



# Formal Methods for the Control of Large-scale Networked Nonlinear Systems with Logic Specifications



Basilica di Santa Maria di Collemaggio, 1287, L'Aquila

**Lecture L7b:  
Efficient  
algorithms  
for controller  
synthesis**

**Speaker: Alessandro Borri**

# What's new?

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- Computation of controllers presented in lecture L7a may require high computational effort
- Here: efficient algorithms for computational complexity reduction in designing controllers

## Tools:

- On-the-fly algorithms studied in computer science

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### Lecture based on:

[Pola et al., TAC12] Pola, G., Borri, A., Di Benedetto, M.D., Integrated design of symbolic controllers for nonlinear systems, IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control, 57(2):534-539, February 2012

# Preliminary definitions

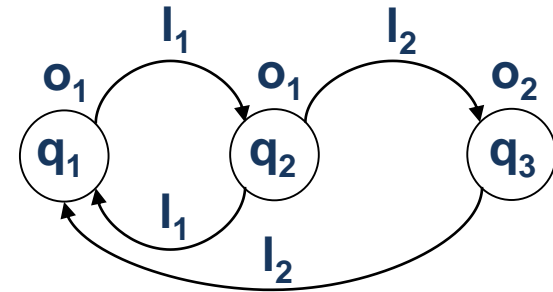
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**Definition** A transition system is a tuple:

$$T = (Q, Q_0, L, \longrightarrow, Q_m, O, H),$$

consisting of:

- a set of states  $Q$
- a set of initial states  $Q_0 \subseteq Q$
- a set of control labels  $L$
- a transition relation  $\longrightarrow \subseteq Q \times L \times Q$
- a set of marked states  $Q_m \subseteq Q$
- an output set  $O$
- an output function  $H: Q \rightarrow O$



We will follow standard practice and denote  $(q, l, q') \in \longrightarrow$  by  $q \xrightarrow{l} q'$

# Review: Construction of symbolic models

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We consider digital control systems, i.e. control systems where input signals are piecewise constant.

Consider a nonlinear digital control system

$$T(\Sigma) = (X, X_0, \mathcal{U}, \longrightarrow, X_m, O, H),$$

and given some  $\tau > 0$ , define the transition system

$$T_\tau(\Sigma) = (X, X_0, \mathcal{U}_\tau, \longrightarrow_\tau, X_m, O, H),$$

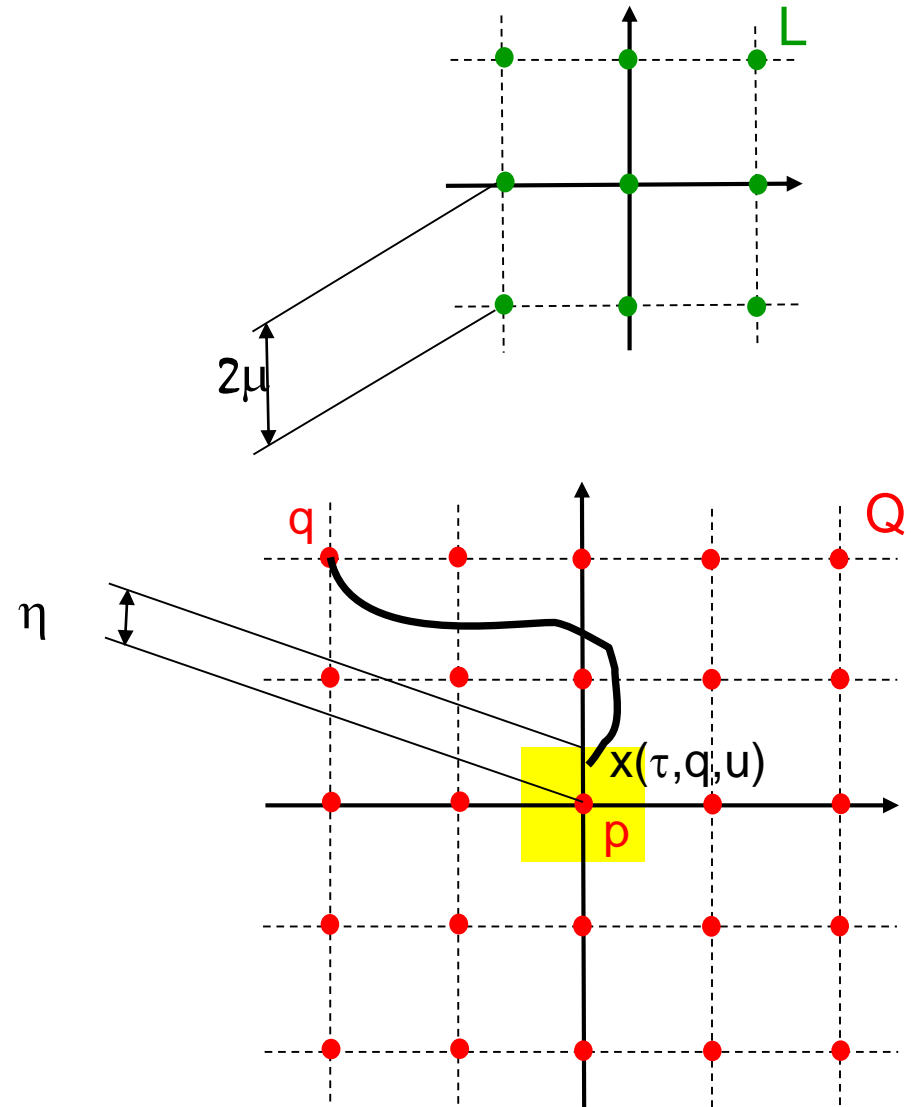
where:

- $\mathcal{U}_\tau$  is the collection of constant input functions  $u : [0, \tau] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$
- $p \xrightarrow{u}_\tau q$  if  $x(\tau, p, u) = q$

# Review: Construction of symbolic models

Consider the following parameters:

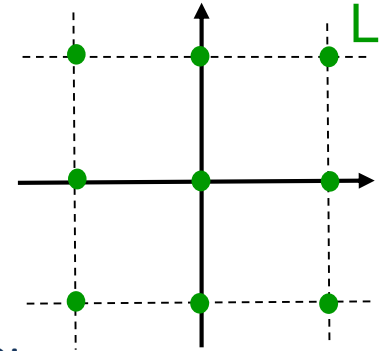
- $\tau > 0$  sampling time
- $\eta > 0$  state space quantization
- $\mu > 0$  input space quantization



# Review: Construction of symbolic models

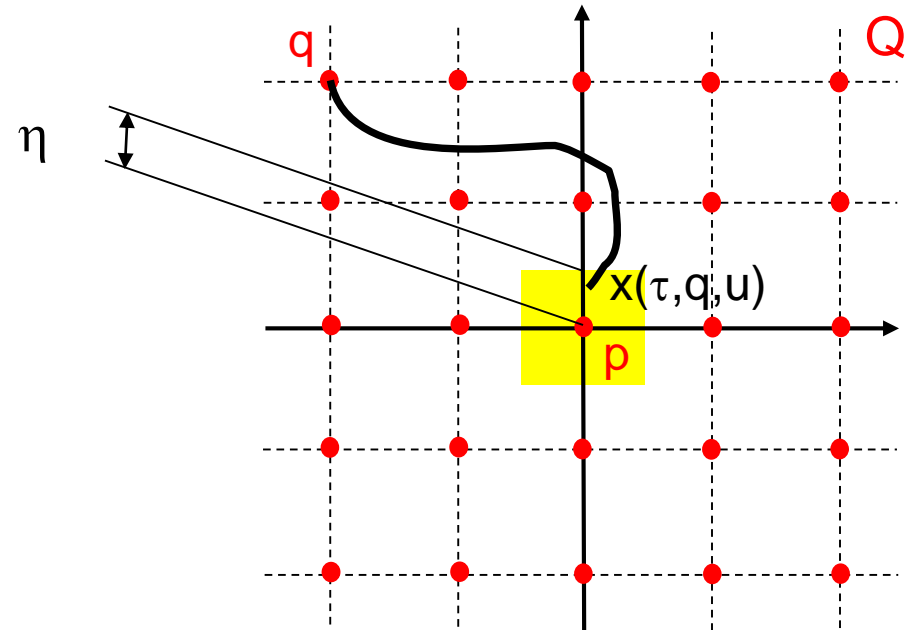
Consider the following parameters:

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and define  $T_{\tau,\eta,\mu}(\Sigma) = (X_{\tau,\eta,\mu}, X_{0,\tau,\eta,\mu}, U_{\tau,\eta,\mu}, \xrightarrow{\tau,\eta,\mu}, X_{m,\tau,\eta,\mu}, O, H)$ , where:

- $X_{\tau,\eta,\mu} = [X]_{2\eta}$
- $X_{0,\tau,\eta,\mu} = X_{\tau,\eta,\mu} \cap X_0$
- $U_{\tau,\eta,\mu} = [U]_{2\mu}$
- $q \xrightarrow{u}_{\tau,\eta,\mu} p$ , if  $|x(\tau,q,u) - p| \leq \eta$
- $X_{m,\tau,\eta,\mu} = X_{\tau,\eta,\mu} \cap X_m$
- $O = X$
- $H$  is the identity function



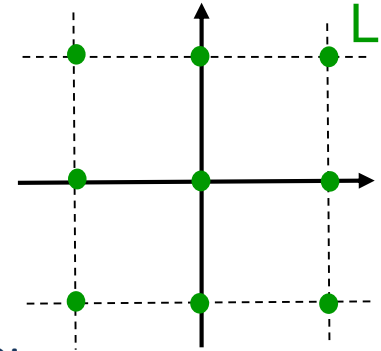
## Remark

Transition system  $T_{\tau,\eta,\mu}(\Sigma)$  is countable.  
 If state and input spaces of  $\Sigma$  are bounded  
 then  $T_{\tau,\eta,\mu}(\Sigma)$  is symbolic!

# Review: Construction of symbolic models

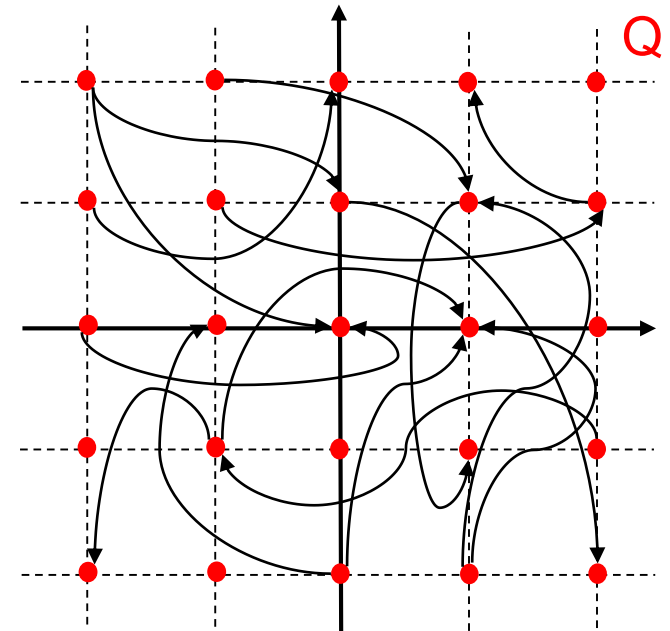
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**Theorem** If  $\Sigma$  is  $\delta$ -ISS, for any desired accuracy  $\varepsilon > 0$  and for any  $\tau, \eta, \mu > 0$  satisfying

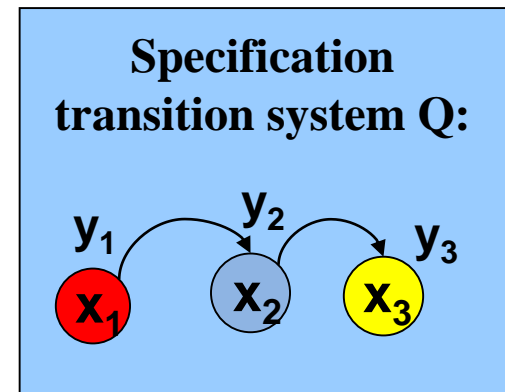
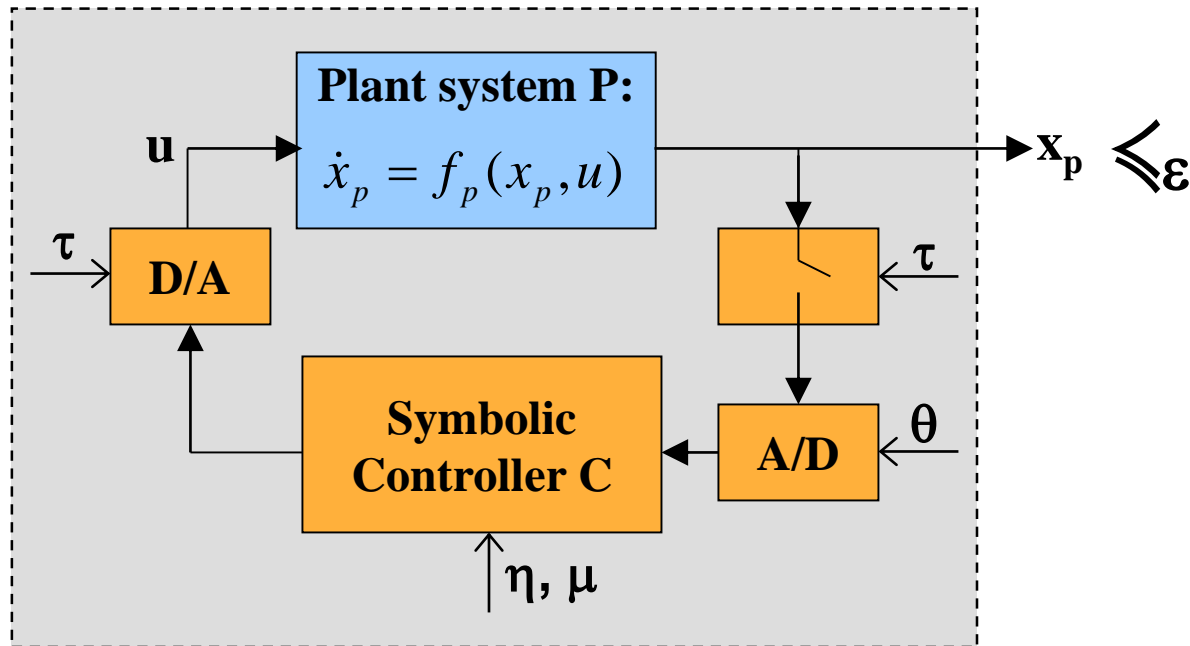
$$\beta(\varepsilon, \tau) + \eta + \gamma(\mu) \leq \varepsilon$$

then  $T_{\tau}(\Sigma)$  and  $T_{\tau,\eta,\mu}(\Sigma)$  are  $\varepsilon$ -bisimilar

# Design of symbolic controllers

**Problem:** Specifications given as deterministic transition systems

Given a plant  $P$ , a deterministic specification  $Q$  and a desired accuracy  $\varepsilon > 0$ , find a symbolic controller that implements  $Q$  up to the accuracy  $\varepsilon$  and that is alive when interacting with  $P$ .





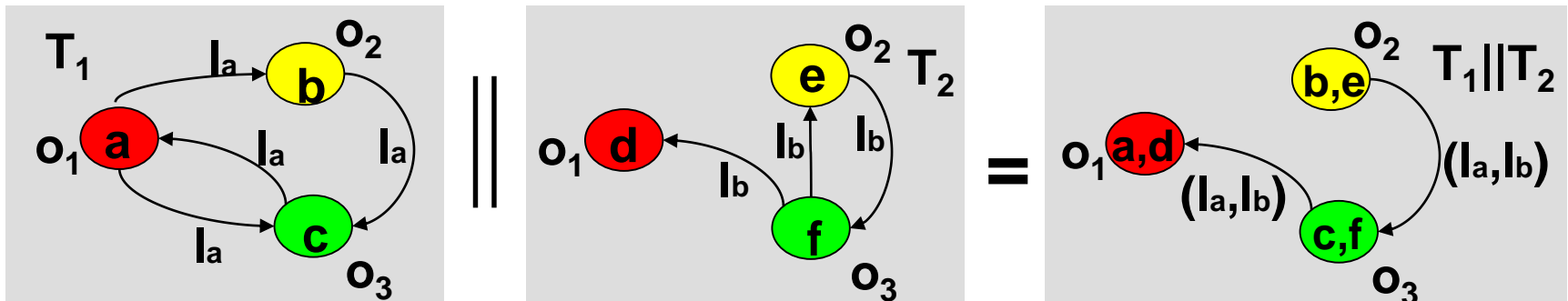
# Approximate composition [Tabuada IEEE TAC 08]

**Definition** Given  $T_1 = (Q_1, Q_{01}, L_1, \longrightarrow_1, Q_{m1}, O_1, H_1)$  and  $T_2 = (Q_2, Q_{02}, L_2, \longrightarrow_2, Q_{m2}, O_2, H_2)$ , with  $O_1 = O_2$ , and an accuracy  $\theta > 0$ , the approximate composition of  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  is the system

$$T = T_1 ||_{\theta} T_2 = (Q, Q_0, L, \longrightarrow, Q_m, O, H)$$

where:

- $Q = \{(q_1, q_2) \in Q_1 \times Q_2 : d(H_1(q_1), H_2(q_2)) \leq \theta\}$
- $Q_0 = Q \cap (Q_{01} \times Q_{02})$
- $L = L_1 \times L_2$
- $(q_1, q_2) \xrightarrow{(l_1, l_2)} (p_1, p_2)$ , if  $q_1 \xrightarrow{l_1} p_1$  and  $q_2 \xrightarrow{l_2} p_2$
- $Q_m = Q \cap (Q_{m1} \times Q_{m2})$
- $O = O_1 = O_2$
- $H(q_1, q_2) = H_1(q_1)$

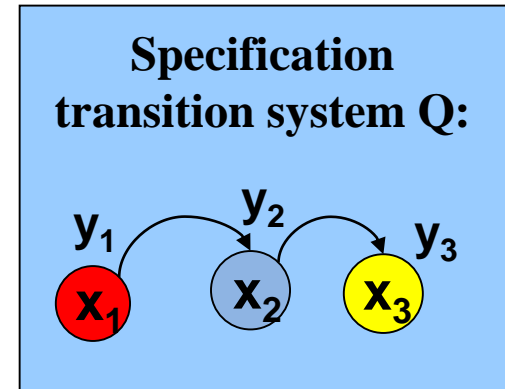
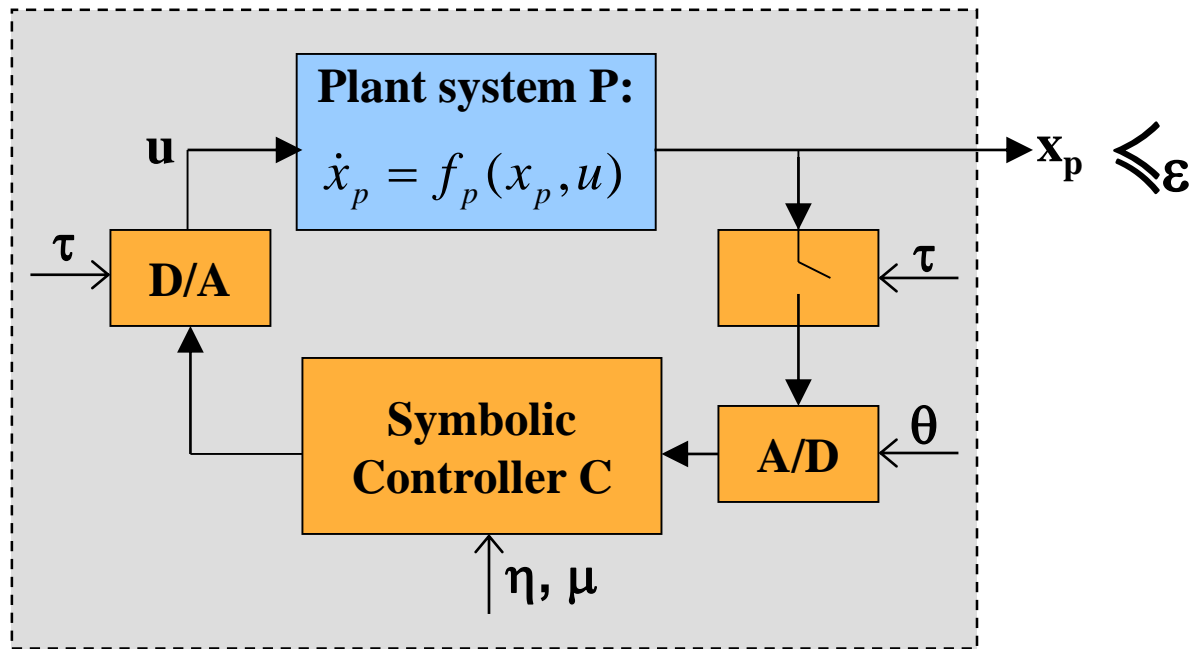


# Design of symbolic controllers

## Control problem

Given a plant  $P$ , a deterministic specification  $Q$  and a desired accuracy  $\varepsilon > 0$ , find a symbolic controller  $C$  such that

1.  $T_\tau(P) \parallel_\theta C \leq_\varepsilon Q$
2.  $T_\tau(P) \parallel_\theta C$  is alive

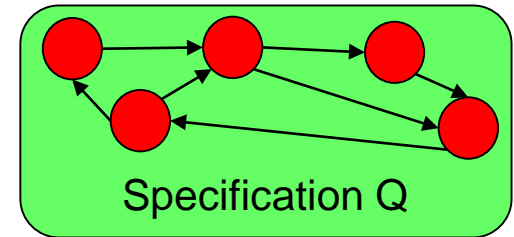


# Solution

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Synthesis through a three-step process:

1. Compute the symbolic model  $T_{\tau,\eta,\mu}(P)$  of  $P$
2. Compute the symbolic controller  $C^* = T_{\tau,\eta,\mu}(P) \parallel_{\eta} Q$
3. Compute the alive part  $\text{Alive}(C^*)$  of  $C^*$



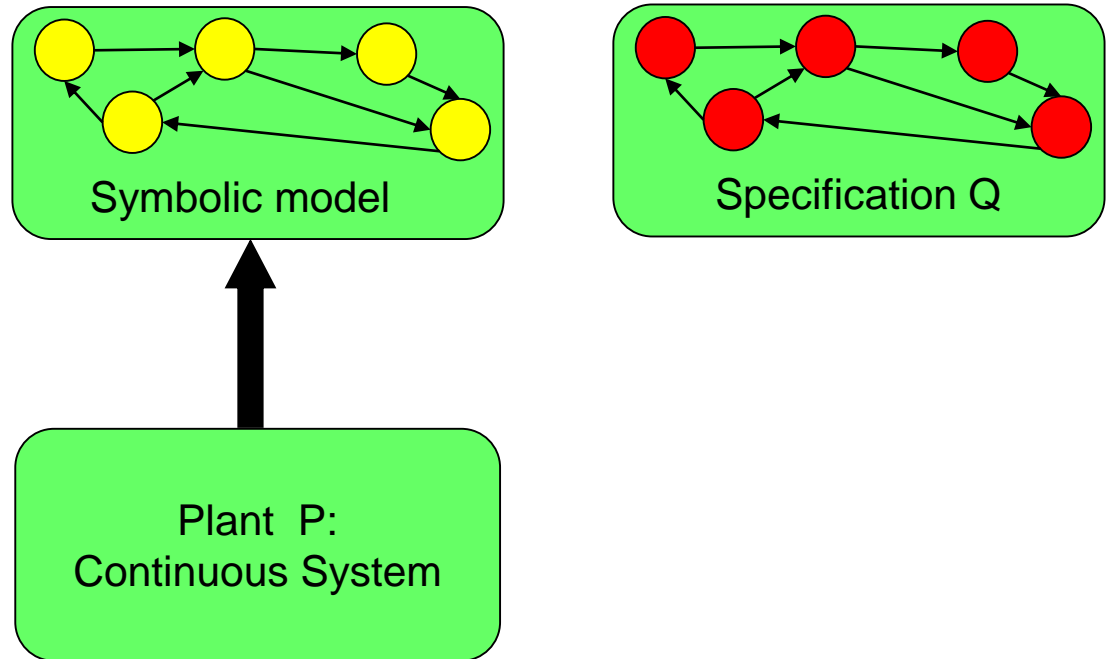
Plant P:  
Continuous System

# Solution

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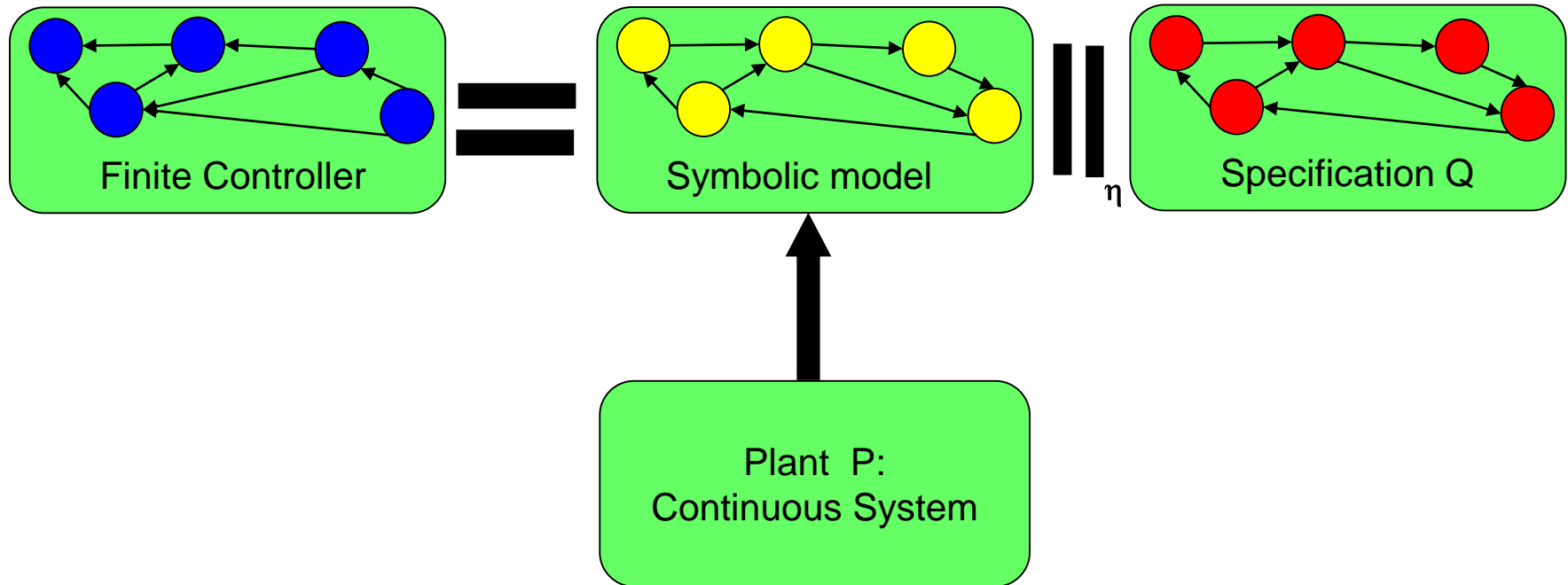
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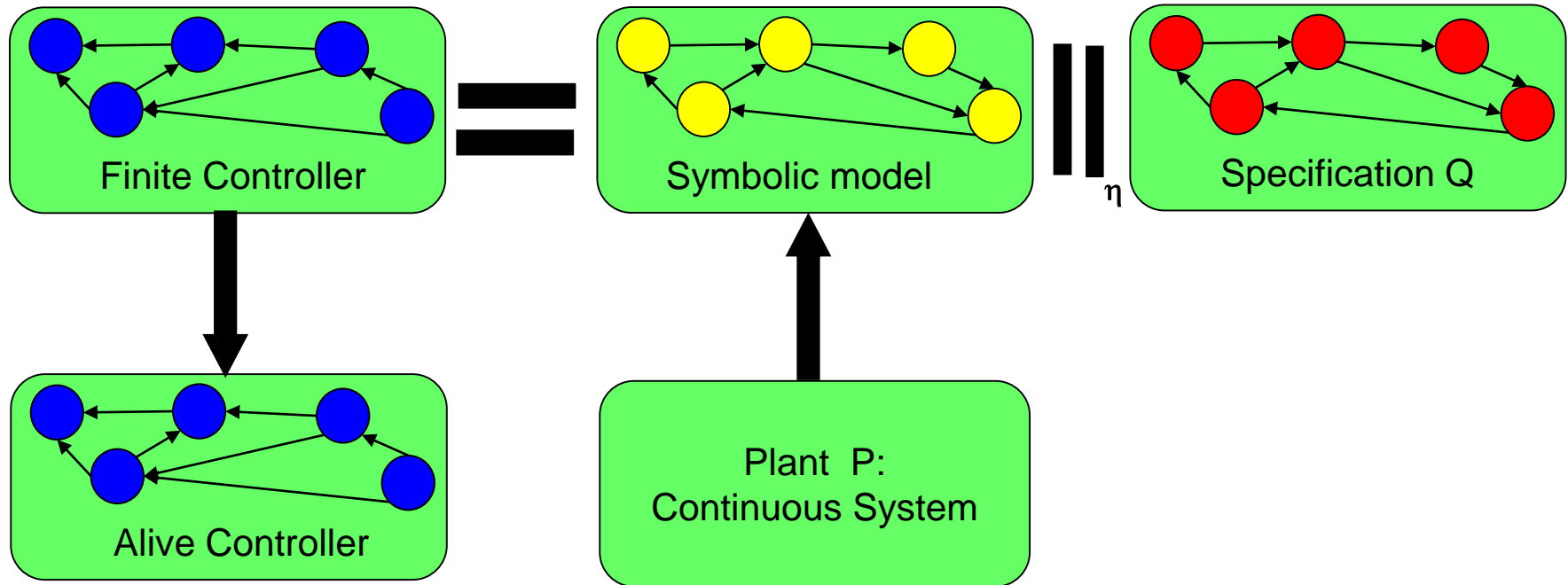
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**Theorem** Suppose that  $P$  is  $\delta$ -ISS and choose parameters  $\tau, \eta, \mu, \theta > 0$  satisfying:

$$\beta(\theta, \tau) + \gamma(\mu) + 2\eta \leq \theta + \eta \leq \varepsilon$$

The symbolic controller  $\text{Alive}(C^*)$  solves the control problem.

# Design of symbolic controllers

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## Drawbacks

- It considers the whole sets of states of  $T_{\tau,\eta,\mu}(P)$  and  $Q$
- For any source state  $x$  and target state  $y$ , it includes all transitions  $x \xrightarrow{u} y$  with any control input  $u$  by which state  $x$  reaches state  $y$
- It first constructs  $T_{\tau,\eta,\mu}(P)$  and  $Q$ , then  $C^*$ , to finally eliminate blocking states from  $C^*$

To cope with space and time complexity, instead of computing separately

- (1) Discrete abstraction  $T_{\tau,\eta,\mu}(P)$  of  $P$
- (2) Symbolic controller  $C^* = T_{\tau,\eta,\mu}(P) \parallel_{\eta} Q$
- (3) Alive part  $\text{Alive}(C^*)$  of  $C^*$

**Integrated Approach: Compute (1) + (2) + (3) at once!**

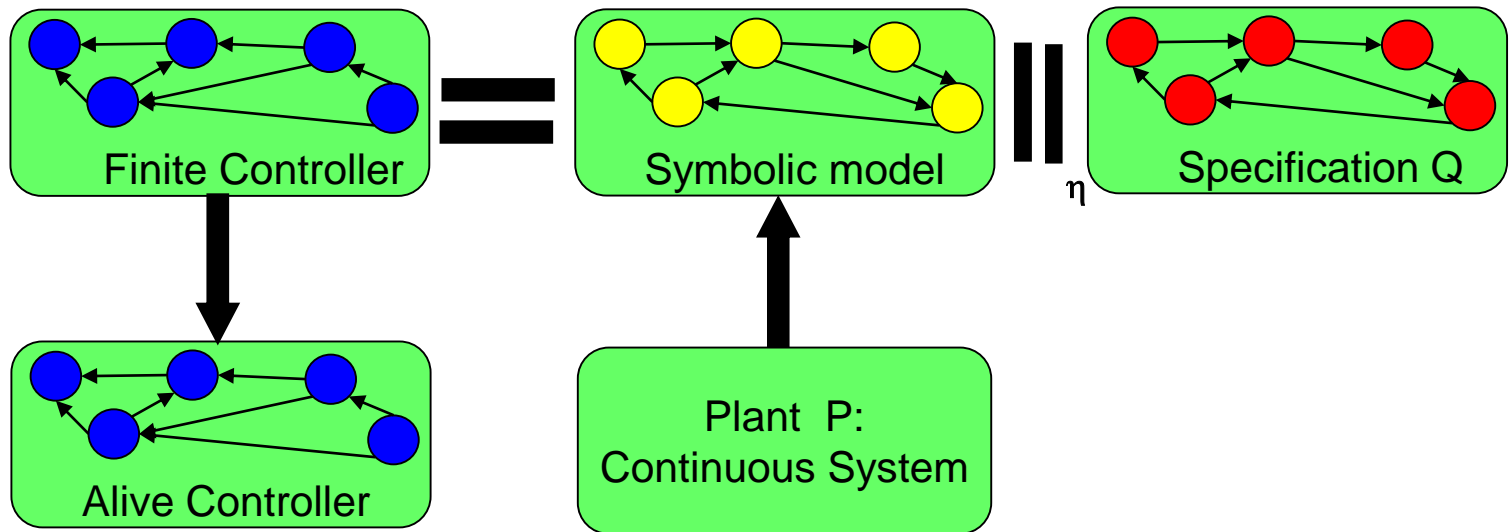
Space/time complexity analysis of the proposed algorithm formally quantifies the gain of the integrated approach



# Integrated Algorithm

## Basic ideas

1. It only considers the intersection of the accessible parts of  $P$  and  $Q$
2. For any given source state  $x$  and target state  $y$ , it considers only one transition  $(x,u,y)$
3. It eliminates blocking states as soon as they show up



# Integrated Algorithm

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How does it work?

First, we consider the target space as the intersection of the sets of initial states of  $T_{\tau,\eta,\mu}(P)$  and  $Q$ .



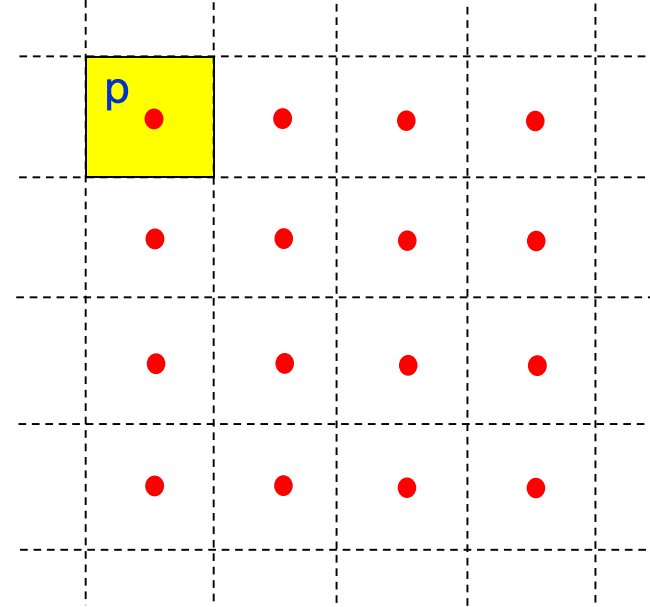
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Pick a “symbolic” state  $p$  from the target space and compute the unique state  $q$  such that the transition  $p \longrightarrow q$  is in  $Q$ .



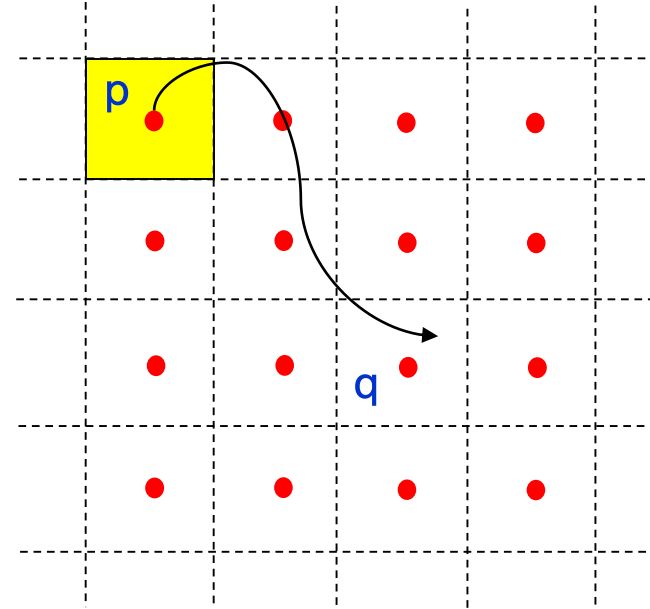
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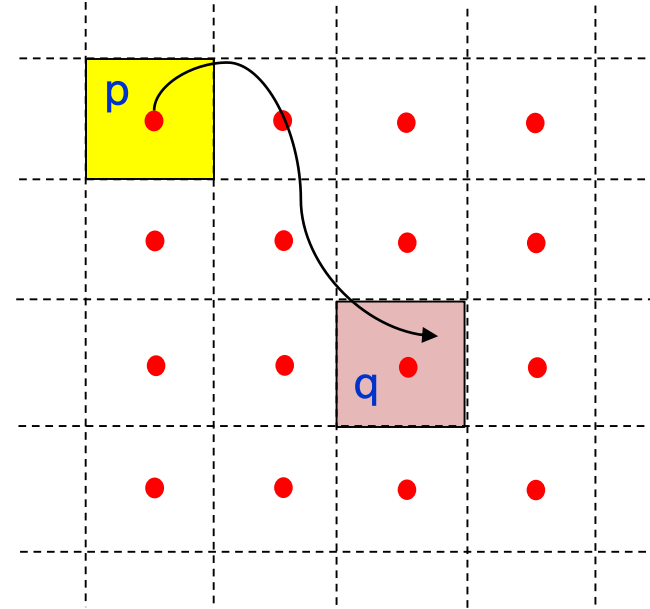
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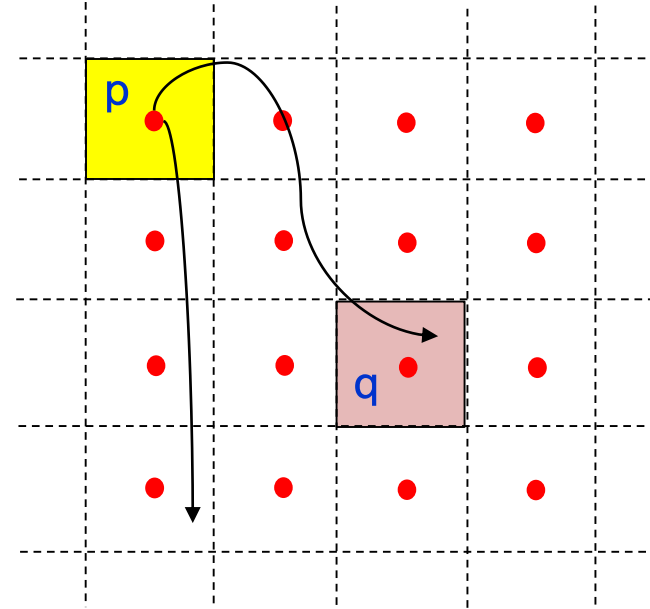
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Pick control inputs in  $[U]_{2\mu}$  and integrate the plant differential equation until  $q = [x(\tau, p, u)]_{2\eta}$  for some  $u$ .



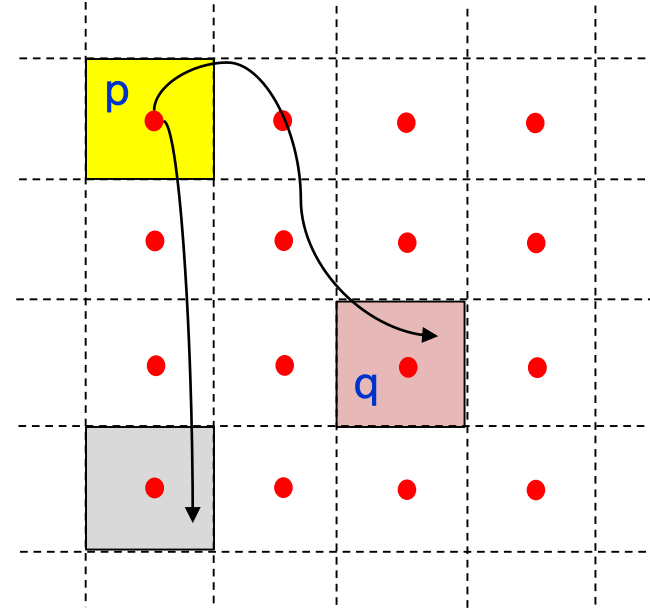
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No matching! Try another input!

# Integrated Algorithm

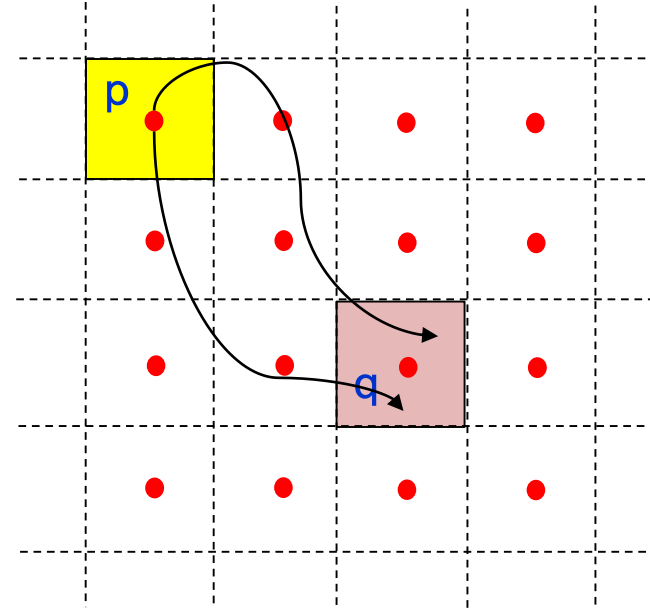
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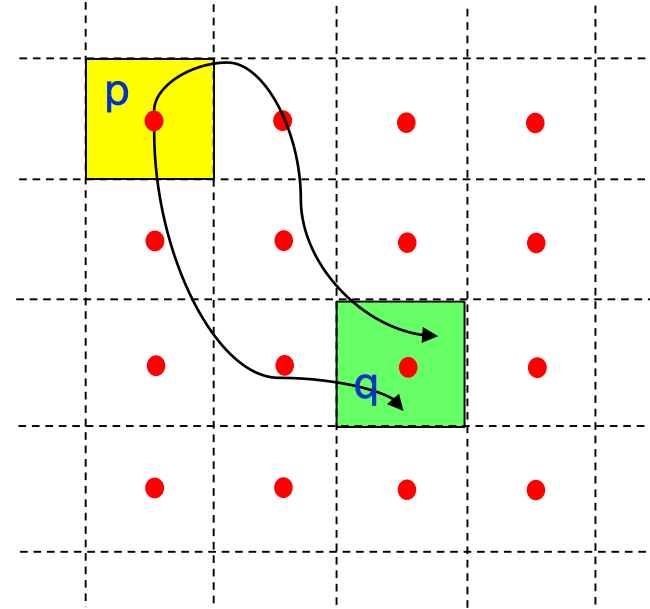
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Matching found!!

# Integrated Algorithm

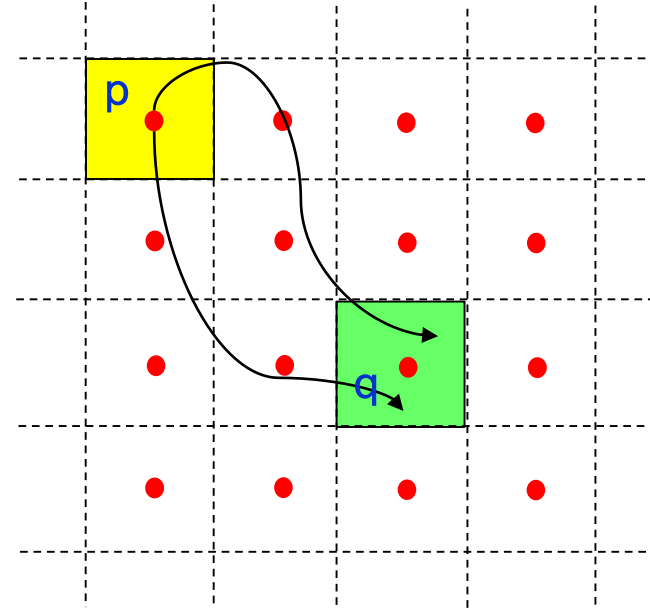
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Add the transition  $(p, u, q)$  to the controller.  
Replace  $p$  with  $q$  in the target space.



Matching found!!

# Integrated Algorithm

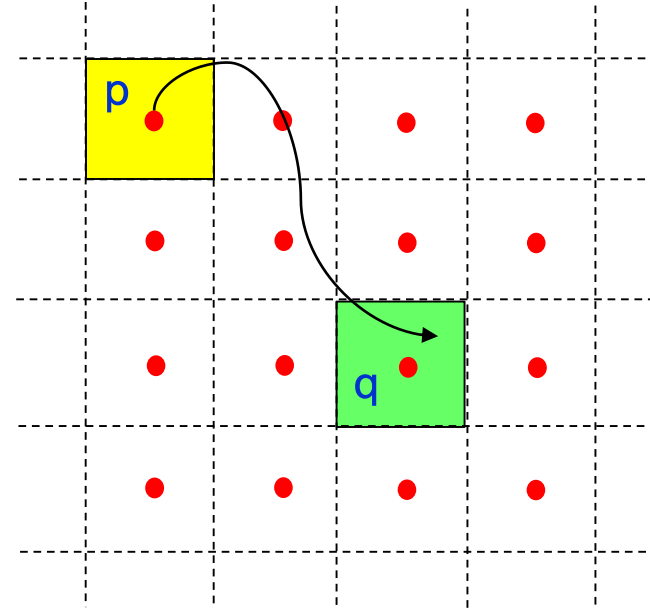
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Pick control inputs in  $[U]_{2\mu}$  and integrate the plant differential equation until  $q = [x(\tau, p, u)]_{2\eta}$  for some  $u$ .



Matching not found!!

If any “good” input does not exist, then  $p$  is **blocking!**

A backwards procedure is executed to eliminate  $p$  and all its ingoing transitions from the controller, until a controller is found which is alive.

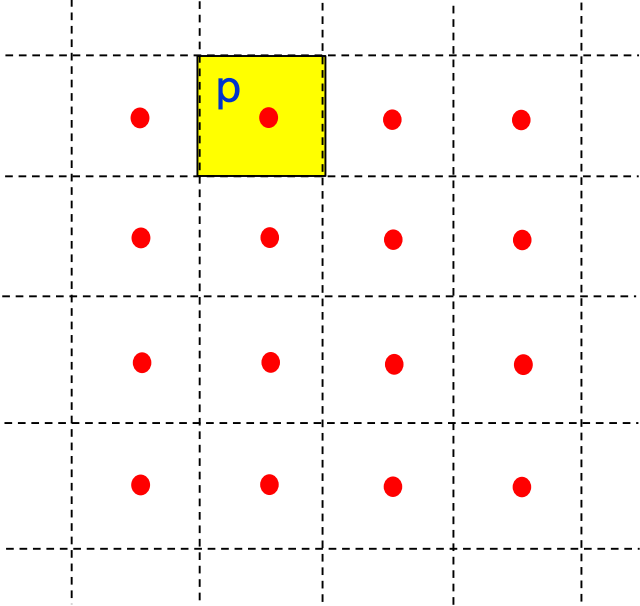
# Integrated Algorithm

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## Successive iterations:

Repeat the procedure for all the target states.

The algorithm terminates when there are no more target states to be visited.



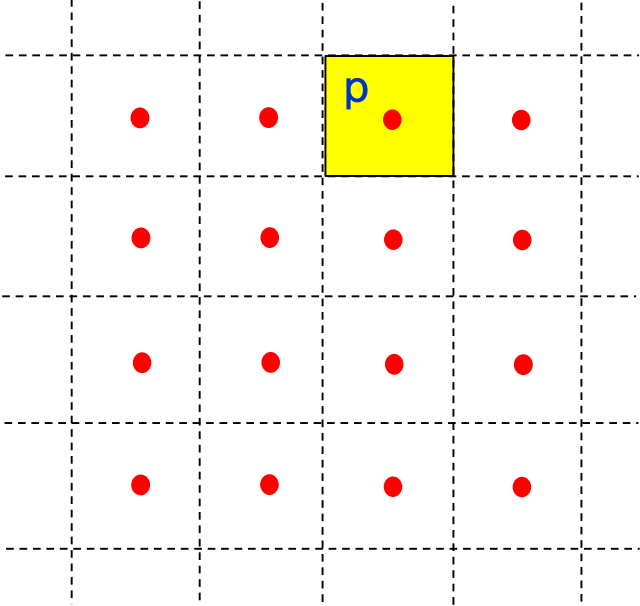
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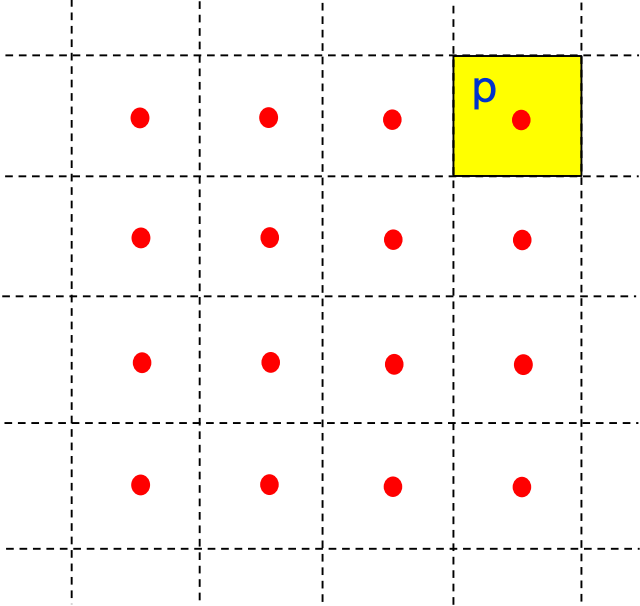
# Integrated Algorithm

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# Integrated Algorithm

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## Properties

Let  $C^{**}$  be the outcome of the integrated procedure:

1. The integrated algorithm terminates in a finite number of steps
2.  $C^{**}$  and  $\text{Alive}(C^*)$  are exactly bisimilar  $\Rightarrow C^{**}$  solves the control problem
3.  $C^{**}$  is the minimal 0-bisimilar system of  $\text{Alive}(C^*)$
4.  $C^{**}$  is accessible
5. space/time complexity of the integrated procedure is not larger than the one of the classical procedure



# Integrated symbolic control design

## Example

**Plant**

$$P : \begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = -4x_1 + x_2^2 - u \\ \dot{x}_2 = 2x_1 - 7 \sin x_2 \end{cases}$$

**Specification**

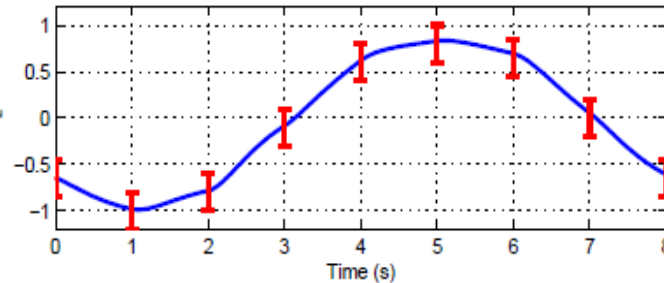
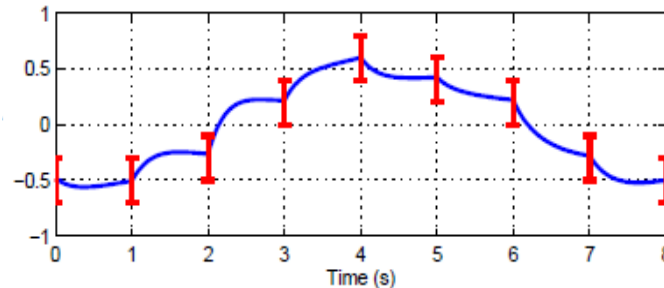
$(-0.5, -0.65) \longrightarrow (-0.5, -1) \longrightarrow$

$(-0.3, -0.8) \longrightarrow (0.2, -0.1) \longrightarrow x_2$

$(0.6, 0.6) \longrightarrow (0.4, 0.8) \longrightarrow$

$(0.2, 0.65) \longrightarrow (-0.3, 0) \longrightarrow$

$(-0.5, -0.65)$



**Accuracy  $\varepsilon = 0.2$**

Comparison between Alive(C*) and C**	Alive(C*)	C**	Gain
Max memory occupation (no. of transitions)	2,759,580	48	$5.7 \cdot 10^4$
Time (s)	5,442	13	$4.2 \cdot 10^2$