



**Computer Science** at CALTECH  
DIVISION OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCE

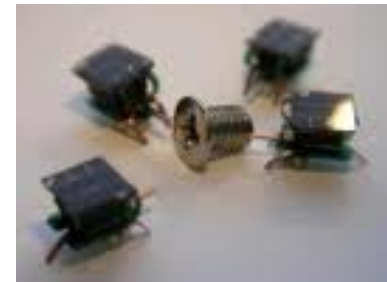
# Verification of Faulty Message- Passing Systems with Continuous State Space in PVS

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California Institute of Technology*

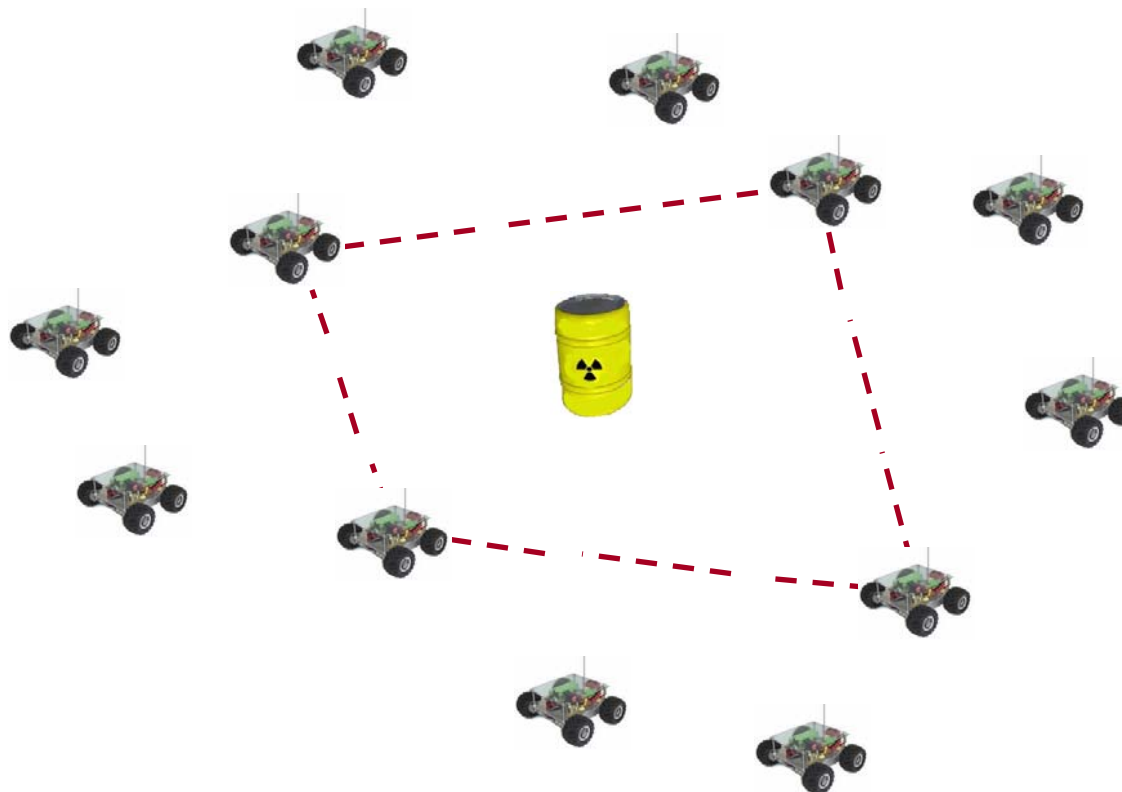
# Outline of the Talk

- Motivation
  - Robot Pattern Formations
- Systems of Linear Equations
  - Message-Passing Decentralized Scheme over Unreliable Communication
- PVS Framework
  - System Meta-theory
  - Proof of Correctness Meta-theory
- Conclusions and Future work



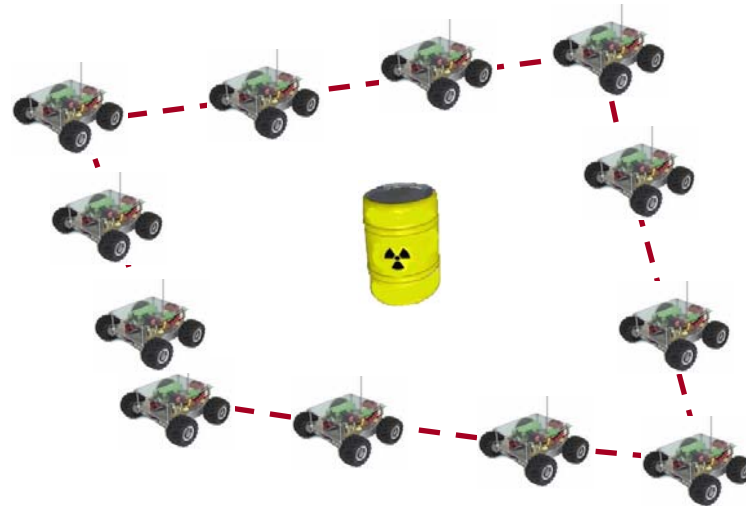
# Pattern Formations

- Multi-agent System whose goal is forming “*A fence around a given target*”



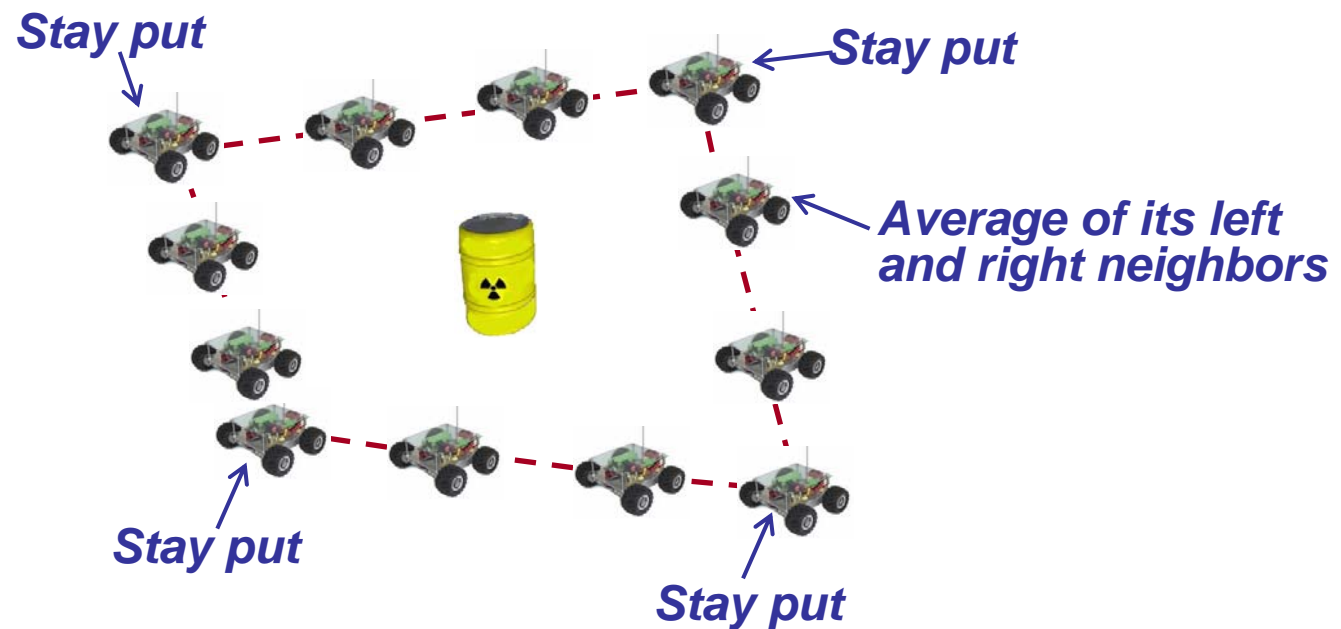
# Target Formation

- Multi-agent System whose goal is forming “*A fence around a given target*”
- In the final configuration, robots are equispaced



# Protocol

- Multi-agent System goal is forming “*A fence around a given target*”
- In the final configuration, robots are equispaced





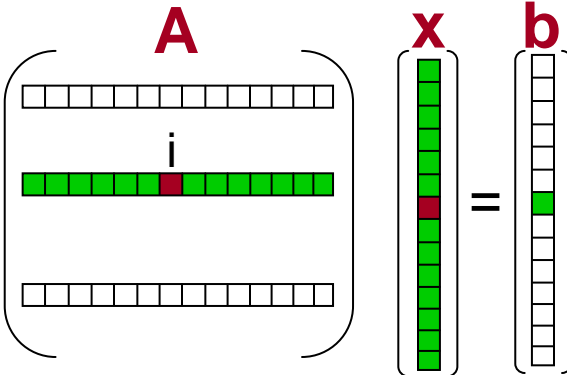
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# Systems of Linear Equations

- *Goal*: Decentralized scheme for solving

$$A x = b$$


- *Assumptions*:

- $A$  **invertible** with **diagonal** entries of 1

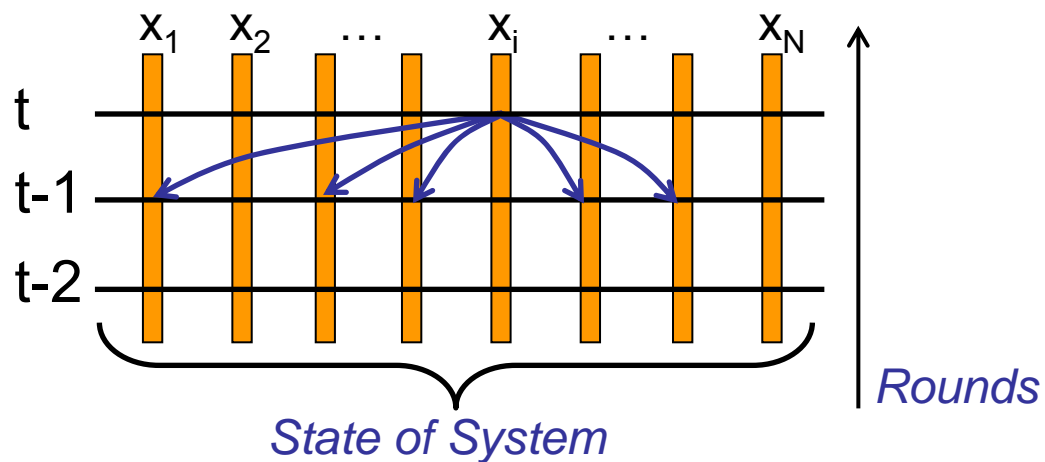
- *Decentralized System: Multi-Agent System* where agent  $i$  is responsible for computing  $x_i$



# Gauss Scheme

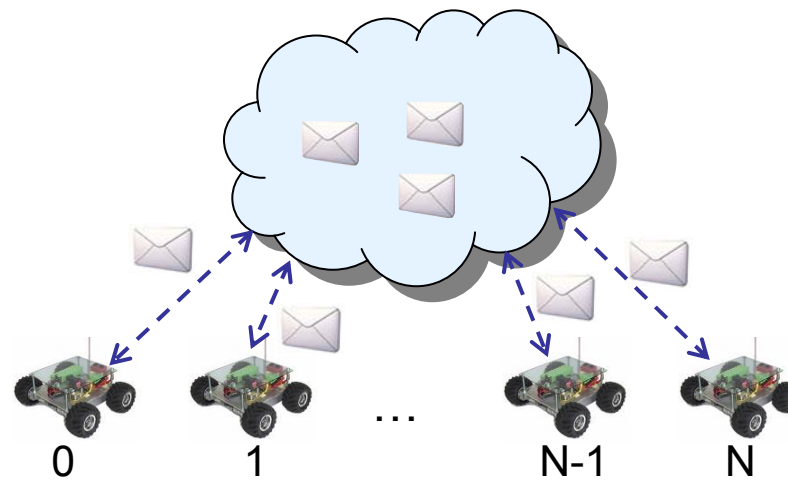
- Solving System of Linear Equations in **Rounds** starting from an **initial guess  $\text{init}$**

$$x_i(t) = \begin{cases} b_i - \sum_{j \neq i} A(i, j) x_j(t-1) & t > 0 \\ \text{init}_i & t = 0 \end{cases}$$

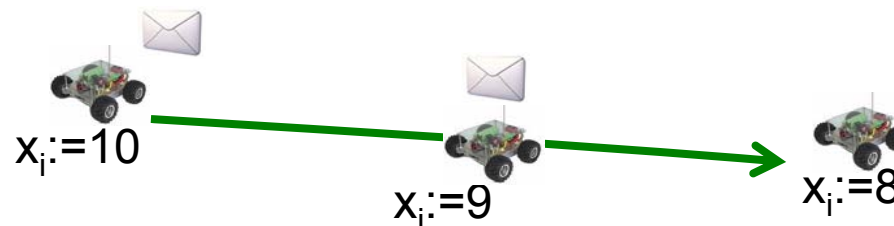


# Pattern Formation Challenges

- *Unreliable* Message-Passing Communication

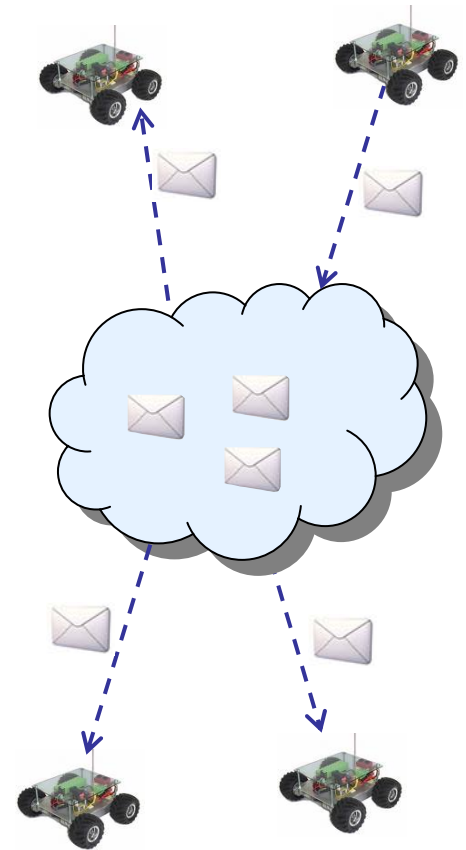


- Agents do not update their positions *instantaneously*



# Communication Medium

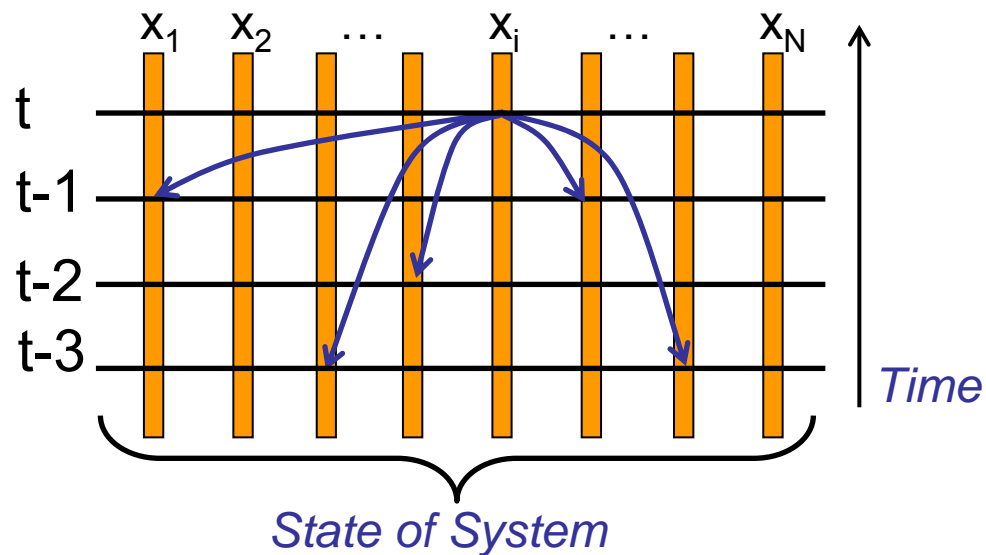
- *Unreliable Broadcast Communication Medium:*
  - Agents **send** and **receive** messages
  - Messages in transit can be **lost**, **delayed** or received **out-of-order**
  - **Bounded** transmission delay
  - Agent  $i$  stores in the variable  $msg_{ij}$  the last message it receives from agent  $j$
  - Agent  $i$  **broadcasts**  $x_i$  **infinitely often**



# Gauss over Unreliable Networks

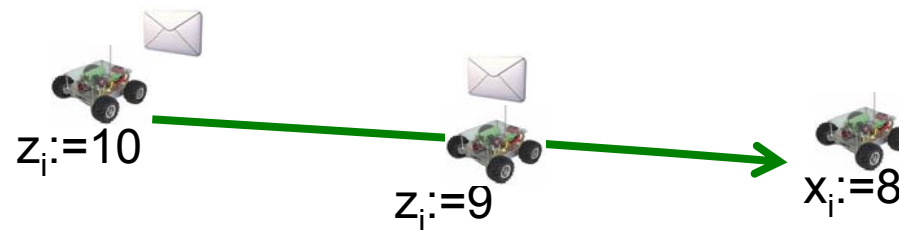
- *Over Message-Passing Systems:*

$$x_i(t) = \begin{cases} b_i - \sum_{j \neq i} A(i, j) \text{ msg}_{i,j} & t > 0 \\ \text{init}_i & t = 0 \end{cases}$$



# Agent Dynamics

- Agents do not update their positions *instantaneously*
- Introduce a variable  $z_i$  storing its **current position**
- Variable  $x_i$  stores its **target position**
- **Move action**: it moves from  $z_i$  towards  $x_i$  with some velocity for  $dt$  time units



# Does this Scheme work?

If  $A$  satisfies

(D1) invertible

(D2) diagonal entries equal to 1

$$\forall i : A(i,i) = 1$$

(D3) *weakly diagonally dominant*

$$\forall j : \sum_{k \neq j} |A(j,k)| \leq 1$$

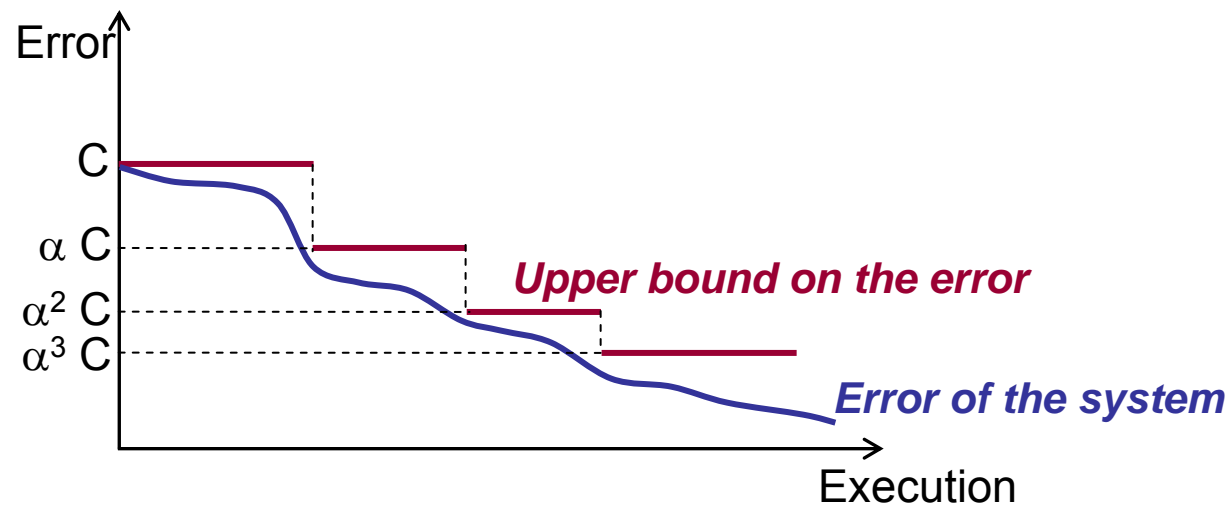
(D4) *strictly diagonally dominant* in at least one row

$$\exists j : \sum_{k \neq j} |A(j,k)| < 1$$

then *Message-Passing Gauss Iteration* converges to  $A^{-1} \cdot b$

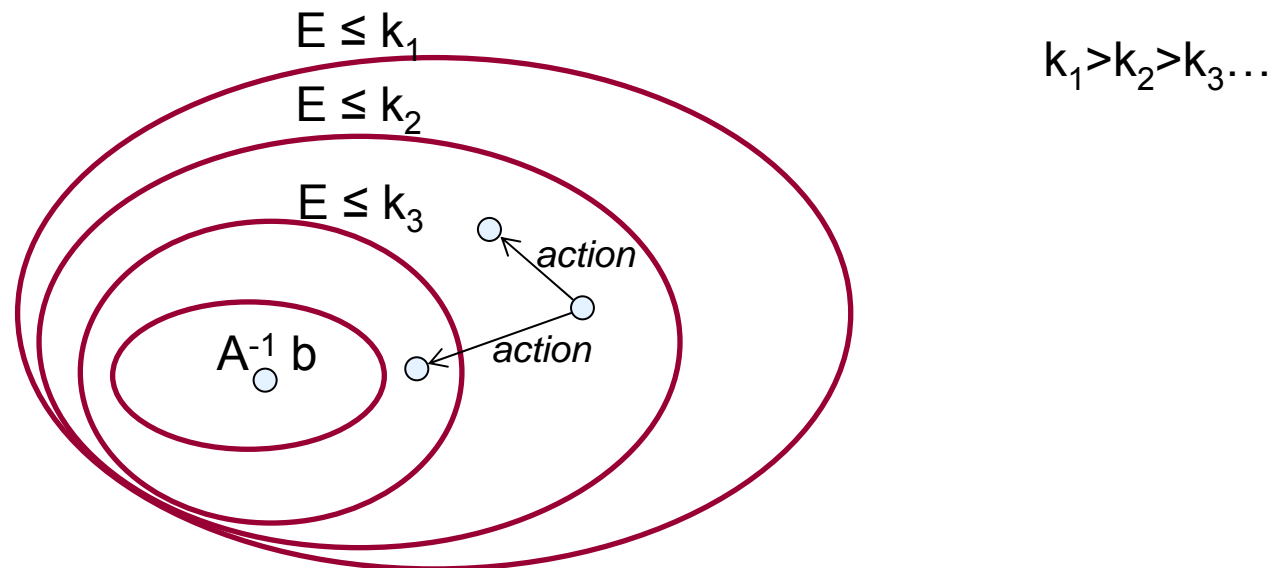
# Proof Summary

- (E1) Error of the system  $E$  does not increase
- (E2)  $E$  eventually decreases by a factor  $\alpha$



# Proof Summary

- (E1) Error of the system  $E$  does not increase:
- For all actions of the system, the execution of the action does not increase the error

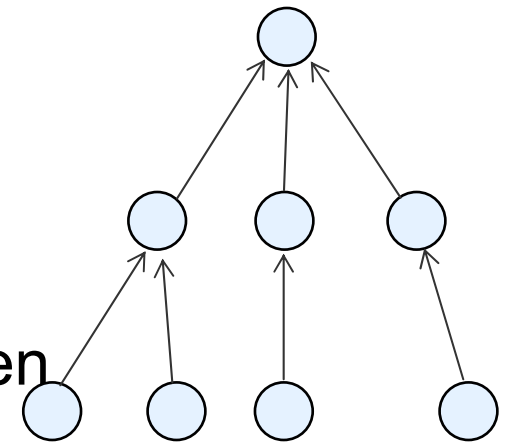
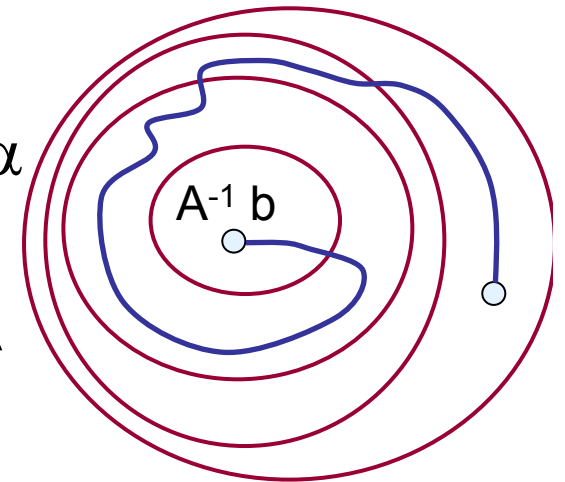




# Proof Summary

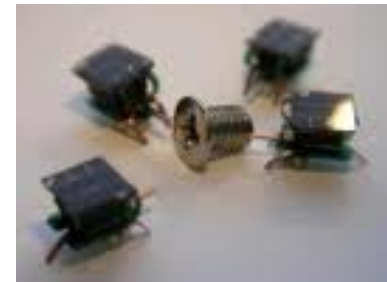
(E2) E eventually decreases by a factor  $\alpha$

- Proved by *Induction*
- Tree based on communication links in A
  - (i, j) is an edge if  $A(i, j) \neq 0$
  - Roots: Strictly Diagonally Dominant agents
- Induction Proof: Assume  $E = C$ 
  - **Base Case**: Error of Roots eventually  $\alpha C$
  - **Induction Step**: assuming error along path to agent j (exclusive of j) is  $\alpha C$  then eventually error of j is  $\alpha C$

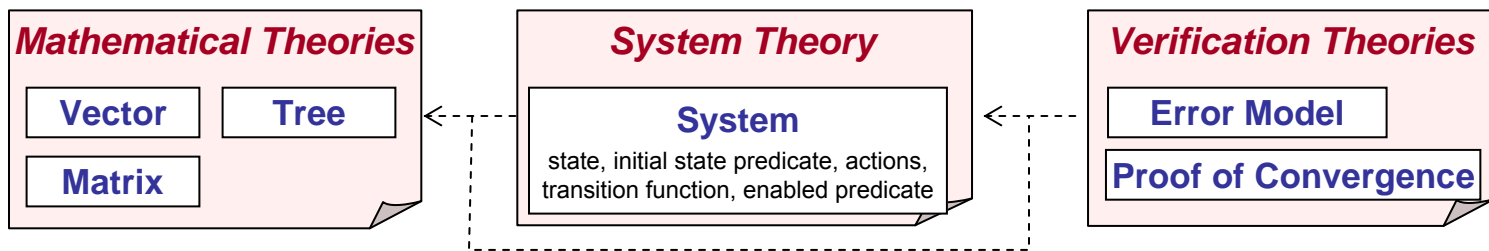
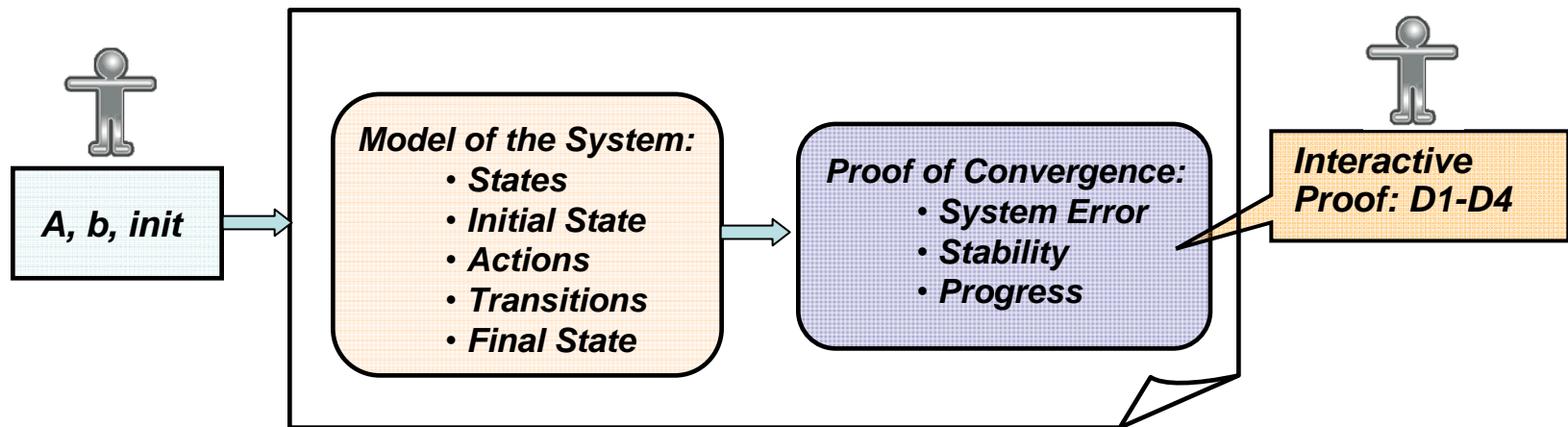


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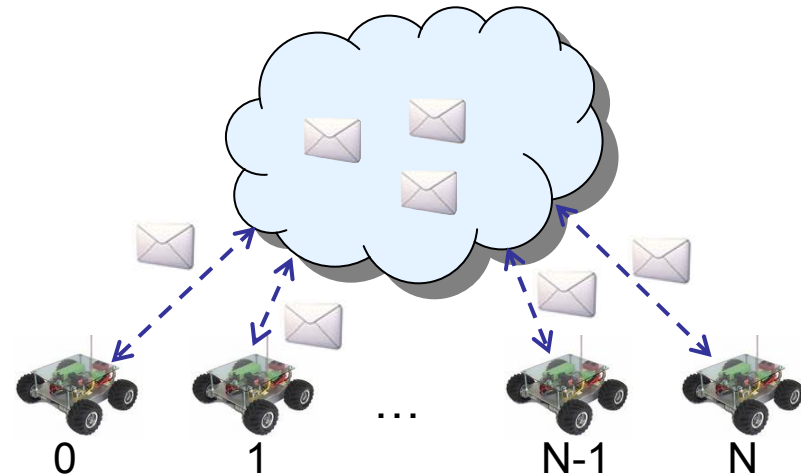


# PVS Verification Framework



# Description of the System

- Automaton with:
  - States
  - Initial State Predicate
  - Actions
  - Transition Function
  - Enabling Predicate



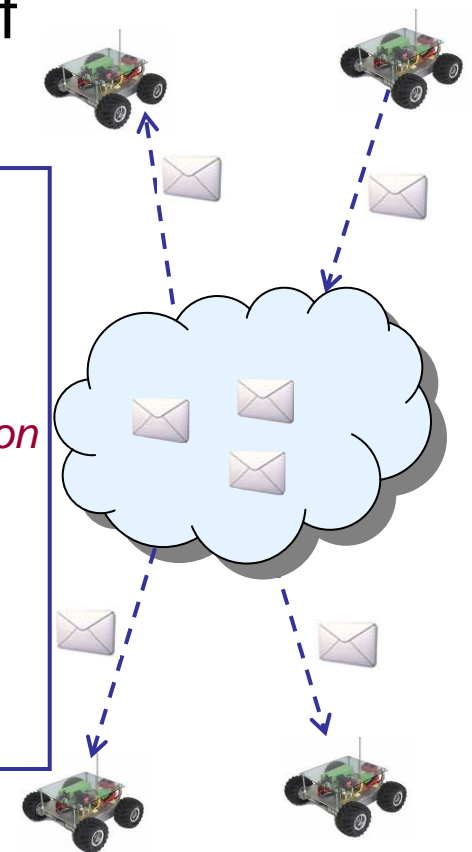
- Extend `time_machine` metatheory

```
IMPORTING time_machine[S, State  
            ACS, Actions  
            enabled, Enabling Predicate  
            trans, Transition function  
            start?, ...] Initial State Predicate
```

# State of the System

- State of the System is given by the composition of State of Agents and State of the Communication Medium

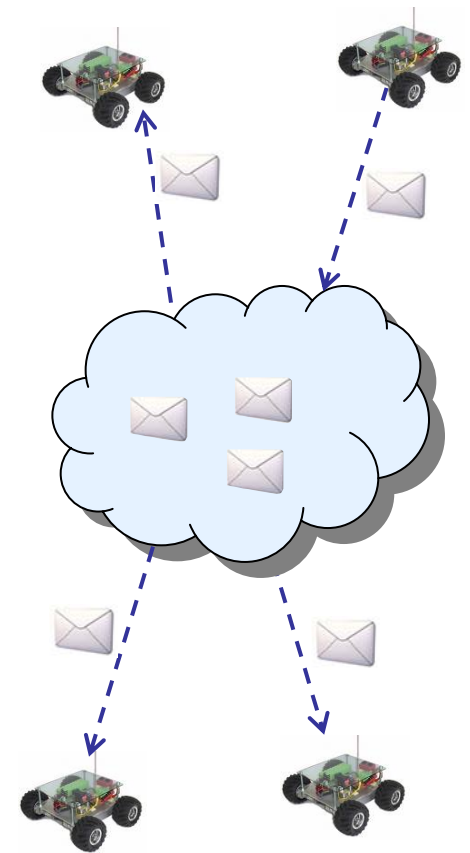
```
S: TYPE = [#  
    target : Vector, State of Agent  
    lastmsg : Matrix, State of Agent  
    buffer : [Index, Index -> Pset] Communication Medium  
    now : nonneg_real, Global Clock  
    next: [ Index -> nonneg_real] Communication Medium  
#]
```



# State of the Agents

```
Index : TYPE = below(N) Agents' Identifiers  
Vector: TYPE = [Index -> real]  
Matrix: TYPE = [Index, Index -> real]
```

```
S: TYPE = [#  
  target : Vector, variable x  
  lastmsg : Matrix, variable m and z along diagonal  
  buffer : [Index, Index -> Pset],  
  now : nonneg_real,  
  next: [ Index -> nonneg_real]  
#]
```



# State of Communication Medium

```
S: TYPE = [#
```

```
  target : Vector,
```

```
  lastmsg : Matrix,
```

```
  buffer : [Index, Index -> Pset],
```

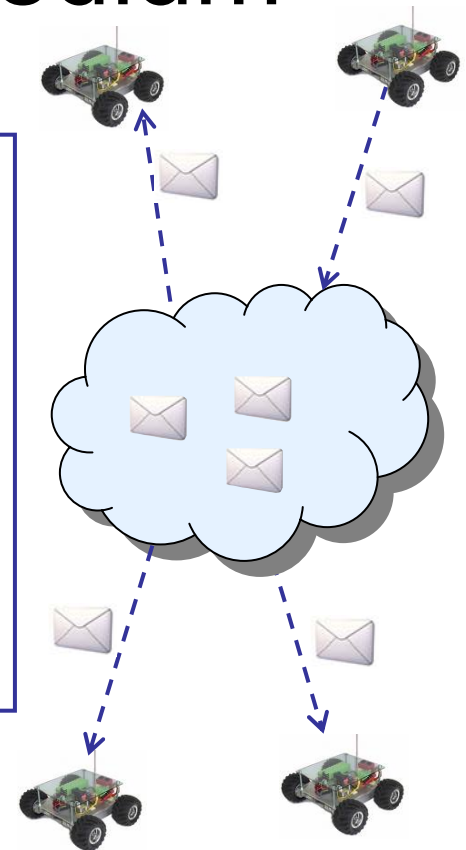
```
  now : nonneg_real,
```

```
  next: [ Index -> nonneg_real ]
```

```
#]
```

*Communication  
Medium – Buffer(i,j)  
dedicated channel  
from i to j*

*Next time a Send  
action is executed –  
Model infinitely often*



```
Msg: TYPE = [# loc: real, id: Index #]
```

```
Pkt: TYPE = [# msg: Msg, ddl: posreal #]
```

```
Pset: TYPE = set[Pkt]
```

```
b: posreal
```

```
d: posreal
```

*Current value      Sender of the Message*

*Deadline – model  
bounded delay*

*A channel is a set –  
model out-of-order messages*

*Maximum delay*

*Upper bound on consecutive send actions executed by the same  
agent – Model infinitely often*

# Initial State Predicate

- Describe properties of the initial state

```
start?(s: S): bool =  
  now(s) = 0 Global clock 0  
  AND  
  target(s) = x0 x initialized with init  
  AND Schedule the next time an agent  
  execute a send action  
  (FORALL (i: Index): next(s)(i) <= d)  
  AND  
  (FORALL (i, j: Index): lastmsg(s)(i, j) = x0(j) mi,j = initj)
```

- Note that the communication channels can have messages in transit initially



# Actions of the Systems

- The system has the following actions

```
ACS : DATATYPE BEGIN
```

```
  nu_traj(delta_t:posreal): nu_traj? Advance Time –Time Manager
```

```
  send(p:Pkt, i:Index , dl:posreal): send? Agents
```

```
  receive(p:Pkt, i:Index): receive? Agents
```

```
  msgloss(p:Pkt, i:Index): msgloss? Packet loss - Channel
```

```
  move(i:Index, delta_t:posreal): move? Agents
```

```
END ACS
```

# Transition Function and Enabling Conditions

- Body of the Actions

```
trans (a:ACS, s:S): S =  
CASES a OF  
  nu_traj (delta_t): ...  
  send (p,i,d1): ...  
  receive (p,i): ...  
  msgloss (p,i): ...  
  move (i,delta_t): ...  
ENDCASES
```

- Enabling Conditions

```
enabled (a:ACS, s:S): bool=  
CASES a OF  
  nu_traj (delta_t): ...  
  send (p,i,d1): ...  
  receive (p,i): ...  
  msgloss (p,i): ...  
  move (i,delta_t): ...  
ENDCASES
```

# Time Action

- Action

```
trans (a:ACS, s:S): S =  
CASES a OF  
    nu_traj (delta_t): s WITH [now := now(s) + delta_t] Advance Clock of delta_t unit  
ENDCASES
```

- Enabling Conditions

```
enabled (a:ACS, s:S): bool=  
CASES a OF  
    nu_traj (delta_t): Clock can be advanced only if the new  
time does not violate packet deadlines  
    FORALL (p: Pkt): ddl(p) >= now(s) + delta_t  
ENDCASES
```

# Agent Send Action

- Agent  $i$  sends packet  $p$

```
send (p: Pkt, i: Index, dl: posreal):
```

```
s WITH [
```

```
  buffer := LAMBDA (k,j: Index ):  
    IF ((k=i) AND (j /= i))  
    THEN union (p, buffer(s)(k,j))  
    ELSE buffer (s)(k,j)  
    ENDIF,
```

*Broadcast p along all outgoing channels of i*

*Schedule the next send*

```
  next := next(s) WITH [(i) := next(s)(i) + dl ]
```

```
]
```

- Enabling Conditions

```
send (p, i, dl): next(s)(i) = now(s) Agent is allowed to send
```

```
  AND dl <= d Next scheduled time does not violate d
```

```
  AND id(msg(p)) = i Send its current value and id
```

```
  AND loc(msg(p)) = target(s)(i)
```

```
  AND ddl(p) = now(s) + b Packet deadline does not violate b
```

# Agent Receive Action

- Agent  $i$  receives packet  $p$

```
receive (p:Pkt, i:Index):
```

```
LET m: Msg = msg(p),
```

```
  j: Index = id(m),
```

*Sender and location of the message*

```
  l: real = loc(m),
```

```
  Ci: Vector = update(row(lastmsg(s), i), j, l)
```

```
IN s WITH [
```

*Remove  $p$  from the channel from  $j$  to  $i$*

```
  buffer := buffer(s) WITH
```

```
    [(j, i) := remove(p, buffer(s)(j, i))],
```

```
  lastmsg := lastmsg(s) WITH [ (i, j) := l ],
```

*update  $m_{ij}$*

```
  target := target(s) WITH [(i) := gauss(Ci, i)]
```

*compute new  $x_i$*

- Enabling Conditions

```
receive (p, i): p is in the channel from j to i and its deadline is not violated
```

```
  buffer(s)(id(msg(p)), i)(p) AND ddl(p) >= now(s)
```

# Message Loss Action

- Packet  $p$  is removed from the System

```
trans (a:ACS, s:S): S =
CASES a OF
msgloss (p: Pkt , i: Index ):
LET
    m: Msg = msg (p),
    j: Index = id(m)Sender of the message
IN s Remove p from the channel
    WITH [ buffer := buffer (s)
           WITH [ (j,i) := remove(p, buffer(s)(j,i))] ]
ENDCASES
```

- Enabling Conditions

```
enabled (a:ACS, s:S): bool =
CASES a OF p is in the buffer from sender of p to i
    msgloss (p,i): buffer(s)(id(msg(p)),i)(p)
ENDCASES
```

# Agent Move Action

- Agent  $i$  moves from its current to its target value

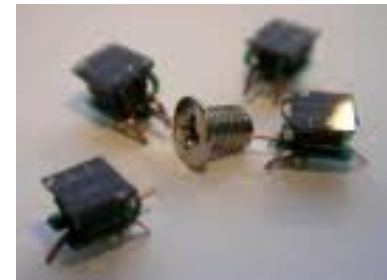
```
move (i:Index , delta_t:posreal):  
s WITH [  
    lastmsg := lastmsg(s) WITH [(i,i) := target(s)(i)],  
    now := now(s) + delta_t Advance Clock of delta_t unit  
]
```

- Enabling Conditions

```
move (i:Index , delta_t:posreal): No packet deadline is violated  
FORALL (p: Pkt): ddl (p) >= now (s) + delta_t
```

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  - System Meta-theory
  - Proof of Correctness Meta-theory
- Application
  - Robot Pattern Formations
- Conclusions and Future work





# Assumptions

- Assumptions

```
ASSUMING
```

```
inverse_exist: ASSUMPTION inv?(A) D1
```

```
diag_entry : ASSUMPTION FORALL (i:Index): A(i,i)=1 D2
```

```
diag_dominant : ASSUMPTION dd?(A) D3
```

```
strictly_diag_dominant : ASSUMPTION sdd?(A) D4
```

```
ENDASSUMING
```

- where

```
dd?(m): bool =
```

```
FORALL (r: Index): sum(row(abs(m),r),r) <= abs(m(r,r))
```

```
sdd?(m): bool =
```

```
EXISTS (r: Index): sum(row(abs(m),r),r) < abs(m(r,r))
```

# Error Model

- Error of the system as the maximum of agent errors

```
me : [S -> nonneg_real]
```

```
me_all_error: AXIOM FORALL(i) : mes(s,i) <= me(s)
```

```
me_ex_error: AXIOM EXISTS(i) : mes(s,i) = me(s)
```

- Error of agent  $i$  in the system

```
mes(s,i): nonneg_real = max(mae(s,i), mbe(s,i))
```

*Error of  $i$  is the maximum of its error along its outgoing channels and its error in all agents*

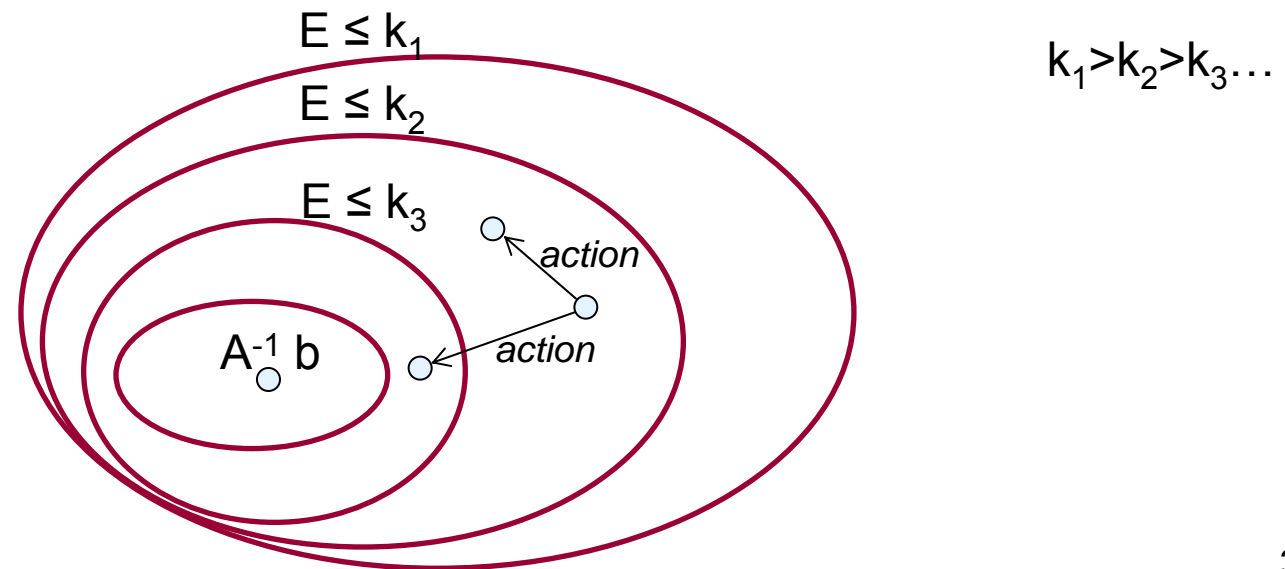
# Proof Summary

(E1) Error of the system E does not increase

```
not_incr_error :
```

```
LEMMA enabled(a,s) IMPLIES me(s) >= me(trans(a,s))
```

- Proof is a case on the actions

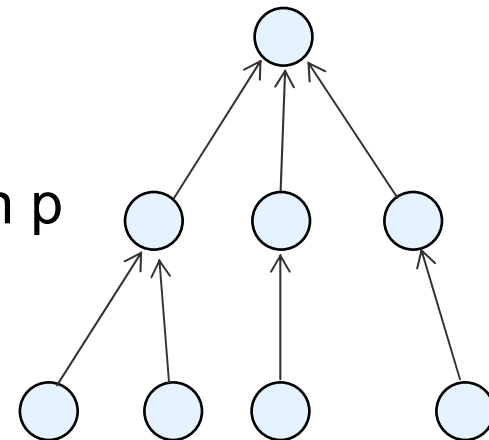


# Proof Summary

- (E2) E eventually decreases by a factor  $\alpha$ 
  - p defined recursively along the tree t

```
p(i:Index) RECURSIVE nonneg_real =  
  IF root_t?(t,i)  
  THEN sum(row(abs(A),i),N-1,i) Sum along the row  
  ELSE abs(A(i,parent(t,i))) * p(parent(t,i)) +  
        sum(row(abs(A),i),N-1,i,parent(t,i)) Sum along the row and path to the root  
  ENDIF
```

- showed that  $0 \leq p < 1$
- $\alpha$  defined as the maximum of function p



# Proof Summary

(E2) E eventually decreases by  $\alpha$

- Define a family of predicates Z
- Prove Stability

Z\_stable:

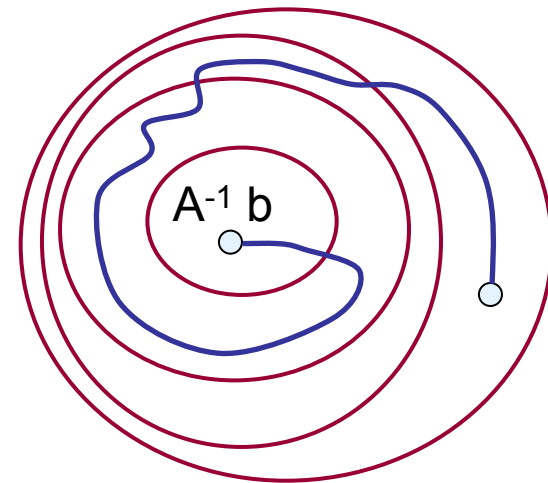
LEMMA  $Z(s, C, i)$  AND  $\text{enabled}(a, s)$

IMPLIES  $Z(\text{trans}(a, s), C, i)$

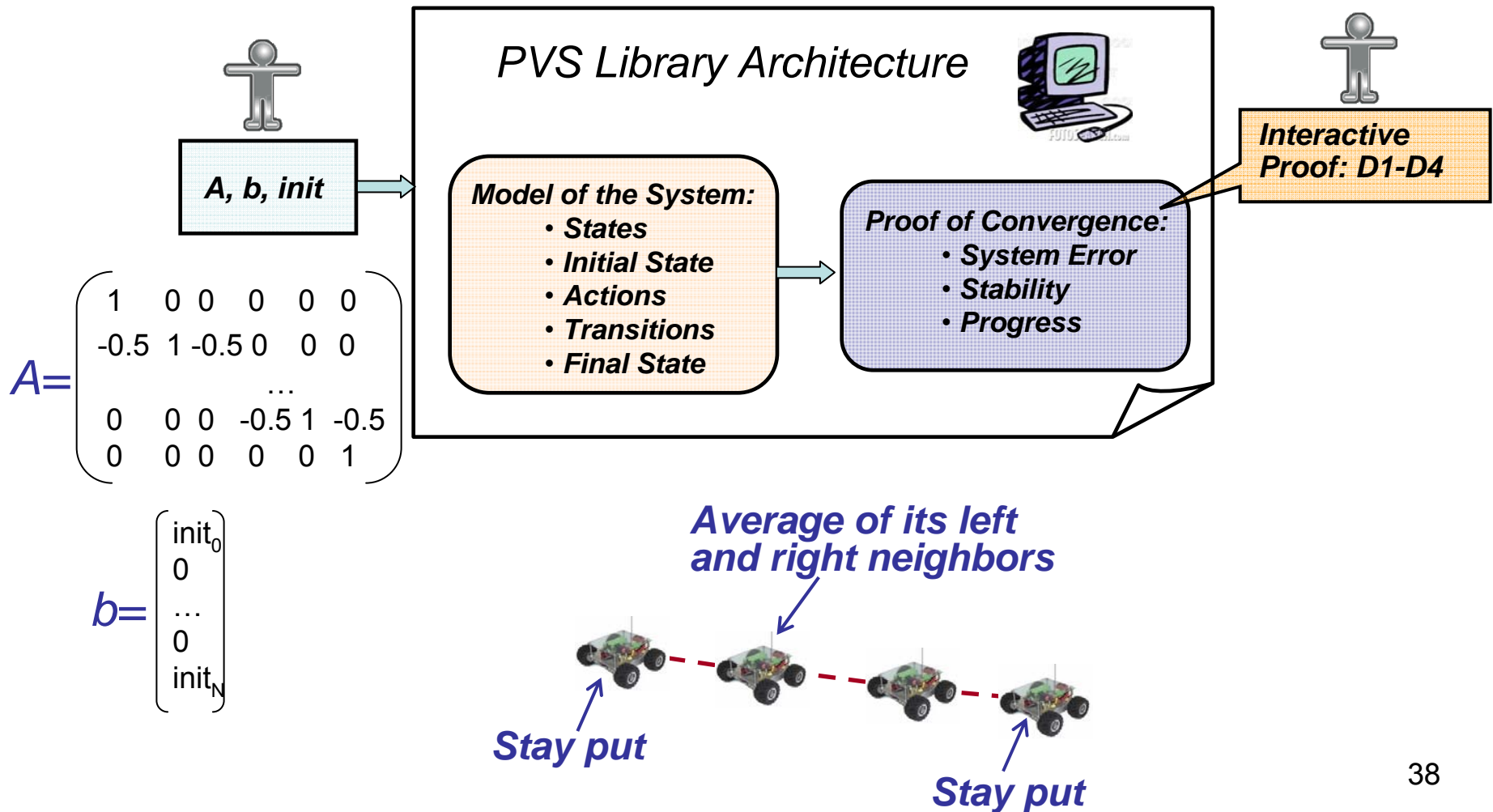
Proof is a *case on the actions*

- Prove Progress

Proof broken in smaller lemmas

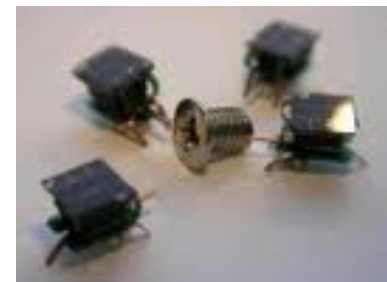


# Using the PVS Framework



# Conclusions and Future Directions

- Extend results and framework to a richer class:
  - Non linear schemes
  - How much can we reuse?
- Focus on communication
  - Conditions for proving correctness of a message-passing scheme
  - Synchronous version of the scheme
  - How much can we reuse?



# Framework for Reliability

