

Game Theoretic Analysis of Security and Sustainability

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NOTE: 1) Some slides might be messy as I used animation in the ppt slides.

2) You can read the accompanying paper for more details: http://www.ntu.edu.sg/home/boan/papers/IJCAI17_Spotlight.pdf



Agent Mediated Intelligence Research Group

Game Theory for Security in the Field



Security Games

- Security allocation: (i) Target weights; (ii) Opponent reaction
- Stackelberg game: Security forces commit first
- Strong Stackelberg Equilibrium
- Our contributions:
 - ❑ *Algorithms for solving large scale games*
 - ❑ *Learning adversary behavior*
 - ❑ *Applications in the real world*

Defender



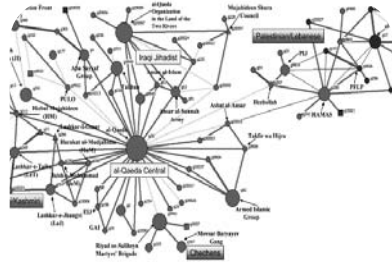
Attacker

	Attacker Action #1	Attacker Action #2		
Defender Action #1	7, -3	-6, 2		
Defender Action #2	-3, 4	4, -6		
.....				
.....				

Analyzing Complex Security Games



Dynamic Payoff



Network Games



Protection Externality



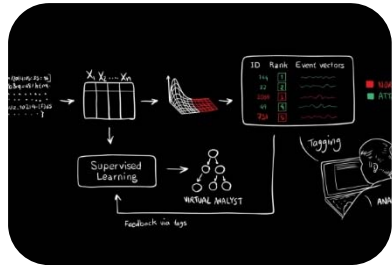
Uncertainty



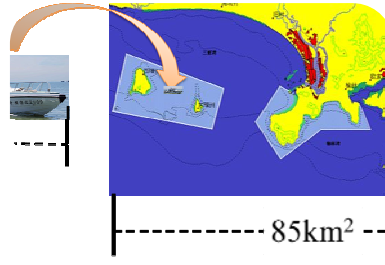
Strategic Deception



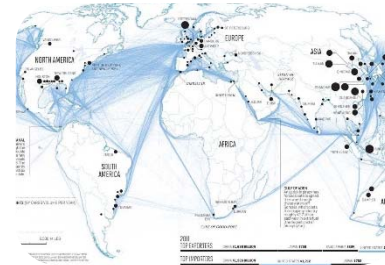
Cyber Security



Adversarial Machine Learning



Coral Reef



Nuclear Smuggling



Elections

- Combining techniques from AI, Game Theory, Operations Research ...
- Marry theory with practice
- Approaches can be applied to other domains
 - ❑ *With proper tuning & extension*

SGs with Dynamic Payoffs [AAAI'14]

➤ Target value changes over time

- *Utility of attacking a target decreases with # of protecting resources*

➤ Idea: Dynamic

- *Transfer resource*
- *A resource in*

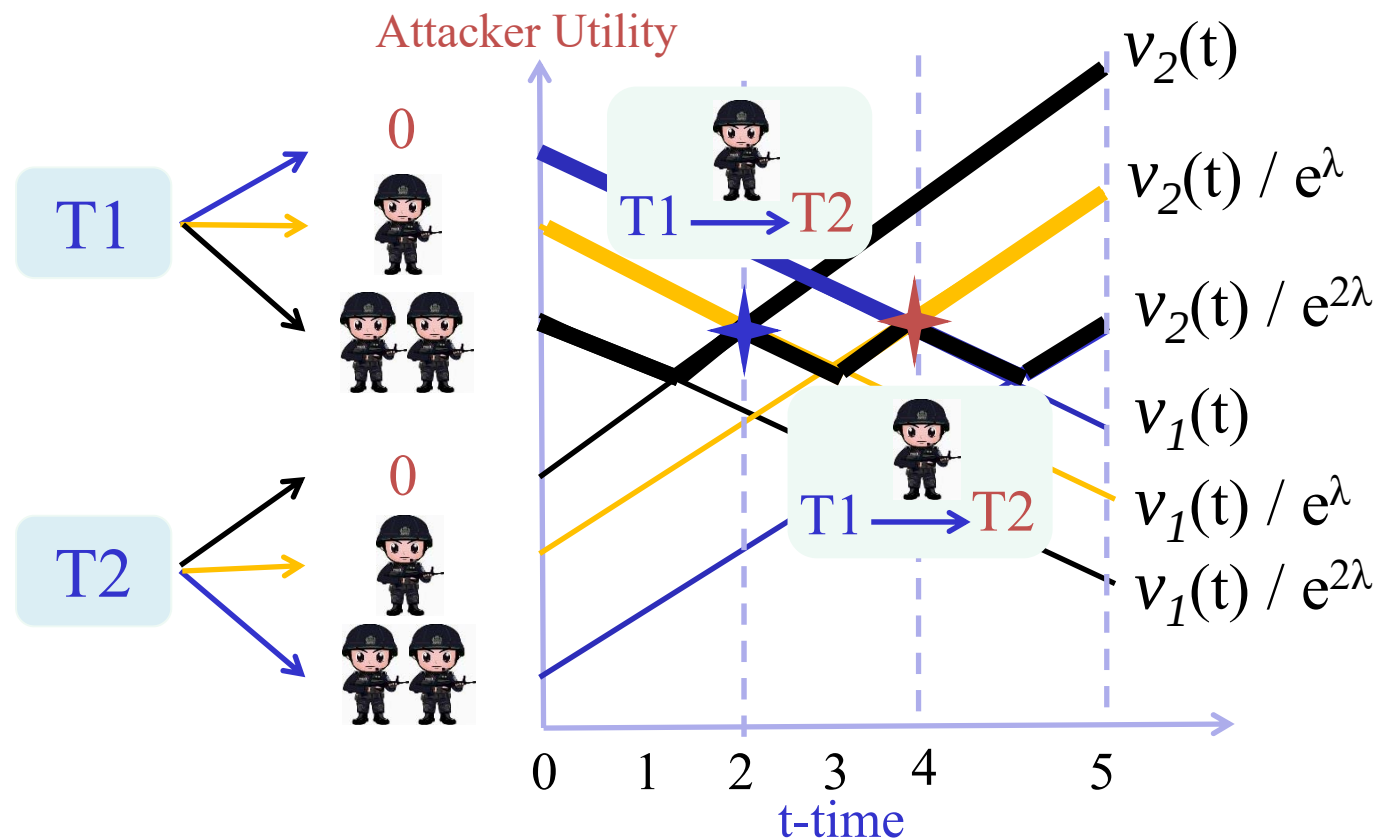


Boston Marathon Bombings



SCOUT-A: Negligible Transfer Time

- Context: Resources can be transferred quickly
- Find the minimax assignment of resources at each time point
 - ❑ *Infeasible to find the minimax assignment at each time point since time is continuous*
- ‘Minimax assignment’ does not change continuously

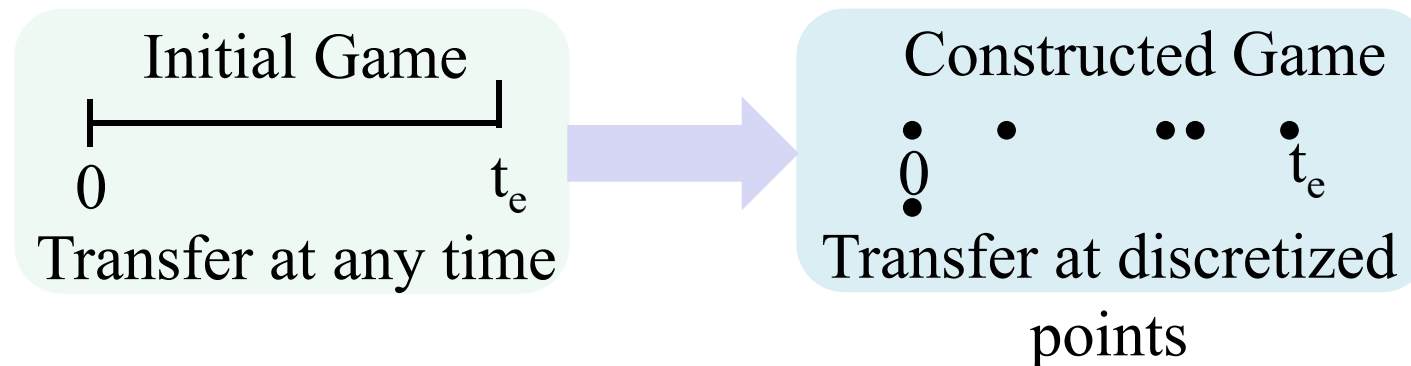


SCOUT-A computes the time point at which a minimax assignment ‘expires’, then finds the ‘next’ minimax assignment.

SCOUT-C: Nonzero Transfer Time

Theorem:

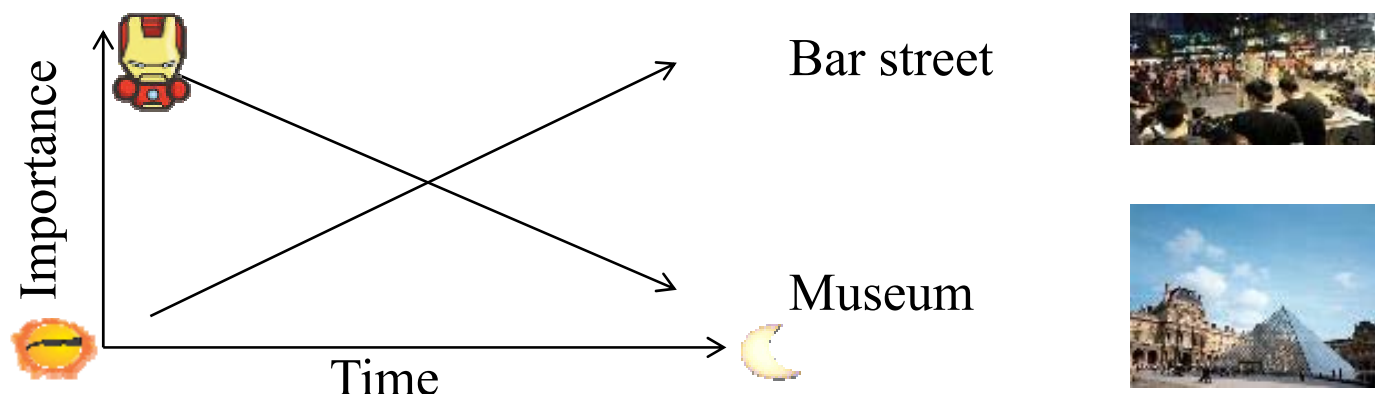
For any game with *continuous* defender strategy space, we can construct an equivalent game with *discrete* defender strategy space.



The equilibrium of the constructed game is also an equilibrium of the initial game.

Mixed Strategy EQ for Dynamic Payoff Games [IJCAI'15]

- Dynamic Payoffs: Targets' importance changes



- Mixed strategy
 - ❑ *Distribution over pure strategies (Infinite & Continuous support set)*
- Mixed strategy ➡ Compact representation
 - ❑ *Coverage functions $c_i(t)$: Probability of protecting target i at time t*

Pure strategy 1 (0.5)	Target 1: 6:00 – 12:00 Target 2: 12:00 – 18:00
Pure strategy 2 (0.5)	Target 1: 6:00 – 10:00 Target 2: 10:00 – 18:00

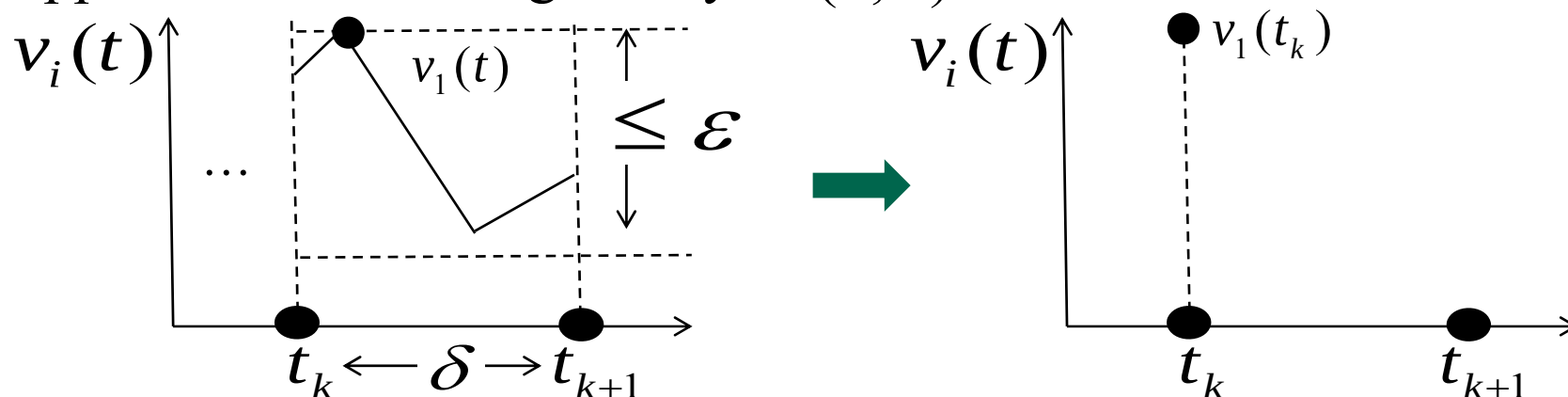
$$\rightarrow c_1(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & t \in [6:00, 10:00) \\ 0.5, & t \in [10:00, 12:00) \\ 0, & t \in [12:00, 18:00] \end{cases}$$

Theorem:

Coverage functions can be implemented by sampling pure strategies with finite transfers

ADEN: Nonzero Transfer Time

- A resource may be in transfer at time t
- Approach: Discretize game by an (ε, δ) –Mesh

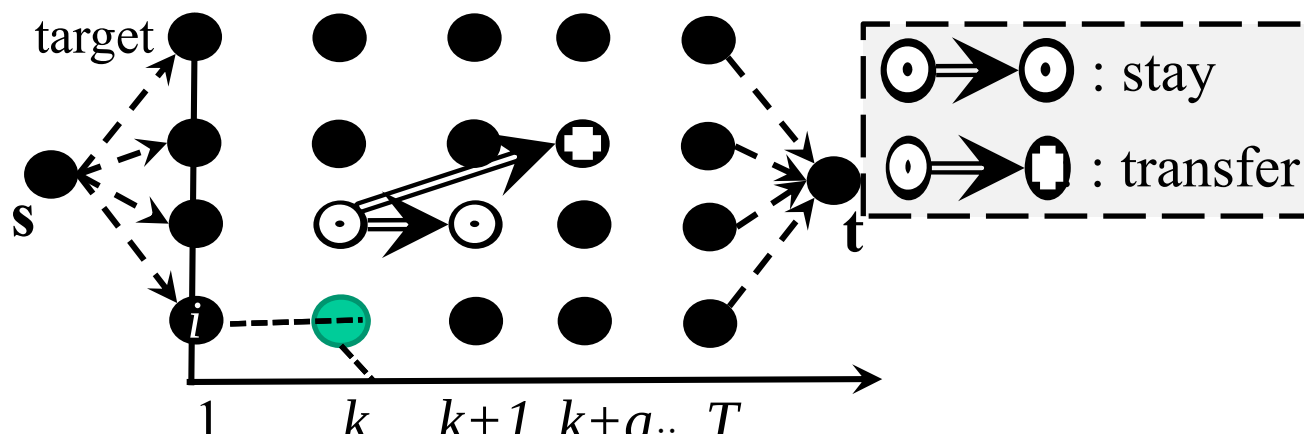


Theorem: Discretizing game by (ε, δ) –Mesh leads to a loss of at most ε

Weight of point (k, i)



Value of target i at time t_k
in the bridge game $v'_i(t_k)$



Theorem: A mixed strategy $\longleftrightarrow$ An m -unit fractional flow

Complexity: $O(\frac{t_c}{\delta} n^2)$ (FPTAS for Lipschitz continuous value functions)

Network Games: Detecting Terrorist Plots [AAAI'16a]

➤ Paris Shootings on January 7, 2015

- ❑ Two Kouachi brothers stormed into the Paris office of Charlie Hebdo and gunned down 12 people
- ❑ A few hours later, Amedy Coulibaly killed a policewoman in Montrouge and four hostages at a kosher supermarket in east Paris
- ❑ A coordinated plot planned by al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)

➤ Monitoring potential terrorists!

➤ Terrorist planners (e.g., ISIS):

- ❑ Arouse a connected subgroup terrorist network
- ❑ Conduct surveillance

➤ Security agencies (e.g., DGSE)

- ❑ Decide how to allocate limited security resources to monitor the terrorists



Chérif Kouachi



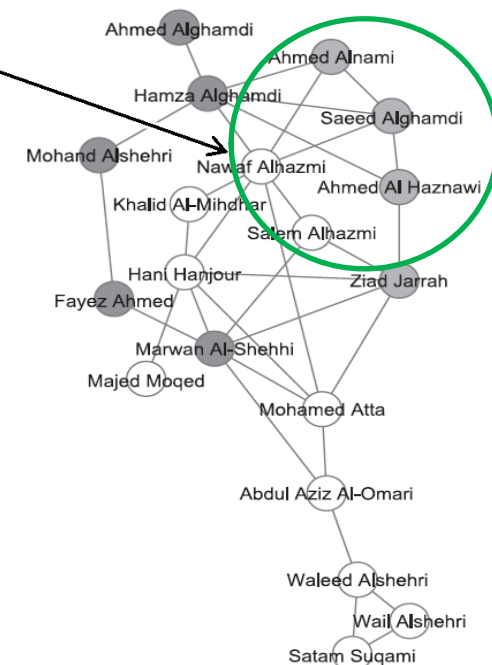
Saïd Kouachi



Charlie Hebdo



Amedy Coulibaly



Computing Optimal Monitoring Strategy

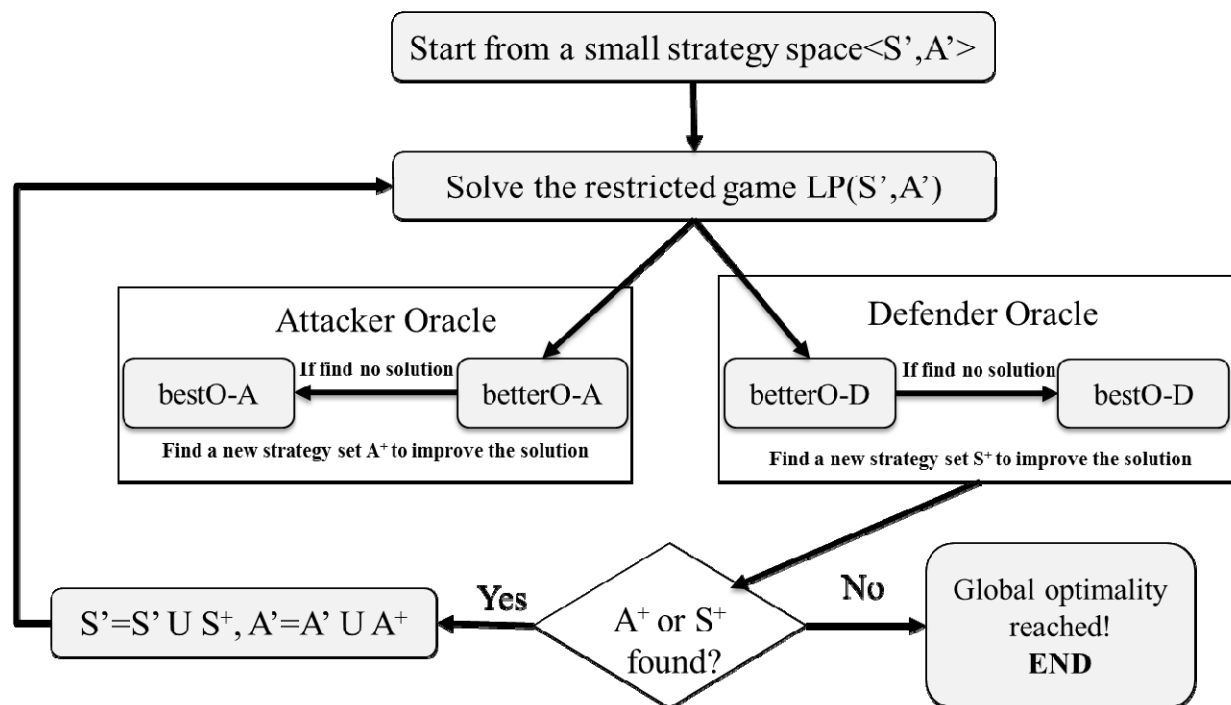
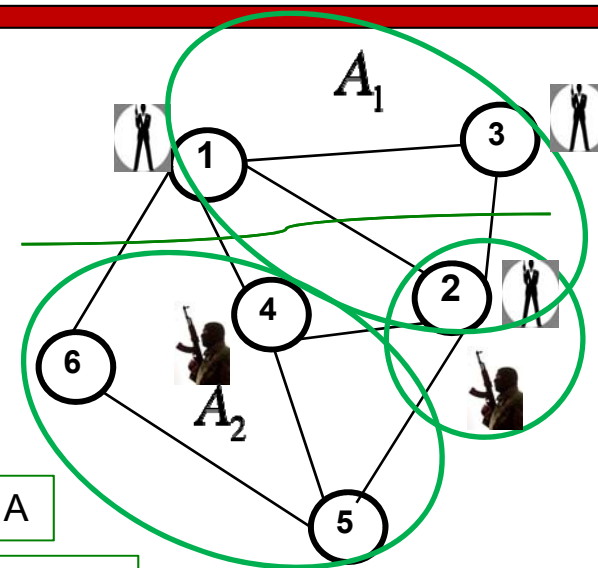
➤ Utility function:

- ❑ If overlap, defender wins: $U_a = U_d = 0$
- ❑ If not, attacker succeeds: $U_a = P(A_{a2}), U_d = -P(A_{a2})$
- ❑ Attacker utility of choosing subgraph A :

$$P(A) = \sum_{v \in A} (\tau_v + \delta \sum_{u \in N_A v} \tau_u)$$

neighborhood of v in subgraph A

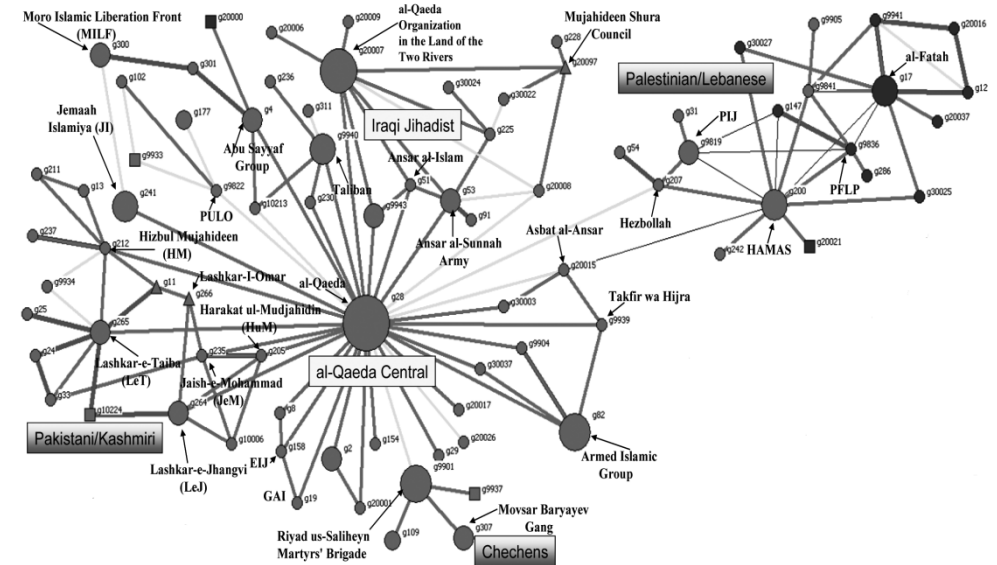
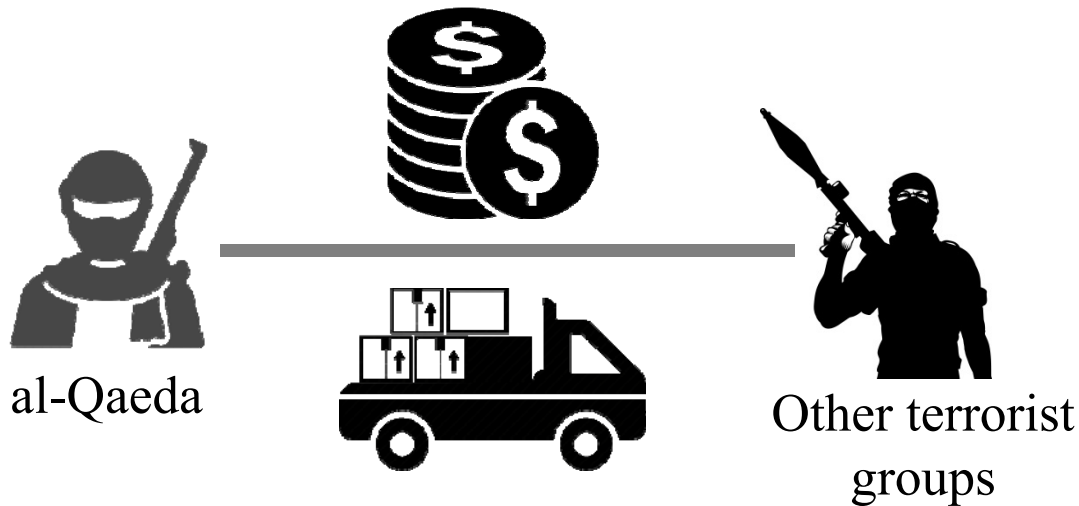
the extent of positive network externality



Theorems:

- BestO-D/bestO-A is NP-hard;
- BetterO-A/betterO-D guarantees a $(1-1/e)$ -approximation ratio

Network Games: Coalitional Security Games [AAMAS'16]



“The **interconnected** nature of terrorist organizations necessitates that we pursue them across the geographic spectrum to ensure that all **linkages** between the strong and the weak organizations are **broken**, leaving each of them **isolated**, **exposed**, and **vulnerable** to defeat.”

-CIA

National Strategy for Combating Terrorism

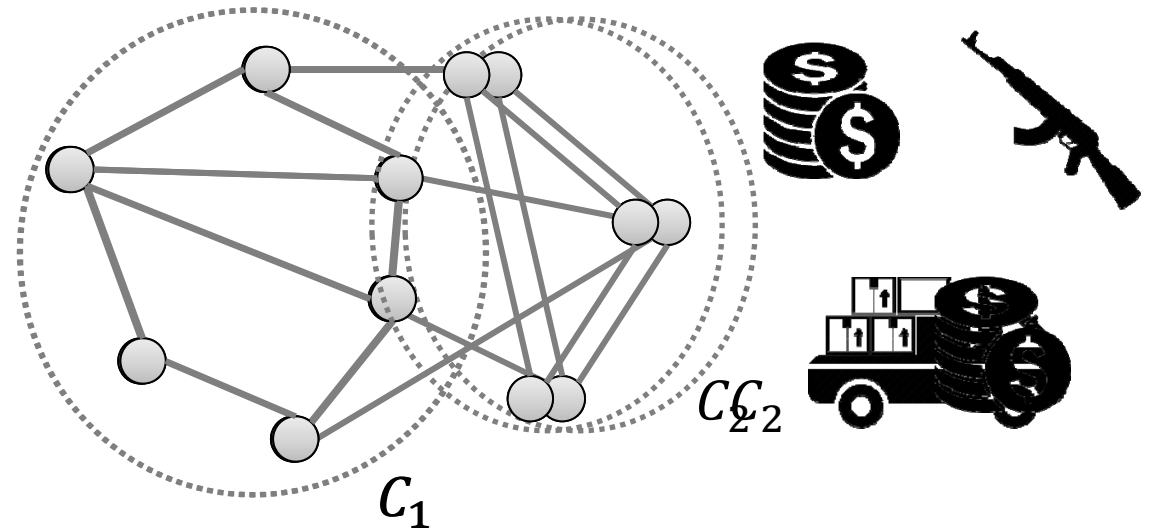
CSG: Strategies, Utility and Equilibrium

➤ Strategies

- ❑ *Defender*: blocking a set of edges
- ❑ *Attacker*: playing coalitional game and forming a coalitional structure

➤ Utility

- ❑ *Coalition value*: capability of attacking targets (knapsack problem)



blocking costs: 10



Value: 10



$$v(C_1) = 20$$

$$v(C_2) = 10$$

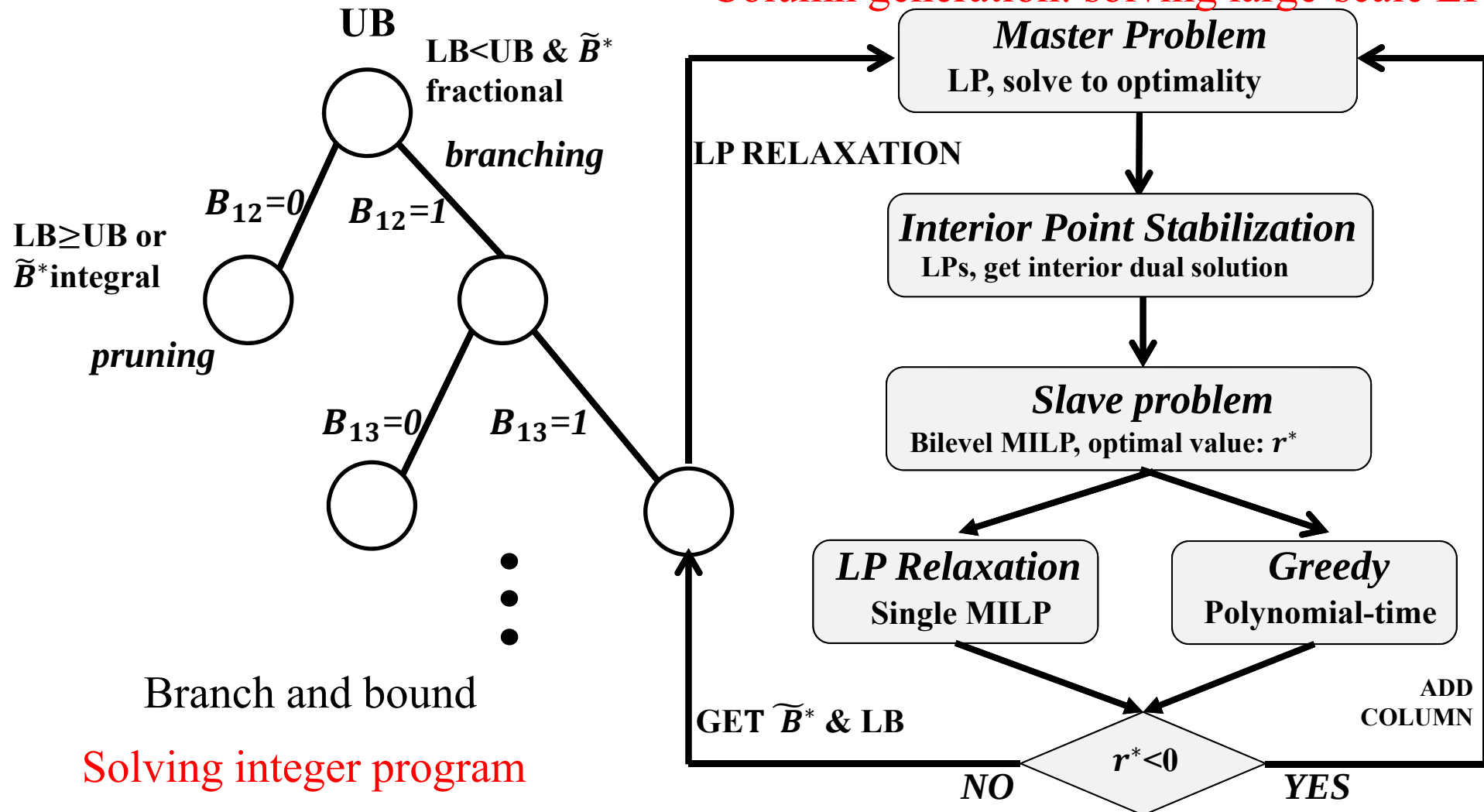


Value: 20



CSG: Branch and Price Algorithm

Column generation: solving large-scale LP

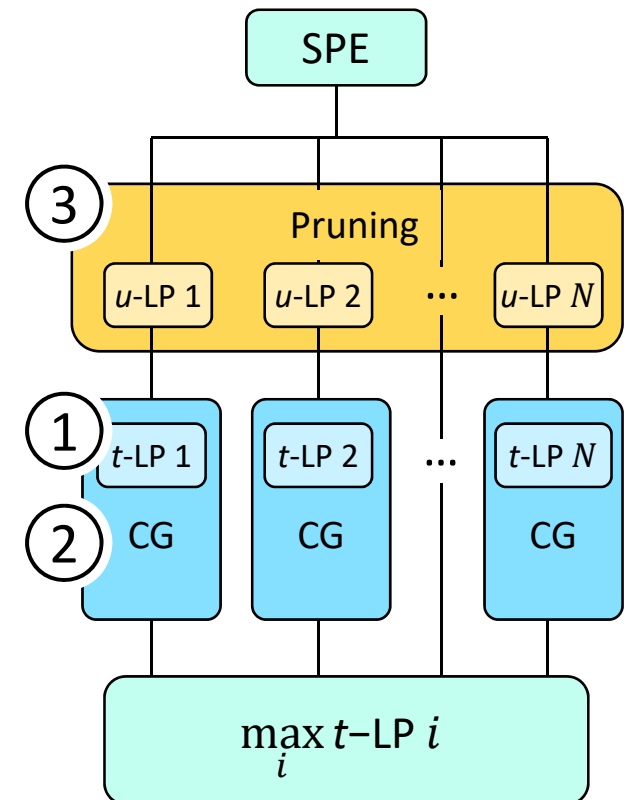
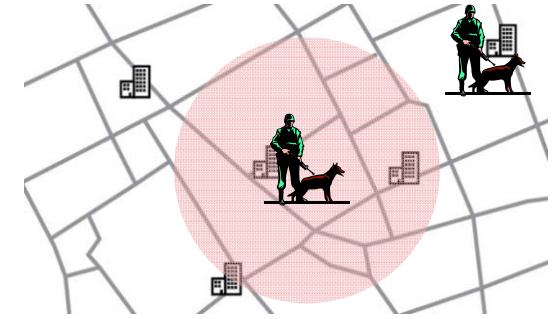


Theorems:

- CSG problem is MAX SNP-hard
- The algorithm achieves constant factor approximation

Security Games with Protection Externalities [AAAI'15]

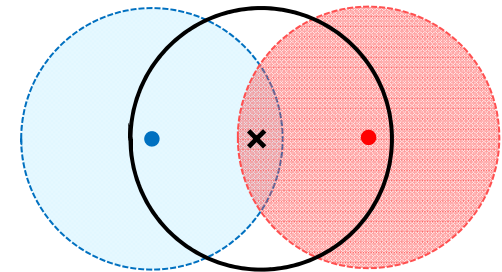
- **Protection Externalities (PE)**
 - ❑ One resource protects multiple targets simultaneously
 - ❑ Many real-world scenarios: ferry ship...
- **NP-hard** to compute the equilibrium
 - ❑ Reduction from Set Cover
- A **Column Generation** based solution algorithm:
 - ① N target-defined LPs (t -LP)
 - ② Column Generation for t -LP
 - ❑ An MILP formulation for the slave procedure
 - ❑ A constant-factor greedy approach to speed up
 - ③ An upper bound LP for pruning (u -LP)



SPE on a Plane [AAAI'17a]

➤ A more realistic setting

- ❑ A planar topology
- ❑ Resource allocation in a continuous space (not restricted to targets)



➤ Easier? Harder?

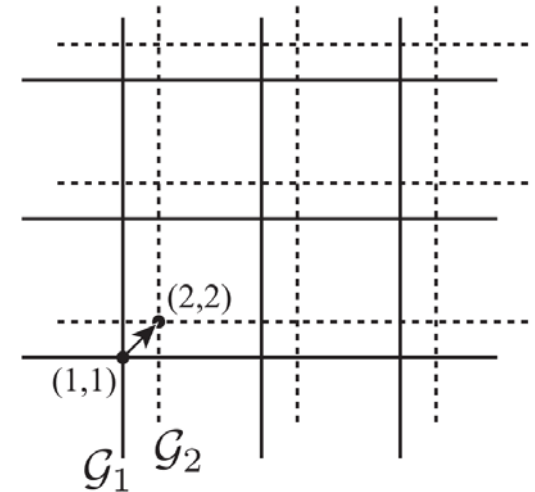
- ❑ NP-hard ☹️

Reduction from *Euclidian Disc Cover*: if n given points on a plane can be covered by m identical disks.

- ❑ Inapproximable: no PTAS unless $P=NP$ ☹️
- ❑ Approximable for zero-sum games: a PTAS 😊

A PTAS based on Grid Shifting

- Divide the plane with a grid $\mathcal{G}_1$
- Shift $\mathcal{G}_1$ to obtain grids $\mathcal{G}_2, \dots, \mathcal{G}_l$
- A new pure strategy space $\tilde{S}$ in which each pure strategy fits into one grid (not overlapping grid lines)
- Compute $\tilde{x}^*$, the optimal defender strategy under $\tilde{S}$
- (Polynomial time computable: ellipsoid method + Dynamic programming for the separation oracle)
- $U(\tilde{x}^*)$ is a $\left(1 - \frac{2}{l}\right)$ -approximation to the optimal solution under the original strategy space



None zero-sum games

- Inapproximable in general but solutions with guaranteed quality can be obtained efficiently if:
 - ❑ The game is quasi-zero-sum (as is in most real scenarios)
 - ❑ Solutions are restricted to robust ones

Network Flow Interdiction Games [IJCAI'16]

➤ Drug Smuggling

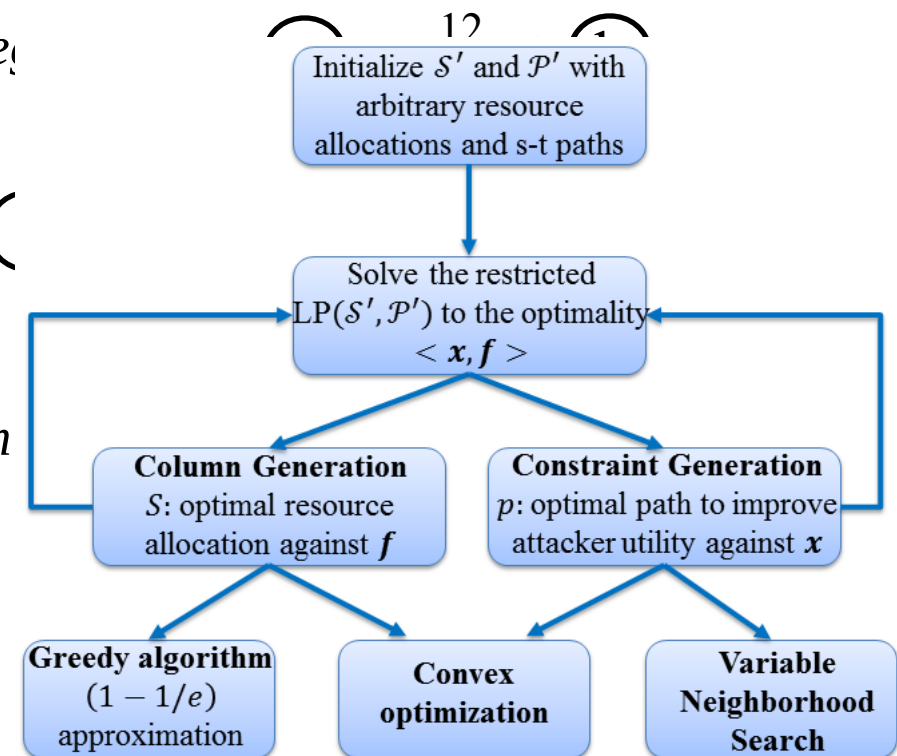
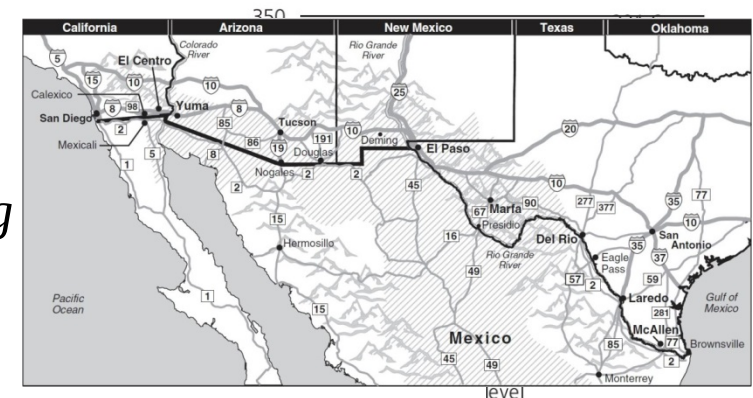
- ❑ *Illegal drug trafficking is a world wide issue*
- ❑ *Checkpoints are operated to prevent drug trafficking*

➤ Challenges

- ❑ *Attacker strategy is a flow*
- ❑ *No compact representation of attacker strategy*
- ❑ *Double oracle cannot be applied*

➤ Solutions

- ❑ *Network flow interdiction game model*
- ❑ *Column and constraint generation algorithm*



Repeated Network Interdiction Problems [IJCAI'17a]

➤ Limitation of Existing Models

- ❑ Human adversaries are not fully rational
- ❑ Defender has few prior knowledge of adversary
- ❑ Interactions between agents are frequent

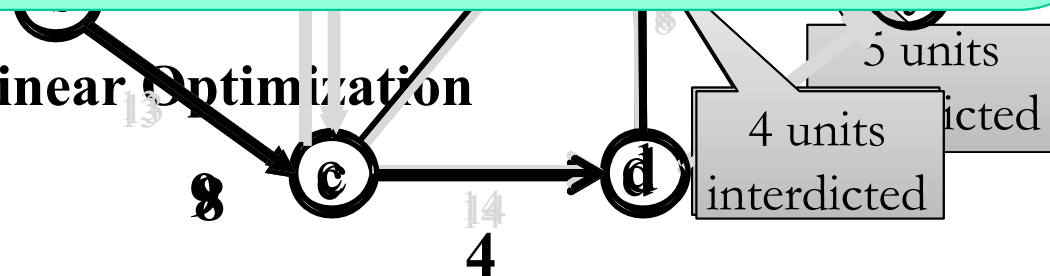
➤ Repeated Network Interdiction Game

➤ Online Learning Framework

Objective: designing an *online* policy to minimize the defender's *regret*:

$$R_T = \max_{S \in \mathcal{S}} \sum_{t=1}^T U_d(S, f^t) - \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=1}^T U_d(S^t, f^t) \right]$$

➤ Transformation to Online Linear Optimization



SBGA

➤ Exploration

- ❑ Unbiased estimator

➤ Exploitation

- ❑ Follow the perturbed leader (FPL)

➤ Theoretical Guarantees

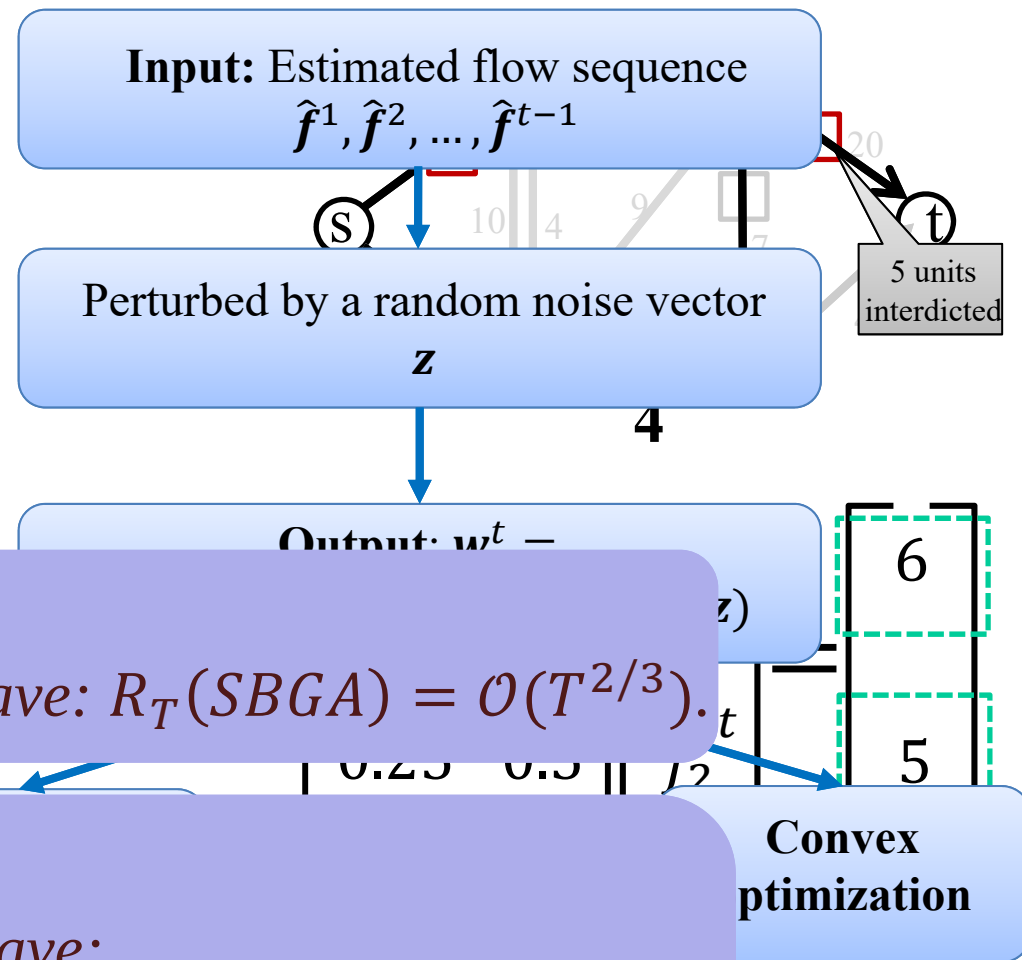
Theorem:

With proper learning parameters, we have: $R_T(\text{SBGA}) = \mathcal{O}(T^{2/3})$.

Theorem:

With proper learning parameters, we have:

$\delta \cdot \text{OPT} - \text{Reward}(\text{SBGA}) \leq \mathcal{O}(T^{\frac{2}{3}})$, where OPT is the utility of the optimal adaptive defender policy and δ is a constant depending on the interdiction probabilities.



Strategic Secrecy in Security Games [IJCAI'17b]

- **Dilemma of Plainclothes**
 - ❑ *How to explain the frequency use of plainclothes in practice?*
- **Strategic Secrecy vs. Commitment**
- **Perfect Bayesian Equilibrium (PBE)**
- **Computing PBE**
- **PBE vs SSE**

Donald Trump used **plainclothes** guards in New Orleans to control protesters, website reports

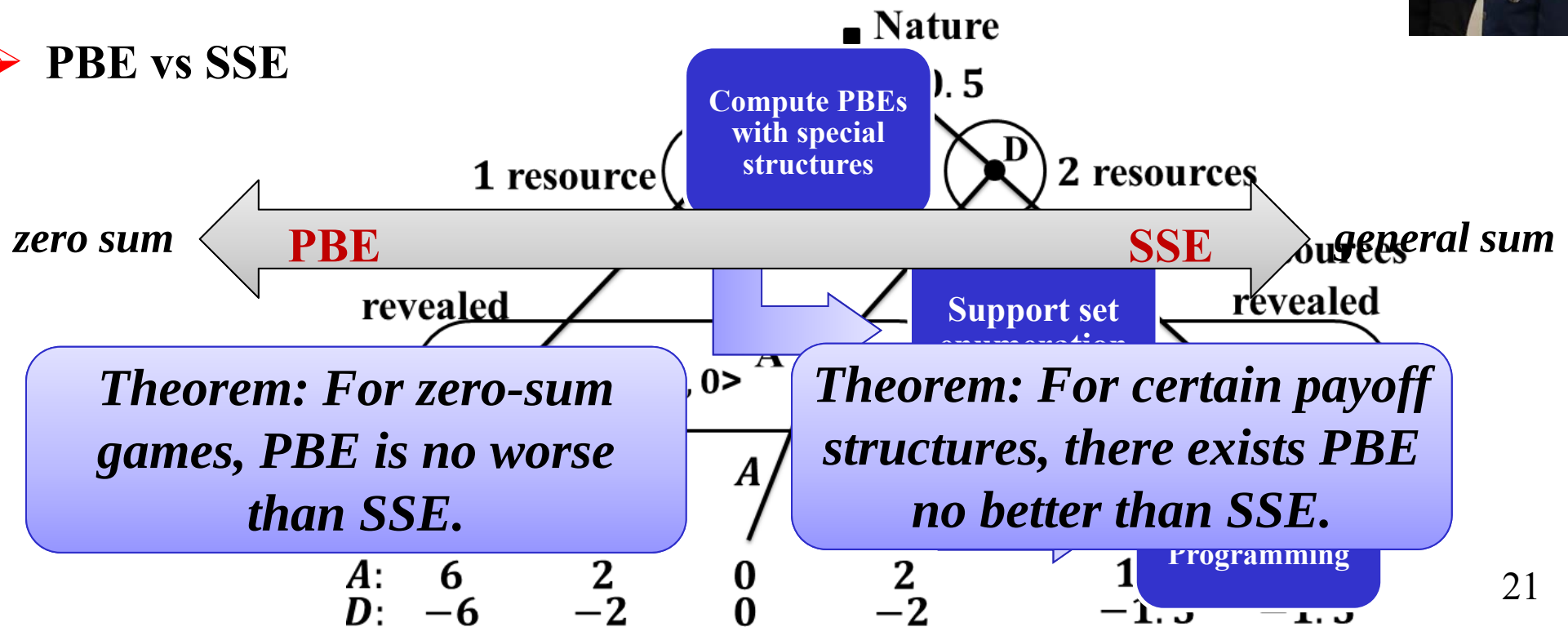
ABC News reported that uniformed and **plainclothes** officers will be present, radiation detectors, checkpoints, barricades, and aerial surveillance from Customs and Border Protection will be deployed. In short, D.C. is about to become a fortress.



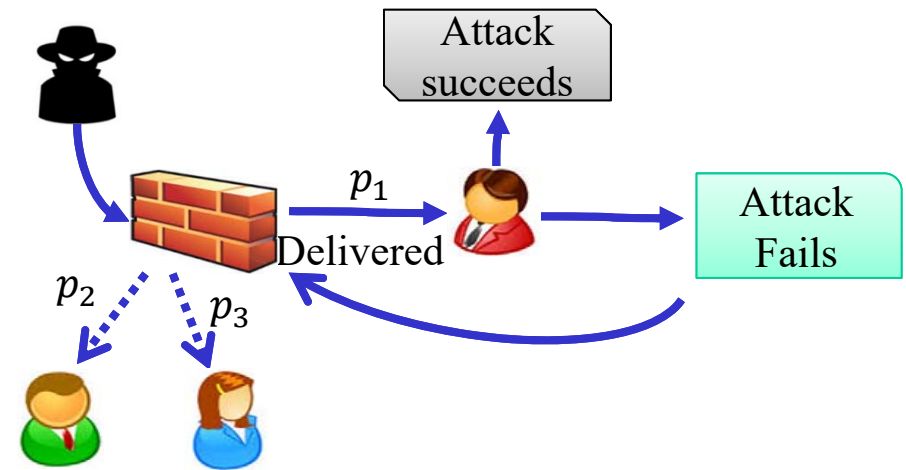
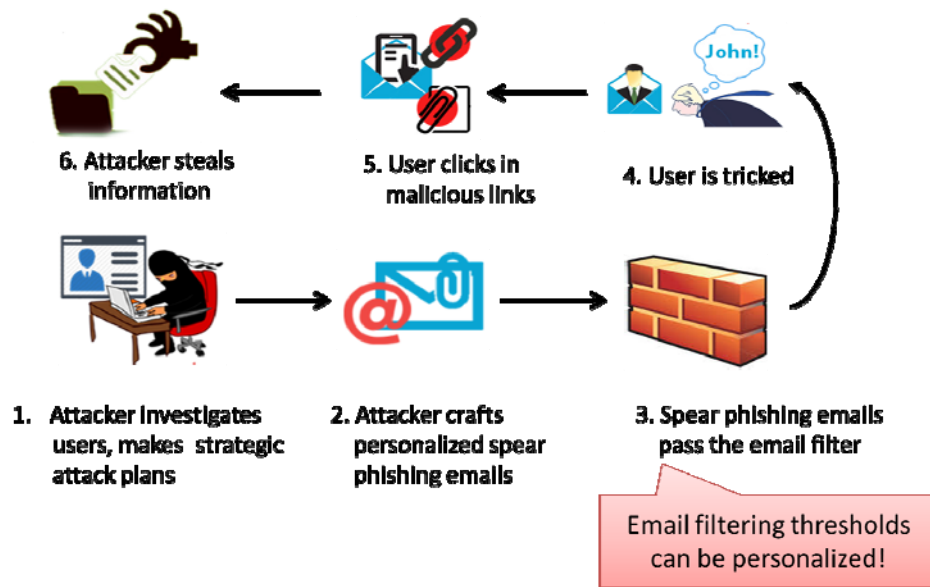
Nash, simultaneous move

transparent, defender's private information is revealed

Stackelberg, leader's advantage



Cyber Security: Spear Phishing Attacks [AAAI'16b]

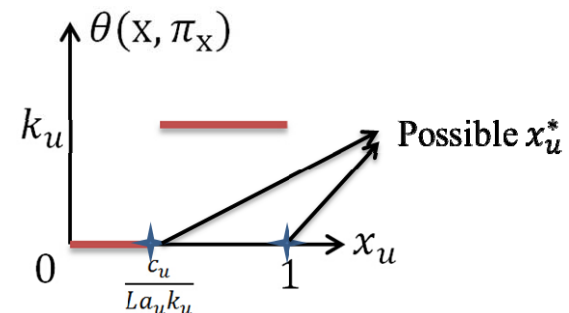
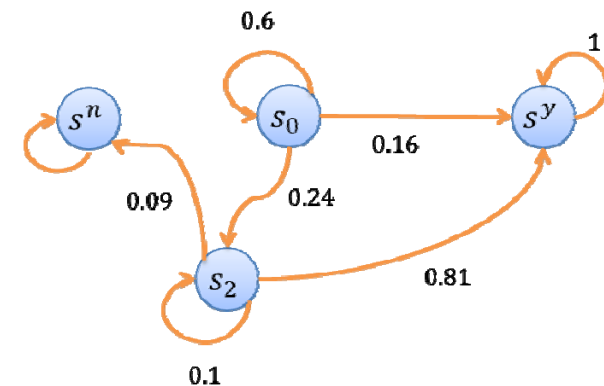


➤ Sequential Attack

- ❑ Attack targeted users sequentially in order to save attack cost
- ❑ Stop attacking when the credential is accessed

➤ Methods and Algorithms

- ❑ Attacker's problem: MDP
- ❑ Defender's problem: Optimally control the transitions of the attacker's MDP

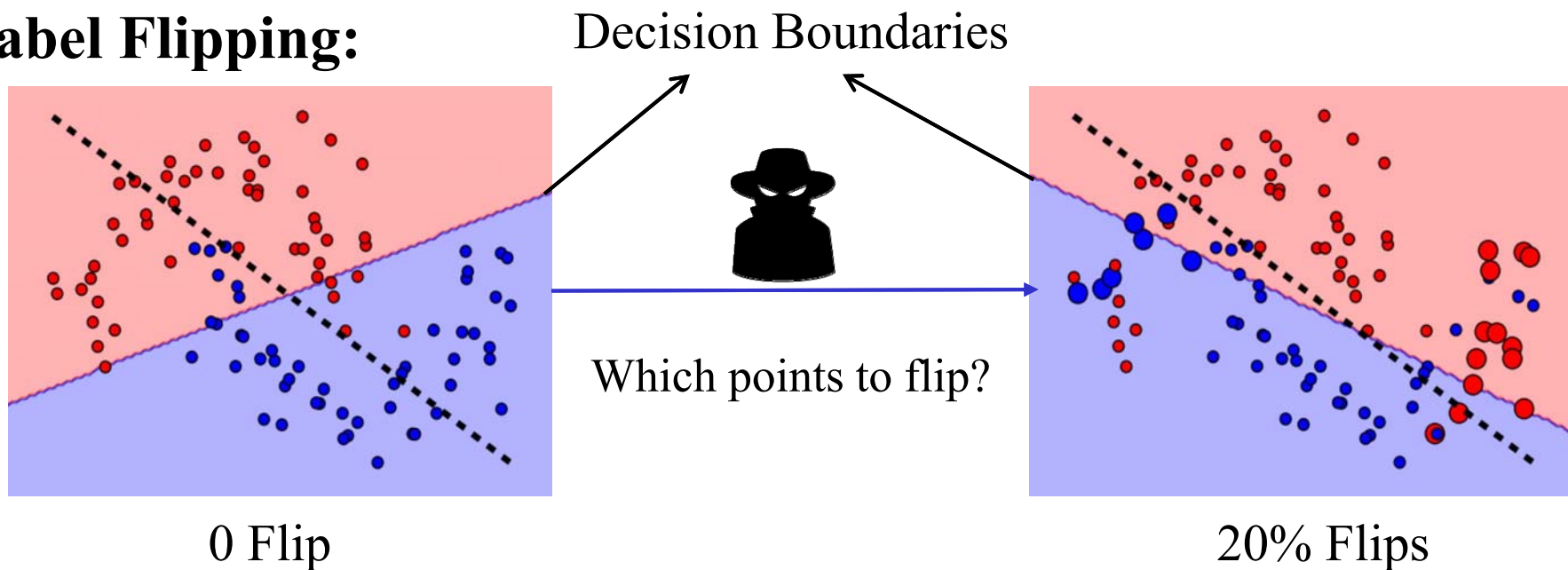


Label Contamination Attack [IJCAI'17c]

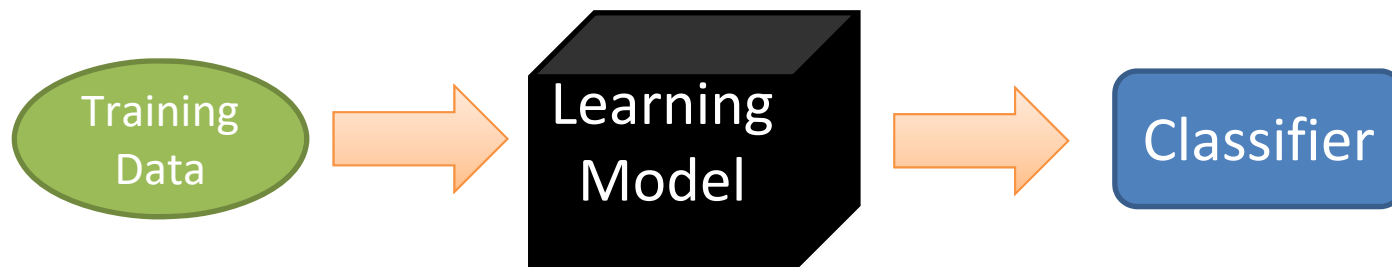
Motivating Domains:



Label Flipping:



Black-Box Learning Model:



Optimal Attack and Potential Defense

Formulation: Bilevel integer program (NP-hard)

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\mathbf{z}} \quad & \frac{\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{w}^*}{\|\mathbf{w}\| \|\mathbf{w}^*\|} && \text{Distance between learner and attacker's model} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & f \in \arg \min_{g \in \mathcal{H}} C \sum_{i=1}^n L(y'_i, g(\mathbf{x}_i)) + \frac{1}{2} \|g\|^2 && \text{Learning: empirical risk minimization} \\ & \sum_{i=1}^n z_i \leq B \\ & y'_i = y_i(1 - 2z_i), \forall i \in [n] \\ & z_i \in \{0, 1\}, \forall i \in [n] && \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Budget constraints} \end{array} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

Approach: Projected gradient ascent

- Relax z_i to interval $[0, 1]$
- Update: $\mathbf{z}^t \leftarrow \text{Proj}(\mathbf{z}^{t-1} + \eta \nabla_{\mathbf{z}^{t-1}} U)$
- Obtain near-optimal attacks

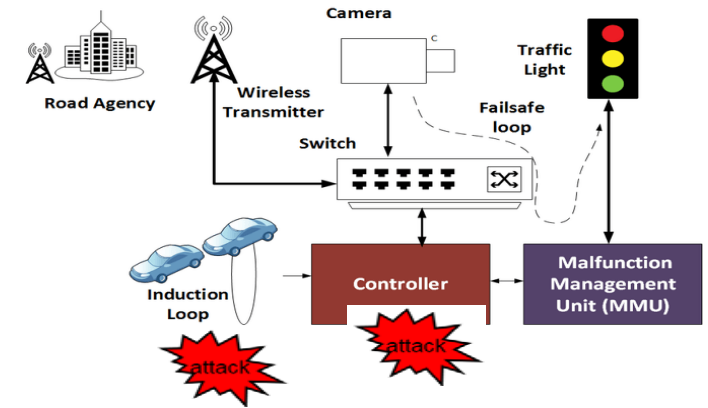
Use substitute models to compute candidate attacks

Cyber Security for Smart Traffic Control

➤ Cyber Attacks

- ❑ E.g., hack the sensors and send fake data to the controller, remotely hack into the controller and take control.
- ❑ Example from Hollywood movies (e.g., The Italian Job)
- ❑ *Real-world example*

❖ Israeli students attacked Waze APP with fake traffic jam in 2014

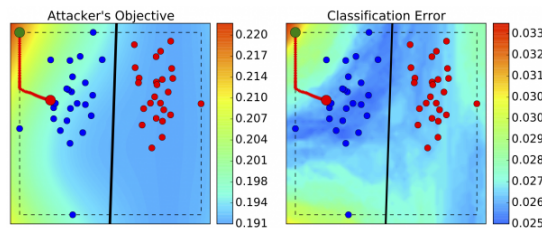
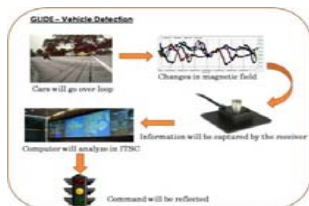


➤ STRICT: Secure TRaffic ConTrol

- ❑ Identification, defence
- ❑ Complex system, heterogeneous interaction, dynamic

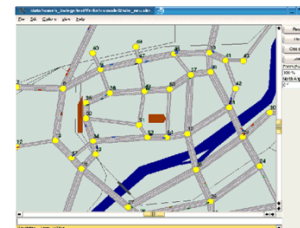
A game theoretic defense mechanism against data poisoning attacks

- Attacker can poison sensor data
- A verification based online defense mechanism



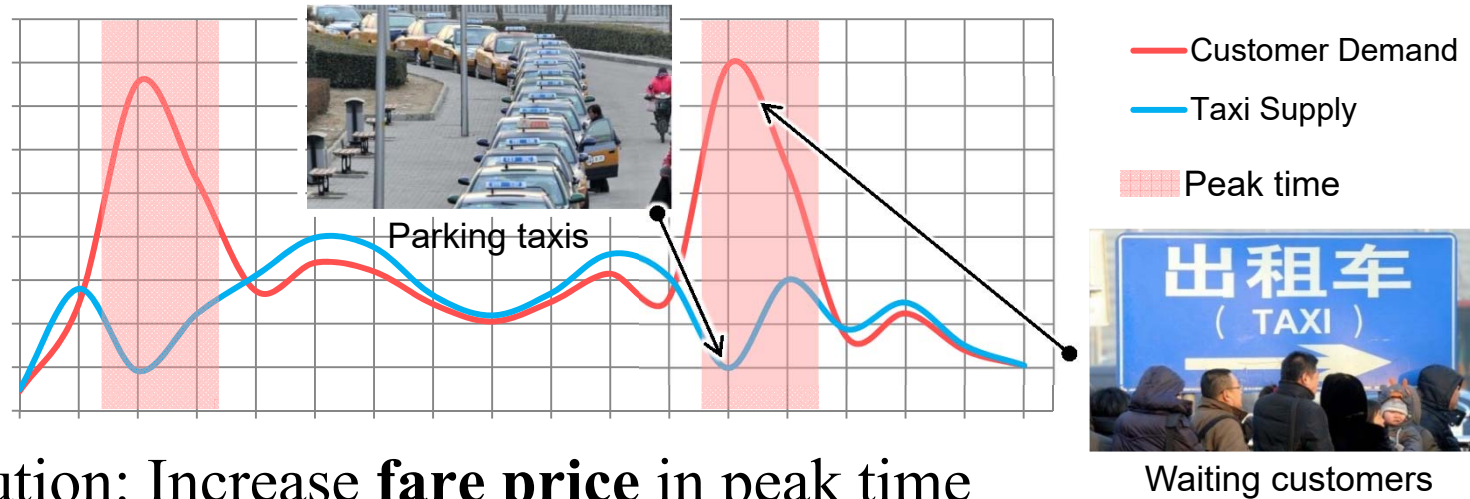
Optimal escape interdiction on transportation networks [\[IJCAI'17:0\]](#)

- A defender-attacker security game model
- Dynamically relocate security resources (e.g., police cars) to interdict attacker

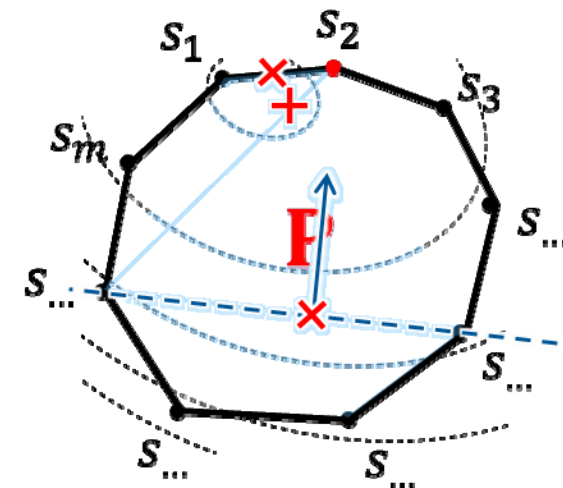
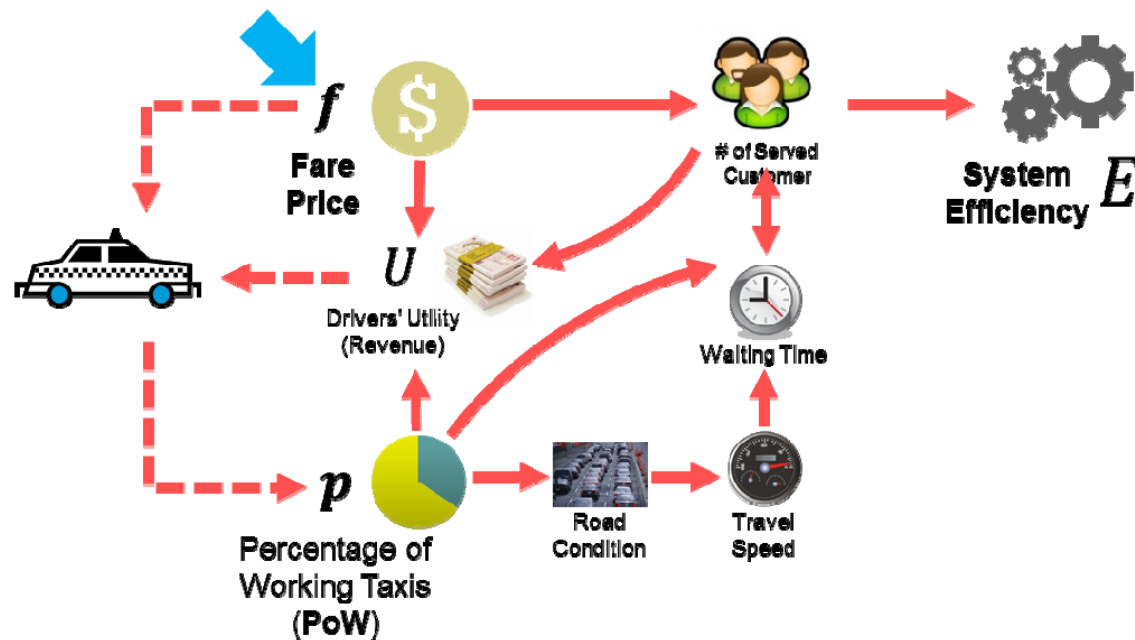


Taxi System Efficiency Optimization [IJCAI'13, AAMAS'15]

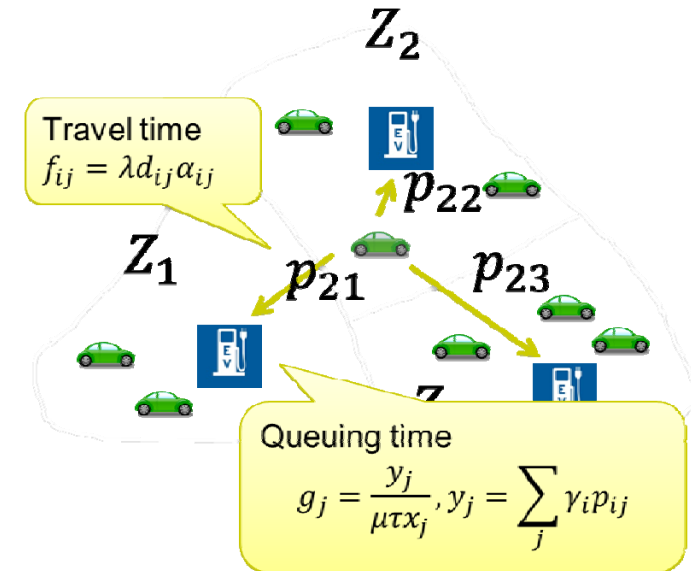
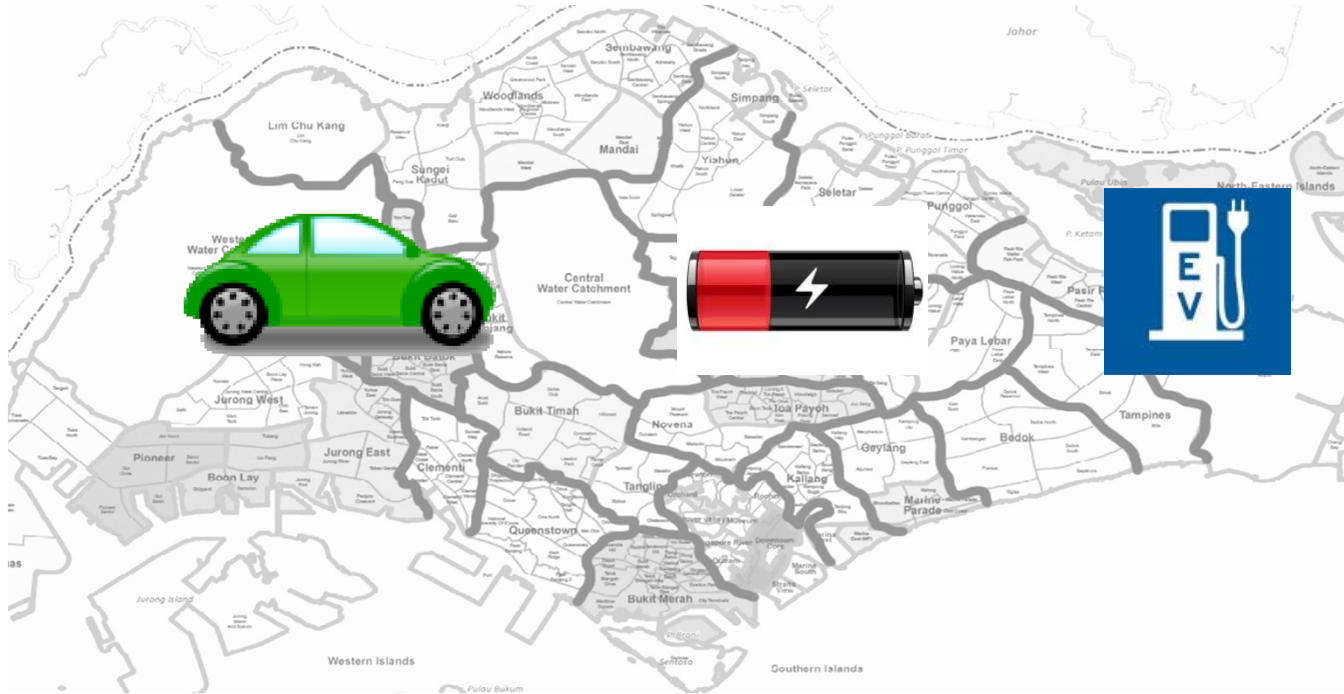
- Peak time dilemma in Beijing
 - ❑ *Low speed in peak time & distance-based pricing scheme*



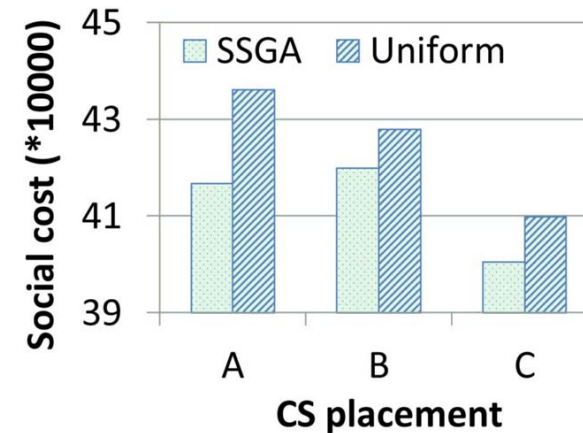
- Solution: Increase **fare price** in peak time



EV Charging Station Placement [IJCAI'15, AAMAS'16]



- How to assign m chargers to n zones to minimize social cost SC of all the EVs
- Bilevel optimization with Infinite number of constraints
 - ❑ *Nash Equilibrium in non-atomic congestion game*
- Optimal pricing – nonlinear optimization



Summary

➤ Security Games

- ❑ *High impact research and deployed applications*
- ❑ *Lot of follow on research & applications: data-rich domains, cyber*
- ❑ *Future challenges: more realistic modes, scalability, robustness, optimality*

➤ Computational Sustainability

- ❑ *Applications involving human beings*
- ❑ *Interaction with machine learning*
- ❑ *Future challenges: behaviour modelling, scalability, robustness*

➤ Acknowledgement

- ❑ *Mentor:*

Milind Tambe



- ❑ *Collaborators: Yevgeniy Vorobeychik, Christopher Kiekintveld, Long Tran-Than, Branislav Bosansky, Jianye Hao, Yair Zick, many others, and students*
- ❑ *Funding agencies*