Complex Dynamical Network Control for Trajectory Tracking
Using Delayed Recurrent Neural Networks

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In this paper, the problem of trajectory tracking is studied. Based on the V-stability and Lyapunov theory, a control law that achieves the global asymptotic stability of the tracking error between a delayed recurrent neural network and a complex dynamical network is obtained. To illustrate the analytic results, we present a tracking simulation of a dynamical network with each node being just one Lorenz’s dynamical system and three identical Chen’s dynamical systems.

1. Introduction

The analysis and control of complex behavior in complex networks, which consist of dynamical nodes, have become a point of great interest in the recent studies, [1–3]. The complexity in networks comes not only from their structure and dynamics but also from their topology, which often affects their function.

Recurrent neural networks have been widely used in the fields of optimization, pattern recognition, signal processing and control systems, among others. They have to be designed in such a way that there is one equilibrium point that is globally asymptotically stable. In biological and artificial neural networks, time delays arise in the processing of information storage and transmission. Also, it is known that these delays can create oscillatory or even unstable trajectories, [4]. Trajectory tracking is a very interesting problem in the field of theory of systems control; it allows the implementation of important tasks for automatic control such as: high speed target recognition and tracking, real-time visual inspection, and recognition of context sensitive and moving scenes, among others. We present the results of the design of a control law that guarantee the tracking of general complex dynamical networks.

2. Mathematical Models

2.1. General Complex Dynamical Networks. Consider a network consisting of $N$ linearly and diffusively coupled nodes, with each node being an $n$-dimensional dynamical system, described by

$$
\dot{x}_i = f_i(x_i) + \sum_{j=1}^{N} c_{ij} a_{ij} \Gamma (x_j - x_i), \quad i = 1, 2, \ldots, N,
$$

(1)

where $x_i = (x_{i1}, x_{i2}, \ldots, x_{in})^T \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are the state vectors of the node $i$, $f_i : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ represents the self-dynamics of the node $i$, and the constants $c_{ij} > 0$ are the coupling strengths between node $i$ and node $j$, with $i, j = 1, 2, \ldots, N$. $\Gamma = (\tau_{ij}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is a constant internal matrix that describes the way of linking the components in each pair of connected node vectors $(x_i - x_j)$; this means that for some pairs $(i, j)$ with $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ and $\tau_{ij} \neq 0$, the two coupled nodes are linked through their $i$th and $j$th state variables, respectively, while the coupling matrix $A = (a_{ij}) \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ denotes the coupling configuration of the entire network: this means that if there is a connection between node $i$ and node $j$ ($i \neq j$), then $a_{ij} = a_{ji} = 1$; otherwise, $a_{ij} = a_{ji} = 0$. 
2.2. Delayed Recurrent Neural Networks. Consider a delayed recurrent neural network in the following form:

\[
x_{n_i} = A_{n_i} x_{n_i} + W_{n_i} \sigma \left( x_{n_i} \left( t - \tau \right) \right) + u_{n_i} + \sum_{j \neq i}^{N} c_{n_j} a_{n_j} \Gamma \left( x_{n_j} - x_{n_i} \right),
\]

\[
i = 1, 2, \ldots, N,
\]

where \( \tau \) is the fixed known time delay [5, 6], \( x_{n_i} = (x_{n_i1}, x_{n_i2}, \ldots, x_{n_in_i})^T \in \mathbb{R}^n \) is the state vector of the neural network \( i \), \( u_{n_i} \in \mathbb{R}^n \) is the input of the neural network \( i \), \( A_{n_i} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n_i} \), \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, N \), is the state feedback matrix, with \( \lambda_{n_i} \) being a positive constant, \( W_{n_i} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n_i} \) is the connection weight matrix with \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, N \), and \( \sigma(\cdot) \in \mathbb{R}^n \) is a Lipschitz sigmoid vector function [7, 8], such that \( \sigma(x_{n_i}) = 0 \) only at \( x_{n_i} = 0 \), with Lipschitz constant \( L_\sigma \), \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, N \), and neuron activation functions \( a_i(\cdot) = \tanh(\cdot), i = 1, 2, \ldots, n \).

3. Trajectory Tracking

The objective is to develop a control law such that the \( i \)th neural network (2) tracks the \( i \)th reference trajectory (1), the following assumption has to be satisfied:

**Assumption 1.** There exist functions \( \rho_i(t) \) and \( \alpha_i(t) \), \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, N \), such that

\[
\frac{d\rho_i(t)}{dt} = A_{n_i} \rho_i(t) + W_{n_i} \sigma \left( \rho_i(t) \right) + \alpha_i(t),
\]

\[
\rho_i(t) = x_i(t), \quad i = 1, 2, \ldots, N.
\]

Let us define

\[
\phi_i(t) = \sigma \left( x_i \left( t - \tau \right) \right) - \sigma \left( x_i \left( t - \tau \right) \right),
\]

\[
i = 1, 2, \ldots, N.
\]

Considering (6) and (7), equation (5) is reduced to

\[
\dot{\epsilon}_i = A_{n_i} \epsilon_i + W_{n_i} \phi_i \left( t - \tau \right) + \bar{u}_{n_i},
\]

\[
+ \sum_{j \neq i}^{N} c_{n_j} a_{n_j} \Gamma \left( x_{n_j} - x_{n_i} \right) \]

\[
- \sum_{j \neq i}^{N} c_{ij} a_{ij} \Gamma \left( x_{j} - x_{i} \right), \quad i = 1, 2, \ldots, N.
\]

Writing the summations as

\[
\sum_{j \neq i}^{N} c_{n_j} a_{n_j} \Gamma \left( x_{n_j} - x_{n_i} \right) = \Gamma \left( \sum_{j \neq i}^{N} c_{n_j} a_{n_j} x_{n_j} - x_{n_i} \sum_{j \neq i}^{N} c_{n_j} a_{n_j} a_{n_j} \right)
\]

\[
\times \sum_{j \neq i}^{N} c_{ij} a_{ij} \Gamma \left( x_{j} - x_{i} \right), \quad i = 1, 2, \ldots, N,
\]

and using that \( c_{n_i n_j} = c_{ij} \) and \( a_{n_j n_j} = a_{ij} \), then, using the equations above, (8) becomes

\[
\dot{\epsilon}_i = A_{n_i} \epsilon_i + W_{n_i} \phi_i \left( t - \tau \right) + \bar{u}_{n_i},
\]

\[
+ \Gamma \left( \sum_{j \neq i}^{N} c_{ij} a_{ij} \epsilon_j - \epsilon_i \sum_{j \neq i}^{N} c_{ij} a_{ij} \right).
\]
\[
= A_n e_i + W_n \phi_o (t - \tau) + \bar{u}_n, \\
+ \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N c_{ij} a_{ij} \Gamma (e_j - e_i), \quad i = 1, 2, \ldots, N.
\]

(10)

It is clear that \( e_i = 0, i = 1, 2, \ldots, N \), is an equilibrium point of (10), when \( \bar{u}_n = 0, i = 1, 2, \ldots, N \). In this way, the tracking problem can be restated as a global asymptotic stabilization problem for the system (10).

4. Tracking Error Stabilization and Control Design

In order to establish the convergence of (10) to \( e_i = 0 \), \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, N \), which ensures the desired tracking, first, we propose the following Lyapunov function:

\[
V_N (e) = \sum_{i=1}^N V (e_i)
= \sum_{i=1}^N \left( \frac{1}{2} \| e_i \|^2 + \int_{t-\tau}^t (\phi_o^T (s) W_n^T W_n \phi_o (s)) ds \right),
\]

(11)

The time derivative of (11), along the trajectories of (10), is

\[
\dot{V}_N (e) = \frac{\partial V_N (e)}{\partial e} = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\partial V_N (e)}{\partial e_i} \dot{e}_i
= \sum_{i=1}^N \left( \phi_o^T (t) W_n^T W_n \phi_o (t)
- \phi_o^T (t - \tau) W_n^T W_n \phi_o (t - \tau)
+ \phi_o^T (t) W_n^T W_n \phi_o (t)
- \phi_o^T (t - \tau) W_n^T W_n \phi_o (t - \tau)
+ \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N c_{ij} a_{ij} \Gamma (e_j - e_i) \right).
\]

(12)

Reformulating (12), we get

\[
\dot{V}_N (e) = \sum_{i=1}^N \left( -\lambda_n \| e_i \|^2 + \phi_o^T (t - \tau) W_n^T W_n \phi_o (t - \tau)
+ \phi_o^T (t) W_n^T W_n \phi_o (t)
- \phi_o^T (t - \tau) W_n^T W_n \phi_o (t - \tau)
+ \phi_o^T (t) W_n^T W_n \phi_o (t)
+ \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N c_{ij} a_{ij} \Gamma (e_j - e_i) \right),
\]

(13)

Next, let us consider the following inequality, proved in [9, 10]:

\[
X^T Y + Y^T X \leq X^T \Lambda X + Y^T \Lambda^{-1} Y,
\]

(14)

which holds for all matrices \( X, Y \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k} \) and \( \Lambda \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \) with \( \Lambda = \Lambda^T > 0 \). Applying (14) with \( \Lambda = I_{n \times n} \) to the term \( e_i^T W_n \phi_o (t - \tau), i = 1, 2, \ldots, N \), we get

\[
e_i^T W_n \phi_o (t - \tau)
\leq \frac{1}{2} e_i^T \phi_o^T (t - \tau) W_n^T W_n \phi_o (t - \tau)
+ \frac{1}{2} \phi_o^T (t - \tau) W_n^T W_n \phi_o (t - \tau),
\]

(15)

\[
i = 1, 2, \ldots, N.
\]

Then, we have that

\[
\dot{V}_N (e) \leq \sum_{i=1}^N \left( -\lambda_n \| e_i \|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \| e_i \|^2
+ \frac{1}{2} \phi_o^T (t - \tau) W_n^T W_n \phi_o (t - \tau)
+ \phi_o^T (t) W_n^T W_n \phi_o (t)
+ \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N c_{ij} a_{ij} \Gamma (e_j - e_i) \right).
\]

(16)

By simplifying (16), we obtain

\[
\dot{V}_N (e) \leq \sum_{i=1}^N \left( -\lambda_n \| e_i \|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \| e_i \|^2
- \frac{1}{2} \phi_o^T (t - \tau) W_n^T W_n \phi_o (t - \tau) + e_i^T \bar{u}_n
+ \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N c_{ij} a_{ij} \Gamma (e_j - e_i)
+ \phi_o^T (t) W_n^T W_n \phi_o (t)
+ \phi_o^T (t) W_n^T W_n \phi_o (t) \right).
\]

(17)
Since $\phi_\sigma$ is Lipschitz with Lipschitz constant $L_{\phi_\sigma}$ [7], then
\[ \|\phi_\sigma(t)\| = \|\sigma(x_n(t)) - \sigma(x_i(t))\| \leq L_{\phi_\sigma}\|x_n(t) - x_i(t)\| = L_{\phi_\sigma}\|e_i(t)\|, \quad i = 1, 2, \ldots, N. \] (18)

Applying (18) to $\phi_\sigma^T(t)W_n^TW_n\phi_\sigma(t)$, we obtain
\[ \phi_\sigma^T(t)W_n^TW_n\phi_\sigma(t) \leq \|\phi_\sigma^T(t)W_n^TW_n\phi_\sigma(t)\| \leq (L_{\phi_\sigma})^2\|W_n\|^2\|e_i\|^2 + e_i^T\tilde{u}_n, \quad i = 1, 2, \ldots, N. \] (19)

Now, (17) is reduced to
\[ V_N(e) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left( -\lambda_n\|e_i\|^2 + \frac{1}{2}\|e_i\|^2 \right) + (L_{\phi_\sigma})^2\|W_n\|^2\|e_i\|^2 + e_i^T\tilde{u}_n + \sum_{j=1}^{N} c_{ij}a_{ij}\|e_i\|^2 + e_i^T\tilde{u}_n, \quad i = 1, 2, \ldots, N. \] (20)

Now, we propose the use of the following control law:
\[ \tilde{u}_n = -\left( \frac{1}{2} + L_{\phi_\sigma}\|W_n\|^2 \right)e_i - \sum_{j=1}^{N} c_{ij}a_{ij}\|e_j\|^2 + e_j^T\tilde{u}_n, \quad i = 1, 2, \ldots, N. \] (22)

Then, $V_N(e) < 0$ for all $e \neq 0$. This means that the proposed control law (22) can globally and asymptotically stabilize the $i$th error system (10), therefore ensuring the tracking of (1) by (2). Finally, the control action driving the recurrent neural networks is given by
\[ u_n = f_i(x_i) + \lambda_n x_i - W_n\sigma(x_i(t - \tau)) \]
\[ -\left( \frac{1}{2} + L_{\phi_\sigma}\|W_n\|^2 \right)e_i - \sum_{j=1}^{N} c_{ij}a_{ij}\|e_j\|^2 + e_j^T\tilde{u}_n, \quad i = 1, 2, \ldots, N. \] (23)

### 5. Simulations

In order to illustrate the applicability of the discussed results, we consider a dynamical network with just one Lorenz’s node and three identical Chen’s nodes. The single Lorenz system is described by
\[ \begin{aligned}
    \dot{x}_1 &= 10x_2 - 10x_1 \\
    \dot{x}_2 &= -x_2 - x_1x_3 + 28x_1 \\
    \dot{x}_3 &= x_1x_2 - \frac{8}{3}x_3 \\
\end{aligned} \] (24)

And the Chen’s oscillator is described by
\[ \begin{pmatrix}
    \dot{x}_1 \\
    \dot{x}_2 \\
    \dot{x}_3 \\
\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}
    p_1(x_{12} - x_{13}) + \sum_{j=1}^{N} c_{ij}a_{ij}(x_{ji} - x_{ij}) \\
    (p_3 - p_2)x_{11} - x_{12}x_{13} + p_2x_{13} + \sum_{j=1}^{N} c_{ij}a_{ij}(x_{ji} - x_{ij}) \\
    x_{11}x_{12} - p_2x_{13} + \sum_{j=1}^{N} c_{ij}a_{ij}(x_{ji} - x_{ij}) \\
\end{pmatrix} \]
\[ x_i(0) = (10, 0, 10)^T, \quad i = 1. \] (25)
If the system parameters are selected as \( p_1 = 35 \), \( p_2 = 3 \), and \( p_3 = 28 \), then the Lorenz’s system and Chen’s system are shown in Figures 1 and 2, respectively. In this set of system parameters, one unstable equilibrium point of the oscillator (25) is \( x = (7.9373, 7.9373, 21) \). [11]

Suppose that each pair of two connected Lorenz and Chen’s oscillators are linked together through their identical substate variables; that is, \( \Gamma = \text{diag}(1, 1, 1) \), and the coupling strengths are \( c_{12} = c_{21} = \pi \), \( c_{13} = c_{31} = \pi \), \( c_{23} = c_{32} = \pi \), \( c_{14} = c_{41} = 2\pi \), \( c_{24} = c_{42} = 2\pi \), and \( c_{34} = c_{43} = 2\pi \). Figure 3 visualizes this entire dynamical network.

The neural network is selected as

\[
A_n = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad W_n = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ -3 & 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix},
\]

\[
\sigma(x_n(t - \tau)) = \begin{pmatrix} \tanh(x_{n1}(t - \tau)) \\ \tanh(x_{n2}(t - \tau)) \\ \tanh(x_{n3}(t - \tau)) \end{pmatrix},
\]

\( \tau = 10 \) seconds,

\[
L_{\phi_n} \triangleq n = 3,
\]

\[
x_n(0) = (20, 20, -10)^T, \quad i = 1, 2, 3, 4. \tag{26}
\]

**Theorem 2.** For the unknown nonlinear system modeled by (1), the on-line learning law \( \text{tr}\{W^T W\} = -e^T \hat{W} \sigma(x) \) and the control law (23) ensure the tracking of nonlinear reference model (4), [12].

**Remark 3.** From (21), we have

\[
\dot{V}_N(e) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{N} c_i^T (\Lambda_n e_i - \sum_{j \neq i} c_i \rho_{ij} \Gamma e_j + ((1/2) + L_{\phi_n}^2 / 2) e_i + \bar{u}_i^{(1)} + \sum_{j \neq i} c_i \rho_{ij} \Gamma e_j + \bar{u}_i^{(2)}) < 0, \quad \forall e \neq 0, \forall W, \text{ and therefore } V \text{ is decreasing and}
\]
bounded from below by \( V(0) \). Since \( V_N(e) = \sum_{i=1}^{N}(1/2)\|e_i\|^2 + \int_{-\tau}^{0}(\phi^T(s)W_n^TW_n\phi(s))\,ds \), then we conclude that \( e,W \in L_1 \); this means that the weights remain bounded.

The experiment is performed as follows. Both systems, the delayed neural network (2) and the dynamical networks (24) and (25), evolve independently until \( t = 10 \) seconds; at that time, the proposed control law (23) is incepted. Simulation results are presented in Figures 4, 5, and 6 for sub-states of node 1. As can be seen, tracking is successfully achieved and error is asymptotically stable, as it is shown in Figures 7, 8, and 9 for sub-states of node 4.

6. Conclusions

We have presented the controller design for trajectory tracking determined by a general complex dynamical network. This framework is based on dynamic delayed neural networks and the methodology is based on V-stability and Lyapunov theory. The proposed control is applied to a dynamical network with each node being a Lorenz and Chen’s dynamical systems, respectively, being able to also stabilize in asymptotic
form the tracking error between the two systems. The results of the simulation clearly show clearly the desired tracking. In future work, we will consider the stochastic case for the complex dynamical network.

**Conflict of Interests**

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

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