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# Deterministic and Randomized Algorithms for Systems and Control: Benefits and Pitfalls

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- Preliminaries
- Randomized Algorithms
- One-in-a-Box Problem
- Deterministic and Randomized Algorithms
- Fixed Order Controller Design
- Some Recent Research Directions
- Conclusions: Benefits or Pitfalls?



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# Preliminaries



# Computationally Intractable Problems

- Many control problems are computationally intractable
- This is generally meant for *NP*-hard problems
  
- Examples:
  - fixed order controller design
  - static output feedback
  - stability of interval matrices
  - $\mu$  computation



# Deterministic Models

- Deterministic (worst case) models can be successfully used only for computationally tractable problems
- Example: Convex problems
- Otherwise, the goal is to find local solutions instead of global solutions (non-smooth optimization)
- Use of relaxation, overbounding methods, SOS, and other techniques



- Probabilistic models naturally lead to **Randomized Algorithms (RAs)** which are used in various areas
  1. Combinatorial optimization, computational geometry
  2. Data structuring, search trees, graph algorithms, sorting, ...
  3. Mathematics of finance: Computation of path integrals
  4. Genomics: String matching and classification
  5. Motion and path planning problems



# Randomized Algorithms

- Remarkably, randomized methods and algorithms are not used *systematically* in systems and control
- Objective of this research is the development of mathematically rigorous methods, not straightforward use of Monte Carlo simulations



- “*Randomized Algorithms*” by R. Motwani and P. Raghavan, Cambridge University Press, 1995
- “*Randomized Algorithms for Analysis and Control of Uncertain Systems*” by R. Tempo, G. Calafiore and F. Dabbene, Springer-Verlag, 2005
- Additional documents, papers, MATLAB<sup>TM</sup> codes, etc, please consult

<http://staff.polito.it/roberto.tempo>



# Randomized Algorithms



# Monte Carlo Randomized Algorithm

- **Definition of a randomized algorithm:** An algorithm that makes random choices during execution to produce a result
- For hybrid systems, “random choices” could be switching between different states or logical operations
- In other situations, “random choices” may require random sample generation



# Monte Carlo Randomized Algorithm



- Definition of a Monte Carlo randomized algorithm: A randomized algorithm that may produce incorrect results, but with bounded error probability
  
- There are other classes of randomized algorithms



# Example: $H_\infty$ Performance - 1

- Consider sensitivity function  $S(s, \Delta)$  with random structured uncertainty  $\Delta$ , bounding set  $B$  and weighting function  $W(s)$
- $H_\infty$  performance problem: Given a level  $\gamma > 0$ , check if

$$\| W(s) S(s, \Delta) \|_\infty \leq \gamma$$

for all  $\Delta \in B$

- This is an uncertain decision problem



## Example: $H_\infty$ Problem - 2

- Monte Carlo RAs can be immediately constructed
  - Take  $N$  random samples  $\Delta^i$  of  $\Delta$  within  $B$
  - Compute the empirical maximum

$$\max_{i=1, \dots, N} \| W(s) S(s, \Delta^i) \|_\infty \leq \gamma$$

- The algorithm may provide an incorrect answer
- The probability of error can be made arbitrarily small if  $N$  is sufficiently large (Law of Large Numbers)
- Specific bounds on  $N$  which make the probability of error smaller than a given level are available



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# One-in-a-Box Problem



- An interval polynomial is

$$p(s,k) = k_0 + k_1s + k_2s^2 + \dots + k_ns^n$$

where  $k_i \in [k_i^-, k_i^+]$ ,  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$

- An interval polynomial is a box of polynomials, i.e., the coefficients  $k \in K$  where

$$K = \{k: k_i \in [k_i^-, k_i^+], i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n\}$$



# Robust Stability of Interval Polynomials

## ■ Kharitonov Theorem<sup>[1]</sup>

The interval polynomial  $p(s, k)$  is stable for all  $k \in K$  if and only if the four Kharitonov polynomials

$$p_1(s) = k_0^+ + k_1^+ s + k_2^- s^2 + k_3^- s^3 + k_4^+ s^4 + \dots$$

$$p_2(s) = k_0^- + k_1^- s + k_2^+ s^2 + k_3^+ s^3 + k_4^- s^4 + \dots$$

$$p_3(s) = k_0^+ + k_1^- s + k_2^- s^2 + k_3^+ s^3 + k_4^- s^4 + \dots$$

$$p_4(s) = k_0^- + k_1^+ s + k_2^+ s^2 + k_3^- s^3 + k_4^- s^4 + \dots$$

are Hurwitz stable

[1] V.L. Kharitonov (1978)



# One-in-a-Box Problem

- Design counterpart of Kharitonov problem: Does there exist a stable polynomial  $p(s,k)$  in the interval family?
- One-in-a-box problem: Find  $k \in K$  such that  $p(s,k)$  is Hurwitz stable
- One-in-a box is a special case of fixed order stabilization and static output feedback problems
- Compute the volume of Hurwitz polynomials within  $K$



# Looking for a Needle in a Haystack

- In some cases, we can “easily” find a Hurwitz polynomial in the family
- In general, one-in-a-box problem is like looking for a needle in a haystack
- One-in-a-box is (probably) *NP*-hard, but no definitive answer is known



# Volume of Stable Polynomials

- Consider an interval polynomial

$$p(s,k) = k_0 + k_1s + k_2s^2 + \dots + k_ns^n$$

where  $k \in K$

- Volume  $V_{stab}$  of Hurwitz region

$$H = \{k \in K : p(s,k) \text{ is Hurwitz}\}$$

is defined as

$$V_{stab} = \int_H d\mu$$

where  $d\mu$  is the Lebesgue measure



# Volume of Stable Polynomials for Unit Box $K$

## ■ Theorem 2<sup>[1]</sup>

For  $n \geq 3$  and  $K = [0,1]^{n+1}$ , we have

$$V_{stab} \leq 1/((n+1)/2)!$$

In addition

$$V_{stab} \approx e^{-n^2} \text{ for } n \rightarrow \infty$$

[1] A.S. Nemirovskii and B.T. Polyak (1994)



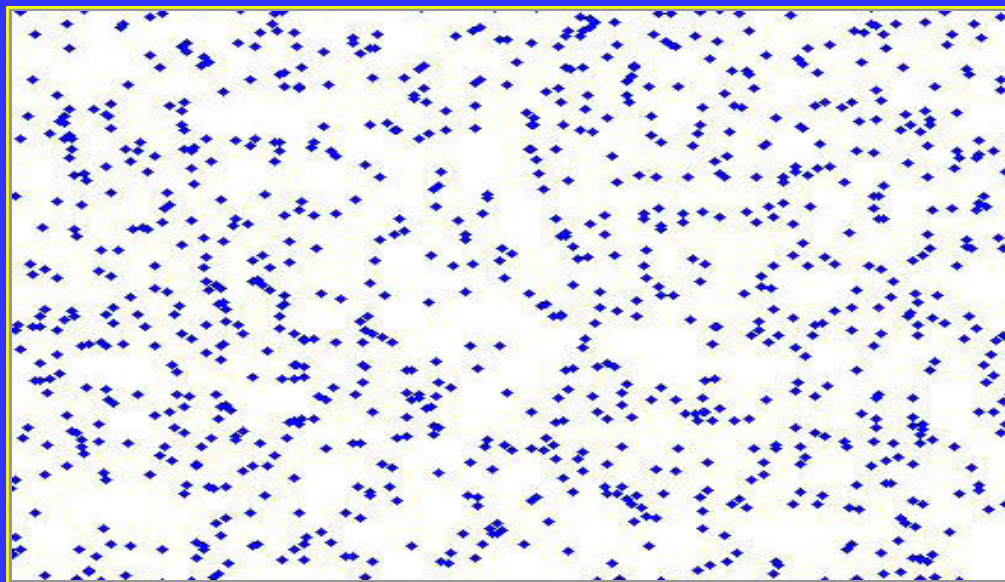
# Deterministic Approach



In general no conclusion can be drawn from vertices



# Probabilistic Approach



Taking (uniform) random samples in  $K$ , we could miss the Hurwitz region (with high probability)



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# Deterministic and Randomized Algorithms



# Even/Odd Polynomial Coefficients

*even coefficients*

*odd coefficients*

- Consider a polynomial

$$p(s,k) = k_0 + k_1s + k_2s^2 + \dots + k_ns^n$$

- We have

- odd coefficients  $k_o = [k_1, k_3, \dots, k_{2n_o+1}]^T$

- even coefficients  $k_e = [k_0, k_2, \dots, k_{2n_e}]^T$



# Mixed Deterministic/Randomized Methods - 1



$k_o$  deterministic

$k_e$  randomized

- deterministic methods for odd coefficients

$$k_o = [k_1, k_3, \dots, k_{2n_o+1}]^T$$

- randomized methods for even coefficients

$$k_e = [k_0, k_2, \dots, k_{2n_e}]^T$$



# Mixed Deterministic/Randomized Methods - 2



$k_o$  randomized

$k_e$  deterministic

- randomized methods for odd coefficients

$$k_o = [k_1, k_3, \dots, k_{2n_o+1}]^T$$

- deterministic methods for even coefficients

$$k_e = [k_0, k_2, \dots, k_{2n_e}]^T$$



# Odd Coefficients: Probabilistic Model

- Assume that the odd coefficients of  $p(s,k)$  are random variables distributed in the intervals

$$k_{2i+1} \in [k_{2i+1}^-, k_{2i+1}^+], i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n_o$$

where  $n_o = (n-1)/2$  if  $n$  is odd or  $n_o = n/2 - 1$  if  $n$  is even

- Letting  $k_o = [k_1, k_3, \dots, k_{2n_o+1}]^T$ , we define the odd box

$$K_o = \{k_o: k_{2i+1} \in [k_{2i+1}^-, k_{2i+1}^+], i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n_o\}$$



# Even Coefficients: Deterministic Model

- Assume that the even coefficients of  $p(s,k)$  vary in the intervals

$$k_{2i} \in [k_{2i}^-, k_{2i}^+], i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n_e$$

where  $n_e = n/2$  if  $n$  is even or  $n_o = (n-1)/2$  if  $n$  is odd

- Letting  $k_e = [k_0, k_2, \dots, k_{2n_e}]^T$ , we define the even box

$$K_e = \{k_e: k_{2i} \in [k_{2i}^-, k_{2i}^+], i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n_e\}$$

- No probabilistic assumption is used in this case



# Randomization for Odd Coefficients

- Uniform randomization of  $K_o$  (Monte Carlo approach) is extremely inefficient
- We use an *importance sampling* technique (providing non-uniform samples), i.e. we limit the search space
- Perform randomization within a subset  $K_o^{nec}$  of  $K_o$  which contains the Hurwitz region

$$K_o \supseteq K_o^{nec} \supseteq H = \{k \in K : p(s,k) \text{ is Hurwitz}\}$$



- Computation of  $K_o^{nec}$  is involved
- Requires establishing a necessary condition for stability based on the Hermite-Biehler Theorem and on a Newton condition for polynomials having real roots

$$K_o^{nec} = \{k_o \in K_o : k_{2i+1} k_{2i-3} \leq C(i, n_o) (k_{2i-1})^2, i = 2, 3, \dots, n_o\}$$

$$\text{where } C(i, n_o) = ((i-1)(n_o-i+1))/(i(n_o-i+2))$$

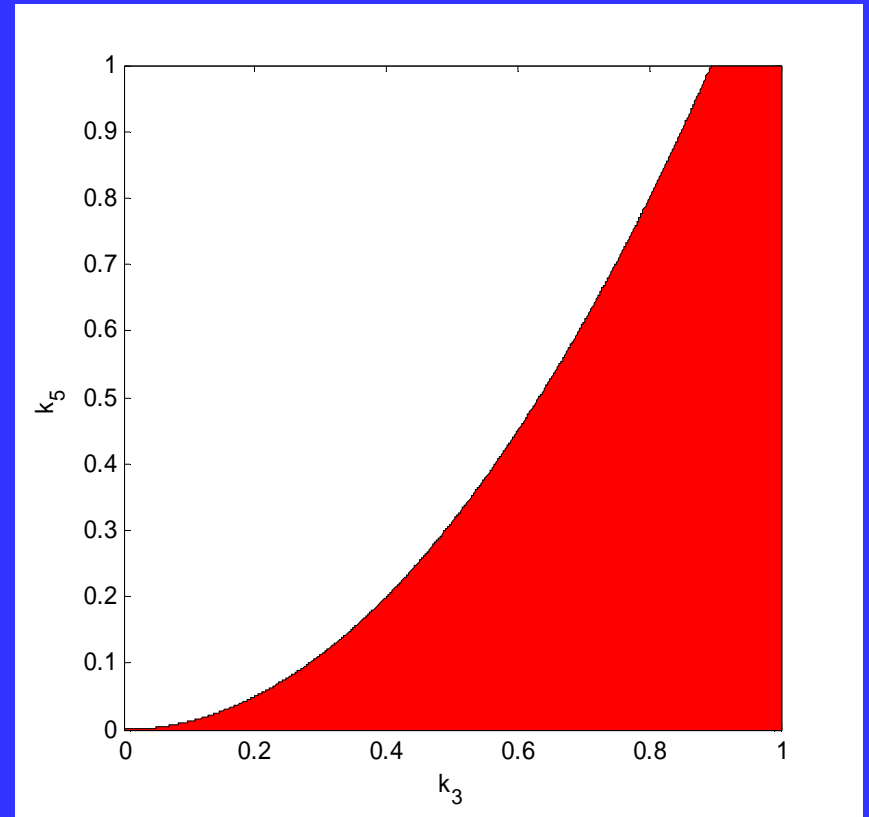
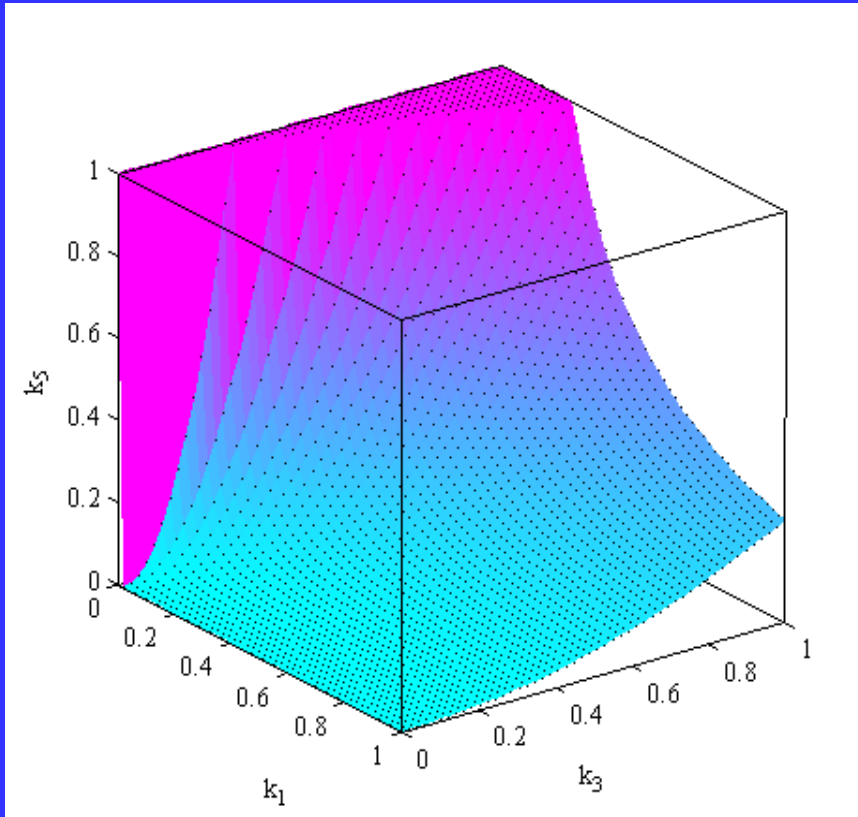
- This condition is recursive and useful for randomization



# Sets $K_o^{nec}$ and $K_o$

$n_o = 2$

2-D cross-section for  $k_1 = 0.2$





# Estimated Ratio between Volumes

Estimated ratio  $\xi$  between volumes of the sets  $K_o^{nec}$  and  $K_o = [0.001, 1]^{n_o}$  (based on  $10^5$  uniform random samples)

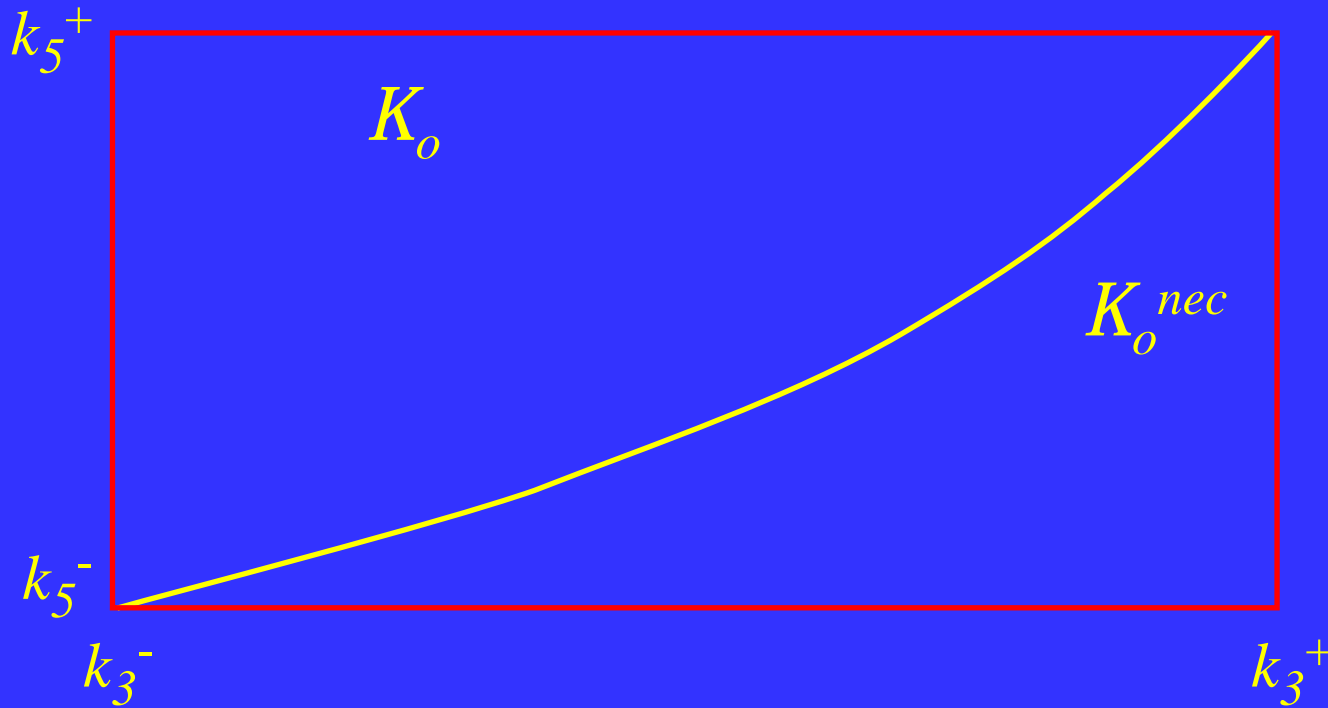
$n_o$	$\xi$
2	0.0279
3	0.0011
4	$2 \text{ e-}5$
$\geq 5$	0



# Randomized Algorithm 1



$k_1$  fixed

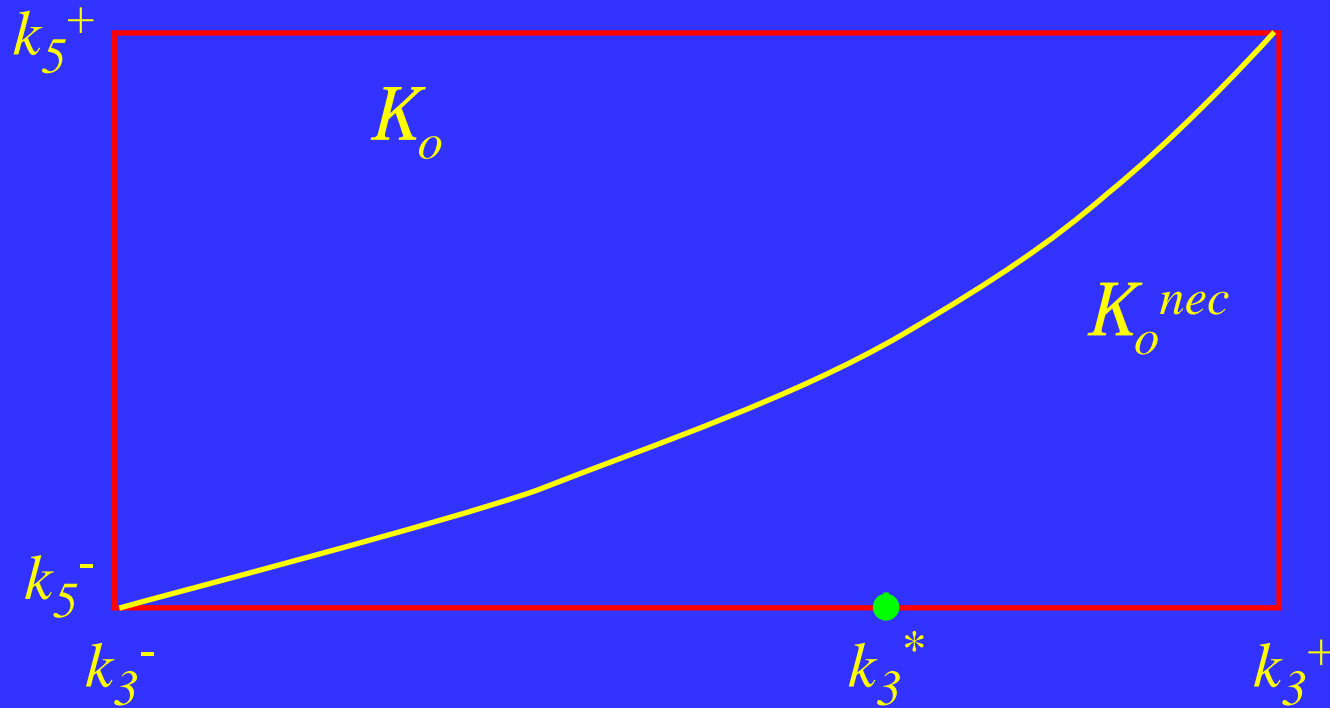




# Randomized Algorithm 1



$k_1$  fixed

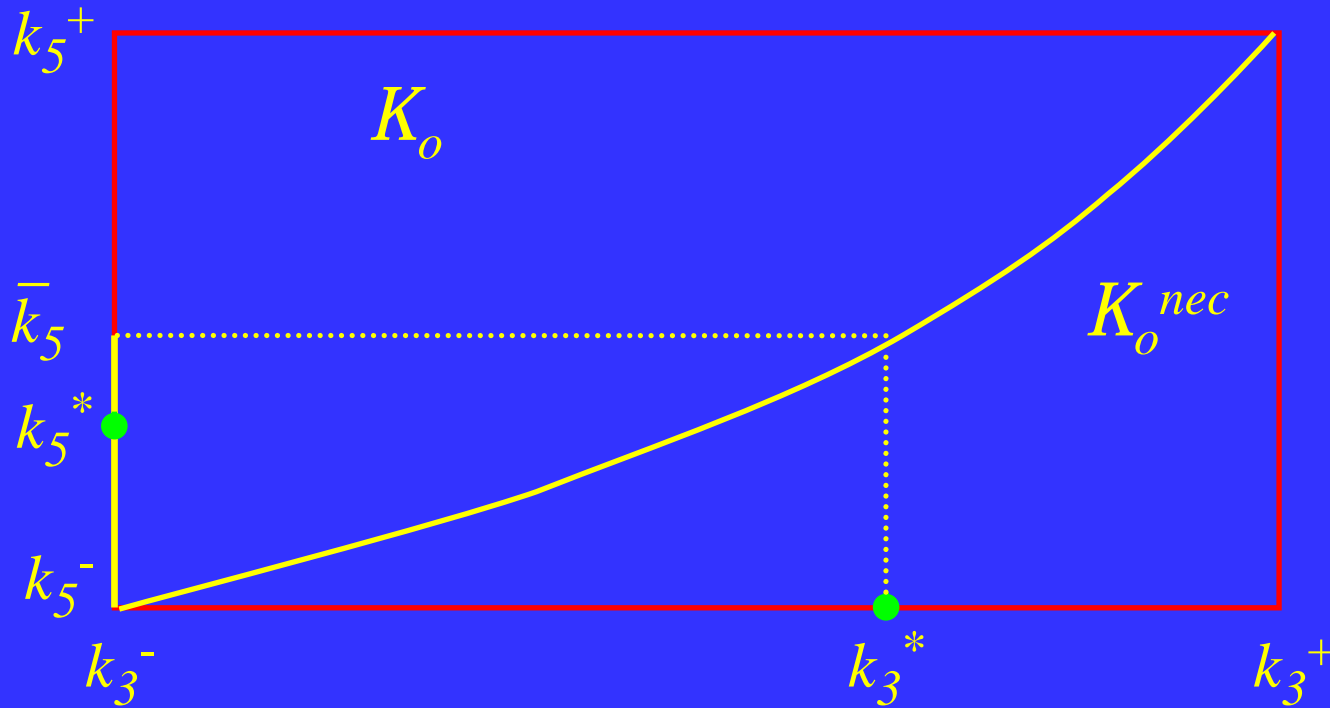




# Randomized Algorithm 1



$k_1$  fixed

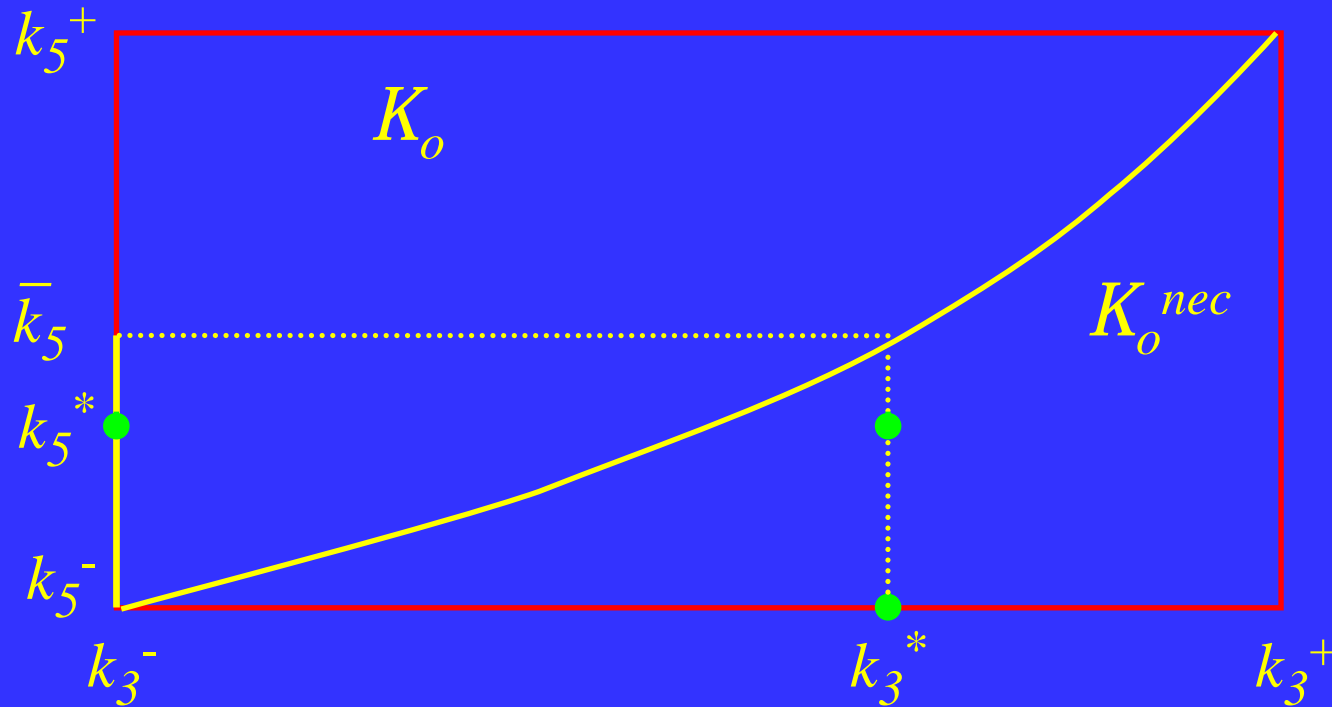




# Randomized Algorithm 1



$k_1$  fixed

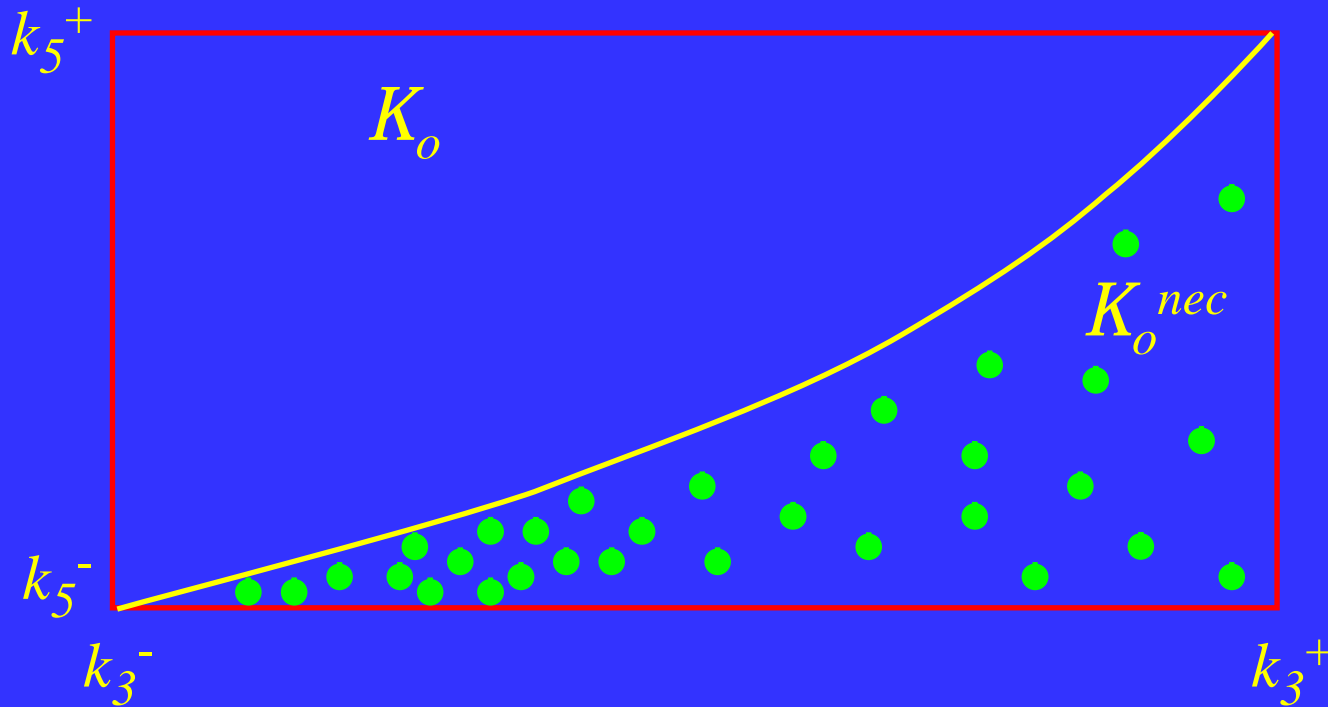




# Randomized Algorithm 1



$k_1$  fixed





## Randomized Algorithm 1

Generates (non-uniform) coefficients  $k_o$  in the set  $K_o^{nec}$

1. generate  $k_1, k_3$  uniformly in  $[k_1^-, k_1^+], [k_3^-, k_3^+]$
2. for  $i = 2, 3, \dots, n_o$ 
  - $I_{2i+1} = [k_{2i+1}^-, \min\{k_{2i+1}^+, C(i, n_o) (k_{2i-1})^2 / k_{2i-3}\}]$
  - if  $I_{2i+1}$  is empty go to 1

else generate  $k_{2i+1}$  uniformly in the interval  $I_{2i+1}$



# Deterministic Methods for Even Coefficients

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- Suppose that  $k_o$  is computed using Randomized Algorithm 1

- Theorem 3<sup>[1]</sup>

The set  $H_e$  of all even coefficients providing a Hurwitz interval polynomial is either empty or is given by

$$H_e = K_e \cap C_e$$

where  $C_e$  is the interior of a polyhedral cone

[1] F. Dabbene, B. Polyak and R. Tempo (2006)



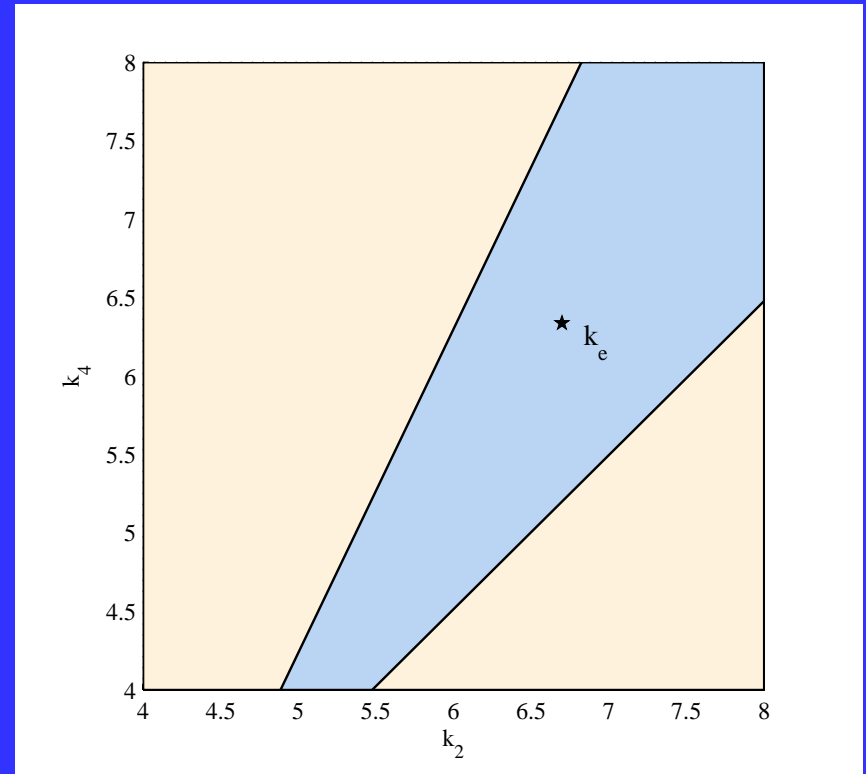
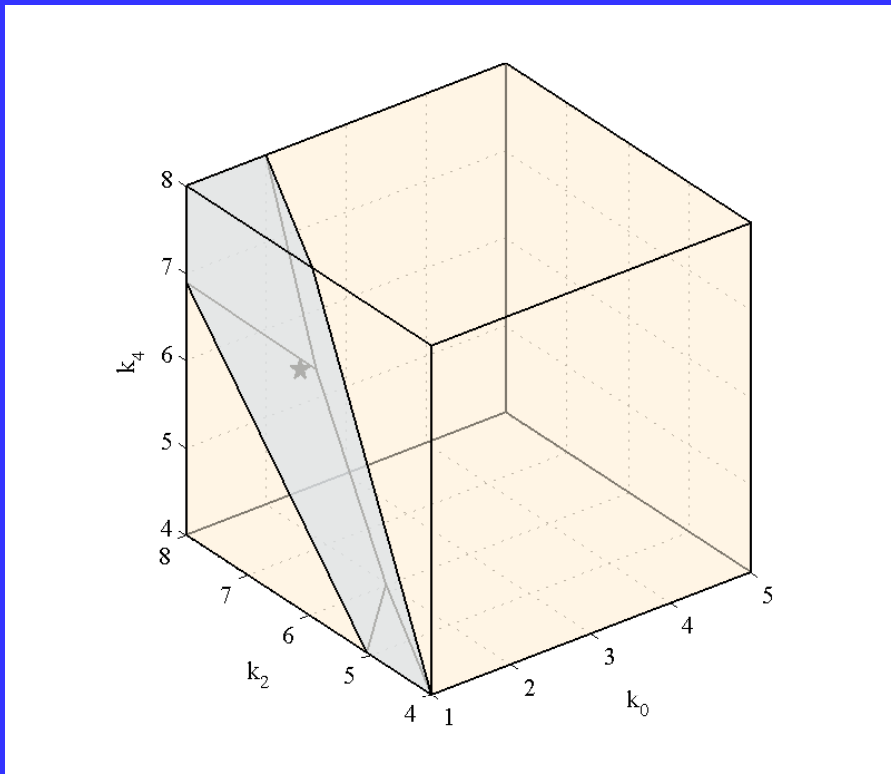
- The set  $H_e$  is a polytope given by the intersection of the even box  $K_e$  and a polyhedral cone  $C_e$
- Checking if  $H_e$  is empty can be immediately accomplished solving only one linear program
- Specific points (e.g. analytic center or Chebichev center) within  $H_e$  can be also easily found by linear program



# Polytope $H_e$ and Analytic Center

$n_o = 3$

2-D cross-section





# Simulations for Unit Box $K - 1$



polynomial degree	expected number of iterations (proposed method)	expected number of iterations (Monte Carlo)
3	1	2
4	1	62
5	1	50
6	1	1,108
7	2	28,334
8	2	$\infty$
9	3	$\infty$
10	5	$\infty$



# Simulations for Unit Box $K - 2$

polynomial degree	expected number of iterations (proposed method)	expected number of iterations (Monte Carlo)
11	7	$\infty$
12	34	$\infty$
13	80	$\infty$
14	626	$\infty$
15	4,099	$\infty$
16	6,461	$\infty$
17	76,968	$\infty$
18	90,093	$\infty$



# Volume of Hurwitz Polynomials

- Volume of Hurwitz region  $V_{stab}$  is defined as

$$V_{stab} = \int_H d\mu$$

where  $d\mu$  is the Lebesgue measure

- Probability one estimate of  $V_{stab}$  can be obtained (asymptotically) computing
  - $k_o$  (with Randomized Algorithm 1)
  - volume of polytope  $H_e$  (with a deterministic algorithm)



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# Fixed Order Controller Design



- SISO strictly proper plant

$$P(s) = \frac{N_P(s)}{D_P(s)}$$

- Fixed order controller in even/odd form

$$C(s) = \frac{N_C(s)}{D_C(s)} = \frac{X(s^2) + sY(s^2)}{Z(s^2) + sV(s^2)}$$



- The even-order controller polynomials are of the form

$$X(s^2) = \theta_0 + \theta_2 s^2 + \theta_4 s^4 + \dots$$

$$Y(s^2) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_2 s^2 + \alpha_4 s^4 + \dots$$

$$Z(s^2) = \beta_0 + \beta_2 s^2 + \beta_4 s^4 + \dots$$

$$V(s^2) = \mu_0 + \mu_2 s^2 + \mu_4 s^4 + \dots$$

- Closed-loop polynomial is given by

$$p(s) = N_p(s) (X(s^2) + sY(s^2)) + D_p(s) (Z(s^2) + sV(s^2))$$

- We assume that  $p(s)$  has invariant degree (generic subset of controller parameters)



# Mixed Deterministic/Randomized Methods - 1

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$Y, Z, V$  randomized

$X$  deterministic

- randomized methods for

$$Y(s^2), Z(s^2), V(s^2)$$

- deterministic methods for

$$X(s^2)$$



# Mixed Deterministic/Randomized Methods - 2



1. Deterministic methods for  $X(s^2)$ ; randomized methods for  $Y(s^2)$ ,  $Z(s^2)$ ,  $V(s^2)$
2. Deterministic methods for  $Y(s^2)$ ; randomized methods for  $X(s^2)$ ,  $Z(s^2)$ ,  $V(s^2)$
3. Deterministic methods for  $Z(s^2)$ ; randomized methods for  $X(s^2)$ ,  $Y(s^2)$ ,  $V(s^2)$
4. Deterministic methods for  $V(s^2)$ ; randomized methods for  $X(s^2)$ ,  $Y(s^2)$ ,  $Z(s^2)$



- Consider the first case

- Then, we have

$$\theta = [\theta_0 \ \theta_2 \ \theta_4 \ \dots]^T \quad \text{deterministic methods}$$

$$\eta = [\alpha_0 \ \alpha_2 \ \alpha_4 \ \dots \ \beta_0 \ \beta_2 \ \beta_4 \ \dots \ \mu_0 \ \mu_2 \ \mu_4 \ \dots]^T$$

randomized methods

- We assume that  $\theta \in M$  and  $\eta \in N$

$$n_\theta = \deg(X)/2 + 1$$

$$n_\eta = \deg(Y)/2 + \deg(V)/2 + \deg(Z)/2 + 3$$



# Set of Stabilizing Controllers

- Suppose that  $\eta$  is selected using a randomized algorithm

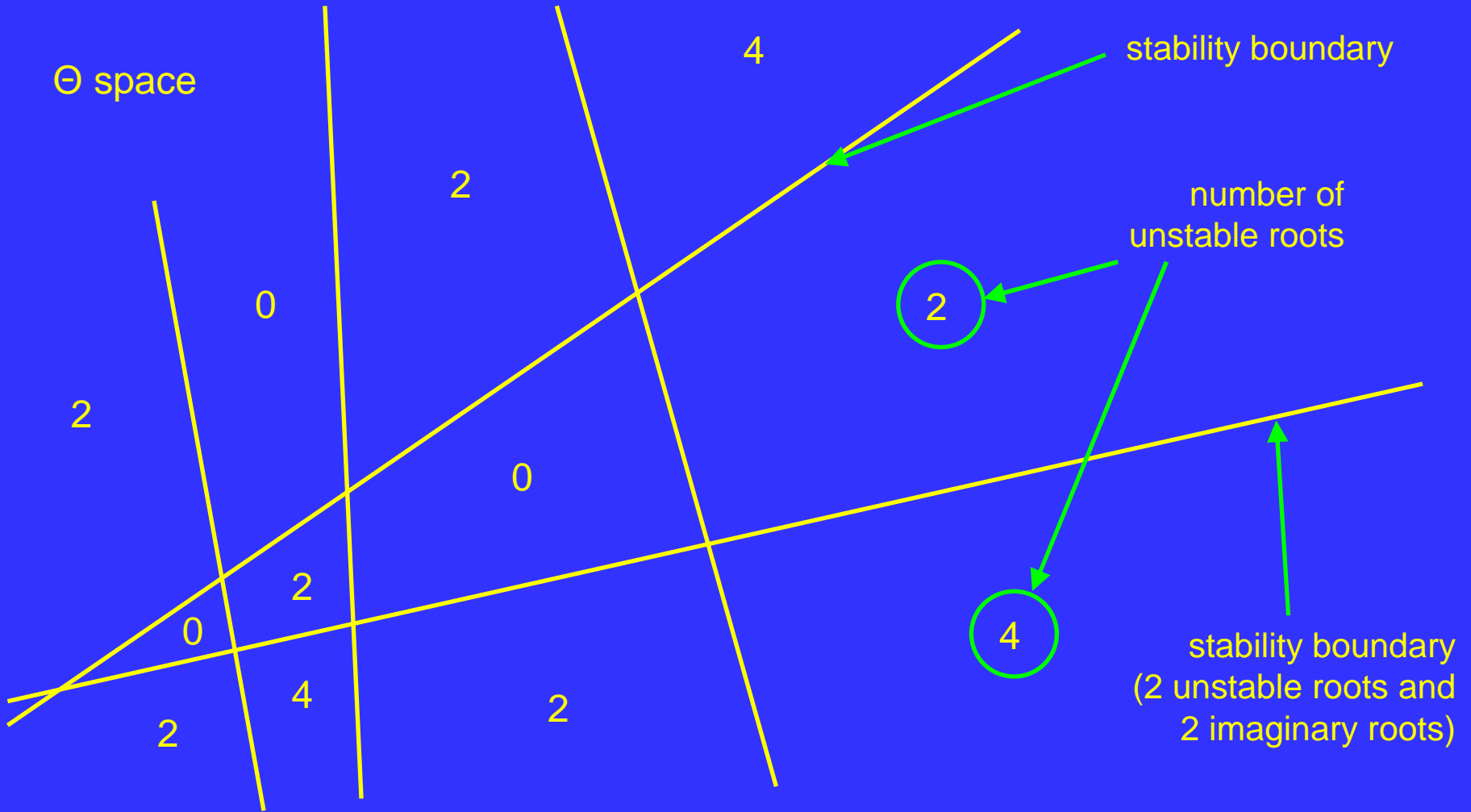
- Theorem 4<sup>[1]</sup>

The set of all parameters  $\theta$  providing a stabilizing controller is either empty or is a union of a finite number of polyhedral sets

[1] Y. Fujisaki, Y. Oishi and R. Tempo (2005)

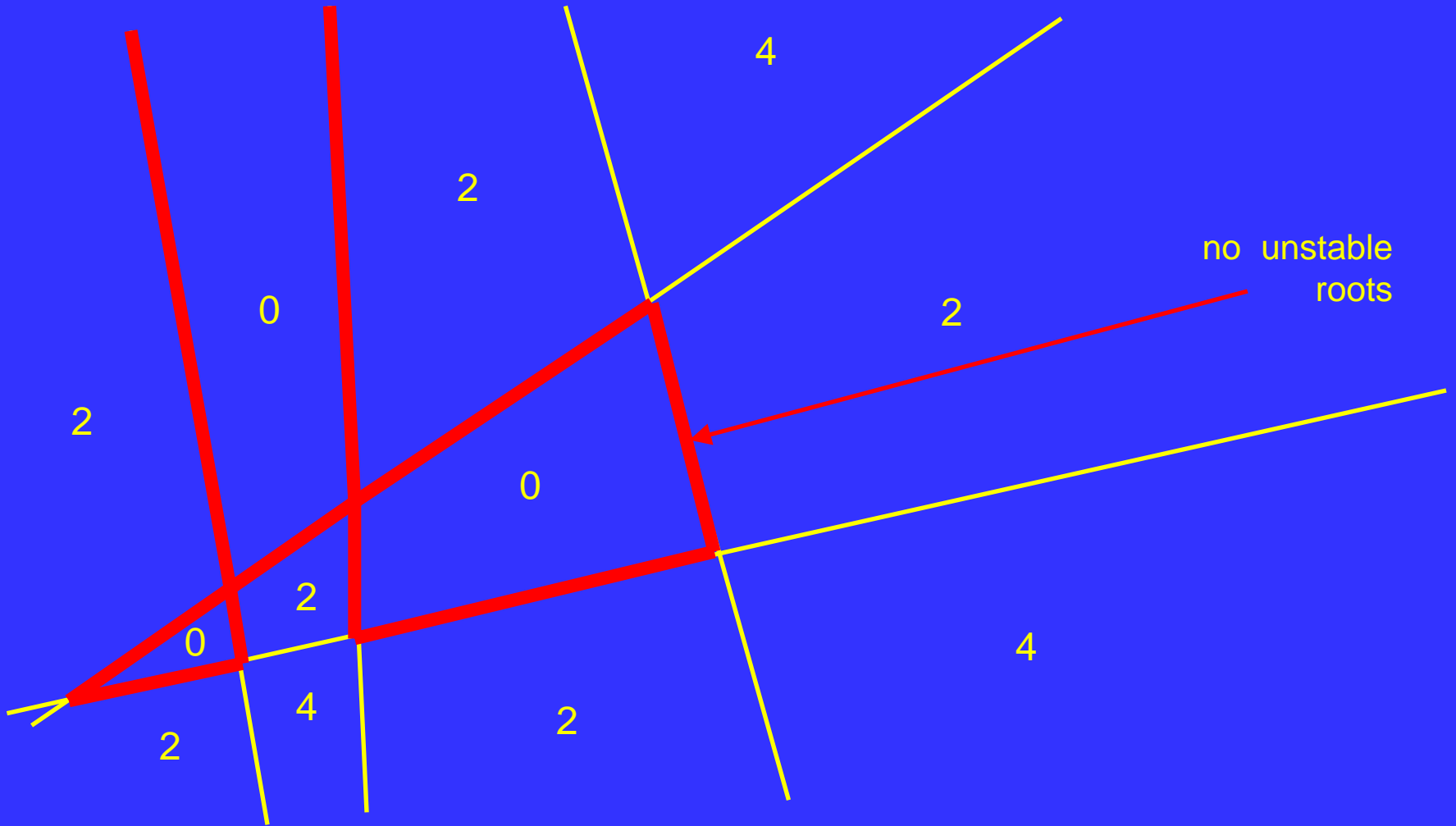


# Parameter Space $\theta$





# Set of Stabilizing Controllers





# Fixed Order Stabilizing Controller

- Combinatorial problem: Linear programming approach to find parameters  $\theta$  may become inefficient because an exponential number of constraints need to be considered
- Different method (polynomial-time) based on vertices instead of hyperplanes is developed<sup>[1]</sup>

[1] Y. Fujisaki, Y. Oishi and R. Tempo (2005)



# Extensions: $H_\infty$ Performance

- Extensions of this method to  $H_\infty$  performance and stabilization of interval plants
- $H_\infty$  performance of sensitivity function

$$S(s) = \frac{1}{1 + P(s) C(s)}$$

- Consider also a (stable) weighting function

$$W(s) = N_W(s)/D_W(s)$$



- Suppose that  $\eta$  is selected using a randomized algorithm

- Theorem 5

The set  $S$  of all tractable parameter vectors  $\theta$  giving an  $H_\infty$  controller satisfying

$$\|W(s)S(s)\|_\infty \leq \gamma$$

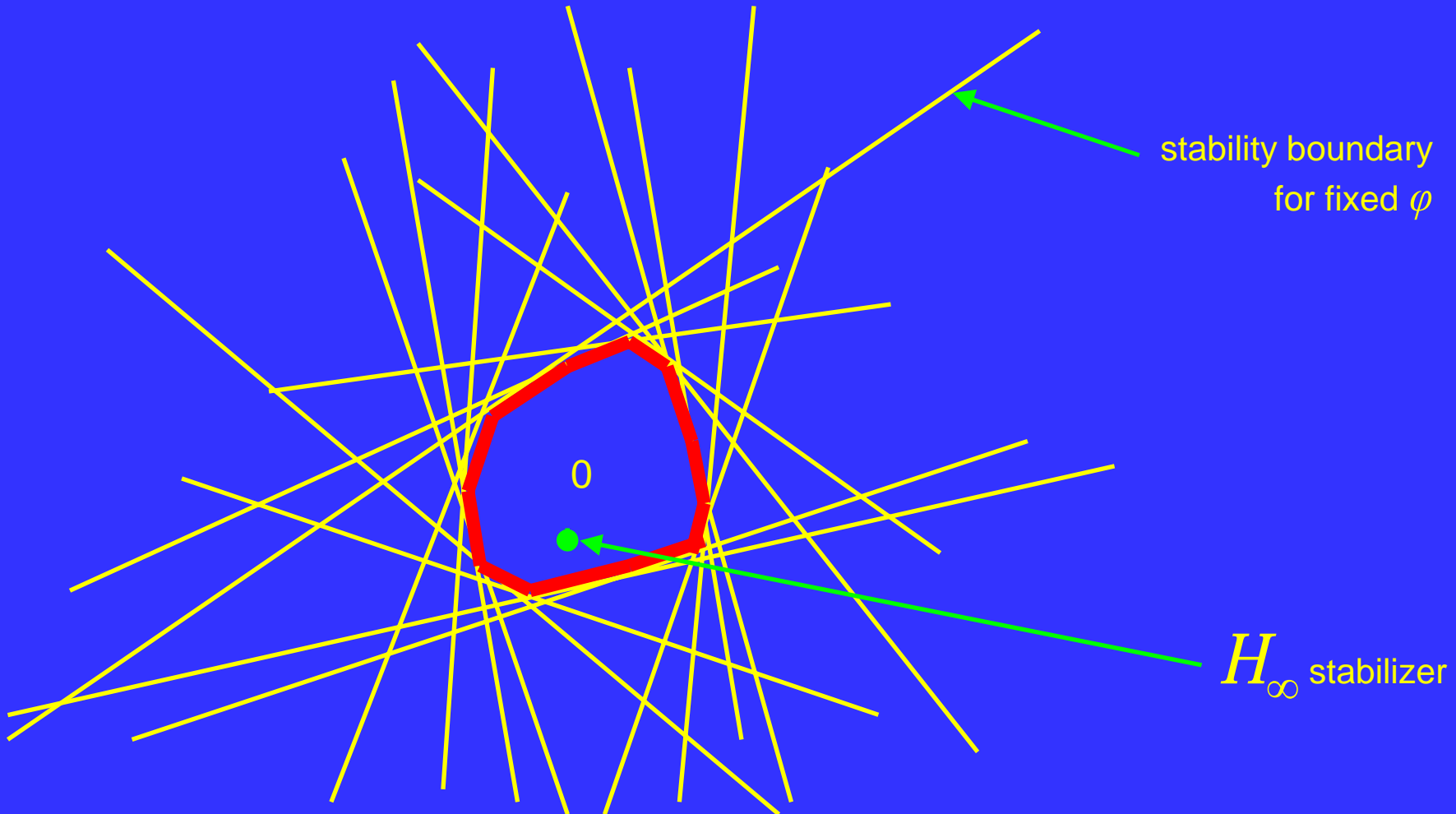
is either empty or is given by

$$S = \bigcap_{\varphi} \Gamma(\varphi)$$

where  $\Gamma(\varphi)$  is the union of finite number of polyhedral sets for fixed  $\varphi \in [0, 2\pi)$



# (Convex) Set of $H_\infty$ Controllers





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# Some Recent Research Directions



# Switched Systems, Optimization, System Identification, ...



- Common Lyapunov functions for switched system<sup>[1]</sup>
- From common to piecewise Lyapunov functions<sup>[2]</sup>
- Ellipsoidal randomized algorithm<sup>[3]</sup> and stopping rules<sup>[4]</sup>
- RAs for semi-infinite programming<sup>[5]</sup>
- MRAS methods for global optimization<sup>[6]</sup>
- Estimation via MCMC<sup>[7]</sup>
- RAs for model validation<sup>[8]</sup> and system identification<sup>[9]</sup>

[1] D. Liberzon and R. Tempo (2004)

[2] H. Ishii, T. Basar and R. Tempo (2005)

[3] S. Kanev, B. De Schutter and M. Verhaegen (2002)

[4] Y. Oishi and H. Kimura (2003)

[5] V. B. Tadic, S. P. Meyn and R. Tempo (2006)

[6] J. Hu, M.C. Fu and S.I. Marcus (2005)

[7] J.C. Spall (2004)

[8] M. Sznaier, C. M. Lagoa and M.C. Mazza (2005)

[9] X. Bombois, G. Scorletti, M. Gevers, P. Van den Hof and R. Hildebrand (2006)



- RAs have been developed for many control applications
- Control of flexible structures
- Robustness of high speed networks
- Stability of quantized sampled-data systems
- Control design for brushless DC motors
- Synthesis of real time embedded controllers
- Mini-UAV control design



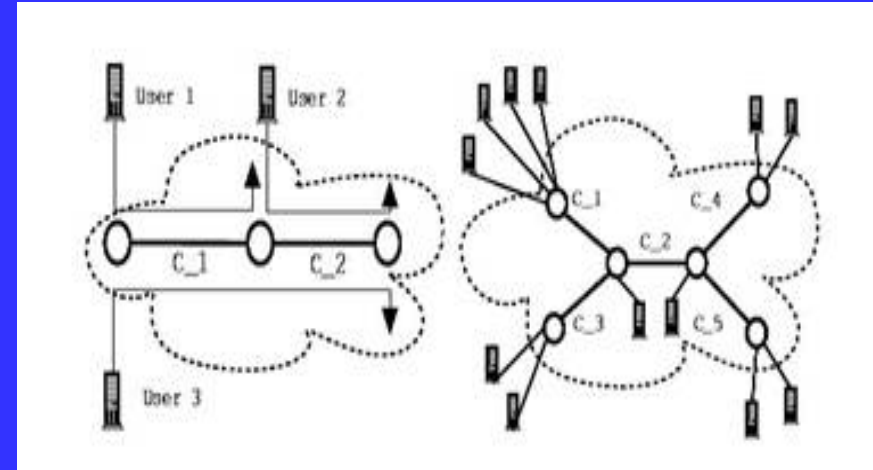
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# Stability and Robustness of High-Speed Networks

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- Analysis of network topology
- Source and destination nodes, links (with buffer and capacity)
- Bottleneck link
- Symmetric case: Stability and robustness can be studied analytically



- Non-symmetric case: Use of randomized algorithms

[1] T. Alpcan, T. Basar and R. Tempo (2005)



- RAs have been developed for many control applications
- Control of flexible structures
- Robustness of high speed networks
- Stability of quantized sampled-data systems
- Control design for brushless DC motors
- Synthesis of real time embedded controllers
- Mini-UAV control design



# Mini-UAV Control Design



- Study and development of a real-time land control and monitoring system for fire prevention in Sicily
- Uncertainty description
- Development of three RAs for gain synthesis and robustness analysis (according to flying quality military specs)



[1] L. Lorefice, B. Pralio and R. Tempo (2006)



# Conclusions: Benefits or Pitfalls?



# Benefits or Pitfalls?

- Randomized algorithms are Probably Approximately Correct (PAC)
- We give up a guaranteed deterministic solution
- This implies accepting a “small” risk of giving a wrong solution
- The risk can be made arbitrarily small (but not zero) taking suitable values of so-called confidence and accuracy



# Benefits or Pitfalls?

- We provide an efficient (polynomial-time) solution to many problems which are computationally intractable in a (classical) worst case sense
- RAs presented in this talk fall in the class of Monte Carlo methods
- Different class of RAs are Las Vegas algorithms
- Las Vegas RAs always provide a correct solution, but they work only for limited classes of problems



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Mini-Symposium MoP08 titled

*Randomized and Probabilistic Techniques for Complex  
Systems Design*

Organizers

Yasuaki Oishi and Yasumasa Fujisaki

Room I at 3:20

Don't miss it!



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# Acknowledgments

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- Fabrizio Dabbene, IEIIT-CNR, Italy
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- Boris Polyak, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia