

# Approximate nonlinear explicit MPC based on reachability analysis

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# Introduction: Nonlinear MPC

## The system

$$x_{k+1} = f(x_k, u_k) \quad k \geq 0$$

- $f: \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$  is a  $\mathcal{C}^0$  nonlinear function and  $f(\bar{x}, \bar{u}) = \bar{x}$
- $x_k \in \mathcal{X}$ ,  $\mathcal{X}$  is a compact set
- $u_k \in \mathcal{U}$ ,  $\mathcal{U}$  is a compact set
- A target set  $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \mathcal{X}$

# Introduction: Nonlinear MPC

## The optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned} J^*(x) &= \min_{\{u_0, \dots, u_{N-1}\}} V_N(x_N) + \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} L(x_i, u_i) \\ &\text{subject to} \quad x_{i+1} = f(x_i, u_i), \quad \forall i = 0, \dots, N-1 \\ &\quad (x_i, u_i) \in \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{U}, \quad \forall i = 0, \dots, N-1 \\ &\quad x_N \in \mathcal{T}, \quad x_0 = x, \end{aligned}$$

where  $L(x_i, u_i) = (x_i - \bar{x})' Q (x_i - \bar{x}) + (u_i - \bar{u})' R (u_i - \bar{u})$

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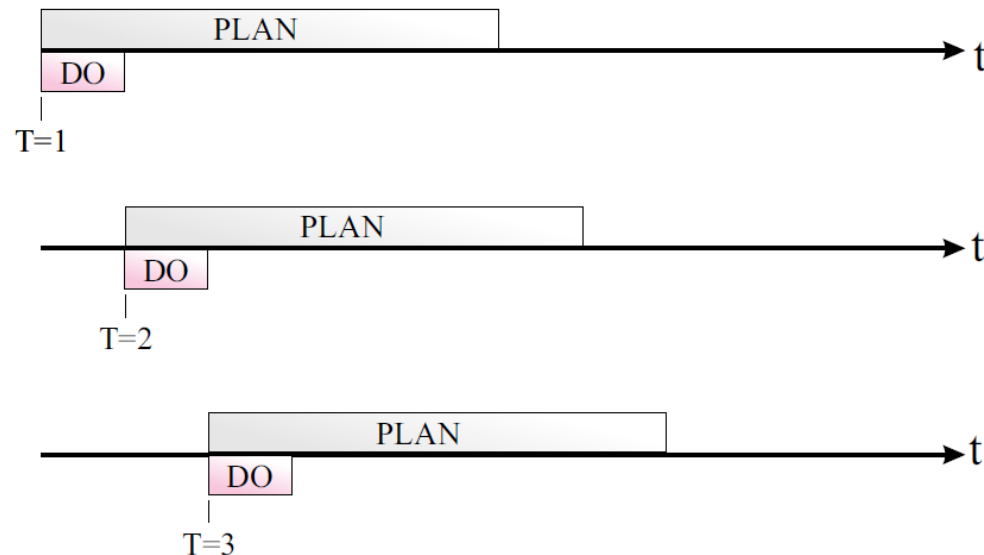
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where  $L(x_i, u_i) = (x_i - \bar{x})'Q(x_i - \bar{x}) + (u_i - \bar{u})'R(u_i - \bar{u})$

Given a stabilizing control law  $\kappa_f(x)$  defined in  $\mathcal{T}$ ,  $V_N$  is a Lyapunov function and  $\mathcal{T}$  is a positively invariant set.

# Introduction: Nonlinear MPC

## The Receding Horizon approach



*Closed-loop control law*  $k(x) = u_o^*(x)$

# Objectives

## **Controller requirements**

- Fast online computation
- Suitable for inexpensive hardware
- Feasibility and stability guarantees

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***Explicit MPC***

# Explicit MPC

## Linear Explicit MPC

- multi-parametric program can be solved exactly
- feasible set is closed and convex
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*Drawbacks?*

# Explicit MPC

## Complexity

- Strongest dependence on the number of constraints
- Strong dependence on the number of free moves
- Weak dependence on the number of states

# Approximate Explicit MPC

**One approach to alleviate complexity** (will be used in the nonlinear case..)

Solve iteratively *1-step optimization problems* with varying terminal set constraint (P. Grieder and M. Morari 2003)

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{u_0} & x_1' Q x_1 + u_0' R u_0 \\ \text{subject to} & x_1 = f(x_0, u_0) \\ & x_0 \in \mathcal{X}, x_1 \in \mathcal{T}_i, u_0 \in \mathcal{U} \end{array}$$

$$\text{where } \mathcal{T}_i = \begin{cases} \mathcal{T} & i = 0 \\ \mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{T}_{i-1}) & i = 1, \dots, N-1 \end{cases}$$

# Approximate Explicit MPC

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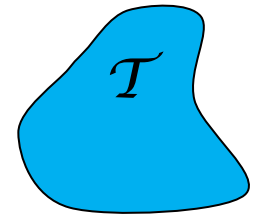
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## One-step set

Set of states which can be steered to a target set within one time step (Bertsekas, 1971)

$$\mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{T}) = \{x \in \mathcal{X} \mid \exists u \in \mathcal{U} : f(x, u) \in \mathcal{T}\}$$



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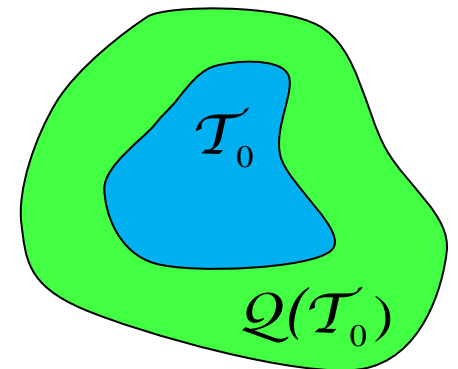
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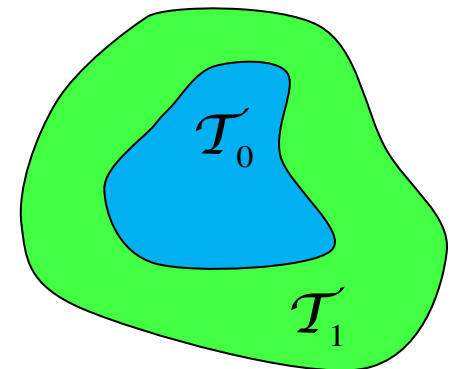
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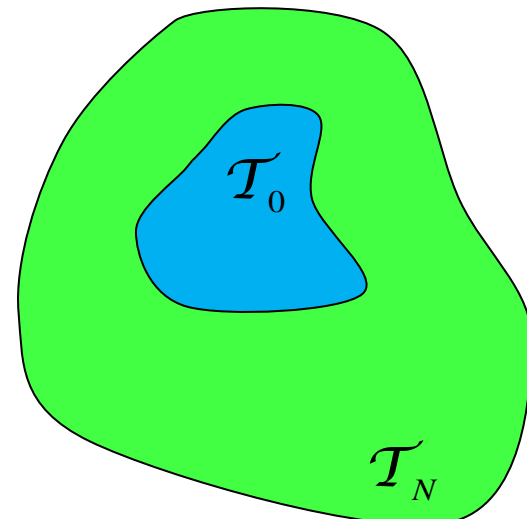
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Feasible set of the original OP

$$\mathcal{F}_N(\mathcal{T}) = \underbrace{\mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{Q}(\dots \mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{T}))))}_{N \text{ times}}$$



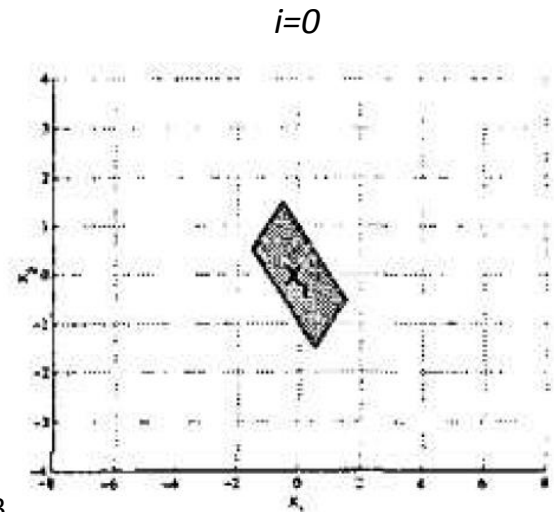
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*Online:* since the regions of the 1-step multiparametric programs may overlap apply the *feedback control* computed at the smallest iteration number  $i$ .





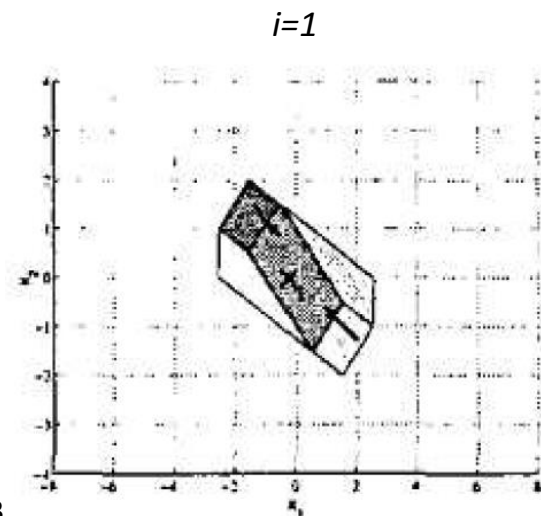
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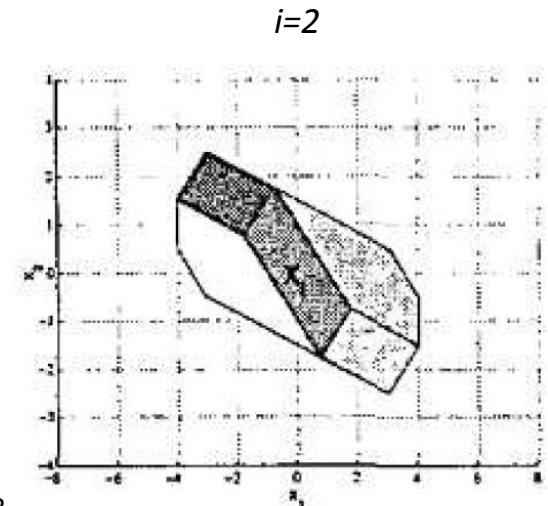
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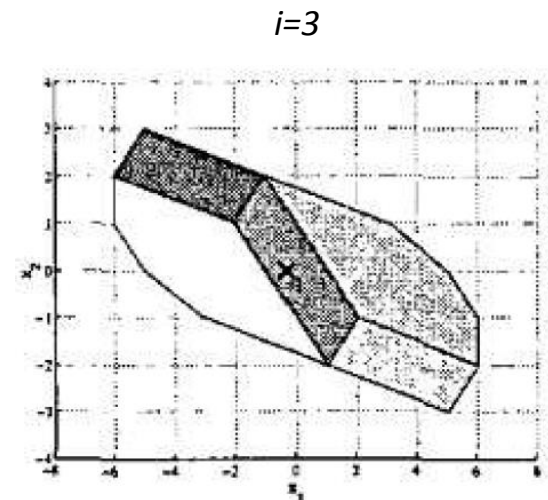
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*Guaranteed feasibility  
and stability of the approach*

# Approximate Explicit NMPC

**Making use of the previous approach in the *nonlinear* case**

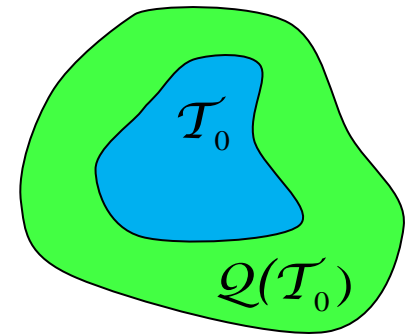
- Solving mp-NLP is difficult
- Exact solutions cannot be found in the general nonlinear case
- Feasible set non convex in general

# Approximate Explicit NMPC

## One-step set in the nonlinear case

$$\mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{T}) = \{x \in \mathcal{X} \mid \exists u \in \mathcal{U} : f(x, u) \in \mathcal{T}\}$$

- The exact computation of this set is not possible in general
- The objective is to obtain a **tight inner approximation**

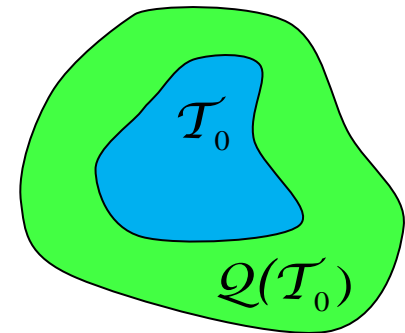


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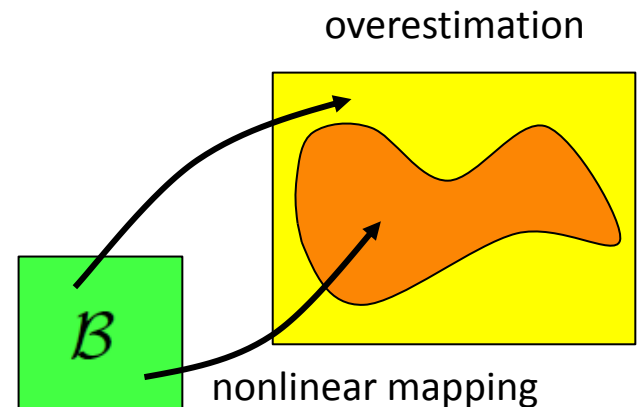


## Reachability analysis

- Overestimate one-step ahead reachable set for

$$\{f(x, u(x)) \mid x \in \mathcal{B}, u(x) \in \mathcal{U}\}$$

- *Methods:* interval-arithmetic, DC-programming

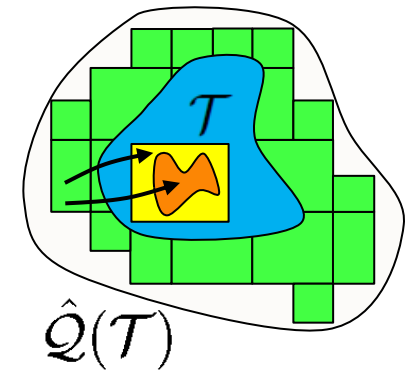


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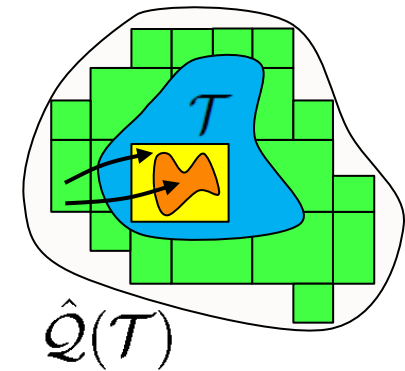


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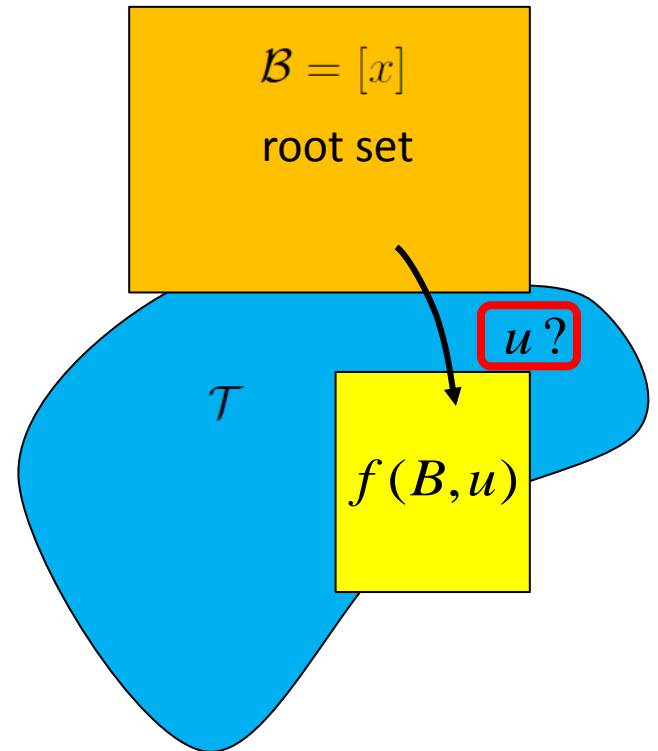


## Partitions

- Choose a partitioning that results in fast online computation
- **Hyperrectangles + binary tree structure**

# Bisection, binary tree

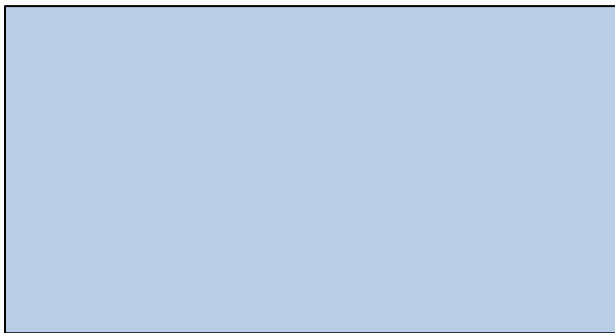
*How to choose  $u(x)$  for each hyperrectangle?*



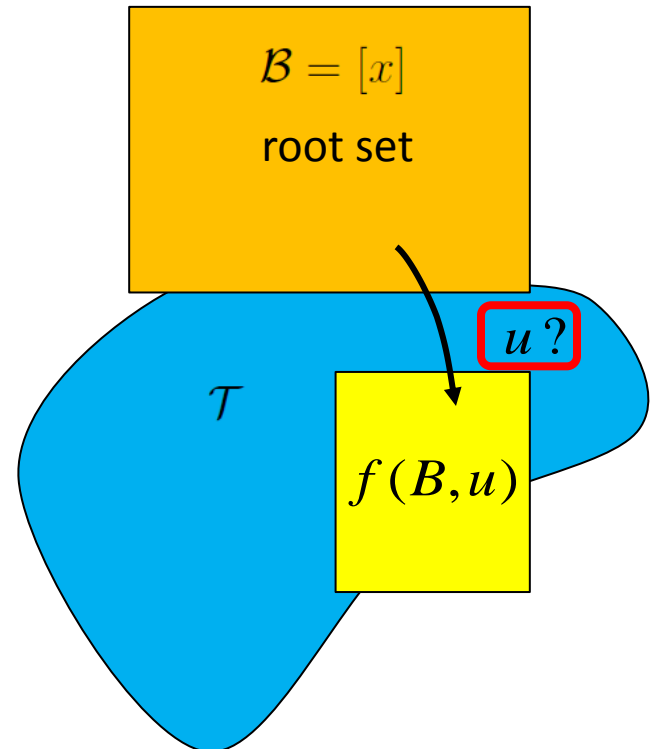
# Bisection, binary tree

*How to choose  $u(x)$  for each hyperrectangle?*

- Entire  $U$  set



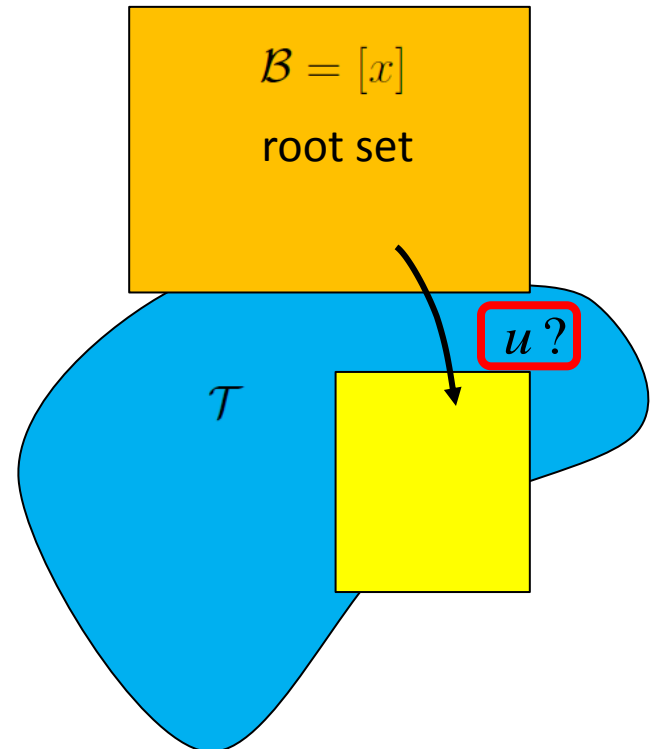
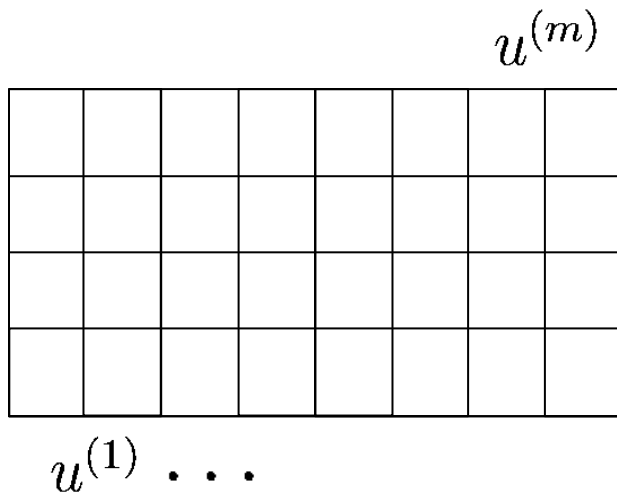
$U$



# Bisection, binary tree

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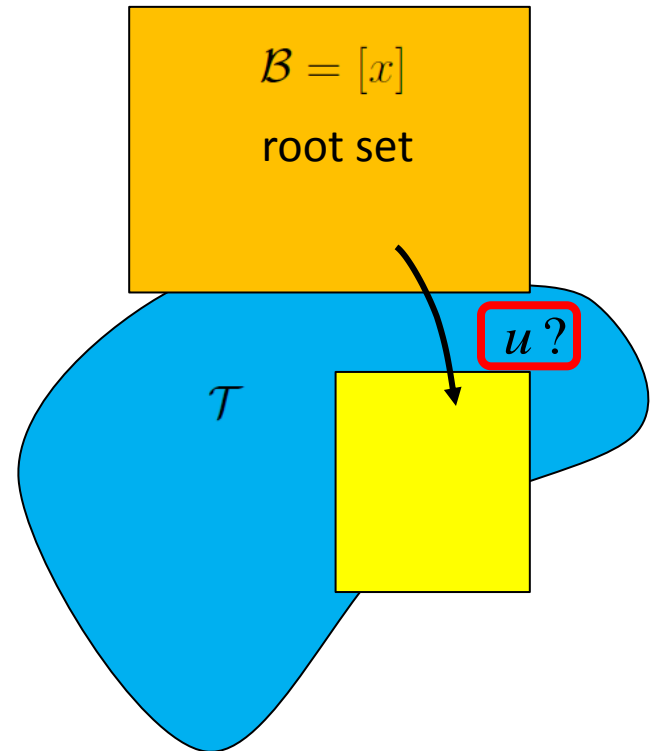
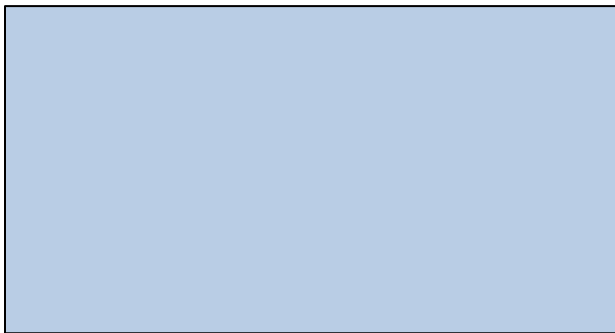
- Set of hyperrectangles



# Bisection, binary tree

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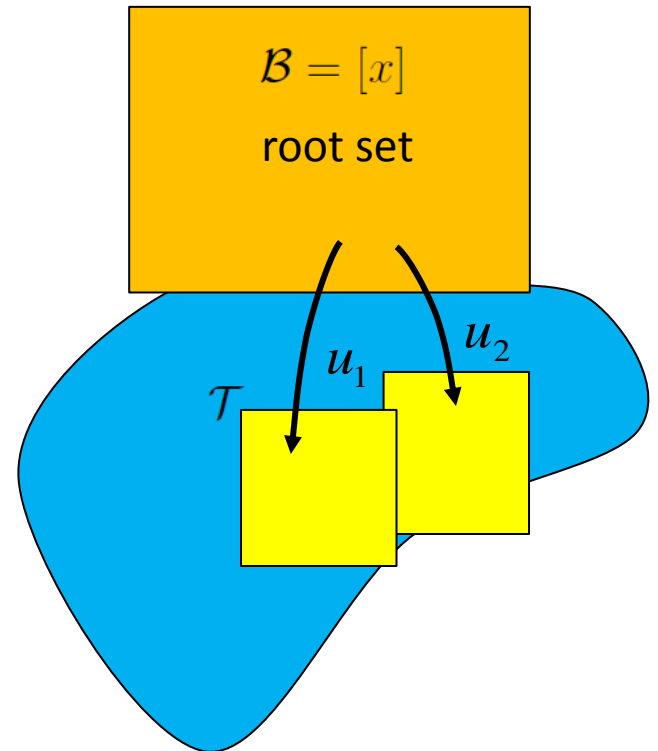
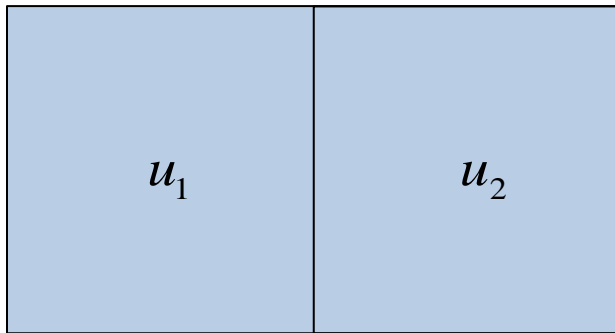
- Bisect the input space



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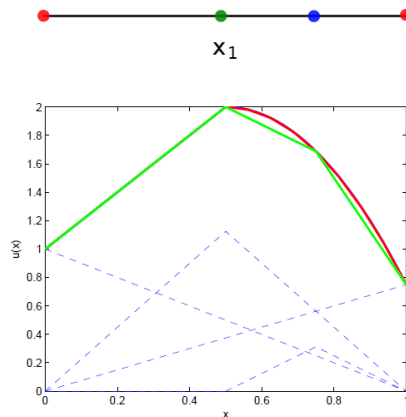


# Bisection, binary tree

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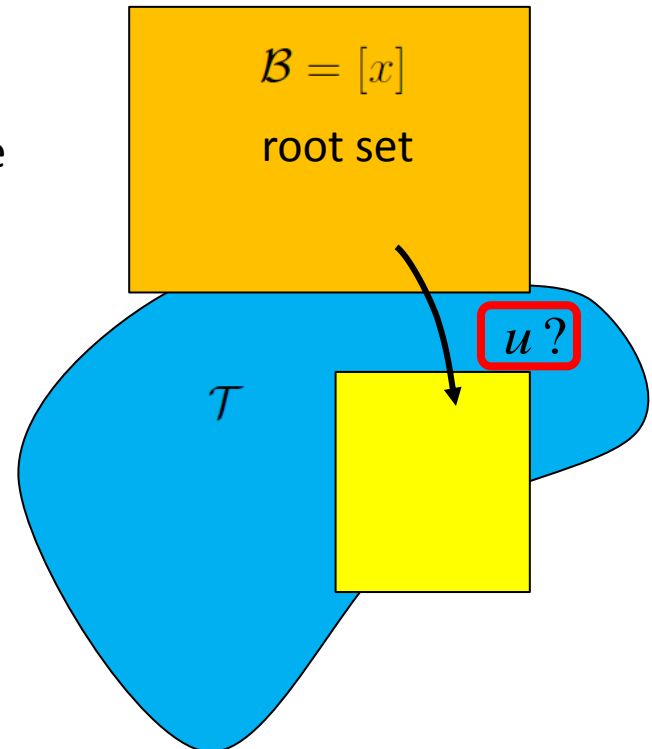
- Solve the NLP at the vertices and interpolate

1-dimensional case



level 2

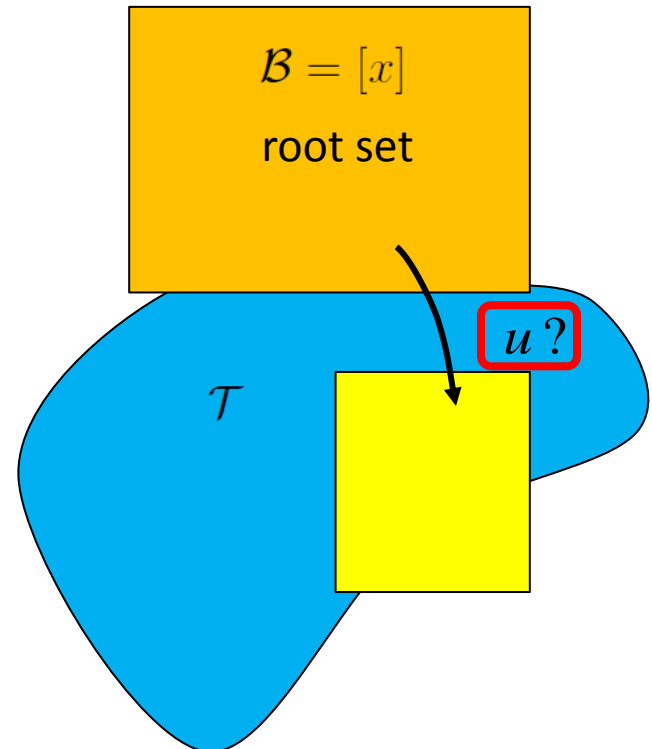
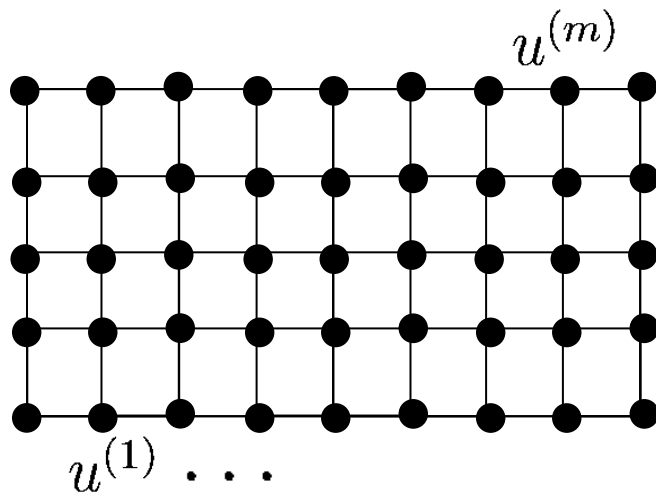
e.g. Hierarchical function approximation with interpolants



# Bisection, binary tree

*How to choose  $u(x)$  for each hyperrectangle?*

- Input space gridding

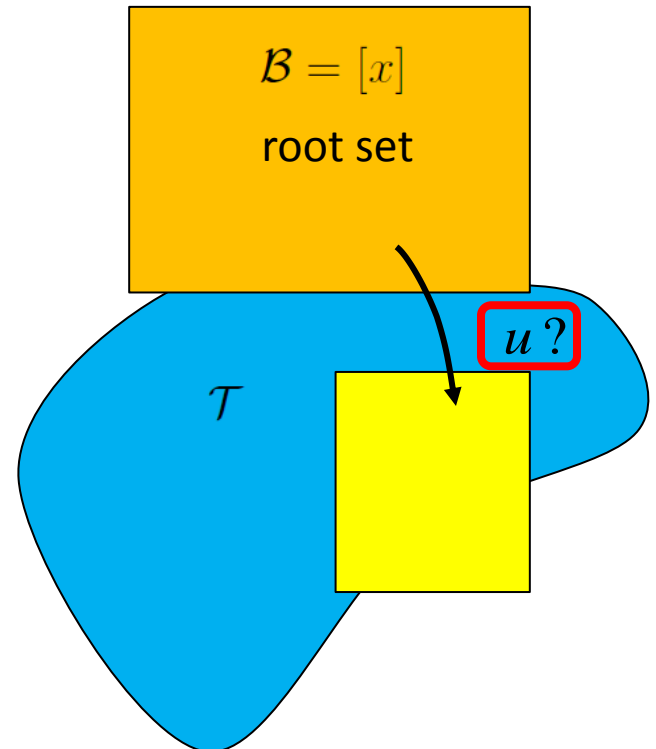
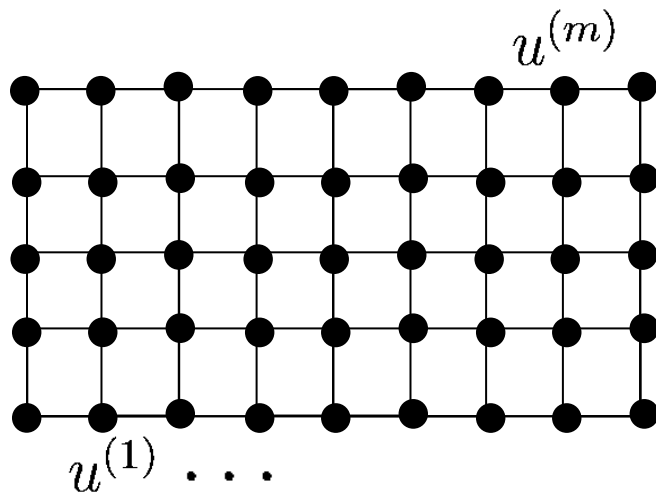




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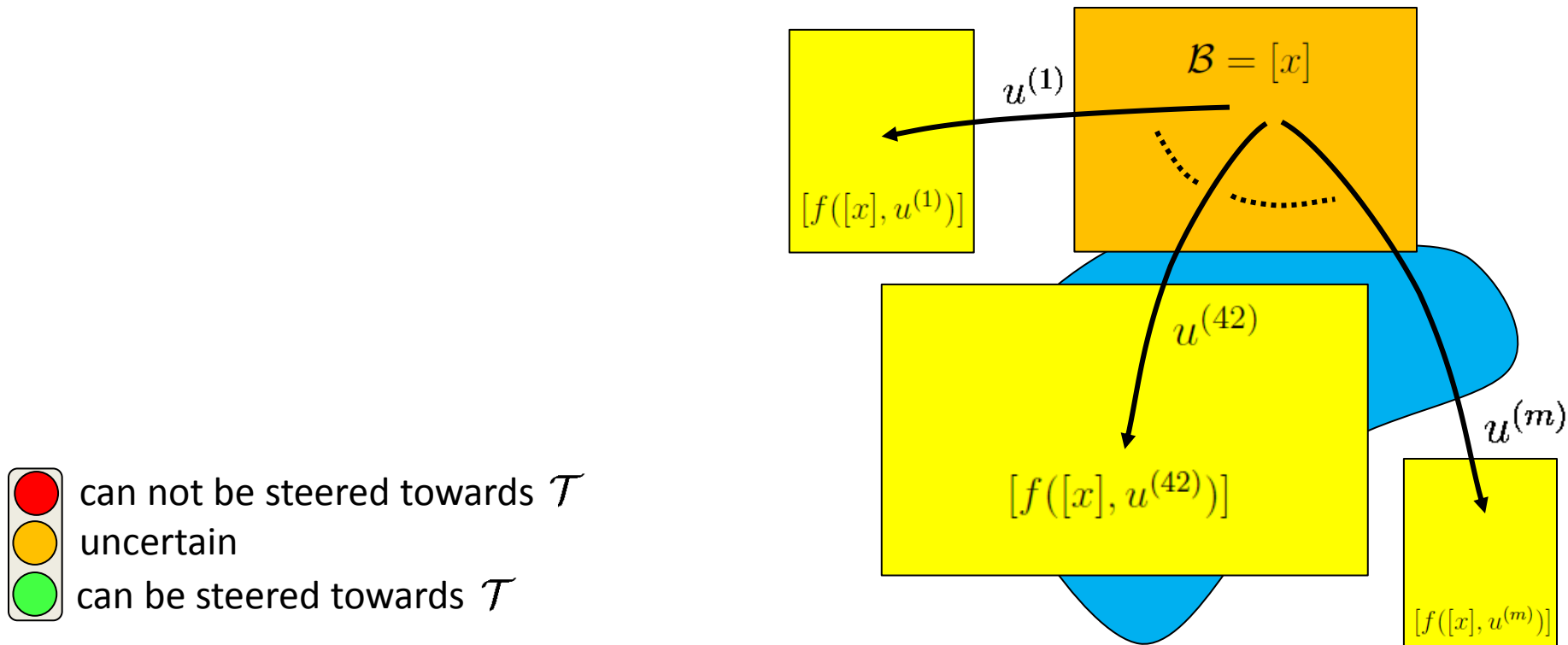
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# Bisection, binary tree

How to organize hyperrectangular state space representation?

- Use bisection and binary tree

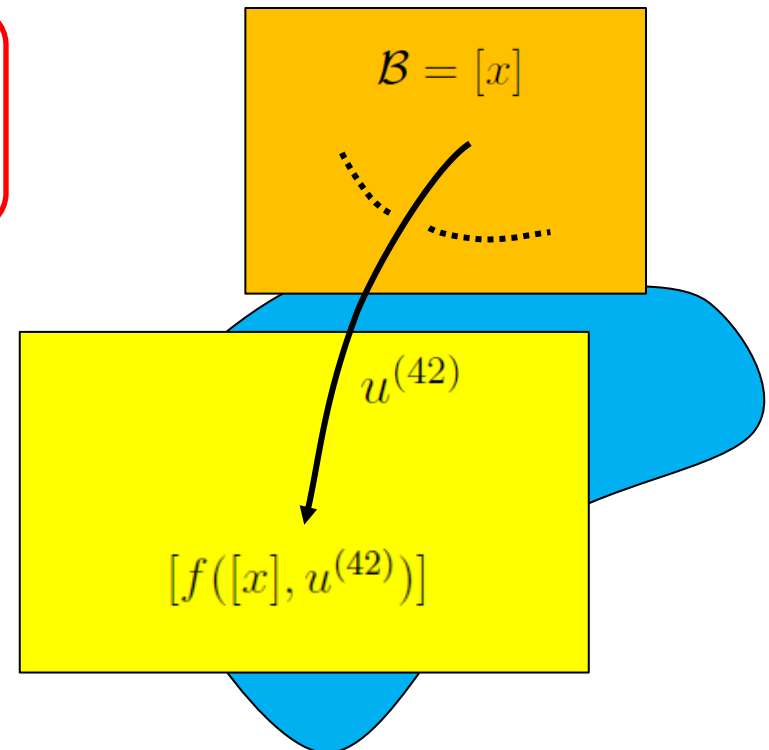
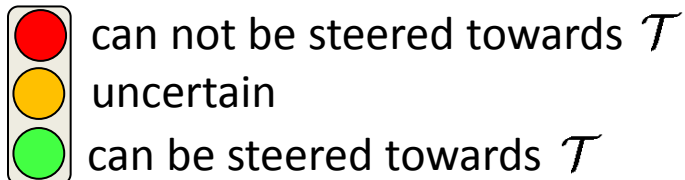


# Bisection, binary tree

## How to organize hyperrectangular state space representation?

- Use bisection and binary tree

If  $f(\mathcal{B}, u)$  intersects the target set  
bisect  $\mathcal{B}$  to find the subsets entering  $\mathcal{T}$



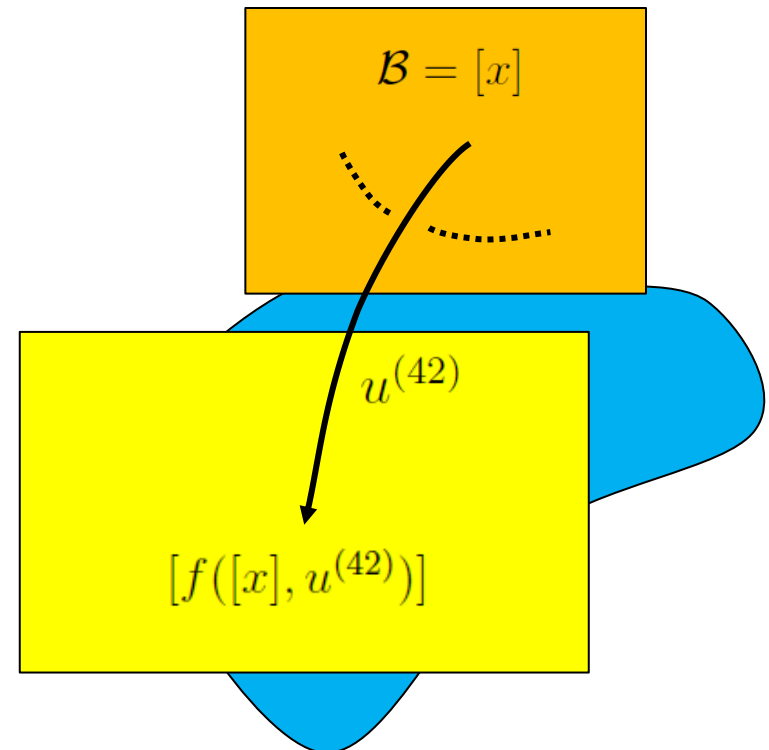
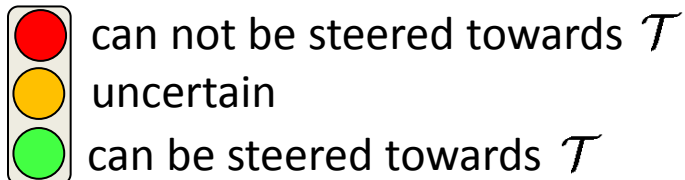
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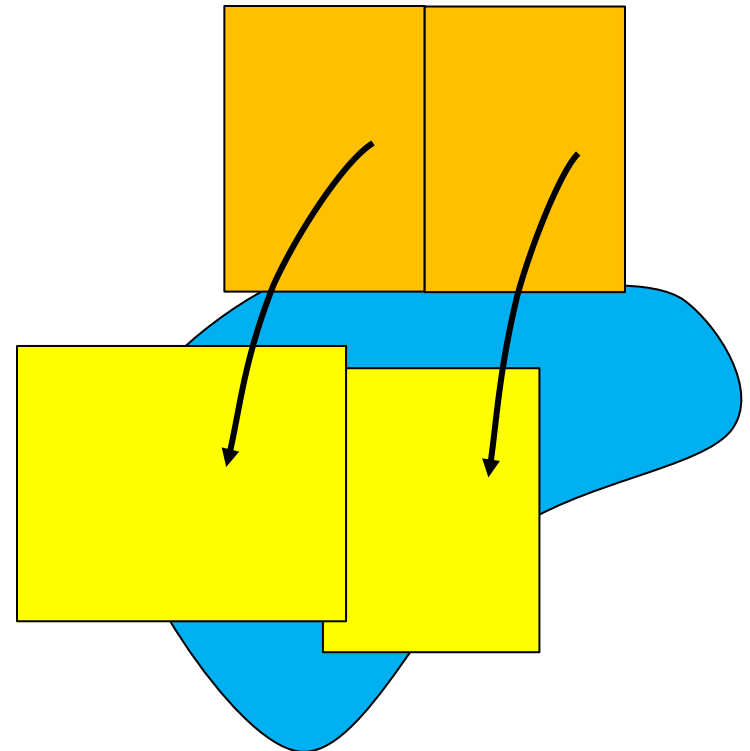
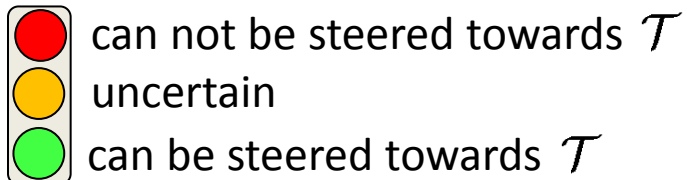
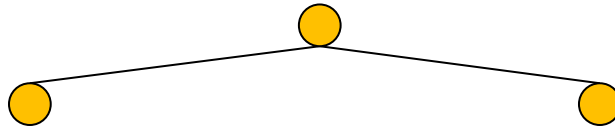
root node



# Bisection, binary tree

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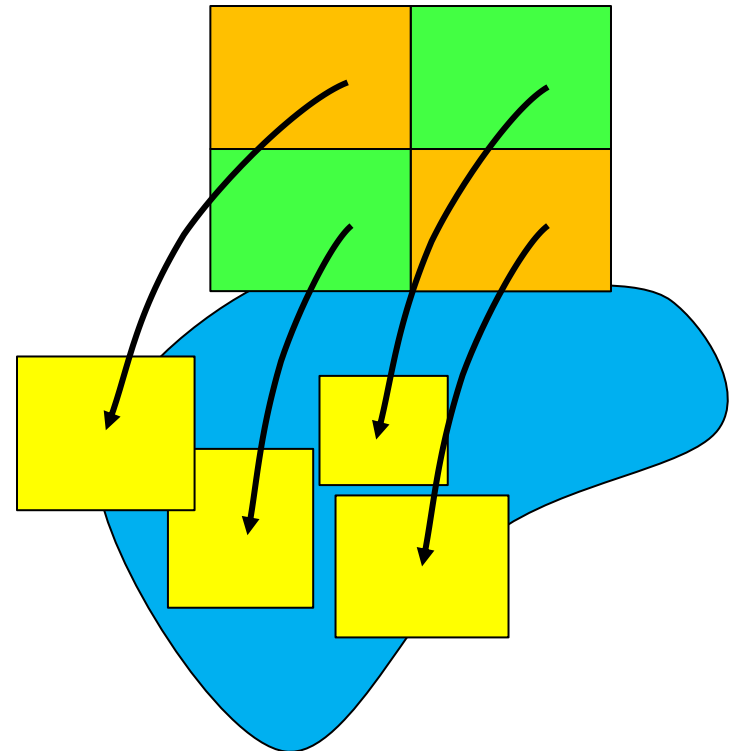
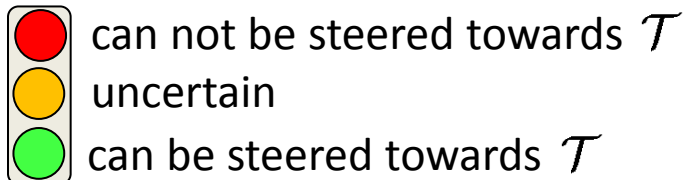
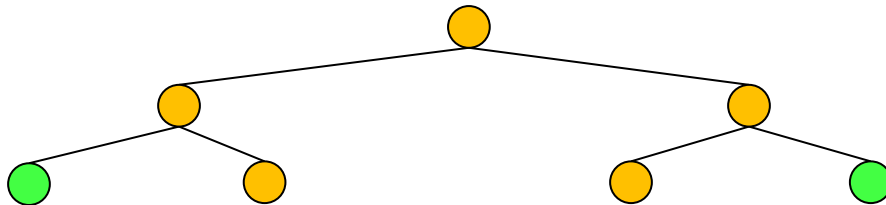
- Use bisection and binary tree



# Bisection, binary tree

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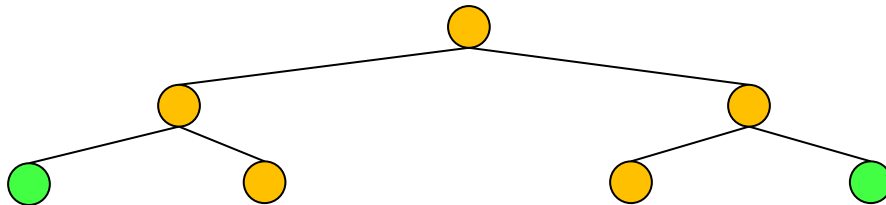
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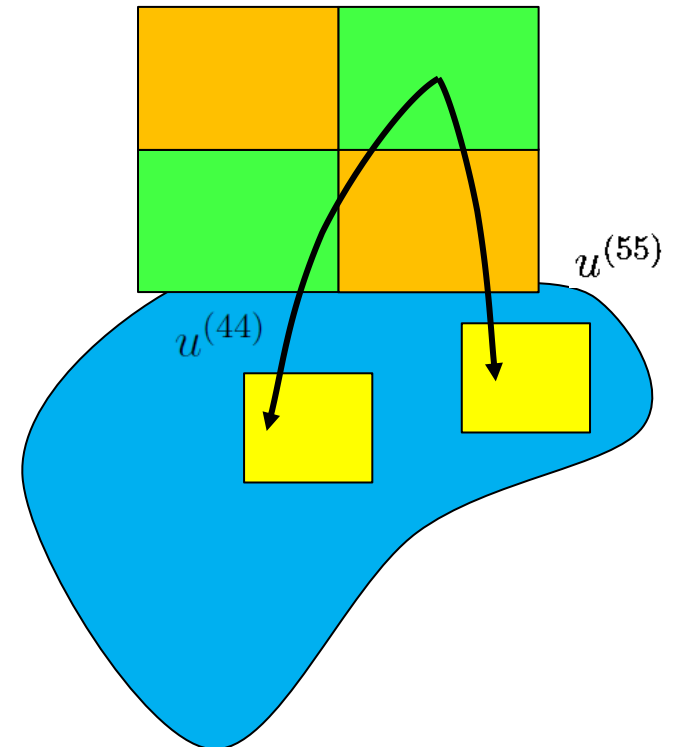
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**Which  $u$  do we choose?**

*The one that minimizes the upper bound of the interval*

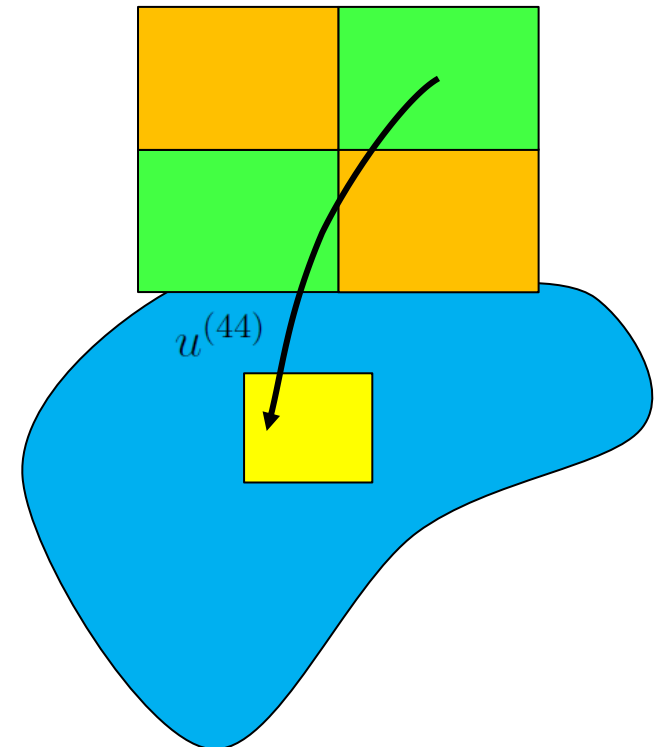
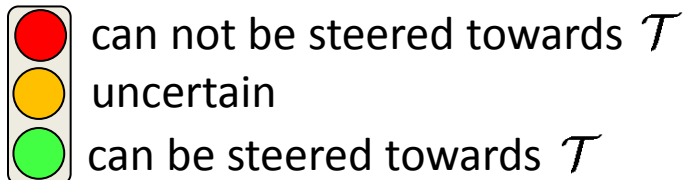
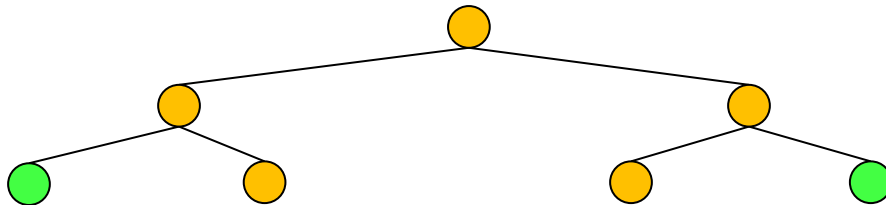
$$x_1' Q x_1 + u_0' R u_0$$



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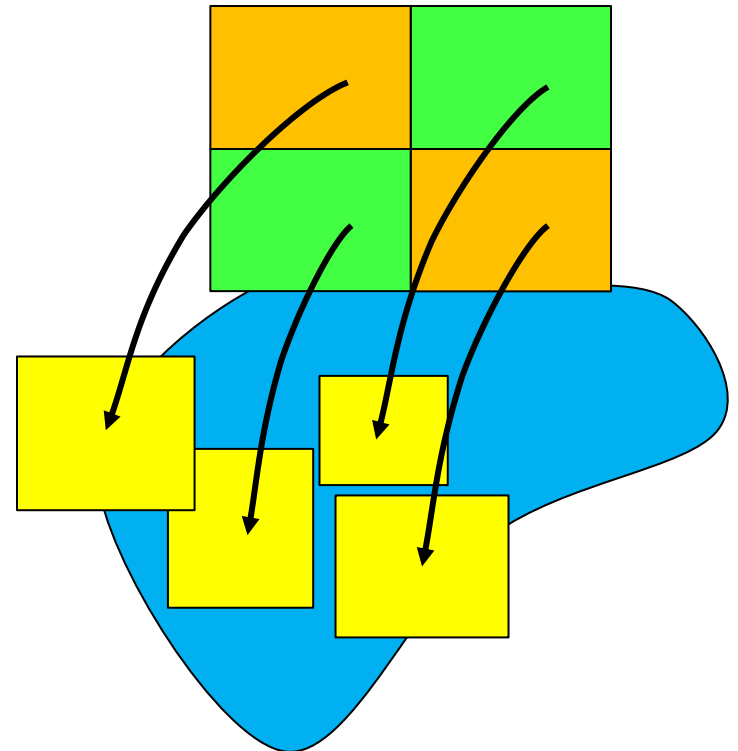
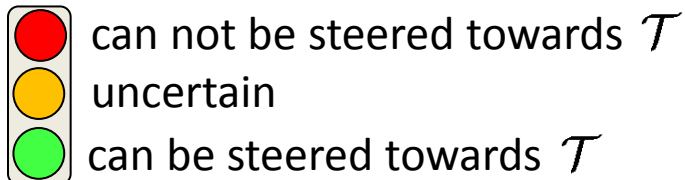
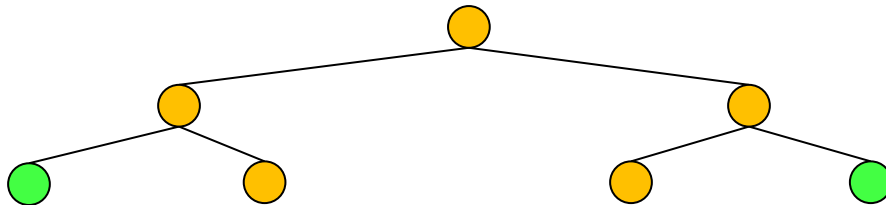




# Bisection, binary tree

**How to organize hyperrectangular state space representation?**

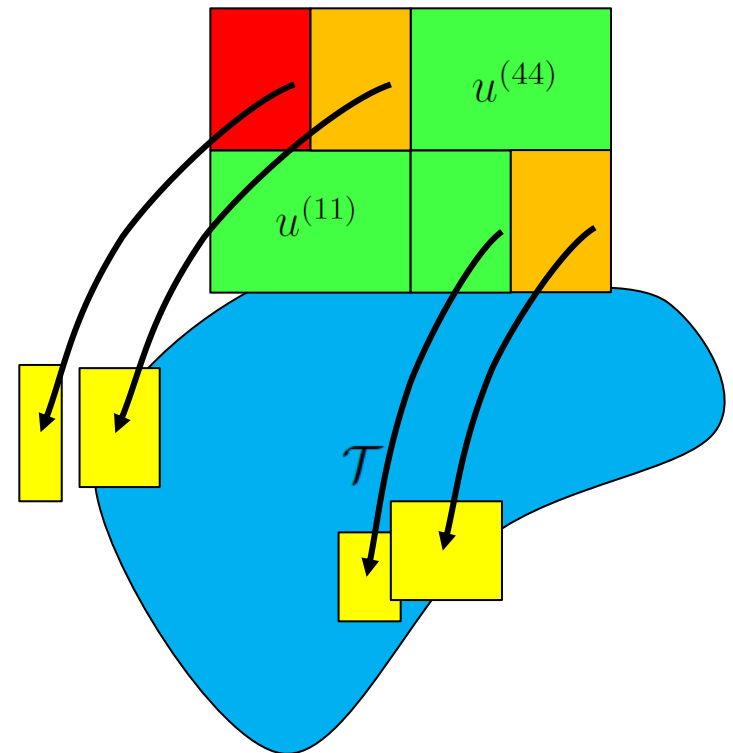
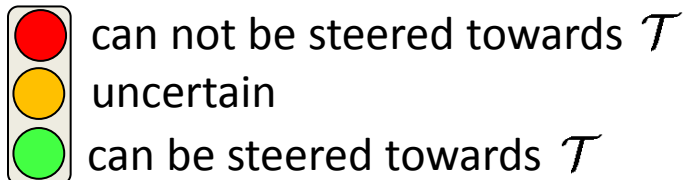
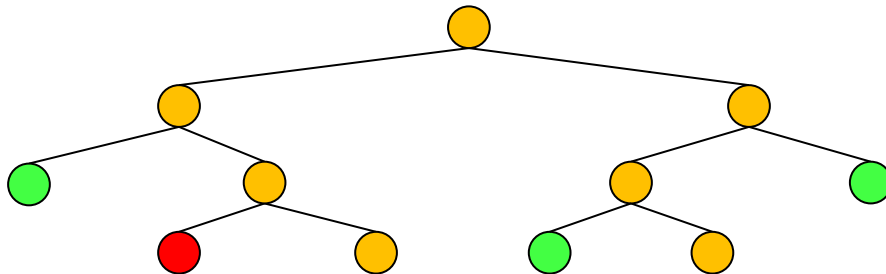
- Use bisection and binary tree



# Bisection, binary tree

How to organize hyperrectangular state space representation?

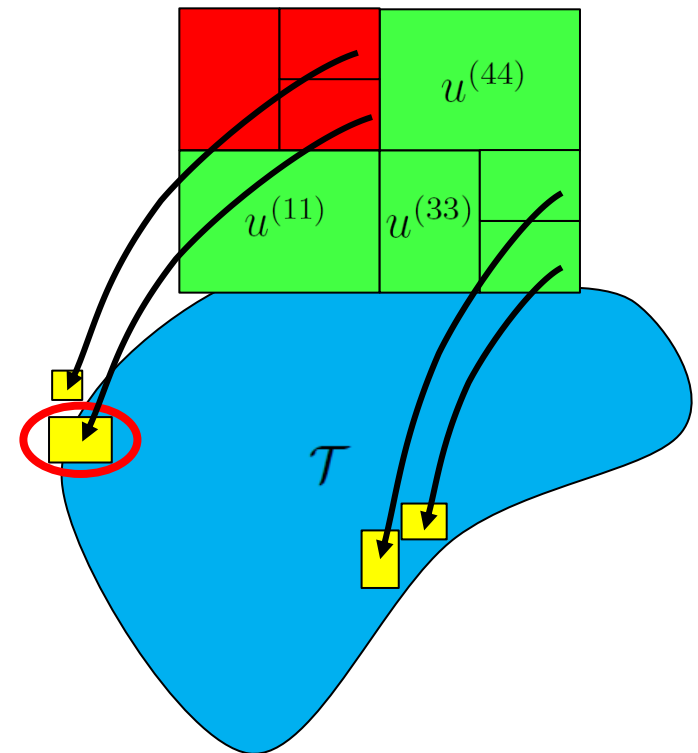
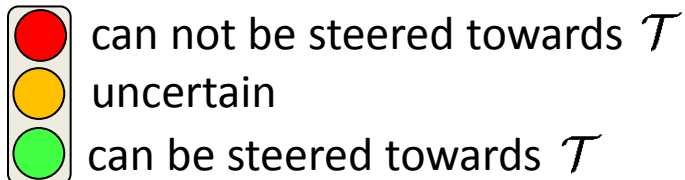
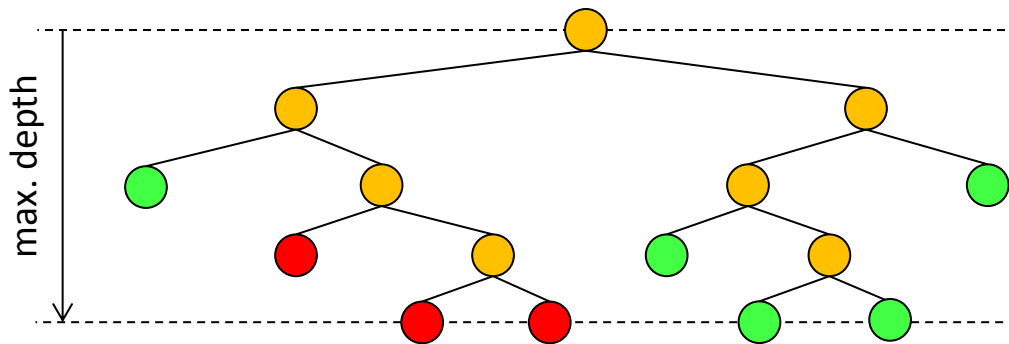
- Use bisection and binary tree



# Bisection, binary tree

How to organize hyperrectangular state space representation?

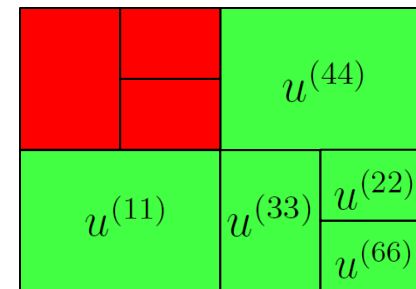
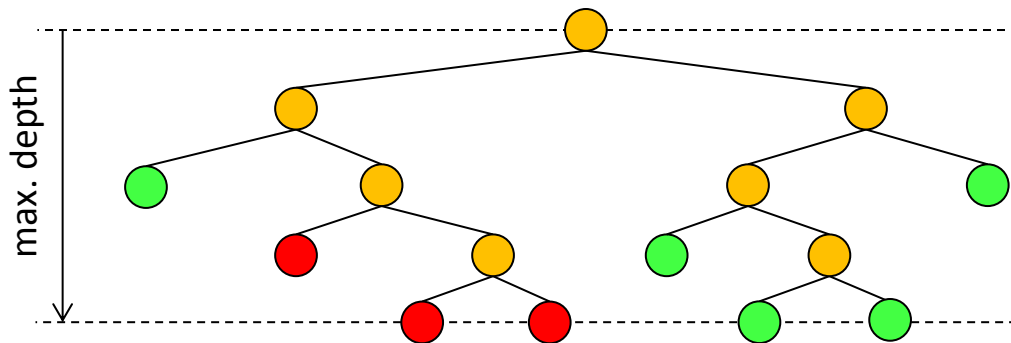
- Use bisection and binary tree



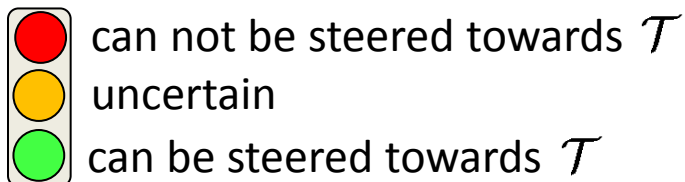
# Bisection, binary tree

**How to organize hyperrectangular state space representation?**

- Use bisection and binary tree

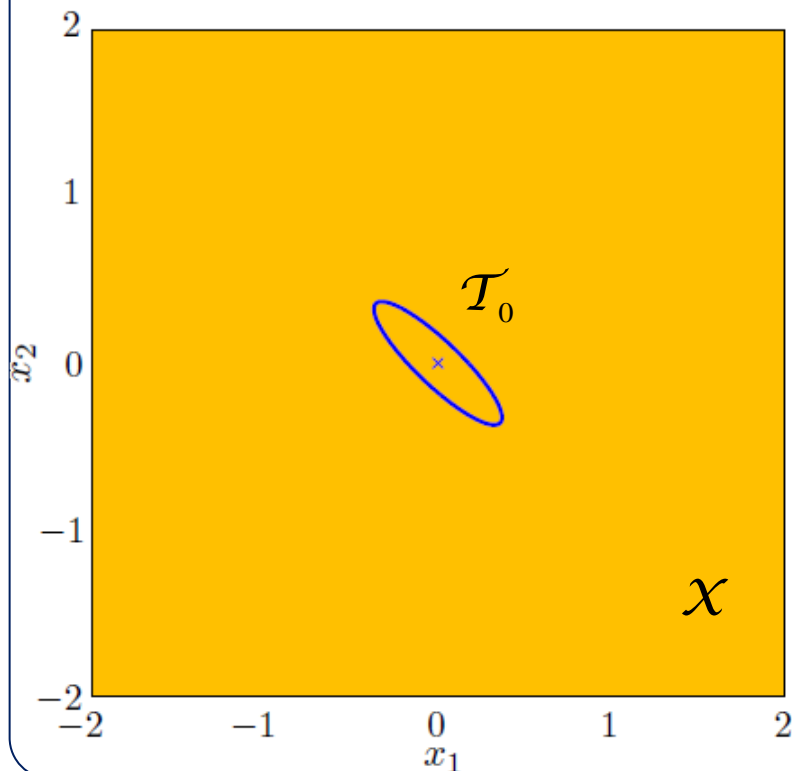


control law



# Numerical example

## Terminal set / state constraints



## Example

- bilinear system (Chen and Allgöwer, 1998)

$$\begin{cases} f_1(x, u) = x_1 + 0.1x_2 + 0.1 \cdot (0.5 + 0.5x_1) \cdot u \\ f_2(x, u) = x_2 + 0.1x_1 + 0.1 \cdot (0.5 + 0.5x_2) \cdot u \end{cases}$$

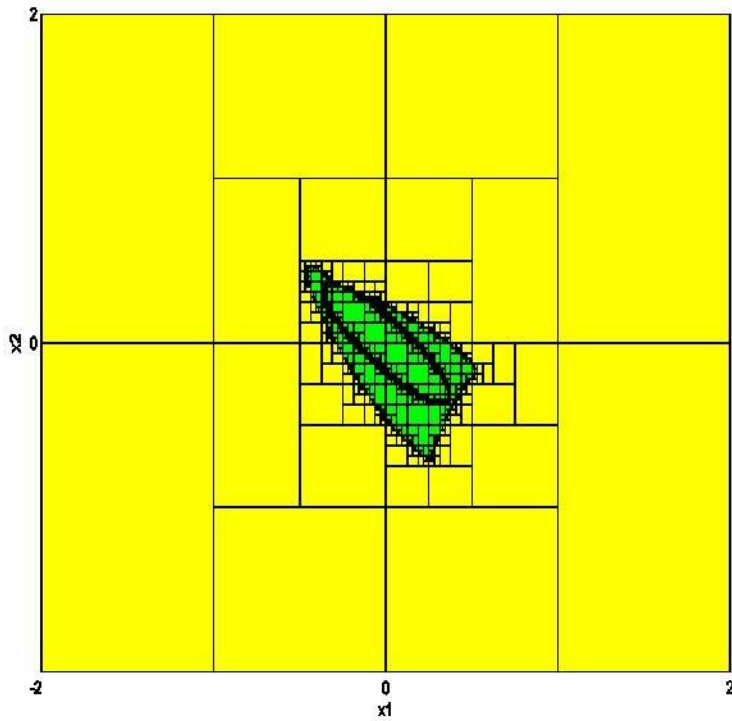
- state and input constraints

$$\mathcal{X} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid \|x\|_\infty \leq 2\}$$

$$\mathcal{U} = \{u \in \mathbb{R} \mid |u| \leq 2\}$$

# Numerical example

## Feasible set



$N=1$

## Example

- bilinear system (Chen and Allgöwer, 1998)

$$\begin{cases} f_1(x, u) = x_1 + 0.1x_2 + 0.1 \cdot (0.5 + 0.5x_1) \cdot u \\ f_2(x, u) = x_2 + 0.1x_1 + 0.1 \cdot (0.5 + 0.5x_2) \cdot u \end{cases}$$

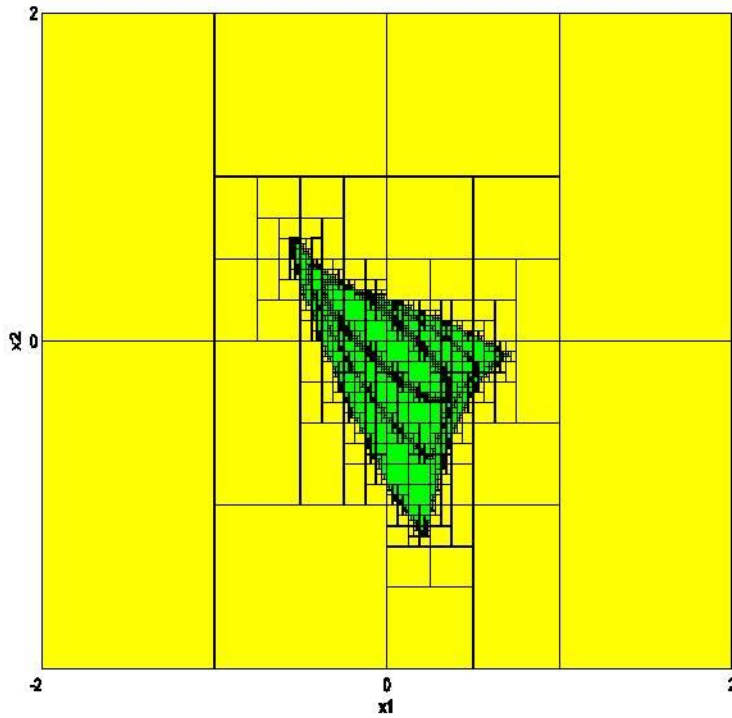
- state and input constraints

$$\mathcal{X} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid \|x\|_{\infty} \leq 2\}$$

$$\mathcal{U} = \{u \in \mathbb{R} \mid |u| \leq 2\}$$

# Numerical example

## Feasible set



$N=2$

## Example

- bilinear system (Chen and Allgöwer, 1998)

$$\begin{cases} f_1(x, u) = x_1 + 0.1x_2 + 0.1 \cdot (0.5 + 0.5x_1) \cdot u \\ f_2(x, u) = x_2 + 0.1x_1 + 0.1 \cdot (0.5 + 0.5x_2) \cdot u \end{cases}$$

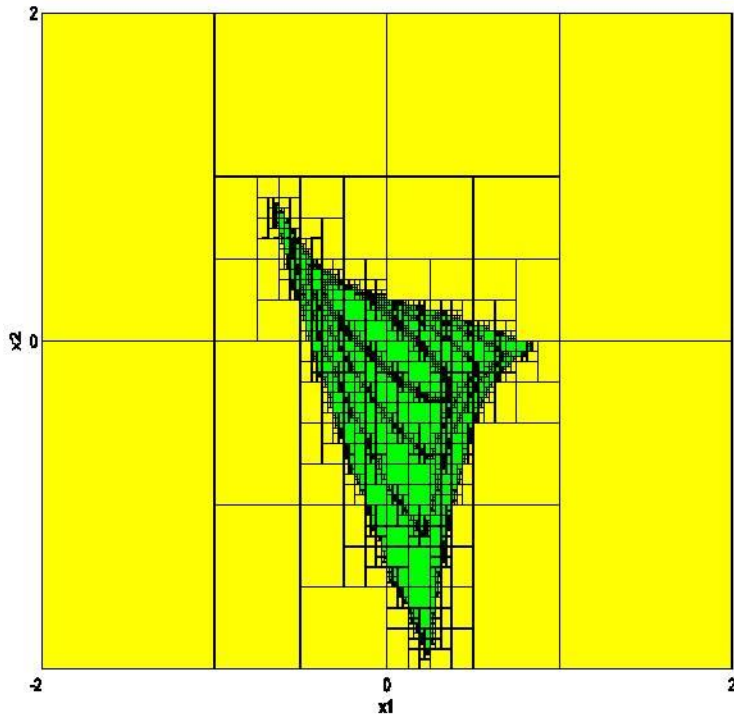
- state and input constraints

$$\mathcal{X} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid \|x\|_{\infty} \leq 2\}$$

$$\mathcal{U} = \{u \in \mathbb{R} \mid |u| \leq 2\}$$

# Numerical example

## Feasible set



$N=3$

## Example

- bilinear system (Chen and Allgöwer, 1998)

$$\begin{cases} f_1(x, u) = x_1 + 0.1x_2 + 0.1 \cdot (0.5 + 0.5x_1) \cdot u \\ f_2(x, u) = x_2 + 0.1x_1 + 0.1 \cdot (0.5 + 0.5x_2) \cdot u \end{cases}$$

- state and input constraints

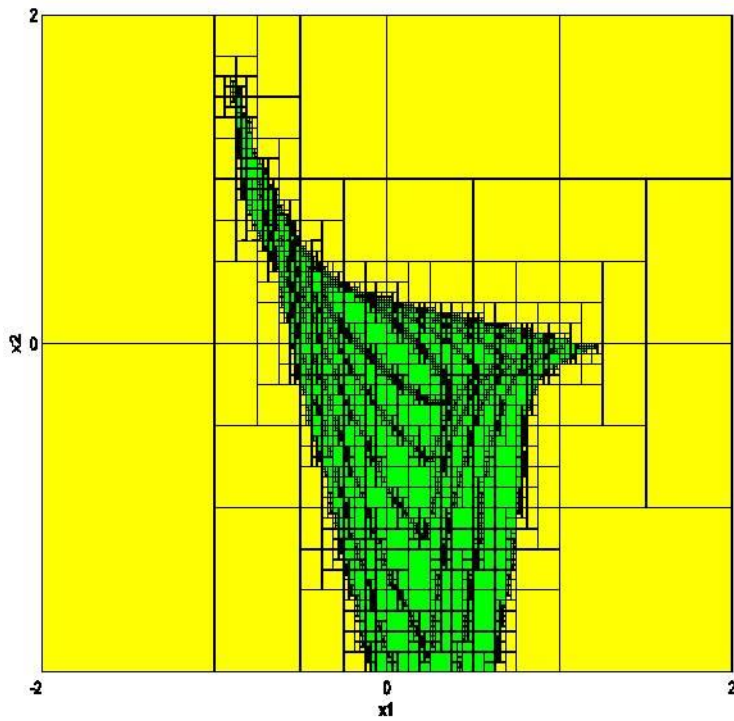
$$\mathcal{X} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid \|x\|_{\infty} \leq 2\}$$

$$\mathcal{U} = \{u \in \mathbb{R} \mid |u| \leq 2\}$$



# Numerical example

## Feasible set



$N=5$

## Example

- bilinear system (Chen and Allgöwer, 1998)

$$\begin{cases} f_1(x, u) = x_1 + 0.1x_2 + 0.1 \cdot (0.5 + 0.5x_1) \cdot u \\ f_2(x, u) = x_2 + 0.1x_1 + 0.1 \cdot (0.5 + 0.5x_2) \cdot u \end{cases}$$

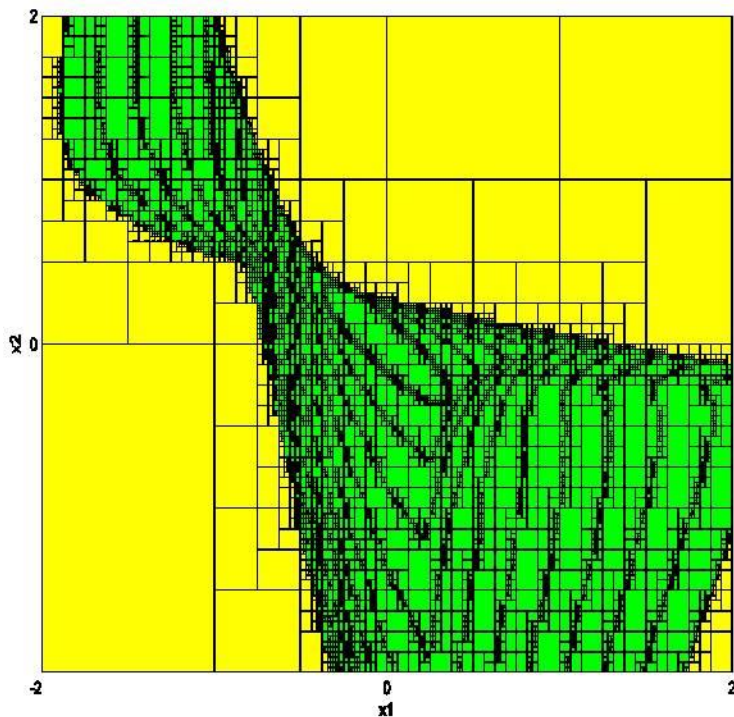
- state and input constraints

$$\mathcal{X} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid \|x\|_{\infty} \leq 2\}$$

$$\mathcal{U} = \{u \in \mathbb{R} \mid |u| \leq 2\}$$

# Numerical example

## Feasible set



$N=10$

## Example

- bilinear system (Chen and Allgöwer, 1998)

$$\begin{cases} f_1(x, u) = x_1 + 0.1x_2 + 0.1 \cdot (0.5 + 0.5x_1) \cdot u \\ f_2(x, u) = x_2 + 0.1x_1 + 0.1 \cdot (0.5 + 0.5x_2) \cdot u \end{cases}$$

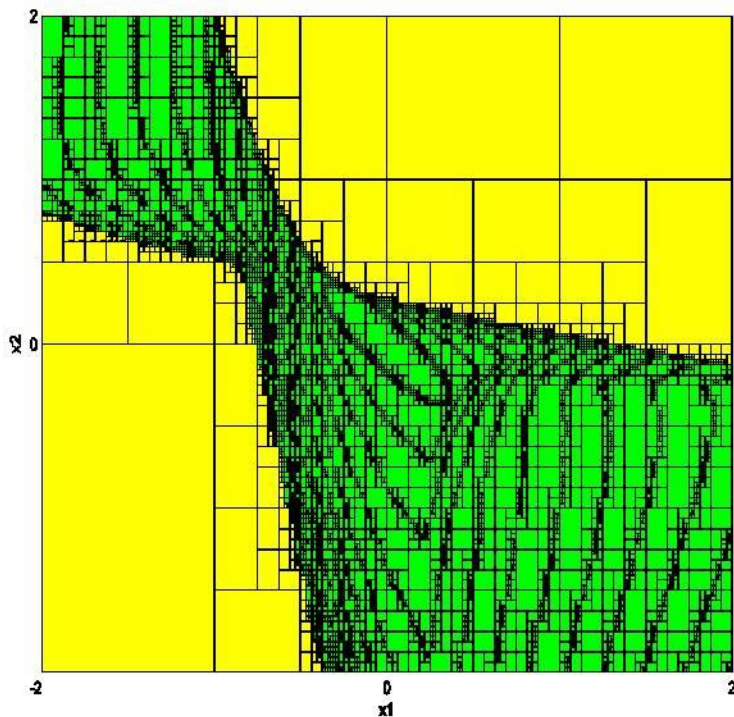
- state and input constraints

$$\mathcal{X} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid \|x\|_{\infty} \leq 2\}$$

$$\mathcal{U} = \{u \in \mathbb{R} \mid |u| \leq 2\}$$

# Numerical example

## Feasible set



$N=12$

## Example

- bilinear system (Chen and Allgöwer, 1998)

$$\begin{cases} f_1(x, u) = x_1 + 0.1x_2 + 0.1 \cdot (0.5 + 0.5x_1) \cdot u \\ f_2(x, u) = x_2 + 0.1x_1 + 0.1 \cdot (0.5 + 0.5x_2) \cdot u \end{cases}$$

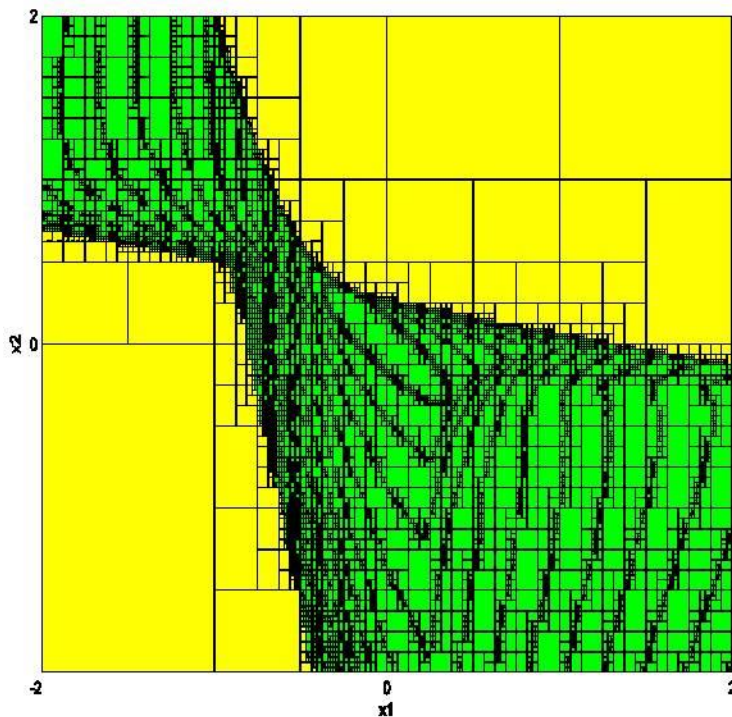
- state and input constraints

$$\mathcal{X} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid \|x\|_{\infty} \leq 2\}$$

$$\mathcal{U} = \{u \in \mathbb{R} \mid |u| \leq 2\}$$

# Numerical example

## Feasible set



$N=15$

## Example

- bilinear system (Chen and Allgöwer, 1998)

$$\begin{cases} f_1(x, u) = x_1 + 0.1x_2 + 0.1 \cdot (0.5 + 0.5x_1) \cdot u \\ f_2(x, u) = x_2 + 0.1x_1 + 0.1 \cdot (0.5 + 0.5x_2) \cdot u \end{cases}$$

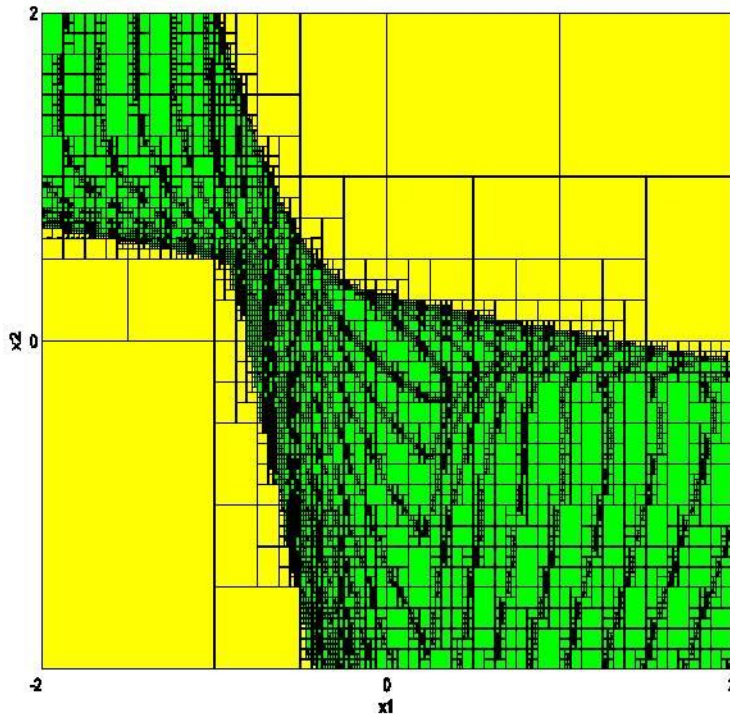
- state and input constraints

$$\mathcal{X} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid \|x\|_{\infty} \leq 2\}$$

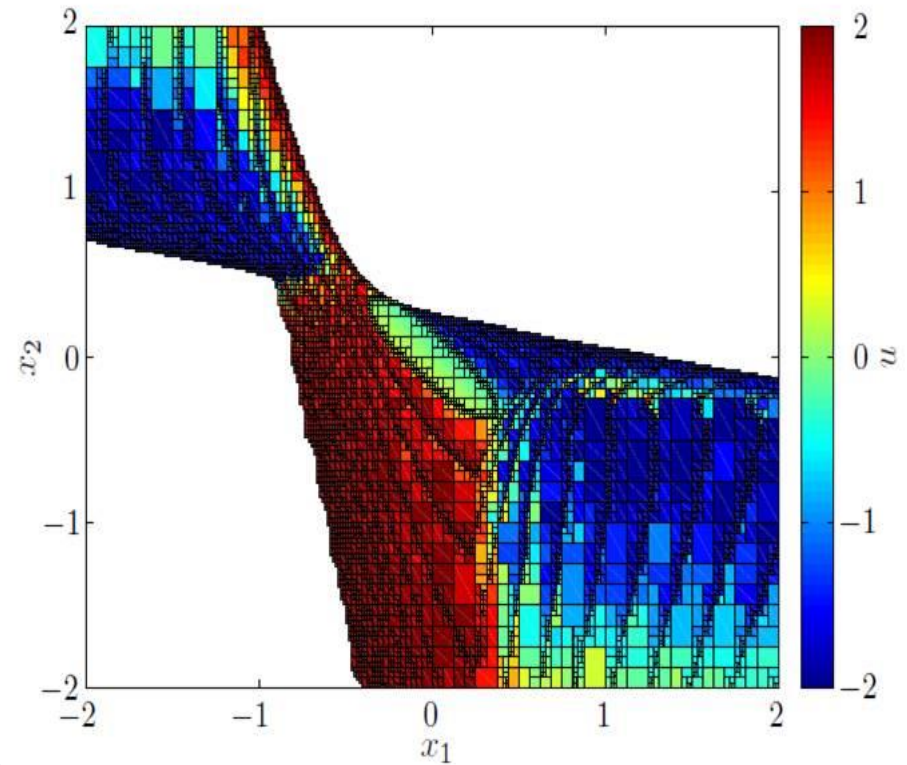
$$\mathcal{U} = \{u \in \mathbb{R} \mid |u| \leq 2\}$$

# Numerical example

Feasible set



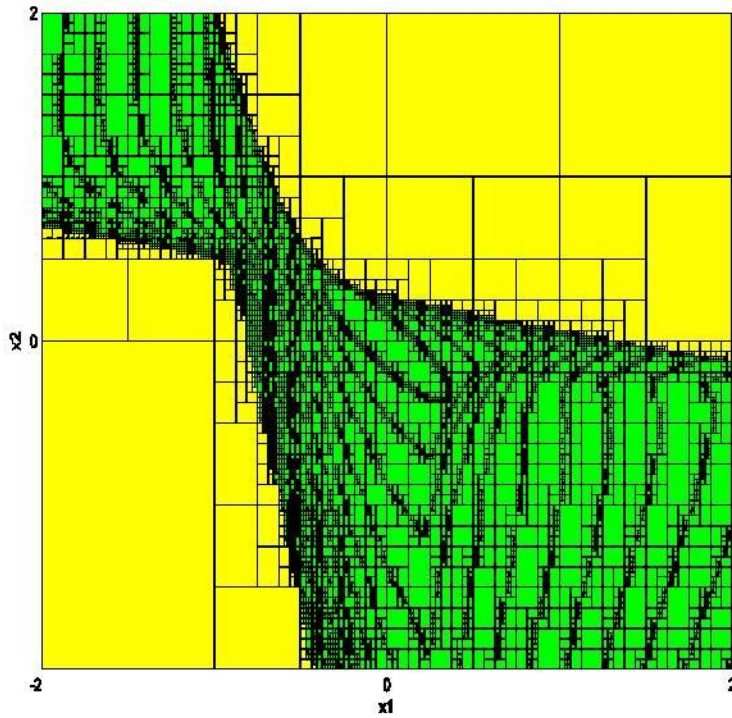
PWC-controller





# Numerical example

## Feasible set



## Considerations

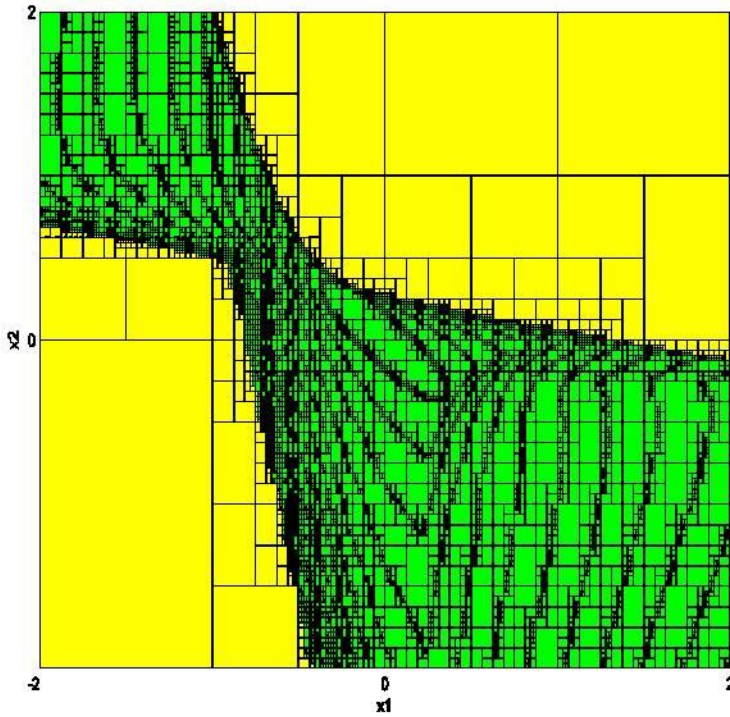
*Stability is guaranteed*

Once the terminal set is attained we switch to the auxiliary controller  $\tilde{k}_f(x)$

Differently from the original method, the use of hyperrectangles provides non-overlapping regions

# Numerical example

## Feasible set



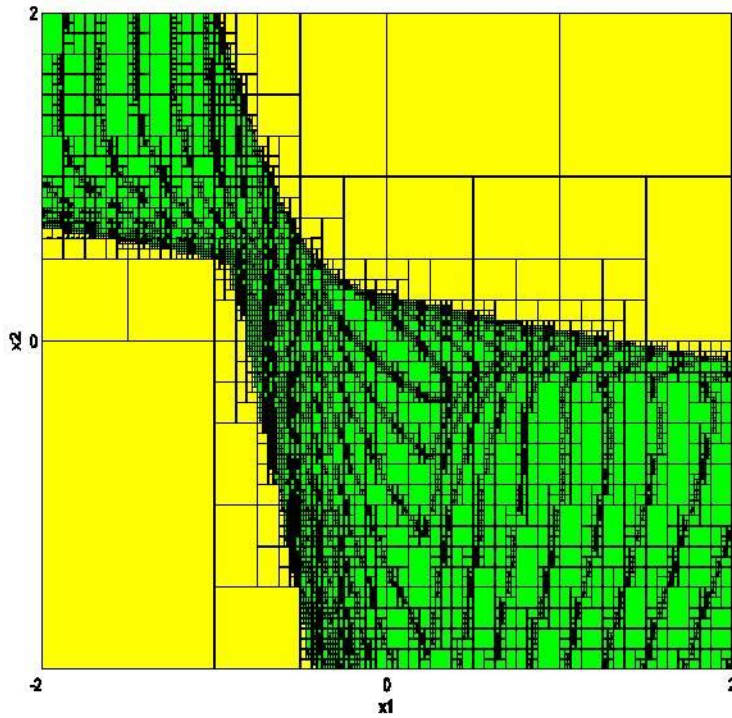
## Considerations

*In order to reduce suboptimality*

Candidate regions can be further split according to the cost function  $x_1' Q x_1 + u_0' R u_0$  and stop when the gap between keeping the same controller or differentiating it for each subset is smaller than a threshold  $\varepsilon$ .

# Numerical example

## Feasible set



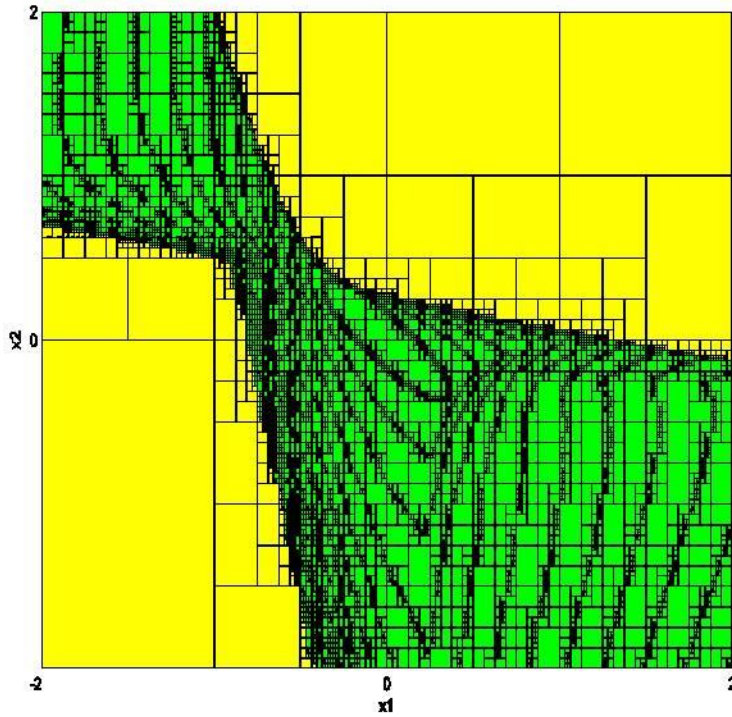
## Considerations

How conservative is the inner approximation of the feasible set?



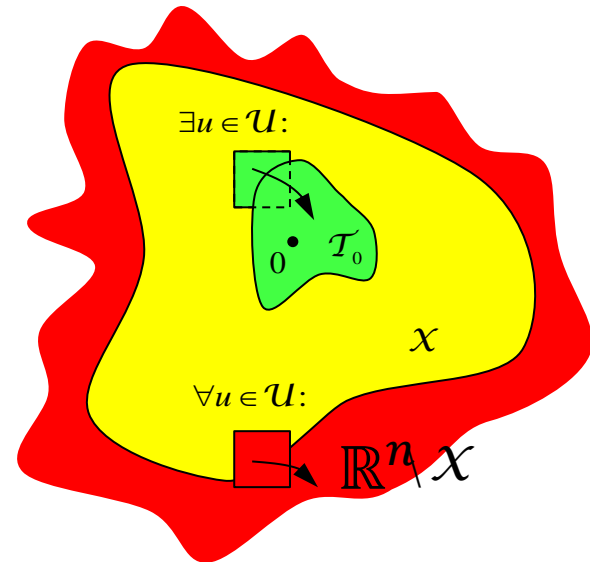
# Numerical example

## Feasible set



## Considerations

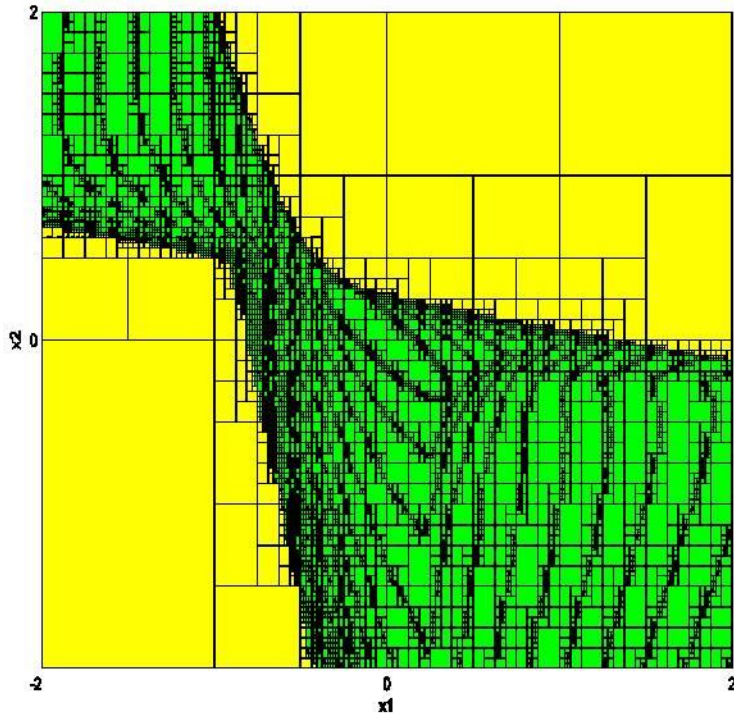
### Inner approximation of infeasible set



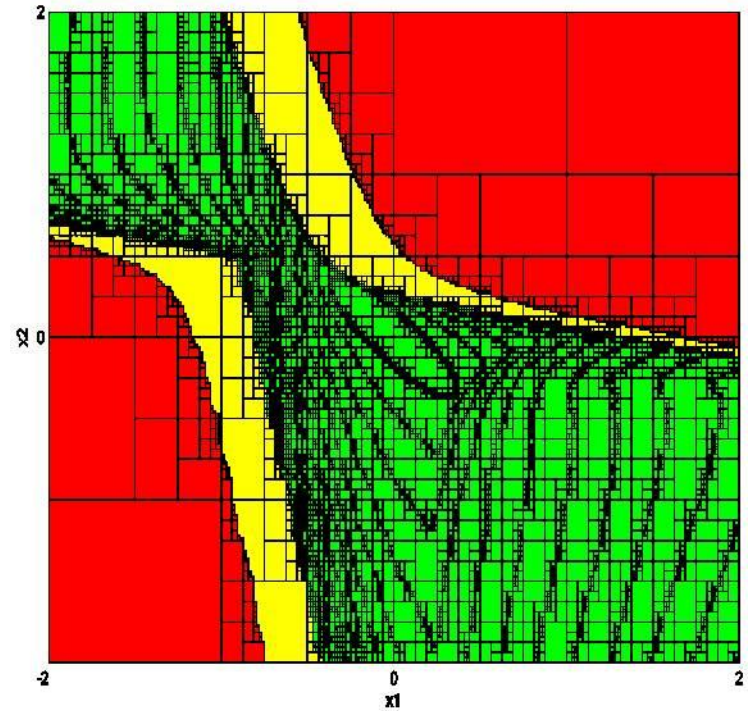
Compute the regions for which all  $U$  lead to  $R^n \setminus X$  with  $N \rightarrow \infty$

# Numerical example

Feasible set



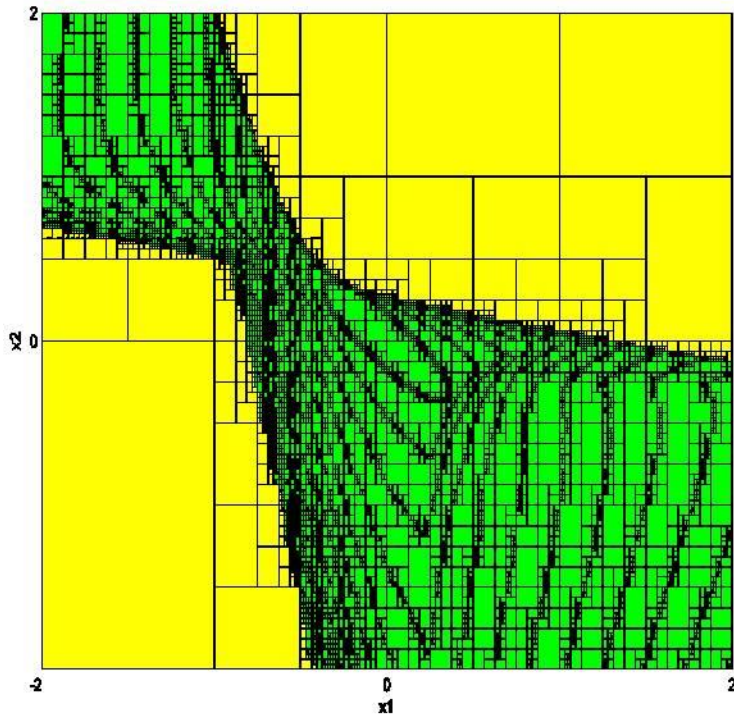
Considerations



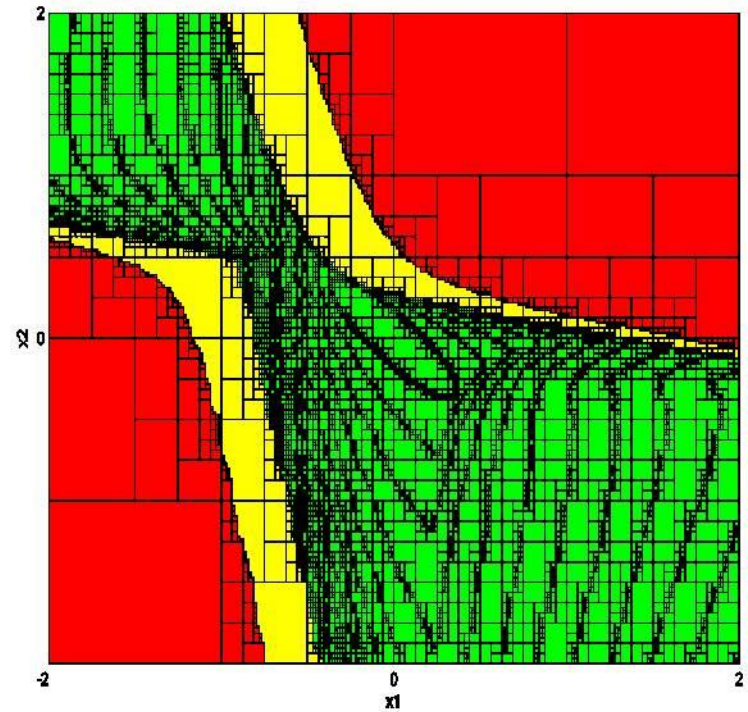
Why the gap?

# Numerical example

## Feasible set



## Considerations

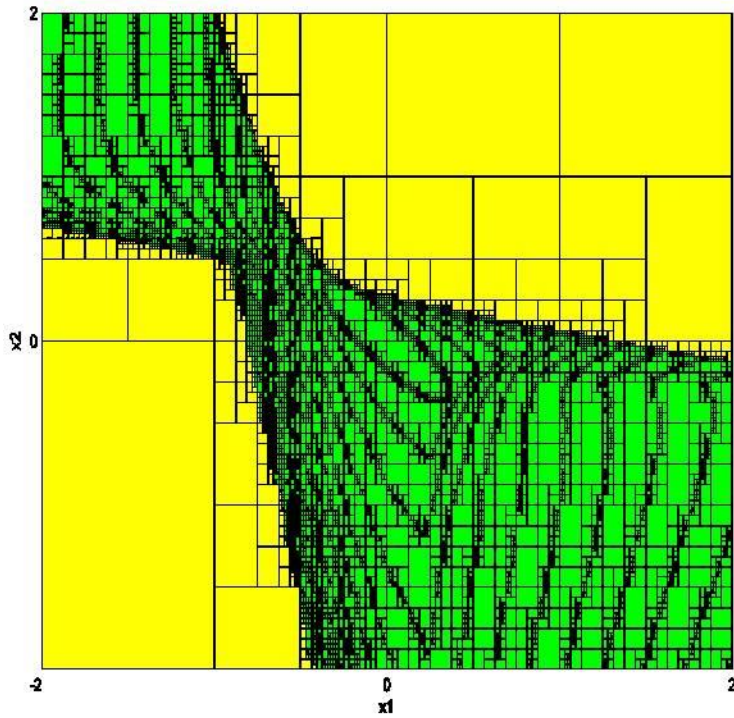


Finite horizon for the green region

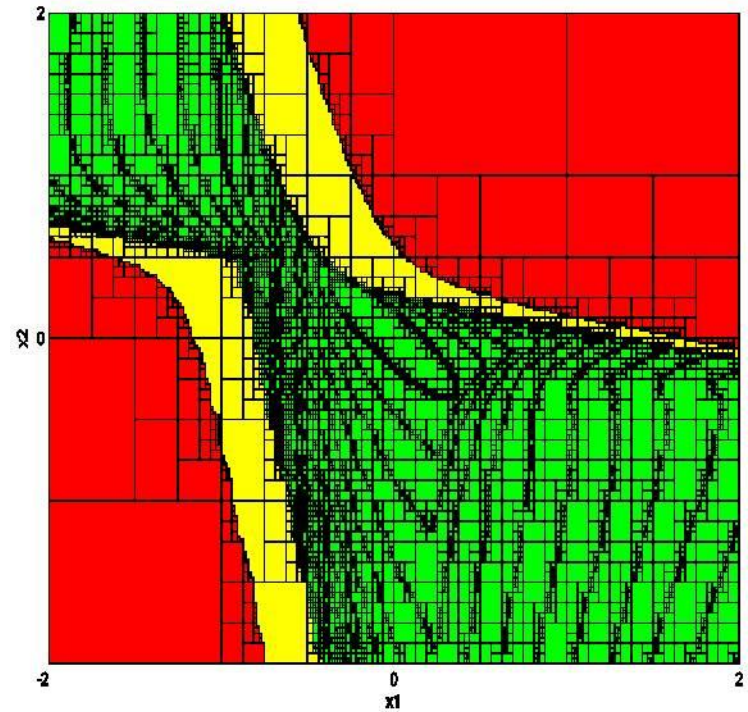


# Numerical example

Feasible set



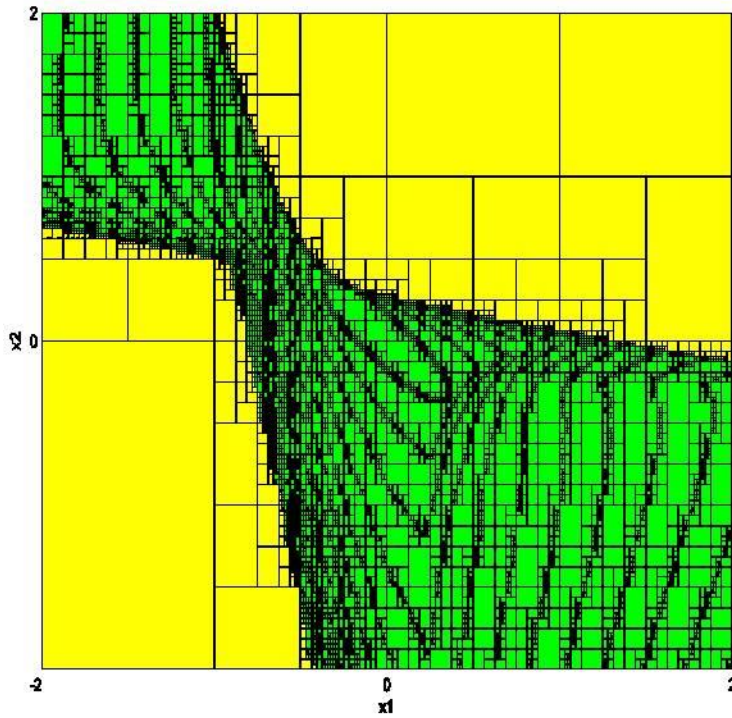
Considerations



Not feasible also when  $\mathcal{T}$  is not attained in N steps

# Numerical example

## Feasible set



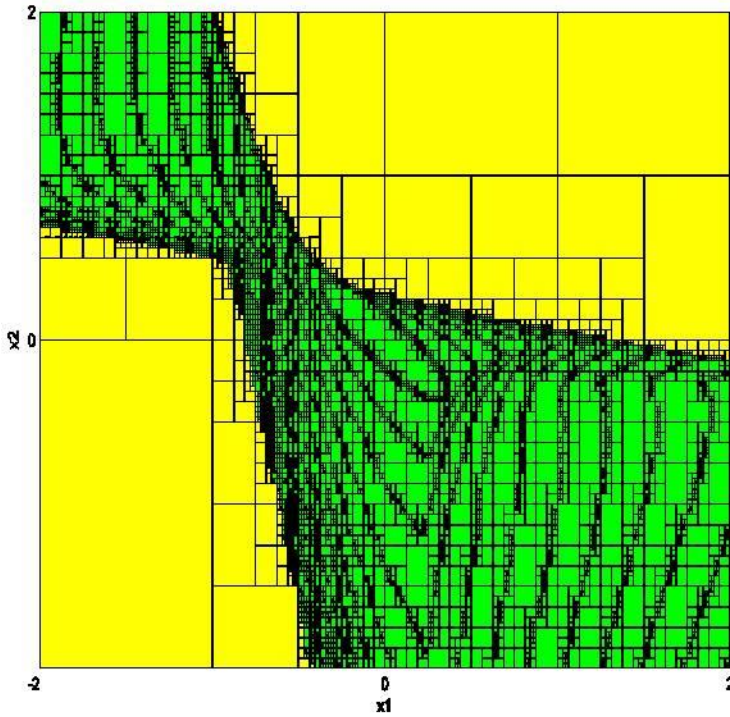
## Considerations

What about solving directly the N-step problem?

*Stability:* difficult to get a suboptimality gap from the optimal solution.

# Numerical example

## Feasible set



*3240 regions*

## Considerations

*Fast online evaluation*  
*Minimal storage requirements*

Hash Map Representation:  
Memory saving

Search Tree Representation  
Fast online evaluation time

The control law can be evaluated in  $31ns$   
(Hash) or  $0.5\mu s$  (Search Tree)