

# Statistical Hypothesis Testing of Controller Implementations Under Timing Uncertainties

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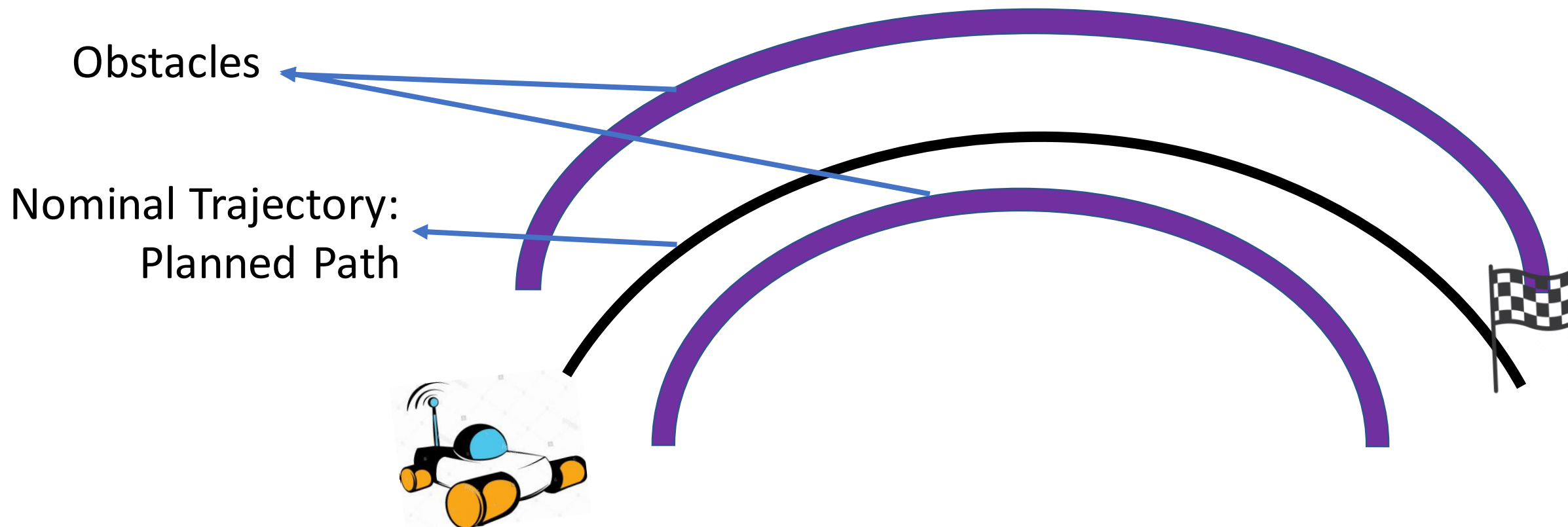
*RTCSA 2022*



THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL<sup>1</sup> HILL

# Quantitative Safety: Robot Maneuvers

Robot trying to reach its destination, avoiding obstacles.



# Quantitative Safety: Robot Maneuvers

But: The robot is running multiple jobs on its processor!

Responsible for moving the robot along the planned trajectory.

Multiple  
Jobs

Path Follower

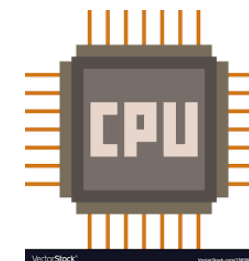
⋮

Perception

Heat Control

All jobs cannot always be scheduled—deadline misses!

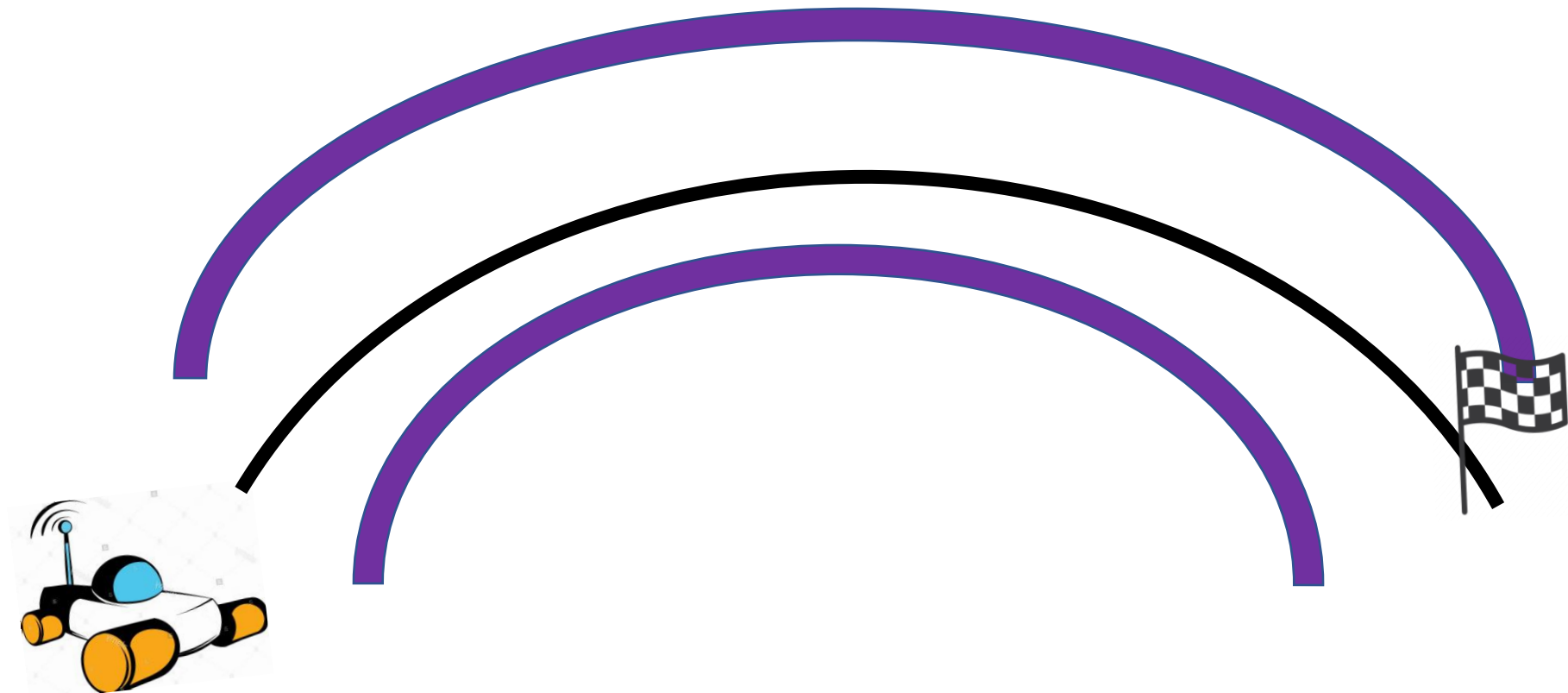
What if the path follower misses its deadline?



# Quantitative Safety: Robot Maneuvers

What if the path follower misses some deadlines?

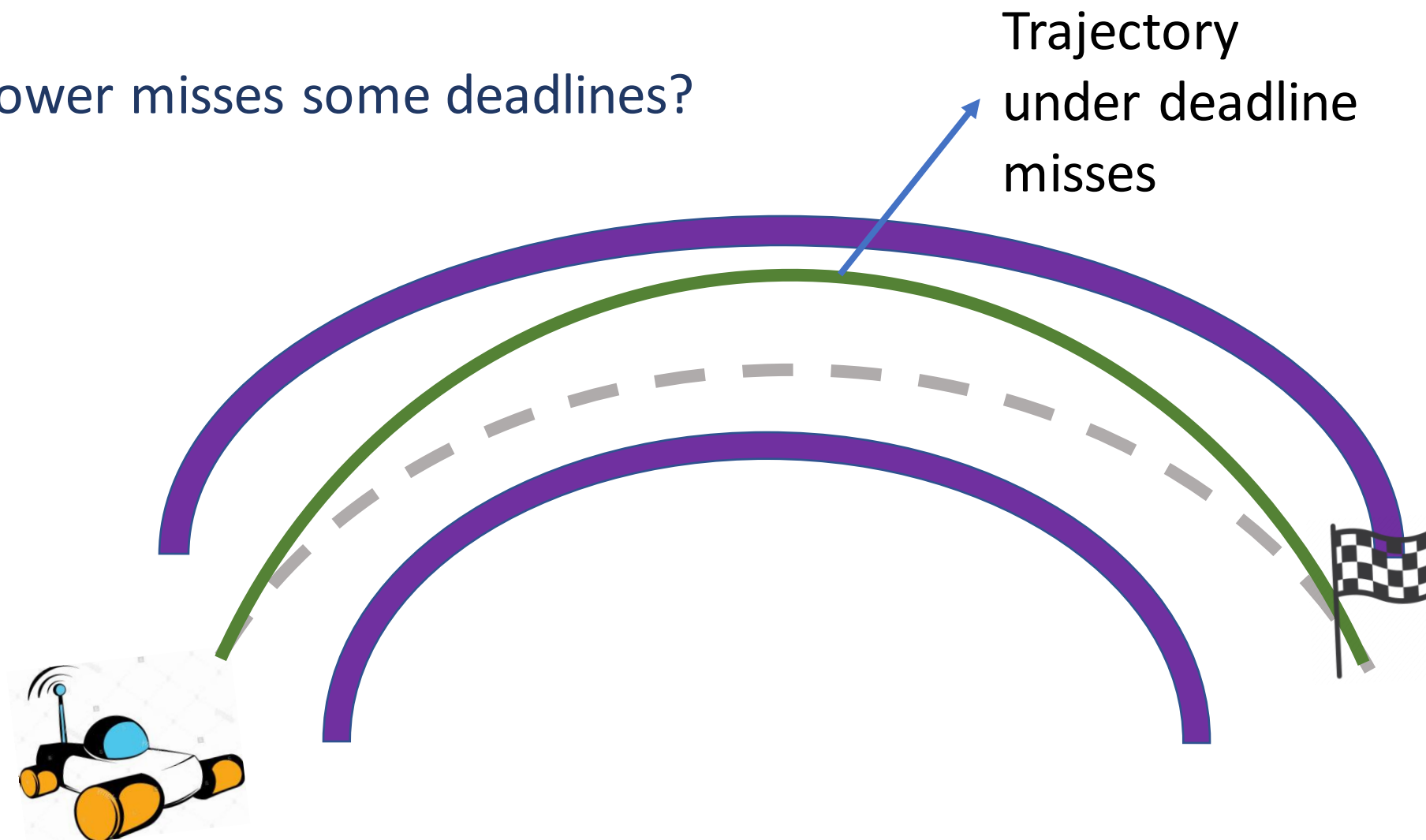
The trajectory can deviate from the nominal trajectory!



# Quantitative Safety: Robot Maneuvers

What if the path follower misses some deadlines?

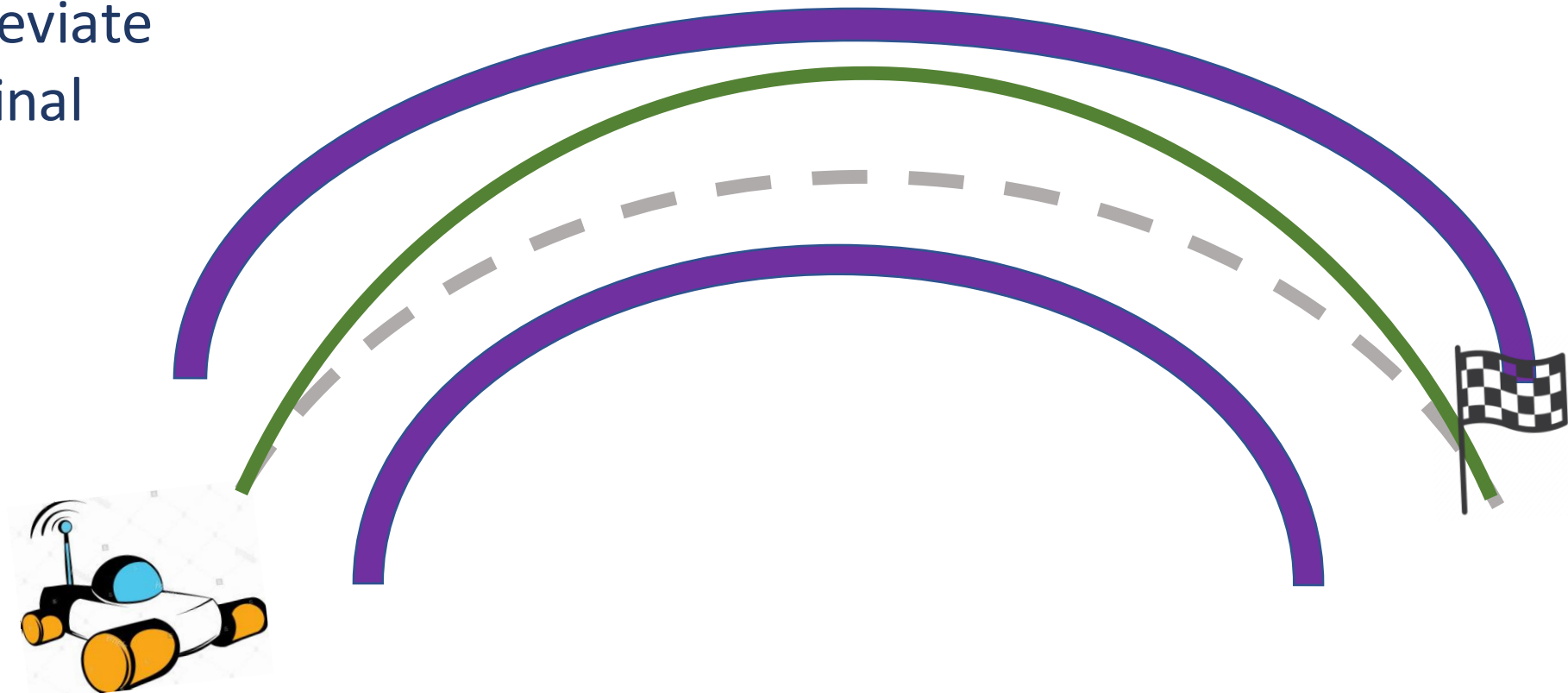
The trajectory can deviate from the nominal trajectory!



# Quantitative Safety: Robot Maneuvers

What if the path follower misses deadlines **very frequently**?

The trajectory can deviate **more** from the nominal trajectory!

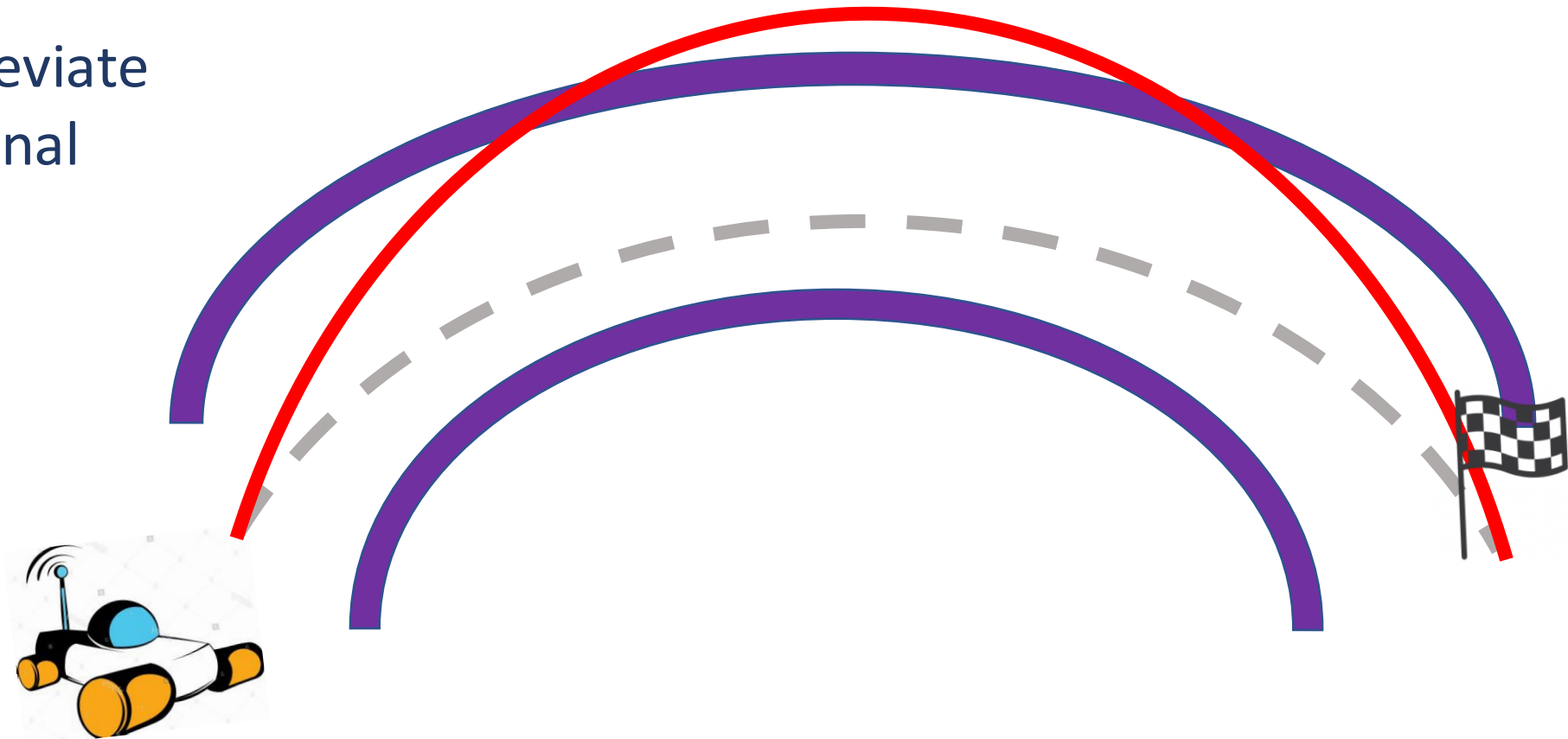


# Quantitative Safety: Robot Maneuvers

What if the path follower misses deadlines **very frequently**?

The trajectory can deviate **more** from the nominal trajectory!

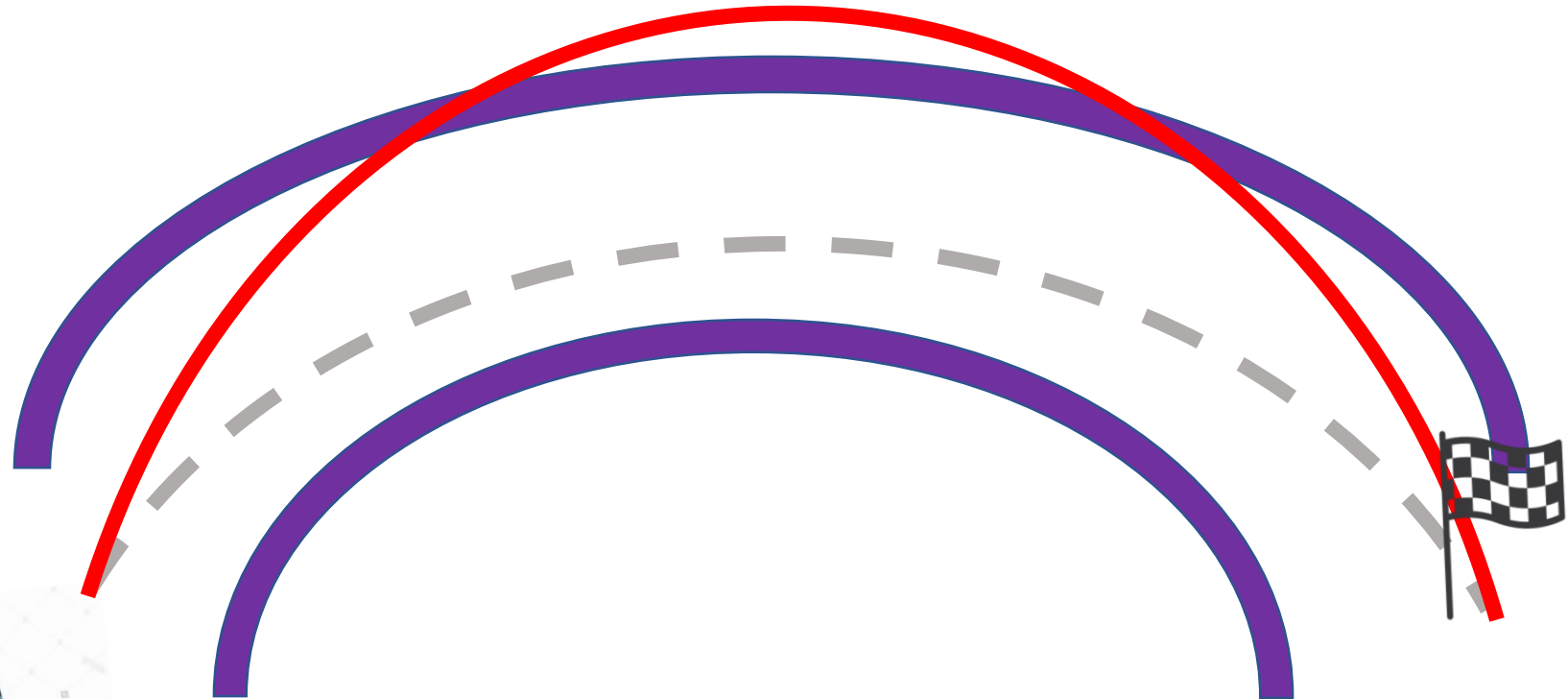
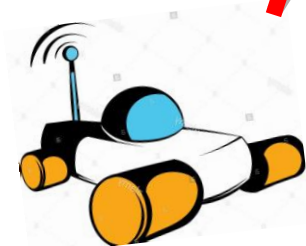
*And become unsafe!*



# Quantitative Safety: Robot Maneuvers

In Conclusion: Not all *patterns* of deadline misses are *safe*!

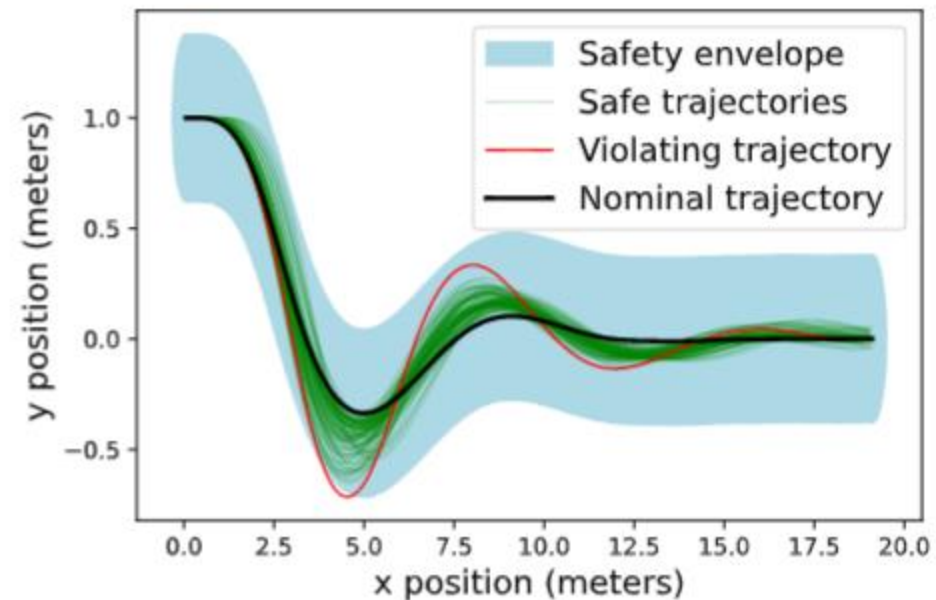
**Goal:** Detect if a given *pattern* of deadline misses is safe!





# Does Stable Means Safe?

## F1 Tenth Simulation Case Study



All trajectories are stable!

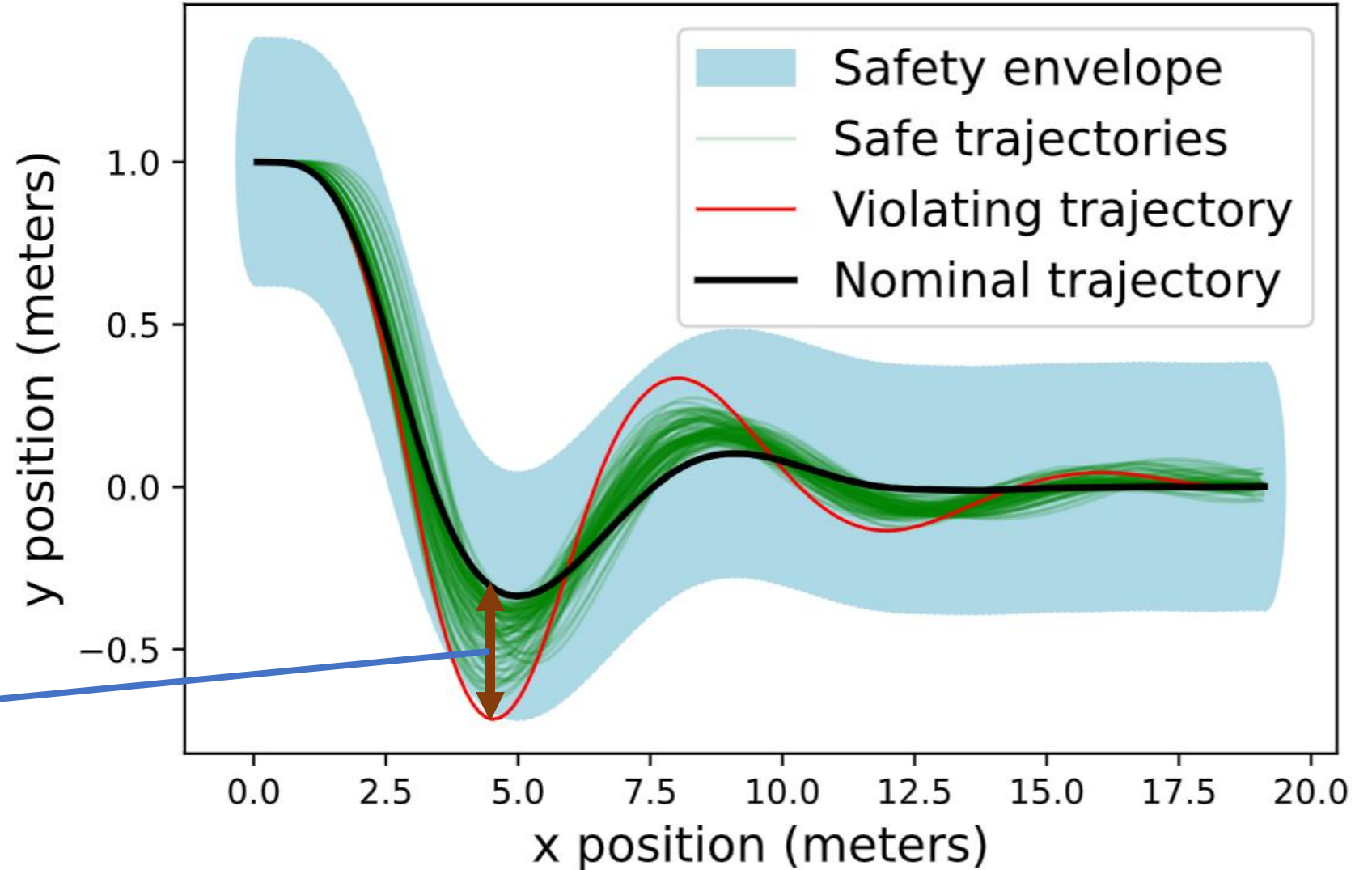
Yet some violate safety!

# Scheduling with Deadline Misses

**Goal:** Compute:




Maximum  
Deviation



# Computing Deviation: A Naïve Approach

- Given a pattern of deadline misses.
- Compute the maximum deviation up-to a bounded time  $H$ .

A Possible Behavior up-to Time  $H$ :  $1\ 1\ 0\ 1\ \dots\ 1\ 0\ 0\ 1$



0/1-sequence of length  $H$

0: Deadline Miss.

1: Deadline Hit (No Miss).

# Computing Deviation: A Naïve Approach

- Given a pattern of deadline misses.
- Compute the maximum deviation up-to a bounded time  $H$ .
- **Naïve Approach:** Requires computing deviation of  $2^H$  many trajectories!
- **Instead:** Compute an over-approximation of the maximum deviation.

# Computing Deviation: Other Approaches

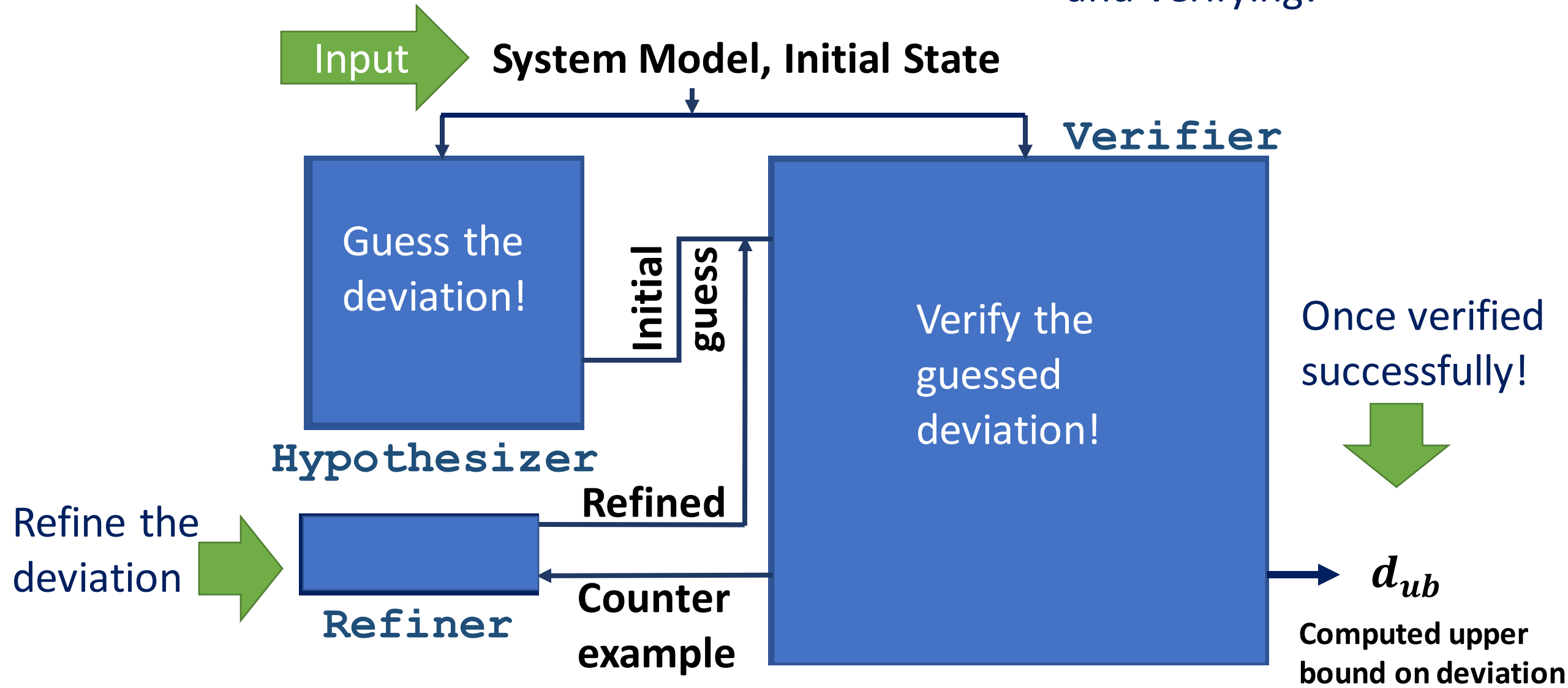
- Requires computing *reachable sets*.
- **Disadvantages:**
  - Computationally slower (generally).
  - The computed bounds on the maximum deviation are not tight (generally).

# Contribution

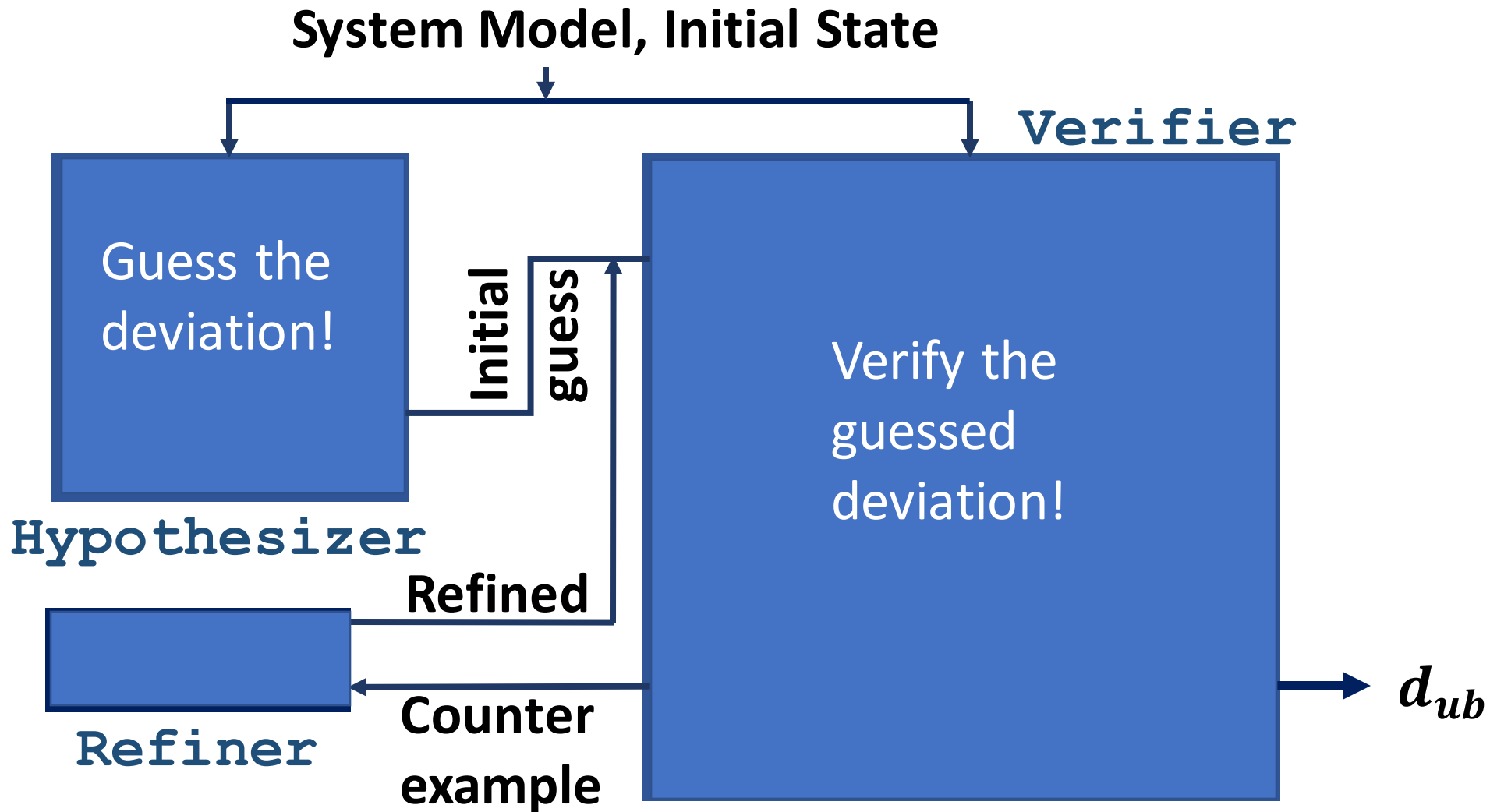
- Compute an **upper bound** of the **maximum deviation under a *pattern of deadline misses***.
- **Statistical Approach:** guarantees are probabilistic.
- **Advantages:**
  - Computationally faster than non-probabilistic approaches.
  - Tighter bounds on the computed maximum deviation.

# Approach Overview

Keep refining  
and verifying!

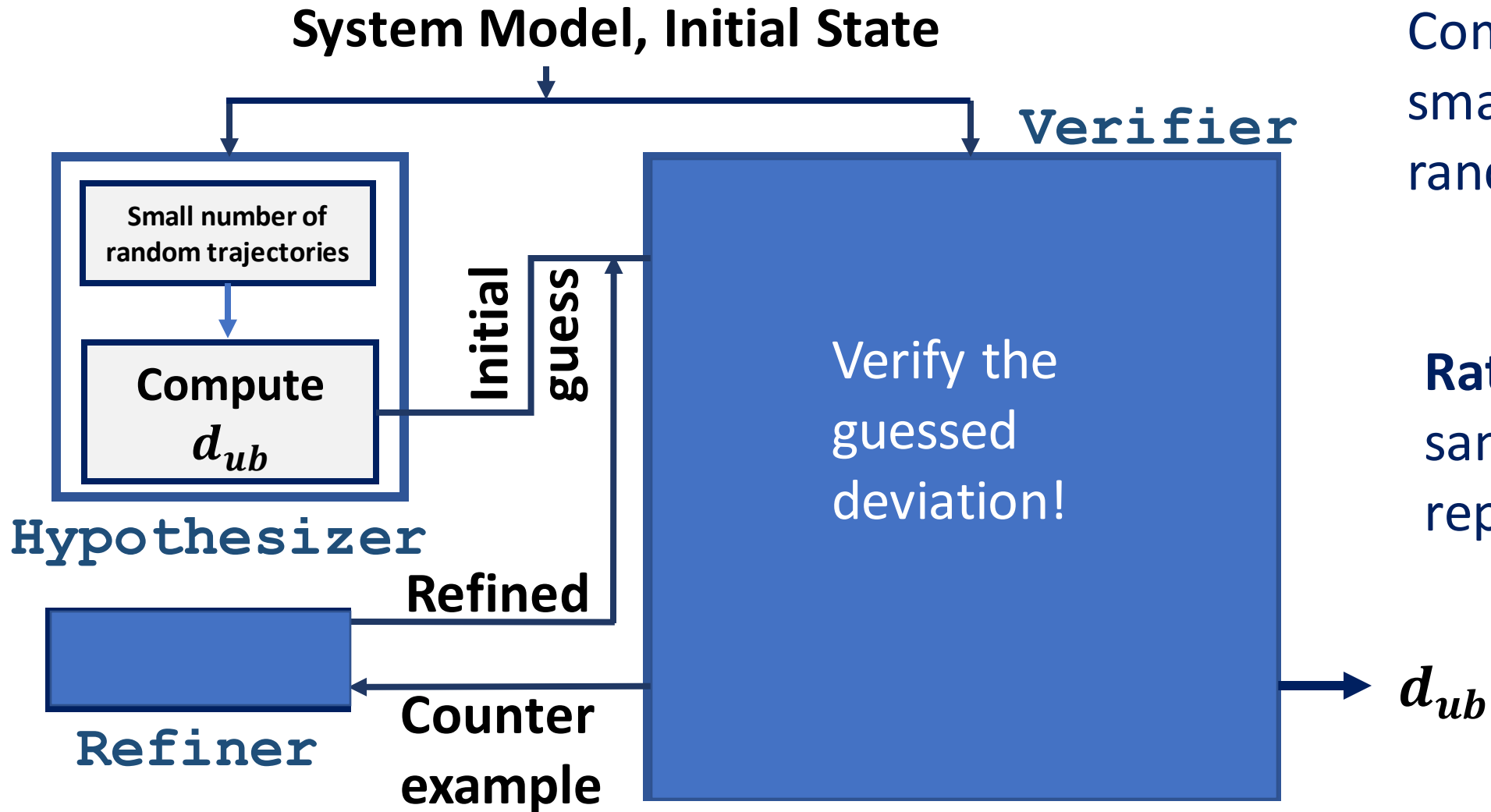


# Approach Overview





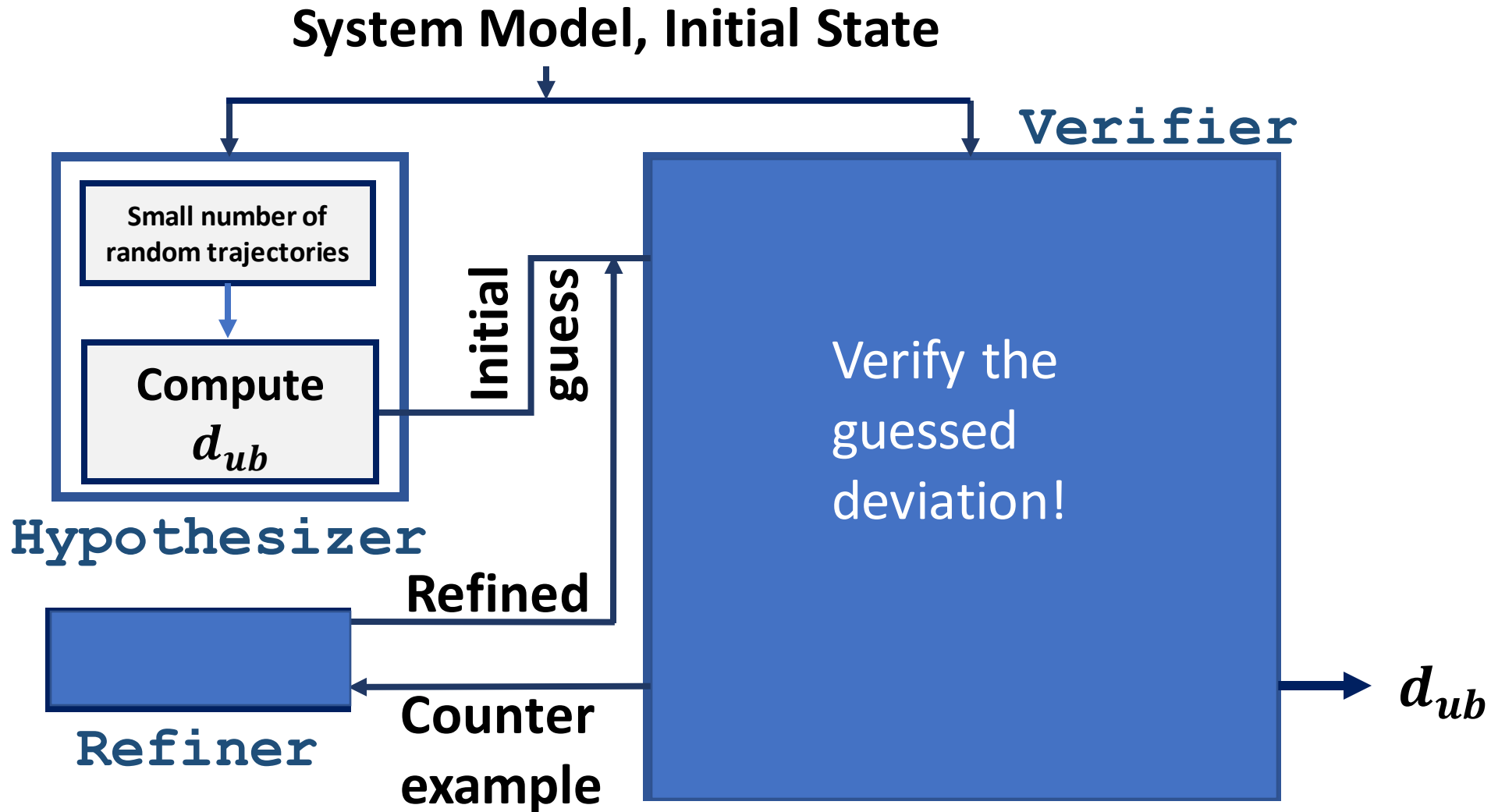
# Approach Overview: Hypothesizer



Compute  $d_{ub}$  using a small number of random trajectories.

**Rationale:** Small sample set might represent the *reality!*

# Approach Overview

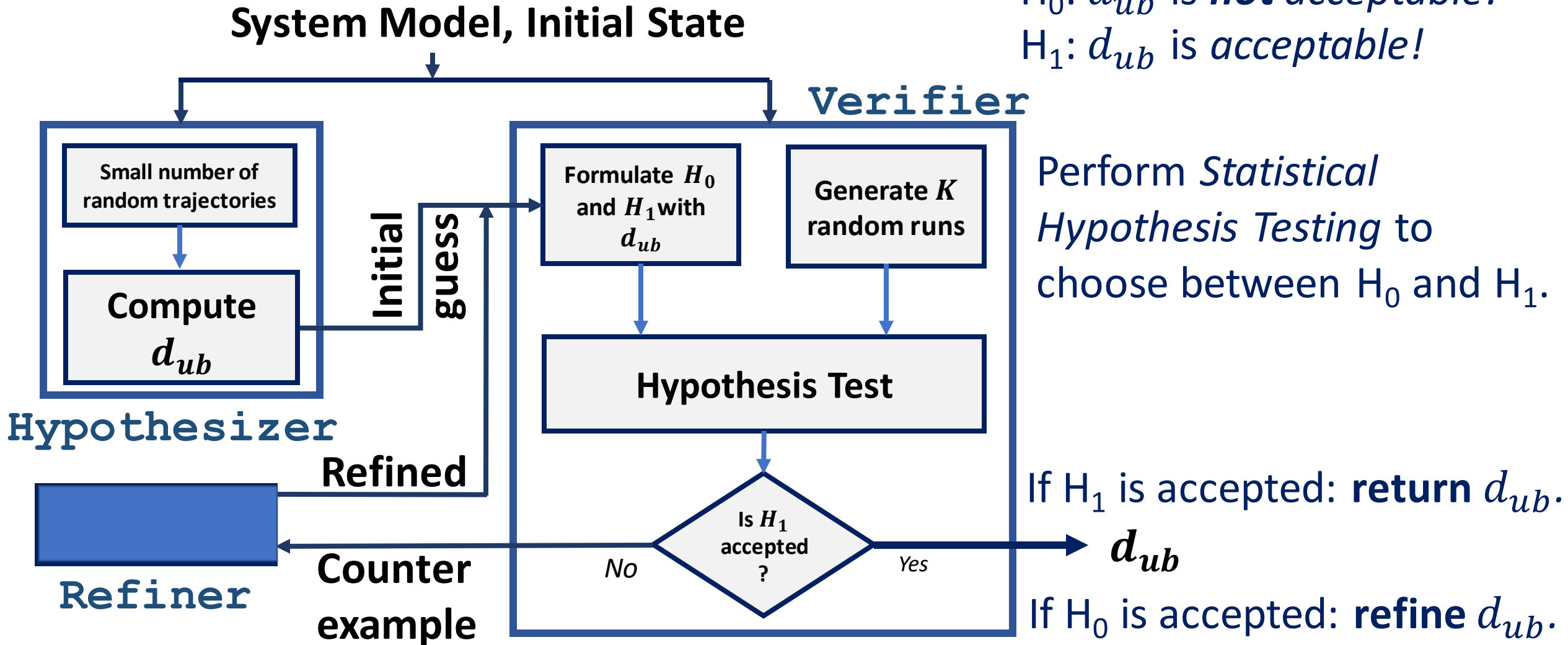


# Approach Overview: Verifier

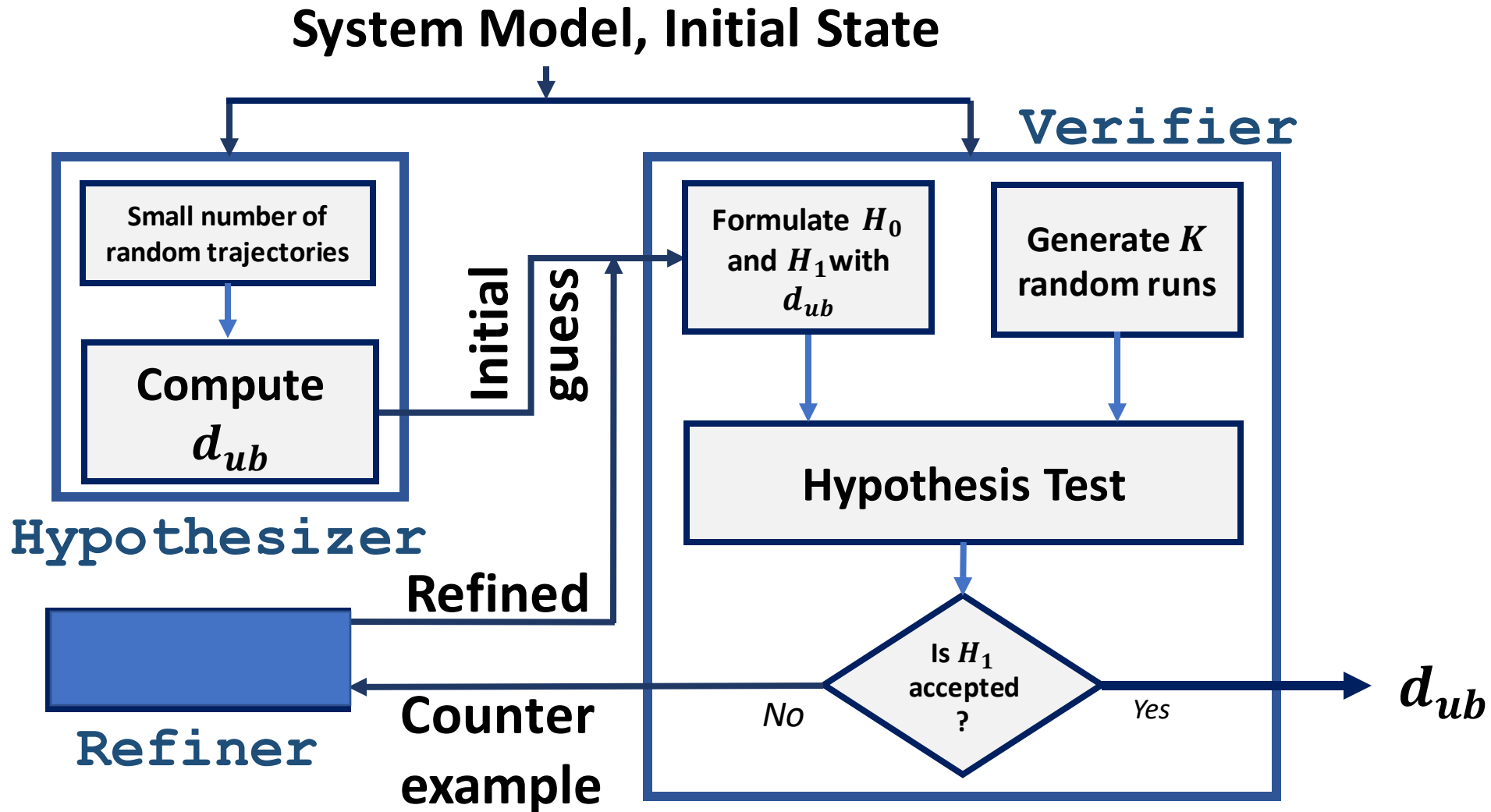
## Formulate Hypotheses

$H_0$ :  $d_{ub}$  is **not** acceptable!

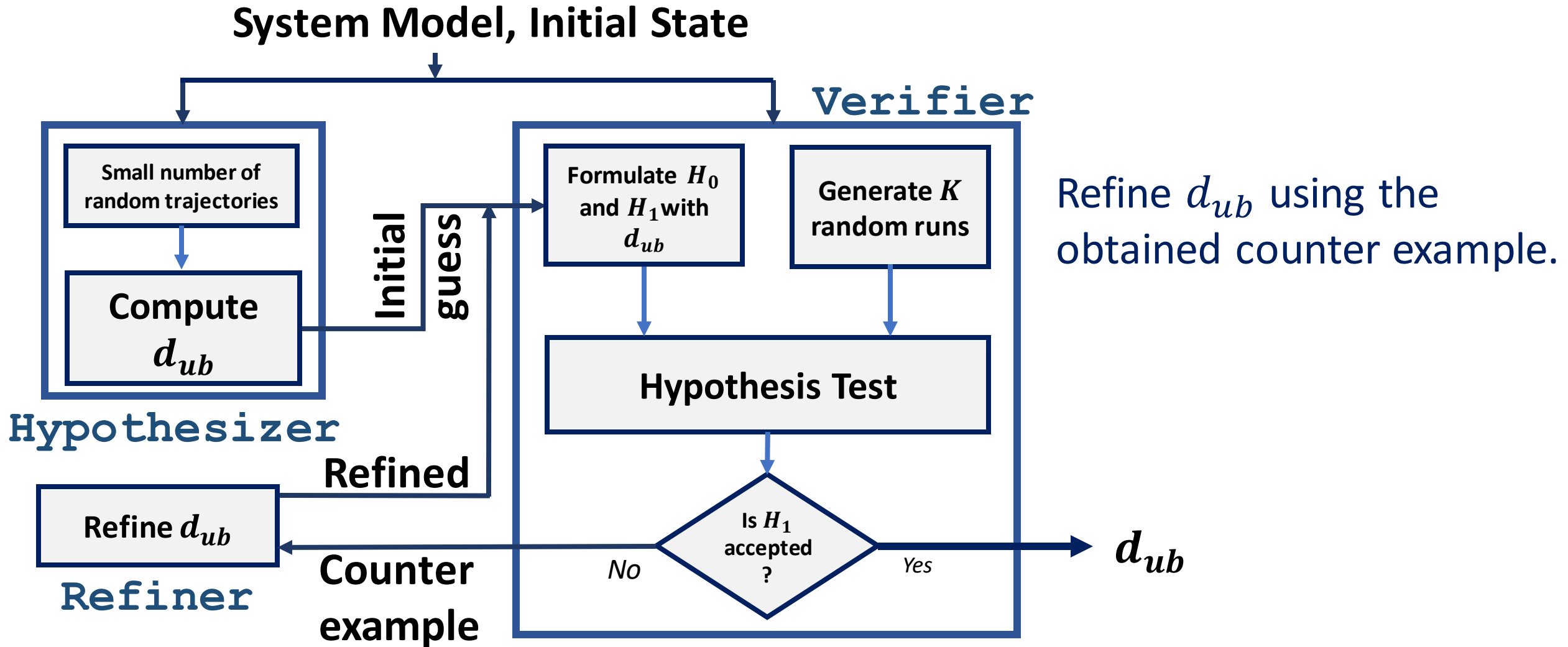
$H_1$ :  $d_{ub}$  is acceptable!



# Approach Overview

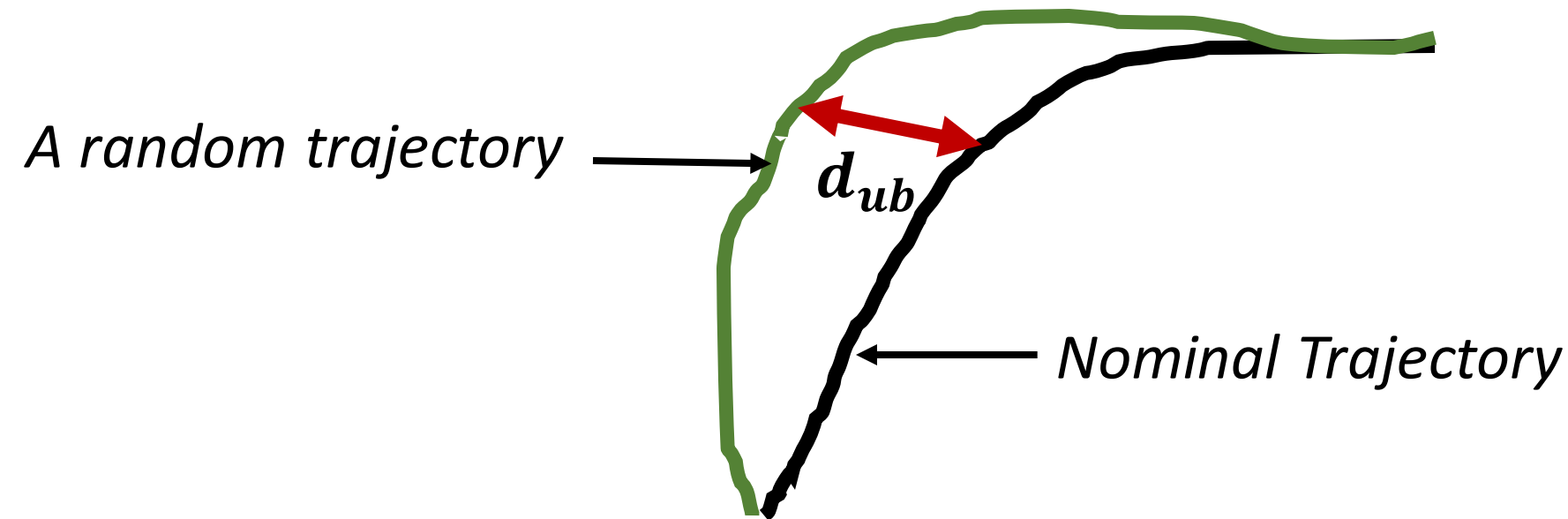


# Approach Overview: Refiner

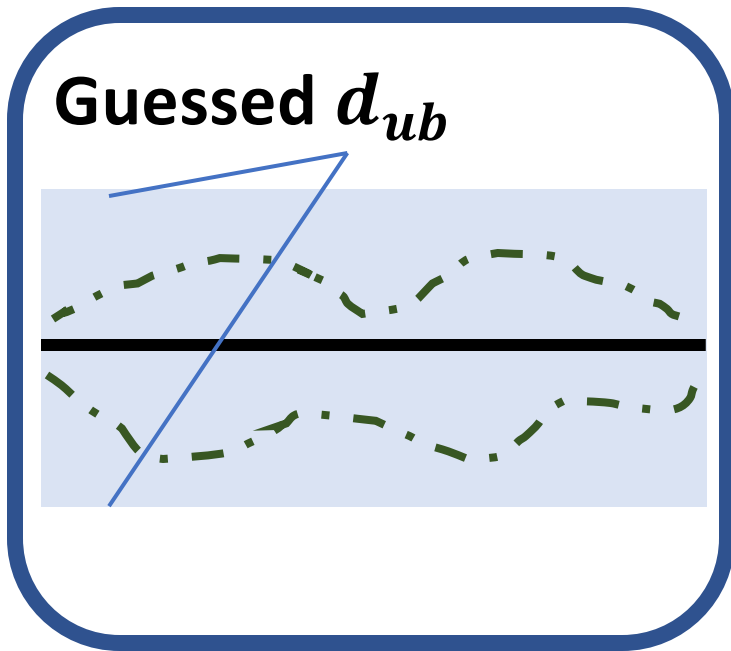


# Hypotheses ( $H_0$ & $H_1$ )

- $H_0$ : **With a most probability  $c$ , any** trajectory (random) will have a deviation bounded by  $d_{ub}$ .
- $H_1$ : **With at least probability  $c$ , any** trajectory (random) will have a deviation that is bounded by  $d_{ub}$ .



# Approach Overview: Steps



## Step 1: Guess the deviation bound

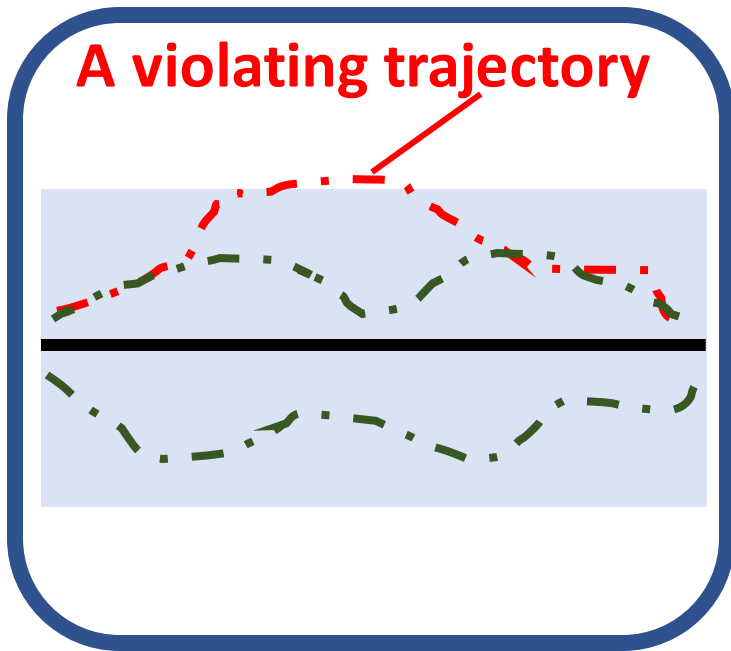
*Hypothesizer: Generate few random trajectories and compute the maximum deviation.*

**Black:** Nominal Trajectory.

**Green:** Random Trajectories.

**Light Blue:**  $d_{ub}$ .

# Approach Overview: Steps



## Step 2: Statistically verify the guessed bound

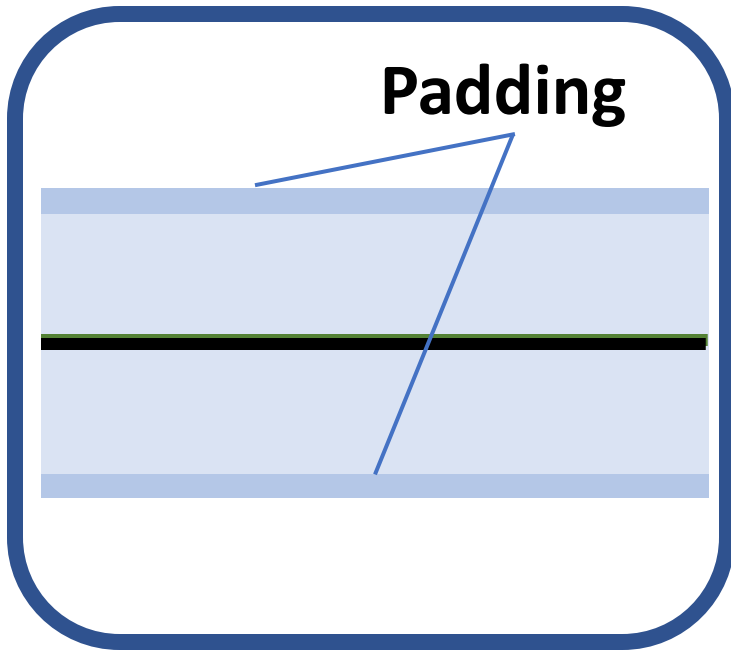
**Verifier:** Verify  $d_{ub}$  by generating  $K$  random trajectories.

$K$  is computed using Jeffrey's Bayes Factor based method.

If a *violating trajectory* is found (counter example), use it to refine  $d_{ub}$  (and re-verify)!



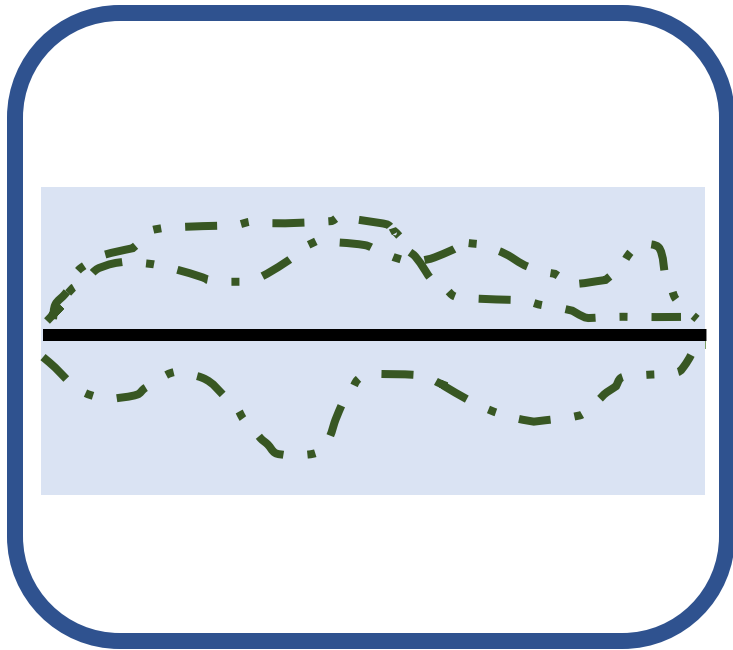
# Approach Overview: Steps



## Step 3: Refine the guessed bound

***Refiner:** Pads the deviation bound obtained from the counterexample with slack  $\epsilon$ .*

# Approach Overview: Steps



**Step 4: Statistically re-verify the guessed bound**

**Step 5: Return the accepted bound**

# Case Studies: Comparison with Benchmark Approaches

- RC Network

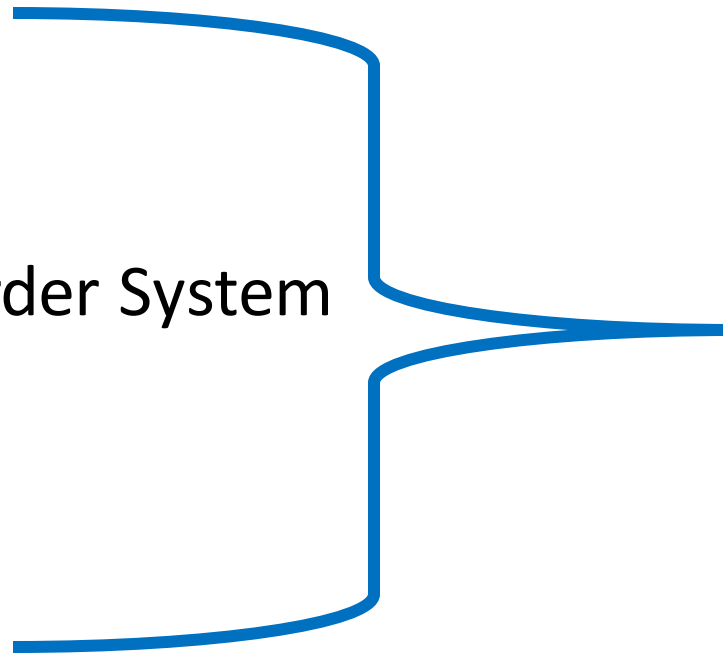


- Comparable upper bounds, and computation time.

- Electric Steering

- Unstable Second Order System

- F1 Tenth

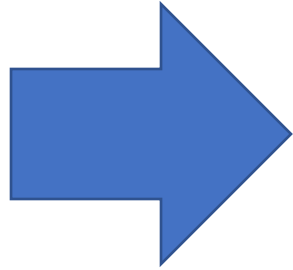


- Computed significantly tighter bounds on the deviation.
- Significantly less computation time.

# Case Studies: Comparison with Benchmark Approaches

- RC Network

• Electric Steering

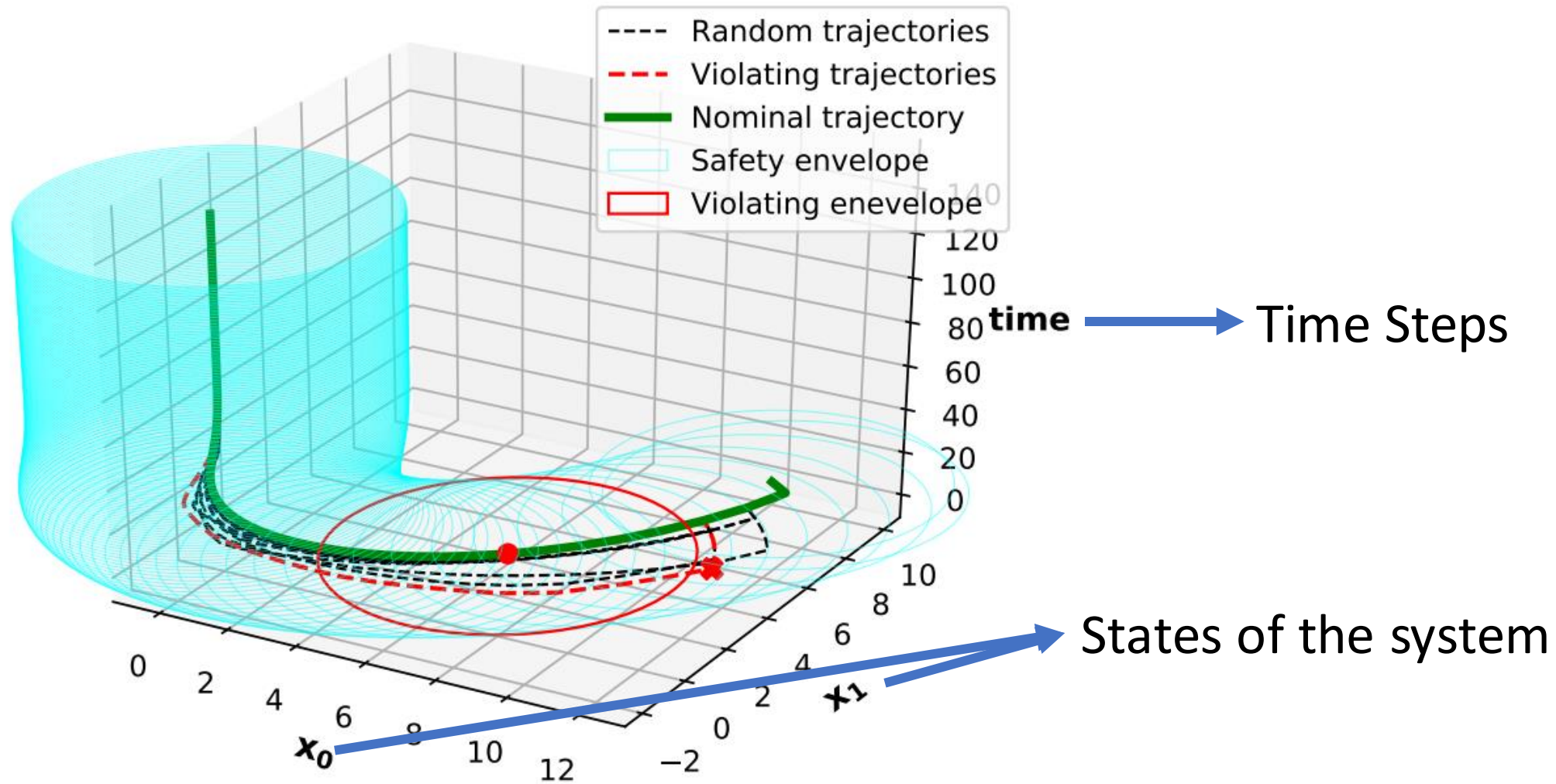


Discuss in this presentation!

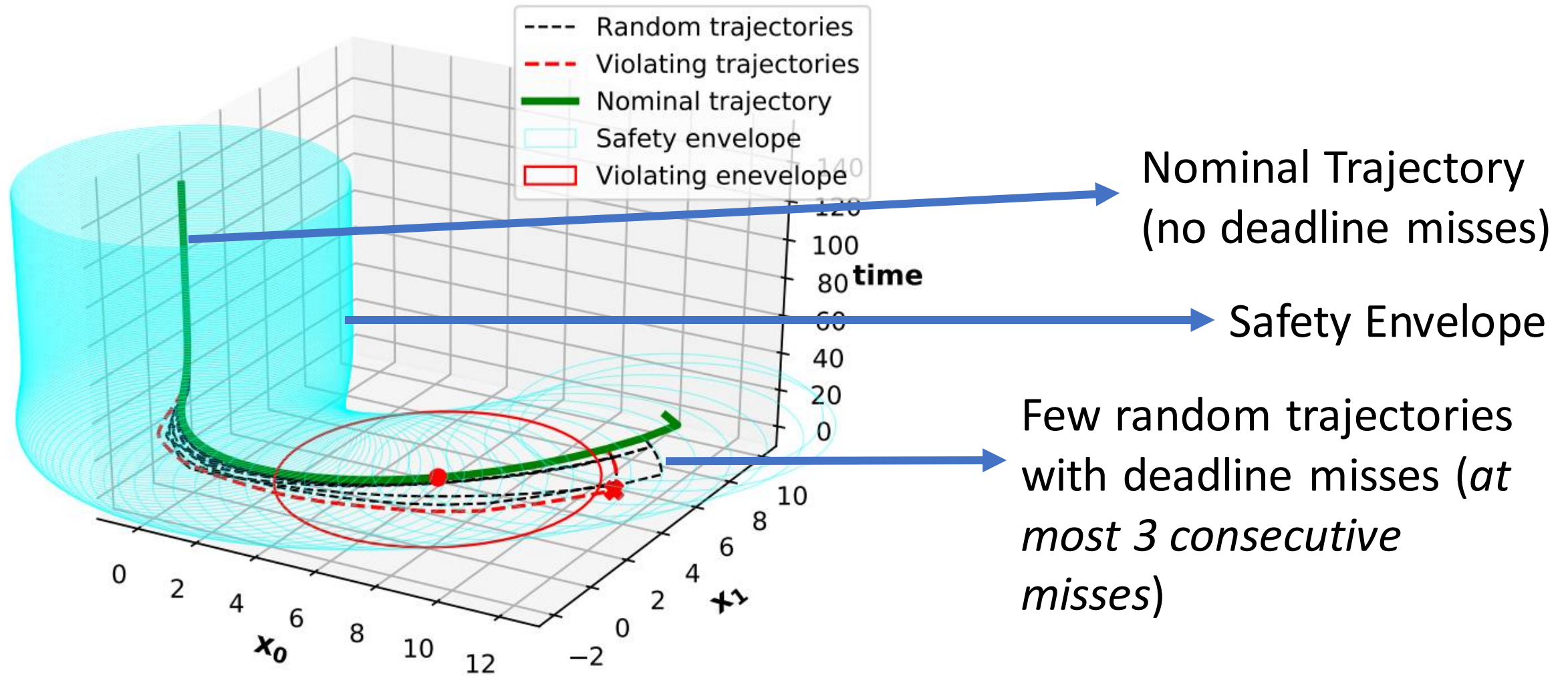
- Unstable Second Order System

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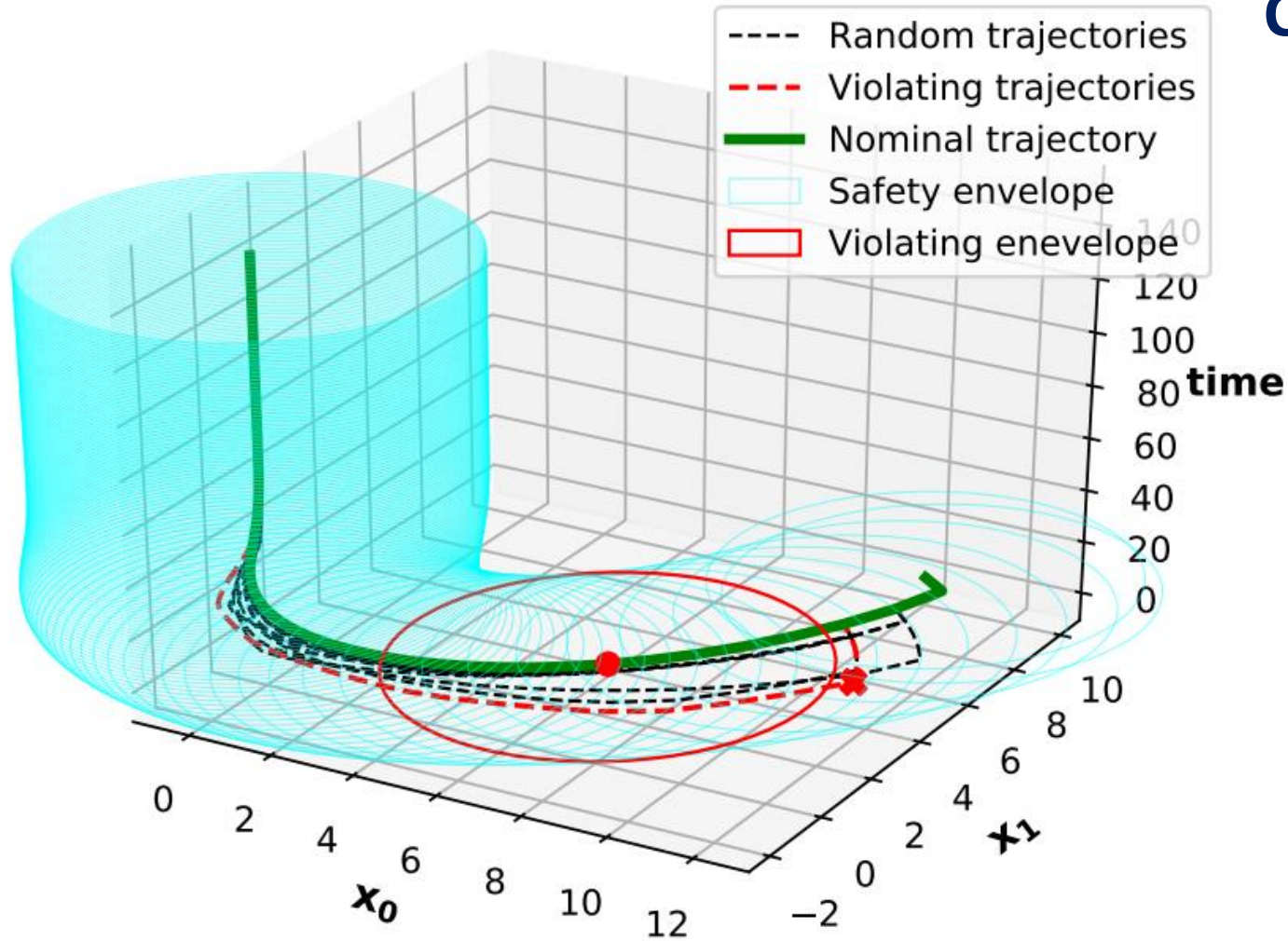
# Case Study: Electric Steering



# Case Study: Electric Steering



# Case Study: Electric Steering



## Computed $d_{ub}$

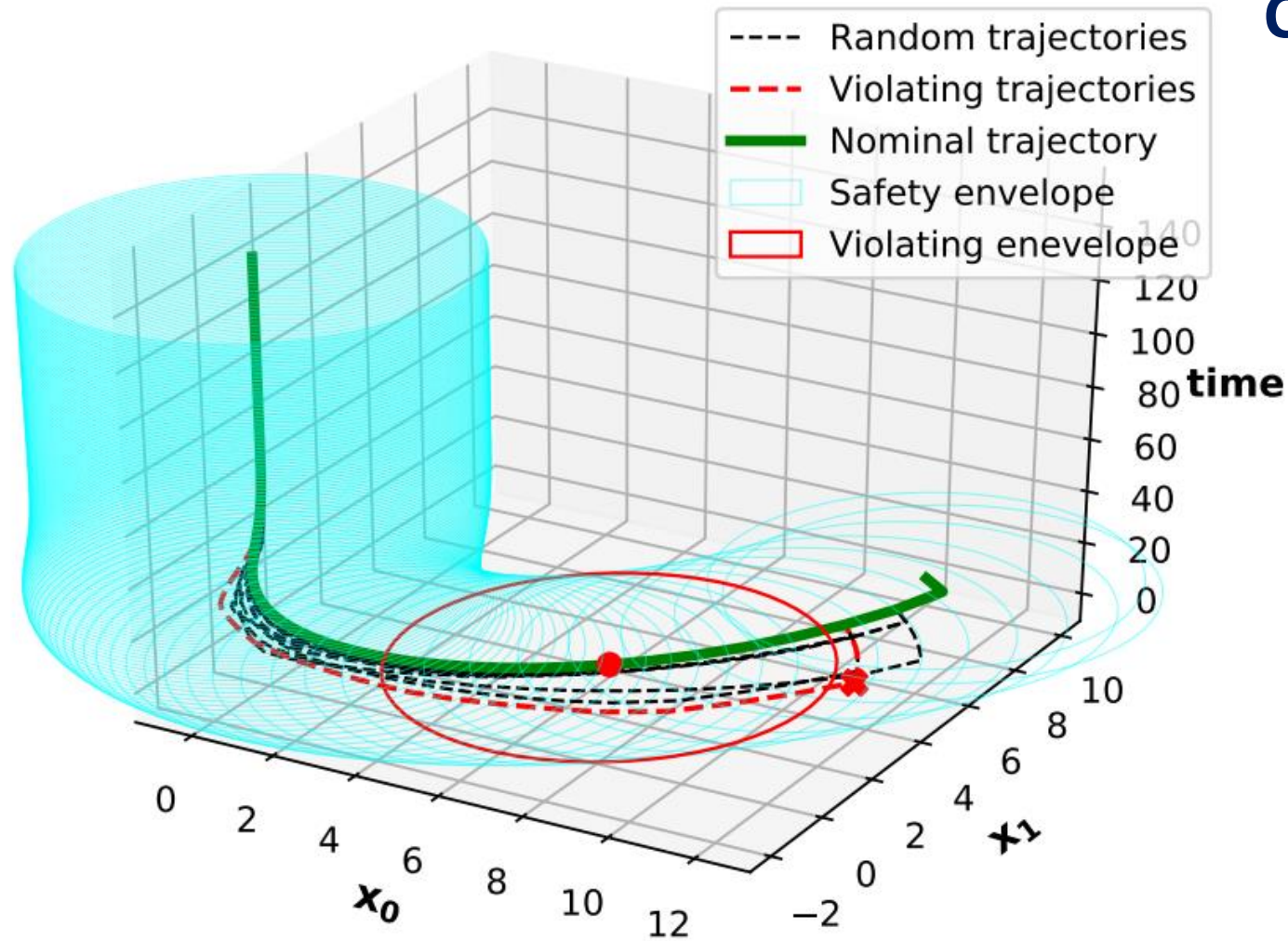
- Our Approach: 3.8
- Benchmark Approach: 12.37

## Computation Time

- Our Approach: 1.7 s
- Benchmark Approach: 31 s

# Case Study: Electric Steering

*Our approach clearly outperforms the benchmark approach!*



## Computed $d_{ub}$

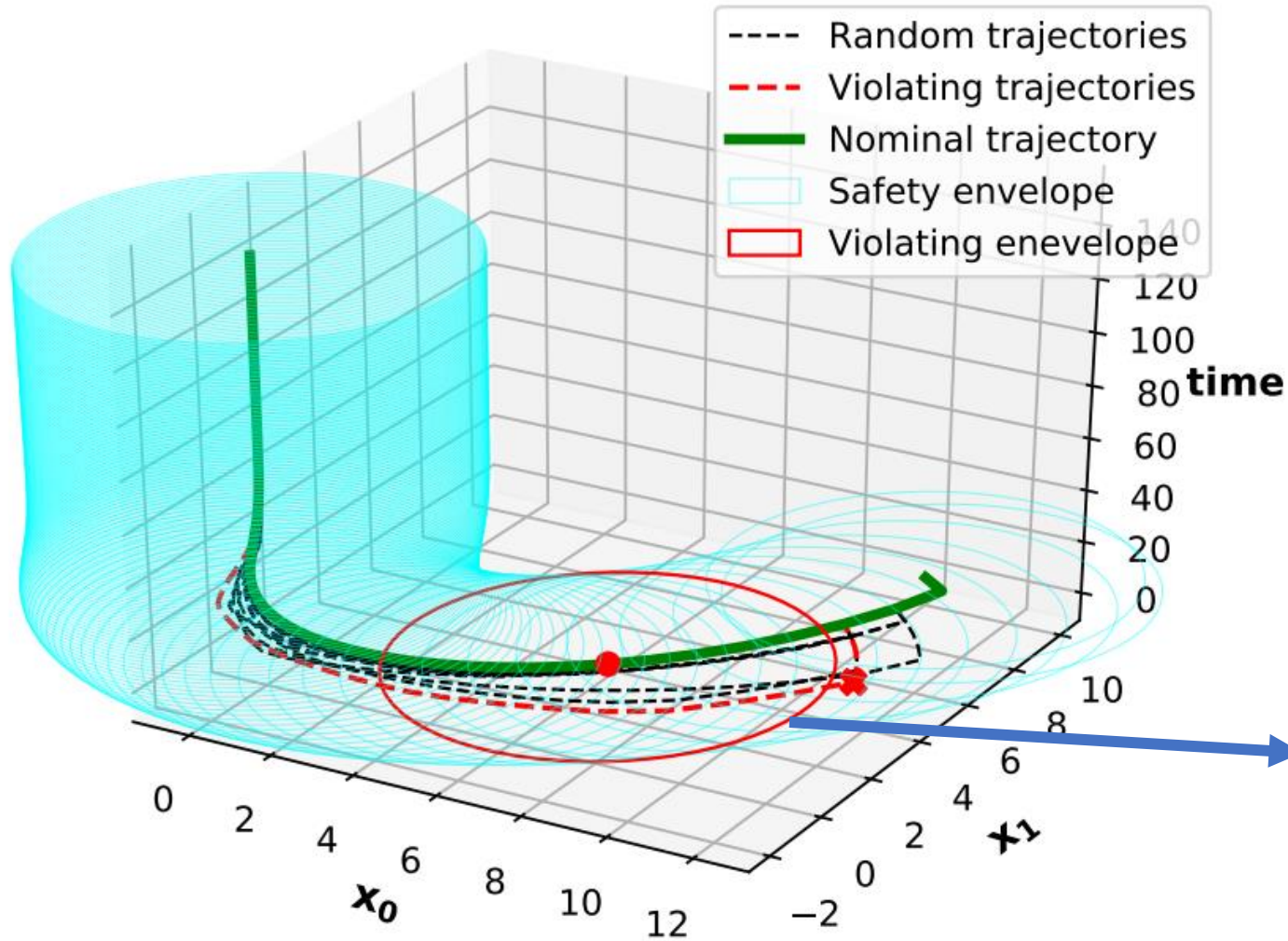
- **Our Approach: 3.8**
- Benchmark Approach: 12.37

## Computation Time

- **Our Approach: 1.7 s**
- Benchmark Approach: 31 s



# Case Study: Electric Steering



No unsafe behavior with “*at most 3 consecutive deadline misses*”!

Unsafe behavior with “*at most 4 consecutive deadline misses*”!

# Conclusion

- Statistical approach to compute maximum deviation under deadline misses!
- Our approach computes tighter upper bounds with less computation time.
- **Future Work:** Complicated deadline miss patterns.



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The open-source prototype tool, **StatDev**, is available at:  
[github.com/bineet-coderep/StatJitteryScheduler](https://github.com/bineet-coderep/StatJitteryScheduler)

# Thank You!