

Research Article Cooperative Guidance Law with Predefined-Time Convergence for Multimissile Systems

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To intercept the maneuvering target through multimissile cooperation, predefined-time cooperative guidance (PTCG) law is presented with constraints including the impact time and the line-of-sight (LOS) angle. In order to achieve simultaneous interception, we propose a PTCG law in the LOS direction based on a predefined-time consensus protocol, which guarantees the achievement of consensus on each missile's impact time within the predefined time. Furthermore, to ensure the predefined-time convergence of the LOS angle and the predefined-time convergence of the LOS angular rate, a PTCG law with a fixed-time disturbance observer (FxTDO) is presented in the normal direction of the LOS. Compared with the traditional finite-time or fixed-time cooperative guidance laws, the proposed PTCG law predefines the upper bound of the settling time as an explicit parameter. Finally, the simulation results of the PTCG law verify the efficiency of the proposed method.

1. Introduction

In recent years, with the continuous development of modern military technology, the maneuverability of the target has been remarkably improved, and thus the single-missile combat mode has become more difficult. To overcome this problem, the multimissile cooperative interception is put forward, which has received extensive attention [1, 2].

The cooperative interception guidance law requires stringent impact time constraints for multiple missiles to achieve simultaneous arrival. Driven by the requirement, two methods are adopted to complete the cooperative interception mission: the individual homing guidance law [1–14] with the impact time constraint and the cooperative guidance law [15–20]. The individual homing guidance law does not consider communication among missiles. To simultaneously reach the target position, Jeon [4] first proposed the impact time control guidance law (ITCG), which uses the error feedback of the impact time to adjust the coefficient of proportional navigation guidance. Then, a new ITCG was designed in [6], which combines the impact time error feedback with the sliding mode control. Nevertheless, in the aforementioned guidance laws, the impact time is predefined and each missile hits the target according to its own guidance law. Hence, the impact time is not adjustable in flight.

By contrast, the cooperative guidance law deals with the problem of cooperative interception involving communication among multiple missiles. In [15], based on the leaderfollower scheme, a leader-oriented cooperative guidance law was proposed. The leader can coordinate the impact time of followers by the cooperative guidance law. But this method requires high real-time quality and high reliability for the communication of the leader. To tackle this problem, the distributed cooperative guidance law was presented in [16-20], which can relax the topological communication requirement and has stronger robustness. To improve the information transmission capacity, consensus protocols for multiagent systems [21–23] were introduced into the design of distributed cooperative guidance. By utilizing the consensus protocol algorithm, agents can reach a consensus based on local information. To guarantee the multiple missiles achieve a consensus at a faster convergence rate in the cooperative interception missions, the finite-time consensus was put

forward. In [24], Lv presented a distributed finite-time cooperative guidance (FTCG) law with angle constraints, which utilizes the finite-time consensus to improve the convergence rate and robustness. Then, the FTCG law with an acceleration saturation constraint was proposed in [25], which is characterized by its fast and accurate convergence of the guidance system. Furthermore, since the acceleration of the target is unmeasurable during the flight, it could be considered as a disturbance. And the influence of the unmeasurable disturbance can be reduced by the disturbance observer. In [26], Guo and Liang presented a nonsingular fast terminal sliding mode cooperative guidance algorithm without the target maneuver information, where the unknown target acceleration is estimated by a finite-time disturbance observer. Moreover, a new FTCG law based on the finite-time consensus protocol with LOS angle constraints was presented in [27], which uses an extended state disturbance observer. Then, the FTCG law [27] was introduced into a three-dimensional (3D) multimissile guidance system in [28]. However, for the disturbance observers and guidance laws in [24-29], their convergence time is affected by initial conditions and increases unboundedly as the initial errors increase, which dramatically affects the accuracy of the system.

Fixed-time control was put forward and gained increasing attention following finite-time control. For a fixedtime stable system, a constant independent of initial conditions can uniformly bound the system's convergence time. In the existing research literature, fixed-time control schemes were adopted to design the cooperative guidance law because fixed-time stability enjoys fast convergence and strong robustness. In [30], a distributed fixed-time cooperative guidance (FxTCG) law with an FxTDO was proposed, which guarantees that each missile can reach a consensus within the fixed time. Subsequently, Zhang and Ma [31] developed an adaptive FxTCG law with LOS angle constraints. However, the negative power term exists in the consensus protocol in [31]. To solve this problem, a new FxTCG law was presented in [32], which utilizes an adaptive fixed-time convergence reaching law together with a novel fixed-time consensus protocol. Moreover, Chen et al. [33] proposed a 3D FxTCG law with LOS angle constraints for maneuvering target interception, which can achieve faster convergence and high precision. Lin et al. [34] presented a 3D FxTCG law with impact angle constraints for the simultaneous arrival problem, which can set the desired impact time in advance. However, the selection of fixed convergence time is not arbitrary, and there is usually a complex relationship between the tunable parameters and the fixed convergence time.

To overcome the above drawbacks, Sanchez-Torres originally proposed the predefined-time stability theory in [35]. Predefined-time stability has an obvious advantage in the system settling time. The settling time's upper limit can be arbitrarily set by choosing appropriate controller parameters. Predefined-time sliding mode controllers for dynamic systems were designed in [36–38]. Subsequently, the predefined-time control was used for controlling the attitude of rigid spacecraft and tracking robotic manipulators in [39, 40]. Besides, a novel predefined-time consensus

protocol was proposed in [41], which ensures a predefinedtime consensus for static topologies.

Motivated by the mentioned above, this paper is dedicated to deducing a PTCG law with the LOS angle constraint as well as the impact time constraint. The main contributions are summarized below:

- A novel formulation of the predefined-time convergence is proposed. The parameter setting of the given predefined-time convergence is more flexible and convenient, and the limit of the settling time is treated as an explicit tuning parameter.
- (2) A new predefined-time consensus protocol is presented with strict proof. And in the LOS direction, according to the above protocol, a PTCG law is proposed for multimissile intercepting the target simultaneously on the basis of predefined-time convergence as well as the given algebraic graph.
- (3) In the normal direction of LOS, a PTCG sliding mode control law with an FxTDO is presented to ensure that the LOS angle and the LOS angle rate can realize predefined-time convergence. Considering the uncertain disturbance, an FxTDO is used to estimate the disturbance and compensate for the PTCG law.

The remainder of this paper is structured as follows: Section 2 introduces the cooperative guidance model and preliminary lemmas. A PTCG law is presented with strict proof in Section 3. The numerical simulation results and analysis are given in Section 4. Section 5 concludes this paper.

2. Problem Formulation and Preliminaries

2.1. Problem Formulation. Considering *n* missiles intercept a maneuvering target simultaneously. Figure 1 shows a 2D planar engagement. The subscript *i*, (i = 1, 2, ..., n) denotes the *i*-th missile. M_i and *T* indicate the missiles and target, respectively. XOY is the inertial frame.

The relative kinematic model is given by

r

$$\dot{r}_i = V_T \cos(q_i - \theta_T) - V_{Mi} \cos(q_i - \theta_{Mi}), \qquad (1)$$

$$\dot{q}_i \dot{q}_i = -V_T \sin\left(q_i - \theta_T\right) + V_{Mi} \sin\left(q_i - \theta_{Mi}\right), \qquad (2)$$

$$\dot{\theta}_{Mi} = \frac{a_{Mi}}{V_{Mi}},$$

$$\dot{\theta}_T = \frac{a_T}{V_T},$$
(3)

where V_{Mi} and V_T indicate the velocity of the missiles and the target, respectively. r_i is the distance from the missile to the target. θ_{Mi} and θ_T denote the flight path angles of the missile and the target, respectively. The LOS angle is denoted as q_i . a_{Mi} and a_T represent the *i*-th missile's and the target's normal accelerations.

The derivatives of equations (1) and (2) can be obtained as



FIGURE 1: Planar guidance geometry.

$$\ddot{r}_{i} = r_{i}\dot{q}_{i}^{2} + u_{ri} - w_{ri},$$

$$q_{i} = -\frac{2\dot{r}_{i}\dot{q}_{i}}{r_{i}} - \frac{u_{qi}}{r_{i}} + \frac{w_{qi}}{r_{i}},$$
(4)

where u_{ri} and u_{qi} are the *i*-th missile's acceleration components along the LOS direction and the normal direction of the LOS. w_{ri} and w_{qi} are the acceleration components of the target along the LOS direction and the normal direction of the LOS. In the actual interception mission, w_{ri} can be considered as zero.

Define $x_{1i} = r_i$, $x_{2i} = \dot{r}_i$, $x_{3i} = q_i - q_{fi}$, and $x_{4i} = \dot{x}_{3i} = \dot{q}_i$. Then, the guidance system is given as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_{1i} = x_{2i}, \\ \dot{x}_{2i} = x_{1i}x_{4i}^2 - u_{ri}, \\ \dot{x}_{3i} = x_{4i}, \\ \dot{x}_{4i} = -\frac{2x_{2i}}{x_{1i}}x_{4i} - \frac{u_{qi}}{x_{1i}} + \frac{w_{qi}}{x_{1i}}, \end{cases}$$
(5)

where

$$t_{gi} = -\frac{r_i}{\dot{r_i}}.$$
 (6)

Differentiating equation (6) yields

$$\dot{t}_{gi} = -1 + \frac{x_{1i}^2 x_{4i}^2}{x_{2i}^2} - \frac{x_{1i}}{x_{2i}^2} u_{ri}.$$
(7)

Consider t_{gi} as a new state variable, and the dynamic equations are rewritten as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{t}_{gi} = -1 + \frac{x_{1i}^2 x_{4i}^2}{x_{2i}^2} - \frac{x_{1i}}{x_{2i}^2} u_{ri}, \\ \dot{x}_{3i} = x_{4i}, \\ \dot{x}_{4i} = -\frac{2x_{2i}}{x_{1i}} x_{4i} - \frac{u_{qi}}{x_{1i}} + \frac{w_{qi}}{x_{1i}}. \end{cases}$$

$$\tag{8}$$

Define \tilde{u}_{ri} as a new variable

$$\widetilde{u}_{ri} = \frac{x_{1i}^2 x_{4i}^2}{x_{2i}^2} - \frac{x_{1i}}{x_{2i}^2} u_{ri}.$$
(9)

Substitute equation (9) into equation (8), and we have

$$\begin{cases} t_{gi} = -1 + \tilde{u}_{ri}, \\ \dot{x}_{3i} = x_{4i}, \\ \dot{x}_{4i} = -\frac{2x_{2i}}{x_{1i}} x_{4i} - \frac{u_{qi}}{x_{1i}} + \frac{w_{qi}}{x_{1i}}. \end{cases}$$
(10)

The research objectives of this paper are shown below. In the LOS direction, we design u_{ri} to make sure that t_{gi} can reach a consensus within a predefined time. u_{qi} is proposed to ensure that x_{3i} and x_{4i} can approach zero within a predefined time.

2.2. Graph Theory. Assume *n* missiles participate in the interception mission cooperatively. G(N, I, W) is the graph of information communication among the multiple missiles. G(N, I, W) is formed by node $N = \{N_1, N_2, \ldots, N_n\}$, $I \subseteq \{(N_i, N_j): N_i, N_j \in N\}$, and a weighted adjacency matrix $W = [c_{ij}] \in R_{n \times n}$. When the information is transferred from N_j to N_i , the weight of edge c_{ij} satisfies $c_{ij} \neq 0$. Otherwise, $c_{ij} = 0$. It is worth noting that G is undigraph if $(N_i, N_j) \in I \Leftrightarrow (N_j, N_i) \in I$. The adjacency matrix W has symmetry in the undigraph G. If the undigraph G is connected, there is a path connecting every two nodes [27]. The neighbor set of N_i can be obtained as

$$M_i = \left\{ j \in N \colon c_{ij} \neq 0 \right\} = \left\{ j \in N \colon \left(N_i, N_j\right) \in I \right\}$$
(11)

2.3. Preliminaries

Definition 1 (see [40-42]). Consider a nonlinear system:

$$\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), \vartheta), \quad x(0) = x_0,$$
 (12)

where $x(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ denotes the system state variable and $\vartheta \in \mathbb{R}^l$ is the design parameter of system (12). System (12) is said to converge to the origin within a finite time if there exists a settling time function $T: \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$, such that, for every $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, the solution of system (12) satisfies $\lim_{t \longrightarrow T(x_0)} \Psi(t, x_0) = 0$. For a globally finite-time convergent system (12), if for any initial state $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, there exists a bounded convergence time T_{\max} irrelevant to initial conditions satisfying $T(x_0) < T_{\max}$, the origin has global fixed-time convergence.

Definition 2 (see [42–44]). The origin of the fixed-time stable system (12) is predefined-time stable if, for any convergence time $T_c \in R_+$, there is $\vartheta \in R^l$ such that the settling-time function of (12) satisfies $T(\mathbf{x}_0) \leq T_c$. $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$

Definition 3 (see [38]). Define a continuous function κ : $R_+ \longrightarrow [0, 1)$. It belongs to class- ∇ , and there is $\kappa \in \nabla_1$. κ is monotonically increasing such that $\kappa(0) = 0$ and $\lim_{k \to \infty} \kappa(r) = 1$.

Notion 1 (see [38]). For a given vector $\mathbf{x} = [x_1, x_2, ..., x_n]^T$, it can be obtained that $\operatorname{sig}^a(x) = |x|^a \operatorname{sign}(x)$ and $\operatorname{sig}^a(\mathbf{x}) = [|x_1|^a \operatorname{sign}(x_1), |x_2|^a \quad \operatorname{sign}(x_2), ..., |x_n|^a \operatorname{sign}(x_n)]^T$, where $\operatorname{sign}(x)$ denotes the sign function.

Lemma 1 (see [38]). For system (12), define an unbounded Lyapunov function V(x) and let $\kappa \in \nabla_1$ be differentiable in $R \setminus \{0\}$. For any predefined convergence time $T_c \in R_+$ and $\vartheta(t, x_0) \in R^l$, the time-derivative of V(x) satisfies

$$\dot{V}(x) \le -\frac{1}{(1-p)T_c} \frac{(\kappa(V))^p}{\kappa'(V)}, \quad \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\},$$
(13)

where 0 , such that system (12) is predefined-time stable.

Lemma 2. [45]. Define a Lyapunov function V(x) and let $\kappa(V) = V^{\xi}/V^{\xi} + \chi$, with $\chi > 0$, such that

$$\dot{V} \leq -\frac{1}{\xi \chi (1-p)T_c} V^{\xi p-\xi+1} \left(V^{\xi} + \chi \right)^{2-p} + \Omega, \qquad (14)$$

for any solution $\vartheta(t, x_0)$ of system (12), where $T_c > 0$ denotes a predefined-time parameter, $\chi > 0$ is a tuning parameter to adjust the convergence speed, $\Omega > 0$ is a small positive number, and $0 < \xi < 1$ stands for an exponential coefficient. Then, system (12) origin has global predefined-time stability, with predefined time T_c .

Proof. Firstly, system (14) can be transformed into a differential equation:

$$\dot{V} = -\frac{1}{\xi \chi (1-p)T_c} V^{\xi p - \xi + 1} \left(V^{\xi} + \chi \right)^{2-p}.$$
(15)

By integrating equation (15), there is

$$T(x_{0}) = -\int_{V(x_{0})}^{0} \frac{dV}{(1/\xi\chi(1-p)T_{c})V^{\xi p-\xi+1}(V^{\xi}+\Upsilon)^{2-p}}$$

$$= \xi\chi(1-p)T_{c}\int_{0}^{V(x_{0})} \frac{dV}{V^{\xi p-\xi+1}(V^{\mu}+\chi)^{2-p}}$$

$$= (1-p)T_{c}\int_{0}^{V(x_{0})} \frac{\xi\chi V^{\xi-1}/(V^{\xi}+\chi)^{2}}{(V^{\xi}/V^{\xi}+\chi)^{p}}dV$$

$$= T_{c}\left\{\left(\frac{V^{\xi}}{V^{\xi}+\chi}\right)^{1-p}\right\}\Big|_{0}^{V(x_{0})}.$$

$$= T_{c} \cdot \left(\frac{V^{\xi}(x_{0})}{V^{\xi}(x_{0})+\chi}\right)^{1-p}$$

(16)

It is obvious that $\lim_{V(x_0) \longrightarrow \infty} (V^{\xi}(x_0)/V^{\xi}(x_0) + \chi) = 1$ such that $\lim_{V(x_0) \longrightarrow \infty} T(x_0) = T_c$. Therefore, the upper bound of the settling time is T_c .

Theorem 1. Define a radially unbounded Lyapunov function V(x) and let $\kappa(V) = (2/\pi)\arctan(V)$ such that

$$\dot{V} \le -\left(\frac{2}{\pi}\right)^{p-1} \frac{\left(1+V^2\right)}{(1-p)T_c} (\arctan V)^p + \Omega,$$
 (17)

for any solution $\vartheta(t, x_0)$ of system (12), where $T_c > 0$, $0 , and <math>\Omega > 0$ is a small positive number. Then, the origin of system (12) has predefined-time stability, with predefined time T_c .

Proof. Firstly, system (17) can be transferred as a differential equation:

$$\dot{V} = -\left(\frac{2}{\pi}\right)^{p-1} \frac{\left(1+V^2\right)}{(1-p)T_c} (\arctan V)^p.$$
(18)

By integrating with equation (18), there is

$$T(x_{0}) = -\int_{V(x_{0})}^{0} \frac{dV}{(1/(1-p)T_{c})(\pi(1+V^{2})((2/\pi)\arctan(V))^{p}/2)}$$

$$= \frac{2(1-p)T_{c}}{\pi} \int_{0}^{V(x_{0})} \frac{dV}{(1+V^{2})((2/\pi)\arctan(V))^{p}}$$

$$= (1-p)T_{c} \int_{0}^{V(x_{0})} \frac{2/\pi(1+V^{2})}{((2/\pi)\arctan(V))^{p}} dV$$

$$= T_{c} \left\{ \left(\frac{2}{\pi}\arctan(V)\right)^{1-p} \right\} \Big|_{0}^{V(x_{0})}$$

$$= T_{c} \cdot \left(\frac{2}{\pi}\arctan(V(x_{0}))\right)^{1-p}.$$
 (19)

It is obvious that $\lim_{V(\mathbf{x}_0) \longrightarrow \infty} 2/\pi \arctan(V(x_0)) = 1$ such that $\lim_{V(\mathbf{x}_0) \longrightarrow \infty} T(x_0) = T_c$. Therefore, the bound of the settling time is T_c . Then, the origin of system (12) has predefined-time stability, with predefined time T_c . \Box

Lemma 3 (see [46]). For any
$$y_i \in R, i = 1, 2, ..., n$$

 $(\sum_{i=1}^{n} |y_i|)^p \le \sum_{i=1}^{n} |y_i|^p$, where $p \in R^+$ and $p \in (0, 1]$.

Lemma 4 (see [46]). If $\eta \in R^+$ and $\eta > 1$, for any $x, y \in R$, there exists $|x + y|^{\eta} \le 2^{\eta-1} |x^{\eta} + y^{\eta}|$.

3. Predefined-Time Cooperative Guidance

In this section, a novel predefined-time cooperative guidance law with impact angle constraints is designed, which consists of two parts: the cooperative guidance law u_{ri} in the LOS direction and the cooperative guidance law u_{qi} in the normal direction of LOS. And the strict proofs of the designed cooperative guidance law u_{ri} and u_{qi} are given. The structure diagram of the predefined-time cooperative guidance system is shown in Figure 2.

3.1. Guidance Law in the LOS Direction. From equation (5), the guidance system is formulated as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_{1i} = x_{2i}, \\ \dot{x}_{2i} = x_{1i}x_{4i}^2 - u_{ri}. \end{cases}$$
(20)

The impact time t_{Fi} can be presented as

$$t_{Fi} = t + t_{gi}.$$
 (21)

Assume each missile can simultaneously arrive. t_{gi} will achieve a consensus when t_{Fi} is convergent. t_{Fi} can be rewritten as

$$\dot{t}_{Fi} = \tilde{u}_{ri} \tag{22}$$

According to Definition 1, under the protocol \tilde{u}_{ri} , t_{Fi} can uniformly converge within the predefined time.

Theorem 2. Suppose that the undigraph of system (12) is connected. There is a consensus protocol as shown in equation (23) which can make system (12) achieve predefined-time stability:

$$\widetilde{u}_{ri} = \left(\frac{2}{\pi}\right)^{\delta - 1} \frac{\left(1 + \left(\frac{1}{4}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{n}a_{ij}(x_{j} - x_{i})^{2}\right)^{2}\right)}{(1 - \delta)T_{c1}} \cdot \frac{\left(\arctan\left(\frac{1}{4}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{n}a_{ij}(x_{j} - x_{i})^{2}\right)\right)^{\delta}}{\left|\sum_{i=1}^{n}a_{ij}(x_{j} - x_{i})\right|} \operatorname{sign}^{(23)} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n}a_{ij}(x_{j} - x_{i})\right),$$

where $0 < \delta < 1$.

Proof. Consider the following Lyapunov candidate:

$$V(x) = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij} (x_j - x_i)^2.$$
 (24)

Taking the derivative of V(x) yields

$$\begin{split} \dot{V}_{i} &= \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{\partial V(x)}{\partial x_{i}} \dot{x}_{i} \\ &= -\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_{ij} (x_{j} - x_{i}) \left(\frac{2}{\pi}\right)^{\delta - 1} \frac{\left(1 + \left(1/4 \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij} (x_{j} - x_{i})^{2}\right)\right)^{\delta}}{(1 - \delta) T_{c1}} \\ &\times \frac{\left(\arctan\left(1/4 \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij} (x_{j} - x_{i})\right)\right)}{\left|\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_{ij} (x_{j} - x_{i})\right|} \text{ sign} \\ &\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_{ij} (x_{j} - x_{i})\right) \\ &= -\left|\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_{ij} (x_{j} - x_{i})\right| \left(\frac{2}{\pi}\right)^{\delta - 1} \\ &\frac{\left(1 + \left(1/4 \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij} (x_{j} - x_{i})\right)^{2}\right)^{2}\right)}{(1 - \delta) T_{c1}} \\ &\times \frac{\left(\arctan\left(1/4 \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij} (x_{j} - x_{i})\right)^{2}\right)^{\delta}}{\left|\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_{ij} (x_{j} - x_{i})\right|} \\ &\leq -\left(\frac{2}{\pi}\right)^{\delta - 1} \frac{\left(1 + \left(1/4 \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij} (x_{j} - x_{i})^{2}\right)\right)^{\delta}}{(1 - \delta) T_{c1}} \\ &\times \left(\arctan\left(\frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij} (x_{j} - x_{i})^{2}\right)\right)^{\delta}. \end{split}$$
(25)

Therefore, equation (24) can be transformed into

$$\dot{V}_{i} \leq -\left(\frac{2}{\pi}\right)^{\delta-1} \frac{\left(1 + \left(1/4\sum_{i=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{n}a_{ij}(x_{j} - x_{i})^{2}\right)^{2}\right)}{(1 - \delta)T_{c1}} \\ \cdot \left(\arctan\left(\frac{1}{4}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{n}a_{ij}(x_{j} - x_{i})^{2}\right)\right)^{\delta} \qquad (26)$$
$$\leq -\left(\frac{2}{\pi}\right)^{\delta-1} \frac{(1 + V^{2})}{(1 - \delta)T_{c1}} \cdot (\arctan(V))^{\delta}.$$

According to Theorem 1, system (23) can achieve predefined-time stability by the proposed \tilde{u}_{ri} within the predefined time T_{c1} , and this completes the proof of Theorem 2.



FIGURE 2: Structure diagram of the cooperative guidance system.

Theorem 3. Suppose that the undigraph is connected in the multiple-missile system. The guidance law u_{ri} as shown in equation (27) can make u_{ri} achieve the predefined-time consensus:

$$u_{ri} = x_{1i} x_{4i}^2 - \frac{x_{2i}^2}{x_{1i}} \widetilde{u}_{ri}, \qquad (27)$$

where

$$\widetilde{u}_{ri} = \left(\frac{2}{\pi}\right)^{\delta-1} \frac{\left(1 + \left(1/4\sum_{i=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{n}a_{ij}\left((x_{1i}/x_{2i}) - (x_{1j}/x_{2j})\right)^{2}\right)^{2}\right)}{(1-\delta)T_{c1}}$$

$$\cdot \frac{\left(\arctan\left(1/4\sum_{i=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{n}a_{ij}\left(a_{ij}\left((x_{1i}/x_{2i}) - (x_{1j}/x_{2j})\right)^{2}\right)^{2}\right)\right)^{\delta}}{\left|\sum_{i=1}^{n}a_{ij}\left((x_{1i}/x_{2i}) - (x_{1j}/x_{2j})\right)\right|} \operatorname{sign}\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n}a_{ij}\left(\frac{x_{1i}}{x_{2i}} - \frac{x_{1j}}{x_{2j}}\right)\right).$$
(28)

Proof. Combine the derivative of t_{Fi} with equation (5), and we have

$$\begin{split} \dot{t}_{Fi} &= \frac{\dot{x}_{4i}^2}{\dot{x}_{2i}^2} - \frac{x_{1i}}{\dot{x}_{2i}^2} u_{ri} \\ &= \left(\frac{2}{\pi}\right)^{\delta - 1} \frac{\left(1 + \left(1/4\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} \left(t_{Fj} - t_{Fi}\right)^2\right)^2\right)}{(1 - \delta)T_{c1}} \\ &\cdot \frac{\left(\arctan\left(1/4\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} \left(t_{Fj} - t_{Fi}\right)^2\right)\right)^{\delta}}{\left|\sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij} \left(t_{Fj} - t_{Fi}\right)\right|} \operatorname{sign}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij} \left(t_{Fj} - t_{Fi}\right)\right). \end{split}$$
(29)

According to Theorem 2, t_{Fi} can reach a consensus if $t > t_{Fi}$. It demonstrates that each missile can exchange information in the guidance process and simultaneously intercept the target.

Remark 1. The proposed guidance law u_{ri} ensures that t_{Fi} can reach a consensus within the predefined time T_{c1} depending on the consensus protocol in equation (23). The convergence time can be adjusted based on the predefined time T_{c1} . In addition, by changing the magnitude of the design parameter δ , the convergence speed can be further improved.

3.2. Fixed-Time Disturbance Observer. The cooperative guidance model of equation (5) in the normal direction of LOS can be presented as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_{3i} = x_{4i}, \\ \dot{x}_{4i} = -\frac{2x_{2i}}{x_{1i}} x_{4i} - \frac{u_{qi}}{x_{1i}} + D_{qi}, \end{cases}$$
(30)

where $D_{qi} = w_{qi}/x_{1i}$ denotes the disturbance caused by the target acceleration.

However, the external disturbance D_{qi} is unmeasurable during the flight. In order to solve the problem, an FxTDO is used for the estimation of the external disturbance D_{qi} . Then, the estimated disturbance can compensate for the system. The disturbance observer (see [47]) is defined as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{z}_{1} = z_{2} + \theta \varepsilon_{1} \rho \left(x_{2} - z_{1}, \eta_{1}, \eta_{2} \right) - \frac{2 x_{2i}}{x_{1i}} x_{4i} - \frac{u_{qi}}{x_{1i}}, \\ \dot{z}_{2} = \theta^{2} \varepsilon_{2} \rho \left(x_{2} - z_{1}, \eta_{1}, \eta_{2} \right), \end{cases}$$
(31)

where z_1 and z_2 are estimated values of x_2 and the disturbance D_{qi} , respectively. $\eta_1, \eta_2, \varphi, \varepsilon_1$, and ε_2 are the design parameters, satisfying $\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2 > 0$, $\varepsilon_1 \ge 2\sqrt{\varepsilon_2}$, $\varphi \ge 0$, $\eta_1 \in (0.5, 1)$, and $\eta_2 \in (1, 2)$. $\rho(\cdot)$ as the correction term is defined by

$$\rho(x, \eta_1, \eta_2) = \begin{cases} \operatorname{sig}^{\eta_1} x, |x| < 1, \\ \operatorname{sig}^{\eta_2} x, |x| \ge 1. \end{cases}$$
(32)

The stability proof of the above disturbance observer can be found in [47]. In conclusion, the observation errors of $|x_{2i} - z_{1i}|$ and $|D_{qi} - z_{2i}|$ are fixed-time convergent to the origin, and the fixed time T_{di} satisfies

$$T_{di}(x) \le \frac{4}{\varphi} \left(\frac{1}{1 - \eta_1} + \frac{1}{\eta_2 - 1} \right).$$
(33)

Furthermore, the actual convergence time of the FxTDO is required to be smaller than the convergence time of the guidance system.

3.3. Guidance Law in the Normal Direction of LOS. A new predefined-time guidance law in the normal direction of LOS is proposed to ensure that each missile can achieve the desired LOS angle. Then, a new sliding mode surface is presented as follows:

$$s_{i} = x_{4i} + \gamma_{0} \operatorname{sig}^{\mu p_{1} - \mu + 1}(x_{3i}) (|x_{3i}|^{\mu} + \Upsilon)^{2 - p_{1}}, \qquad (34)$$

where $\gamma_0 = 1/(\mu \Upsilon (1 - p_1)T_{c2}), 1 < \Upsilon < 2, 0.5 < \mu < 1, T_{c2} > 0$, and $0 < p_1 < 1$. Therefore, we can obtain the following results.

Theorem 4. For the cooperative guidance model in (30), the sliding mode surface can be designed as (34). Then, $x_{3i} = 0$ and $x_{4i} = 0$ can be achieved within the predefined time T_{c2} .

Proof. Suppose the controller can guarantee $s_i = 0$ regardless of external disturbances. Then, we have

$$x_{4i} + \gamma_0 \operatorname{sig}^{\mu p_1 - \mu + 1} (x_{3i}) (|x_{3i}|^{\mu} + \Upsilon)^{2 - p_1} = 0,$$

$$x_{4i} = -\gamma_0 \operatorname{sig}^{\mu p_1 - \mu + 1} (x_{3i}) (|x_{3i}|^{\mu} + \Upsilon)^{2 - p_1}.$$
(35)

Consider a Lyapunov function candidate as $V_{1i} = |x_{3i}|$, and the time-derivative of V_{1i} is

$$V_{1i} = \dot{x}_{3i} \operatorname{sign} (x_{3i})$$

= $-\gamma_0 |x_{3i}|^{\mu p_1 - \mu + 1} (|x_{3i}|^{\mu} + \Upsilon)^{2 - p_1}$
= $-\frac{1}{\mu \Upsilon (1 - p_1) T_{c2}} V_{1i}^{\mu p_1 - \mu + 1} (V_{1i}^{\mu} + \Upsilon)^{2 - p_1}.$ (36)

Based on Lemma 1, the proposed sliding mode surface is predefined-time stable. $x_{3i} \rightarrow 0$ and $x_{4i} \rightarrow 0$ are obtained in the predefined time T_{c2} . This completes the proof of Theorem 4.

With the sliding mode surface in equation (34), the predefined-time cooperative guidance law can be designed as

$$u_{i} = \frac{1}{x_{1i}} \left\{ \frac{\frac{1}{(1-p_{2})T_{c3}} \left(\frac{2}{\pi}\right)^{p_{2}-1} \left(\arctan\left(|s_{i}|\right)\right)^{p_{2}} \left(1+s_{i}^{2}\right) \operatorname{sign}\left(s_{i}\right)}{\frac{-2x_{2i}}{x_{1i}} x_{4i} + z_{2i} + F_{i}} \right\},$$
(37)

where z_{2i} is the output signal of the FxTDO. F_i represents the term related to the derivative of s_i . Then, we have

$$\dot{s} = \dot{x}_{4i} + x_{4i} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \gamma_0 |x_{3i}|^{\mu p_1 - \mu} (|x_{3i}|^{\mu} + \Upsilon)^{2 - p_1} + \gamma_0 \operatorname{sig}^{\mu p_1 - \mu + 1} (x_{3i}) (2 - p_1) \\ (|x_{3i}|^{\mu} + \Upsilon)^{1 - p_1} \mu \operatorname{sig}^{\mu - 1} (x_{3i}) \end{array} \right\},$$
(38)

where

$$F_{i} = x_{4i} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \gamma_{0} |x_{3i}|^{\mu p_{1} - \mu} (|x_{3i}|^{\mu} + \Upsilon)^{2 - p_{1}} \\ + \operatorname{sig}^{\mu p_{1} - \mu + 1} (x_{3i}) (2 - p_{1}) (|x_{3i}|^{\mu} + \Upsilon)^{1 - p_{1}} \mu |x_{3i}|^{\mu - 1} \end{array} \right\}.$$
(39)

Theorem 5. If the PTCG law is designed as (37), then the sliding mode surface $s_i = 0$ can be achieved within the predefined time.

Proof. Substituting equation (30) into \dot{s}_i yields

$$\dot{s}_i = a_i + b_i u_{qi} + D_{qi} + F_i,$$
 (40)

where $a_i = -(2x_{2i}x_{4i}/x_{1i})$ and $b_i = -1/x_{1i}$.

Bring equation (37) into equation (40), and we have $\dot{s}_i = a_i + b_i u_{qi} + D_{qi} + F_i$

$$= -\left\{ \left(\frac{2}{\pi}\right)^{p_2 - 1} \frac{\left(\arctan\left(|s_i|\right)\right)^{p_2} \left(1 + s_i^2\right) \operatorname{sign}\left(s_i\right)}{(1 - p_2) T_{c3}} + a_i + z_{2i} + F_i \right\}, + a_i + D_{qi} + F_i = -\left(\frac{2}{\pi}\right)^{p_2 - 1} \frac{\left(\arctan\left(|s_i|\right)\right)^{p_2} \left(1 + s_i^2\right) \operatorname{sign}\left(s_i\right)}{(1 - p_2) T_{c3}} - z_{2i} + D_{qi}.$$
(41)



FIGURE 3: Communication topology among the missiles.

Considering the Lyapunov function,

$$V_{2i} = \left| s_i \right| \tag{42}$$

Taking the derivative of V_{2i} yields

 $\dot{V}_{2i} = \dot{s}_i \operatorname{sign}(\dot{s}_i)$

$$= -\frac{2^{p_2-1}}{\pi^{p_2-1}} \frac{\left(1+|s_i|^2\right)}{\left(1-p_2\right)T_{c3}} \left(\arctan\left(|s_i|\right)\right)^{p_2} + (D_i - z_{2i})\operatorname{sign}\left(s_i\right)$$
$$= -\frac{2^{p_2-1}}{\pi^{p_2-1}} \frac{\left(1+V_{2i}^2\right)}{\left(1-p_2\right)T_{c3}} \left(\arctan\left(V_{2i}\right)\right)^{p_2} + (D_i - z_{2i})\operatorname{sign}\left(V_{2i}\right).$$
(43)

For the disturbance observer in (31), the observation error $|D_{qi} - z_{2i}|$ will approach zero in a fixed time. Thus, there exists a convergence time $T_{dr i}$, satisfying $T_{dr i} < T_{c3}$, and we can get

$$\left| D_{qi} - z_{2i} \right| \le N, \quad t > T_{dr \ i}, \tag{44}$$

where N is a small constant.

Then, (43) can be simplified as

$$\dot{V}_{2i} \leq -\frac{2^{p_2-1}}{\pi^{p_2-1}} \frac{\left(1+|s_i|^2\right)}{\left(1-p_2\right)T_{c3}} \left(\arctan\left(|s_i|\right)\right)^{p_2} + N$$

$$\leq -\frac{2^{p_2-1}}{\pi^{p_2-1}} \frac{\left(1+V_{2i}^2\right)}{\left(1-p_2\right)T_{c3}} \left(\arctan\left(V_{2i}\right)\right)^{p_2} + \Omega.$$
(45)

By utilizing Theorem 1, the sliding mode surface s = 0 can be reached within the predefined time T_{c3} . This finishes the proof of Theorem 5, which means that the design of the PTCG law for the multimissile system is completed. Consequently, the PTCG law can achieve predefined-time stability with the proposed u_i in the predefined-time $T_c = T_{c2} + T_{c3}$.

Remark 2. By employing the FxTDO, the disturbance information can be obtained, which enhances the guidance accuracy of the given PTCG law. In fact, considering the convergence time of the observer can affect the convergence time of the whole system, the predefined convergence time of the guidance system should be $T_c = T_{c2} + T_{c3} + T_{dr i}$ in the existence of uncertainties. And the system reaches the sliding mode surface s = 0 within the predefined-time interval $T_{c3} + T_{dr i}$. However, $T_{dr i}$ can be covered by T_{c3} when

the predefined time T_{c3} is larger than the convergence time from the initial state of the system to the sliding surface according to Theorem 5. Furthermore, it is necessary to select an appropriate T_{c2} or T_{c3} as the upper bound. The adjustments of the guidance law parameters T_{c2} , T_{c3} , p_1 , and p_2 are based on the simulation results.

4. Simulations and Results

To verify the effectiveness of the given PTCG, the case where three missiles intercept a moving target is simulated. The initial values of the target are set as $V_T = 300$ m/s and $a_T = 45 \cos(t)$ m/s². The communication topology of the missiles is shown in Figure 3, and the weighted adjacency matrix of the communication topology is A = [010; 101; 010]. The lateral acceleration of three interceptors satisfies $a_{i \max} = 200$ m/s². The initial values of this scenario are given in Table 1.

The parameters of the proposed PTCG law and FxTDO are given in Table 2.

Simulation results of the comparative experiment by the proposed PTCG law and by the finite-time cooperative guidance law in [27] in the same circumstance are presented in Figures 4–11 and Table 3.

From Figure 4 and Table 3, it is demonstrated that both PTCG and FTCG can intercept the maneuvering target simultaneously. Furthermore, the proposed PTCG has higher precision and shorter interception time than the FTCG in the mission.

As shown in Figure 5, the LOS angles q_i can converge to the desired values by these two cooperative guidance laws. And all, the LOS rates can approach zero as shown in Figure 6. More importantly, Figures 5 and 6 also show that the convergence times of q_i and q_{di} are both less than 5 s, and the convergence curves are smoother under the PTCG. Meanwhile, it is observed that the given PTCG can ensure that the guidance system achieves predefined-time stability within 9.5 s. In terms of the convergence rate, PTCG converges faster than FTCG.

As illustrated in Figure 7, the sliding mode surface of the PTCG achieves predefined-time stability within 4.5 s. Hence, the predefined-time stability of the given PTCG law is verified by the above results, and the proposed PTCG performs better than the FTCG. Although the sliding dynamics is broken in the terminal flight phase, that is, the absolute value of the sliding mode surface does not equal

Missile	Initial position (m, m)	Heading angle (°)	Desired angle (°)	Initial velocity (m/s)
M1	(5940, -1040)	11	-6	610
M2	(4900, -850)	-10	0	610
M3	(4105, 995)	-10	5	600
Target	(0, 0)	60	—	300

TABLE 1: Initial values of the missiles and target.

TABLE 2: Parameters of the PTCG.

T_{c}	T_{c1}	δ	p_1	μ	γ	T_{c2}	p_2	T_{c3}	η_1	η_2	ε_1	ε_2	θ
9.5	1.5	0.95	0.8	0.8	1.6	4.5	0.4	5	0.7	1.5	10	20	3



FIGURE 4: Curves of relative distance.

TABLE	3:	Final	parameters.
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	Missile	M1	M2	M3
PTCG	Miss distance (m)	0.05	0.09	0.16
	Impact LOS angle (°)	5.001	0.001	-6.001
	Interception time (s)	18.71	18.71	18.71
	Miss distance (m)	0.34	0.47	0.45
FTCG	Impact LOS angle (°)	5.19	0.17	-6.13
	Interception time (s)	21.26	21.26	21.26

zero, it owns to the finite sampling frequency of the mathematical simulation. When the relative distance between missile and target turns to a small amount, the LOS angle velocity becomes large, which is indicated from equation (30), and the absolute value of the sliding mode variable increases.

In Figure 8, a relatively large acceleration command u_{qi} for the three missiles was given in the initial phase of flight, since a larger acceleration command can drive \dot{q} to zero at a



FIGURE 5: Curves of LOS angle.



FIGURE 6: Curves of LOS angular velocity.



FIGURE: Curves of sliding mode surface.



FIGURE 8: Acceleration command u_{qi} .

faster rate so that q can converge to the desired value more quickly. As shown in Figure 9, by using the PTCG, it takes around 0.4 s for t_{gi} to reach a consensus, which is faster than using the FTCG. Furthermore, Figure 9 demonstrates that the PTCG can achieve predefined-time stability within 1.5 s.

The acceleration command u_{ri} is shown in Figure 10. u_{ri} is utilized to regulate t_{gi} of the multiple missiles so that t_{gi} realizes uniform convergence within a predefined time. u_{ri} is



FIGURE 9: Time-to-go for three missiles.

quite large at the beginning, which reflects the fact that the less t_{gi} it takes for the system to reach a consensus, the more energy it needs. In Figure 11, it is observed that the external disturbance is estimated accurately by the FxTDO, and all convergence time T_{dri} is less than 0.2 s. In conclusion, the proposed PTCG law enjoys predefined-time convergence compared with the FTCG law. Hence, the guidance system has a faster convergence rate and higher precision by the proposed PTCG.



FIGURE 10: Acceleration command u_{ri} .



FIGURE 11: Disturbance estimation results.

5. Conclusion

In this paper, multiple missiles intercepting a maneuvering target have been solved by the proposed PTCG law. Under a novel predefined-time consensus protocol, a PTCG law along the LOS direction is designed. The designed PTCG law enables the time-to-go of the multiple missiles to reach a consensus in the predefined time. Considering the disturbance caused by the target maneuver, a PTCG law with an FxTDO in the normal direction of the LOS direction is presented. Thus, the guidance system can guarantee predefined-time stability. Meanwhile, strict proof of predefined-time stability for the proposed PTCG law is presented. Finally, the designed PTCG law was validated by numerical simulations, which indicates the strong robustness and

adaptability of the proposed PTCG. In the future work, we will further improve the proposed algorithm by considering switching communication topologies and interception of hypersonic vehicles in the design of the cooperative guidance law.

Data Availability

The data used to support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon request.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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