

bernoulli institute for mathematics, computer science and artificial intelligence

Funnel control

university of groningen

Origin and recent advances

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Who am I?

Stephan Trenn

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Associate Professor for Systems & Control, Bernoulli Institute

Programme Director for master degrees Math., Applied Math., Systems & Control

- > studied Mathematics and Computer Science in Ilmenau, Germany
- > six month Erasmus student in Southampton, UK
- > PhD 2009 in mathematical control theory in Ilmenau
- > Postdoc (9 month) at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA
- > Postdoc (17 month) at University of Würzburg, Germany
- > Assistant Professor for Math. Control Theory (2011 2017), Kaiserslautern, Germany

Research:

- Switched systems
- > Differential-algebraic equations (DAEs)
- Funnel control

Systems & Control in Groningen

History

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- Internationally leading in mathematical systems theory since 1970)
- Rapidly growing engineering institute (ENTEG) in the last decades)
- Jan C. Willems Center bundles current research activities (15 staff members + about 50 PhD) students)

Global Ranking of Academic Subjects (GRAS) 2022

- RUG is ranked 15th worldwide in subject Automation and Control)
- Best ranked in the EU!)
- Within RUG, Automation and Control is best ranked subject)

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Control Task



Goal: Output tracking $y(t) \approx y_{\text{ref}}(t)$

Applications

- > Flying to the moon
- > Robotics
- > (Adaptive) cruise control in cars
- > Chemical processes

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Control Task



Goal: Output tracking $y(t) \approx y_{ref}(t)$

Challenge

- > no exact knowledge of system model
- > no future knowledge or model for reference signal

The scalar linear case with $y_{ref} = 0$



Assumptions

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- Known model structure)
- Known sign of high frequency gain $\gamma := cb$, assume $\gamma > 0$)
- $y_{\rm ref} = 0$)

Unknown system parameters α and γ

The scalar linear case with $y_{ref} = 0$



Goal

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Design output feedback u such that $y(t) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$

If we would know α, γ , how would we choose u? Goal: $\dot{y} \stackrel{!}{=} -\lambda y \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \text{achievable with } u = -ky \text{ and } k := \frac{\alpha + \lambda}{\gamma}$

In general, with u = -ky we have $\dot{y} = (\alpha - \gamma k)y$

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The scalar linear case with $y_{ref} = 0$



Hence we have arrived at our first high gain control result:

Theorem

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The proportional negative feedback

$$u = -ky$$

achieves convergence for all $k > \frac{\alpha}{\gamma}$.

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Summary

What happens for $y_{ref} \neq 0$?



Error dynamics: $\dot{e} = \ldots = (\alpha - \gamma k)e + \alpha y_{\mathsf{ref}} - \dot{y}_{\mathsf{ref}}$

Equilibrium for constant y_{ref} :

$$0 = (\alpha - \gamma k)e + \alpha y_{\mathsf{ref}} \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad e = \frac{\alpha}{\gamma k - \alpha} y_{\mathsf{ref}}$$

 \rightsquigarrow no convergence to zero anymore

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Summary

What happens for $y_{ref} \neq 0$?



In general: Practical tracking with high gain control:

Theorem

Introduction

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If y_{ref} and \dot{y}_{ref} are bounded, then

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0 \; \exists K > 0 \; \forall k > K : \quad \limsup_{t \to \infty} |e(t)| < \varepsilon$$

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Example $\alpha = 1$, $\gamma = 1$, $y_{\text{ref}} \equiv 1$





Introduction

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0

Higher order linear case with $y_{ref} = 0$



 $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $c \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times n}$ unknown

Definition (Relative degree)

$$\begin{array}{l} r \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \text{ is relative degree of system } (A, b, c) : \Longleftrightarrow \\ (i) \qquad \forall i \in \{0, \dots, r-2\} : \quad cA^ib = 0 \\ (ii) \qquad cA^{r-1}b \neq 0 \\ \text{In particular, } (A, b, c) \text{ has relative degree one} \quad : \Longleftrightarrow \quad \mathbf{\gamma} := cb \neq 0 \end{array}$$

What is the meaning of the relative degree?

Frequency domain interpretation

Transfer function $c(sI - A)^{-1}b =: \frac{p(s)}{q(s)}$, then $r = \deg(q(s)) - \deg(p(s))$

Interpretation in time-domain:

Theorem (Byrnes-Isidori form)

(A, b, c) has relative degree $r \in \{1, ..., n\}$ if and only if there exists a coordinate transformation T such that $\binom{\eta}{z} = Tx$ such that $y = \eta_1, \dot{y} = \eta_2, ..., y^{(r-1)} = \eta_r$

$$TAT^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ a_{11} & a_{12} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} \end{bmatrix}, Tb = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \gamma \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, CT^{-1} = [1, 0, \dots, 0],$$
$$a_{11} \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times r}, a_{12} \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times (n-r)}, A_{21} \in \mathbb{R}^{(n-r) \times r}, A_{22} \in \mathbb{R}^{(n-r) \times (n-r)}$$

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with

What is the meaning of the relative degree?

Frequency domain interpretation

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$$y^{(r)} = a_{12} \begin{pmatrix} y \\ \vdots \\ y^{(r-1)} \end{pmatrix} + a_{22}z + \gamma u$$
$$\dot{z} = A_{21} \begin{pmatrix} y \\ \vdots \\ y^{(r-1)} \end{pmatrix} + A_{22}z$$

Zero dynamics

$$\dot{x} = Ax + bu$$

$$y^{(r)} = a_{12} \begin{pmatrix} y \\ \vdots \\ y^{(r-1)} \end{pmatrix} + a_{22}z + \gamma u$$

$$\dot{y} = cx$$

$$\dot{z} = A_{21} \begin{pmatrix} y \\ \vdots \\ y^{(r-1)} \end{pmatrix} + A_{22}z$$

Question

Which input u is needed to keep output y identically zero?

Byrnes-Isidori form for identically zero output:

 $0 = a_{22}z + \gamma u$ $\dot{z} = A_{22}z \quad \longleftarrow \text{ zero dynamics}$

Answer: $u(t) = -\frac{1}{\gamma}a_{22}e^{A_{22}t}z(0) \rightarrow \infty$ if A_{22} has "bad" eigenvalues!

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Summary

High gain stabilization for r.d.-one systems



Assumptions:

> Relative degree $r=1 ~~\Leftrightarrow~~ \gamma:=cb
eq 0$, in particular:

System
$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{array}{c} \dot{y} = a_{11}y + a_{12}z + \gamma u \\ \dot{z} = a_{21}y + A_{22}z \end{array}$$

-) positive high frequency gain $~~\Leftrightarrow~~\gamma>0$
- > stable zero-dynamics (minimum phase) \Leftrightarrow A_{22} Hurwitz

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Summary

High gain stabilization for r.d.-one systems



Theorem (High-gain stabilization)

cb>0 and stable zero-dynamics

 $\Rightarrow \quad \exists K > 0 \ \forall k \geq K : \ \textit{Closed loop is asymptotically stable}$

Key idea of proof: Show that
$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} - \gamma k & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & A_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$
 is Hurwitz for sufficiently large k .

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Adaptive choice of gain

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Summary

From linear to nonlinear systems



Adaptive choice of gain

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From linear to nonlinear systems



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From linear to nonlinear systems



Adaptive choice of gain

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Summary

From linear to nonlinear systems



Assumptions:

-) T_{z_0} is causal BIBO operator, i.e. $\exists \kappa(\cdot) : \|w\| \leq \kappa(\|y\|)$
-) f and g continuous and g > 0

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Summary

High gain stabilization for nonlinear systems



Theorem

Assume there exists (nonlinear) coordinate transformation such that system is equivalent to

$$\dot{y} = f(y, w) + g(y, w)u, \quad w = T_{z_0}\{y(\cdot)\}$$

with f, g continuous, T_{z_0} causal BIBO operator and g > 0, then

$$\forall y(0) \; \forall z_0 \; \exists K > 0 \; \forall k \geq K : \quad \limsup_{t \to \infty} |y(t)| < \varepsilon$$

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Summary high gain feedback



Goal: Output tracking

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Challenge: Unknown system parameters

Structural assumptions

- > Relative degree one with known sign of "high frequency gain"
- > Stable zero dynamics

High gain feedback: u = -ke "works" for sufficiently large gain k > 0

Remaining challenge: When is k sufficiently large?

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Summary

Choosing gain adaptively, linear case



Theorem (High-gain stabilization)

cb > 0 and stable zero-dynamics $\Rightarrow \exists K > 0 \ \forall \mathbf{k} \geq \mathbf{K} : y(t) \rightarrow 0$

Key idea

Why not make k time-varying with $\dot{k}(t) > 0$ as long as y(t) > 0?

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Choosing gain adaptively, linear case



Theorem (Adaptive High-Gain Feedback, BYRNES & WILLEMS 1984) cb > 0 and stable zero-dynamics \Rightarrow

 $\dot{k}(t) = y(t)^2$ makes closed loop asymptotically stable

and $k(\cdot)$ remains bounded

Boundedness of $k(t) = \int_0^t y(s)^2 ds$ follows from final exponential decay of y.

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Simulations

$$\dot{y} = y + u, \quad u(t) = -k(t)(y(t) - y_{ref}(t)), \quad \dot{k} = (y - y_{ref})^2$$

output and gain for $y_{\mathsf{ref}} = 1$



ummary

High gain adaptive control and tracking?



Unbounded gain

For $y_{\text{ref}} \neq 0$ the adaptation rule $\dot{k} = e^2$ leads to unbounded gain.

Recall: Constant gain for $y_{\mathrm{ref}}
eq 0$ only leads to practical tracking, i.e. e(t)
eq 0

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Summary

High gain adaptive control and tracking?



How to prevent unbounded growth?

Stop increasing gain when error is sufficiently small, e.g. via

$$\dot{k}(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & |e(t)| \le \lambda \\ |e(t)|(|e(t)| - \lambda) & |e(t)| > \lambda \end{cases}$$

High gain adaptive control and tracking?



Theorem (λ -tracking, ILCHMANN & RYAN 1994)

Assume r.d.-one with " $\gamma > 0$ ", stable zero-dynamics and y_{ref} , \dot{y}_{ref} bounded. For $\lambda > 0$ consider

$$\dot{k}(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & |e(t)| \le \lambda, \\ |e(t)| (|e(t)| - \lambda), & |e(t)| > \lambda. \end{cases}$$

Then the closed loop is practically stable, i.e. $\limsup_{t\to\infty} |e(t)| \leq \lambda$.

Remaining problems of λ -tracker



Problems:

- > No guarantees when $|e(t)| \leq \lambda$
- No bounds on transient behaviour
- > Monotonically growing $k(\cdot)$ \Rightarrow Measurement noise unnecessarily amplified

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The funnel as time-varying error bound





 $\rightarrow \dot{y} = f(y, w) + g(y, w)u$

System class

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Equivalent to structure left:

Summarv

- T is causal and BIBO
- \rightarrow f, g continuous

g > 0

Theorem (ILCHMANN, RYAN, SANGWIN 2002)

Assume $y_{\text{ref}}, \dot{y}_{\text{ref}}, \psi, \dot{\psi}$ bounded, $\liminf_{t \to \infty} \psi(t) > 0$ and $|e(0)| < \psi(0)$ where $e := y - y_{\text{ref}}$. Then

$$u(t)=-k(t)e(t)$$
 with $k(t)=rac{1}{\psi(t)-|e(t)|}$

 $\cdot y$

ensures that e(t) remains within funnel $\mathcal{F}(\psi)$ while k(t) remains bounded.

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	Proof				

Step 1: Existence of solution

- > Standard ODE theory: solution of closed loop exists on $[0,\omega)$ for $\omega \in (0,\infty]$
-) Choose $\omega > 0$ maximal
-) If $\omega < \infty$ then $``|e(\omega)| = \psi(\omega)"$

Step 2: We show that $\omega < \infty$ implies $|e(t)| - \psi(t) > \varepsilon$ for some $\varepsilon > 0$ Error dynamics are given by

$$\dot{e} = f(y,w) - \dot{y}_{\mathsf{ref}} + g(y,w)u$$

Step 2b: Funnel invariant (case e(t) > 0)



 $\text{Assumptions: } \varepsilon < \psi(0) - e(0) \qquad \quad \varepsilon < \lambda/2 \qquad \quad \psi(t) \geq \lambda$

$$e(t_{\varepsilon}) = \psi(t_{\varepsilon}) - \varepsilon \implies k(t_{\varepsilon}) = \frac{1}{\psi(t_{\varepsilon}) - |e(t_{\varepsilon})|} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon}$$
$$\implies u(t_{\varepsilon}) = -k(t_{\varepsilon})e(t_{\varepsilon}) \le -\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\frac{\lambda}{2}$$
$$\implies \dot{e}(t_{\varepsilon}) \le M - \frac{\gamma\lambda}{2\varepsilon}$$

t

Summary

Step 2b: Funnel invariant (case e(t) > 0)

$$\begin{aligned} & \int \mathbf{System \ class} \implies \dot{e}(t) \leq M + \gamma u(t) \\ & \psi(t) \\ & \psi(t) \\ & \dot{e}(t_{\varepsilon}) \\ & \mathbf{t}_{\varepsilon} \end{aligned}$$
Assume $\dot{\psi}(t) > -\Psi$ and $\varepsilon \leq \frac{\gamma \lambda}{2(\Psi + M)}$ we have
 $\dot{e}(t_{\varepsilon}) \leq M - \frac{\gamma \lambda}{2\varepsilon} \leq -\Psi < \dot{\psi}(t_{\varepsilon}) \end{aligned}$

Summary

Step 2b: Funnel invariant (case e(t) > 0)



Consequence: For sufficiently small $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$\mathcal{F}_{\varepsilon} := \{(t, e) \mid |e(t)| < \psi(t) - \varepsilon\}$$

is positively invariant, i.e.

$$(0, e(0)) \in \mathcal{F}_{\varepsilon} \quad \Rightarrow \quad (t, e(t)) \in \mathcal{F}_{\varepsilon} \ \forall t \ge 0$$

and $\omega < \infty$ impossible!

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Extensions of funnel controller

- > Asymptotic tracking (LEE & TRENN 2019)
- > Multi-Input Multi-Output (MIMO) (already in ILCHMANN ET AL. 2002)
- > Higher relative degree (ILCHMANN ET AL. 2007, BERGER ET AL. 2018)
- > Input saturation (ILCHMANN ET AL. 2004, HOPFE ET AL. 2010)
- > Bang-Bang funnel control (LIBERZON & TRENN 2013)
- > Funnel synchronization for multi-agent systems (SHIM & TRENN 2015)
- > For DAE-systems (BERGER 2016)

Summary

Relative degree two via backstepping

For rel. deg. two systems, Funnel Controller is given by (ILCHMANN ET AL. 2007):

$$\begin{split} u(t) &= -k(t)e(t) - (\|e(t)\|^2 + k(t)^2)k(t)^4 (1 + \|\xi(t)\|^2)(\xi(t) + k(t)e(t)) \\ k(t) &= 1/(1 - \varphi(t)^2 \|e(t)\|^2) \\ \dot{\xi}(t) &= -\xi(t) + u(t) \end{split}$$



Taken from: ILCHMANN, RYAN, TOWNSEND 2007, SICON

Summary

Alternative Approach for relative degree two

Use two funnels, one for error and one for derivative of error

Simple Control Law

$$u(t) = -k_0(t)^2 e(t) - k_1(t)\dot{e}(t)$$

$$k_i(t) = \frac{1}{\psi_i(t) - |e(t)|}, \quad i = 0, 1$$

System class: $\ddot{y}(t)=f(p_f(t),T_f\{y,\dot{y}\}(t))+g(p_g(t),T_g\{y,\dot{y}\}(t))u(t)$

Theorem (HACKL ET AL. 2012)

The above Funnel Controller for relative-degree-two-systems works (under mild assumptions on ψ_0 and ψ_1).

Adaptive choice of gain

The funnel controller

Summary

Experimental verification



$$\dot{x}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} x(t) + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \gamma \end{bmatrix} (u(t) + u_L(t) - (Tx_2)(t)),$$

$$y(t) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} x(t),$$

 $\begin{array}{ll} x_1: \text{ angle of rotating machine,} & x_2 = \dot{x}_1: \text{ angular velocity} \\ u_L: \text{ unknown (bounded) load} \\ T: \mathbb{C}(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \to \mathbb{R}) \to \mathbb{L}^\infty_{\mathsf{loc}}(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \to \mathbb{R}) \text{ friction operator} \end{array}$

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High gain for relative degree one systems

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Tracking control in experiment



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Summary

Experiment: Error, gains, input



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Bang-Bang Funnel Control



Adaptive choice of gain

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Summary

Bang-Bang Funnel Control



Adaptive choice of gain

The funnel controller

Summary

Funnel synchronization - setup

Given

> N agents with individual n-dimensional dynamics:

 $\dot{x}_i = f_i(t, x_i) + u_i$

- > undirected connected coupling-graph G = (V, E)
- > local feedback $u_i = \gamma_i(x_i, x_{\mathcal{N}_i})$

Desired

Control design for practical synchronization

$$x_1 \approx x_2 \approx \ldots \approx x_n$$



$$u_{1} = \gamma_{1}(x_{1}, x_{2}, x_{3})$$
$$u_{2} = \gamma_{2}(x_{2}, x_{1}, x_{3})$$
$$u_{3} = \gamma_{3}(x_{3}, x_{1}, x_{2}, x_{4})$$
$$u_{4} = \gamma_{4}(x_{4}, x_{3})$$

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A "high-gain" result

Let $\mathcal{N}_i := \{j \in V \mid (j,i) \in E\}$ and $d_i := |\mathcal{N}_i|$ and \mathcal{L} be the Laplacian of G.

Diffusive coupling

$$u_i = -k \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_i} (x_i - x_j)$$
 or, equivalently, $u = -k \ \mathcal{L} \ x$

Theorem (Practical synchronization, KIM et al. 2013)

Assumptions: G connected, all solutions of average dynamics

$$\dot{s}(t) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} f_i(t, s(t))$$

remain bounded. Then $\forall \varepsilon > 0 \ \exists K > 0 \ \forall k \ge K$: Diffusive coupling results in

$$\limsup_{t \to \infty} \|x_i(t) - x_j(t)\| < \varepsilon \quad \forall i, j \in V$$

Remarks on high-gain result

Common trajectory

It even holds that

$$\limsup_{t\to\infty}|x_i(t)-s(t)|<\varepsilon/2,$$

where
$$s(\cdot)$$
 solves $\dot{s}(t) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} f_i(t, s(t)), \quad s(0) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} x_i.$

Independent of coupling structure and amplification k.

Error feedback

With $e_i := x_i - \overline{x}_i$ and $\overline{x}_i := \frac{1}{d_i} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_i} x_j$ diffusive coupling has the form

$$u_i(t) = -ke_i(t)$$

Attention: $e_i \neq x_i - s$, in particular, agents do not know "limit trajectory" $s(\cdot)$

Adaptive choice of gain

The funnel controller

Summary

Example (taken from KIM et al. 2015)



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Simulations in the following for N=5 agents with dynamics

 $f_i(t, x_i) = (-1 + \delta_i)x_i + 10\sin t + 10m_i^1\sin(0.1t + \theta_i^1) + 10m_i^2\sin(10t + \theta_i^2),$

with randomly chosen parameters $\delta_i, m_i^1, m_i^2 \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\theta_i^1, \theta_i^2 \in [0, 2\pi]$.

Parameters identical in all following simulations, in particular $\delta_2 > 1$, hence agent 2 has unstable dynamics (without coupling).

Adaptive choice of gain

The funnel controller

Summary

Example (taken from KIM et al. 2015)



$$u = -k \mathcal{L} x$$

gray curve: $\dot{s}(t) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} f_i(t, s(t))$ $s(0) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} x_i(0)$





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Funnel control (34 / 41)

Funnel synchronization: Initial idea

Reminder diffusive coupling: $u_i = -k_i e_i$ with $e_i = x_i - \overline{x}_i$.

Combine diffusive coupling with Funnel Controller

$$u_i(t) = -k_i(t) e_i(t)$$
 with $k_i(t) = \frac{1}{\psi(t) - |e_i(t)|}$



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Summary

First simulations





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Observations from simulations

Funnel synchronization seems to work

- > errors remain within funnel
- > practical synchronizations is achieved
- $\,\,$ $\,$ limit trajectory does not coincide with solution $s(\cdot)$ of

$$\dot{s}(t) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} f_i(t, s(t)), \qquad \qquad s(0) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} x_i(0)$$

What determines the new limiting trajectory?

- Coupling graph?
- > Funnel shape?
- Gain function?

Diffusive coupling revisited

Diffusive coupling for weighted graph

$$u_i = -k \sum_{i}^{N} \alpha_{ij} \cdot (x_i - x_j) \quad \longrightarrow \quad u_i = -\sum_{i}^{N} k_{ij} \cdot \alpha_{ij} \cdot (x_i - x_j)$$

where $\alpha_{ij}=\alpha_{ji}\in\{0,1\}$ is the weight of edge (i,j)

Conjecture

If $k_{ij} = k_{ji}$ are all sufficiently large, then practical synchronization occurs with desired limit trajectory s of average dynamics.

Proof technique from $\rm K{\scriptstyle IM}$ et al. 2013 should still work in this setup.

Edgewise Funnel synchronization

 $\mathsf{Diffusive}\ \mathsf{coupling} \to \mathsf{edgewise}\ \mathsf{Funnel}\ \mathsf{synchronization}$

$$u_i = -\sum_{i}^{N} k_{ij} \cdot \alpha_{ij} \cdot (x_i - x_j) \longrightarrow u_i = -\sum_{i}^{N} k_{ij}(t) \cdot \alpha_{ij} \cdot (x_i - x_j)$$

Edgewise error feedback

$$k_{ij}(t) = \frac{1}{\psi(t) - |e_{ij}|}, \quad \text{with} \quad e_{ij} := x_i - x_j$$

Properties:

- > Decentralized, i.e. u_i only depends on state of neighbors
- > Symmetry, $k_{ij} = k_{ji}$
- > Laplacian feedback, $u = -\mathcal{L}_K(t, x)x$

Adaptive choice of gain

The funnel controller

Summary

Simulation (from TRENN 2017)



Properties

- + Synchronization occurs
- + Predictable limit trajectory (given by average dynamics)
- + Local feedback law
- + Convergence recently proved (LEE et al. 2023)

Summary high gain feedback and funnel control



Goal: Output tracking

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Challenge: Unknown system parameters

Structural assumptions

- > Relative degree one with known sign of "high frequency gain"
- > Stable zero dynamics

High gain feedback: u = -ke "works" for sufficiently large gain k > 0

Funnel gain: $k(t) = \frac{1}{\psi(t) - |e(t)|}$ achieves tracking with prescribed perfomance