

# Imposing a Weight Norm Constraint for Neuro-Adaptive Control

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**Abstract**—In this paper, a neuro-adaptive controller with weight norm constraints is proposed for uncertain Euler-Lagrange systems. The boundedness of the weights in the neuro-adaptive controller design is important to prevent excessively large control inputs and system instability. To ensure the boundedness of the weights, the weight norm constraints are imposed as inequality constraints in the weight adaptation. The adaptation law is derived based on the constrained optimization method. The stability of the proposed controller is analyzed in the sense of Lyapunov, ensuring the boundedness of the tracking error and weight estimation. For the comparative study, two benchmark controllers and the proposed controller were evaluated through a numerical simulation of a two-link manipulator system and compared in terms of tracking performance and parameter dependency. The comparative study verified that the proposed controller has better tracking performance and lower parameter dependency.

## NOTATION

In this study, the following notation is used:

- $\otimes$  denotes the Kronecker product [1, Definition 7.1.2].
- $\mathbf{x} = [x_i]_{i \in \{1, \dots, n\}} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  denotes a vector.
- $\text{row}_i(\mathbf{A})$  denotes the  $i^{\text{th}}$  row of the matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ .
- $\text{vec}(\mathbf{A}) := [\text{row}_1(\mathbf{A}^T), \dots, \text{row}_m(\mathbf{A}^T)]^T$  for  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ .
- $\lambda_{\min}(\mathbf{A})$  denotes the minimum eigenvalue of the matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ .
- $\mathbf{I}_n$  denotes the  $n \times n$  identity matrix and  $\mathbf{0}_{n \times m}$  denotes the  $n \times m$  zero matrix.

## I. INTRODUCTION

In various practical applications, Euler-Lagrange systems generally have uncertainties due to their unknown and unmodeled dynamics. These uncertainties degrade the control performance index. Furthermore, if uncertainties dominate the system, they may lead to instability. By compensating for these uncertainties, adaptive control methods have been

widely used to attenuate the effects of system uncertainties [2], [3]. Most conventional adaptive control methods focus on estimating unknown parameters in systems or controllers.

More recently, neuro-adaptive control approaches have been developed using neural networks (NNs) to approximate unknown system dynamics [4]. It generally uses the approximation capability of NNs with any arbitrary sigmoidal activation function [5], which can approximate sufficiently smooth functions with minimum approximation error through ideal weights in a compact set. This property allows the NNs to be synthesized in the controllers to approximate the unknown dynamics. Various architectures of NNs have been proposed for neuro-adaptive control, such as single-hidden-layer NN (SHLNN) [6], [7], radial basis function NN (RBFNN) [8], [9] and deep NN (DNN) [10]. The literature has shown that NNs can improve the system's performance index and stability by approximating the unknown dynamics.

One of the common issues in using NNs as control components is that the outputs of NNs are not predictable. This is because the input-output relationships of the NNs are not interpretable (i.e., the NNs are usually called black boxes [11], [12]). This issue should be addressed for safety because the control input may reach the actuator's physical limitations and result in system collapse, due to the unpredictable control components from NNs.

Most studies modify their adaptation laws to ensure the boundedness of the weights, noting that the boundedness of the NNs' output can be ensured by the boundedness of the weights. In [9], [10], the projection operator is utilized to prevent weight divergence by projecting the adaptation direction on the convex set of weights. However, in the literature, the convex set is usually selected to be as large as possible since there is no information on the ideal weights' norm. Hence, the projection operator guarantees only the boundedness of the weights without theoretical optimality. In addition, the  $\sigma$ -modification [8] and the  $\epsilon$ -modification [6], [7] are widely used to regulate the magnitude of the weights by adding a stabilizing function in the adaptation law, thereby making the invariance set of the estimation error of the weights. The existing methods have shown their effectiveness in ensuring the boundedness of the weights via numerical simulations. However, they lack theoretical analysis regarding the optimality of the adapted weights.

Similarly, approaches that regulate the magnitude of the weights have also been introduced in the deep learning literature. One of the approaches is  $L_2$ -regularization, which adds the squared magnitudes of the weights to the objective function [13], [14]. Then, the adaptation process attempts to reduce the magnitude of the weights, not only the original ob-

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jective function. By regulating the magnitude of the weights, the stability of the adaptation process can be enhanced, and overfitting can be prevented. However,  $L_2$ -regularization also involves a trade-off between adaptation stability and the optimality of the weights.

For the theoretical analysis of weight optimality with boundedness, the constrained optimization method [15] can be utilized. It provides the theoretical definition of optimality and the numerical methodology to solve the constrained optimization problem. To the best of the authors' knowledge, no prior work has utilized the constrained optimization method for the real-time weight adaptation of neuro-adaptive control satisfying weight boundedness. Therefore, the constrained optimization method could play a pivotal role in the neuro-adaptive control design addressing the weight boundedness.

The main contributions of this study are as follows:

- The neuro-adaptive control problem is reformulated into a constrained optimization problem by treating the satisfaction of the weight boundedness as inequality constraints.
- The adaptation law is derived based on the constrained optimization method to minimize the objective function while satisfying the weight norm constraints.
- The stability of the adaptation laws is analyzed via Lyapunov stability analysis, which ensures the boundedness of the tracking error and weight estimation.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: Section II presents the target-constrained system and control objective. Section III introduces the proposed controller and the adaptation law. Section IV examines the stability of the proposed controller. A comparative study of the three selected controllers, including the proposed controller through numerical simulation, is reported in Section V. Finally, Section VI concludes the paper by presenting future work.

## II. PROBLEM FORMULATION

### A. Model Dynamics and Control Objective

Consider an uncertain Euler-Lagrange system modeled as

$$M\ddot{q} + V_m\dot{q} + G + F = \tau, \quad (1)$$

where  $q \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\tau \in \mathbb{R}^n$  denote the generalized coordinate and the control input, respectively;  $M := M(q) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $V_m := V_m(q, \dot{q}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , and  $G := G(q) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  denote the unknown system function matrices; and  $F := F(\dot{q}) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  denotes the external force. Using the user-designed matrices  $\hat{M} > 0$ ,  $\hat{V}_m$  and  $\hat{G}$ , (1) can be represented as

$$\hat{M}\ddot{q} + \hat{V}_m\dot{q} + \hat{G} = \tau + f(q, \dot{q}, \ddot{q}), \quad (2)$$

where  $f(q, \dot{q}, \ddot{q}) := -(M - \hat{M})\ddot{q} - (V_m - \hat{V}_m)\dot{q} - (G - \hat{G}) - F$  denotes the residual unknown term.

Hence, the objective of the control design is to make  $q$  track the continuously differentiable desired trajectory  $q_d := q_d(t) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  under the unknown terms  $f := f(q, \dot{q}, \ddot{q})$ .

## III. CONTROL LAW DEVELOPMENT

In this section, the neuro-adaptive controller is developed. Section III-A presents the details of the neuro-adaptive controller and the NN model. The adaptation law based on the constrained optimization method is derived in Section III-B by formulating a constrained optimization problem.

### A. Neuro-adaptive Control Design

The backstepping control-based approach is utilized to generate a reference signal  $z^* := -k_q\tilde{q} + \dot{q}_d$  for  $z := \dot{q}$ , where  $\tilde{q} := q - q_d$  and  $k_q \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ . The desired stabilizing controller can be designed as follows:

$$\tau^* = -\hat{M} \cdot (k_z\tilde{z}) + (-\hat{M}\tilde{q} + \hat{V}_m z + \hat{G} - f + \hat{M}\dot{z}^*), \quad (3)$$

where  $\tilde{z} := z - z^*$  and  $k_z \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ . Note that the desired controller cannot be realized because of  $f$ .

To approximate the desired controller, an NN is utilized. Even though DNNs have a higher approximation capability than SHLNNs [16], here, an SHLNN is utilized for simplicity and low computational complexity. The NN with a single hidden layer is represented as

$$\Phi(q_n; \theta) := W_1^\top \phi(W_0^\top q_n),$$

where  $q_n \in \mathbb{R}^{l_0+1}$  denotes the NN input vector,  $W_i \in \mathbb{R}^{(l_i+1) \times l_{i+1}}$ ,  $\forall i \in \{0, 1\}$  denotes the weight matrix of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  layer and  $\phi : \mathbb{R}^{l_1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{l_1+1}$  denotes the activation function layer. The activation function layer consists of an elementwise nonlinear function  $\sigma(\cdot)$  and an augmented 1 to combine the bias terms in the weight matrix (i.e.,  $\phi(x) = (\sigma(x_{(1)}), \dots, \sigma(x_{(l_1)}), 1)^\top$ ). For further simplicity, let  $\theta_i := \text{vec}(W_i) \in \mathbb{R}^{\Xi_i}$ ,  $\forall i \in \{0, 1\}$  denotes the vectorized weights and  $\theta := (\theta_1^\top, \theta_0^\top)^\top \in \mathbb{R}^\Xi$  denotes the total weight vector, where  $\Xi_i := (l_i + 1) \cdot l_{i+1}$ ,  $\forall i \in \{0, 1\}$  and  $\Xi := \Xi_0 + \Xi_1$  denote the number of each layer and total weights, respectively.

Using this NN, the desired controller  $\tau^*$  can be approximated by the ideal weight vector  $\theta^*$  for a compact subset  $\Omega_{NN} \in \mathbb{R}^{l_0+1}$  to  $\epsilon$  accuracy such that  $\sup_{q_n \in \Omega_{NN}} \|\Phi(q_n; \theta^*) - \tau^*\| = \epsilon < \infty$  [5]. The ideal weight vector  $\theta^*$  is typically assumed to be bounded. Then, using the estimated weight vector  $\hat{\theta} := (\hat{\theta}_1^\top, \hat{\theta}_0^\top)^\top$  of  $\theta^* := (\theta_1^{*\top}, \theta_0^{*\top})^\top$  and bounded approximation error  $\epsilon \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , the approximated desired controller  $\tau^* \approx -\Phi(q_n; \theta^*) - \epsilon$  can be estimated as follows:

$$\tau := -\Phi(q_n; \hat{\theta}). \quad (4)$$

For further sections, let  $\Phi^* := \Phi(q_n; \theta^*)$  and  $\phi^* := \phi(W_0^{*\top} q_n)$ , and let  $\hat{\Phi} := \Phi(q_n; \hat{\theta})$ ,  $\hat{\phi} := \phi(\hat{W}_0^\top q_n)$  and  $\hat{\phi} := \frac{\partial \hat{\Phi}}{\partial (\hat{W}_0^\top q_n)}$ .

Using (2), (3), and (4), the error dynamics can be obtained as the first-order system of augmented error  $\xi := (\hat{q}^\top, \tilde{z}^\top)^\top \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$  as follows:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \xi = A_\xi \xi + B_\xi (\Phi^* - \hat{\Phi} + \epsilon),$$

and

$$A_\xi := \begin{bmatrix} -k_q I_n & I_n \\ -I_n & -k_z I_n \end{bmatrix}, \quad B_\xi := \begin{bmatrix} 0_{n \times n} \\ \hat{M}^{-1} \end{bmatrix}.$$

## B. Adaptation Law Derivation

As discussed in Section I, the boundedness of the weights should be considered to prevent excessively large control inputs and system instability. For the boundedness of the weights, weight norm constraints are imposed on the adaptation process such that  $c_{\theta_i} := c_{\theta_i}(\hat{\theta}_i) = \|\hat{\theta}_i\|^2 - \bar{\theta}_i^2$ ,  $\forall i \in \{0, 1\}$ . The control problem can be reformulated into a constrained optimization problem as follows:

$$\min_{\hat{\theta}} J(\xi; \hat{\theta}) := \frac{1}{2} \xi^\top \Lambda \xi$$

$$\text{subject to } c_j \leq 0, \quad j \in \mathcal{I} := \{\theta_0, \theta_1\},$$

where  $\Lambda = \Lambda^\top > 0$  denotes the weighting matrix. In this optimization problem,  $\xi$  is considered a predefined parameter. The corresponding Lagrangian function is defined as

$$L(\xi, \hat{\theta}, [\lambda_j]_{j \in \mathcal{I}}) := J(\xi; \hat{\theta}) + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}} \lambda_j c_j(\hat{\theta}).$$

To solve the dual problem  $\min_{\hat{\theta}} \max_{[\lambda_j]_{j \in \mathcal{I}}} L(\xi, \hat{\theta}, [\lambda_j]_{j \in \mathcal{I}})$ , the adaptation law is derived as follows:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \hat{\theta} = -\alpha \frac{\partial L}{\partial \hat{\theta}} = -\alpha \left( \frac{\partial J}{\partial \hat{\theta}} + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}} \lambda_j \frac{\partial c_j}{\partial \hat{\theta}} \right), \quad (5a)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \lambda_j = \beta_j \frac{\partial L}{\partial \lambda_j} = \beta_j c_j, \quad \forall j \in \mathcal{I}, \quad (5b)$$

$$\lambda_j = \max(\lambda_j, 0), \quad (5c)$$

where arguments of  $L$  are suppressed for brevity, and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  and  $\beta_j \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  denote the adaptation gain and the update rate for each Lagrange multiplier, respectively.

Using the chain rule, the gradient of the objective function with respect to the weights (i.e.,  $\frac{\partial J}{\partial \hat{\theta}}$ ) in (5a) can be represented as  $\frac{\partial J}{\partial \hat{\theta}} = \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial \hat{\theta}}^\top \Lambda \xi$ . The calculation of  $\frac{\partial J}{\partial \hat{\theta}}$  is not straightforward because of the dynamics of  $\xi$ . Using the forward sensitivity method presented in [17], the sensitivity equation can be obtained as follows:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \eta = A_\xi \eta - B_\xi \frac{\partial \hat{\Phi}}{\partial \hat{\theta}}, \quad (6)$$

where  $\eta := \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial \hat{\theta}} \in \mathbb{R}^{2n \times \Xi}$  denotes the sensitivity of the weights to the augmented error. The initial value of  $\eta$  is zero since the initial  $\xi$  is independent of the weights. By decomposing for each layer, the dynamics of  $\eta_i := \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial \hat{\theta}_i} \in \mathbb{R}^{2n \times \Xi_i}$  can be represented as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \eta &= [\eta_1 \quad \eta_0]' \\ &= A_\xi [\eta_1 \quad \eta_0] - B_\xi [(I_{l_2} \otimes \hat{\phi}^\top) \quad \widehat{W}_1^\top \hat{\phi}^\top (I_{l_1} \otimes q_n^\top)]. \end{aligned}$$

The calculation of  $\frac{\partial \hat{\Phi}}{\partial \hat{\theta}}$  is introduced in [10]. In conclusion, the gradient of the objective with respect to the weights can be obtained as  $\frac{\partial J}{\partial \hat{\theta}} = \eta^\top \Lambda \xi$  by simulating the sensitivity equation (6).

On the other hand, the gradient of the constraints with respect to the weights can be represented as follows:

$$\frac{\partial c_{\theta_0}}{\partial \hat{\theta}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0_{\Xi_1 \times 1} \\ 2\hat{\theta}_0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \frac{\partial c_{\theta_1}}{\partial \hat{\theta}} = \begin{bmatrix} 2\hat{\theta}_1 \\ 0_{\Xi_0 \times 1} \end{bmatrix}.$$

## IV. STABILITY ANALYSIS

The following theorem proves the boundedness of the tracking error and the weight estimation of the weights.

**Theorem 1.** *For the dynamical system in (1), the proposed controller (4) and the adaptation law (5) ensure the boundedness of the tracking error  $\xi$  and the weight estimation  $\hat{\theta}$ , provided that the control gains  $k_q$  and  $k_z$  satisfy (8).*

*Proof.* The boundedness is proven from the last layer to the first layer.

*Step 1: Boundedness of  $\hat{\theta}_1, \eta_1, \xi$*

Without loss of generality, assume that all the constraints are violated. Then, according to (5b) and (5c), all Lagrange multipliers are nonzero.

The dynamics of  $\xi$  can be represented as

$$\frac{d}{dt} \xi = A_\xi \xi + B_\xi (-\widehat{W}_1^\top \hat{\phi} + w(t)),$$

where  $w(t) := W_1^{*\top} \phi^* + \epsilon$  is a lumped residual term, which is bounded as  $\|w(t)\| \leq \bar{w} < \infty$  since  $\|\theta_1^*\|, \|\phi^*\|$  and  $\|\epsilon\|$  are bounded. The dynamics of  $\eta_1$  and  $\hat{\theta}_1$  are represented as

$$\frac{d}{dt} \eta_1 = A_\xi \eta_1 - B_\xi (I_{l_2} \otimes \hat{\phi}^\top),$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \hat{\theta}_1 = -\alpha (\eta_1^\top \Lambda \xi + 2\lambda_{\theta_1} \hat{\theta}_1).$$

According to [18, Chap. 4 T. 1.9], the boundedness of  $\eta_1$  can be obtained since  $A_\xi$  is stable and the residual term  $\| -B_\xi (I_{l_2} \otimes \hat{\phi}^\top) \|$  is bounded.

Define the Lyapunov function  $V_1 := \frac{1}{2} \xi^\top P \xi + \frac{1}{2\alpha} \hat{\theta}_1^\top \hat{\theta}_1$ , with the Lyapunov equation  $A_\xi^\top P + P A_\xi = -Q$ , where  $A_\xi < 0, P = P^\top > 0$ , and  $Q > 0$ . Using a proposition  $\widehat{W}_1^\top \hat{\phi} = \text{vec}(\widehat{W}_1^\top \hat{\phi}) = \text{vec}(\hat{\phi}^\top \widehat{W}_1) = (I_{l_2} \otimes \hat{\phi}^\top) \text{vec}(\widehat{W}_1) = (I_{l_2} \otimes \hat{\phi}^\top) \hat{\theta}_1$  [1, Proposition (7.1.9)], the time derivative of  $V_1$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} V_1 &= \frac{1}{2} \xi^\top (A_\xi^\top P + P A_\xi) \xi + \xi^\top P (-B_\xi \widehat{W}_1^\top \hat{\phi} + B_\xi w(t)) \\ &\quad - \hat{\theta}_1^\top (\eta_1^\top \Lambda \xi + 2\lambda_{\theta_1} \hat{\theta}_1) \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \xi^\top Q \xi - \xi^\top P B_\xi (I_{l_2} \otimes \hat{\phi}^\top) \hat{\theta}_1 + \xi^\top \Delta \\ &\quad - \hat{\theta}_1^\top \eta_1^\top \Lambda \xi - 2\lambda_{\theta_1} \hat{\theta}_1^\top \hat{\theta}_1 \\ &\leq -\frac{1}{2} \lambda_{\min}(Q) \|\xi\|^2 + \bar{\Delta} \|\xi\| + \bar{M} \|\xi\| \|\hat{\theta}_1\| \\ &\quad - 2\lambda_{\theta_1} \|\hat{\theta}_1\|^2 \\ &\leq (-\frac{1}{2} \lambda_{\min}(Q) + \frac{\bar{M}}{2}) \|\xi\|^2 + \bar{\Delta} \|\xi\| \\ &\quad + (-2\lambda_{\theta_1} + \frac{\bar{M}}{2}) \|\hat{\theta}_1\|^2, \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

where  $\Delta := P B_\xi w(t)$  and  $M := -P B_\xi (I_{l_2} \otimes \hat{\phi}^\top) - \Lambda \eta_1$  are bounded such that  $\|\Delta\| \leq \bar{\Delta} < \infty$  and  $\|M\|_F \leq \bar{M} < \infty$ , respectively.

By defining  $P = I_n$ , the eigenvalues of  $Q = -A_\xi^\top - A_\xi$  are  $2k_q$  and  $2k_z$ , since  $A_\xi$  is a skew-symmetric matrix except for the diagonal entries. According to (7), if  $k_q$  and  $k_z$  are provided that

$$\min(k_q, k_z) > \frac{\bar{M}}{2}, \quad (8)$$

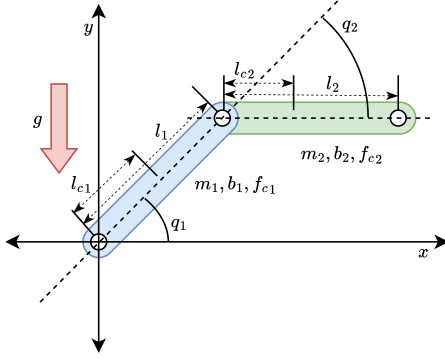


Fig. 1: Two-link manipulator model.

and if  $\lambda_{\theta_1}$  is increased sufficiently large such that  $2\lambda_{\theta_1} > \frac{\bar{M}}{2}$ , due to the violation of  $c_{\theta_1}$ , the tracking error is bounded in

$$\Theta_{\xi} := \left\{ \xi \mid \|\xi\| \leq \frac{2\bar{\Delta}}{\lambda_{\min}(\bar{Q}) - \bar{M}} \right\},$$

and the weight estimation  $\hat{\theta}_1$  is bounded in

$$\Theta_{\theta_1} := \left\{ \hat{\theta}_1 \mid \|\hat{\theta}_1\| \leq \bar{\theta}_1 \right\}.$$

The Lagrange multiplier  $\lambda_{\theta_1}$  is also bounded since the  $\lambda_{\theta_1}$  update stops once  $\hat{\theta}_1$  approaches the compact set  $\Theta_{\theta_1}$ , satisfying the constraint  $c_{\theta_1}$ .

*Step 2: Boundedness of  $\hat{\theta}_0, \eta_0$*

The dynamics of  $\eta_0$  and  $\hat{\theta}_0$  are represented as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}\eta_0 &= \mathbf{A}_{\xi}\eta_0 - \mathbf{B}_{\xi}\hat{\mathbf{W}}_1^{\top}\hat{\phi}'(\mathbf{I}_{l_1} \otimes \mathbf{q}_n^{\top}), \\ \frac{d}{dt}\hat{\theta}_0 &= -\alpha(\eta_0^{\top}\mathbf{\Lambda}\xi + 2\lambda_{\theta_0}\hat{\theta}_0). \end{aligned}$$

According to [18, Chap. 4 T. 1.9],  $\eta_0$  is bounded since  $\mathbf{A}_{\xi}$  is a stable matrix and  $\|-\mathbf{B}_{\xi}\hat{\mathbf{W}}_1^{\top}\hat{\phi}'(\mathbf{I}_{l_1} \otimes \mathbf{q}_n^{\top})\|$  is bounded. To obtain the invariance set of  $\hat{\theta}_0$ , taking the time derivative of the Lyapunov function  $V_0 = \frac{1}{2\alpha}\hat{\theta}_0^{\top}\hat{\theta}_0$  yields:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}V_0 &= -\hat{\theta}_0^{\top}(\eta_0\mathbf{\Lambda}\xi + 2\lambda_{\theta_0}\hat{\theta}_0) \\ &\leq \|\hat{\theta}_0\| \|\eta_0\mathbf{\Lambda}\xi\| - 2\lambda_{\theta_0}\hat{\theta}_0^{\top}\hat{\theta}_0, \\ &\leq -2\lambda_{\theta_0}\|\hat{\theta}_0\|^2 + \|\eta_0\mathbf{\Lambda}\xi\| \|\hat{\theta}_0\|. \end{aligned}$$

Then, the invariance set can be represented as  $\Theta_{\theta_0} := \{\hat{\theta}_0 \mid \|\hat{\theta}_0\| \leq \frac{\|\eta_0\mathbf{\Lambda}\xi\|}{2\lambda_{\theta_0}}\}$ . If  $\lambda_{\theta_0}$  is increased sufficiently large due to the violation of  $c_{\theta_0}$ , the invariance set  $\Theta_{\theta_0}$  converges to  $\{\hat{\theta}_0 \mid \|\hat{\theta}_0\| \leq \bar{\theta}_0\}$  until the constraint  $c_{\theta_0}$  is satisfied. Therefore, the Lagrange multiplier  $\lambda_{\theta_0}$  is also bounded.  $\square$

## V. SIMULATIONS

### A. Setup

The two-link manipulator model in [19] is employed for the simulation demonstration as described in Fig. 1. In the system, the parameters  $q_p, q_{d,p}, \tau_p, m_p, l_p, l_{c,p}, b_p$  and  $f_{c,p}$  denote the joint angle, desired joint angle, torque, mass, length,

TABLE I: System model parameters.

Symbol	Description	Link 1	Link 2
$m_p$	Mass of $p^{\text{th}}$ link	23.902 (kg)	3.88 (kg)
$l_p$	Length of $p^{\text{th}}$ link	0.45 (m)	0.45 (m)
$l_{c,p}$	COM of $p^{\text{th}}$ link	0.091 (m)	0.048 (m)
$b_p$	Viscous coef. of $p^{\text{th}}$ link	2.288 (Nms)	0.172 (Nms)
$f_{c,p}$	Friction coef. of $p^{\text{th}}$ link	7.17 (Nm)	1.734 (Nm)

center of mass, viscous coefficient, and friction coefficient, respectively, for link  $p \in \{1, 2\}$ . The values of the system parameters are given in Table I. The reference signal of  $\mathbf{q} = [q_1, q_2]^{\top}$  is defined as follows:

$$\mathbf{q}_d = \begin{bmatrix} q_{d1} \\ q_{d2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} +\cos(\frac{\pi}{2}t) + 1 \\ -\cos(\frac{\pi}{2}t) - 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

For the comparative study, three controllers were selected: the neuro-adaptive controller with  $L_2$ -regularization (NAC-L2) and with  $\epsilon$ -modification (NAC-eMod) and the proposed controller with constrained optimization (NAC-CO). The performances of the selected controllers are compared based on the tracking performances and the dependencies of the parameters (i.e.,  $L_2$  coefficient  $\lambda$ ,  $\epsilon$ -modification coefficient  $\rho$ , and  $\beta_j$  of NAC-L2, NAC-eMod, and NAC-CO, respectively). The square root of the integrated squared error (ISE) (i.e.,  $\sqrt{\int_0^T \|\xi\|^2 dt}$ , where  $T$  denotes a simulation termination time) is utilized to evaluate the tracking performance. The parameter dependencies of the controllers were examined via various values of the parameters. The values ranged from 0.001 to 1 across 10 samples.

The control laws of all three controllers were the same as those defined in (4). The adaptation law of NAC-L2 is derived by adding the squared weight term  $\frac{1}{2}\lambda\hat{\theta}^{\top}\hat{\theta}$  to the objective function such that  $J_{L_2} := J + \frac{1}{2}\lambda\hat{\theta}^{\top}\hat{\theta}$ , where  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ . The adaptation law obtained via the gradient descent method is subsequently adjusted by adding a stabilizing term  $-\alpha\lambda\hat{\theta}$  as follows:

$$\frac{d}{dt}\hat{\theta} = \frac{\partial J_{L_2}}{\partial \hat{\theta}} = -\alpha \left( \frac{\partial J}{\partial \hat{\theta}} + \lambda\hat{\theta} \right).$$

Note that this adaptation law derived based on  $L_2$ -regularization method in deep learning is inherently the same as the  $\sigma$ -modification in adaptive control theory, which adds the term  $-\alpha\sigma\hat{\theta}$ , where  $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ . For NAC-eMod, similar to the  $\sigma$ -modification, the stabilizing function  $-\alpha\rho\|\tilde{z}\|\hat{\theta}$  is added to the adaptation law as follows:

$$\frac{d}{dt}\hat{\theta} = -\alpha \left( \frac{\partial J}{\partial \hat{\theta}} + \rho\|\tilde{z}\|\hat{\theta} \right),$$

where  $\rho \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ . By  $\|\tilde{z}\|$ , the stabilizing function proportionally increases as the tracking error  $\tilde{z}$  increases. Therefore, the adaptation attempts to reduce the tracking error mainly without the effect of the stabilizing function if the tracking error is sufficiently regulated. The adaptation law of NAC-CO is presented in (5). Owing to the stabilizing functions, the weights of NAC-L2 and NAC-eMod are biased since the stabilizing functions drive the weights toward the origin.



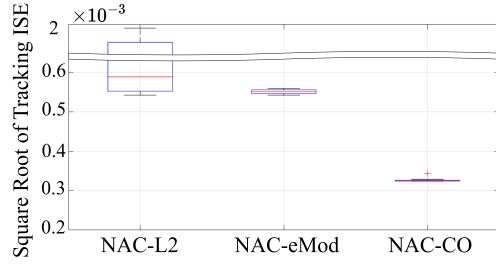


Fig. 2: Box-and-Whisker plot of the square root of the tracking ISEs of NAC-L2, NAC-eMod and NAC-CO across various parameter values.

TABLE II: Quantitative comparison of square root of tracking ISE.

	NAC-L2	NAC-eMod	NAC-CO (proposed)
Maximum	$11.1753 \times 10^{-3}$	$0.5603 \times 10^{-3}$	$0.3439 \times 10^{-3}$
Median	$0.5898 \times 10^{-3}$	$0.5519 \times 10^{-3}$	$0.3240 \times 10^{-3}$
Minimum	$0.5434 \times 10^{-3}$	$0.5434 \times 10^{-3}$	$0.3235 \times 10^{-3}$

All controllers had the same control parameters except their crucial parameters (i.e.,  $\lambda$ ,  $\rho$  and  $\beta_j$ ) as  $k_q = 1.1$ ,  $k_z = 10$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{M}} = \mathbf{I}_2$  and  $\mathbf{\Lambda} = \text{diag}([5, 1, 15, 15])$ . The parameters of the NNs were set to  $l_0 = 2$ ,  $l_1 = 16$ ,  $l_2 = 2$ , and  $\alpha = 10^3$ , and the same random seed was applied for weight initialization. The validity of the selected number of nodes were demonstrated through experiments. The NN input vector was set to the desired trajectory  $\mathbf{q}_d$ , with the augmented 1 to incorporate the bias term in the weight matrix such that  $\mathbf{q}_n = (\mathbf{q}_d^\top, 1)^\top$ . For NAC-CO, the parameters of the weight norm constraints were set as  $\bar{\theta}_0 = 10$  and  $\bar{\theta}_1 = 20$ . The sampling time of the simulation and the simulation termination time were set to  $T_s = 100 \mu\text{s}$  and  $T = 10\text{s}$ , respectively.

### B. Results

As shown in Fig. 2, the maximum square root of the tracking ISE of NAC-CO is smaller than the minimum square root of the tracking ISEs of NAC-L2 and NAC-eMod for all variations in the parameters. This is because NAC-L2 and NAC-eMod bias the weights to the origin due to the presence of stabilizing functions. A quantitative comparison of the square root of the tracking ISE is provided in Table II.

For the detailed analysis, three values of the parameters (i.e.,  $\lambda, \rho, \beta_j \in \{0.001, 0.45, 1\}$ ) were selected as described in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4. As shown in Fig. 3a, increasing  $\lambda$  reduces the weight norm of NAC-L2 via the stabilizing function  $-\alpha\lambda\hat{\theta}$ . Moreover, the high dependency of NAC-L2 on the  $L_2$ -regularization coefficient  $\lambda$  can also be observed. Since the weight norm is decreased, NAC-L2 cannot generate sufficient control inputs, resulting in a larger square root of tracking ISE, as shown in Fig. 4a.

On the other hand, NAC-eMod has a lower dependency on the  $\epsilon$ -modification coefficient  $\rho$ , as shown in Fig. 3b and Fig. 4b. This is because the stabilizing function  $-\alpha\rho\|\tilde{\mathbf{z}}\|\hat{\theta}$

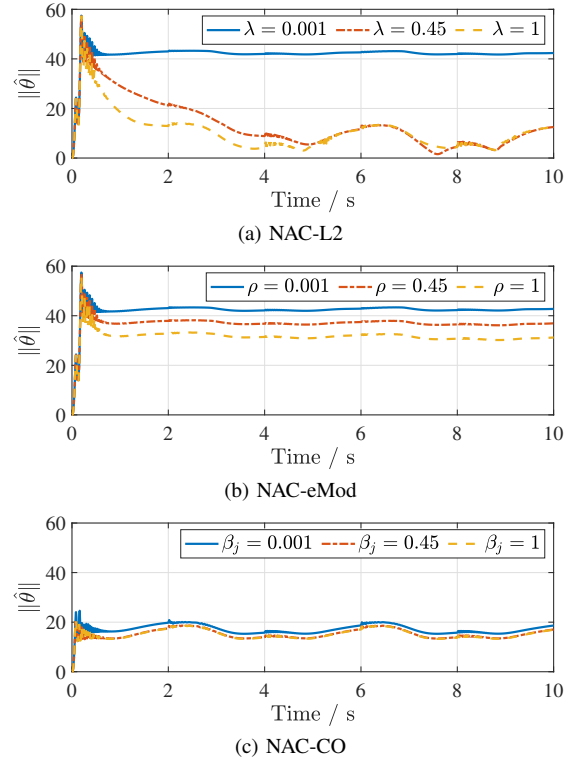


Fig. 3: Weight norms of NAC-L2, NAC-eMod, and NAC-CO.

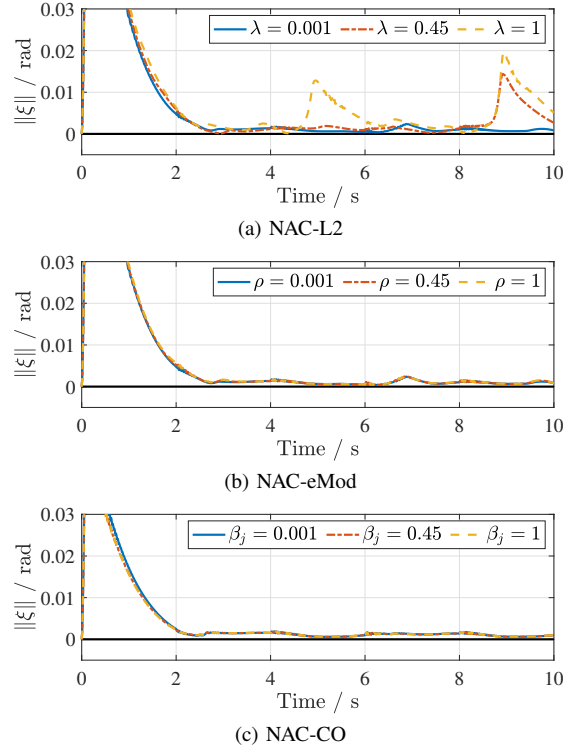


Fig. 4: Tracking errors of NAC-L2, NAC-eMod, and NAC-CO.

can be decreased once the tracking error  $\tilde{\mathbf{z}}$  is sufficiently regulated. However, the bias of the weights to the origin still

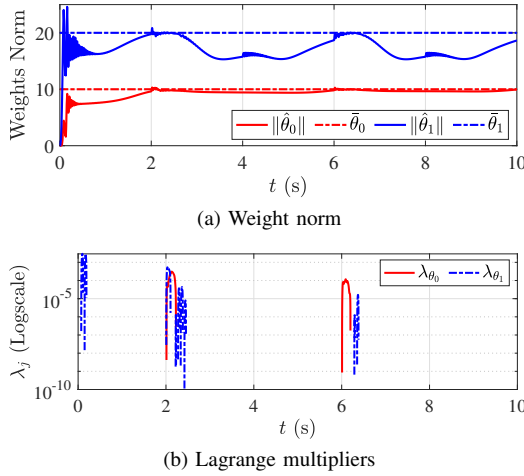


Fig. 5: Weight norms and Lagrange multipliers of NAC-CO ( $\beta = 0.001$ ).

exists, as described in Fig. 3b (i.e., smaller weight norms are observed as  $\rho$  increases.). Therefore, similar to NAC-L2, the biased weights produce insufficient control input, resulting in a relatively larger square root of tracking ISE than that of NAC-CO, as described in Table II.

Finally, the weight norm of NAC-CO is smaller than those of NAC-L2 and NAC-eMod, as shown in Fig. 3c, with better tracking performance. Even if a large  $\beta_j$  is provided, NAC-CO can adjust the adaptation direction to satisfy the weight norm constraints faster, according to (5b). Therefore, the lowest dependency on the update rate  $\beta_j$  is observed in NAC-CO, as shown in Fig. 3c and Fig. 4c. Note that  $\beta_j$  of NAC-CO is the update rate for the Lagrange multipliers, whereas  $\lambda$  and  $\rho$  are the coefficients of the stabilizing function that generates the biases of the weights. However, considering the implementation using a digital computer, excessively large  $\beta_j$  values should be avoided.

The details of the satisfaction of the weight norm constraints are shown in Fig. 5 for NAC-CO with  $\beta_j = 0.001$ . As the weight norms of each layer reach the constraint boundary, the corresponding Lagrange multipliers are generated. Using the Lagrange multipliers, the adaptation direction is adjusted toward the constraint satisfactory point. The Lagrange multipliers disappear when the constraints are satisfied, and the weights are adapted to optimize the original objective function without weight bias.

Furthermore, it is important to note that NAC-CO shows enhanced tracking performance with smaller weights than NAC-L2 and NAC-eMod. This implies that the weights in NAC-CO approach the different local optimal solution points from those of NAC-L2 and NAC-eMod. Therefore, if the physical analysis of the system is available to predict the feasible maximum control inputs, NAC-CO can find the local optimal solution without unnecessarily large control inputs by imposing proper weight norm constraints.

## VI. CONCLUSION

In this paper, a neuro-adaptive control method is proposed for uncertain Euler-Lagrange systems, ensuring weight

boundedness. Adaptation laws are derived by formulating a constrained optimization problem with weight norm constraints. The boundedness of the tracking error and the weight estimation are analyzed via Lyapunov analysis. The simulation results demonstrate that the proposed controller outperforms the existing methods in terms of tracking performance and parameter dependency. As further work, the state constraints for safety will be handled, ensuring stability.

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