

1 PERTURBATION AND STABILITY ANALYSIS OF LINEAR DELAY  
 2 DIFFERENTIAL-ALGEBRAIC EQUATIONS\*

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5 **Abstract.** In this article we study the perturbation analysis of initial value problems for linear  
 6 delay differential-algebraic equations (DDAEs) with time variable coefficients. First the perturbation  
 7 index concept for DAEs [14] is extended to DDAEs, which followed by the index upper bound  
 8 theorem for a general linear DDAEs. Then we consider the contractivity properties of the solutions  
 9 and determine sufficient conditions for the asymptotic stability of the zero solution by considering a  
 10 suitable reformulation of the given system. In the last part of the article a class of numerical methods  
 11 preserving the above mentioned stability properties is studied.

12 **Key words.** Delay differential-algebraic equation, differential-algebraic equation, delay differ-  
 13 ential equations, method of steps, derivative array, classification of DDAEs.

14 **AMS subject classifications.** 34A09, 34A12, 65L05, 65H10.

Notation	Meaning
$\ \cdot\ $	The usual Euclidean norm in $\mathbb{C}^n$
$\mathbb{I}$	The time interval, i.e. $\mathbb{I} = [t_0, t_f]$
$C^m(\mathbb{I})$	The space of $m$ times continuously differentiable functions on $\mathbb{I}$
$\ \cdot\ _\infty$	The sup-norm in $C^0$ defined as $\ f\ _m := \sup\{\ f(t)\  \mid t \in \mathbb{I}\}$
$\ \cdot\ _\infty^t$	The sup-norm of the restricted function $f _{[t_0, t]}$ , i.e. $\ f\ _\infty^t := \sup\{\ f(s)\ , t_0 \leq s \leq t\}$
$\ \cdot\ _m$	The norm in $C^m(\mathbb{I})$ defined as $\ f\ _m := \sum_{i=0}^m \ f^{(i)}\ _\infty$
$\ \cdot\ _m^t$	The norm in $C^m(\mathbb{I})$ of the restricted function $f _{[t_0, t]}$ , i.e. $\ f\ _m^t := \sum_{i=0}^m \ f^{(i)}\ _\infty^t$
$g^i$	The restricted function $g^i := g _{\mathbb{I}_i}$ , where $\mathbb{I}_j = [\eta_{j-1}, \eta_j]$ , for $j \geq 1$ .
$\Delta$	The shift backward operator, i.e. $\Delta x(t) := x(t - \tau(t))$

16 **1. Preliminaries and notations.** In this paper we study the perturbation anal-  
 17 ysis of initial value problems for general *linear delay differential-algebraic equations*  
 18 (*DDAEs*) with variable coefficients and a delay function  $\tau > 0$  of the form

$$E(t)\dot{x}(t) = A(t)x(t) + B(t)x(t - \tau(t)) + f(t), \quad (1.1) \quad \{eq1.1\}$$

19 in a time interval  $\mathbb{I} = [t_0, t_f]$ , where  $\dot{x}$  denotes the time derivative of the vector valued  
 20 function  $x$ . As in many applications, usually the delay function  $\tau$  are required to  
 21 satisfy the following properties, see [3]:

- 22 H1)  $\tau(t)$  is a continuous function.
  - 23 H2)  $\tau(t) \geq \tau_0 > 0$  for any  $t \geq t_0$ .
  - 24 H3) for every  $s \geq t_0$  the equation  $t - \tau(t) = s$  has a unique solution on  $(s, t_f]$ .
- 25 The desired function  $x$  maps from  $\mathbb{I}_\tau := [t_0 - \tau_0, t_f]$  to  $\mathbb{C}^n$  and the coefficients are  
 26 matrix functions  $E, A, B : \mathbb{I} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{m,n}$ , and  $f : \mathbb{I} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^m$ . To achieve uniqueness of

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<sup>27</sup> solutions of (1.1) one typically has to prescribe initial functions of the form

$$\phi : [-\tau_0, 0] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^n, \text{ such that } x|_{[-\tau_0, 0]} = \phi. \quad (1.2) \quad \{\text{eq1.1ic}\}$$

<sup>28</sup> Two important subclasses of (1.1) that occur in various applications are differential-algebraic equations (DAEs) with  $B \equiv 0$ , and delay differential equations (DDEs),  
<sup>29</sup> where  $m = n$  and  $E$  is the identity matrix. A typical viewpoint that is often taken in  
<sup>30</sup> the analysis and numerical solution of DDEs and DDAEs is to introduce an artificial  
<sup>31</sup> inhomogeneity  $g(t) = B(t)x(t-\tau) + f(t)$  and to consider instead of (1.1) the *associated*  
<sup>32</sup> DAE  
<sup>33</sup> DAE

$$\{\text{eq1.2}\} \quad E(t)\dot{x}(t) = A(t)x(t) + g(t) \quad \text{for all } t \in \mathbb{I}. \quad (1.3)$$

<sup>34</sup> If the associated DAE (1.3) is uniquely solvable for all sufficiently smooth inhomogeneities  $g$  and appropriate consistent initial vectors, then the solution of (1.1) with  
<sup>35</sup> initial function (1.2) can be uniquely determined step-by-step by solving a sequence  
<sup>36</sup> of DAEs on consecutive intervals  $[i\tau_0, (i+1)\tau_0]$ . This is the most common approach  
<sup>37</sup> for systems with delays, often called the *(Bellman) method of steps*, see e.g., [1–  
<sup>38</sup> 6, 11, 18, 22]. However, even for DDAE system with constant matrix coefficients, this  
<sup>39</sup> approach may fail for general, since the dynamic of DDAEs is much richer than the  
<sup>40</sup> one for DAEs.

<sup>41</sup> Even in the case of constant delay, i.e.  $\tau(t) \equiv \tau$ , most of the investigation so far  
<sup>42</sup> reformulate the system in a DAE form by introducing a new inhomogeneity function.  
<sup>43</sup> For example the linear DDAE (1.1) will be reinterpreted as the associated DAE (1.3)  
<sup>44</sup> with the inhomogeneity  $g := B(t)x(t-\tau) + f(t)$ . Therein the index concepts for  
<sup>45</sup> DDAEs are defined to be the corresponding index concepts for DAEs, for example,  
<sup>46</sup> see e.g. [1, 7, 10, 18]. In a more general situation, the dynamic of the DDAE (1.1)  
<sup>47</sup> is much richer than the one for the associated DAE (1.3), for example (1.1) has a  
<sup>48</sup> unique solution, even though (1.3) has infinitely many solution. One of these important  
<sup>49</sup> situations, namely *noncausal*, i.e., the solution at the present time  $t$  depends not  
<sup>50</sup> only on the systems coefficients at past and current time points ( $s \leq t$ ), has been  
<sup>51</sup> considered in [12, 13]. Therein, the index concept for DDAE systems is studied for  
<sup>52</sup> general noncausal, linear time variable coefficient DDAEs. We recall the following  
<sup>53</sup> result from [12], in comparison with Theorem 3.2 of [12].

<sup>54</sup> THEOREM 1.1. Consider the DDAE (1.1) and assume that the following hold

- <sup>55</sup> i) The pair of shift index functions  $\kappa(t)$  and strangeness index  $\mu(t)$  is well-defined for every  $t \in \mathbb{I}$ .
- <sup>56</sup> ii) The shift index function  $\kappa$  is a constant on the whole interval  $\mathbb{I}$ .
- <sup>57</sup> iii) The system (1.1) is not of advanced type.
- <sup>58</sup> iv) The corresponding initial value problem for the DDAE (1.1) has a unique  
<sup>59</sup> solution.

<sup>60</sup> Then solution of the DDAE (1.1) is exactly the solution of the so-called regular,  
<sup>61</sup> strangeness-free DDAE

$$\{\text{eq1.3}\} \quad \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \hat{E}_1(t) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\hat{E}} \dot{x}(t) = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \hat{A}_1(t) \\ \hat{A}_2(t) \end{bmatrix}}_{\hat{A}} x(t) + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \hat{B}_1(t) \\ \hat{B}_2(t) \end{bmatrix}}_{\hat{B}} x(t-\tau) + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \hat{f}_1(t) \\ \hat{f}_2(t) \end{bmatrix}}_{\hat{f}}, \quad d \quad a \quad (1.4)$$

<sup>62</sup> where  $d, a$  are the size of the corresponding block equations and the matrix-valued  
<sup>63</sup> function  $\begin{bmatrix} \hat{E}_1 \\ \hat{A}_2 \end{bmatrix}$  is pointwise invertible. Moreover, herein (1.4), the functions  $\hat{f}_1, \hat{f}_2$

<sup>66</sup> depends on  $f^{(i)}(t + j\tau)$ ,  $i = 0, \dots, \mu$ ,  $j = 0, \dots, \kappa$ .

<sup>67</sup>

<sup>68</sup> We note that, under the smoothness assumption  $\hat{E} \in C^0(\mathbb{I}, \mathbb{C}^{d,n})$ ,  $\hat{A} \in C^0(\mathbb{I}, \mathbb{C}^{a,n})$ ,  
<sup>69</sup> there exist pointwise orthogonal matrix functions  $P \in C^0(\mathbb{I}, \mathbb{C}^{n,n})$  and  $Q \in C^1(\mathbb{I}, \mathbb{C}^{n,n})$ ,  
<sup>70</sup> see e.g. [8, 15], such that

$$P\hat{E}Q = \begin{bmatrix} I_d & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad P\hat{A}Q - P\hat{E}\dot{Q} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & 0 \\ 0 & -I_a \end{bmatrix}. \quad \text{wrong}_{(1.5) \{eq1.4\}}$$

<sup>71</sup> In fact, the columns of  $P$  and  $Q$  could be constructed from the ranges and null spaces  
<sup>72</sup> of  $\hat{E}$  and  $\hat{A}$  as follows

$$P = [\text{range}(\hat{E}^H) \quad \ker(\hat{E})^H]^T, \quad Q = [\text{range}(\hat{E}) \quad \ker(\hat{E})]$$

<sup>73</sup> where the superscripts  $H$  (resp.  $T$ ) indicates the conjugate transpose (resp. the  
<sup>74</sup> transpose) of the corresponding matrix.

<sup>75</sup> Changing the variable  $x = Qy := Q \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix}$  and scaling the whole system (1.4) with  
<sup>76</sup>  $P$  we obtain the following system

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_d & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{y}_1(t) \\ \dot{y}_2(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & 0 \\ 0 & -I_a \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_1(t) \\ y_2(t) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} B_{11} & B_{12} \\ B_{21} & B_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_1(t-\tau) \\ y_2(t-\tau) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \end{bmatrix}. \quad \frac{d}{a} \quad (1.6) \quad \{eq1.5\}$$

<sup>77</sup> The computation of these matrix-valued functions is not numerically stable and hence,  
<sup>78</sup> is still an open problem. We, therefore, will directly consider the regular, strangeness-  
<sup>79</sup> free DDAE (1.4). Since  $\text{rank}(\hat{E}) = a$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{I}$ , there exists a smooth orthogonal  
<sup>80</sup> projector  $Q$  onto the kernel of  $\hat{E}$ , see e.g. [8, 15]. Let  $P = I_n - Q$  which is the  
<sup>81</sup> orthogonal projection on the cokernel of  $\hat{E}^T$ . Making use of the tractability index  
<sup>82</sup> concept [16], we decouple the system (1.4) as follows.

<sup>83</sup>

<sup>84</sup> THEOREM 1.2. Consider the DDAE (1.4) with the smooth orthogonal projections  
<sup>85</sup>  $P$  (resp.  $Q$ ) onto the kernel of  $\hat{E}$  (resp.  $\hat{E}^T$ ). Then  $G := \hat{E} - \hat{A}Q$  is pointwise  
<sup>86</sup> invertible. Moreover, the solution  $x$  of the corresponding IVP for the DDAE (1.4)  
<sup>87</sup> can be represented in the following form

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= z(t) + v(t), \\ v(t) &= Q(t)G^{-1}(t)(\hat{A}(t)z(t) + \hat{B}(t)x(t-\tau) + \hat{f}(t)) \end{aligned}$$

<sup>88</sup> where  $z(t) = P(t)x(t)$  solves the following linear system

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{z}(t) &= (\dot{P}(t) + P(t)[I + \dot{P}(t)]G^{-1}(t)\hat{A}(t))z(t) + P(t)[I + \dot{P}(t)]G^{-1}(t)(\hat{B}(t)x(t-\tau) + \hat{f}(t)), \\ z(t) &= P(t)\phi(t) \text{ for all } t \in [t_0 - \tau_0, t_0]. \end{aligned}$$

<sup>89</sup>

<sup>90</sup> **2. Perturbation analysis of linear DDAEs.** To our best knowledge, the per-  
<sup>91</sup> turbation theory of DDAEs is almost open, and only several results are already known  
<sup>92</sup> [1, 11]. In order to partially fill in this gap, in this section we firstly study the sensi-  
<sup>93</sup> tivity of the solution  $x(t)$  to the IVP (1.1),(1.2) with respect to systems perturbation,  
<sup>94</sup> which is followed by the discussion of contractivity and robust stability. Inherited  
<sup>95</sup> from the perturbation analysis of DDEs and of DAEs, one can perturb not only the

96 system coefficients  $E, A, B, f$  (as for DAEs) but also the delay function  $\tau(t)$  and  
 97 the initial function  $\phi(t)$  (as for DDEs) as well. However, the structural properties of  
 98 the systems, for example the index concept, will be strongly affected by arbitrary  
 99 perturbation on the system coefficients. The similar situation will occur for the per-  
 100 turbation in the delay function  $\tau$ , which could lead to stabilization or destabilization  
 101 effect, even for scalar equations. These topics go beyond the scope of this article,  
 102 and therefore, will be left for future researchs. We refer the interested readers to [9]  
 103 (resp. [3], Chapter 1, [17]) for further details in the "structural perturbation" analysis  
 104 of DAEs (reps. perturbation in the delay function).

105 REMARK 2.1. *The robustness of regular, sfree DDAEs with respect to the per-  
 106 turbation only in  $\phi$ , but not in  $\frac{d\phi}{dt}$ . This feature distinguishes the two classes of sfree  
 107 DDAEs and neutral DDEs?*

108 Now we recall the following result, see [19–21].

109 LEMMA 2.2. *Consider the following ODE*

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}(t) &= L(t)y(t) + \Phi(t), \quad t \in \mathbb{I} = [t_0, t_f], \\ x(t_0) &= x_0,\end{aligned}$$

110 where the forcing term  $\Phi \in C^0$ . Given an inner product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  and the corresponding  
 111 norm  $\|\cdot\|$ . Let  $\mu[L](t)$  be the logarithmic norm induced by  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ . Then the following  
 112 inequalities hold for all  $t \geq t_0$

$$\{eq2.1\} \quad \|x(t)\| \leq E(t, t_0)\|x_0\| + \int_{t_0}^t E(t, s)\|\Phi(s)\|ds. \quad (2.1)$$

113 where  $E(t_2, t_1) := \exp\left(\int_{s=t_1}^{t_2} \mu[L](s)ds\right)$ .

114 Moreover, in the case that  $\mu[L](t) \neq 0$  for all  $t \geq t_0$ , then

$$\{eq2.0\} \quad \|x(t)\| \leq E(t, t_0)\|x_0\| + \left|1 - E(t, t_0)\right| \sup_{t_0 \leq s \leq t} \left\| \frac{\Phi(s)}{|\mu[L](s)|} \right\|_\infty. \quad (2.2)$$

115 Proof. The idea is combined from the articles [20] and [21], which is briefly  
 116 described in the followings.

117 A) Using the uperright Dini derivative, we obtain the following estimation

$$\{eq2.2\} \quad D_t^+ \|x(t)\| \leq \mu[L](t) \|x(t)\| + \|\Phi(t)\| \quad (2.3)$$

118 B) Noticing that the function  $E(t, t_0) = \exp\left(\int_{s=t_0}^t \mu[L](s)ds\right)$  has the property

$$\{eq2.5\} \quad \frac{d}{dt} E(t, t_0) = \mu[L](t)E(t, t_0). \quad (2.4)$$

119 C) Consider the scalar function  $y(t) := \frac{\|x(t)\|}{E(t, t_0)}$ , from (2.3) we obtain

$$\{eq2.3\} \quad D_t^+ y(t) \leq \frac{\|\Phi(t)\|}{E(t, t_0)}. \quad (2.5)$$

120 D) Integrate the inequality (2.5) from  $t_0$  to  $t$  we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}y(t) &\leq y(t_0) + \int_{t_0}^t \frac{\|\Phi(s)\|}{E(s, t_0)} ds, \\ \Leftrightarrow \quad \|x(t)\| &\leq E(t, t_0)\|x_0\| + \int_{t_0}^t E(t, s)\|\Phi(s)\|ds,\end{aligned}$$

122 which is nothing else than (2.1).

123 Similar to (2.4) we have the identity

$$\frac{d}{ds}E(t,s) = -\mu[L](s)E(t,s).$$

125 and therefore (2.1) gives us

$$\begin{aligned}\|x(t)\| &\leq E(t,t_0)\|x_0\| + \int_{t_0}^t \left( \frac{d}{ds}E(t,s) \right) \frac{\|\Phi(s)\|}{-\mu[L](s)} ds, \\ &\leq E(t,t_0)\|x_0\| + \left| \int_{t_0}^t \left( \frac{d}{ds}E(t,s) \right) ds \right| \sup_{t_0 \leq s \leq t} \left\| \frac{\Phi(s)}{|-\mu[L](s)|} \right\|_\infty,\end{aligned}$$

126 which yields (2.2) after direct calculation.

□

127 In the following two theorems we study the sensitivity and robust stability of the  
128 corresponding IVP for system (1.4).

129 THEOREM 2.3. Consider the regular, strangeness-free DDAE (1.4). Moreover,  
130 assume that the matrix coefficients satisfy the following properties:

- 131 i) The matrix-valued functions  $E$ ,  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $f$  are sufficiently smooth so that the  
132 matrix functions  $P$  and  $Q$  in (1.5) exist, and the system (1.6) is well defined.
- 133 ii) The inverse of the transformation matrix  $Q$  is uniformly bounded on  $\mathbb{I}$ , i.e.  
134  $\|Q^{-1}\|_\infty < \infty$ .

135 If  $\mathbb{I}$  is bounded, then there exists a positive constant  $C$  which depends on the systems  
136 coefficients of (1.4), and of length of  $\mathbb{I}$ , so that

$$\|x(t)\| \leq C \left( \|\phi\|_\infty + \|f\|_\infty^t \right). \quad (2.6) \quad \{eq2.1\}$$

137 Proof. Within this proof, for convenience, we skip the argument  $(t)$  in all system  
138 coefficients and also in the delay function  $\tau(t)$ . By the assumption on  $\tau$ , we can split  
139 the interval  $\mathbb{I}$  into subintervals by the following points

$$\eta_0 = t_0 < \eta_1 < \dots < \eta_j < \eta_{j+1} < \dots \quad (2.7)$$

141 where  $\eta_{j+1}$  is the unique solution of the equation  $t - \tau(t) = \eta_j$ . We set  $\mathbb{I}_0 = [-\tau_0, t_0]$ ,  
142  $\mathbb{I}_j = [\eta_{j-1}, \eta_j]$ , for  $j \geq 1$ . For an arbitrary function  $g$ , the super script  $i$  indicates the  
143 restricted function on the interval  $\mathbb{I}_i$ , i.e.,  $g^i = g|_{\mathbb{I}_i}$ . We rewrite the system (1.6) as  
144 the coupled system

$$\begin{cases} \dot{y}_1(t) = A_{11}y_1(t) + [B_{11} \ B_{12}] \Delta y(t - \tau) + f_1, \\ y_2(t) = [B_{21} \ B_{22}] \Delta y(t - \tau) + f_2. \end{cases} \quad (2.8)$$

145 Without loss of generality, we assume that  $t \in \mathbb{I}_j$ . Thus we have

$$\begin{cases} \dot{y}_1^j(t) = A_{11}y_1^j(t) + [B_{11} \ B_{12}] y^{j-1}(t - \tau) + f_1^j, \\ y_2^j(t) = [B_{21} \ B_{22}] y^{j-1}(t - \tau) + f_2^j. \end{cases}$$

<sup>146</sup> Set  $\Phi^j = [B_{11} \ B_{12}] y^{j-1}(t - \tau) + f_1$ ,  $t \in \mathbb{I}_j$ . By applying Lemma 2.2 we see that  
<sup>147</sup> there exist constant  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in \mathbb{R}_+$  so that the following estimation holds

$$\|y_1^j(t)\| \leq \alpha_1 \|y_1^j(\eta_{j-1})\| + \alpha_2 \|\Phi^j\|_\infty^t. \quad (2.9a) \quad \{\text{eq2.10a}\}$$

<sup>148</sup> On the other hand we see that

$$\|y_2^j(t)\| \leq \| [B_{21} \ B_{22}] \|_\infty \|y^{j-1}\|_\infty + \|f_2^j\|_\infty^t. \quad (2.9b) \quad \{\text{eq2.10b}\}$$

<sup>149</sup> Combining (2.9a) and (2.9b) and notice that

$$\|y_1^j(\eta_{j-1})\| \leq \|y_1^{j-1}\|_\infty, \quad \|\Phi^j\|_\infty^t \leq \| [B_{11} \ B_{12}] \|_\infty \|y^{j-1}\|_\infty + \|f_1^j\|_\infty^t,$$

<sup>150</sup> we see that there exist  $\beta \in \mathbb{R}_+$  so that

$$\|y^j(t)\| \leq \beta \|y^{j-1}\|_\infty + \beta \|f^j\|_\infty^t. \quad (2.10)$$

Due to the arbitrariness of  $t \in \mathbb{I}_j$  this also leads to

$$\|y^j\|_\infty \leq \beta \|y^{j-1}\|_\infty + \beta \|f^j\|_\infty.$$

It is clear that the constant  $\beta$  depends on  $j$ . However, if the interval  $\mathbb{I}$  is bounded, one may assume that this constant is uniform for every  $j$ . Thus, simple induction gives

$$\|y^{j-1}\|_\infty \leq \beta^{j-1} \|y^0\|_\infty + \sum_{i=1}^{j-2} \beta^i \|f^{j+1-i}\|_\infty,$$

<sup>151</sup> and finally (2.10) leads to  $\|y^j(t)\| \leq \beta^{j-1} \|y^0\|_\infty + \sum_{i=1}^{j-2} \beta^i \|f^{j+1-i}\|_\infty + \beta \|f^j\|_\infty^t$ .

<sup>152</sup> Let  $C := \max_j \{\sum_{i=1}^{j-2} \beta^i + \beta, \ \beta^{j-1}\}$  we then have (2.6).  $\square$

<sup>153</sup> REMARK 2.4. We notice that, the estimation (2.6) requires the infinity-norm of  
<sup>154</sup> the function  $f$  on the whole interval  $[0, t]$ , instead of only at the point  $t$  as for DAEs.  
<sup>155</sup> This feature is typical for time delay systems, since the inhomogeneity in the past can  
<sup>156</sup> also have strong impact on the present solution.

<sup>157</sup> From Theorem 2.3 we can easily see that the solution  $x(t)$  to the corresponding  
<sup>158</sup> IVP of the DDAE (1.5) is robust under perturbation of the initial function  $\phi$  and  
<sup>159</sup> of the inhomogeneity  $f$ . This means that the corresponding IVP of the DDAE (1.5)  
<sup>160</sup> has perturbation index index at most 1 along an arbitrary solution, in the sense of  
<sup>161</sup> the following definition, which is directly extended from the concept of perturbation  
<sup>162</sup> index for DAEs [14].

<sup>163</sup> DEFINITION 2.5. The IVP

$$\begin{aligned} F(t, x(t), \dot{x}(t), x(t - \tau(t))) &= 0, \quad t \in \mathbb{I}, \\ x|_{[-\tau_0, 0]} &= \phi, \end{aligned}$$

<sup>164</sup> has perturbation index  $\nu \geq 1$  along the solution  $\bar{x}$  if  $\nu$  is the smallest positive integer  
<sup>165</sup> such that for the perturbed problem

$$\begin{aligned} F(t, x(t), \dot{x}(t), x(t - \tau(t))) &= \delta(t), \quad t \in \mathbb{I}, \\ x|_{[-\tau_0, 0]} &= \phi + \delta\phi, \end{aligned}$$

<sup>166</sup> the defect  $\delta x(t) := x(t) - \bar{x}$  satisfies the following inequality

$$\|\delta x(t)\| \leq C \left( \|\delta\phi\|_{\nu-1} + \|\delta\|_{\nu-1}^t \right). \quad (2.11)$$

167 for sufficiently small  $\delta(t)$  in the  $\|\cdot\|_{\nu-1}$  norm. Here  $C$  is a positive constant which  
 168 depends on  $F$ ,  $\phi$ ,  $\bar{x}$ , and length of the time interval  $\mathbb{I}$ .

169 In the case that there exist the estimation

$$\|\delta x(t)\| \leq C \left( \int_{t_0-\tau_0}^{t_0} \|\delta\phi(s)\| ds + \int_0^t \|\delta(s)\| ds \right). \quad (2.12)$$

170

### 171 3. Contractivity and stability properties of linear DDAEs.

### 172 4. Conclusion and outlooks.

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