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Adaptive neural network synchronization for uncertain strict-feedback chaotic systems subject to dead-zone input

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Abstract

In this paper, an adaptive neural network (NN) synchronization controller is designed for two identical strict-feedback chaotic systems (SFCs) subject to dead-zone input. The dead-zone models together with the system uncertainties are approximated by NNs. The dynamic surface control (DSC) approach is applied in the synchronization controller design, and the traditional problem of “explosion of complexity” that usually occurs in the backstepping design can be avoided. The proposed synchronization method guarantees the synchronization errors tend to an arbitrarily small region. Finally, this paper presents two simulation examples to confirm the effectiveness and the robustness of the proposed control method.

Keywords: Neural network; Chaos synchronization; Dead-zone

1 Introduction

Chaos synchronization (CS) has been widely investigated based on the results of [1]. A lot of works have been given on this theme because of its possible application in many fields such as communications, information processing [2–18]. For example, Liu et al. [19] discussed robust synchronization of uncertain complex networks by using impulsive control. Yu and Cao [20] addressed the synchronization of chaotic systems with time delay. The synchronization and anti-synchronization via active control approach on fractional chaotic financial system were studied by Huang et al. in [21]. On the basis of control theory, a lot of methods, such as adaptive control [22], sliding control [23, 24], pinning control [25], intermittent control [26, 27], have been developed for CS.

In fact, it is known that system uncertainty is unavoidable in many practical applications, which always affects the control performance. On the other hand, fuzzy logic systems (FLSs) or neural networks (NNs) are usually employed to approximate unknown nonlinear functions. A major advantage of these systems is that they can be used to tackle nonlinear systems that have mismatching conditions and the uncertainties which are linearly parameterized. Therefore, approximation-based adaptive control based on NNs or FLSs is an interesting issue [28–36]. According to the NN model, backstepping control of an uncertain chaotic system is given in [37]. In [38], the author researches convergence for strict-feedback systems with functional uncertainties by using NN learning control methods.

In addition, the dead zone and dynamic disturbances are the most important nonlinearities in most of industrial processes such as electric servomotors, hydraulic actuators, and motor. To tackle unknown dead zones and disturbances, some adaptive control techniques were proposed [39–42]. In [39], nonlinear systems with dead zone are studied based on dynamical surface control (DSC).

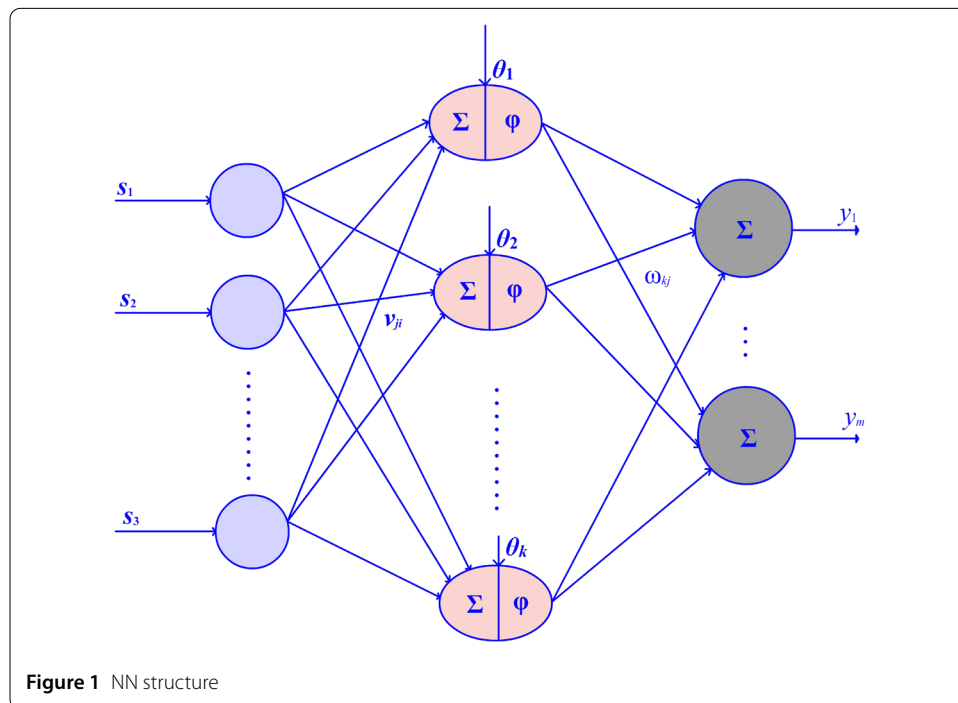
Generally speaking, there are two reasons to motivate the research of this paper. One is that, in the existing backstepping control of nonlinear systems, the problem “explosion of terms” was not well solved (for example, see [5]). The other is that the control of strict-feedback chaotic systems (SFCSS) subject to dead-zone input has been rarely investigated. This paper will propose the synchronization control methods for a class of uncertain SFCSS with dead-zone input and disturbances. The NN is used to approximate the unknown nonlinear function due to its good approximation performance. It should be emphasized that by using NN, the exact mathematical model of the controlled nonlinear systems can be unknown. By the Lyapunov function method, the synchronization error will remain in a small neighborhood of zero.

2 Description of the NN

A three-layer MIMO NN is employed to approximate an unknown continuous nonlinear function. The structure of this kind of NNs is depicted in Fig. 1.

Suppose that there are η , k , and m neurons, then the mathematical model of the above NN is expressed by

$$y_p(s, w_p) = \sum_{j=1}^k \omega_{pj} \varphi_{pj} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{\eta} v_{ji} s_i + \theta_j \right) = w_p^T \omega_p(\cdot), \tag{1}$$



in which $p = 1, \dots, m$,

$$w_p = \begin{bmatrix} \omega_{p1} \\ \vdots \\ \omega_{pk} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \omega_p = \begin{bmatrix} \varphi_{p1}(\sum_{i=1}^{\eta} v_{1i} s_i + \theta_1) \\ \vdots \\ \varphi_{ph}(\sum_{i=1}^{\eta} v_{hi} s_i + \theta_k) \end{bmatrix},$$

y_k represents the output. Usually, the function $\varphi(\cdot)$ is selected as

$$\varphi(\xi) = \frac{e^{\xi} - e^{-\xi}}{e^{\xi} + e^{-\xi}}.$$

Denote

$$w = \begin{bmatrix} w_1^T \\ w_2^T \\ \vdots \\ w_m^T \end{bmatrix}, \quad \vartheta = \begin{bmatrix} \omega_1(\cdot) & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \omega_2(\cdot) & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \omega_m(\cdot) \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_m \end{bmatrix},$$

NN (1) can be expressed by

$$y = w^T \vartheta. \tag{2}$$

NNs (2) will be employed to estimate some unknown continuous nonlinear functions $f(x(t))$ in the next section as the form

$$f(x(t)) = w^{*T} \vartheta(x(t)) + \varepsilon(x(t)), \tag{3}$$

where $\varepsilon(x(t))$ denotes the approximation error, and the ideal approximate parameter w^* is defined as

$$w^* = \arg \min_w [\max |w^T \vartheta(x(t)) - f(x(t))|].$$

3 Controller design and stability analysis

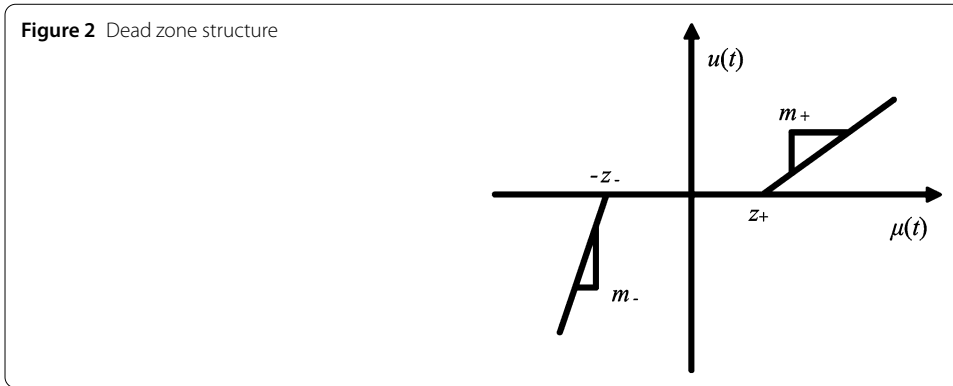
3.1 Problem description

Consider the following uncertain SFCSs as the master system:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{y}_k(t) = f_k(\underline{y}_k(t)) + y_{k+1}(t), & k = 1, \dots, n-1, \\ \dot{y}_n(t) = f_n(\underline{y}_n(t)), \\ x(t) = y_1(t), \end{cases} \tag{4}$$

with $\underline{y}_k(t) = [y_1(t), \dots, y_k(t)]^T \in \mathbb{R}^k$, $f_k(\cdot)$ is assumed to be unknown, and $x(t)$ is the output variable. The slave SFCS is given by

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\hat{y}}_k(t) = f_k(\hat{\underline{y}}_k(t)) + \hat{y}_{k+1}(t) + d_k(t), & k = 1, \dots, n-1, \\ \dot{\hat{y}}_n(t) = f_n(\hat{\underline{y}}_n(t)) + u(t) + d_n(t), \\ \hat{x}(t) = \hat{y}_1(t), \end{cases} \tag{5}$$



where $\hat{y}_k(t) = [\hat{y}_1(t), \dots, \hat{y}_k(t)]^T \in \mathbb{R}^k$, $u(t) \in \mathbb{R}$ is the control input and the output of the dead zone, $d_k(t)$ denotes an unknown external disturbance satisfying $|d_k(t)| \leq d_k^*$, where d_k^* is a positive constant. The dead-zone input $u(t)$ is described as

$$u(t) = D(\mu(t)) = \begin{cases} m_+(\mu(t) - z_+), & \mu(t) \geq z_+, \\ 0, & -z_- < \mu(t) < z_+, \\ m_-(\mu(t) + z_-), & \mu(t) \leq -z_-, \end{cases} \tag{6}$$

where $\mu(t)$ denotes the dead-zone input, m_+ and m_- respectively represent the right and left slopes, z_+ and z_- are breakpoints. In addition, the above four parameters are all positive. This framework of the dead zone is depicted in Fig. 2.

The dead-zone input can be further modeled by

$$u(t) = m(t)\mu(t) + b(t), \tag{7}$$

where

$$b(t) = \begin{cases} -m(t)z_+, & \text{if } \mu(t) \geq z_+, \\ -m(t)\mu(t), & \text{if } -z_- < \mu(t) < z_+, \\ m(t)z_-, & \text{if } \mu(t) \leq -z_-, \end{cases} \tag{8}$$

and

$$m(t) = \begin{cases} m_+, & \text{if } \mu(t) > 0, \\ m_-, & \text{if } \mu(t) \leq 0. \end{cases} \tag{9}$$

Remark 1 It should be mentioned that the dead-zone model (6) is representative because the conditions that $m_+ \neq m_-$ and $z_+ \neq z_-$ are involved. The dead-zone models were used in literature [43–45]. Besides, we know that $b(t)$ is a bounded function. In fact, denote $\bar{b} = \max\{m_+z_+, m_+z_-, m_-z_+, m_-z_-\}$, it follows from (8) that $|b(t)| \leq \bar{b}$.

3.2 Synchronization controller implement

In this part, we will give the detailed procedure of the adaptive NN controller design by using the backstepping control approach. The objective is to design aNN synchronization

control such that the variable $\hat{x}(t)$ synchronizes the signal $x(t)$. The backstepping design procedure is given as follows.

Step 1. Define the synchronization error as

$$e_1(t) = x(t) - \hat{x}(t). \tag{10}$$

Introducing a virtual signal $\bar{h}_1(t)$, then the updated synchronization error is expressed by

$$\zeta_1(t) = e_1(t) - \bar{h}_1(t). \tag{11}$$

It follows from (4), (5), and (11) that

$$\dot{\zeta}_1(t) = f_1(\underline{y}_1(t)) - f_1(\hat{\underline{y}}_1(t)) + y_2(t) - \hat{y}_2(t) - d_1(t) - \dot{\bar{h}}_1(t). \tag{12}$$

Unlike the traditional backstepping control approach, in this paper, we will introduce a virtual signal $\xi_2(t)$:

$$\beta_2 \dot{\xi}_2(t) + \xi_2(t) = \delta_2(t), \tag{13}$$

in which $\xi_2(0) = \delta_2(0)$, where $\delta_2(t)$ is a signal to be designed and $\beta_2 > 0$ is a constant.

Define $e_2(t) = y_2(t) - \hat{y}_2(t) - \xi_2(t)$. Let

$$\dot{\bar{h}}_1(t) = -\sigma_1 \bar{h}_1(t) + \xi_2(t) - \delta_2(t), \tag{14}$$

where σ_1 is a positive design parameter. As a result, we have

$$\dot{\zeta}_1(t) = f_1(\underline{y}_1(t)) - f_1(\hat{\underline{y}}_1(t)) + y_2(t) - \hat{y}_2(t) - d_1(t) + \sigma_1 \bar{h}_1(t) - \xi_2(t) + \delta_2(t). \tag{15}$$

Let

$$\zeta_2(t) = e_2(t) - \bar{h}_2(t). \tag{16}$$

Then we choose the signal $\delta_2(t)$ as

$$\delta_2(t) = -\sigma_1 e(t) - \bar{h}_2(t) - \frac{1}{2} \zeta_1(t) \hat{\Xi} \vartheta_1^T(e_1(t)) \vartheta_1(e_1(t)), \tag{17}$$

where $\Xi = \|\varpi^*\|^2$, $\tilde{\Xi} = \Xi - \hat{\Xi}$ with $\hat{\Xi}$ being the estimation of Ξ .

Let

$$g_1(t) = f_1(\underline{y}_1(t)) - f_1(\hat{\underline{y}}_1(t)). \tag{18}$$

By employing NN (2), the unknown function $g_1(t)$ can be approximated by

$$g_1(t) = \varpi^{*T} \vartheta(e_1(t)) + \varepsilon(e_1(t)). \tag{19}$$

From (17), (18), and (19), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\zeta}_1(t) &= -\sigma_1 \zeta_1(t) + \zeta_2(t) + \varpi^{*T} \vartheta_1(e_1(t)) + \varepsilon_1(e_1(t)) \\ &\quad - d_1(t) - \frac{1}{2} \zeta_1(t) \hat{\Xi} \vartheta_1^T(e_1(t)) \vartheta_1(e_1(t)). \end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

Step k ($k = 2, 3, \dots, n - 1$). Let $e_k(t) = y_k(t) - \hat{y}_k(t) - \xi_k(t)$. Then the updated synchronization error is given as

$$\zeta_k(t) = e_k(t) - \bar{h}_k(t). \tag{21}$$

Differentiating $\zeta_k(t)$ yields

$$\dot{\zeta}_k(t) = f_k(\underline{y}_k(t)) - f_k(\hat{\underline{y}}_k(t)) + y_{k+1}(t) - \hat{y}_{k+1}(t) - d_k(t) - \dot{\xi}_k(t) - \dot{\bar{h}}_k(t). \tag{22}$$

The virtual signal $\xi_{k+1}(t)$ can be designed as

$$\beta_{k+1} \dot{\xi}_{k+1}(t) + \xi_{k+1}(t) = \delta_{k+1}(t), \quad \xi_{k+1}(0) = \delta_{k+1}(0). \tag{23}$$

Choosing

$$\dot{\bar{h}}_k(t) = -\sigma_k \bar{h}_k(t) + \xi_{k+1}(t) - \delta_{k+1}(t), \tag{24}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\zeta}_k(t) &= f_k(\underline{y}_k(t)) - f_k(\hat{\underline{y}}_k(t)) + y_{k+1}(t) - \hat{y}_{k+1}(t) - d_k(t) \\ &\quad - \dot{\xi}_k(t) + \sigma_k \bar{h}_k(t) - \xi_{k+1}(t) + \delta_{k+1}(t). \end{aligned} \tag{25}$$

Let $\zeta_{k+1}(t) = e_{k+1}(t) - \bar{h}_{k+1}(t)$, and the signal $\delta_{k+1}(t)$ is chosen as

$$\delta_{k+1}(t) = -\sigma_k e_k(t) - \bar{h}_{k+1}(t) + \dot{\xi}_k(t) - \frac{1}{2} \zeta_k(t) \hat{\Xi} \vartheta_k^T(\underline{e}_k(t)) \vartheta_k(\underline{e}_k(t)) - \zeta_{k-1}(t), \tag{26}$$

where $\underline{e}_k(t) = [e_1(t), \dots, e_k(t)]^T$.

Substituting (26) into (25), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\zeta}_k(t) &= -\sigma_k \zeta_k(t) + \zeta_{k+1}(t) + \varpi^{*T} \vartheta_k(\underline{e}_k(t)) + \varepsilon_k(\underline{e}_k(t)) \\ &\quad - d_k(t) - \frac{1}{2} \zeta_k(t) \hat{\Xi} \vartheta_k^T(\underline{e}_k(t)) \vartheta_k(\underline{e}_k(t)) - \zeta_{k-1}(t). \end{aligned} \tag{27}$$

Step n. Let $e_n(t) = y_n(t) - \hat{y}_n(t) - \xi_n(t)$. Then the updated synchronization error is given as

$$\zeta_n(t) = e_n(t) - \bar{h}_n(t). \tag{28}$$

Differentiating $\zeta_k(t)$, we have

$$\dot{\zeta}_n(t) = f_n(\underline{y}_n(t)) - f_n(\hat{\underline{y}}_n(t)) - u(t) - d_n(t) - \dot{\xi}_n(t) - \dot{\bar{h}}_n(t). \tag{29}$$

Choosing

$$\dot{h}_n(t) = -\sigma_n h_n(t), \tag{30}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\zeta}_n(t) &= \varpi^{*T} \vartheta_n(\underline{e}_n(t)) + \varepsilon_n(\underline{e}_n(t)) - m(t)\mu(t) - b(t) \\ &\quad - d_n(t) - \dot{\xi}_n(t) + \sigma_n h_n(t). \end{aligned} \tag{31}$$

The control law $\mu(t)$ is chosen as

$$\mu(t) = \frac{1}{m(t)} \left[\sigma_n e_n(t) - \dot{\xi}_n(t) + \frac{1}{2} \zeta_n(t) \hat{\Xi} \vartheta_n^T(\underline{e}_n(t)) \vartheta_n(\underline{e}_n(t)) + \zeta_{n-1}(t) \right]. \tag{32}$$

Substituting (32) into (31), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\zeta}_n(t) &= -\sigma_n \zeta_n(t) + \varpi^{*T} \vartheta_n(\underline{e}_n(t)) + \varepsilon_n(\underline{e}_n(t)) \\ &\quad - d_n(t) - \frac{1}{2} \zeta_n(t) \hat{\Xi} \vartheta_n^T(\underline{e}_n(t)) \vartheta_n(\underline{e}_n(t)) - \zeta_{n-1}(t) - b(t). \end{aligned} \tag{33}$$

The adaptation law can be given as

$$\dot{\hat{\Xi}} = \sum_{k=1}^n \left(\frac{\gamma}{2} \zeta_k^2 \right) \vartheta_k^T(\underline{e}_k(t)) \vartheta_k(\underline{e}_k(t)) - \sigma_0 \hat{\Xi}, \tag{34}$$

where γ and σ_0 are design positive constants.

3.3 Stability analysis

Theorem 1 Consider SFCSs (4) and (5). If the virtual signal is given as (22) and (23), the control law is chosen as (32), the adaptive law is given as (34), then all signals are uniformly bounded, and the synchronization error remains in an arbitrarily small region of zero.

Proof Let

$$V(t) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n \zeta_k^2(t) + \frac{1}{2\gamma} \tilde{\Xi}^2. \tag{35}$$

By differentiating V along (20),(27), and (33), we can gain

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}(t) &= \sum_{k=1}^n \zeta_k(t) \dot{\zeta}_k(t) - \frac{1}{\gamma} \tilde{\Xi} \dot{\tilde{\Xi}} \\ &= - \sum_{k=1}^n \sigma_k \zeta_k^2(t) + \sum_{k=1}^n \zeta_k(t) \varpi^{*T} \vartheta_k(\underline{e}_k(t)) + \sum_{k=1}^n \zeta_k(t) \varepsilon_k(\underline{e}_k(t)) \\ &\quad - \sum_{k=1}^n \zeta_k(t) d_k(t) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n \zeta_k^2(t) \hat{\Xi} \vartheta_k^T(\underline{e}_k(t)) \vartheta_k(\underline{e}_k(t)) \\ &\quad - \zeta_n(t) b(t) - \frac{1}{\gamma} \tilde{\Xi} \dot{\tilde{\Xi}}. \end{aligned} \tag{36}$$

By applying the following inequalities:

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta_k(t)\varpi^{*T}(t)\vartheta_k(\underline{e}_k(t)) &\leq \frac{1}{2}\zeta_k^2(t)\varpi^{*T}\varpi^*\vartheta_k^T(\underline{e}_k(t))\vartheta_k(\underline{e}_k(t)) + \frac{1}{2} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2}\zeta_k^2(t)\Xi\vartheta_k^T(\underline{e}_k(t))\vartheta_k(\underline{e}_k(t)) + \frac{1}{2}, \end{aligned} \tag{37}$$

$$\zeta_k(t)\varepsilon_k(\underline{e}_k(t)) \leq \frac{1}{2}\zeta_k^2(t) + \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_k^{*2}, \tag{38}$$

$$\zeta_k(t)d_k(t) \leq \frac{1}{2}\zeta_k^2(t) + \frac{1}{2}d_k^{*2}, \tag{39}$$

$$\zeta_n(t)b(t) \leq \frac{1}{2}\zeta_n^2(t) + \frac{1}{2}b^2, \tag{40}$$

thus

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}(t) &= -\sum_{k=1}^n(\sigma_k - 1)\zeta_k^2(t) + \frac{1}{2}\zeta_n^2(t) + \frac{1}{2}\sum_{k=1}^n\zeta_k^2(t)\tilde{\Xi}\vartheta_k^T(\underline{e}_k(t))\vartheta_k(\underline{e}_k(t)) \\ &\quad + \varrho_1 - \frac{1}{\gamma}\tilde{\Xi}\hat{\Xi}, \end{aligned} \tag{41}$$

where $\varrho_1 = \frac{n}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\sum_{k=1}^n\varepsilon_k^{*2} + \frac{1}{2}\sum_{k=1}^nd_k^{*2} + \frac{1}{2}b^2$.

Substituting (34) into (41), then

$$\dot{V}(t) \leq -\sum_{k=1}^n(\sigma_k - 1)\zeta_k^2(t) + \frac{1}{2}\zeta_n^2(t) + \varrho_1 + \frac{\sigma_0}{\gamma}\tilde{\Xi}\hat{\Xi}. \tag{42}$$

Note that

$$\frac{\sigma_0}{\gamma}\tilde{\Xi}\hat{\Xi} = \frac{\sigma_0}{\gamma}\tilde{\Xi}(\Xi - \tilde{\Xi}) \leq -\frac{\sigma_0}{2\gamma}\tilde{\Xi}^2 + \frac{\sigma_0}{2\gamma}\Xi^2. \tag{43}$$

Then (42) can be rearranged as

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}(t) &\leq -\sum_{k=1}^n(\sigma_k - 1)\zeta_k^2(t) + \frac{1}{2}\zeta_n^2(t) + \varrho_1 - \frac{\sigma_0}{2\gamma}\tilde{\Xi}^2 + \frac{\sigma_0}{2\gamma}\Xi^2 \\ &\leq -\sum_{k=1}^n\left(\sigma_k - \frac{3}{2}\right)\zeta_k^2(t) + \varrho_2 - \frac{\sigma_0}{2\gamma}\tilde{\Xi}^2 \\ &\leq -cV(t) + \varrho_2, \end{aligned} \tag{44}$$

where $\varrho_2 = \frac{\sigma_0}{2\gamma}\Xi^2 + \varrho_1$, $c = \min\{2\sigma_k - 3, \sigma_0\}$.

From (44), we have

$$V(t) \leq \left(V(t_0) - \frac{\varrho_2}{c}\right)e^{-c(t-t_0)} + \frac{\varrho_2}{c}. \tag{45}$$

Thus, according to (45), all signals are uniformly bounded and the synchronization error will remain in a small neighborhood of zero. \square

4 Simulation studies

There are two examples included in this section.

4.1 Example A

Let Duffing’s system [14] be the master system:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{y}_1(t) = y_2(t), \\ \dot{y}_2(t) = y_1(t) - y_1^3(t) - 0.15y_2(t) + 0.3 \cos(t), \\ \dot{x}(t) = y_1(t), \end{cases} \tag{46}$$

with initial conditions $[y_1(0), y_2(0)] = [2, -1]$. The chaotic behavior of system (46) can be seen in Fig. 3.

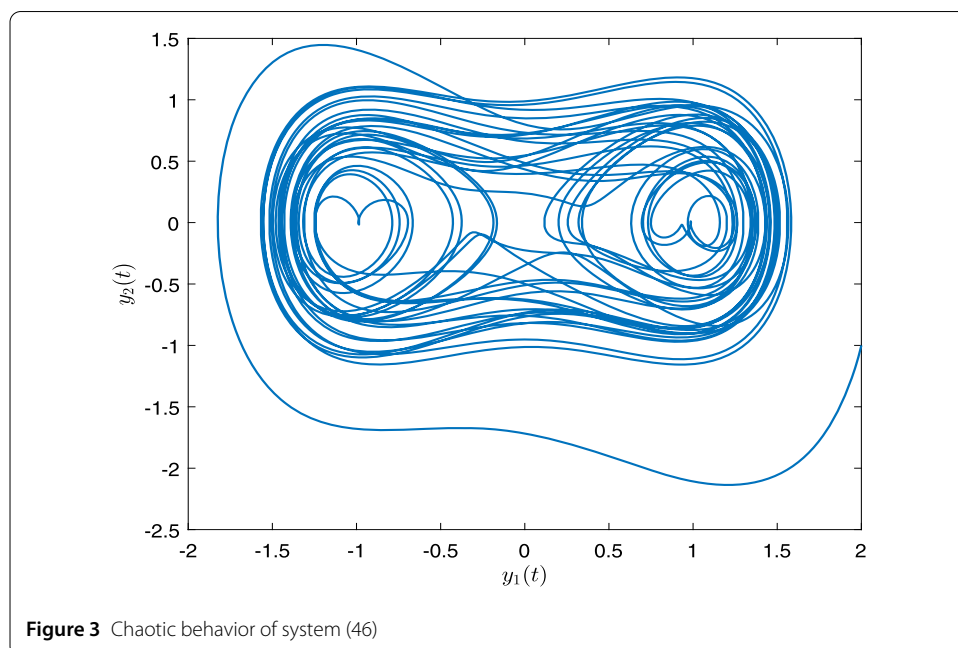
The slave system is given as:

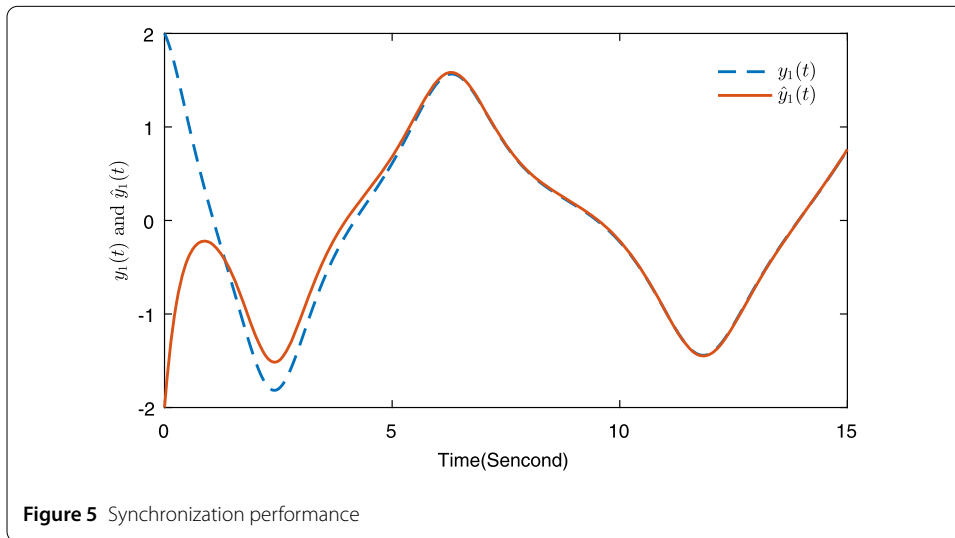
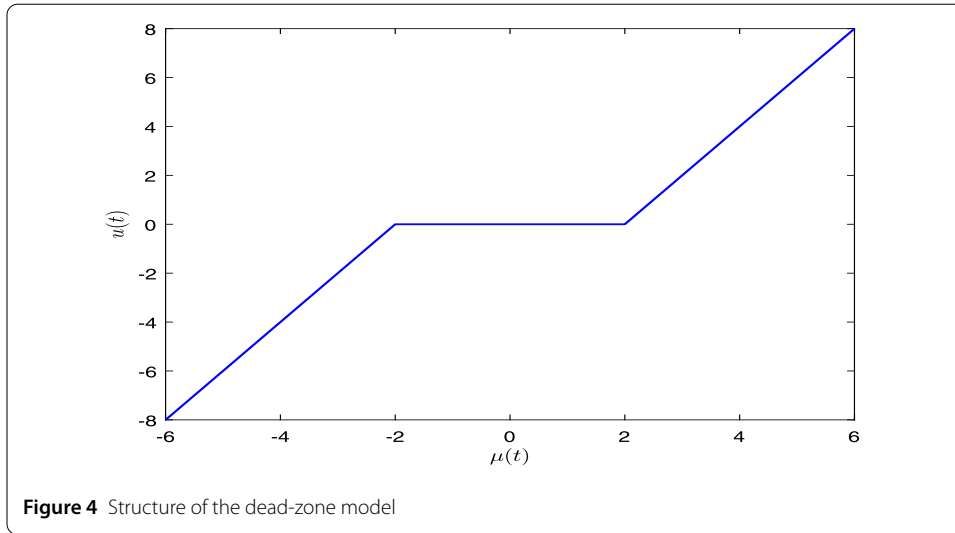
$$\begin{cases} \dot{\hat{y}}_1(t) = \hat{y}_2(t) + d_1(t), \\ \dot{\hat{y}}_2(t) = \hat{y}_1(t) - \hat{y}_1^3(t) - 0.15\hat{y}_2(t) + 0.3 \cos(t) + u(t) + d_2(t), \\ \dot{\hat{x}}(t) = \hat{y}_1(t), \end{cases} \tag{47}$$

with initial conditions $[\hat{y}_1(0), \hat{y}_2(0)] = [-2, 2]$. In the dead-zone model, let $m_+ = m_- = 2$, $z_+ = z_- = 2$. The structure of the dead zone is given in Fig. 4.

There are two NNs used in the simulation. The input of the first NN is $e_1(t)$. We give five functions distributed on interval $[-5, 5]$. The second one uses $e_1(t)$ and $e_2(t)$ as its input. For each input, the functions are defined the same as above. The parameters are $\beta_2 = \beta_3 = 1.2$, $\sigma_1 = \sigma_2 = \sigma_3 = 1$, $\gamma = 10$, $\sigma_0 = 0.1$. The initial conditions are given as $\xi_2(0) = \delta_2(0) = \xi_3(0) = \delta_3(0) = 0$.

Figures 5 and 6 show the results. Figure 5 gives the CS performance. It is shown that the output of the slave system tracks the output of the master system in a very short time.





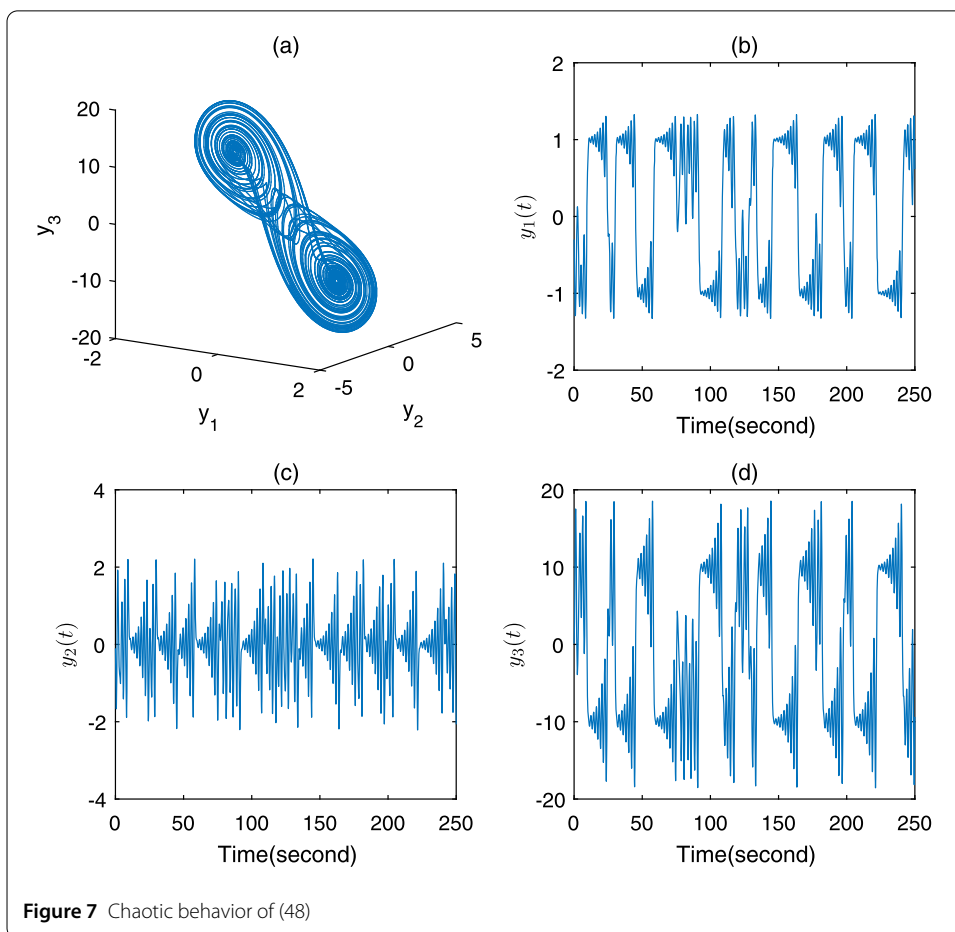
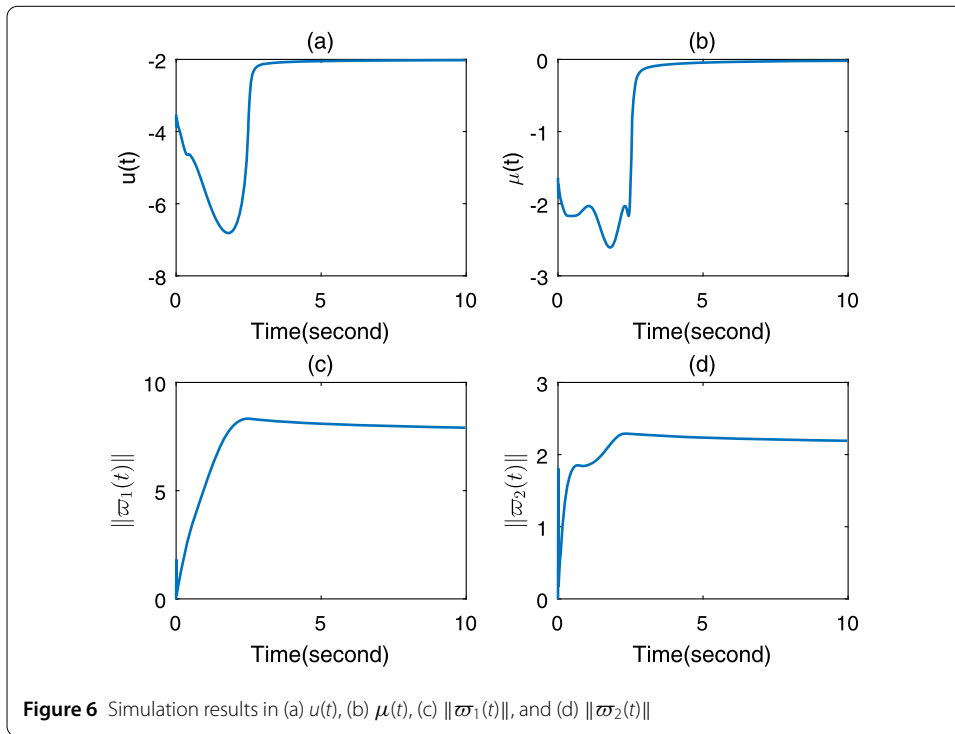
Time response of the control input, the dead zone, as well as the parameter of the NNs are given in Fig. 6.

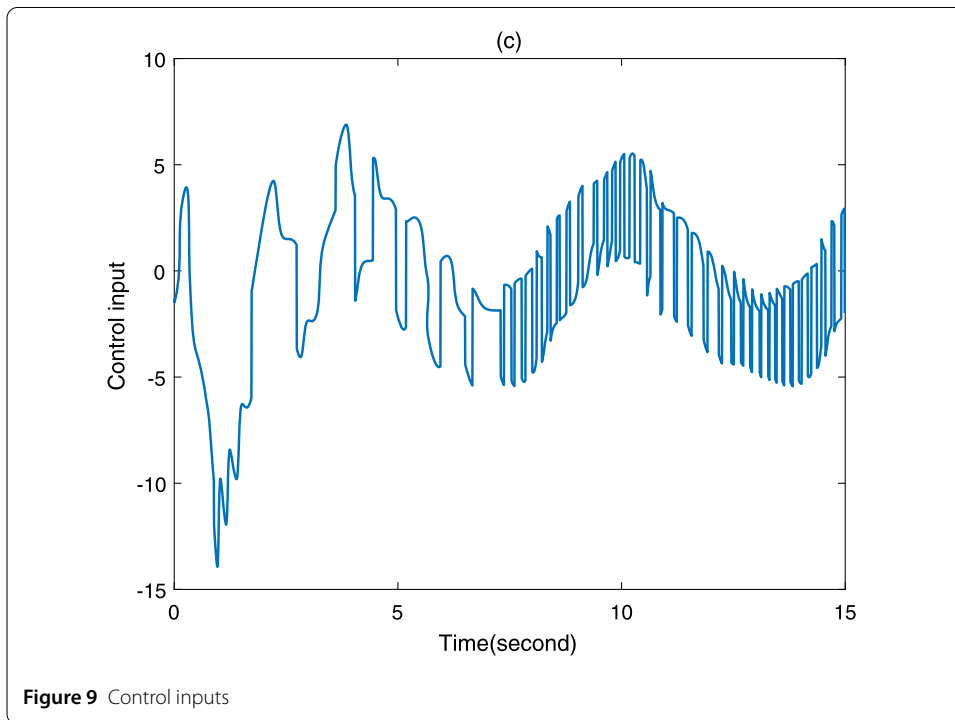
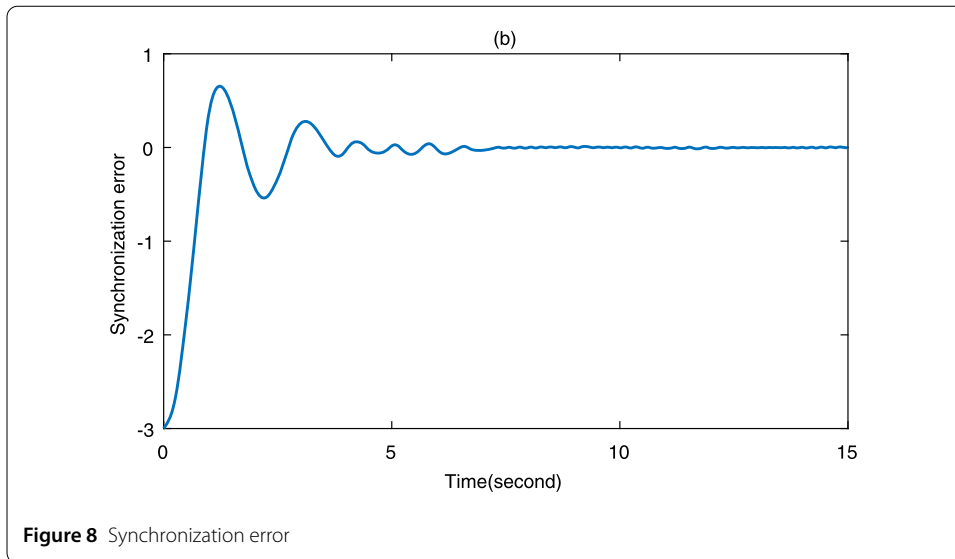
4.2 Example B

Let Chua–Hartley’s system be a master system:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{y}_1(t) = y_2(t) + \frac{10}{7}(y_1(t) - y_1^3(t)), \\ \dot{y}_2(t) = 10y_1(t) - y_2(t) + y_3(t), \\ \dot{y}_3(t) = -\frac{100}{7}y_2(t), \\ x(t) = y_1(t), \end{cases} \tag{48}$$

with initial conditions $[y_1(0), y_2(0), y_3(0)] = [-2, -1, 1]$. The dynamical behavior of system (48) is given in Fig. 7.





The slave system is given as:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\hat{y}}_1(t) = \hat{y}_2(t) + \frac{10}{7}(\hat{y}_1(t) - \hat{y}_1^3(t)) + d_1(t), \\ \dot{\hat{y}}_2(t) = 10\hat{y}_1(t) - \hat{y}_2(t) + \hat{y}_3(t) + d_2(t), \\ \dot{\hat{y}}_3(t) = -\frac{100}{7}\hat{y}_2(t) + u(t) + d_3(t) \\ \hat{x}(t) = \hat{y}_1(t), \end{cases} \tag{49}$$

with initial conditions $[\hat{y}_1(0), \hat{y}_2(0), \hat{y}_3(0)] = [2, 2, -3]$. In the dead-zone model $m_+ = m_- = 2$, $z_+ = z_- = 2$. The control parameters are given as $\beta_2 = \beta_3 = \beta_4 = 1.2$, $\sigma_1 = \sigma_2 = \sigma_3 = \sigma_4 = 1$,

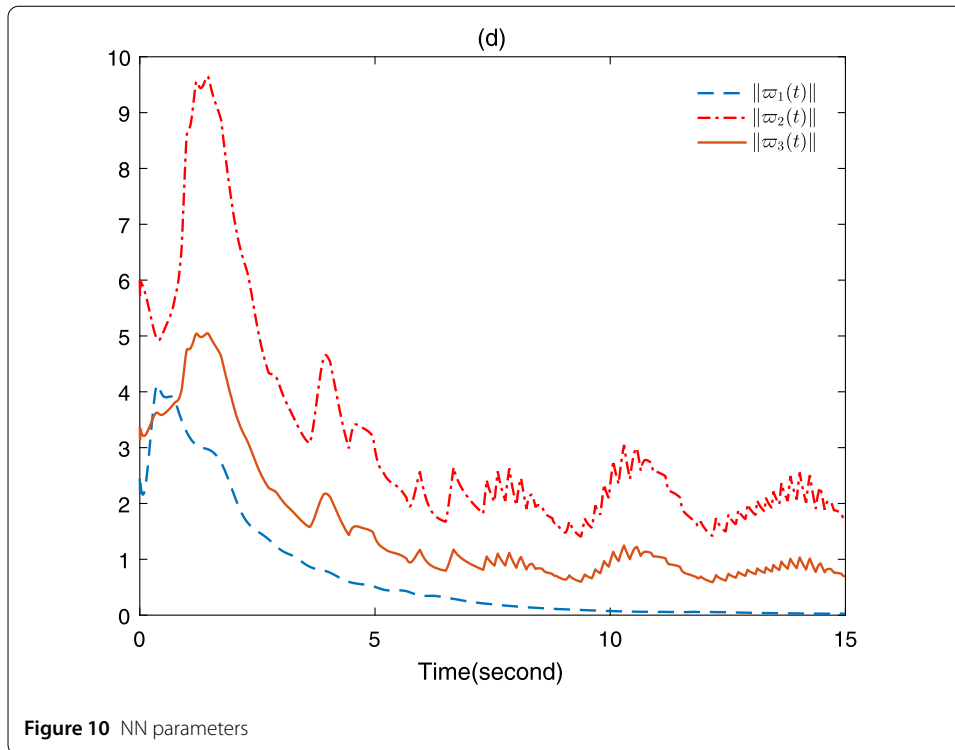


Figure 10 NN parameters

$\gamma = 10, \sigma_0 = 0.2$. The initial conditions are given as $\xi_2(0) = \delta_2(0) = \xi_3(0) = \delta_3(0) = \xi_4(0) = \delta_4(0) = 0$.

There are three NNs included in the simulation. The first NN uses $e_1(t)$, the second NN uses $e_1(t)$ and $e_2(t)$, while the third NN uses $e_1(t), e_2(t)$, and $e_3(t)$ as their inputs, respectively. Let $\beta_2 = \beta_3 = \beta_4 = 1.2, \sigma_1 = \sigma_2 = \sigma_3 = \sigma_4 = 1, \gamma = 10, \sigma_0 = 0.1$. Our results are depicted in Figs. 8, 9, and 10, from which we can conclude that good synchronization performance has been achieved.

5 Conclusions

This paper provides a NN synchronization approach for SFCS with dead-zone input. It has been shown that the DSC approach has good ability to solve the “explosion of terms” problem in the backstepping control design.

Two simulation examples are given to confirm the proposed methods. How to extend the proposed control method to MIMO nonlinear systems is one of my future research directions.

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Competing interests

The author declares that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

Authors’ contributions

All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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