

Safety of Sampled-Data Systems with Control Barrier Functions via Approximate Discrete Time Models

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Control in the real world is hard





But: Pretty when it works...





[1] R. Grandia, **A. J. Taylor**, M. Hutter, A. D. Ames, "Multi-Layered Safety for Legged Robotics via Control Barrier Functions and Model Predictive Control", 2020.

Claim: Need to Bridge the Gap





Theorems & Proofs

Experimental Realization

Contributions



- Framework for achieving safety of sampled-data systems via Control Barrier Functions (CBFs) and approximate discrete time models
- Definition of **practical safety** analogous to that of practical stability for sampled-data systems
- Analysis of relationship between a CBF and an approximate discrete time model that yields **convex optimization-based** controllers

System Dynamics





Mathematical Model

System Dynamics



Equations of Motion $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{u}$ $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \quad \mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^m$

 $\mathbf{f}: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n \quad \mathbf{g}: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$

Assumptions

 \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g} locally Lipschitz continuous



System Model

Mathematical Model

System Dynamics



Equations of Motion $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{u}$ $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \quad \mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ $\mathbf{f}: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n \quad \mathbf{g}: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ Assumptions **f**, **g** locally Lipschitz continuous **Closed-Loop Solutions** $\mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x}):\mathbb{R}^n\to\mathbb{R}^m$ $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n \qquad \boldsymbol{\varphi} : \mathbb{R}_{>0} \to \mathbb{R}^n$ $\dot{\boldsymbol{\varphi}}(t) = \mathbf{f}(\boldsymbol{\varphi}(t)) + \mathbf{g}(\boldsymbol{\varphi}(t))\mathbf{k}(\boldsymbol{\varphi}(t))$ $\boldsymbol{\varphi}(0) = \mathbf{x}_0$

 $\psi_{r,h} \qquad \psi_{w} \qquad \psi_{w} \qquad \psi_{w} \qquad \psi_{w} \qquad \psi_{h} \qquad \psi_$

System Model

Mathematical Model

Barrier Functions (BFs)





Barrier Functions (BFs)





Based Quadratic Programs for Safety Critical Systems", 2017.

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Barrier Functions (BFs)





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Control Barrier Functions (CBFs)





Control Barrier Functions (CBFs)





[2] A. Ames, X. Xu, J. Grizzle, P. Tabuada, "Control Barrier Function Based Quadratic Programs for Safety Critical Systems", 2017.

Control Barrier Functions (CBFs)



 $\begin{aligned} & \text{Control Barrier Function}^{[2]} \\ & \sup_{\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^m} \dot{h}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) > -\alpha(h(\mathbf{x})) \text{ for all } \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ & \text{CBF Quadratic Program}^{[2]} \\ & \mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x}) = \underset{\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^m}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{k}_{\operatorname{nom}}(\mathbf{x})\|_2^2 \\ & \text{ s.t. } \dot{h}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) \ge -\alpha(h(\mathbf{x})) \end{aligned}$

How are these controllers implemented?

[2] A. Ames, X. Xu, J. Grizzle, P. Tabuada, "Control Barrier Function Based Quadratic Programs for Safety Critical Systems", 2017.

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Sample-and-Hold

$$\mathbf{u}(t) = \mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x}(t_i)) \text{ for all } t \in [t_i, t_{i+1})$$
$$t_{i+1} - t_i = T$$



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Recent Work

[3] A. Ghaffari, I. Abel, D. Ricketts, S. Lerner, M. Krstić, "Safety Verification Using Barrier Certificates with Application to Double Integrator with Input Saturation and Zero-Order Hold", 2018.

[4] W. S. Cortez, D. Oetomo, C. Manzie, P. Choong, "Control Barrier Functions for Mechanical Systems: Theory and Application to Robotic Grasping", 2021.

[5] J. Breeden, K. Garg, D. Panagou, "Control Barrier Functions in Sampled-Data Systems", 2021.

[6] J. Usevitch, D. Panagou, "Adversarial Resilience for Sampled-Data Systems Using Control Barrier Function Methods", 2021.

[7] L. Niu, H. Zhang, A. Clark, "Safety-Critical Control Synthesis for Unknown Sampled-Data Systems via Control Barrier Functions", 2021.



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Emulation Approach^[8]

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Strong theoretical guarantees on inter-sample behavior

[8] S. Monaco, D. Normand-Cyrot, "Advanced Tools for Nonlinear Sampled-Data Systems' Analysis and Control", 2007.





$$\phi(T) = a(e^{bT} - 1)$$

$$a, b \text{ Lipschitz based}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 7 \end{bmatrix} \text{ L. Niu, H. Zhang, A. Clark Unknown Sampled-Data Systems v}$$

$$\mathbf{Emulat}$$

$$\mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x}) = \underset{\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^{m}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{k}\|$$

$$\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}, \dot{h}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) = \underset{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{t}}{\operatorname{brand}} \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{k}\|$$

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Strong theoretical guarantees on inter-sample behavior



Sample-and-Hold $\mathbf{x}(t)$ $\mathbf{x}(t_i)$ $\mathbf{u}(t) = \mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x}(t_i))$ for all $t \in [t_i, t_{i+1})$ $t_{i+1} - t_i = T$ **Discrete State Transitions** $\mathbf{u}(t)$ t_1 t_3 t_2 t_{A} $\mathbf{F}_{T}^{e}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{x} + \int_{0}^{T} [\mathbf{f}(\boldsymbol{\varphi}(\tau)) + \mathbf{g}(\boldsymbol{\varphi}(\tau))\mathbf{u}] d\tau$ t_3 t_2 t_A t_1



Discrete Time Design^[8]



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Discrete Time Design^[8]





Approximate Discrete Model

$$\mathbf{F}_T^a(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{u}) \approx \mathbf{F}_T^e(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{u})$$



Approximate Discrete Model

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Stability Analysis

[9] D. Nešić, A. Teel, P. V. Kokotović, "Sufficient conditions for stabilization of sampled-data nonlinear systems via discrete-time approximations", 1999.
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One-Step Consistency

$$\begin{split} \|\mathbf{F}_{T}^{a}(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{u})-\mathbf{F}_{T}^{e}(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{u})\| &\leq T\rho(T) \\ T^{*} \in \mathbb{R}_{>0} \qquad T \in (0,T^{*}) \qquad \rho \in \mathcal{K} \end{split}$$





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Euler Approximate Model

$$\mathbf{F}_T^a(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{x} + T(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{u})$$



 $t_2 t_3 t_4 t_5$

 t_1







Practical Stability



Practical Stability^[9]

$$\mathbf{x}_{i+1} = \mathbf{F}_T(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{k}_T(\mathbf{x}_i) \quad i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$$

For each $R \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$, there exists $T^* \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ s.t.
 $T \in (0, T^*) \implies ||\mathbf{x}_i|| \le \beta(||\mathbf{x}_0||, iT) + R$

 $\beta \in \mathcal{KL}$

[9] D. Nešić, A. Teel, P. V. Kokotović, "Sufficient conditions for stabilization of sampled-data nonlinear systems via discrete-time approximations", 1999.

Practical Stability





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Equi-Lipschitz Lyapunov Function^[9]

 $\alpha_1(\|\mathbf{x}\|) \le V_T(\mathbf{x}) \le \alpha_2(\|\mathbf{x}\|)$ $V_T(\mathbf{F}_T(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{k}_T(\mathbf{x}))) - V_T(\mathbf{x}) \le -T\alpha_3(\|\mathbf{x}\|)$ $|V_T(\mathbf{x}) - V_T(\mathbf{y})| \le M \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|$ $T^* \in \mathbb{R}_{>0} \qquad T \in (0, T^*) \qquad \alpha_i \in \mathcal{K}$



$$V_T$$
 for $\mathbf{F}_T \implies \mathbf{F}_T$ stable



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$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_1(\|\mathbf{x}\|) &\leq V_T(\mathbf{x}) \leq \alpha_2(\|\mathbf{x}\|) \\ V_T(\mathbf{F}_T(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{k}_T(\mathbf{x}))) - V_T(\mathbf{x}) \leq -T\alpha_3(\|\mathbf{x}\|) \\ |V_T(\mathbf{x}) - V_T(\mathbf{y})| \leq M \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\| \\ T^* \in \mathbb{R}_{>0} \qquad T \in (0, T^*) \qquad \alpha_i \in \mathcal{K} \end{aligned}$$



$$V_T$$
 for $\mathbf{F}_T \implies \mathbf{F}_T$ stable

$$\begin{array}{c} V_T \text{ for } \mathbf{F}^a_T \\ + \end{array} \implies \mathbf{F}^e_T \text{ practically stable} \\ \text{One-Step Consistency} \end{array}$$

Design with approximation endows exact system with guarantees!

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Practical Stability^[9]

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$$|V_T(\mathbf{x}) - V_T(\mathbf{y})| \le M \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|$$
$$T^* \in \mathbb{R}_{>0} \qquad T \in (0, T^*) \qquad \alpha_i \in \mathcal{K}$$



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- 1. What is an appropriate definition of **practical safety**?
- 2. How will practical safety connect with the notion of a **sampled**-**data** Barrier Function?

3. What sort of approximate discrete transition maps should we use with sampled-data Control Barrier Functions?



Sampled-Data Forward Invariance

 \mathcal{C} forward invariant for $(\mathbf{k}_T, \mathbf{F}_T)$ if $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \mathcal{C} \implies \mathbf{x}_i \in \mathcal{C} \quad i \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$















Sampled-Data Barrier Function Candidate

$$\{h_T \mid T \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}\}$$



Sampled-Data Barrier Function Candidate

$$\{h_T \mid T \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}\}\$$
$$T^* \in \mathbb{R}_{>0} \quad \alpha \in \mathcal{K}^{e}_{\infty} \quad \epsilon, M \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$$































Practical Safety Result

Theorem 16. Consider a set $C \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ and a family of controllers $\{\mathbf{k}_T \mid T \in I\}$. Suppose that:

- 1) There exists a family of Sampled-Data Barrier Functions on C for a family $\{(\mathbf{k}_T, \mathbf{F}_T) \mid T \in I\}$.
- 2) There exists an $\varepsilon' \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ such that the family $\{(\mathbf{k}_T, \mathbf{F}_T) \mid T \in I\}$ is one-step consistent with the exact family $\{(\mathbf{k}_T, \mathbf{F}_T^e) \mid T \in I\}$ over the set $\mathcal{C} \oplus \overline{B}_{\varepsilon'}$.

Then the exact family $\{(\mathbf{k}_T, \mathbf{F}_T^e) \mid T \in I\}$ is practically safe with respect to \mathcal{C} .



Practical Safety Result

Theorem 16. Consider a set $C \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ and a family of controllers $\{\mathbf{k}_T \mid T \in I\}$. Suppose that:

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with respect to C.

Designs using discrete approximation provide theoretical safety guarantees









Sampled-Data Barrier Function Candidate $h_T(\mathbf{x}) = x_1$





Sampled-Data Barrier Function Candidate $h_T(\mathbf{x}) = x_1$









Input does not appear!





2nd Order Approximation $\mathbf{F}_{T}^{a,2}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 + Tx_2 + \frac{1}{2}T^2u \\ x_2 + Tu \end{bmatrix}$

Input does not appear!





Input does not appear!





Input does not appear!

Input appears!

Runge-Kutta Approximation

Runge-Kutta Approximation
$$\mathbf{F}_T^{a,p}: \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \to \mathbb{R}^n$$
 $p \in \mathbb{N}$ $\mathbf{F}_T^{a,p}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{x} + T \sum_{i=1}^p b_i (\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{z}_i) + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{z}_i)\mathbf{u})$ $\mathbf{z}_i = \mathbf{x} + T \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} a_{i,j} (\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{z}_j) + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{z}_j)\mathbf{u})$ $\mathbf{z}_1 = \mathbf{x}$ $b_1, \dots, b_p \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ $\sum_{i=1}^p b_i = 1$ $a_{i,j} \in \mathbb{R}$

Runge-Kutta Approximation



$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{F}_{T}^{a,p} : \mathbb{R}^{n} \times \mathbb{R}^{m} \to \mathbb{R}^{n} \quad p \in \mathbb{N} \\ \mathbf{F}_{T}^{a,p}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) &= \mathbf{x} + T \sum_{i=1}^{p} b_{i}(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{z}_{i}) + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{z}_{i})\mathbf{u}) \\ \mathbf{z}_{i} &= \mathbf{x} + T \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} a_{i,j}(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{z}_{j}) + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{z}_{j})\mathbf{u}) \\ \mathbf{z}_{1} &= \mathbf{x} \\ b_{1}, \dots, b_{p} \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \sum_{i=1}^{p} b_{i} = 1 \\ a_{i,j} \in \mathbb{R} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{split} & \textbf{One-Step Consistency} \\ \|\mathbf{F}_{T}^{e}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{k}_{T}(\mathbf{x})) - \mathbf{F}_{T}^{a, p}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{k}_{T}(\mathbf{x}))\| \leq T\rho(T) \\ & T^{*} \in I \quad T \in (0, T^{*}) \quad \rho \in \mathcal{K}_{\infty} \end{split}$$

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Preservation of Convexity





Preservation of Convexity





 $\widetilde{h}_T : \mathbb{R}^q \to \mathbb{R} \qquad q \le n$ $h_T(\mathbf{x}) = \widetilde{h}_T(x_1, \dots, x_q)$ $\widetilde{h}_T \text{ concave with respect to last argument}$

Preservation of Convexity





Partially Concave Barrier Function

 $\widetilde{h}_T : \mathbb{R}^q \to \mathbb{R} \qquad q \le n$ $h_T(\mathbf{x}) = \widetilde{h}_T(x_1, \dots, x_q)$ $\widetilde{h}_T \text{ concave with respect to last argument}$

Runge-Kutta Approximation Order

 $\mathbf{F}_{T}^{a,p}$ Runge-Kutta approximation of order p = n - q + 1
Preservation of Convexity





$\begin{aligned} & \phi_T : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \to \mathbb{R} \\ & \phi_T(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) = -h_T(\mathbf{F}_T^{a, p}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})) + h_T(\mathbf{x}) - T\alpha(h_T(\mathbf{x})) \\ & \phi_T \text{ is convex with respect to its second argument} \end{aligned}$

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Preservation of Convexity





Preservation of Convexity





Inverted Pendulum







Inverted Pendulum



p = 2

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Inverted Pendulum







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0.75

1.00

Double Inverted Pendulum







Safety Violations





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Conclusions



- Framework for achieving safety of sampled-data systems via Control Barrier Functions (CBFs) and approximate discrete time models
- Definition of **practical safety** analogous to that of practical stability for sampled-data systems
- Analysis of relationship between a CBF and an approximate discrete time model that yields convex optimizationbased controllers





Thank You!

Safety of Sampled-Data Systems with Control Barrier Functions via Approximate Discrete Time Models

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