

Structural Averaged Controllability for Linear Ensemble Systems: Single-input Case

Xudong Chen^{1,*} and Bahman Gharesifard²

Abstract—We consider continuum ensembles of linear time-invariant control systems with single inputs. A sparsity pattern is said to be structurally averaged controllable if it admits an averaged controllable linear ensemble system. We provide a necessary and sufficient condition for a sparsity pattern to be structurally averaged controllable.

I. INTRODUCTION

In this paper, we address the problem of structural averaged controllability introduced in [1]. Specifically, we consider continuum ensembles of linear time-invariant control systems with single inputs. The (A, b) pairs of the individual systems are sparse, sharing a common sparsity pattern (or structure as the terminology used in Lin's seminal work [2]). The sparsity pattern is said to be structurally averaged controllable if it admits linear ensemble systems, compliant with the sparsity pattern, that are averaged controllable. A precise definition will be given shortly in Subsection II-A.

Ensemble control originated from quantum spin systems [3, 4], and provides an alternative approach for controlling large-scale multi-agent systems, which is by nature resilient and scalable [5] — instead of controlling a single large networked system, we control a large population of small, independent ones.

A major technical challenge of ensemble control stems from the requirement that the control input be generated irrespective of the parameters of the individual systems. Roughly speaking, the larger the parameterization space is, the more individual systems are contained in the ensemble and hence, the more difficult it is to simultaneously control all of them. Over the last decade, there have been steady efforts in obtaining necessary and/or sufficient conditions for ensemble systems to be controllable or even path-controllable (see e.g., [5–12]).

Amongst these recent advances, we mention a negative result established in [11], which states that real-analytic linear ensemble systems are not L^p -controllable, for $2 \leq p \leq \infty$, when the underlying parameterization spaces are

¹X. Chen is with the Department of Electrical and Systems Engineering, Washington University in St. Louis. Email: cxudong@wustl.edu.

²B. Gharesifard is with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Queen's University, Canada. Email: bahman.gharesifard@queensu.edu.

*Corresponding author: X. Chen.

X. Chen was supported by NSF under the grants ECCS-2336842 and ECCS-2342073. B. Gharesifard was supported by NSF under the grant NSF ECCS-2303221.

multidimensional. For this type of pathological case, one has to relax the notion of controllability and seek for the controllable characteristics of the ensemble system. We formulate these characteristics as integrated outputs, where the integration is taken over the parameterization space. The choice of such formulation is rooted in the study of statistical properties of the ensemble system.

A simple, yet important integrated output is the state-average. For linear ensemble systems, a necessary and sufficient condition for averaged controllability has been obtained in [13]. The result, reproduced in Lemma 1, can be viewed as a variation of the Kalman rank condition adapted to averaged control. A natural question then arises as follows: *How easy (or difficult) can this condition be satisfied?* We address this question from the structural system theory point of view. Specifically, we investigate the set of sparsity patterns for the (A, b) pair and characterize the ones that are structurally averaged controllable. It should be clear that the more sparsity patterns that are structurally averaged controllable one can have, the more averaged controllable linear ensemble systems there are. The question posed above can thus be translated to the following: *Are those sparsity patterns rare or abundant?* In this paper, we will provide a solution to this question by establishing a necessary and sufficient condition for a sparsity pattern to be structurally averaged controllable. The result is formulated in Theorem 1.

In the earlier work [1], we have shown that structural averaged controllability is *strictly* weaker than structural controllability introduced by Lin [2] for finite-dimensional linear time-invariant systems. In fact, it is not hard to construct sparsity patterns that are structurally averaged controllable, but not structurally controllable. We refer the reader to [1, Proposition 2] for an example.

However, it remained open how large the gap is. Only a few preliminary results were obtained in [1], where we carried out case studies for a special class of sparsity patterns. A major technical challenge was in choosing appropriate functions for the nonzero entries of the sparse pair (A, b) such that the analysis of the associated averaged-controllability matrix (2) is tractable. More specifically, we considered the case where the parameterization space is the unit closed interval (equipped with the Lebesgue measure) and the sparsity pattern of (A, b) , in its graphical representation, has no cycles except a self-loop on a specific node. We then chose the nonzero entries of (A, b) to be monomials, with a rule that specifies their degrees, so that the averaged-controllability matrix (2) can be related to a

variation of the Hilbert matrix, which allows us to compute its rank explicitly. However, the aforementioned rule can hardly be extended to the general case, especially when there exist multiple cycles in the directed graph associated with the sparsity pattern of (A, b) .

In this paper, we resolve this technical issue by integrating a new set of ideas and tools, which enable us to provide a complete solution to the structural average controllability problem for a much broader class of linear ensemble systems.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows: At the end of this section, we present key notions and notations used throughout the paper. In Section II, we formulate precisely the problem and state the main result. Section III is dedicated to the proof of the main result. This paper ends with conclusions.

Notations. We gather here key notions and notations.

Graphs. Let $G = (V, E)$ be a directed graph (or simply digraph), possibly with self-loops. The node and edge sets of G are V and E , respectively. We denote by $v_i v_j$ a directed edge from v_i to v_j ; we call v_i an *in-neighbor* of v_j , and v_j an *out-neighbor* of v_i . For a subgraph $G' = (V', E')$ of G , we let

$$N_{\text{out}}(G') := \{v_j \in V' \mid \text{there is a } v_i \in V' \text{ s.t. } v_i v_j \in E\}.$$

We define $N_{\text{in}}(G')$ in a similar way.

A *walk* τ from v_i to v_j is a sequence of nodes $\tau = v_{i_1} \dots v_{i_k}$, with $v_{i_1} = v_i$ and $v_{i_k} = v_j$, such that each $v_{i_j} v_{i_{j+1}}$, for $j = 1, \dots, k-1$, is an edge of G . The *length* of the walk, denoted by $\ell(\tau)$, is the number of edges contained in it. A walk is said to be *closed* if its starting and ending nodes are the same. A walk is a *path* if there is no repetition of nodes in the sequence. A walk is a *cycle* if there is no repetition of nodes except the repetition of starting and ending nodes. Note that a self-loop at a node v_i is a cycle of length 1. Given two walks $\tau_1 = v_{i_1} \dots v_{i_k}$ and $\tau_2 = v_{j_1} \dots v_{j_\ell}$ such that the ending node v_{i_k} of τ_1 coincides with the starting node v_{j_1} of τ_2 , we can obtain a new walk by concatenating τ_1 and τ_2 :

$$\tau = \tau_1 \tau_2 := v_{i_1} \dots v_{i_k} v_{j_2} \dots v_{j_\ell}.$$

In case τ_2 has only a single node v_{j_1} , we have $\tau = \tau_1$. It should be clear that $\ell(\tau) = \ell(\tau_1) + \ell(\tau_2)$.

The digraph G is said to be *weakly connected* if the undirected graph, obtained from G by ignoring the orientations of its edges, is connected.

A node v_j is said to be a *successor* of v_i if there exists a path in G from v_i to v_j , and v_i is said to be a *predecessor* of v_j . We say that G is *strongly connected* if for any two distinct nodes v_p and v_q , v_q is both a successor and a predecessor of v_p . A graph with only a single node is, by default, strongly connected. Such a graph is said to be *trivial* if it has no self-loop.

A node v_r is said to be a *root* of G if any other node is a successor of v_r . We call G a *directed tree* if it has a unique root v_r and for any other node v_i of G , there exists a unique path from v_r to v_i .

Given a subset V' of V , the subgraph $G' = (V', E')$ of G is said to be *induced by* V' if the edge set E' satisfies the following condition: if two nodes $v_i, v_j \in V'$ are such that $v_i v_j \in E$, then $v_i v_j \in E'$.

Let $G = (V, E)$ and $H = (W, F)$ be two digraphs. A *graph homomorphism* $\pi : G \rightarrow H$ is a map from V to W such that if $v_i v_j$ is an edge in G , then $\pi(v_i) \pi(v_j)$ is an edge in H . One can extend the map π to the edge sets $\pi : E \rightarrow F$, sending $v_i v_j$ to $\pi(v_i v_j) := \pi(v_i) \pi(v_j)$. Then, for a subgraph $G' = (V', E')$ of G , we let $\pi(G')$ be the subgraph of H with $\pi(V')$ the node set and $\pi(E')$ the edge set. Conversely, for a subgraph $H' = (W', F')$ of H , we define $\pi^{-1}(H') := (\pi^{-1}(W'), \pi^{-1}(F'))$.

Miscellanies. Let $G = (V, E)$ be a graph on n nodes, and $V' = \{v_{i_1}, \dots, v_{i_k}\}$ be a subset of V , with $i_1 < \dots < i_k$. For a vector $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, we let $x|_{V'} \in \mathbb{R}^k$ be the subvector of x given by $x|_{V'} := (x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_k})$. The notation extends to matrices: specifically, for $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ with $x_1, \dots, x_m \in \mathbb{R}^n$ its columns, we let

$$X|_{V'} := [x_1|_{V'}, \dots, x_m|_{V'}].$$

For a matrix $C \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$, we let $\|C\|$ be the induced matrix 2-norm. Let Σ be an arbitrary topological space. A function $f : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ is *bounded* if exists a number $\gamma > 0$ such that $\|f(\sigma)\| < \gamma$ for all $\sigma \in \Sigma$. We denote by $C_b^0(\Sigma, \mathbb{R}^{n \times m})$ the space of all bounded, continuous functions from Σ to $\mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$. For each $f \in C_b^0(\Sigma, \mathbb{R}^{n \times m})$, we define

$$\|f\|_\infty := \sup_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \|f(\sigma)\|.$$

The topology on $C_b^0(\Sigma, \mathbb{R}^{n \times m})$ induced by the norm is called the *uniform topology*.

In this paper, we will deal with matrices with finitely many row, but infinitely many columns. Given such a matrix

$$C = [C_1, C_2, C_3, \dots], \quad \text{with } C_j \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ for all } j \geq 1,$$

we let $C_{[m]} := [C_1, \dots, C_m]$ be the finite-dimensional submatrix of C obtained by keeping only the first m columns. We say that C has full rank (i.e., rank n) if there exists a positive integer m such that $C_{[m]}$ has rank n .

For a positive integer n and for two real numbers p and q , we write $p \equiv_n q$ if $(p-q)/n$ is an integer.

We denote by \mathbb{N} the set of all nonnegative integers (including 0).

II. PROBLEM FORMULATION AND MAIN RESULT

A. Problem formulation

Let Σ be a manifold, possibly with boundary, and μ be a Borel probability measure on Σ whose support contains an open set. We consider a continuum ensemble of linear time-invariant systems driven by a single control input:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} x(t, \sigma) = A(\sigma)x(t, \sigma) + b(\sigma)u(t), \quad \text{for } \sigma \in \Sigma, \quad (1)$$

where $x(t, \sigma) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is the state of the individual system indexed by σ at time t , $u(t) \in \mathbb{R}$ is the common control

input, and $A : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ and $b : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ are bounded, continuous functions. The control input is said to be **admissible** if for any $T > 0$, the function $u : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is integrable.

Let $\chi(t) : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be the **profile** of system (1) at time t , defined by sending a parameter σ to the corresponding state $x(t, \sigma)$. It should be clear that if $\chi(0)$ is bounded and continuous, then so is $\chi(t)$ for any admissible control input. Denote by $\bar{x}(t)$ the average of the individual states at time t :

$$\bar{x}(t) := \int_{\Sigma} x(t, \sigma) d\mu.$$

We have the following definition:

Definition 1. *System (1) is averaged controllable if for any initial profile $\chi(0) \in C_b^0(\Sigma, \mathbb{R}^n)$, any target $x^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$, and any time $T > 0$, there exists an admissible control input $u(t)$ such that the solution of (1) generated by $u(t)$ satisfies $\bar{x}(T) = x^*$.*

Since the ensemble system (1) is determined by the (A, b) pair, we will simply say that (A, b) is averaged controllable if (1) is. We have the following necessary and sufficient condition adapted from [13] for averaged controllability:

Lemma 1. *Ensemble system (1) is averaged controllable if and only if the following column-infinite matrix:*

$$C(A, b) := \left[\int_{\Sigma} b d\mu, \int_{\Sigma} Ab d\mu, \int_{\Sigma} A^2 b d\mu, \dots \right] \quad (2)$$

is of full rank, i.e., rank n .

In this paper, we deal with sparse (A, b) pairs. By convention, the sparsity pattern is represented by a digraph $G = (V, E)$ on $(n + 1)$ nodes as follows:

- The node set V is a disjoint union of two subsets: $V_{\alpha} := \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n\}$ and a singleton $V_{\beta} := \{\beta\}$. The α -nodes correspond to the n scalar states x_i , and the β -node corresponds to the single input u .
- There is a directed edge from α_j to α_i if $a_{ij} \neq 0$. There is a directed edge from β to α_i if $b_i \neq 0$. The β -node does not have any in-neighbor.

We call G , defined above, the digraph **induced** by the pair (A, b) .

Let $\mathcal{G}_{n,1}$ be the collection of all weakly connected digraphs G on $(n + 1)$ nodes, with n α -nodes and a single β -node, satisfying the condition that β has no in-neighbor. Given a digraph $G \in \mathcal{G}_{n,1}$, a pair $(A, b) \in C_b^0(\Sigma, \mathbb{R}^{n \times (n+1)})$ is said to be **compliant with** G if the digraph induced by (A, b) is a subgraph of G . Further, we let

$$\mathbb{V}(G) := \{(A, b) \in C_b^0(\Sigma, \mathbb{R}^{n \times (n+1)}) \mid (A, b) \text{ is compliant with } G\}.$$

It should be clear that $\mathbb{V}(G)$ is a subspace. We now have the following definition:

Definition 2. *A digraph $G \in \mathcal{G}_{n,1}$ is **structurally averaged controllable** if there exists a pair $(A, b) \in \mathbb{V}(G)$ such that it is averaged controllable.*

We recall that the digraph $G \in \mathcal{G}_{n,1}$ is said to be **structurally controllable** if there exists a matrix pair $(A, b) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \times \mathbb{R}^n$, compliant with G , such that the finite-dimensional linear system $\dot{x}(t) = Ax(t) + bu(t)$ is controllable. It has been shown [1, Proposition 1] that if G is structurally controllable, then G is structurally averaged controllable. (As mentioned earlier, we assumed in [1] that Σ is the closed unit interval $[0, 1]$ with μ the Lebesgue measure. The same result still holds for the general setting as considered in this paper, and one can use the same arguments in the proof to establish the result.) However, the converse is not true, i.e., structural averaged controllability does not imply structural controllability. A counter-example has been exhibited in the proof of [1, Proposition 2].

B. Main result

In this subsection, we present a necessary and sufficient condition for $G \in \mathcal{G}_{n,1}$ to be structurally averaged controllable. Our presentation relies on the notion of the so-called strong component decomposition:

Definition 3. *Let $G = (V, E)$ be an arbitrary weakly connected digraph. The **strong component decomposition (SCD)** of G is a node-set decomposition $V = \cup_{i=0}^N V_i$, where the V_i 's are disjoint, such that the following hold:*

- 1) For each $i = 0, \dots, N$, the subgraph G_i induced by V_i is strongly connected.
- 2) Let G' be an arbitrary strongly connected subgraph of G . Then, G' is a subgraph of G_i for some $i = 0, \dots, N$.

We call G_i 's the **strong components** of G .

Note that a subgraph G_i can be a single node (with or without self-loop). The β -node itself forms a strong component, which we denote by G_0 .

Let $G_{\text{cyc}} = (V_{\text{cyc}}, E_{\text{cyc}})$ be the union of the nontrivial strong components (i.e., components that contain cycles). A strong component G_i is *not* in G_{cyc} if and only if G_i comprises a single node *without* a self-loop.

Let V_{cyc}^+ be the set of successors of nodes in V_{cyc} , and G_{cyc}^+ be the subgraph induced by V_{cyc}^+ . The essential part of G that determines whether G is structurally averaged controllable is introduced in the following definition:

Definition 4. *Given a digraph $G \in \mathcal{G}_{n,1}$, let $V^* := V - V_{\text{cyc}}^+$ and G^* be the subgraph of G induced by V^* . We call G^* the **core** of G .*

It should be clear from the construction that a node v_i is in G^* if and only if it is *not* a successor of any cycle in G . In particular, G^* is acyclic and contains β . See Figure 1 for illustration.

We now state the main result of this paper:

Theorem 1. *Let $G \in \mathcal{G}_{n,1}$ and G^* be its core. Then, G is structurally averaged controllable if and only if β is the root of G and, moreover, G^* has a directed spanning path.*

If G is acyclic, then its core G^* is G itself. In this case, Theorem 1 states that G is structurally averaged

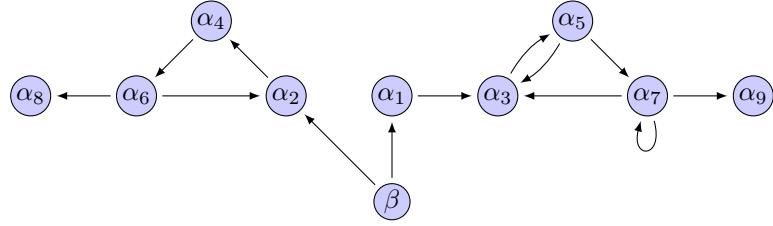


Fig. 1: The digraph shown in the figure is weakly connected. The SCD yields 6 strong components, including 4 trivial ones $G_0 = \{\beta\}$, $G_1 = \{\alpha_1\}$, $G_4 = \{\alpha_8\}$, $G_5 = \{\alpha_9\}$, and 2 nontrivial ones, namely, G_2 the subgraph induced by $\{\alpha_2, \alpha_4, \alpha_6\}$ and G_3 the subgraph induced by $\{\alpha_3, \alpha_5, \alpha_7\}$. The subgraph G_{cyc} consists of G_2 and G_3 . The subgraph G_{cyc}^+ consists of G_{cyc} , the nodes α_8 and α_9 , and the edges $\alpha_6\alpha_8$ and $\alpha_7\alpha_9$. Finally, the core G^* is the subgraph induced by $\{\beta, \alpha_1\}$.

controllable if and only if G contains a directed spanning path with β the root. Note, in particular, that the same condition is also necessary and sufficient for G to be *structurally controllable* [2].

Also, note that the necessary and sufficient condition in Theorem 1 can be checked efficiently. Given the digraph $G = (V, E)$, one can first perform the SCD of G to obtain the core G^* , and then check whether G^* contains a directed spanning path. The first task can be done by using the Tarjan's algorithm [14], whose time complexity is $O(|V| + |E|)$. The second task can be translated to the problem of computing the length of a longest path in G^* and checking whether the length matches the order of G^* , whose time complexity is again $O(|V| + |E|)$.

We now address the openness and density of the set of averaged controllable pairs (A, b) in the space $\mathbb{V}(G)$. To this end, we equip with $C_b^0(\Sigma, \mathbb{R}^{n \times (n+1)})$ the uniform topology, and $\mathbb{V}(G)$ the subspace topology. For a given $G \in \mathcal{G}_{n,1}$, let

$$\mathbb{V}_*(G) := \{(A, b) \in \mathbb{V}(G) \mid (A, b) \text{ is averaged controllable}\}.$$

We have the following result:

Proposition 2. *Suppose that G is structurally averaged controllable; then, $\mathbb{V}_*(G)$ is open and dense in $\mathbb{V}(G)$.*

Proof. We establish openness and density of $\mathbb{V}_*(G)$ subsequently.

Proof that $\mathbb{V}_(G)$ is open.* Let $(A, b) \in \mathbb{V}_*(G)$. Then, by Lemma 1, the matrix $C(A, b)$ has full rank. Let $m \geq n$ be such that the submatrix $C_{[m]}(A, b)$ has rank n . Now, consider the map $\rho : \mathbb{V}(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ defined by

$$\rho(A', b') := C_{[m]}(A', b'). \quad (3)$$

It should be clear that the map ρ is continuous. Since $C_{[m]}(A, b)$ is of full rank, there exists an open neighborhood \mathcal{V} of $C_{[m]}(A, b)$ in $\mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ such that any matrix in \mathcal{V} has rank n . Then, $\mathcal{U} := \rho^{-1}(\mathcal{V})$ is an open neighborhood of (A, b) in $\mathbb{V}(G)$, contained in $\mathbb{V}_*(G)$.

Proof that $\mathbb{V}_(G)$ is dense.* The arguments below will be similar to those in [2]. Since G is structurally averaged controllable, there exists at least a pair (A_*, b_*) in $\mathbb{V}_*(G)$. We still let $m \geq n$ be such that $C_{[m]}(A_*, b_*)$ has rank n . For ease of presentation, we assume that $m = n$ so that $C_{[m]}(A_*, b_*)$ is a square matrix of full rank (otherwise, one

can always pick n columns out of $C_{[m]}(A_*, b_*)$ to obtain such a matrix). Let ρ be defined as in (3). Now for any $(A, b) \in \mathbb{V}(G)$, we consider a polynomial map $\delta : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined as follows:

$$\delta(s) := \det(\rho(A'(s), b'(s))),$$

where

$$(A'(s), b'(s)) := s(A_*, b_*) + (1 - s)(A, b).$$

Since $(A'(1), b'(1)) = (A_*, b_*)$, we have that $\delta(1) \neq 0$. Thus, δ is not identically zero, so it has at most n distinct real roots. This, in particular, implies that any open neighborhood of 0 in \mathbb{R} contains some s such that $\delta(s) \neq 0$. Since $(A'(0), b'(0)) = (A, b)$, we have that there exist an arbitrarily small $s > 0$ such that

$$s(A_*, b_*) + (1 - s)(A, b) \in \mathbb{V}_*(G).$$

This completes the proof. \square

III. PROOF OF THE MAIN RESULT

This section is dedicated to the proof of Theorem 1. In Subsection III-A, we establish the necessity part: We show that if G is structurally averaged controllable, then G satisfies the condition in Theorem 1 (i.e., the condition that β is the root of G and G^* contains a directed spanning path). The arguments for establishing the necessity part is more or less straightforward. The proof of the sufficiency part is more involved. We outline below the proof.

Sketch of proof for the sufficiency part. The property of being structurally averaged controllable is monotone with respect to edge addition. Specifically, if $G = (V, E)$ is structurally averaged controllable, then so is any graph $G' = (V, E')$ obtained by adding new edges into G (i.e., $E' \supseteq E$). In Subsection III-B, we introduce a special class of graphs G , termed reduced graphs, satisfying the following two properties: (1) G satisfies the condition of Theorem 1, and (2) any graph G' satisfies this condition can be trimmed, via edge removal, to a reduced graph. By monotonicity, to establish sufficiency, it suffices to show that every reduced graph is structurally averaged controllable.

The reason we choose to work with reduced graph is for ease of analysis: Specifically, for G a reduced graph, we will be able to obtain an explicit characterization of all

walks with β the starting node. Such a characterization is instrumental in analyzing and computing the infinite matrices $C(A, b)$, for $(A, b) \in \mathbb{V}(G)$. More specifically, the ij th entry of $C(A, b)$ is, in general, given by $\sum_{\tau} P(\tau)$, where the sum is over all walks τ of length j from β to α_i , and $P(\tau)$ is the product of the entries in (A, b) corresponding to the edges in τ . If G is reduced, then such a walk τ , if exists, is unique.

In Subsection III-C, we characterize the walks in reduced graphs and describe reachable sets of nodes in G (i.e., nodes that can be reached from β by walks of particular length). Then, in Subsection III-D, we construct a particular (A, b) pair in $\mathbb{V}(G)$ for G reduced. Each nonzero entry of (A, b) will be of the form $f^{\nu(e)}$, where e is the edge of G corresponding to the entry, $f : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ is some continuous function, and $\nu : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ specifies the power of f for each edge e . In this way, the ij th entry of $C(A, b)$, if nonzero, can be expressed as

$$c_{ij} = f^{\sum_{e \in \tau} \nu(e)}, \quad (4)$$

where τ is the unique walk from β to α_i of length j . The expression (4) will be made explicit in Subsection III-E.

Leveraging these computational results, we focus in Subsection III-F on a class of submatrices of $C(A, b)$ and show that they are full rank. Finally, in Subsection III-G, we show that the entire matrix $C(A, b)$ has rank n . \square

A. Proof of Necessity

In this subsection, we establish the following result:

Proposition 3. *If $G \in \mathcal{G}_{n,1}$ is structurally averaged controllable, then G is rooted with β the unique root and, moreover, its core G^* contains a directed spanning path.*

Proof. We first show that G is rooted and then show that G^* contains a directed spanning path.

Proof that G is rooted. Since β has no incoming neighbor, if G is rooted, then β has to be the unique root. Now, suppose that G is not rooted; then, there exists at least one node α_i of G such that there does *not* exist a path from β to α_i . We label all such nodes as $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$, for $1 \leq k \leq n$. Then, for any pair $(A, b) \in \mathbb{V}(G)$, we have that

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & 0 \\ A_{21} & A_{22} \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ b_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad (5)$$

where A_{11} is k -by- k , A_{22} is $(n-k)$ -by- $(n-k)$, and b_2 is $(n-k)$ -dimensional. We partition $x = (x_1; x_2)$ correspondingly. Then, the dynamics of x_1 are described by

$$\dot{x}_1(t, \sigma) = A_{11}(\sigma)x_1(t, \sigma),$$

which are not affected by the control input $u(t)$. It should be clear that the above sub-system is not averaged controllable and, hence, the entire system is not averaged controllable. Since the arguments hold for all pairs $(A, b) \in \mathbb{V}(G)$, we have to conclude that G is not structurally averaged controllable, which contradicts the hypothesis of the proposition.

Proof that G^ contains a directed spanning path.* Let $n^* := |V^*|$ be the order of G^* . We label the nodes of G in the way that the first n^* nodes $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n^*}$ are in G^* and the remaining nodes are in G_{cyc}^+ . It should be clear from its construction that any node of G is either in G^* or the successor of some node in G^* . It follows that for any pair (A, b) in $\mathbb{V}(G)$, the matrix A is again lower block triangular in the form of (5), but with A_{11} being n^* -by- n^* . Partitioning $x = (x_1; x_2)$ and $b = (b_1; b_2)$ correspondingly, we obtain

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_1(t, \sigma) \\ \dot{x}_2(t, \sigma) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11}(\sigma) & 0 \\ A_{21}(\sigma) & A_{22}(\sigma) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1(t, \sigma) \\ x_2(t, \sigma) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} b_1(\sigma) \\ b_2(\sigma) \end{bmatrix} u(t).$$

Note, in particular, that the dynamics of $x_1(t, \sigma)$ do not depend on $x_2(t, \sigma)$. It follows that if the pair (A, b) is averaged controllable, then so is (A_{11}, b_1) . Consequently, if G is structurally averaged controllable, then so is G^* .

Thus, to complete the proof, it suffices to show that if G^* does not contain a directed spanning path, then G^* is not structurally averaged controllable. More specifically, we show below that under such a hypothesis of G^* , any pair $(A_{11}, b_1) \in \mathbb{V}(G^*)$ is not averaged controllable.

To this end, for a node α_i in G^* , let $\text{dep}(\alpha_i)$ be the length of the *longest path* in G^* from β to α_i . The depth of β is set to be 0. Since G^* does not contain a directed spanning path, we have that

$$\text{dep}(\alpha_i) < n^*, \quad \text{for all } \alpha_i \in V^*. \quad (6)$$

Now, consider the entries of $A_{11}^k b_1$. The i th entry of $A_{11}^k b_1$ is nonzero *only if* there exists a walk in G^* of length $(k+1)$ from β to α_i . Because G^* is acyclic, all walks in G^* are paths. It then follows from (6) that

$$A_{11}^k b_1 = 0, \quad \text{for all } k \geq n^* - 1,$$

which implies that the matrix $C(A_{11}, b_1)$ has at most $(n^* - 1)$ nonzero columns (i.e., the first $(n^* - 1)$ columns) and, hence, its rank is less than n^* . By Lemma 1, (A_{11}, b_1) is not averaged controllable. \square

B. Reduced graphs

In this subsection, we introduce a special class of digraphs, termed *reduced graphs* (Definition 6), owning the property that any digraph satisfying the condition in Theorem 1 can be reduced, via edge removal, to a reduced one.

We start by introducing the notion of a skeleton graph S associated with an arbitrary digraph G , which is obtained by condensing the strong components of G into single nodes. Precisely, we have

Definition 5. *Let $G = (V, E)$ be weakly connected and G_i , for $i = 0, \dots, N$, be the strong components of G . The **skeleton graph** of G , denoted by $S = (W, F)$, is a directed graph on $(N + 1)$ nodes w_0, \dots, w_N whose edge set F is determined by the following rule: There exists a directed edge $w_i w_j$ if there exists a directed edge in G from a node of G_i to a node of G_j .*

Note that S may have self-loops: A node w_i has a self-loop if and only if G_i has a cycle. By the second item of Definition 3, the skeleton graph S will be acyclic if all its self-loops are removed.

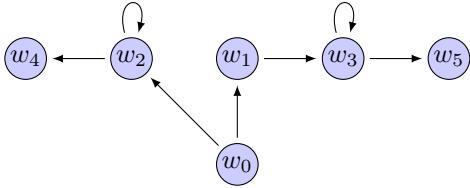


Fig. 2: The skeleton graph S of the digraph shown in Figure 1. Node w_0 corresponds to the β node, w_2 and w_3 correspond to the two *nontrivial* strong components while the others correspond to the trivial ones.

Next, we introduce the map $\pi : G \rightarrow S$, defined by sending a node $v_{i'} \in V_i$ to the node w_i . It should be clear from Definition 5 that the map π is a graph homomorphism.

Let G^* be the core of G and $S^* := \pi(G^*)$. It is not hard to see from Definitions 4 and 5 that S^* is the core of S and that G^* and S^* are isomorphic under $\pi|_{G^*}$. We now have the following definition:

Definition 6. A rooted digraph $G \in \mathcal{G}_{n,1}$ is **reduced** if it satisfies the following conditions:

- 1) Let S be the skeleton graph of G and S^* be its core. Then, S is a directed tree and S^* is a directed path.
- 2) For each edge w_iw_j of S , with $w_i \neq w_j$, the set $\pi^{-1}(w_iw_j)$ is a singleton.
- 3) If $w_p \in S$ has a self-loop, then it is an out-neighbor of S^* . Moreover, for any such node w_p , $G_p = \pi^{-1}(w_p)$ is a cycle.

For example, a reduced graph of the digraph shown in Figure 1 can be obtained by removing the edge $\alpha_7\alpha_3$ and the self-loop on α_7 , as shown in Figure 3. Note that there are multiple ways to obtain a reduced graph. To wit, one can obtain another reduced graph by removing the edge $\alpha_5\alpha_3$ and the self-loop on α_7 (while keeping the edge $\alpha_7\alpha_3$).

It should be clear that any reduced graph G satisfies the condition in Theorem 1. We establish the following result:

Proposition 4. Let $G = (V, E) \in \mathcal{G}_{n,1}$ satisfy the condition of Theorem 1. Then, there is a subgraph $G' = (V, E')$ of G , with the same node set V , such that G' is reduced.

Proof. Let S be the skeleton graph of G and $\pi : G \rightarrow S$ be the graph homomorphism. Let $w_0 := \pi(\beta)$ and S^* be the core of S . Since G^* and S^* are isomorphic, S^* contains a directed spanning path, denoted by P .

Let $S^{(0)}$ be a directed spanning tree of S such that it contains P and all the self-loops. It should be clear that P is the core of $S^{(0)}$. We will now remove edges out of G leading to a subgraph $G^{(0)}$ whose skeleton graph is $S^{(0)}$. Consider the edges w_iw_j in S , with $w_i \neq w_j$. There are two cases: (i) If w_iw_j is not in $S^{(0)}$, then we remove all the

edges in $\pi^{-1}(w_iw_j)$. (ii) If w_iw_j is in $S^{(0)}$, then we remove all but one of the edges in $\pi^{-1}(w_iw_j)$. It should be clear that the resulting graph $G^{(0)}$ has $S^{(0)}$ as its skeleton graph and, moreover, satisfies the first two items of Definition 6.

Next, we consider the nodes in $S^{(0)}$ with self-loops. For convenience, we label these nodes as w_1, \dots, w_q , and let G_1, \dots, G_q be the corresponding strong components. We will now construct a reduced graph G' by removing from each G_p , for $p = 1, \dots, q$, some selected edges, which will be specified below. We will use $G^{(p)}$ to denote the graph obtained by removing the selected edges in $\cup_{i=1}^p G_i$, $S^{(p)}$ the skeleton graph of $G^{(p)}$, and $\pi^{(p)} : G^{(p)} \rightarrow S^{(p)}$ the graph isomorphism. Along the edge-removal procedure, we will show by induction that $G^{(p)}$ satisfies the first two items of Definition 6 and, moreover, the core of $S^{(p)}$ is (isomorphic with) the path P .

The base case $p = 0$ has been established above. For the inductive step, we assume that $G^{(p-1)}$ has been obtained, with $1 \leq p \leq q$, and will construct $G^{(p)}$ by removing edges from G_p . Note that G_p is a strong component of $G^{(p-1)}$. We will still use w_p to denote the node $\pi^{(p-1)}(G_p)$ in $S^{(p-1)}$.

By the induction hypothesis, $S^{(p-1)}$ is a directed tree and since w_p cannot be the root, there is a unique node w_i in $S^{(p-1)}$, with $w_i \neq w_p$, such that w_i is an in-neighbor of w_p . Furthermore, there is a unique edge in $G^{(p-1)}$, denoted by $v_i\alpha_{p_0}$, such that $\pi(v_i\alpha_{p_0}) = w_iw_p$. In case w_p has out-neighbors other than itself, we denote them by w_{j_1}, \dots, w_{j_m} . Similarly, for each $\ell = 1, \dots, m$, there is a unique edge $\alpha_{p_\ell}\alpha_{j_\ell}$ such that $\pi(\alpha_{p_\ell}\alpha_{j_\ell}) = w_p w_{j_\ell}$. It should be clear that the nodes α_{p_ℓ} , for $0 \leq \ell \leq m$, are in G_p . To this end, we consider two cases:

Case 1: $w_p \notin N_{\text{out}}(P)$. Since $G_p = (V_p, E_p)$ is strongly connected, there is a directed spanning tree $T_p = (V_p, E'_p)$, without self-loop, of G_p rooted at the node α_{p_0} . We remove all the edges in $E_p - E'_p$ and obtain $G^{(p)}$. In other words, we replace G_p with T_p . It follows that the skeleton graph $S^{(p)}$ can be obtained from $S^{(p-1)}$ by replacing the node w_p with T_p , the edge w_iw_p with $w_i\alpha_{p_0}$, and the edges $w_p w_{j_\ell}$ with $\alpha_{p_\ell} w_{j_\ell}$ for $\ell = 1, \dots, m$. It should be clear that $G^{(p)}$ satisfies the first two items of Definition 6. We claim that the core of $S^{(p)}$ is still P . To establish the claim, it suffices to show that the nodes of T_p are successors of some node with a self-loop in $S^{(p)}$. We exhibit below such a node. Consider the (unique) path in $S^{(p-1)}$ from β to w_p . Traversing the path, we let $w_{p'}$ be the first node such that $w_{p'} \notin P$. Then, $w_{p'}$ has a self-loop because otherwise $w_{p'}$ would belong to the core of $S^{(p-1)}$, contradicting the induction hypothesis that P is the core. Since w_p is not an out-neighbor of P , $w_{p'} \neq w_p$ and $w_{p'}$ belongs to $S^{(p)}$. It follows that all nodes of T_p are successors of $w_{p'}$.

Case 2: $w_p \in N_{\text{out}}(P)$. We again let $T_p = (V_p, E'_p)$ be a directed spanning tree of G_p , without self-loop and rooted at α_{p_0} . Let $\alpha_{p'}$ be an in-neighbor of α_{p_0} in G_p ; such a node exists since G_p is strongly connected and nontrivial. Let $G'_p := T_p \cup \{\alpha_{p'}\alpha_{p_0}\}$. Then, G'_p has a unique cycle C'_p given by concatenating the path from α_{p_0} to $\alpha_{p'}$ in T_p with the edge $\alpha_{p'}\alpha_{p_0}$. Let E''_p be the edge set of G'_p . We

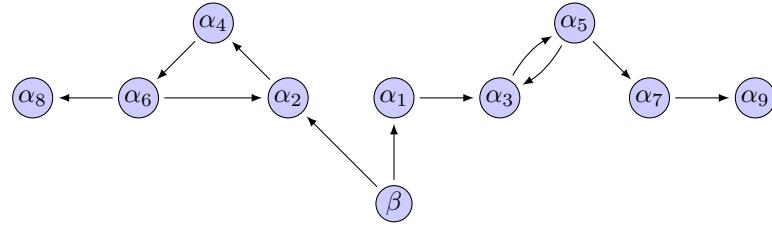


Fig. 3: A reduced graph obtained by removing edges out of the digraph shown in Figure 1.

obtain $G^{(p)}$ by removing the edges in $E_p - E_p''$ (i.e., by replacing G_p with G'_p). The skeleton graph $S^{(p)}$ of $G^{(p)}$ can be described as follows: Let S'_p be the skeleton graph G'_p and $\pi'_p : G'_p \rightarrow S'_p$ be the graph homomorphism. Then, S'_p is a directed tree and $w'_0 := \pi'_p(C'_p)$ is the root with a self-loop. Let $w'_\ell := \pi'_p(\alpha_{p\ell})$, for $\ell = 1, \dots, m$ (these $(\ell+1)$ nodes w'_0, \dots, w'_ℓ may not be distinct). Then, $S^{(p)}$ can be obtained from $S^{(p-1)}$ by replacing the node w_p with S'_p , the edge $w_i w_p$ with $w_i w'_0$, and the edges $w_p w_{j\ell}$ with $w'_\ell w_{j\ell}$ for $\ell = 1, \dots, m$. It should be clear that $G^{(p)}$ satisfies the first two items of Definition 6. Since the root w'_0 of S'_p has a self-loop, every node of S'_p is a successor of w'_0 . Also, any successor $w_{p'}$ of w_p in $S^{(p-1)}$, for $w'_p \neq w_p$, is now a successor of w'_0 . Thus, P remains as the core of $S^{(p)}$. Furthermore, since w_p is an out-neighbor of P in $S^{(p-1)}$ and since $S^{(p-1)}$ is a directed tree, w_i must be a node of P . Since $w_i w'_0$ is an edge of $S^{(p)}$, w'_0 is an out-neighbor of P .

Finally, let $G' := G^{(q)}$, $S' := S^{(q)}$, and $\pi' := \pi^{(q)}$. By construction, G' satisfies the third item of Definition 6. Indeed, if a node $w'_p \in S'$ has a self-loop, then it comes from *Case 2* in the above edge-removal procedure, thus being an out-neighbor of P . The corresponding strong component $\pi'^{-1}(w'_p)$ is a cycle C'_p . \square

C. Walks and reachable node sets

For the remainder of the paper, we will assume that $G \in \mathcal{G}_{n,1}$ is rooted and reduced. Each strong component of G is either a cycle or a single node without self-loop. In this subsection, we will first characterize all the walks τ in G with β the starting node, and then describe sets of reachable nodes by walks of particular lengths.

1) *Characterization of walks in G :* Let G^* be the core of G , which is a path without self-loops. It should be clear that if τ is a walk from β to some $\alpha_i \in G^*$, then τ has to be a path (which is unique). We will now deal with the case where $\alpha_i \notin G^*$.

Recall that G_{cyc} is the union of all *nontrivial* strong components of G . Since G is reduced, G_{cyc} is a collection of disjoint cycles. We label these cycles as $G_p = (V_p, E_p)$, for $p = 1, \dots, q$. Let V_p^+ be the successors of V_p in G , and G_p^+ be the subgraph induced by V_p^+ . Since G is reduced, it follows from item 2 of Definition 6 that for each G_p , there is a unique node α_{p_0} in G_p such that it is an out-neighbor of G^* :

$$\{\alpha_{p_0}\} = N_{\text{out}}(G^*) \cap G_p. \quad (7)$$

For instance, in Figure 3, α_2 and α_3 are the unique nodes connecting G^* to the 3-cycle $\alpha_2\alpha_4\alpha_6\alpha_2$ and the 2-cycle $\alpha_3\alpha_5\alpha_3$, respectively.

We make a few simple observations: First, note that there is a unique path in G , denoted by $\tau_{\beta\alpha_{p_0}}$, from β to α_{p_0} . All nodes of $\tau_{\beta\alpha_{p_0}}$, except α_{p_0} , belong to G^* . Next, we express the cycle G_p as $G_p = \alpha_{p_0}\alpha_{p_1}\cdots\alpha_{p_{\ell-1}}\alpha_{p_0}$. If we remove the edge $\alpha_{p_{\ell-1}}\alpha_{p_0}$, then G_p^+ becomes a directed tree with α_{p_0} the root. This, in particular, implies that for any node $\alpha_i \in G_p^+$, there is a unique path, denoted by $\tau_{\alpha_{p_0}\alpha_i}$, from α_{p_0} to α_i .

For convenience, we denote by G_p^m the closed walk in G obtained by traversing m times the cycle G_p , with α_{p_0} the starting (and ending) node. We allow m to be 0 and set $G_p^0 := \alpha_{p_0}$.

The following result is an immediate consequence of the above arguments:

Lemma 2. Let $\alpha_i \in G_p^+$ and τ be a walk in G from β to α_i . Then, τ can be expressed as a concatenation of three walks:

$$\tau = \tau_{\beta \alpha_{p_0}} G_p^m \tau_{\alpha_{p_0} \alpha_i}.$$

Note that if we set $m = 0$, then the walk τ in the above lemma becomes a path. It follows that for every α -node α_i in G , there is a unique path from β to α_i . We denote this path by $\tau_{\beta\alpha_i}$ and define the **depth** of α_i as

$$\text{dep}(\alpha_i) := \ell(\tau_{\beta\alpha_i}). \quad (8)$$

To illustrate, consider again the digraph in Figure 3. The nodes of depth 1 are $\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2\}$, the nodes of depth 2 are $\{\alpha_3, \alpha_4\}, \{\alpha_5, \alpha_6\}$ depth 3, $\{\alpha_7, \alpha_8\}$ depth 4, and α_9 is of depth 5.

2) *On reachable sets:* For a positive integer j , let $V(j)$ be the set of α -nodes $\alpha_i \in G$ such that there is a walk τ of length j from β to α_i . For each $p = 1, \dots, q$, we let

$$V_p^+(j) := V_p^+ \cap V(j).$$

We describe below these sets and present relevant properties, which will be used for computing the columns of the infinite matrix $C(A, b)$.

For ease of notation, let $\ell_p := \ell(G_p)$. We start with the following result:

Lemma 3. *For any positive integer j ,*

$$V_p^+(j) = \{\alpha_i \in V_p^+ \mid \text{dep}(\alpha_i) \leq j \text{ and } \text{dep}(\alpha_i) \equiv_{\ell_p} j\}. \quad (9)$$

Moreover, for any $\alpha_i \in V_p^+(j)$, there is a unique walk of length j from β to α_i .

Proof. Consider all the walks τ from β to α_i . By Lemma 2,

$$\ell(\tau) = \ell(\tau_{\beta\alpha_i}) + m\ell_p = \text{dep}(\alpha_i) + m\ell_p, \quad \text{for } m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Thus, amongst these walks, there exists a τ of length j if and only if (9) holds. Moreover, such a walk is unique given by

$$\tau = \tau_{\beta\alpha_{p_0}} G_p^{\frac{j-\text{dep}(\alpha_i)}{\ell_p}} \tau_{\alpha_{p_0}\alpha_i}.$$

This completes the proof. \square

Let α_{p_0} be given as in (7). Amongst all nodes in G_p^+ , α_{p_0} has the minimum depth. Thus, $V_p^+(j) = \emptyset$ if and only if $j < \text{dep}(\alpha_{p_0})$. As j increases, the sequence of sets $V_p^+(j)$ will eventually be periodic. We make it precise below. Let

$$d_p := \max_{\alpha_i \in V_p^+} \text{dep}(\alpha_i).$$

Note that $d_p \geq \ell_p$. To wit, we write G_p explicitly as $G_p = \alpha_{p_0}\alpha_{p_1}\cdots\alpha_{p_{\ell_p-1}}\alpha_{p_0}$. The path $\tau_{\beta\alpha_{p_{\ell_p-1}}}$ can be obtained by concatenating $\tau_{\beta\alpha_{p_0}}$ and $\tau_{\alpha_{p_0}\alpha_{p_{\ell_p-1}}}$. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} d_p \geq \text{dep}(\alpha_{p_{\ell_p-1}}) &= \ell(\tau_{\beta\alpha_{p_{\ell_p-1}}}) = \\ &\ell(\tau_{\beta\alpha_{p_0}}) + \ell(\tau_{\alpha_{p_0}\alpha_{p_{\ell_p-1}}}) \geq 1 + (\ell_p - 1) = \ell_p. \end{aligned}$$

We have the following result (an example illustrating the result will be given at the end of the subsection):

Lemma 4. *If $j > d_p - \ell_p$, then*

$$V_p^+(j + \ell_p) = V_p^+(j), \quad (10)$$

and, moreover,

$$V_p^+ = \sqcup_{k=0}^{\ell_p-1} V_p^+(j+k). \quad (11)$$

Proof. We first establish (10). By (9), $V_p^+(j) \subseteq V_p^+(j + \ell_p)$. Suppose to the contrary that there exists a node α_i such that $\alpha_i \in V_p^+(j + \ell_p) - V_p^+(j)$; then, using again (9), we have that $j < \text{dep}(\alpha_i) \leq j + \ell_p$ and $\text{dep}(\alpha_i) \equiv_{\ell_p} j$. But then, $\text{dep}(\alpha_i) = j + \ell_p > d_p$, which is a contradiction.

We next establish (11). On one hand, each node $\alpha_i \in V_p^+$ belongs to $V_p^+(j)$ for some j (precisely, for $j = \text{dep}(\alpha_i) + m\ell_p$). On the other hand, if $j \not\equiv_{\ell_p} j'$, then $V_p^+(j)$ does not intersect $V_p^+(j')$. Combining the arguments with (10), we conclude that (11) holds. \square

We will now extend Lemma 4 to the subsets $V(j)$ for sufficiently large j . To the end, let

$$\ell_{\max} := \max_{p=1}^q \{\ell_p\} \quad \text{and} \quad L := \text{lcm}_{p=1}^q \{\ell_p\}. \quad (12)$$

where lcm stands for the least common multiple.

Recall that V_{cyc}^+ is the set of successors of all nontrivial strong components in G , and G_{cyc}^+ is the subgraph induced by V_{cyc}^+ . Since G is reduced,

$$G_{\text{cyc}}^+ = \sqcup_{p=1}^q G_p^+. \quad (13)$$

Also, recall that n^* is the order of G^* . We have the following result:

Lemma 5. *Suppose that $j > n^*$ and $j > \max_{p=1}^q (d_p - \ell_p)$; then,*

$$V(j + L) = V(j) \quad \text{and} \quad V_{\text{cyc}}^+ = \sqcup_{k=0}^{\ell_{\max}-1} V(j+k). \quad (14)$$

Moreover, for any $k = 0, \dots, \ell_{\max} - 1$,

$$V(j+k) \not\subseteq \sqcup_{k'=0, k' \neq k}^{\ell_{\max}-1} V(j+k'), \quad (15)$$

i.e., there exists at least a node of $V(j+k)$ such that it is not contained in $V(j+k')$ for any $k' = 0, \dots, \ell_{\max} - 1$ with $k' \neq k$.

Proof. Since G^* is a path without self-loop, for any $j > n^*$, $V(j)$ is a subset of V_{cyc}^+ . The fact that (14) holds then follows directly from Lemma 4 and (13). To establish (15), we let G_p be such that $\ell_p = \ell_{\max}$. On one hand, we have $V_p^+(j+k) \subseteq V(j+k)$. On the other hand, it follows from (11) and (13) that

$$V_p^+(j+k) \cap V(j+k) = \emptyset,$$

for any $k' = 0, \dots, \ell_{\max} - 1$ with $k' \neq k$. This completes the proof. \square

Example 1. Consider the reduced graph G in Figure 3. The core G^* has $n^* = 2$ nodes. Let $G_1 := \alpha_3\alpha_5\alpha_3$ and $G_2 := \alpha_2\alpha_4\alpha_6\alpha_2$ be the two cycles in G . Then, G_1^+ is the subgraph induced by $V_1^+ = \{\alpha_3, \alpha_5, \alpha_7, \alpha_9\}$ and G_2^+ is the subgraph induced by $V_2^+ = \{\alpha_2, \alpha_4, \alpha_6, \alpha_8\}$. We have that $\ell_1 = 2$, $\ell_2 = 3$, $d_1 = 5$, and $d_2 = 4$, so $\ell_{\max} = 3$ and $L = \text{lcm}\{\ell_1, \ell_2\} = 6$. For $j \geq 4$, we have that

$$V_1^+(j) = \begin{cases} \{\alpha_3, \alpha_7\} & \text{if } j \equiv_2 0, \\ \{\alpha_5, \alpha_9\} & \text{if } j \equiv_2 1. \end{cases}$$

Similarly, for $j \geq 2$, we have that

$$V_2^+(j) = \begin{cases} \{\alpha_6\} & \text{if } j \equiv_3 0, \\ \{\alpha_2, \alpha_8\} & \text{if } j \equiv_3 1, \\ \{\alpha_4\} & \text{if } j \equiv_3 2. \end{cases}$$

Finally, for $j \geq 4$, we obtain that

$$V^+(j) = \begin{cases} \{\alpha_3, \alpha_6, \alpha_7\} & \text{if } j \equiv_6 0, \\ \{\alpha_2, \alpha_5, \alpha_8, \alpha_9\} & \text{if } j \equiv_6 1, \\ \{\alpha_3, \alpha_4, \alpha_7\} & \text{if } j \equiv_6 2, \\ \{\alpha_5, \alpha_6, \alpha_9\} & \text{if } j \equiv_6 3, \\ \{\alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_7, \alpha_8\} & \text{if } j \equiv_6 4, \\ \{\alpha_4, \alpha_5, \alpha_9\} & \text{if } j \equiv_6 5. \end{cases}$$

Note that the $V^+(j)$'s satisfy (14) and (15). \square

D. Construction of the (A, b) pair

Let $G \in \mathcal{G}_{n,1}$ be rooted and reduced. In this subsection, we will construct a pair (A, b) in $\mathbb{V}(G)$ and show, toward the end of the section, that the pair is averaged controllable.

Since the edges of $G = (V, E)$ correspond one-to-one to the “free entries” of the (A, b) pair (specifically, edge $\alpha_j\alpha_i$ corresponds to entry a_{ij} and edge $\beta\alpha_i$ corresponds to entry b_i), we construct the matrix pair by assigning

to each edge of G a continuous function. As announced earlier, these functions will be of the form $f^{\nu(e)}$, where $f : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ is a continuous function and $\nu : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ determines the power of f . We define f and ν below.

1) *Construction of f :* Let (\mathcal{U}, ϕ) be a chart on Σ , i.e., \mathcal{U} is an open set in Σ and $\phi : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$ is a diffeomorphism, with $\mathcal{V} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ an open neighborhood of 0 in \mathbb{R}^n . Without loss of generality, we can assume that \mathcal{U} is contained in the support of the measure μ (introduced at the beginning of Subsection II-A) and that \mathcal{V} contains the closed unit ball B :

$$B := \{z \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \|z\| \leq 1\}.$$

Let $\tilde{f} : B \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be defined as:

$$\tilde{f}(z) := \|z\|. \quad (16)$$

Let $K := \phi^{-1}(B)$. We then define $f : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ as

$$f(\sigma) := \begin{cases} \tilde{f}(\phi(\sigma)) & \text{if } \sigma \in K, \\ 1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

It should be clear that f is continuous and that the set $\{f^k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ is linearly independent, where $f^0 = \mathbf{1}$ is the constant function taking value 1 everywhere. Further, we let \mathbb{F} be the uniform closure of the space spanned by f^k for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\mathbb{F} := \text{uniform closure of the span}\{f^k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}.$$

The following lemma follows directly from the Stone-Weierstrass theorem:

Lemma 6. *The space \mathbb{F} comprises all continuous functions $g : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that g is constant over $\Sigma - K$ and that $g(\sigma) = g(\sigma')$ for any two points $\sigma, \sigma' \in K$, with $\|\phi(\sigma)\| = \|\phi(\sigma')\|$.*

2) *Construction of ν :* Recall that $\text{dep}(\alpha_i)$ is the depth of α_i defined in (8). Relabel, if necessary, the α -nodes in G such that

$$\text{if } \text{dep}(\alpha_i) < \text{dep}(\alpha_j), \text{ then } i < j.$$

This can be done by using, for example, the breadth-first search algorithm. The labeling of the α -nodes of the graph shown in Figure 3 satisfies this property.

We will now partition the edge set E into five subsets E_i , for $i = 1, \dots, 5$, and define $\nu|_{E_i}$. Let $V_{\text{appx}} := V_{\text{cyc}}^+ - V_{\text{cyc}}$, and $G_{\text{appx}} = (V_{\text{appx}}, E_{\text{appx}})$ be the subgraph induced by V_{appx} . We call G_{appx} the appendix of G . Define the subsets E_i of E as follows:

$$\begin{cases} E_1 := E^*, \\ E_2 := \{v_i \alpha_j \in E \mid v_i \in G^* \text{ and } \alpha_j \in G_{\text{cyc}}\}, \\ E_3 := E_{\text{cyc}}, \\ E_4 := \{\alpha_i \alpha_j \in E \mid \alpha_i \in G_{\text{cyc}} \text{ and } \alpha_j \in G_{\text{appx}}\}, \\ E_5 := E_{\text{appx}}. \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

The edges in E_2 link nodes from G^* to G_{cyc} , and edges in E_4 link nodes from G_{cyc} to G_{appx} .

Let λ be a positive and *irrational* number, which we fix in the sequel. We now define $\nu(e)$ as follows:

Case 1: $e \in E_1$. We set $\nu(e) := 0$.

Case 2: $e \in E_2$. Let G_p be the cycle incident to e , and α_{p_0} be given as in (7). Then, e can be written as $e = v_i \alpha_{p_0}$. We set $\nu(e) := p_0 \lambda$.

Case 3: $e \in E_3$. Let G_p be the cycle that contains e . We write G_p explicitly as $G_p = \alpha_{p_0} \alpha_{p_1} \cdots \alpha_{p_{\ell_p-1}} \alpha_{p_0}$. Then, we set

$$\nu(e) := \begin{cases} \frac{\ell_p}{L} & \text{if } e = \alpha_{p_{\ell_p-1}} \alpha_{p_0} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where L is defined in (12).

Case 4: $e \in E_4$. Let G_p be the cycle and $\alpha_j \in G_{\text{appx}}$ be the node incident to e . We still let α_{p_0} be given as in (7). We then set $\nu(e) = (j - p_0) \lambda$. Note that $(j - p_0) > 0$ because $\text{dep}(\alpha_j) > \text{dep}(\alpha_{p_0})$.

Case 5: $e \in E_5$. We write $e = \alpha_i \alpha_j$ and set $\nu(e) := (j - i) \lambda$. Note that $(j - i) > 0$ because $\text{dep}(\alpha_j) - \text{dep}(\alpha_i) = 1$.

We illustrate the map ν in Figure 4 for the graph shown in Figure 3.

E. Computation of $C(A, b)$

Let $(A, b) \in \mathbb{V}(G)$ be given as above, and $C(A, b)$ be defined as in (2). In this subsection, we present explicit expressions of the entries of the matrix $C(A, b)$.

To this end, let \mathcal{T} be the set of walks in G . We extend $\nu : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ by defining the map over the set \mathcal{T} . Specifically, for a walk $\tau = v_{i_1} \cdots v_{i_k}$, we define

$$\nu(\tau) := \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \nu(v_{i_j} v_{i_{j+1}}). \quad (19)$$

Let τ be a walk from β to some α_i . We compute below $\nu(\tau)$. The case where $\alpha_i \in G^*$ is simple: The only walk from β to α_i in G is the path $\tau_{\beta \alpha_i}$, which is contained in G^* . Since $\nu(e) = 0$ for all $e \in G^*$, $\nu(\tau_{\beta \alpha_i}) = 0$. For the other cases, we have the following result:

Lemma 7. *Let $\alpha_i \in G_p^+$ and τ be a walk from β to α_i . Then,*

$$\nu(\tau) = \begin{cases} p_0 \lambda + \frac{\ell(\tau) - \text{dep}(\alpha_i)}{L} & \text{if } \alpha_i \in G_p, \\ i \lambda + \frac{\ell(\tau) - \text{dep}(\alpha_i)}{L} & \text{if } \alpha_i \in G_p^+ - G_p. \end{cases}$$

Proof. By Lemma 2, we can express τ as $\tau = \tau_{\beta \alpha_{p_0}} G_p^m \tau_{\alpha_{p_0} \alpha_i}$. It follows from (19) that

$$\nu(\tau) = \nu(\tau_{\beta \alpha_{p_0}}) + m \nu(G_p) + \nu(\tau_{\alpha_{p_0} \alpha_i}).$$

By construction of ν , we have that $\nu(\tau_{\beta \alpha_{p_0}}) = p_0 \lambda$, $\nu(G_p) = \frac{\ell_p}{L}$, and

$$\nu(\tau_{\alpha_{p_0} \alpha_i}) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \alpha_i \in G_p, \\ (i - p_0) \lambda & \text{if } \alpha_i \in G_p^+ - G_p. \end{cases}$$

Finally, by the fact that $\tau_{\beta \alpha_i} = \tau_{\beta \alpha_{p_0}} \tau_{\alpha_{p_0} \alpha_i}$ and $\text{dep}(\alpha_i) = \ell(\tau_{\beta \alpha_i})$, we have

$$m = \frac{\ell(\tau) - \text{dep}(\alpha_i)}{\ell_p},$$

which completes the proof. \square

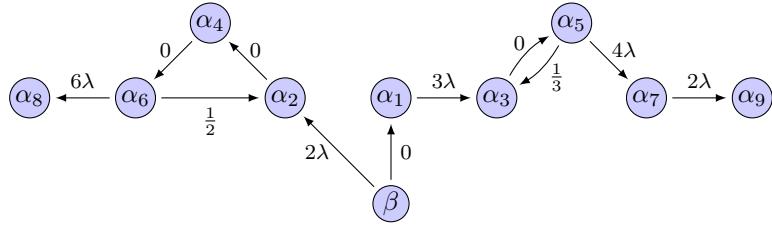


Fig. 4: Illustration of the map ν on the digraph G shown in Figure 3. The values of $\nu(e)$ are treated as edge weights and are shown on the corresponding edges e . The 5 subsets E_i , introduced in (18), are given by $E_1 := \{\beta\alpha_1\}$, $E_2 = \{\beta\alpha_2, \alpha_1\alpha_3\}$, $E_3 = \{\alpha_3\alpha_5, \alpha_5\alpha_3\} \cup \{\alpha_2\alpha_4, \alpha_4\alpha_6, \alpha_6\alpha_2\}$, $E_4 = \{\alpha_5\alpha_7, \alpha_6\alpha_8\}$, and $E_5 = \{\alpha_7\alpha_9\}$. Note that $L = 6$.

For a later purpose, we express $\nu(\tau)$ as a sum of two parts:

$$\nu(\tau) = \nu_1(\tau)\lambda + \nu_2(\tau)\frac{1}{L},$$

where $\nu_1(\tau)$ and $\nu_2(\tau)$ are given by

$$\nu_1(\tau) := \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \alpha_i \in G^*, \\ p_0 & \text{if } \alpha_i \in G_p \text{ for some cycle } G_p, \\ i & \text{if } \alpha_i \in G_{\text{appx}}. \end{cases} \quad (20)$$

and

$$\nu_2(\tau) := \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \alpha_i \in G^*, \\ \ell(\tau) - \text{dep}(\alpha_i) & \text{if } \alpha_i \in G_{\text{cyc}}^+. \end{cases} \quad (21)$$

We call $\nu_1(\tau)\lambda$ (resp. $\nu_2(\tau)/L$) the **irrational part** (resp., **rational part**) of $\nu(\tau)$.

Recall that $V(j)$ comprises all the α_i such that there is a walk τ of length j in G from β to α_i . By Lemma 3, such a walk τ is unique for each $\alpha_i \in V(j)$. Also, recall that the function $f : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ is defined in (16) and (17).

We have the following result for the matrix $C(A, b)$ introduced in (2):

Lemma 8. *Let c_{ij} be the ij th entry of $C(A, b)$. Then,*

$$c_{ij} = \begin{cases} \int_{\Sigma} f^{\nu(\tau)} d\mu & \text{if } \alpha_i \in V(j), \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where τ is the unique walk of length j from β to α_i .

Proof. The nonzero entries of (A, b) are by construction $f^{\nu(e)}$, with $e \in G$ the corresponding edges. It follows that the i th entry of the vector $A^{j-1}b$ is given by $\sum_{\tau} f^{\nu(\tau)}$, where the sum is over all walks in G of length j from β to α_i . By Lemma 3, such a walk, if exists, is unique. This completes the proof. \square

F. On a class of submatrices of $C(A, b)$

In this subsection, we focus on a special class of submatrices of $C(A, b)$, and show that every such submatrix has full rank. The result will be used in the next subsection to establish that the matrix $C(A, b)$ itself has full rank.

Let C_j be the j th column of $C(A, b)$, so c_{ij} is the i th entry of C_j . We define the support of C_j as $\text{supp}(C_j) := \{\alpha_i \in V_{\alpha} \mid c_{ij} \neq 0\}$. By construction, f is positive almost everywhere. It follows from Lemma 8 that

$$\text{supp}(C_j) = V(j) \quad \text{for all } j \geq 1. \quad (22)$$

Let j^* be a positive integer such that

$$j^* > n^* \quad \text{and} \quad j^* > \max_{p=1}^q (d_p - \ell_p), \quad (23)$$

so j^* satisfies the hypothesis of Lemma 5. Let L be given as in (12). Consider the column vectors C_{j^*+kL} , for $k \in \mathbb{N}$. By Lemma 5 and (22), all these columns share the same support. Let $V' = \{\alpha'_1, \dots, \alpha'_m\}$ be the common support, which is a subset of V_{cyc}^+ . Let C' be the submatrix of C obtained by first taking the columns C_{j^*+kL} , for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$, and then removing the zero rows, i.e.,

$$C' := [C_{j^*}, C_{j^*+L}, C_{j^*+2L}, \dots] \big|_{V'}. \quad (24)$$

Let c'_{ij} be the ij th entry of C' . We can express c'_{ij} explicitly. Since $\alpha'_i \in V'$, there exists a unique walk, denoted by τ_{ij} , of length $(j^* + (j-1)L)$ from β to α'_i . Also, note that τ_{ij} can be obtained from τ_{i1} by inserting the closed walk $G_p^{(j-1)L/\ell_p}$ for some $p = 1, \dots, q$. Thus, by Lemma 7,

$$\nu(\tau_{ij}) = \nu(\tau_{i1}) + \frac{(j-1)L}{\ell_p} \nu(G_p) = \nu(\tau_{i1}) + j - 1.$$

For ease of notation, let $\tau_i := \tau_{i1}$. It then follows from Lemma 8 that

$$c'_{ij} = \int_{\Sigma} f^{\nu(\tau_i) + j - 1} d\mu. \quad (25)$$

We will now establish the following result:

Lemma 9. *The submatrix C' given in (24) has full rank, i.e., rank m .*

Proof. The proof has two parts. In the first part, we show that $\nu(\tau_1), \dots, \nu(\tau_m)$ are pairwise distinct. Building upon this fact and Lemma 6, we show in the second part that the matrix C' has full rank.

Part 1: Proof that $\nu(\tau_1), \dots, \nu(\tau_m)$ are pairwise distinct. For any two numbers $\nu(\tau_i)$ and $\nu(\tau_{i'})$, with $i \neq i'$, we show that their difference is nonzero. From Lemma 7, we have that

$$\nu(\tau_i) - \nu(\tau_{i'}) = (\nu_1(\tau_i) - \nu_1(\tau_{i'}))\lambda + (\nu_2(\tau_i) - \nu_2(\tau_{i'}))\frac{1}{L}, \quad (26)$$

where ν_1 and ν_2 are defined in (20) and (21), respectively. Since λ is irrational, to show that (26) is nonzero, it suffices to show that $\nu_1(\tau_i) \neq \nu_1(\tau_{i'})$.

The ending nodes of τ_i and $\tau_{i'}$ are α'_i and $\alpha'_{i'}$, respectively. We claim that α'_i and $\alpha'_{i'}$ do not belong to the same cycle. Suppose not, say $\alpha'_i, \alpha'_{i'} \in G_p$ for some $p = 1, \dots, q$; then, by Lemma 2 and by the fact that τ_i and $\tau_{i'}$ have the same length j^* , the two walks τ_i and $\tau_{i'}$ have to be the same:

$$\tau_i = \tau_{i'} = \tau_{\beta \alpha_{p_0}} G_p^m \tau_{\alpha_{p_0} \alpha_{p_k}},$$

where α_{p_k} is the unique node in G_p such that $k \equiv_{\ell} j^* - \text{dep}(\alpha_{p_0})$. But then, $\alpha'_i = \alpha'_{i'} = \alpha_{p_k}$, which is a contradiction. Since α'_i and $\alpha'_{i'}$ do not belong to the same cycle, we conclude from (20) that $\nu_1(\tau_i) \neq \nu_1(\tau_{i'})$.

Part 2: Proof that C' has full rank. We show that the only solution $v \in \mathbb{R}^m$ to $v^\top C'$ is $v = 0$. We write $v = (v_1, \dots, v_m)$ and let $g := \sum_{i=1}^m v_i f^{\nu(\tau_i)}$. Then, by (25), $v^\top M = 0$ implies that

$$\int g f^k d\mu = 0, \quad \text{for all } k \in \mathbb{N}. \quad (27)$$

By Lemma 6, any function f^r , for $r \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$, belongs to \mathbb{F} . Thus, g belongs to \mathbb{F} as well. Since the uniform closure of the linear span of $\{f^k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ is \mathbb{F} , (27) can hold if and only if $g = 0$. Because $\nu(\tau_1), \dots, \nu(\tau_m)$ are pairwise distinct, the functions $f^{\nu(\tau_1)}, \dots, f^{\nu(\tau_m)}$ are linearly independent. Thus, $\sum_{i=1}^m v_i f^{\nu(\tau_i)} = 0$ can hold if and only if $v = 0$. \square

G. Proof that (A, b) is averaged controllable

In this subsection, we complete the proof for the sufficiency part of Theorem 1. Let (A, b) be given as in Subsection III-D. We establish the following result:

Proposition 5. *The matrix $C(A, b)$ has full rank.*

Proof. We exhibit below n linearly independent column vectors out of $C(A, b)$.

Recall that n^* is the order of the core G^* . We claim that the first n^* columns of $C(A, b)$ are linearly independent. To wit, note that G^* is a path without self-loop. For any node $\alpha_i \in G^*$, the i th row has a unique nonzero entry, namely, $c_{i, \text{dep}(\alpha_i)}$. More specifically, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} c_{ij} &= \delta_{\text{dep}(\alpha_i), j} \int_{\Sigma} f^{\nu(\tau_{\beta \alpha_i})} d\mu \\ &= \delta_{\text{dep}(\alpha_i), j} \int_{\Sigma} \mathbf{1} d\mu = \delta_{\text{dep}(\alpha_i), j}, \end{aligned}$$

where δ is the Kronecker delta. This establishes the claim. If $n^* = n$, then the proof is complete. Otherwise, we let $n^+ := n - n^*$ be the order of G_{cyc}^+ . Let j^* be a positive integer satisfying (23). By Lemma 5, $V(j)$ does not intersect V^* for all $j \geq j^*$. Thus, if there exist n^+ linearly independent vectors out of $\{C_j\}_{j \geq j^*}$, then these n^+ vectors, together with the first n^* columns of $C(A, b)$, form a basis of \mathbb{R}^n . We exhibit below these n^+ columns.

Let ℓ_{max} and L be given as in (12). We define subsets V'_ℓ , for $\ell = 0, \dots, \ell_{\text{max}} - 1$, of V_{cyc}^+ as follows: Set $V'_0 := V(j^*)$ and

$$V'_\ell := V(j^* + \ell) - \cup_{k=0}^{\ell-1} V(j^* + k), \quad \text{for } 1 \leq \ell \leq \ell_{\text{max}} - 1.$$

By Lemma 5, these subsets are nonempty and form a partition of V_{cyc}^+ . Let $m_\ell := |V'_\ell|$, so $n^+ = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\ell_{\text{max}}-1} m_\ell$. Next, for each $\ell = 0, \dots, \ell_{\text{max}} - 1$, we define subsets of \mathbb{R}^n as follows:

$$\mathbf{C}_\ell := \{C_{j^* + \ell + kL} \mid k \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

Since $\ell_{\text{max}} \leq L$, if $\ell \neq \ell'$, then $\mathbf{C}_\ell \cap \mathbf{C}_{\ell'} = \emptyset$. We will now select for each $\ell = 0, \dots, \ell_{\text{max}} - 1$, m_ℓ columns out of \mathbf{C}_ℓ , and show that the total n^+ columns are linearly independent.

By Lemma 5 and (22), all the columns in \mathbf{C}_ℓ share the same support, given by $V(j^* + \ell)$, which contains V'_ℓ as a subset. Since the subsets V'_ℓ form a partition of V_{cyc}^+ , it suffices to show that for each ℓ , there exist m_ℓ vectors $C_{j_1}, \dots, C_{j_{m_\ell}}$ out of \mathbf{C}_ℓ such that the sub-vectors $C_{j_1}|_{V'_\ell}, \dots, C_{j_{m_\ell}}|_{V'_\ell}$ are linearly independent. But this follows from Lemma 9: To wit, the following submatrix of $C(A, b)$:

$$[C_{j^* + \ell}, C_{j^* + \ell + L}, C_{j^* + \ell + 2L}, \dots] \big|_{V(j^* + \ell)} \quad (28)$$

has full rank, so its rows are linearly independent. It follows that if we replace $V(j^* + \ell)$ with its subset V'_ℓ , then the resulting submatrix is still of full rank, i.e., of rank m_ℓ . This completes the proof. \square

IV. CONCLUSIONS

We have provided a complete characterization of the sparsity patterns G that are structurally averaged controllable for the class of linear ensemble systems with single inputs. Specifically, we have shown in Theorem 1 that G is structurally averaged controllable if and only if it is rooted (at the node that corresponds to the scalar control input) and, moreover, its core G^* , obtained by removing from G the cycles and their successors, contains a directed spanning path. We will extend the result to the multi-input case in the future work.

REFERENCES

- [1] B. Gharesifard and X. Chen. "Structural averaged controllability of linear ensemble systems". *IEEE Control Systems Letters* 6 (2021), pp. 518–523.
- [2] C.-T. Lin. "Structural Controllability". *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control* 19.3 (1974), pp. 201–208.
- [3] R. Brockett and N. Khaneja. "On the stochastic control of quantum ensembles". *System Theory*. Springer, 2000, pp. 75–96.
- [4] J.-S. Li and N. Khaneja. "Control of inhomogeneous quantum ensembles". *Physical Review A* 73.3 (2006), p. 030302.
- [5] X. Chen. "Sparse linear ensemble systems and structural controllability". *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control* 67.7 (2021), pp. 3337–3348.
- [6] U. Helmke and M. Schönlein. "Uniform ensemble controllability for one-parameter families of time-invariant linear systems". *Systems & Control Letters* 71 (2014), pp. 69–77.

- [7] J.-S. Li and J. Qi. "Ensemble control of time-invariant linear systems with linear parameter variation". *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control* 61.10 (2015), pp. 2808–2820.
- [8] A. Agrachev, Y. Baryshnikov, and A. Sarychev. "Ensemble controllability by Lie algebraic methods". *ESAIM: Control, Optimisation and Calculus of Variations* 22.4 (2016), pp. 921–938.
- [9] X. Chen. "Structure theory for ensemble controllability, observability, and duality". *Mathematics of Control, Signals, and Systems* 31.2 (2019), pp. 1–40.
- [10] G. Dirr and M. Schönlein. "Uniform and L^q -ensemble reachability of parameter-dependent linear systems". *Journal of Differential Equations* 283 (2021), pp. 216–262.
- [11] X. Chen. "Controllability issues of linear ensemble systems over multidimensional parameterization spaces". *SIAM Journal on Control and Optimization* 61.4 (2023), pp. 2425–2447.
- [12] B. Danhane, J. Lohéac, and M. Jungers. "Conditions for uniform ensemble output controllability, and obstruction to uniform ensemble controllability". *Mathematical Control and Related Fields* 14.3 (2024), pp. 1128–1175.
- [13] E. Zuazua. "Averaged control". *Automatica* 50.12 (2014), pp. 3077–3087.
- [14] R. Tarjan. "Depth-first search and linear graph algorithms". *SIAM Journal on Computing* 1.2 (1972), pp. 146–160.



Bahman Gharesifard (Senior Member, IEEE) received the B.Sc. degree in Mechanical Engineering, in 2002, and the M.Sc. degree in Control and Dynamics, in 2005, from Shiraz University, Iran, and Ph.D. in Mathematics from Queen's University, Canada, in 2009. He is a Professor with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Queen's University, where has been appointed since 2013. He was a Professor with the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at the University of

California, Los Angeles from 2021 to 2024, where he was the Area Director for Signals and Systems 2023-2024. He was an Alexander von Humboldt research fellow with the Institute for Systems Theory and Automatic Control at the University of Stuttgart in 2019-2020. He held postdoctoral positions with the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at University of California, San Diego (2009-2012) and with the Coordinated Science Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2012-2013). He received the 2019 CAIMS-PIMS Early Career Award, jointly awarded by the Canadian Applied and Industrial Math Society and the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences, an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation research fellowship for experienced researchers in 2019, an NSERC Discovery Accelerator in 2019, the SIAG/CST Best SICON Paper Prize in 2021, and the Canadian Society for Information Theory (CSIT) Best Paper Award in 2022. He has served on the Conference Editorial Board of the IEEE Control Systems Society 2016-2020, and is currently an Associate Editor for the IEEE CONTROL SYSTEM LETTERS and IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON NETWORK CONTROL SYSTEMS. His research interests include systems and controls, distributed control, distributed optimization, machine learning, social and economic networks, game theory, geometric control theory, geometric mechanics, and applied Riemannian geometry.



Xudong Chen is an Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical and Systems Engineering at Washington University in St. Louis. He obtained the B.S. degree in Electronic Engineering from Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, in 2009, and the Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering from Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 2014. He is an awardee of the 2020 Air Force Young Investigator Program, a recipient of the 2021 NSF Career Award, the recipient of the 2021

Donald P. Eckman Award, and the recipient of the 2023 A.V. Balakrishnan Early Career Award. His current research interests are in the area of control theory, stochastic processes, optimization, network science, and game theory.