Cooperative Output Regulation of Multiagent Linear Parameter-Varying Systems

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Received 30 June 2016; Revised 13 November 2016; Accepted 27 November 2016; Published 19 January 2017

1. Introduction

We have witnessed in the recent years a large number of studies devoted to the area of multiagent systems coordination and control due to their vast applications in biological systems, traffic networks, robotics, and unmanned vehicles, among many other applications (see, e.g., [1–3] and references therein). In particular, the problem of output regulation for multiagent linear systems has been largely investigated (see, e.g., [4–7]).

In many practical multiagent systems, agents often exhibit time-varying dynamics due to the variation in some endogenous or exogenous parameters, which are bounded and measurable in real time. Such physical systems can be modeled and controlled, in principle, by means of the well developed tools from linear parameter-varying (LPV) systems theory [8–11]. There has been a very limited work dedicated to multiagent LPV systems. In this paper, we formulate and address the design of output regulators for multiagent polytopic LPV systems.

The output synchronization problem of multiagent systems has been studied for agents represented by identical LPV models or bilinear models with noisy measurements [12, 13]. In these studies, the controllers are designed based on the dissipativity theory, while it is assumed that each agent has access to the varying parameters of all other agents. The output synchronization problem has been investigated for heterogeneous multiagent LPV systems [14]. The full state feedback controller was considered to solve a consensus problem for homogeneous and heterogeneous multiagent LPV systems with affine dependency on LPV parameters, a.k.a. scheduling variables [15].

The main contribution of this paper is in the design of a cooperative output feedback controller to solve the output regulation problem for multiagent polytopic LPV systems. The parameter-varying controllers are designed under the assumption that each agent is decoupled from others, while each agent’s controller is able to communicate with other controllers and send/receive states to/from others. A sufficient condition is first established to ensure that the output regulation problem is solvable for a multiagent LPV system. This condition is then converted to the so-called Sylvester equation with time-varying coefficients. A time-varying Sylvester equation can be solved by using, for example, gradient-based recurrent neural networks; however, there always exists an error in the calculated solution [16, 17]. A special class of recurrent neural networks has been proposed in [16] to solve time-varying Sylvester equations in real time leading to a zero estimation error. The proposed recurrent neural network also has limitations for real time implementation since the...
estimation error does not converge to zero in finite time [18]. By employing a sign-bipower activation function and Li activation function, the estimation error converges to zero in a finite time [18, 19], but the estimation error is conservative [20]. In this paper, a condition is obtained for the case, where time-varying coefficients of the Sylvester equation have polytopic structures. In this case, a simple sufficient condition is determined to guarantee the existence of the LPV controller when the models of multiagent LPV system have a polytopic structure.

The remainder of this paper is structured as follows. Multiagent systems described by LPV models are introduced in Section 2. This section also gives a brief overview of the basic mathematical tools from graph theory and contains the problem statement for the cooperative output regulation problem of a multiagent LPV system. The main results are presented in Section 3, where a condition is provided for the design of a controller solving the cooperative output regulation problem. In Section 4, the obtained conditions are simplified for multiagent LPV systems with a polytopic structure. In Section 5, the efficacy of the proposed control design approach is examined by means of two numerical examples, and finally, concluding remarks are made in Section 6.

Notation. Throughout this paper, we assume that \( \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{I}, A^T, \text{diag}(A, B), \text{col}(A, B), \text{vec}(A), A \otimes B, \) and \( A \oplus B \) denote the set of real numbers, the identity matrix of appropriate dimension, the transpose of \( A \), the block diagonal matrix with diagonal elements \( A \) and \( B \), \( [A^T, B^T]^T \), the vectorization of \( A \), the Kronecker product of \( A \) and \( B \), and the Kronecker sum of \( A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \) and \( B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m} \) defined as \( A \oplus B = A \otimes I_m + I_n \otimes B \).

2. Preliminaries and Problem Statement

In this section, the dynamics of agents and the problem under study will be described.

2.1. Communication Structure. We use a directed or undirected graph denoted by \( G = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E}) \) to model the communication among the agents, where \( \mathcal{V} = \{1, \ldots, N\} \) denotes the set of nodes and \( \mathcal{E} \subseteq \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V} \) denotes the edge set. In an undirected graph, \((j, i) \in \mathcal{E}\) implies that \((i, j) \in \mathcal{E}\). Agent \( i \) is said to have access to the information of agent \( j \) when \((j, i) \in \mathcal{E}\), in which case agent \( j \) is also called the neighbor of agent \( i \). A directed path from node \( i \) to node \( j \) is a sequence of ordered edges of the form \((i, n), (n, m), \ldots, (r, j)\). A graph has a directed spanning tree rooted at node \( i \) if there is a directed path from the node \( i \) to all other nodes. Nonnegative matrix \( A = [a_{ij}] \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N} \) is a weighted adjacency matrix of digraph \( G \) if \( a_{ii} = 0 \) and \( a_{ij} > 0 \) for \((i, j) \in \mathcal{E}\). Finally, Laplacian matrix \( L = [l_{ij}] \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N} \) of digraph \( G \) is defined as \( l_{ij} = \sum_{i=1,j=1}^{N} a_{ij} \) and \( l_{ii} = -\sum_{j=1,j \neq i}^{N} a_{ij} > 0 \) for \( i \neq j \).

2.2. Mathematical Representation of the Agents. We consider that each of the \( N \) agents in the multiagent systems under study is represented by a linear parameter-varying (LPV) model as

\[
\dot{x}_k(t) = A_k(\rho_k(t)) x_k(t) + B_k u_k(t) + E_k(\rho_k(t)) d_k(t),
\]

where

\[
y_k(t) = C_k(\rho_k(t)) x_k(t) + D_k u_k(t) + F_k(\rho_k(t)) d_k(t),
\]

for \( k \in \mathcal{N} = \{1, \ldots, N\} \), where \( x_k \in \mathbb{R}^{n_k} \) is the state vector, \( y_k \in \mathbb{R}^{n_y} \) is the measurement outputs vector, \( e_k \in \mathbb{R}^{n_e} \) is the vector of controlled outputs, for example, tracking error, and \( u_k \in \mathbb{R}^{n_u} \) is the vector of control inputs for agent \( k \). Also, \( d_k \in \mathbb{R}^{n_d} \) denotes the exogenous signals to agent \( k \). Unlike the system matrices \( B_k, D_k, \) and \( F_k \) that are assumed to be constant, the matrices \( A_k, C_k, E_k, F_k, \) and \( D_k \) could in general depend on the time-varying parameters \( \rho_k(t) \), referred to as "scheduling variables," which are bounded and measurable in real time. We further assume that \( \rho_k(t) \in \mathcal{P}_k \), where \( \mathcal{P}_k \) denotes a \( p_k \)-dimensional admissible set of scheduling variables. Even in the case that the agents share the same dynamics structure, that is, number of states, inputs, and outputs, the agents can be heterogeneous due to the difference in the measurement of the local scheduling variables \( \rho_k(t) \). The exogenous signals may represent the disturbance to be rejected or the reference input to be tracked and are assumed to be described by

\[
\dot{d}_k(t) = S_k(\rho_k(t)) d_k(t).
\]

Remark 1. Without the loss of generality, the system matrices \( B_k, D_k, \) and \( F_k \) in system (1) are assumed to be parameter-independent. Generally, a system with parameter-varying \( B_k, D_k, \) or \( F_k \) can be transformed into the form (1) by applying a low-pass filter to the control input [21].

2.3. Cooperative Output Regulation Problem for Multiagent LPV Systems. For each agent, we consider a parameter-varying controller with the following structure:

\[
\dot{x}_k(t) = A'_k(\rho_k(t)) x_k(t) + B'_k(\rho_k(t)) y_k(t) + \sum_{k_p \in \mathcal{P}_k} A'_{k_p}(\rho_k(t)) x_{k_p}(t),
\]

\[
u_k(t) = C'_k(\rho_k(t)) x_k(t) + D'_k(\rho_k(t)) y_k(t),
\]

for \( \mathcal{N}_k = \{i \mid i \in \mathcal{N} \text{ and } i \neq k\} \), where \( x_k(t) \) is the estimate of the augmented vector of open-loop system states and exogenous signals \( x_k(t) = \text{col}(x_k(t), d_k(t)) \), that is, \( \hat{x}_k(t) = x_k(t) \). The LPV controllers above use the local state estimates \( x_k(t) = \hat{x}_k(t) \) and the controller matrices \( A'_k, B'_k, C'_k, D'_k \), and \( F'_k \) are to be determined. We aim at designing the controllers of the above structure to ensure that the following two objectives are satisfied.

Objective 1 (internal stability). Assume \( u_k(t) = 0 \) and \( d_k(t) = 0 \) for \( k \in \mathcal{N} \). For all initial conditions \( x_k(0) = x_{k,0}, \hat{x}_k(0) = x_{k,0} \), and \( \rho_k \in \mathcal{P}_k \),

\[
\lim_{t \to \infty} x_k(t) = 0,
\]

\[
\lim_{t \to \infty} \hat{x}_k(t) = 0,
\]

for \( k \in \mathcal{N} \).
Objective 2 (output regulation). For all initial conditions \( x_k(0) = x_{k,0}, \dot{x}_k(0) = \dot{x}_{k,0}, \) \( d_k(0) = d_{k,0}, \) and \( \rho_k \in \mathcal{P}_k, \)
\[
\lim_{t \to -\infty} e_k(t) = 0, \quad k \in \mathcal{N}.
\] (5)

Remark 2. The main contribution of this paper is in the design of an LPV controller that can guarantee the output regulation problem for multiagent LPV systems. A relevant problem to the output regulation problem has been studied from the synchronization point of view in [12–14]. Furthermore, the output regulation problems have been addressed in [15] for systems, in which the state-space matrices are affinely dependent on the scheduling variables.

3. Cooperative Output Regulation for Multiagent LPV Systems

In this section, we present the main results of the paper. First, we describe few assumptions imposed on the agents. It is noted that the following assumptions are standard ones that have also been considered in previous relevant studies [5, 14, 15, 22–24].

Assumption 3. The pair \((A_k(\rho_k(t)), B_k)\) is stabilizable for any \( k \in \mathcal{N} \) and \( \rho_k \in \mathcal{P}_k. \)

Assumption 4. The exosystem (2) is not asymptotically stable for any \( k \in \mathcal{N} \) and \( \rho_k \in \mathcal{P}_k. \)

Assumption 5. The pair
\[
\begin{bmatrix}
A_k(\rho_k(t)) & E_k(\rho_k(t)) \\
0 & S_k(\rho_k(t))
\end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix}
C_k(\rho_k(t)) & F_k(\rho_k(t))
\end{bmatrix}
\]

is detectable for any \( k \in \mathcal{N} \) and \( \rho_k \in \mathcal{P}_k. \)

Augmenting the models of agents together results in the following model:
\[
\begin{align*}
\dot{x}(t) &= A(\rho(t))x(t) + Bu(t) + E(\rho(t))d(t), \\
y(t) &= C(\rho(t))x(t) + Du(t) + F(\rho(t))d(t), \\
e(t) &= C'(\rho(t))x(t) + D'u(t) + F'(\rho(t))d(t), \\
\dot{d}(t) &= S(\rho(t))d(t),
\end{align*}
\] (8)

where \( \rho(t) \) is a vector function of \( \rho_k(t), \) for \( k \in \mathcal{N}, \) and \( A = \text{diag}(A_1, \ldots, A_N), B = \text{diag}(B_1, \ldots, B_N), E = \text{diag}(E_1, \ldots, E_N), C = \text{diag}(C_1, \ldots, C_N), D = \text{diag}(D_1, \ldots, D_N), F = \text{diag}(F_1, \ldots, F_N), C' = \text{diag}(C'_1, \ldots, C'_N), D' = \text{diag}(D'_1, \ldots, D'_N), S = \text{diag}(S_1, \ldots, S_N), \)
\[
\begin{align*}
x(t) &= \text{col}(x_1(t), \ldots, x_N(t)), \\
u(t) &= \text{col}(u_1(t), \ldots, u_N(t)), \\
y(t) &= \text{col}(y_1(t), \ldots, y_N(t)), \\
e(t) &= \text{col}(e_1(t), \ldots, e_N(t)), \\
\end{align*}
\]

Assumption 5 is held if there exists a symmetric positive definite matrix \( P \) and a matrix \( K_n \) such that the following matrix inequality problem has a feasible solution [21]:
\[
P(A(\rho(t)) + BK_n)^T + (A(\rho(t)) + BK_n)P < 0.
\] (9)

In addition, Assumption 5 is held if there exist matrices \( L_1, L_2 \) and a symmetric positive definite matrix \( P_k \) such that the following matrix inequality has a feasible solution [21]:
\[
A_k^T(\rho(t))P_k + P_kA_k(\rho(t)) < 0,
\] (10)

where
\[
A_k(\rho(t)) = \begin{bmatrix} A(\rho(t)) & E(\rho(t)) \\ 0 & S(\rho(t)) \end{bmatrix}
+ \begin{bmatrix} L_1 \\ L_2 \end{bmatrix} [C(\rho(t)) F(\rho(t))].
\] (11)

The LPV feedback controller with the structure (12) is applied to the augmented system (7). It is noted that (12) is obtained by augmenting the output feedback controllers with state estimations in (3):
\[
\begin{align*}
\dot{x}'(t) &= A'(\rho(t))x'(t) + B'(\rho(t))y(t), \\
u(t) &= C'(\rho(t))x'(t) + D'(\rho(t))y(t),
\end{align*}
\] (12)

where \( x'(t) = \text{col}(x'_1(t), \ldots, x'_N(t)), u(t) = \text{col}(u_1(t), \ldots, u_N(t)), \) and \( y(t) = \text{col}(y_1(t), \ldots, y_N(t)), \) while matrices \( A', B', C', \) and \( D' \) contain controller matrices of all agents. Controller state-space matrices associated with each agent are then calculated based on the matrices \( A', B', C', \) and \( D' \) as given in Section 4.

The closed-loop system interconnection of the above controller with the augmented system (7) leads to
\[
\begin{align*}
A_{\text{cl}}(\rho(t))x_{\text{cl}}(t) + B_{\text{cl}}(\rho(t))d(t),
\end{align*}
\] (13)
Suppose that Assumption 4 is held. Also assume Lemma 1.13 in [22] to the LPV case. Matrices in (7), exosystem (8), and controller (12) and extends lemma establishes this relation through employing the system loop system (13). Objective 2 is satisfied as well if there exist matrices \(\Theta\) satisfying the following set of matrix equations for any admissible \(\rho(t)\):

\[
A_{cl}(\rho(t))\Theta - \Theta S(\rho(t)) + B_{cl}(\rho(t)) = 0, \quad (14a)
\]

\[
C_{cl}(\rho(t))\Theta + D_{cl}(\rho(t)) = 0. \quad (14b)
\]

**Proof.** Equation (14a) is the so-called Sylvester equation. Since Assumption 4 and Objective 1 are held, there exists a unique matrix \(\Theta\) which makes the Sylvester equation (14a) have a solution (see [17], which has proven this for time-varying Sylvester equation). The equations in (15) are obtained by substituting \(\xi(t) = x_{cl}(t) - \Theta d(t)\) into the closed-loop system representation (13) and considering (14a)

\[
\dot{\xi}(t) = A_{cl}(\rho(t))\xi(t) + (A_{cl}(\rho(t))\Theta - \Theta S(\rho(t)) + B_{cl}(\rho(t)))d(t) \\
E(t) = C_{cl}(\rho(t))\xi(t) + (C_{cl}(\rho(t))\Theta + D_{cl}(\rho(t)))d(t).
\]

According to Assumption 3, \(\xi(t)\) is asymptotically stable. Since \(\lim_{t\to\infty}\xi(t) = 0\) and the matrix \(\Theta\) satisfies (14b), then using (15), \(\lim_{t\to\infty}E(t) = 0\), and this concludes the proof.

Lemma 6 shows that Objectives 1 and 2 are related. Next lemma establishes this relation through employing the system matrices in (7), exosystem (8), and controller (12) and extends Lemma 1.13 in [22] to the LPV case.

**Lemma 7.** Suppose that Assumption 4 is held. Also assume that Objective 1 is satisfied by the controller (12) for the closed-loop system (13). Objective 2 is satisfied as well if there exist matrices \(\Pi, \Gamma(\rho(t))\), and \(Y\) such that

\[
A(\rho(t))\Pi + B(\rho(t)) + E(\rho(t)) = \Pi S(\rho(t)), \quad (16a)
\]

\[
A^c(\rho(t))Y + B^c(\rho(t))(C(\rho(t))\Pi + D(\rho(t)) + F(\rho(t))) = YS(\rho(t)),
\]

\[
C^c(\rho(t))\Pi + D^c\Gamma(\rho(t)) + F^c(\rho(t)) = 0,
\]

where \(\Gamma(\rho(t)) = C^c(\rho(t))Y\).

**Proof.** Substituting \(\Gamma(\rho(t)) = C^c(\rho(t))Y\) into (16a) and (16b) results in

\[
A(\rho(t))\Pi + BC^c(\rho(t))Y + E(\rho(t)) = \Pi S(\rho(t)), \quad (17a)
\]

\[
B^c(\rho(t))C(\rho(t))\Pi + B^c(\rho(t))F(\rho(t)) + (A^c(\rho(t)) + B^c(\rho(t))D^c(\rho(t)))Y = YS(\rho(t)),
\]

\[
C^c(\rho(t))\Pi + D^c(\rho(t))Y + F^c(\rho(t)) = 0. \quad (17c)
\]

Equations (18a) and (18b) are, respectively, obtained from combining (17a) and (17b) with (17c).

Define the matrix decomposition \(\Theta = \text{col}(\Pi, Y)\). Equations (14a) and (14b) are, respectively, obtained by substituting \(\Theta\) into (18a) and (18b). Then, according to Lemma 6, Objective 2 is satisfied, and this concludes the proof.

Next, let the state-space matrices of the controller (12) be constructed as follows:

\[
A^c(\rho(t)) = \begin{bmatrix} A(\rho(t)) & E(\rho(t)) \\ 0 & S(\rho(t)) \end{bmatrix}
\]

\[
+ \begin{bmatrix} B \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}[K_x, K_d(\rho(t))]
\]

\[
+ \begin{bmatrix} L_1 \\ L_2 \end{bmatrix}[C(\rho(t)), F(\rho(t))]
\]

\[
+ D[K_x, K_d(\rho(t))],
\]

\[
B^c(\rho(t)) = -[L_1, L_2],
\]

\[
C^c(\rho(t)) = [K_x, K_d(\rho(t))],
\]

\[
D^c(\rho(t)) = 0,
\]

where \(K_d(\rho(t)) = \Gamma(\rho(t)) - K_x\Pi\) and matrices \(\Pi, \Gamma(\rho(t)), K_x\), and \(\text{col}(L_1, L_2)\) are, respectively, obtained from (16a)–(16b) and by solving the matrix inequality problems (9) and (10).

In the case of LTI systems, a necessary and sufficient condition has been established in Theorem 2.4.1 in [23] and Theorem 1.14 in [22] to guarantee Objectives 1 and 2. We extend those results to LPV systems in the following theorem.
Theorem 8. Suppose that Assumptions 3, 4, and 5 are held. The closed-loop system (13) associated with the augmented multiagent system (7) and the augmented controller (12) with the state-space matrices given in (19) satisfies Objectives 1 and 2 if there exist matrices $\Pi$ and $\Gamma(\rho(t))$ that satisfy the following algebraic equations:

\[
\begin{align*}
A(\rho(t))\Pi + B\Gamma(\rho(t)) + E(\rho(t)) &= \Pi S(\rho(t)), \quad (20a) \\
C(\rho(t))\Pi + D\Gamma(\rho(t)) + F(\rho(t)) &= 0. \quad (20b)
\end{align*}
\]

with $A_L$ defined in (11). Due to the structure of $\tilde{A}_d$, (that implies that it is asymptotically stable), there exists a symmetric positive definite matrix $Q$ such that $Q\tilde{A}_d^T(\rho(t)) + \tilde{A}_d(\rho(t))Q < 0$. On the other hand, there exists a symmetric positive definite matrix $Q$ such that $Q\tilde{A}_d^T(\rho(t)) + \tilde{A}_d(\rho(t))Q < 0$. This implies that the controller with the state-space matrices given by (19) satisfies Objective 1. Define $Y = \text{col}(\Pi, I)$. Postmultiplying $A^c$ by $Y$ results in

\[
\begin{align*}
\tilde{A}_d(\rho(t)) &= \begin{bmatrix} A(\rho(t)) + BK_x & B_k(\rho(t)) \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \\
&= \begin{bmatrix} A(\rho(t)) + BK_x & B_k(\rho(t)) \\ 0 & A_L(\rho(t)) \end{bmatrix}.
\end{align*}
\]

Employing (19) and (20a) results in

\[
\begin{align*}
A^c(\rho(t))Y &= \begin{bmatrix} A(\rho(t)) + E(\rho(t)) + B\Gamma(\rho(t)) \\ S(\rho(t)) \end{bmatrix} \\
&= \begin{bmatrix} L_1 \\ L_2 \end{bmatrix} (C(\rho(t))\Pi + F(\rho(t)) + D\Gamma(\rho(t))).
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Sylvester equation (20a) and (20b), but the upper bound on the convergence has been shown to be conservative [20]. To convert the problem to a set of finite number of linear equations, we restrict our study to polytopic LPV systems. Assume that time-varying matrices of system (1) have a polytopic dependency on the scheduling variables as }
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\Omega_k(\rho_k(t)) = \sum_{i=1}^{p_k} \rho_k(t) \Omega_{k,i}, \quad \sum_{i=1}^{p_k} \rho_k(t) = 1,
\]

\[
\text{where } \rho_k(t) \text{ are nonzero and nonnegative continuous functions, for } k \in \mathcal{N}, \text{ and } \Omega \in \{A, C, E, F, C^e, F^e, S\}. \text{ In addition, } \rho_k(t) \text{ represents the } i\text{th element of the vector of scheduling variables } \rho_k(t). \]

Corollary 9. Suppose that Assumptions 3, 4, and 5 are held. The closed-loop system (13) associated with the augmented multiagent system (7) with the polytopic structure (25) and augmented controller (12) with the state-space matrices given in (19) satisfies Objectives 1 and 2 if there exist matrices $\Pi_k, \Gamma_{k,1}, \ldots, \Gamma_{k,N}$ that satisfy (26) for any $k \in N$.

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
-S_k^n \otimes A_k^n & I_{n_k} \otimes B_k & \cdots & 0 \\
I_{n_k} \otimes C_k^{e^n} & I_{n_k} \otimes D_k^n & \cdots & 0 \\
\vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
-S_k^n \otimes A_k^n & 0 & \cdots & I_{n_k} \otimes B_k \\
I_{n_k} \otimes C_k^{e^n} & 0 & \cdots & I_{n_k} \otimes D_k^n \\
I_{n_k} \otimes C_k^{e^n} & 0 & \cdots & I_{n_k} \otimes D_k^n \\
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
\text{vec}(\Pi_k) \\
\text{vec}(\Gamma_{k,1}) \\
\vdots \\
\text{vec}(\Gamma_{k,N})
\end{bmatrix}
\]

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
-\text{vec}(E_k^n) \\
\vdots \\
-\text{vec}(F_k^n)
\end{bmatrix}
\]

4. Output Regulation for Multiagent Polytopic LPV Systems

To satisfy Objectives 1 and 2, (20a) and (20b) in Theorem 8 are needed to be solved. These equations are time-varying, which in principle provide an infinite number of linear equations. Neural networks have been employed to solve time-varying
Proof. Assume that \( \Pi \) and \( \Gamma(\rho(t)) \) are constructed by using 
\[ \Pi = \text{diag}(\Pi_1, \ldots, \Pi_N) \] 
and 
\[ \Gamma(\rho(t)) = \text{diag}(\Gamma_1(\rho(t)), \ldots, \Gamma_N(\rho(t))) \]. Due to the structure of the state-space matrices of the augmented system (7), (20a) and (20b) are equivalent with

\[
A_k(\rho_k(t))\Pi_k + B_k\Gamma_k(\rho_k(t)) + E_k(\rho_k(t)) = \Pi_iS_k(\rho_k(t)),
\]

(27)

\[
C_k(\rho_k(t))\Pi_k + D_k^i\Gamma_k(\rho_k(t)) + F_k(\rho_k(t)) = 0,
\]

for any \( k \in N \). We consider that \( \Gamma_k(\rho_k(t)) \) has a polytopic structure as in (25); that is, 
\[ \Gamma_k(\rho_k(t)) = \sum_{i=1}^{p_k} \rho_k^i(t)\Gamma_k^i \]

for \( k \in N \). The following equations are obtained by substituting (25) into (27):

\[
\sum_{i=1}^{p_k} \rho_k^i(t) A_k^i\Pi_k + B_k\sum_{i=1}^{p_k} \rho_k^i(t) \Gamma_k^i + \sum_{i=1}^{p_k} \rho_k^i(t) E_k = \Pi_iS_k,
\]

(28)

\[
\sum_{i=1}^{p_k} \rho_k^i(t) C_k^i\Pi_k + D_k^i\sum_{i=1}^{p_k} \rho_k^i(t) \Gamma_k^i + \sum_{i=1}^{p_k} \rho_k^i(t) F_k^i = 0,
\]

and hence

\[
\sum_{i=1}^{p_k} \rho_k^i(t) \left( A_k^i\Pi_k + B_k\Gamma_k^i + E_k^i - \Pi_i S_k \right) = 0,
\]

(29)

\[
\sum_{i=1}^{p_k} \rho_k^i(t) \left( C_k^i\Pi_k + D_k^i\Gamma_k^i + F_k^i \right) = 0.
\]

Since \( \rho_k^i(t) \) are nonzero and nonnegative continuous functions for \( k \in N \) and \( i \in \{1, \ldots, p_k\} \), the following equations are concluded from (29):

\[
A_k^i\Pi_k + B_k\Gamma_k^i + E_k^i = \Pi_iS_k^i,
\]

(30a)

\[
C_k^i\Pi_k + D_k^i\Gamma_k^i + F_k^i = 0,
\]

(30b)

for any \( k \in N \) and \( i \in \{1, \ldots, p_k\} \). Equations (30a) and (30b) can be rewritten in the following forms by applying the Kronecker product notation and the vectorization operator:

\[
\left( \left( I_{n_k} \otimes A_k^i \right) - \left( S_k^i \otimes L_i \right) \right) \text{vec}(\Pi_k)
+ \left( I_{n_k} \otimes B_k \right) \text{vec}(\Gamma_k^i) = -\text{vec}(E_k^i),
\]

\[
\left( I_{n_k} \otimes C_k^i \right) \text{vec}(\Pi_k)
+ \left( I_{n_k} \otimes D_k^i \right) \text{vec}(\Gamma_k^i) = -\text{vec}(F_k^i),
\]

(31)

for any \( k \in N \) and \( i \in \{1, \ldots, p_k\} \). Finally, for any \( k \in N \), (26) is obtained by combining the \( p_k \) equations in (31), and this concludes the proof. \( \square \)

Lemma 10 provides a simple condition to guarantee the solvability of (26).

**Lemma 10.** Consider that Assumptions 3, 4, and 5 are held. Equation (26) has a solution if

\[
n_{e_k} + \frac{1}{p_k} n_{x_k} \leq n_{u_k},
\]

(32)

for any \( k \in N \).

Proof. The number of equations and the number of free variables in linear equation (26) are \( n_d p_k(n_{x_k} + n_{u_k}) \) and \( n_d(n_{x_k} + p_k n_{u_k}) \), respectively. The block rows of (26) are linearly independent. If inequality \( n_d p_k(n_{x_k} + n_{e_k}) \leq n_d(n_{x_k} + p_k n_{u_k}) \) is satisfied, then the system of linear equations (26) has a solution. The latter condition results in inequality (32). \( \square \)

**Remark 11.** In the case of LTI agents, where \( p_k = 1 \) for \( k \in N \), inequality (32) becomes \( n_{e_k} \leq n_{u_k} \), which is independent of \( n_{x_k} \). This has been shown in [22, 24].

The proposed control design method can be summarized as follows. First, matrices \( K \) and \( \text{col}(L_1, L_2) \) are determined to satisfy Assumptions 3 and 5 by solving the matrix inequality problems given in (9) and (10), respectively. Second, matrices \( \Pi_k \), \( \Gamma_k^1 \), ..., \( \Gamma_k^{p_k} \) and \( \Gamma_k(\rho_k(t)) = \sum_{i=1}^{p_k} \rho_k^i(t)\Gamma_k^i \) are obtained by solving equation (26), for \( k \in N \). Then, the state-space matrices of the controller are obtained by substituting the augmented matrices \( K \), \( \text{col}(L_1, L_2) \), \( \Pi \), and \( \Gamma \) in (12).

## 5. Illustrative Examples

In this section, two numerical examples are given to illustrate the efficacy of the proposed cooperative control design method of this paper.

**Example 1.** Consider a group of 4 agents modeled as second-order LPV polytopic systems dependent on three scheduling variables. The state-space matrices of the agents and the exosystem are generated in MATLAB as follows:

\[
A^1 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 6 \\ -7 & 0 \end{bmatrix},
\]

\[
A^2 = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 7 \\ -4 & 0 \end{bmatrix},
\]

\[
A^3 = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -1 \\ -3 & 0 \end{bmatrix},
\]

\[
A^4 = \begin{bmatrix} 8 & 2 \\ -1 & -3 \end{bmatrix},
\]

\[
C^1 = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 10 \\ 9 & -9 \end{bmatrix},
\]

\[
C^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 8 & 1 \\ -3 & -5 \end{bmatrix},
\]

\[
C^3 = \begin{bmatrix} 8 & 2 \\ -1 & -3 \end{bmatrix},
\]

\[
C^4 = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 10 \\ 9 & -9 \end{bmatrix}.
\]
\(C_1 \equiv [-1 \ 7],\)

\(C_2 \equiv [4 \ 7],\)

\(C_3 \equiv [0 \ 8],\)

\(E_1 \equiv \begin{bmatrix} 7 & -9 \\ 3 & 6 \end{bmatrix},\)

\(E_2 \equiv \begin{bmatrix} -2 & -5 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix},\)

\(E_3 \equiv \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 4 \\ 10 & 7 \end{bmatrix},\)

\(F_1 \equiv \begin{bmatrix} -7 & 7 \\ 8 & 6 \end{bmatrix},\)

\(F_2 \equiv \begin{bmatrix} -4 & -8 \\ 8 & 6 \end{bmatrix},\)

\(F_3 \equiv \begin{bmatrix} -9 & -5 \\ -3 & -3 \end{bmatrix},\)

\(B_1 \equiv \begin{bmatrix} -4 & -1 & 10 \\ 9 & 1 & -4 \end{bmatrix},\)

\(D_1 \equiv \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 7 & -1 \\ -7 & 0 & -8 \end{bmatrix},\)

\(D_2 \equiv \begin{bmatrix} -9 & 1 & -9 \end{bmatrix},\)

\(S_1 \equiv \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -10 \\ 10 & 0 \end{bmatrix},\)

\(S_2 \equiv \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -10 \\ 10 & 0 \end{bmatrix},\)

\(S_3 \equiv \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -5 \\ 5 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.\)

where \(\alpha_k^i \leq 1/6\) and \(\omega_k^i \leq 1\) are randomly generated positive numbers for \(k \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}\) and \(i \in \{1, 2\}\) and \(\rho_k^1(t) = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{3} \rho_k^i(t)\). Matrices \(K_x\) and \(\text{col}(L_1, L_2)\) are determined to satisfy Assumptions 3 and 5 by solving the matrix inequality problems given in (9) and (10), respectively. These matrices are determined to be

\[ K_x = \text{diag}([3 \ 2], [3 \ 2], [3 \ 2], [3 \ 2]), \]

\[ \begin{bmatrix} L_1 \\ L_2 \end{bmatrix} = \text{diag} \begin{bmatrix} 1.2961 & -0.5672 \\ -0.1216 & -4.971 \\ 0.0952 & -0.408 \end{bmatrix}, \]

\[ \begin{bmatrix} 1.2961 & -0.5672 \\ -0.1216 & -4.971 \\ 0.0952 & -0.408 \end{bmatrix}, \]

\[ \begin{bmatrix} 1.2961 & -0.5672 \\ -0.1216 & -4.971 \\ 0.0952 & -0.408 \end{bmatrix}, \]

\[ \begin{bmatrix} 1.2961 & -0.5672 \\ -0.1216 & -4.971 \\ 0.0952 & -0.408 \end{bmatrix}. \]

Since inequality (32) in Lemma 10 is satisfied, (26) has a solution determined to be

\[ \Pi_k = \text{diag} \begin{bmatrix} -0.1019 & -2.4683 \\ -2.0822 & 1.6170 \end{bmatrix}, \]

\[ \begin{bmatrix} -0.1019 & -2.4683 \\ -2.0822 & 1.6170 \end{bmatrix}, \]

\[ \begin{bmatrix} -0.1019 & -2.4683 \\ -2.0822 & 1.6170 \end{bmatrix}, \]

\[ \begin{bmatrix} -0.1019 & -2.4683 \\ -2.0822 & 1.6170 \end{bmatrix}. \]

We assume that the vertices of the matrices for all the agents are the same, that is, \(\Omega_m^i = \Omega_1^i\) and \(\Lambda_m^i = \Lambda_1^i\), for \(m \in \{2, 3, 4\}\) and \(i \in \{1, 2\}\), where \(\Omega \in \{A, C, E, F, C_e^i, F_e, S\}\) and \(\Lambda \in \{B, D, D_e^i\}\). We consider sinusoidal disturbance inputs, as given in [14, 15, 24]. In addition, the following trajectories are considered for the scheduling variables:

\[ \rho_k^i(t) = \alpha^i_k \left(1 - \sin(\omega^i_k t)\right), \]
\[ \Gamma^2_k = \text{diag} \begin{bmatrix} -0.4412 & 1.9580 \\ 7.9419 & 18.1930 \\ -1.1895 & 0.6685 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ \Gamma^3_k = \text{diag} \begin{bmatrix} -0.4412 & 1.9580 \\ 7.9419 & 18.1930 \\ -1.1895 & 0.6685 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ \Gamma^4_k = \text{diag} \begin{bmatrix} -0.4412 & 1.9580 \\ 7.9419 & 18.1930 \\ -1.1895 & 0.6685 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ \Gamma^5_k = \text{diag} \begin{bmatrix} -0.4412 & 1.9580 \\ 7.9419 & 18.1930 \\ -1.1895 & 0.6685 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ \Gamma^6_k = \text{diag} \begin{bmatrix} -0.4412 & 1.9580 \\ 7.9419 & 18.1930 \\ -1.1895 & 0.6685 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ \Gamma^7_k = \text{diag} \begin{bmatrix} -0.4412 & 1.9580 \\ 7.9419 & 18.1930 \\ -1.1895 & 0.6685 \end{bmatrix}, \]
(36)

where \( \Gamma_k(p(t)) = \sum_{i=1}^{3} \rho_i(t) \Gamma^i_k \). Objectives 1 and 2 are met by controller (12) whose state-space matrices are calculated using (19). The tracking errors for the closed-loop system using the designed controllers are shown in Figure 1 and guaranteed to be asymptotically stable with arbitrary initial conditions for agents and exogenous systems. The control actions that the agents’ controllers provide are shown in Figure 2.

Example 2. Consider a group of 6 agents modeled as second-order polytopic LPV systems dependent on 4 scheduling variables. The state-space matrices of the agents and the exosystem are generated in MATLAB as follows:

\[ A^1_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -5 & 6 \\ -3 & -2 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ A^2_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -6 & -3 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ A^3_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -3 \\ 6 & -10 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ A^4_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -5 & 0 \\ -10 & -4 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ C^1_1 = [0 -8], \]
\[ C^2_1 = [0 -6], \]
\[ C^3_1 = [3 -8], \]
\[ C^4_1 = [2 -8], \]
\[ C^5_1 = [10 -8], \]
\[ C^6_1 = [2 1], \]
\[ C^7_1 = [0 -7], \]
\[ C^8_1 = [10 -8], \]
\[ C^9_1 = [0 -7], \]
\[ E^1_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 4 & 6 \end{bmatrix}. \]
\[ \mathbf{E}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -7 & -4 \\ -6 & 10 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ \mathbf{E}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -7 \\ -7 & 10 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ \mathbf{E}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -7 \\ -7 & 10 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ \mathbf{F}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ \mathbf{F}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ \mathbf{F}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ \mathbf{F}_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -9 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ \mathbf{F}_5 = \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ \mathbf{F}_6 = \begin{bmatrix} -7 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ \mathbf{F}_7 = \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ \mathbf{F}_8 = \begin{bmatrix} 9 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ \mathbf{B}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ \mathbf{D}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ \mathbf{D}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 9 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ \mathbf{S}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -7 \\ 7 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \]
\[ \mathbf{S}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -2 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}. \]

Similar to Example 1, we assume that the vertices of all the agents’ matrices are the same. In addition, the scheduling variables are continuous functions as

\[ \rho_k(t) = \alpha_k \left( 1 - \sin \left( \omega_k t \right) \right), \]

where \( \alpha_k \leq \frac{1}{8} \) and \( \omega_k \leq 1 \) are randomly generated positive numbers for \( k \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\} \) and \( i \in \{1, 2, 3\} \) and \( \rho_k(t) = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{3} \rho_k(t) \mathbf{S}_i \). Matrices \( \mathbf{K}_i \) and col(\( \mathbf{L}_1, \mathbf{L}_2 \)) satisfying Assumptions 3 and 5 are determined by solving the matrix inequality problems given in (9) and (10), respectively. In addition, \( \Pi \) and \( \Gamma(\rho(t)) = \sum_{i=1}^{3} \rho_k(t) \mathbf{S}_i \) are calculated by solving the linear equation (26). Objective 2 is satisfied by the controller (12) with the state-space matrices given by (19). Considering an arbitrary bounded initial condition for agents and the exogenous systems, the tracking errors associated with 6 agents are depicted in Figure 3. The figure illustrates that tracking is achieved by all the agents in the presence of external disturbances with agents dynamics affected by parameter variability.

6. Conclusion

In this paper, we have addressed the cooperative output regulation problem for heterogeneous multiagent LPV systems. The parameter-varying controllers are designed assuming that the controllers are fully connected and exchange information while the agents are decoupled from each other. To design the controllers, a time-varying Sylvester equation needs to be solved, and the solution to it is obtained for the case, where the agents dynamics are described by polytopic LPV models. The future prospect of this work is to address the case of controllers’ communication described by a spanning tree graph.

Competing Interests

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

References


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