Consensus Control for Switched Multi-agent Systems with Interval Time-varying Delays

Abstract: This paper considers multi-agent systems with interval time-varying delays and switching interconnection topology. By construction of a suitable Lyapunov-Krasovskii's functional, new delay-dependent consensus control conditions for the systems are established in terms of LMIs (Linear Matrix Inequalities) which can be easily solved by various effective optimization algorithms. One numerical example is given to illustrate the effectiveness of the proposed methods.

Keywords: consensus, multi-agent systems, interval time-varying delay, switching interconnection topology, Lyapunov method

I. INTRODUCTION

MASs (Multi-Agent Systems) have received considerable attentions due to their extensive applications in many fields such as biology, physics, robotics, control engineering, and so on [1-3,17-19,22,23]. A prime concern in these systems is the agreement of a group of agents on their states of leader by interaction. Namely, this problem is a consensus problem. Specially, consensus problem with a leader is called a leader-following consensus problem or consensus regulation. Recently, this problem has been applied in various fields such as vehicle systems [4], intelligent decision support system for power grid dispatching [5] and networked control systems [6].

During the last few years, the MASs are being put to use in the consensus problem for time-delay which occurs due to the finite speed of information processing in the implementation of this system. It is well known that time-delay often causes undesirable dynamic behaviors such as performance degradation, and instability of the network. It should be pointed out that analyzing the consensus problem of the MASs with time-delay can be regarded as investigating the asymptotical stability of MASs. Since the consensus issue is a prerequisite to the applications of MASs, various approaches to consensus criteria for MASs with time-delay have been investigated in the literature [7-10]. By Lyapunov-based approach and related space decomposition technique, a coordination problem was addressed for the MASs with jointly connected interconnection topologies [7]. Xiao et al. [8] had studied a consensus problem for discrete-time MASs with changing communication topologies and bounded time-varying communication delays. Tian et al. [9] studied the consensus problem for the MASs with both communication and input delays.

By construction of a Lyapunov-Krasovskii’s functional with the idea of delay partitioning, Qin et al. [10] derived consensus condition in directed networks of agents with switching topology and time delay. The above mentioned literature mainly have addressed for the consensus conditions of the MASs. However, consensus controller design for MASs has not been fully investigated yet.

Motivated by this mentioned above, in this paper, new delay-dependent consensus control problem for MASs with interval time-varying delays and switching interconnection topology will be studied. Here, delay-dependent analysis has been paid more attention than delay-independent one because the sufficient conditions for delay-dependent analysis make use of the information on the size of time delay [11]. That is, the former is generally less conservative than the latter. By construction of a suitable Lyapunov-Krasovskii’s functional, the criteria are derived in terms of LMIs which can be solved efficiently by use of standard convex optimization algorithms such as interior-point methods [12]. One numerical example is included to show the effectiveness of the proposed methods.

Notation: $\mathbb{R}^n$ is the $n$-dimensional Euclidean space, and $\mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ denotes the set of $m \times n$ real matrix. For symmetric matrices $X$ and $Y$, $X > Y$ (respectively, $X \geq Y$) means that the matrix $X - Y$ is positive definite (respectively, nonnegative). $X^\perp$ denotes a basis for the null-space of $X$. $I$ and $0$ denotes identity matrix and zero matrix, respectively, with appropriate
II. PROBLEM STATEMENTS

The interaction topology of a network of agents is represented using an undirected graph $G = (\Delta, V, A)$ with a node set $\Delta = \{1, \ldots, N\}$, an edge set $V = \{(i, j) : i, j \in \Delta \}$, and an adjacency matrix $A = [a_{ij}] \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ of a graph is a matrix with nonnegative elements satisfying $a_{ij} = 0$ and $a_{ij} = a_{ji} \geq 0$. If there is an edge between $i$ and $j$, then the elements of matrix $A$ described as $a_{ij} = a_{ji} > 0 \iff (i, j) \in V$. The set of neighbors of node $i$ is denoted by $N = \{j \in \Delta : (i, j) \in V\}$. The degree of node $i$ is denoted by $\text{deg}(i) = \sum_{j \in \Delta} a_{ij}$. The degree matrix of graph $G$ is diagonal matrix defined as $D = \text{diag}(\text{deg}(1), \ldots, \text{deg}(N))$. The Laplacian matrix $L$ of graph $G$ is defined as $L = D - A$. More details can be seen in [13].

Consider the MASs with the following dynamic of agent $i$

$$\dot{x}_i(t) = F_{x_i} x_i(t) + B_{u_i} u_i(t), \quad i = 1, \ldots, N,$$  

(1)

where $N$ is the number of agents, $x_i(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is the state of agent $i$, $u_i(t) \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is the consensus protocol, and $F \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ and $B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ are known constant matrices.

According to the work [1] and [7], an algorithm of consensus protocol can be described as

$$u_i(t) = K x_i(t) - \sum_{j \in \Delta} a_{ij} (x_j(t) - x_i(t)), \quad i = 1, \ldots, N,$$

(2)

where $K \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is protocol gain matrix, $a_{ij}$ are the interconnection weights defining

$$a_{ij} > 0,$$

if agent $i$ is connected to agent $j$, $a_{ij} = 0$, otherwise.

The multi-agent system is said to achieve consensus if the following definition.

**Definition 1** [20,21]: Given an undirected communication graph $G$, the multi-agent systems (1) are said to be consensusable under the protocol (2) if for any finite $x_i(0), i = 1, \ldots, N$, the control protocol can asymptotically drive all agents close to each other, i.e.,

$$\lim_{t \to \infty} \|x_i(t) - x_j(t)\| = 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, N.$$

With communication delay, a consensus algorithm can be

$$u_i(t) = K x_i(t) - \sum_{j \in \Delta} a_{ij} (x_j(t) - x_i(t - h(t))),$$

(3)

Here, $h(t)$ is an interval time-varying continuous function satisfying

$$0 < h_u \leq h(t) \leq h_u, \quad \dot{h}(t) \leq h,$$

where $h_u$ and $h_u$ are positive scalars.

In this paper, we consider consensus for MASs with consensus algorithm (3) and switching interconnection topology. It should be noted that $\hat{G}$ denote the topology composed of the agents, and $\Theta = [\hat{G}^1, \ldots, \hat{G}^N]$ defined the union of the topology.

A model of Multi-agent systems with the consensus algorithm (3) and switching interconnection topology are summarized as

$$\dot{x}_i(t) = \left( F + BK - \sum_{j \in \Delta} a_{ij}^1 B \right) x_i(t) + \sum_{j \in \Delta} a_{ij}^1 B x_j(t - h(t)), \quad i = 1, \ldots, N, \quad k = \rho(t), \quad \hat{G} \in \Theta,$$

(4)

where $I_{\rho} = \{1, \ldots, N\}$ are the index set associated with the elements of $\Theta$. $\rho(t) : \mathbb{R}^+ \to I_{\rho}$ is a switching signal.

For the convenience, let us define $x^t(t) = [x^1(t), \ldots, x^N(t)]$.

Then, the system (4) can be rewritten as

$$\dot{x}(t) = (I_N \otimes (F + BK) - (D^i \otimes B)x(t) + (A^i \otimes B)x(t - h(t)), \quad i = 1, \ldots, N,$$

(5)

$$\dot{x}(t) = \left( I_N \otimes (F + BK) - (D^i \otimes B)x(t) + (A^i \otimes B)x(t - h(t)) \right).$$

The aim of this paper is to design the delay-dependent consensus control of the multi-agent systems (5) with interval time-varying delays and switching interconnection topology. This means a consensus stability analysis for the system (5). In order to do this, we introduce the following definition and lemmas.

**Lemma 1** [14]: For any constant matrix $M = M^T > 0$, the following inequality holds:

$$h(t) \int_{t - h(t)}^{t} x(s) M x(s) ds \geq \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}(t) & M \end{bmatrix} \left( \begin{bmatrix} M & -M \\ -M & M \end{bmatrix} \right) \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}(t) & M \end{bmatrix}.$$ 

**Lemma 2** [15]: Let $\zeta \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\Phi = \Phi^T \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$, and $\Psi = \Psi^T$ such that $\text{rank}(\Psi) < n$. The following statements are equivalent:

(i) $\zeta^T \Phi \zeta < 0$, $\forall \zeta \neq 0$, $\zeta = 0$,

(ii) $\Psi^T \Phi \Psi^T < 0$.

III. MAIN RESULTS

In this section, we propose new consensus criterion and controller design method for system (5). For simplicity of matrix representation, $e_i(i = 1, \ldots, 5) \in \mathbb{R}^{M_{0 \times 0}}$ are defined as block entry matrices (e.g., $e_2 = [0, 1, 0, 0, 0]^T$). The notations of several matrices are defined as:

$$\hat{\zeta}^i(t) = [x^t(t), x^t(t - h_h), x^t(t - h_h), x^t(t - h_h), \hat{h}(t)],$$

$$\Psi = [(I_N \otimes (F + BK) - (D^i \otimes B)0_m, (A^i \otimes B)0_m, -I_{m}],$$

$$\zeta_1 = e_1(I_N \otimes (Q + Q))e_1^T + e_1(I_N \otimes P)e_1^T,$$

$$\zeta_2 = e_1((I_N \otimes (Q + Q))e_1^T - e_1(I_N \otimes (Q - Q))e_1^T$$

$$- (1 - h_h)e_1(I_N \otimes (Q + Q))e_1^T e_1(I_N \otimes Q)e_1^T.$$
Now, we have the following theorem.

**Theorem 1.** For given positive scalars $h_m, h_d$ and $h_k$, the agents in the system (5) are asymptotically consented for switching signal $\rho(t)$, if there exist positive definite matrices $P \in \mathbb{R}_+^{nn}$, $Q_i \in \mathbb{R}_+^{nn}$ ($i = 1, 2, 3$), $R_i \in \mathbb{R}_+^{nn}$ ($i = 1, 2$) and any matrix $S \in \mathbb{R}_+^{nn}$ satisfying the following LMI:

$$
\begin{bmatrix}
\Psi^{i+1} & S \\
* & R_i
\end{bmatrix} \geq 0, \quad i = 1, 2, 3
$$

(7)

where $\Phi$ and $\Psi^i$ are defined in (6).

**Proof:** Let us consider the following Lyapunov-Krasovskii’s functional candidate as

$$
V = V_1 + V_2 + V_3,
$$

(9)

where

$$
V_1 = x^T(t)(I_N \otimes P)x(t),
$$

$$
V_2 = \int_{t-h}^{t} \int_{t-h}^{t} \xi^T(s)(I_N \otimes Q_2)x(s)ds + \int_{t-h}^{t} \int_{t-h}^{t} \xi^T(s)(I_N \otimes Q_1)x(s)ds,
$$

$$
V_3 = h_m \int_{t-h}^{t} \int_{t-h}^{t} \xi^T(s)(I_N \otimes R_1)x(s)ds
$$

$$
+ (h_m - h_d) \int_{t-h}^{t} \int_{t-h}^{t} \xi^T(s)(I_N \otimes R_2)x(s)ds.
$$

The time-derivative of $V$ is calculated as

$$
\dot{V}_1 = 2x^T(t)(I_N \otimes P) \xi(t),
$$

$$
\dot{V}_2 = x^T(t)(I_N \otimes (Q_1 + Q_2))x(t)
$$

$$
- x^T(t-h)(I_N \otimes (Q_1 - Q_2))x(t-h),
$$

$$
- (1 - h) x^T(t-h)(I_N \otimes Q_2)x(t-h(t)),
$$

$$
- x^T(t-h)(I_N \otimes Q_1)x(t-h),
$$

$$
\dot{V}_3 = \xi^T(s)(I_N \otimes (h_m R_1 + (h_m - h_d) R_2))x(s)
$$

$$
- h_m \int_{t-h}^{t} \xi^T(s)(I_N \otimes R_1)x(s)ds
$$

$$
- (h_m - h_d) \int_{t-h}^{t} \xi^T(s)(I_N \otimes R_2)x(s)ds.
$$

The time-derivative of $V$ is calculated as

$$
\dot{V}_1 = 2x^T(t)(I_N \otimes P) \xi(t),
$$

$$
\dot{V}_2 = x^T(t)(I_N \otimes (Q_1 + Q_2))x(t)
$$

$$
- x^T(t-h)(I_N \otimes (Q_1 - Q_2))x(t-h),
$$

$$
- (1 - h) x^T(t-h)(I_N \otimes Q_2)x(t-h(t)),
$$

$$
- x^T(t-h)(I_N \otimes Q_1)x(t-h),
$$

$$
\dot{V}_3 = \xi^T(s)(I_N \otimes (h_m R_1 + (h_m - h_d) R_2))x(s)
$$

$$
- h_m \int_{t-h}^{t} \xi^T(s)(I_N \otimes R_1)x(s)ds
$$

$$
- (h_m - h_d) \int_{t-h}^{t} \xi^T(s)(I_N \otimes R_2)x(s)ds.
$$

By using Lemma 1 and Theorem 1 in [16], the integral terms of the $V_i$ can be bounded as

$$
\begin{align*}
- h_m \int_{t-h}^{t} \xi^T(s)(I_N \otimes R_1)x(s)ds & \leq \begin{bmatrix} x(t) \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} -(I_N \otimes R_1) & (I_N \otimes R_1) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x(t) \\
* \\
-(I_N \otimes R_1)
\end{bmatrix} x(t-h), \\
- (h_m - h_d) \int_{t-h}^{t} \xi^T(s)(I_N \otimes R_2)x(s)ds & \leq \begin{bmatrix} x(t-h) \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} -(I_N \otimes R_2) \end{bmatrix} x(t-h).
\end{align*}
$$

(10)

This completes our proof. \[ \blacksquare \]
+e_1((I_N \otimes (\bar{Q} + \bar{Q}^c))(e^T - e_1(I_N \otimes (\bar{Q} - \bar{Q}^c)))e_2^T
+e_5((I_N \otimes (h_m \bar{R} + (h_M - h_m)^2 \bar{R}^2))e^T
-(e_1 - e_2)(I_N \otimes \bar{R}^c)(e - e_2)^T
-(e_2 - e_3)(I_N \otimes \bar{R}^c)(e - e_3)^T
-(e_2 - e_4)(I_N \otimes \bar{R}^c)(e - e_4)^T
-(e_2 - e_3)(I_N \otimes \bar{S}^c)(e - e_3)^T
-(e_2 - e_4)(I_N \otimes \bar{S}^c)(e - e_4)^T
\Omega^T = \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_1 I_{N_{\Theta}} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \Psi^T & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \gamma_2 I_{N_{\Theta}} \end{bmatrix}
+ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}^T \Omega^T(16)

Theorem 2: For given positive scalars h_m, h_M, h_d and the
parameters \gamma_1, \gamma_2, the agents in the system (5) are asymptotically
consent for switching signal \rho(t), if there exist positive definite matrices
X \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times r}, \bar{Q} \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times r}(i = 1, 2, 3),
\bar{R} \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times r}(i = 1, 2)
and any matrices \bar{S} \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times r} and Y \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times r}
satisfying Eq. (8) and the following LMIs:
\bar{\Phi} + \Omega^T < 0, (17)

where \bar{\Phi} and \Omega^T are defined in (16).

Then, system (5) under the consensus protocol gain
K = XY^{-1} is asymptotically stable.

Proof: Let us define Z_1 = \gamma_1 P and Z_2 = \gamma_2 P
in (15). With the same Lyapunov-Krasovskii’s functional candidate in (9), by
using the similar method in (10) and (11), and considering zero equality in (15), a sufficient condition guaranteeing asymptotic
stability for the system (5) can be
\begin{bmatrix} I_N \otimes \gamma_1 P & 0 \\ 0 & \Psi^k \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} I_N \otimes \gamma_2 P & 0 \\ 0 & \Psi^k \end{bmatrix} < 0, (18)

where \Phi and \Psi^k are defined in (6).

Let us define X = P^{-1} and Y = KX. Then, pre- and post-
multiplying inequality (18) by matrix \bar{X} which is defined in
(16) leads to LMIs (17).

IV. NUMERICAL EXAMPLES

In this section, one numerical example to illustrate the
effectiveness of the proposed criteria will be shown.

Example 1: Consider the Multi-agent systems (5) with
the switching interconnection topology described in Fig. 1
and the following parameters
\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -0.1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}

Here, the agents in Fig. 1 can be seen in the sense that each
agent, e.g., unmanned vehicle and soccer robot, needs information
from its local neighborhood.

From Fig. 1, at switching interconnection topology are

* Topology 1:
\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0.5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.5 \\ 0.3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}

* Topology 2:
\begin{bmatrix} 0.4 & 0 & 0.1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.1 \\ 0.5 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}

For the system above, the protocol gain K with fixed h_m=1, h_M = 5, h_d=0.5 and \gamma_1=\gamma_2=1 by Theorem 2 is
\begin{bmatrix} -2.2387 & -1 \\ 0 & -1.1387 \end{bmatrix}

In order to confirm the obtained results with the condition of
the time-delay as h(t) = 4\sin(0.12t) + 1, the simulation results
for the state responses are shown in Figs. 2 and 3. The switching
topology is illustrated in Fig. 1. The numerical results show that
the system is asymptotically stable.

![Graph of Example 1](image-url)

Fig. 1. Topologies of Example 1.

![Graph of Example 2](image-url)

Fig. 2. State responses with K=0.
period of interconnection topology is 0.5 seconds. In Fig. 2, by reason of the instability of the system dynamics, the eigenvalues of the matrix $F$ is 1 and -0.1, we know that the necessity of the protocol gain $K$. Fig. 3 shows that the systems with the state responses converge to zero under the obtained gain $K$ in (18). This means the consensus stability of the system.

V. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, the delay-dependent consensus control problem for the MASs with interval time-varying delays and switching interconnection topology is studied. To do this, the suitable Lyapunov-Krasovskii’s functional is used to investigate the feasible region of consensus criterion. Based on this, consensus control gain for the concerned systems has derived. One numerical example has been given to show the effectiveness and usefulness of the presented criteria.

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