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► **To cite this version:**

Yacine Chitour, Paolo Mason, Mario Sigalotti. Quasi-Barabanov Semigroups and Finiteness of the L_2 -Induced Gain for Switched Linear Control Systems: Case of Full-State Observation. 54th IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC), Dec 2015, Osaka, Japan. 10.1109/cdc.2015.7402985 . hal-01216017

HAL Id: hal-01216017

<https://inria.hal.science/hal-01216017>

Submitted on 11 Apr 2020

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Quasi-Barabanov semigroups and finiteness of the L_2 -induced gain for switched linear control systems: case of full-state observation

Yacine Chitour, Paolo Mason, Mario Sigalotti

Abstract—Motivated by an open problem posed by J.P. Hespanha we extend the notion of Barabanov norm and extremal trajectory to general classes of switching signals. As a consequence we characterize the finiteness of the L_2 -induced gain for a large set of switched linear control systems in case of full-state observation in terms of the sign of the generalized spectral radius associated with minimal realizations of the original switched system.

I. INTRODUCTION

Let n, m, p be integers and τ a positive real number. Consider a switched linear control system

$$\dot{x} = A_\sigma x + B_\sigma u, \quad y = C_\sigma x + D_\sigma u, \quad (x, u, y) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^p,$$

where σ is in the class Σ_τ of piecewise constant signals with dwell time τ taking values in a fixed finite set P of indices. Define the L_2 -induced gain

$$\gamma_2(\tau) = \sup \left\{ \frac{\|y_u\|_2}{\|u\|_2} \mid u \in L_2((0, \infty), \mathbb{R}^m) \setminus \{0\}, \sigma \in \Sigma_\tau \right\}$$

where $y_{u,\sigma}$ is the output corresponding to the trajectory of the system associated with u and σ starting at the origin at time $t = 0$. In [5], Hespanha asked the following questions: (i) under which conditions is the function $\tau \mapsto \gamma_2(\tau)$ bounded? (ii) when γ_2 is not a bounded function over $(0, \infty)$, how to compute τ_{\min} , the the infimum of the dwell-times $\tau > 0$ for which $\gamma_2(\tau)$ is finite? (iii) how regular is γ_2 ?

In [6], Hespanha proved the surprising fact that, in general, $\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_2(\tau) > \max_{\sigma \in P} \gamma_2^\sigma$, where γ_2^σ denotes the L_2 -induced gain of the time-invariant control system where $\sigma(\cdot) \equiv \sigma$. These results have been improved in [8], where $\gamma_2(\tau)$ is characterized in terms of a suitable switched Riccati equation, in the spirit of H_∞ theory and worst-case switching laws. Similar questions have been considered in [7] for other classes of switching signals (average dwell-time, persistent-dwell time, ...). In the latter work a crucial hypothesis for a class of switching signals has been put forward, namely, that of closure under concatenation.

In this paper we answer question (i) and characterize τ_{\min} from question (ii) in the case of full-state observation (i.e., $y = x$), both for classes Σ_τ of dwell-time switching signals as in [5] and for other classes Σ of switching signals which are not closed under concatenation. The key tool in

our analysis is an extension of the notions of Barabanov norm and extremal trajectory [2] (see also [11]). The lack of closure under concatenation has been already addressed by Wirth in [12], where the author proves the continuity of the map $\tau \mapsto \rho(\tau)$, where $\rho(\tau)$ denotes the generalized spectral radius associated with the switched linear system $\dot{x} = A_\sigma x$ for $\sigma \in \Sigma_\tau$. The approach followed by Wirth is to build parameterized families of norms behaving as extremal norms on suitable subsets of Σ_τ .

The construction adopted here to tackle the lack of closure under concatenation, although reminiscent of that of [12], follows a different path. We require that the class of switching signals Σ admits at least one subset $\hat{\Sigma}$, large enough to encompass the asymptotic properties of the switched system $\dot{x} = A_\sigma x$ and well-behaved with respect to concatenation. The flows associated with $\hat{\Sigma}$ define a semigroup of matrices, which we call *quasi-Barabanov semigroup*. Its analysis allows us to point out the role played by special trajectories, which we call *quasi-extremal* and which describe the asymptotic worst-case behavior of the original switched system. Combining the notions of quasi-Barabanov semigroup and quasi-extremal trajectory with the characterization of controllability and observability for switched linear control systems given in [10] we prove, under full-state observation, that γ_2 is finite if and only if $\rho_{\min} < 1$, where ρ_{\min} is the generalized spectral radius associated with a minimal realization of the original switched control system (analogue to the situation in the unswitched case when one reduces the original problem to the controllable part of the system and then to the observable part of the latter system). In case of partial-state observation the situation is more complicated as we illustrate by means of an example: we construct a 3-dimensional switched linear control system with piecewise constant arbitrary switch which is controllable, observable, has finite L_2 -induced gain, and whose uncontrolled dynamics have generalized spectral radius equal to one.

II. PRELIMINARIES

A. Problem formulation

The set of $n \times m$ matrices with real entries is denoted $M_{n,m}(\mathbb{R})$ and simply $M_n(\mathbb{R})$ if $n = m$. We use $\|\cdot\|$ to denote a norm on \mathbb{R}^n and also the induced operator norm on $M_n(\mathbb{R})$. A subset \mathcal{M} of $M_n(\mathbb{R})$ is said to be irreducible if an invariant subspace by the elements of \mathcal{M} is either $\{0\}$ or \mathbb{R}^n . For every $s, t \geq 0$ and $A \in L_\infty([s, s+t], M_n(\mathbb{R}))$, denote by $\overrightarrow{\exp} \int_s^{s+t} A(\tau) d\tau \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$ the flow (or fundamental matrix) of $\dot{x}(\tau) = A(\tau)x(\tau)$ from time s to time $s+t$.

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Consider switched linear control systems of the type

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}(t) &= A(t)x(t) + B(t)u(t), \\ y(t) &= C(t)x(t) + D(t)u(t), \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $u \in \mathbb{R}^m$, $y \in \mathbb{R}^p$, $(A(\cdot), B(\cdot), C(\cdot), D(\cdot))$ belongs to a class \mathcal{T} of measurable switching laws taking values on a bounded set of triples of matrices $\mathcal{M}_A \times \mathcal{M}_B \times \mathcal{M}_C \times \mathcal{M}_D \subset M_n(\mathbb{R}) \times M_{n,m}(\mathbb{R}) \times M_{p,n}(\mathbb{R}) \times M_{p,m}(\mathbb{R})$. We use π_A and $\pi_{A \times B}$ to denote the projections on the first and the first two factors respectively and we set $\mathcal{T}_A = \pi_A(\mathcal{T})$ and $\mathcal{T}_{A \times B} = \pi_{A \times B}(\mathcal{T})$ respectively. Let L_2 be the Hilbert space of measurable functions $u(\cdot)$ defined on $[0, \infty)$ with finite L_2 -norm, i.e., $\|u\|_2 := \left(\int_0^\infty \|u(t)\|^2 dt \right)^{1/2}$ is finite.

For $u \in L_2$ and $(A(\cdot), B(\cdot), C(\cdot), D(\cdot)) \in \mathcal{T}$, let x_u be the trajectory of Eq. (1) starting at the origin which is associated with u and $(A(\cdot), B(\cdot), C(\cdot), D(\cdot))$ and y_u the corresponding output. Finally, define the L_2 -induced gain γ_2 associated with \mathcal{T} by

$$\gamma_2(\mathcal{T}) := \sup \left\{ \frac{\|y_u\|_2}{\|u\|_2} \mid u \in L_2 \setminus \{0\}, (A(\cdot), B(\cdot), C(\cdot), D(\cdot)) \in \mathcal{T} \right\}. \quad (2)$$

We investigate conditions insuring the finiteness of $\gamma_2(\mathcal{T})$.

B. Classes of switching functions

We introduce in this section several standard classes of switching parameters which can meaningfully play the role of \mathcal{T}_A in the framework described above. All classes are contained in $L_\infty([0, \infty), \mathcal{M})$, for some set $\mathcal{M} \subset M_n(\mathbb{R})$ (playing the role of \mathcal{M}_A in the notations above).

- $\mathcal{S}_{\text{arb}}(\mathcal{M})$ is the class of *arbitrarily switching signals*, i.e. $\mathcal{S}_{\text{arb}}(\mathcal{M}) = L_\infty([0, \infty), \mathcal{M})$;
- $\mathcal{S}_{\text{pc}}(\mathcal{M})$ is the class of piecewise constant signals;
- $\mathcal{S}_{\text{d}, \tau}(\mathcal{M})$ is the class of piecewise constant signals with *dwell-time* $\tau > 0$, i.e., such that the distance between two switching times is at least τ (notice that $\mathcal{S}_{\text{pc}}(\mathcal{M})$ can be seen as $\mathcal{S}_{\text{d}, 0}(\mathcal{M})$);
- $\mathcal{S}_{\text{BV}, T, \nu}(\mathcal{M})$ is the class of (T, ν) -BV signals, i.e., the signals whose restriction to every interval of length T has total variation at most ν , that is, $A(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{BV}, T, \nu}(\mathcal{M})$ if and only if

$$\sup_{\substack{t \geq 0, k \in \mathbb{N} \\ t = t_0 \leq t_1 \leq \dots \leq t_k = t + T}} \sum_{i=1}^k \|A(t_i) - A(t_{i-1})\| \leq \nu.$$

III. ADAPTED NORMS FOR SWITCHED SYSTEMS WITH CONCATENABLE SUBFAMILIES

We consider in this section a switched system $\dot{x}(t) = A(t)x(t)$ where $A(\cdot)$ belongs to a class \mathcal{S} of measurable switching laws taking values in a bounded set $\mathcal{M} \subset M_n(\mathbb{R})$.

From now on the family \mathcal{S} is assumed to be shift-invariant, and we define the corresponding *generalized spectral radius* (see e.g. [12]) as

$$\rho(\mathcal{S}) = \limsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \sup_{A(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S}} \left\| \overrightarrow{\exp} \int_0^t A(\tau) d\tau \right\|^{1/t}. \quad (3)$$

Notice that, since \mathcal{M} is bounded then $\rho(\mathcal{S})$ is finite.

Given two signals $A_j : [0, t_j] \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$, $j = 1, 2$, we denote by $A_1 * A_2 : [0, t_1 + t_2] \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ the *concatenation of A_1 and A_2* , i.e., the signal coinciding with $A_1(\cdot)$ on $[0, t_1]$ and with $A_2(\cdot - t_1)$ on $(t_1, t_1 + t_2]$.

A. Concatenable subfamilies

Consider a set $\mathcal{F} = \cup_{t \geq 0} \mathcal{F}_t$ with $\mathcal{F}_t \subset L_\infty([0, t], \mathcal{M})$, $t \geq 0$. Define

$$\hat{\mathcal{S}} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} A_1 * A_2 * \dots * A_k * \dots \mid A_k \in \mathcal{F}_{t_k} \\ \text{for } k \in \mathbb{N}, \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} t_k = \infty \end{array} \right\}$$

and $\hat{\mathcal{R}} = \cup_{t \geq 0} \hat{\mathcal{R}}_t$, where, for every $t \geq 0$, $\hat{\mathcal{R}}_t = \left\{ \overrightarrow{\exp} \int_0^t A(\tau) d\tau \mid A(\cdot) \in \mathcal{F}_t \right\}$. Let, moreover,

$$\mu(\mathcal{F}) = \limsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \left(\sup \left\{ \|R_t\|^{1/t} \mid R_t \in \hat{\mathcal{R}}_t \right\} \right),$$

with the convention that the quantity inside the parenthesis is equal to 0 if \mathcal{F}_t is empty. Notice that $\mu(\mathcal{F}) \leq \rho(\hat{\mathcal{S}})$, but the converse is in general not guaranteed since the computation of $\rho(\hat{\mathcal{S}})$ takes into account all intermediate instants between two concatenation times, unlike the one of $\mu(\mathcal{F})$.

The results which follow are obtained taking as hypotheses some of the assumptions below, which list the main properties that one may require on \mathcal{F} and $\hat{\mathcal{S}}$.

- A1 (**concatenability**) $\mathcal{F}_s * \mathcal{F}_t \subseteq \mathcal{F}_{s+t}$ for every $s, t \geq 0$;
- A2 (**irreducibility**) $\hat{\mathcal{R}}$ is irreducible;
- A3 (**fatness**) $\hat{\mathcal{S}} \subseteq \mathcal{S}$ and there exist two constants $C, \Delta \geq 0$ and a compact subset \mathcal{K} of $\text{GL}(n)$ such that for every $s, t \geq 0$ and $A(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S}$, there exist $K \in \mathcal{K}$, $\hat{t} \in [t, t + \Delta]$, and $Q \in \hat{\mathcal{R}}_{\hat{t}}$ such that

$$\left\| \overrightarrow{\exp} \int_s^{s+t} A(\tau) d\tau K Q^{-1} \right\| \leq C. \quad (4)$$

Moreover, if $A \in \hat{\mathcal{S}}$ and $s = 0$, one can take $K = I_n$ in (4).

Remark 1: As consequence of the definition of $\hat{\mathcal{S}}$, if $A \in \mathcal{F}$ and $B \in \hat{\mathcal{S}}$, then $A * B \in \hat{\mathcal{S}}$. Moreover, as a consequence of Assumption **A1**, one has that $\hat{\mathcal{R}}_s \hat{\mathcal{R}}_t \subset \hat{\mathcal{R}}_{s+t}$ for every $s, t \geq 0$. Hence $\hat{\mathcal{R}}$ is a semigroup and Assumption **A2** above is equivalent to the following one

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}, \text{ the linear span of } \hat{\mathcal{R}}x \text{ is equal to } \mathbb{R}^n. \quad (5)$$

As in [11], one then says that $\hat{\mathcal{R}}$ is an irreducible semigroup.

Natural choices of \mathcal{F} for the classes considered in the previous section are

- \mathcal{F}_{arb} arbitrarily switching signals on finite intervals;
- \mathcal{F}_{pc} piecewise constant signals on finite intervals;
- $\mathcal{F}_{\text{d}, \tau}$ piecewise constant signals on finite intervals with dwell-time τ and such that the first and last subintervals on which the signal is constant have length at least τ (notice that $(\mathcal{F}_{\text{d}, \tau})_t = \emptyset$ for $t < \tau$);
- $\mathcal{F}_{\text{BV}, T, \nu}$ (T, ν) -BV signals on finite intervals $[0, t]$, $t \geq T$, starting and ending at some $\bar{M} \in \mathcal{M}$ fixed independently on the signal and constant on $[t - T, t]$.

With these choices of \mathcal{F} Assumption **A1** is automatically satisfied. Assumption **A3** is also easy to check. Indeed, every restriction $A|_{[s, s+t]}$ of a signal in one of the classes \mathcal{S} introduced in Section II-B can be extended to a signal $A_1 * A|_{[s, s+t]}(s + \cdot) * A_2$ in the corresponding class \mathcal{F} , with $A_j : [0, t_j] \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$, $j = 1, 2$, and $t_1, t_2 \leq t_*$ for some t_* uniform with respect to $A(\cdot) \in \mathcal{S}$, and $s, t \geq 0$.

As for Assumption **A2**, we have the following result.

Proposition 2: Let \mathcal{M} be a bounded subset of $M_n(\mathbb{R})$, \mathcal{S} a class of switching signals taking values in \mathcal{M} and $\hat{\mathcal{S}}$ a subset of \mathcal{S} . Assume that \mathcal{S} verifies in addition the following assumption.

A4 (piecewise-constant richness) there exists $\kappa \in \mathbb{N}$ such that, given any finite sequence $M_0, \dots, M_K \in \mathcal{M}$, there exist $M_{-\kappa}, \dots, M_{-1}, M_{K+1}, \dots, M_{K+\kappa} \in \mathcal{M}$ and $I_{-\kappa}, \dots, I_{K+\kappa}$ open nonempty intervals in $(0, \infty)$ such that for every $t_j \in I_j$, $j = -\kappa, \dots, K + \kappa$, the concatenation $A_{-\kappa} * \dots * A_{K+\kappa}$ is in \mathcal{F} , where $A_j : [0, t_j] \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ is constantly equal to M_j , $j = -\kappa, \dots, K + \kappa$.

If \mathcal{M} is irreducible then **A2** is satisfied.

Proof: See [4] for a proof. ■

B. Quasi-Barabanov semigroups

The main goal of this section consists in proving the result below.

Theorem 3: Given a class \mathcal{S} , assume that there exists a class $\hat{\mathcal{S}}$ such that Assumptions **A1–A3** are satisfied. Then there exists a constant $C \geq 1$ such that for any $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$ there exist a trajectory $x : t \mapsto \overrightarrow{\exp} \int_0^t A(\tau) d\tau x_0$ with A belonging to the weak- \star closure of $\hat{\mathcal{S}}$ such that for every $t \geq 0$, $\frac{1}{C} \rho(\mathcal{S})^t \|x_0\| \leq \|x(t)\| \leq C \rho(\mathcal{S})^t \|x_0\|$.

For that purpose, we introduce the following definitions. Let \mathcal{M} , \mathcal{F} , $\hat{\mathcal{S}}$, and $\hat{\mathcal{R}}$ as in the previous section.

Definition 4: 1) We say that $\hat{\mathcal{R}}$ is a *quasi-extremal semigroup* if there exists $C_{qe} > 0$ such that, for every $t \geq 0$ and $R \in \hat{\mathcal{R}}_t$, one has

$$\|R\| \leq C_{qe} \mu(\mathcal{F})^t. \quad (6)$$

2) A quasi-extremal semigroup $\hat{\mathcal{R}}$ is said to be *quasi-Barabanov* if there exists $C_{qb} > 0$ such that for every $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $t \geq 0$ there exist $t' \geq t$ and R in $\hat{\mathcal{R}}_{t'}$ such that

$$\|Rx\| \geq C_{qb} \mu(\mathcal{F})^{t'} \|x\|. \quad (7)$$

3) A trajectory $x : t \mapsto \overrightarrow{\exp} \int_0^t A(\tau) d\tau x_0$ with $x_0 \neq 0$ and $A(\cdot)$ belonging to the weak- \star closure of $\hat{\mathcal{S}}$ is said to be *quasi-extremal with constant* $C_{qx} \geq 1$ if for every $t \geq 0$,

$$\frac{1}{C_{qx}} \mu(\mathcal{F})^t \|x_0\| \leq \|x(t)\| \leq C_{qx} \mu(\mathcal{F})^t \|x_0\|. \quad (8)$$

4) A quasi-extremal semigroup $\hat{\mathcal{R}}$ is said to be *extremal* if there exists a norm w on \mathbb{R}^n such that for every $t \geq 0$ and $R \in \hat{\mathcal{R}}_t$, one has $\|R\|_w \leq \mu(\mathcal{F})^t$. In this case we say that w is *extremal* for $\hat{\mathcal{R}}$.

An extremal norm w is said to be *Barabanov* for $\hat{\mathcal{R}}$ if the latter is a quasi-Barabanov semigroup and for every $t \geq 0$ and $C_{qb} < 1$, there exist $t' \geq t$ and R in $\hat{\mathcal{R}}_{t'}$ such that $\|R\|_w \geq C_{qb} \mu(\mathcal{F})^{t'}$.

Given an extremal semigroup $\hat{\mathcal{R}}$, a trajectory $x : t \mapsto \overrightarrow{\exp} \int_0^t A(\tau) d\tau x_0$ with $x_0 \neq 0$ and A in the weak- \star closure of $\hat{\mathcal{S}}$ is said to be *extremal for* $\hat{\mathcal{R}}$ (and for the corresponding extremal norm w) if $w(x(t)) = \mu(\mathcal{F})^t w(x_0)$ for every $t \geq 0$.

Remark 5: If $\hat{\mathcal{R}}$ is quasi-extremal, then (6) holds true for every $t \geq 0$ and R belonging to the closure of $\hat{\mathcal{R}}_t$. The same is true if $R = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} R_k$, where $R_k \in \hat{\mathcal{R}}_{t_k}$ and $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} t_k = t$.

Notice moreover that for every $A(\cdot)$ in the weak- \star closure of \mathcal{F}_t , $\overrightarrow{\exp} \int_0^t A(\tau) d\tau$ is in the closure of $\hat{\mathcal{R}}_t$. This is a consequence of the continuity of the map $L_\infty([0, t], \mathcal{M}) \ni A(\cdot) \mapsto \overrightarrow{\exp} \int_0^t A(\tau) d\tau \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$ with respect to the weak- \star closure in $L_\infty([0, t], \mathcal{M})$ (see, for instance, [3, Proposition 21]).

Lemma 6: Let Assumptions **A1** and **A3** be satisfied. If $\hat{\mathcal{R}}$ is a quasi-Barabanov semigroup then there exists $C_{qx} \geq 1$ such that any nonzero point of \mathbb{R}^n is the initial condition of a quasi-extremal trajectory with constant C_{qx} .

Proof: See [4] for the complete argument. ■

Set

$$\hat{\mathcal{R}}_\infty = \{R \mid \exists t_k \rightarrow \infty, R_{t_k} \in \hat{\mathcal{R}}_{t_k}, \text{ such that } \mu(\mathcal{F})^{-t_k} R_{t_k} \rightarrow R\}.$$

Following the same proof as in [11, Proposition 3.2], one can prove the proposition below.

Proposition 7: Let **A1**, **A2** be satisfied and define $\hat{\mathcal{R}}$ and $\hat{\mathcal{R}}_\infty$ as above. Then

- (i) $\hat{\mathcal{R}}_\infty$ is compact and not reduced to $\{0\}$;
- (ii) $\hat{\mathcal{R}}_\infty$ is a semigroup;
- (iii) for every $t \geq 0$, $T \in \hat{\mathcal{R}}_t$ and $S \in \hat{\mathcal{R}}_\infty$, both $\mu(\mathcal{F})^{-t} TS$ and $\mu(\mathcal{F})^{-t} ST$ belong to $\hat{\mathcal{R}}_\infty$;
- (iv) $\hat{\mathcal{R}}_\infty$ is irreducible.

The following result can be proven as in [11, Lemma 3.4].

Proposition 8: Let **A1**, **A2** be satisfied and define $\hat{\mathcal{S}}$ and $\hat{\mathcal{R}}_\infty$ as above. Let $\hat{v} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ be the function defined by

$$\hat{v}(x) = \max_{R \in \hat{\mathcal{R}}_\infty} \|Rx\|. \quad (9)$$

Then \hat{v} is an extremal norm for $\hat{\mathcal{R}}$.

We have the following result.

Proposition 9: Let the class $\hat{\mathcal{S}}$ satisfy Assumptions **A1–A3**. Then $\hat{\mathcal{R}}$ is an extremal and quasi-Barabanov semigroup.

Proof: See [4] for the complete argument. ■

As a consequence of Lemma 6, we have the following.

Corollary 10: Let $\hat{\mathcal{S}}$ satisfy Assumptions **A1–A3**. Then there exists $C_{qx} \geq 1$ such that \hat{v} admits quasi-extremal trajectories starting at any nonzero point of \mathbb{R}^n .

Theorem 3 follows directly from Corollary 10 and the remark that **A3** implies the equality $\rho(\mathcal{S}) = \mu(\mathcal{F})$.

IV. L_2 -INDUCED GAIN FOR SWITCHED LINEAR CONTROL SYSTEMS

In this section we establish a first result on the finiteness of the L_2 -induced gain associated with a switched linear control and a class \mathcal{T} of signals in the case where the output map y is equal to the full state x .

A. Minimal realization for a switched linear control system

Given a system of the type (1) associated with a class of signals \mathcal{T} , we first consider the corresponding objects when the dynamics is reduced to the reachable and observable sets, which are defined next. In what follows the matrix $D(\cdot)$ appearing in (1) is taken identically equal to zero and dropped from the notations. The general case can be reduced to this one as explained in [4] and [9].

We further assume that $\mathcal{T}_A = \pi_A(\mathcal{T})$ contains a subset $\hat{\mathcal{T}}_A$ satisfying Assumptions **A1** and **A3** with corresponding union of concatenable subfamilies denoted \mathcal{F} . Let $\hat{\mathcal{T}}$ the subset of \mathcal{T} equal to $\pi_A^{-1}(\hat{\mathcal{T}}_A)$.

Definition 11: 1) A point $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is reachable in time $t \geq 0$ for the switched linear control (1) associated with \mathcal{T} if there exist a switching law $(A(\cdot), B(\cdot)) \in \pi_{A \times B}(\hat{\mathcal{T}})$ and an input $u \in L_2$ such that $A|_{[0,t]} \in \mathcal{F}_t$ and the corresponding trajectory x_u starting at 0 reaches x in time t . The *reachable set* $\mathfrak{R}(\mathcal{T})$ associated with the switched linear control (1) is equal to the set of points $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ for which there exists a time $t \geq 0$ so that $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is reachable in time t . The linear switched system is said to be controllable if $\mathfrak{R}(\mathcal{T}) = \mathbb{R}^n$.

2) The *observable set* $\mathfrak{D}(\mathcal{T})$ associated with the switched linear control defined by (1) and \mathcal{T} is equal to the set of points $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ so that there exists a time $t \geq 0$ and a switching law $(A(\cdot), B(\cdot), C(\cdot)) \in \mathcal{T}$ such that the trajectory x_0 associated with the zero input and starting at x gives rise to an output $y(\cdot)$ verifying $y(t) \neq 0$. The linear switched system is said to be observable if $\mathfrak{D}(\mathcal{T}) = \mathbb{R}^n$.

Note that the reachable set $\mathfrak{R}(\mathcal{T})$ is usually defined as the union over $t \geq 0$ of the points $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ reachable in time $t \geq 0$ by a trajectory starting at the origin and corresponding to a switching law $(A(\cdot), B(\cdot)) \in \pi_{A \times B}(\mathcal{T})$ and an input $u \in L_2$. Given a switched linear control system (1) and a class of switching signals \mathcal{T} , it is not clear that the corresponding reachable and observable sets $\mathfrak{R}(\mathcal{T})$ and $\mathfrak{D}(\mathcal{T})$ are linear subspaces. It has been shown in [10] that this is the case if $\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{S}_{\text{arb}}(\mathcal{M})$, where $\mathcal{M} = \{(A_1, B_1, C_1), \dots, (A_k, B_k, C_k)\}$ with k a positive integer. In addition, it is proved in the same reference that the state space admits direct sum decompositions in controllable (observable respectively) part for the linear switched system exactly as in the unswitched situation. More precisely, there exists a direct sum decomposition of the state space $\mathbb{R}^n = \mathfrak{R}(\mathcal{T}) \oplus E$ and an invertible $n \times n$ matrix P such that, if $r = \dim \mathfrak{R}(\mathcal{T})$ and $P^{-1}x = (x_1, x_2)^T$ with $x_1 \in \mathfrak{R}(\mathcal{T})$, one has for $1 \leq j \leq k$

$$P^{-1}A_i = \begin{pmatrix} A_i^c & A_i^2 \\ 0 & A_i^3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad P^{-1}B_i = \begin{pmatrix} B_i^c \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad C_i P = (C_i^c \ C_i^2),$$

where the A_i^c 's and the B_i^c 's belong to $M_r(\mathbb{R})$ and $M_{r,m}(\mathbb{R})$ respectively. Moreover, the switched linear control system defined on \mathbb{R}^r associated with $\mathcal{S}_{\text{arb}}(\mathcal{M}^c)$, where

$$\mathcal{M}^c = \{(A_1^c, B_1^c, C_1^c), \dots, (A_k^c, B_k^c, C_k^c)\},$$

is completely controllable. We refer to \mathcal{M}^c as the *controllable part* of \mathcal{M} . Note that one also gets that the corresponding output $y(\cdot)$ is equal to $y(\cdot) = C^c(\cdot)x_1(\cdot)$ and thus the original switched linear control system and the one reduced to the controllable space have same L_2 -induced gains.

Similarly, there exists a direct sum decomposition of the state space $\mathbb{R}^n = \mathfrak{D}(\mathcal{T}) \oplus F$ and an invertible $n \times n$ matrix Q such that, if $s = \dim \mathfrak{D}(\mathcal{T})$ and $Q^{-1}x = (x_1, x_2)^T$ with $x_1 \in \mathfrak{D}(\mathcal{T})$, one has for $1 \leq j \leq k$

$$Q^{-1}A_i Q = \begin{pmatrix} A_i^o & 0 \\ A_i^2 & A_i^3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Q^{-1}B_i = \begin{pmatrix} B_i^o \\ B_i^2 \end{pmatrix}, \\ C_i Q = (C_i^o \ 0),$$

where the A_i^o 's and the C_i^o 's belong to $M_s(\mathbb{R})$ and $M_{p,s}(\mathbb{R})$ respectively. Moreover, the switched linear control system defined on \mathbb{R}^s associated with $\mathcal{S}_{\text{arb}}(\mathcal{M}^o)$, where

$$\mathcal{M}^o = \{(A_1^o, B_1^o, C_1^o), \dots, (A_k^o, B_k^o, C_k^o)\},$$

is completely observable. We refer to \mathcal{M}^o as the *observable part* of \mathcal{M} . Note that one also gets that the corresponding output $y(\cdot)$ is equal to $y(\cdot) = C^o(\cdot)x_1(\cdot)$ and thus the original switched linear control system and the one reduced to the controllable space have same L_2 -induced gains.

From the above, one can proceed as follows. Consider a switched linear control system (1) associated with $\mathcal{S}_{\text{arb}}(\mathcal{M})$, where $\mathcal{M} = \{(A_1, B_1, C_1), \dots, (A_k, B_k, C_k)\}$. First one reduces it to its controllable space $\mathfrak{R}(\mathcal{S}_{\text{arb}}(\mathcal{M}))$ and get a controllable switched linear control system associated with $\mathcal{S}_{\text{arb}}(\mathcal{M}^c)$ with same L_2 -induced gain. Then, one reduces the latter system to its observable space $\mathfrak{D}(\mathcal{S}_{\text{arb}}(\mathcal{M}^c))$ to finally obtain a switched linear control system associated with $\mathcal{S}_{\text{arb}}(\mathcal{M}^r)$ where \mathcal{M}^r is the observable part of \mathcal{M}^c , which is controllable and observable and with L_2 -induced gain equal to that of the original switched linear control system.

This motivates the following definition.

Definition 12: Consider the switched linear control system (1) associated with $\mathcal{S}_{\text{arb}}(\mathcal{M})$, where $\mathcal{M} = \{(A_1, B_1, C_1), \dots, (A_k, B_k, C_k)\}$ with $A_i \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$, $B_i \in M_{n,m}(\mathbb{R})$, and $C_i \in M_{p,n}(\mathbb{R})$, $1 \leq i \leq k$. Then, there exist a nonnegative integer $n' \leq n$ and a switched linear control system associated with $\mathcal{S}_{\text{arb}}(\mathcal{M}^r)$, where $\mathcal{M}^r = \{(A_1^r, B_1^r, C_1^r), \dots, (A_k^r, B_k^r, C_k^r)\}$ with $A_i^r \in M_{n'}(\mathbb{R})$, $B_i^r \in M_{n',m}(\mathbb{R})$, and $C_i^r \in M_{p,n'}(\mathbb{R})$, $1 \leq i \leq k$, which is controllable and observable, and furthermore satisfies

$$\gamma_2(\mathcal{S}_{\text{arb}}(\mathcal{M}^r)) = \gamma_2(\mathcal{S}_{\text{arb}}(\mathcal{M})).$$

We refer to such a switched linear control system as a **minimal realization** associated with (1) and $\mathcal{S}_{\text{arb}}(\mathcal{M})$.

Note that even though the integer n' is uniquely defined by the original switched linear control system, a minimal realization may not be unique since \mathcal{M}^r depends on the choice

of supplementary spaces to $\mathfrak{R}(\mathcal{S}_{\text{arb}}(\mathcal{M}))$ and $\mathfrak{D}(\mathcal{S}_{\text{arb}}(\mathcal{M}^c))$ respectively. It can also be shown that the maximal Lyapunov exponent associated with the set $\{A_i^r, 1 \leq i \leq k\}$ does not depend on the specific minimal realization.

Finally, it must be recalled that [10] also provides a nice and explicit geometric description of $\mathfrak{R}(\mathcal{S}_{\text{arb}}(\mathcal{M}))$ and $\mathfrak{D}(\mathcal{S}_{\text{arb}}(\mathcal{M}))$ in terms of the data of the problem. Using that fact, we prove in [4], for all the classes \mathcal{T} and corresponding concatenation of subfamilies of switching signals we consider in Section II-B verifying Assumption **A4** (with switching signals taking values in some bounded set \mathcal{N}), that the reachable and observable sets (as in Definition 11) coincide with $\mathfrak{R}(\mathcal{S}_{\text{arb}}(\mathcal{N}))$ and $\mathfrak{D}(\mathcal{S}_{\text{arb}}(\mathcal{N}))$. As a consequence, we are able to define minimal realizations associated with a switched linear control system (1) and a class \mathcal{T} (as in the previous paragraph) as in Definition 12 which corresponds to a class \mathcal{T}^r of measurable switching laws taking values on a bounded set of triples of matrices $\mathcal{N}_A^r \times \mathcal{N}_B^r \times \mathcal{N}_C^r \subset M_{n'}(\mathbb{R}) \times M_{n',m}(\mathbb{R}) \times M_{p,n'}(\mathbb{R})$, with $n' \leq n$.

We then use $\mathcal{T}_A^r = \pi_A(\mathcal{T})$ and $\mathcal{T}_{A \times B}^r = \pi_{A \times B}(\mathcal{T})$ to denote the projections on the first factor and the two first factors respectively of \mathcal{T}^r .

B. Case of full state observation

We can now state the main result of this section.

Theorem 13: Let $\dot{x}(t) = A(t)x(t) + B(t)u(t)$ with output $y = x$ be a switched linear control system where $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $u \in \mathbb{R}^p$, $(A(\cdot), B(\cdot))$ belongs to a class \mathcal{T} of measurable switching laws taking values in a bounded set of matrices $\mathcal{M}_A \times \mathcal{M}_B \subset M_n(\mathbb{R}) \times M_{n \times p}(\mathbb{R})$. Consider a minimal realization $\dot{x}_r(t) = A_r(t)x(t) + B_r(t)u(t)$ with output $y_r = x_r$ associated with a class \mathcal{T}^r of switching systems, which is therefore controllable and so that $\gamma_2(\mathcal{T}) = \gamma_2(\mathcal{T}^r)$. Assume moreover that:

- (a) \mathcal{T}_A^r contains a subset $\hat{\mathcal{T}}_A^r$ satisfying Assumptions **A1**, **A3** and **A4**;
- (b) the switched linear control system $\dot{x}_r(t) = A_r(t)x(t) + B_r(t)u(t)$ associated with $\hat{\mathcal{T}}^r = \pi_A^{-1}(\hat{\mathcal{T}}_A^r)$ is controllable.

Then $\gamma_2(\mathcal{T})$ is finite if and only if $\rho(\mathcal{T}_A^r) < 1$. Note that it is proved in [4] that $\rho(\mathcal{T}_A^r)$ does not depend on the specific choice of a minimal realization.

Proof: One can directly consider the minimal realization and then it is enough to show the theorem in the case where

- (i) the linear switched system control system $\dot{x}(t) = A(t)x(t) + B(t)u(t)$ with output $y = x$ associated with \mathcal{T} is controllable;
- (ii) the class \mathcal{T}_A of switching signals contains a subset $\hat{\mathcal{T}}_A$ verifying Assumptions **A1**, **A3** and **A4**;
- (iii) the linear switched system $\dot{x} = A(t)x(t) + B(t)u(t)$ associated with $\hat{\mathcal{T}} := \pi_A^{-1}(\hat{\mathcal{T}}_A)$ is controllable.

Assume first that $\rho(\mathcal{T}_A) < 0$. Taking into account the definition (3) of $\lambda(\mathcal{T}_A)$ and the boundedness of \mathcal{M}_A , one gets the following exponential decay for the fundamental matrix of $A(\cdot)$: there exists $C > 0$ and $\lambda > 0$ such that,

for every $A(\cdot) \in \mathcal{T}_A$ and every $0 \leq s \leq t$, one has $\|\overrightarrow{\text{exp}} \int_s^t A(\tau) d\tau\| \leq C e^{-\lambda(t-s)}$. As a consequence of the above and the boundedness of \mathcal{M}_B , one deduces that there exists $D > 0$ such that, for every $u \in L_2$, $(A(\cdot), B(\cdot)) \in \mathcal{T}$ and every $t \geq 0$, one has $\|x_u(t)\| \leq D \int_0^t e^{-\lambda(t-s)} \|u(s)\| ds$. If $\chi_{[0,+\infty)}(\cdot)$ denotes the characteristic function on $[0, +\infty)$, the integral function on the right-hand side of the above equation can be interpreted as the convolution $f_1 * f_2$, where $f_1(t) = \chi_{[0,+\infty)}(t) e^{-\lambda t}$ and $f_2(t) = \chi_{[0,+\infty)}(t) \|u(t)\|$. That yields at once that $\|x_u\|_2 \leq \frac{D}{\lambda} \|u\|_2$, hence the conclusion.

Assume now that $\rho(\mathcal{T}_A) \geq 1$. By a common linear change of coordinates we can put every matrix in $A \in \mathcal{M}_A$ into the upper triangular block form

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & \cdots & \\ 0 & A_{22} & A_{23} & \cdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & A_{qq} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (10)$$

where each $A_{ii} \in M_{n_i - n_{i-1}}(\mathbb{R})$, $n_i \in \mathbb{N}$ and each $\mathcal{A}_i := \{A_{ii} \mid A \in \mathcal{M}_A\}$ is irreducible. Define the *subsystems* of \mathcal{M}_A as the switched systems corresponding to the sets \mathcal{A}_i and the class of switching signals $\mathcal{T}_{A,i} := \{A_{ii}(\cdot) \mid A(\cdot) \in \mathcal{T}_A\}$ for $i = 1, \dots, q$. Notice that the classes $\mathcal{T}_{A,i}$ and $\hat{\mathcal{T}}_{A,i}$ verify Assumptions **A1–A4**. Then every subsystem of \mathcal{M}_A is irreducible and verifies $\rho(\mathcal{T}_{A,i}) \leq \rho(\mathcal{T}_A)$ for $1 \leq i \leq q$, with equality holding for at least one index i . Since we only consider trajectories starting at zero, we can assume by eventually reducing the size of the system that $\rho(\mathcal{T}_{A,i}) < \rho(\mathcal{T}_A)$ for $i = 2, \dots, q$ and $\rho(\mathcal{T}_{A,1}) = \rho(\mathcal{T}_A)$.

Using Point (iii), there exists $\bar{x} := x_{\bar{u}}(\bar{t}) = (\bar{x}_1, 0 \cdots 0)^T$ with $\bar{x}_1 \neq 0$ reachable in some time $\bar{t} \geq 0$, i.e., there exists a time $\bar{t} \geq 0$, a switching law $(A_0(\cdot), B_0(\cdot))$ with $A_0(\cdot) \in \mathcal{F}_{\bar{t}}$ and a measurable function $\bar{u}(\cdot)$ defined on $[0, \bar{t}]$ so that $x_{\bar{u}}(\bar{t}) = \bar{x}$. Let us identify $\bar{u}(\cdot)$ with its extension by zero on $[\bar{t}, \infty)$. The class $\hat{\mathcal{T}}_{A,1}$ verifies the hypotheses of Theorem 3 and thus the corresponding semigroup $\hat{\mathcal{R}}_1$ is quasi-Barabanov and admits a quasi-extremal trajectory starting at \bar{x}_1 and corresponding to a signal $\hat{\mathcal{T}}_{A,1}$ belonging to $\hat{\mathcal{S}}_{A,1}$. Note that if one extends such a trajectory to the full state space by adding zeros for the other coordinates, the resulting $\bar{x}(\cdot)$ is the trajectory of $\dot{x} = A(t)x(t)$ starting at \bar{x} and corresponding to some signal $\bar{A}(\cdot)$ in the closure of $\hat{\mathcal{T}}_A$.

Let $\bar{E}(\cdot)$ be the signal defined as the concatenation of $A_0(\cdot)$ and $\bar{A}(\cdot)$ and let $A_{0,11}(\cdot)$ and $\bar{E}_{11}(\cdot)$ be the $(1,1)$ -blocks corresponding to $A_0(\cdot)$ and $\bar{E}(\cdot)$ respectively. Let $(E^l)_{l \geq 0}$ (and then $(\bar{E}_{11}^l)_{l \geq 0}$) be a sequence in $\hat{\mathcal{T}}_A$ ($\hat{\mathcal{T}}_{A,1}$ respectively) weak- \star converging to \bar{A} (\bar{A}_{11} respectively). Therefore the sequence $(A_0 * E^l)_{l \geq 0}$ ($(A_{0,11} * \bar{E}_{11}^l)_{l \geq 0}$) is in $\hat{\mathcal{T}}_A$ ($\hat{\mathcal{T}}_{A,1}$ respectively) and weak- \star converges to \bar{E} (\bar{E}_{11} respectively). Moreover, for every positive time $t \geq 0$, the convergence of $s \mapsto \overrightarrow{\text{exp}} \int_0^s E^l(\tau) d\tau$ to $s \mapsto \overrightarrow{\text{exp}} \int_0^s \bar{E}(\tau) d\tau$ is uniform with respect to $s \in [0, t]$ and similarly for the corresponding $(1,1)$ -blocks. One deduces that there exists a positive constant $C > 0$ such that, for l large enough and for every $s \in [0, t]$, one has $\|\overrightarrow{\text{exp}} \int_0^s E^l(\tau) d\tau \bar{x}\| \geq \frac{C}{2C_{\text{qx}}} \rho(\mathcal{T})^s \|\bar{x}_1\|$. Fix such an l and define Γ_l the trajectory

of Eq.(1) starting at the origin and associated with $\bar{u}(\cdot)$ and $(A_0 * E^l(\cdot), \bar{B}(\cdot))$. The previous inequality exactly says that there exists a positive constant C_0 , independent of $t \geq 0$ and l such that, for every $s \in [\bar{t}, t + \bar{t}]$, one has $\|\Gamma_l(s)\| \geq C_0 \rho(\mathcal{T})^{s-t}$. That implies that there exists a positive constant C_1 independent of t such that $\frac{\|\Gamma_l\|_2^2}{\|\bar{u}\|_2^2} \geq \frac{\int_{\bar{t}}^{t+\bar{t}} \|\Gamma_l(s)\|^2 ds}{\|\bar{u}\|_2^2} \geq C_1 t$. Since all the trajectories Γ_l are associated with the same input $\bar{u}(\cdot)$, the above inequality implies that $\gamma_2(\mathcal{T})$ defined in Eq.(2) is infinite. ■

Remark 14: It turns out that, for the classes of switching signals we consider in Section II-B, all the hypotheses of Theorem 13 are satisfied.

We can now answer some of the questions asked by Hespanha in [5].

Corollary 15: Let \mathcal{M} be a bounded subset of $M_n(\mathbb{R}) \times M_{n,p}(\mathbb{R})$ with n, m positive integers and $\tau > 0$. Consider the switched linear control system $\dot{x} = A(t)x(t) + B(t)u(t)$, $y = x$, where the switching signal $(A(\cdot), B(\cdot))$ belongs to the class $\mathcal{S}_{d,\tau}(\mathcal{M})$ of piecewise constant signals with dwell-time $\tau > 0$. Let $\gamma_2(\tau)$ be the L_2 -induced gain associated with $\mathcal{S}_{d,\tau}(\mathcal{M})$. Then, $\gamma_2(\tau)$ is finite if and only if $\rho(\mathcal{S}_{d,\tau}(\mathcal{M})_{A}^r) < 1$ and then

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{\min} &= \inf\{\tau > 0 \mid \gamma_2(\tau) \text{ is finite}\} \\ &= \inf\{\tau > 0 \mid \rho(\mathcal{S}_{d,\tau}(\mathcal{M})_{A}^r) < 1\}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that there exists a reduced system associated with $\dot{x} = A(t)x(t) + B(t)u(t)$, $y = x$ and $\mathcal{S}_{d,\tau}(\mathcal{M})$ whose state space and switching signal values do not depend on τ .

C. Case of partial state observation

Theorem 13 shows, in the case where the output y is equal to the full state, that the necessary and sufficient condition for finiteness of the L_2 -induced gain is exactly the same as in the unswitching framework. We exhibit below an example where this is not anymore true if the output y is just a partial observation of the state x . More precisely, we define next a switched linear control system satisfying all the assumptions of Theorem 13 (with $\mathcal{T}_A = \mathcal{T}_A^r = \hat{\mathcal{T}}_A^r$), with the exception that the output is the projection on the third component of the system's state (x_1, x_2, x_3) , and whose L_2 -induced gain is finite despite the fact that $\rho(\mathcal{T}_A) = 1$.

Assume that $\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{S}_{\text{arb}}(\mathcal{M})$ where $\mathcal{M} = \{(A_i, b_i, c_i)\}_{i=1,2,3} \subset M_3(\mathbb{R}) \times \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3$, with

$$A_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -\alpha & 0 \\ \alpha & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad A_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -\alpha & 0 \\ 1/\alpha & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$A_3 = \begin{pmatrix} -4 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -4 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$b_1 = b_2 = 0, \quad b_3 = c_1 = c_2 = c_3 = (0, 0, 1)^T.$$

One easily checks that such a system is observable and controllable. We assume that the system associated with $\mathcal{M}' = \{A_1, A_2\}$ is marginally stable (and reducible); this corresponds to a parameter value $\alpha \sim 4.5047$. Namely, in this case the system admits a closed (periodic) \mathcal{C}^1 trajectory

Γ on the plane $x_3 = 0$ which can be completely determined analytically by using the results in [1]. In particular, up to rescaling, Γ can be supposed to belong to the set $\{(x_1, x_2, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid 1 \leq x_1^2 + x_2^2 \leq 3\}$, and the norm $v(x) = v(x_1, x_2)$ on the plane $x_3 = 0$ satisfying $v^{-1}(1) = \Gamma$ is a Barabanov norm for the restriction of \mathcal{M}' on that plane and satisfies $\|\nabla v(x)\| \leq \sqrt{3}$. Moreover, by homogeneity, $v(x) = \nabla v(x)^T \cdot (x_1, x_2, 0)^T$.

Let us consider the function $V(x) = \frac{1}{2}(v(x)^2 + x_3^2)$. Then one shows that $0 \leq \liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} V(x(t)) \leq -\frac{1}{4}\|x_3\|_2^2 + \|u\|_2\|x_3\|_2$, so that $\|x_3\|_2 \leq 4\|u\|_2$, that is $\gamma_2(\mathcal{T}) \leq 4$. Notice that the computations above also show that $V(\cdot)$ is a weak Lyapunov function for \mathcal{M} , and in particular such a system is marginally stable, that is adding the matrix A_3 to the system given by \mathcal{M}' does not destabilize it.

Acknowledgements: This research was partially supported by the iCODE Institute, research project of the IDEX Paris-Saclay, and by the Hadamard Mathematics LabEx (LMH) through the grant number ANR-11-LABX-0056-LMH in the ‘‘Programme des Investissements d’Avenir’’.

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