Model reduction of switched affine systems∗

Alessandro Vittorio Papadopoulos 1, Maria Prandini

Dipartimento di Elettronica, Informazione e Bioingegneria, Politecnico di Milano, Milano, Italy

Abstract

This paper addresses model reduction and extends balanced truncation to the class of switched affine systems with endogenous switching. The switched affine system is rewritten as a switched linear one with state resets that account for the affine terms. Balanced truncation can then be applied to each mode dynamics, independently. As a result, different reduced state vectors are associated with the different modes, and reset maps are here appropriately redefined so as to account and compensate for this mismatch, possibly preserving the continuity of the output. The overall behavior of the reduced switched system is determined by both the selected reduction per mode and the adopted reset maps. In this paper, we consider a stochastic setting and propose a randomized method for the selection of the reduced order. The performance of the proposed approach is illustrated through a multi-room temperature control example.

1. Introduction

This paper addresses the design of an approximate model for a hybrid system (see e.g. Girard, Julius, & Pappas, 2008; Girard & Pappas, 2007; Girard, Pola, & Tabuada, 2010; Julius & Pappas, 2009; Mazzi, Sangiovanni Vincentelli, Balluchi, & Bicchi, 2008; Prandini, Garatti, & Vignali, 2014; Shaker & Wisniewski, 2012). The study of hybrid systems is typically challenging since they are characterized by intertwined continuous and discrete dynamics, Lunze and Lamnabhi-Lagarrigue (2009). Indeed, many problems that have been solved for purely discrete or purely continuous systems still lack an effective solution for hybrid systems. In particular, this is the case for the design of a reduced model.

In this paper, we focus on continuous-time Switched Affine (SA) systems with endogenous switching, and address the problem of obtaining a model that is simpler to analyze than the original system, and that is able to mimic its output behavior over a finite horizon $T$. This is of interest when dealing with verification of properties that depend on the behavior of the system output over a finite horizon. Verification of properties related to the system response, like, e.g., safety and reach/avoid properties, is typically addressed in the literature through numerical methods in both the deterministic, Frehse (2005), Girard and Guernic (2008), Kurzhanski and Varaiya (2005) and Tomlin, Mitchell, Bayen, and Oishi (2003), and the stochastic, Abate, Amin, Prandini, Lygeros, and Sastry (2007) and Abate, Katoen, Lygeros, and Prandini (2010), settings. These methods scale exponentially with the dimension of the continuous state space component. One can then conceive a two-step procedure where an approximate abstraction with a reduced order continuous state space component is built first, and then a numerical verification method is applied to this abstraction in place of the original system.

When the input signal of the system is stochastic, the notion of approximate simulation introduced in Julius and Pappas (2009) for stochastic hybrid systems (Lygeros & Prandini, 2010) can be used to quantify the model performance over the output realizations. A randomized approach for assessing the performance of a given abstracted model according to this notion was proposed in Prandini et al. (2014). The approach also extends to model design. However, no constructive procedure is given on how to select and parameterize the model class. On the contrary, in this paper we provide a constructive procedure to build an approximate model of a SA system in the form of a reduced order Switched Linear (SL) system with appropriately defined state reset maps. The SA system is first rewritten as a SL one with state reset, and then Balanced Truncation (BT) (Antoulas, 2005) is adopted for reducing the order of the linear dynamics governing the evolution of the continuous

∗ This work was supported by the European Commission under the project UnCoVerCPS with grant number 643921. The material in this paper was partially presented at the 17th International Conference on Hybrid Systems: Computation and Control, April 15–17, 2014, Berlin, Germany. This paper was recommended for publication in revised form by Associate Editor Jamal Daafouz under the direction of Editor Richard Middleton.

E-mail addresses: alessandro.papadopoulos@polimi.it (A.V. Papadopoulos), maria.prandini@polimi.it (M. Prandini).

† Tel.: +39 02 23994028; fax: +39 02 23993412.

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.automatica.2016.03.019

0005-1098/© 2016 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.
state component in each mode. State reset maps are suitably redefined accounting for the mismatch in the continuous state vectors associated with different modes. A randomized method is also proposed to determine the order of the reduced linear dynamics in each mode, while accounting for the effect of discrete transitions and state resets on the hybrid system evolution. The overall methodology is extended to the case when a Dwell Time (DT) is present.

Note that BT is applied to switched linear systems in Petreczky, Wisniewski, and Leth (2013) which however deals with the case of externally induced switching. Our approach is inspired by Mazzi et al. (2008) which uses BT for hybrid systems with linear dynamics and endogenous switching. The main advances with respect to Mazzi et al. (2008) are the following: (1) the extension to the class of SA systems, (2) the introduction of novel state reset maps that provide better performance than the one adopted in Mazzi et al. (2008), and of variants of these maps able to preserve continuity. Correspondingly, different initializations of the approximate model are derived based on the same logic underlying the reset maps definition, (3) the introduction of a randomized approach to select the order of the reduced linear dynamics in each mode, when the input is stochastic, and (4) the extension to the case of SA systems with DT. As a matter of fact, mode transitions and resets may strongly affect the system evolution. Indeed, the state reset map determines the new value of the continuous state after a discrete transition between modes has just occurred; while for a linear asymptotically stable system the contribution of the initial state becomes negligible in the long run, in a SA system this is generally not the case. One would in fact need to guarantee that the time between discrete transitions is sufficiently large to make the zero-input response (ZIR) vanish, which cannot be guaranteed a-priori, unless a suitable DT triggering the discrete transitions is enforced.

The choice of the order of the approximate model should then account for the influence of the state reset map on the quality of the approximation. Hence it cannot be based only on the analysis of the Hankel Singular Values (HSVs) of the linear dynamics in each mode, as suggested in Mazzi et al. (2008). The proposed randomized approach serves this purpose, since it accounts for the hybrid evolution of the candidate approximate model including mode transitions and resets. The quality of the approximation is determined also by the domains triggering the mode transitions of the SA system. Notably, redesigning the domains is quite a complex issue, Geyer, Torrisi, and Morari (2008), and it is not addressed in this paper but left for further investigation.

A preliminary version of this work appeared in Papadopoulos and Prandini (2014). Additional contributions are the introduction of reset maps that preserve the output continuity, the initialization of the approximate model derived from these maps, the extension to the case of SA systems with DT, and a more thoughtful approach to select the order of the approximatemodel derived from these maps, the extension to the case of SA systems with DT, and a more thoughtful

3. System reduction: an approach based on BT

The proposed procedure unfolds into the following steps: (1) the SA system is rewritten as a SL system with state reset (Section 3.1); (2) a reduced order model of the SL system is introduced by first applying BT to the continuous dynamics in each mode (Section 3.2), and then introducing appropriate maps for the reset of the reduced continuous state component when a mode transition occurs (Section 4); (3) the output of the SA system is reconstructed based on the reduced SL system output (Section 3.3).

3.1. Reformulation as a SL system with state reset

We next build a SL system with state reset that is equivalent to the original SA system, in that \( (\xi_q, q) \) and \( y_q \) can be recovered exactly from the state and output variables of the SL system.

Let \( y \in Y = Y_o \), and \( \xi \in S = S_o \) evolve according to linear dynamics that depend on the operating mode \( q \in Q \) as follows:

\[
\dot{\xi}(t) = A_q \xi(t) + B_q u(t), \quad y(t) = C_q \xi(t).
\]

Set \( y_{q,R} = C_q \tilde{y}_{q,R} + g_q \), where \( \tilde{y}_{q,R} = -A_q^{-1} f_q \), with \( A_q \) invertible by Assumption 1. A transition from mode \( i \in Q \) to mode \( j \in Q \) occurs as soon as \( y + \tilde{y}_{i,R}, u \) exits \( Dom_i \) and enters \( Dom_j \), where \( Dom_q = Dom_{q,R}, q \in Q \).

This requires that each polyhedron \( Dom_{q,R} \) is of dimension \( p + m \), and the intersection \( Dom_i \cap Dom_j, i \neq j \) is either empty or a common proper face of both polyhedra.
When a discrete transition from mode \( i \in Q \) to mode \( j \in Q \) occurs at time \( t^- \), then, \( \xi \) is reset as follows

\[
\xi(t) = \xi(t^-) + \Delta_j^\xi, \quad \text{with} \quad \Delta_j^\xi = \xi_{a,j} - \xi_{a,i}.
\]

(3)

**Proposition 1.** Suppose that the SA and SL systems are initialized with initial conditions \( \xi_0(t), q_0(t), \) and \( \xi(0) = \xi_0(0) - \xi_{a,n_0(0)}, q(0) = q_0(0), \) respectively, and are both fed by the same input \( u(t), t \in [0, T'] \). Then, the executions of \( \xi_{a,q} \) and \( \xi_{a,q}(t) \) over \( [0, T'] \) can be recovered from those of \( \xi, q \) and \( y \) as follows:

\[
q_a(t) = q(t),
\]

\[
\xi_a(t) = \xi(t) + \xi_{a,q}(t),
\]

(4)

\[\]

(4)

**Remark 2.** The reset condition (3) is such that \( \xi_{a,q} \) reconstructed from \( \xi \) according to (4) is continuous. Continuity of \( \xi_{a,q} \) is generally not guaranteed if \( \xi \) is approximated through a reduced order model of the SL system.

### 3.2 Reduction of the SL system

A reduced order model of the SL system with state reset defined in Section 3.1 can be obtained by applying BT with the state residualization approach (Antoulas, 2005), to each single linear dynamics in (2). If the mode of the system were fixed, then, BT would be effective in reproducing the response \( y \), at least in the long run, when the ZIR has vanished.

We associate with each mode \( q \in Q \) a reduced model of order \( n_{r,q} < n \):

\[
\begin{align*}
\dot{\hat{x}}_r(t) &= A_{r,q} \hat{x}_r(t) + B_{r,q} u(t) \\
\dot{\hat{y}}_r(t) &= C_{r,q} \hat{x}_r(t) + D_{r,q} u(t)
\end{align*}
\]

and define transitions between modes, say from mode \( i \) to mode \( j \), by evaluating \( \tilde{y} + \tilde{y}_{a,i} \) exits from domain \( Dom_i \) and enters into \( Dom_j \). Indeed, \( \tilde{y} + \tilde{y}_{a,i} \) represent the output \( y_{a,i} \) reconstructed using (4). As for the state reset map (3) associated with a mode transition from \( i \in Q \) to \( j \in Q \), we shall reformulate it as

\[
x_{r,j}(t) = L_j x_{r,i}(t^-) + M_j u(t^-) + N_j \Delta_j^\xi,
\]

(6)

where \( x_{r,i}(t^-) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_{r,i}} \) is the value of the reduced state in mode \( i \), prior to the transition to mode \( j \), \( x_{r,j}(t^-) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_{r,j}} \) is the updated reduced state value, and \( L_j, M_j, N_j \) are matrices of appropriate dimensions. In Section 4, we present different methods to define them.

### 3.3 Reconstruction of the SA system output

The output of the SA system is reconstructed based on (4) using the output \( \tilde{y} \) of the SL reduced system as an estimate of the output \( y \) of the SL system. This leads to

\[
\tilde{y}_a(t) = \tilde{y}(t) + \tilde{y}_{a,q}(t).
\]

(7)

### 4. State reset maps: alternative choices

In this section, we introduce different reset maps that can be used for the approximate model. The choice of the reset map is of utter importance, since it strongly affects the quality of the approximated solution.

#### 4.1 Preliminary definitions

Consider a transition from mode \( i \in Q \) to mode \( j \in Q \). One can determine an expression for \( \xi_{a,q} \), representing the SL system state associated with mode \( j \) as reconstructed from the reduced state \( x_{r,j} \),

Recall first that \( \xi_{a,q} \) can be obtained by applying the balanced transformation matrix \( T_j \) to the reconstructed continuous state \( \hat{x}_i \) of the SL system, i.e., \( \xi_{a,j} = T_j^{-1} \hat{x}_i \). In turn, \( \hat{x}_i \) can be reconstructed as \( \hat{x}_i = [\hat{x}_i, x_{r,i}] \), where \( x_{r,i} \) is the part of the state that is neglected in the reduced model (5), and that can be recovered as a function of \( x_{r,j} \) and \( u \) by assuming an equilibrium condition in the original not-reduced linear dynamics (BT with state residualization) (Antoulas, 2005). This leads to

\[
\hat{x}_i = H_j x_{r,i} + K_i u,
\]

where \( H_j \) and \( K_i \) are suitable defined matrices (Papadopoulos & Prandini, 2014). Plugging the expressions of \( \xi_{a,q} \) and \( \xi_{a,q}(t) \) into (3), yields

\[
\xi(t) = \xi(t^-) + \Delta_j^\xi
\]

\[
= T_j^{-1} H_j x_{r,j}(t^-) + T_j^{-1} K_i u(t^-) + \Delta_j^\xi.
\]

(8)

We next shall define the reset maps for the state of the reduced SL system when a mode transition occurs from \( i \in Q \) at time \( t^- \) to \( j \in Q \) at time \( t \).

#### 4.2 SR map: a reset map based on state reconstruction

The State Reconstruction-based reset map (SR map for brevity) was proposed in Mazzi et al. (2008) and relies the following idea: reconstruct the whole state \( \hat{x}(t) \) in balanced form and then extract its first \( n_{r,j} \) components corresponding to the reduced order state in mode \( j \). In formulas, \( x_{r,j}(t) = E_{n_{r,j}} \hat{x}(t) \), where \( E_{n_{r,j}} \) is a matrix that extracts the first \( n_{r,j} \) rows from \( \hat{x}(t) \), \( n_{r,j} \) being the dimension of \( x_{r,j} \) in mode \( j \). Now, \( \hat{x}_i(t) \) can be obtained as \( \hat{x}_i(t) = T_j^{-1} \hat{x}_j(t) \). Plugging the expression of \( x_{r,j}(t) \) into the expression of \( \hat{x}_j(t) \), and using (8), we finally obtain

\[
x_{r,j}(t) = E_{n_{r,j}} T_j \left( T_j^{-1} H_j x_{r,j}(t^-) + T_j^{-1} K_i u(t^-) + \Delta_j^\xi \right).
\]

(9)

Matrices \( L_j, M_j, \) and \( N_j \) can be obtained by direct comparison with (6). According to a similar reasoning, the state is initialized as follows

\[q_r(t) = q_a(t) = q_0, x_{r,0}(t) = E_{n_{r,0}} T_0 \left( \xi_{a,0} - \xi_{a,q}(t) \right),\]

with the understanding that \( (y_a(0), u(0)) \) is an interior point of \( Dom_{q,a} \), for any admissible \( u(0) \).

#### 4.3 OG map: a reset map to reproduce the output ZIR

Model reduction techniques for asymptotically stable linear systems aim at finding a model that best reproduce the forced response of the system, while neglecting the ZIR. However, in SA systems, the system response depends on the mode transitions, which, in turn, depends on the continuous output behavior (forced plus ZIR). We here introduce a reset map that minimizes the \( L^2 \)-norm of the error when reproducing the ZIR of the output \( y \). As we shall see next, its expression depends on the Observability Gramians (OG) of the linear systems associated with the different modes.

In formulas, we set \( x_{r,j} = \Psi_j \hat{x}_j \) and choose \( \Psi_j \) so as to minimize

\[
J(\Psi_j) = \int_0^{\infty} ||y_{zir,j}(t) - \tilde{y}_{zir,j}(t)||^2 \, dt,
\]

(10)

where \( y_{zir,j} \) and \( \tilde{y}_{zir,j} \) respectively denote the ZIR of the original linear dynamics (2) initialized with \( \hat{x}_j \) and that of the reduced order dynamics (5) initialized with \( x_{r,j} = \Psi_j \hat{x}_j \). The solution to this optimization problem can be found analytically as shown in Proposition 2, which proof can be found in Papadopoulos and Prandini (2014).
Proposition 2. Suppose that the reduced order model (5) with \( q = j \) is observable. Then, matrix \( \Psi_j^* \) minimizing (10) for any \( \hat{z}_j \) is given by

\[ \Psi_j^* = W_{r,j}^{-1} W_{x,j} \]

where

\[ W_{r,j} = \int_0^\infty (e^{\lambda \tau})^{C_j^R} e^{\lambda \tau} \, dt \]

\[ W_{x,j} = \int_0^\infty (e^{\lambda \tau})^{C_j^E} e^{\lambda \tau} \, dt. \]

Remark 3. Note that the observability assumption in Proposition 2 is satisfied under mild conditions as detailed in Antoulas (2005).

Matrix \( W_{r,j} \) can be obtained by solving the Lyapunov equation

\[ A_j^R W_{r,j} + W_{r,j} A_j^T + C_j^R C_j = 0, \]

while matrix \( W_{x,j} \) is the solution to the Sylvester equation

\[ A_j^E W_{x,j} + W_{x,j} A_j + C_j E = 0. \]

Now, plugging the expression (8) for \( \hat{z}_j(t) \) into \( x_j = \Psi_j \hat{z}_j \) and setting \( \Psi_j = \Psi_j^* \), we get

\[ x_j(t) = \Psi_j^* \left( t_1^1 - \tau H x_j(t^-) + t_1^1 - \tau K u(t^-) + \Delta \tilde{z}_j \right). \]

(11)

Matrices \( L_j, M_j \), and \( N_j \) can be obtained by direct comparison with (6). As for the system initialization, we set

\[ q(t) = q(0) = q_0, \quad x_{q_0}(0) = \Psi_j^* \left( \xi_0(0) - \xi_0 \right). \]

(12)

Instead of considering an infinite horizon when evaluating the ZIR output error, one can take into account the switching nature of the system and consider the error only during the finite horizon \( [0, \tau] \). Correspondingly, the error function to be minimized becomes

\[ F_j(\Psi_j^*) = \int_0^\tau \| y_{2r,j}(t) - \hat{y}_{2r,j}(t) \|^2 \, dt. \]

The resulting optimal matrix \( \Psi_j^* \) is given by

\[ \Psi_j^* = W_{r,j}^{-1}(\tau) W_{x,j}(\tau), \]

where

\[ W_{r,j}(\tau) = \int_0^\tau (e^{\lambda \tau})^{C_j^R} e^{\lambda \tau} \, dt \]

\[ W_{x,j}(\tau) = \int_0^\tau (e^{\lambda \tau})^{C_j^E} e^{\lambda \tau} \, dt. \]

The proof of this result is analogous to that in the infinite horizon case. Still, observability of the reduced order model (5) with \( q = j \) is required for \( W_{r,j} \) to be invertible and Remark 3 applies.

The finite horizon quantities involved in the expression of \( \Psi_j^* \) can be computed as

\[ W_{r,j}(\tau) = W_{r,j} - \int_0^\tau (e^{\lambda \tau})^{C_j^R} e^{\lambda \tau} \, dt \]

\[ = W_{r,j} - W_{r,j}(\infty), \]

\[ W_{x,j}(\tau) = W_{x,j} - \int_0^\tau (e^{\lambda \tau})^{C_j^E} e^{\lambda \tau} \, dt \]

\[ = W_{x,j} - W_{x,j}(\infty), \]

where \( W_{r,j}(\infty) \) and \( W_{x,j}(\infty) \) can be obtained as the solution of the Lyapunov and Sylvester equations

\[ A_j^R W_{r,j}(\infty) + W_{r,j}(\infty) A_j^T + (e^{\lambda \tau})^{C_j^R} e^{\lambda \tau} = 0, \]

\[ A_j^E W_{x,j}(\infty) + W_{x,j}(\infty) A_j + (e^{\lambda \tau})^{C_j^E} e^{\lambda \tau} = 0. \]

Note that well-posedness of the above equations is guaranteed by the fact that \( A_j \) and \( A_{q,j} \) are Hurwitz.

The matrices in the reset map (6) and the system initialization are analogous to the case of infinite horizon, but with \( \Psi_j^* \) in place of \( \Psi_j \).

The choice for \( \tau \) depends on the settling times of the different mode dynamics. A sensible choice is to set \( \tau \) equal to the settling time of the neglected dynamics.

To distinguish between the two OG reset maps, we shall refer to the one with the infinite horizon as \( OG_{\infty} \), and the one with finite horizon \([0, \tau] \) as \( OG_{\tau} \).

4.4. Variants that preserve the output continuity

In certain application contexts, it may be desirable to preserve the continuity of the output of the original system. This is not guaranteed when adopting the reset maps defined above and motivates the derivations hereafter.

To get continuity, the value of the output \( \hat{y}_a(t) \) reconstructed based on (7) before and after the reset should be identical. This leads to the following equation

\[ C_r x_{r,j}(t) + D_r u(t) + \hat{y}_a = C_r x_{r,j}(t^-) + D_r u(t^-) + \hat{y}_a. \]

Under the assumption that the input \( u \) is a continuous signal, and letting \( \Delta^j = \hat{y}_a - \hat{y}_a \), this simplifies to

\[ C_r x_{r,j}(t) = C_r x_{r,j}(t^-) + (D_r - D_r) u(t^-) + \Delta^j. \]

The values of \( x_{r,j}(t) \) that satisfy the above condition can be expressed as

\[ x_{r,j}(t) = C_j^T \left( C_r x_{r,j}(t^-) + (D_r - D_r) u(t^-) + \Delta^j \right) \]

where \( C_j^T \) is the pseudo-inverse of \( C_j \) and \( u_j \in \mathbb{R}^{n-j} \) is in the null space of \( C_j \), here denoted as \( ker(C_j) \). If \( ker(C_j) \neq \{0\} \), we have some degrees of freedom to spend and we can choose \( u_j \) so that the resulting value for \( x_{r,j}(t) \) best matches some given reference value \( \tilde{x}_{r,j}(t) \). If instead \( ker(C_j) = \{0\} \), then \( u_j = 0 \), and the reset matrices are derived by a direct comparison with (6).

Let us consider now the case when \( ker(C_j) \neq \{0\} \). If we let \( \{v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_{n-j}\} \) be a basis of \( ker(C_j) \), and set \( V_j = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 & v_2 & \ldots & v_{n-j} \end{bmatrix} \), then \( \tilde{w}_j = V_j \tilde{a} \) with \( \tilde{a} \in \mathbb{R}^{n-j} \) and we can select \( \alpha \) by solving the least squares problem

\[ \alpha^* = \arg \min_{\alpha} \| \tilde{x}_{r,j}(t) + V_j \tilde{a} - \hat{y}_a(t) \|, \]

which leads to \( \alpha^* = V_j^T \tilde{x}_{r,j}(t) \), since it holds that \( V_j^T C_j^T = 0 \). We then finally have the following:

\[ x_{r,j}(t) = \tilde{x}_{r,j}(t) + V_j^T \tilde{x}_{r,j}(t), \]

(13)

which, depending on the chosen \( \tilde{x}_{r,j}(t) \) leads to different expressions for the matrices \( L_j, M_j, \) and \( N_j \) in the reset map (6).

If we adopt the expression in the SR map (9) for \( \tilde{x}_{r,j}(t) \), then we can define the Continuous State Reconstruction-based reset map (CSR map). If we instead set \( \tilde{x}_{r,j}(t) \) equal to the \( OG_{\infty} \) map expression (11), we obtain the Continuous Observability Gramian-based map with infinite horizon \( OG_{\infty} \) map. Analogously, we can define the Continuous Observability Gramian-based map with finite horizon \([0, \tau] \) \( OG_{\tau} \) map.

As for the initialization, \( q(0) = q_0(0) = q_0 \), whereas the value for \( x_{q_0}(0) \) is obtained by setting the value of the output \( \hat{y}_a(0) \) reconstructed based on (7) equal to that of \( y_a(0) \) obtained based on the system initialization. This leads to the following equation

\[ C_{q_0} x_{q_0}(0) + D_{q_0} u(0) + y_a(0) = y_a(0), \]

where \( y_a(0) \) is given by the initial conditions of the system, i.e.,

\[ y_a(0) = C_{q_0} \hat{e}_0(0) + g_0. \]
From this equation, by following similar steps than those used for deriving (13), we get that
\[ X_{r, \gamma}(0) = \begin{cases} \hat{x}_{x,a, 0}(0), \\ \hat{x}_{x,a, 0}(0) + V_{\rho} V_{\rho}^T \hat{x}_{x,a, 0}(0), \end{cases} \ker(C_{r,j}) = \{0\}, \ker(C_{r,j}) \neq \{0\}, \]
where we set \( \hat{x}_{x,a, 0}(0) = C_T^{-1} \alpha_x u(0) - \hat{y}_{x,a} + y_a(0), \) and \( \hat{x}_{x,a, 0}(0) \) is the initialization of the SR, OGAsc, or OGc reset map.

5. A randomized method for order selection

In Mazzi et al. (2008), following an approach that is quite standard for linear systems (Antoulas, 2005), a threshold value \( \gamma \) is chosen, and the order of the reduced SL system (5) in mode \( q \in Q \) is set equal to
\[ n_{r,q} = \min\{i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, n\} : \psi_q(i) < \gamma\}, \tag{14} \]
where \( \psi_q : \{1, 2, \ldots, n\} \to \{0, 1\} \) is given by \( \psi_q(i) = 1 - \sum_{j=1}^{\gamma} \sigma_{q,j}/\sum_{j=1}^{n} \sigma_{q,j} \geq \sigma_{2,q} \geq \cdots \geq \sigma_{n,q} \) being the HSVs of the SL system dynamics (2) in mode \( q \).

Our goal here is to introduce a sound method for making an appropriate selection of the threshold value \( \gamma \), when the input \( u \) is stochastic and one has to verify a property that depends on the behavior of the SA system output \( y_a \) along a finite time horizon \( T \). For the resulting stochastic hybrid system and its executions to be well-defined according to the notion in Hu, Lygeros, and Sastry (2000), we shall assume in the following that input \( u \) is a white noise with a given power spectral density.

A randomized method for order selection is proposed, which involves feeding the candidate reduced order models and the system with the same realizations of the stochastic input and comparing their outputs over \( T \). If the number of realizations is appropriately chosen, then the quality of the model assess over them generalizes to the unseen instances, except for a set of a-priori defined probability \( \epsilon \). Notably, this can be interpreted as an \( \epsilon \)-robust assessment result.

Let us denote by \( \Gamma \) the (finite) set of possible threshold values \( \gamma \), those that result in a different choice for \( [n_{r,a}, q \in Q] \), and by \( \hat{y}_{y, \gamma} \) the estimate of \( y_a \) obtained through the reduced SL system when the threshold value is set equal to \( \gamma \).

The approximation error can be quantified through a function \( d_{y, (\cdot, \cdot)} \) that maps each pair of trajectories \( y_a(t), t \in T, \) and \( \hat{y}_{y, \gamma}(t), t \in T \), into a positive real number \( d_{y, (y_a, \hat{y}_{y, \gamma})}(t) \) that represents the extent to which the output \( y_a \) of the SA system differs from its estimate \( \hat{y}_{y, \gamma} \) along the time horizon \( T \). Function \( d_{y, (\cdot, \cdot)} \) satisfies \( d_{y, (y_a, \hat{y}_{y, \gamma})} = 0 \) if \( \gamma = 0 \), since in that case no reduction is performed and, hence, \( \hat{y}_{y, \gamma}(t) = y_a(t), t \in T \).

In order to make an appropriate selection of \( \gamma \), we adopt the notion of approximate simulation in Abate and Prandini (2011), Garatti and Prandini (2012), Julius and Pappas (2009) and Prandini et al. (2014) to assess the quality of the reduced order model with threshold value \( \gamma \). This involves computing the maximal value \( \hat{\rho}_y^{\star} \) taken by \( d_{y, (y_a, \hat{y}_{y, \gamma})} \) over all realizations of the stochastic input \( u(t) \) and the (possibly) stochastic initialization \( \xi_{\gamma}(0) \) of the SA system, except for a set of probability at most \( \epsilon \in (0, 1) \). An ‘optimal’ value for \( \gamma \) can then be chosen by inspecting the values of \( \rho_y^{\star} \) as a function of \( \gamma \in \Gamma \) and selecting the appropriate compromise between quality of the approximation and tractability of the resulting reduced order model.

More precisely, we introduce the following family of chance-constrained optimization problems (CCPs) parametrized by \( \gamma \in \Gamma \):

\[ \text{CCP}_{\gamma} : \min_{\rho} \rho \tag{15} \]
subject to: \( P(d_{y, (y_a, \hat{y}_{y, \gamma})} \leq \rho) \geq 1 - \epsilon \).

By directly inspecting the solution of (15) as a function of \( \gamma \), one can then select the appropriate compromise between accuracy and simplicity of the model, respectively expressed through \( \hat{\rho}_y^{\star} \), and \( n_{r,a}, q \in Q \), in (14).

Remark 4. As argued in Abate and Prandini (2011), the directional Hausdorff distance \( d_T(y_a, \hat{y}_{y, \gamma}) = \sup_{x \in T} \inf_{y \in T} ||y_a(t) - \hat{y}_{y, \gamma}(t)|| \) is a sensible choice for \( d_{y, (y_a, \hat{y}_{y, \gamma})} \) when performing probabilistic verification, e.g., when estimating of the probability that \( y_a \) will enter some set within \( T \).

Solving CCPs like (15) is known to be difficult, and even NP-hard in some cases, Campi and Garatti (2011). We then head for an approximate solution where instead of considering all the possible realizations for the stochastic uncertainty, we consider only a finite number \( N \) of them called “scenarios”, extracted at random, and treat them as if they were the only admissible uncertainty instances. This leads to the formulation of Algorithm 1, where the chance-constrained solution is determined based on the extracted scenarios and a empirical violation parameter \( \eta \in (0, \epsilon) \). Notably, in Proposition 3 it is proven that, if the number \( N \) of extractions is appropriately chosen, the obtained estimate of \( \rho_y^{\star} \) is chance-constrained feasible, uniformly with respect to \( \gamma \in \Gamma \), with a-priori specified (high) probability. The proof of Proposition 3 can be found in Papadopoulos and Prandini (2014), and rests on results from the scenario approach (Campi & Garatti, 2011; Campi, Garatti, & Prandini, 2009).

Proposition 3. Select a confidence parameter \( \beta \in (0, 1) \), and an empirical violation parameter \( \eta \in (0, \epsilon) \). If \( N \) satisfies
\[ \sum_{i=0}^{\lceil N \rceil - 1} \epsilon^i (1 - \epsilon)^{N-i} \leq \frac{\beta}{|\Gamma|}, \tag{16} \]
where \(|\Gamma|\) denotes the cardinality of \( \Gamma \), then, the solution \( \hat{\rho}_y^{\star}, \gamma \in \Gamma \), to Algorithm 1 satisfies \( P(d_{y, (y_a, \hat{y}_{y, \gamma})} \leq \hat{\rho}_y^{\star}) \geq 1 - \epsilon \), \forall \gamma \in \Gamma \), with probability at least \( 1 - \beta \). □

If we discard the confidence parameter \( \beta \) for a moment, this proposition states that for any \( \gamma \in \Gamma \), the randomized solution \( \hat{\rho}_y^{\star} \) obtained through Algorithm 1 is feasible for the chance-constrained problem (15). As \( \eta \) tends to \( \epsilon \), \( \hat{\rho}_y^{\star} \) approaches the desired optimal chance constrained solution \( \rho_y^{\star} \). In turn, the computational effort grows unsounded since \( N \) scales as \( \frac{1}{\epsilon^2} \). Campi and Garatti (2011), therefore, the value for \( \eta \) depends in practice from the available computational resources. As for \( \beta \), one should note that \( \hat{\rho}_y^{\star} \) is a random quantity that depends on the randomized extracted input realizations and initial conditions. It may happen that the extracted samples are not representative enough, in which case the size of the violation set will be larger than \( \epsilon \). Parameter \( \beta \) controls the probability that this happens and the final result holds with probability \( 1 - \beta \). N satisfying (16) depends logarithmically on \( |\Gamma|/\beta \). Campi and Garatti (2011), so that \( \beta \) can be chosen as small as \( 10^{-10} \) (and, hence, \( 1 - \beta \approx 1 \)) without growing significantly \( N \).

Interestingly, the guarantees provided by Proposition 3 are valid irrespectively of the underlying probability distribution of the input, which may even not be known explicitly, e.g., when running Algorithm 1 with historical time series as realizations of the stochastic input \( u \).

Remark 5. Note that even in the case of stable continuous dynamics, switching can produce unstable behaviors. However, if some reduced order model presents an unstable behavior, which makes the distance between \( y_a \) and \( \hat{y}_{y, \gamma} \) large, that model is not selected.
6. Numerical example

In this section, a multi-room heating system with a switching control policy is presented. The example is inspired to a benchmark for hybrid system verification presented in Fehnker and Ivanic (2004).

Consider the problem of controlling the temperature in a number of rooms of a building. Each room has one heater, but there is a constraint on the number of heaters in the building that can be “active” (i.e., that can be used and turned on if needed) at the same time. Differently from the original benchmark in Fehnker and Ivanic (2004), we model also the dynamics of the heaters.

The temperature $T_i$ in a room $i \in \{1, \ldots, N\}$ depends on $T_i$ itself, on the temperature of the adjacent rooms $T_j$ with $j \neq i$, on the outside temperature $T_{ext}$, and on $h_i$, a Boolean variable that is 1 when the heater is on in room i, and 0 otherwise. The heat transfer coefficient between room i and room j is $k_{ij}$, and the one between room i and the external environment is $k_{ei}$. We assume that the heat exchange is symmetric, i.e., $k_{ij} = k_{ji}$. Rooms i and j are adjacent when $k_{ij} > 0$, otherwise $k_{ij} = 0$.

The volume of the room is $V_i$, and the wall surface between room i and room j is $S_{ij}$, while that between room i and the environment is $S_{ei}$. Air density and heat capacity are $\rho = 1.225 \text{ kg/m}^3$ and $c = 1005 \text{ J/(kg K)}$, respectively. Letting $\phi_i = \rho c V_i$, we formulate the following dynamic model for room i and its heater:

$$\phi_i \dot{T}_i = \sum_{j \neq i} S_{ij} k_{ij} (T_j - T_i) + S_{ei} k_{ei} (T_{ext} - T_i) + k_{hi} h_i$$

$$\dot{h}_i = -\theta_i + h_i \cdot p_i - \chi_i T_{ext}$$

which is an affine system, with $k_i$ representing the maximum heat flow rate that the heater can provide, while $p_i \in [0, 1]$ is a binary variable indicating if the heater is active in room i ($p_i = 1$) or not ($p_i = 0$). The heater dynamics is represented by a first-order system with a time constant $\tau_{hi}$. If we neglect the term $-\chi_i T_{ext}$ in the heater dynamics and set $h_i = p_i = 1$, the heater state variable $\theta_i$ will tend to 1 so that the heater will provide its maximum heat flow rate $k_i$ to the room when it is active and on. The term $-\chi_i T_{ext}$ is introduced to account for the influence of the external temperature on the heating system. Notice that $p_i = 1$ just indicates that the heater is active in room i, while $h_i$ is the variable that indicates whether it is actually turned on ($h_i = 1$).

The physical nature of the considered system is not switching. However, the switching control policy presented in Fehnker and Ivanic (2004) is used to control the temperature in the rooms.

A room policy decides whether to switch the heater on in the room: each room has a thermostat that switches the heater on if $T_i \leq \theta_{on}$, and off when $T_i \geq \theta_{off}$.

In the following we consider $N_i = 4$ adjacent rooms, with the constraint that only $P = 3$ heaters can be active at the same time. The values of the physical system parameters for the considered instance of the problem are reported in Table 1. The external temperature $T_{ext}$ is modeled as a sinusoidal source of period 24 h with an offset of 4 °C, affected by an additive white noise. Note that the resulting stochastic hybrid system and its execution are still well-defined (see Koutsoukos, 2005).

We assume deterministic initial conditions, i.e., $T_i(0) = 20$, $\theta_i(0) = 0$, $i = 1, \ldots, N$, $h_i(0) = p_i(0) = [0 \ 1 \ 1]$. The condition that only 3 out of 4 heaters are active at the same time is satisfied by $p_i$. As for the control policy parameters, we set $\eta_{on} = 21$, $\theta_{on} = 20$, $\theta_{off} = 18$, $\theta_{on} = 1$, with $i = 1, \ldots, N$. Due to the switching policy, the control system can be described as a SA system with continuous state $\xi = [T \ \theta]$.

A building policy decides and limits the number of heaters that are jointly active, by setting the constraint $\sum_{i=1}^{N_i} p_i = P$, with $P \leq N_i$. The heater of room i is turned active, and the heater of room j becomes not active when: (1) the heater of some room, say room i, is not active, i.e., $p_i = 0$, (2) room j is adjacent to room i and has an active heater, i.e., $p_j = 1$, (3) temperature $T_i \leq \theta_{on}$, and (4) the difference $T_i - T_j \geq \theta_{on}$.

Each room is identified by an integer index, and whenever a room has more than one adjacent room fulfilling the above condition, the heater is always set active in the room with higher index.

In the following we consider $N_i = 4$ adjacent rooms, with the constraint that only $P = 3$ heaters can be active at the same time. The values of the physical system parameters for the considered instance of the problem are reported in Table 1. The external temperature $T_{ext}$ is modeled as a sinusoidal source of period 24 h with an offset of 4 °C, affected by an additive white noise. Note that the resulting stochastic hybrid system and its execution are still well-defined (see Koutsoukos, 2005).
The multi-room control system is next reduced by means of the constructive methodology proposed in this paper, and the randomized approach for order selection based on the directional Hausdorff distance evaluated over a finite horizon \( T = [0, 200] \) min is applied. In particular, we set \( \epsilon = 0.1 \) in the CCP (15) and solve it via Algorithm 1. The number of extractions in Algorithm 1 is \( N = 778 \) and is obtained through the implicit formula (16) with \( n = 0.05, \beta = 10^{-6} \) and \( |I'| = 7 \).

Since we adopt the same order for the reduced dynamics in each mode, 7 model order reductions are examined, and, according to Proposition 3, the results on the quality assessment of the reduced order models hold with probability \( 1 - 10^{-6} \).

The length \( \tau \) of the finite horizon \( [0, \tau] \) adopted in OG\(_r\), and COG\(_r\), is set to the settling time of the neglected dynamics. Eq. (14) maps each threshold value \( \gamma \in I' \) into the order \( n_{r,q} \) of the reduced dynamics within mode \( q \in Q \) of the SL system with state reset. In this example, we adopt the same order for the reduced dynamics in each mode. Hence, we can simplify the notation to \( n_r \), dropping the dependence from mode \( q \). The values for \( \hat{\rho}_r \) obtained with the different reset methods are presented in Fig. 1 as a function of \( n_r \). Some interesting considerations can be made by analyzing the results presented in Fig. 1. First of all, one can compare the reset maps that do preserve continuity with those that do not. The plots in Fig. 1 show that preserving continuity leads to worse performance in terms of accuracy of the approximation. This holds despite of the fact that, for the maps that do not preserve output continuity, a drastic order reduction may yield discontinuities in the state reset that possibly produce chattering behaviors. Furthermore, Fig. 1 shows that the OG reset maps exhibit better performance with respect to the SR maps. In particular, for the OG\(_r\) map \( \hat{\rho}_{OG} \) is reduced on average over \( n_r \) by 10.03% in the discontinuous map case, and by 2.68% in the continuous map case.

Notice also that when a reduced order \( n_r \leq p = 4 \) is used and the output continuity is enforced, then, the same results are obtained with the different reset maps. This is due to the fact that whenever \( n_r \leq p \), there are no degrees of freedom left by the continuity constraint to match the originally introduced SR or OG reset maps (see the derivations in Section 4.4), so that all maps just enforce continuity and become identical.

From the randomized analysis in Fig. 1, it appears that one can push the reduction up to a fifth order without significantly deteriorating the accuracy of the model when the goal of the approximation is the analysis of reachability properties for which the directional Hausdorff distance is a suitable accuracy measure. Reducing the system to a first-order approximation as suggested by the analysis based on the HSV only would instead result in a quite significant degradation of the reduced model performance.

7. Extension to SA systems with DT

The approach that we proposed in Section 6 for model order reduction can also be applied to the case when the mode transitions of the SA system are subject to a DT constraint, which means that a transition from mode \( i \in Q \) to mode \( j \neq i \in Q \) is enabled when \( (u, y_a) \) exits \( Dom_{\delta,a} \), and enters into \( Dom_{\delta,b} \), but can actually occur only if a certain minimum amount of time \( \delta_i \in \mathbb{R}^+ \) (the so-called dwell time) has elapsed. Note that DT can be present in a system for two different reasons: either is due to an intrinsic characteristic of the system that presents some delay/inertia when commuting, or it is introduced when designing a control strategy, as in DT switching control, see e.g. Hespanha and Morse (1999) and Liberzon (2003).

An extension of the SA modeling framework is needed if a DT constraint is present. If we start from a SA system of the form (1), we can introduce the DT constraint as described next. DT can be accounted for by adding to each mode a continuous state variable \( \delta \in \mathbb{R} \) that represents a clock with the dynamics of an integrator. The dynamics (1) then is augmented as follows:

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
\dot{\hat{x}}_a(t)
\end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{\delta,a} & 0 \\
0 & 0 
\end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{x}_a(t) \\
\delta(t) 
\end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} B_{\delta,a} \\
0 
\end{bmatrix} u(t) + \begin{bmatrix} f_{\delta,a} \\
0 
\end{bmatrix},
\]

with \( u(t) = \bar{u} = 1 \forall t \geq 0 \), and the extended domain of a discrete mode \( q \in Q \) is modified as

\[
Dom_{\delta,a} = \mathbb{R}^+ \times Dom_{\delta,a} \times \{ 0, \delta_a \} \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \{ 1 \}
\]

so as to impose the DT constraint.

Within this extended framework, mode \( i \in Q \) is active as long as \( \{(y_i, y'_i), [u', v']\} \) keeps evolving within \( Dom_{\delta,a} \), and a transition to mode \( j \neq i \in Q \) occurs as soon as \( \{(y_i, y'_i), [u', v']\} \) exists \( Dom_{\delta,b} \), and enters into \( Dom_{\delta,a} \). The reset map \( \delta(t) = 0 \) needs to be added so as to make a mode transition occurs at time \( t^+ \).

Note that the augmented dynamics within each mode is still affine. However, the resulting dynamic matrix is not Hurwitz due to the presence of the clock. Yet, under Assumption 1, the procedure in Section 3 for model order reduction can be still adopted, in that it can be applied to the original SA system. The clock dynamics and its reset can be considered separately, and only affect the mode transitions of the reduced system via the extended domains definition.

As a consequence to the introduction of the DT, dynamics that decay in a time scale that is larger than the DT itself will be unlikely to be removed when selecting the model order through the proposed randomized approach: This is because of their contribution at the switching times when the state is reset. Finally, the length \( \tau \) of the time horizon in OG\(_r\) and COG\(_r\) can be tailored to the DT value.

7.1. Numerical example: the multi-room heating system

We consider the example of the multi-room heating system in Section 6 and introduce a DT to the switching policy. This means that, we require that the time elapsing between two subsequent switches (heater activated/de-activated and heater turned on/off when active) must be greater than or equal to the DT. We thus increase the state vector with a clock \( \delta(t) \) with dynamics \( \dot{\delta} = 1 \), that is reset to 0 whenever a switch occurs.

Note that since the unstable dynamics of the clock do not affect the dynamics of the remaining state variables, one can apply BT to the original system without the clock. Therefore, even if the (augmented) continuous state variable of the multi-room heating system has dimension 9, the reduction must be performed only on the original state of dimension 8 as in the example of Section 6.
The results obtained when the neglected dynamics has order 1 are reported in Fig. 2. The value of the optimal directional Hausdorff distance $\rho^*_D$ is computed through Algorithm 1 for the different reset maps, but just for a value of $\gamma$ corresponding to an unitary order reduction of the asymptotically stable part of the system. The same parameter values of Section 6 are here adopted. The DT is set equal to 5 min (which is also the setting time of the continuous dynamics) and the time horizon $\tau$ in the OG, reset map is set equal to the DT. The OG does not give the best performance in terms of ISE with respect to the other reset maps (see Fig. 2). Indeed, the DT is long enough to let the ZIR of the asymptotically stable continuous component vanish.

Not surprisingly, a comparative analysis with the values of the directional Hausdorff distance obtained without the adoption of the DT in the switching policy (see Fig. 2) reveals that the quality of the reduced order model deteriorates when the DT is present, and this occurs irrespectively of the adopted reset map.

8. Conclusions

In this work, we proposed to extend BT to the model reduction of SA systems with endogenous switching. This involved introducing appropriate state reset maps and integrating the reduced order model design with a randomized procedure for model order selection. A comparative analysis of different maps, possibly preserving the output continuity, was performed on a benchmark example of a multi-room heating system. The approach was extended to the case of switched affine systems with DT.

The proposed order selection is based on the discrepancy between the real and approximated output trajectories. If the obtained discrepancy is zero, then the reduced order model exactly reproduces the input–output behavior of the system, and it is possibly a minimal realization. A rigorous approach to exact model reduction for piecewise-affine hybrid systems is proposed in Petreczky and van Schuppen (2010).

The considered class of switched systems is characterized by an endogenous switching signal. However, our method can be applied also to the case when transitions are determined by some exogenous switching signal, possibly probabilistic as in the case of Markov jump linear systems.

References


Alessandro Vittorio Papadopoulos received the B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in computer engineering from the Politecnico di Milano, Milan, Italy, and the Ph.D. (Hons.) degree in information technology, systems and control from the Politecnico di Milano, in 2013. He was a post-doctoral researcher with the Department of Automatic Control, Lund University, Lund, Sweden, and he was also a member of the Lund Center for Control of Complex Engineering Systems, Lund, Sweden. He is currently a research assistant at the Politecnico di Milano. His research interests include model reduction for hybrid systems, event-based control, and the application of control theory for the design and the implementation of computing systems, with a particular focus on cloud computing and real-time systems.

Maria Prandini received an M.S. degree in electrical engineering from Politecnico di Milano, Italy, in 1994 and a Ph.D. degree in information technology from the University degli Studi di Brescia, Italy, in 1997. From 1998 to 2000 she was a visiting postdoctoral researcher at the University of California at Berkeley. From December 2002 she held positions at Politecnico di Milano, Italy, where she is currently an associate professor of automatic control at the Dipartimento di Elettronica, Informazione e Bioingegneria.
Her research interests include stochastic hybrid systems, randomized algorithms, constrained control design, system abstraction and verification, distributed and stochastic optimization, and the application of control theory to air traffic management and power networks.

She served on the editorial boards of IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control, IEEE Transactions on Control Systems Technology, Nonlinear Analysis: Hybrid Systems, and European Journal of Control. She is a member of the IFAC Technical Committee on Discrete Event and Hybrid Systems, of both the IEEE CSS and EUCA Conference Editorial Boards.

She was an editor of the Electronic Publications of the IEEE Control Systems Society (CSS) from 2013 to 2015. She is currently elected member of the Board of Governors and Vice-President for Conference Activities of the IEEE CCS.