

# Linear Differential Inclusions for Computational Contraction Theory

*Contraction Workshop @ CDC 2024*

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# An LDI Perspective to Contraction Analysis (Part 1)

A linear differential inclusion (LDI) is of the form

$$\dot{x} \in \Omega x, \quad x(0) = x_0,$$

where  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is a set of matrices.

## Proposition 1 (Exponential Stability of LDIs [1])

If there exists  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $\mu(A) \leq c$  for every  $A \in \Omega$ , then

$$|x(t)| \leq e^{ct} |x(0)|$$

for any trajectory  $t \mapsto x(t)$  of the LDI.

# An LDI Perspective to Contraction Analysis (Part 2)

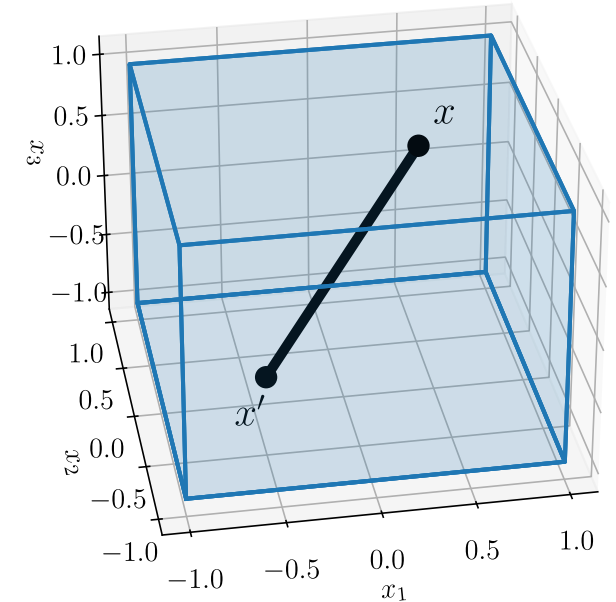
Consider some differentiable function  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ .

## Proposition 2 (Jacobian Linear Inclusion [2])

If  $\left\{ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x) : x \in \mathbb{R}^n \right\} \subseteq \mathcal{J}$ , then for any  $x, x' \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

$$f(x) - f(x') \in \overline{\text{co}}(\mathcal{J})(x - x').$$

*Intuition:* Apply mean value theorem to the line segment connecting  $x$  and  $x'$



# An LDI Perspective to Contraction Analysis (Part 3)

Consider  $\dot{x} = f(x)$  for  $C^1$  smooth  $f$ . Set  $\varepsilon = x - x'$ .

**Proposition 2:**  $\dot{\varepsilon} = f(x) - f(x') \in \overline{\text{co}}(\mathcal{J})(x - x') = \overline{\text{co}}(\mathcal{J})\varepsilon$

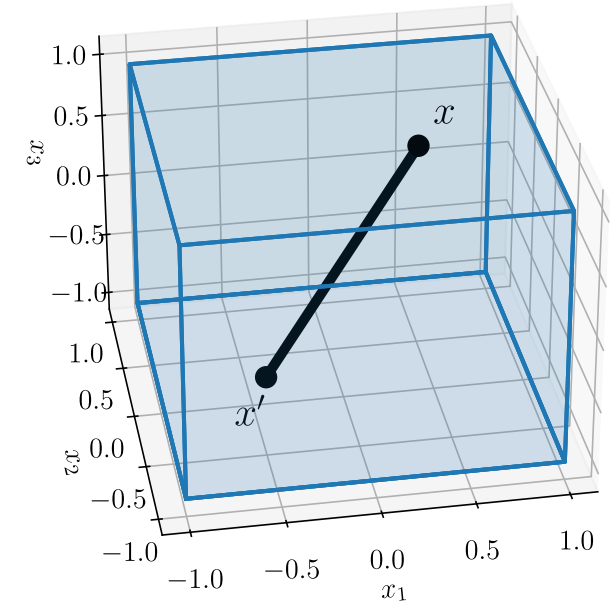
**Proposition 1 + Convexity:**  $\sup_{J \in \mathcal{J}} \mu(J) \leq c \implies |\varepsilon(t)| \leq e^{ct} |\varepsilon(0)|$

Result is the usual norm bound. For any two trajectories  $t \mapsto x(t), x'(t)$ ,

$$|x(t) - x'(t)| \leq e^{ct} |x(0) - x'(0)|$$

- [3], [4]: Fundamental Theorem + Coppel + Gronwall yields the result using subadditivity of  $\mu$ , integrating the line segment connecting  $x$  and  $x'$ :

$$f(x) - f(x') = \left( \int_0^1 Df(sx(t) + (1-s)x'(t)) ds \right) (x - x').$$



[3] Z. Aminzare and E. D. Sontag, "Contraction methods for nonlinear systems: A brief introduction and some open problems," *IEEE CDC*, 2014.

[4] A. Davydov, S. Jafarpour, and F. Bullo, "Non-euclidean contraction theory for robust nonlinear stability," *IEEE TAC*, 2022.

# Why is this Equivalent Viewpoint Useful?

Theoretical Infinitesimal Linearization (closed-form)  $\iff$  Computational Error LDI Analysis (set)

**Computational Advantage:** Automatic, parallelizable and differentiable constructions of overapproximating interval Jacobian sets using modern tools: automatic differentiation and interval analysis [5]

```
1 import immrax as irx
2 import jax.numpy as jnp
3
4 f = lambda x : jnp.array([x[0]**2, x[1]**3 + jnp.sin(x[0])]) # Dynamics
5 J = irx.jacM(f) # autodiff + interval analysis
6 print(J(irx.interval([-1., -1.], [1., 1.]))) # Interval Overapprox of Jacobian
```

Can apply any strategy from LDI analysis [2], including LMI-based control design.

Example: Stable feedback control design on error LDI  $\implies$  contracting feedback tracking control

[5] A. Harapanahalli, S. Jafarpour, and S. Coogan, “immrax: A parallelizable and differentiable toolbox for interval analysis and mixed monotone reachability in JAX,” *IFAC ADHS*, 2024

[2] S. Boyd, L. E. Ghaoui, E. Feron, and V. Balakrishnan, *Linear matrix inequalities in system and control theory*. SIAM, 1994.

# Mixed Jacobian LDI: Contraction to Known Trajectories [6]

In many applications, a nominal trajectory is fixed: reachable set computation, tracking control design, training, etc. An elementwise application of the mean value theorem obtains a different inclusion: potential improvement for fixed  $x'$ .

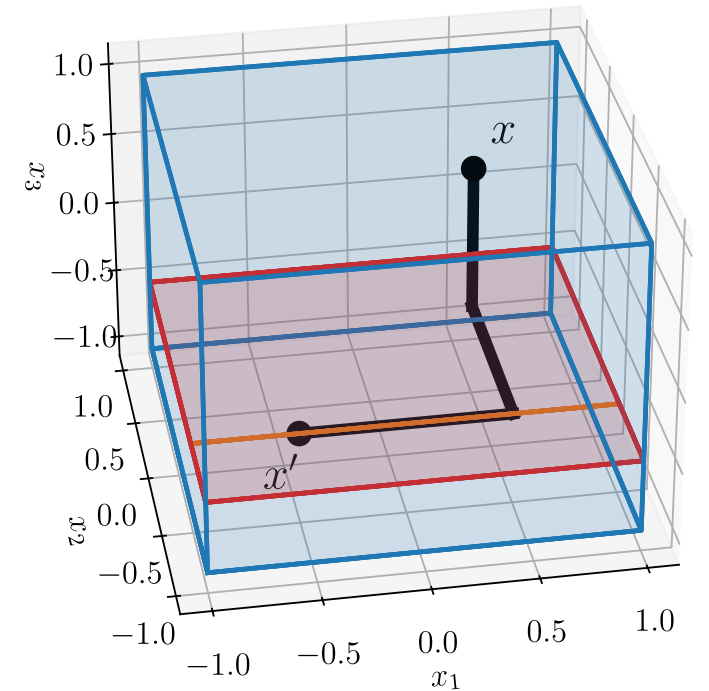
## Mixed Jacobian LDI

Fixing a point  $x' \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , an element-wise application of mean value yields

$$(M_{x'} f(x, s))_{ij} := \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j}(x_1, \dots, x_{j-1}, s_j x_j + (1 - s_j)x'_j, x'_{j+1}, \dots, x'_n)$$

$$M_{x'} f(\mathbb{R}^n, [0, 1]^n) \subseteq \mathcal{M} \implies f(x) - f(x') \in \overline{\text{co}}(\mathcal{M})(x - x'),$$

for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .



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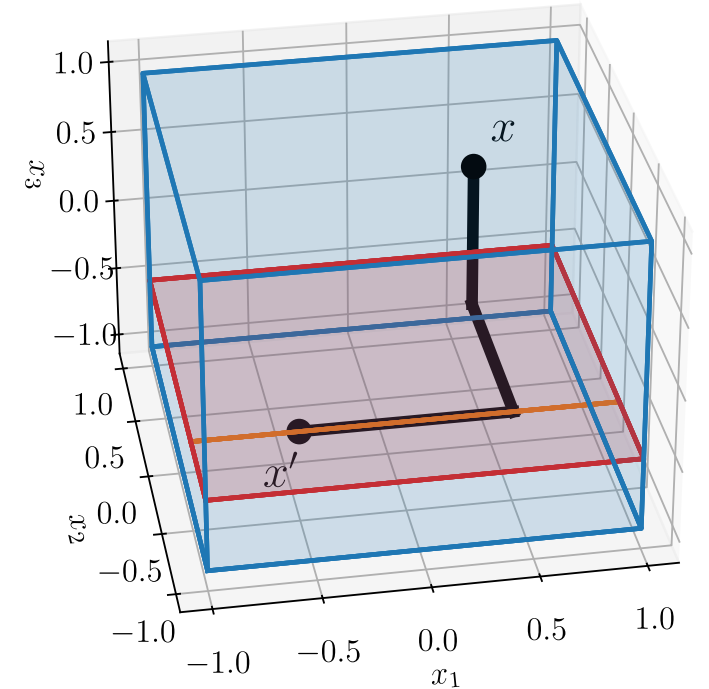
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**Proposition 1 + Convexity:**  $\sup_{M \in \mathcal{M}} \mu(M) \leq c \implies |\varepsilon(t)| \leq e^{ct} |\varepsilon(0)|$



# Application: Reachable Sets Using Matrix Measures

## Reachable Set Computation: [7]

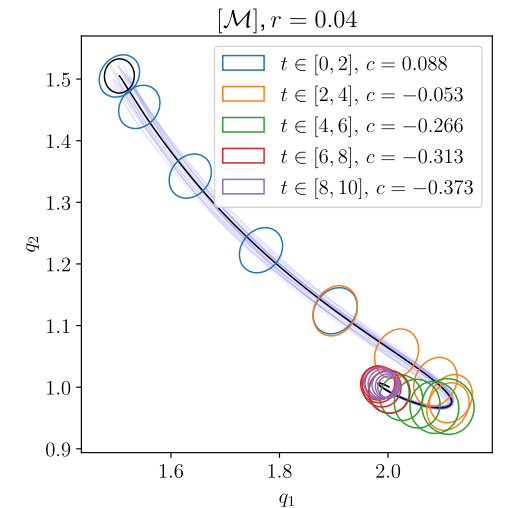
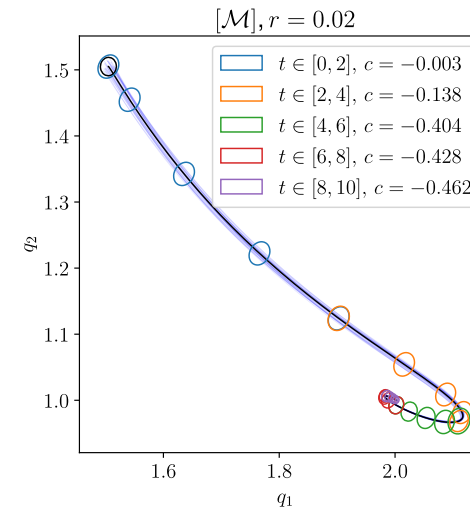
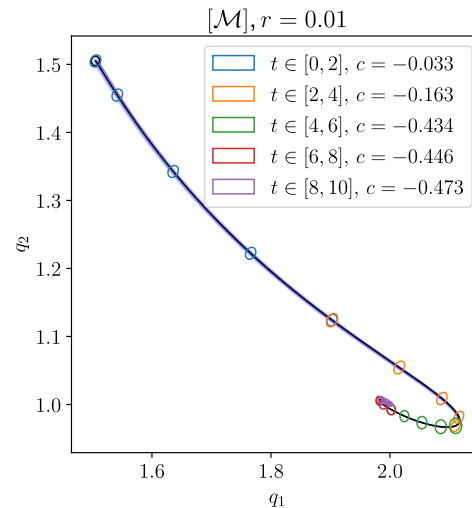
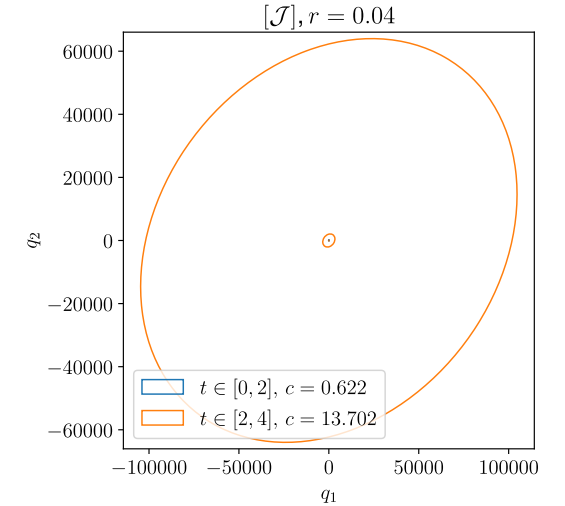
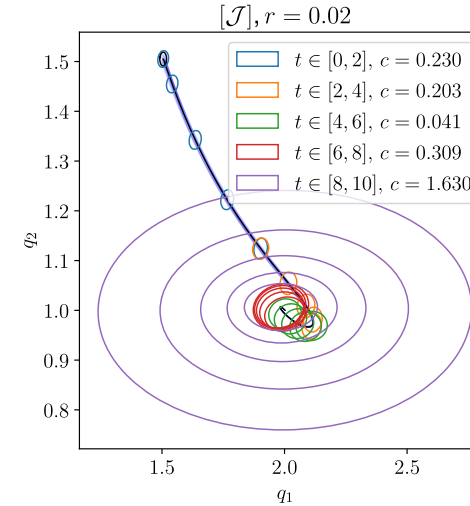
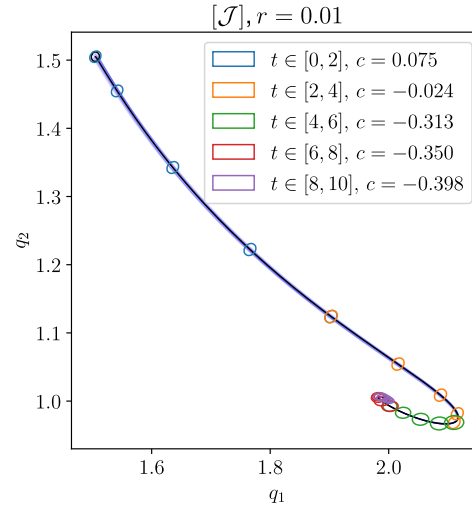
Simulate nominal  $t \mapsto x'$ , upper bound logarithmic norm around  $x'$ , bloat/shrink a norm ball.

## Interval Overapproximations: [8]

Use interval overapproximations of the Jacobian to overapproximate logarithmic norm.

**Automated:** `immrax` automatically computes interval  $[\mathcal{M}]$  matrices, SDP searches for  $\|\cdot\|_{2,P^{1/2}}$  norms.

**Novelty:** Compare directly to  $x'$ , not arbitrary trajectories. *Strict Improvement:*  $[\mathcal{M}] \subseteq [\mathcal{J}]$



4 state robot arm model, projection onto  $q_1$ - $q_2$  pictured

[7] J. Maidens and M. Arcak, "Reachability analysis of nonlinear systems using matrix measures," *IEEE TAC*, 2014.

[8] C. Fan, J. Kapinski, X. Jin, and S. Mitra, "Simulation-driven reachability using matrix measures," *ACM TECS*, vol. 17, no. 1, pp. 1–28, 2017.



# Conclusions

- An LDI encompassing the error dynamics recovers the norm-based matrix measure contraction bound
- When comparing to a known trajectory of the system, the mixed Jacobian LDI potentially provides better results compared to using the normal Jacobian set

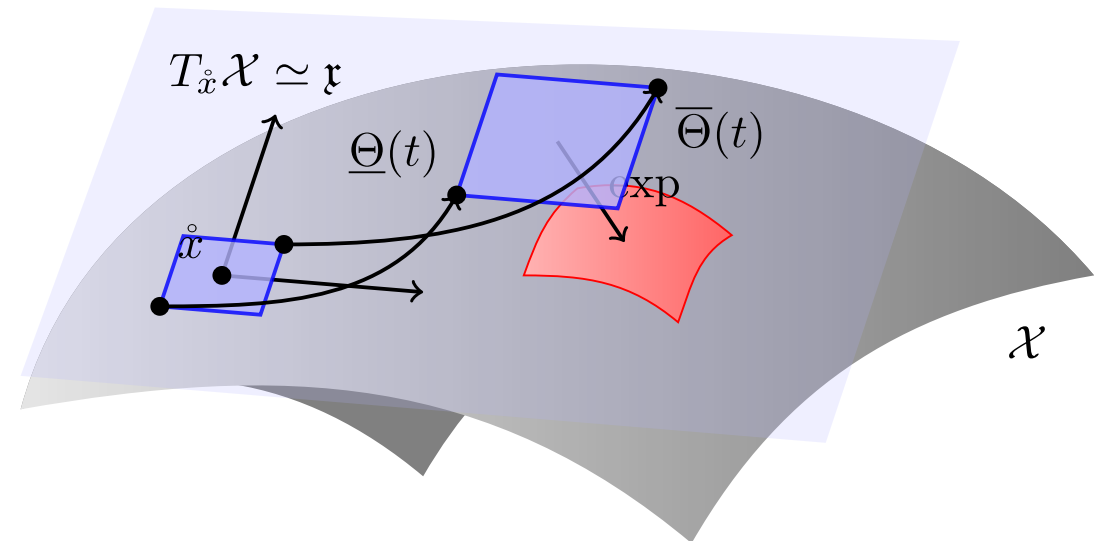
For all the details, please see the preprint



<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2411.11587>

Thank you for your attention!

Presenting “Efficient Reachable Sets on Lie Groups Using Lie Algebra Monotonicity and Tangent Intervals” tomorrow:  
**MoA20.2, 10:20 - 10:40, Suite 9**



# References

- [1] C. Desoer and M. Vidyasagar, *Feedback systems: Input-output properties*. Society for Industrial; Applied Mathematics, 1975.
- [2] S. Boyd, L. E. Ghaoui, E. Feron, and V. Balakrishnan, *Linear matrix inequalities in system and control theory*. SIAM, 1994.
- [3] Z. Aminzare and E. D. Sontag, "Contraction methods for nonlinear systems: A brief introduction and some open problems," in *53rd IEEE conference on decision and control*, IEEE, 2014, pp. 3835–3847.
- [4] A. Davydov, S. Jafarpour, and F. Bullo, "Non-euclidean contraction theory for robust nonlinear stability," *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, vol. 67, no. 12, pp. 6667–6681, 2022.
- [5] A. Harapanahalli, S. Jafarpour, and S. Coogan, "Immrax: A parallelizable and differentiable toolbox for interval analysis and mixed monotone reachability in JAX," *IFAC-PapersOnLine*, vol. 58, no. 11, pp. 75–80, 2024, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ifacol.2024.07.428>. Available: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2405896324005275>
- [6] A. Harapanahalli and S. Coogan, "A linear differential inclusion for contraction analysis to known trajectories." 2024. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2411.11587>
- [7] J. Maidens and M. Arcak, "Reachability analysis of nonlinear systems using matrix measures," *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, vol. 60, no. 1, pp. 265–270, 2014.
- [8] C. Fan, J. Kapinski, X. Jin, and S. Mitra, "Simulation-driven reachability using matrix measures," *ACM Transactions on Embedded Computing Systems (TECS)*, vol. 17, no. 1, pp. 1–28, 2017.