STRIKE-GOLDD v2.2
User manual

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June 2, 2020

Contents

1 Introduction

STRIKE-GOLDD v2.2 is a MATLAB toolbox that analyses the local structural identifiability and observability of nonlinear dynamic models, which can have multiple time-varying and possibly unknown inputs.

1.1 Theoretical foundations

STRIKE-GOLDD adopts a differential geometry approach, recasting the identifiability problem as an observability problem. Essentially, the observability of the model variables (states, parameters, and inputs) is determined by calculating the rank of a generalized observability-identifiability matrix, which is built using Lie derivatives. When the matrix does not have full rank, there are some unobservable variables. If these variables are parameters, they are called (structurally) unidentifiable. The procedure determines the subset of identifiable parameters, observable states, and observable (also called reconstructible) inputs, thus performing a "Full Input-State-Parameter Observability" analysis (FISPO). In some cases it is also possible to find identifiable combinations of the remaining parameters. This approach is directly applicable to many models of small and medium size; larger systems can be analysed using additional features of the method. One of them is decomposition into more tractable submodels, which is performed with a combinatorial optimization metaheuristic. Another possibility is to build observability-identifiability matrices with a reduced number of Lie derivatives. In some cases these additional procedures allow to determine the identifiability of every parameter in the model (complete case analysis); when such result cannot be achieved, at least partial results – i.e. identifiability of a subset of parameters – can be obtained.

1.2 Version and publication history

- The first version of STRIKE-GOLDD was presented in [1].
- STRIKE-GOLDD v2.0 introduced a number of new features [2], the main one being the use of extended Lie derivatives. This enabled the analysis of structural identifiability for *time-varying inputs* and, additionally, the characterization of the input profile required to make the parameters identifiable.
- STRIKE-GOLDD v2.1.1 incorporated the possibility of analysing models with *unknown time-varying inputs*. The corresponding methodological details are given in [3].
- STRIKE-GOLDD v2.1.6 incorporated a procedure for finding *Lie symmetries* in a model, as well as for calculating the transformations that break them. The procedure is described in [4].
- STRIKE-GOLDD v2.2 incorporated an implementation of an additional algorithm for observability analysis, *ORC-DF* [5]. This algorithm is restricted to the analysis of models that are affine in the inputs, but for some of those models it is computationally more efficient than STRIKE-GOLDD's default core algorithm. A comparison of both algorithms is reported in [6]. Furthermore, STRIKE-GOLDD v2.2 also incorporated an automatic model reformulation routine for analysing observability with multiple experiments.

2 License

3 Availability

STRIKE-GOLDD v2.2 can be downloaded from the following websites:
`https://sites.google.com/site/strikegolddtoolbox/`
`https://github.com/afvillaverde/strike-goldd`

4 Software contents

The STRIKE-GOLDD v2.2 toolbox consists of several MATLAB files, organized as follows:

Root folder (`/STRIKE-GOLDD/`):

- `install.m` adds the folders to the path.
- `STRIKE-GOLDD.m` is the main file. Running it will execute STRIKE-GOLDD.
- `options.m` is the file that the user must edit in order to specify the problem to solve and the options for solving it.

Functions folder (`/STRIKE-GOLDD/functions/`):

- `build_OI_ext` builds the generalized observability-identifiability matrix for a given number of Lie derivatives, which is passed as the argument. The resulting array is stored in a MAT file.
- `combin_optim.m` performs combinatorial optimization using the Variable Neighbourhood Search metaheuristic (VNS) [7] from the MEIGO toolbox [8].
- `combos.m` finds identifiable combinations of otherwise unidentifiable parameters.
- `decomp.m` decomposes the model into submodels (either defined by the user, or found via optimization) and analyses them.
- `elim_and_recalc.m` determines identifiability of individual parameters one by one, by successive elimination of its column in the identifiability matrix and recalculation of its rank.
- `graph_model.m` creates a graph showing the relations among model states, outputs, and parameters.
- `Lie_Symmetry.m` searches for Lie symmetries in the model and, if they exist, it calculates transformations of the variables in order to break them.
- `ME_analysis.m`: performs Multi-Experiment analysis. This function modifies the model equations so that the analysis of the resulting model yields the observability results from multiple experiments (by default, STRIKE-GOLDD considers a single experiment).
- `objective_fun.m` calculates the objective function value in the optimization (as the ratio between number of model outputs and parameters, plus a penalty on the number of states).
- `ORC_DF.m` implements the ORC-DF algorithm presented in [5], which can be used if the model is affine in the inputs.

Lie symmetries folder (`/STRIKE-GOLDD/functions/aux_Lie_symmetry/`):

Subfolder with auxiliary functions for calculating Lie symmetries and the associated transformations. It includes two subfolders with auxiliary functions and the models analysed in [4].

Models folder (`/STRIKE-GOLDD/models/`):

This folder stores the models to be analysed by the toolbox. A number of predefined models are included.

Results folder (`/STRIKE-GOLDD/functions/`):

This folder stores the output files generated by the toolbox.

Documentation folder (`/STRIKE-GOLDD/doc/`):

This folder includes this manual.

5 Requirements and installation

5.1 Requirements

STRIKE-GOLDD v2.2 can run on any operating system compatible with MATLAB.
Apart from a MATLAB installation, the additional requisites are:

- The MATLAB Symbolic Math Toolbox.
- (OPTIONAL:) The MATLAB MEIGO toolbox [8], which can be freely downloaded from `http://gingproc.iim.csic.es/meigom.html`. The MEIGO toolbox is only needed if the optimization-based model decomposition is used.

STRIKE-GOLDD v2.2 has been tested with MATLAB versions R2015B (Symbolic Math Toolbox Version 6.3), R2017B (Symbolic Math Toolbox Version 8.0), and R2019B (Symbolic Math Toolbox Version 8.4).

5.2 Download and install

1. Download STRIKE-GOLDD v2.2 from one of these websites:
   `https://sites.google.com/site/strikegolddtoolbox/`
   `https://github.com/afvillaverde/strike-goldd`
2. Unzip it.
3. (OPTIONAL STEP–only needed to perform optimization-based decomposition:)
   (a) Download MEIGO from: `http://gingproc.iim.csic.es/meigom.html`.
   (b) Unzip the MEIGO folder.
   (c) Specify the location of MEIGO by modifying the corresponding line in the `options.m` file as follows (replace the example below with the actual location in your computer):
   `paths.meigo = 'C:\Users\My_name\Documents\MEIGO_M-v03-07-2014\MEIGO_M';`

6 Quick start: using STRIKE-GOLDD in one minute

To start using STRIKE-GOLDD, simply follow these steps:

1. Follow the installation instructions in Section 5.2.
2. Open a MATLAB session and go to the STRIKE-GOLDD root directory ("STRIKE-GOLDD").
3. Run `install.m`.
4. Define the problem and options by editing the script `options.m` (see Section 7.1 for details).
   - QUICK DEMO EXAMPLE: If you are running STRIKE-GOLDD for the first time and/or just want to see how it works, you can skip this step and leave `options.m` unedited. This will analyse a model of the two-compartment model with default options.
5. Run `STRIKE-GOLDD.m` (to do this you can either type "STRIKE-GOLDD" in the command window, or right-click `STRIKE-GOLDD.m` in the "Current Directory" tab and select "run").

Done! Results will be reported in the MATLAB screen. A screenshot of an execution is shown in Fig. 1.

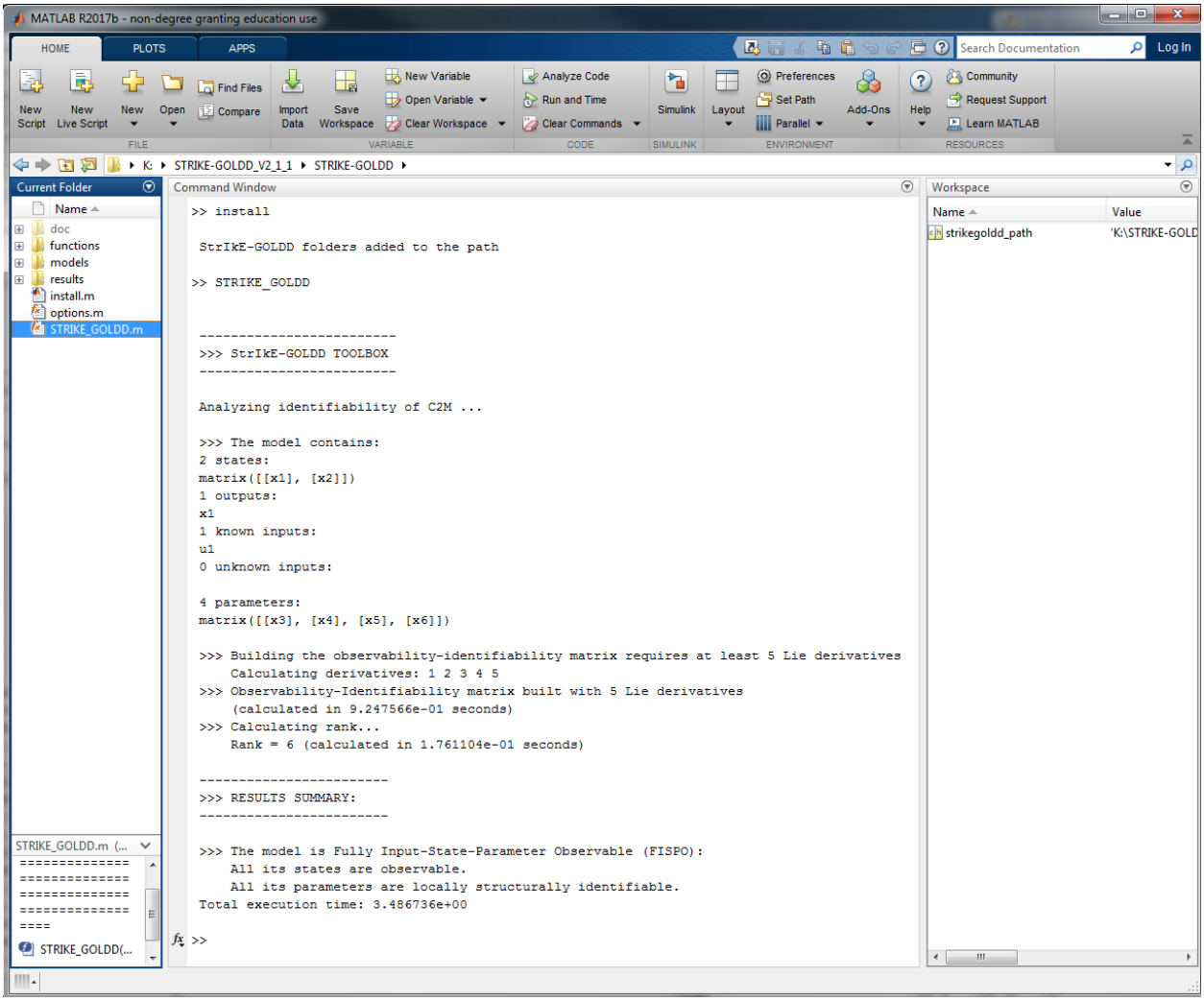

Figure 1: **Screen shot of a STRIKE-GOLDD run**.

7 Usage

7.1 Input: entering a model

STRIKE-GOLDD reads models stored as MATLAB MAT-files (.mat). The model states, outputs, inputs, parameters, and dynamic equations must be defined as vectors of symbolic variables, whose names must follow a specific convention. Please note that there are a number of reserved variable and function names, which are listed in Table 1.

7.1.1 Example: defining the MAPK model

Here we illustrate how to define a model using the MAPK example included in the `models` folder. The file read by STRIKE-GOLDD is `MAPK.mat`. This file, which stores the model variables, can be created from the M-file `z_create_MAPK_model.m`. In the following lines we comment the different parts of the M-file, illustrating the process of defining a suitable model.

First, all the parameters, states, and any other entities (such as inputs or known constants) appearing in the model must be defined as symbolic variables:

Name	Reserved for:	Common mathematical notation:
x	state vector	$x(t)$
p	unknown parameter vector	θ
u	known input vector	$u(t)$
w	unknown input vector	$w(t)$
f	dynamic equations	$\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), u(t), w(t), \theta)$
h	output function	$y = h(x(t), u(t), w(t), \theta)$

Table 1: **reserved variable and function names.** The names in the table are reserved for certain variables and functions. They must not be used for naming arbitrary model quantities. However, it is possible to use variants of them, e.g. $x_1, x_2, p_{23}, xp, \ldots$

```
syms k1 k2 k3 k4 k5 k6 ...
     ps1 ps2 ps3 ...
     s1t s2t s3t ...
     KK1 KK2 n1 n2 alpha  ...
```

Then we define the state variables, by creating a column vector named x:

```
x    = [ps1; ps2; ps3];
```

Similarly, we define the vector of output variables, which must be named h. In this case they coincide with the state variables:

```
h    = x;
```

Similarly, we define the known input vector, u, and the unknown input vector, w. If there are no inputs, enter blank vectors:

```
u  = [];
w  = [];
```

The vector of unknown parameters must be called p:

```
p    = [k1; k2; k3; k4; k5; k6;s1t; s2t; s3t; KK1; KK2; n1; n2; alpha];
```

The dynamic equations dx/dt must also be entered as a column vector, called f. It must have the same length as the state vector x:

```
f    = [k1*(s1t-ps1)*(KK1^n1)/(KK1^n1+ps3^n1)-k2*ps1;
           k3*(s2t-ps2)*ps1*(1+(alpha*ps3^n2)/(KK2^n2+ps3^n2))-k4*ps2 ;
           k5*(s3t-ps3)*ps2-k6*ps3 ];
```

The vector of initial conditions must be called *ics*. If they are unknown (or if you want to analyse the model for general initial conditions), enter a blank vector:

```
ics  = [];
```

Additionally we define another vector, `known_ics`, to specify which initial conditions are known. It must have the same length as the state vector x, and its entries should be either 1 or 0, depending on whether the corresponding initial condition is known or unknown, respectively (this can only be chosen for unmeasured states; measured states, i.e. those included in the h vector, are always assumed to have known initial condi-

tions):

```
known_ics = [0,0,0];
```

Finally, save all the variables in a MAT-file:

```
save('MAPK','x','h','u','w','p','f','ics','known_ics');
```

7.2 Analysing a model

The use of STRIKE-GOLDD for analysing a model was already illustrated in section 6. This section provides a few more details, basically about the use of models with known and unknown inputs.

7.2.1 Example: two-compartment model with known input

Section 6 showed how to analyse the default example, which is a two-compartment model with a known input, using default settings. By default, the option `opts.nnzDerU` is set to `opts.nnzDerU = 1` in the options file. This means that the model is analysed with exactly one non-zero derivative of the known input.

if we set `opts.nnzDerU = 0`, all input derivatives are set to zero. Running the two-compartment model example with this setting yields that the model is unidentifiable. Hence, this model requires a ramp or a higher-order polynomial input to be structurally identifiable and observable.

Note that for models with several inputs it is necessary to specify a vector, e.g. `opts.nnzDerU = [0 1]` for two inputs (or any other numbers, e.g. `opts.nnzDerU = [2 2]`).

7.2.2 Example: two-compartment model with unknown input

Let us now consider the two-compartment model with unknown input, and with the parameter b considered as known. This is already implemented in the model file `C2M_unknown_input_known_b` provided with the toolbox. The analysis of this model yields that all its parameters are structurally unidentifiable and its unmeasured state and input are unobservable. This is obtained for any choice of `opts.nnzDerW` (0, 1, 2, ...).

We now consider a version of this model in which both b and k_{1e} are considered known. This is implemented in the file `C2M_unknown_input_known_b_k1e`. In this case, the analysis yields that the model is fully observable (FISPO). This is obtained for any choice of `opts.nnzDerW` (0, 1, 2, 3, ...).

7.3 Options

The model to analyse, as well as the options for performing the analysis, are entered in the `options.m` file. All options have default values that can be modified by the user. In the `options.m` file the options are classified in seven blocks as follows:

(1) **MODEL:** The first block consists of solely one option, the name of the model to analyse. By default it is set to one of the models provided with the toolbox, the two-compartment linear model with one input:

```
modelname = 'C2M';
```

The user may select other models provided with the toolbox – included in folder `/models` – or define a new model as explained in Section 7.1.

(2) **PATHS:** The second block specifies some paths. The user only needs to modify the path of the MEIGO toolbox (although even this can be skipped if the model is *not* decomposed using optimization):

```
paths.meigo  = 'C:\Users\My_name\Documents\MEIGO_M-v03-07-2014\MEIGO_M';
```

(3) **IDENTIFIABILITY OPTIONS:** The third block consists of the following options:

`opts.numeric`, `opts.replaceICs`, `opts.checkObser`, `opts.checkObsIn`, `opts.findcombos`, `opts.unidentif`, `opts.forcedecomp`, `opts.decomp`, `opts.decomp_user`, `opts.maxLietime`, `opts.maxOpttime`, `opts.maxstates`, `opts.nnzDerU`, and `opts.nnzDerW`.
Their meaning is explained in the comments of the `options.m` file.
Note that all the above options are in general scalar values. The exceptions are `opts.nnzDerU` and `opts.nnzDerW`, which, for models with several inputs, must be row vectors with the same number of elements as inputs, e.g., for two inputs:

```
opts.nnzDerU = [0 1];
```

(4) **AFFINE OPTIONS:** If `opts.affine` is set to one, STRIKE-GOLDD checks whether the model is affine in the inputs and, if that is indeed the case, it uses the ORC-DF algorithm. If `opts.affine` is set to zero, or if it is set to one but the model is not affine, the default algorithm (called FISPO in [6]) is used instead. When using ORC-DF it is possible to specify additional settings, including the use of parallelization: `opts.affine_tStage`, `opts.affine_kmax`, `opts.affine_parallel_Lie`, `opts.affine_parallel_rank`, `opts.affine_workers`, and `opts.affine_graphics`.

(5) **User-defined submodels for decomposition:** This block defines submodels to analyse, if decomposition is used. They *only* need to be specified in this way if the user wants to define them manually instead of relying on the optimisation algorithm. In the former case, every submodel must be specified as a vector containing the indices of the states included in it. For example, the following lines define two submodels, consisting of states [x(1), x(2)] and [x(2), x(3)], respectively:

```
submodels    = [];
submodels{1} = [1 2];
submodels{2} = [2 3];
```

(6) **MULTI-EXPERIMENT OPTIONS:** If `opts.multiexp` is set to one, the observability of the model is analysed for multiple experiments. The number of experiments considered is set with `opts.multiexp_numexp`. Options for specifying the initial conditions of the experiments are:
`opts.multiexp_user_ics`, `opts.multiexp_ics`, and `opts.multiexp_known_ics`.

(7) **Parameters already classified as identifiable:** The last block is used for entering parameters that have already been classified as identifiable. This reduces the computational complexity of the calculations and may thus enable a deeper analysis, which can lead to more complete results. For example, if STRIKE-GOLDD has already determined that two parameters p_1 and p_2 are identifiable, we may enter:

```
syms p1 p2
prev_ident_pars = [p1 p2];
```

Otherwise, we must leave it blank:

```
prev_ident_pars = [];
```

7.4 Searching for Lie symmetries

The existence of Lie symmetries amounts to lack of observability (in the generalized sense, that is, full input, state, and parameter observability, or 'FISPO'). Thus, determining whether a model admits a Lie group of transformations is a way of determining if it is observable and structurally identifiable.

The analysis of Lie symmetries can be performed by running the function `Lie_Symmetry`. It can be called in two different ways:

1. Without arguments, in which case it searches for symmetries in the model specified in the `options` file.

2. Specifying the model file as the argument, e.g.: `Lie_Symmetry('PK')`.

Furthermore, a number of options can be tuned. They are explained in the first lines of the script `Lie_Symmetry.m`. To modify them, directly edit the corresponding lines at the beginning of the script.

7.5 Output

STRIKE-GOLDD reports the main results of the identifiability analysis on screen.

Additionally, it creates several MAT-files in the `results` folder:

- A file named `id_results_MODELNAME_DATE.mat`, with the results of the identifiability analysis and most of the intermediate results. The main results are: `p_id` (list of identifiable parameters), `p_un` (unidentifiable parameters), `obs_states` (observable states), and `unobs_states` (unobservable states).

- One or several files named `obs_ident_matrix_MODEL_NUMBER_OF_Lie_deriv.mat`, with the generalized observability-identifiability matrices calculated with a given number of Lie derivatives. They are stored in separate files so that they can be reused in case a particular run is aborted due to excessive computation time.

- If decomposition is used, STRIKE-GOLDD creates a subfolder in the `results` folder named `decomp_MODEL_DATE_MAXSTATES_MAXLIETIME` (i.e., it specifies the model name, the date, the maximum number of states allowed in every submodel, and the maximum time allowed for performing a Lie derivative). Inside the folder it stores one MAT-file per submodel with partial results. Additionally, the same MAT-file as described in the previous point is created in the `results` folder.

8 Contributors

STRIKE-GOLDD has been developed mainly by Alejandro f. Villaverde (CSIC, `afvillaverde@iim.csic.es`). The Lie symmetries code was written by Gemma Massonis Feixas (CSIC). The implementation of the algorithm for affine systems (ORC-DF), as well as the automatic transformation for multi-experiment analysis, was done by Nerea Martínez (Univ. Vigo & CSIC). A number of collaborators have contributed to theoretical and/or application aspects: Antonio Barreiro Blas (Univ. Vigo), Antonis Papachristodoulou (Oxford Univ.), Neil D. Evans (Warwick Univ.), Michael J. Chappell (Warwick Univ.), Julio R. Banga (CSIC), and Nikolaos Tsiantis (CSIC).

9 Funding

STRIKE-GOLDD has received funding from the Galician government (Xunta de Galiza) through the I2C postdoctoral program, fellowship ED481B2014/133-0; from the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO), grants DPI2013-47100-C2-2-P and DPI2017-82896-C2-2-R; from the EPSRC projects EP/M002454/1 and EP/J012041/1; and from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 686282 ("CANPATHPRO").

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