Optimal Detector Placement in Networked Control Systems under Cyber-attacks with Applications to Power Networks

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Swedish Research Council



Stiftelsen för Strategisk Forskning



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Several cyber incidents on Cyber-physical systems in the past





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Several cyber incidents on Cyber-physical systems in the past
DoS attack on the Ukrainian power grid in 2015.
Data injection attack on Kemuri water distribution company in 2016 ... and more.





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Several cyber incidents on Cyber-physical systems in the past DoS attack on the Ukrainian power grid in 2015.

- **2** Data injection attack on Kemuri water distribution company in 2016 ... and more.
- Lesson: Be proactive and protect the system.

July 2023



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# Problem description

### The main research question

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Conclusion and future work Given a networked control system (multi-agent system) under stealthy attacks, which detector should be monitored to minimize the risk on a given local performance.





## System Description

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$$m_i \ddot{p}_i(t) + h_i \dot{p}_i(t) = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_i} \ell_{ij} \Big( p_i(t) - p_j(t) \Big) + \tilde{u}_i(t),$$



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• Control input under attacks

$$\tilde{u}_i(t) = u_i(t) + \begin{cases} 0, & i \in \mathcal{V}_{-a}, \\ \boldsymbol{\zeta}(t), & i \equiv a \end{cases}$$

• Healthy  $u_i(t)$  is designed s.t.  $p_i(t), \ \dot{p}_i(t) \rightarrow 0$  (Lemma 1)



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Assumption: The entire network is at its equilibrium  $(p_e = 0, \ \dot{p}_e = 0)$  before being attacked.



• Network under cyber-attacks

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$$\begin{split} \dot{x}(t) &= Ax(t) + E_a \boldsymbol{\zeta}(t), \\ y_i(t) &= C_i x(t), \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{V}, \\ y_\rho(t) &= C_\rho x(t), \end{split}$$

• Local performance:  $\|y_{\rho}\|_{\mathcal{L}_2[0,T]}^2 = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T |y_{\rho}(t)|^2 dt$ 



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• At agent  $d \in \mathcal{V}_{-\rho}$  where  $(A, C_d)$  is detectable,

$$\dot{x}_d(t) = A\hat{x}_d(t) + K_d\eta_d(t), \quad \hat{x}_d(0) = 0, \\ \eta_d(t) = y_d(t) - C_d\hat{x}_d(t),$$



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$$\eta_{d}(t) = y_{d}(t) - C_{d}\hat{x}_{d}(t),$$

• The defender monitors  $\|\eta_d\|_{\mathcal{L}_2[0,T]}^2 = rac{1}{T}\int_0^T |\eta_d(t)|^2 \,\mathrm{d}t$ 



## **Resources and Strategies**

• Attacks detected if  $\|\eta_d\|^2_{\mathcal{L}_2[0,T]} > \delta^2$ 

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## **Resources and Strategies**

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### • System knowledge:

Location of performance  $\rho,$  the appearance of competitors, system parameters, and the detection mechanism

• Defense strategy: Select agent d and monitor  $\|\eta_d\|_{\mathcal{L}_2[0,T]}^2$ such that minimizing the disruption  $\|y_\rho\|_{\mathcal{L}_2[0,T]}^2$ 



## **Resources and Strategies**

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### • System knowledge:

Location of performance  $\rho,$  the appearance of competitors, system parameters, and the detection mechanism

- Defense strategy: Select agent d and monitor  $\|\eta_d\|_{\mathcal{L}_2[0,T]}^2$  such that minimizing the disruption  $\|y_\rho\|_{\mathcal{L}_2[0,T]}^2$
- Attack policy: Select agent a and design stealthy attack  $\zeta(t)$  such that
  - 1) be stealthy  $\|\eta_d\|_{\mathcal{L}_2[0,T]}^2 \leq \delta^2$ ; and
  - 2) maximize the disruption  $||y_{\rho}||^2_{\mathcal{L}_2[0,T]}$

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## Worst-case impact of stealthy attacks

• Given a protected performance  $\rho$ , the defender selects agent d and the adversary selects agent a

$$\gamma_{\rho}^{\star}(a,d) \triangleq \sup_{\substack{\zeta \in \mathcal{L}_{2e}, \text{ zero init. states}}} \|y_{\rho}\|_{\mathcal{L}_{2}[0,T]}^{2} \qquad (1)$$
  
s.t. 
$$\|\eta_{d}\|_{\mathcal{L}_{2}[0,T]}^{2} \leq \delta^{2}$$



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## Worst-case impact of stealthy attacks

• Given a protected performance  $\rho$ , the defender selects agent d and the adversary selects agent a

$$\begin{split} \gamma_{\rho}^{\star}(a,d) &\triangleq \sup_{\zeta \in \mathcal{L}_{2e}, \text{ zero init. states}} \|y_{\rho}\|_{\mathcal{L}_{2}[0,T]}^{2} \qquad (1) \\ & \text{s.t.} \qquad \|\eta_{d}\|_{\mathcal{L}_{2}[0,T]}^{2} \leq \delta^{2} \end{split}$$
  $\bullet \text{ If (1) is feasible, obtain finite } \gamma_{\rho}^{\star}(a,d) \text{ by solving} \\ & \gamma_{\rho}^{\star}(a,d) \triangleq \min_{\gamma_{\rho} \in \mathbb{R}_{+}, F = F^{\top} \geq 0} \qquad \gamma_{\rho} \\ & \text{ s.t.} \qquad R(\Sigma_{\text{closed-loop}}, F, \gamma_{\rho}) \leq 0, \end{split}$ 

Note:  $R(\Sigma_{\text{closed-loop}}, F, \gamma_{\rho})$  is an LMI.



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• Given a protected performance  $\rho$ , the defender selects agent d and the adversary selects agent a

 $\gamma_{\rho}^{\star}(a,d) \triangleq \sup_{\substack{\zeta \in \mathcal{L}_{2e}, \text{ zero init. states}}} \|y_{\rho}\|_{\mathcal{L}_{2}[0,T]}^{2}$ (1) s.t.  $\|\eta_{d}\|_{\mathcal{L}_{2}[0,T]}^{2} \leq \delta^{2}$ • If (1) is feasible, obtain finite  $\gamma_{\rho}^{\star}(a,d)$  by solving  $\gamma_{\rho}^{\star}(a,d) \triangleq \min_{\substack{\gamma_{\alpha} \in \mathbb{R}_{+}, F = F^{\top} \geq 0}} \gamma_{\rho}$ 

 $\begin{array}{c} \gamma_{\rho} \in \mathbb{R}_{+}, F = F^{+} \geq 0 \\ \text{s.t.} \qquad R\left(\Sigma_{\mathsf{closed-loop}}, F, \gamma_{\rho}\right) \leq 0, \end{array}$ 

Note:  $R(\Sigma_{\text{closed-loop}}, F, \gamma_{\rho})$  is an LMI. • If (1) is infeasible,  $\gamma_{\rho}^{\star}(a, d) \to \infty$ 



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# Worst-case impact of stealthy attacks

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 $\gamma_{\rho}^{\star}(a,d) \triangleq \sup_{\substack{\zeta \in \mathcal{L}_{2e}, \text{ zero init. states}}} \|y_{\rho}\|_{\mathcal{L}_{2}[0,T]}^{2}$ (1) s.t.  $\|\eta_{d}\|_{\mathcal{L}_{2}[0,T]}^{2} \leq \delta^{2}$ • If (1) is feasible, obtain finite  $\gamma_{\rho}^{\star}(a,d)$  by solving  $\gamma_{\rho}^{\star}(a,d) \triangleq \min_{\substack{\gamma_{\rho} \in \mathbb{R} + F = F^{\top} \geq 0}} \gamma_{\rho}$ 

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Note:  $R(\Sigma_{\text{closed-loop}}, F, \gamma_{\rho})$  is an LMI. • If (1) is infeasible,  $\gamma_{\rho}^{\star}(a, d) \to \infty$ 

**Problem**: The defender selects d such that  $\gamma^{\star}_{\rho}(a,d) < \infty$ 



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• Invariant zeros of system  $\bar{\Sigma} \triangleq (\bar{A},\bar{B},\bar{C},0)$ 

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$$\begin{bmatrix} \lambda I - \bar{A} & -\bar{B} \\ \bar{C} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \bar{x} \\ g \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \bar{x} \neq 0.$$
 (2)



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 (2)

$$\begin{split} \lambda &< \infty: \text{ finite invariant zero} \\ \lambda &= 1/s, \ s = 0: \text{ infinite invariant zero} \\ \text{Input of } \bar{\Sigma}: \ g e^{\lambda t}, \quad \text{output of } \bar{\Sigma} \to 0 \end{split}$$

• Systems  $\Sigma_{\rho} = \left(A_d, \bar{E}_a, \bar{C}_{\rho}, 0\right)$  and  $\Sigma_d = \left(A_d, \bar{E}_a, \bar{C}_d, 0\right)$ 

$$\gamma_{\rho}^{\star}(a,d) \triangleq \sup_{\substack{\zeta \in \mathcal{L}_{2e}, \text{ zero init. states}}} \|y_{\rho}\|_{\mathcal{L}_{2}}^{2}$$
s.t.
$$\|\eta_{d}\|_{\mathcal{L}_{2}}^{2} \leq \delta^{2}$$

•  $\lambda_d$  of  $\Sigma_d$  (Re[ $\lambda_d$ ] > 0) is also invariant zero of  $\Sigma_\rho$ if, and only if,  $\gamma^*_\rho(a, d) < \infty$ 



- Systems  $\Sigma_{\rho} = (A_d, \bar{E}_a, \bar{C}_{\rho}, 0)$  and  $\Sigma_d = (A_d, \bar{E}_a, \bar{C}_d, 0)$
- $\bullet$  Denote  $r_{(\rho,a)}$  and  $r_{(d,a)}$  as the relative degrees of  $\Sigma_{\rho}$  and  $\Sigma_{d}$
- Worst-case impact of stealthy attacks  $\gamma^{\star}_{
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## Main contributions

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## Worst-case impact analysis

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## Main contributions

• Finite invariant zeros  $\lambda_d$  of  $\Sigma_d < \infty$  (Re[ $\lambda_d$ ] > 0)

## Lemma 3 (choice of parameters)

Finite unstable invariant zeros  $\lambda_d$  of  $\Sigma_d$  can be excluded by proper local control parameters. Then,  $\gamma_{\rho}^{\star}(a,d) < \infty$ .



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• Infinite invariant zeros  $\lambda_d = 1/s$  where s = 0

## Theorem 3.1 (relative degree condition)

If  $r_{(d,a)} \leq r_{(\rho,a)}$ , then,  $\lambda_d$  is also infinite invariant zero of  $\Sigma_{\rho}$ , leading to  $\gamma_{\rho}^{\star}(a,d) < \infty$ .

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## **Optimal detector placement**

- Admissible detection agents for the defender fulfill
- i) the choice of parameters and
- ii) the relative degree condition.



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 $\bullet$  Assumption: Admissible detection set  ${\mathcal D}$  is not empty.



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# **Optimal detector placement**

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- i) the choice of parameters and
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- $\bullet$  Assumption: Admissible detection set  ${\mathcal D}$  is not empty.
- The defender and the adversary solve the zero-sum game

 $\max_{a \in \mathcal{V}_{-\rho}} \quad \min_{d \in \mathcal{D}} \quad \gamma^{\star}_{\rho}(a,d) < \infty. \text{ (pure Nash equilibrium)}$ 



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$$\max_{\mathfrak{q}(a)} \min_{\mathfrak{p}(d)} \sum_{a \in \mathcal{V}_{-\rho}} \sum_{d \in \mathcal{D}} \mathfrak{p}(d) \gamma_{\rho}^{\star}(a, d) \mathfrak{q}(a)$$

 $\text{s.t. } \sum_{a \in \mathcal{V}_{-\rho}} \mathfrak{q}(a) = 1, \quad \sum_{d \in \mathcal{D}} \mathfrak{p}(d) = 1, \text{ (mixed-strategy equilibrium)}$ 



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<ul> <li>Adversary:</li> </ul>		minima	al cost
[2.4494,	2.5561,	2.6185,	2.5585,
2.4198,	2.3087,	2.5199,	2.5257,
2.4695,	2.4673,	2.3705,	2.0717,
$2.2119] \rightarrow \max = 2.6185$			





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• Defender: maximal cost  $[4.7449, 4.3917] \rightarrow \min = 4.3917$ 

• Adversary: minimal cost [2.4494, 2.5561, 2.6185, 2.5585, 2.4198, 2.3087, 2.5199, 2.5257, 2.4695, 2.4673, 2.3705, 2.0717, 2.2119] → max = 2.6185

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 $\mathfrak{p}_6^{\star}=0.562,\,\mathfrak{p}_{13}^{\star}=0.438,\,\mathfrak{q}_{i\in\mathcal{V}\backslash\{6,\ 12,\ 13\}}^{\star}=0,\,\mathfrak{q}_6^{\star}=0.4878,\,\text{and}\,\,\mathfrak{q}_{13}^{\star}=0.5122$ 





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• How can the adversary launch stealthy attacks on the network?

(Next slide)  $\rightarrow$ 



# Numerical results (Cont.)



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### Conclusion

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- We study the problem of optimal detector placement in a networked control system under stealthy attacks
- The worst-case impact of stealthy attacks is intensively investigated
- Control design and sufficient (relative degree) condition are proposed
- Admissible strategies for the defender are characterized
- Optimal detector placement is solved by game-theoretic approach
- Applications to Power Network is illustrated



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### Future work

- Keep the performance agent secret
- Re-design detector parameters to minimize the risk

Thanks for your listening!!! Questions?

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