

# Bridging Neural ODE and ResNet: A Formal Error Bound for Safety Verification

**Abdelrahman Sayed Sayed**   Pierre-Jean Meyer   Mohamed Ghazel

Université Gustave Eiffel, COSYS-ESTAS, F-59657 Villeneuve d'Ascq, France

July 21<sup>st</sup> 2025, Zagreb, Croatia



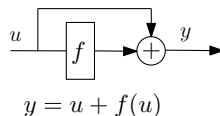
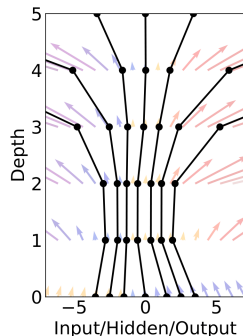
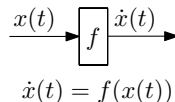
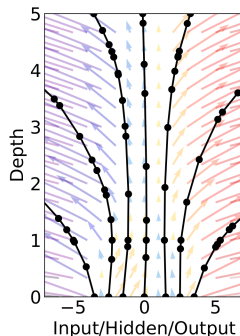
Co-funded by  
the European Union

SAIV 2025

# Motivations

## Relations

- Continuous-depth generalization of ResNet
- Euler-discretization of neural ODE

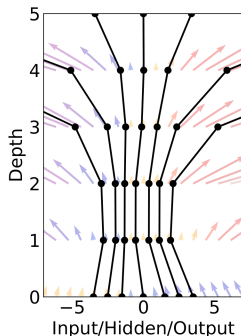
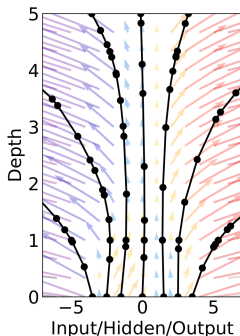
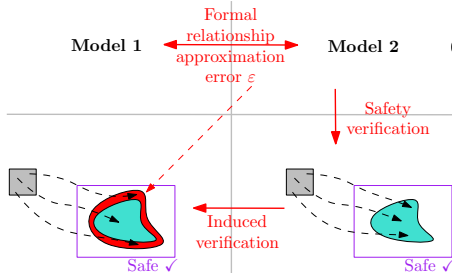


# Motivations

## Relations

- Continuous-depth generalization of ResNet
- Euler-discretization of neural ODE

## Proposed Framework



$$\begin{array}{c} x(t) \rightarrow \boxed{f} \rightarrow \dot{x}(t) \\ \dot{x}(t) = f(x(t)) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} u \rightarrow \boxed{f} \rightarrow \oplus \rightarrow y \\ y = u + f(u) \end{array}$$

# Problem Definition

- $\mathcal{X}_{in}$ : input set
- neural ODE reachable set:

$$\mathcal{R}_{\text{neural ODE}}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid y = \Phi(1, u) \ u \in \mathcal{X}_{in}\}$$

- ResNet reachable set:

$$\mathcal{R}_{\text{ResNet}}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid y = u + f(u) \ u \in \mathcal{X}_{in}\}$$

- *Problem 1 (Error Bounding)*:

$$\mathcal{R}_{\varepsilon}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) = \{\Phi(1, u) - (u + f(u)) \mid u \in \mathcal{X}_{in}\}$$

# Proposed Approach

- Lagrange remainder:

$$x(t) = x(0) + t \frac{dx(0)}{dt} + \frac{t^2}{2!} \frac{d^2x(t^*)}{dt^2}, \text{ for unknown } t^* \in [0, t]$$

# Proposed Approach

- Lagrange remainder:

$$x(1) = x(0) + \frac{dx(0)}{dt} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2x(t^*)}{dt^2}, \text{ for unknown } t^* \in [0, 1]$$

- neural ODE based on ResNet:

$$\Phi(1, u) = (u + f(u)) + \varepsilon(u)$$

- Where  $\varepsilon$ :

$$\varepsilon(u) = \frac{1}{2} f'(x(t^*)) f(x(t^*))$$

# Proposed Approach

- Lagrange remainder:

$$x(1) = x(0) + \frac{dx(0)}{dt} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2x(t^*)}{dt^2}, \text{ for unknown } t^* \in [0, 1]$$

- neural ODE based on ResNet:

$$\Phi(1, u) = (u + f(u)) + \varepsilon(u)$$

- Where  $\varepsilon$ :

$$\varepsilon(u) = \frac{1}{2} f'(x(t^*)) f(x(t^*))$$

- ResNet based on neural ODE:

$$u + f(u) = \Phi(1, u) - \varepsilon(u)$$

# Numerical Example

## Fixed-Point Attractor System

- 5 dimensional neural ODE
- $\dot{x} = f(x) = \tau x + W \tanh(x)$ ,  
where:
  - $\tau = -10^{-6}$
  - $W$  is a  $5 \times 5$  matrix
  - $\tanh$ : hyperbolic tangent AF



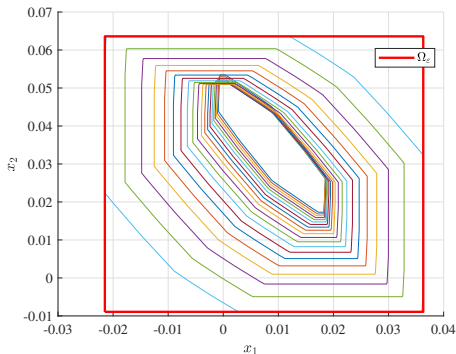
# Bounding $\Omega_\varepsilon$

- neural ODE reachable tube:

$$\mathcal{R}_{\text{neural ODE}}^{\text{tube}}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) = \{\Phi(t, u) \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid t \in [0, 1], u \in \mathcal{X}_{in}\}$$

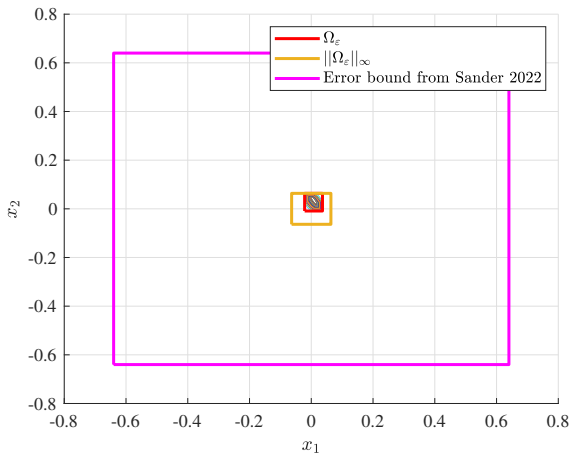
- Bound the error term:

$$\varepsilon(u) = \frac{1}{2} f'(\Phi(t^*, u)) f(\Phi(t^*, u))$$



# Error Bound Comparison

- $\Omega_\varepsilon < 16$  million times  $\times$  Sander 2022



# Verification Proxy

- $\mathcal{X}_s$ : safe set
- *Problem 2 (Safety Specification):*

$$\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) \subseteq \mathcal{X}_s$$

- neural ODE based on ResNet:

$$\mathcal{R}_{\text{neural ODE}}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) \subseteq \Omega_{\text{ResNet}}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) + \Omega_{\varepsilon}(\mathcal{X}_{in})$$

# Verification Proxy

- $\mathcal{X}_s$ : safe set
- *Problem 2 (Safety Specification):*

$$\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) \subseteq \mathcal{X}_s$$

- neural ODE based on ResNet:

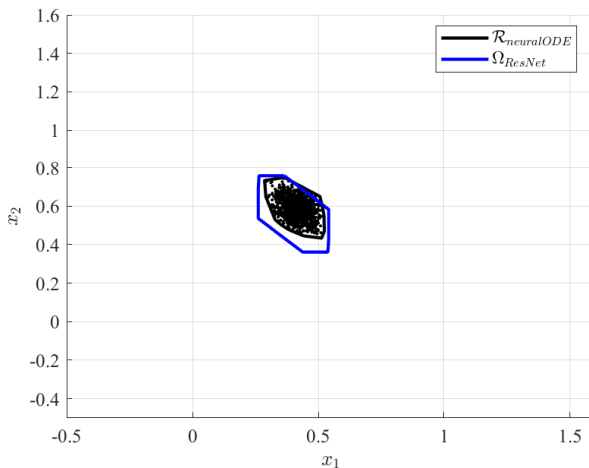
$$\mathcal{R}_{\text{neural ODE}}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) \subseteq \Omega_{\text{ResNet}}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) + \Omega_{\varepsilon}(\mathcal{X}_{in})$$

- ResNet based on neural ODE:

$$\mathcal{R}_{\text{ResNet}}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) \subseteq \Omega_{\text{neural ODE}}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) + \Omega_{-\varepsilon}(\mathcal{X}_{in})$$

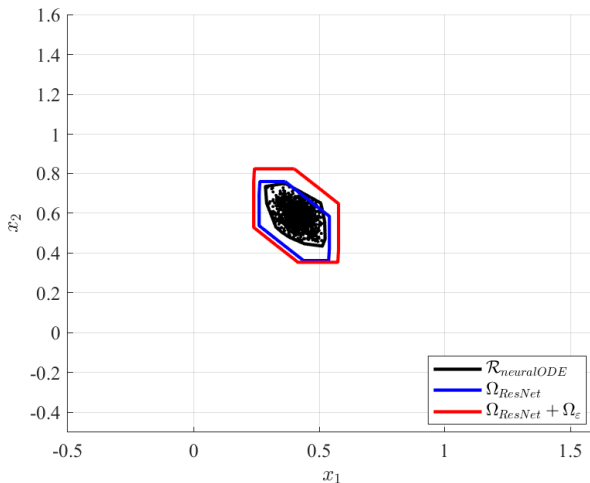
# Verification of neural ODE based on ResNet

$$\bullet \mathcal{X}_s \supseteq \Omega_{\text{ResNet}}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) + \Omega_{\varepsilon}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) \supseteq \mathcal{R}_{\text{neural ODE}}$$



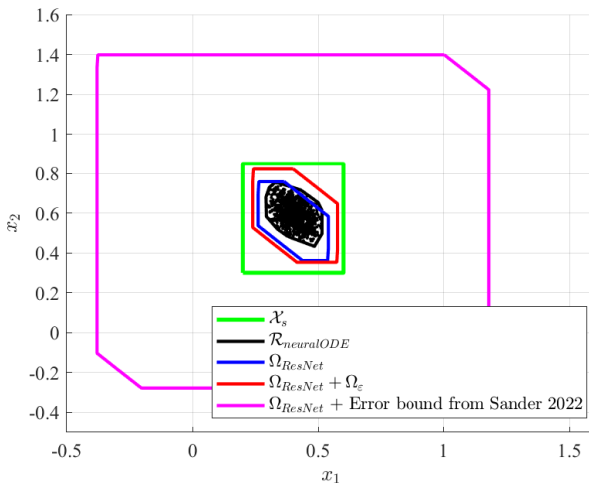
# Verification of neural ODE based on ResNet

$$\bullet \mathcal{X}_s \supseteq \Omega_{\text{ResNet}}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) + \Omega_{\varepsilon}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) \supseteq \mathcal{R}_{\text{neural ODE}}$$



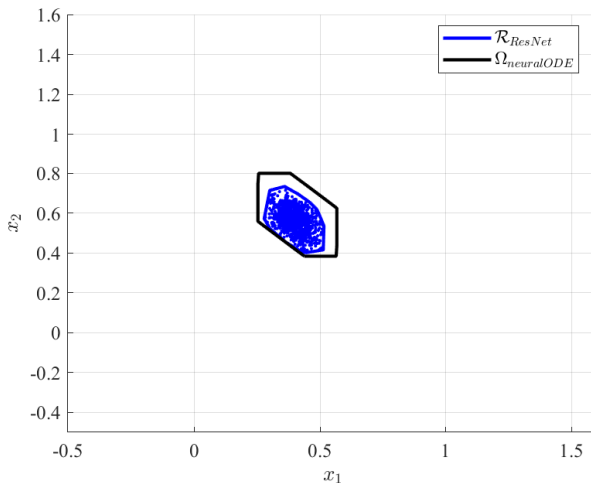
# Verification of neural ODE based on ResNet

$$\bullet \mathcal{X}_s \supseteq \Omega_{\text{ResNet}}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) + \Omega_{\varepsilon}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) \supseteq \mathcal{R}_{\text{neural ODE}}$$



# Verification of ResNet based on neural ODE

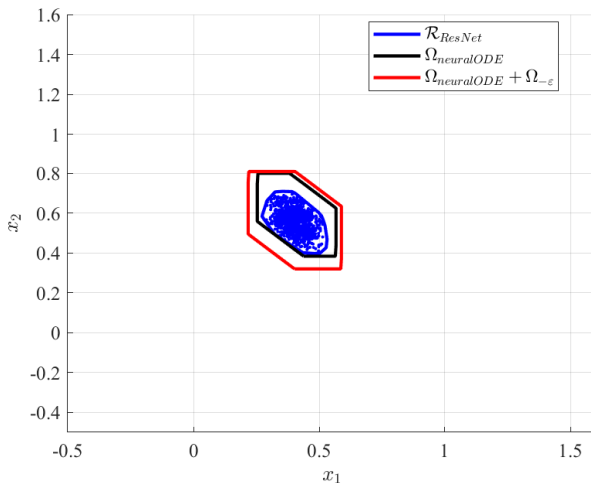
$$\bullet \mathcal{X}_s \supseteq \Omega_{\text{neural ODE}}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) + \Omega_{-\varepsilon}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) \supseteq \mathcal{R}_{\text{ResNet}}$$





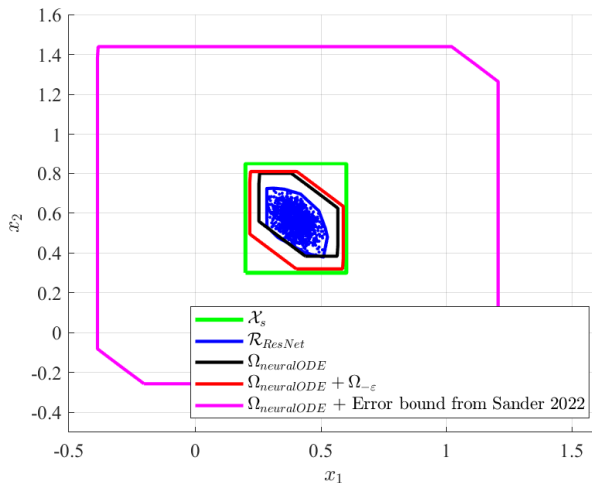
# Verification of ResNet based on neural ODE

$$\bullet \mathcal{X}_s \supseteq \Omega_{\text{neural ODE}}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) + \Omega_{-\varepsilon}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) \supseteq \mathcal{R}_{\text{ResNet}}$$



# Verification of ResNet based on neural ODE

$$\bullet \mathcal{X}_s \supseteq \Omega_{\text{neural ODE}}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) + \Omega_{-\varepsilon}(\mathcal{X}_{in}) \supseteq \mathcal{R}_{\text{ResNet}}$$



# Conclusions

## Set-based method bounding neural ODE and ResNet approximation

- Tighter over-approximation than SOTA
- Use reachability/verification tools on one model to verify the other

## Future Work

- Explore additional complexity sources
  - Handle non-smooth activation functions (e.g., ReLU)
- Study versatility of verification proxy approach
  - Apply to complex nonlinear dynamical systems
  - Extend to other neural network architectures (e.g., RNN or CNN)

**Contact:** [abdelrahman.ibrahim@univ-eiffel.fr](mailto:abdelrahman.ibrahim@univ-eiffel.fr)

