

A PASSIVITY ANALYSIS FOR NONLINEAR CONSENSUS ON DIGRAPHS

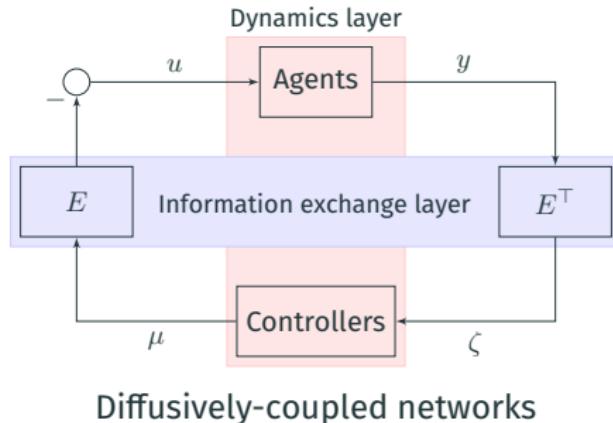
2025 IEEE CONFERENCE ON DECISION AND CONTROL

Fengyu Yue and Daniel Zelazo

December 12, 2025



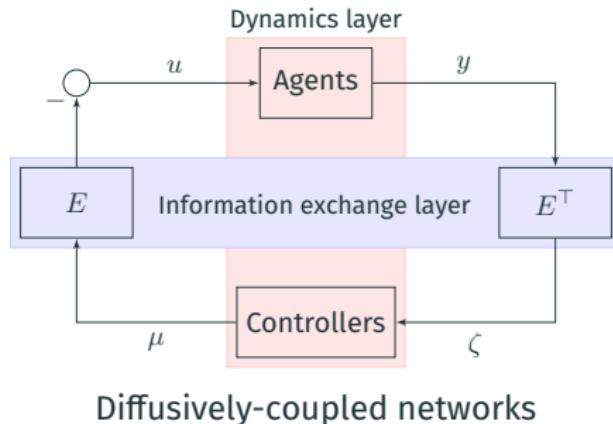
PASSIVITY AND MULTI-AGENT NETWORKS



Why use Passivity Theory?

- ▶ Natural and powerful for **undirected** networks
 - Decouples dynamics and network topologies
 - Convergence, consensus

PASSIVITY AND MULTI-AGENT NETWORKS



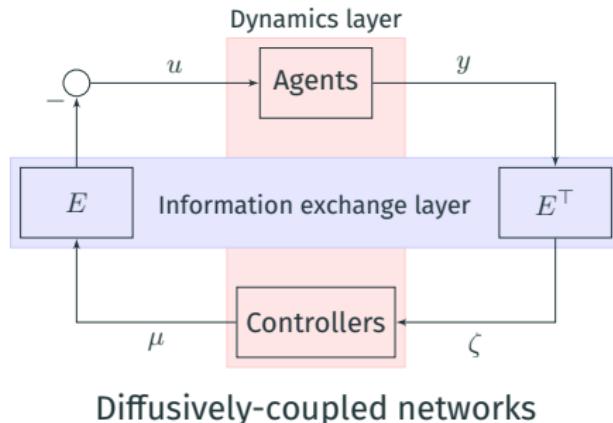
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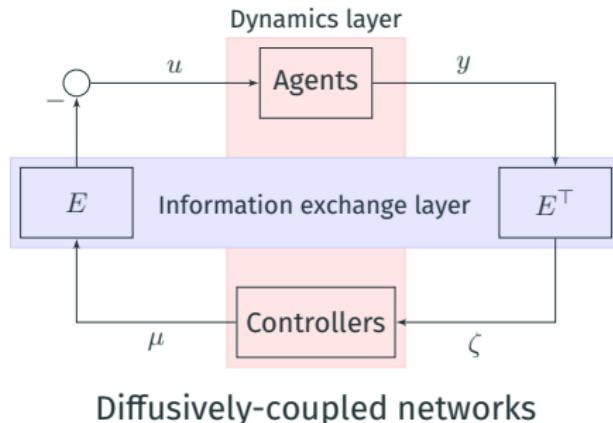
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PASSIVITY AND MULTI-AGENT NETWORKS



Why use Passivity Theory?

- ▶ Natural and powerful for **undirected** networks
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- ▶ **Limitations in directed networks**
 - **passivity → directed networks?**

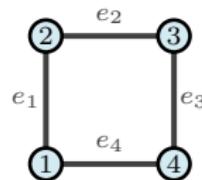
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MULTI-AGENT NETWORKS OVER UNDIRECTED GRAPHS

Multi-agent network: A group of SISO agents Σ_i interact over \mathcal{G}

$$\Sigma_i : \begin{cases} \dot{x}_i = f_i(x_i, u_i) \\ y_i = h_i(x_i, u_i) \end{cases}, i \in [1, n]$$



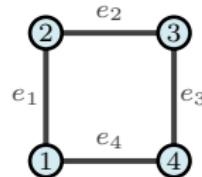
Undirected Graph \mathcal{G}

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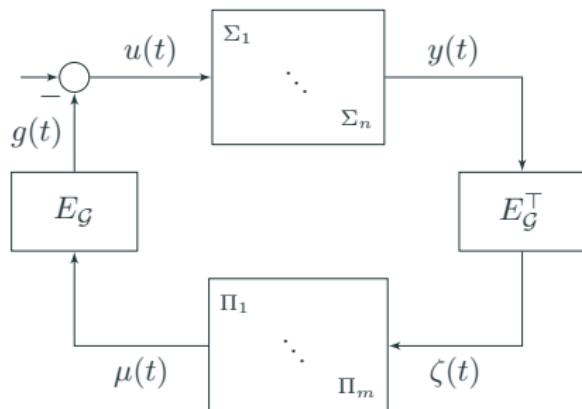
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$$\Pi_k : \begin{cases} \dot{\eta}_k = \phi_k(\eta_k, \zeta_k) \\ \mu_k = \psi_k(\eta_k, \zeta_k) \end{cases}, k \in [1, m]$$



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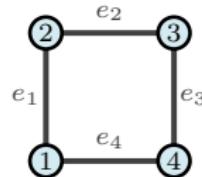
Diffusively-coupled, Undirected $(\Sigma, \Pi, \mathcal{G})$

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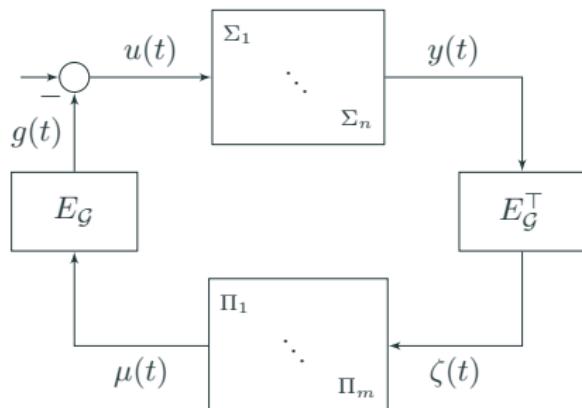
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Undirected Graph \mathcal{G}



Incidence matrix $E_{\mathcal{G}} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$

$$E_{\mathcal{G}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

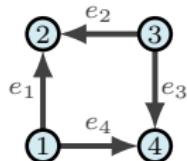
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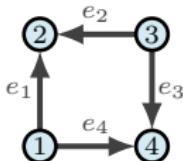
Directed Graph \mathcal{D} (Digraph)

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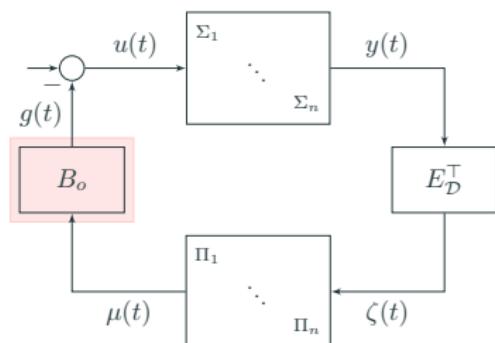
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out-incidence matrix $B_o \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$

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Directed Networks

OUTPUT CONSENSUS AND PASSIVITY

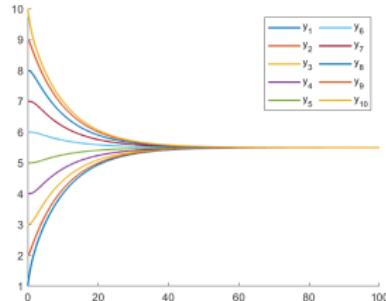
Output consensus problem:

Design distributed Π_k 's, such that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (y_i(t) - y_j(t)) = 0, \forall i, j$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) \in S$$

Agreement space: $S = \text{span}(\mathbb{1})$



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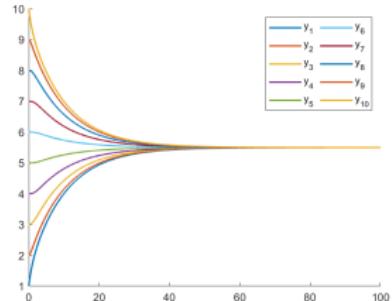
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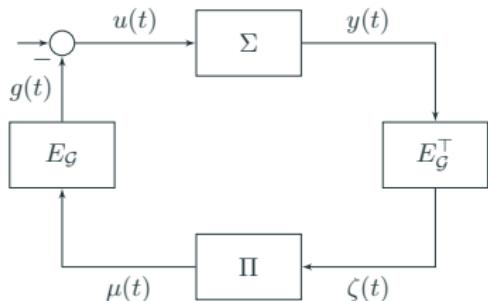
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Undirected $(\Sigma, \Pi, \mathcal{G})$

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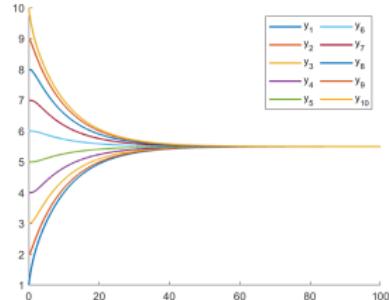
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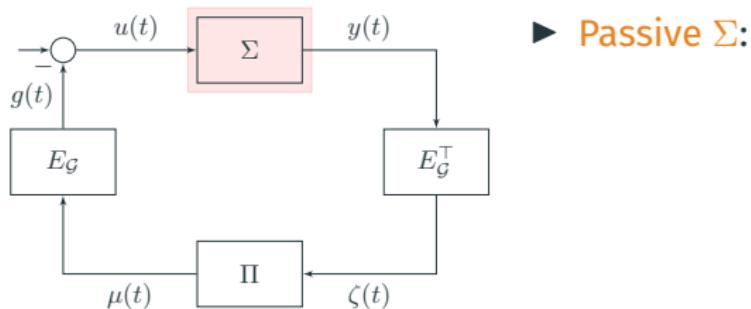
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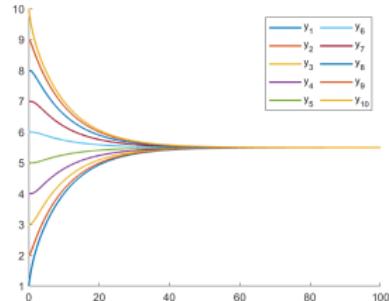
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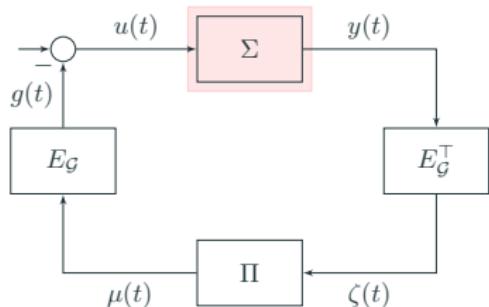
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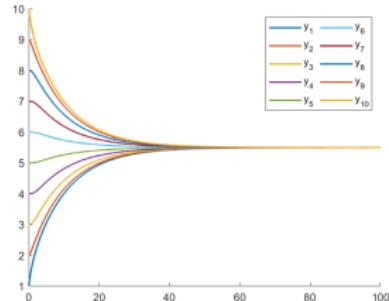
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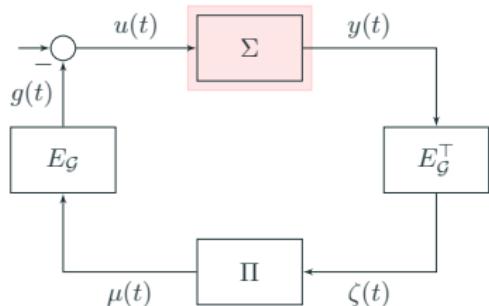
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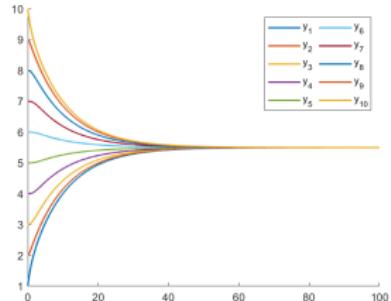
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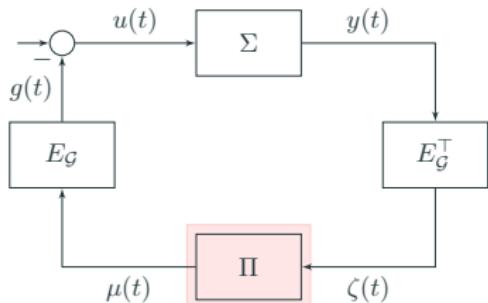
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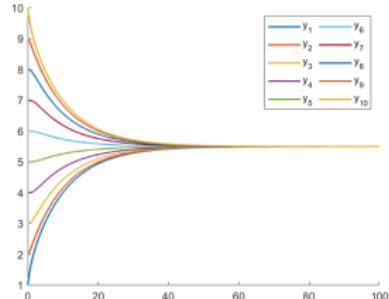
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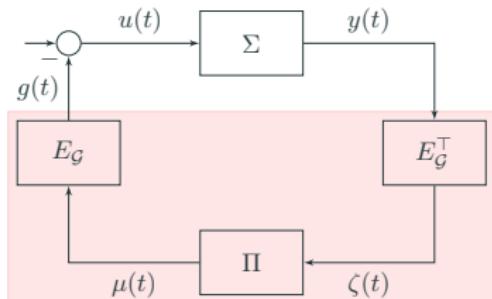
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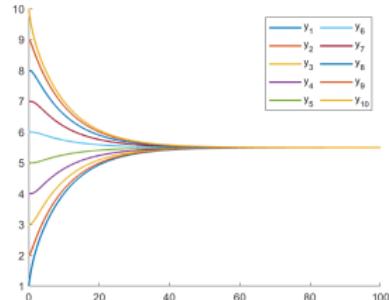
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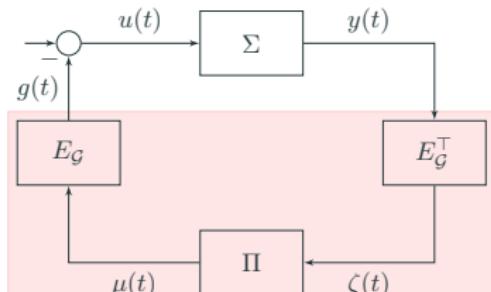
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OUTPUT CONSENSUS AND PASSIVITY

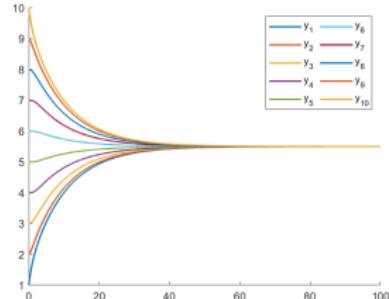
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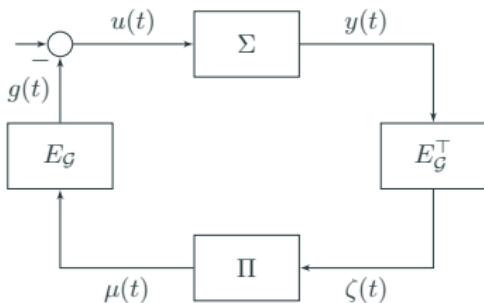
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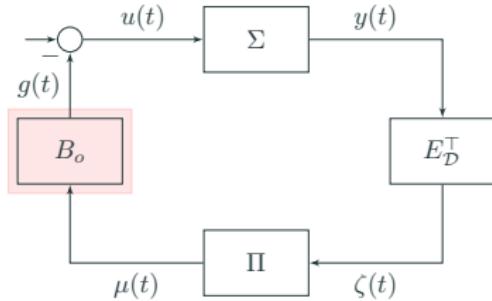
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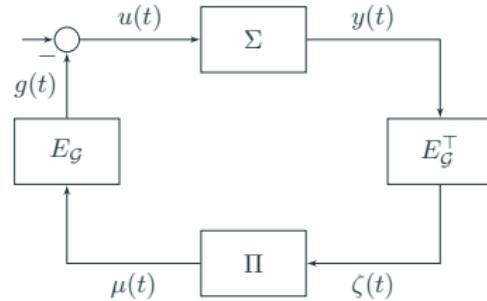
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 $g^\top(t)y(t) = \mu^\top(t)E_G^\top y(t) = \mu^\top(t)\zeta(t)$
- ▶ **Passivity Analysis ✓**

LIMITATION OF PASSIVITY FOR DIRECTED NETWORKS



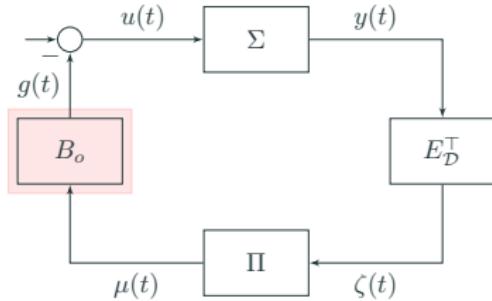
Directed Networks



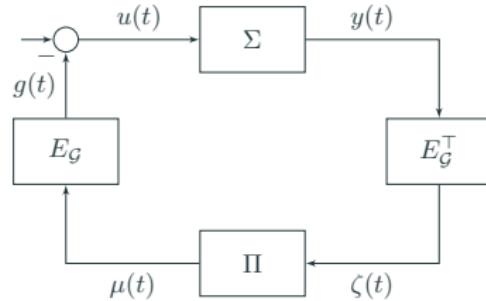
Undirected (Σ, Π, \mathcal{G})
Passivity analysis ✓

Passivity for Directed Networks

LIMITATION OF PASSIVITY FOR DIRECTED NETWORKS



Directed Networks

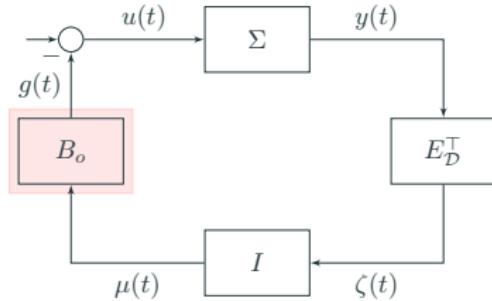


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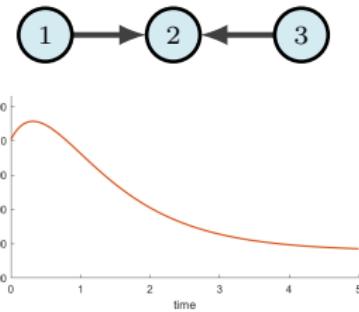
Passivity for Directed Networks

- ▶ $B_o \Pi E_G^\top$: hard to conclude passivity

LIMITATION OF PASSIVITY FOR DIRECTED NETWORKS



Directed Networks

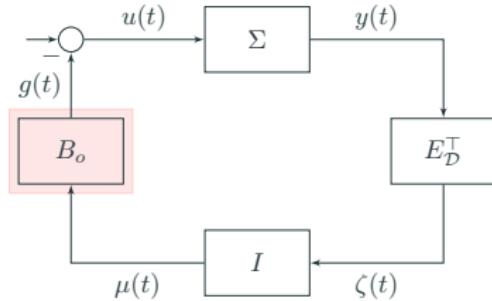


$$\int_0^t g(t)^\top y(t) dt \not\geq 0, \forall t$$

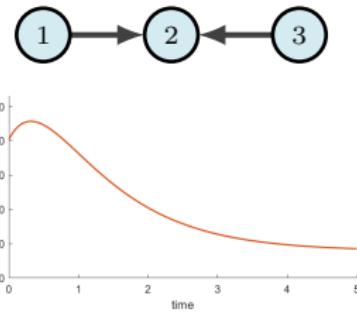
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LIMITATION OF PASSIVITY FOR DIRECTED NETWORKS



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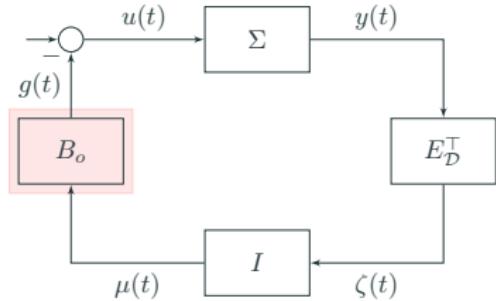


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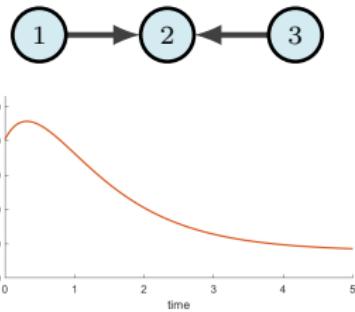
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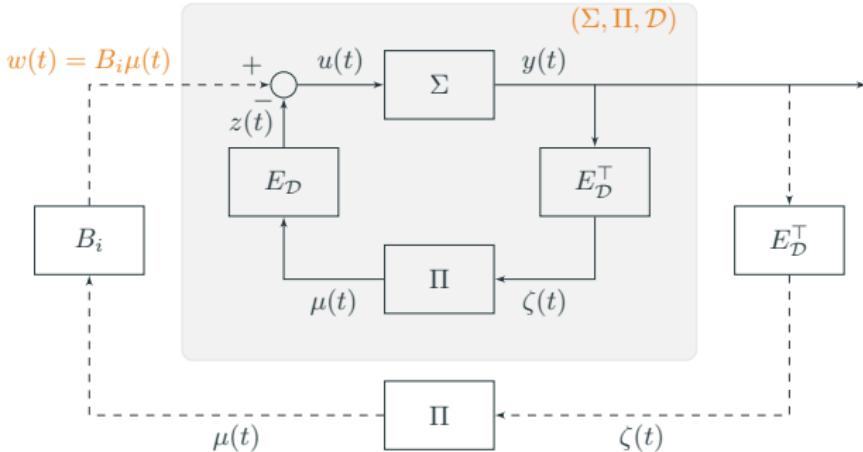
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Passivity for Directed Networks

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 - not passive in general
 - Passive only when the underlying graph is **balanced**

LOOP DECOMPOSITION AND OUTPUT CONSENSUS

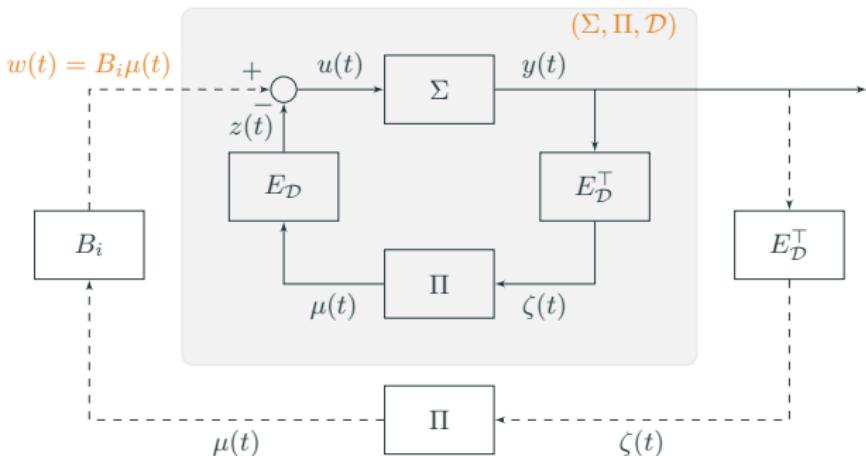
$$E_{\mathcal{D}} = B_o + B_i$$



Directed Networks $(\Sigma, \Pi, \mathcal{D}, w)$

- ▶ “External” input: $w(t) = B_i \mu(t)$
- ▶ Agent input: $u(t) = -B_o \mu(t)$
- ▶ Controller input: $\zeta(t) = E_{\mathcal{D}}^\top y(t)$

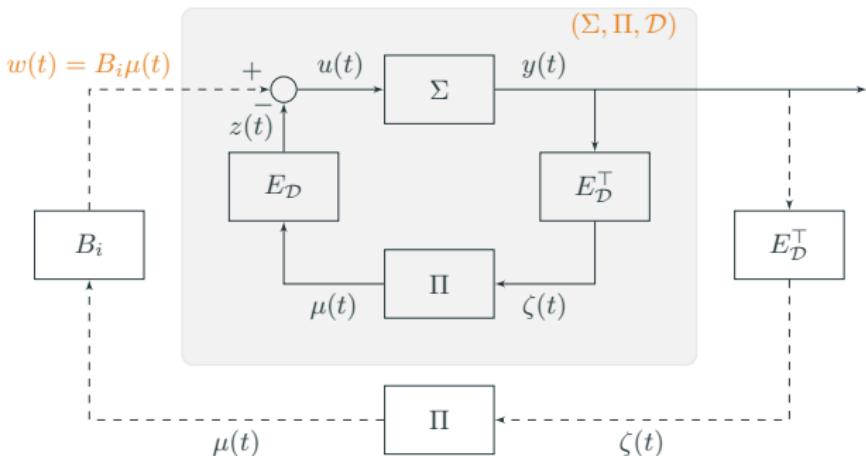
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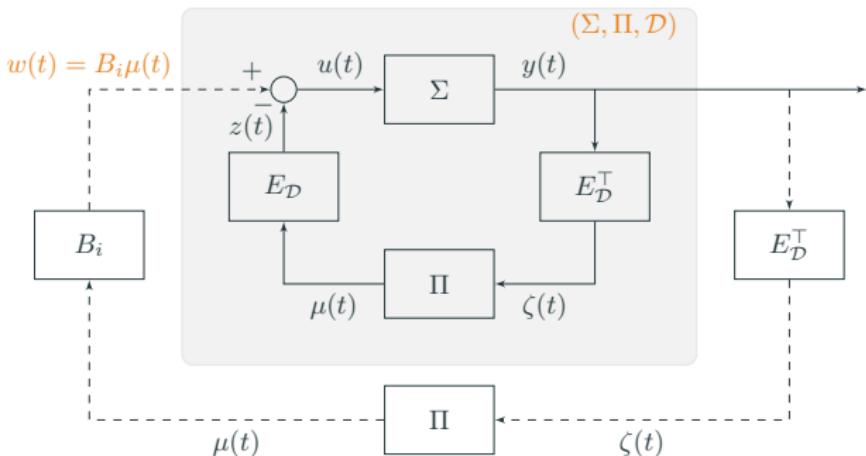
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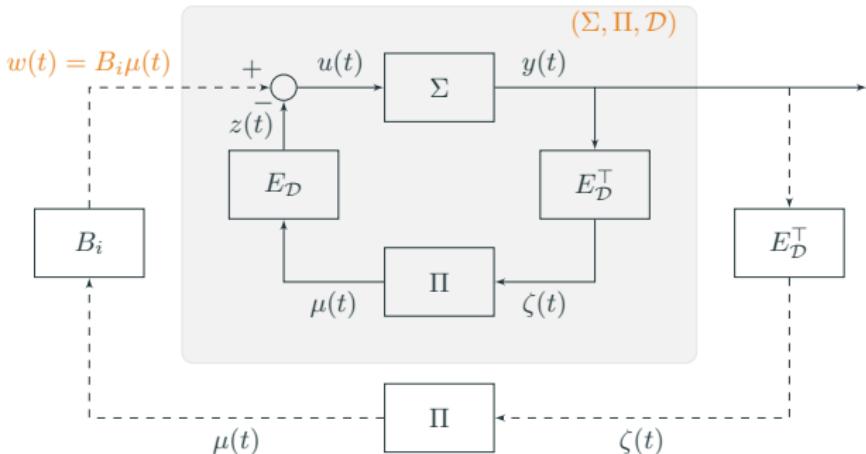
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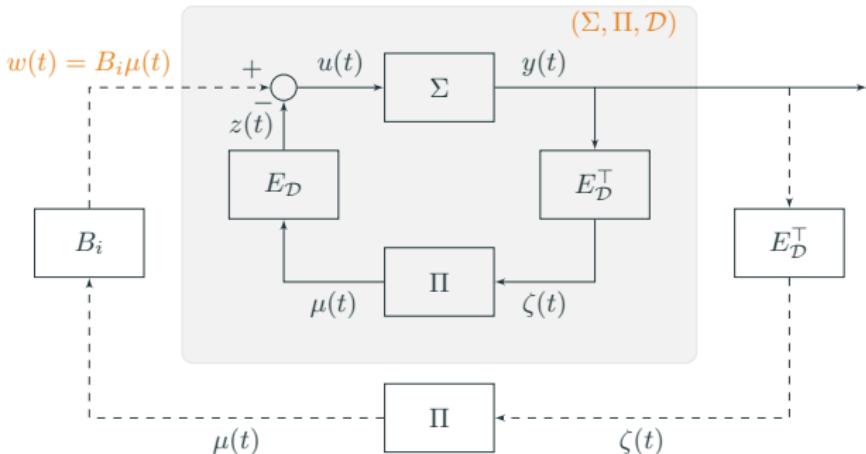
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- ▶ Compensation
- ▶ Passivity to **Passivity relations**

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- ▶ Compensation
- ▶ Passivity to **Passivity relations**
 - forward path $u^\top \text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(y) \geq \dot{Q} - a\|\mu\|_2^2 - b\|\text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(y)\|_2^2$
 - feedback path $z^\top \text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(y) \geq \dot{W} + c\|\mu\|_2^2 + d\|\text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(y)\|_2^2$

PASSIVITY W.R.T. AGREEMENT SPACE

$$\Lambda : \dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), u(t)), y(t) = h(x(t)), \quad f : (\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^p) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, h : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$$

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Recall **Passivity**

- ▶ Storage Function $V : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
 - (1) $V(x) \geq 0$; (2) $V(0) = 0$

(Input-output) Passive: $u^\top(t)y(t) \geq \dot{V}(x(t)) + \delta\|u(t)\|_2^2 + \varepsilon\|y(t)\|_2^2$, $\delta\varepsilon < \frac{1}{4}$, $\forall t$

PASSIVITY W.R.T. AGREEMENT SPACE

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- ▶ Storage Function $V : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
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- ▶ S -Constrained Storage Function $Q : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
 - (1) $Q(x) \geq 0$; (2) $Q(x) = 0, \forall h(x) \in S$

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Recall **Passivity**

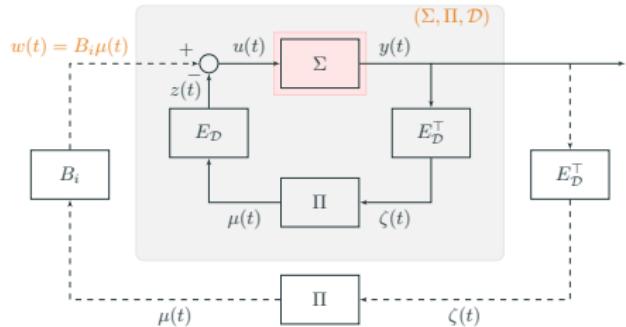
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- ▶ **S -Constrained** Storage Function $Q : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
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Definition: Passivity w.r.t. S

The system Λ is said to be **S -passive**, if there exist a **constrained** storage function Q and $\varepsilon, \delta < \frac{1}{4}$, such that,

$$u^\top(t) \text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(y(t)) \geq \dot{Q}(x(t)) + \varepsilon \|\text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(y(t))\|_2^2 + \delta \|u(t)\|_2^2, \quad \forall t$$

AGENT DYNAMICS AND S-PASSIVITY

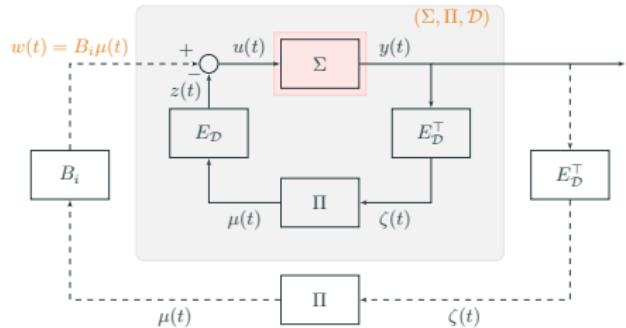


► Integrator-like agents

$$\Sigma : \begin{cases} \dot{x} = u \\ y = h(x) \end{cases}$$

► Goal $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(y(t)) = 0$

AGENT DYNAMICS AND S-PASSIVITY



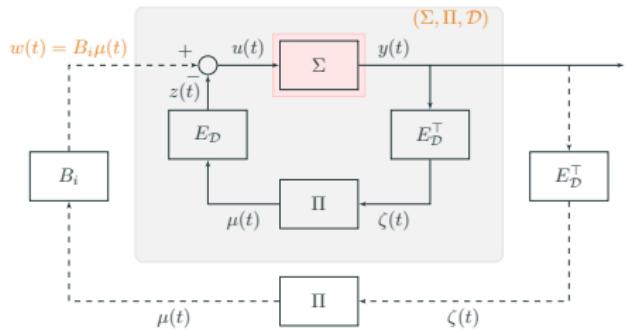
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Passive Σ : $u^\top y \geq \dot{V}(x)$, $V(x) = \int_0^x h(\sigma)d\sigma$

AGENT DYNAMICS AND S-PASSIVITY



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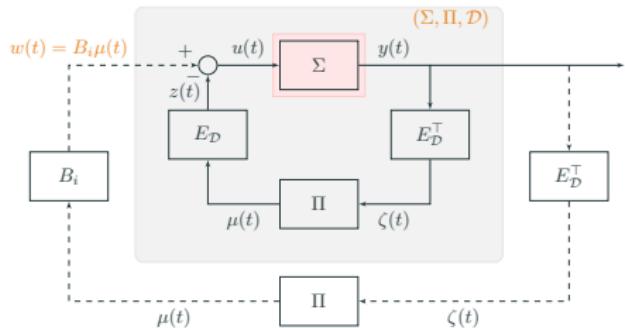
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Constrained storage function $Q(x) = \frac{1}{2}h^\top(x)(I - \frac{1}{|\mathcal{V}|}\mathbb{1}\mathbb{1}^\top)h(x)$

AGENT DYNAMICS AND S-PASSIVITY



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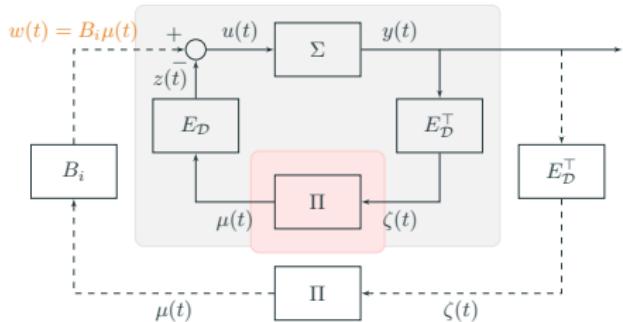
Proposition: Forward Path S-Passivity

Assume that h_i 's are continuously differentiable, monotonically passive, and have bounded derivatives. Let $M = \max(1, |1 - m|)$. Then,

$$u^\top \text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(y) \geq \dot{Q}(x) - \frac{M}{2}K\|\mu\|_2^2 - \frac{M}{2}\|\text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(y)\|_2^2,$$

with the S -constrained storage function $Q(x)$.

CONTROLLER DYNAMICS AND PASSIVITY RELATIONS

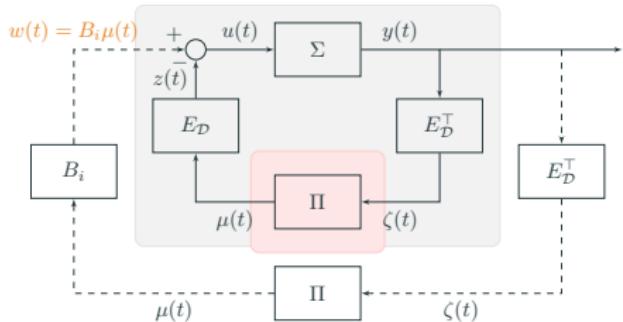


► Integrator-like agents

$$\Sigma : \begin{cases} \dot{x} = u \\ y = h(x) \end{cases}$$

► Goal $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(y(t)) = 0$

CONTROLLER DYNAMICS AND PASSIVITY RELATIONS



► Integrator-like agents

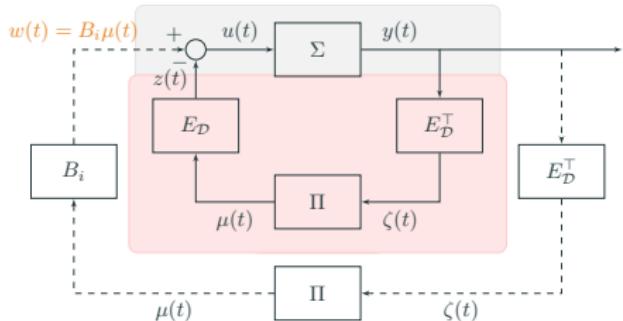
$$\Sigma : \begin{cases} \dot{x} = u \\ y = h(x) \end{cases}$$

► Goal $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(y(t)) = 0$

Input-output passive Π + Symmetric $E_D \Pi E_D^\top$:

► $z^\top y = \mu^\top \zeta \geq \dot{W} + \alpha \|\mu\|_2^2 + \gamma \|\zeta\|_2^2, \quad \alpha, \gamma > 0, \quad \alpha\gamma < \frac{1}{4}$

CONTROLLER DYNAMICS AND PASSIVITY RELATIONS



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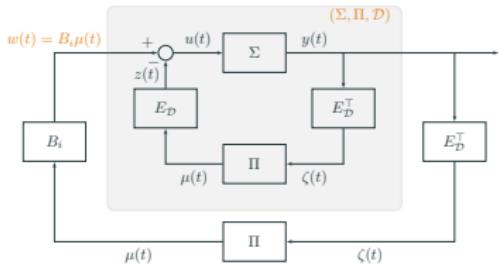
Proposition: Inner-Feedback Path Passivity Relation

Assume that the controllers Π are IOP- (γ, α) . Then, it follows that,

$$\mu^\top \zeta = \mu^\top E^\top y = z^\top \text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(y) \geq \dot{W} + \alpha \|\mu\|_2^2 + \gamma \lambda_2 \|\text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(y)\|_2^2$$

where λ_2 denotes the second smallest eigenvalue of $L = E_D E_D^\top$.

COMPENSATION THEOREM: PASSIVITY TO OUTPUT CONSENSUS

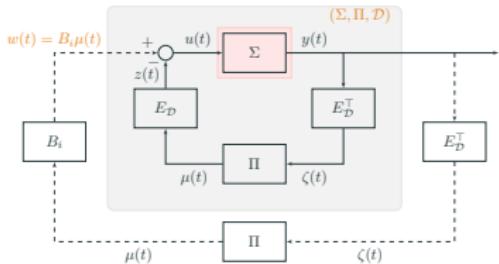


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COMPENSATION THEOREM: PASSIVITY TO OUTPUT CONSENSUS



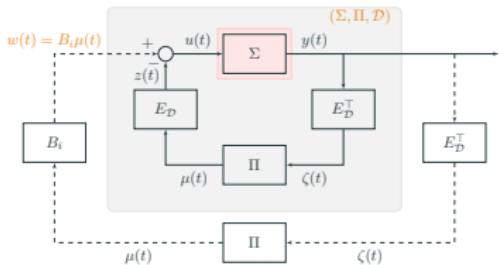
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COMPENSATION THEOREM: PASSIVITY TO OUTPUT CONSENSUS



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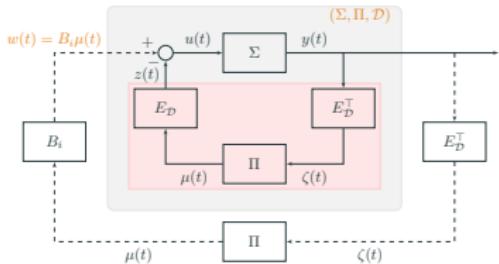
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COMPENSATION THEOREM: PASSIVITY TO OUTPUT CONSENSUS



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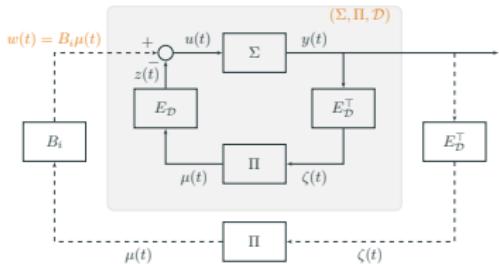
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► input-output passive controllers

$$z^\top \text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(y) \geq \dot{W} + \underbrace{\alpha\|\mu\|_2^2}_{>0} + \underbrace{\gamma\lambda_2\|\text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(y)\|_2^2}_{>0}$$

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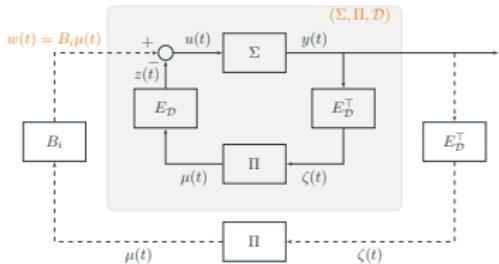
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► Compensation + Barbalat's Lemma $\Rightarrow \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(y(t)) = 0$

COMPENSATION THEOREM: PASSIVITY TO OUTPUT CONSENSUS



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$$\begin{aligned} \text{S-Passivity } u^\top \text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(y) &\geq \dot{Q} - \underbrace{\frac{M}{2}K\|\mu\|_2^2}_{<0} - \underbrace{\frac{M}{2}\|\text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(y)\|_2^2}_{<0} \\ u^\top \text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(y) &\geq \dot{V} - \frac{1}{2}K\|\mu\|_2^2 - \frac{1}{2}\|y\|_2^2 \end{aligned}$$

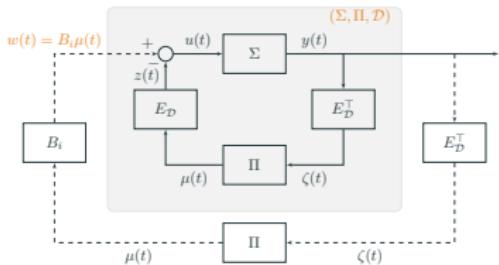
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$$0 \leq \|\text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(y)\|_2^2 = \|(I - \frac{1}{n}\mathbb{1}\mathbb{1}^\top)y\|_2^2 \leq \|y\|_2^2$$

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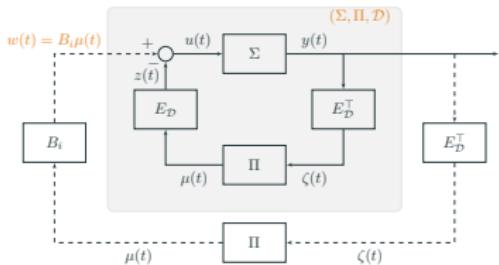
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COMPENSATION THEOREM: PASSIVITY TO OUTPUT CONSENSUS



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► Compensation + Barbalat's Lemma $\Rightarrow \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(y(t)) = 0$

► Output strict passivity + balanced digraphs \Rightarrow Stabilization

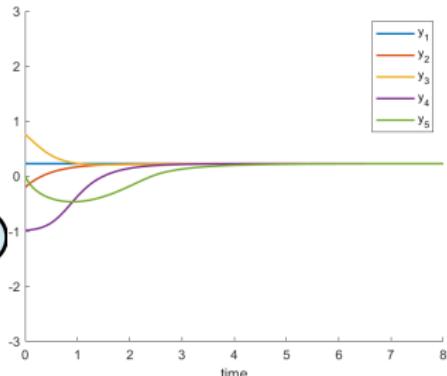
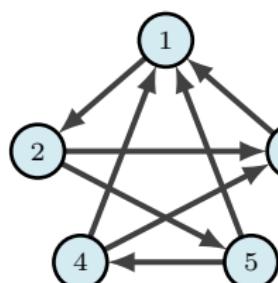
CASE STUDY: A HETEROGENEOUS NETWORK SYSTEM

► Systems

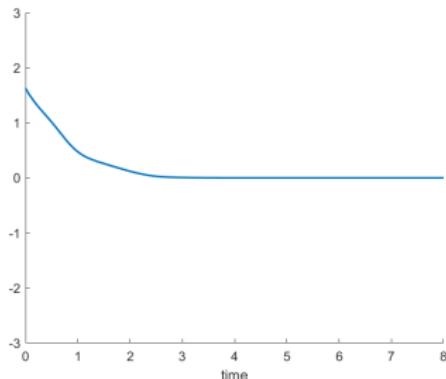
$$\Sigma^o : \dot{x}(t) = u(t), \quad y(t) = [x_1(t), x_2(t), \tanh(x_3(t)), \tanh(x_4(t)), \frac{x_5(t)}{1+|x_5(t)|}]^\top$$
$$\Pi : \mu(t) = 2\zeta(t)$$

► Parameters

- Constrained storage function: $Q(x) = \frac{1}{2}h^\top(x)(I - \frac{1}{|\mathcal{V}|}\mathbb{1}\mathbb{1}^\top)h(x)$
- Algebraic connectivity: $\lambda_2 = 3$
- Maximal out-degree: $\max(D_o) = 2$



Outputs of agents



Evolution of $Q(x(t))$

Summary:

- ▶ Limitations of the Compensation idea
- ▶ Compensation Theorem: Constrained storage functions, passivity w.r.t. agreement space.
- ▶ A passivity-based analysis for integrator-like agents that interact over digraphs.

Future work:

- ▶ Formal definition for Passivity w.r.t Submanifolds

Thank-You!



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CONNECT LAB
Cooperative Networks and Controls