

# Relational Analysis of Sensor Attacks on Cyber-Physical Systems

Jian Xiang<sup>\*</sup>, Nathan Fulton<sup>†</sup>, Stephen Chong<sup>\*</sup>

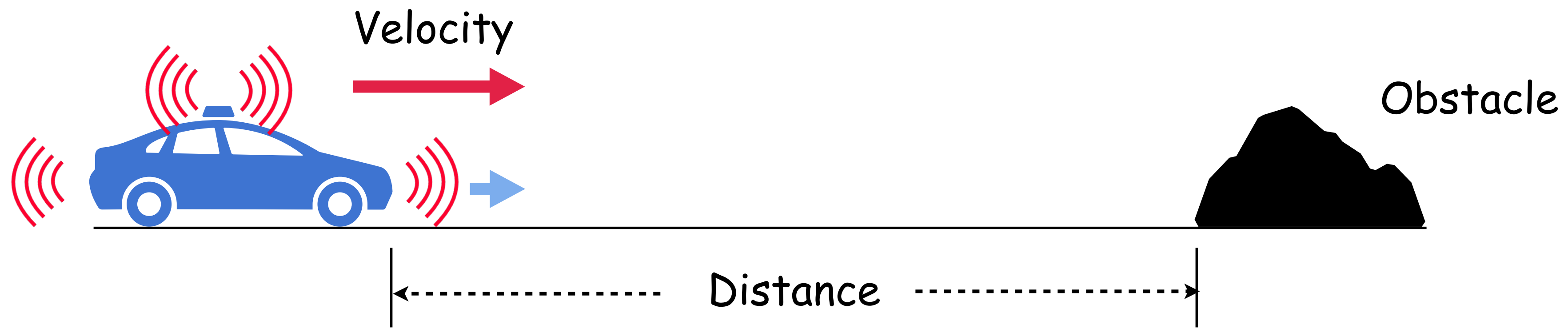
<sup>\*</sup> Harvard University  
jxiang, chong@seas.harvard.edu

<sup>†</sup> MIT-IBM Watson AI Lab.  
nathan@ibm.com

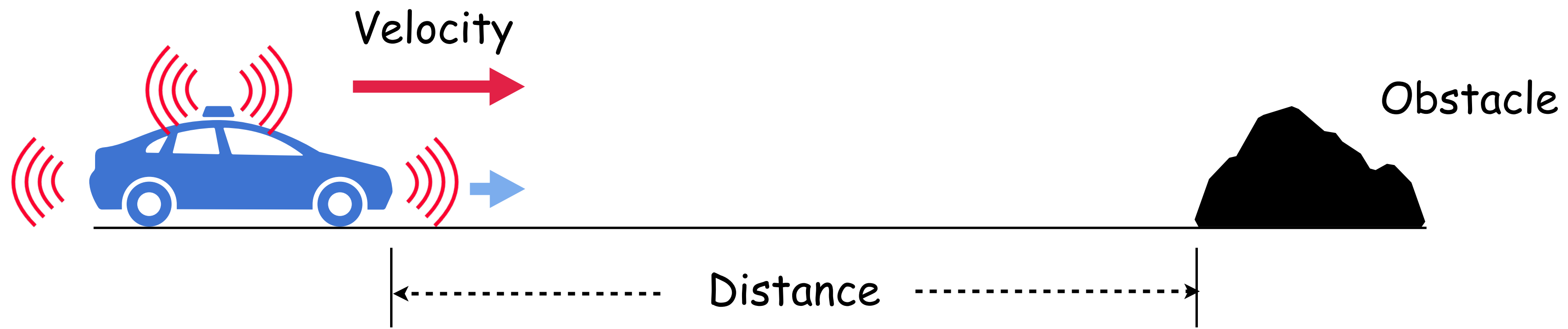
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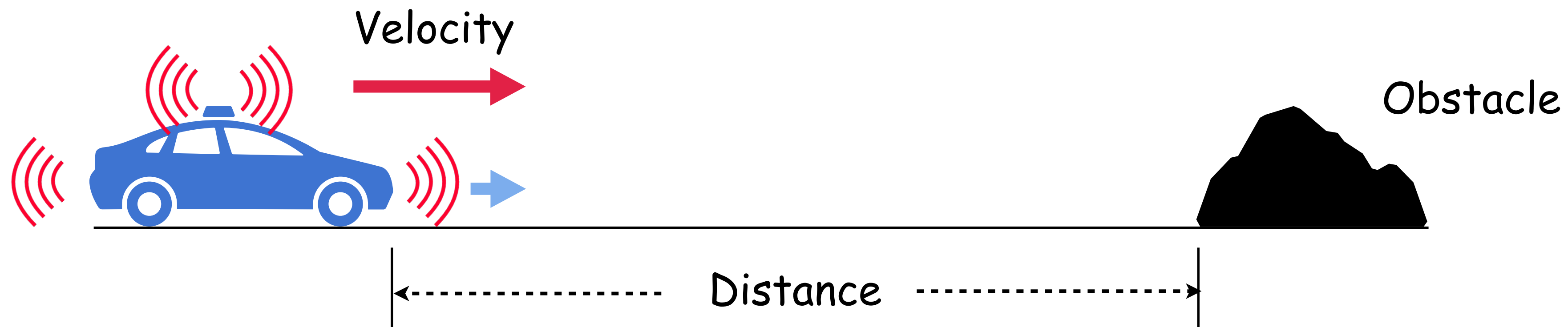


# Sensor Attacks



accelerate or brake?

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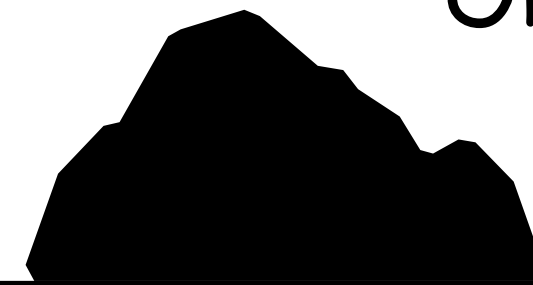
accelerate or brake? Decision is calculated based on sensed velocity and distance

# Sensor Attacks

Brake



Obstacle



Safe operation

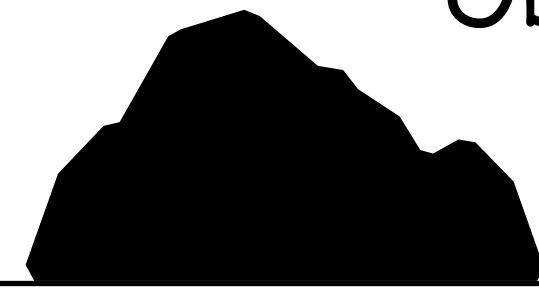
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Safe operation



Sensor compromised

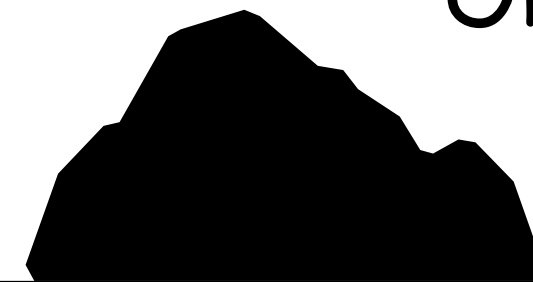
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# Sensor Attacks

Brake

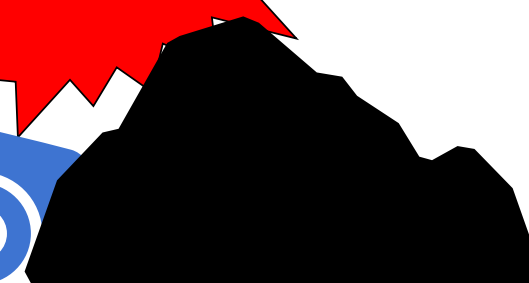
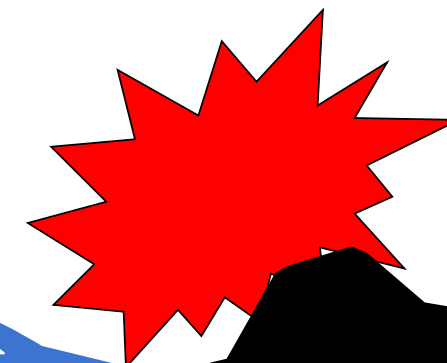


Obstacle



Safe operation

Accelerate



Sensor compromised

accelerate or brake? Decision is calculated based on sensed velocity and distance



# Our View

1. Formal approach is needed
2. Understanding the impact of a compromised sensor is important
3. Need to reason about relational properties

# Contributions

A formal framework to model and analyze  
sensor attacks on cyber-physical systems

Methodology

# Contributions

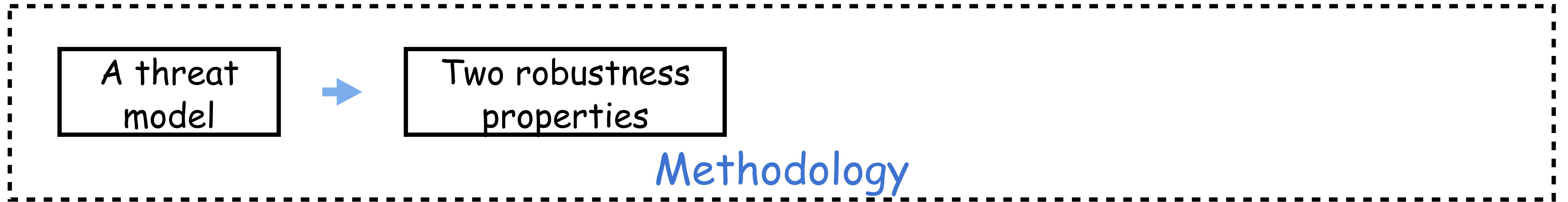
A formal framework to model and analyze  
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A threat  
model

Methodology

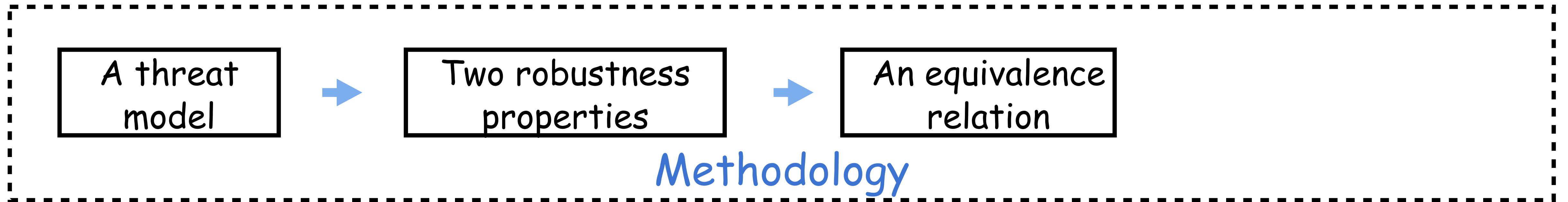
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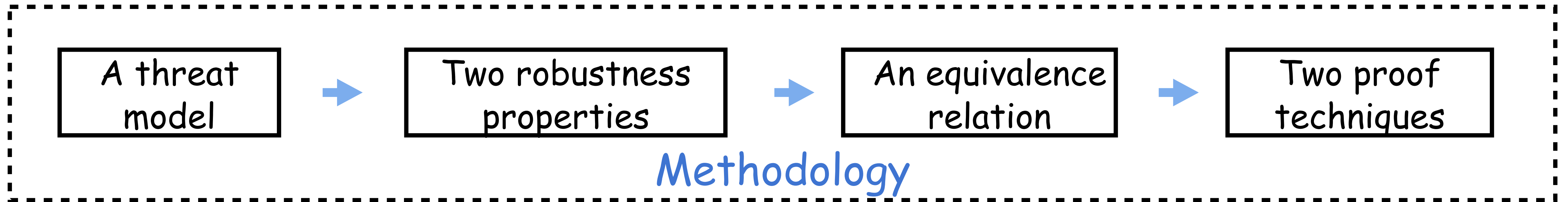
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A formal framework to model and analyze sensor attacks on cyber-physical systems



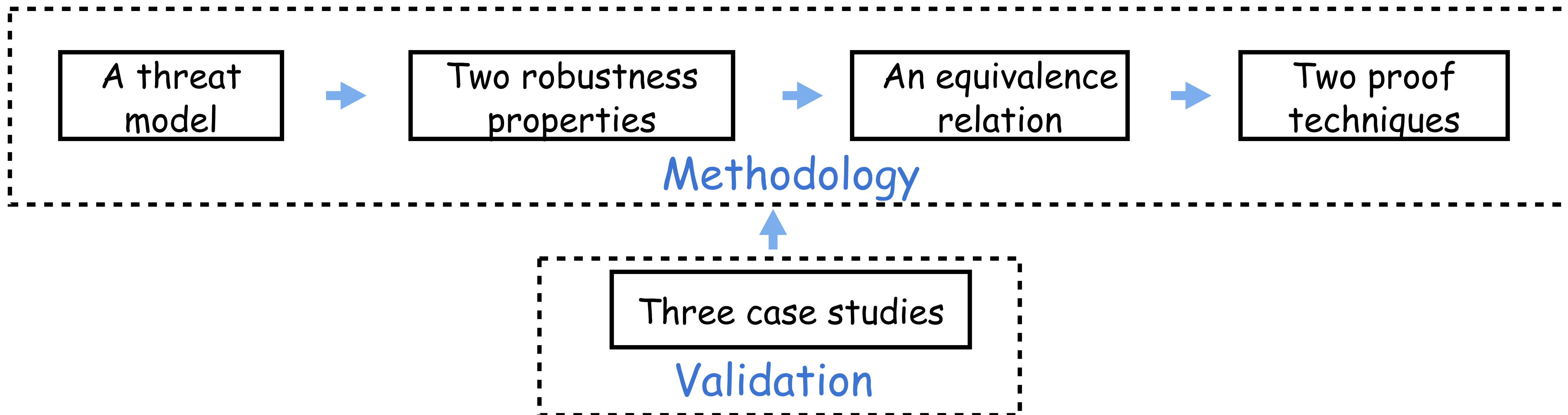
# Contributions

A formal framework to model and analyze sensor attacks on cyber-physical systems



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A formal framework to model and analyze sensor attacks on cyber-physical systems



## Real-valued terms $\theta$

$x$	Program variable
$c$	Constant
$\theta_1 \oplus \theta_2$	Computation on terms

## Hybrid Program $\alpha, \beta$

$x := \theta$	Deterministic assignment
$x := *$	Nondeterministic assignment
$x' = \theta \& \phi$	Continuous evolution
$?\phi$	Test if formula $\phi$ is true
$\alpha; \beta$	Sequential composition
$\alpha \cup \beta$	Nondeterministic choice
$\alpha^*$	Nondeterministic repetition



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General form:  $(\text{ctrl}; \text{plant})^*$



## Differential Dynamic Logic $\phi, \psi$

$\theta_1 \sim \theta_2$  Comparison between terms

$\neg\phi$  Negation

$\phi \wedge \psi$  Conjunction

$\phi \vee \psi$  Disjunction

$\phi \rightarrow \psi$  Implication

$\forall x. \phi$  Universal quantifier

$\exists x. \phi$  Existential quantifier

$[\alpha]\phi$  Program necessity

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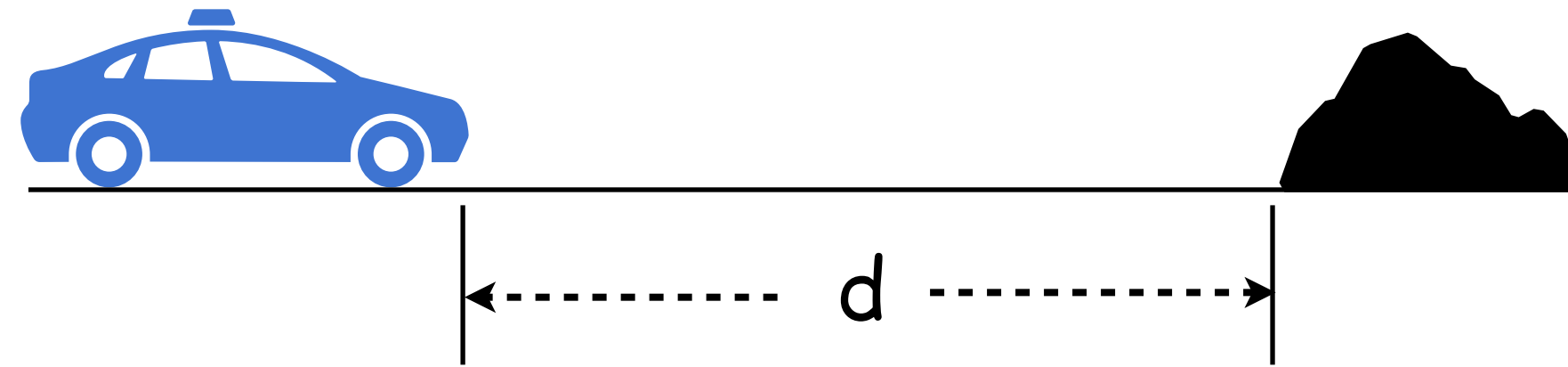
Safety:  $\phi \rightarrow [\alpha]\psi$

# Example Hybrid Program Model

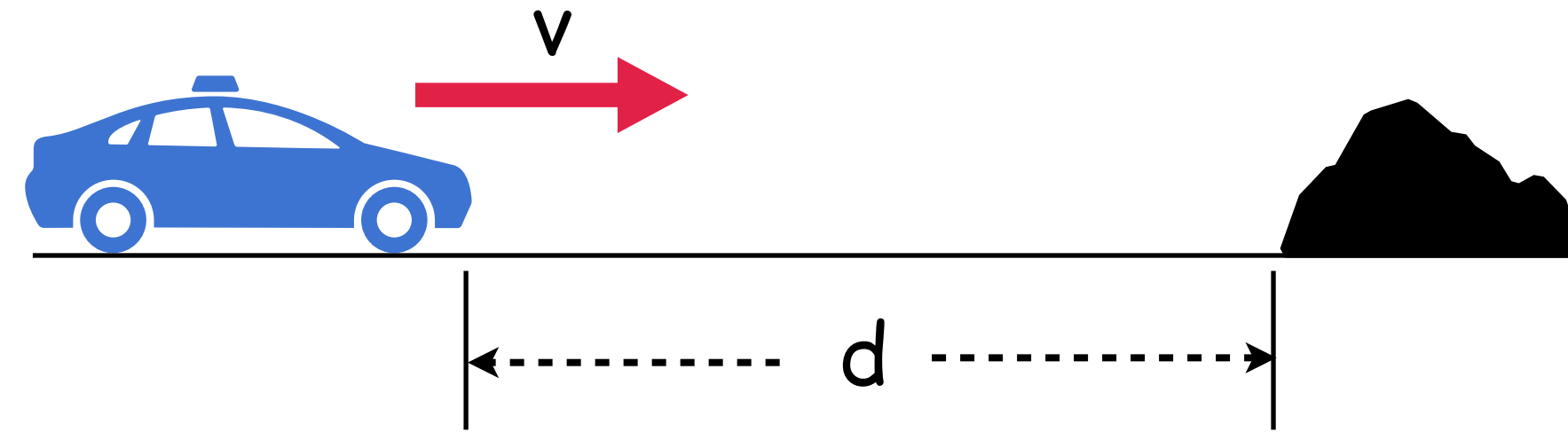


# Example Hybrid Program Model

$d$  : distance to obstacle



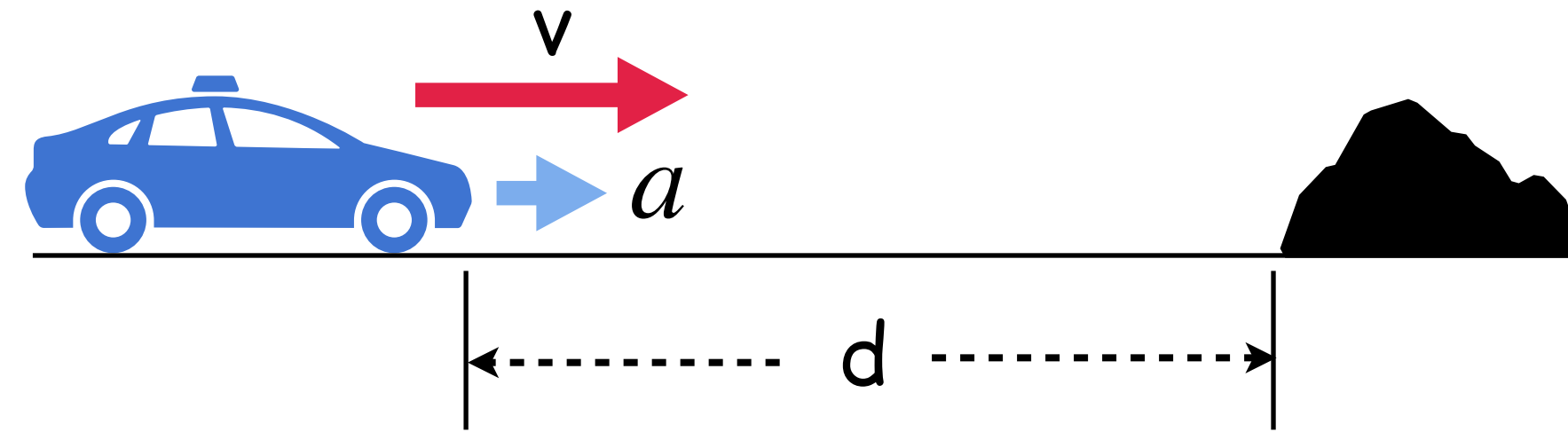
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$d$  : distance to obstacle

$v$  : vehicle velocity

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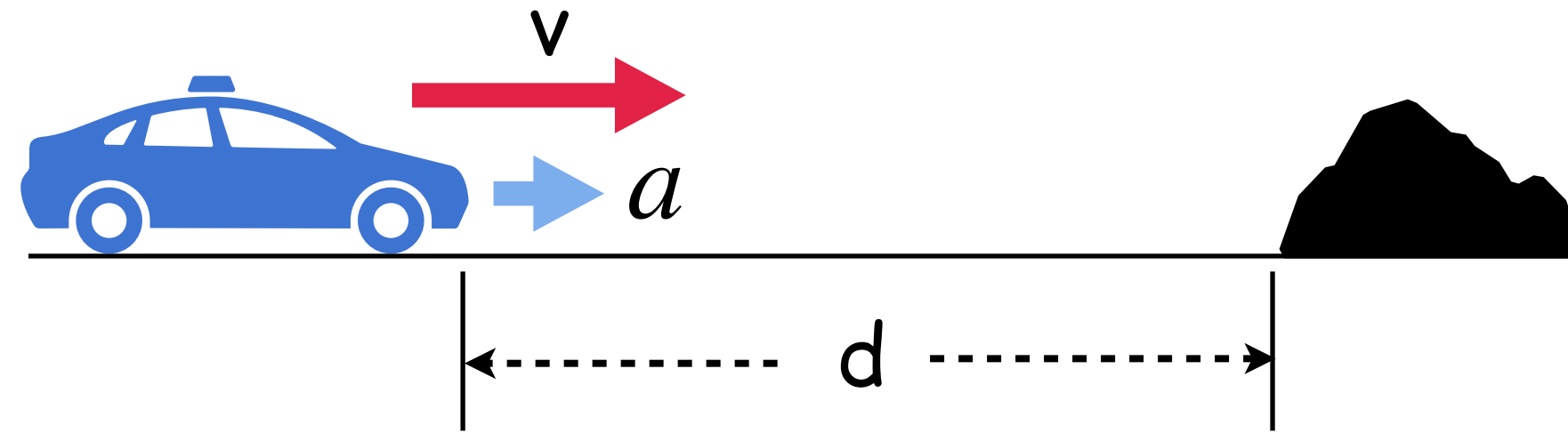
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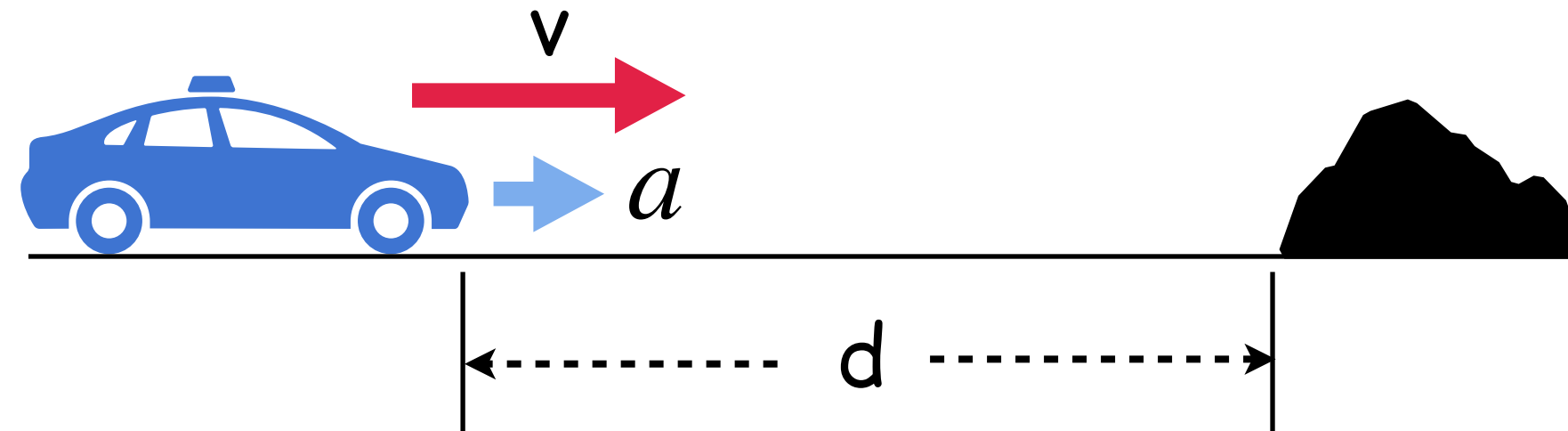
$v$  : vehicle velocity

$a$  : acceleration

$t$  : clock variable

$\text{ctrl} \equiv ((\text{accel} \cup \text{brake}); t := 0)$

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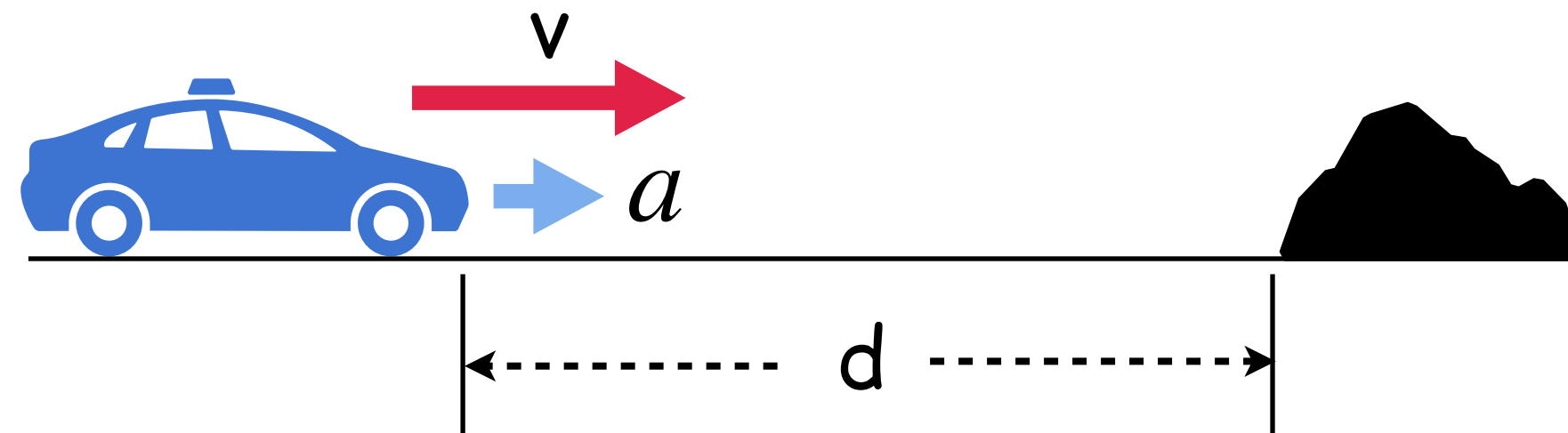
$t$  : clock variable

$B$  : braking rate

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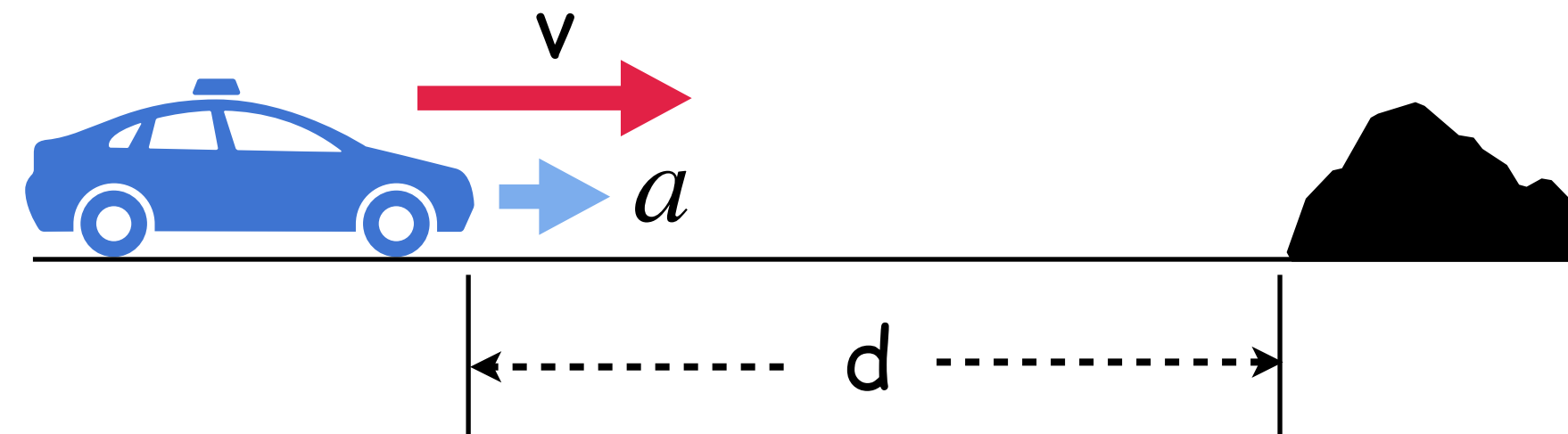
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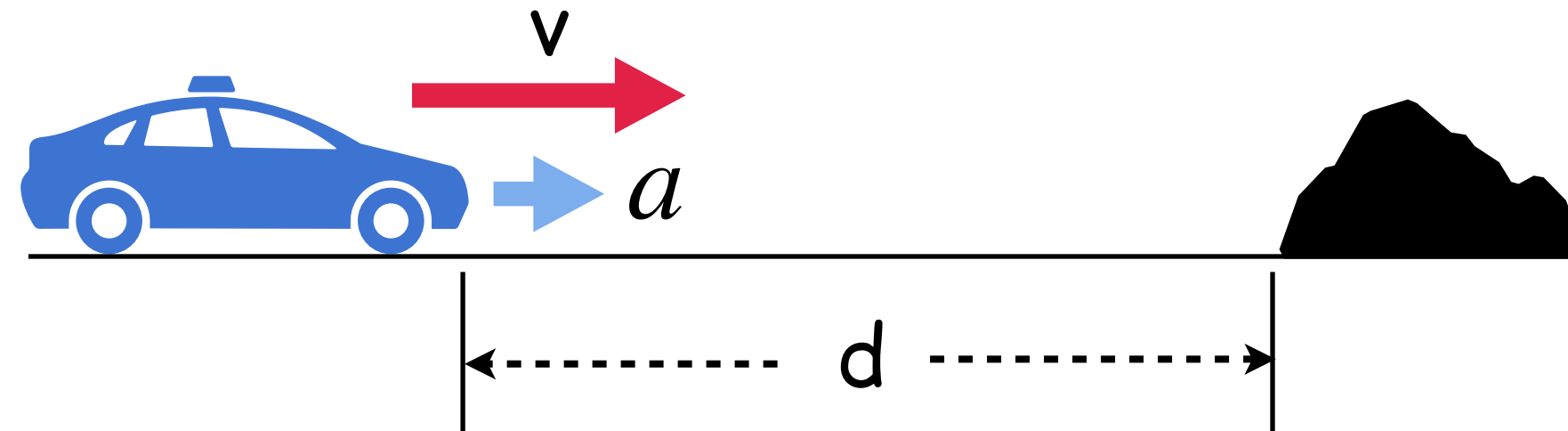
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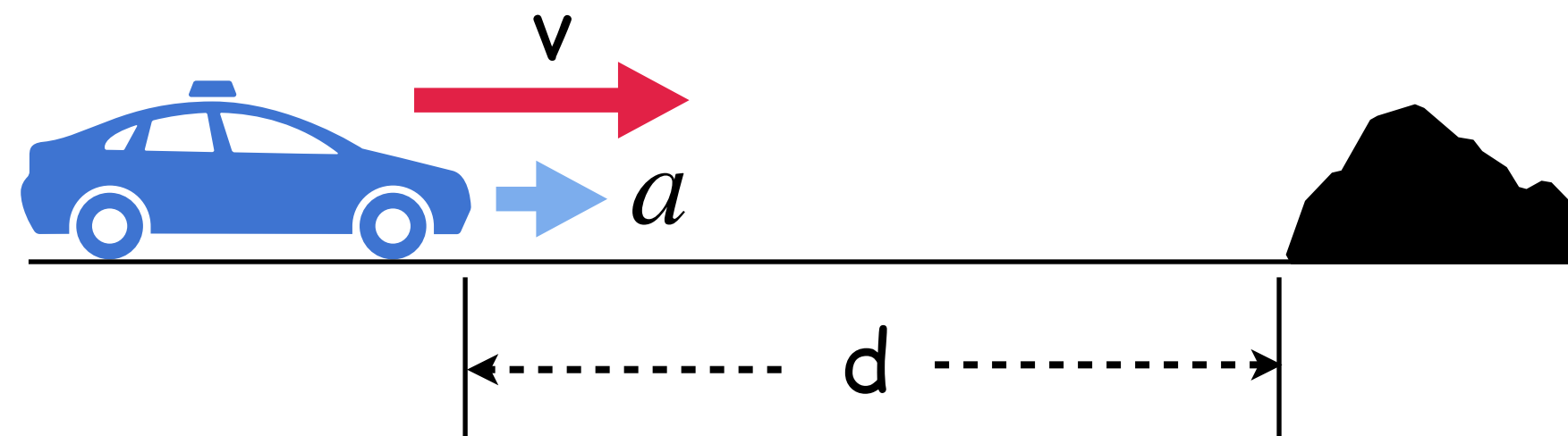
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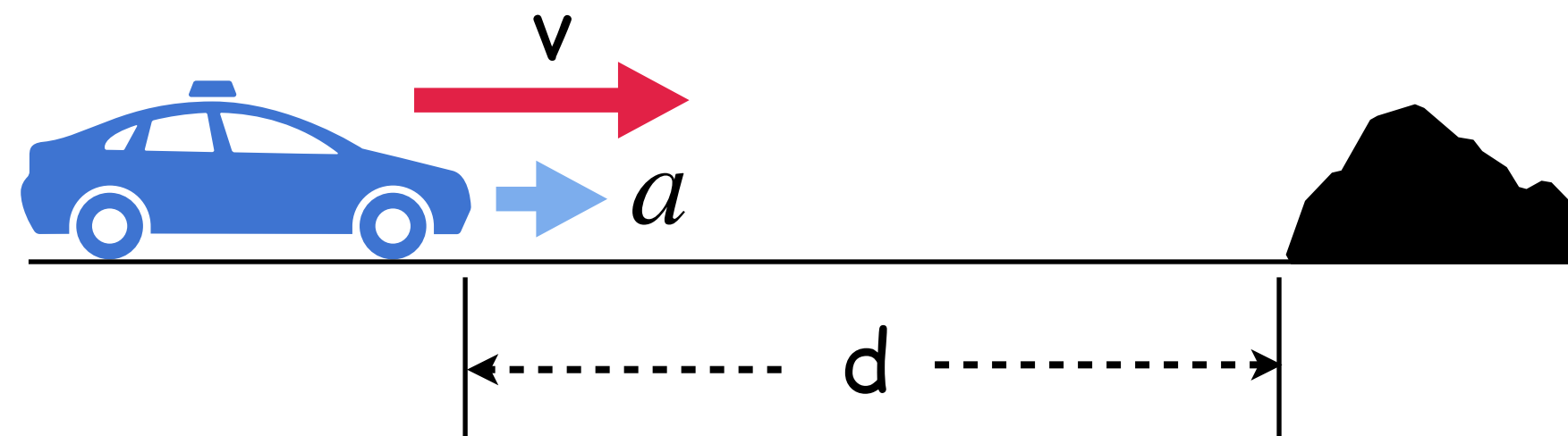
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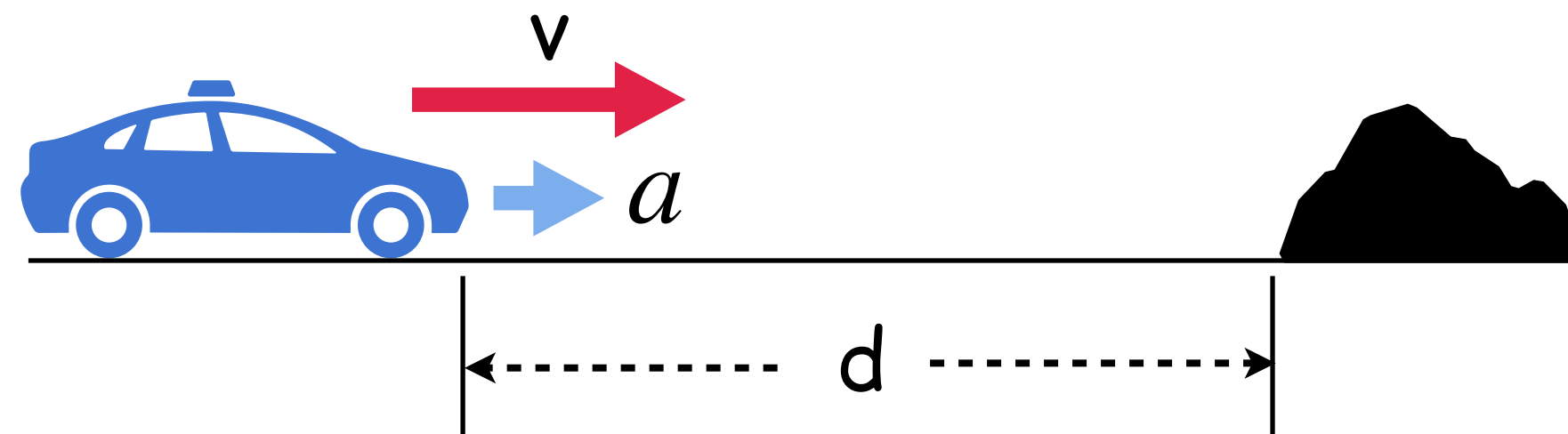
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$(A \geq 0 \wedge B \geq 0 \wedge 2Bd > v^2) \rightarrow [(\text{ctrl}; \text{plant})^*]$

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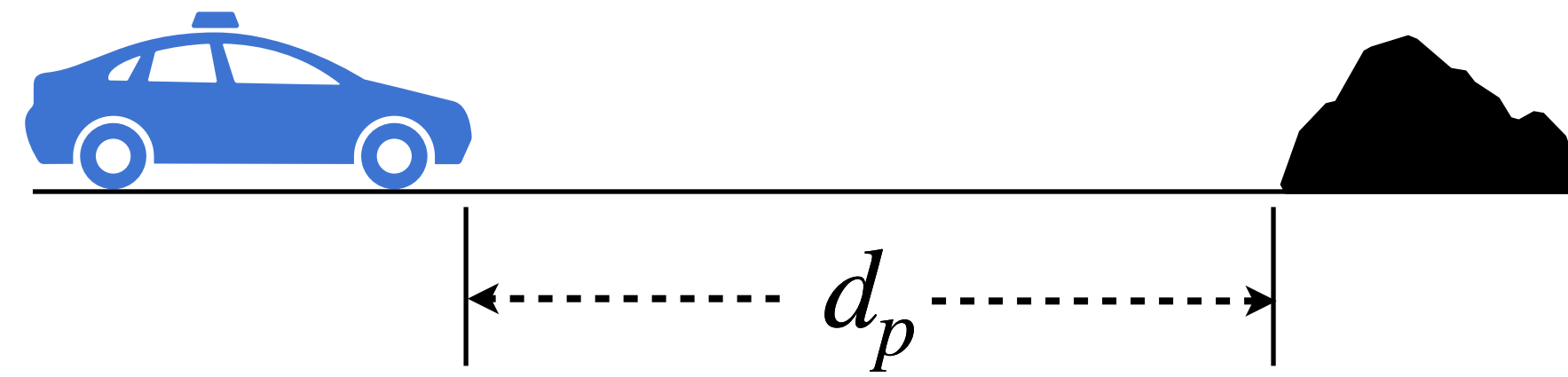
$(A \geq 0 \wedge B \geq 0 \wedge 2Bd > v^2) \rightarrow [(\text{ctrl}; \text{plant})^*] (d > 0)$



# Example with Sensing

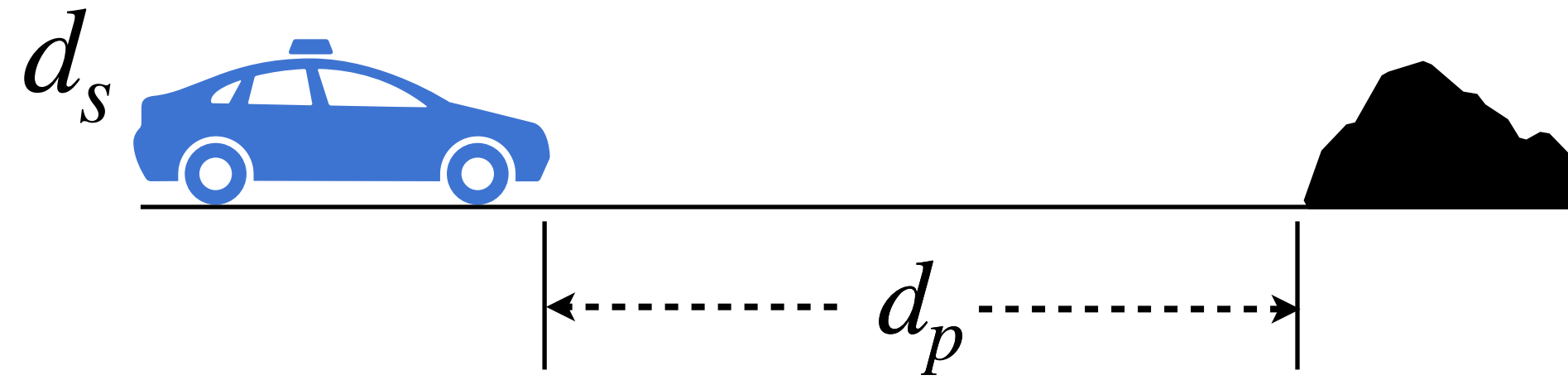


# Example with Sensing



$d_p$  : distance (physical)

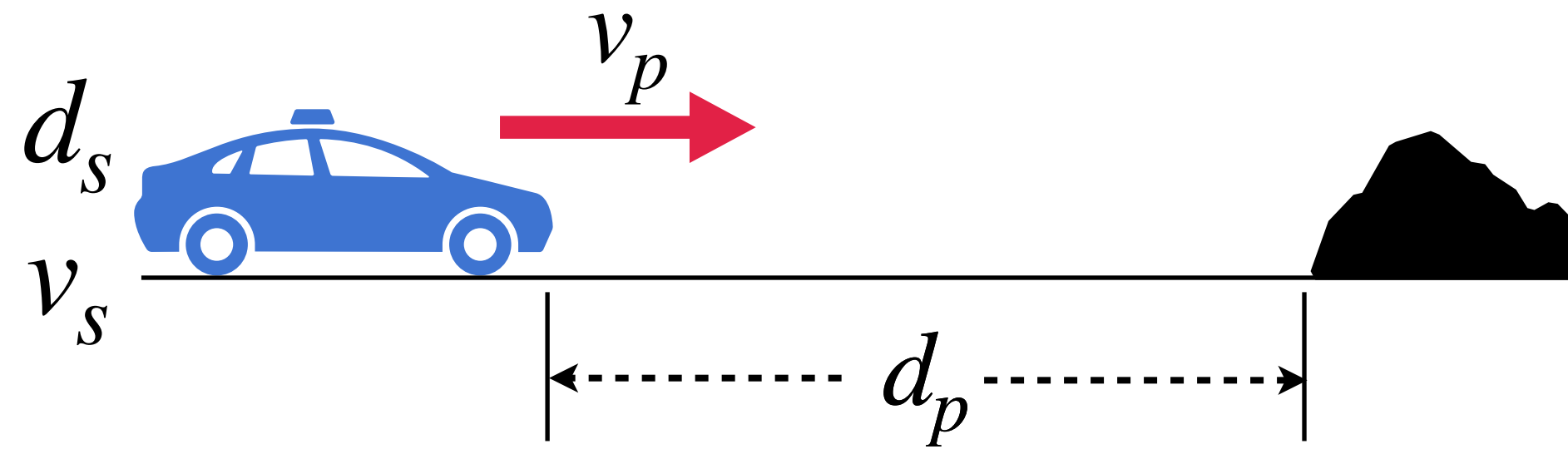
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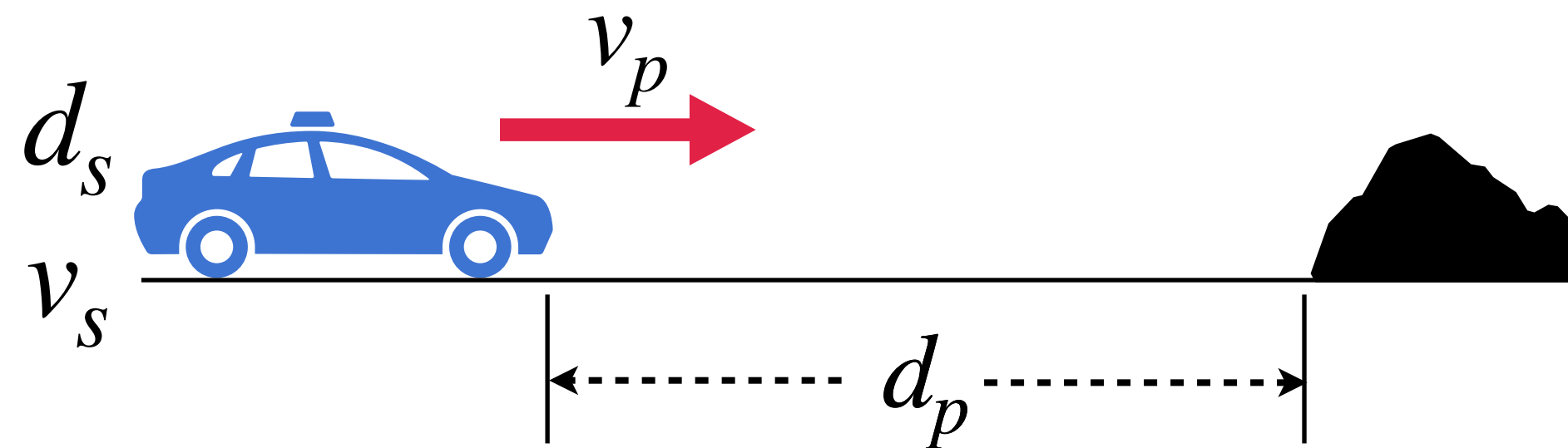
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$v_p$  : velocity (physical)

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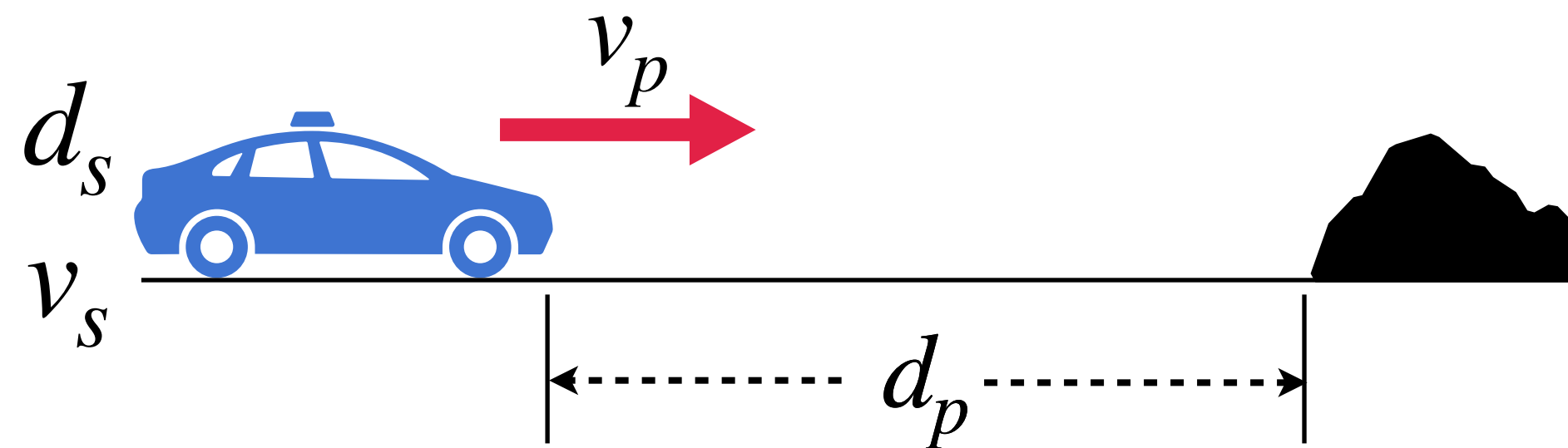
$d_s$  : distance (sensed)

$v_p$  : velocity (physical)

$v_s$  : velocity (sensed)

$$\text{plant} \equiv d'_p = -v_p, v'_p = a, t' = 1 \ \& \ (v_p \geq 0 \wedge t \leq \epsilon)$$

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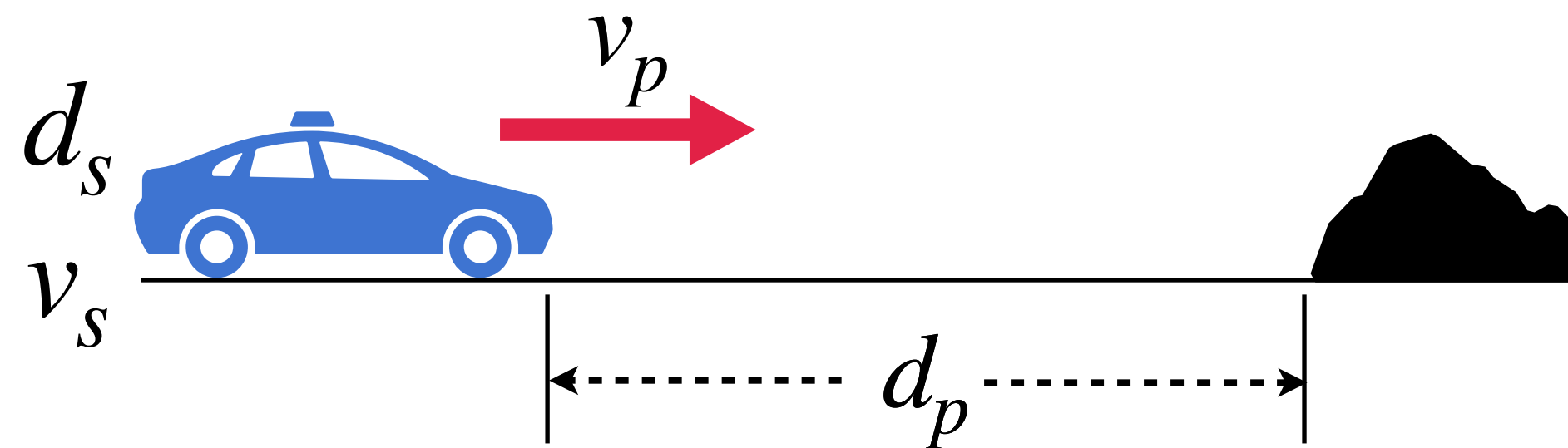
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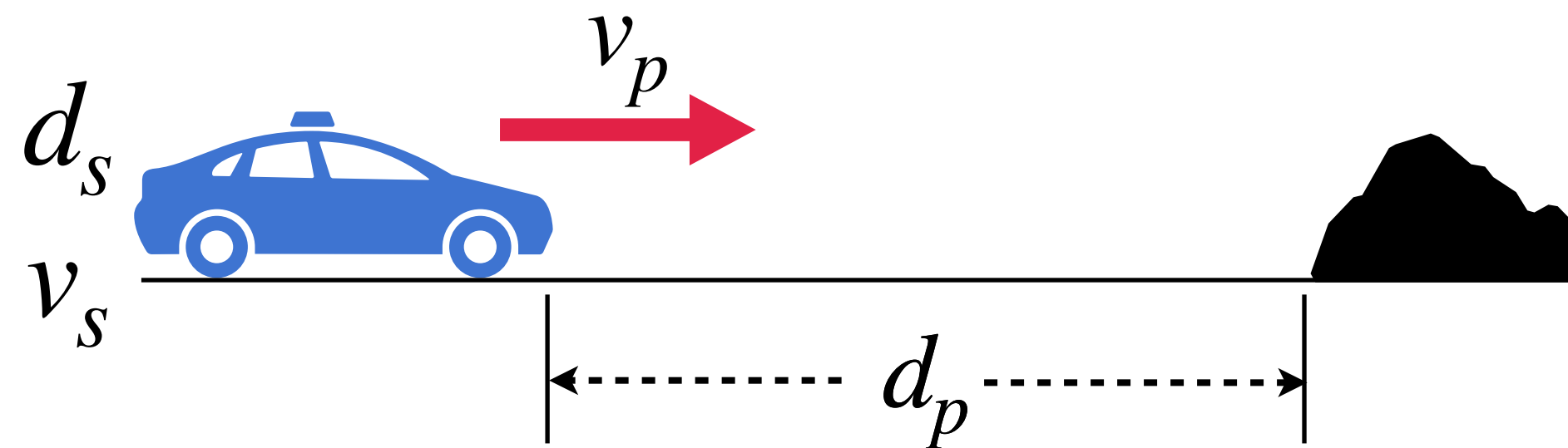
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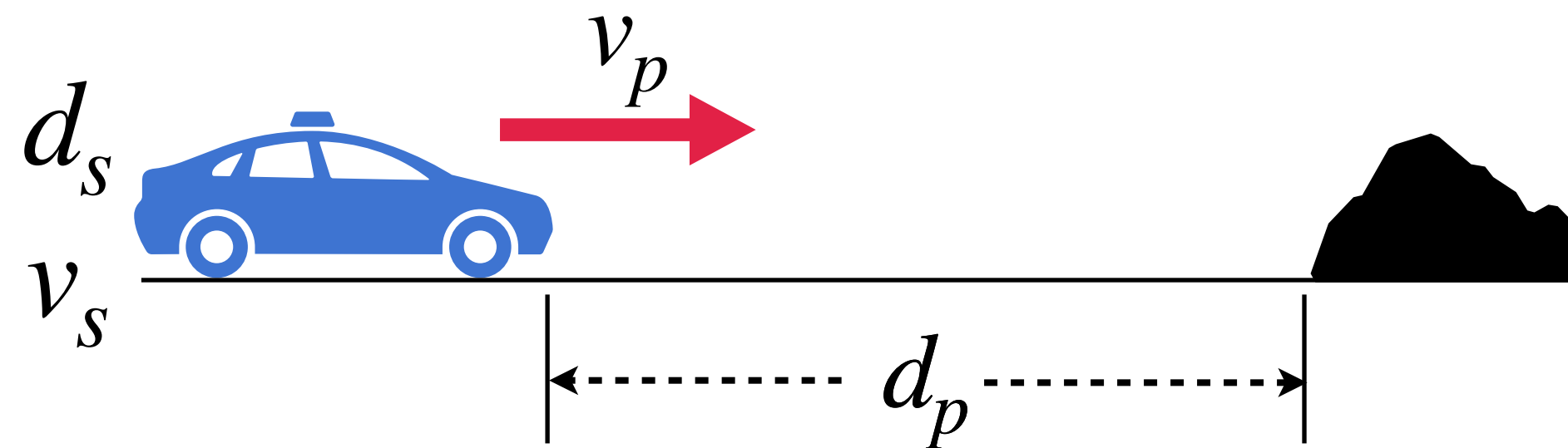
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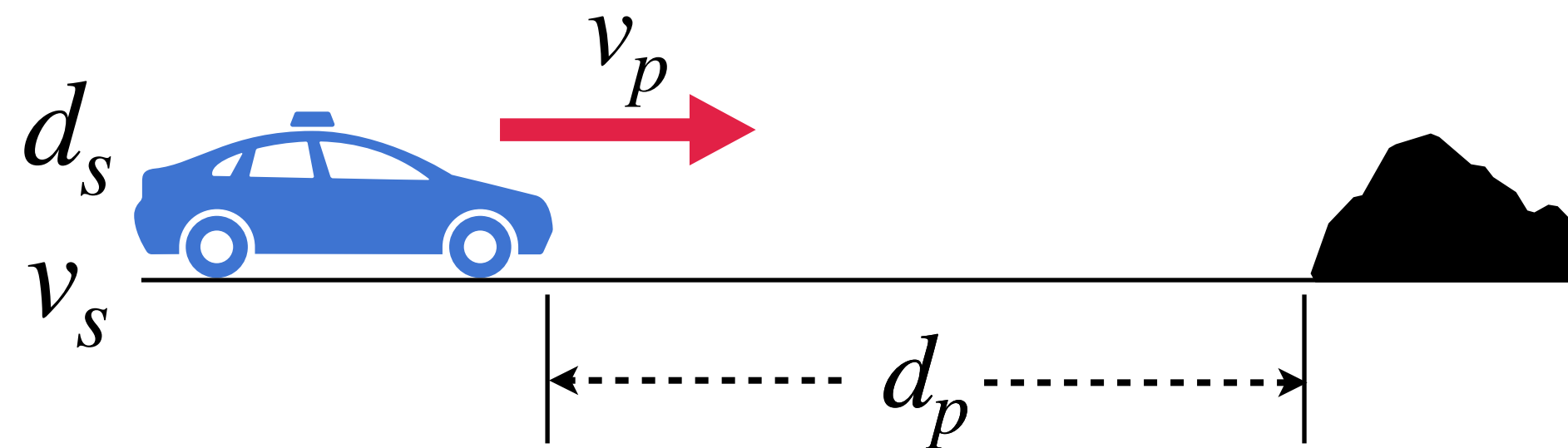
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$(A \geq 0 \wedge B \geq 0 \wedge 2Bd_p > v_p^2) \rightarrow [(\text{ctrl}; \text{plant})^*] (d_p > 0)$

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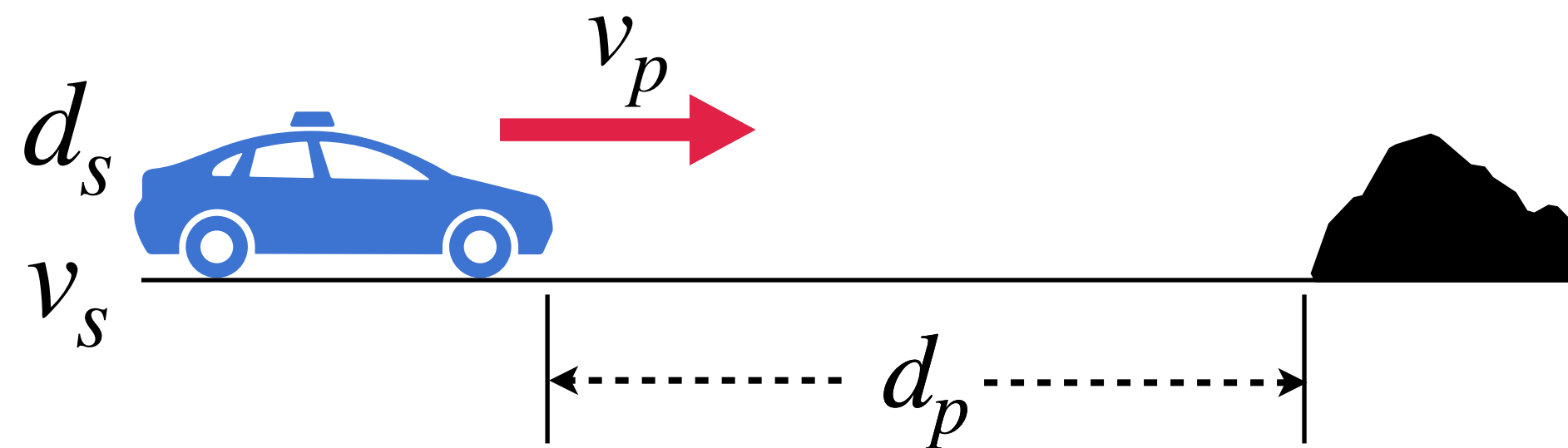
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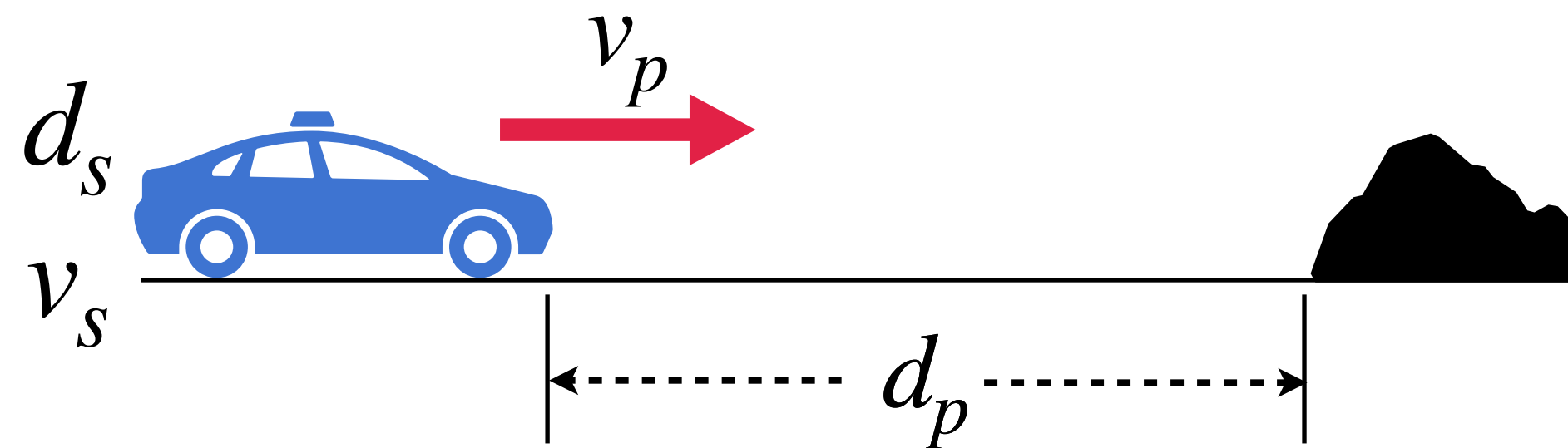
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# Example with Sensor Attack



$d_p$  : distance (physical)

$d_s$  : distance (sensed)

$v_p$  : velocity (physical)

$v_s$  : velocity (sensed)

ctrl  $\equiv v_s := *; d_s := d_p; ((\text{accel} \cup \text{brake}); t := 0)$

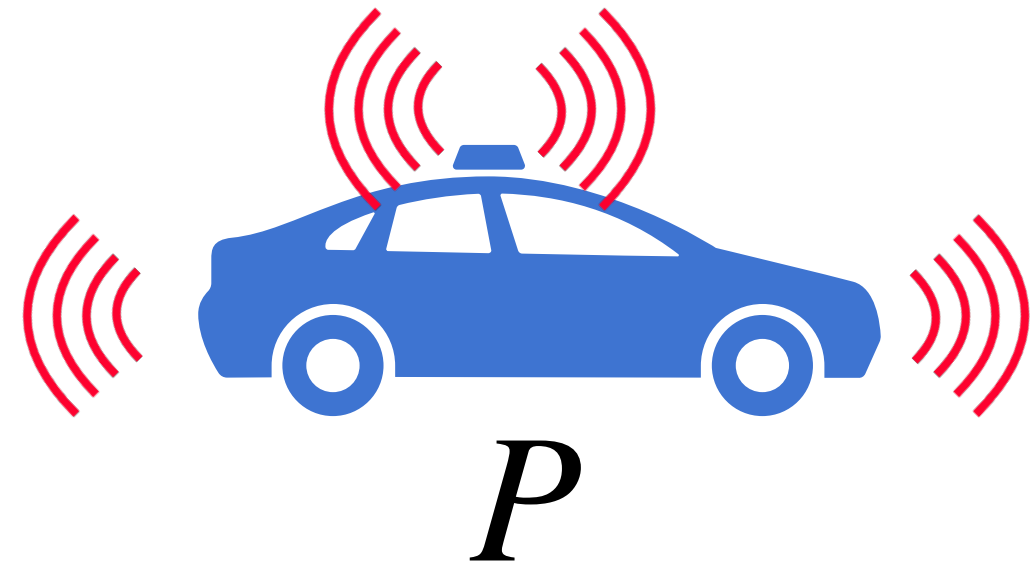
brake  $\equiv a := -B$

accel  $\equiv ?\psi; a := A$

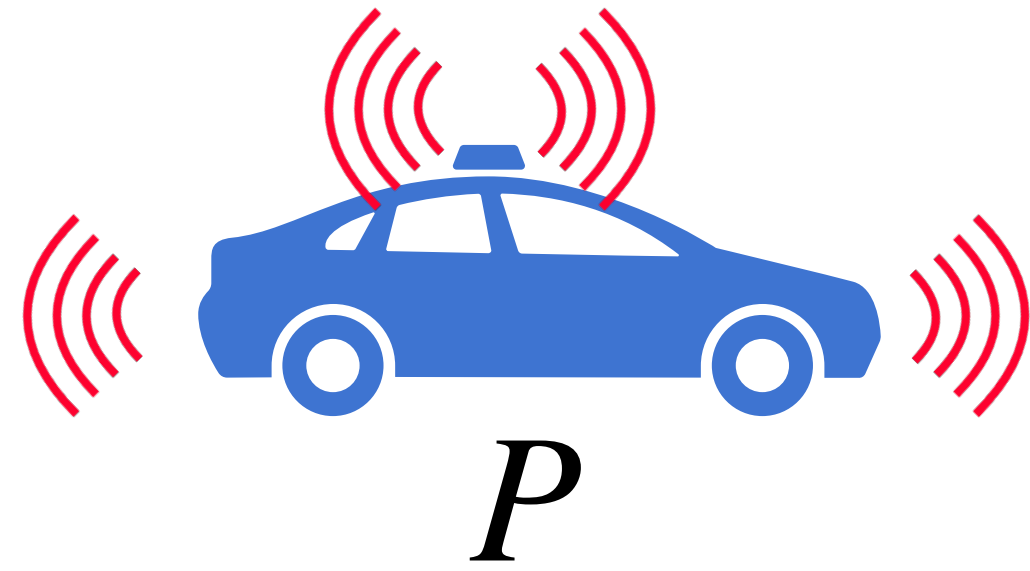
$\psi \equiv 2Bd_s > v_s^2 + (A + B)(A\epsilon^2 + 2v_s\epsilon)$

plant  $\equiv d'_p = -v_p, v'_p = a, t' = 1 \ \& \ (v_p \geq 0 \wedge t \leq \epsilon)$

# Two Robustness Properties



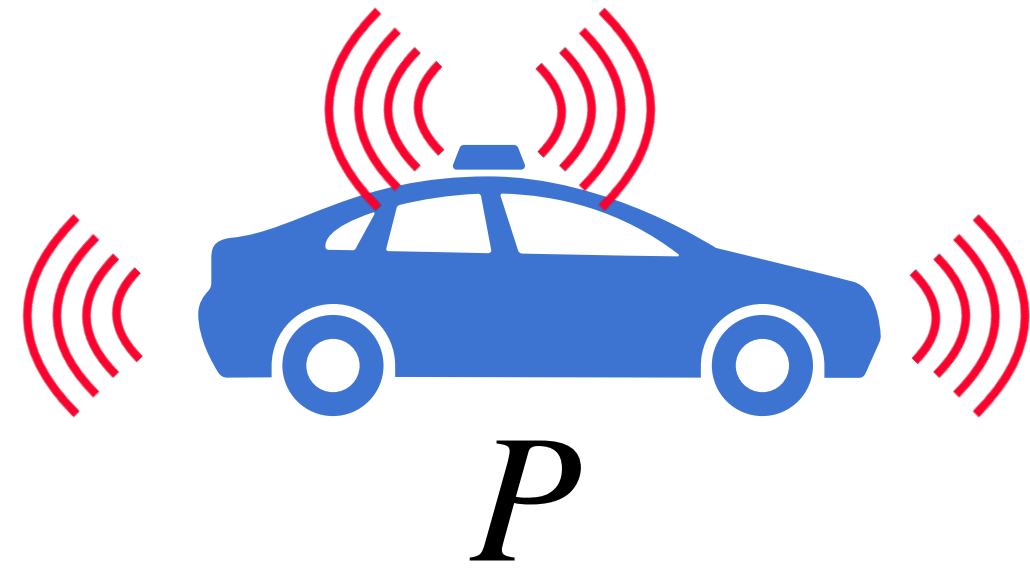
# Two Robustness Properties



## Robustness of Safety

$P$  is robustly safe: if  $P$  is safe, then  $P_{Attacked}$  is safe

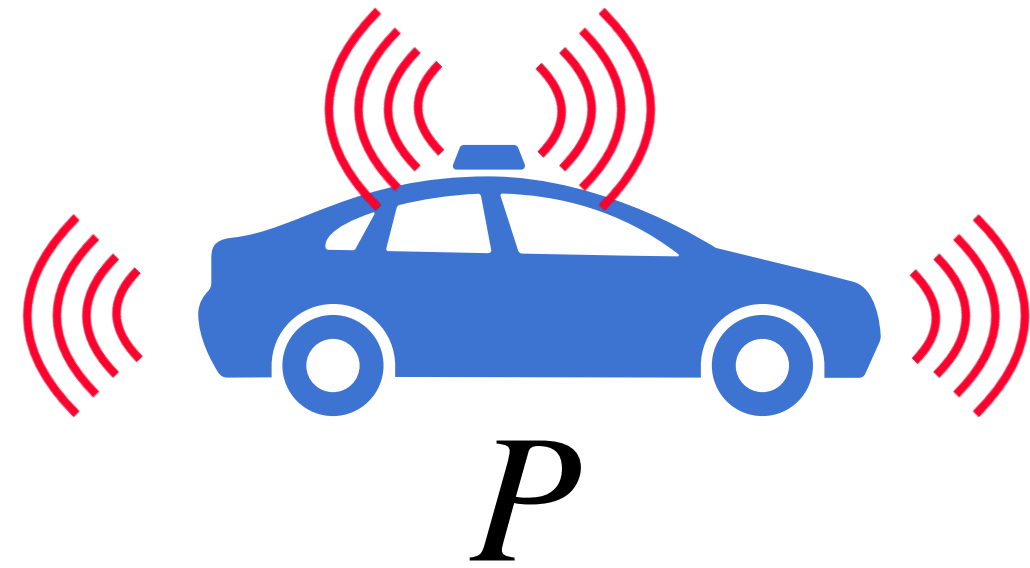
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# Two Robustness Properties



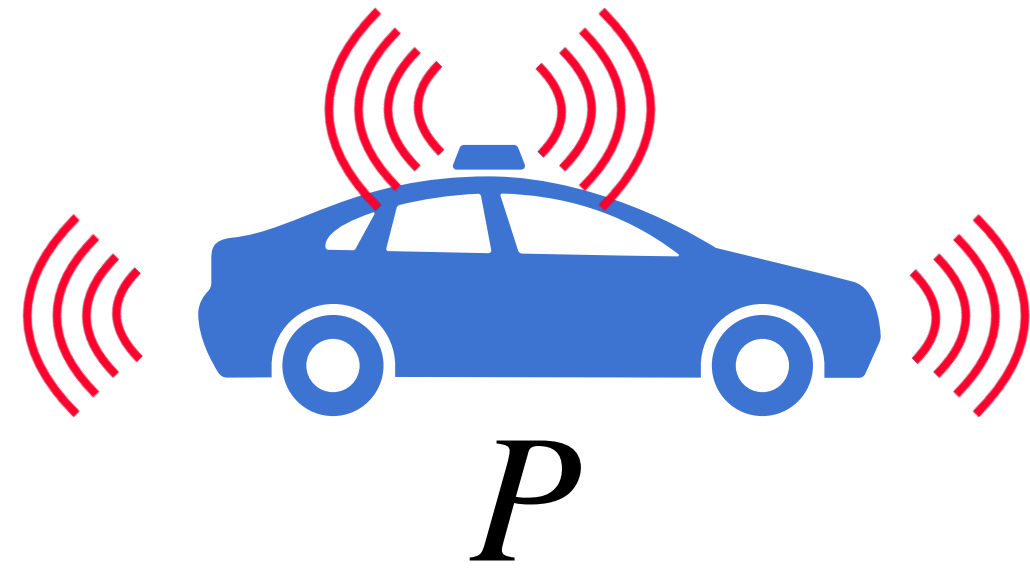
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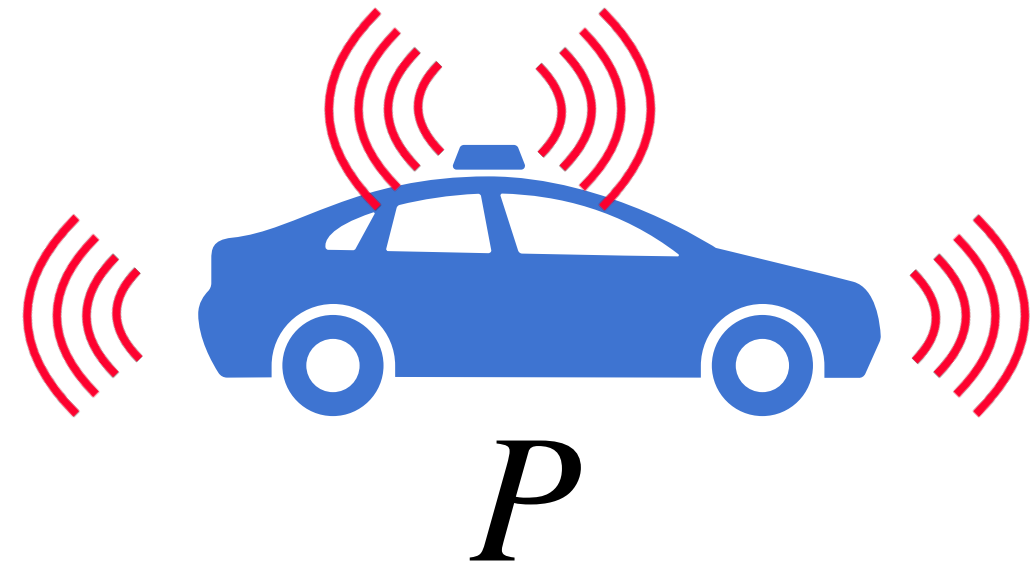


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# Two Robustness Properties



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Robustness of high-integrity state

# H-Equivalence of Two Programs

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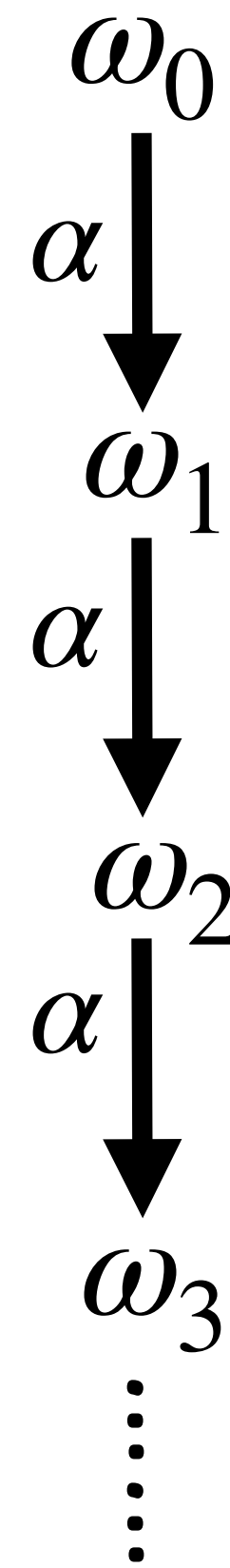
$$P_1 = \alpha^* \text{ and } P_2 = \beta^*$$

# H-Equivalence of Two Programs

$$P_1 = \alpha^* \text{ and } P_2 = \beta^* \quad P_1 \approx_H P_2$$

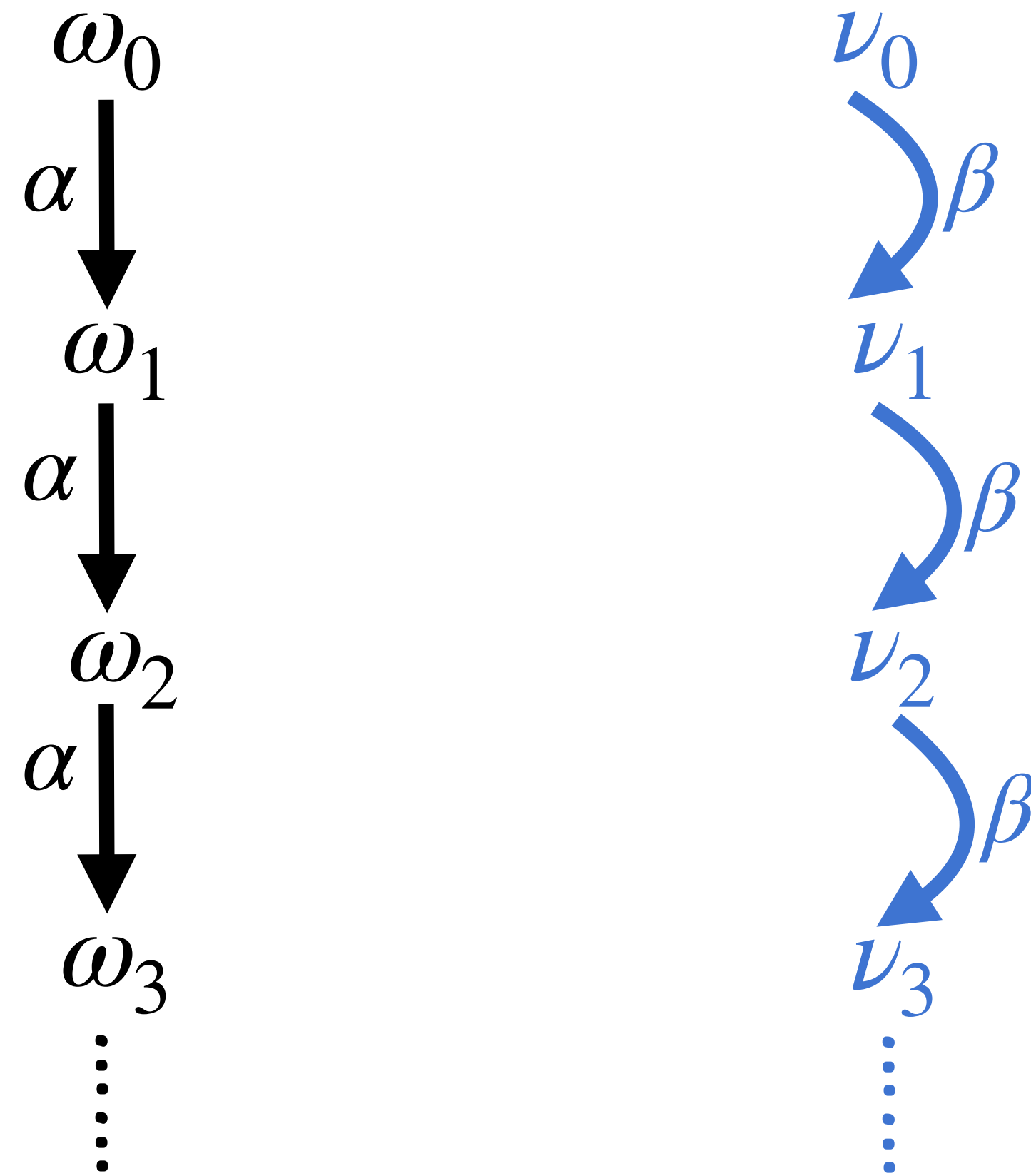
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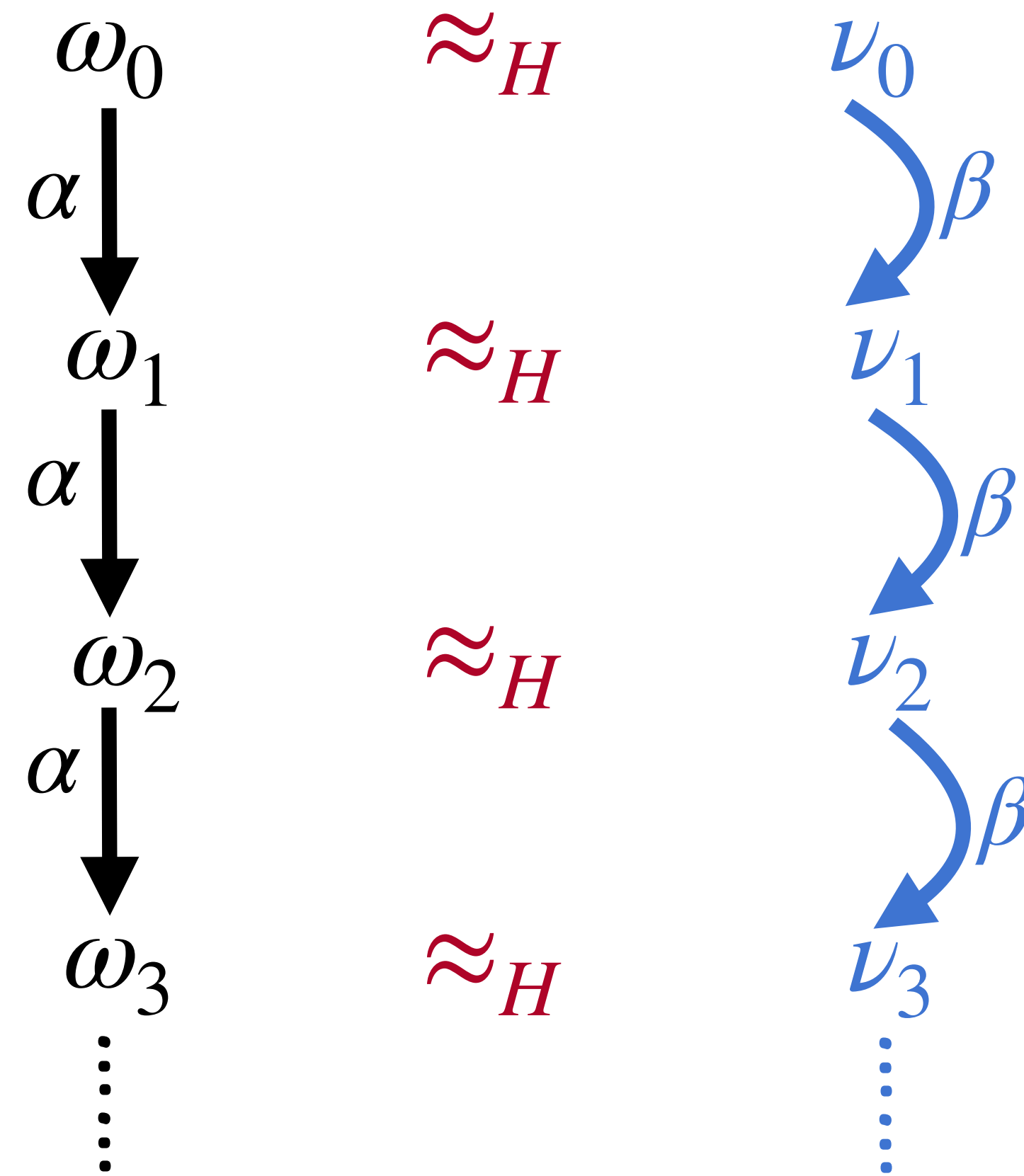
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# H-Equivalence of Two Programs

$$P_1 = \alpha^* \text{ and } P_2 = \beta^* \quad P_1 \approx_H P_2$$



$\omega_i \approx_H \nu_i$  Two states agree on values of all variables in set  $H$



# Proving H-equivalence: Self-Composition

Proving:  $P \approx_H P_{Attacked}$

Challenges:

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Proving:  $P \approx_H P_{Attacked}$

Challenges:

1. Non-determinism,  
*e.g., accel  $\cup$  brake*

# Proving H-equivalence: Self-Composition

Proving:  $P \approx_H P_{Attacked}$

Challenges:

1. Non-determinism,  
*e.g., accel  $\cup$  brake*
2. Duration of continuous  
evolution, *e.g.,*  
 $d' = -v, v' = a \ \& \ (v \geq 0 \wedge t \leq \epsilon)$

# Main Results & Future Work

1. A formal threat model
2. Two robustness properties
3. An equivalence relation for reasoning robustness
4. Two proof techniques
5. Three case studies

## Future Work:

We are working on a more expressive relational logic

Thank you!