

Continuous-discrete time observers for a class of MIMO nonlinear systems

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Abstract—In this paper, we investigate the possibility of designing an observer for a class of continuous-time dynamical systems with non-uniformly sampled measurements. More specifically, we propose an observer with a time varying gain which converges exponentially under some conditions on the sampling partition diameter. The proposed observer is an impulsive system since it is described by a set of differential equations with instantaneous state impulses corresponding to the measured samples and their estimates. As it is customarily done in the literature, we show that such an impulsive system can be split into two subsystems and be put under the form of a hybrid system which is designed using a continuous-time observer together with an inter-sample output predictor. Simulations results involving a typical bioreactor are given to show the effectiveness of the proposed observer.

Key words: Nonlinear observers, sampled-data observers, continuous-discrete time observers, high gain observers.

I. INTRODUCTION

The observer design problem for nonlinear dynamical systems has been paid a lot of attention over the last decades. It is however worth mentioning that most of the available results on nonlinear observers design deal with continuous-time measurements ([1], [2], [3], [4], [5]). Furthermore, the digital implementation of these continuous-time observers is generally carried out without any redesign using relatively small sampling periods as the stability and the convergence properties of the sampled continuous-time observer may be lost in the case of relatively large sampling periods. This is, the search for alternative design methodologies might be necessary to deal with the long standing digital implementation issue. Among these approaches, one can cite those whereby the observer design is based on exact or approximate discrete-time descriptions of the systems dynamics ([6], [7], [8]). This approach does not allow to take into consideration the inter-sampled dynamics, which is completely lost as pointed out in [9]. Moreover, the underlying discrete-time representation of the system may suffer from possible errors that might occur during the sampling scheduling process. Nevertheless, such an issue can be handled by appropriately redesigning the continuous-time observer and by considering the fact that the outputs measurements are available only at sampling instants. An earlier

contribution, in this context, has been made using a high gain observer for a class of nonlinear systems that are observable for any input [10]. The design has been firstly carried out by assuming continuous-time output measurements before being appropriately modified to handle the case where these measurements are only available at sampling instants. Based on the aforementioned contribution, many other observers have been proposed for specific classes of continuous-time systems with discrete-time outputs measurements ([11], [12], [13]).

A more promising approach to cope with the non availability of the output measurements between the sampling instants has been proposed in [9]. It consisted in employing a continuous time-observer using a suitable output predictor. The involved output prediction is obtained as the solution of a scalar ordinary differential equation (ODE) between two successive sampling instants with the value of the measured output sample as initial condition. The underlying observer is a hybrid system that inherits the properties of the continuous time observer for relatively fast sampling rates.

Another observer design approach for a particular class of nonlinear systems with sampled measurements has been proposed in [14]. It consists in using an impulsive observer where the output error correction term is expressed as the product of a constant gain by the difference between the estimated and measured values of the last output sample, respectively. The observer convergence analysis as well as the determination of its gain are obtained using LMI tools similar to those described in [15].

In this paper, we propose a continuous-discrete time observer for a class of multi-input and multi-output (MIMO) nonlinear systems, with sampled measurements, that are observable for any input. The proposed observer is obtained from a redesigned version of a purely continuous-time one that assumes continuous-time measurements. As for the impulsive observer given in [14], the corrective term of the proposed observer is a function of the difference between the estimated and actual output values at the last sampling instant. However, unlike in [14], the multiplicative observer gain is time-varying and depends on the sampling periods. In particular, it is shown that the proposed impulsive observer can be written under the form of a hybrid system as the continuous-discrete time observer proposed in [9]. Indeed, the equations of the impulsive observer can be split into two subsystems: the first subsystem has the same structure as the purely continuous time observer where the non available outputs are replaced by appropriate predictions provided by the second subsystem.

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The paper is organized as follows. In the next section, the class of systems that shall be considered throughout this paper is introduced with some notations together and a brief recall on the design of a continuous-time high gain observer for the considered class of systems. In section 3, the design of the impulsive continuous-discrete time observer is firstly detailed with full convergence analysis. Then, it is shown that the proposed impulsive observer can be written under the form of a hybrid system, allowing thereby to emphasize the relationship between this observer and the continuous high gain observer. Simulations results are given in section 4 to highlight the performances of the proposed observers. Finally, some concluding remarks are given in section 5.

II. PROBLEM FORMULATION AND PRELIMINARIES

Consider MIMO systems that are diffeomorphic to the following form:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}(t) = Ax(t) + \varphi(u(t), x(t)) \\ y_k = Cx(t_k) = x^1(t_k), \forall k \in \mathbb{N} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

with

$$x = \begin{pmatrix} x^1 \\ x^2 \\ \vdots \\ x^q \end{pmatrix}; \quad \varphi(u, x) = \begin{pmatrix} \varphi^1(u, x^1) \\ \varphi^2(u, x^1, x^2) \\ \vdots \\ \varphi^{q-1}(u, x^1, \dots, x^{q-1}) \\ \varphi^q(u, x) \end{pmatrix}; \quad (2)$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0_p & I_p & 0_p & 0_p \\ \vdots & \ddots & I_p & \\ 0_p & & \ddots & \ddots & 0_p \\ 0_p & & & \ddots & I_p \\ 0_p & \dots & 0_p & 0_p \end{bmatrix}; \quad (3)$$

$$C = [I_p, 0_p, \dots, 0_p] \quad (4)$$

where the state $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ with $x^j \in \mathbb{R}^p$, $j = 1, \dots, q$; the input $u(t) \in U$, a compact subset of $\mathbb{R}^s$ and the output $y \in \mathbb{R}^p$ is available at time instants t_k satisfying

$$0 \leq t_0 < \dots < t_k < t_{k+1} < \dots \text{ with } \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} t_k = \infty \text{ and time-varying intervals } \tau_k = t_{k+1} - t_k \quad (5)$$

System (1) may seem as being very particular since it assumes a non prime dimension ($n = pq$) and in all the q blocs, the sub-blocks x^j have the same dimension p . In fact, it has been shown in [16] that system (1) is a normal form that characterizes a class of nonlinear systems that are observable for any input and that can be put through an injective map under the form (1) (see e.g. [16], [17] for more details).

Our objective consists in designing an exponential continuous-discrete time observer that provides continuous-time estimates of the whole state of system (1) from the outputs measurements that are available at sampling instants, only. One also aims at providing an expression of the upper bound of the sampling partition diameter under which the proposed observer converges exponentially. These objectives

shall be achieved in the subsequent sections.

The observer design requires some assumptions that shall be stated in due courses. At this step, one assumes the following: **(A1)** The function $\varphi^i(u, x)$ are globally Lipschitz with respect to x uniformly in u i.e.

$$\forall x, \bar{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|\varphi^i(u, x) - \varphi^i(u, \bar{x})\| \leq L\|x - \bar{x}\| \quad (6)$$

where $L > 0$ is the Lipschitz constant.

Before proposing the continuous-discrete time impulsive observer, one shall recall the main steps of a continuous time high gain observer design for system (1). The main outlines of the underlying convergence analysis shall also be sketched. This allows to show later that the continuous-discrete time impulsive observer can be interpreted as a redesigned version of the introduced continuous-time one. More specifically, one will consider the continuous-time observer that has been proposed for system (1) in ([18], [19]). The latter is given by

$$\dot{\hat{x}}(t) = A\hat{x}(t) + \varphi(u(t), \hat{x}(t)) - \theta\Delta_\theta^{-1}K(C\hat{x}(t) - y(t)) \quad (7)$$

where $\hat{x} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{x}^1 \\ \hat{x}^2 \\ \vdots \\ \hat{x}^q \end{pmatrix}$; K is a gain matrix and is chosen such that

$$\bar{A} \triangleq A - KC \quad (8)$$

is Hurwitz and Δ_θ is the following diagonal matrix:

$$\Delta_\theta = \text{diag}\left(I_p, \frac{1}{\theta}I_p, \dots, \frac{1}{\theta^{q-1}}I_p\right) \quad (9)$$

where $\theta \geq 1$ is a real design parameter.

A detailed proof of the exponential convergence of the observation error can be found in [19]. For clarity purposes and since the link between the design of this observer and that of the continuous-discrete time one shall be raised, one proposes to briefly recall the main outlines of the proof. Indeed, let $\tilde{x} = \hat{x} - x$ be the observation error. One has

$$\dot{\tilde{x}} = (A - \theta\Delta_\theta^{-1}KC)\tilde{x} + \varphi(u, \hat{x}) - \varphi(u, x) \quad (10)$$

Let $\bar{x} = \Delta_\theta \tilde{x}$. Taking into account the following identities

$$\Delta_\theta A \Delta_\theta^{-1} = \theta A \text{ and } C \Delta_\theta^{-1} = C \quad (11)$$

one gets

$$\dot{\bar{x}} = \theta \bar{A} \bar{x} + \Delta_\theta (\varphi(u, \hat{x}) - \varphi(u, x)) \quad (12)$$

Now, since $\bar{A}$ is Hurwitz, there exist a symmetric positive definite matrix P and a positive real μ such that

$$P\bar{A} + \bar{A}^T P \leq -2\mu I_n \quad (13)$$

Let us show that $V(\bar{x}) = \bar{x}^T P \bar{x}$ is a Lyapunov function for system (12). Indeed, one has

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}(\bar{x}) &= 2\theta \bar{x}^T P \bar{A} \bar{x} + 2\bar{x}^T P \Delta_\theta (\varphi(u, \hat{x}) - \varphi(u, x)) \\ &\leq -2\mu \theta \|\bar{x}\|^2 + 2\bar{x}^T P \Delta_\theta (\varphi(u, \hat{x}) - \varphi(u, x)) \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

According to the Lipschitz assumption and the triangular structure of φ , one can show that ([19], [16]):

$$2\bar{x}^T P \Delta_\theta (\varphi(u, \hat{x}) - \varphi(u, x)) \leq 2L\sqrt{n}\lambda_M \|\bar{x}\|^2 \quad (15)$$

where L is the Lipschitz constant of φ and λ_M (resp. λ_m) is the largest (resp. smallest) eigenvalue of P .

Combining (14) and (15), one gets

$$\dot{V}(\bar{x}) \leq -(2\mu\theta - 2L\sqrt{n}\lambda_M) \|\bar{x}\|^2 \quad (16)$$

Now, by choosing θ such that $2\mu\theta - 2L\sqrt{n}\lambda_M > \mu\theta$ i.e.

$$\theta > \theta_0 \triangleq \frac{2L\sqrt{n}\lambda_M}{\mu} \quad (17)$$

one gets

$$V(\bar{x}(t)) \leq e^{-\frac{\mu\theta}{\lambda_M}(t-t_0)} V(\bar{x}(t_0))$$

This ends the proof.

III. SYNTHESIS OF THE CONTINUOUS-DISCRETE TIME OBSERVER

The candidate impulsive continuous-discrete time observer takes the following form

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\dot{x}}(t) &= A\hat{x}(t) + \varphi(u(t), \hat{x}(t)) \\ &\quad - \Delta_\theta^{-1} K e^{-\theta K^1(t-t_k)} (C\hat{x}(t_k) - y(t_k)), \quad k \in \mathbb{N} \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

where $\hat{x} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{x}^1 \\ \hat{x}^2 \\ \vdots \\ \hat{x}^q \end{pmatrix}$; the matrix $K = \begin{pmatrix} K^1 \\ K^2 \\ \vdots \\ K^q \end{pmatrix}$, where

the K^i 's are $p \times p$ square matrices, is such that the matrix $\bar{A}$ defined as in (8) is Hurwitz, the matrix Δ_θ is defined in (9) and $\theta \geq 1$ is a design parameter.

Under Assumption (A1), our main result can be stated as follows:

Theorem 1. *For every bounded input, there exists $\theta_0 > 0$; for every $\theta > \theta_0$; there exists $\tau_M > 0$ and $\chi(\theta) > 0$ with $\tau_M < \frac{1}{\chi(\theta)}$ such that for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$ with $t_{k+1} - t_k \leq \tau_M$, the observation error $\hat{x}(t) - x(t)$ where x and $\hat{x}$ are the respective trajectories of systems (1) and (18) exponentially converges to zero.*

Notice that the parameter τ_M is the upper diameter of the sampling partition (i.e. the maximum possible value of the sampling period) under which the exponential convergence of the observation error is guaranteed.

A. Proof of Theorem 1.

Let $\tilde{x}(t) = \hat{x}(t) - x(t)$ be the observation error where $t \in [t_k, t_{k+1}]$. One has

$$\dot{\tilde{x}}(t) = A\tilde{x} + \varphi(u, \hat{x}) - \varphi(u, x) - \theta \Delta_\theta^{-1} K e^{-K^1\theta(t-t_k)} C\tilde{x}(t_k)$$

Consider the following change of variables $\bar{x} = \Delta_\theta \tilde{x}$. Using the identities (11), one gets

$$\dot{\bar{x}}(t) = \theta A\bar{x} + \Delta_\theta (\varphi(u, \hat{x}) - \varphi(u, x)) - \theta K e^{-K^1\theta(t-t_k)} C\bar{x}(t_k)$$

Let us consider the following candidate quadratic Lyapunov function

$$V(\bar{x}) = \bar{x}^T P \bar{x} \quad (19)$$

where P is defined as in (13).

Proceeding as in the continuous case, one can show that

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}(\bar{x}) &\leq -2\theta\mu\|\bar{x}\|^2 + 2\theta\bar{x}^T P K C \bar{x} + 2L\sqrt{n}V_1(\bar{x}) \\ &\quad - 2\theta\bar{x}^T P K e^{-K^1\theta(t-t_k)} C\bar{x}(t_k) \\ &\leq -(2\theta\mu - 2L\sqrt{n}\lambda_M) \|\bar{x}\|^2 + 2\theta\bar{x}^T P K z \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} z(t) &\triangleq C\bar{x} - e^{-K^1\theta(t-t_k)} C\bar{x}(t_k) \\ &= \bar{x}^1(t) - e^{-K^1\theta(t-t_k)} \bar{x}^1(t_k) \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

Notice that, one has $z(t_k) = 0$. Moreover, the time derivative of z can be expressed as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{z}(t) &= \dot{\bar{x}}^1(t) + K^1\theta e^{-K^1\theta(t-t_k)} \bar{x}^1(t_k) \\ &= \theta\bar{x}^2 + \varphi^1(u, \hat{x}^1) - \varphi^1(u, x^1) \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

Integrating (22) from t_k to t and from the fact that $z(t_k) = 0$, one gets:

$$z(t) = \int_{t_k}^t (\theta\bar{x}^2(s) + \varphi^1(u, \hat{x}^1(s)) - \varphi^1(u, x^1(s))) ds \quad (23)$$

and hence

$$\begin{aligned} \|z(t)\| &\leq \int_{t_k}^t (\theta\|\bar{x}^2(s)\| + L\|\bar{x}^1(s)\|) ds \\ &\leq (\theta + L) \int_{t_k}^t \|\bar{x}(s)\| ds \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

By choosing θ as in the continuous case, i.e. satisfying (17), inequality (20) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}(\bar{x}(t)) &\leq -\mu\theta\|\bar{x}\|^2 + 2\theta\bar{x}^T(t) P K z(t) \\ &\leq -\frac{\mu\theta}{\lambda_M} V(\bar{x}(t)) + 2\theta\sqrt{\lambda_M}\sqrt{V(\bar{x}(t))} \|K\| \|z(t)\| \\ &\leq -\frac{\mu\theta}{\lambda_M} V(\bar{x}(t)) + 2\theta\sqrt{\frac{\lambda_M}{\lambda_m}} \|K\| (L + \theta) \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(t))} \int_{t_k}^t \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(s))} ds \end{aligned}$$

or equivalently

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\dot{V}(\bar{x}(t))}{2\sqrt{V(\bar{x}(t))}} &\leq -\frac{\mu\theta}{2\lambda_M} \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(t))} + \theta\sqrt{\frac{\lambda_M}{\lambda_m}} \|K\| \\ &\quad (L + \theta) \int_{t_k}^t \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(s))} ds \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

Integrating the above inequation from t_k to t , one gets:

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(t))} &\leq e^{-\frac{\mu\theta}{2\lambda_M}(t-t_k)} \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(t_k))} \\ &\quad + \theta\sqrt{\frac{\lambda_M}{\lambda_m}} \|K\| (L + \theta) \int_{t_k}^t e^{-\frac{\mu\theta}{2\lambda_M}(t-s)} \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(s))} ds \\ &\quad \left(\int_{t_k}^s \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(\xi))} d\xi \right) ds \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

Now, one has

$$\int_{t_k}^t e^{-\frac{\mu\theta}{2\lambda_M}(t-s)} \int_{t_k}^s \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(\xi))} d\xi ds \quad (27)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq \int_{t_k}^t \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(\xi))} d\xi \int_{t_k}^t e^{-\frac{\mu\theta}{2\lambda_M}(t-s)} ds \\ &\leq e^{-\frac{\mu\theta}{2\lambda_M}(t-t_k)} \frac{\left(e^{\frac{\mu\theta}{2\lambda_M}\tau_M} - 1\right)}{\frac{\mu\theta}{2\lambda_M}} \int_{t_k}^t \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(\xi))} d\xi \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

Using the bound given by (28) in (26), one gets

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(t))} &\leq e^{-\frac{\mu\theta}{2\lambda_M}(t-t_k)} \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(t_k))} \\ &\quad + c e^{-\frac{\mu\theta}{2\lambda_M}(t-t_k)} \int_{t_k}^t \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(\xi))} d\xi \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

where

$$c = \frac{2\lambda_M \sqrt{\frac{\lambda_M}{\lambda_m}} \|K\| (L + \theta)}{\mu} \left(e^{\frac{\mu\theta}{2\lambda_M}\tau_M} - 1 \right) \quad (30)$$

Multiplying each side of inequality (29) by $e^{\frac{\mu\theta}{2\lambda_M}(t-t_k)}$ leads to

$$\begin{aligned} e^{\frac{\mu\theta}{2\lambda_M}(t-t_k)} \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(t))} &\leq \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(t_k))} \\ &\quad + c \int_{t_k}^t \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(\xi))} d\xi \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

By setting

$$U(t) = e^{\frac{\mu\theta}{2\lambda_M}(t-t_k)} \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(t))} \quad (32)$$

inequation (31) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} U(t) &\leq \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(t_k))} + c \int_{t_k}^t e^{-\frac{\mu\theta}{2\lambda_M}(\xi-t_k)} U(\xi) d\xi \\ &\leq \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(t_k))} + c \int_{t_k}^t U(\xi) d\xi \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

Using Gronwall's lemma, one gets

$$U(t) \leq e^{c(t-t_k)} \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(t_k))} \quad (34)$$

and one comes back to $\sqrt{V}$ using (32) to obtain

$$\sqrt{V(\bar{x}(t))} \leq e^{-\left(\frac{\mu\theta}{2\lambda_M} - c\right)(t-t_k)} \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(t_k))} \quad (35)$$

Since $\bar{x}$ and $V(\bar{x})$ are continuous with respect to their arguments, one has $\sqrt{V(\bar{x}(t_k))} = \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(t_k-))}$ and one can easily deduce from (35) the following

$$\sqrt{V(\bar{x}(t))} \leq e^{-\left(\frac{\mu\theta}{2\lambda_M} - c\right)(t-t_0)} \sqrt{V(\bar{x}(t_0))} \quad (36)$$

To end the proof, one has to exhibit the condition under which the term $\left(\frac{\mu\theta}{2\lambda_M} - c\right)$, is positive. Using the expression of the constant c given by (30), such a condition shall be satisfied if:

$$\frac{2\lambda_M \sqrt{\frac{\lambda_M}{\lambda_m}} \|K\| (L + \theta)}{\mu} \left(e^{\frac{\mu\theta}{2\lambda_M}\tau_M} - 1 \right) < \frac{\mu\theta}{2\lambda_M} \quad (37)$$

or equivalently

$$\tau_M < \frac{2\lambda_M}{\mu\theta} L n \left(1 + \frac{\left(\frac{\mu}{2\lambda_M}\right)^2 \theta}{\sqrt{\frac{\lambda_M}{\lambda_m}} \|K\| (L + \theta)} \right) \quad (38)$$

This ends the proof.

It is important to note that condition (38) may be very restrictive and it only provides an upper bound for the sampling partition diameter. Nevertheless, many simulation experiments have shown that the proposed continuous-discrete time observer perform well for sampling periods that are higher than the theoretical upper bound given by (38).

Remark: If a system $\dot{x}(t) = f(u(t), x(t))$, $y(t_k) = h(x(t_k))$ is put under form (1) through a diffeomorphism $z = \Phi(x)$, then the equation of the continuous-discrete time observer (18) can be written in the original coordinates in 'x' as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\hat{x}}(t) &= f(u(t), \hat{x}(t)) - \theta e^{-\theta K^1(t-t_k)} \\ &\quad \left(\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x}(\hat{x}(t)) \right)^{-1} \Delta_\theta^{-1} K(h(\hat{x}(t_k)) - y(t_k)) \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

B. The output prediction form of the observer

Equation (18) puts forward the impulsive form of the proposed observer. We shall show that this observer can be split into two subsystems: the structure of the first subsystem is similar to that of the continuous-time observer (7) where the unavailable output is replaced by an appropriate prediction provided by the second subsystem. Indeed, consider the following continuous-time dynamical system:

$$\dot{\hat{x}}(t) = A\hat{x}(t) + \varphi(u(t), \hat{x}(t)) - \theta \Delta_\theta^{-1} K(C\hat{x}(t) - \omega(t)) \quad (40)$$

where $\hat{x}$, K are as in (18) and $\theta \geq 1$ is a design parameter. The structure of this system is very similar to that of the continuous time observer (7) with the difference that the term corresponding to the observation error in (7), $(C\hat{x}(t) - y(t))$, is replaced in (40) by the term $(C\hat{x}(t) - \omega(t))$ where $\omega(t)$ is a new variable and it corresponds to the prediction of the outputs. Its dynamics is described by the following Ordinary Differential Equation (ODE):

$$\begin{cases} \text{For } t_k \leq t < t_{k+1}: \\ \dot{\omega}(t) = \hat{x}^2(t) + \varphi^1(u(t), \hat{x}^1(t)) \\ \text{with } \omega(t_k) = Cx(t_k) = y(t_k) \end{cases} \quad (41)$$

The dynamics of the outputs prediction ω is very similar to that of the outputs estimate $\hat{x}^1(t)$ that can be written (according to system (40)) as follows:

$$\dot{\hat{x}}^1(t) = \hat{x}^2(t) + \varphi^1(u(t), \hat{x}^1(t)) - \theta K^1(C\hat{x}(t) - \omega(t)) \quad (42)$$

Recall that contrarily to the ODE (41) that has to be re-initialized at each sampling instant t_k and then resolved for

$t \in [t_k, t_{k+1}[$, equation (42) or more generally system (40) is initialized only once at t_0 and then resolved for all $t \geq t_0$. Set

$$\xi(t) = C\hat{x}(t) - \omega(t) = \hat{x}^1(t) - \omega(t) \quad (43)$$

and let us focus on the dynamics of ξ . Indeed, according to (41) and (42), one has:

$$\dot{\xi}(t) = -\theta K^1 \xi(t) \quad (44)$$

Integrating (44) from t_k to $t < t_{k+1}$ yields

$$\xi(t) = e^{-\theta K^1(t-t_k)} \xi(t_k) \quad (45)$$

Now, from the fact that $\omega(t_k) = x^1(t_k)$, one has

$$\begin{aligned} \xi(t_k) &= \hat{x}^1(t_k) - \omega(t_k) \\ &= \hat{x}^1(t_k) - x^1(t_k) = \hat{x}^1(t_k) - y(t_k) \end{aligned} \quad (46)$$

Combining (45) and (46) gives

$$\xi(t) = e^{-\theta K^1(t-t_k)} C\tilde{x}(t_k) \quad (47)$$

Finally, substituting $C\hat{x}(t) - \omega(t) \triangleq \xi(t)$ in equation (40) by its expression given by (47), one gets:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\hat{x}}(t) &= A\hat{x}(t) + \varphi(u(t), \hat{x}(t)) \\ &\quad - \theta \Delta_\theta^{-1} e^{-\theta K^1(t-t_k)} K(C\hat{x}(t_k) - y(t_k)) \end{aligned} \quad (48)$$

and we meet observer (18).

IV. EXAMPLE

The performance of the proposed observer shall be illustrated through an observer design involving a typical bioreactor. We consider a simple microbial culture which involves a single biomass x_1 growing on a single substrate x_2 . The bioprocess is supposed to be continuous with a dilution rate $u(t)$ and an input substrate concentration $s_{in}(t)$. The specific growth rate is assumed to follow the Contois model ([20]). The mathematical dynamical model of the process is constituted by the following two mass balance equations associated to x_1 and x_2 , respectively:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1(t) &= \frac{\mu^* x_1(t) x_2(t)}{K_c x_1(t) + x_2(t)} - u(t) x_1(t) \\ \dot{x}_2(t) &= \frac{-k \mu^* x_1(t) x_2(t)}{K_c x_1(t) + x_2(t)} + u(t) (s_{in}(t) - x_2(t)) \\ y(t_k) &= x_1(t_k) \end{cases} \quad (49)$$

where x_1 and x_2 respectively denote the concentration of the biomass and the substrate, μ^* and K_c are the Contois law parameters while k is a yield coefficient. The measurements of the biomass concentration are supposed to be available with at time interval τ and the objective is to estimate the actual biomass concentration together with that of the substrate from the available discrete measurements.

System (49) has been considered in [21] where the authors exhibited a compact set $X \in \mathbb{R}^2$ which is positively invariant under the dynamics of (49). Moreover, it was shown that the following function $\Phi : X \rightarrow \Phi(X)$,

$$x = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} \mapsto z = \Phi(x) = \begin{pmatrix} z_1 &= & x_1 \\ z_2 &= & \frac{\mu^* x_1 x_2}{K_c x_1 + x_2} \end{pmatrix}$$

is a diffeomorphism from X onto its image. System (49) can be written in the new coordinates z under form (1). As a result, an observer proposed in this paper can be used to achieve the continuous state estimation of the state from the available discrete measurements. The equations of the observer in the original equations can be written under form (39)

Simulations have been carried out by assuming a uniform sampling partition i.e. $t_k = k\tau$. The following values are used in simulation:

$$\begin{aligned} \mu^* &= 1(\text{min}^{-1}), \quad K_c = 1, \quad k = 1, \quad u = 0.08(\text{min}^{-1}) \\ s_{in} &= 0.1(\text{kg m}^{-3}) \end{aligned}$$

Notice that the equilibrium point is $(x_{1,0}, x_{2,0}) = (0.092, 0.008)$. The simulation of the observer has been carried out using pseudo data measurements issued from the simulation of system (49) with the point equilibrium as an initial condition. The initial condition of the observer is such that the one corresponding to the substrate concentration is perturbed by 50% from the steady state value. Many simulations have been carried out and they show that satisfactory estimates are obtained as long as $\tau \leq 5.5$. Simulation results are obtained by setting $\tau = 2$. The values of the design parameters are $\theta = 2$ and $\rho = 20$, respectively. Notice that the choice of τ and θ should meet condition of Theorem 1 which is may be restrictive. However in practice values τ bigger than that allowed by Theorem 1 may be used and satisfactory estimates will be obtained. The gain vector is chosen equal to $K = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ so that both poles of the matrix $\bar{A}$ are located in -1 . The available samples corresponding to the output x_1 are given in figure 1 and they are compared to the continuous estimate of this output provided by the observer. Similarly, the unknown trajectory of x_2 is compared to its estimate in figure 2. Notice that the state estimates quickly converge to the unknown states confirming thereby the theoretical results.

V. CONCLUSION

A continuous-discrete time observer has been proposed for a class of systems that are observable for any input. The structure of this observer is simple since it consists in a copy of the model with a corrective term that is updated at every sampling instant. The exponential convergence to zero of the observation error has been established under certain conditions on the upper bound of the sampling partition diameter. This observer has been firstly presented under an impulsive form before being put under the form of a hybrid system synthesized using a continuous-time design with an inter sample output predictor.

The proposed design can be extended to a more general class of observable systems including system (1). It can

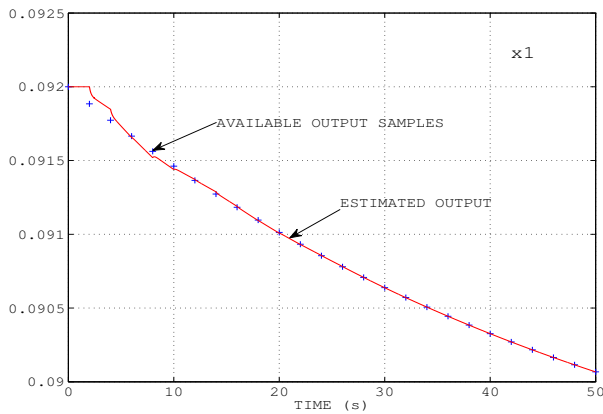


Fig. 1. Continuous estimates of the outputs from they measured samples.

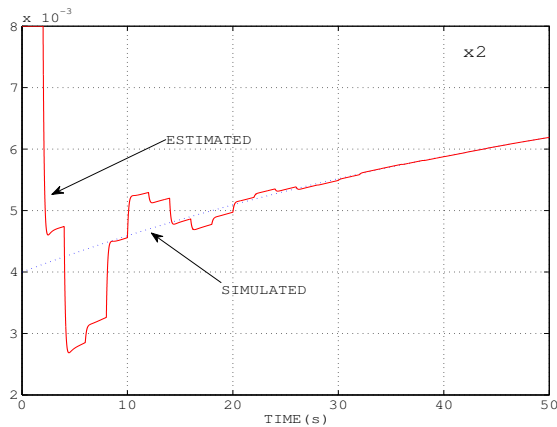


Fig. 2. Continuous estimates of the non measured states.

also be exploited to derive continuous-discrete time adaptive observers to jointly estimate the state and some unknown parameters from the adaptive observer proposed in [17]. Another problem that has not been considered in this paper deals with the case where sampling is accompanied with long output delays. Such a problem has been addressed in the context of stabilization (see e.g. [22] and references therein) but to the authors' best knowledge, there is no significant available results for this problem in terms of observation and the (few) available ones rather deal with continuous-time measurements [23], [24], [25], [26]. All these issues are challenging and shall be investigated in further works.

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