

1     **STOCHASTIC MODEL REDUCTION FOR SLOW-FAST SYSTEMS**  
2     **WITH MODERATE TIME-SCALE SEPARATION\***

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4     **Abstract.** We propose a stochastic model reduction strategy for deterministic and stochastic  
5 slow-fast systems with a moderate time-scale separation. The stochastic model reduction strategy  
6 improves the approximation of systems with finite time-scale separation, when compared to classical  
7 homogenization theory, by incorporating deviations from the infinite time-scale limit considered in  
8 homogenization, as described by an Edgeworth expansion in the time-scale separation parameter.  
9 To approximate these deviations from the limiting homogenized system in the reduced model, a  
10 surrogate system is constructed the parameters of which are matched to produce the same Edgeworth  
11 expansion as in the original multi-scale system. We corroborate the validity of our approach by  
12 numerical examples, showing significant improvements to classical homogenized model reduction.

13     **Key words.** multi-scale dynamics; homogenization; stochastic parametrization; Edgeworth  
14 expansion

15     **AMS subject classifications.** 60Fxx, 60Gxx

16     **1. Introduction.** Complex systems in nature and in the engineered world often  
17 exhibit a multi-scale character with slow variables driven by fast dynamics. For ex-  
18 ample, large proteins [12] and the climate system [26] exhibit both fast, small scale  
19 fluctuations and slow, large scale transitions. The high complexity often puts the  
20 system out of reach of both analytical and numerical approaches. Typically one is,  
21 however, only interested in the dynamics of the slow variables or observables thereof.  
22 It is then a formidable challenge to distill reduced slow equations which can make  
23 the problem amenable to theoretical analysis, allowing to identify relevant physical  
24 effects, or, from a computational perspective, allow for a larger computational time  
25 step tailored to the slow time scale.

26     Homogenization theory [7, 28] derives reduced slow dynamics by assuming an  
27 infinitely large time-scale separation between slow and fast variables. It has been  
28 rigorously proven for multi-scale systems with stochastic [16, 17, 27] and deterministic  
29 chaotic fast dynamics [25, 8, 14] and has been applied with great success in the  
30 design of numerical algorithms for molecular dynamics [3, 15] and in stochastic climate  
31 modelling [19, 21].

32     Several challenges remain, however, in formulating reliable stochastic slow limit  
33 systems. Whereas homogenization is rigorously proven only for the limiting case of  
34 infinite time scale separation, this assumption is never met in the real world. Hence,  
35 homogenized stochastic systems may fail in reproducing the statistical behaviour of  
36 the underlying deterministic multi-scale system for finite time-scale separation when  
37 an intricate interplay between the fast degrees and the slow degrees of freedom is at  
38 play.

39     Homogenization relies on the fact that the slow dynamics experiences the integrated  
40 effect of, in the limit of infinitely fast dynamics, infinitely many fast fluctuations.  
41 Therefore, homogenization is in effect a manifestation of the central limit theorem  
42 (CLT). Finite time scale effects are then akin to finite sums of random variables. In

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the context of random variables, corrections to the CLT for sums of finite length  $n$  can be described by the Edgeworth expansion, which provides an expansion of the distributions of sums, asymptotic in  $1/\sqrt{n}$  [2]. Such an expansion provides an improved approximation of the pdf of sums for large enough  $n$ . Edgeworth expansions have been developed for independent and for weakly dependent identically distributed random variables [10], continuous-time diffusions [1] and ergodic Markov chains [11]. In [30], we have derived an expression for the Edgeworth expansion of multi-scale systems, including the deterministic case. Similarly to the case of sums of random variables, we obtained an improved approximation of transition probabilities of the slow variable for a large enough time scale separation.

The Edgeworth expansion is universal in the sense that it is agnostic about the microscopic details of the fast process. Only integrals over its higher-order correlation functions appear in the analytical expressions we obtain. We will use this aspect of Edgeworth expansions to derive a reduced model by constructing a low-dimensional surrogate model with the same Edgeworth corrections as the original multi-scale model. Surrogate models have previously been used to sample from complex multi-scale systems, see for example [29]. We numerically demonstrate that this surrogate system is superior to homogenization in reproducing the statistical behaviour of the slow dynamics.

The paper is organised as follows. In Section 2 we introduce the multi-scale systems under consideration and their diffusive limits in the case of infinite time scale separation, as provided by homogenization theory. In Section 3 we establish corrections to the homogenized limit using Edgeworth expansions. These are then used in Section 4 to construct a reduced surrogate stochastic model which captures finite time-scale separation effects. We conclude in Section 5 with a discussion and an outlook.

**2. Multi-scale systems.** We consider multi-scale systems of the form

$$(1) \quad dx = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} f_0(x, y) dt + f_1(x, y) dt$$

$$(2) \quad dy = \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} g_0(y) dt + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \beta(y) dW_t + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} g_1(x, y) dt,$$

with slow variables  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$  and fast variables  $y \in \mathbb{R}^N$ . We assume that the fast dynamics  $dy = g_0 dt + \beta dW_t$  admits a unique invariant physical measure  $\nu(dy)$  and the full system admits a unique invariant physical measure  $\mu^{(\varepsilon)}(dx, dy)$ <sup>1</sup>. The system may be stochastic with a non-zero diffusion matrix  $\beta \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times l}$  and  $l$ -dimensional Brownian motion  $dW_t$ , or may be deterministic with  $\beta \equiv 0$ . In the latter case we assume that the fast dynamics is sufficiently chaotic<sup>2</sup>.

Homogenization theory deals with the limit of infinite time-scale separation  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ . In this limit it is well known that when the leading slow vector field averages to zero, i.e.  $\langle f_0(x, y) \rangle = 0$ , where  $\langle A(y) \rangle := \int \nu(dy) A(y)$ , the slow dynamics is approximated by an Itô stochastic differential equation [16, 17, 27, 25, 9, 13] of the form

$$(3) \quad dX = F(X) dt + \sigma(X) dW_t.$$

<sup>1</sup>An ergodic measure is called physical if for a set of initial conditions of nonzero Lebesgue measure the temporal average of a typical observable converges to the spatial average over this measure.

<sup>2</sup>The assumptions on the chaoticity of the fast subsystem are mild. For continuous-time fast system, an associated Poincaré map needs to have a summable correlation function (irrespective of the mixing properties of the flow). Systems with such mild conditions on the chaoticity include, but go far beyond, Axiom A diffeomorphisms and flows, Hénon-like attractors and Lorenz attractors; see [22, 23, 24]

83 The drift coefficient is given by

$$84 \quad F(x) = \langle f_1(x, y) \rangle + \int_0^\infty ds \left( \langle f_0(x, y) \cdot \nabla_x f_0(x, \varphi^t y) \rangle \right. \\ 85 \quad (4) \quad \left. + \langle g_1(x, y) \cdot \nabla_y (f_0(x, \varphi^t y)) \rangle \right),$$

86 where  $\varphi^t$  denotes the flow map of the fast dynamics, and the diffusion coefficient is  
87 given by the Green-Kubo formula

$$88 \quad (5) \quad \sigma(x)\sigma^T(x) = \int_0^\infty ds \langle f_0(x, y) \otimes f_0(x, \varphi^t y) + f_0(x, \varphi^t y) \otimes f_0(x, y) \rangle,$$

89 where the outer product between two vectors is defined as  $(a \otimes b)_{ij} = a_i b_j$ <sup>3</sup>. For  
90 details the reader is referred to [13].

91 **3. Edgeworth approximation for dynamical systems.** There are three dis-  
92 tinct time scales in the system (1)-(2): a fast time scale of  $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2)$ , an intermediate  
93 time-scale of  $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon)$  on which the fast dynamics has equilibrated but the slow dynamics  
94 has not yet evolved, and a long diffusive time scale of  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  on which the slow variables  
95 exhibit non-trivial dynamics. It is on the intermediate time scale that we can expect  
96 corrections to the CLT: the time scale is sufficiently long for the fast dynamics to  
97 generate near-Gaussian noise but not long enough for the slow dynamics to dominate.  
98 This is also reflected in the homogenized SDE (3): displacements of the slow variable  
99 are near-Gaussian with  $dX \sim \sigma(X) dW_t$  on short time scales. We therefore focus  
100 our attention on the limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  with  $t/\varepsilon = \theta$  constant, and study the transition  
101 probabilities between initial conditions  $x_0$  into the interval  $(x, x + dx)$

$$102 \quad \pi_\varepsilon(x, t, x_0) = \mathbb{P} \left( \frac{x(t) - x_0}{\sqrt{t}} \in (x, x + dx) \middle| x(0) = x_0, y(0) \sim \mu_{x_0}^{(\varepsilon)} \right).$$

103 Here  $\mu_{x_0}^{(\varepsilon)}$  denotes the conditional measure of  $\mu^{(\varepsilon)}$  conditioned on  $x = x_0$ . In the limit  
104 of homogenization theory  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , the transition probability  $\pi_\varepsilon$  with  $t/\varepsilon$  constant con-  
105 verges to a normal distribution  $\mathbf{n}_{0, \sigma^2}(x)$  with the covariance given by the Green-Kubo  
106 formula (5). For finite  $\varepsilon$ , the transition probability will not be Gaussian but will have  
107 correction terms of  $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{\varepsilon})$ , the so called Edgeworth corrections. As we have shown in  
108 [30], the corrections to the limiting Gaussian distribution of  $\hat{x}(t) := (x(t) - x_0)/\sqrt{t}$  are  
109 most readily calculated through the characteristic function  $\chi_\varepsilon(\omega) = \mathbb{E}_{\varepsilon^{x_0, \mu}} [\exp(i\omega \hat{x})]$   
110 where  $\mathbb{E}_{\varepsilon^{x_0, \mu}}$  is the expectation value w.r.t.  $\pi_\varepsilon$ . We can expand the characteristic  
111 function and then determine the expansion of the probability distribution by inverse  
112 Fourier transform. Since  $\ln \chi_\varepsilon = \sum_n c_\varepsilon^{(n)} (i\omega)^n / n!$  with the cumulants of  $\hat{x}$

$$113 \quad c_\varepsilon^{(p)} = m_\varepsilon^{(p)} - \sum_{j=1}^{p-1} \binom{p-1}{j-1} m_\varepsilon^{(p-j)} c_\varepsilon^{(j)},$$

114 and the moments  $m_\varepsilon^{(p)} = \mathbb{E}_{\varepsilon^{x_0, \mu}} [\hat{x}^p]$ , we can expand  $\chi_\varepsilon$  by seeking an asymptotic  
115 expansion

$$116 \quad c_\varepsilon^{(p)} = c_0^{(p)} + \sqrt{\varepsilon} c_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(p)} + \varepsilon c_1^{(p)} + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^{\frac{3}{2}}).$$

<sup>3</sup>As stated here the formulae for the drift and diffusion matrix are only valid for correlation functions which are slightly more than integrable. When the autocorrelation function of the fast driving system is decaying but is only integrable, more complicated formulae apply; see [14] for details.

117 To this end, the expectation values appearing in the cumulants  $\mathbb{E}_\varepsilon^{x_0, \mu}$  are expressed  
118 as

$$119 \quad \mathbb{E}_\varepsilon^{x_0, \mu} [A(x(t), y(t))] = \int \int A(x, y) e^{\mathcal{L}\varepsilon t} \delta_{x_0}(dx) \mu(dy),$$

120 with the transfer operator  $e^{\mathcal{L}\varepsilon t}$  (also known as Frobenius-Perron operator) associ-  
121 ated with the multi-scale system (1)-(2). This transfer operator can be expanded  
122 by successive application of the Duhamel-Dyson formula [4, 32], resulting in explicit  
123 expressions for the  $c_j^{(p)}$ . We find  $c_0^{(1)} = c_1^{(1)} = 0$ ,  $c_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(1)} = F(x_0)$ ,  $c_0^{(2)} = \sigma^2$ ,  $c_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(2)} = 0$ ,  
124  $c_0^{(3)} = c_1^{(3)} = 0$ ,  $c_0^{(4)} = c_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(4)} = 0$  and  $c_\varepsilon^{(p)} = \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^{\frac{3}{2}})$  for  $p > 4$ , while the coefficients  $c_1^{(2)}$ ,  
125  $c_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(3)}$  and  $c_1^{(4)}$  depend non-trivially on the correlations of  $y$  (see appendix A for their  
126 expressions). Finally, by taking the inverse Fourier transform of  $\chi_\varepsilon$ , we can formally  
127 expand the probability density  $\pi_\varepsilon = \pi_\varepsilon^{(2)} + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^{\frac{3}{2}})$  with

$$128 \quad \pi_\varepsilon^{(2)}(x, t = \theta\varepsilon, x_0) = \mathbf{n}_{0, \sigma^2}(x) \left[ 1 + \sqrt{\varepsilon} \left( \frac{F(x_0)}{\sigma} H_1\left(\frac{x}{\sigma}\right) + \frac{c_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(3)}}{3!\sigma^3} H_3\left(\frac{x}{\sigma}\right) \right) + \varepsilon \left( \frac{F(x_0)^2 + c_1^{(2)}}{2\sigma^2} H_2\left(\frac{x}{\sigma}\right) \right. \right. \\ 129 \quad (6) \quad \left. \left. + \frac{c_1^{(4)} + 4F(x_0)c_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(3)}}{4!\sigma^4} H_4\left(\frac{x}{\sigma}\right) + \frac{c_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(3)^2}}{2(3!\sigma^3)^2} H_6\left(\frac{x}{\sigma}\right) \right) \right].$$

130 Here  $H_n(x) = (x - \frac{d}{dx})^n 1$  are Hermite polynomials of degree  $n$ . It is readily seen from  
131 (6) that for  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , the homogenization limit  $\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \pi_\varepsilon = \mathbf{n}_{0, \sigma^2}$  is recovered. For a  
132 derivation of the Edgeworth expansion and explicit formulae for the  $c_j^{(p)}$  the reader is  
133 referred to [30]. For completeness we present in the Appendix the expressions for the  
134 Edgeworth expansion coefficients. Note that the expressions for the cumulant expan-  
135 sions as derived in [30] determine the form of the expansion, but are not sufficient to  
136 show that an Edgeworth expansion actually holds for a given class of dynamical sys-  
137 tems. However, the numerical evidence presented below and in [30] suggests strongly  
138 that Edgeworth expansions hold for the model systems studied.

139

140 **3.1. Numerical validation of the Edgeworth expansion.** We now numer-  
141 ically demonstrate the validity of the Edgeworth expansion for a multi-scale system  
142 of the form (1)-(2). In particular, we consider

$$143 \quad (7) \quad \dot{x} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} f_0(y) + f_1(x)$$

$$144 \quad (8) \quad \dot{y}_i = \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} g_0(y)$$

145 with  $y \in \mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $f_1(x) = -\partial_x V(x)$ ,  $V(x) = x^2(b^2x^2 - a^2)$ ,  $g_1(x, y) = 0$ ,  $g_0(y) =$   
146  $y_{i-1}(y_{i+1} - y_{i-2}) + R - y_i$  and  $y_{N+i} = y_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq N$ . The system consists  
147 of a single degree of freedom  $x$  in a symmetric double well potential  $V$  driven by  
148 a fast Lorenz '96 (L96)  $y$ -system. The L96 system was introduced to mimic atmo-  
149 spheric chaos in the midlatitudes [18]. The system (7)-(8) can therefore be viewed as  
150 a simple toy model of the ocean exhibiting two regimes, driven by a fast chaotic atmo-  
151 sphere. We take the classical parameters of Lorenz' with  $N = 40$ ,  $R = 8$  and choose  
152  $f_0(y) = \sigma_m \left( \frac{1}{5} \sum_{i=1}^5 y_i^2 - C_0 \right)$  where  $C_0$  is chosen such that  $\langle f_0 \rangle = 0$ . Randomness

153 is introduced solely through a random choice of the initial condition  $y_0$ , distributed  
 154 according to the physical invariant measure of the fast L96 system.

155

156 To demonstrate the validity of the Edgeworth expansion we show in Figure 1  
 157 the transition probabilities for the full multi-scale system (7)-(8) as well as those of  
 158 the reduced homogenized system (3) and of the Edgeworth expansion (6). Whereas  
 159 homogenization fails to approximate the transition probability (with a relative error  
 160 in the skewness of 0.87), our Edgeworth approximation describes the statistics of the  
 161 true system remarkably well. Note that the transition probability  $\pi_\varepsilon^{(2)}$  is not a proper  
 162 probability density function in the sense that it is not a non-negative function. The oc-  
 163 currence of negative values is due to the expansion of  $\pi_\varepsilon^{(2)}$  in Hermite polynomials (cf.  
 164 (6)). This implies that one cannot sample directly from the Edgeworth-approximated  
 165 transition probability  $\pi_\varepsilon^{(2)}$ . However, as we will see in the next section, one can con-  
 166 struct a dynamical system with expansion coefficients approximating those in  $\pi_\varepsilon^{(2)}$ ,  
 167 and this surrogate system can then be used to sample from a pdf which has the same  
 168 Edgeworth expansion of the transition probability as the full multi-scale system.

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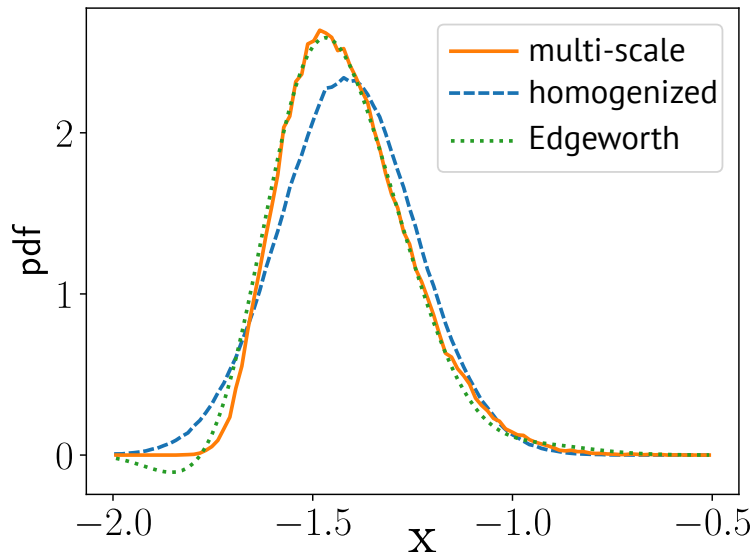


Fig. 1: Transition probability  $\pi_\varepsilon(x, t = 0.02, x_0 = -\sqrt{2})$  of the system (7)-(8) (labelled “multiscale”) with  $a = 1$ ,  $b = 0.5$ ,  $\varepsilon = 0.1$  and  $\sigma_m = 0.1821$  (implying  $\sigma = 1.25$ ), the Edgeworth expansion  $\pi_\varepsilon^{(2)}$  (6) (labelled “Edgeworth”) and the pdf of  $X(t)$  in (3) (labelled “homogenized”).

170 We now describe how the Edgeworth coefficients of Eqs. (7)-(8) are estimated  
 171 numerically. For the case of the multi-scale Lorenz '96 system Eqs. (7)-(8) the  
 172 formulae for the Edgeworth coefficients  $\sigma$ ,  $c_1^{(2)}$ ,  $c_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(3)}$  and  $c_1^{(4)}$  appearing in the transition  
 173 probability  $\pi_\varepsilon^{(2)}(x, t = \theta\varepsilon, x_0)$  (6) presented in the appendix yield

174

$$F = -\partial_{x_0} V(x_0)$$

175

$$\sigma^2 = \mu_{20}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
176 \quad c_1^{(2)} &= -\theta\sigma^2\partial_{x_0}^2 V(x_0) + \frac{1}{\theta}\mu_{21} \\
177 \quad c_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(3)} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\theta}}\mu_{30} \\
178 \quad c_1^{(4)} &= \frac{1}{\theta}\mu_{40} \\
179
\end{aligned}$$

180 where

$$181 \quad (9) \quad \mu_{20} = 2 \int_0^\infty C_2(\tau) \, d\tau$$

$$182 \quad (10) \quad \mu_{21} = -2 \int_0^\infty \tau C_2(\tau) \, d\tau$$

$$183 \quad (11) \quad \mu_{30} = 6 \int_0^\infty C_3(\tau_1, \tau_2) \, d\tau_1 d\tau_2$$

$$184 \quad (12) \quad \mu_{40} = 6\mu_{20}\mu_{21} - 24 \int_0^\infty (C_4(\tau_1, \tau_2, \tau_3) - C_2(\tau_1)C_2(\tau_3)) \, d\tau_1 d\tau_2 d\tau_3$$

186 with the two-point autocorrelation function  $C_2(\tau) = \langle f_0(y)f_0(\varphi^\tau y) \rangle$ , the three-point  
187 autocorrelation function  $C_3(\tau_1, \tau_2) = \langle f_0(y)f_0(\varphi^{\tau_1}y)f_0(\varphi^{\tau_1+\tau_2}y) \rangle$  and the four-point  
188 autocorrelation function  $C_4(\tau_1, \tau_2, \tau_3) = \langle f_0(y)f_0(\varphi^{\tau_1}y)f_0(\varphi^{\tau_1+\tau_2}y)f_0(\varphi^{\tau_1+\tau_2+\tau_3}y) \rangle$ ,  
189 where we recall that  $\varphi^t$  denotes the flow map of the fast dynamics.

190 The terms  $\mu_{20}$ ,  $\mu_{21}$ ,  $\mu_{30}$  and  $\mu_{40}$  can be calculated directly by estimating the corre-  
191 lation functions  $C_{2,3,4}$ . This, however, is computationally expensive to get accurate  
192 results. Here we estimate the terms as follows. As shown in [30], the Edgeworth  
193 coefficients appear as the coefficients of an expansion in  $t$  and  $\varepsilon$  of the cumulants  
194 of transition probabilities of the multi-scale system. If we were to set  $V = 0$ , the  
195 terms  $\mu_{20}$ ,  $\mu_{21}$ ,  $\mu_{30}$  and  $\mu_{40}$  are the leading order terms appearing in the Edgeworth  
196 expansion of the second, third and fourth cumulant. More specifically, for the system

$$197 \quad (13) \quad \dot{\tilde{x}} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon}f_0(\tilde{y})$$

$$198 \quad (14) \quad \dot{\tilde{y}} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2}g_0(\tilde{y})$$

200 with initial conditions  $\tilde{x}(t = 0) = \tilde{x}_0$  and  $\tilde{y}(t = 0) = \tilde{y}_0$ , we can integrate the slow  
201 dynamics to obtain

$$202 \quad \xi_\varepsilon := \frac{\tilde{x}(t = \varepsilon) - \tilde{x}_0}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}} = \sqrt{\varepsilon}z\left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right)$$

204 with  $z(t) := \int_0^t f_0(y(\tau)) \, d\tau$ . As shown in [30], the second, third and fourth cumulants  
205 of  $\xi_\varepsilon$  can be expanded in orders of  $\sqrt{\varepsilon}$  as

$$206 \quad \mathbb{E}_\varepsilon^{x_0, \mu} [\xi_\varepsilon^2] = \mu_{20} + \varepsilon\mu_{21} + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2)$$

$$207 \quad \mathbb{E}_\varepsilon^{x_0, \mu} [\xi_\varepsilon^3] = \sqrt{\varepsilon}\mu_{30} + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^{\frac{3}{2}})$$

$$208 \quad \mathbb{E}_\varepsilon^{x_0, \mu} [\xi_\varepsilon^4] - 3\mathbb{E}_\varepsilon^{x_0, \mu} [\xi_\varepsilon^2]^2 = \varepsilon\mu_{40} + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2).$$

210 It follows by taking  $t = \frac{1}{\varepsilon}$  that  $\mu_2 := \mathbb{E} [z(t)^2]$ ,  $\mu_3 := \mathbb{E} [z(t)^3]$  and  $\mu_4 := \mathbb{E} [z(t)^4]$   
211 scale with  $t$  as

$$212 \quad \frac{\mu_2}{t} = \mu_{20} + \frac{\mu_{21}}{t} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{t^2}\right)$$

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$$\frac{\mu_3}{t} = \mu_{30} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{t}\right)$$

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$$\frac{\mu_4 - 3\mu_2^2}{t} = \mu_{40} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{t}\right).$$

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This suggests to perform a least squares fit of  $\frac{\mu_2}{t}$ ,  $\frac{\mu_3}{t}$  and  $\frac{\mu_4 - 3\mu_2^2}{t}$  to a two-parameter family of functions  $\ell(t) = a + b/t$ . Denoting the result of the least squares fit of  $\frac{\mu_2}{t}$  by  $a_2^*$  and  $b_2^*$ , of  $\frac{\mu_3}{t}$  by  $a_3^*$  and  $b_3^*$  and of  $\frac{\mu_4 - 3\mu_2^2}{t}$  by  $a_4^*$  and  $b_4^*$ , we can extract the leading order coefficients. From the fits we obtain  $\mu_{20} = a_2^*$  and  $\mu_{21} = b_2^*$ ,  $\mu_{30} = a_3^*$  and  $\mu_{40} = a_4^*$ . Figure 2 shows the scaled cumulants of  $z(t)$  together with their respective least squares fit of functions  $\ell(t) = a + b/t$ .

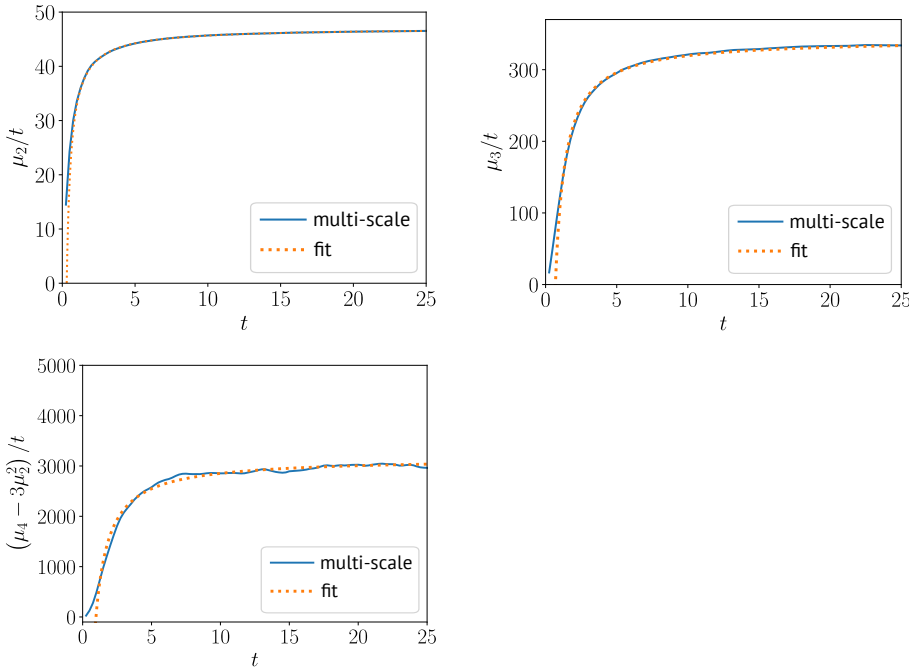


Fig. 2: Scaled cumulants of  $z(t)$  for the system (13)-(14) with  $f_0$  and  $g_0$  as in (7)-(8). The smooth line represents a least squares fit to  $\ell(t) = a + b/t$ . Top left: second cumulant, top right: third cumulant, bottom: fourth cumulant.

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**4. The surrogate system.** The Edgeworth expansion is universal in the sense that only a limited number of statistical properties of the fast system appear in the expansion. Therefore, the microscopic details of the fast  $y$ -dynamics are of no importance to the slow  $x$ -dynamics. As we have seen, one cannot sample directly from the Edgeworth expansion of the transition probability  $\pi_\varepsilon^{(2)}$  since it is not a proper probability density function and involves negative values due to the expansion in Hermite polynomials (cf. (6)). However, we can construct a surrogate system such that the Edgeworth expansion of its transition probability, which we label  $\pi_{\text{surr}}^{(2)}$ , closely approximates the expansion  $\pi_\varepsilon^{(2)}$  of transition probabilities of the full multi-scale system. From the macroscopic point of view the  $y$ -dynamics can be substituted with a

232 simpler surrogate system, as long as the statistical properties encoded in the Edge-  
 233 worth expansion are preserved. This suggests a new way of performing stochastic  
 234 model reduction for the slow dynamics: construct a class of simple surrogate sys-  
 235 tems  $(X(t), \eta(t))$  dependent on a set of parameters  $\mathbf{p}_{\text{surr}}$ . Here  $X \in \mathbb{R}^d$  denotes the  
 236 slow variables, approximating the slow dynamics  $x$  in the multi-scale system (1)-(2),  
 237 and  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}^k$  with  $k < N$  mimics the effect of the fast dynamics  $y$ . The functional  
 238 form of the surrogate system, determining the evolution of  $X(t)$  and  $\eta(t)$ , and the  
 239 dimension  $k$  of the fast surrogate variables  $\eta$  are chosen sufficiently simple to allow  
 240 for an explicit analytical expression of the Edgeworth expansion coefficients of the  
 241 transition probability  $\pi_{\text{surr}}^{(2)}$  of the surrogate system. These coefficients will depend  
 242 on the set of free parameters  $\mathbf{p}_{\text{surr}}$  appearing in the surrogate system. Judiciously  
 243 choosing the free parameters of the surrogate system  $\mathbf{p}_{\text{surr}}$  allows us to match the  
 244 Edgeworth corrections of the surrogate system to the observed Edgeworth corrections  
 245 of the original multi-scale model we set out to model. This is achieved as follows: the  
 246 transition probability of the surrogate slow variables  $X$ ,

$$247 \quad \pi_{\text{surr}}(x, t = \theta\varepsilon, x_0) = \mathbb{P} \left( \frac{X(t) - X(0)}{\sqrt{t}} \in (x, x + dx) \middle| X(0) = x_0 \right),$$

248 is approximated by the second order Edgeworth expansion  $\pi_{\text{surr}} = \pi_{\text{surr}}^{(2)} + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^{\frac{3}{2}})$ .  
 249 The expression for the Edgeworth expansion of  $\pi_{\text{surr}}$  is the same as for  $\pi_\varepsilon$  given in  
 250 (6). We denote the cumulant expansion coefficients for  $\pi_{\text{surr}}^{(2)}$  in (6) as  $c_k^{(p,s)}$ . The  
 251 free parameters  $\mathbf{p}_{\text{surr}}$  of the surrogate system are then determined by the constrained  
 252 optimization, at a fixed time which we choose arbitrarily as  $t = \varepsilon$ ,

$$253 \quad (15) \quad \arg \min_{\mathbf{p}_{\text{surr}}} \left\| \pi_{\text{surr}}^{(2)}(x, t = \varepsilon, x_0) - \pi_\varepsilon^{(2)}(x, t = \varepsilon, x_0) \right\|$$

254 of the  $L_2$ -norm with respect to  $x$  for fixed initial condition  $x_0$  subject to the constraint  
 255 of the exact matching of the leading order diffusivity  $\sigma$  (5) and drift  $F$  (4). A further  
 256 appropriately weighted norm w.r.t.  $x_0$  (e.g. weighted with the invariant measure  
 257 restricted to  $x$ ) can be taken to ensure one set of parameter values for all  $x_0$ . Since  
 258  $\sigma$  and  $F$  determine the limiting system (3), this constraint assures that the surrogate  
 259 system and the full deterministic system have the same homogenized limit. Using  
 260 the Edgeworth expansions for both  $\pi^{(s)}$  and  $\pi_\varepsilon$ , we have, if  $c_0^{(2,s)} = c_0^{(2)} = \sigma^2$  and  
 261  $c_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(1,s)} = c_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(1)} = F$ , that

$$262 \quad (16) \quad \left\| \pi_{\text{surr}}^{(2)}(x, \varepsilon, x_0) - \pi_\varepsilon^{(2)}(x, \varepsilon, x_0) \right\| = \varepsilon \mathcal{E}^{(1)}(x_0) + \varepsilon^2 \mathcal{E}^{(2)}(x_0),$$

263 with

$$264 \quad \mathcal{E}^{(1)}(x_0) = \frac{15 \kappa_3^2}{16 \sqrt{\pi} \sigma}$$

$$265 \quad \mathcal{E}^{(2)}(x_0) = \frac{3 (16 \kappa_2^2 - 80 \kappa_2 \kappa_4 + 140 \kappa_4^2 + 3465 \kappa_6^2 + 140 (2 \kappa_2 - 9 \kappa_4) \kappa_6)}{128 \sqrt{\pi} \sigma},$$

266 where the coefficients

$$267 \quad \kappa_2 = \frac{c_1^{(2)} - c_1^{(2,s)}}{2\sigma^2}, \quad \kappa_3 = \frac{c_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(3)} - c_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(3,s)}}{6\sigma^3}, \quad \kappa_4 = \frac{c_1^{(4)} - c_1^{(4,s)}}{24\sigma^4}, \quad \kappa_6 = \frac{c_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(3)^2} - c_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(3,s)^2}}{72\sigma^6}$$



268 are given in terms of the expansion coefficients of the original multiscale system and  
 269 of the surrogate system. The expansion coefficients of the original multi-scale system  
 270  $c_k^{(p)}$  are determined numerically through evaluation of their expressions for long-time  
 271 numerical simulations, as described in Section 3.1. Their surrogate counterparts  $c_k^{(p,s)}$   
 272 can be determined analytically as a function of the free parameters  $\mathbf{p}_{\text{SURR}}$ . This then  
 273 allows to evaluate the error terms in (16). The constrained optimization problem (15)  
 274 can then be solved by varying the surrogate parameters  $\mathbf{p}_{\text{SURR}}$ .

275 We consider here the following family of surrogate models for the multi-scale  
 276 system (1)-(2)

$$277 \quad (17) \quad \dot{X} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} f_0^{(s)}(X, \eta) + F(X) + f_1^{(s)}(X, \eta)$$

$$278 \quad (18) \quad d\eta = -\frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} \Gamma^{(s)} \eta dt + \frac{\sigma^{(s)}}{\varepsilon} dW_t + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} g_1^{(s)}(X, \eta).$$

279 The fast process  $\eta(t)$  is a  $k$ -dimensional Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process with  $\Gamma_{ij}^{(s)} = \gamma_i \delta_{ij}$   
 280 and  $\sigma_{ij}^{(s)} = \zeta_i \delta_{ij}$ . The noise is here, different to the homogenized diffusive limits,  
 281 coloured and enters the slow dynamics in an integrated way, allowing for non-trivial  
 282 memory.

283 The vector fields  $f_0^{(s)}$ ,  $f_1^{(s)}$  and  $g_1^{(s)}$  of the surrogate system are chosen to be polynomial

$$284 \quad (19) \quad f_l^{(s)}(X, \eta) = \sum_{|\alpha| < \alpha_l, |\beta| < \beta_l} a_l^{(\alpha, \beta)} X^\alpha \eta^\beta$$

$$285 \quad (20) \quad g_1^{(s)}(X, \eta) = \sum_{|\alpha| < \alpha_2, |\beta| < \beta_2} a_2^{(\alpha, \beta)} X^\alpha \eta^\beta$$

286 for  $l = 0, 1$ . The degree of the polynomials  $\alpha_l$  and  $\beta_l$ ,  $l = 0, 1, 2$ , and the dimensionality  
 287 of the surrogate process  $k$  are chosen as the smallest degree and dimension which still  
 288 allow the surrogate system to capture the statistical features of the vector field  $f_0(x, y)$   
 289 of the original multi-scale system (1)-(2).

290 **4.1. Surrogate model for the Lorenz '96 driven system.** To test the abil-  
 291 ity of the Edgeworth expansion-based surrogate model (17)-(18) to approximate the  
 292 statistics of the slow variable  $x$ , we first consider the multi-scale system (7)-(8). Since  
 293  $g_1 = 0$  in this case, we set  $\alpha_2 = \beta_2 = 0$ . Furthermore, we find that  $k = 1$ ,  $\alpha_1 = \beta_1 = 0$ ,  
 294  $\alpha_0 = 3$ ,  $\beta_0 = 1$  are sufficient. The Edgeworth coefficients (9)-(12) for the surrogate  
 295 model can be explicitly calculated. We obtain

$$296 \quad (21) \quad c_0^{(2,s)} = \frac{11 a_0^{(3,0)^2} \zeta_1^6 + 4 a_0^{(1,0)^2} \gamma_1^2 \zeta_1^2 + 2 \left( a_0^{(2,0)^2} + 6 a_0^{(1,0)} a_0^{(3,0)} \right) \gamma_1 \zeta_1^4}{4 \gamma_1^4}$$

$$297 \quad (22) \quad c_{2,-1}^{(2,s)} = -\frac{29 a_0^{(3,0)^2} \zeta_1^6 + 12 a_0^{(1,0)^2} \gamma_1^2 \zeta_1^2 + 3 \left( a_0^{(2,0)^2} + 12 a_0^{(1,0)} a_0^{(3,0)} \right) \gamma_1 \zeta_1^4}{12 \gamma_1^5}$$

$$298 \quad (23) \quad c_{1,-\frac{1}{2}}^{(3,s)} = \frac{3 \left( 22 a_0^{(2,0)} a_0^{(3,0)^2} \zeta_1^8 + 4 a_0^{(1,0)^2} a_0^{(2,0)} \gamma_1^2 \zeta_1^4 + \left( a_0^{(2,0)^3} + 18 a_0^{(1,0)} a_0^{(2,0)} a_0^{(3,0)} \right) \gamma_1 \zeta_1^6 \right)}{2 \gamma_1^6}$$

(24)

$$\begin{aligned}
299 \quad c_0^{(4,s)} &= 6 c_0^{(2,s)} c_1^{(2,s)} + \left( 48 \gamma_1^4 a_0^{(1,0)^4} + 420 \gamma_1^3 \zeta_1^2 a_0^{(1,0)^2} a_0^{(2,0)^2} \right. \\
300 \quad &+ 66 \gamma_1^2 \zeta_1^4 a_0^{(2,0)^4} + 480 \gamma_1^3 \zeta_1^2 a_0^{(1,0)^3} a_0^{(3,0)} \\
301 \quad &+ 2268 \gamma_1^2 \zeta_1^4 a_0^{(1,0)} a_0^{(2,0)^2} a_0^{(3,0)} + 1976 \gamma_1^2 \zeta_1^4 a_0^{(1,0)^2} a_0^{(3,0)^2} \\
302 \quad &+ 3259 \gamma_1 \zeta_1^6 a_0^{(2,0)^2} a_0^{(3,0)^2} \\
303 \quad &+ 3912 \gamma_1 \zeta_1^6 a_0^{(1,0)} a_0^{(3,0)^3} + 3109 \zeta_1^8 a_0^{(3,0)^4} \left. \right) \frac{\zeta_1^4}{8 \gamma_1^9}.
\end{aligned}$$

305 The parameter  $a_0^{(0,0)} = -a_0^{(0,2)} \zeta_1^2 / (2\gamma_1)$  is fixed by requiring the centering condition  
306  $\langle f_0^{(s)} \rangle \equiv 0$ . The remaining parameters for the surrogate system are determined by  
307 constrained minimization of (15) using sequential least squares programming as im-  
308 plemented in the SciPy library.

309 Figure 3 shows the invariant measure and the third moment of the slow dynamics  
310 of the multiscale Lorenz system (7) with a moderate time scale separation  $\varepsilon = 0.15$ ,  
311 as well as of the homogenized equation (3) and of the surrogate process (17)-(18). It  
312 is clearly seen that the stochastic model reduction based on the Edgeworth expan-  
313 sion captures the nontrivial non-Gaussian behaviour of the full slow dynamics very  
314 well, whereas the homogenized equation converges to a Gaussian with a zero third  
315 moment. Note that the surrogate naturally supports an invariant measure from  
316 which one can sample, unlike the expansion  $\pi_{\text{surr}}^{(2)}$  which was used for its construc-  
317 tion. Figure 4 shows the second and fourth cumulants, for the full multi-scale system  
318 (7) and for the homogenized equation (3) as well as for the surrogate process (17)-  
319 (18). For the second moment we show the long-time behaviour where homogenization  
320 matches well, as well as the intermediate time evolution where the Edgeworth expan-  
321 sion clearly outperforms the homogenized result. For the fourth moment the classical  
322 homogenization results fail to capture the long-time and the intermediate time tem-  
323 poral evolution whereas the Edgeworth expansion closely follows the true evolution  
324 of the moments, capturing the non-Gaussian behaviour of the slow dynamics in the  
325 moderate timescale separation case.

326 **4.2. Surrogate model for a triad system.** We now treat a multiscale system  
327 that includes a non-zero backcoupling term  $g_1$ . In particular, we consider the triad  
328 model

$$329 \quad (25) \quad dx = \frac{B_0}{\varepsilon} y_1 y_2 dt$$

$$330 \quad (26) \quad dy_1 = \frac{B_1}{\varepsilon} y_2 x dt - \frac{\gamma_1^{(t)}}{\varepsilon^2} y_1 dt + \frac{\sigma_1^{(t)}}{\varepsilon} dW_1$$

$$331 \quad (27) \quad dy_2 = \frac{B_2}{\varepsilon} x y_1 dt - \frac{\gamma_2^{(t)}}{\varepsilon^2} y_2 dt + \frac{\sigma_2^{(t)}}{\varepsilon} dW_2 .$$

333 This model has been used as a low-dimensional toy model for fluid flows with quadratic  
334 nonlinearities [20]. The triad system allows for an explicit calculation of the homog-  
335 enized system and Edgeworth coefficients (see Appendix A for the general formulae).  
336 For the zero order homogenized equations, we obtain for the drift  $F$  and diffusion  
337 coefficient  $\sigma$

$$338 \quad (28) \quad F(X) = \Theta X ,$$

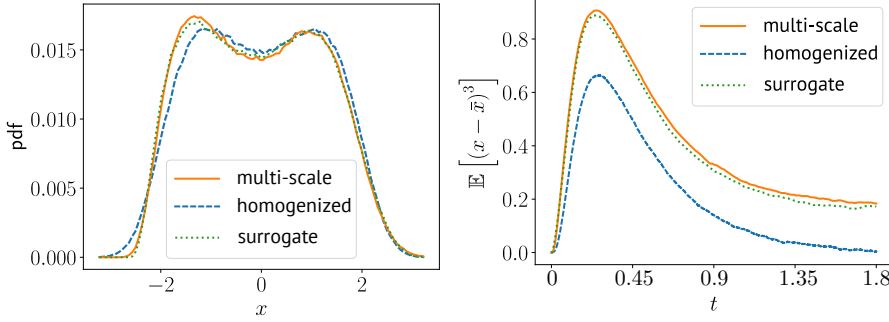


Fig. 3: The invariant measure (left) and third moment (right) for  $x$  of the multi-scale Lorenz system (7)-(8) with  $\varepsilon = 0.15$ ,  $a = 1$ ,  $b = 2/3$  and  $\sigma_m = 0.48567$  (implying  $\sigma = 10/3$ ), the homogenized equation (3) and the surrogate process (17)-(18). The parameters of the surrogate process are obtained by the method in Section 4 as  $\gamma_1 = 2.479$ ,  $\zeta_1 = 25.793$ ,  $a_0^{(0,3)} = -9.7467 \cdot 10^{-3}$ ,  $a_0^{(0,2)} = 19.72 \cdot 10^{-2}$ ,  $a_0^{(0,1)} = 7.1933$  and  $a_0^{(0,0)} = -a_0^{(0,2)} \zeta_1^2 / (2\gamma_1)$ .

$$(29) \quad \sigma^2 = 2 \frac{B_0^2 \sigma_{1\infty}^2 \sigma_{2\infty}^2}{\gamma_1^{(t)} + \gamma_2^{(t)}}$$

$$\text{with } \Theta = \frac{B_0}{(\gamma_1^{(t)} + \gamma_2^{(t)})^2} (B_1 \sigma_{2\infty}^2 + B_2 \sigma_{1\infty}^2) \text{ and } \sigma_{i\infty}^2 = \frac{\sigma_i^{(t)2}}{2\gamma_i^{(t)}}.$$

For the Edgeworth coefficients up to order  $\varepsilon^{3/2}$  we find

$$c_{2,-1}^{(2)} = -\frac{\sigma^2}{\gamma_1^{(t)} + \gamma_2^{(t)}}$$

$$c_{0,1}^{(2)} = \sigma^2 \Theta + \Theta^2 x_0^2$$

$$c_{2,-1}^{(4)} = 6\sigma^2 c_{2,-1}^{(2)} + 6 \frac{\sigma^4}{\gamma_1^{(t)} + \gamma_2^{(t)}} \left( \frac{(\gamma_1^{(t)} + \gamma_2^{(t)})^2}{\gamma_1^{(t)} \gamma_2^{(t)}} + 2 \right)$$

$$\text{and } c_{0,\frac{1}{2}}^{(3)} = c_{1,-\frac{1}{2}}^{(3)} = c_{1,0}^{(2)} = c_{0,1}^{(4)} = c_{1,0}^{(4)} = 0.$$

Since  $g_1$  is now non-zero, we construct a surrogate system with non-zero  $\alpha_2$ . We find that a simple surrogate system of the form

$$(30) \quad dx = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} f_0^{(s)}(y) dt$$

$$(31) \quad dy = \frac{a_2^{(1,0)}}{\varepsilon} x dt - \frac{\gamma_1}{\varepsilon^2} y dt + \frac{\zeta_1}{\varepsilon} dW$$

with

$$f_0^{(s)}(y) = a_0^{(3,0)} y^3 + a_0^{(2,0)} y^2 + a_0^{(1,0)} y + a_0^{(0,0)}$$

gives a good approximation. For the zero order homogenized equations of the surrogate, we obtain a drift  $F^{(s)}(x) = \Theta^{(s)} x$  with  $\Theta^{(s)} = \frac{a_2^{(1,0)}}{2\gamma_1^2} (2\gamma_1 a_0^{(1,0)} + 3a_0^{(3,0)} \zeta_1^2)$

and diffusion  $\sigma^{(s)2} = \frac{11 a_0^{(3,0)2} \zeta_1^6 + 4 a_0^{(1,0)2} \gamma_1^2 \zeta_1^2 + 2 (a_0^{(2,0)2} + 6 a_0^{(1,0)} a_0^{(3,0)}) \gamma_1 \zeta_1^4}{4 \gamma_1^4}$ . The non-zero

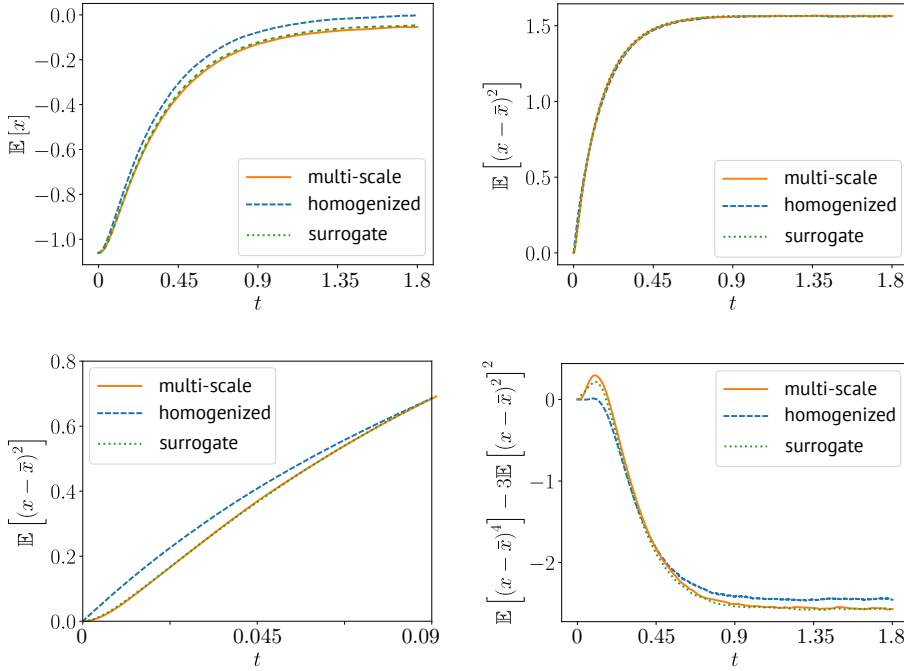


Fig. 4: The first moment (top left), second moment (over long times (top right) and over intermediate times (bottom left)) and fourth cumulant over long times (bottom right) for  $x$  of the multi-scale Lorenz system as a function of time. Parameters are  $\varepsilon = 0.15$ ,  $a = 1$ ,  $b = 2/3$  and  $\sigma_m = 0.48567$  (implying  $\sigma = 10/3$ ). We show results for the full multi-scale system (Eqn (7)), the homogenized equation (Eqn (3)) and the surrogate process (Eqns (17)-(18)). The parameters of the surrogate process are obtained by the method in Section 3 as  $\gamma_1 = 2.479$ ,  $\zeta_1 = 25.793$ ,  $a_0^{(0,3)} = -9.7467 \cdot 10^{-3}$ ,  $a_0^{(0,2)} = 19.72 \cdot 10^{-2}$ ,  $a_0^{(0,1)} = 7.1933$  and  $a_0^{(0,0)} = -a_0^{(0,2)}\zeta_1^2/(2\gamma_1)$ .

359 Edgeworth coefficients of the surrogate system are given by those in Eqns. (21)-(24)  
 360 and

$$\begin{aligned}
 361 \quad c_{0,1}^{(2,s)} &= \sigma^{(s)2} \Theta^{(s)} + \Theta^{(s)2} x_0^2 \\
 362 \quad c_{1,0}^{(2,s)} &= a_2^{(1,0)} x_0 \frac{91a_0^{(2,0)} a_0^{(3,0)} \zeta_1^4 + 42a_0^{(1,0)} a_0^{(2,0)} \gamma_1 \zeta_1^2}{12\gamma_1^4} \\
 363
 \end{aligned}$$

364 Figure 5 shows the mean and standard deviation over time of an ensemble of real-  
 365 izations starting from a fixed initial condition  $x_0 = -1$  for the multiscale triad system  
 366 (25)-(27), the limiting homogenized equation (3) with drift (28) and diffusion (29)  
 367 and the surrogate model (30)-(31). The mean and standard deviation are indistin-  
 368 guishable from those of the multiscale triad system, whereas the standard deviation  
 369 of the homogenized equation exhibits significant deviations from that of the original  
 370 triad system.

371 **5. Discussion.** We developed a new framework in which to perform stochas-  
 372 tic model reduction of multi-scale systems with moderate time scale separation. We

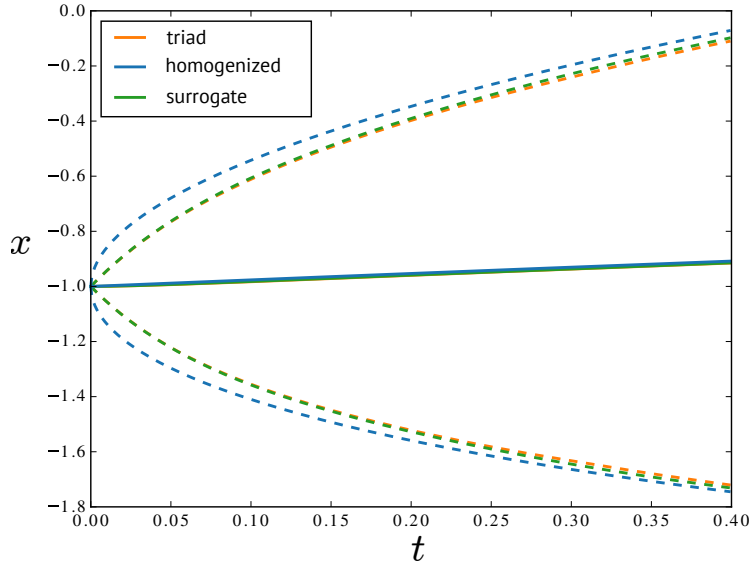


Fig. 5: Mean and standard deviation of the triad model (25)-(27), the homogenized system (3) and the surrogate system (30)-(31). The solid lines represent the mean of the sample, while the upper and lower dashed lines represent the mean plus or minus two standard deviations, respectively. The parameters of the triad model are  $B_0 = -0.75$ ,  $B_1 = -0.25$ ,  $B_2 = 1$ ,  $\gamma_1^{(t)} = 4/3$ ,  $\sigma_1^{(t)} = \sqrt{8/3}$ ,  $\gamma_2^{(t)} = 1$ ,  $\sigma_2^{(t)} = \sqrt{2}$ ,  $\varepsilon = 0.25$ . The parameters of the surrogate model are  $\gamma_1 = 2.166$ ,  $\zeta_1 = 1.243$ ,  $a_0^{(3,0)} = 0.786$ ,  $a_0^{(2,0)} = -5.6 \cdot 10^{-6}$ ,  $a_0^{(1,0)} = 0.301$  and  $a_2^{(1,0)} = -0.4569$ .

373 showed how Edgeworth expansions can be used to construct reduced models for the  
374 slow dynamics of a chaotic deterministic multi-scale model. The surrogate system  
375 implies a non-Markovian effective slow dynamics, where the noise enters the slow dy-  
376 namics in an integrated fashion. This reflects the memory effects in slow-fast systems  
377 with finite time-scale separation, where the fast dynamics has not yet sufficiently equi-  
378 librated on a slow characteristic time scale, preventing the homogenized Markovian  
379 limit. We considered a family of surrogate models where the free parameters were  
380 chosen to match the Edgeworth expansion of the original multi-scale model under  
381 consideration. The degree of the surrogate model was chosen by assuring to have the  
382 lowest possible order of the polynomials while still allowing for the surrogate system  
383 to capture the overall statistical features of the full multi-scale system. Matching the  
384 Edgeworth expansion then singles out the optimal member in the prescribed class.  
385 We remark that the Edgeworth expansion is based on the transition probability on  
386 the intermediate time scale. In some applications, such as weather forecasting, one  
387 is interested in the transitional dynamics and their statistical modelling rather than  
388 in the long term statistical behaviour. In this situation Edgeworth expansions allow  
389 for a faithful description of the effects of finite time scale separation. The aim of the  
390 reduced model in other applications, however, may be to describe the statistical be-  
391 haviour on the longer diffusive time scale, for example in climate science. We observe  
392 that in the system considered here, matching the short time transition probabilities  
393 translates into a more reliable description of the long time statistics as well. Although

394 this property may not hold in general, we expect it to hold in sufficiently smooth sys-  
395 tems.

396 Our framework is not limited to deterministic continuous time systems. It can be  
397 extended to stochastic multi-scale systems and to discrete time maps which would  
398 allow the study of numerical integrators and their statistical limiting behaviour of re-  
399 solved modes. More importantly, Edgeworth approximations can be determined from  
400 observational data; this allows for the application to systems with high complexity  
401 prohibiting an analytical estimation of the Edgeworth corrections. This opens up  
402 the door to perform mathematically sound stochastic model reductions for real-world  
403 problems. Furthermore, Edgeworth approximations are not limited to multi-scale sys-  
404 tems. As an extension of the CLT, they can be used to study finite size effects to the  
405 thermodynamic limit of weakly coupled systems such as Kac-Zwanzig heat baths for  
406 distinguished particles [6, 31, 5].

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410 Françoise Pène for enlightening discussions and comments.

#### 411 **Appendix A. Cumulant expansion for slow-fast system.**

412 In [30] we derived expression for the expansion in  $\varepsilon$  of the cumulants of the slow  
413 variable  $x$  in the slow-fast system (1)-(2).

414 The first cumulant is given up to order  $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^{\frac{3}{2}})$  by

$$415 \quad (32) \quad c^{(1)} = \sqrt{t} c_{0, \frac{1}{2}}^{(1)},$$

416 where

$$418 \quad (33) \quad c_{0, \frac{1}{2}}^{(1)} = F(x_0) = \langle f_1 \rangle - \langle f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} \partial_x f_0 \rangle - \langle (g_1 \partial_y) \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \rangle.$$

420 Upon explicit substitution of the intermediate time scaling  $t = \varepsilon\theta$ , with fixed  $\theta$ , this  
421 becomes

$$422 \quad (34) \quad c^{(1)} = \sqrt{\varepsilon\theta} c_{0, \frac{1}{2}}^{(1)}.$$

424 The second cumulant is given up to order  $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^{\frac{3}{2}})$  by

$$425 \quad (35) \quad c^{(2)} = m^{(2)} = c_0^{(2)} + t c_{0,1}^{(2)} + \frac{\varepsilon^2}{t} c_{2,-1}^{(2)} + \varepsilon c_{1,0}^{(2)}.$$

427 Upon explicit substitution of the intermediate time scaling  $t = \varepsilon\theta$ , with fixed  $\theta$ , this  
428 becomes

$$429 \quad (36) \quad c^{(2)} = m^{(2)} = c_0^{(2)} + \varepsilon c_1^{(2)},$$

431 with  $c_1^{(2)} = \theta c_{0,1}^{(2)} + \frac{1}{\theta} c_{2,-1}^{(2)} + c_{1,0}^{(2)}$ . The  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  contribution is given by the homogenized  
432 Green-Kubo formula (5)

$$433 \quad c_0^{(2)} = \sigma^2 = -2 \langle f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \rangle$$

434 and higher-order contributions are given by

$$435 \quad (37) \quad c_{0,1}^{(2)} = \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 \left( \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial x} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^3 \frac{\partial^2 \sigma}{\partial x^2} + \sigma^2 \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} + F \sigma \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial x} + F^2$$

$$\begin{aligned}
436 \quad (38) \quad c_{2,-1}^{(2)} &= -2\langle f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-2} f_0 \rangle \\
437 \quad c_{1,0}^{(2)} &= -2\langle f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_1 \rangle - 2\langle f_1 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \rangle + 2\langle f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} \partial_x f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \rangle \\
438 \quad &+ 4\langle f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} \partial_x f_0 \rangle + 2\langle f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} (g_1 \partial_y) \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \rangle \\
439 \quad (39) \quad &+ 2\langle (g_1 \partial_y) \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \rangle.
\end{aligned}$$

441 Here  $\mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1}$  denotes the invertible operator whose inverse is the restriction of  $\mathcal{L}_0$  to the  
442 space orthogonal to the projection onto the invariant measure  $\mu_{x_0}^{(0)}$

443 The third moment and its cumulant are given up to order  $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^{\frac{3}{2}})$  by

$$444 \quad (40) \quad c^{(3)} = m^{(3)} = \sqrt{t} c_{0,\frac{1}{2}}^{(3)} + \frac{\varepsilon}{\sqrt{t}} c_{1,-\frac{1}{2}}^{(3)}.$$

446 Upon explicit substitution of the intermediate time scaling  $t = \varepsilon\theta$ , with fixed  $\theta$ , this  
447 becomes

$$448 \quad (41) \quad c^{(3)} = m^{(3)} = \sqrt{\varepsilon} c_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(3)},$$

450 with

$$451 \quad (42) \quad c_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(3)} = \sqrt{\theta} c_{0,\frac{1}{2}}^{(3)} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{\theta}} c_{1,-\frac{1}{2}}^{(3)}$$

$$452 \quad (43) \quad c_{0,\frac{1}{2}}^{(3)} = 6\langle f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \rangle \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \langle f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \rangle$$

$$453 \quad (44) \quad c_{1,-\frac{1}{2}}^{(3)} = 6\langle f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \rangle.$$

455 The fourth cumulant is given up to order  $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^{\frac{3}{2}})$  by

$$456 \quad (45) \quad c^{(4)} = t c_{0,1}^{(4)} + \varepsilon c_{1,0}^{(4)} + \frac{\varepsilon^2}{t} c_{2,-1}^{(4)}.$$

458 Upon explicit substitution of the intermediate time scaling  $t = \varepsilon\theta$ , with fixed  $\theta$ , this  
459 becomes

$$460 \quad (46) \quad c^{(4)} = \varepsilon c_1^{(4)}$$

462 with

$$(47)$$

$$463 \quad c_1^{(4)} = \theta c_{0,1}^{(4)} + c_{1,0}^{(4)} + \frac{1}{\theta} c_{2,-1}^{(4)}$$

$$(48)$$

$$464 \quad c_{0,1}^{(4)} = -24\langle f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \rangle \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \langle f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \rangle \right)^2 - 16\langle f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \rangle^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \langle f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \rangle$$

$$(49)$$

$$465 \quad c_{1,0}^{(4)} = -24\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial x} f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \rangle \langle f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \rangle - 36\langle f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \rangle \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \langle f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \rangle$$

$$(50)$$

$$466 \quad c_{2,-1}^{(4)} = 24\left(\langle f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-2} f_0 \rangle \langle f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \rangle - \langle f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \mathcal{L}_{0\perp}^{-1} f_0 \rangle\right).$$

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