A novel approach to the computation of the maximal controlled invariant set for constrained linear systems

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Abstract— **In this paper, the problem of the determination of the maximal controlled invariant set of linear systems subject to polyhedral input and state constraints, together with the corresponding state-feedback control law is investigated. Instead of computing one-step reachable sets or maximizing the volume of a specific invariant set, the proposed method consists of the iterative expansion of an initial "small" invariant set by adding new vertices to its convex hull. This is achieved by minimizing the distance of each new vertex from the vertices of the polyhedral set defining the state constraints. This approach, established for both continuous-time and discrete-time systems, does not require invertibility of matrix A, open-loop stability or symmetry of the constraints.**

I. INTRODUCTION

Two major approaches have been developed to tackle the problem of regulation of systems with state and control constraints: model predictive control and set theoretic methods. In model predictive control [1], [3], constraints are naturally embedded in the optimization procedure. In set theoretic methods [2], the constraints are related to sets characterized by properties that ensure constraint satisfaction. For both approaches, the estimation of the maximal region of the state space where the system can operate without violating the constraints is a very important problem. This problem is related to the determination of controlled invariant sets. These sets (with the exception of [4]) may be ellipsoids or polytopes.

The usual method to determine the exact or an estimate of the maximal invariant set is through one-step reachable sets [5],[6],[7],[8],[9],[10],[11]. Specifically, Gutman and Chwikel [5] proposed an algorithm based on vertex computation which produces the maximal Ω invariant set. In [6] the notion of output and maximal output admissible sets was studied in a more general framework and algorithms based on the computation of N-reachable sets were proposed. Lassere [9] proposed an approach to determine the N-reachable and controllable set by only checking the unstable subspace of the autonomous system . The problem of finding a stabilizing solution with an assigned initial condition set was studied in [16],[11]. In [11] the authors proposed a forward algorithm which finds a stabilizing solution for trajectories starting from the vertices of the assigned set and a backward algorithm based on the N-controllable set. Dorea and Hennet [7],[8] proposed an algorithm based on

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the half plane representation of sets by formulating algebraic conditions of (A,B) invariance. In [12] an LMI approach was used for the enlargement of the domain of attraction using lifting techniques. The terminal invariant set in [13] was enlarged using a linear programming approach. In [14] convex optimization problems are formulated for the enlargement of the stability region. In [15] a tuning parameter for the enlargement of the positively invariant set was introduced.

In this paper, a new approach to the estimation of the maximal controlled invariant set and to the determination of a corresponding state-feedback control law is developed. Instead of trying to compute one-step reachable sets, the enlargment of an initially "small" polyhedral controlled invariant set is carried out iteratively by adding at each step a new vertex to its convex hull. This is achieved by minimizing at each step the distance of the new vertex from the vertices of the assigned initial condition set. This method does not require invertibility of matrix A, open-loop stability, controllability of (A,B) or symmetry of the constraint sets . It can be applied to both discrete-time and continuous-time linear systems and can also be extended to the determination of controlled invariant sets with linear state-feedback control laws.

II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Throughout the paper, $\mathbb{R}^n$ denotes the real n-space and $\mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ denotes the set of real $m \times n$ matrices. The elements of a real matrix $P \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ are denoted by p_{ij}. $P \geq 0$ is a matrix with nonnegative elements. For vectors a, b relation $a \leq b$ holds componentwise. For two sets S and Q, $S \setminus Q$ denotes their set difference i.e. the set that contains all elements of S that do not belong to Q. For a set S, $int(S)$ denotes the interior of S. Given q points $v^1, ..., v^q$ defined on the real n-space $\mathbb{R}^n$, $S = conv\{v^1, ..., v^q\}$ denotes the convex hull of $v^1, ..., v^q$.

We consider both continuous-time and discrete-time linear systems. Continuous-time systems are described by differential equations of the form

$$\dot{x}(t) = Ax(t) + Bu(t) \tag{1}$$

while discrete-time systems are described by difference equations of the form

$$x(t+1) = Ax(t) + Bu(t) \tag{2}$$

where $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is the state vector, $u \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is the input vector, $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ and t is the time variable belonging to the set $[0, \infty)$ in the case of continuous-time systems or

to the set of nonnegative integers in the case of discrete-time systems.

Although the method can deal with any polyhedral input constraint set, for simplicity of the presentation the control variable u is constrained to belong to a set $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ defined by the relation

$$U = \{u \in \mathbb{R}^m : -\underline{u} \le u \le \overline{u}\} \tag{3}$$

where $\underline{u}$ and $\overline{u}$ are vectors with nonnegative components. Thus, $-\underline{u}$ and $\overline{u}$ represent the lower and upper bounds of the control variables.

Definition 1: A subset $S \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ of the state space is said to be *controlled invariant* w.r.t. system (2) or (3) if and only if there exists a feedback control law $u = f(x) \in U$, such that $x_0 \in S$ implies $x(t; x_0) \in S$ for all $t \ge 0$.

Definition 2: Given a set $S \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, a subset $S^M \subseteq S$ is said to be *the maximal controlled invariant set* if and only if it is controlled invariant and contains all controlled invariant sets contained in S for a specific input constraint set U.

Definition 3: A subset $S \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ of the state space is said to be *positively invariant* w.r.t. to an autonomous system if and only if for any initial state $x_0 \in S$ the corresponding trajectory $x(t; x_0)$ satisies relation $x(t; x_0) \in S$ for all $t \ge 0$.

In this paper we study the controlled invariance of bounded convex polyhedral subsets S of the state space $\mathbb{R}^n$ containing the origin as an interior point. Such polyhedral sets are represented as

$$S = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Gx \le w\} \tag{4}$$

with $G \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times n}$ and $w \in \mathbb{R}^r$, $w > 0$. A bounded convex polyhedral set can also be represented as the convex hull of its vertices $v^1, ..., v^q$, i.e.

$$S = conv\{v^1, ..., v^q\} \tag{5}$$

The problem to be investigated is formulated as follows: Given a linear system (1) or (2) and state and input constraint sets S and U respectively, determine an estimate S_e of the maximal controlled invariant set $S^M \subseteq S$ and the corresponding control law $u_e(x)$ making set S_e both positively invariant and domain of attraction of the origin for the resulting closed-loop system.

III. PRELIMINARIES

It is known [16] that a polyhedral set represented by (4) is positively invariant set of an autonomous linear discrete-time system $x(t + 1) = Ax(t)$ if and only if there exists a nonnegative matrix $H \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times r}$ such that

$$GA = HG \tag{6}$$

$$Hw \le w. \tag{7}$$

If the polyhedral set S is represented as the convex hull of its vertices (5) then ([17],[18]) its positive invariance w.r.t. to an autonomous linear discrete-time system $x(t + 1) = Ax(t)$ is equivalent to the existence of a nonnegative matrix $P \in \mathbb{R}^{q \times q}$ such that

$$AV = VP \tag{8}$$

$$e^T P \le e^T \tag{9}$$

where $V \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times q}$ is the matrix with columns $V = \begin{bmatrix} v^1 & v^2 & \cdots & v^q \end{bmatrix}$ and $e \in \mathbb{R}^q$, $e = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T$.

In the case of autonomous linear continuous-time systems $\dot{x}(t) = Ax(t)$ [19], the positive invariance of a polyhedral set represented by (4) is equivalent to the existence of a matrix $H \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times r}$ with nonnegative off-diagonal entries such that

$$GA = HG \tag{10}$$

$$Hw \le 0. \tag{11}$$

If the polyhedral set S is represented as the convex hull of its vertices (5) then its positive invariance w.r.t. to an autonomous linear continuous-time system $\dot{x}(t) = Ax(t)$ is equivalent to the existence of matrix $P \in \mathbb{R}^{qxq}$ with nonnegative off-diagonal entries such that

$$AV = VP \tag{12}$$

$$e^T P \le 0. \tag{13}$$

Equivalent conditions to (10)-(11) and (12)-(13) have also been established by [20] and [21] respectively.

Given control constraints (3), a polyhedral set $S = conv\{v^1, ..., v^m\}$ is controlled invariant w.r.t. the linear discrete-time system (2) if and only if [21] there exist $u^i \in U$, $i = 1, ..., q$ and a nonnegative matrix $P \in \mathbb{R}^{q \times q}$ such that

$$AV + B \begin{bmatrix} u^1 & u^2 & \cdots & u^q \end{bmatrix} = VP \tag{14}$$

$$e^T P \le e^T. \tag{15}$$

Moreover, set S can be a domain of attraction if instead of (15) the following inequalities are satisfied:

$$e^T P \le \varepsilon e^T \tag{16}$$

$$0 < \varepsilon < 1. \tag{17}$$

The polyhedral set $S = conv\{v^1, ..., v^m\}$ is controlled invariant w.r.t. continuous-time linear system (1) if and only if there exist u^i, $i = 1, ..., q$ and a matrix $P \in \mathbb{R}^{q \times q}$ with nonnegative off-diagonal elements such that

$$AV + B \begin{bmatrix} u^1 & u^2 & \cdots & u^q \end{bmatrix} = VP \tag{18}$$

$$e^T P \le 0. \tag{19}$$

Equivalent conditions have also been established by Blanchini and Miani [21]. S is also a domain of attraction if inequality (19) is replaced by the following conditions:

$$e^T P \le \varepsilon e^T \tag{20}$$

$$\varepsilon < 0. \tag{21}$$

If conditions (14)-(15) or (18)-(19) are satisfied for discrete-time and continuous-time systems respectively, then

there exist state-feedback control laws rendering set S positively invariant. A possible approach to the determination of such state-feedback control laws $u(x)$ consists in first solving the optimization problem

$$\min_{u^1,...,u^q,P,\varepsilon}\{\varepsilon\}$$

under constraints

$$-\underline{u} \leq u^i \leq \overline{u}, \quad i = 1, 2, ..., q$$

and (14)-(15) or (18)-(19) for a discrete-time or a continuous-time system respectively. Then a solution to this problem can be obtained [22], [23] by setting

$$u(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{q} \lambda_i(x)u^i$$

where $\lambda_i(x)$, $i = 1, 2, ..., q$ are nonnegative real numbers such that $\sum_{i=1}^{q} \lambda_i(x) \leq 1$ and $x = \sum_{i=1}^{q} \lambda_i(x)v^i$.

IV. MAIN RESULTS

We now consider the case when set S cannot be controlled invariant, that is the case when the above conditions of controlled invariance are not satisfied. We assume that the unconstrained system under consideration satisfies conditions guaranteeing the existence of a linear state-feedback control law so that the resulting closed-loop system possesses polyhedral invariant sets. Then, by contraction, it is always possible to determine a sufficiently "small" polyhedral set $S_0 = conv\{v_0^1, .., v_0^{m_0}\}$, $S_0 \subset S$, which is controlled invariant. The goal is to enlarge this set and, if possible, to derive the maximal controlled invariant set S^M included in S.

Most methods for enlarging a polyhedral controlled invariant set are based upon the one-step reachable sets. These approaches, developed for discrete-time systems, provide polyhedral controlled invariant sets with unacceptably big number of vertices and cannot be extended to continuous-time systems. In addition, by this approach only nonlinear control laws can be obtained.

In this section, a systematic method of recursively increasing the volume of a controlled invariant subset of S is described. Starting from a polyhedral controlled invariant set $S_j = conv\{v_j^1, .., v_j^{q_j}\}$, at each step a new polyhedral controlled invariant set $S_{j+1} = conv\{v_{j+1}^1, ..., v_{j+1}^{q_{j+1}}\} = conv\{v_j^1, .., v_j^{q_j}, v^*\}$ with $v_{j+1}^i = v_j^i$, $i = 1, 2, ..., q_j$ is constructed. It is worth mentioning that adding a vertex at each step in the convex hull of set S_j does not necessarily increase the complexity of the representation of the set. The new vertex $v_{j+1}^{q_{j+1}} = v^*$ is determined by minimizing its distance from a point v^{ch} belonging to $S \backslash S_j$. In the sequel, we develop this approach for the discrete-time case:

Step 0. The algorithm starts with the determination of an arbitrarily "small" polyhedral controlled invariant set $S_0 \subset S$,

$$S_0 = conv\{v_0^1, .., v_0^{q_0}\}, \ v_0^i \in \mathbb{R}^n, \ i = 1, ..., q_0$$

and of a set of control vectors $u_0^i \in U$, $i = 1, ..., q_0$ corresponding to each vertex $v_0^i \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $i = 1, ..., q_0$ of S_0.

Step 1. At this step, we have already computed a polyhedral controlled invariant set S_j

$$S_j = conv\{v_j^1, .., v_j^{q_j}\}, v_j^i \in \mathbb{R}^n, i = 1, ..., q_j$$

and a corresponding set of control vectors $u_j^i \in U, i = 1, ..., q_j$.

We choose a point $v^{ch} \in S$ outside set S_j and solve the following optimization problem:

$$\min_{v^*,p,u^*,\varepsilon}\{\|v^* - v^{ch}\|_\infty\} \tag{22}$$

subject to

$$Av^* + Bu^* = \sum_{i=1}^{q_j} p_i v_j^i + p_{q_j+1}v^* \tag{23}$$

$$p_i \geq 0, i = 1, ..., q_j + 1 \tag{24}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{q_j+1} p_i \leq \varepsilon \tag{25}$$

$$0 < \varepsilon \leq 1 \tag{26}$$

$$Gv^* \leq w \tag{27}$$

$$-\underline{u} \leq u^* \leq \overline{u} \tag{28}$$

where G and w correspond to the half-plane representation of set S. The optimization criterion can always be made linear because it is equivalent to

$$\min_{v^*,p,u^*,\varepsilon,\delta}\{\delta\}$$

with the additional constraints :

$$-\delta \leq v_i^* - v_i^{ch} \leq \delta, \ i = 1, .., n.$$

This optimization problem can be reduced to a sequence of linear programming problems by solving each time the problem with $p_{q_j+1} = a \in [0, 1)$. Among all points v^* produced by the solution of the LP problems, we choose the one closest to v^{ch}.

If the optimal v^* does not belong to S_j, then, setting $v_{j+1}^{q_{j+1}} = v^*$ and $u_{j+1}^{q_{j+1}} = u^*$, we construct the following set

$$S_{j+1} = conv\{v_j^1, ..., v_j^{q_j}, v^*\} = conv\{v_{j+1}^1, ..., v_{j+1}^{q_{j+1}}\}.$$

together with the set of control vectors $\{u_{j+1}^1, ..., u_{j+1}^{q_{j+1}}\}$. Relations (23)-(26) imply the positive invariance and attractivity of S_{j+1} (when ε is strictly less than 1) while (27) and (28) guarantee constraint satisfaction. It is clear that $S_{j+1} \supset S_j$. The corresponding control law that makes set S_{j+1} both positively invariant and domain of attraction of the closed-loop system is

$$u(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{q_{j+1}} \lambda_i(x)u_{j+1}^i \tag{29}$$

Then setting $S_j = S_{j+1}$ we repeat this procedure to determine a new "larger" polyhedral controlled invariant set.

If the optimal v^* belongs to S_j we set

$$E_i = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|x - v^{ch}\|_\infty < d^*\} \cap S$$

d^* being the optimal value of criterion (22), and we proceed to Step 2. Set E_i consists of points that have already been tested for "expansion" of set S_j with no success.
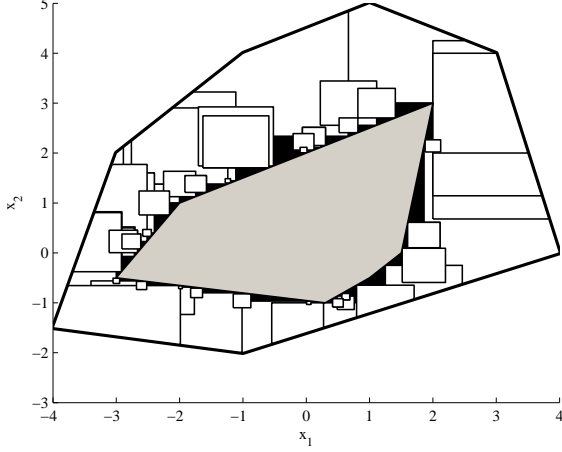

Fig. 1. Sets S and E_i (white),S_j (gray), and set T remaining to be checked for the expansions of S_j (black).

Step 2. Since the optimization procedure has not produced a vector $v^* \notin S_j$, set E_i is excluded from future search at this stage. If E, which is the set union of all sets E_i excluded in past iterations, satisfies relation $E \cup S_j \neq S$, then we choose another point $v^{ch} \in S\backslash(S_j UE)$ and repeat step 1. Otherwise, i.e $E \cup S_j = S$, the algorithm terminates and the maximal controlled invariant set is $S_{max} = S_j$. ∎

The choice of vectors of v^{ch} at each iteration of this algorithm is crucial, because all points of set $S\backslash S_j$ have to be tested for possible "expansion" of set S_j. In this paper, we choose the initial vectors v^{ch} to be the q vertices of S. After q unsuccessful iterations we construct sets $E_i = Q_i \cap S$, $i = 1, ..., q$, where $Q_i = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|x - v_i^{ch}\|_\infty \leq d_i^*\}$. The vertex-representation of every set Q_i is $Q_i = conv\{r_1, ..., r_{2^n}\}$, where $r_j = v_i^{ch} + d_i D_j$, $j = 1, ..., 2^n$ and $D \in \mathbb{R}^{nx2^n}$ a matrix with columns all 2^n distinct vectors with elements equal to 1 or -1. Then, we compute set $T = S \setminus (E_1 \cup ... \cup E_q \cup S_j)$. The new vectors v^{ch} are the extreme points of set T. These new vectors will produce new sets E_i, $i = q + 1, ..., k$. Set T will be updated to $T = S \setminus (E_1 \cup ... \cup E_{k_1} \cup S_j)$. In Fig.1, set T as well as sets E_i ,$i = 1, ..., k$ are shown. This procedure will continue until $T = \varnothing$.

The algorithm converges to the maximal controlled invariant set because otherwise there would exist another controlled invariant set $W \supset S_{max} = conv\{v_{max}^1, ..., v_{max}^{q_{max}}\}$. Then, there would exist a point $x_0 \in W$ such that $x_0 \notin S_{max}$. This would imply the existence of a time instant $M > 1$ such that $x(M; x_0) \in S_{max}$ while $x(M - 1; x_0) \notin S_{max}$. This in turn would imply the existence of nonnegative

scalars p_i, $i = 1, .., q_{max} + 1$, $\sum_{i=1}^{q_{max}+1} p_i \leq 1$ such that

$$x(1; x(M - 1; x_0)) = \sum_{i=1}^{q_{max}} p_i v_{max}^i + p_{q_{max}+1} x(M - 1; x_0)$$

Consequently, the set

$$S^i = conv(v_{max}^1, ..., v_{max}^{m_{max}}, x(M - 1; x_0)).$$

would be controlled invariant. This set however would have been determined in step 1, thus contradicting the hypothesis that $x(M - 1; x_0) \notin S_{max}$.

In addition, it can be clearly seen that the algorithm converges to the maximal controlled invariant set independently of the choice of initial set S_0.

A. Determination of linear state-feedback control laws

The algorithm described above can be modified in order to produce a polyhedral controlled invariant set together with a linear state- feedback control law making this set positively invariant. To this end, it is sufficient to replace the optimization problem in step 1, by the following nonlinear programming problem:

$$\min_{v^*,P,K_{j+1},\varepsilon_k} \{\|v^* - v^{ch}\|_\infty\} \qquad (30)$$

subject to

$$(A + BK_{j+1})V = VP \qquad (31)$$

$$P \geq 0 \qquad (32)$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{q_j+1} p_{ik} \leq \varepsilon_k, \quad k = 1, .., q_j + 1 \qquad (33)$$

$$\varepsilon_k < 1 \quad k = 1, .., q_j + 1 \qquad (34)$$

$$G_s v^* \leq w_s \qquad (35)$$

$$-\underline{u} \leq K_{j+1} v^j \leq \overline{u}, \quad j = 1, .., q_j \qquad (36)$$

$$-\underline{u} \leq K_{j+1} v^* \leq \overline{u} \qquad (37)$$

where $V \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times (q_j+1)}$, $V = \begin{bmatrix} v^1 & \cdots & u^q & v^* \end{bmatrix}$ and $P \in \mathbb{R}^{(q_j+1) \times (q_j+1)}$ is a matrix with nonnegative elements. This nonlinear programming problem is always feasible. The algorithm converges although it is not guaranteed that the maximal controlled invariant set is reached.

B. Continuous time systems.

We can apply the same algorithm with slightly different constraints:

$$\min_{v^*,p,u^*,\varepsilon} \{\|v^* - v^{ch}\|_\infty\}$$

subject to

$$Av^* + Bu^* = \sum_{i=1}^{q_j} p_i v_j^i + p_{q_j+1} v^*$$

$$p_i \geq 0, i = 1, ..., q_j + 1$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{q_j+1} p_i \leq -\varepsilon$$

$$\varepsilon > 0$$

$$G_s v^* \le w_s$$

$$-\underline{u} \le u^* \le \overline{u}$$

For the derivation of a linear state-feedback control law the optimization problem in step 1 becomes:

$$\min_{v^*, P, K_{j+1}, \varepsilon_k} \{\|v^* - v^{ch}\|_\infty\}$$

subject to

$$(A + BK_{j+1})V = VP$$

$$P \ge 0$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{q_j+1} p_{ik} \le -\varepsilon_k$$

$$\varepsilon_k > 0$$

$$k = 1, .., q_j + 1$$

$$G_s v^* \le w_s$$

$$-\underline{u} \le K_{j+1} v^j \le \overline{u}, j = 1, .., q_j$$

$$-\underline{u} \le K_{j+1} v^* \le \overline{u}$$

where $V \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times (q_j+1)}$, $V = [\begin{array}{cccc} v^1 & \cdots & u^q & v^* \end{array}]$.

V. NUMERICAL EXAMPLE

We consider the following linear discrete time system [24]

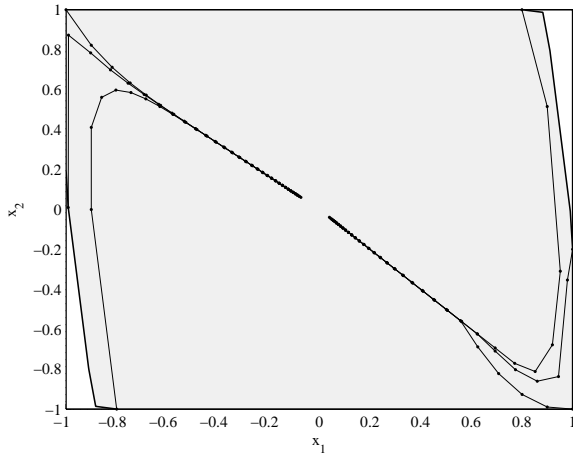$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0.1 \\ 0 & 0.98 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0.98 \end{bmatrix}$$

Fig. 2. Maximal invariant set S_{max}, constraint set S and trajectories emanating from some vertices of S_{max}, nonlinear control law case.

The state and input constraint sets S and U respectively are defined by relations

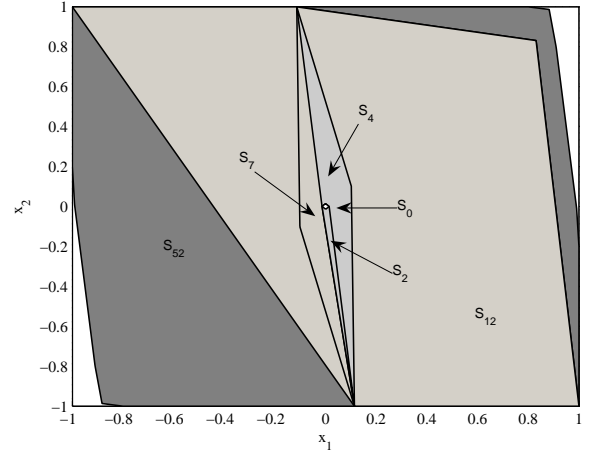$$S = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 : G_s x \le w_s\} \tag{38}$$

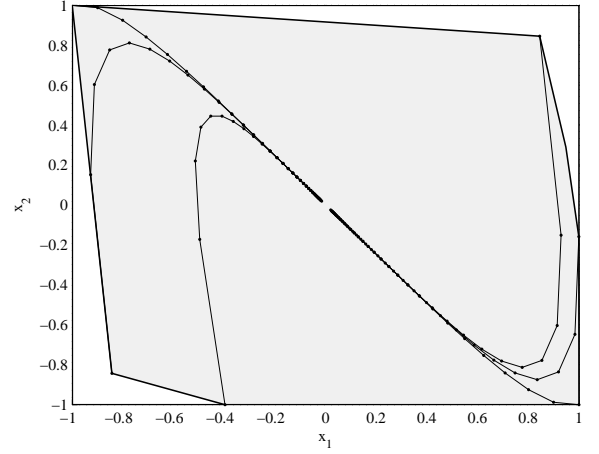Fig. 3. Sets produced in the expansion procedure, nonlinear control case .

Fig. 4. Maximal invariant set S_{max}, constraint set S and trajectories emanating from some vertices of S_{max}, linear control law case.

where

$$G_s = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad w_s = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and

$$U = \{u \in \mathbb{R} : -u_m \le u \le u_M\} \tag{39}$$

where $u_m = u_M = 1$. The maximal invariant polyhedral set S_{max} produced has 14 vertices. The control law is

$$u(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{14} \lambda_i(x) u^i$$

and is computed online at each time instant t by solving the following linear programming problem:

$$\min_{\lambda_i(x(t))} \{\|Ax(t; x_0) + B \sum_{i=1}^{14} \lambda_i(x(t; x_0)) u^i\|_\infty\}$$

subject to

$$x(t; x_0) = \sum_{i=1}^{14} \lambda_i(x(t; x_0))v^i$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{14} \lambda_i(x(t; x_0) \le \varepsilon$$

$$\lambda_i(x(t; x_0) \ge 0, i = 1, .., 14$$

The initial set S_0 and the expansion procedure of the controlled invariant set is shown in Fig. 3. It is worth noticing that the maximal invariant set is computed after 52 iterations, i.e 52 points have been added to the convex hull of the initial set, while S_{max} has only 14 vertices. Finally, by applying the design procedure established above for the linear state feedback control case, a gain matrix

$$K_{max} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.5957 & -0.5875 \end{bmatrix}$$

is computed. The set S_{max} has 8 vertices. This set together with the trajectories starting from some of its vertices is shown in Fig. 4. It is clear that this method gives better results than the one used in [24].

VI. Conclusions

In this paper, a method for the determination of the maximal controlled invariant set which is also a domain of attraction under a suitable state-feedback control law, has been established. The method applies to both continuous-time and discrete-time linear systems with polyhedral constraints. The convergence of the algorithm is guaranteed. In order to illustrate the performance of the method, an example, studied also in [24], has been chosen. It has been shown that the proposed method provides better approximation of the maximal invariant set for the case of nonlinear control laws and a larger invariant set and a simpler controller for the case of linear state-feedback.

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