

# Computing Sparse Semilinear Models for Approximately Eventually Periodic Signals

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**Abstract:** Some aspects of the theory and algorithms corresponding to the computation of sparse semilinear autoregressors for signal modeling and identification are presented. The semilinear models considered in this study are obtained by combining autoregressive models with GRU neural networks, and then fitting some of the resulting model coefficients using sparse matrix representations. Some prototypical computational implementations are presented as well.

**Keywords:** Autoregressor, sparse representation, GRU neural network, Krylov subspace, time series.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In this document, some aspects of the theory and algorithms corresponding to the computation of sparse semilinear autoregressors for signal modeling and identification are presented.

The main contribution of the work reported in this document consists on the application of a *colaborative scheme* involving linear autoregressive type models and GRU neural network models, where each model is first fitted independently using some reference data corresponding to some given signal, and then the resulting model is represented as a linear combination of the previously fitted models, whose coefficients are fitted using the previously considered reference data. Along the way, some of the resulting model coefficients are fitted using sparse representation techniques. Some theoretical aspects of the aforementioned process are described in §3.

A prototypical algorithm that applies the ideas presented in §3 for the computation of sparse semilinear autoregressors is presented in §4. Some prototypical computational implementations of the prototypical algorithm presented in §4 are presented in §5.

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

Given  $\delta > 0$ , let us consider the function defined by the expression

$$H_\delta(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & x > \delta \\ 0, & x \leq \delta \end{cases}.$$

Given a matrix  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times n}$  with singular values denoted by the expressions  $s_j(A)$  for  $j = 1, \dots, \min\{m, n\}$ . We will write  $\text{rk}_\delta(A)$  to denote the number

$$\text{rk}_\delta(A) = \sum_{j=1}^{\min\{m, n\}} H_\delta(s_j(A)).$$

Given an ordered sample  $\Sigma_N = \{x_t\}_{t=1}^N \subset \Sigma$  from a time series  $\Sigma = \{\hat{x}_t\}_{t \geq 1}$ , we will write  $\mathcal{H}_L(\Sigma_N)$  to denote the

Hankel type trajectory matrix corresponding to  $\Sigma_N$ , that is determined by the following expression.

$$\mathcal{H}_L(\Sigma_N) = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & \cdots & x_{N-L+1} \\ x_2 & x_3 & x_4 & \cdots & x_{N-L+2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_L & x_{L+1} & x_{L+2} & \cdots & x_N \end{bmatrix}$$

In this document we will write  $\hat{e}_{j,n}$  to denote the matrices in  $\mathbb{C}^{n \times 1}$  representing the canonical basis of  $\mathbb{C}^n$  (each  $\hat{e}_{j,n}$  is the  $j$ -column of  $I_n$ ), that are determined by the expressions

$$\hat{e}_{j,n} = [\delta_{1,j} \ \delta_{2,j} \ \cdots \ \delta_{n-1,j} \ \delta_{n,j}]^\top \quad (1)$$

for each  $1 \leq j \leq n$ , where  $\delta_{k,j}$  is the Kronecker delta determined by the expression.

$$\delta_{k,j} = \begin{cases} 1, & k = j \\ 0, & k \neq j \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

Given any matrix  $X \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times n}$ , we will write  $X^*$  to denote the conjugate transpose  $\bar{X}^\top \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times m}$  of  $X$ . A matrix  $P \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  will be called an orthogonal projector whenever  $P^2 = P = P^*$ . We will write  $\mathbf{S}^1$  to denote the set  $\{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| = 1\}$ , and we will denote by  $\Omega(n)$  the subset of  $\mathbf{S}^1$  defined by the expression  $\Omega(n) = \{e^{\frac{2\pi ki}{n}} : k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$  with  $i = \sqrt{-1}$ .

Given a times series  $\Sigma = \{x_t\}_{t \geq 1} \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ , a positive integer  $L$  and any  $t \geq L$ , we will write  $\mathbf{x}_L(t)$  to denote the vector

$$\mathbf{x}_L(t) = [x_t^\top \ x_{t-1}^\top \ \cdots \ x_{t-L+1}^\top]^\top \in \mathbb{C}^{nL}.$$

Given any matrix  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ , we will write  $\sigma(A)$  to denote the set of eigenvalues of  $A$ , that is, the set of complex numbers determined by the expression  $\sigma(A) = \{a \in \mathbb{C} : \det(A - aI_n) = 0\}$ , where  $I$  denotes the identity matrix in  $\mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ .

## 3. SEMILINEAR APPROXIMATION OF EVENTUALLY PERIODIC SIGNALS

In this study we will build on the notion of eventually periodic systems presented in Farhood and Dullerud (2002).

A discrete time signal represented by a times series  $\Sigma = \{x_t\}_{t \geq 1}$  is said to be approximately eventually periodic (**AEP**) if it can be aperiodic for an initial amount of time, and then becomes approximately periodic afterwards. In other words, there are  $\varepsilon > 0$  and two integers  $T, S > 0$  such that  $|x_{t+kT} - x_t| \leq \varepsilon$  for each  $t \geq S$  and each integer  $k \geq 0$ . The integer  $T$  will be called the approximate period of  $\Sigma$ .

Based on the notion of approximately eventually periodic signal considered on this study, it can be seen that given an AEP signal  $\Sigma = \{x_t\}_{t \geq 1}$ , there is a positive integer  $S$  such that the tail  $\{x_t\}_{t \geq S}$  of  $\Sigma$  is approximately periodic.

### 3.1 Sparse semilinear autoregressors

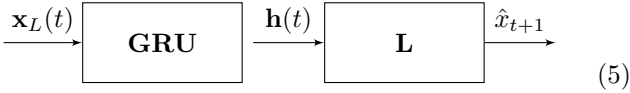
Given a time series  $\Sigma = \{x_t\}_{t \geq 1} \subset \mathbb{C}$  and a lag value  $L > 0$ . Let us consider a semilinear signal model of the form:

$$x_{t+1} = \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}_L(t)) + \mathcal{G}(\mathbf{x}_L(t)) + \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{x}_L(t)), t \geq L. \quad (3)$$

where  $\mathcal{L}$  denotes a linear operation determined by the expression

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}_L(t)) = c_1 x_t + c_2 x_{t-1} + c_2 x_{t-2} + \dots + c_L x_{t-L+1}, \quad (4)$$

$\mathcal{G}(\mathbf{x}_L(t))$  represents a linear combination of neural networks of the form (5), and  $\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{x}_L(t))$  represents some suitable error term. In order to compute models of the form (3), we can combine sparse autoregressive models together with GRU RNN using TensorFlow, Keras and PyTorch whose structures are described as part of Chollet et al. (2015) and Paszke et al. (2019). The GRU based neural network structure is described by the following block diagram.



For some given an integer  $m > 0$ , each GRU  $j$ -cell in the GRU block is described for each  $j = 1, \dots, m$  by the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned} r_j(t) &= \sigma(\hat{e}_{j,m}^\top (W_{ir} \mathbf{x}(t) + W_{hr} \mathbf{h}(t-1) + b_r)) \\ z_j(t) &= \sigma(\hat{e}_{j,m}^\top (W_{iz} \mathbf{x}(t) + W_{hz} \mathbf{h}(t-1) + b_z)) \\ n_j(t) &= \tanh(\hat{e}_{j,m}^\top (W_{in} \mathbf{x}(t) + b_n) \\ &\quad + r_j(t) \hat{e}_{j,m}^\top (W_{hn} \mathbf{h}(t-1))) \\ h_j(t) &= (1 - z_j(t)) n_j(t) + z_j(t) h_j(t-1) \end{aligned}$$

with  $\mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbf{x}_L(t)$  and  $\mathbf{h}(t) = [h_1(t) \dots h_m(t)]^\top$ . The GRU layer configuration considered in this document, has been chosen in order to prevent vanishing and exploding gradients along the lines considered by Cho et al. (2014), Kanai et al. (2017),

The linear layer  $\mathbf{L}$  of the neural network  $\mathcal{L}$  described in (5) is determined by the expression

$$\mathbf{L}(\mathbf{h}(t)) = \mathbf{w}_L^\top \mathbf{h}(t) + b_L.$$

An approximate representation

$$\hat{\mathcal{L}}(\mathbf{x}_L(t)) = \tilde{c}_1 x_t + \tilde{c}_2 x_{t-1} + \tilde{c}_2 x_{t-2} + \dots + \tilde{c}_L x_{t-L+1},$$

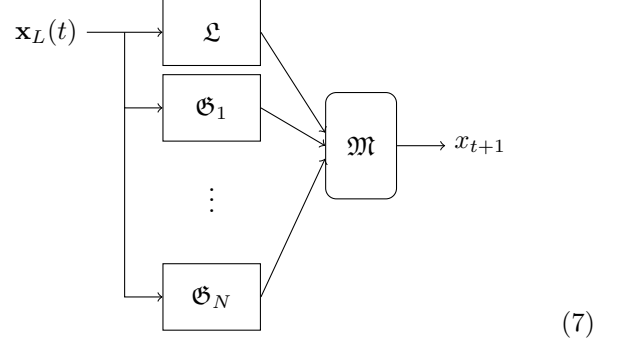
of the linear part of (3) such that

$$x_{t+1} \approx \hat{\mathcal{L}}(\mathbf{x}_L(t)), t \geq L$$

can be computed using some sample  $\Sigma_0 = \{x_t\}_{t=1}^{N-1}$  for some suitable  $N > L$ , by approximately solving the matrix equation

$$\mathcal{H}_L(\Sigma_0)^\top \begin{bmatrix} c_L \\ c_{L-1} \\ \vdots \\ c_2 \\ c_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_{N-L+1} \\ x_{N-L+2} \\ \vdots \\ x_{N-1} \\ x_N \end{bmatrix}. \quad (6)$$

Schematically the autoregressors considered in this study can be described by a block diagram of the form



where the block  $\mathcal{L}$  is represented by (4), each block  $\mathcal{G}_j$  is represented by (5), and where the block  $\mathcal{M}$  is determined by the expression

$$\mathcal{M}(y_1(t), \dots, y_{N+1}(t)) = \sum_{j=1}^{N+1} w_j y_j(t),$$

for some coefficients  $w_j$  to be determined and some given  $N$ , with  $y_1(t) = \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}_L(t))$  and  $y_k(t) = \mathcal{G}_k(\mathbf{x}_L(t))$  for each  $k = 1, \dots, N$  and each  $t \geq L$ .

The details of the computation of neural network blocks of the form (3) will be omitted for brevity, for details on the theory and computation of GRU models the reader is kindly referred to Cho et al. (2014), Kanai et al. (2017), Chollet et al. (2015), Paszke et al. (2019) and Vides (2021a).

Several interesting papers have been written on the subject of hybrid time series models that combine ARIMA and ANN, two important references on this matter are Zhang (2003) and Khandelwal et al. (2015). An important aspect of the modeling approach reported in this document, is that instead of using the GRU RNN components of (7) represented by  $\mathcal{G}$  in (3) to approximate the residual  $r_t = x_{t+1} - \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}_L(t))$ , using some training subsets  $\Sigma_I, \Sigma_M$  of a given data sample  $\Sigma_N$  from an arbitrary AEP signal  $\Sigma = \{x_t\}_{t \geq 1}$  under consideration, first the coefficients of the blocks  $\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{G}_1, \dots, \mathcal{G}_N$  of (7) are fitted using  $\Sigma_I$ , and then the coefficients of the block  $\mathcal{M}$  of (7) are fitted using  $\Sigma_M$  and some corresponding predicted values generated with  $\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{G}_1, \dots, \mathcal{G}_N$ .

### 3.2 An operator theoretic approach to autoregressors

As a consequence of (6), if we consider any sample  $\Sigma_M = \{\tilde{x}_t\}_{t=1}^M \subset \Sigma$  of suitable size  $M = N-1 > L$ , such that the states in  $\Sigma_M$  are successors of the states in  $\Sigma_0 = \{x_t\}_{t=1}^{N-1}$ , in the sense that there is some nonnegative integer  $S$  such that  $\tilde{x}_t = x_{t+S}$ , for each  $t = 1, \dots, M$ . We will have that the matrix

$$C(L) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}_{c_L \ c_{L-1} \ \dots \ c_2 \ c_1} \quad (8)$$

will satisfy the condition

$$\mathcal{H}_L(\Sigma_0)^\top (C(L)^S)^\top = \mathcal{H}_L(\Sigma_M)^\top. \quad (9)$$

Using matrices of the form (8) one can express linear models of the form (4) as follows.

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}_L(t)) = \hat{e}_{L,L}^\top C(L) \mathbf{x}_L(t) \quad (10)$$

One can observe that to each model of the form (4), there corresponds a matrix of the form (8). From here on, a matrix that satisfies the previous conditions will be called the matrix form of a linear model of the form (4).

Given  $\delta > 0$ , and two matrices  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times n}$  and  $Y \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times p}$ , we will write  $AX \approx_\delta Y$  to represent the problem of finding  $X \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times p}$ ,  $\alpha, \beta \geq 0$  and an orthogonal projector  $Q$  such that  $\|AX - Y\|_F \leq \alpha\delta + \beta\|(I_m - Q)Y\|_F$ . The matrix  $X$  will be called a solution to the problem  $AX \approx_\delta Y$ .

As a consequence of (9), (Vides, 2021b, Theorem 3.6) and (Vides, 2021b, Theorem 4.3) we can obtain the following result.

**Theorem 1.** Given  $\delta > 0$ , two integers  $L, M > 0$ , a sample  $\Sigma_N = \{x_t\}_{t=1}^N$  from an approximately eventually periodic signal  $\Sigma = \{x_t\}_{t \geq 1}$  and a matrix  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times L}$ . If  $r = \text{rk}_\delta(\mathcal{H}_L(\Sigma_N)) > 0$ , then there is a sparse matrix  $\hat{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times L}$  with at most  $Mr$  entries such that  $A\mathcal{H}_L(\Sigma_N) \approx_\delta \hat{A}\mathcal{H}_L(\Sigma_N)$ .

**Proof.** This result is a consequence of the application of (Vides, 2021b, Theorem 3.6) and (Vides, 2021b, Theorem 4.3) to the matrix equation

$$\mathcal{H}_L(\Sigma_N)^\top \hat{A}^\top = \mathcal{H}_L(\Sigma_N)^\top A^\top.$$

**Remark 2.** Given some AEP signal under consideration  $\Sigma = \{x_t\}_{t \geq 1}$  with approximate period  $T$ , if the corresponding residuals  $r_t = |x_{t+1} - \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}_L(t))|$  are small, then the significative contribution of the linear component  $\mathcal{L}$  of (3) to the modeling process of  $\Sigma$  would be beneficial for interpretability purposes. Also, if we consider the tail  $\tilde{\Sigma} = \{x_t\}_{t \geq S}$  of  $\Sigma$ , by applying a Krylov space approach along the lines presented in (Saad, 2011, §6.1), and as a consequence of (Vides, 2021b, Theorem 4.3.), one would expect that there are  $\varepsilon > 0$  and some matrix  $W_k \in \mathbb{C}^{L \times k}$  whose columns form an orthonormal basis of  $\text{span}(\{x_S, C(L)x_S, C(L)^2x_S, \dots, C(L)^{T-1}x_S\})$ , such that each  $z \in \sigma(W_k^* C(L) W_k)$  satisfies the relation  $|z^T - 1| \leq \varepsilon$ . This interesting *mimetic features* will be further explored in future communications.

The matrix  $W_k^* C(L) W_k$  will be called the  $\tilde{\Sigma}$ -section of  $C(L)$  and will be denoted by  $C(L)|_{\tilde{\Sigma}}$ .

## 4. ALGORITHMS

As an applications of the results in section §3.1 we can obtain a prototypical algorithm.

### 4.1 Autoregressor algorithm

The results in §3.1 can be translated into algorithm 1 that relies on (Vides, 2021b, Algorithm 1) and Theorem 1.

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**Algorithm 1: SLSpARModel:** Sparse Semilinear Autoregressor algorithm

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**Data:**  $\Sigma_N = \{x_t\}_{t=1}^N \subset \mathbb{C}^{n \times 1}$ ,  $\delta > 0$ ,  $N \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ ,  $\varepsilon > 0$

**Result:**  $\mathbf{c}, C(L) = \mathbf{SpAutoregressor}(X, \delta, N, \varepsilon)$

- 1: Solve (6) applying (Vides, 2021b, Algorithm 1);
- 2: Compute  $C(L)$  using the elements of the vector  $\mathbf{c}$  computed in step [1] according to (8);
- 3: Fit the blocks  $\mathfrak{G}_j$  of (7) using data in  $\Sigma_N$ .
- 4: Compute sparse representations of the input weights of the GRU layers of each  $\mathfrak{G}_j$  applying Theorem 1.
- 5: Compute the coefficients  $\mathbf{w}_M = (w_1, \dots, w_{N+1})$  of the block  $\mathfrak{M}$  of (7) using  $\Sigma_N$  and (Vides, 2021b, Algorithm 1);

**return**  $\mathbf{c}, C(L), \mathfrak{G}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{G}_j, \mathbf{w}_M$

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We can apply algorithm 1 to compute the model coefficients needed for the computation of signal models of the form (7).

## 5. NUMERICAL EXPERIMENTS

In this section, some computational implementations of the results and algorithms reported in this document are presented. Most of the numerical experiments documented in this section were performed on a Linux Ubuntu Server 20.04 workstation equipped with an Intel Core i7 processor with 6 cores and with 8GB RAM. Some numerical experiments were also performed in Google Colab and in IBM Quantum Lab.

The experimental results documented in this section can be replicated using the function `NumericalExperiment.py` or the Jupyter notebook `SLSpARModelsDemo.ipynb`, that are available in Vides (2021a). The configuration required to replicate the results in this section is available as part of the aforementioned programs.

The signal approximations computed using the SpARGRU models presented in this document are compared with the approximations obtained using standard AR models. The corresponding standard AR models are computed using the python program `Autoreg` included as part of `statsmodels` module. In this section we will write  $nz$  to denote nonzero elements.

For the experiments documented in this section two GRU RNN blocks were used, the block  $\mathfrak{G}_1$  was computed using TensorFlow 2.6.0 and its input weights were replaced by sparse representations computed using (Vides, 2021b, Algorithm 1), and the block  $\mathfrak{G}_2$  was computed using PyTorch 1.9.1+cpu and its input weights were left unchanged.

### 5.1 Numerical experiment 1

In this section the programs in Vides (2021a) based on algorithms (Vides, 2021b, Algorithm 1) and 1, can be used to compute a sparse model for the signal recorded in the csv file `AlmostPeriodicSignal.csv` in the

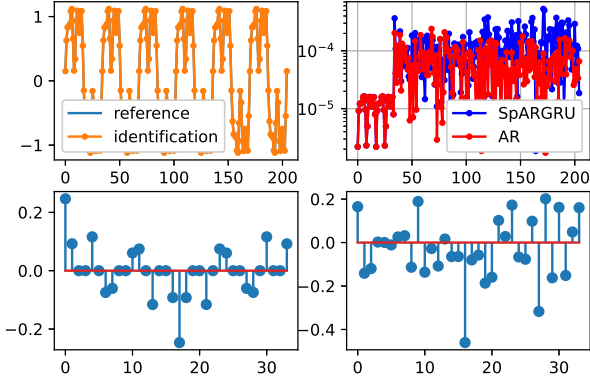


Fig. 1. Reference and approximation signals (top left). Approximation errors (top right). Linear component coefficients of the SpARGRU model with 18  $nz$  (bottom left). Coefficients of the linear component of standard AR model with 34  $nz$  (bottom right).

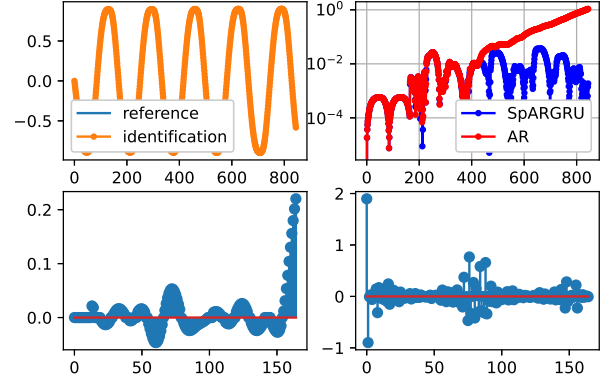


Fig. 3. Reference and approximation signals (top left). Approximation errors (top right). Linear component coefficients of the SpARGRU model with 118  $nz$  (bottom left). Coefficients of the linear component of standard AR model with 165  $nz$  (bottom right).

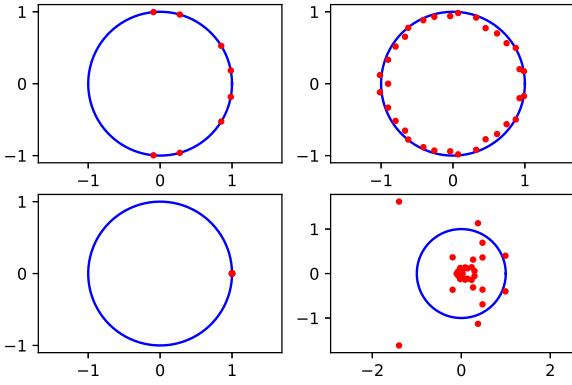


Fig. 2.  $\sigma(C(L)|\Sigma)$  for the linear component of the SpARGRU model (top left).  $\sigma(C(L)|\Sigma)$  for the linear component of the standard AR model (top right).  $\sigma((C(L)|\Sigma)^T)$  for the linear component of the SpARGRU model (bottom left).  $\sigma((C(L)|\Sigma)^T)$  for the linear component of the standard AR model (bottom right).

DataSets folder in Vides (2021a). The graphic representations of the results produced by the command sequence `NumericalExperiment(1)` are shown in figures 1 and 2, respectively.

In every figure of the type of figure 2, the red dots represent the points in each considered spectrum, the blue line represents  $\mathbf{S}^1$ , and the number  $T$  represents the estimated approximate period for each signal considered.

## 5.2 Numerical experiment 2

In this section the programs in Vides (2021a) based on algorithms (Vides, 2021b, Algorithm 1) and 1, can be used to compute a sparse model for the signal recorded in the csv file `NLOscillatorSignal.csv` in the DataSets folder in Vides (2021a). The graphic representations of the results produced by the command sequence

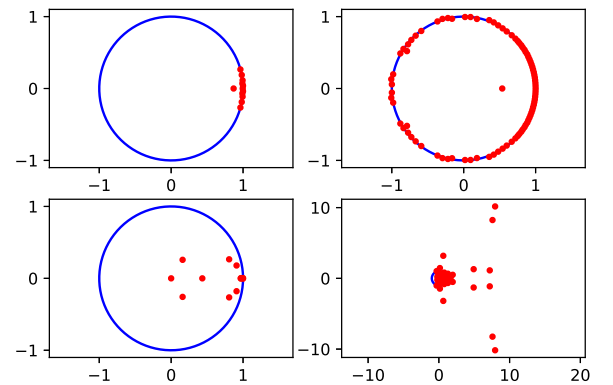


Fig. 4.  $\sigma(C(L)|\Sigma)$  for the linear component of the SpARGRU model (top left).  $\sigma(C(L)|\Sigma)$  for the linear component of the standard AR model (top right).  $\sigma((C(L)|\Sigma)^T)$  for the linear component of the SpARGRU model (bottom left).  $\sigma((C(L)|\Sigma)^T)$  for the linear component of the standard AR model (bottom right).

`NumericalExperiment(1)` are shown in figures 3 and 4, respectively.

## 5.3 Numerical experiment 3

In this section the programs in Vides (2021a) based on algorithms (Vides, 2021b, Algorithm 1) and 1, can be used to compute a sparse model for the signals recorded in the csv file `art_daily_no_noise.csv` and `art_daily_small_noise.csv` included as part of Ahmad et al. (2017). The graphic representations of the results produced by the command sequence `NumericalExperiment(3)` for the periodic signal without noise are shown in figures 5 and 6, respectively, and the graphic representations of the results produced by the command sequence `NumericalExperiment(4)` for the periodic signal with noise are shown in figures 7 and 8.

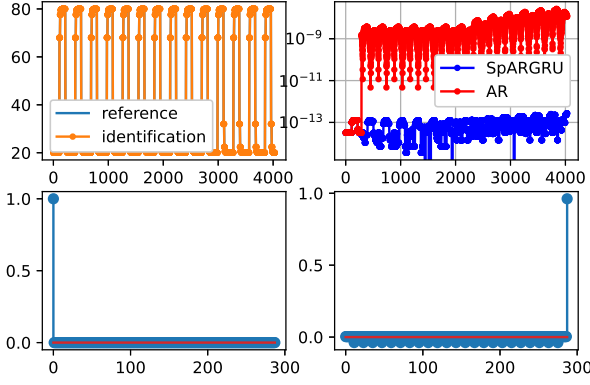


Fig. 5. Reference and approximation signals (top left). Approximation errors (top right). Linear component coefficients of the SpARGRU model with 8  $nz$  (bottom left). Coefficients of the linear component of standard AR model with 288  $nz$  (bottom right).

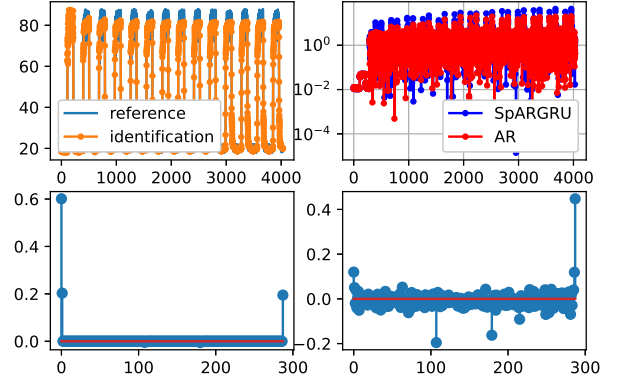


Fig. 7. Reference and approximation signals (top left). Approximation errors (top right). Linear component coefficients of the SpARGRU model with 5  $nz$  (bottom left). Coefficients of the linear component of standard AR model with 288  $nz$  (bottom right).

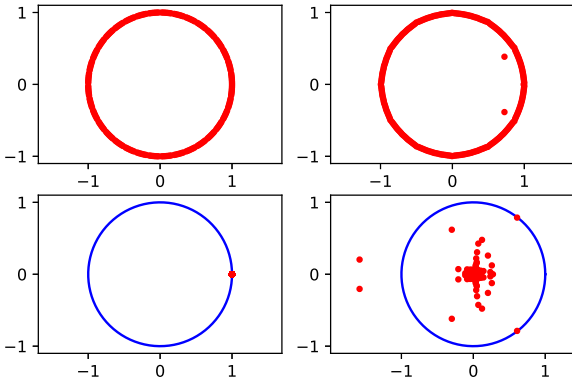


Fig. 6.  $\sigma(C(L)|_{\Sigma})$  for the linear component of the SpARGRU model (top left).  $\sigma(C(L)|_{\Sigma})$  for the linear component of the standard AR model (top right).  $\sigma((C(L)|_{\Sigma})^T)$  for the linear component of the SpARGRU model (bottom left).  $\sigma((C(L)|_{\Sigma})^T)$  for the linear component of the standard AR model (bottom right).

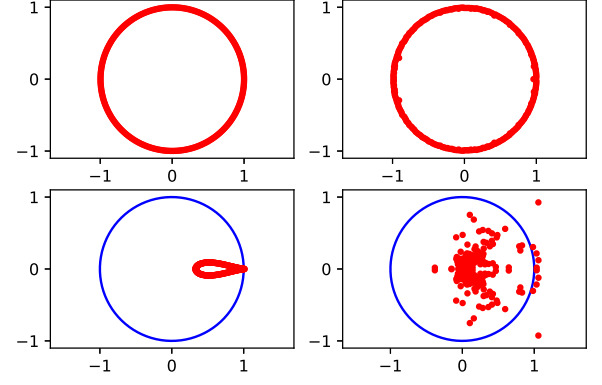


Fig. 8.  $\sigma(C(L)|_{\Sigma})$  for the linear component of the SpARGRU model (top left).  $\sigma(C(L)|_{\Sigma})$  for the linear component of the standard AR model (top right).  $\sigma((C(L)|_{\Sigma})^T)$  for the linear component of the SpARGRU model (bottom left).  $\sigma((C(L)|_{\Sigma})^T)$  for the linear component of the standard AR model (bottom right).

#### 5.4 Approximation errors

The approximation root mean square errors are summarized in table 1.

Table 1. RMSE

Model	SpARGRU Model	AR Model
Experiment 1	0.000160358	0.0001450925
Experiment 2	0.0129278690	0.3100591516
Experiment 3.1	0.0000000000	0.0000000074
Experiment 3.2	4.2878248107	4.0939437825

#### 6. CONCLUSION

The results observed in the numerical experiments are consistent with the theoretical elements documented in section §3.1.

#### 7. DATA AVAILABILITY

The programs and data that support the findings of this study are openly available in the SPAAR repository, reference number Vides (2021a). The time series data used for some of the experiments documented on §5 is available as part the the Numenta Anomaly Benchmark (NAB) described in Ahmad et al. (2017).

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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