

# Emerging Algorithms for Verifying Deep Neural Networks

Changliu Liu<sup>1</sup>, Tomer Arnon<sup>2</sup>, Chris Lazarus<sup>2</sup>, Clark Barrett<sup>2</sup>, and Mykel Kochenderfer<sup>2</sup>

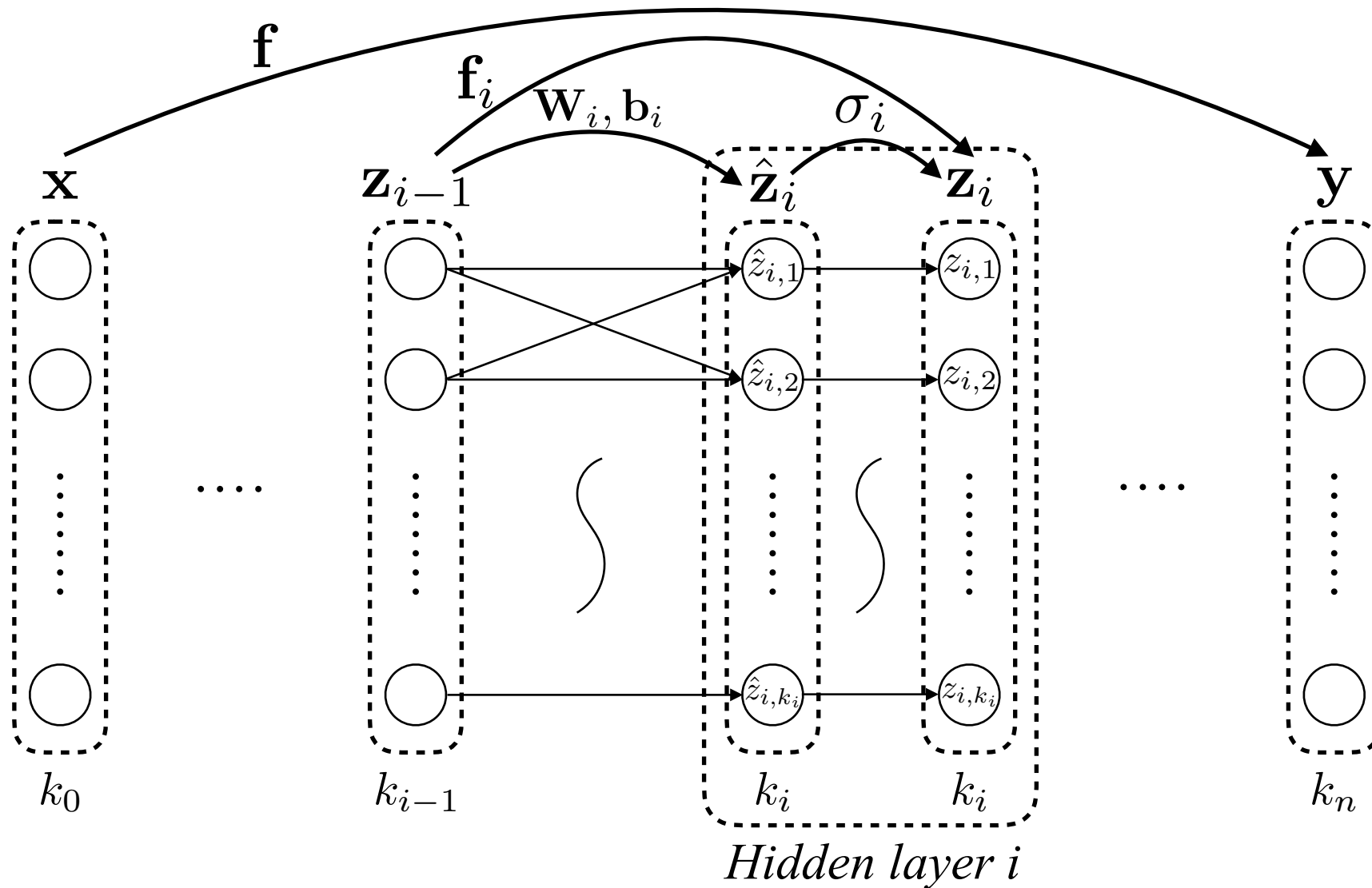
<sup>1</sup> Carnegie Mellon University

<sup>2</sup> Stanford University

# Overview

- Deep neural networks are widely used for **nonlinear function approximation** with applications spanning from computer vision to control.
- Although these networks involve the composition of simple arithmetic operations, it can be very challenging to verify whether a particular network satisfies certain **input-output properties**.
- We survey methods that have emerged recently for soundly verifying such properties. In this talk, we will
  1. Discuss fundamental differences and connections between existing algorithms;
  2. Introduce NeuralVerification.jl toolbox which contains pedagogical implementations of existing methods.

# Deep Feed Forward Neural Networks



# What to Verify?

## Input-Output Relationship

$$\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}, \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathcal{Y}.$$

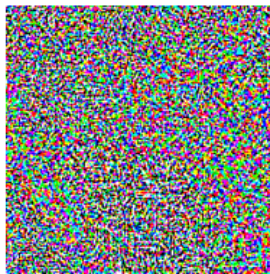
```
struct Problem{P, Q}
  network::Network
  input::P
  output::Q
end
```

## Robustness Problem



“panda”  
57.7% confidence

+ .007 ×



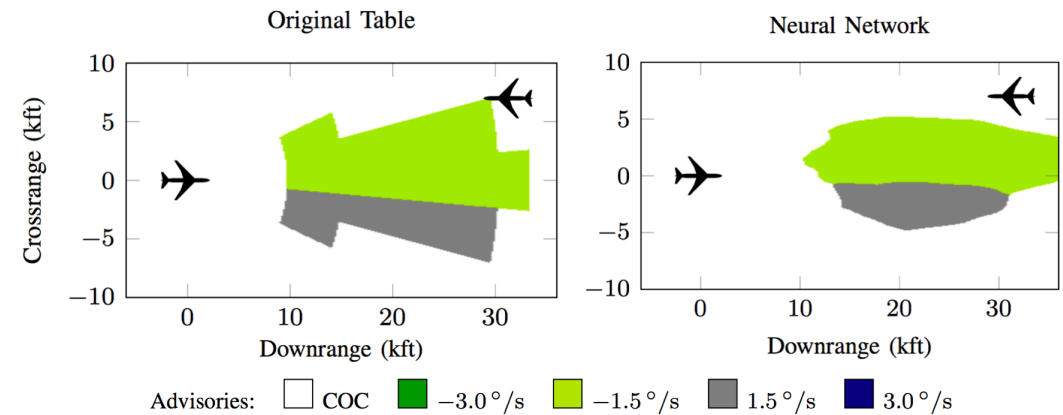
“nematode”  
8.2% confidence

=



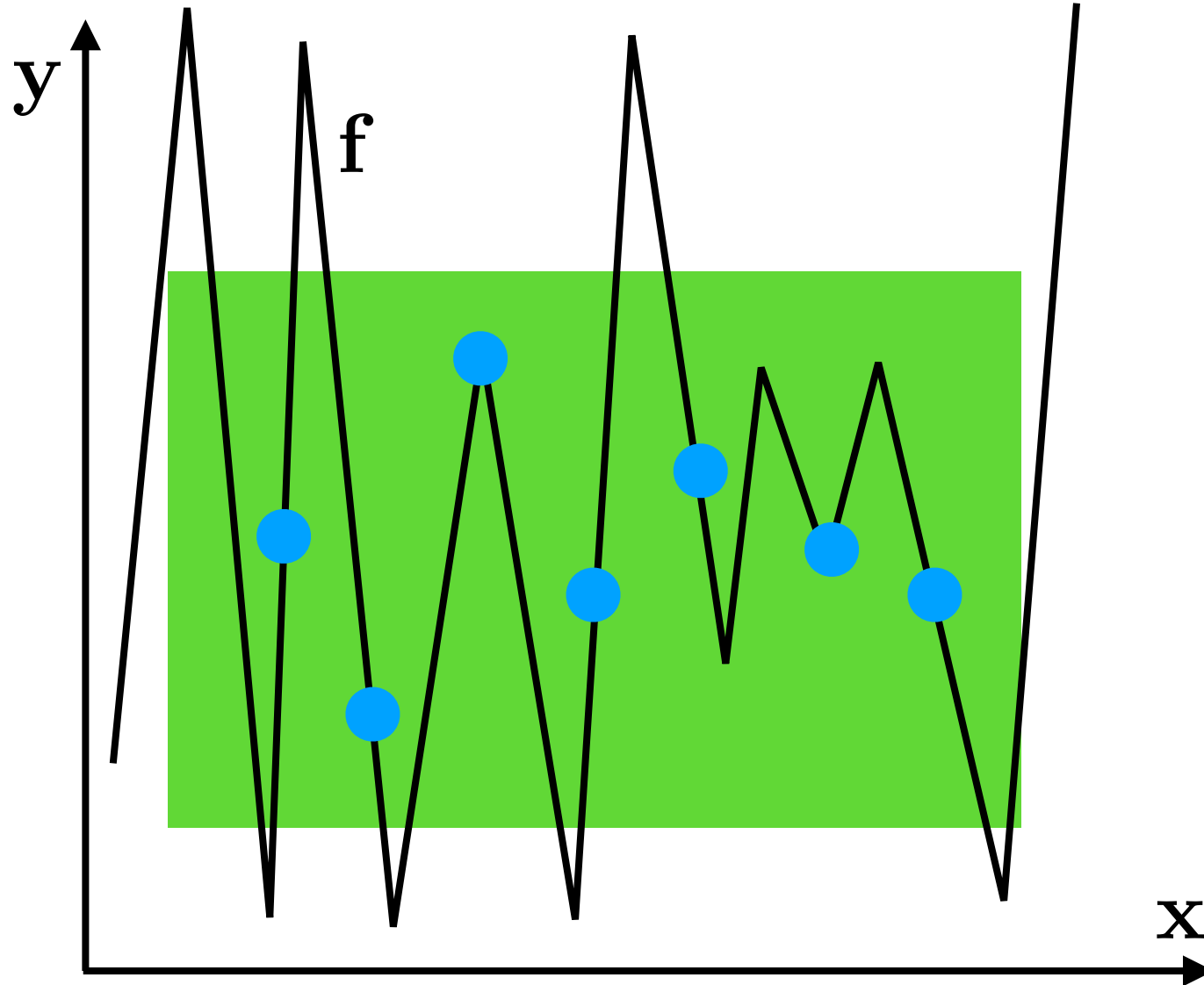
“gibbon”  
99.3 % confidence

## Safety Problem





# Point-wise Verification can Fail



# Result and Failure Modes

```
abstract type Result end

struct BasicResult <: Result
    status::Symbol
end

struct CounterExampleResult <: Result
    status::Symbol
    counter_example::Vector{Float64}
end

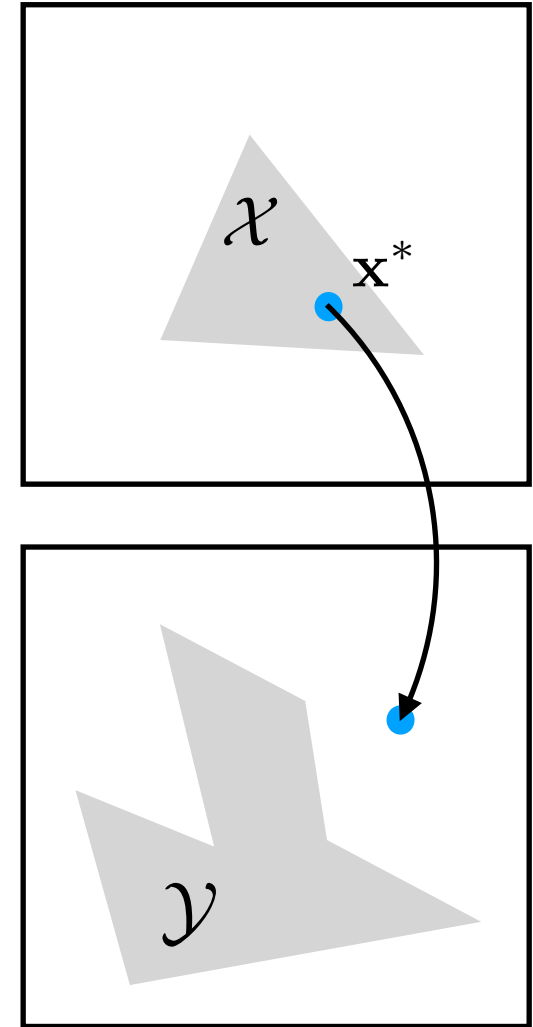
struct AdversarialResult <: Result
    status::Symbol
    max_disturbance::Float64
end

struct ReachabilityResult <: Result
    status::Symbol
    reachable::Vector{<:AbstractPolytope}
end
```

# Result and Failure Modes

## Counter example

$$\mathbf{x}^* \in \mathcal{X}, \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}^*) \notin \mathcal{Y},$$



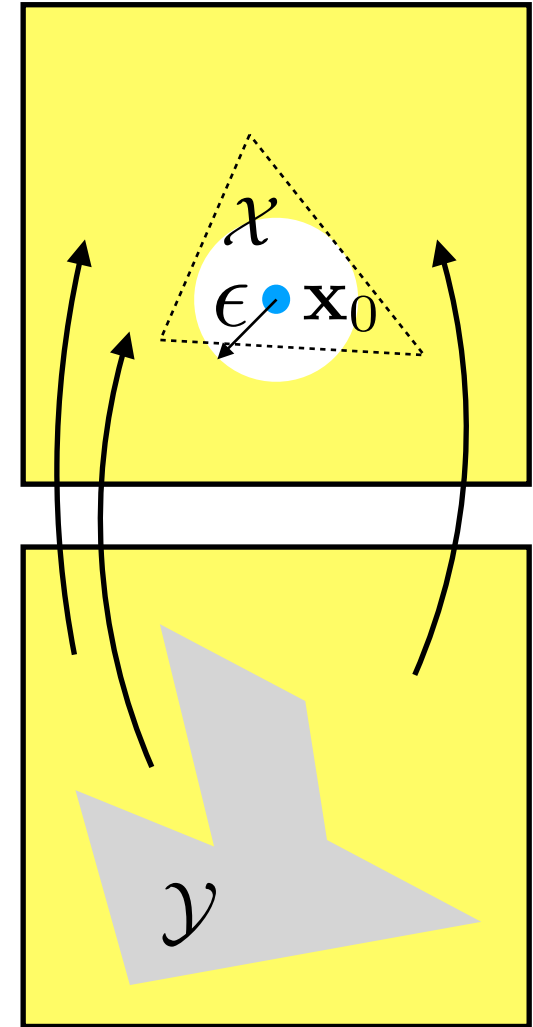
# Result and Failure Modes

## Counter example

$$\mathbf{x}^* \in \mathcal{X}, \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}^*) \notin \mathcal{Y},$$

## Adversarial input

$$\epsilon := \min_{\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) \notin \mathcal{Y}} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0\|_p < \text{radius}(\mathcal{X}),$$



# Result and Failure Modes

## Counter example

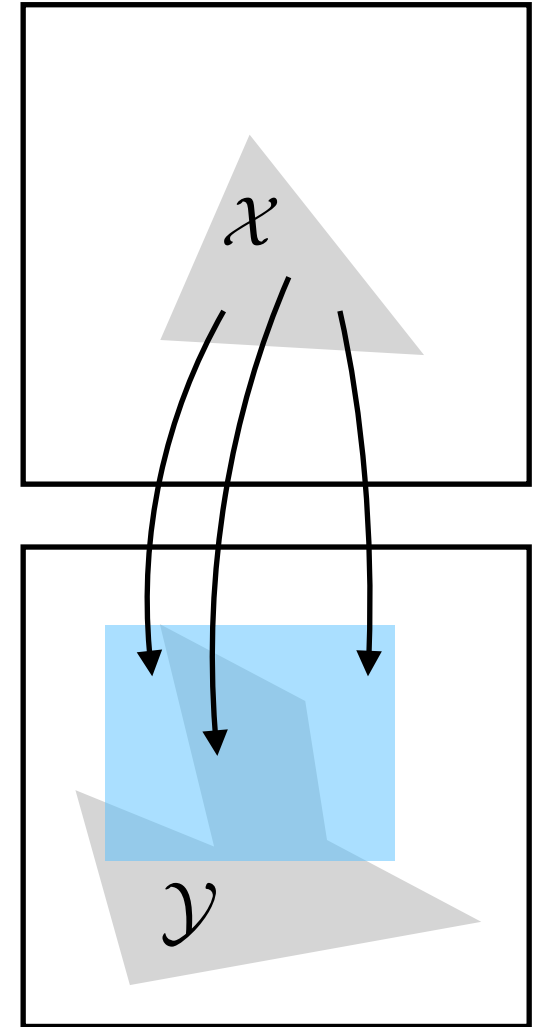
$$\mathbf{x}^* \in \mathcal{X}, \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}^*) \notin \mathcal{Y},$$

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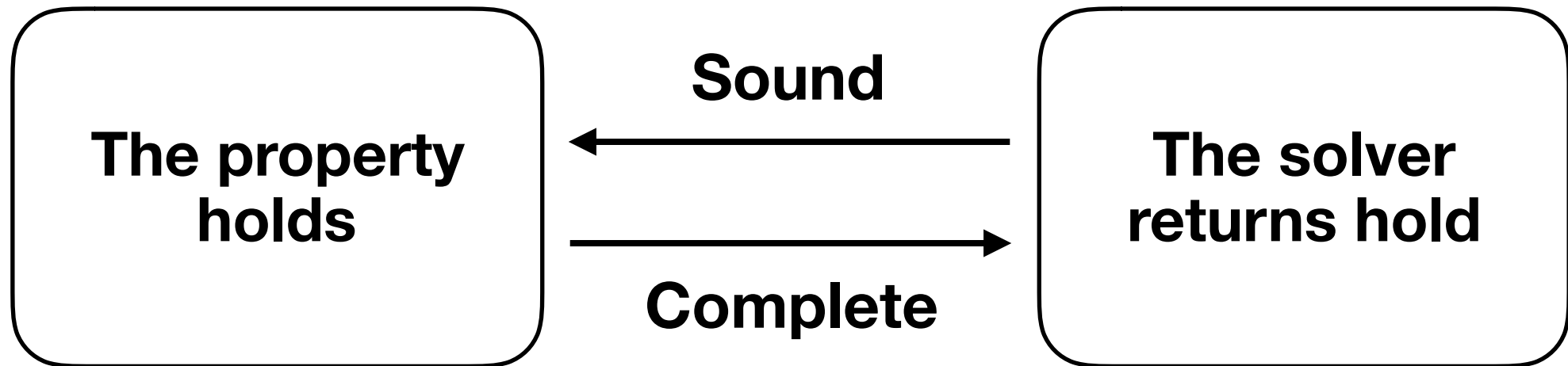
## Output Reachable set

$$\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{X}, \mathbf{f}) := \{\mathbf{y} : \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}), \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}\} \not\subseteq \mathcal{Y}.$$



# Recent Approaches

- **Handles piece-wise linear activation function**
- **A majority of the methods only consider ReLU activation**
- **Soundness, Completeness, Terminating**



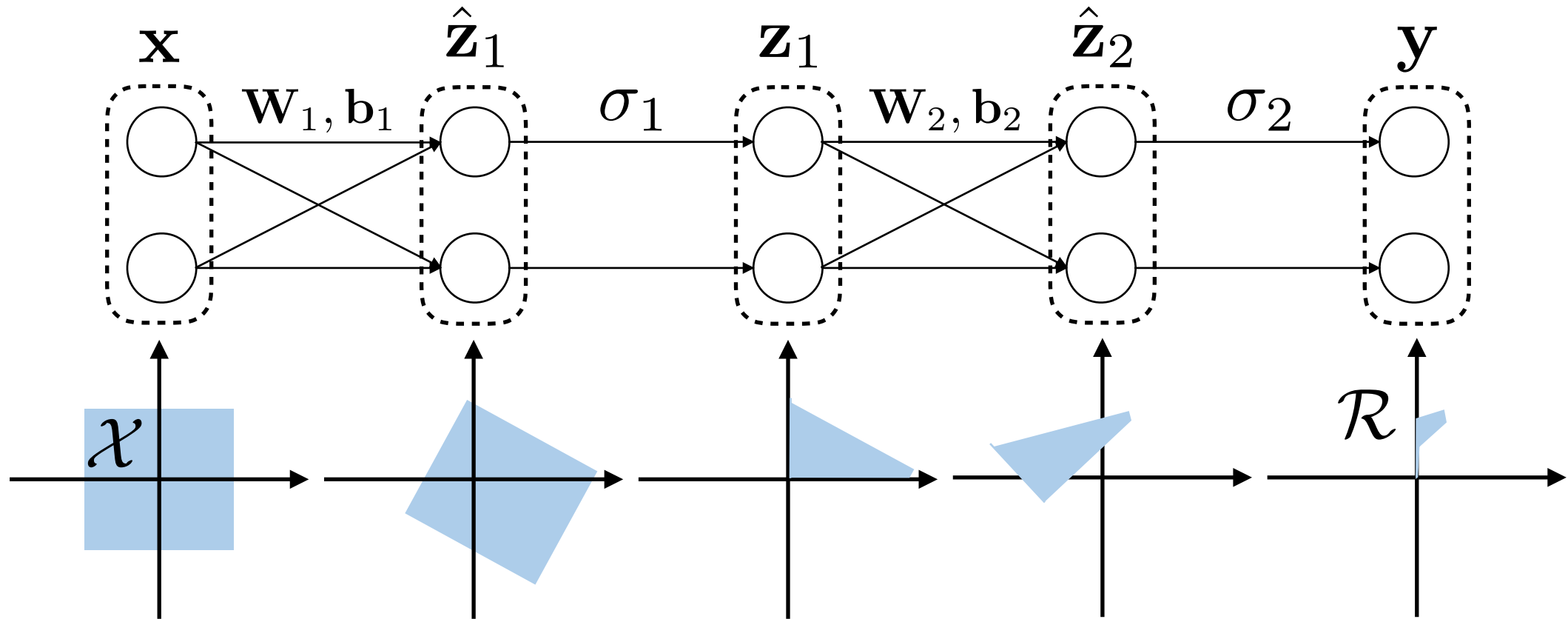
# Three basic methods

**Reachability**

**Optimization**

**Search**

# Reachability

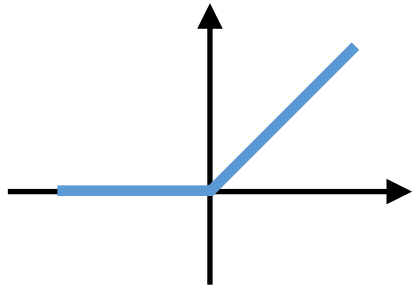




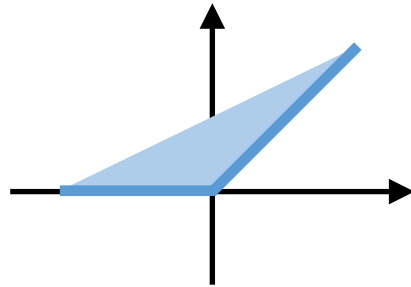
# Optimization

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}} J(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}),$$

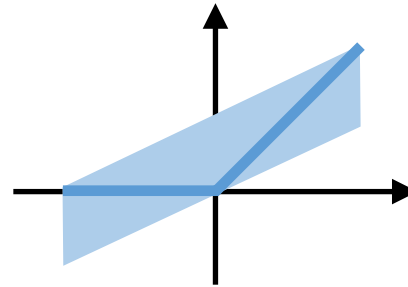
$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}, \mathbf{y} \notin \mathcal{Y}, \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}),$$



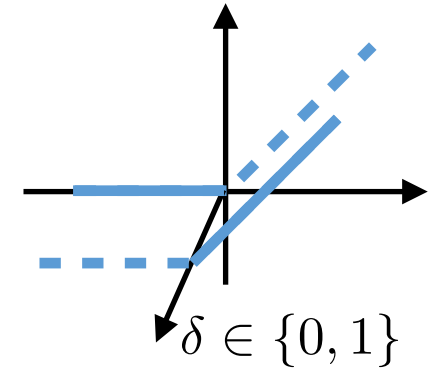
ReLU



Triangle Relaxation



Parallel Relaxation

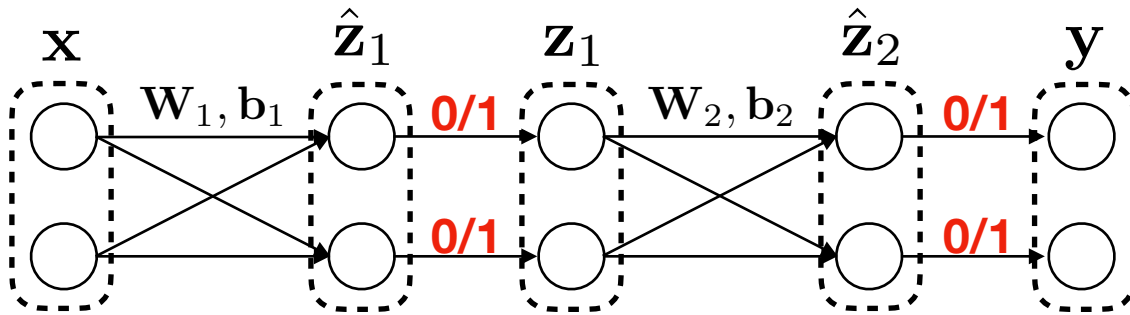


Mixed Integer Encoding

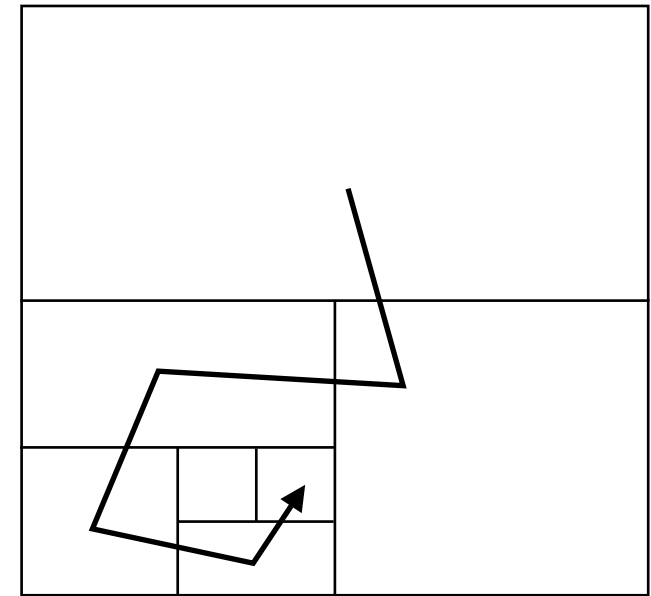
# Search

1. Search in function space

2. Search in input/hidden domain

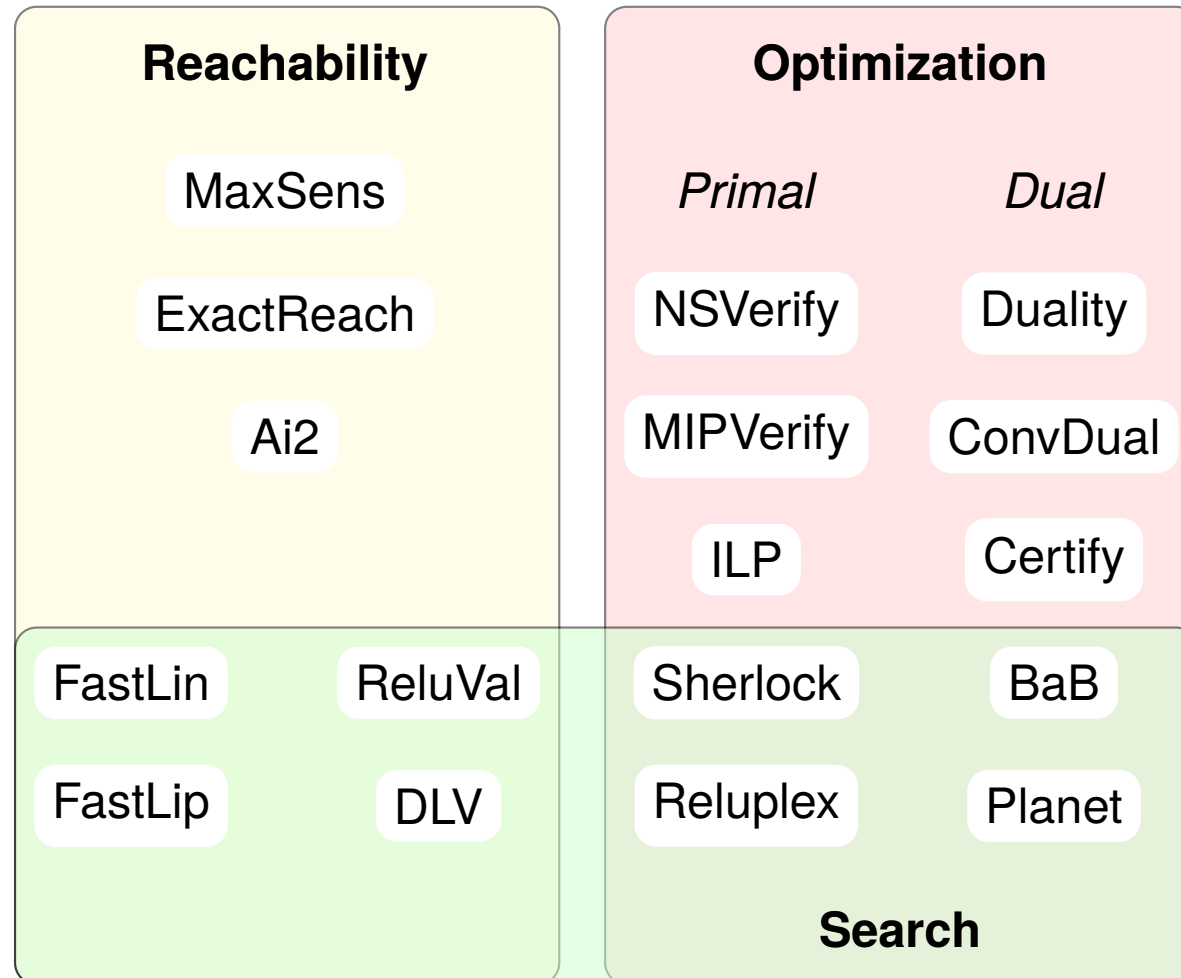


**Satisfiability problem (SAT)**



**Branch and Bound**

# Overview



# Reachability

## Exact Reachability

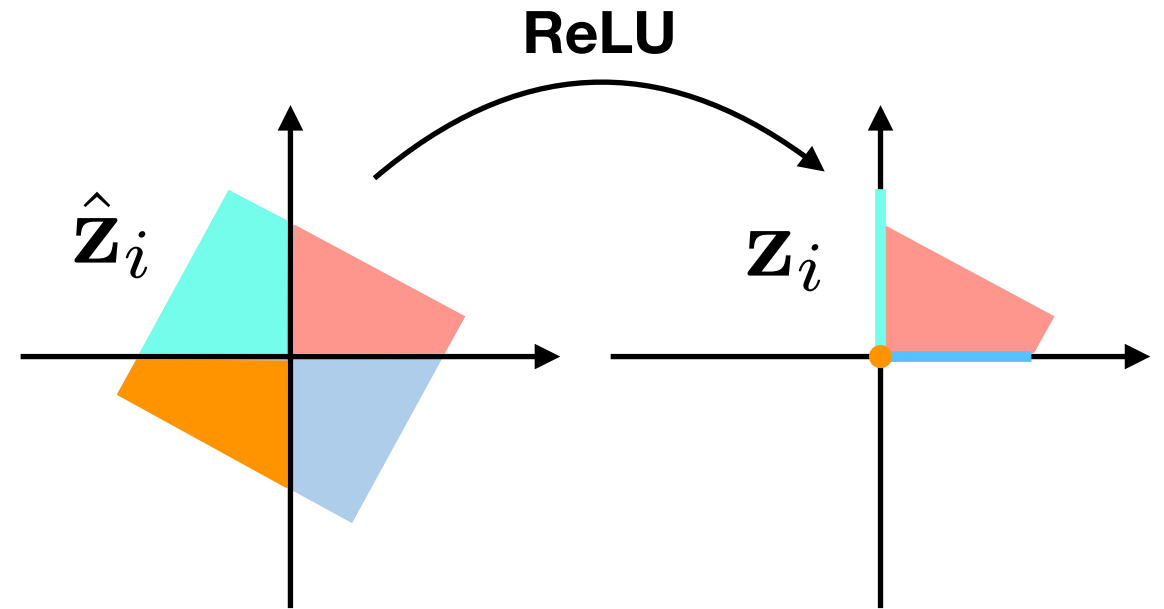
Split-and-Join

Interval Arithmetic

Symbolic Propagation

Network Approximation

ExactReach



Keep track of all polytopes

# Reachability

Exact Reachability

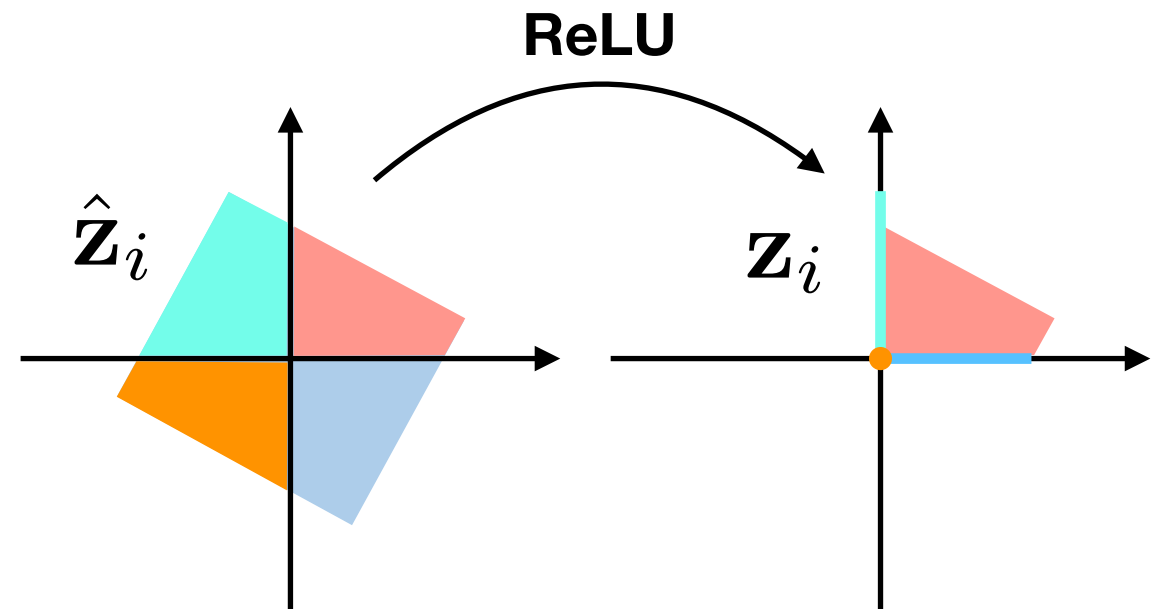
**Split-and-Join**

Interval Arithmetic

Symbolic Propagation

Network Approximation

Ai2



**Join the polytopes for each layer**

# Reachability

Exact Reachability

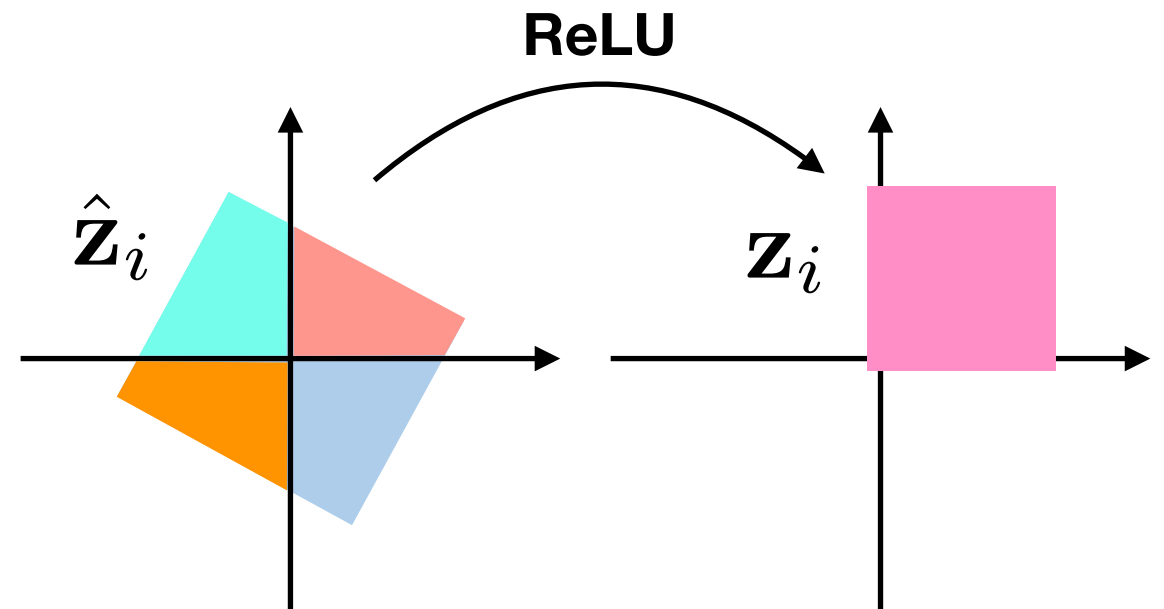
**Split-and-Join**

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**Join the polytopes for each layer**

# Reachability

Exact Reachability

Split-and-Join

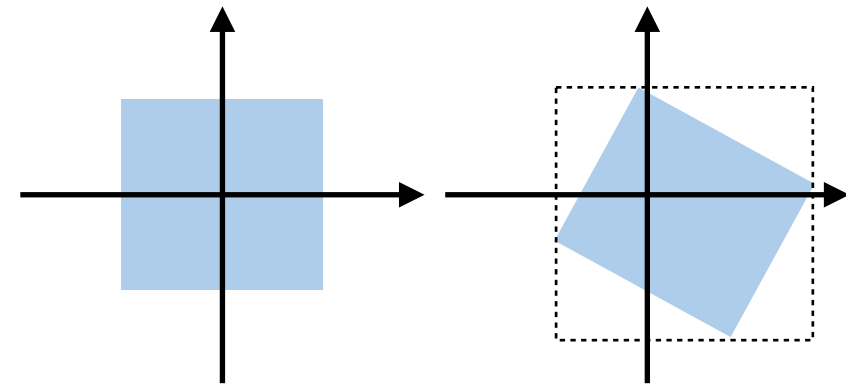
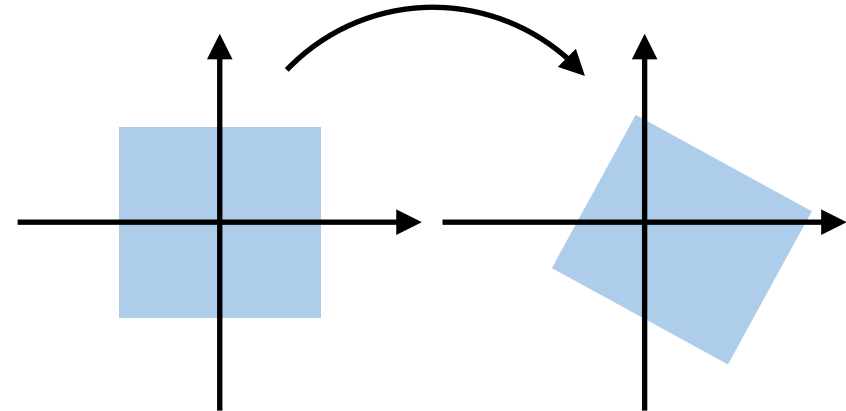
**Interval Arithmetic**

Symbolic Propagation

Network Approximation

MaxSens

Set transformation



Interval arithmetic

**Each axis is computed independently**

# Reachability

Exact Reachability

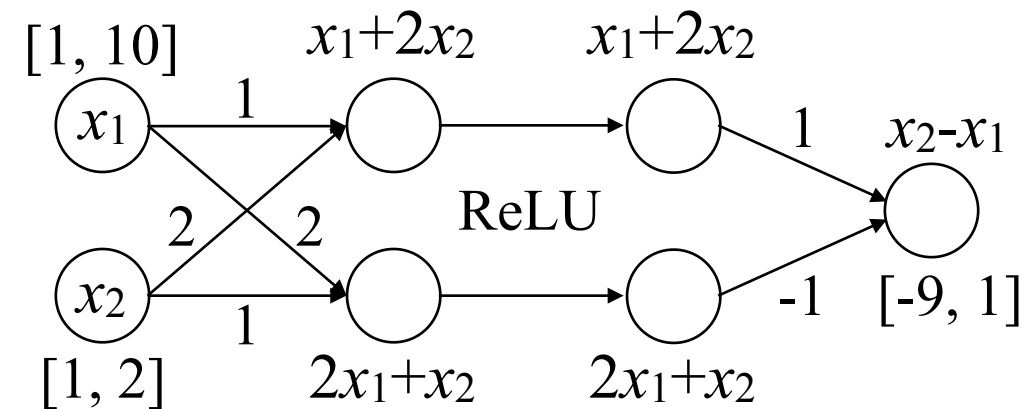
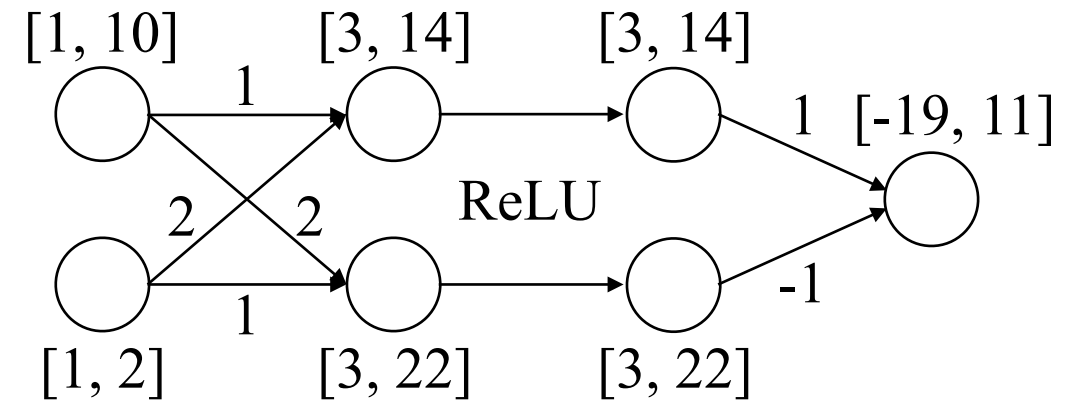
Split-and-Join

Interval Arithmetic

**Symbolic Propagation**

Network Approximation

ReluVal



**Minimize over approximation in the hidden layers**



# Reachability

Exact Reachability

Split-and-Join

Interval Arithmetic

Symbolic Propagation

**Network Approximation**

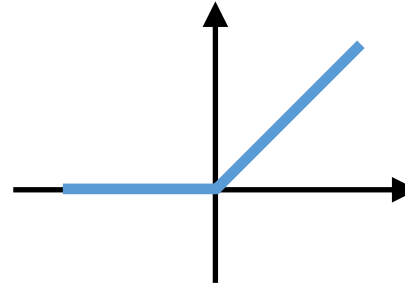
**\* Dual network**

FastLin

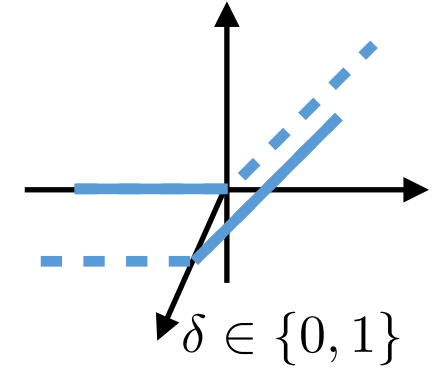
# Primal Optimization

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}} J(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}),$$

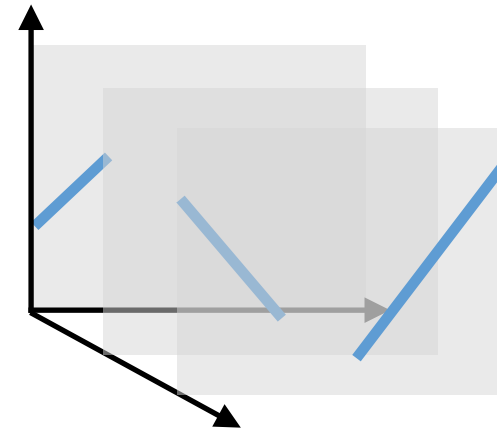
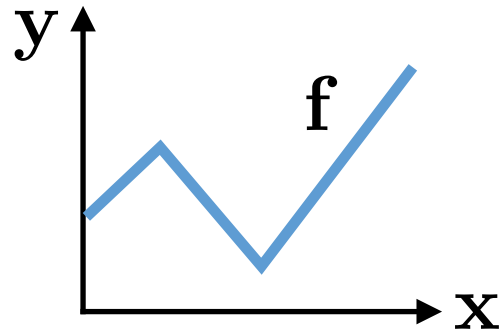
$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}, \mathbf{y} \notin \mathcal{Y}, \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}),$$



ReLU



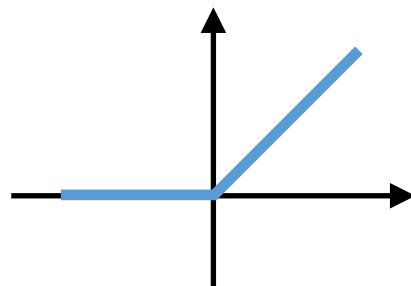
Mixed Integer Encoding



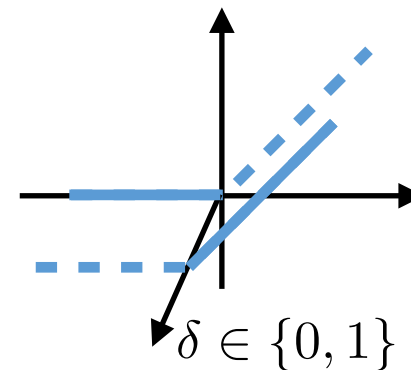
# Primal Optimization

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}} J(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}),$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}, \mathbf{y} \notin \mathcal{Y}, \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}),$$



ReLU



Mixed Integer Encoding

NSVerify

$$\begin{aligned} z_{i,j} &\geq \hat{z}_{i,j} \\ z_{i,j} &\geq 0 \\ z_{i,j} &\leq \hat{z}_{i,j} + m\delta_{i,j} \\ z_{i,j} &\leq m(1 - \delta_{i,j}) \end{aligned}$$

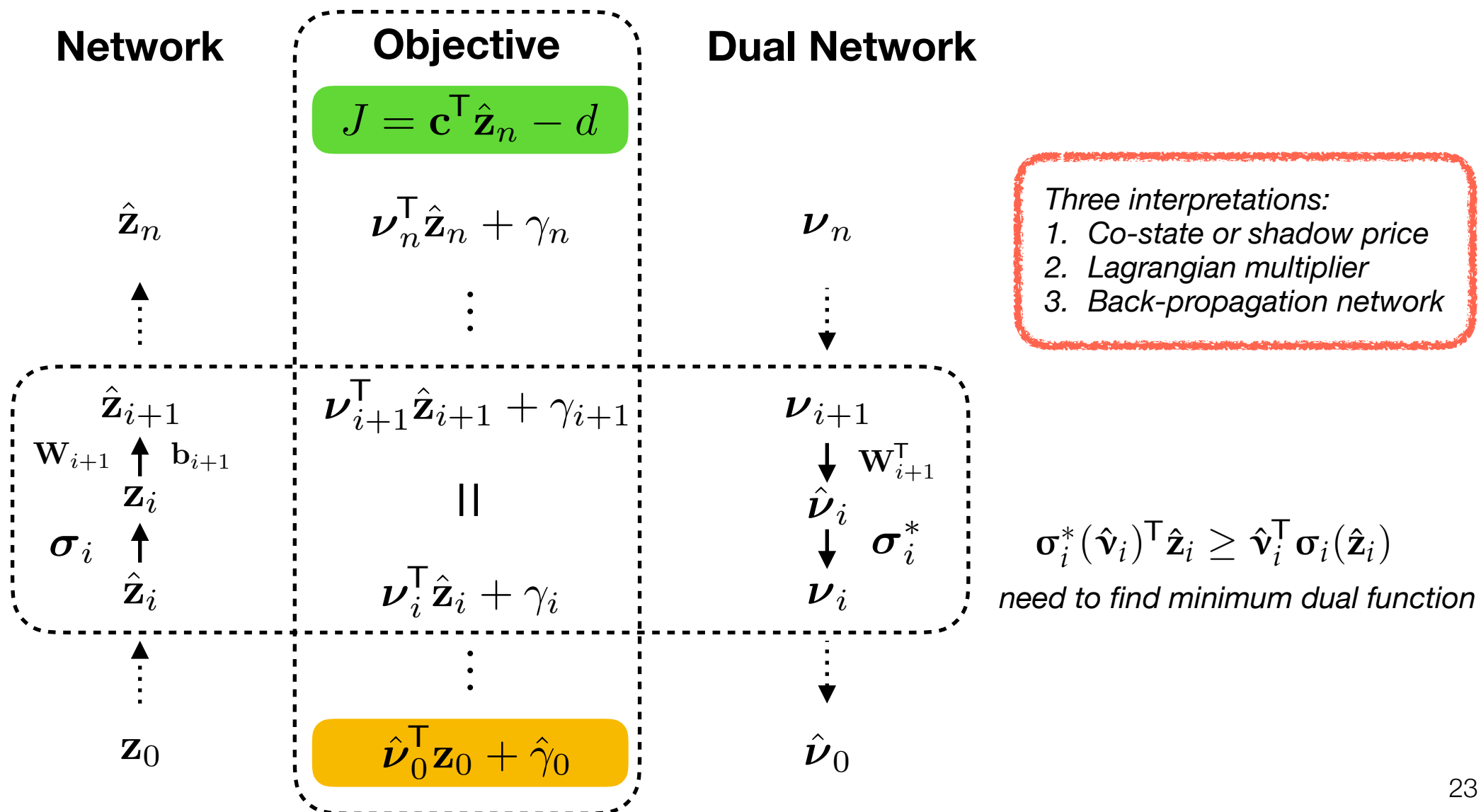
MIPVerify

$$\begin{aligned} z_{i,j} &\geq \hat{z}_{i,j} \\ z_{i,j} &\geq 0 \\ z_{i,j} &\leq \hat{u}_{i,j}\delta_{i,j} \\ z_{i,j} &\leq \hat{z}_{i,j} - \hat{l}_{i,j}(1 - \delta_{i,j}) \end{aligned}$$

ILP

$$z_{i,j} = \delta_{i,j} \hat{z}_{i,j}$$

# Dual Optimization

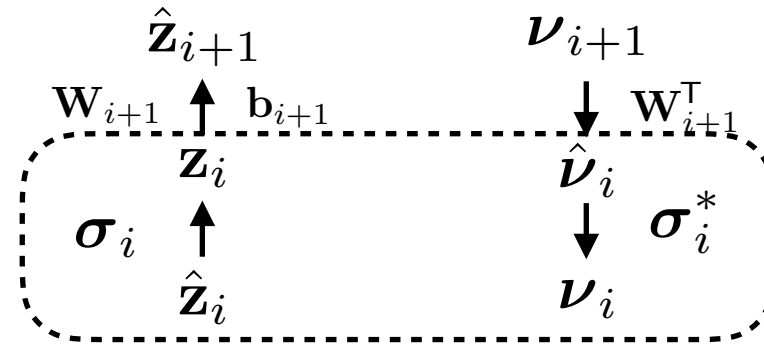


# Dual Optimization

**Lagrangian relaxation**

Network relaxation

Semidefinite relaxation



$$\sigma_i^*(\hat{\mathbf{v}}_i)^\top \hat{\mathbf{z}}_i \geq \hat{\mathbf{v}}_i^\top \sigma_i(\hat{\mathbf{z}}_i)$$

*find minimum dual function*

Duality

$$\min_{\hat{\mathbf{v}}_i, \mathbf{v}_i} \max_{\hat{\mathbf{l}}_i \leq \hat{\mathbf{z}}_i \leq \hat{\mathbf{u}}_i} \hat{\mathbf{v}}_i^\top \sigma_i(\hat{\mathbf{z}}_i) - \mathbf{v}_i^\top \hat{\mathbf{z}}_i$$

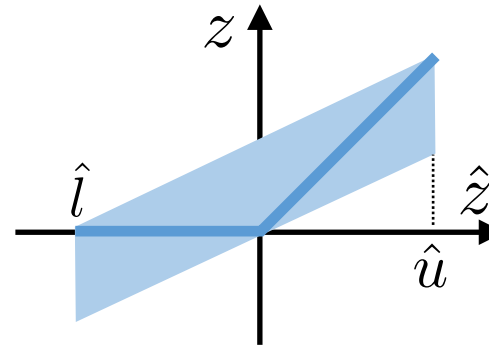
# Dual Optimization

Lagrangian relaxation

**Network relaxation**

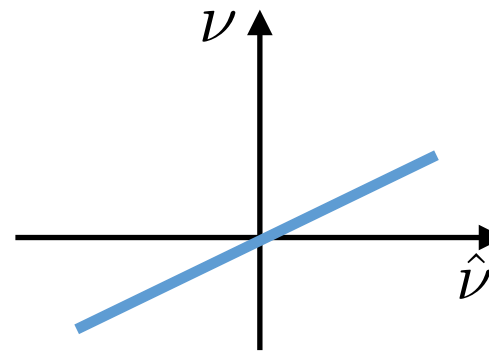
Semidefinite relaxation

ConvDual



Primal

$$\frac{\hat{u}}{\hat{u} - \hat{l}} \hat{z} \leq z \leq \frac{\hat{u}}{\hat{u} - \hat{l}} (\hat{z} - \hat{l})$$



Dual

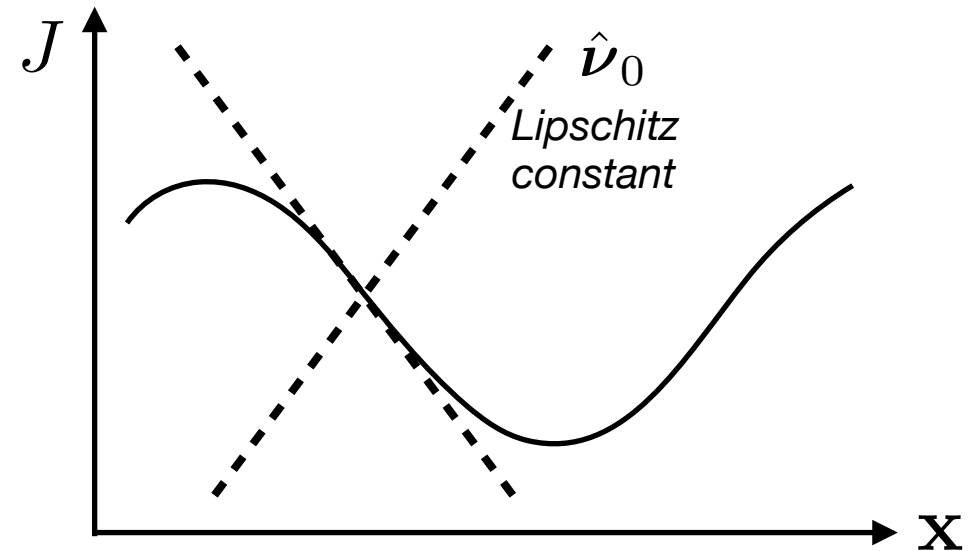
$$\hat{\nu} z \leq \underbrace{\frac{\hat{u}}{\hat{u} - \hat{l}} \hat{\nu}}_{\nu} \hat{z}$$

*\* The dual network is linear!*

# Dual Optimization

Lagrangian relaxation  
Network relaxation  
**Semidefinite relaxation**

Certify



$$\max_{\|x-x_0\|_\infty \leq \epsilon} J(x) \leq J(x_0) + \frac{\epsilon}{4} \max_{P \succeq 0, P_{jj} \leq 1} \langle M(c, W), P \rangle$$

**Only works for NN with one hidden layer**

# Search + Reachability

**FastLin**

**Binary search of desired input radius  
Reachability by network approximation**

**FastLip**

**FastLin + Lipchitz estimation**

**ReluVal**

**Search input domain by interval split  
Reachability by symbolic propagation**

**DLV**

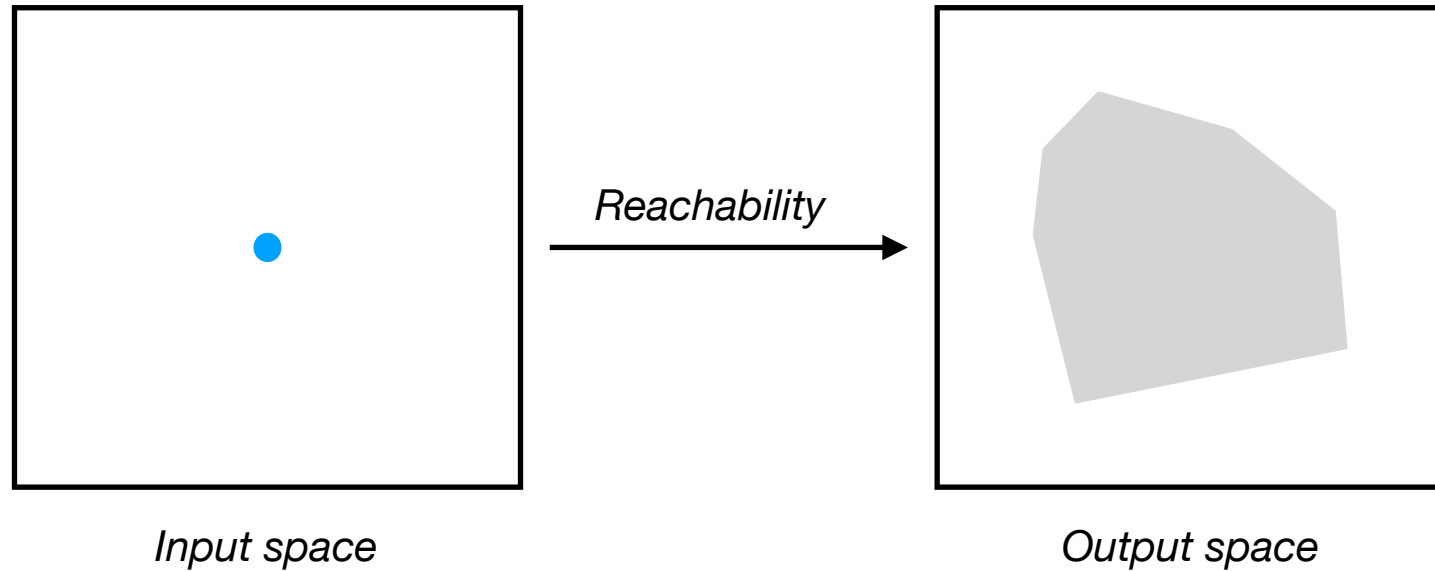
**Search layer-by-layer in hidden layers**



# Search + Reachability

FastLin

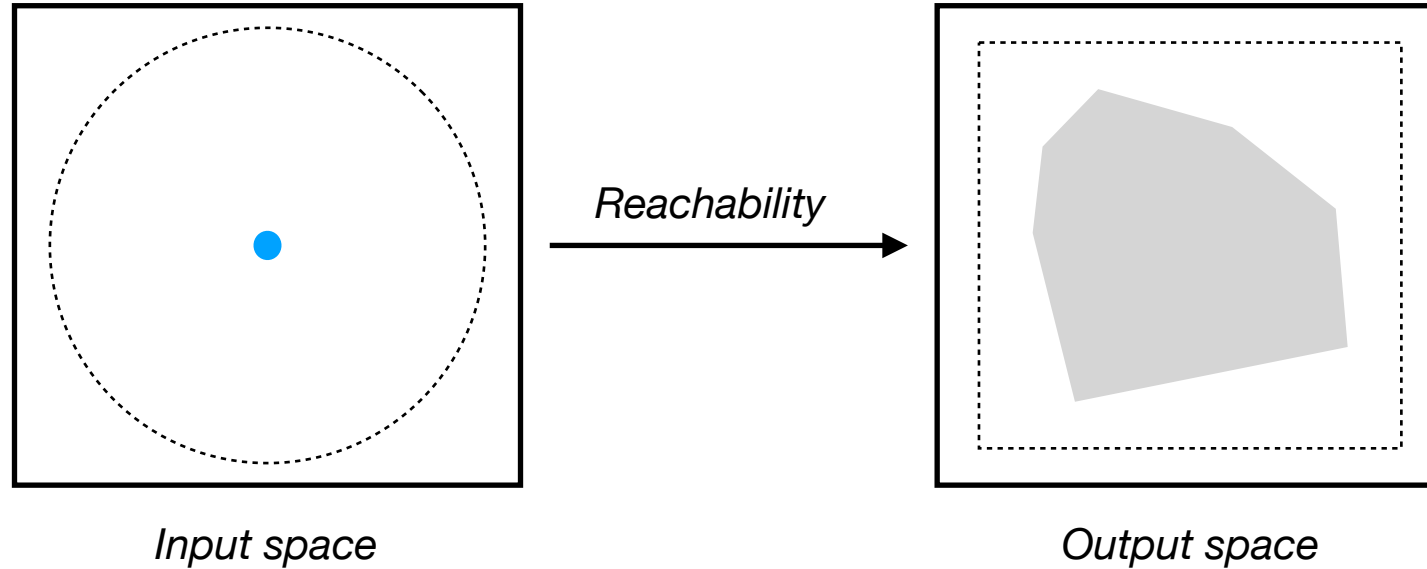
FastLip



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FastLin

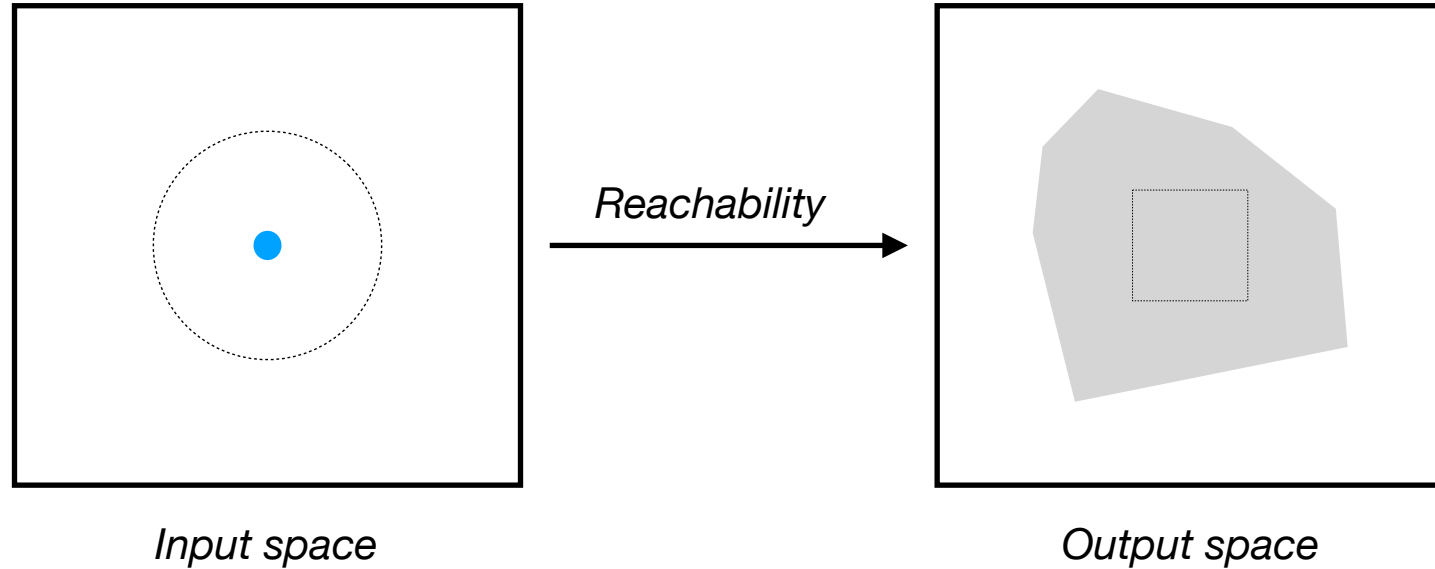
FastLip



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FastLin

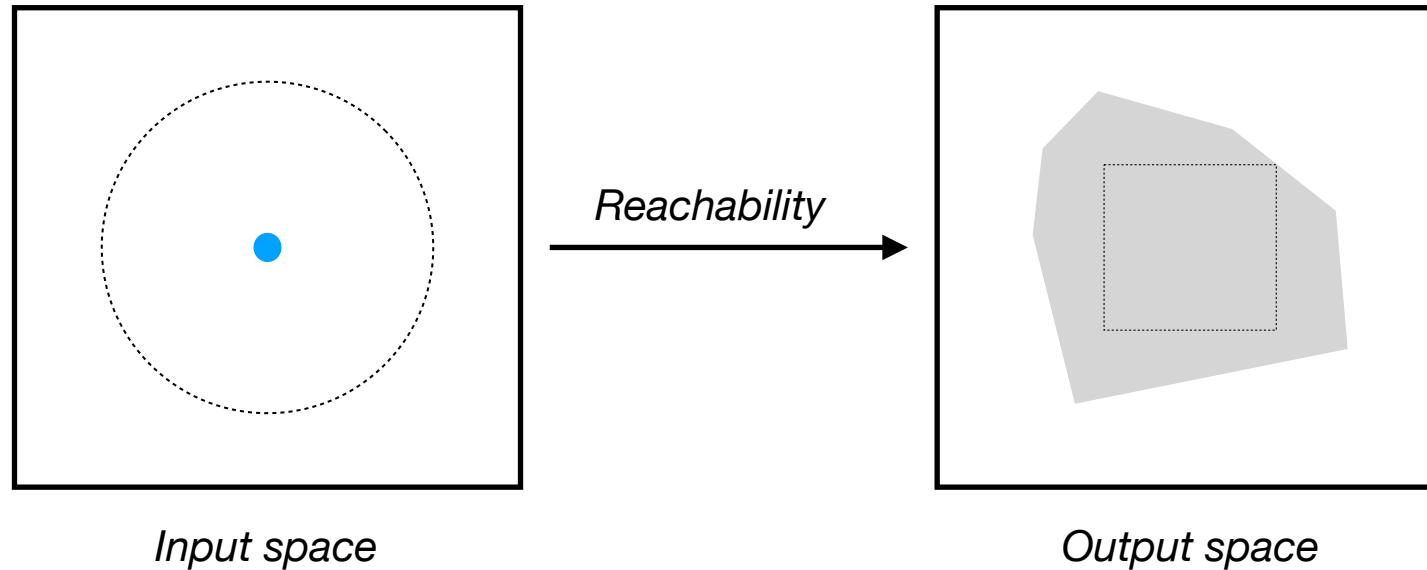
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FastLin

FastLip



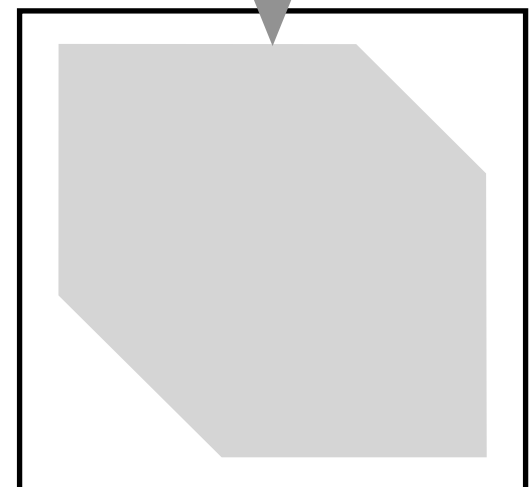
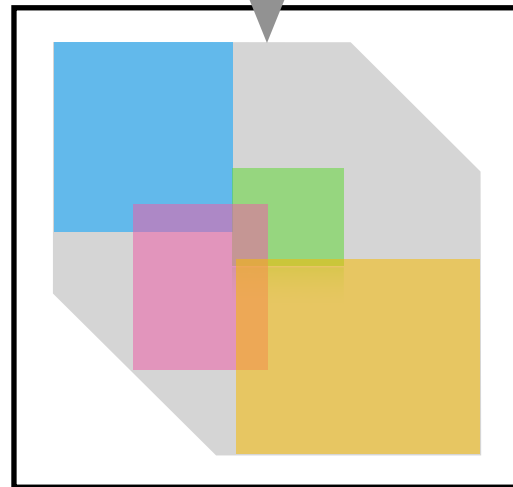
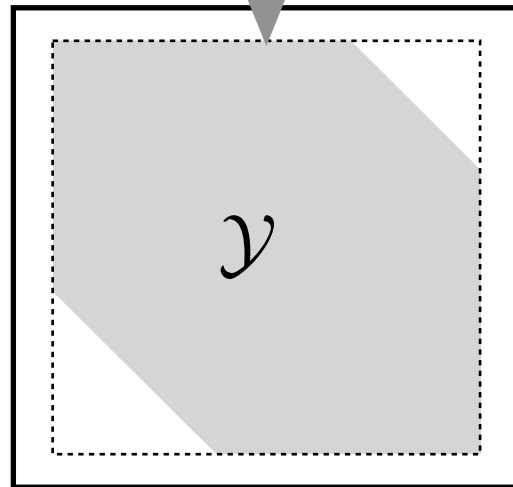
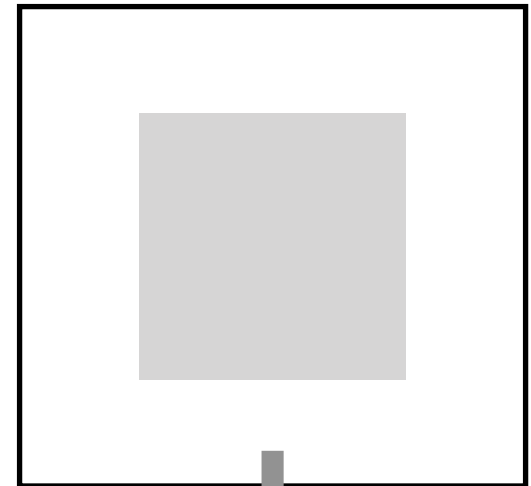
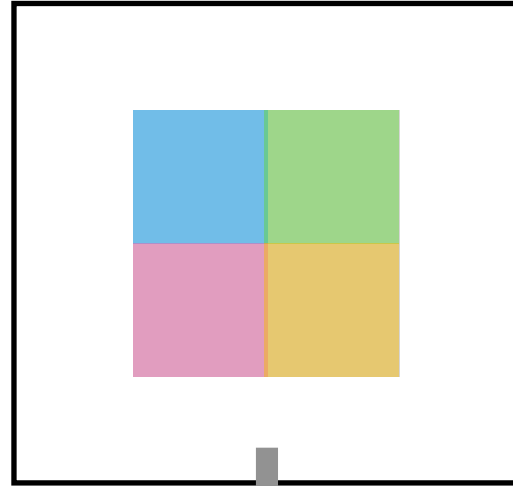
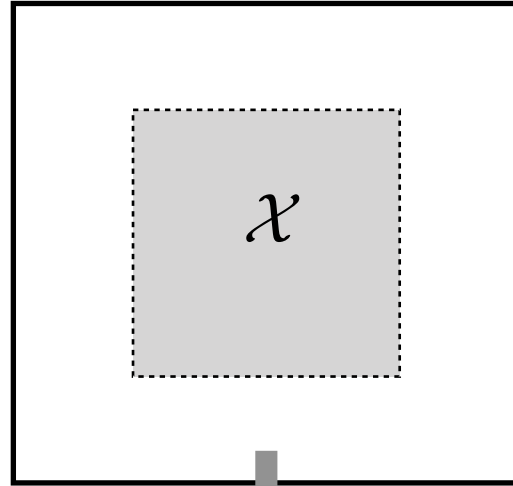
# Search + Reachability

ReluVal

# Search + Reachability

ReluVal

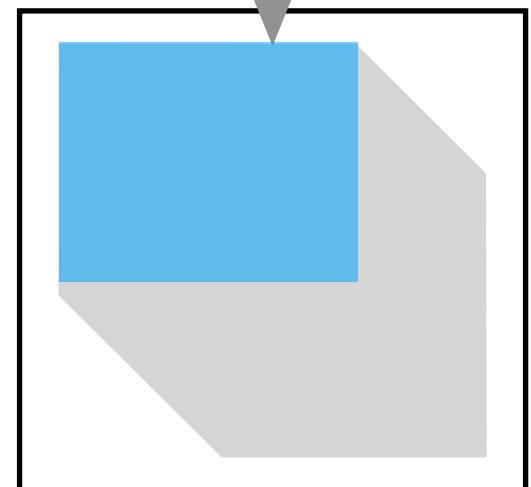
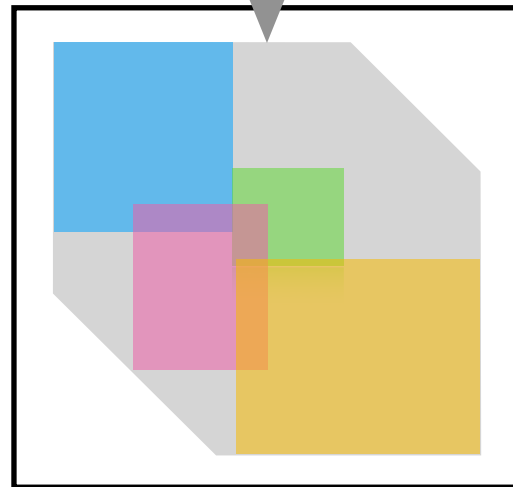
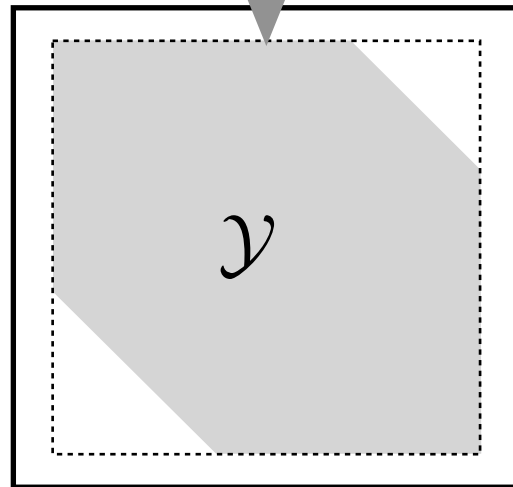
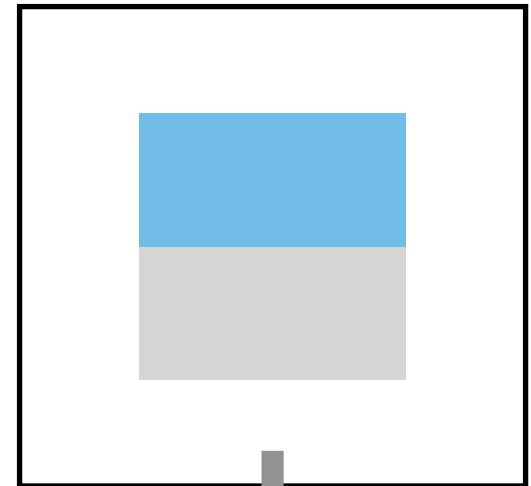
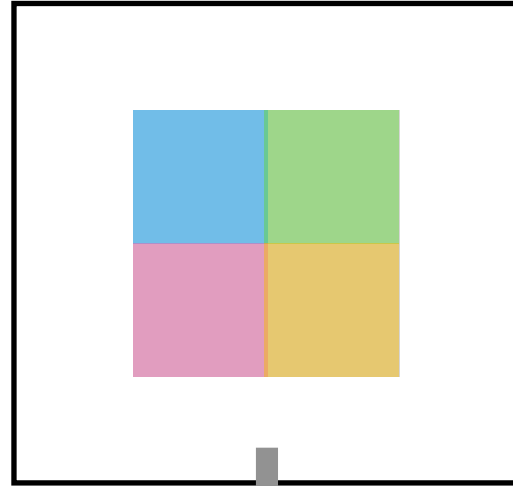
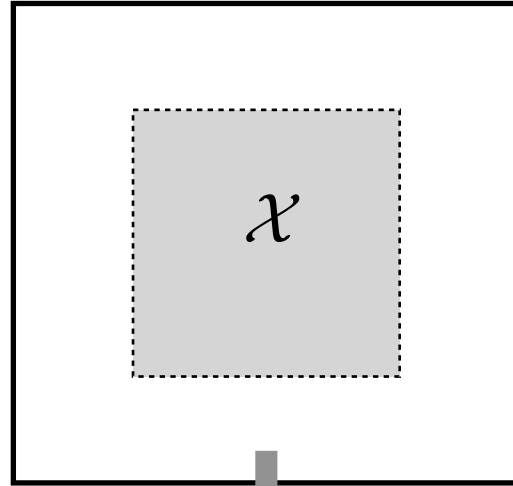
*Iterative interval refinement*



# Search + Reachability

ReluVal

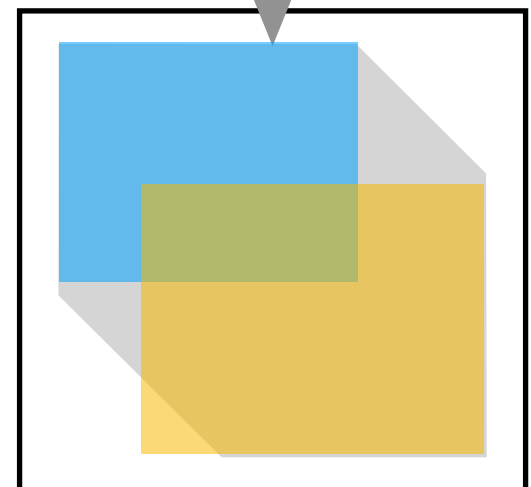
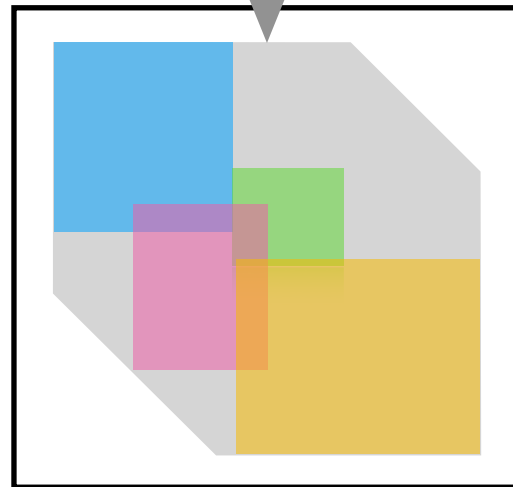
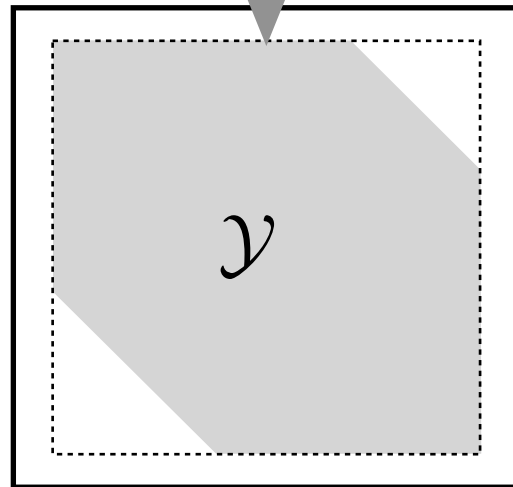
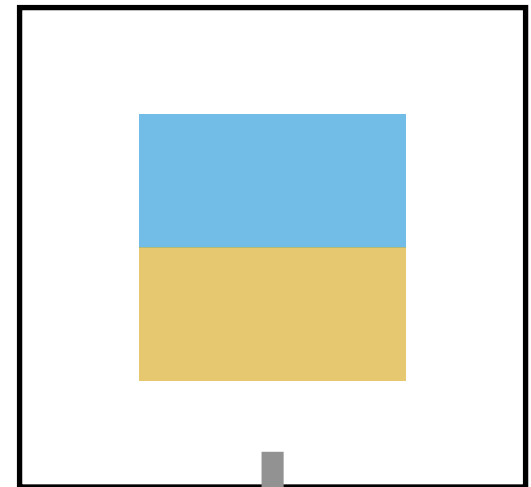
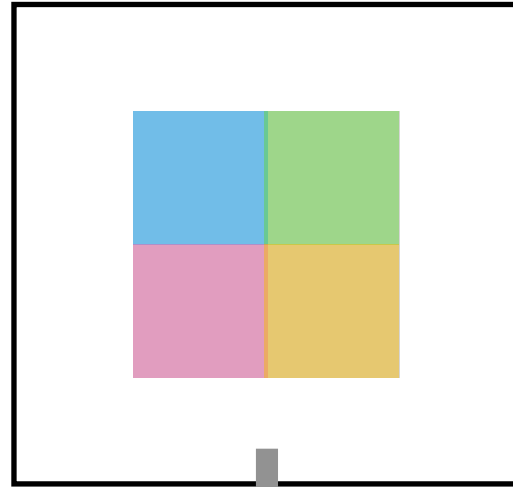
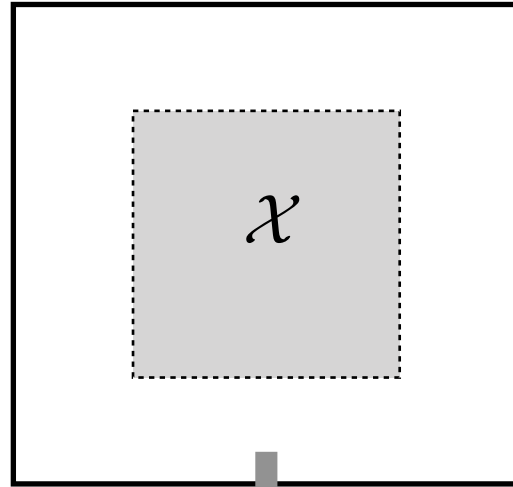
*Iterative interval refinement*



# Search + Reachability

ReluVal

*Iterative interval refinement*

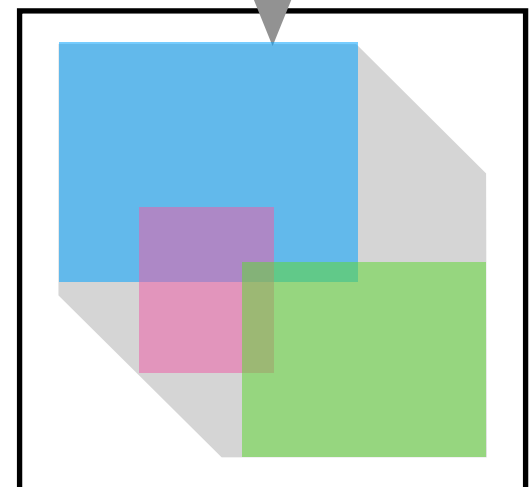
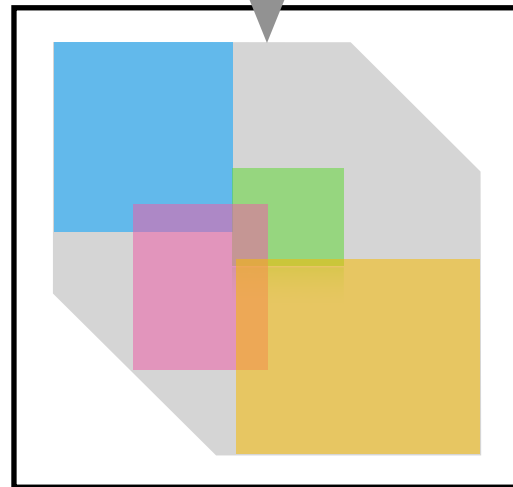
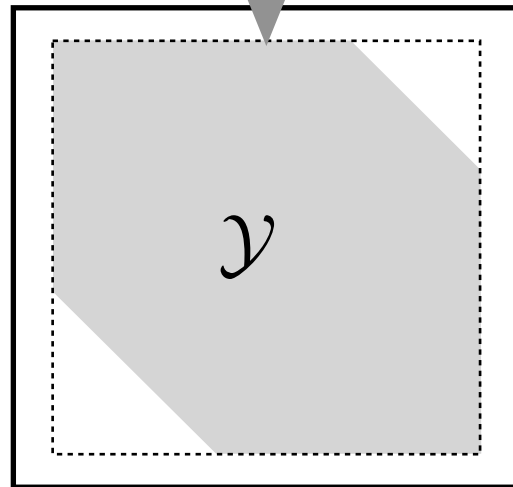
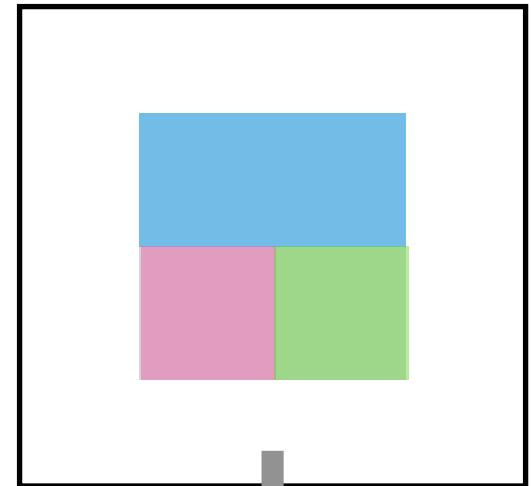
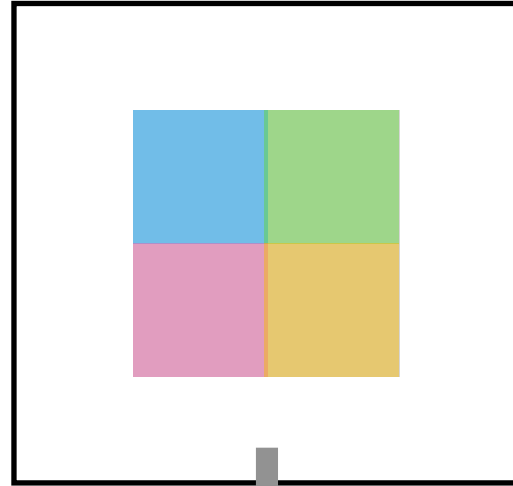
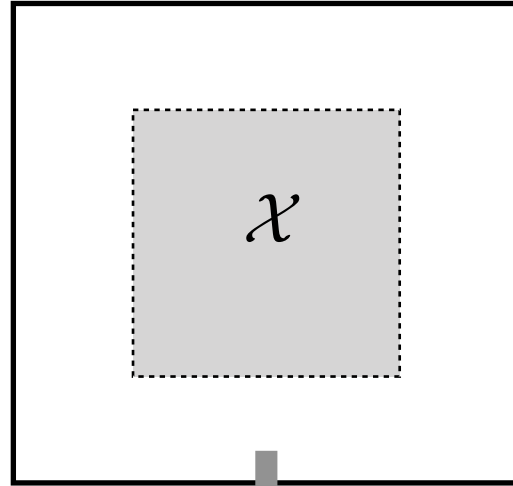




# Search + Reachability

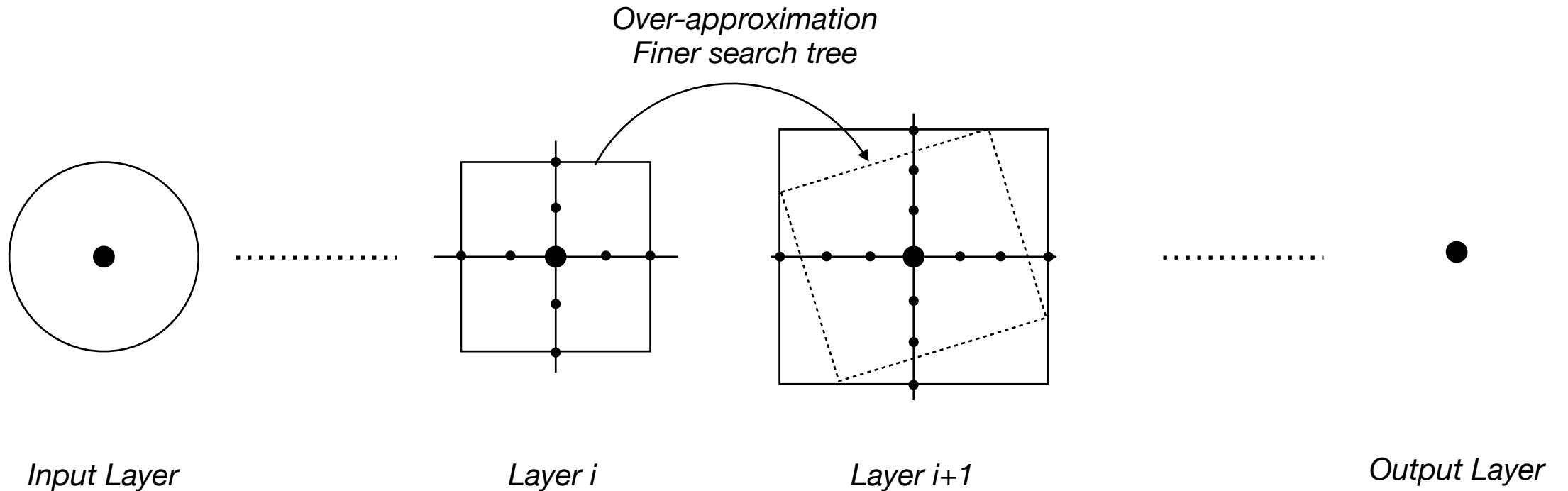
ReluVal

*Iterative interval refinement*



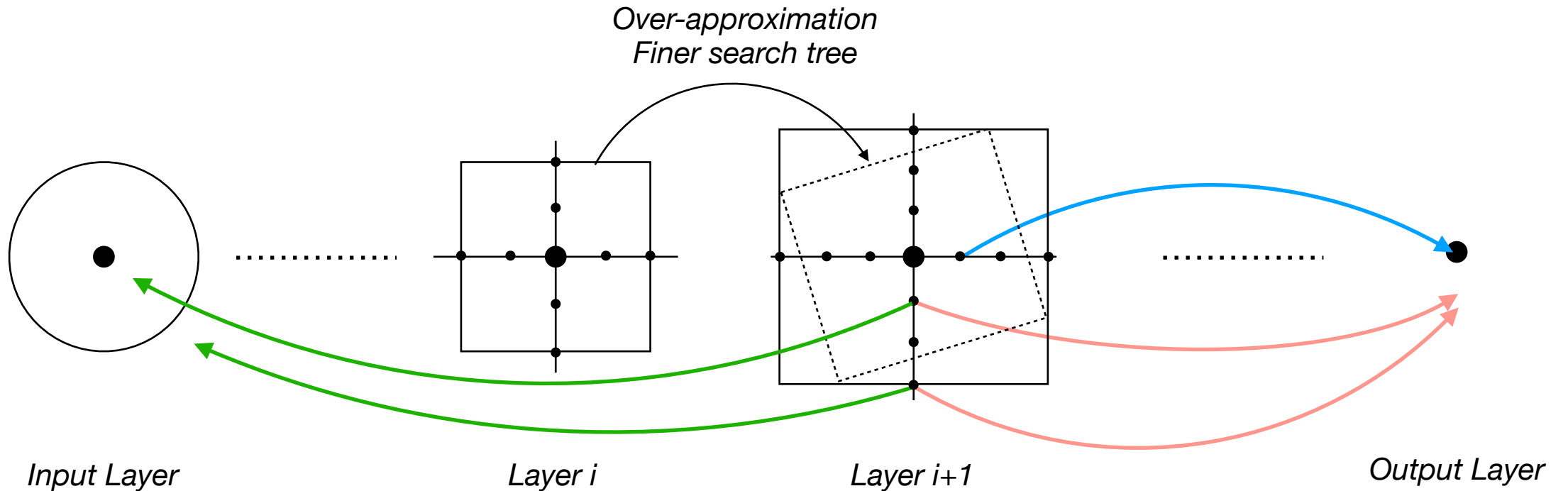
# Search + Reachability

DLV



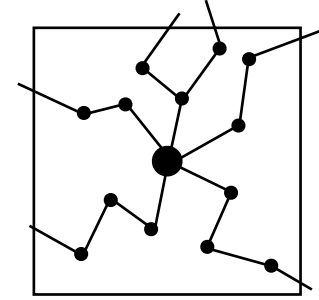
# Search + Reachability

DLV

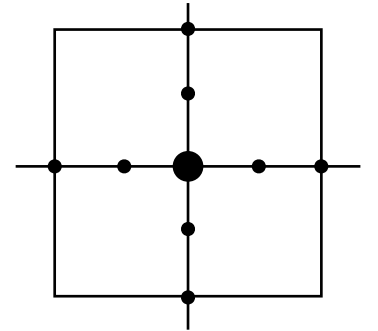


# Search + Reachability

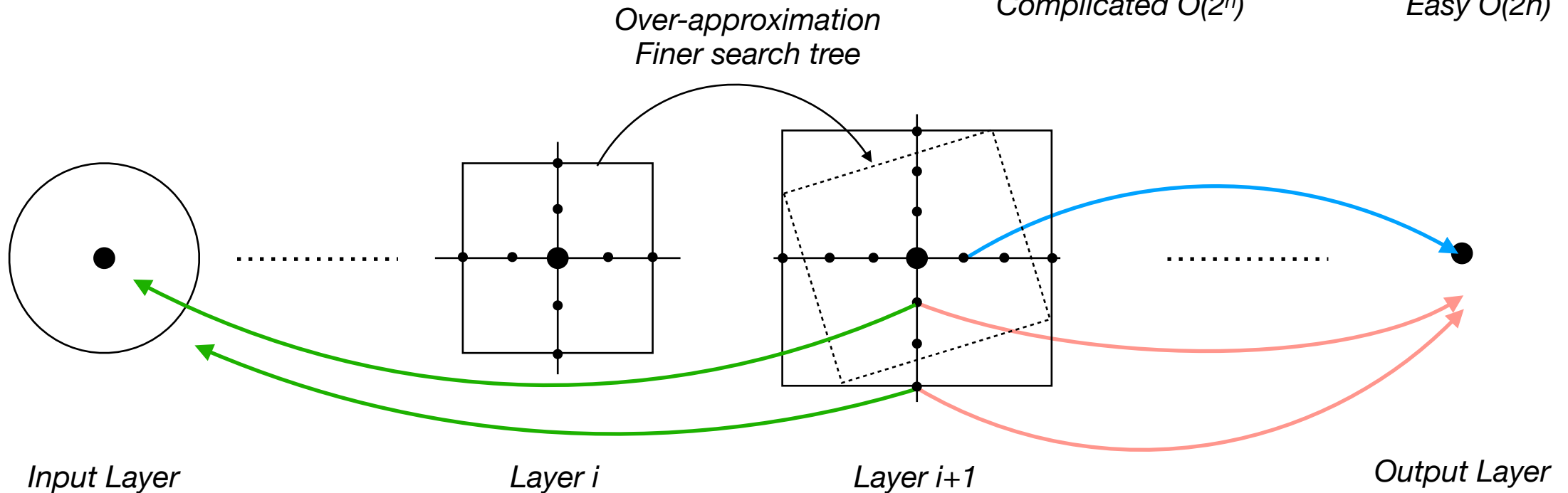
DLV



High-dimensional search  
Complicated  $O(2^n)$



Low-dimensional search  
Easy  $O(2n)$



# Search + Optimization

**Sherlock**

**Search input domain  
Under local constraints or global constraints**

**BaB**

**Search input domain by splitting to smaller intervals**

**Planet**

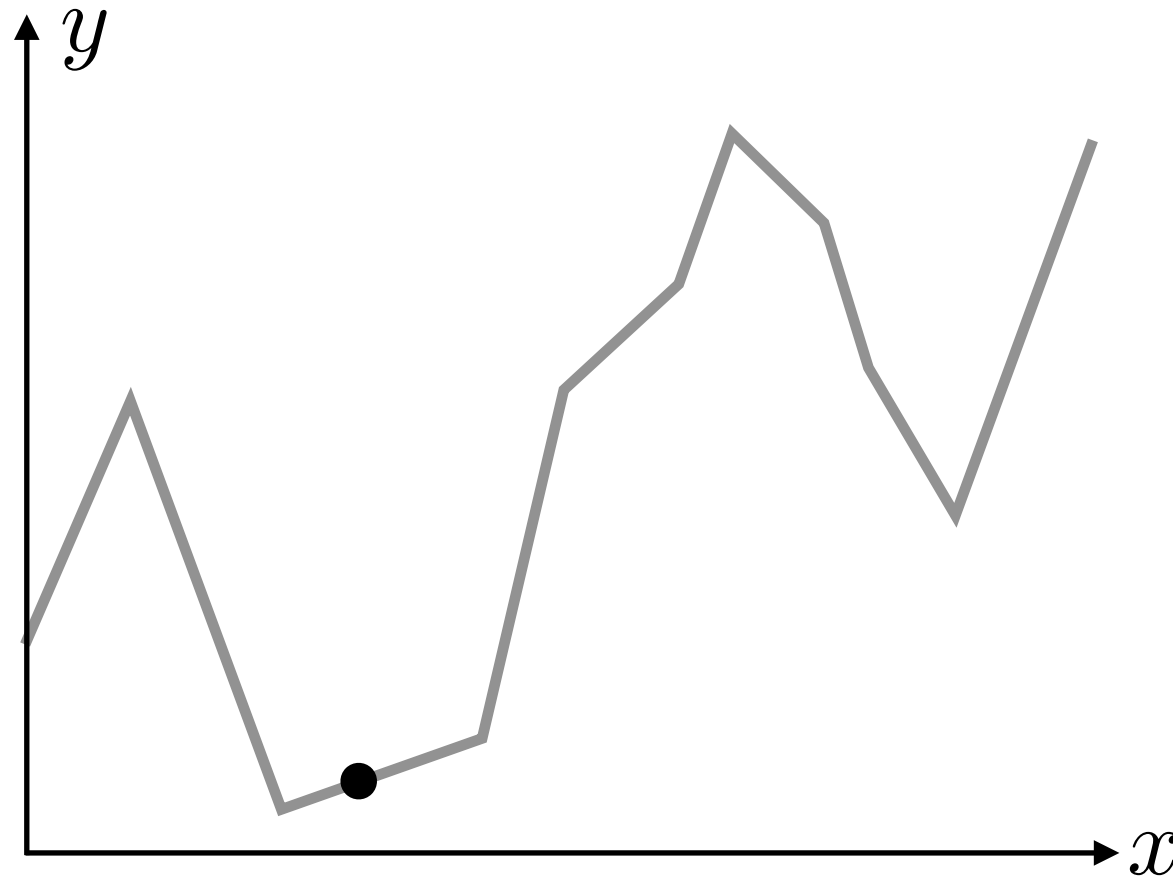
**Search for feasible activation patterns**

**Reluplex**

**Search for feasible activation patterns**

# Search + Optimization

Sherlock



→ **Global search**

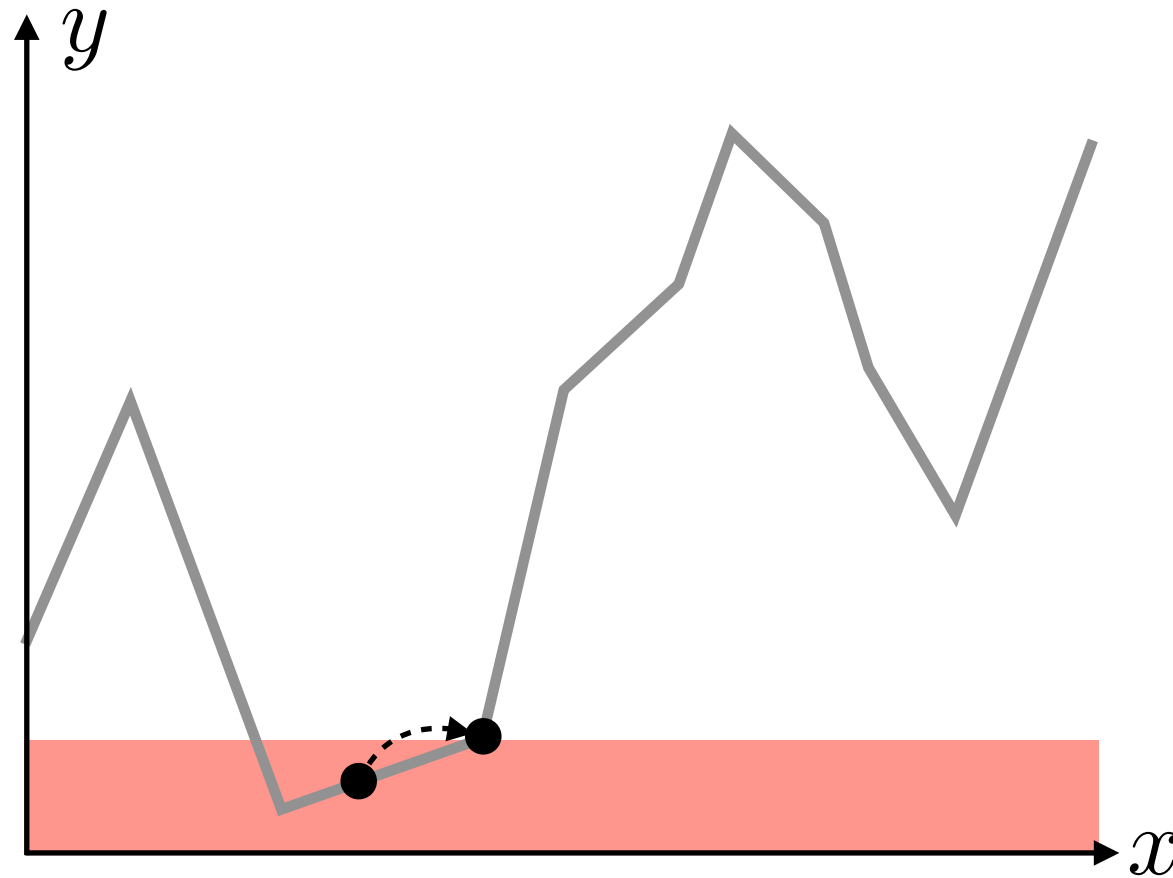
*Primal optimization  
with **MILP** encoding*

---> **Local search**

*Primal optimization  
with **LP** encoding*

# Search + Optimization

Sherlock



→ **Global search**

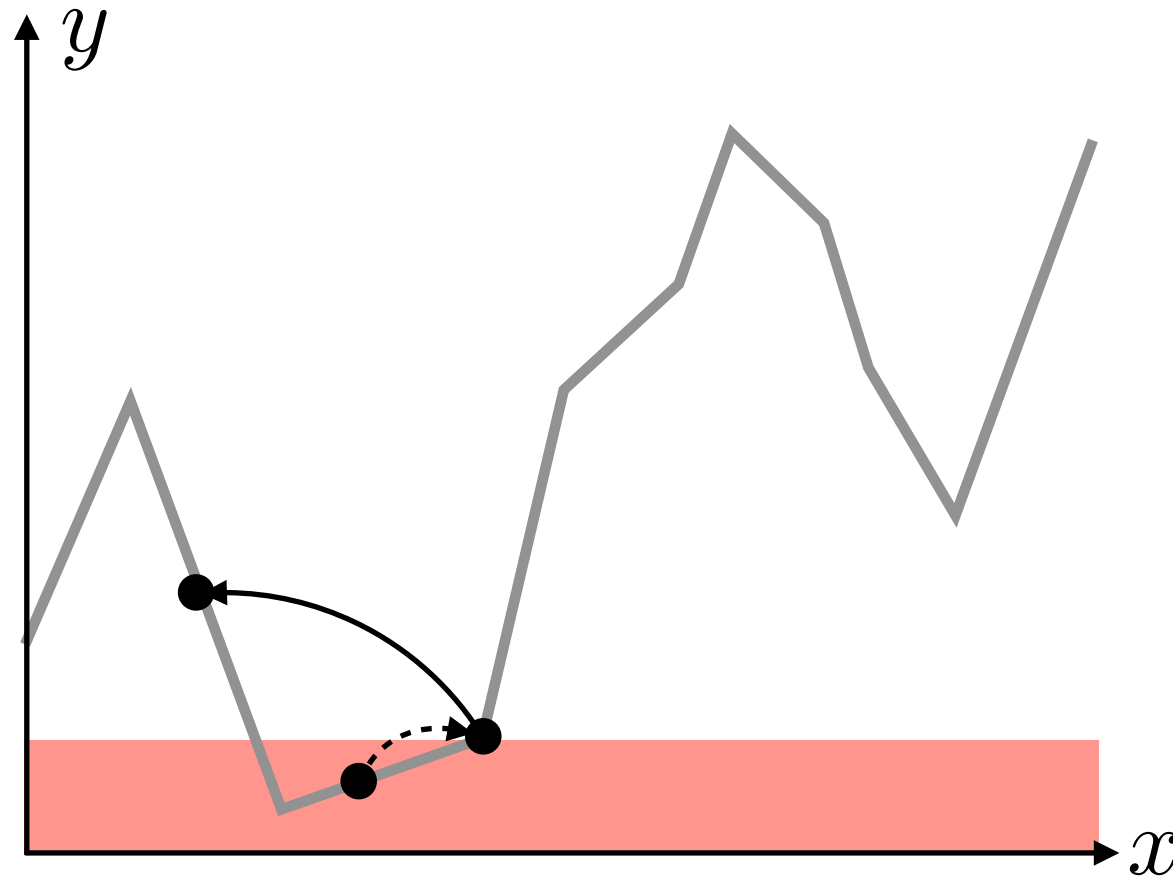
*Primal optimization  
with **MILP** encoding*

---→ **Local search**

*Primal optimization  
with **LP** encoding*

# Search + Optimization

Sherlock



→ **Global search**

*Primal optimization  
with **MILP** encoding*

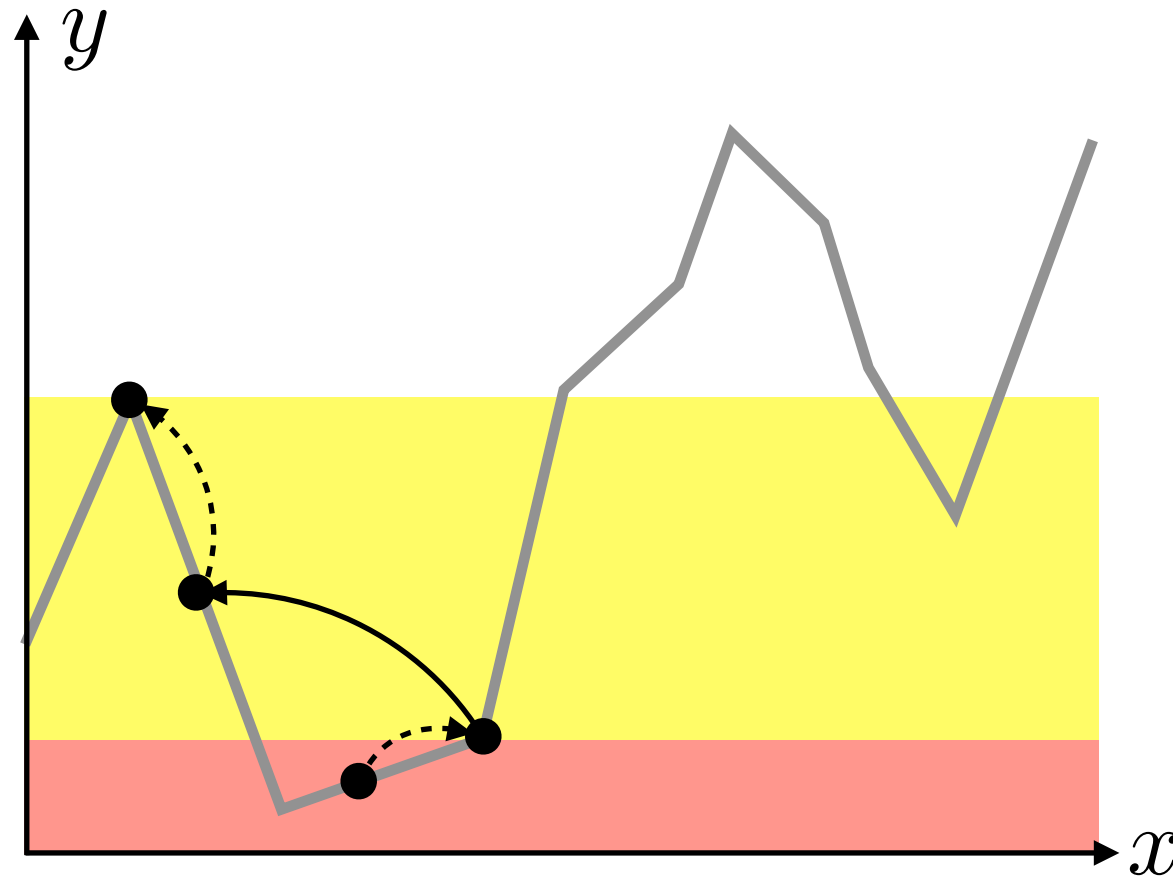
---→ **Local search**

*Primal optimization  
with **LP** encoding*



# Search + Optimization

Sherlock



→ **Global search**

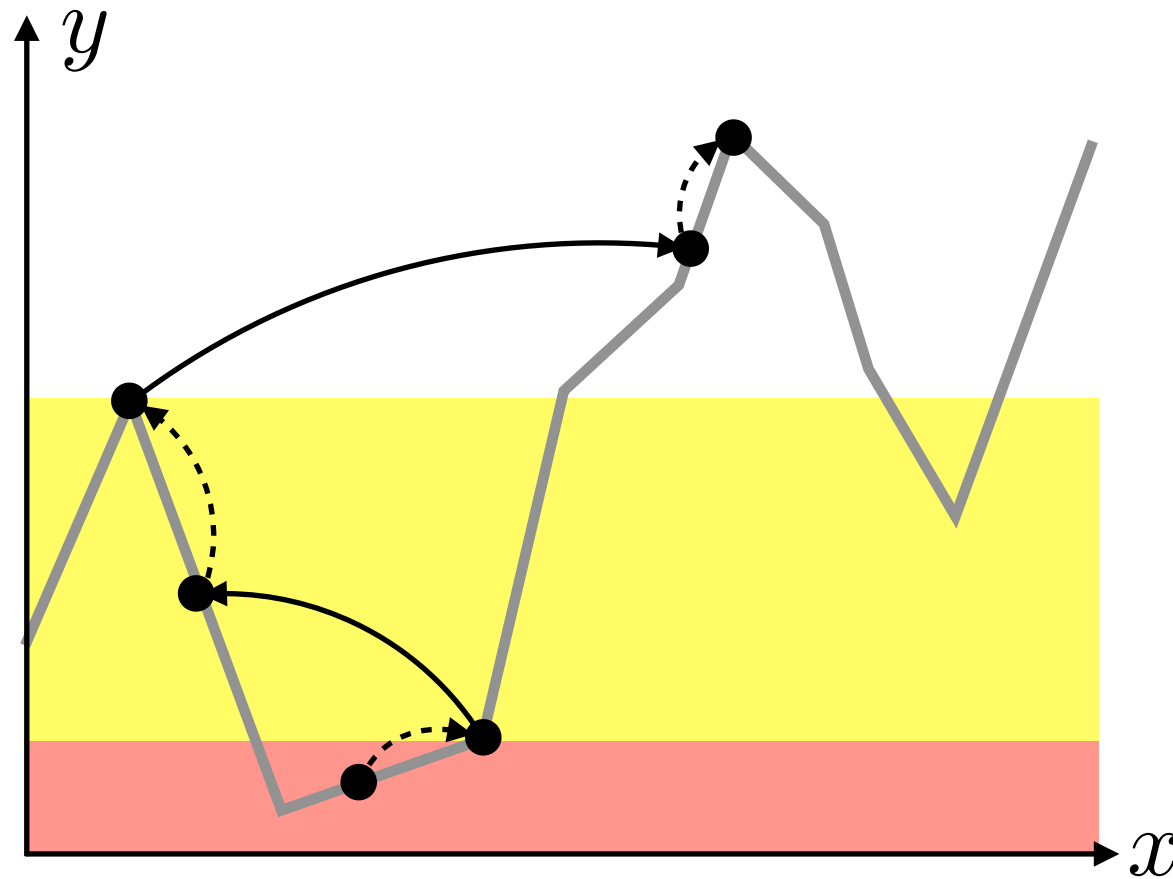
*Primal optimization  
with **MILP** encoding*

---→ **Local search**

*Primal optimization  
with **LP** encoding*

# Search + Optimization

Sherlock



→ **Global search**

*Primal optimization  
with **MILP** encoding*

---→ **Local search**

*Primal optimization  
with **LP** encoding*

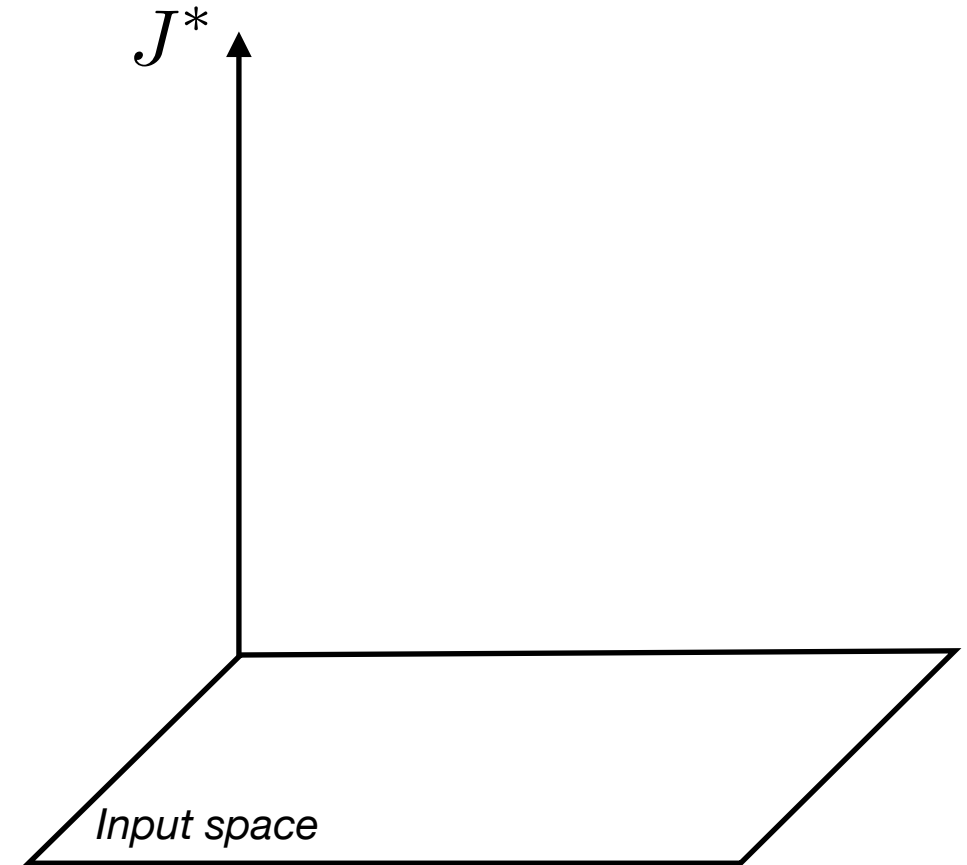
# Search + Optimization

BaB

$$J^* = \max J$$

*For every domain*

- *Compute upper bound by optimization using network relaxation*
- *Compute lower bound by sampling*



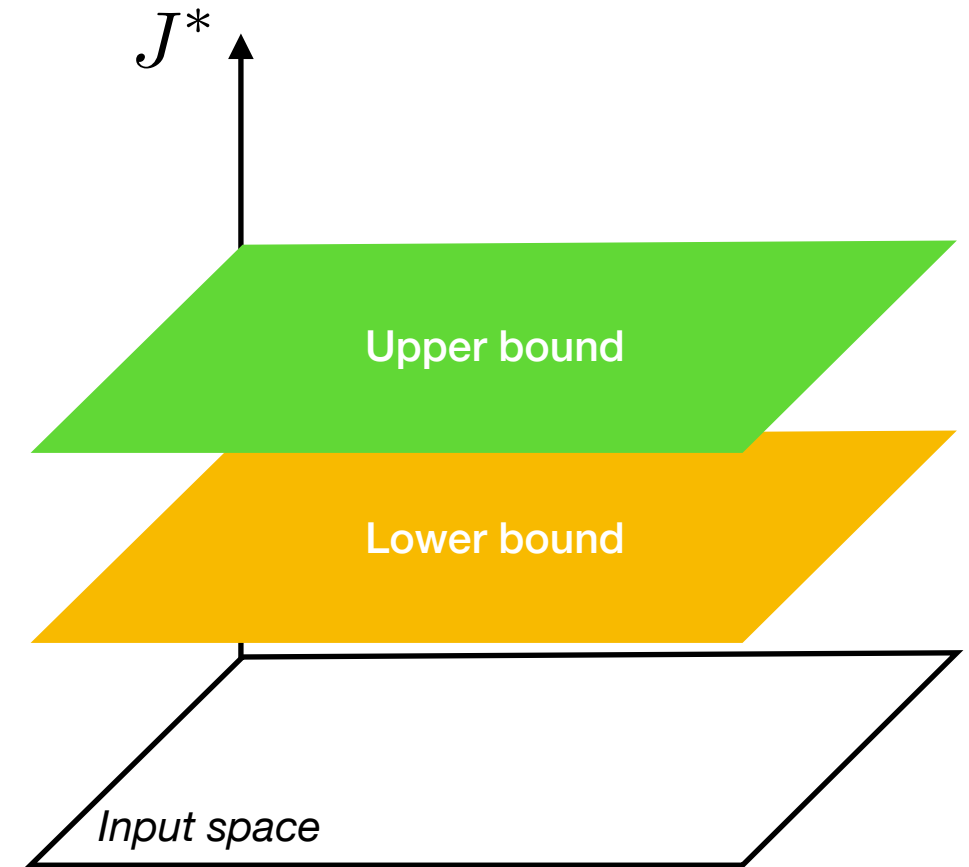
# Search + Optimization

BaB

$$J^* = \max J$$

*For every domain*

- *Compute upper bound by optimization using network relaxation*
- *Compute lower bound by sampling*



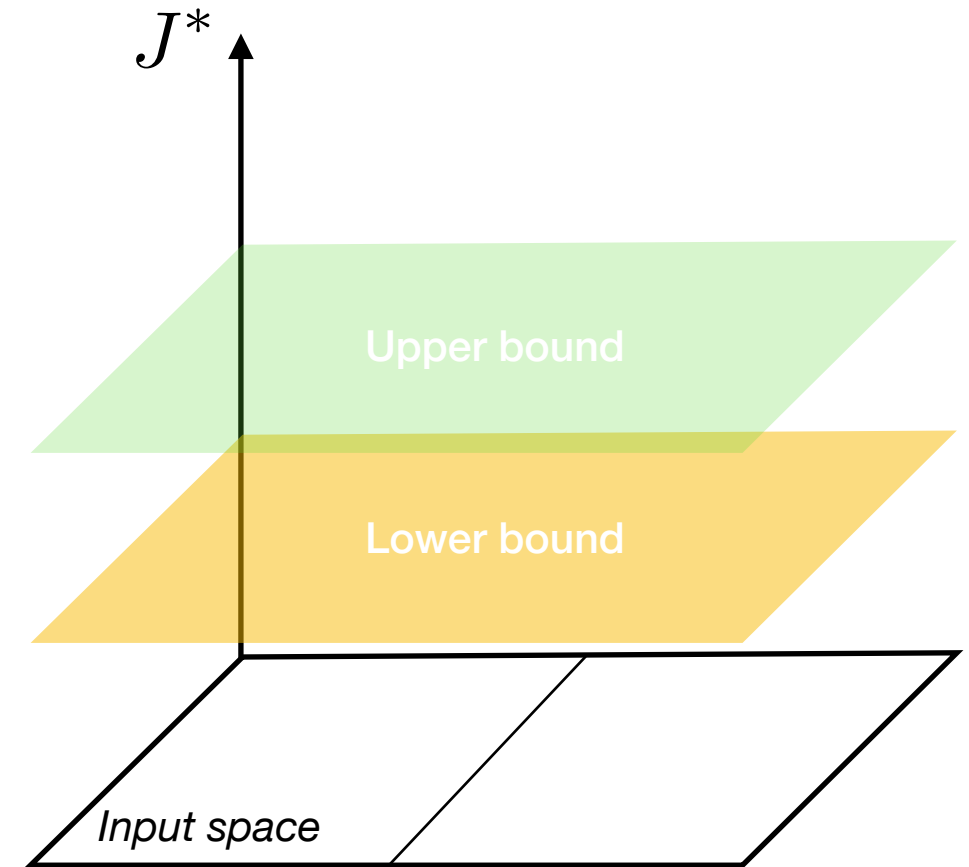
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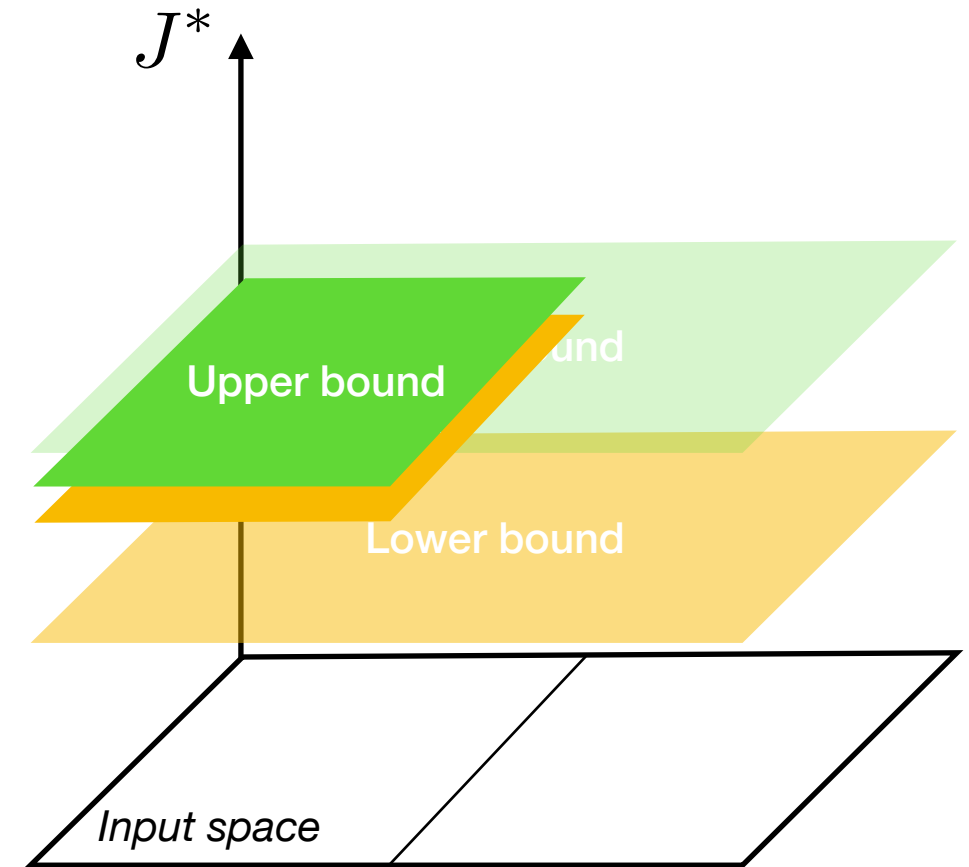
# Search + Optimization

BaB

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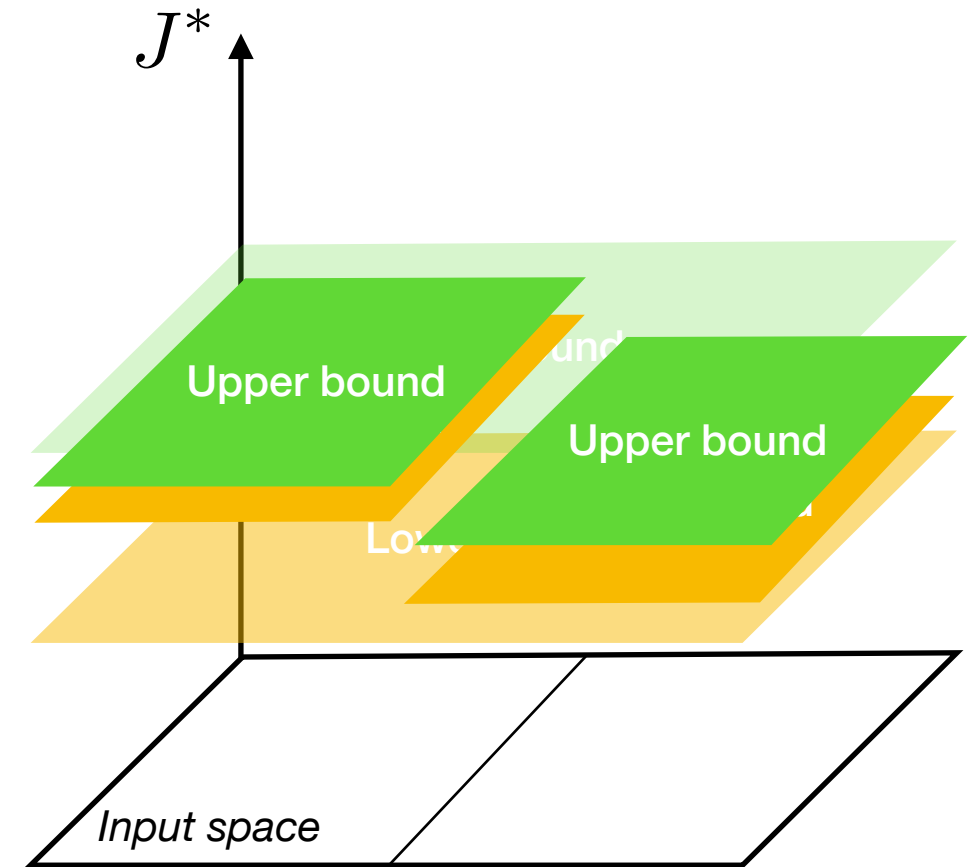
# Search + Optimization

BaB

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*For every domain*

- *Compute upper bound by optimization using network relaxation*
- *Compute lower bound by sampling*



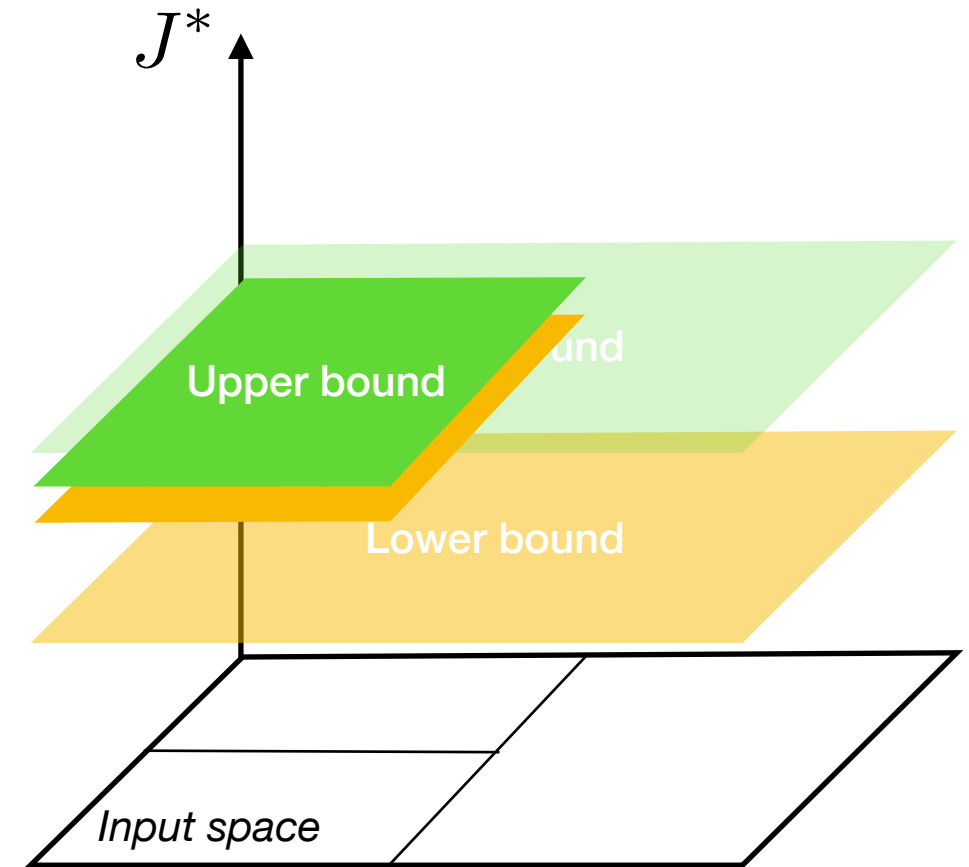
# Search + Optimization

BaB

$$J^* = \max J$$

*For every domain*

- *Compute upper bound by optimization using network relaxation*
- *Compute lower bound by sampling*

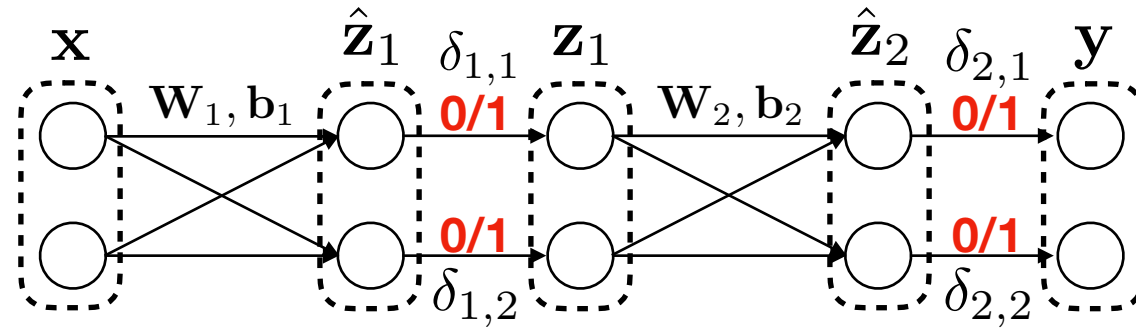




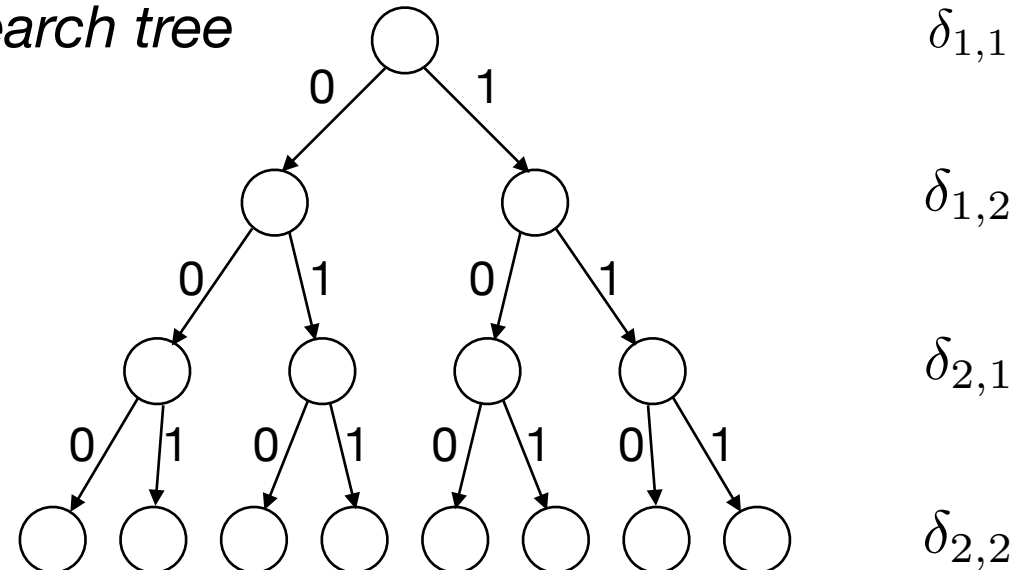
# Search + Optimization

Planet

Reluplex



Search tree



*Pruning by  
optimization-based  
feasibility check*

# Summary

| Method Name     | Activation       | Approach                | Input/Output                | Completeness |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| ExactReach [46] | ReLU             | Exact Reachability      | HP/HP(bounded) <sup>1</sup> | ✓            |
| AI2 [14]        | Piecewise Linear | Split and Join          | HP/HP(bounded) <sup>1</sup> | ×            |
| MaxSens [44]    | Any              | Interval Arithmetic     | HP/HP(bounded) <sup>1</sup> | ×            |
| NSVerify [23]   | ReLU             | Naive MILP              | HR/PC <sup>2</sup>          | ✓            |
| MIPVerify [38]  | ReLU and Max     | MILP with bounds        | HR/PC <sup>2</sup>          | ✓            |
| ILP [4]         | ReLU             | Iterative LP            | HR/PC <sup>2</sup>          | ×            |
| Duality [12]    | Any              | Lagrangian Relaxation   | HR(uniform)/HS              | ×            |
| ConvDual [43]   | ReLU             | Convex Relaxation       | HR(uniform)/HS              | ×            |
| Certify [31]    | Differentiable   | Semidefinite Relaxation | HR/HS                       | ×            |
| Fast-Lin [41]   | ReLU             | Network Relaxation      | HR/HS                       | ×            |
| Fast-Lip [41]   | ReLU             | Lipschitz Estimation    | HR/HS                       | ×            |
| ReluVal [40]    | ReLU             | Symbolic Interval       | HR/HR                       | ✓            |
| DLV [18]        | Any              | Search in Hidden Layers | HR/HR(1-D) <sup>3</sup>     | ✓*           |
| Sherlock [10]   | ReLU             | Local and Global Search | HR/HR(1-D) <sup>3</sup>     | ×            |
| BaB [7]         | Piecewise Linear | Branch and Bound        | HR/HR(1-D) <sup>3</sup>     | ×            |
| Planet [13]     | Piecewise Linear | Satisfiability (SAT)    | HR/PC <sup>2</sup>          | ✓            |
| Reluplex [20]   | ReLU             | Simplex                 | HR/PC <sup>2</sup>          | ✓            |

# NeuralVerification.jl

[github.com/sisl/NeuralVerification.jl](https://github.com/sisl/NeuralVerification.jl)

| Testing                    | Coverage                  | Documentation            |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| build <span>passing</span> | coverage <span>88%</span> | docs <span>latest</span> |

## NeuralVerification.jl

---

This library contains implementations of various methods to soundly verify deep neural networks. In general, we verify whether a neural network satisfies certain input-output constraints. The verification methods are divided into five categories:

- *Reachability methods*: [ExactReach](#), [MaxSens](#), [Ai2](#),
- *Primal optimization methods*: [NSVerify](#), [MIPVerify](#), [ILP](#)
- *Dual optimization methods*: [Duality](#), [ConvDual](#), [Certify](#)
- *Search and reachability methods*: [ReluVal](#), [DLV](#), [FastLin](#), [FastLip](#)
- *Search and optimization methods*: [Sherlock](#), [BaB](#), [Planet](#), [Reluplex](#)

# NeuralVerification.jl

## Choose a solver

```
using NeuralVerification

solver = BaB()
```

## Set up the problem

```
nnet = read_nnet("examples/networks/small_nnet.nnet")
input_set = Hyperrectangle(low = [-1.0], high = [1.0])
output_set = Hyperrectangle(low = [-1.0], high = [70.0])
problem = Problem(nnet, input_set, output_set)
```

## Solve

```
julia> result = solve(solver, problem)
CounterExampleResult(:violated, [1.0])

julia> result.status
:violated
```

# Comparison

| Algorithm | small_nnet   | mnist1       | mnist2       | mnist3        | mnist4        | acas          |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| NSVerify  | 0.000437805  | 0.561558217  | 1.23185184   | 0.234906589   | -             | -             |
| MIPVerify | 0.422803839  | 0.236930468  | 1.055669556  | 46.36556919   | -             | -             |
| ILP       | 0.423599637  | 0.374052375  | 0.65545287   | 0.951015935*  | 4.866014534*  | 0.108586473*  |
| convDual  | 0.001725546  | 0.374052375  | 0.02184014   | 0.001638679   | 0.005836024   | 0.002674586   |
| Duality   | 0.001336414* | 21.60260384* | 130.7149674* | 37.3058392*   | 52.87126159*  | 0.020148564*  |
| FastLin   | 2.088460281  | 0.477470278  | 0.002369427  | 0.007551539   | 0.01564011    | 0.166508046** |
| FastLip   | 9.179938173  | 0.130989072  | 0.059900531  | 0.051348471** | 0.091895366** | 0.001703324** |
| MIPVerify | 9.940695891  | 0.256747563  | 1.23054911   | 46.77128226   | -             | -             |
| ILP       | 0.347950783  | 0.367925285  | 0.665364297  | 0.890090777*  | 4.664959506*  | 0.00834114*   |
| Planet    | 0.000247003  | 0.211006714  | 0.301637916  | 0.186482861   | -             | -             |
| Reluplex  | 0.012245108  | 125.0347088  | 62582.48883  | -             | -             | 2952.784643   |
| Reluval   | 0.000031296  | 0.646829741  | 0.008979679  | 0.008030365   | 0.824760803*  | 0.196084517*  |

# Conclusion

- A unified mathematical framework was introduced to verify satisfiability of a neural network given certain input and output constraints.
- Three basic verification methods were identified: reachability, optimization, and search.
- Trade-off between completeness of a verification algorithm and its scalability.
- Pedagogical implementations of all these methods were provided in Julia.

# Future Directions

- Beyond piece-wise linear activations
- Beyond feedforward structures - RNNs
- Completeness vs. scalability
- Beyond universal approximation theorem (what is exactly the function space for a given network topology?)

# Acknowledgement

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- We would like to thank many of the authors of the referenced papers for their help in clarifying their algorithms and reviewing early drafts of this survey: Weiming Xiang, Taylor Johnson, Hoang-Dung Tran, Martin Vechev, Gagandeep Singh, Alessio Lomuscio, Michael Akintunde, Osbert Bastani, Zico Kolter, Shiqi Wang, Huan Zhang, Xiaowei Huang, Rudy Bunel, Reudiger Ehlers, and Guy Katz.
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