



# Robust control for a networked direct-drive linear motion control system: Design and experiments<sup>☆</sup>



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## ABSTRACT

This paper investigates the robust control method for networked dynamic systems and its application for a direct-drive linear motion control system in a network environment. The unavoidable network-induced random delays are modeled as Markov chains. The control object of the linear motion control system in this study is a double-sided linear switched reluctance machine (DLSRM). To tackle the inherent uncertainties in the DLSRM, a robust control strategy is designed by proposing a new Lyapunov function and applying the free-weighting matrix technique. A state feedback robust controller is designed such that the closed-loop direct-drive linear motion control system over a network is stochastically robust stable. The robust controller can be conveniently obtained by solving a set of linear matrix inequalities. The numerical simulation of an angular positioning system is presented to illustrate the effectiveness of the proposed robust control method. Furthermore, the experimental tests on the networked direct-drive linear motion control system verify the practicability of the proposed method.

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## 1. Introduction

With the rapid development of network communication technologies, networked control systems (NCSs) are becoming increasingly important in industrial processes because of low cost, high flexibility, reduced wiring, simple installation and maintenance, and so on. Hence, NCSs are applied in a broad range of areas, such as in vehicles, aircrafts, spacecrafts, manufacturing plants, and remote surgeries [4,21,32,49,51]. However, the insertion of communication networks into feedback control loops introduces several challenging topics, such as constraints on communication bandwidth [1,6,7,39,42], network-induced time delays [2,3,5,9–12,14,20,27,28,31,33–35,45,50], packet dropouts [9,11,15,24,25,28,35,44], signal quantization [19], optimal denial-of-service attack scheduling [48], distributed synchronization [37,46], fault detection [18,41,47], and fuzzy control [8]. Thus, the network characteristics must be considered explicitly in the NCS design.

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Time delay is one of the major issues in communication networks and it may lead to system instability and performance deterioration. The Lyapunov functional approach with the help of the linear matrix inequalities (LMIs) technique can present simple and delay-independent results for the considered NCS with time delays. By contrast, error in the modeling process or the changing operating condition of a practical application results in the difficulty for an exact mathematical model [40]. Therefore, the robust control problems of NCSs have received considerable attention owing to the excellent ability of NCSs to balance the robustness and performance of a system with an inexact mathematical model. In [38], the robust stability analysis of the wireless NCS with stochastic time delays and packet dropouts is investigated by the robust model predictive controller technique. In [43], the composite adaptive tracking control for a class of uncertain nonlinear systems in strict-feedback forms are studied on the basis of the network control framework. In [17], the infinite-horizon optimal-robust guaranteed cost control of continuous-time uncertain nonlinear systems is investigated by using a neural-network-based online solution of Hamilton–Jacobi–Bellman equation. In [52], a robust distributed model predictive control is proposed for uncertain NCSs with time delays. In [29], the guaranteed cost control problem is studied for the NCS with uncertain parameters, random packet dropouts, and time delays. In particular, robust control is important for the NCS based industrial applications because the mathematical models suitable for industrial objects are often inaccurate, and the inaccuracy of the model can be compensated by uncertain but bounded system parameters.

The robust control problems of NCSs and their industrial applications are more challenging than stabilization problems, though most existing work focuses on the stabilization and robust control problems of NCSs. In this paper, a robust control scheme is first developed to design a state feedback controller for the NCS with uncertain parameters, random forward and backward communication links with time delays. Then the application of the proposed control scheme to a direct-drive linear motion control system over a communication network is investigated. Current research on DLSRM-based direct-drive motion control systems mainly concentrates on the controller design without the introduction of any communication network. For example, a nonlinear proportion-derivative position controller based on the tracking differentiator is introduced for the DLSRM-based motion control system to achieve an improved dynamic response [16]. An adaptive position regulator is proposed to combat the nonlinearities and uncertain control behaviors of the DLSRM in [22]. However, the aforementioned methods need to be reevaluated when the DLSRM exists over a communication network with time delays and this motivates the research in this paper. On the basis of the above analysis, this study aims to solve the robust state feedback control problem for the networked DLSRM system by incorporating parameter uncertainties and the random network-induced time delays that exist in both the forward and feedback communication links. The contributions of this paper are mainly three-fold. First, a new Lyapunov functional is constructed for the NCS with uncertain parameters and random network-induced time delays. Sufficient conditions are obtained for the NCS by using the free-weighting matrix technique. Second, a robust state feedback controller is developed. Compared with the robust output feedback controller in [27], the proposed control scheme improves the dynamic behaviors and reduces computational complexity. Finally, the robust control scheme is applied to the networked direct-drive linear motion control system with uncertain parameters and random network-induced time delays.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 presents the problem formulation of the NCS and objective. Section 3 inspects the robust stability analysis and robust controller design for the NCS. Section 4 presents the numerical simulations and experimental tests. Conclusions are given in Section 5 and an appendix is provided for the formal proofs of the results in the main body.

**Notations:** Let  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$  denote the  $n$  dimensional Euclidean space and the set of all  $n \times m$  real matrices, respectively. The notation  $A > 0$  ( $A < 0$ ) indicates that  $A$  is a real symmetric positive (negative) definite matrix. Superscripts “ $T$ ” and “ $-1$ ” stand for matrix transposition and matrix inversion, respectively.  $I$  and  $0$  denote the identity and zero matrices, respectively, with appropriate dimensions.  $\mathbb{E}[\cdot]$  stands for the mathematical expectation, and  $\text{diag}\{A, B\}$  stands for a block-diagonal matrix of  $A$  and  $B$ .  $\|\cdot\|_2$  denotes 2-norm of a matrix or vector.  $\text{sym}\{A\}$  is used to denote the expression  $A + A^T$ . The symbol  $*$  indicates a symmetric term in symmetric entries. For the sake of notation convenience, we will use the notation  $x_k$  for  $x(k)$ .

## 2. Problem statement

The networked direct-drive linear motion control system is shown in Fig. 1.

Considering the network-induced random delays in both forward and feedback communication links, the discrete model of the control object DLSRM can be denoted as follows:

$$\begin{cases} x_{k+1} = (A + \Delta A)x_k + (B + \Delta B)u_k, \\ \begin{bmatrix} \Delta A & \Delta B \end{bmatrix} = D\Delta_k \begin{bmatrix} E_1 & E_2 \end{bmatrix}, \\ \Delta_k^T \Delta_k \leq I, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where  $x_k \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is the system state vector,  $u_k \in \mathbb{R}^m$  is the control input vector, and  $A, B, D, E_1$ , and  $E_2$  are known real constant matrices with appropriate dimensions.  $\Delta_k$  is an unknown matrix that represents time-varying norm-bound parameter uncertainties.

Both the controller and plant nodes are connected via the forward and feedback communication network links. We assume that the sensor, actuator (or linear encoder, driver), and controller are clock-driven and synchronized, similar to that in [32].  $d_k$  and  $\tau_k$  stand for the network-induced time delays of the forward and feedback communication links, respectively.

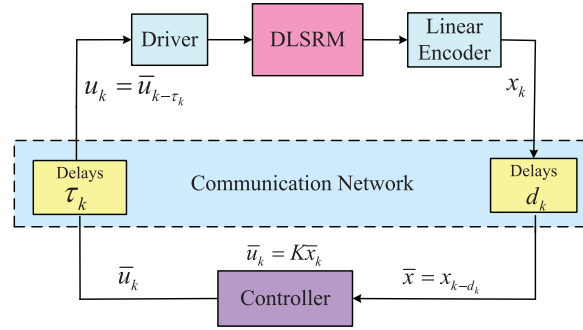


Fig. 1. Structure of the networked DLSRM system.

Both  $d_k$  and  $\tau_k$  are bounded:

$$0 \leq \underline{d} \leq d_k \leq \bar{d}, \quad 0 \leq \underline{\tau} \leq \tau_k \leq \bar{\tau}, \quad (2)$$

where  $\underline{d} = \min\{d_k\}$ ,  $\bar{d} = \max\{d_k\}$ ,  $\underline{\tau} = \min\{\tau_k\}$ ,  $\bar{\tau} = \max\{\tau_k\}$ . To be precise, the values of the above random time delays are continuous. However, the clock-driven controller and drive only accept data at discrete time instants [32]. Thus,  $d_k$  and  $\tau_k$  take values in discrete sets. Random networked-induced time delays  $d_k$  and  $\tau_k$  are modeled as two homogeneous Markov chains. The main advantage of the Markov model is that the dependence between delays is considered, which is caused by the fact that the current time delays are frequently related to the previous delays in real networks. The random time delays  $d_k$  and  $\tau_k$  take values in the finite set  $\mathbb{M} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, M\}$  and  $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, N\}$ , respectively, and the transition probability matrices are  $\pi = [\pi_{ij}]$  and  $\lambda = [\lambda_{mn}]$ , respectively. Thus,  $d_k$  and  $\tau_k$  jump from mode  $i$  to  $j$  and from mode  $m$  to  $n$  (in this paper, Markov mode  $i, j, m$ , and  $n$  stand for the time delay steps), respectively, with probabilities  $\pi_{ij}$  and  $\lambda_{mn}$ , which are defined as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \pi_{ij} = \Pr\{d_{k+1} = j | d_k = i\}, \\ \lambda_{mn} = \Pr\{\tau_{k+1} = n | \tau_k = m\}, \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

where  $\pi_{ij} \geq 0$ ,  $\lambda_{mn} \geq 0$  and

$$\sum_{j=0}^M \pi_{ij} = 1, \quad \sum_{n=0}^N \lambda_{mn} = 1, \quad (4)$$

for  $\{i, j \in \mathbb{M}\}$ ,  $\{m, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ .

**Remark 1.** The network-induced packet dropouts and disorder can be formulated from time delays. If a data packet is lost or a disorder occurs, the most recently arrived data packet will be applied. Thus, packet dropouts can be treated as the upper bound of time delays or infinite delays [13,30]. The disorder can be treated as the jump between different time delay modes. The current problem formulation can accommodate packet dropouts and disorders. Thus, the packet dropouts and disorder problems can be included in the random time delays.

The objective of this paper is to achieve a robust control performance for the NCS and apply the proposed method to a DLSRM over a communication network (Fig. 1). Assuming that the system state is measurable, we adopt a mode-independent state feedback controller:

$$\bar{u}_k = K\bar{x}_k, \quad (5)$$

where  $K$  is the mode-independent state feedback controller gain. By substituting (5) into (1), we can obtain the closed-loop system:

$$\begin{cases} x_{k+1} = \hat{A}x_k + \hat{B}Kx_{k-\eta_k}, \\ x_{k_0} = \varphi_0, k_0 = -\bar{d} - \bar{\tau}, -\bar{d} - \bar{\tau} + 1, \dots, 0, \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

where

$$\hat{A} = A + \Delta A, \quad \hat{B} = B + \Delta B, \quad \eta_k = \tau_k + d_{k-\tau_k}.$$

$\Delta A$  and  $\Delta B$  are defined in (1),  $\varphi_0$  is the initial condition.

**Remark 2.** Many studies have focused on the design of a mode-dependent controller (the controller gain depends on the information of time delays). For example, the mode-dependent dynamic output feedback controller has been investigated in [33] and the delay information of  $d_{k-\tau_{k-1}}$  is incorporated into the dynamic output feedback controller design. In addition, the multi-step jump of Markov chains is involved in the closed-loop system. In this paper, we adopt a mode-independent

state feedback controller (5) which can avoid controller gain switching in high frequency, following the multi-mode of Markov chain  $d_k$  and  $\tau_k$  induced by the communication network that exists in the linear motion control system.

**Remark 3.** The DLSRM model is obtained by on-line experiments in this paper. Since it is difficult to obtain the accurate mathematical model [23], the parameter uncertainties are used to compensate the mathematical model. The methods of dealing with the uncertain parameters in [28,29] provide a guidance for this paper.

### 3. Robust stability analysis and controller design

#### 3.1. Robust stability analysis

The criteria of ensuring stochastic robust stability and the design of the state feedback robust controller gain  $K$  for the closed-loop system are derived from model (6). For this purpose, the definitions of stochastic stability and a lemma are provided to cope with the uncertainties of the system parameters.

**Definition 1** ([34]). The closed-loop system given by (6) is said to be stochastically stable if for every initial mode  $x_0 = x(0)$ ,  $d_0 = d(0) \in \mathbb{M}$ , and  $\tau_0 = \tau(0) \in \mathbb{N}$ , there exists a finite  $\mathcal{W} > 0$  such that the following inequality holds:

$$\mathbb{E} \left\{ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \|x_k\|^2 | x_0, d_0, \tau_0 \right\} < x_0^T \mathcal{W} x_0. \quad (7)$$

**Lemma 1** ([26]). Let  $\Sigma_1$ ,  $\Sigma_2$ , and  $\Sigma_3$  be the real matrices of appropriate sizes, with  $\Sigma_1 = \Sigma_1^T$ . Then,

$$\Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2 \Delta_k \Sigma_3 + \Sigma_3^T \Delta_k^T \Sigma_2^T < 0$$

holds for all  $\Delta_k$  and satisfies  $\Delta_k^T \Delta_k \leq I$  if and only if for some  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,

$$\Sigma_1 + \varepsilon \Sigma_2 \Sigma_2^T + \varepsilon^{-1} \Sigma_3^T \Sigma_3 < 0.$$

**Theorem 1.** For the closed-loop system in (6) with the random but bounded time delay  $d_k \in [\underline{d} \quad \bar{d}]$  and  $\tau_k \in [\underline{\tau} \quad \bar{\tau}]$ , if matrices  $P_{i,m} > 0$ ,  $Q > 0$ ,  $R > 0$ ,  $\mathbb{U} = [\mathcal{U}_1 \quad \mathcal{U}_2 \quad \mathcal{U}_3]$  exist for modes  $\{i, j\} \in \mathbb{M}$  and  $\{m, n\} \in \mathbb{N}$ , then  $K$  satisfies the following matrix inequality

$$\Theta_{i,m} = \text{sym}\{\tilde{\mathbb{U}}^T \mathbb{A}\} + \Gamma_{i,m} < 0, \quad (8)$$

where

$$\tilde{\mathbb{U}} = [\mathcal{U}_1 \quad \mathcal{U}_2 \quad \mathcal{U}_3 \quad 0],$$

$$\mathbb{A} = [\hat{A} - I \quad -I \quad \hat{B}K \quad 0],$$

$$\Gamma_{i,m} = \begin{bmatrix} \Xi_{11} & \bar{P}_{i,m} & R & 0 \\ \bar{P}_{i,m} & \Xi_{22} & 0 & 0 \\ R & 0 & \Xi_{33} & R \\ 0 & 0 & R & \Xi_{44} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\Xi_{11} = \bar{P}_{i,m} + P_{i,m} + (\bar{\eta} - \underline{\eta} + 2)Q - R,$$

$$\Xi_{22} = \bar{P}_{i,m} + \bar{\eta}^2 R, \quad \Xi_{33} = -Q - 2R, \quad \Xi_{44} = -Q - R,$$

$$\bar{P}_{i,m} = \sum_{j=0}^M \sum_{n=0}^N \pi_{ij} \lambda_{mn} P_{j,n}, \quad \bar{\eta} = \bar{d} + \bar{\tau}, \quad \underline{\eta} = \underline{d} + \underline{\tau},$$

with  $\hat{A}$  and  $\hat{B}$  defined in (6).

Thus, the closed-loop system in (6) with the state feedback controller (5) exhibits stochastic stability.

**Proof.** See Appendix A.  $\square$

**Remark 4.** The equation in (8) from Theorem 1 provides sufficient stability conditions for the closed-loop system (6). However, Eq. (8) contains uncertain but bounded  $\Delta_k$ . So condition (8) cannot account for all admissible uncertain matrices  $\Delta_k$ . To address this issue, the equivalent description is given as follows.

**Theorem 2.** For the closed-loop system in (6) with the random but bounded time delay  $d_k \in [\underline{d} \quad \bar{d}]$  and  $\tau_k \in [\underline{\tau} \quad \bar{\tau}]$ , if scalar  $\varepsilon > 0$  and matrices  $P_{i,m} > 0$ ,  $Q > 0$ ,  $R > 0$ ,  $\mathbb{U} = [\mathcal{U}_1 \quad \mathcal{U}_2 \quad \mathcal{U}_3]$  exist for modes  $\{i, j\} \in \mathbb{M}$  and  $\{m, n\} \in \mathbb{N}$ , then  $K$  satisfies the following matrix inequality

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\varepsilon I & \Upsilon_{12} \\ * & \Upsilon_{22} \end{bmatrix} < 0, \quad (9)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}\Upsilon_{12} &= [E_1 \quad 0 \quad E_2 K \quad 0], \\ \Upsilon_{22} &= \Gamma_{i,m} + \text{sym}\{[\mathcal{U}_1 \quad \mathcal{U}_2 \quad \mathcal{U}_3 \quad 0]^T [A - I \quad -I \quad BK \quad 0]\} \\ &\quad + \varepsilon [\mathcal{U}_1 \quad \mathcal{U}_2 \quad \mathcal{U}_3 \quad 0]^T D D^T [\mathcal{U}_1 \quad \mathcal{U}_2 \quad \mathcal{U}_3 \quad 0],\end{aligned}$$

and  $\Gamma_{i,m}$  is defined in Theorem 1.

Thus, system (1) with the state feedback controller (5) exhibits robust stochastic stability for all admissible uncertainties.

**Proof.** In Theorem 1

$$\begin{aligned}\Theta_{i,m} &= \text{sym}\{\bar{\mathcal{U}}^T \mathbb{A}\} + \Gamma_{i,m} \\ &= \text{sym}\{[\mathcal{U}_1 \quad \mathcal{U}_2 \quad \mathcal{U}_3 \quad 0]^T [\hat{A} - I \quad -I \quad \hat{B}K \quad 0]\} + \Gamma_{i,m} \\ &= \text{sym}\{[\mathcal{U}_1 \quad \mathcal{U}_2 \quad \mathcal{U}_3 \quad 0]^T [A - I \quad -I \quad BK \quad 0]\} + \Gamma_{i,m} \\ &\quad + \text{sym}\{[\mathcal{U}_1 \quad \mathcal{U}_2 \quad \mathcal{U}_3 \quad 0]^T [D\Delta_k E_1 \quad 0 \quad D\Delta_k E_2 K \quad 0]\} \\ &= \text{sym}\{[\mathcal{U}_1 \quad \mathcal{U}_2 \quad \mathcal{U}_3 \quad 0]^T [A - I \quad -I \quad BK \quad 0]\} + \Gamma_{i,m} \\ &\quad + \text{sym}\{[\mathcal{U}_1 \quad \mathcal{U}_2 \quad \mathcal{U}_3 \quad 0]^T D\Delta_k [E_1 \quad 0 \quad E_2 K \quad 0]\} < 0.\end{aligned}$$

According to Lemma 1 and on the basis of the Schur complement, Theorem 2 can be obtained, thus completing the proof.  $\square$

### 3.2. Robust controller design

This section focuses on the design of the state feedback controller (5) to stabilize the closed-loop system (6) by the linear matrix inequality approach.

**Theorem 3.** For the closed-loop system in (6) with the random but bounded time delay  $d_k \in [\underline{d} \quad \bar{d}]$  and  $\tau_k \in [\underline{\tau} \quad \bar{\tau}]$ , if scalar  $\varepsilon > 0$ , tuning parameters  $\vartheta_1 > 0$  and  $\vartheta_2 > 0$ , and matrices  $X > 0$ ,  $\hat{P}_{i,m} > 0$ ,  $\hat{Q} > 0$ ,  $\hat{R} > 0$  exist for modes  $\{i, j\} \in \mathbb{M}$  and  $\{m, n\} \in \mathbb{N}$ , then  $Y$  exists such that

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\varepsilon I & \hat{\Upsilon}_{12} \\ * & \hat{\Upsilon}_{22} \end{bmatrix} < 0, \quad (10)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\Upsilon}_{12} &= [E_1 X \quad 0 \quad \vartheta_2 E_2 Y \quad 0], \\ \hat{\Upsilon}_{22} &= \hat{\Gamma}_{i,m} + \text{sym}\{\hat{\Pi}\} + \varepsilon \mathcal{I}^T D D^T \mathcal{I}, \\ \hat{\Gamma}_{i,m} &= \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\Xi}_{11} & \vartheta_1 \hat{P}_{i,m} & \vartheta_2 \hat{R} & 0 \\ * & \hat{\Xi}_{22} & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & \hat{\Xi}_{33} & \vartheta_2 \hat{R} \\ * & * & * & \hat{\Xi}_{44} \end{bmatrix}, \\ \hat{\Pi} &= \mathcal{I}^T A \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{I} = [I \quad I \quad I \quad 0], \\ A &= [(A - I)X \quad -\vartheta_1 X \quad \vartheta_2 B Y \quad 0], \\ \hat{\Xi}_{11} &= \hat{P}_{i,m} + \hat{P}_{i,m} + (\bar{\eta} - \underline{\eta} + 2)\hat{Q} - \hat{R}, \\ \hat{\Xi}_{22} &= \vartheta_1^2 (\hat{P}_{i,m} + \bar{\eta}^2 \hat{R}), \hat{\Xi}_{33} = -\vartheta_2 (\hat{Q} + \hat{R}), \hat{\Xi}_{44} = -\hat{Q} - \hat{R}, \\ \hat{P}_{i,m} &= \sum_{j=0}^M \sum_{n=0}^N \pi_{ij} \lambda_{mn} \hat{P}_{j,n}.\end{aligned}$$

Thus, the closed-loop system (6) has robust stochastic stability,  $\bar{u}_k = K\bar{x}_k$  is a state feedback controller of system (1) with gain  $K = YX^{-1}$ .

**Proof.** Let  $\mathcal{Q}_{im} = \text{diag}\{I, X_{i,m}, \vartheta_1 X_{i,m}, \vartheta_2 X_{i,m}, X_{i,m}\}$ ,  $\mathcal{U}_1^{-1} = X_{i,m}$ ,  $\mathcal{U}_2^{-1} = \vartheta_1 X_{i,m}$ , and  $\mathcal{U}_3^{-1} = \vartheta_2 X_{i,m}$ , where  $\vartheta_1 > 0$ , and  $\vartheta_2 > 0$  are known tuning parameters. We restrict  $X_{i,m}$  to be the same for all  $\{i, m\}$  (namely  $X_{i,m} = X$ ), and give the following notations:

$$\hat{P}_{i,m} = X^T P_{i,m} X, \hat{\bar{P}}_{i,m} = X^T \bar{P}_{i,m} X, \hat{Q} = X^T Q X, \hat{R} = X^T R X, KX = Y.$$

Pre- and post-multiplying  $\mathcal{Q}_{im}^T$  and  $\mathcal{Q}_{im}$  to (9), respectively, Theorem 3 can be obtained by the Schur complement, thus completing the proof.  $\square$

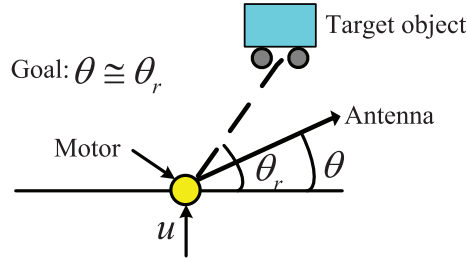


Fig. 2. The angular positioning system.

#### 4. Simulation and experimental results

##### 4.1. Numerical simulation on an angular positioning system

In this subsection, the numerical simulation on an angular positioning system is presented to illustrate the effectiveness of the proposed robust control method.

The classical angular positioning system in Fig. 2 [36] consists of a rotating antenna at the origin of the plane, and the antenna is driven by an electric motor. We assume that the angular position of the antenna as  $\theta$  (rad), the angular position of the moving object as  $\theta_r$  (rad), and the angular velocity of the antenna  $\dot{\theta}$  (rad  $s^{-1}$ ) are measurable. The state variables are chosen as  $[\theta \quad \dot{\theta}]^T$ . The control target is the regulation of the input voltage to the motor to rotate the antenna such that it always points to the direction of the moving object of the plant. The motion of the antenna can be described by the following discrete-time form by using a sampling time of 0.1 s and Euler's first-order approximation for the derivatives.

$$x_{k+1} = \begin{bmatrix} \theta_{k+1} \\ \dot{\theta}_{k+1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0.1 \\ 0 & 1 - 0.1\partial_k \end{bmatrix} x_k + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0.1\kappa \end{bmatrix} u_k,$$

where  $\kappa = 0.787 \text{ rad}^{-1} \text{V}^{-1} \text{s}^{-2}$  and  $0.1 \text{ s}^{-1} \leq \partial_k \leq 10 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . The parameter  $\partial_k$  is proportional to the coefficient of viscous friction in the rotating parts of the antenna, assuming that  $\partial_k = 0.1$ . The initial state  $x_0 = [0.01 \quad 0]^T$ . The state feedback controller is designed for the following values of plant matrices  $A$  and  $B$ :

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0.1 \\ 0 & 0.99 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0.0787 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The eigenvalues of  $A$  are 1 and 0.99, thus, this system is not asymptotically stable. Our purpose is to design a robust controller such that the closed-loop system is stochastically stable with uncertain parameters and random time delays.

To apply Theorem 3 in this example, we assume that the aforementioned system is an uncertain system with norm-bound parameter uncertain matrices  $D$ ,  $E_1$ , and  $E_2$ , which has the following values:

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0.3 \\ 0.02 & -0.05 \end{bmatrix}, \quad E_1 = [0.01 \quad 0.02], \quad E_2 = 0.03.$$

The random time delays involved in system (6) are assumed to be  $d_k = i, i \in \{0, 1, 2\}$  and  $\tau_k = m, m \in \{0, 1\}$ , and the transition matrices are given as the following values:

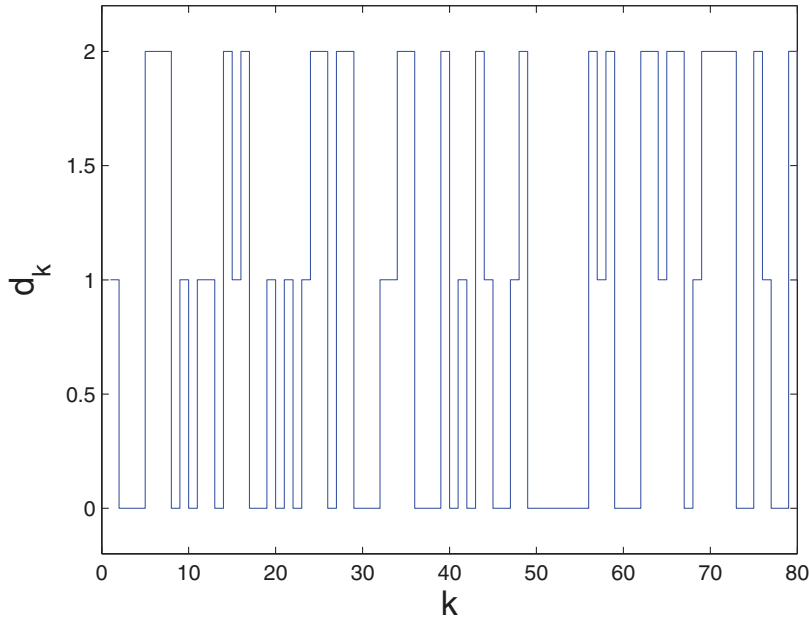
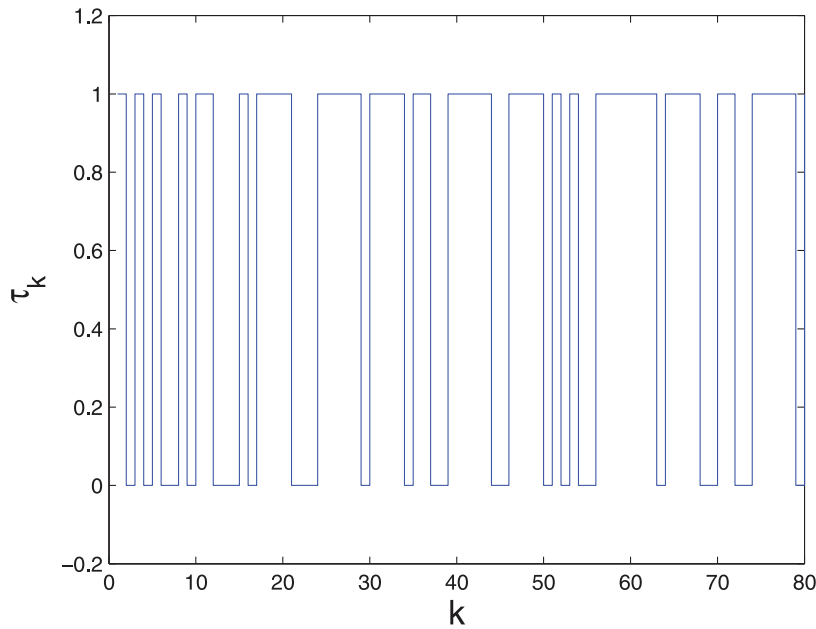
$$\pi = \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 & 0.2 & 0.3 \\ 0.4 & 0.5 & 0.1 \\ 0.3 & 0.2 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \lambda = \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 & 0.5 \\ 0.8 & 0.2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Setting the initial state value  $x_0 = [0.01 \quad 0]^T$ , we give the tuning parameters  $\vartheta_1 = 0.8$  and  $\vartheta_2 = 50$ . The time-varying norm-bound uncertain parameter  $\Delta_k$  is assumed as follows:

$$\Delta_k = \begin{cases} \begin{bmatrix} 0.1 \sin(k) \\ 0.3 \cos(k) \end{bmatrix}, & 3 \leq k \leq 80 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

By applying Theorem 3, we can obtain a scalar  $\varepsilon = 9.03 \times 10^{-10}$ , and the gain matrix  $K$  of controller (5) is expressed as follows:

$$K = [-0.5000 \quad -1.1251].$$

Fig. 3. Time delays  $d_k$ .Fig. 4. Time delays  $\tau_k$ .

Figs. 3 and 4 demonstrate part of the simulation results of the random jumping parameter  $d_k$  and  $\tau_k$ , and they are governed by the corresponding transition probability matrices. Fig. 5 demonstrates the  $\|\Delta_k\|_2$  of the time-varying norm-bound uncertain parameters  $\Delta_k$ , indicating that  $\|\Delta_k\|_2 < 1$ . The state trajectories are shown in Fig. 6, where two curves show the system under the controller gain  $K$  is robust stable.

To further verify the effectiveness of the proposed strategy, a comparative study with the existing method in [27] is addressed. For comparison, a state feedback control is applied to the same angular positioning system in this example. The same initial states  $x_0 = [0.01 \ 0]^T$  are set, and the simulation results are shown in Figs. 7 and 8, respectively.

**Remark 5.** The control performance by using the proposed robust control method for the closed-loop system with random time delays and uncertain parameters can be found in Figs. 7 and 8. It can be seen that the proposed method annihilates

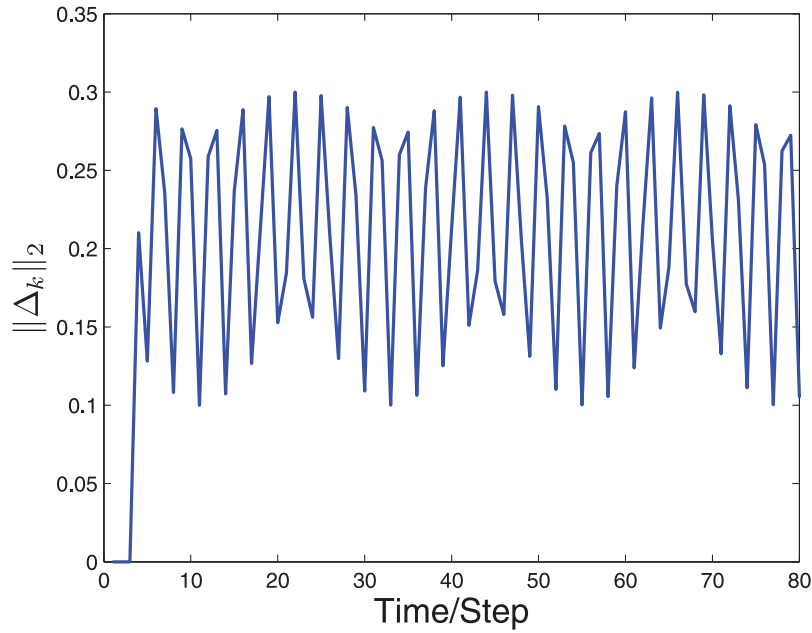


Fig. 5. Values of  $\|\Delta_k\|_2$ .

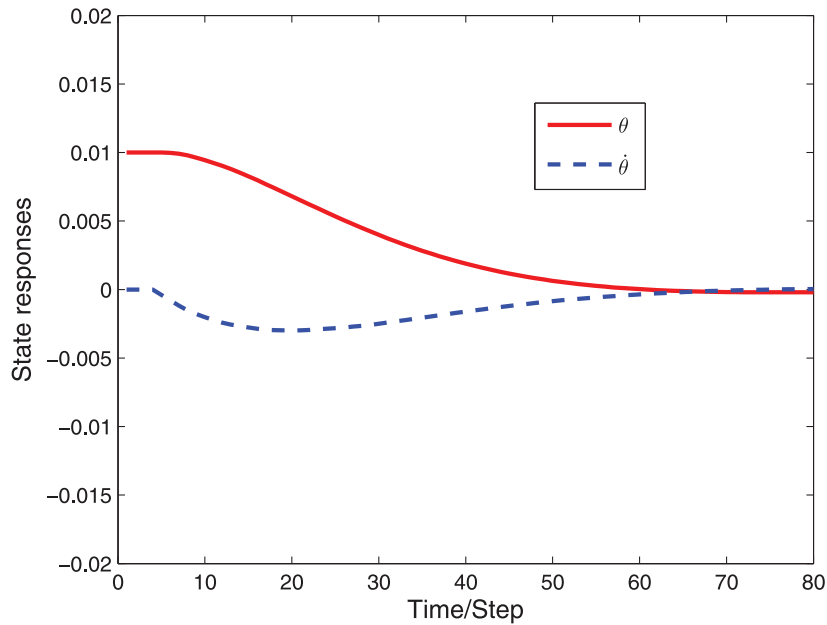


Fig. 6. State trajectories.

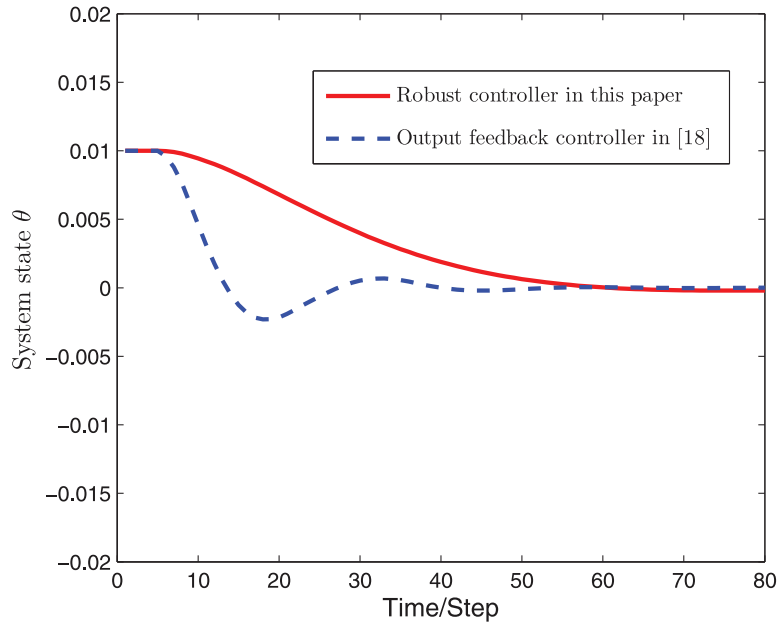
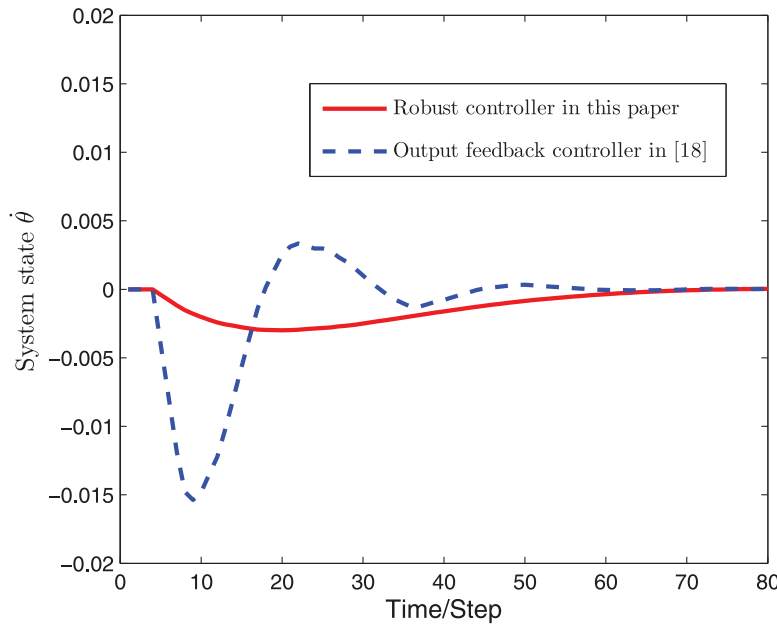
overshoots for system state  $\theta$  and the fluctuations of state  $\dot{\theta}$  are also reduced, compared to the output feedback control method [27] for the same system. Since the control systems for electric machines often require less overshoot and fluctuations in the dynamic response, the proposed method is more suitable for the DLSRM system with uncertain parameters.

#### 4.2. Experimental tests on the networked DLSRM

To further illustrate the effectiveness and applicability of the proposed method, the experiment on the networked direct-drive linear motion control system (Fig. 9) is conducted.

The experimental setup consists of a personal computer (PC), DLSRM, dSPACE control platform and driver. The networked controller is implemented in Matlab/Simulink environment on the PC. The setup simulates the situation that the hardware



Fig. 7. Response of  $\theta$ .Fig. 8. Response of  $\dot{\theta}$ .

including the controller, drivers, linear machine and encoder of the DLSRM system is allocated locally. In addition, the PC is the remote monitoring computer collecting the real time position information from the linear encoder (sensor-to-controller) and sending the information to the local controller (controller-to-actuator) simultaneously. As shown in Fig. 9, the control program can be developed under the environment of Matlab/Simulink from the monitoring PC and all control parameters can be modified online. The current drivers for the DLSRM are three commercial amplifiers capable of the inner current regulation with a sampling rate of 20 kHz. Position information is sensed by the linear magnetic encoder with a resolution of 1  $\mu\text{m}$  and the sampling time of the position control loop is 1 ms.

The DLSRM applies the asymmetric linear switched reluctance topology [23]. It is mainly composed of a stator base with three-phase windings and a moving platform. The DLSRM is a second-order control object and the model without load can

be represented as follows [22]:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_p \\ \ddot{x}_p \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -\frac{b_p}{m_p} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_p \\ \dot{x}_p \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{1}{m_p} \end{bmatrix} u_p,$$

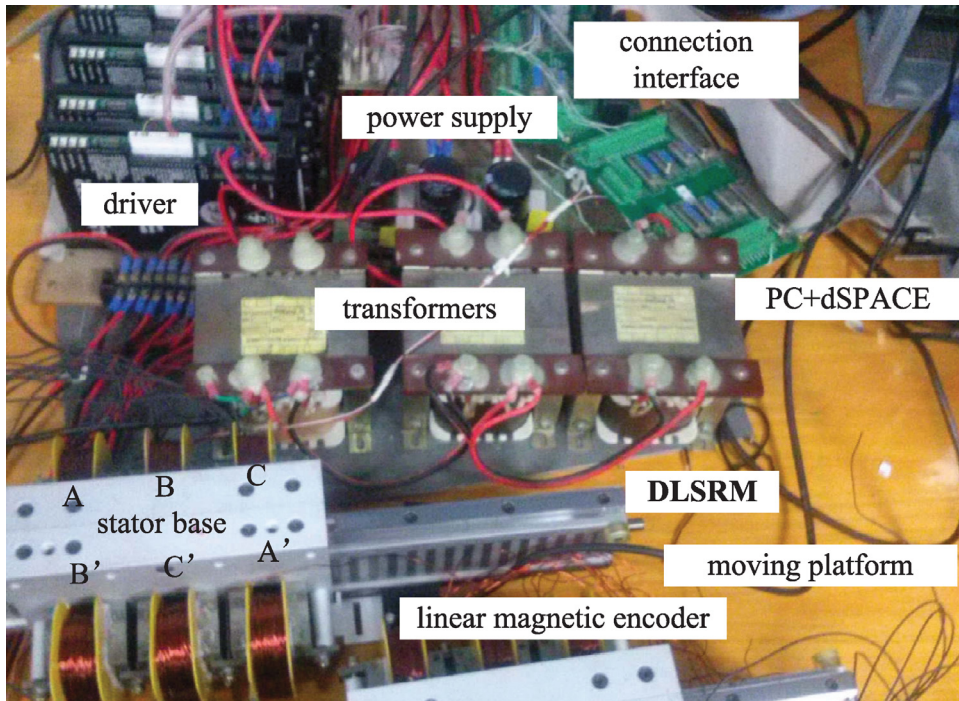


Fig. 9. The experimental platform.

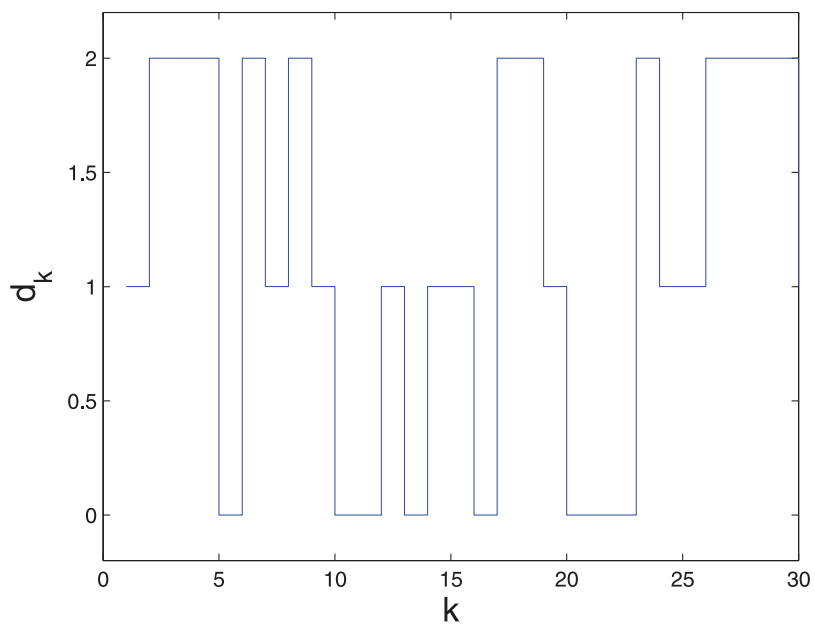


Fig. 10. Time delays  $d_k$ .

where  $x_p$  denotes the position,  $m_p$  is the mass of the moving platform,  $b_p$  is the friction coefficient,  $m_p = 1.5$  kg and  $b_p = 0.5$ . System parameters of the DLSRM model can be derived by the discretization with a sampling time of 10 ms:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -0.3333 \end{bmatrix}, B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0.6667 \end{bmatrix}.$$

To apply Theorem 3 in this example, the aforementioned DLSRM system parameters are obtained by online system identification method. Provided the fact that constructing the exact mathematical model of a real time DLSRM system is difficult,

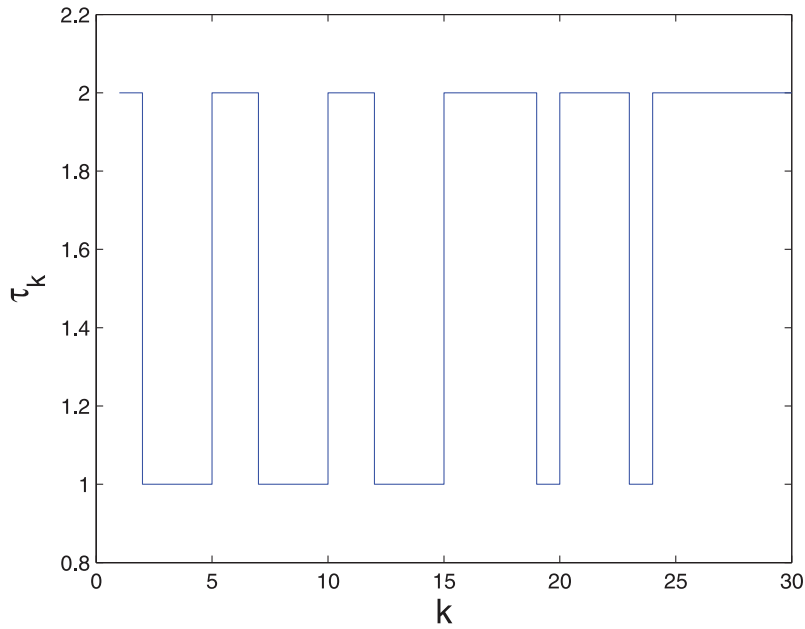


Fig. 11. Time delays  $\tau_k$ .

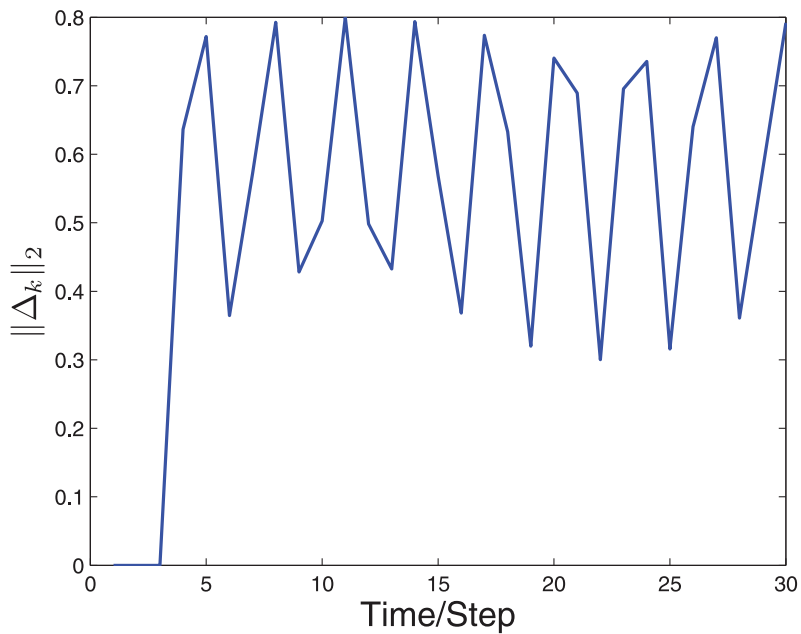


Fig. 12. Values of  $\|\Delta_k\|_2$ .

parameter uncertainties  $\Delta A$  and  $\Delta B$  are introduced. Matrixes  $D$ ,  $E_1$ , and  $E_2$  are given as follows:

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0.3 \\ 0.02 & -0.05 \end{bmatrix}, \quad E_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0.01 & 0.02 \end{bmatrix}, \quad E_2 = 0.03.$$

The random networked time delays  $d_k \in \{0, 1, 2\}$  and  $\tau_k \in \{1, 2\}$  and the transition matrices are given by the following:

$$\pi = \begin{bmatrix} 0.1 & 0.5 & 0.4 \\ 0.2 & 0.3 & 0.5 \\ 0.3 & 0.5 & 0.2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \lambda = \begin{bmatrix} 0.7 & 0.3 \\ 0.4 & 0.6 \end{bmatrix}.$$

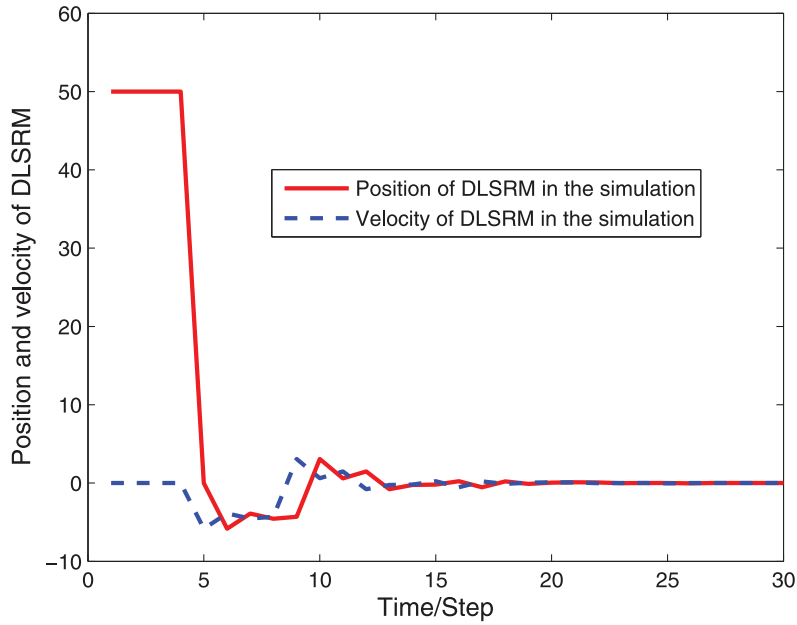


Fig. 13. Simulation Results.

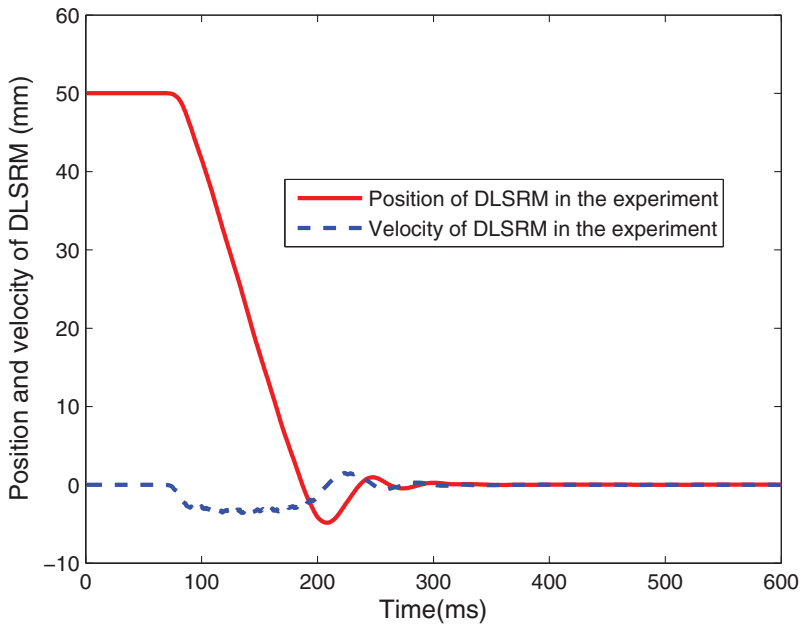


Fig. 14. Experiment Results.

We set the initial values as  $x_0 = [50 \ 0]^T$ , which denotes the DLSRM location at the position of 50 mm with zero velocity. We set the tuning parameters as  $\vartheta_1 = 0.8$  and  $\vartheta_2 = 1.1$ , respectively. The time-varying norm-bound uncertain parameters  $\Delta_k$  is assumed as follows:

$$\Delta_k = \begin{cases} \begin{bmatrix} 0.8 \sin(k) \\ 0.3 \cos(k) \end{bmatrix}, & 4 \leq k \leq 30 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

By applying Theorem 3, we can obtain a scalar  $\varepsilon = 0.5224$  and the gain matrix  $K$  of the controller (5):

$$K = \begin{bmatrix} -0.1748 & -0.3897 \end{bmatrix}.$$

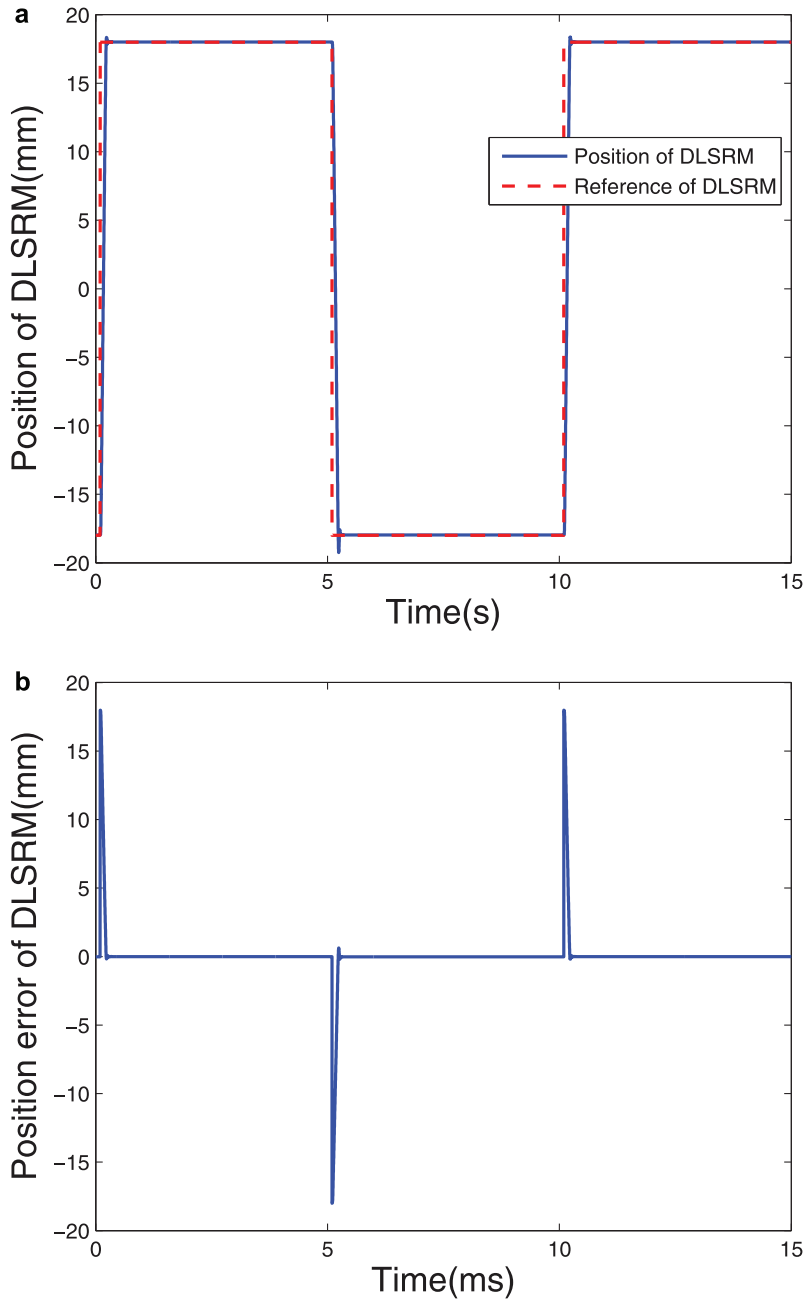


Fig. 15. Response profiles at 18 mm and 0.1 Hz under square reference. (a) Trajectory. (b) The enlarged view of error.

Figs. 10 and 11 illustrate that part of the simulation with random time delays  $d_k$  and  $\tau_k$  are dominated by their corresponding transition probability matrices. Fig. 12 demonstrates the  $\|\Delta_k\|_2$  of the time-varying norm-bound uncertain parameter  $\Delta_k$  and it indicates that  $\|\Delta_k\|_2 < 1$ . Figs. 13 and 14 demonstrate the simulation and experimental results of the DLSRM system. Figs. 13 and 14 prove that the networked DLSRM system exhibits robust stochastic stability under the robust controller  $\bar{u}_k = [-0.1748 \quad -0.3897] \bar{x}_k$ . Figs. 13 and 14 show that the simulation results correspond to the experimental results and both results verify the effectiveness of the proposed control method.

**Remark 6.** For convenience, the unit for the horizontal axis is step and it represents 10 ms (Fig. 13). Considering the mechanical inertia and initial position of the DLSRM, a time delay exists from the response profiles in the experiment. Figs. 13 and 14 indicate a good agreement between the simulation and experiment.

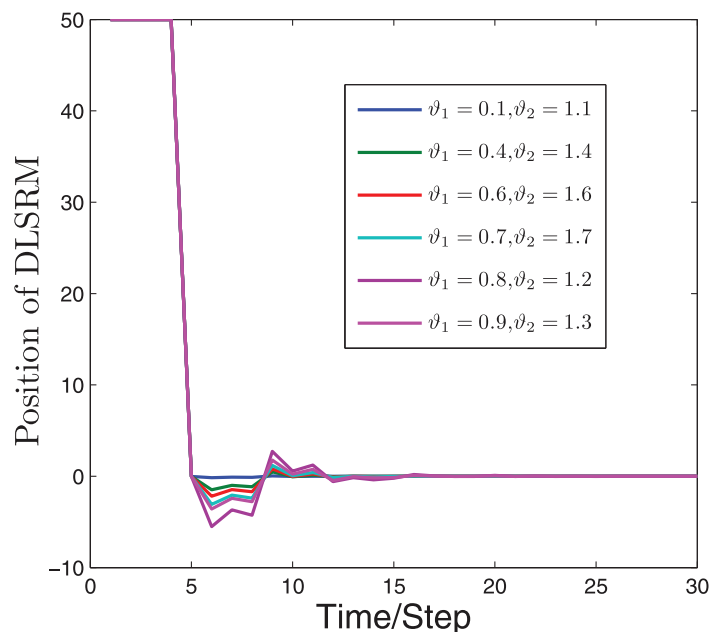
In order to further validate the proposed method, the position response profiles for the DLSRM system under the square reference signal are provided experimentally as follows.

Due to the mechanical inertia, there is a considerable transient process under the square position reference signal with the amplitude of 18 mm and frequency of 0.1 Hz, as shown in Fig. 15. Although there exhibits sharp overshoots at variable amplitude and frequency values, the position response waveforms quickly converge to the steady states under the square position reference. Due to machine imperfections such as the non-uniform friction or manufacture defects, the response waveforms from the positive and negative transitions are not identical and the maximum absolute steady-state error values from the positive and negative transitions are 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  and 3  $\mu\text{m}$ , respectively.

**Remark 7.** Parameters  $\vartheta_1$  and  $\vartheta_2$  are introduced in Theorem 3. To guarantee the negativeness of block (3,3) in Eq. (10), it is recommended to choose  $0 < \vartheta_1 < 1$  and  $\vartheta_2 > 1$ . When the values of the tuning parameters  $\vartheta_1 > 0$  and  $\vartheta_2 > 0$  differ, we can obtain  $K$  by applying Theorem 3. The values are listed in Table 1. The state response under the different  $\vartheta_1$  and  $\vartheta_2$  values is

**Table 1**  
Relationship among  $\vartheta_1$ ,  $\vartheta_2$ ,  $\varepsilon$ , and  $K$ .

$\vartheta_1$	$\vartheta_2$	$\varepsilon$	$K$
0.1	1.1	1.6146	$[-0.0048 \quad -0.0075]$
0.4	1.4	0.4905	$[-0.0443 \quad -0.0959]$
0.6	1.6	0.7083	$[-0.0655 \quad -0.1605]$
0.7	1.7	0.5257	$[-0.0923 \quad -0.1858]$
0.8	1.2	0.4990	$[-0.1648 \quad -0.3562]$
0.9	1.3	2.2953	$[-0.1076 \quad -0.3533]$



**Fig. 16.** Response of position.

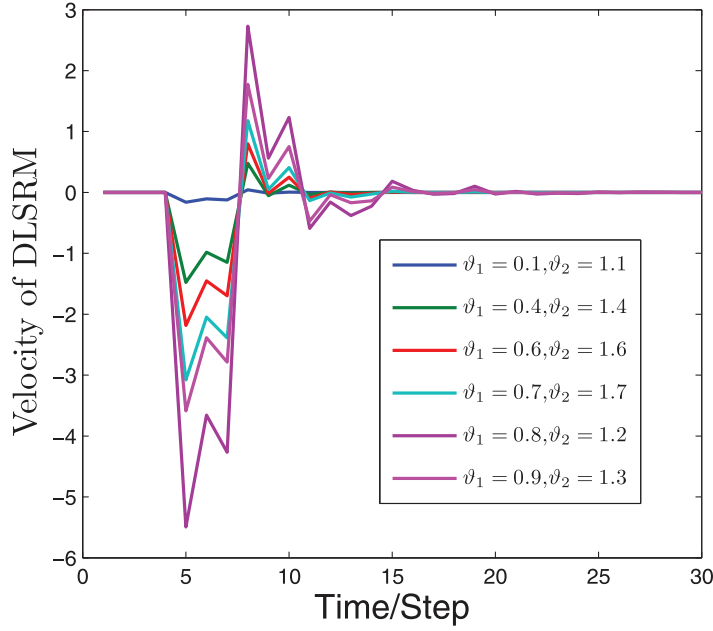


Fig. 17. Response of velocity.

illustrated in Figs. 16 and 17, respectively. These response results do not vary significantly with the variation from  $\vartheta_1$  and  $\vartheta_2$  values. The simulation results also demonstrate that the proposed method is conservative.

## 5. Conclusions

In this paper, we have investigated the robust stability problem for the NCS with uncertain parameters and random time delays in both forward and feedback communication links modeled by two Markov chains. The focus of this study is the design of a robust controller to stabilize uncertain NCSs and the application to the DLSRM system over a communication network. By constructing a new Lyapunov functional and using a free-weighting matrix technique, several novel robust stability criteria are derived in terms of LMIs. Simulation and experimental results are provided to demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed approach on the networked DLSRM based motion control system.

## Appendix A. Proof of Theorem 1

Consider a new Lyapunov functional candidate with the following form:

$$V(x_k, d_k, \tau_k) = V_1(x_k, d_k, \tau_k) + V_2(x_k, d_k, \tau_k) + V_3(x_k, d_k, \tau_k), \quad (\text{A.1})$$

where  $\forall d_k = i \in \mathbb{M}$  and  $\forall \tau_k = m \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$V_1(x_k, d_k, \tau_k) = x_k^T P_{i,m} x_k,$$

$$V_2(x_k, d_k, \tau_k) = \sum_{l=k-\eta_k}^{k-1} x_l^T Q x_l + \sum_{\theta=-\bar{\eta}+1}^{-\eta+1} \sum_{l=k+\theta-1}^{k-1} x_l^T Q x_l,$$

$$V_3(x_k, d_k, \tau_k) = \sum_{\theta=-\bar{\eta}+1}^0 \sum_{l=k+\theta-1}^{k-1} (\bar{\eta}) \delta_l^T R \delta_l,$$

with  $\eta_k = \tau_k - d_{k-\tau_k}$ ,  $\delta_l = x_{l+1} - x_l$ ,  $\bar{\eta}$ ,  $\underline{\eta}$ ,  $P_{i,m}$ ,  $Q$ , and  $R$  are defined in Theorem 1. For  $d_k = i$ ,  $d_{k+1} = j$ ,  $\tau_k = m$ , and  $\tau_{k+1} = n$ , we denote  $\Delta V(x_k, d_k, \tau_k) = \sum_{s=1}^3 \Delta V_s$ .

Let  $\xi_k = [x_k^T \quad \delta_k^T \quad x_{k-\eta_k}^T \quad x_{k-\bar{\eta}}^T]^T$ . For any weighting matrix  $\bar{U}$  with compatible dimensions (and let  $\bar{U} = [\mathcal{U}_1 \quad \mathcal{U}_2 \quad \mathcal{U}_3 \quad 0]$ ), we have  $2\xi_k^T \bar{U}^T \left( (\hat{A} - I)x_k - \delta_k + \hat{B}Kx_{k-\eta_k} \right) = 0$  along the trajectory of the solution of the closed-loop

system (6) and we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta V_1 &= \mathbb{E}[V_1(x_{k+1}, d_{k+1}, \tau_{k+1} | x_k, d_k, \tau_k) - V_1(x_k, d_k, \tau_k)] \\ &= \mathbb{E}\left\{[x_k + \delta_k]^T \bar{P}_{i,m} [x_k + \delta_k]\right\} - x_k^T P_{i,m} x_k + 2\bar{\xi}_k^T \bar{\mathbb{U}}^T \left( (\hat{A} - I)x_k - \delta_k + \hat{B}Kx_{k-\eta_k} \right).\end{aligned}\quad (\text{A.2})$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta V_2 &= \mathbb{E}[V_2(x_{k+1}, d_{k+1}, \tau_{k+1} | x_k, d_k, \tau_k) - V_2(x_k, d_k, \tau_k)] \\ &= \left( \sum_{l=k-\eta_{k+1}+1}^k - \sum_{l=k-\eta_k}^{k-1} \right) x_l^T Q x_l + \sum_{\theta=-\bar{\eta}+1}^{-\eta+1} \left( \sum_{l=k+\theta}^k - \sum_{l=k+\theta-1}^{k-1} \right) x_l^T Q x_l \\ &= \left( \sum_{l=k-\bar{\eta}+1}^{k-1} + \sum_{l=k-\eta_{k+1}+1}^{k-\bar{\eta}} - \sum_{l=k-\eta_k+1}^{k-1} \right) x_l^T Q x_l + x_k^T Q x_k - x_{k-\eta_k}^T Q x_{k-\eta_k} + \sum_{\theta=-\bar{\eta}+1}^{-\eta+1} (x_k^T Q x_k - x_{k+\theta-1}^T Q x_{k+\theta-1}) \\ &\leq \left( \sum_{l=k-\eta_k+1}^{k-1} + \sum_{l=k-\bar{\eta}+1}^{k-\bar{\eta}} - \sum_{l=k-\eta_k+1}^{k-1} \right) x_l^T Q x_l + x_k^T Q x_k - x_{k-\eta_k}^T Q x_{k-\eta_k} + (\bar{\eta} - \underline{\eta} + 1) x_k^T Q x_k - \sum_{l=k-\bar{\eta}}^{k-\bar{\eta}} x_l^T Q x_l \\ &= (\bar{\eta} - \underline{\eta} + 2) x_k^T Q x_k - x_{k-\eta_k}^T Q x_{k-\eta_k} - x_{k-\bar{\eta}}^T Q x_{k-\bar{\eta}}.\end{aligned}\quad (\text{A.3})$$

By using Jensen's inequality, we can obtain the following:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta V_3 &= \mathbb{E}[V_3(x_{k+1}, d_{k+1}, \tau_{k+1} | x_k, d_k, \tau_k) - V_3(x_k, d_k, \tau_k)] \\ &= \sum_{\theta=-\bar{\eta}+1}^0 \left( \sum_{l=k+\theta}^k - \sum_{l=k+\theta-1}^{k-1} \right) \bar{\eta} \delta_l^T R \delta_l \\ &= \bar{\eta}^2 \delta_k^T R \delta_k - \sum_{l=k-\bar{\eta}}^{k-1} \bar{\eta} \delta_l^T R \delta_l \\ &= \bar{\eta}^2 \delta_k^T R \delta_k - \left( \sum_{l=k-\eta_k}^{k-1} + \sum_{l=k-\bar{\eta}}^{k-\eta_k-1} \right) (\eta_k + \bar{\eta} - \eta_k) \delta_l^T R \delta_l \\ &\leq \bar{\eta}^2 \delta_k^T R \delta_k - \eta_k \sum_{l=k-\eta_k}^{k-1} \delta_l^T R \delta_l - (\bar{\eta} - \eta_k) \sum_{l=k-\bar{\eta}}^{k-\eta_k-1} \delta_l^T R \delta_l \\ &\leq \bar{\eta}^2 \delta_k^T R \delta_k - \left( \sum_{l=k-\eta_k}^{k-1} \delta_l \right)^T R \left( \sum_{l=k-\eta_k}^{k-1} \delta_l \right) - \left( \sum_{l=k-\bar{\eta}}^{k-\eta_k-1} \delta_l \right)^T R \left( \sum_{l=k-\bar{\eta}}^{k-\eta_k-1} \delta_l \right) \\ &= \bar{\eta}^2 \delta_k^T R \delta_k - (x_k - x_{k-\eta_k})^T R (x_k - x_{k-\eta_k}) - (x_{k-\eta_k} - x_{k-\bar{\eta}})^T R (x_{k-\eta_k} - x_{k-\bar{\eta}}).\end{aligned}\quad (\text{A.4})$$

By combining (A.2), (A.3) and (A.4), we have

$$\mathbb{E}[\Delta V] \leq \bar{\xi}_k^T \Theta_{i,m} \bar{\xi}_k. \quad (\text{A.5})$$

By using the Schur complement, (8) guarantees  $\Theta_{i,m} < 0$ . Thus, we obtain

$$\mathbb{E}[\Delta V] \leq -\lambda_{\min}(-\Theta_{i,m}) \bar{\xi}_k^T \bar{\xi}_k \leq -\beta x_k^T x_k, \quad (\text{A.6})$$

where  $\lambda_{\min}(-\Theta_{i,m})$  denotes the minimal eigenvalue of  $-\Theta_{i,m}$ ,

and  $\beta = \inf\{\lambda_{\min}(-\Theta_{i,m}, i \in \mathbb{M}, m \in \mathbb{N})\}$ . From (A.6), for any  $T \geq 1$ , we obtain the following equation:

$$\mathbb{E}[V_{k+1}] - \mathbb{E}[V_0] \leq -\beta \sum_{k=0}^T \mathbb{E}[x_k^T x_k]. \quad (\text{A.7})$$

Yielding the following holds for any  $T > 1$ :

$$\sum_{k=0}^T \mathbb{E}[x_k^T x_k] \leq \frac{1}{\beta} [\mathbb{E}[V_0] - \mathbb{E}[V_T]] \leq \frac{1}{\beta} \mathbb{E}[V_0], \quad (\text{A.8})$$

thus implying

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}[x_k^T x_k] \leq \frac{1}{\beta} \mathbb{E}[V_0] = \frac{1}{\beta} x_0^T P(d_0, \tau_0) x_0 < \infty.$$

According to Definition 1, implies that the closed-loop system (6) shows stochastic stability, thus completing the proof of Theorem 1.



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