manufacturing, logistics, medicare, robotics, transportation, etc.
- DES theory is part of some important research areas, e.g.,
 - Hybrid systems, multi-agent systems, robotics, formal method for controller synthesis, etc.
- A DES is vulnerable to cyber (sensor and actuator) attacks, which aim to **change the execution order of functions** to inflict damages.

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A DES-based CPS Perspective

A DES-based CPS model:



- $x^{+} = f(x,u)$ y = g(x,u)
- $u \quad \hat{1} \quad b(S(\partial(y^{-})), y^{-})$

 $y_0 = \theta$ (empty string)

- $x(x^+)$: current (next) state
- *u*: control action
- $y(y^{-})$: current (past) output
- α : sensor attack function
- β : actuator attack function

ayer Possible control goals:

- To keep *x* in some *D*.
- To reach *D* optimally. 7



Existing Cyber Security Research in DES

Existing research works:

- Fault tolerant control
- Opacity analysis and enforcement
- Discrete-event simulation of cyber attacks
- Game theoretical control for attack resilience in DES
- Supervisory control for attack resilience in DES

We are particularly interested in the following questions:

- What are characteristics of "**smart**" attacks?
- How to defend systems against "**smart**" attacks?



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知己知彼,百战不殆! -孙子

If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles.

– Sun Tzu

孙子 (Sun Tzu, 544-496 BC)



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Languages and Projection

- Let Σ^* be the free monoid over a finite alphabet Σ , where
 - Each element in Σ^* is a *string*, and each subset $L \subseteq S^*$ is a *language*.
 - The unit element is ε , which is also called the *empty* string.
 - The monoid binary operation is *concatenation*, i.e., $("s,t \hat{l} S^*)st \hat{l} S^*$.
 - We use $s \notin s$ to denote that s is a *prefix* of s', i.e., $(\$t \upharpoonright S^*)st = s'$. Write s'/s = t.
 - Prefix closure: $\overline{L} = \{s \mid S^* \mid (\$t \mid S^*) st \mid L\}$
 - Given two languages $U, V \subseteq S^*$, let $UV := \{st \in S^* | s \in U \land t \in V\}$.
- Let $S' \subseteq S^*$. The map $P: S^* \to S'^*$ is the *natural projection* w.r.t. (S, S'), if

-
$$P(e) = e$$
,
- $(" S \in S)P(S) = \begin{cases} S & if S \in S \setminus S' \\ e & if S \in S' \end{cases}$,

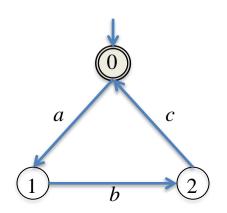


Finite-State Automaton

A finite-state automaton is a 5-tuple $G = (X, S, X, x_0, X_m)$, where

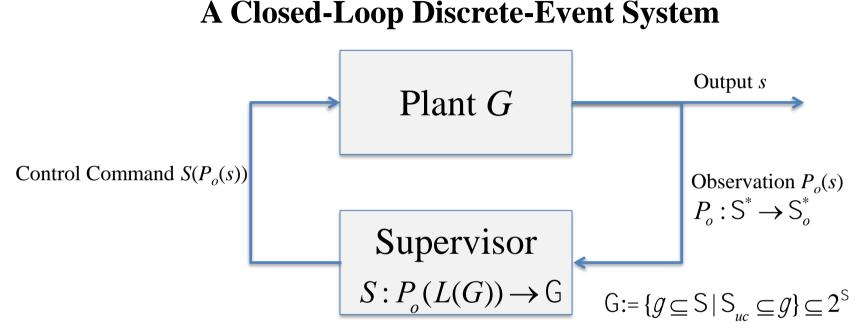
- X the state set,
- $X_{\rm m}$ the marker (or final) state set,
- Σ the alphabet,
- $X: X \times S \rightarrow X$ the (partial) transition map,
- x_0 the initial state.
- The *closed* behavior: $L(G) = \{s \mid S^* \mid X(x_0, s) \text{ is defined}\}$
- The marked behavior: $L_m(G) = \{s \mid L(G) \mid X(x_0, s) \mid X_m\}$

[all tasks] [all complete tasks]





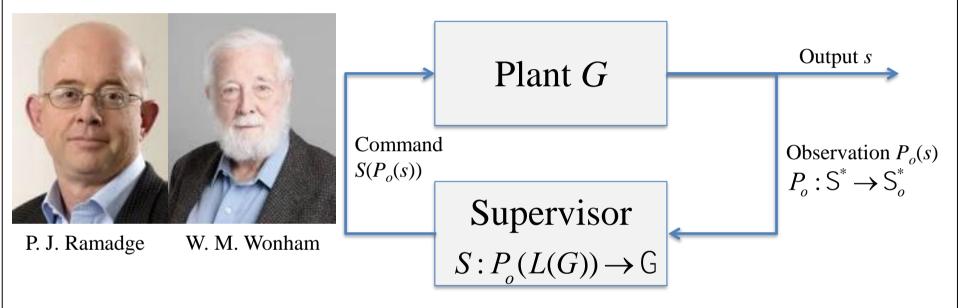
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- Event partitions: $\Sigma = \Sigma_c \dot{\cup} \Sigma_{uc} = \Sigma_o \dot{\cup} \Sigma_{uo}$
- Control command (or pattern): (" $s \in L(G)$) $S_{uc} \subseteq S(P_o(s))$
- Behaviors of closed-loop system S/G of the plant G under the control of S:
 - $e\hat{I} L(S/G)$
 - $("s \in L(V/G))("S \in S)sS \in L(V/G) \Leftrightarrow sS \in L(G) \land S \in S(P_o(s))$
 - $L_m(S/G) = L(S/G) \subsetneq L_m(G)$



Ramadge-Wonham Supervisory Control Problem^[4]



Given a plant G and a requirement $E \subseteq L_m(G)$, find a supervisor S such that

- $L_m(S/G) \subseteq E$ [The closed-loop system satisfies the requirement *E*.]
- $L(S/G) = L_m(S/G)$ [Each incomplete task in S/G can be completed.]
- ("s') $L_m(S'/G) \subseteq L_m(S/G)$ [The closed-loop system should be least restrictive.]

^[4] P. J. Ramadge, W. M. Wonham. Supervisory control of a class of discrete-event systems. *SIAM Journal on Control and Optimization*, vol. 25, no. 1, pp. 206-236, 1987.



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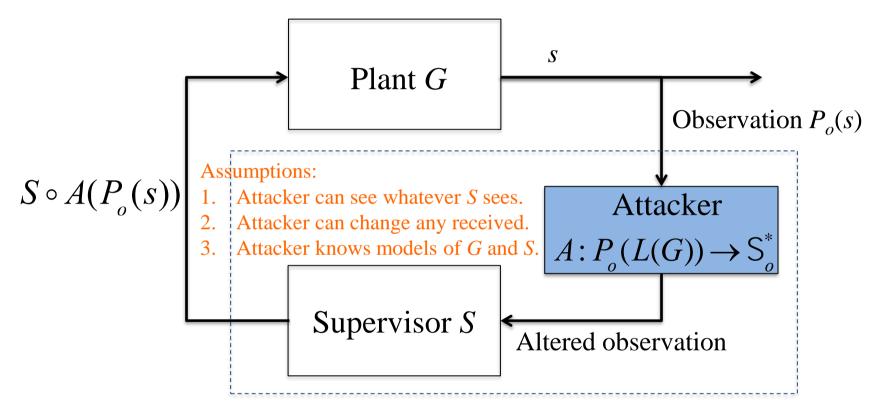
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A Simple Architecture of Sensor Attack

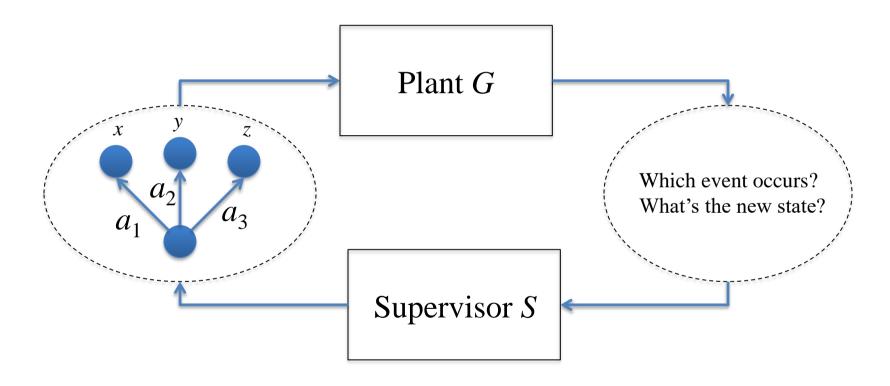


- The composition $S \circ A$ is essentially a new supervisor.
- Thus, the new closed-loop system $S \circ A / G$ is defined as usual.
- Question: What requirements does A need to satisfy?



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Why Attack on Supervisor is Possible?



- Non-determinism involved in event firing
- Observation based state estimation

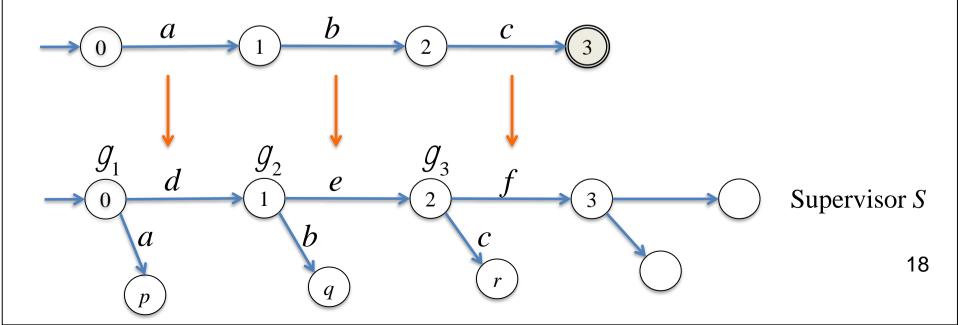
Vulnerability



Intuitive Illustration

Assume that an attacker A wants to achieve a string abc.

- Assume that $a \hat{i} g_1, b \hat{i} g_2, c \hat{i} g_3$.
- The attacker replaces a with d to trick the supervisor S to issue γ_2 .
- Then the attacker replaces *b* with *e* to trick *S* to issue γ_3 .
- The attacker could continue this trick as long as it is possible.





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An Attack Model^[5]

An attack model for G is a map $A: P_o(L(G)) \to S_o^*$, where

- A(e) = e
- (" $sS \hat{\mid} P_o(L(G)) A(s) \notin A(sS) \hat{\mid} A(sS) |-|A(s)| \# n$ for some $n \hat{\mid} N$

Let ${}^{O}_{N,G}$ denote the Nerode equivalence relation over $P_o(L(G))$, i.e., $("s,s' \in P_o(L(G)))s \equiv_{N,G} s' \Leftrightarrow [("t \in S_o^*)st \in P_o(L(G)) \Leftrightarrow s't \in P_o(L(G))]$ The attack model A is *regular* with respect to ${}^{O}_{N,G}$, if $("sS,s'S \mid P_o(L(G)))s {}^{o}_{N,G} s' \triangleright A(sS) / A(s) = A(s'S) / A(s')$

^[5] R. Su. Supervisor synthesis to thwart cyber attack with bounded sensor reading alterations. *Automatica*, vol. 94, pp. 35-44, 2018.



Closed-Loop System $S \circ A / G$

Since $S \circ A : P_o(L(G)) \to \Gamma : t \mapsto S \circ A(t) := S(A(t))$, we have • $\varepsilon \in L(S \circ A / G)$

• $(\forall s \in L(S \circ A / G))(\forall \sigma \in \Sigma) s \sigma \in L(S \circ A / G) \Leftrightarrow s \sigma \in L(G) \land \sigma \in S \circ A(P_o(s)))$

•
$$L_m(S \circ A / G) = L(S \circ A / G) \cap L_m(G)$$

Assumption 3: Both *A* and *S* are regular with respect to ${}^{\circ}_{N,G}$.



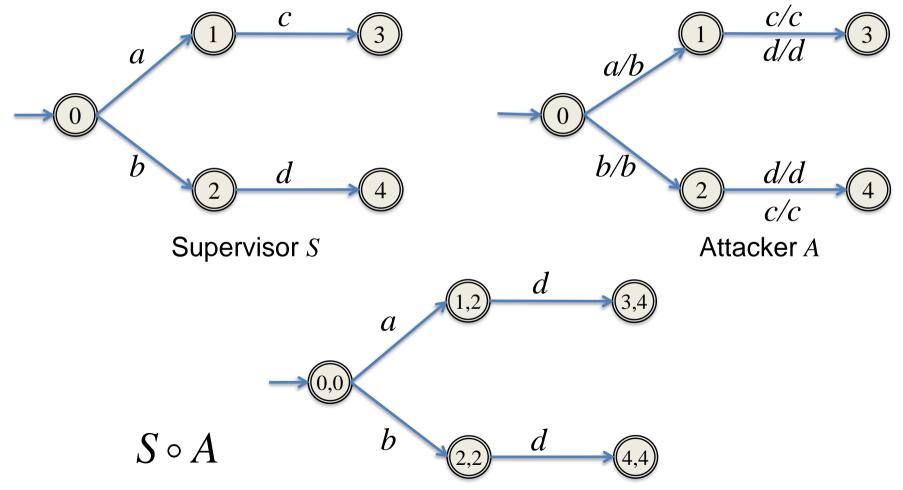
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Example 1 С a С h d a 2 d Supervisor S 0 c/cb dd/d a/b2 Plant G b/b d/d2 c/c Attacker A

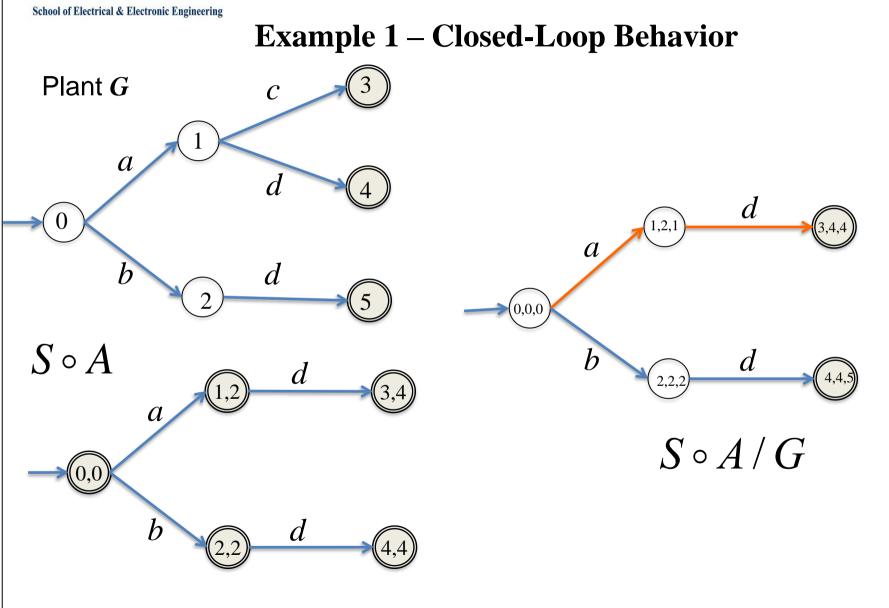


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Example 1 – Sequential Composition









Smart Sensor Attack

Definition 1

A closed-loop system (G,S) is *attackable* if there exists a non-empty attack model A such that the following properties hold:

(1) Covertness:
$$A(P_o(L(G))) \subseteq P_o(L(S/G))$$
 (1)

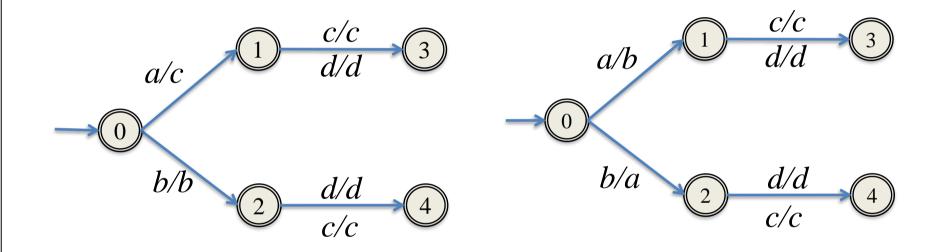
(2) Damage infliction: Let $L_{dam} := L(G) - L(S/G)$. [Strong] $L(S \circ A/G) = L(S \circ A/G) \cap L_{dam}$ (2-1) [Weak] $L(S \circ A/G) \cap L_{dam} \neq \emptyset$ (2-2)

 $L(S \circ A / G)$ satisfying (1)-(2) is a smart sensor attack language.



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Example 1 - Revisit



Attack Model A_1

Not covert! Not inflict any damage! Thus, it is not smart! Attack Model A_2

A smart sensor attack



Supremal Smart Sensor Attack Language

Given a set of all smart sensor attacks $\{A_i | i \in I\}$ of (G, S), let $\bigvee_{i \in I} A_i : P_o(L(G)) \to 2^{\sum_{i=1}^{s}} : t \mapsto \bigvee_{i \in I} A_i(t) := \{A_i(t) | i \in I \land t \in L(S \circ A_i / G))\},$ and we have

$$\bigcup_{i \in I} A_i(P_o(L(G))) = \underset{i \in I}{\overset{\sim}{\vdash}} A_i(P_o(L(G))).$$

Let

$$S \circ (\underset{i \in I}{\lor} A_i) : P_o(L(G)) \to 2^{\Gamma} : t \mapsto S \circ (\underset{i \in I}{\lor} A_i)(t) := \{S \circ A_i(t) \mid i \in I \land t \in L(S \circ A_i / G)\},$$

and we can derive that

$$L(S \circ (\bigvee_{i \in I} A_i) / G) = \bigcup_{i \in I} L(S \circ A_i / G).$$

All three conditions in Def. 1 holds for $A := \bigcup_{i \in I} A_i$. Clearly, we have $(\forall i \in I) L(S \circ A_i / G) \subseteq L(S \circ A / G).$

 $L(S \circ A / G)$ is called the *supremal* smart sensor attack language.



Supremal Smart Sensor Attack Language (cont.)

Theorem 1

Given a closed-loop system (G, S) and a protected observation alphabet $\Sigma_{o,p}$, the existence of a regular smart strong sensor attack model is decidable. In case the supremal regular smart attack language exists, it is computable with the following complexity:

$$O(2^{3|G||S|^2} | S || D_n|) = O(2^{3|G||S|^2} | S || S_o|^n),$$

where Δ_n is the set of all observable strings whose lengths are no more than *n*.



Resilience against Smart Sensor Attacks

Problem 1: [RSaRSSA]

Given a plant G and a requirement E, decide whether there exists a regular and normal supervisor S to avoid any regular smart sensor attack A that inflicts a **weak** damage, i.e.,

$$L(S \circ A / G) \cap (L(G) - L(S / G)) \neq \emptyset.$$

[strong damage ▷ weak damage, no weak damage ▷ security]

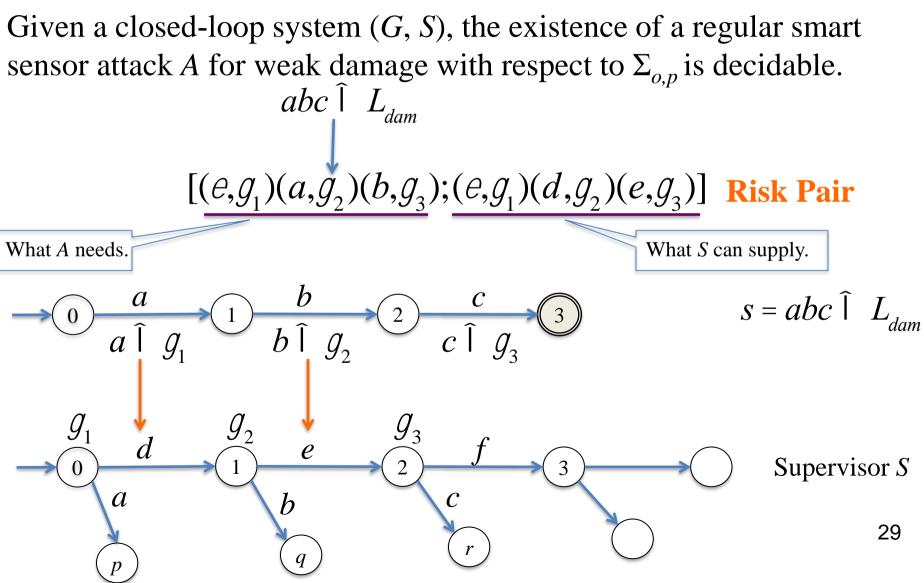
Problem 2:

If the answer to Problem 1 is yes, compute one such supervisor S.



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Theorem 2



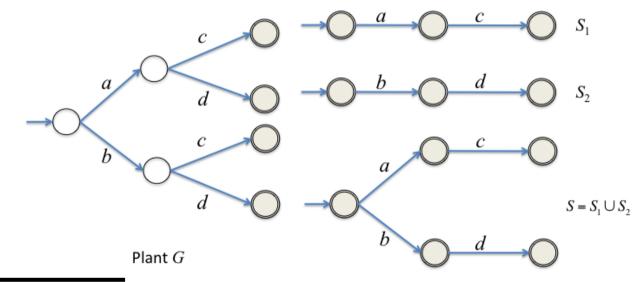
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Decidability of Existence of RSaRSSA

Theorem 3^[6]

Given a plant G and a requirement E, let L_{dam} be a regular damage language. Then the existence of a solution of RSaRSSA in Problem 1 is decidable. In the case that there is a solution to Problem 1, there is an algorithm to compute a maximally permissive RSaRSSA. But the least restrictive solution (or the supremal RSaRSSA) usually does not exist.



[6] R. Su, M. Reniers. On decidability of existence of nonblocking supervisors resilient to smart sensor attacks. *Automatica*, under review, 2021.



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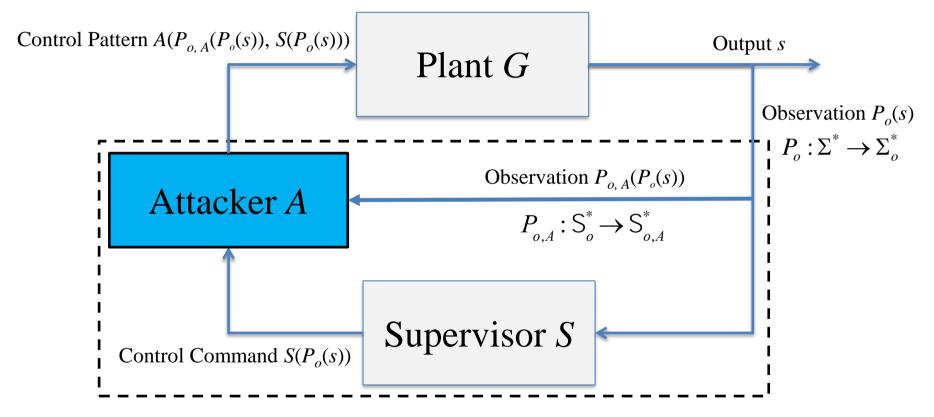
□ Introduction to actuator attacks

□ An illustration example

Conclusions



A Simple Architecture of Actuator Attack



Questions:

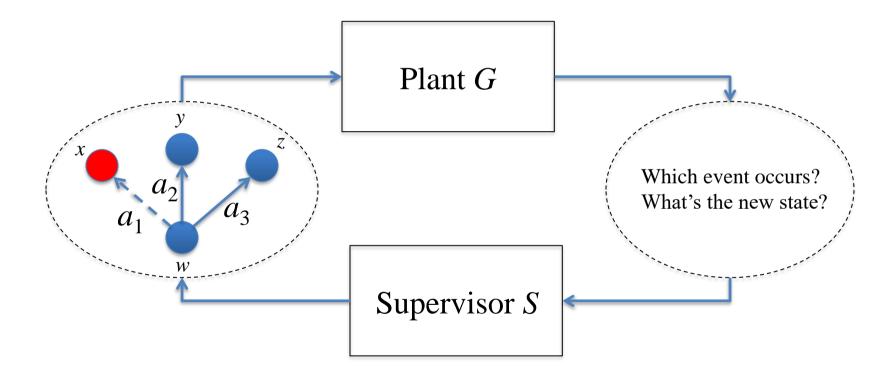
- What is the model *A*?
- What is the attacked supervisor $A \circ (P_{o,A}, S)$?
- What is the attacked closed-loop system $A \circ (P_{aA}, S) / G?$

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Why Actuator Attack on Supervisor is Possible?



- Existence of attackable actuation events
- Existence of "risky" states

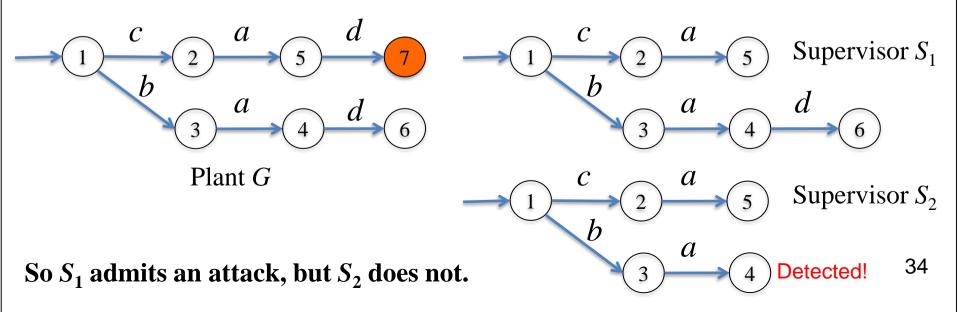
Vulnerability



Intuitive Illustration

Assume that an attacker wants the plant G to reach a damaging state 7, but can't observe events b and c. A supervisor can observe a, b, c.

- If the supervisor is S_1 , then after observing a, it is safe for the attacker to initiate an actuator attack and enable event d.
- If the supervisor is S_2 , then after observing a, the attacker can't initiate an actuator attack without having a risk of being detected.





An Actuator Attack Model^{[7][8]}

• Information for an attacker: $(\Sigma_{c,A}, \Sigma_{o,A})$, where $\Sigma_{c,A} \subseteq \Sigma_c \land \Sigma_{o,A} \subseteq \Sigma_o$.

- Attacker's observation map: Recall that Γ is the set of all control patterns (commands). $P_{o,A}^{S}: P_{o}(L(G)) \rightarrow ((S_{o,A} \cup \{e\}) \times G)^{*}$ where for all $w = u_{1}\sigma_{1}...u_{n}\sigma_{n}u_{n+1} \in L(G) \cap (\Sigma_{uo}^{*}\Sigma_{o})^{*}\Sigma_{uo}^{*}$, $P_{o,A}^{S}(w) \coloneqq \begin{cases} (\varepsilon, S(\varepsilon)) & \text{if } w = \varepsilon, \\ (\varepsilon, S(\varepsilon))(P_{o,A}(\sigma_{1}), S(\sigma_{1}))\cdots(P_{o,A}(\sigma_{1}\cdots\sigma_{n}), S(\sigma_{1}\cdots\sigma_{n})) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$
- A sensor attack over the supervisor S is modeled by a function

$$A: P^{S}_{o,A}(P_{o}(L(G))) \to G.$$

[7] L. Lin, S. Thuijsman, Y. Zhu, S. Ware, R. Su, M. Reniers. Synthesis of supremal successful actuator attackers on normal supervisors. *ACC'19*, pp. 5614-5619, 2019.

[8] L. Lin, Y. Zhu, R. Su. Synthesis of covert actuator attackers for free. *Journal of Discrete event dynamic systems: Theory and Applications*, vol. 30, pp. 561-577, 2020.



Smart Actuator Attack

• Attacked supervisor $A \circ S : P_o(L(G)) \rightarrow \Gamma$, where

 $(\forall s \in P_o(L(G))) A \circ S(s) = A(P_{o,A}^S(s)).$

• Attacked closed-loop behaviors: $L(A \circ S / G)$ and $L_m(A \circ S / G) := L(A \circ S / G) \cap L_m(G)$.

Definition 2:

A closed-loop system (G, S) is *attackable* if there exists a non-empty actuator attack model A such that the following properties hold:

- 1) Controllability: $(\forall s \in L(A \circ S / G)) \{s\} (S(s) \Sigma_{c,A}) \cap L(G) \subseteq L(A \circ S / G).$
- 2) Covertness: $L(A \circ S / G) \subseteq L(S / G)(\{\varepsilon\} \cup \Sigma_{c,A}) \cap L(G).$
- 3) Damage-inflicting: Let $L_{dmg} \subseteq (L(S / G)S_{c,A} L(S / G)) \cap L(G)$,
 - Strong condition: $L(A \circ S / G) = L(A \circ S / G) \cap L_{dam}$
 - Weak condition: $L(A \circ S / G) \cap L_{dmg} \neq \emptyset$.



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Supremal Smart Actuator Attack Language

Given a set of all smart actuator attacks $\{A_i | i \in I\}$ of (G, S), let $\bigvee_{i \in I} A_i : P_{o,A}^S(P_o(L(G))) \to \Gamma : t \mapsto \bigvee_{i \in I} A_i(t) := \{A_i(t) | i \in I \land t \in L(A_i \circ S / G)\},$ and we have $\bigcup_{i \in I} A_i(P_{o,A}^S(P_o(L(G)))) = \underset{i \in I}{\models} A_i(P_{o,A}^S(P_o(L(G)))).$

Let

$$\{\bigvee_{i\in I} A_i\} \circ S : P_o(L(G)) \to 2^{2^{\Sigma}} : t \mapsto (\bigvee_{i\in I} A_i) \circ S(t) := \{A_i \circ S(t) \mid i \in I \land t \in L(A_i \circ S / G)\},$$

and we can derive that

$$L((\bigvee_{i\in I} A_i) \circ S / G) = \bigcup_{i\in I} L(A_i \circ S / G).$$

All three conditions in Def. 2 holds for $A := \bigcup_{i \in I} A_i$. Clearly, we have $(\forall i \in I) L(A_i \circ S / G) \subseteq L(A \circ S / G).$

 $L(A \circ S / G)$ is called the supremal smart actuator attack language.



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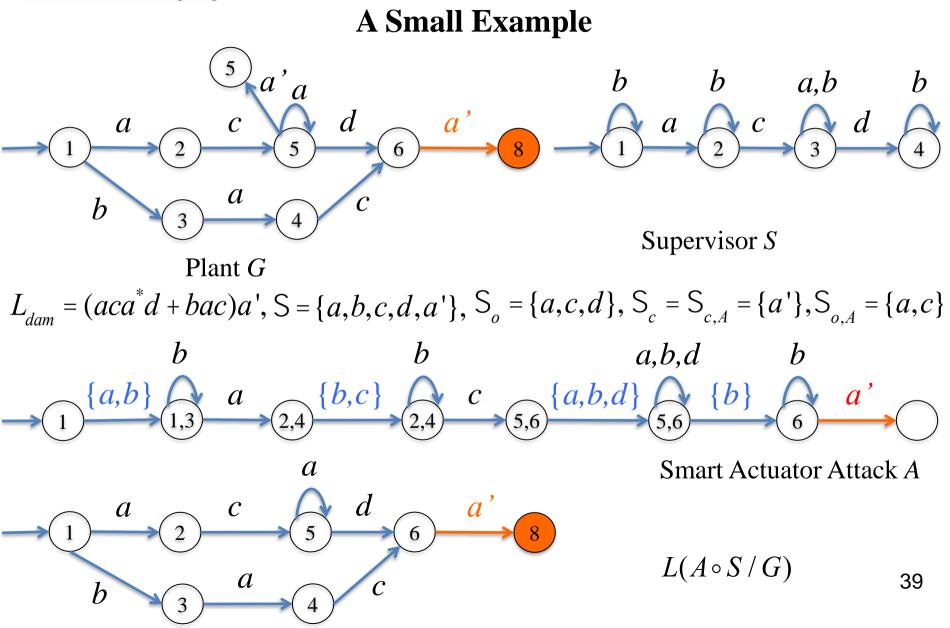
Supremal Smart Actuator Attack Language (cont.)

Theorem 4

Given a closed-loop system (*G*, *S*) and an attack tuple $(S_{c,A}, S_{o,A}, L_{dam})$, the supremal regular smart (strong or weak) actuator attack language exists and computable, whose complexity is exponential-time.



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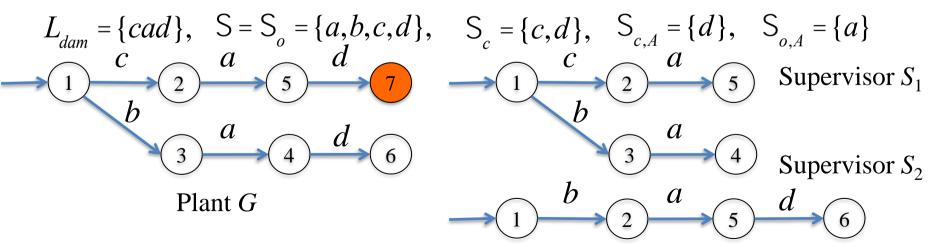




Supervisor Resilient to Smart Actuator Attack <u>CONJECTURE</u>

Given a plant G and a requirement E, let L_{dam} be a given regular damage language. Then the existence of a regular normal supervisor S, which does not admit any regular smart weak actuator attack w.r.t. $(S_{c,A}, S_{o,A}, L_{dam})$ is decidable.

The supremal one resilient to smart actuator attacks does not exist.



Neither S_1 nor S_2 admits any smart actuator attack! They both are maximal, but not comparable!



Resilient Supervisor Synthesis

Problem 3: [Resilient Supervisor Synthesis]

Given **plant** *G*, synthesize **supervisor** *S* over (Σ_c, Σ_o) such that there is no smart actuator **attack** over $(S_{c,A}, S_{o,A}, L_{dam})$.

Problem 4: [Supervisor Obfuscation]

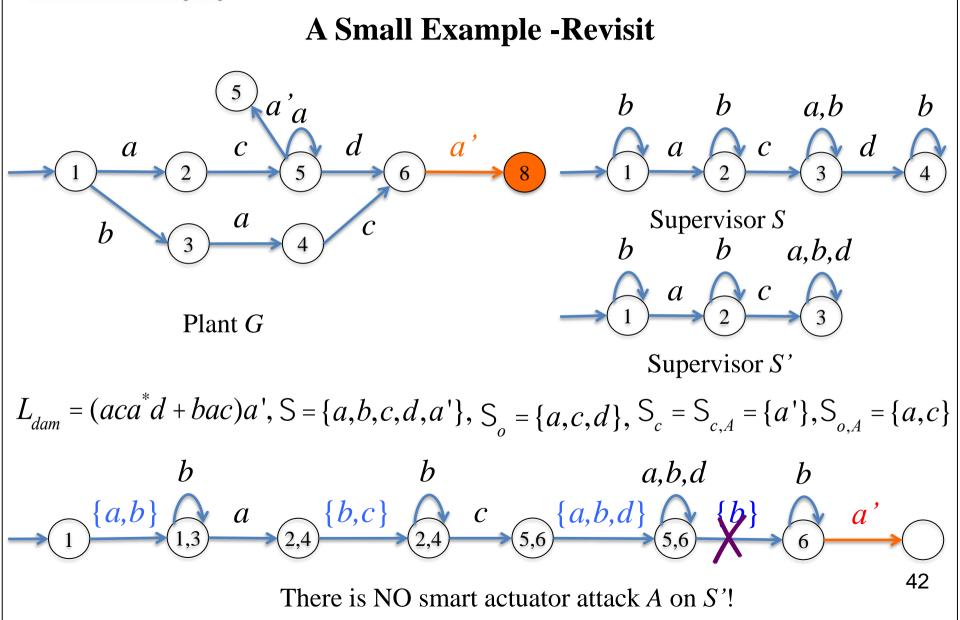
- Given plant G and supervisor S, synthesize supervisor S' over (S_a, S_a) ,
 - 1) S' is control equivalent to S, i.e., L(S/G) = L(S'/G).
 - 2) There is no smart actuator **attack** over *S*'.

Some heuristic algorithms

- SAT encoding of all *n*-bounded control-equivalent supervisors^{[9][10]};
- Using sup-reduction to get minimum-state control-equivalent supervisors^[11].
- [9] L. Lin, Y. Zhu, R. Su. Towards bounded synthesis of resilient supervisors against actuator attacks. *IEEE CDC'19*, pp. 7659-7664, 2019.
- [10] L. Lin, R. Su. Bounded synthesis of resilient supervisors. *IEEE TAC*, accepted, 2021.
- [11] Y. Zhu, L. Lin, R. Su. Supervisor obfuscation against actuator enablement attack. *ECC'19*, pp. 1760-1765, 2019.



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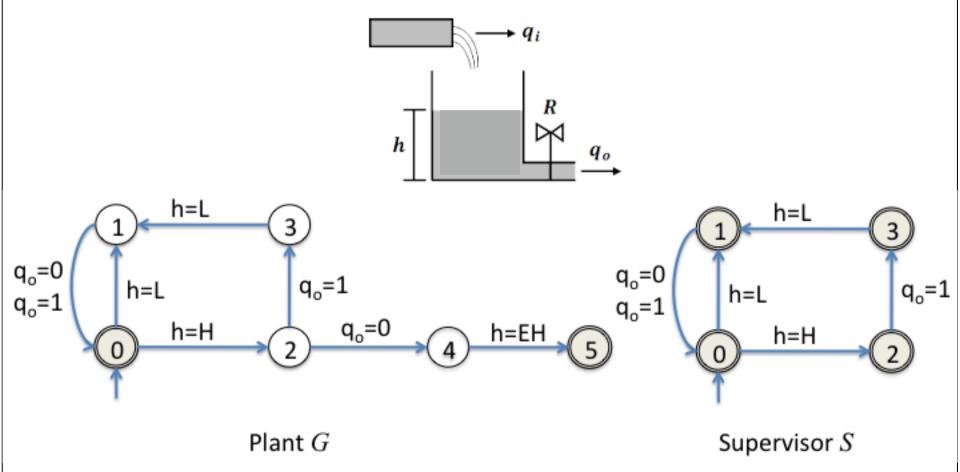
□ An illustration example

Conclusions



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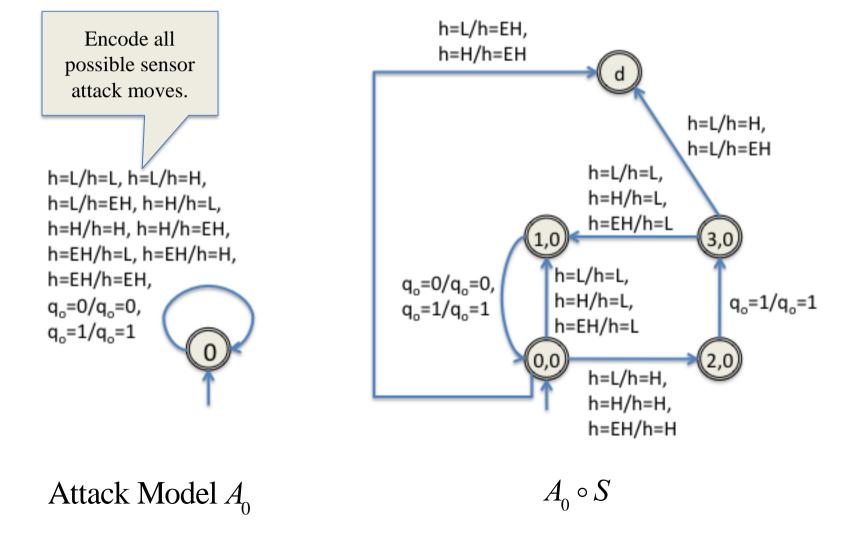
A Small Tank Example





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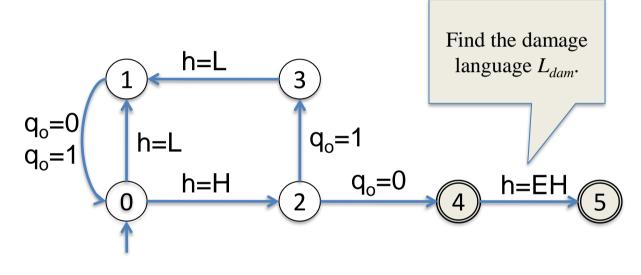
Synthesis of A Regular Smart Sensor Attack Model – Step 1





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Synthesis of A Regular Smart Sensor Attack Model – Step 2

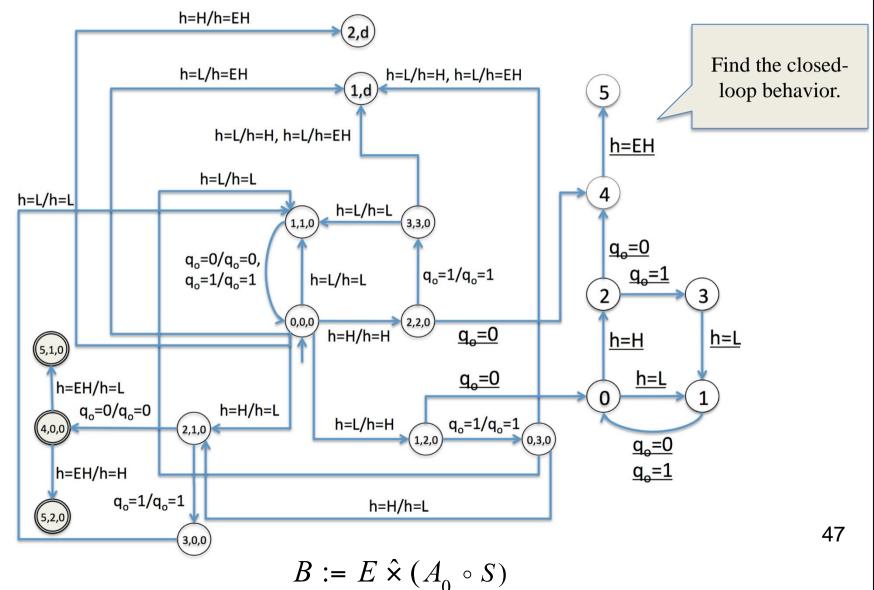


Automaton E



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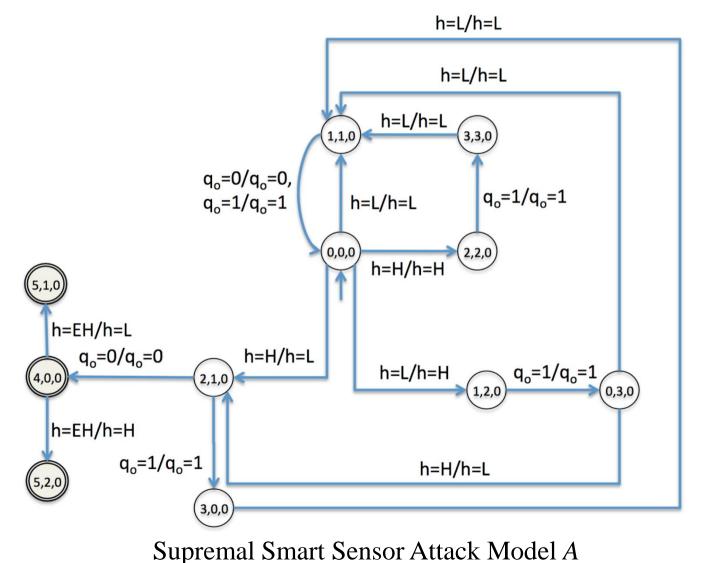
Synthesis of A Regular Smart Sensor Attack Model – Step 3





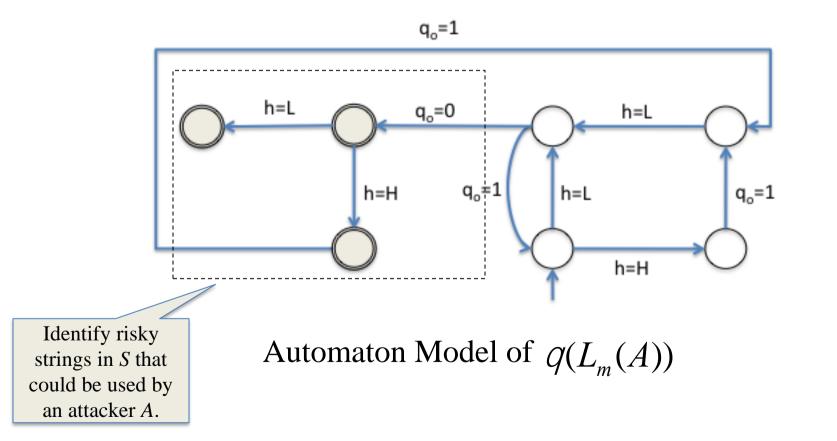
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Synthesis of A Regular Smart Sensor Attack Model – Step 4



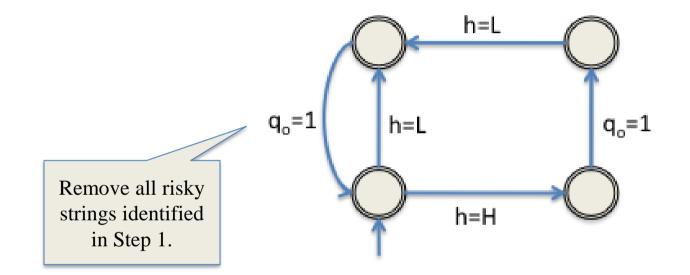


Synthesis of A Sensor-Attack Resilient Supervisor – Step 1





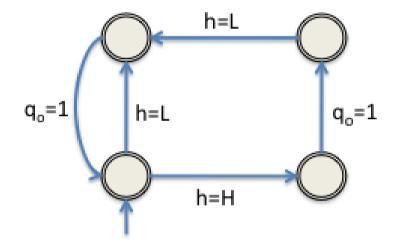
Synthesis of A Sensor-Attack Resilient Supervisor – Step 2



Automaton Model of $L(S) - Q(L_m(A))S^*$



Synthesis of A Sensor-Attack Resilient Supervisor – Step 3



A Supervisor Resilient to Strong Smart Sensor Attacks

Simple Resilient Law: **DO NOT CLOSE DISCHARGE VALVE** *R*!



Conclusions

- Regular languages can be used to model sensor and actuator attacks.
- Supremal (sensor and actuator) attack languages exists.
- But supremal resilient supervisors typically do not exist.
- The current research has two major application potentials:
 - To determine risky system behaviors that may facilitate attacks;
 - To identify critical system assets to be protected to avoid attacks.
- The existence of an actuator-attack resilient supervisor is open.
- The synthesis complexity is high.



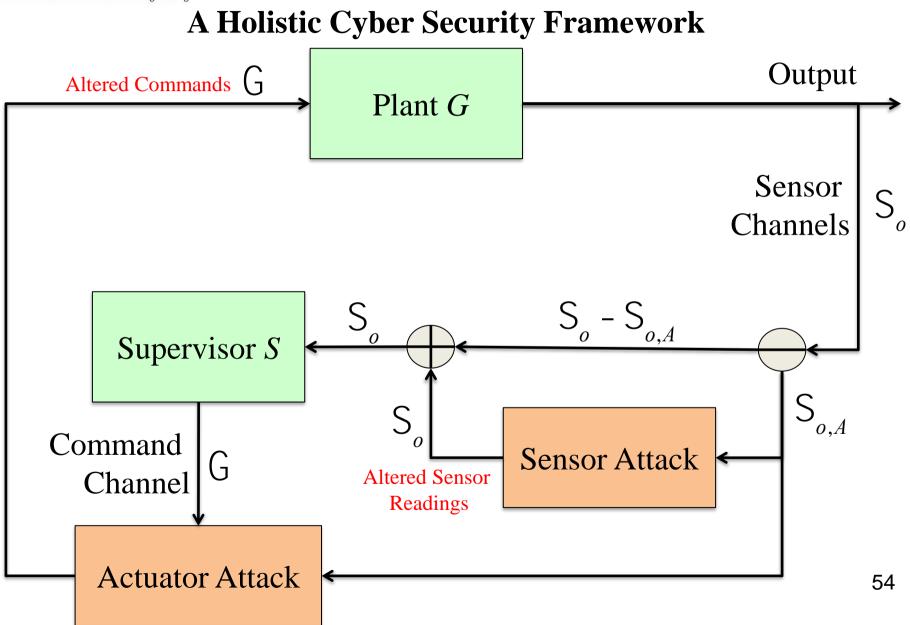
Future Works

- To improve modeling expressiveness for more types of attacks.
- To consider a unified framework for sensor and actuator attacks^{[12][13]}.
- To explore new attack resilient control strategies.
- To facilitate data-driven learning of (*G*, *S*) and *A*.
- Finally, to apply theory to realistic industrial application.

^[12] L. Lin, R. Su. Synthesis of covert actuator and sensor attacks as supervisor synthesis. *15th IFAC WODES*, accepted, Rio de Janeiro, 2020.

^[13] L. Lin, R. Su. Synthesis of covert actuator and sensor attackers. Automatica, accepted, 2021.

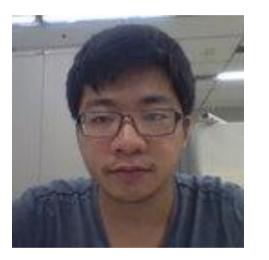






Acknowledgement

• Team members



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Zhu Yuting (PhD Student) Tai Ruochen (PhD Student)



NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE SINGAPORE





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感谢大家!

Thank you!