



Strategic Network Inspection using Resource-Constrained sUAS

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Joint with Saurabh Amin and Andrew Weinert (MIT LL)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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Network Sensing: Security Failures (Attacks)

How to operationalize network sensing strategies?

- ▶ For a given network that faces adversarial disruptions, design and operationalize (**randomized**) sensing strategies subject to limitations on sensing range and resource constraints.



Malicious attacks



Randomized defense

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 - ▶ General sensing model: heterogeneous range.



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- ▶ **Main contributions**
 - ▶ General sensing model: heterogeneous range.
 - ▶ Solution approach using combinatorial problems.



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Related Work

- ▶ Dispatch of sUAS
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(Q) How to allocate a fleet of sUAS for network inspection in an adversarial environment?

Network and Sensing Models

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- ▶ N : Set of locations that can be visited by an sUAS.

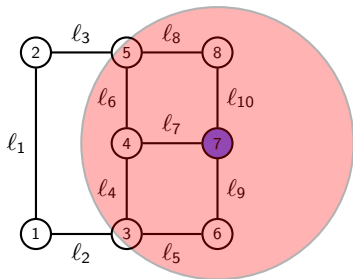
Network and Sensing Models

- ▶ E : Set of vulnerable infrastructure components.
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- ▶ For every location $i \in N$, $\mathcal{C}_i \in 2^E$ represents the subset of components that an sUAS is capable of monitoring when positioned in location i . For example, \mathcal{C}_i may represent:

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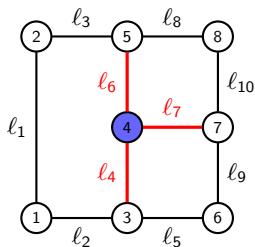
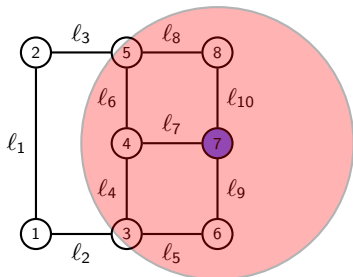
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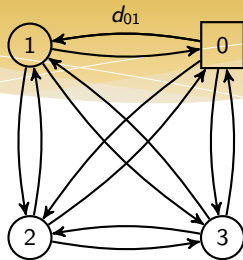
sUAS Model

- ▶ $0 \in N$: Unique base node from where the sUAS are sent.

0

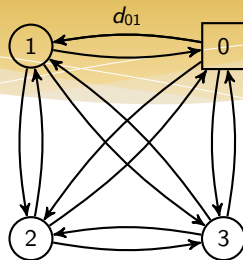
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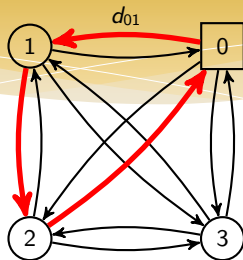
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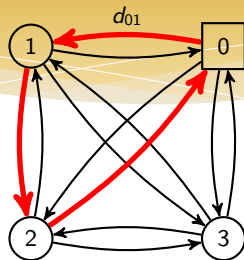
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- ▶ Set of feasible flight plans:

$$\mathcal{F} := \{(i_1, \dots, i_m) \in N^m \mid i_1 = i_m = 0 \text{ and } \sum_{k=1}^{m-1} d_{i_k i_{k+1}} \leq D_{max}, m \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

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Robust optimization problem

Minimize the maximum number of failure events that remain undetected:

$$(\mathcal{P}_{insp}) \quad \min_{\sigma^1 \in \Delta(\mathcal{A}_1)} \max_{\mu \in \mathcal{A}_2} \mathbb{E}_{\sigma^1} [|\mu| - |\mathcal{C}_\eta \cap \mu|].$$

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- ▶ $|\mu| - |\mathcal{C}_\eta \cap \mu|$ is the total number of failures net the number of detected failures.

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- ▶ m^* : Optimal value of (\mathcal{P}_{exp}) .
- ▶ Can be formulated as a mixed-integer program.

Detection Guarantees

Theorem

Given an optimal solution of (\mathcal{P}_{exp}) , we can construct a randomized strategy $\tilde{\sigma}^1$ such that:

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- ▶ b_1 : number of available sUAS
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2. The detection rate, defined as the ratio between the number of detections and the total number of failure events, in the worst case, is lower bounded in expectation by:

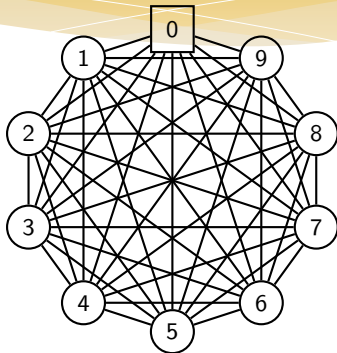
$$\min_{\mu \in \mathcal{A}_2} \mathbb{E}_{\tilde{\sigma}^1} \left[\frac{|\mathcal{C}_\eta \cap \mu|}{|\mu|} \right] \geq \frac{b_1}{m^*}.$$

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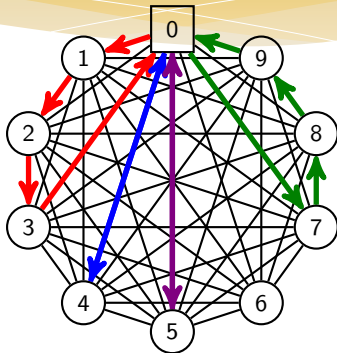
Case Study: Complete Network

- ▶ Fully connected network.
- ▶ 10 locations uniformly placed on a circle of radius 1 mile.
- ▶ The sUAS can travel for 4 miles.
- ▶ Vulnerable components are the **network edges** that can be monitored from its end nodes.



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- ▶ Optimal solution of (\mathcal{P}_{exp}) : $w_1^* = (0, 1, 2, 3, 0)$, $w_2^* = (0, 4, 0)$, $w_3^* = (0, 5, 0)$ and $w_4^* = (0, 7, 8, 9, 0)$.

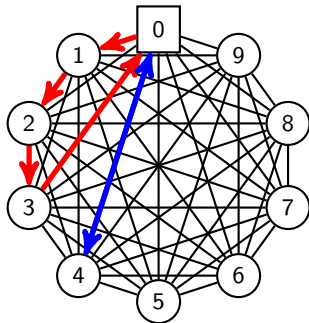
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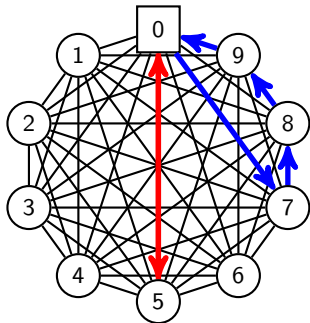
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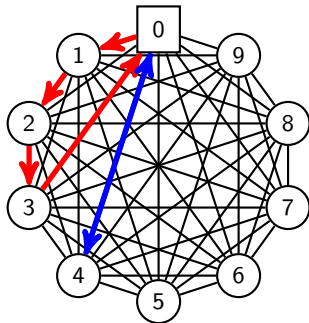
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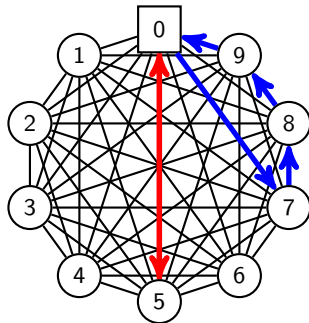
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- ▶ At least 50% of the failures will be detected.

▶ Summary

- ▶ Resource allocation problem for network inspection using fuel-constrained sUAS.
- ▶ Flexible model that can take into account constraints imposed by the sUAS platform and the environment.
- ▶ Mixed-integer programming formulation for the network exploration problem.
- ▶ Extension to the inspection problem, and performance guarantee on the detection score in worst-case scenarios.

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▶ Future Work

- ▶ Include heterogeneity in the vulnerability or importance of components.
- ▶ Account for imperfect (and noisy) information on network state in designing exploration/inspection strategies.

Acknowledgements

1. NSF FORCES (Foundations Of Resilient Cyber-Physical Systems)
2. MIT Thurber Fellowship

Thank you!

Questions: mdahan@mit.edu

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