

# Single module identifiability

Paul Van den Hof

Doctoral School Lyon, France, 8 April 2021

[www.sysdynet.eu](http://www.sysdynet.eu)  
[www.pvandenhof.nl](http://www.pvandenhof.nl)  
[p.m.j.vandenhof@tue.nl](mailto:p.m.j.vandenhof@tue.nl)

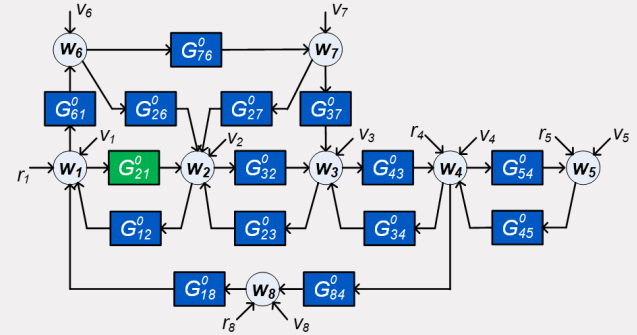


# Single module identifiability

# Single module identifiability

Situation that we are only interested in **one single module** in the network:

$$w(t) = \underbrace{(I - G)^{-1}R(q)}_{T_{wr}(q)} r(t) + \underbrace{(I - G)^{-1}H(q)e(t)}_{\bar{v}(t)}$$



## Definition

A module  $G_{ji}$  is network identifiable from  $(w, r)$  in a model set  $\mathcal{M}$  at  $M_0 = M(\theta_0)$ , if for all  $M(\theta_1) \in \mathcal{M}$ :

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} T_{wr}(q, \theta_1) = T_{wr}(q, \theta_0) \\ \Phi_{\bar{v}}(\omega, \theta_1) = \Phi_{\bar{v}}(\omega, \theta_0) \end{array} \right\} \implies G_{ji}(\theta_1) = G_{ji}(\theta_0)$$

**Generic identifiability** holds if this is true for *almost all* models  $M(\theta_0) \in \mathcal{M}$

# Single module identifiability

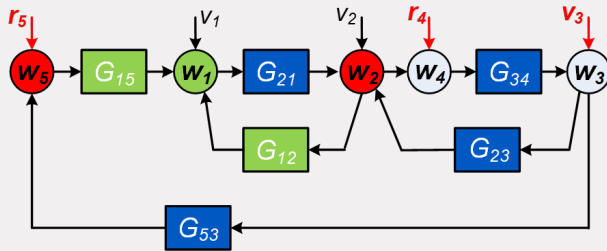
Recall from full network identifiability:

$$\check{T}_j(q, \theta) : \quad [G_{j^*}(\theta) \quad H_{j^*}(\theta) \quad R_{j^*}(\theta)] = [0 \quad * \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad * \quad | \quad * \quad * \quad 0 \quad | \quad 1 \quad 0]$$

↓
↓
↑
↑
↑

$\check{T}_j(q, \theta)$  is the transfer matrix from  $\mathcal{X}_j$  to  $\mathcal{W}_j^-$ , denoted by  $T_{\mathcal{W}_j^- \mathcal{X}_j}$

$\mathcal{X}_j$ : external signals with non-parametrized entries in  $[H_{j^*}(\theta) \quad R_{j^*}(\theta)]$   
 $\mathcal{W}_j^-$ : node signals  $\{w_k\}$  with parametrized entries in  $G_{j^*}(\theta)$



With  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  correlated:

$$\mathcal{X}_1 = \{v_3, r_4, r_5\}$$

$$\mathcal{W}_1^- = \{w_2, w_5\}$$

# Single module identifiability

**Recall from full network identifiability:**

For identifiability of row  $j$ :  $[G_{j*}(\theta) \ H_{j*}(\theta) \ R_{j*}\theta]$ , the condition is that

$$T_{\mathcal{W}_j^-} \mathbf{x}_j \text{ has full row rank}$$

i.e. every row of  $T_{\mathcal{W}_j^-} \mathbf{x}_j$  has an independent contribution

**Extending this same reasoning:**

Consider  $T_{\mathcal{W}_j^- \setminus \{w_i\}} \mathbf{x}_j$  being  $T_{\mathcal{W}_j^-} \mathbf{x}_j$  with row  $i$  removed

Then the condition for identifiability of  $G_{ji}$  is that

$$\text{rank } T_{\mathcal{W}_j^-} \mathbf{x}_j = \text{rank } T_{\mathcal{W}_j^- \setminus \{w_i\}} \mathbf{x}_j + 1$$

i.e. row of  $T_{\mathcal{W}_j^-} \mathbf{x}_j$  related to  $w_i$  has an independent contribution

# Single module identifiability

## Theorem – single module identifiability

Under conditions on absence of algebraic loops (see full network identifiability case), module  $G_{ji}$  is globally identifiable from  $(w, r)$  in  $\mathcal{M}$  if

$$\text{rank } T_{\mathcal{W}_j^-} \mathcal{X}_j(q, \theta) = \text{rank } T_{\mathcal{W}_j^- \setminus \{w_i\}} \mathcal{X}_j(q, \theta) + 1 \quad \text{for all } M(\theta) \in \mathcal{M}.$$

**Interpretation:** input  $w_i$  should have an excitation component which is independent of the inputs to other parametrized modules that map into  $w_j$

The condition is also **necessary** if

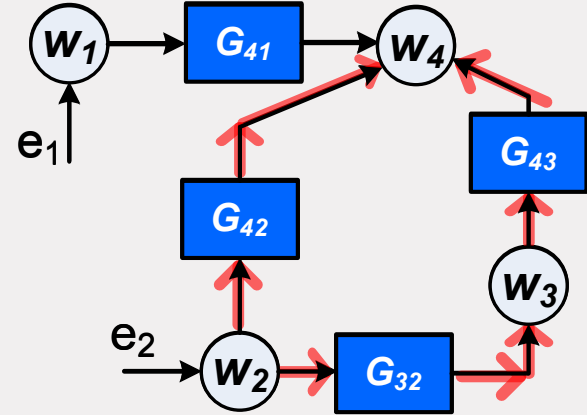
- All parametrized entries in  $M(\theta)$  are parametrized independently, and
- Every parametrized entry in  $G(\theta)$  is parametrized as an open subset of the set of all LTI systems

# Example

Network with 4 parametrized modules

Which of modules  $G_{41}, G_{42}$  can be identified?

$$w = Te, \quad T = (I - G)^{-1}H = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & G_{32} \\ G_{41} & G_{42} + G_{32}G_{43} \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\begin{matrix} w_1 \leftarrow \\ w_2 \leftarrow \\ w_3 \leftarrow \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & G_{32} \end{bmatrix} = \tilde{T}_4 \quad \begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ \uparrow \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} e_1 \\ e_2 \end{matrix}$$

Removing first row  $\longrightarrow$  Rank reduction  $\longrightarrow$   $G_{41}$  identifiable

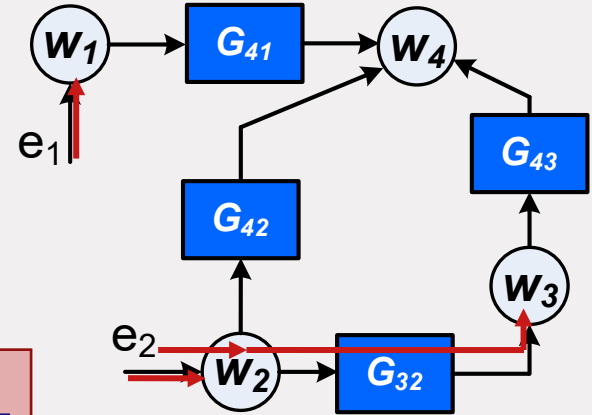
Removing second row  $\longrightarrow$  Rank invariant  $\longrightarrow$   $G_{42}$  not-identifiable

Why is  $G_{42}$  not-identifiable? There is a **parallel path** without additional excitation

# Single module identifiability

Checking rank conditions is tedious.

Generically we can check the **vertex disjoint paths**:



$$T_{\mathcal{W}_4 \mathcal{X}_4} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & G_{32} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\underbrace{e_1, e_2}_{\mathcal{X}_4} \rightarrow \underbrace{w_1, w_2, w_3}_{\mathcal{W}_4}$$

2 vertex disjoint paths

$$T_{\mathcal{W}_4 \setminus \{w_1\} \mathcal{X}_4} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & G_{32} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\underbrace{e_1, e_2}_{\mathcal{X}_4} \rightarrow \underbrace{w_2, w_3}_{\mathcal{W}_4 \setminus \{w_1\}}$$

1 vertex disjoint path

$\implies G_{41}$  generically identifiable



# Single module identifiability

- **Path-based conditions** (vertex disjoint paths) can be used to verify the generic identifiability conditions
- Well suited for analysis, but less suitable for **synthesis question**:

“Where to add excitation signals so as to achieve generic identifiability of a particular module?”

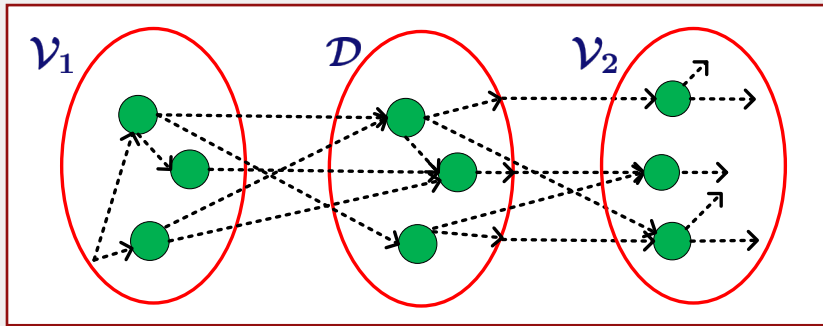
- Therefore: reformulate conditions in terms of disconnecting sets

# Single module identifiability

Use of **disconnecting sets**<sup>[1],[2]</sup>:

A vertex set  $\mathcal{D}$  is **disconnecting** vertex sets  $\mathcal{V}_1$  and  $\mathcal{V}_2$  if upon removal of the vertices in  $\mathcal{D}$  there is no directed link from  $\mathcal{V}_1$  to  $\mathcal{V}_2$ .

$\mathcal{D}$  is a **minimum** disconnecting set if it has the smallest cardinality  $|\mathcal{D}|$



$\mathcal{D}$  can contain elements of  $\mathcal{V}_1$  and/or  $\mathcal{V}_2$

**Result**<sup>[1],[2]</sup>:  $\max \#$  vertex disjoint paths between  $\mathcal{V}_1$  and  $\mathcal{V}_2 =$   
 $=$  cardinality of minimum  $\mathcal{V}_1 - \mathcal{V}_2$  disconnecting set

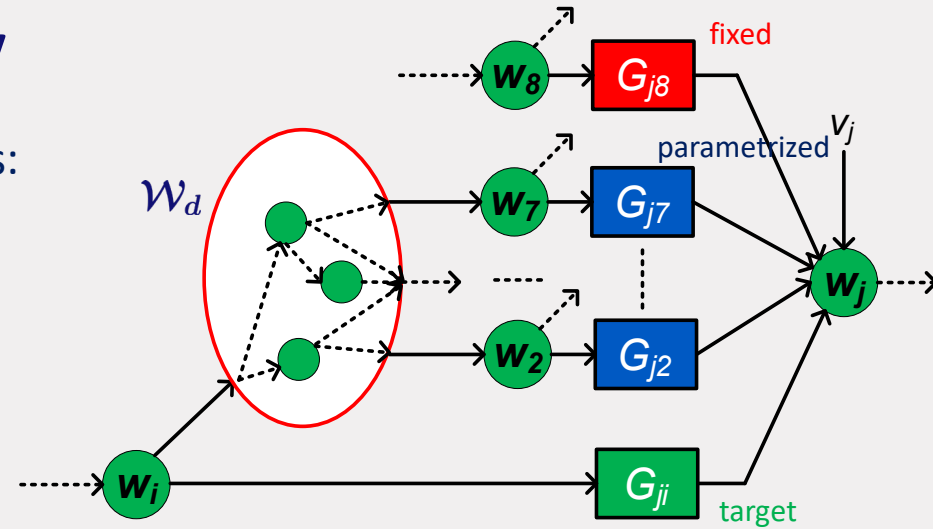
[1] Schrijver, 2003.

[2] Hendricks et al., TAC2019

# Single module identifiability

Reformulation of the path-based conditions:

Define  $\mathcal{W}_d$  as a disconnecting set  
between  $w_i$  and  $\mathcal{W}_j^- \setminus \{w_i\}$   
such that  $w_i \notin \mathcal{W}_d$



## Corollary – single module generic identifiability:

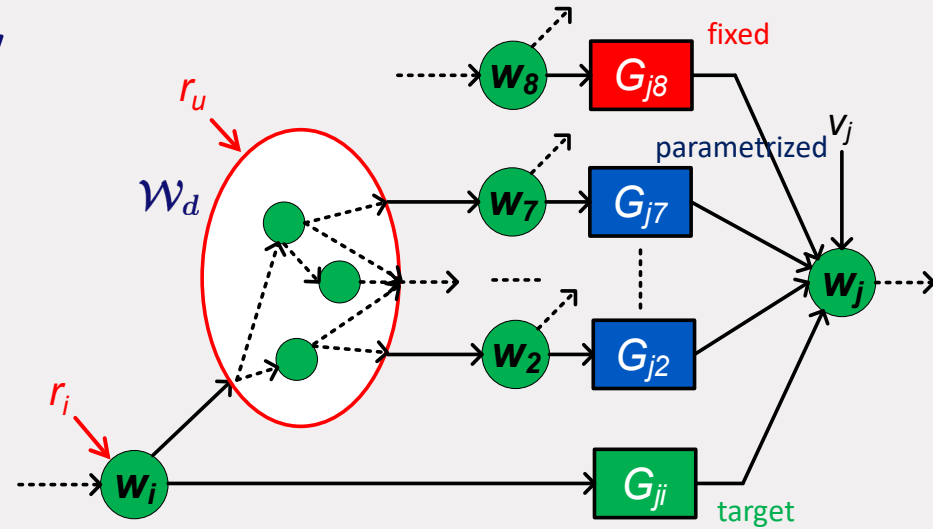
Under similar conditions as presented before, module  $G_{j_i}$  is generically identifiable from  $(w, r)$  in  $\mathcal{M}$  if

$$b_{x_j \rightarrow \mathcal{W}_d \cup \{w_i\}} = b_{x_j \rightarrow \mathcal{W}_d} + 1$$

i.e. there are independent excitations to the nodes in  $\mathcal{W}_d$  and to  $w_i$

# Single module identifiability

$$b_{x_j \rightarrow \mathcal{W}_d \cup \{w_i\}} = b_{x_j \rightarrow \mathcal{W}_d} + 1$$



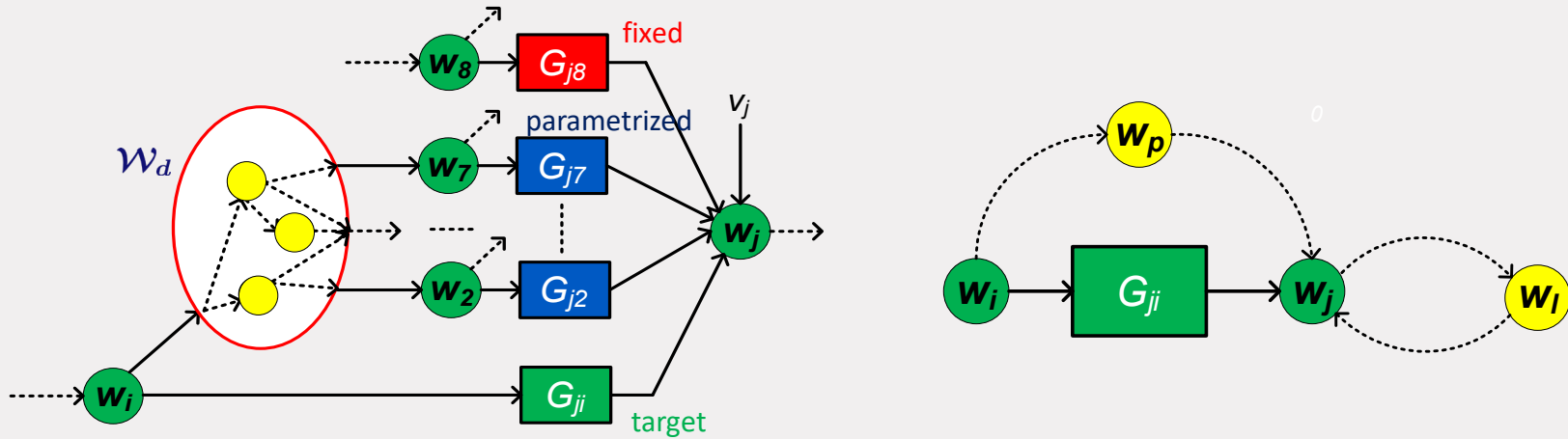
the independent excitations can be added to the nodes in  $\mathcal{W}_d$  and  $w_i$  directly, or reach them “from a distance” through vertex disjoint paths

This addresses the synthesis question too

[1] Gevers et al., SYSID 2018.

[2] Shi et al., IFAC 2020.

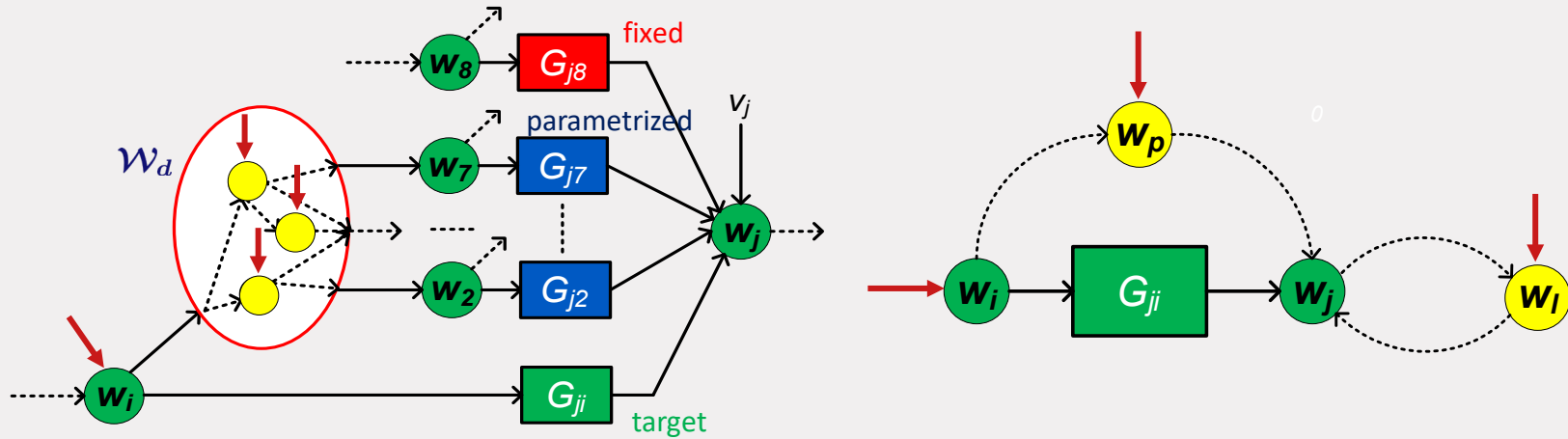
# Relation between disconnecting set and a PP&L condition



## Result:

The nodes in  $\mathcal{W}_d$  block all parallel paths from  $w_i$  to  $w_j$  and all loops around  $w_j$  that pass through parametrized modules, different from  $G_{ji}$ .

# Relation between disconnecting set and a PP&L condition



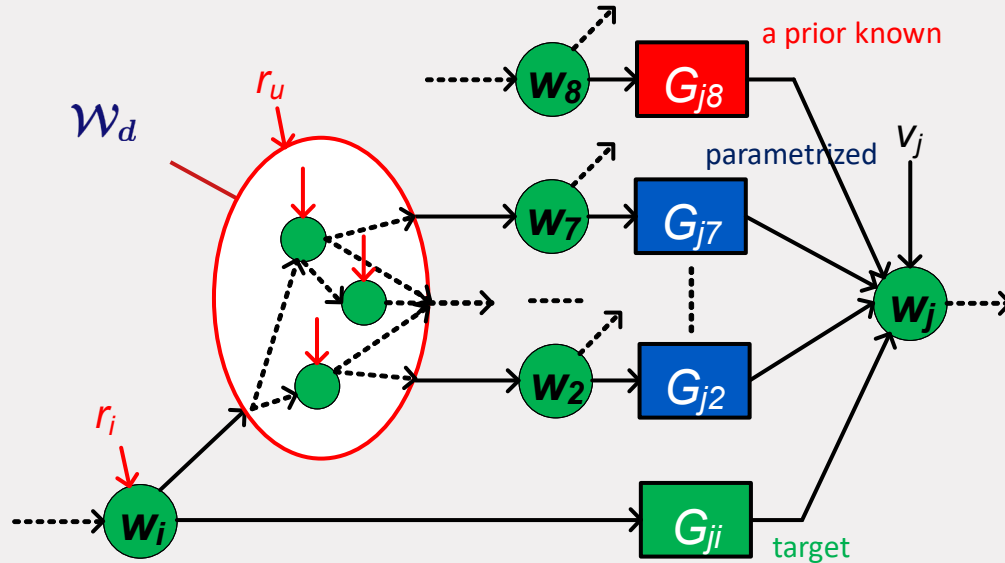
So one option for formulating the excitation conditions for single module generic identifiability is:

independently excite  $w_i$  and a node in each parallel path and loop

# Single module identifiability

From **analysis** to **synthesis**:

Where to allocate excitation signals?



**Result**<sup>[2]</sup>:  $G_{ji}$  is generically identifiable within  $\mathcal{M}$  if independent external signals are added to the nodes in  $\mathcal{W}_d$  and  $w_i$ .

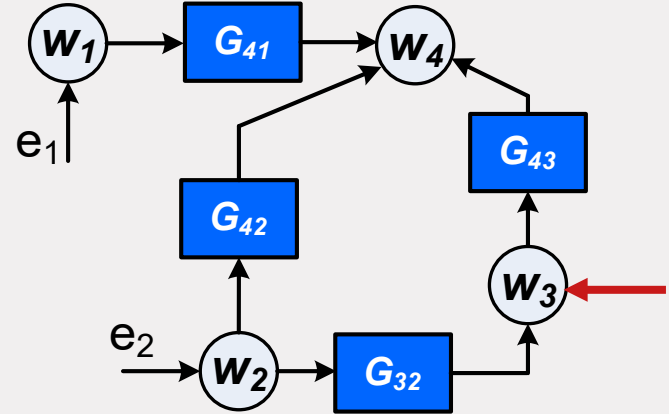
# Single module identifiability

Identifiability of  $G_{42}$  in model set  
with four parametrized modules:

Input of target module is:  $w_2$

Disconnecting set from  $w_2$  to  $\{w_3, w_1\}$   
is  $\{w_3\}$

External signals are required on  $w_2$  and  $w_3$





# Single module identifiability – fixed modules

Fixed (non-parametrized) modules can fully be handled in this setting.

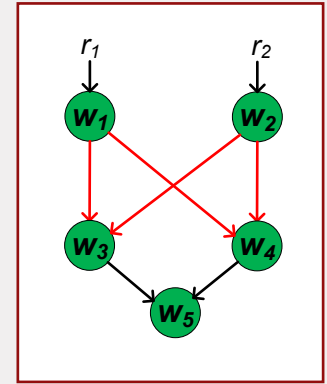
However they need to satisfy one additional condition, to avoid that they affect the number of vertex disjoint paths in the parametrized model set

In model set  $\mathcal{M}$  the rank of any fixed submatrix of

$$\begin{bmatrix} I - G(\theta) & R(\theta) & H(\theta) \end{bmatrix}$$

(that does not depend on  $\theta$ ), is equal to its structural rank

structural rank = maximum rank of all matrices with the same nonzero pattern



$$\det \begin{bmatrix} G_{31} & G_{32} \\ G_{41} & G_{42} \end{bmatrix} \neq 0$$

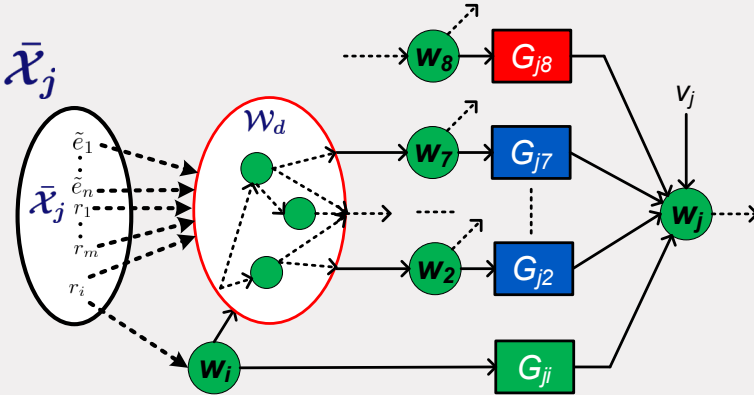
# Single module identifiability – K result

Consider a model set  $\mathcal{M}$  and a disconnecting set  $\mathcal{D}$  from  $\bar{\mathcal{X}} \subset \mathcal{X}$  to  $\bar{\mathcal{W}} \subset \mathcal{W}$ .  
Then there exists a proper transfer matrix  $K$  such that

$$T_{\bar{\mathcal{W}}\bar{\mathcal{X}}} = KT_{\mathcal{D}\bar{\mathcal{X}}}$$

i.e. the transfer matrix  $T_{\bar{\mathcal{W}}\bar{\mathcal{X}}}$  can be decomposed through the vertices in  $\mathcal{D}$ .

Let  $\mathcal{W}_d \cup w_i$  be the disconnecting set satisfying the identifiability condition for some set of external signals  $\bar{\mathcal{X}}_j$



# Single module identifiability – indirect method

Let  $\mathcal{W}_d \cup \{w_i\}$  be the disconnecting set satisfying the identifiability condition for some set of external signals  $\bar{\mathcal{X}}_j$

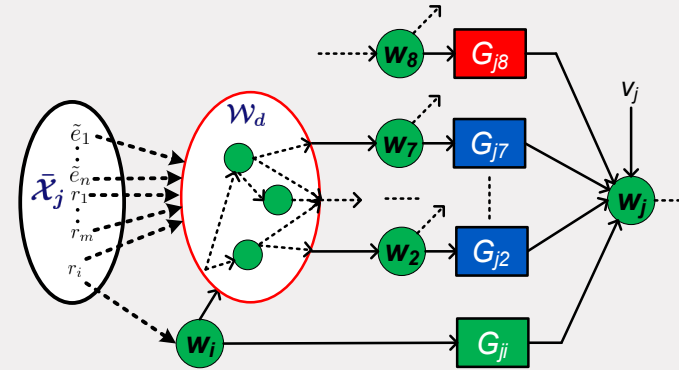
Then

$$G_{ji} = T_j \bar{\mathcal{X}}_j \begin{bmatrix} T_i \bar{\mathcal{X}}_j \\ T_{\mathcal{W}_d} \bar{\mathcal{X}}_j \end{bmatrix}^\dagger [1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0]^T$$

If  $\bar{\mathcal{X}}_j$  is composed of measured  $r$ -signals only, then the transfer functions on the right hand side can be simply estimated from data  $\{w_i, w_j, w_D, r \bar{\mathcal{X}}_j\}$

**Indirect method:** estimating transfer functions  $\bar{\mathcal{X}}_j \rightarrow \mathcal{W}_d \cup \{w_i\}$   
 $\bar{\mathcal{X}}_j \rightarrow w_j$

and taking the quotient to obtain  $G_{ji}$



The disconnecting set shows the flexibility in selecting the measured signals

## Reasoning

From the  $j$ -th row of  $(I - G)T = X$  and the columns according to  $\bar{\mathcal{X}}_j$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} -G_{ji} & -G_{j\mathcal{N}_j^- \setminus w_i} & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} T_i \bar{\mathcal{X}}_j \\ T_{\mathcal{N}_j^- \setminus w_i} \bar{\mathcal{X}}_j \\ T_j \bar{\mathcal{X}}_j \\ \star \end{bmatrix} = X_j \bar{\mathcal{X}}_j$$

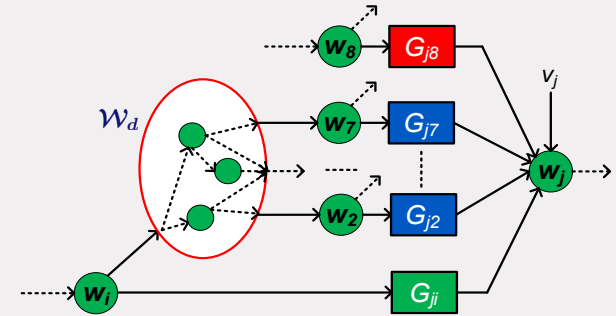
$$\begin{bmatrix} -G_{ji} & -G_{j\mathcal{N}_j^- \setminus w_i} K & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} T_i \bar{\mathcal{X}}_j \\ T_{\mathcal{W}_d} \bar{\mathcal{X}}_j \\ T_j \bar{\mathcal{X}}_j \\ \star \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} G_{ji} & G_{j\mathcal{N}_j^- \setminus w_i} K \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} T_i \bar{\mathcal{X}}_j \\ T_{\mathcal{W}_d} \bar{\mathcal{X}}_j \end{bmatrix} = T_j \bar{\mathcal{X}}_j$$

□

# Single module identifiability – indirect method

If all required excitation is provided by  $r$ -signals only, the target module can be identified on the basis of measured signals  $\{w_i, w_j, w_D, r \bar{x}_j\}$



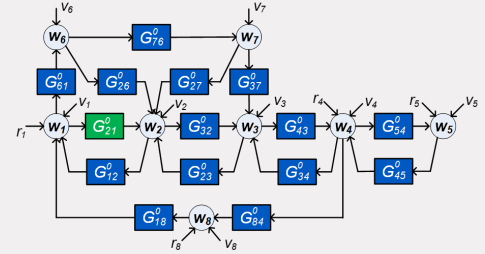
**BUT:** the analysis provided so far is for the situation of having all  $w$ -nodes measured (**full measurement case**)

Single module identifiability analysis for the situation of **partial measurement** requires a separate analysis

# Single module identifiability - partial measurement

$$w(t) = \underbrace{(I - G)^{-1}R(q)}_{T_{wr}(q)} r(t) + \underbrace{(I - G)^{-1}H(q)e(t)}_{\bar{v}(t)}$$

$$w_c(t) = Cw(t) \quad \text{with } C \text{ a (constant) selection matrix}$$



## Definition

A module  $G_{ji}$  is network identifiable from  $(w_c, r)$  in a model set  $\mathcal{M}$  at  $M_0 = M(\theta_0)$ , if for all  $M(\theta_1) \in \mathcal{M}$ :

$$\left. \begin{aligned} CT_{wr}(q, \theta_1) &= CT_{wr}(q, \theta_0) \\ C\Phi_{\bar{v}}(\omega, \theta_1)C^T &= C\Phi_{\bar{v}}(\omega, \theta_0)C^T \end{aligned} \right\} \implies G_{ji}(\theta_1) = G_{ji}(\theta_0)$$

**Generic identifiability** holds if this is true for *almost all* models  $M(\theta_0) \in \mathcal{M}$

[1] Bazanella et al., CDC 2019

[2] Shi et al., ArXiv 2020

# Single module identifiability - partial measurement

**Critical step:** Turn information on  $C\Phi_{\bar{v}}(\omega)C^T$  into information on  $CT_{we}(q)$

## Definition:

Two network models  $M_i = (G_i, R_i, C_i, H_i, \Lambda_i)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , are called (observationally) equivalent if

$$C_1 T_1(z) R_1 = C_2 T_2(z) R_2 \quad \text{and} \quad C_1 \Phi_1(z) C_1^T = C_2 \Phi_2(z) C_2^T$$

## Theorem (canonical noise model):

For any network model  $M = (G, R, C, H, \Lambda)$  and  $w = (w_c^T, w_z^T)^T$  there exists an equivalent network model

$$\tilde{M} = (G, R, C, [\tilde{H}^* \quad 0]^*, \tilde{\Lambda})$$

with  $\tilde{H}$  square  $c \times c$ ,  $c = |\mathcal{C}|$ , and  $\tilde{H}$  monic, stable and minimum phase

# Single module identifiability - partial measurement

The measured node signals  $w_c$  can be equivalently described by a network model with

- disturbances at  $w_c$  only
- no disturbances at  $w_z$



## Theorem (canonical noise model):

For any network model  $M = (G, R, C, H, \Lambda)$  and  $w = (w_c^T, w_z^T)^T$  there exists an equivalent network model

$$\tilde{M} = (G, R, C, [\tilde{H}^* \quad 0]^*, \tilde{\Lambda})$$

with  $\tilde{H}$  square  $c \times c$ ,  $c = |\mathcal{C}|$ , and  $\tilde{H}$  monic, stable and minimum phase



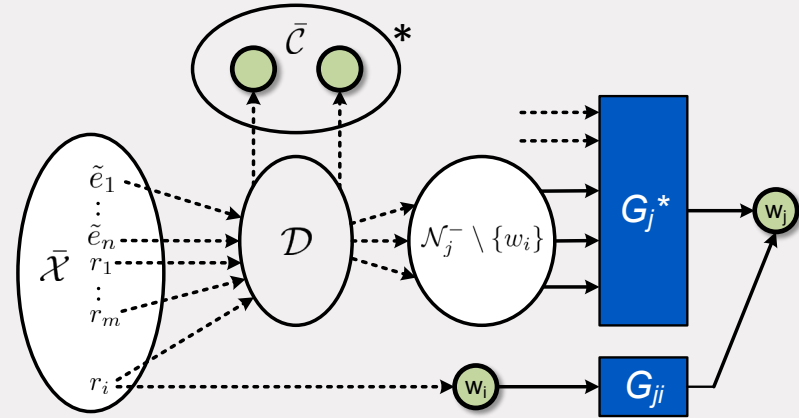
# Single module identifiability – partial measurements

## Theorem

Let  $w_i, w_j \in \mathcal{C}$ , the set of measured nodes

and  $\mathcal{N}_j^-$ :

the measured inputs to parametrized modules,  
and the unmeasured inputs to fixed modules



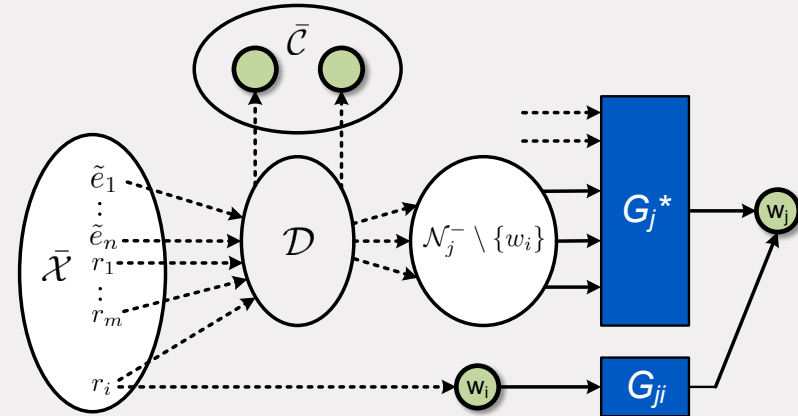
then  $G_{ji}$  is generically identifiable in  $\mathcal{M}$  from  $(w_c, r)$  if for some  $\bar{\mathcal{X}} \subset \mathcal{X}_j$  and  $\bar{\mathcal{C}} \subset \mathcal{C} \setminus \{w_i\}$  there exists a disconnecting set  $\mathcal{D}$  from  $\bar{\mathcal{X}}$  to  $\bar{\mathcal{C}} \cup \mathcal{N}_j^- \setminus \{w_i\}$  such that

1.  $b_{\bar{\mathcal{X}} \rightarrow \mathcal{D} \cup \{w_i\}} = |\mathcal{D}| + 1$
2.  $b_{\mathcal{D} \rightarrow \bar{\mathcal{C}}} = |\mathcal{D}|$

All nodes in  $\mathcal{D} \cup \{w_i\}$  need to be independently excited and observed (direct or indirect)

# Single module identifiability – partial measurements

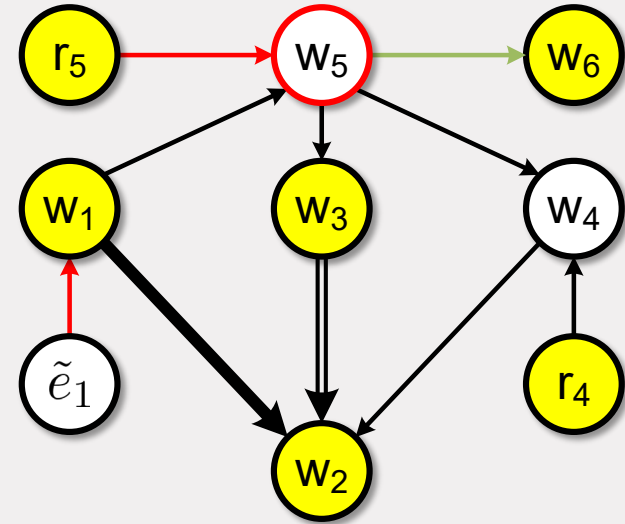
- Results are independent of any identification method
- And can be used for allocating excitation signals
- Extensions are available for situations where  $w_i$  and/or  $w_j$  are not measured



# Single module identifiability – partial measurements

## Example

- Target module  $G_{21}$ ;  $G_{23}$  is non-parametrized
- Yellow nodes are measured
- $\mathcal{N}_2^- = \{w_1, w_4\}$
- $\mathcal{X}_2^- = \{\tilde{e}_1, r_4, r_5\}$
- $w_5$  disconnects  $r_5$  from  $\{w_1, w_4\}$
- $\bar{\mathcal{X}} = \{\tilde{e}_1, r_5\}$
- $w_5$  is observed by  $\bar{\mathcal{C}} = \{w_6\}$



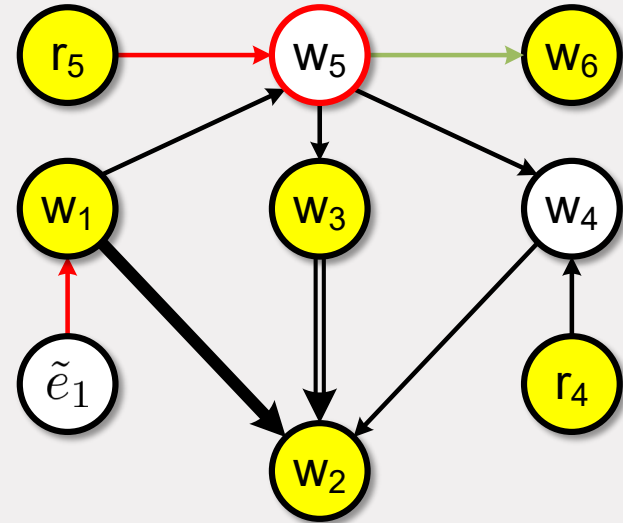
Conclusion:  $G_{21}$  is generically identifiable from the measured nodes.

# Single module identifiability – partial measurements

## Example

$G_{21}$  is generically identifiable but:  
how to identify it?

- Indirect method:  
requires a measured excitation of  $w_1$
- Direct method:  
requires parallel path and loop condition
- Both methods fail:  
 $\implies$  generalized method that combines node signals and  $r$  signals as predictor inputs<sup>[1]</sup>



[1] Ramaswamy, VdH, Dankers, CDC 2019