

# A PASSIVITY ANALYSIS FOR NONLINEAR CONSENSUS ON DIGRAPHS

2025 IEEE CONFERENCE ON DECISION AND CONTROL

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**Fengyu Yue** and Daniel Zelazo

December 12, 2025

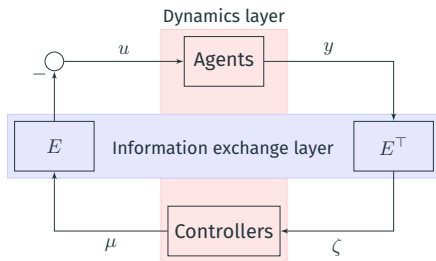


THE STEPHEN B. KLEIN  
FACULTY OF  
AEROSPACE ENGINEERING



**CONNECTLAB**  
Cooperative Networks and Controls

# PASSIVITY AND MULTI-AGENT NETWORKS

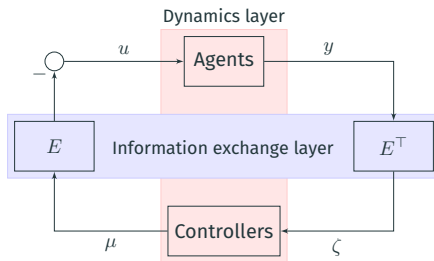


Diffusively-coupled networks

## Why use Passivity Theory?

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

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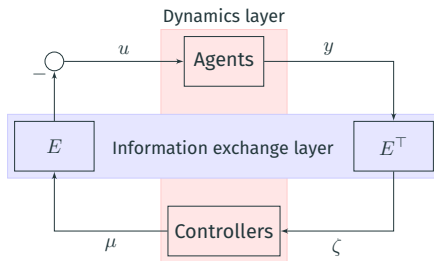
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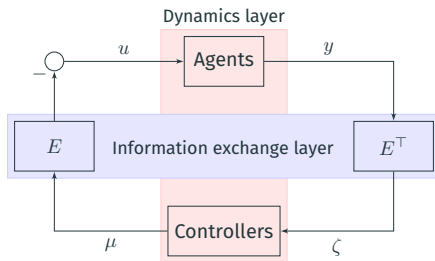
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- **Limitations** in **directed** networks
  - **passivity** → **directed networks?**

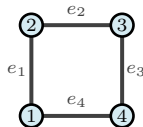
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# MULTI-AGENT NETWORKS OVER UNDIRECTED GRAPHS

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

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



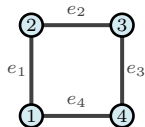
Undirected Graph  $\mathcal{G}$

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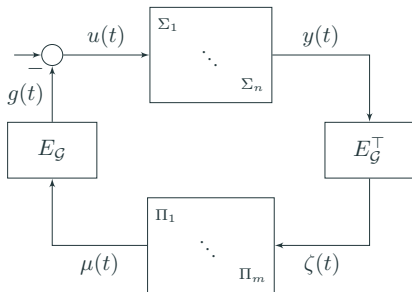
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Undirected Graph  $\mathcal{G}$



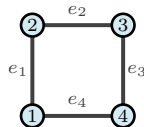
Diffusively-coupled, **Undirected**  $(\Sigma, \Pi, \mathcal{G})$

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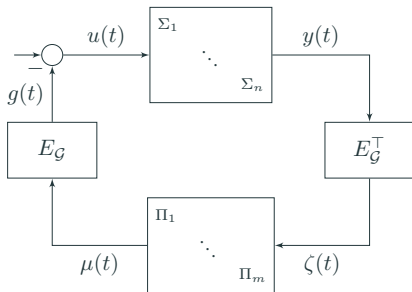
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Undirected Graph  $\mathcal{G}$



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

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

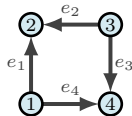
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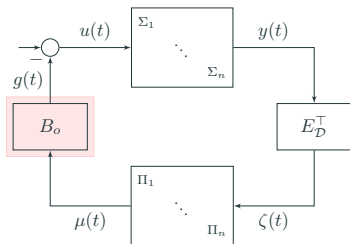
Directed Graph  $\mathcal{D}$  (Digraph)

# MULTI-AGENT NETWORKS OVER DIRECTED GRAPHS

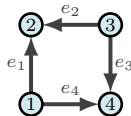
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**Directed Networks**



**Directed Graph  $\mathcal{D}$  (Digraph)**

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

$$B_o = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

# OUTPUT CONSENSUS AND PASSIVITY

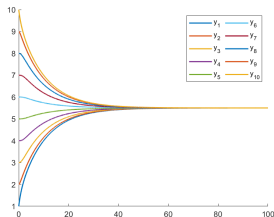
## Output consensus problem:

Design distributed  $\Pi_k$ '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:**  $S = \text{span}(\mathbf{1})$



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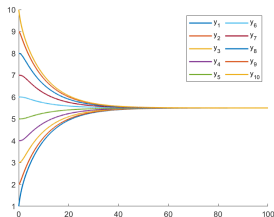
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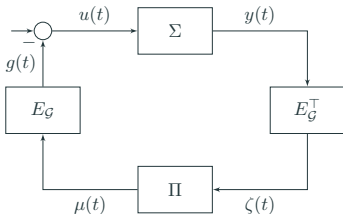
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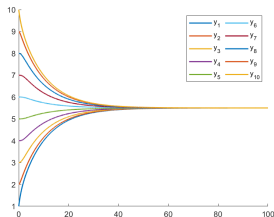
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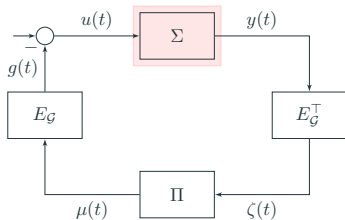
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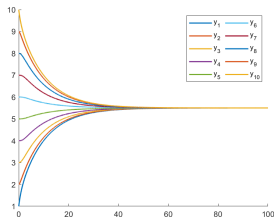
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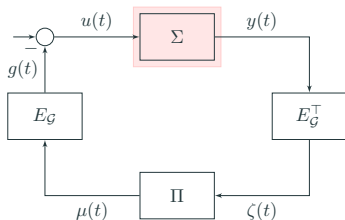
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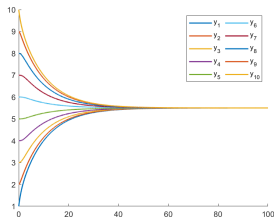
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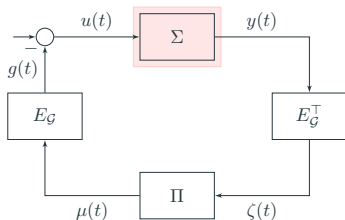
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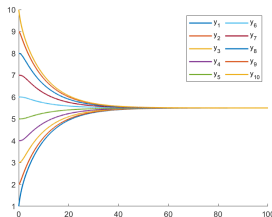
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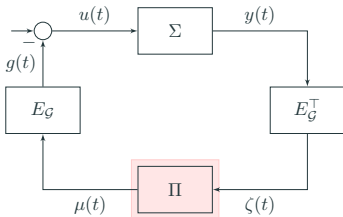
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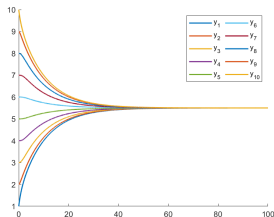
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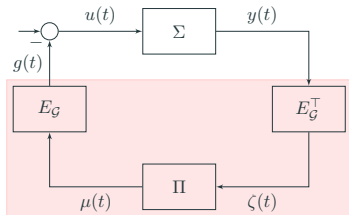
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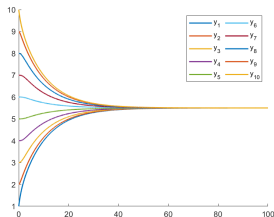
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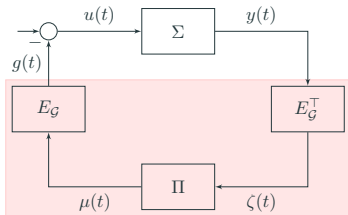
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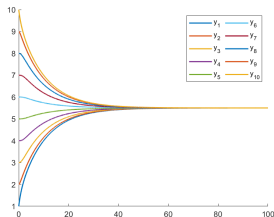
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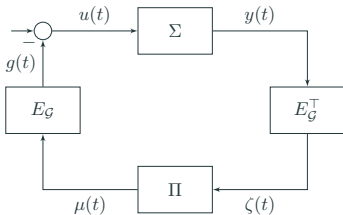
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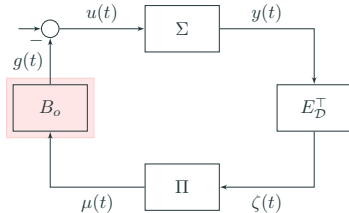
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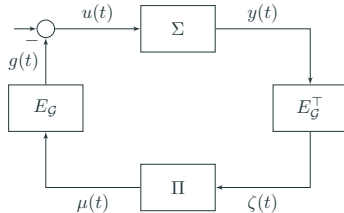
**Undirected** ( $\Sigma, \Pi, \mathcal{G}$ )

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- **Passivity Analysis ✓**

# LIMITATION OF PASSIVITY FOR DIRECTED NETWORKS



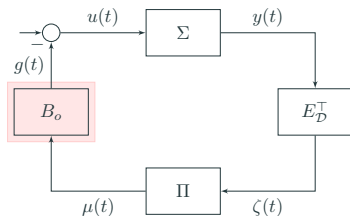
**Directed Networks**



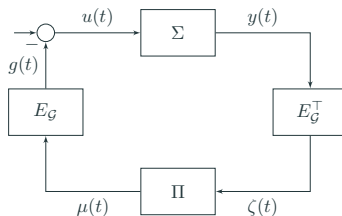
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Passivity for Directed Networks

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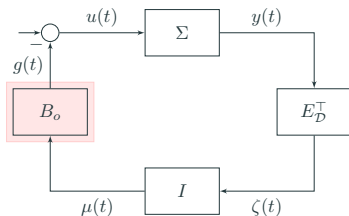


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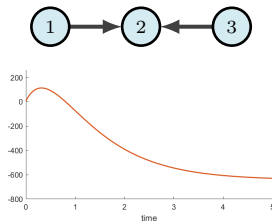
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- $B_o \Pi E_G^\top$ : hard to conclude passivity

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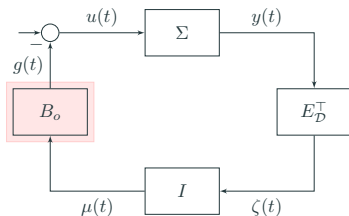


$$\int_0^t g(t)^\top y(t) dt \not\geq 0, \forall t$$

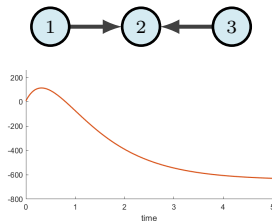
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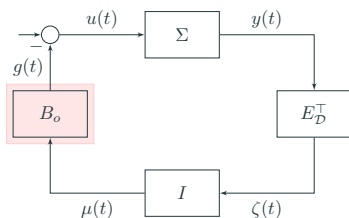


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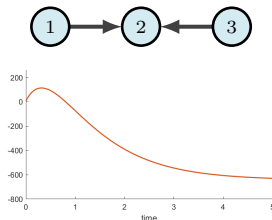
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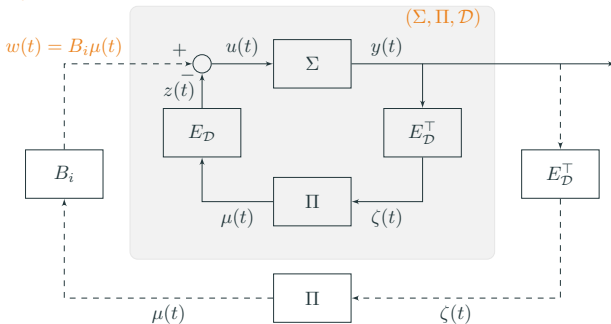
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- ▶  $B_o \Pi E_G^\top$ : hard to conclude passivity
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  - not passive in general
  - Passive only when the underlying graph is **balanced**



# LOOP DECOMPOSITION AND OUTPUT CONSENSUS

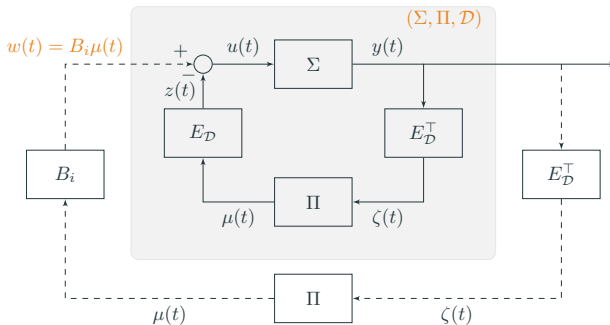
$$E_{\mathcal{D}} = B_o + B_i$$



## 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:  $\zeta(t) = E_{\mathcal{D}}^T y(t)$

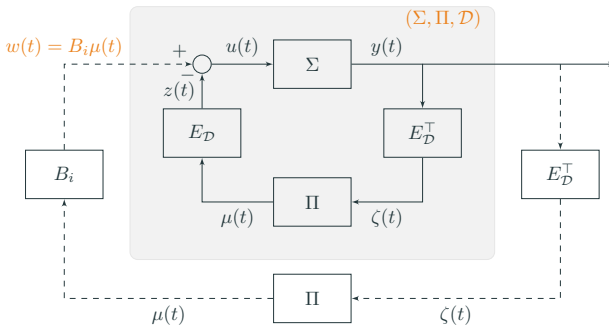
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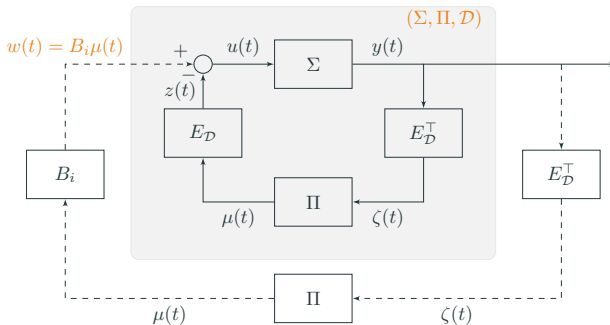
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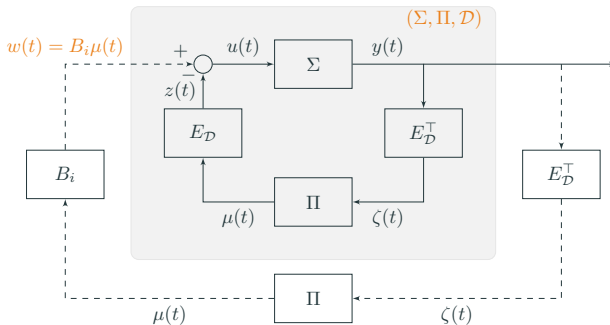
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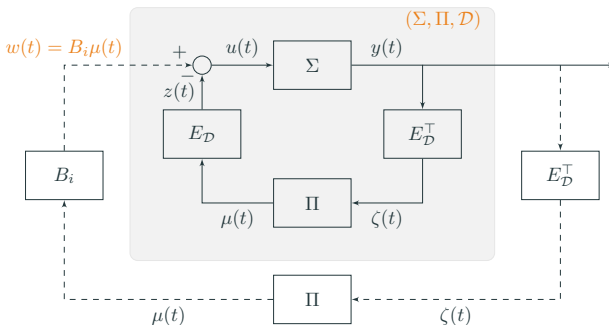
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- Passivity to **Passivity** relations

# LOOP DECOMPOSITION AND OUTPUT CONSENSUS



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

- Output Consensus:  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) \in S = \text{span}(\mathbf{1}) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \text{Proj}_{S^{\perp}}(y(t)) = 0$
- 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  $z^{\top} \text{Proj}_{S^{\perp}}(y) \geq \dot{W} + c\|\mu\|_2^2 + d\|\text{Proj}_{S^{\perp}}(y)\|_2^2$

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

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



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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**

► Storage Function  $V : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$(1) V(x) \geq 0; (2) V(0) = 0$$

►  **$S$ -Constrained** Storage Function  $Q : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

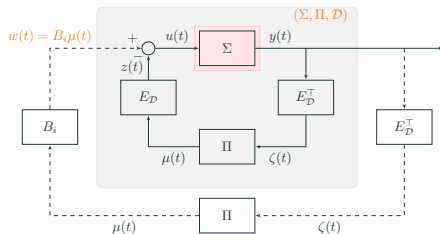
$$(1) Q(x) \geq 0; (2) Q(x) = 0, \forall h(x) \in S$$

## **Definition: Passivity w.r.t. $S$**

The system  $\Lambda$  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

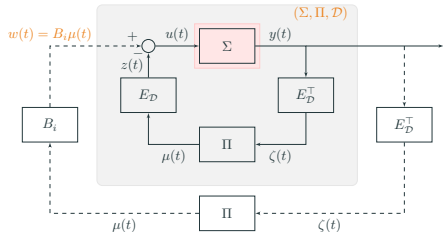


## ► Integrator-like agents

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

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

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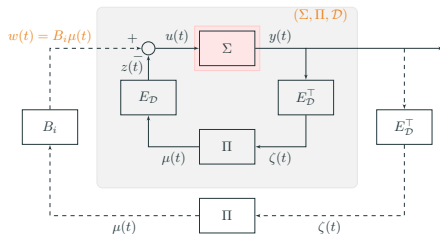
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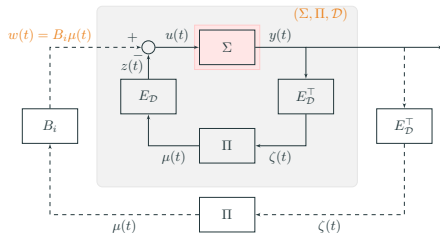
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Constrained storage function  $Q(x) = \frac{1}{2} h^\top(x) (I - \frac{1}{|\mathcal{V}|} \mathbb{1} \mathbb{1}^\top) h(x)$

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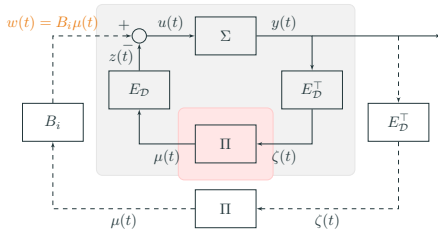
## Proposition: Forward Path S-Passivity

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

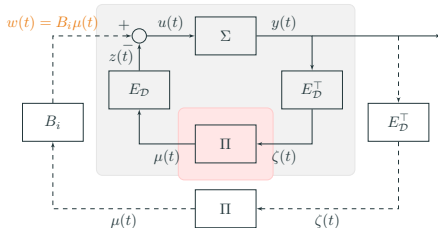


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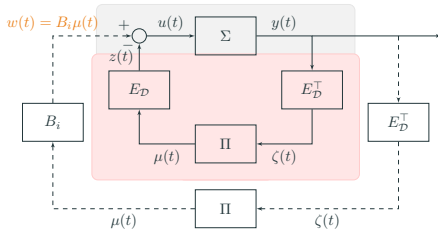
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Input-output passive  $\Pi$  + Symmetric  $E_D \Pi E_D^\top$ :

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



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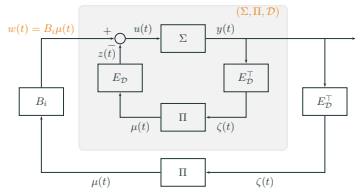
## Proposition: Inner-Feedback Path Passivity Relation

Assume that the controllers  $\Pi$  are IOP- $(\gamma, \alpha)$ . 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  $\lambda_2$  denotes the second smallest eigenvalue of  $L = E_{\mathcal{D}} E_{\mathcal{D}}^\top$ .

# COMPENSATION THEOREM: PASSIVITY TO OUTPUT CONSENSUS

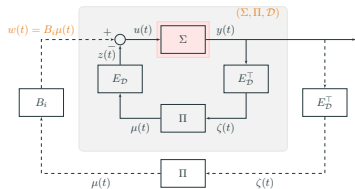


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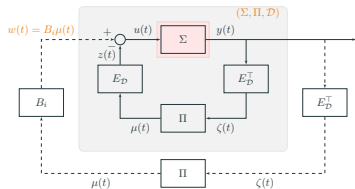
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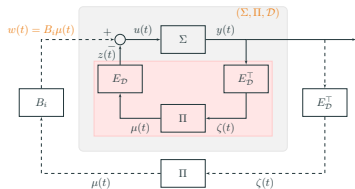
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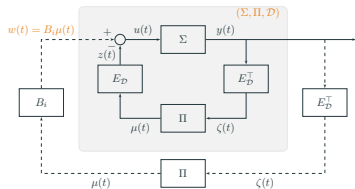
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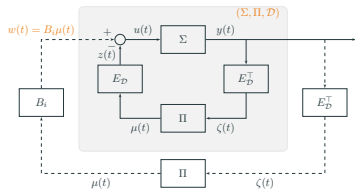
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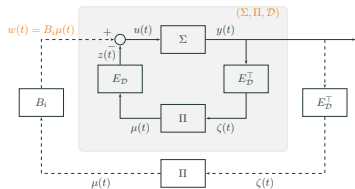
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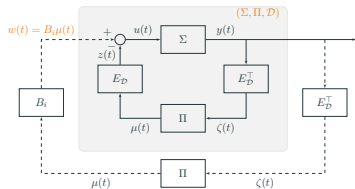
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- **Compensation + Barbalat's Lemma**  $\Rightarrow \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \text{Proj}_{S^\perp}(y(t)) = 0$

- Output strict passivity + balanced digraphs  $\Rightarrow$  Stabilization

# CASE STUDY: A HETEROGENEOUS NETWORK SYSTEM

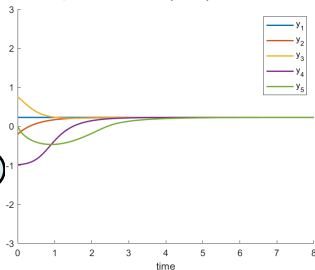
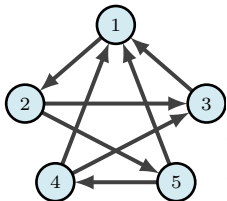
## ► Systems

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

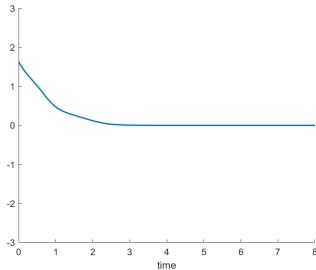
$$\Pi : \mu(t) = 2\zeta(t)$$

## ► Parameters

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