

Data-Driven Model Free Adaptive Sliding Mode Control for Multi DC-Motors Speed Regulation

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Abstract

This paper proposes the distributed data-driven sliding mode control approach to address the consensus problem in the network of nonlinear multi-agent systems. Firstly, the equivalent data model for each agent is constructed using the compact-form dynamic linearization (CFDL) technique. Secondly, the novel sliding surface is employed to enhance performance and ensure that the distributed measurement error remains bounded by incorporating the positive constant. Subsequently, to achieve consensus tracking, a distributed model-free adaptive sliding mode controller scheme is then developed. This approach relies solely on input-output data of each agent, eliminating the need for explicit system models. Finally, the effectiveness of the proposed control scheme is verified through multi-DC motors.

KEYWORDS

Model-free adaptive sliding mode control, compact form dynamic linearization, nonlinear multi-agent system, data-driven control.

I. INTRODUCTION

Motivated by the coordinated behaviors observed in nature, such as bird flocking or herd migration, the distributed control multi-agent systems(MASs) has been studied with interest in recent years. [1] Because of the distributed and flexible structure, the MASs based approaches have significant potential in addressing coordination challenges for complex systems [2]. The control of DC motors is essential in numerous technological applications, with single DC motor serving as the foundation for the systems in various fields, including vehicle cooperation [3], multi-robot systems and industrial machinery [4].

It is challenging to establish an accurate mathematical model for the speed regulation of multi-DC motor systems due to their nonlinear, time-varying, and multi-variable conditions [7]. Even if a relatively accurate mathematical models are developed, the associated control algorithms can become highly complex, so the model-based control approach is difficult to apply or extend to such systems. Nowadays, data-driven methods have been used to control, decision making, planing, fault diagnosis, predicting, etc. In [15]- [16], a compact form dynamic linearization (CFDL) data-driven modeling method is proposed for nonlinear systems. So far, the CFDL data-driven modeling method has proven to be highly useful in various domains [17]- [20] with different characteristics such as simplicity and particularly, a small amount of calculation, ease of implementation, and strong robustness, making it highly effective for addressing unknown nonlinear time-varying systems.

In [21], a model-free adaptive control (MFAC) approach is presented for MASs, which uses input and output data to achieve consensus tracking trajectory.

Alternatively, the sliding mode control (SMC) adapts dynamically the system operation based on the current state of the system such as the error and its derivative, ensuring the system follows a predetermined sliding surface [22]. Because the sliding surface can be designed and has the purpose to deal with the object parameters and disturbances, the SMC provides the fast response, insensitivity to parameter changes and disturbances, and simplicity in implementation. The above advantages make SMC widely used in control systems and one of main topic to focus in the ongoing research. [28]- [30]

Inspired by the abovementioned considerations, this paper studies a novel model-free adaptive sliding mode control for speed regulation of multi-DC motors. The proposed control method consists to eliminates the need for precise system models by dynamically adjusting the control law [21], where is particularly useful in systems where obtaining a detailed model is impractical or complex such as the tradition PID control method. Compared with other existing literature on multi-DC motors systems, the results of this paper have following distinct features.

- 1) The proposed method integrates encoder counts based on the well known constant elapsed time (CET) method [31] for accurate speed control in nonlinear, time-varying multi-DC motor systems. This innovation greatly enhances resolution and reliability, setting it apart from traditional methods.
- 2) The implementation of a fixed communication topology for agents interconnections, which makes the controller more applicable and flexible in real implementation.
- 3) Utilizes the pseudo partial derivative (PPD) estimation mechanism within the MFASMC scheme, which provides strong robustness

The following sections will outline the remaining content of this paper: section II provides preliminaries and problem formulation, Section III The main results, Section IV presents simulation results and performance analysis, demonstrating the efficacy of the proposed method under various operating conditions. At the end, Section V concludes the paper, summarizing the key findings potential points for future research.

II. PRELIMINARIES AND PROBLEM FORMULATION

A. Directed Graph Theory

The directed graph $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{A})$ is employed to describe the information exchange between agents. Here $\mathcal{A} = [a_{ij}] \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ represents the adjacency matrix, $\mathcal{V} = [v_1, v_2, \dots, v_N]$ is the set of vertices, and $\mathcal{E} = [(v_j, v_i) | v_i \in \mathcal{V}] \subseteq \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V}$ is the set of edges. Moreover, $\mathcal{N}_i = j \in \mathcal{V} | (i, j) \in \mathcal{E}, i \neq j$ denotes the neighbor set of agent i . No self-loop is allowed in this article, which means $(i, i) \in \mathcal{E}$ for any $i \in \mathcal{V}$, $a_{ii} = 0$. Furthermore, the degree matrix is denoted by K , where $K = \text{diag}(k_1, \dots, k_N)$. If $k_i > 0$, agent i can directly obtain the information from the leader. The Laplacian matrix L is defined as $L = (\mathcal{D} - \mathcal{A})$, here $\mathcal{D} = \text{diag}(d_1, \dots, d_N)$, and $d_i = \sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij}$ denotes the in-degree matrix. The graph is strongly connected if the path exists between every pair of vertices.

B. Problem Formulation

Consider the nonlinear multi-agent systems composed of N agents:

$$y_i(k+1) = f_i(y_i(k), u_i(k)), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N \quad (1)$$

where $u_i(k) \in \mathbb{R}$ and $y_i(k) \in \mathbb{R}$ are the system input and output signals at instant k , respectively. $f_i(\cdot)$ signifies an unknown nonlinear function.

Assumption 1: The partial derivative of $f_i(\cdot)$ with respect to $u_i(k)$ is continuous.

Assumption 2: The system (1) is generalized Lipschitz, meaning that the positive constant b exists such that if $\Delta u_i(k) = u_i(k) - u_i(k-1) \neq 0$ then $|\Delta y_i(k+1)| \leq b|\Delta u_i(k)|$ holds for any k , where $\Delta y_i(k+1) = y_i(k+1) - y_i(k)$.

Remark 1: The assumptions above are general and aligned with reality. Assumption 1 specifies the constraints of the controller. Assumption 2 ensures that variations in the input rate are limited, thereby restricting the change rate in the output, which is satisfied in real industrial systems.

Lemma 1 [8]: Consider agents with dynamics described by (1) satisfying above two assumptions. If $|\Delta u_i(k)| \neq 0$ holds, then the system (1) can be transformed into the compact form dynamic linearization (CFDL) data model as follows:

$$\Delta y_i(k+1) = \phi_i(k) \Delta u_i(k) \quad (2)$$

where $|\phi_i(k)| \leq b$ with the variable $\phi_i(k)$ named PPD.

Remark 2: The CFDL technique does not contain any prior knowledge about the system dynamic model. Moreover, the dynamic behavior of time-varying PPD can be highly complex and more challenging to verify. Therefore a data-driven approach to study numerical characteristics becomes the preferred solution.

The distributed measurement error of $\xi_i(k)$ for N agents is established as:

$$\xi_i(k) = \sum_{j \in N_i} a_{ij}(y_j(k) - y_i(k)) + d_i(y_d(k) - y_i(k)) \quad (3)$$

if the agent i can receive data from the leader, then $d_i = 1$; otherwise, $d_i = 0$. Additionally, $y_d(k)$ represents the reference trajectory.

III. MAIN RESULTS

A. Model Free Adaptive Controller Design

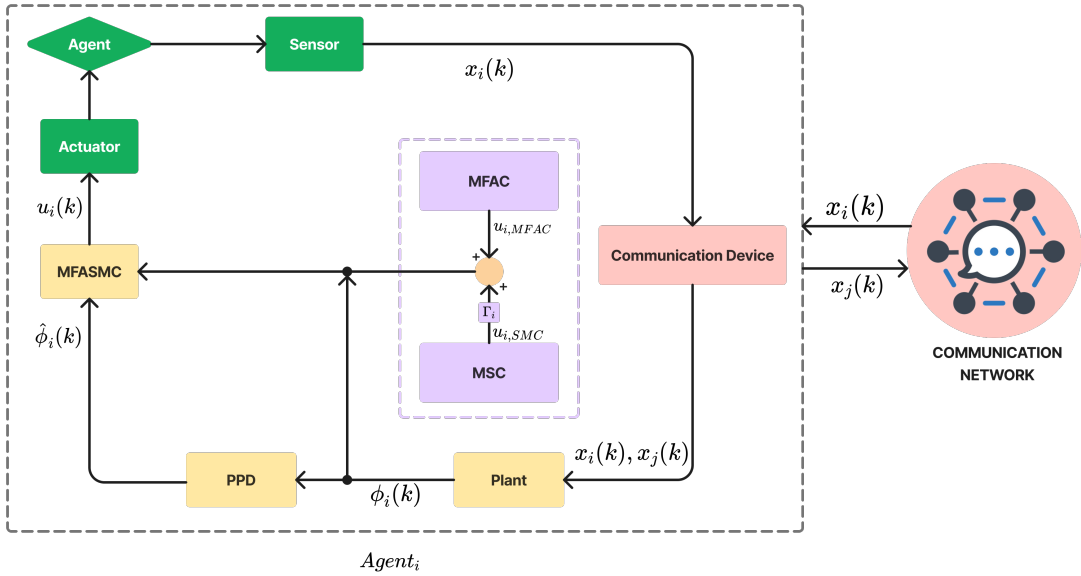


Fig. 1: Block diagram.

Consider the following PPD criterion function, which is used to evaluate the performance of the parameter $\phi_i(k)$:

$$J(\phi_i(k)) = |\Delta y_i(k) - \phi_i(k) \Delta u_i(k-1)|^2 + \mu |\phi_i(k) - \hat{\phi}_i(k-1)| \quad (4)$$

Assumption 4 : The PPD $\phi_i(k) > \varsigma$, $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, N$ holds for all k , where ς is an randomly small positive constant without loss of generality, assume that $\phi_i(k) > \varsigma$.

Differentiating equation (4) with respect to PPD parameter $\phi_i(k)$ and make it equal to zero, the following update rule is proposed for the distributed MFAC algorithm:

$$\hat{\phi}_i(k) = \hat{\phi}_i(k-1) + \frac{\eta \Delta u_i(k-1)(\Delta y_i(k) - \hat{\phi}_i(k-1) \Delta u_i(k-1))}{\mu + \Delta u_i(k-1)} \quad (5)$$

$$\hat{\phi}_i(k) = \hat{\phi}_i(1), \text{ if } |\hat{\phi}_i(k)| \leq \epsilon \text{ or } \text{sign}(\hat{\phi}_i(k)) \neq \text{sign}(\hat{\phi}_i(1)) \quad (6)$$

Here, η is the learning rate that controls the step size of the update, $\mu > 0$ is a weight factor. $\hat{\phi}_i(1)$ is the initial value of $\hat{\phi}_i(k)$ and $\hat{\phi}_i(k)$ is the estimated value of $\phi_i(k)$.

Remark 3: In the parameter estimation law (5), $y_i(k)$ is used to estimate $\hat{\phi}_i(k)$. The abovementioned scheme ensures the convergence of (5). Additionally, the reset algorithm (6) is introduced to enhance the ability of the parameter estimation algorithm to effectively track time-varying parameters.

To design the MFAC algorithm, the performance function $J(u_i(k))$ is set as:

$$J(u_i(k)) = |\xi_i(k+1)|^2 + \lambda |u_i(k) - u_i(k-1)|^2 \quad (7)$$

Substituting (2) and (3) into (7), then differentiating (7) with respect to $u_i(k)$, and make it equal to zero, gives:

$$u_{i,\text{MFAC}}(k) = u_{i,\text{MFAC}}(k-1) + \frac{\rho \phi_i(k)}{\lambda + |\phi_i(k)|^2} \xi_i(k) \quad (8)$$

where $\rho \in (0,1)$ is a step-size constant, which is added to make (8) general. Using the parameter estimation algorithm (5) and the control law algorithm (8), the MFAC scheme is constructed.

B. Sliding Mode Controller Design

To design the SMC for system, the sliding mode surface is first defined, guiding the behavior of system to ensure robust and accurate tracking of the desired trajectory.

The sliding mode surface is defined as:

$$S_i(k+1) = S_i(k) + e_i(k+1) + \alpha e_i(k) \quad (9)$$

where α is a positive constant, and to ensure that the system trajectory is driven toward and remains on the sliding surface. The reaching law dictates how quickly the system state converges to the sliding surface and is given by:

$$\Delta S_i(k+1) = -\varepsilon T \text{sign}(k) \quad (10)$$

In that equation, ε is a small positive constant that controls the rate of the convergence, T is the sampling period, and $\text{sign}(k)$ indicates the direction in which the system should move to reach the sliding surface.

By combining the sliding surface definition and the reaching law, derivating the control law that ensures the desired tracking performance while maintaining robustness.

The final sliding mode control input $u_{i,\text{SMC}}(k)$ is designed:

$$u_{i,\text{SMC}}(k) = u_{i,\text{SMC}}(k) + \frac{y_d(k+1) - y(k) + \alpha e_i(k) + \varepsilon T \text{sign}(k)}{\phi_i(k)} \quad (11)$$

To enhance the adaptability of the control system, the MFASMC approach is employed. the control input of the system is defined as:

$$u_i(k) = u_{i,\text{MFAC}}(k) + \Gamma_i u_{i,\text{SMC}}(k) \quad (12)$$

where the parameter Γ is a gain factor that adjusts the contribution of the sliding mode control in the control effort and tunes the convergence rate.

C. Stability Analysis

The stability analysis is conducted in two primary steps. The first step focuses on establishing the bounds, the second step ensures that the error remains within acceptable limits over time, leading to a stable system.

Step 1: Establishment of error bounds

The estimated error between the estimated and actual values of the system parameters, denote as $\tilde{\phi}_i(k) = \hat{\phi}_i(k) - \phi_i(k)$, starting from the foundational equation derived from the compact dynamic linearization model in equation (2) along with the PPD estimation equation (5). To ensure the theorem validity, the detailed proof that demonstrates the correctness of this error bound is provided.

$$\tilde{\phi}_i(k) = \hat{\phi}_i(k+1) + \frac{\eta \Delta u_i(k-1)}{\mu + |\Delta u_i(k-1)|^2} ((\Delta y_i(k) - \hat{\phi}_i(k-1) \Delta u_i(k-1))) - \phi_i(k) \quad (13)$$

Then by simplifying the previous equation, the result is:

The control coefficient $\beta_i(k)$ is expressed from the previous equation, plays a critical role in adjusting the control input for each agent at time step k . The following equation is expressed:

$$\tilde{\phi}_i(k) = \tilde{\phi}_i(k-1) + \beta_i(k) (\Delta y_i(k) - \hat{\phi}_i(k-1) \Delta u_i(k-1) - \phi_i(k) - \phi_i(k-1)) \quad (14)$$

$$\tilde{\phi}_i(k) = (1 - \frac{\eta (\Delta u_i(k-1))^2}{\mu + |\Delta u_i(k-1)|^2}) \tilde{\phi}_i(k-1) - \Delta \phi_i(k) \quad (15)$$

To demonstrate the boundedness of the error, by taking the absolute value of both sides of the error (15). This is a crucial step, as it allows us to establish an inequality that provides an upper bound on the error term.

Taking the absolute value on both sides and applying the triangle inequality to the right-hand side, it follows that:

$$|\tilde{\phi}_i(k)| \leq \left| 1 - \frac{\eta (\Delta u_i(k-1))^2}{\mu + |\Delta u_i(k-1)|^2} \right| |\tilde{\phi}_i(k-1)| + |\Delta \phi_i(k)| \quad (16)$$

Defining:

$$\alpha(k-1) = \frac{\eta (\Delta u_i(k-1))^2}{\mu + |\Delta u_i(k-1)|^2} \quad (17)$$

So (16) becomes:

$$|\tilde{\phi}_i(k)| \leq |1 - \alpha(k-1)| |\tilde{\phi}_i(k-1)| + |\Delta \phi_i(k)| \quad (18)$$

Since $|\phi_i(k)| \leq b$, considering assumption 4, we can obtain $|\phi_i(k-1) - \phi_i(k)|$, and then:

$$|\tilde{\phi}_i(k)| \leq |1 - q_1| |\tilde{\phi}_i(k-1)| + b \quad (19)$$

Back to the initial condition at $k = 0$ and summing the resulting geometric series:

$$\sum_{j=0}^{k-1} (1 - q_1)^j = \frac{1 - (1 - q_1)^k}{q_1}$$

Thus:

$$|\tilde{\phi}_i(k)| \leq (1 - q_1)^k |\tilde{\phi}_i(0)| + \frac{b}{q_1} (1 - (1 - q_1)^k) \quad (20)$$

As $k \rightarrow \infty$, the term $(1 - q_1)^k$ tends to zero, simplifying the bound to:

$$|\tilde{\phi}_i(k)| \leq \frac{b}{q_1} \quad (21)$$

Remark 4: The inequality in (21) shows that $\tilde{\phi}_i(k)$ is bounded by $\frac{b}{q_1}$. This result implies that the error $\tilde{\phi}_i(k)$ will remain within this bound, even as k approaches infinity. Thus, the system error behavior is effectively controlled and constrained.

Step 2:

The expression for $\xi_i(k)$ is formulated as follows:

$$\xi_i(k) = \sum_{j \in N_i} (e_i(k) - e_j(k)) + d_i e_i(k) \quad (22)$$

In this equation, $\xi_i(k)$ represents the distributed measurement of the i th system at time k , taking into account the deviations from the neighbors j in the set N_i and an additional term $d_i e_i(k)$ that depends on the specific characteristics of the i th system.

Define the collective stack vectors as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} y(k) &= [y_1(k) \quad y_2(k) \quad \dots \quad y_n(k)]^T \\ e(k) &= [e_1(k) \quad e_2(k) \quad \dots \quad e_n(k)]^T \\ \xi(k) &= [\xi_1(k) \quad \xi_2(k) \quad \dots \quad \xi_n(k)]^T \\ u(k) &= [u_1(k) \quad u_2(k) \quad \dots \quad u_n(k)]^T \end{aligned}$$

Using the above-mentioned definitions, the measurement output $\xi_i(k)$ can be rewritten as as follows:

$$\xi(k) = (L + D)e(k) \quad (23)$$

Where L represents the interaction matrix that describes how each system interacts with its neighbors, while D is a diagonal matrix defined by $D = \text{diag}(d_1, d_2, d_3, \dots, d_n)$. By noting the definition in (23), the controller (8) is rewritten as:

$$u(k) = u(k-1) + \rho H_1(k)(L + D)e(k) \quad (24)$$

where

$$H_1(k) = \rho \text{diag} \left(\frac{\hat{\phi}_1(k)}{\lambda + |\hat{\phi}_1(k)|^2}, \frac{\hat{\phi}_2(k)}{\lambda + |\hat{\phi}_2(k)|^2}, \dots, \frac{\hat{\phi}_n(k)}{\lambda + |\hat{\phi}_n(k)|^2} \right).$$

In similar way, CFDL model (2) is also transformed into the following collective form:

$$y(k+1) = y(k) + H_\phi(k)\Delta u(k) \quad (25)$$

where

$$\Delta u(k) = u(k) - u(k-1)$$

$$H_\phi(k) = \text{diag}(\phi_1(k), \phi_2(k), \phi_3(k), \dots, \phi_n(k))$$

We can substitute (24) and (25) to get

$$e(k+1) = (I - \rho \sum(k)(L+D))e(k) \quad (26)$$

where $\sum(k) = H_\phi(k)H_1(k) = \text{diag}(\mathcal{V}_1(k), \mathcal{V}_2(k), \mathcal{V}_3(k), \dots, \mathcal{V}_n(k))$, and each $\mathcal{V}_i(k)$ is given by:

$$\mathcal{V}_i(k) = \frac{\hat{\phi}_i(k)}{\lambda + |\hat{\phi}_i(k)|^2}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

Thus :

$$\Theta(k) = \text{diag}(\mathcal{V}_1(k), \mathcal{V}_2(k), \mathcal{V}_3(k), \dots, \mathcal{V}_n(k))(L+D)$$

To ensure convergence of the tracking error, the following condition is imposed:

$$\|I - \rho\Theta(k)\| < 1 \quad (27)$$

This condition guarantees that the tracking error $e(k)$ will approach zero as $k \rightarrow \infty$. Consequently:

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|e(k+1)\| = 0$$

Remark 5: This condition ensures that the tracking error decreases over time and eventually converges to zero as k approaches infinity. The implication is under the proposed control strategy, the system will successfully align with the desired performance, eliminating any discrepancies in tracking. This convergence demonstrates the robustness and effectiveness of the control method in achieving accurate and stable performance.

IV. SIMULATION RESULTS

Consider the network comprising:

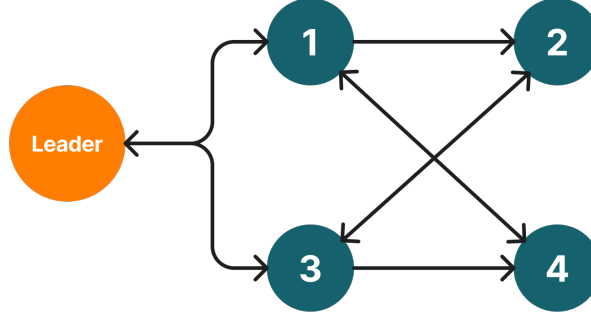


Fig. 2: Communication topology among agents.

This section describes the methodology and hardware used for speed regulation, including the calculation of motor speed using the quadruple-frequency data processing method.

A. Hardware Implementation

The DC brushed motors have a rated voltage of 12V, an unloaded speed of 293 ± 21 RPM, and a rated current of 0.36 A. The gear ratio of 20 means that the output speed of the motor is $1/20$ of the rotor speed, resulting in higher torque with a higher gear ratio. The Hall encoders used have 13 pulses per revolution, meaning each full rotation generates 13 pulse signals. To enhance measurement accuracy, employing the quadruple-frequency data processing method. This technique quadruples the effective resolution of the encoder by processing the output pulse signals at four times the frequency, thus increasing measurement precision by a factor of four.

B. Data Processing Method

The motor speed is measured in revolution per second (r/s) based on encoder measurements and the sampling interval t . The total number of encoder counts per revolution is calculated as $T = 4N_e R_r$, where N_e is the encoder line count equal to 13, R_r is the reduction ratio equal to 20 and the factor of 4 accounts for quadrature encoding. The number of rotations, N_r , is determined using $N_r = \frac{m}{T}$, with m representing the total encoder count.

The speed of the motor is then derived as:

$$v = \frac{N_r}{t} = \frac{m}{Tt} \quad (28)$$

Each sampling interval triggers an interrupt where the controller samples the motor speed and updates control commands accordingly.

The quadruple-frequency method, is crucial for maximizing encoder measurement precision, resulting in more accurate speed control for the motor system.

Four follower DC motors and the models for each DC motor governed by:

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{DC Motor 1 : } y_1(k+1) &= \frac{mu_1(k)}{0.1T} \\
\text{DC Motor 2 : } y_2(k+1) &= \frac{mu_2(k)}{0.1T} \\
\text{DC Motor 3 : } y_3(k+1) &= \frac{mu_3(k)}{0.3T} \\
\text{DC Motor 4 : } y_4(k+1) &= \frac{mu_4(k)}{0.3T}
\end{aligned}$$

It is evident that the agents considered are heterogeneous, as the dynamics differ from one another. In this scenario, the dynamics are assumed to be unknown and are only provided here to generate the I/O data for the MASs.

As illustrated in Fig. 2, the virtual leader is designated as vertex 0. It can be observed that only agents 1 and 3 can receive information from the leader, forming a strongly connected communication graph. Assume that the information exchange among agents is directed and fixed. The laplacian matrix of the graph is given as follows:

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

with $D = \text{diag}(1, 0, 1, 0)$. We consider the following two different desired trajectories.

The expression for $y_d(k)$ is:

$$y_d(k) = 0.5 \sin\left(\frac{k\pi}{30}\right) + 0.3 \cos\left(\frac{k\pi}{10}\right)$$

as k in the range $0 \leq k \leq 200$.

The initial parameters are chosen as $u_i(1) = 0.1$, $y_i(1) = 0.1$ and $\phi_i(0) = 1$ for all agents in this simulation, $\Gamma_1 = \Gamma_2 = 0.15$ and $\Gamma_3 = \Gamma_4 = 0.45$, with $T = 0.1$, $m = 350$, $\eta = 1$, $\mu = 1$. The MFA Controller parameters are given as $\rho = 1$, $\lambda = 50$ and $\alpha = 1$ with $\epsilon = 10^{-5}$.

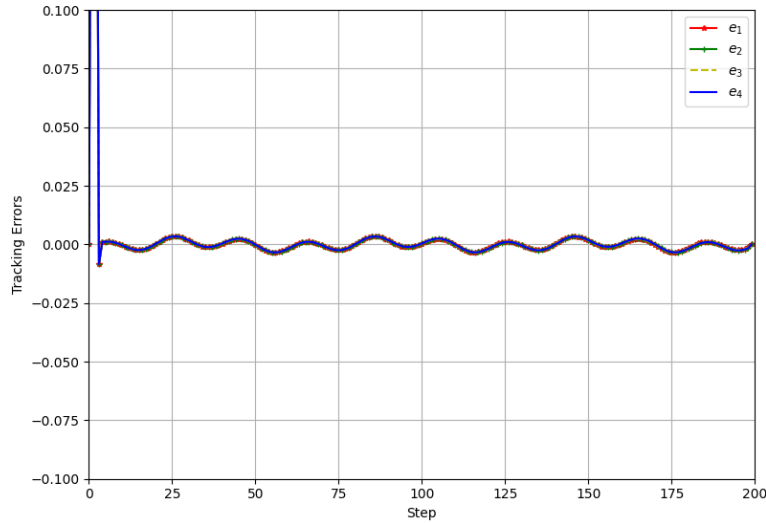


Fig. 3: Tracking errors for time varying desired trajectory.

As shown in Fig. 3, the tracking errors between the actual and desired trajectories for agents e_1 , e_2 , e_3 , and e_4 are relatively small and converge to zero over time. However, the individual agents exhibit varying levels of tracking error, suggesting that their unique dynamics or initial conditions may influence the performance.

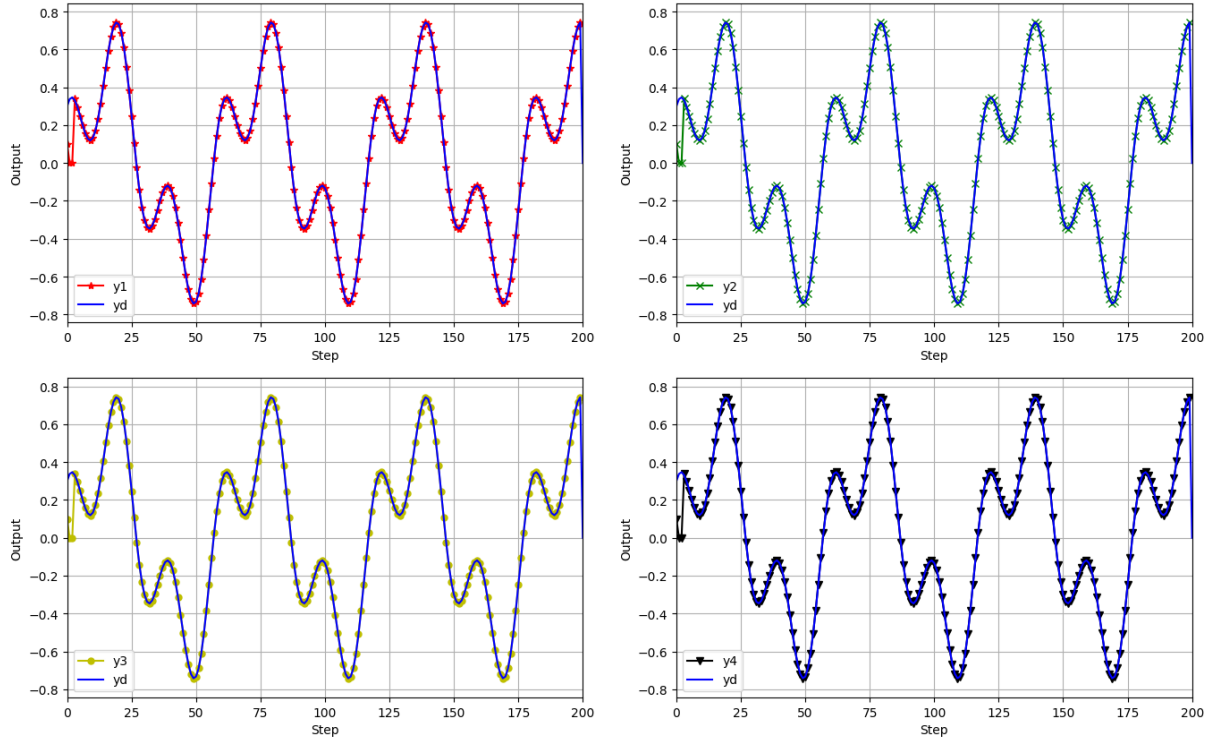


Fig. 4: Tracking performance of all agents for time-varying desired trajectory.

Fig.4 presents a detailed analysis of the tracking performance for all agents. All agents successfully track the time-varying desired trajectory, confirming the effectiveness of the proposed control system. While minor variations in individual trajectories are evident, each agent generally adheres to the desired path. Factors such as agent dynamics, communication delays, and environmental disturbances could potentially influence the tracking performance.

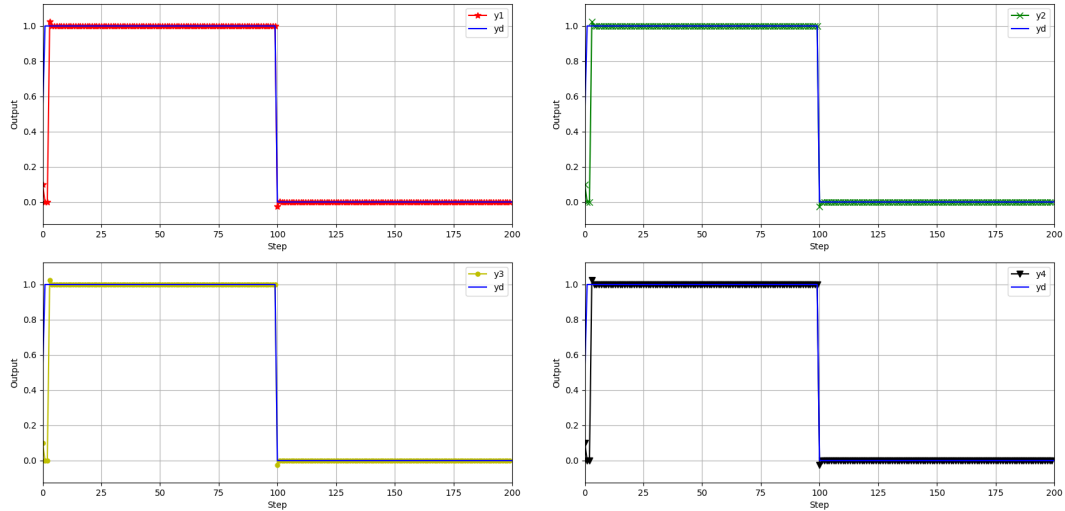


Fig. 5: Tracking performance of all agents for time-invariable desired trajectory.

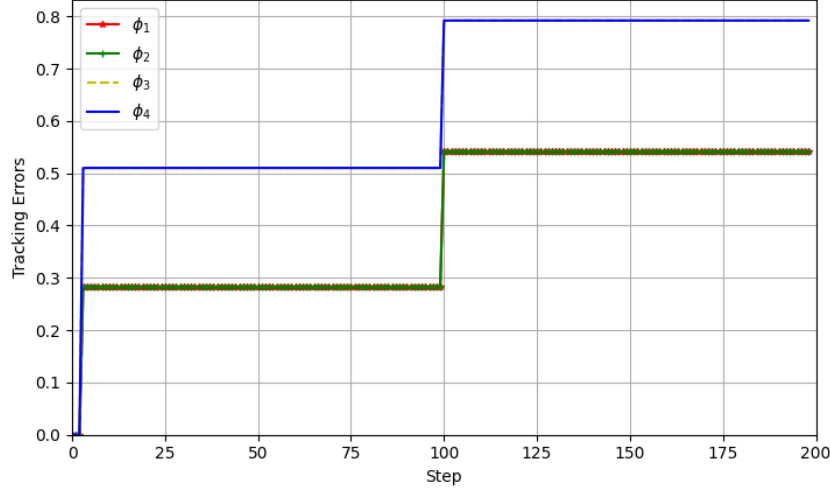


Fig. 6: PPD Estimation of all agents.

Fig. 5 demonstrates that all agents successfully track the time-invariable desired trajectory, further validating the robustness of the proposed control strategy. Meanwhile, Fig. 6 shows the PPD estimation for all agents, highlighting the accuracy of the adaptive estimation process within the control framework.

C. Physical verification

The physical verification was conducted using multi-DC motors system. The system is composed with 3 DC-motors with a STM32F407ZET6 board and connected through 2 motor drivers. The reference trajectory is :

The following figures show the output results of the system.

Overall, the simulation results suggest that the proposed control system is capable of tracking a constant desired trajectory for multiple agents. While there may be initial transient error, the system eventually reaches a steady-state condition with minimal tracking error. The variations in tracking performance among the agents highlight the potential influence of individual characteristics and external factors.

V. CONCLUSION

In this paper, a novel model-free adaptive sliding mode control was presented for multi-DC motors speed regulation. The proposed method achieves robust performance and adaptability in the presence of varying conditions. Utilizing a fixed topology represented by Laplacian matrix, the control strategy effectively manages the interconnections among multiple DC motors. The advantages and effectiveness of the proposed approach are demonstrated through detailed simulation results. Future work will focus on implementing the proposed approach in practical scenarios under hardware constraints.

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