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Interconnection of Subsystems in Closed-loop Systems

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Abstract—The focus in this paper is analysis of stability and controller design for interconnected systems. This includes both the case with known and unknown interconnected sub-system. The key element in both the stability analysis and controller design is the application of the Youla-Jabr-Bongiorno-Kuercer (YJBK) parameterization. The dual YJBK transfer function is applied in connection with the closed-loop stability analysis. The primary YJBK parameterization is applied in connection with design of controllers. Further, it is shown how it is possible to obtain a direct estimation of a connected sub-system without having a direct access to it.

I. INTRODUCTION

The complexity of the control systems has been increasing the last years. The reason is the increasing requirements from the surrounding environments with respect to pollution, energy consumption, performance, cost etc. Examples are engines for cars, [4] and refrigeration systems. A number of these conditions can only be satisfied with the cost of more complex control systems.

The area of interconnected systems has been described and investigated in a large number of papers through the years. The modelling has been considered in details by J.C. Willems in a number of paper, see e.g. [8] and the reference herein. Design of controllers, specially distributed controllers has also been investigated, see e.g. [2], [10] and the references herein.

The first part of the paper deals with an analysis of closed-loop systems when a sub-system is included in the closed loop. This includes a stability analysis in both the case when the sub-system is known and the case when it is unknown. When the sub-system is unknown, it is investigated how it is possible to get a direct estimation of the sub-system, when it is included in the closed-loop.

In the last part of the paper, design of feedback controllers for the interconnected system is considered. Two different controller concepts will be considered.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. The applied system set-up is shortly described in Section II. Section III include a stability analysis of the closed-loop interconnected system. Controller design for interconnected systems are considered in Section IV followed by an example in Section V. The paper is closed by a discussion in Section VI.

II. SYSTEM SET-UP

Let the main system $\Sigma_1$ and the subsystem $\Sigma_2$ be described by the following general system for $i=1,2$:

$$
\begin{align*}
\Sigma_i & : \\
& \begin{cases}
    x_i = A_i x_i + B_{dx_i} d_i + B_{wu_i} w_i + B_{ui} u_i \\
    e_i = C_{ei} x_i + D_{ed_i} d_i + D_{wu_i} w_i + D_{ui} u_i \\
    z_i = C_{zi} x_i + D_{zd_i} d_i + D_{zw_i} w_i + D_{zu_i} u_i \\
    y_i = C_{yi} x_i + D_{yd_i} d_i + D_{yw_i} w_i + D_{yu_i} u_i
    \end{cases}
\end{align*}
$$

where $w_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is an external input, $d_i \in \mathbb{R}^l$ is a disturbance signal vector, $u_i \in \mathbb{R}^m$ the control input signal vector, $z_i \in \mathbb{R}^h$ is an external output vector, $e_i \in \mathbb{R}^k$ is the external output signal vector to be controlled and $y_i \in \mathbb{R}^p$ is the measurement vector.

Further, let $\Sigma_1$ has the following state space representation:

$$
\begin{align*}
\Sigma_1 & : \\
& \begin{cases}
    x_1 = A_1 x_1 + B_{dx_1} d_1 + B_{wu_1} w_1 + B_{ui} u_1 \\
    e_1 = C_{e1} x_1 + D_{ed_1} d_1 + D_{wu_1} w_1 + D_{ui} u_1 \\
    z_1 = C_{z1} x_1 + D_{zd_1} d_1 + D_{zw_1} w_1 + D_{zu_1} u_1 \\
    y_1 = C_{y1} x_1 + D_{yd_1} d_1 + D_{yw_1} w_1 + D_{yu_1} u_1
    \end{cases}
\end{align*}
$$

where $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is the state vector.

The main system $\Sigma_1$ and the subsystem $\Sigma_2$ is connected by connecting the output $z_1$ from $\Sigma_1$ to the input $w_2$ of $\Sigma_2$. The output $z_2$ of $\Sigma_2$ is connected to $w_1$ of $\Sigma_1$. This interconnection of $\Sigma_1$ and $\Sigma_2$ is shown in Fig. 1.

The interconnection of the two systems $\Sigma_1$ and $\Sigma_2$ shown in Fig. 1 gives directly the following condition on the diminsion of inputs and outputs:

$$
\begin{align*}
l_1 = q_2, & \quad l_2 = q_1
\end{align*}
$$

Rearranging the two systems $\Sigma_1$ and $\Sigma_2$, the interconnected system $\Sigma_1 * \Sigma_2$ can be calculated and is given by:

$$
\begin{align*}
\begin{bmatrix}
e_2 \\
e_1 \\
y_2 \\
y_1
\end{bmatrix}
& = S(\Sigma_2, \Sigma_1)
\begin{bmatrix}
d_2 \\
d_1 \\
u_2 \\
u_1
\end{bmatrix}
\end{align*}
$$

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III. CLOSED-LOOP STABILITY

The stability of the closed-loop system is analyzed in the following when the sub-system $\Sigma_2$ is included in the loop. First, it is assumed that $\Sigma_2$ is known. Later, the stability analysis will be derived with an unknown $\Sigma_2$. It is assumed the $\Sigma_1$ is known in both cases.

Only the transfer function from $w_2$ to $z_2$ in $\Sigma_2$ is relevant in the following stability analysis. This gives the following simplified $\Sigma_2$:

$$\Sigma_2 : \{ z_2 = G_{zw,2} w_2 \}$$

Only the case when a subsystem is included in the closed-loop is investigated in the following. The analysis can also be used directly when a subsystem is removed from the closed-loop system.

A. $\Sigma_2$ is known

When $\Sigma_2$ is known, it is simple to check the stability of the complete closed loop system. Closing the loop around the interconnected system given by (4) with the controller $K_1$, it is simple to calculate the closed-loop poles.

Instead of using the above standard method, it is possible to apply the dual YJBK parameterization in connection with a stability analysis. This can be done by calculating the dual YJBK transfer function $S$ for a certain change in the system. If $S$ is stable, the closed loop system is stable for the certain change in the system. Further, the dual YJBK transfer function will be applied later in connection with controller design.

The dual YJBK parameterization has been considered in details in [5], where also the connection between the dual YJBK transfer function and changes in the system has been described.

Using the above set-up, the dual YJBK transfer function is given by, [5]:

$$S(G_{zw,2}) = T_{21} G_{zw,2} (I - T_{11} G_{zw,2})^{-1} T_{12}$$

where

$$T_{11} = G_{zw,1} + G_{zw,1} U_1 \tilde{M}_1 G_{yw,1}$$
$$T_{12} = G_{zw,1} M_1$$
$$T_{21} = \tilde{M}_1 G_{yw,1}$$

$M_1$, $\tilde{M}_1$ and $U_1$ are the coprime matrices from the factorization of $G_{yw,1}$ and $K_1$.

It is easy to see that $S(G_{zw,2})$ will be zero when $G_{zw,2}$ is zero, i.e.

$$S(G_{zw,2}) = 0, \text{ for } G_{zw,2} = 0$$

From the theory related to the dual YJBK parameterization the closed-loop system is stable if the nominal closed-loop system is stable and the dual YJBK transfer function is...
stable. The nominal closed-loop system is guaranteed to be stable by the design of $K_1$. This means that the complete closed-loop system is stable if the dual YJBK transfer function given by (7) is stable. It is simple to calculate the close loop poles when the subsystem $\Sigma_2$ is known.

It is important to note that the above stability analysis is based on the information from the input $w_2$ and output $z_2$ on the subsystem $\Sigma_2$. Only the observable and controllable dynamic in $\Sigma_2$ is included in the analysis. This means that parts of the subsystem that is not connected to the main system is unstable can be unstable without it is possible to see it through $S$.

**B. $\Sigma_2$ is unknown**

In the case when $\Sigma_2$ is unknown, it is not possible directly to calculate the closed-loop poles and the closed-loop stability can not be determined directly. Other methods can needs to be applied. Methods from robust control can be be applied. One method is to use the small gain theorem, [6], [9] for an investigation of the closed-loop stability. This methods require that $\Sigma_2$ is stable and an upper bound on gain is known.

Assume that the subsystem $\Sigma_2$ is open-loop stable. Let an upper bound on the gain of $\Sigma_2$ (or more correct of $G_{zw,2}$) be given by:

$$l_G(\omega) \geq \sigma_{\max}(G_{zw,2}(j\omega)), \forall \omega$$  

(9)

$S(G_{zw,2})$ given by (7) is stable if $(I - T_{11}G_{zw,2})^{-1}$ is stable. $(I - T_{11}G_{zw,2})^{-1}$ is stable if

$$\sigma_{\max}(T_{11}(j\omega)) < 1/l_G(\omega), \forall \omega$$  

(10) follows directly from using the small gain theorem on $S(G_{zw,2})$, [6], [9]. The small gain theorem has also been used in [3] in connection with stability analysis and controller design for interconnected systems.

Another possibility is to estimate the subsystem $\Sigma_2$ through the dual YJBK transfer function $S(G_{zw,2})$ given by (7). $S(G_{zw,2})$ is an indirect measure of the subsystem $G_{zw,2}$ connected to the system $\Sigma_1$. It is possible to calculate an upper bound on $S$ for when an upper bound on $G_{zw,2}$ is known. This can be done by using the skew-$\mu$ method, [6].

$S(G_{zw,2})$ will not be used directly in connection with estimation of $G_{zw,2}$. It is possible to modify the feedback controller $K_1$ by introduction a $Q_1$ as described in Section 2. The input vector $\eta_1$ is then given by:

$$\eta_1 = Q_1\epsilon_1 + \eta_1$$  

(11)

The closed-loop transfer function from $\eta_1$ to $\epsilon_1$ is then given by:

$$S(Q_1,G_{zw,2}) = \frac{S(G_{zw,2})(I - Q_1S(G_{zw,2}))^{-1}}{T_{21}G_{zw,2}(I - (T_{11} + T_{12}Q_1T_{21})G_{zw,2})^{-1}T_{12}}$$  

(12)

Further, let's also include pre- and post-filters around $S(Q_1,\Delta)$ resulting in

$$S_W(Q_1,G_{zw,2}) = W_OS(Q_1,G_{zw,2})W_f$$  

(13)

This gives three transfer functions that can be designed with respect to get a simple and direct estimation of $G_{zw,2}$. Based on (12) and (13), it is possible to apply standard estimation/identification methods. However, in the system set-up considered in this paper, it will in many cases be possible to simplify the above closed-loop transfer function such that it is possible to get a direct estimation of $G_{zw,2}$.

Let the following conditions on the number of inputs and outputs for the two systems $\Sigma_1$ and $\Sigma_2$ be satisfied:

$$l_1 = q_2 \leq m_1 \quad q_1 = l_2 \leq p_1$$  

(14)

The first condition guarantee that $G_{zw,1}$ is right invertible. The second condition guarantee that $G_{zw,1}$ is left invertible.

Let's consider the feedback part of $S_W(Q_1,G_{zw,2})$ given by:

$$(T_{11} + T_{12}Q_1T_{21})G_{zw,2}$$

The condition in (14) guarantee that a right and left inverse of $T_{12}$ and $T_{21}$ exists and given by $T_{12}^\dagger$ and $T_{21}^\dagger$, respectively.

Let $Q_1$ be given by

$$Q_1 = -T_{12}^\dagger T_{11}^\dagger T_{21}$$  

(15)

This gives directly that

$$(T_{11} + T_{12}Q_1T_{21})G_{zw,2} = 0$$

Further, let the two filters $W_f$ and a $W_O$ be given by:

$$W_f = T_{12}^\dagger, \quad W_O = T_{21}^\dagger$$  

(16)

Using the controller $Q_1$ given by (15) and the pre- and post-filter satisfying the conditions in (16) gives the following $S_W(Q,G_{zw,2})$:

$$S_W(Q_1,G_{zw,2}) = G_{zw,2}$$  

(17)

This decoupling of the internal feedback in $S_W(Q_1,G_{zw,2})$ by using $Q_1$ given by (15) is only allowed with a stable $Q_1$. A non-minimum phase zero in $T_{12}$ or $T_{21}$ must also be included in $T_{11}$ to give a stable $Q_1$. Necessary and sufficient conditions to give a stable $Q_1$ with respect to the original system can be derived but is not investigated further in this paper.

It is also required that the two weight functions $W_f$ and $W_O$ are stable. This will require that $T_{12}$ and $T_{21}$ does not include non-minimum phase zeros. If $T_{12}$ or $T_{21}$ include non-minimum phase zeros, it will be possible to make a factorization of the transfer functions, where they are factorized into a minimum phase part and an allpass part. The minimum phase part can be removed by selecting the weighting matrices as the inverse of these parts. The resulting transfer function
from input to output will include the remaining all-pass factors. These can afterwards be removed manually.

A stabilizing controller \( Q_1(s) \) given by (15) will give an exact decoupling as given by (17). Using (11), \( G_{zw,2} \) is then the transfer function between \( \eta_1 \) and \( \varepsilon_1 \), i.e.

\[
\varepsilon_1 = S_w(Q_1, G_{zw,2})\eta_1 = G_{zw,2}\eta_1
\]

Standard estimations methods can then be applied for the estimation of \( G_{zw,2} \).

IV. CONTROLLER DESIGN

Design of controllers for the interconnected system will be considered in this section. Beyond just designing a new controller for the complete interconnected system, there exist a number of alternatives to this. A complete new controller design will have the drawback that it will require a complete new redesign again when the subsystem \( \Sigma_2 \) is removed again from the loop. It is there more relevant to consider controller architectures where the original controller \( \Sigma_{C,1} \) is preserved.

Two different design approaches will be considered in the following, where the nominal feedback controller is preserved. In the first approach, a controller is designed for a feedback around \( \Sigma_2 \). The controller must be designed such that the complete interconnected closed-loop system is stable. The other approach is to use the YJBK transfer function \( Q_1 \) for stabilizing the closed-loop system when \( \Sigma_2 \) is included.

Only the stability aspect in connection with the controller design will be considered in the following. The closed-loop performance can also be included, but will not be considered here in this paper.

A. Local Controller Design for \( \Sigma_2 \).

Considering a design of a local controller for \( \Sigma_2 \). Closing the loop from around \( \Sigma_2 \) by

\[
\Sigma_{C,2} : \left\{ u_2 = K_2y_2 \right\}
\]

the closed loop system \( \Sigma_{cl,2} \) is then given by:

\[
\Sigma_{cl,2} : \left\{ \begin{array}{l}
e_2 = T_{ed,2}(K_2)d_2 + T_{zw,2}(K_2)w_2 \\
c_2 = T_{sd,2}(K_2)d_2 + T_{zw,2}(K_2)w_2
\end{array} \right.
\]

where

\[
T_{ed,2}(K_2) = G_{ed,2} + G_{zw,2}K_2(I - G_{zw,2}K_2)^{-1}G_{sd,2}
\]

\[
T_{zw,2}(K_2) = G_{zw,2} + G_{zw,2}K_2(I - G_{zw,2}K_2)^{-1}G_{zw,2}
\]

The local feedback controller \( K_2 \) must be designed such that the complete closed-loop system is stable. This require that \( K_2 \) must be designed such that \( S(K_2) \) given by

\[
S(K_2) = T_{cl,2}T_{zw,2}(K_2)(I - T_{cl,2}T_{zw,2}(K_2))^{-1}T_{cl,2}
\]

must be stable.

\( S(K_2) \) can be written in the following form:

\[
S(K_2) = \mathcal{F}_u\left( \begin{array}{c}
T_{11} \\
T_{21}
\end{array} \right) : \mathcal{F}_u\left( \begin{array}{c}
G_{yw,2} \\
G_{zw,2} \\
G_{zw,2}
\end{array} \right) : K_2
\]

\[
T_{5,11} = G_{zw,2} + G_{zw,2}T_{11}(I - G_{zw,2}T_{11})^{-1}G_{zw,2}
\]

\[
T_{5,12} = G_{zw,2}(I - T_{11}G_{zw,2})^{-1}T_{12}
\]

Now, standard methods can be applied to design a feedback controller \( K_2 \) that will stabilize the complete closed-loop system. Necessary and sufficient conditions to guarantee that this can be obtained has not been investigated at this time.

B. Redesign of \( \Sigma_{C,1} \) by \( Q_1 \).

As an alternative to design a local controller directly for \( \Sigma_2 \), it is possible to redesign \( \Sigma_{C,1} \) by using the YJBK transfer function \( Q_1 \). This will again leave the original feedback controller for \( \Sigma_1 \) unchanged.

The closed-loop system is stable if the nominal closed-loop is stable and the closed-loop given by \( S(Q_1, G_{zw,2}) \) given in (12) is stable. \( S(Q_1, G_{zw,2}) \) can also be written in an LFT form given by

\[
S((Q_1, G_{zw,2}) = \mathcal{F}_l\left( \begin{array}{c}
S(G_{zw,2}) \\
S(G_{zw,2}) \\
S(G_{zw,2})
\end{array} \right) : Q_1
\]

Again, standard methods can be applied for the design of \( Q_1 \) that will stabilize the closed-loop system.

V. EXAMPLE

The example is a mass spring system. The main system \( \Sigma_1 \) consist of a two mass spring systems and the sub system \( \Sigma_2 \) is a single mass spring system. The two mass spring system described in [9]. This system has the following state space description:

\[
A_1 = \begin{pmatrix}
0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\
-1 & 1 & -0.2 & 0.2 \\
0.5 & -2.5 & 0.1 & -0.15
\end{pmatrix}
\]

\[
B_{d,1} = \begin{pmatrix}
0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 \\
0 & 1 \\
0.5 & 0
\end{pmatrix}
\]

\[
C_{x,1} = C_{y,1} = \begin{pmatrix}
1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 1 & 0 & 0
\end{pmatrix}
\]

(23)
An observer based feedback controller is applied to the system with the following state feedback gain $F$ and observer gain $L$:

$$F = \begin{pmatrix} -0.6886 & -1.1124 & -0.6288 & 0.0837 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$L = \begin{pmatrix} -8.3733 & 16.2211 \\ -0.3220 & -5.2795 \\ 2.1388 & -70.0381 \\ 53.0028 & -195.6965 \end{pmatrix}$$

The observer based feedback controller is based on an $H_{\infty}$ feedback controller designed in [9]. The controller is transformed into an observer based feedback controller by using the method described in [1].

A mass spring system $\Sigma_2$ is connected to the main system $\Sigma_1$ through the output $z_1$ and the input $w_1$. The associated output and input matrices are given by:

$$C_{z,1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad B_{w,1} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Further, the transfer function $G_{zw,2}$ is given by

$$G_{zw,2} = \frac{(k_3 + b_3 s)^2}{m_3 s^3 + b_3 s + k_3}$$

with $m_3 = 0.5$, $K_3 = 1$ and $b_3 = 0.1$.

Using an observer based feedback controller, $T_{11}$, $T_{12}$ and $T_{21}$ are given by:

$$T_{11} = C_{z,1} (s I - A - B_{w,1} F)^{-1} L C_{w,1} (s I - A - L C_{z,1})^{-1} B_{w,1}$$

$$T_{12} = C_{z,1} (s I - A - B_{w,1} F)^{-1} B_{w,1}$$

$$T_{21} = C_{z,1} (s I - A - L C_{z,1})^{-1} B_{w,1}$$

In the following, let’s consider the case where the YJBK transfer function $Q_1$ is designed such that $S(G_{zw,2}) = G_{zw,2}$. This is possible in this case, because neither $T_{12}$, nor $T_{21}$ include RHP zeros. However, both $T_{12}$ and $T_{21}$ are strictly proper, so the inverses of the two transfer functions do not exist. Instead, an approximation at low frequencies is used. This is obtained by including a small direct term in $T_{12}$ and $T_{21}$. This will affect the result at high frequencies.

In the case $Q_1$ is given by

$$Q_1 = \begin{pmatrix} Q_{11} & Q_{12} \end{pmatrix}$$

In this case it is possible to let one of the transfer functions in $Q_1$ to be equal to zero and still get a decoupling. Here we let $Q_{12} = 0$. The nominal feedback controller is modified by using $Q_{11}$ such that the dual YJBK transfer function gets equal to $G_{zw,2}$. This is obtained by using $Q_{11}$, $W_1$ and $W_0$ given by (15) and (16).

Some simulations are shown in the following. A step input is injected into the system through the input $\eta_1$. The output responses for mass 1 and mass 2 in $\Sigma_1$ is shown in Fig. 3. In Fig. 4, the outputs are shown when the sub-system $\Sigma_2$ is included. It can be seen from the output responses in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 that the introduction of the sub-system $\Sigma_2$ has a major effect on the output responses.

In Fig. 4, the position of mass 1 and 2 of $\Sigma_1$ for a step input on $\eta$. The solid line is the output for mass no. 1 and the dashed line is the output for mass no. 2.

This can be investigated further by considering the transfer function from $\eta_1$ to $\epsilon_1$, i.e. the dual YJBK transfer function. The output response of $\epsilon_1$ for a step on $\eta_1$ when $\Sigma_2$ is included is shown in Fig. 5. The response shows that $S(G_{zw,2})$ is stable.

Including $Q_{11}$, $W_1$ and $W_0$ gives the step response shown in Fig. 6. The step response is compared with a step response directly from $G_{zw,2}$. There is only a minor difference between the two step responses. This show that $S_w(Q_1, G_{zw,2}) \approx G_{zw,2}$. This can also be seen from the Bode plot shown in Fig. 6 and Fig. 7. Here, the amplitudes and the phases of $S_w(Q_1, G_{zw,2})$ and $G_{zw,2}$ are shown. $S_w(Q_1, G_{zw,2})$ is calculated out from a Simulink model by using the Matlab function “linmod” followed by a model reduction. Due to the approximation of the inverses of $T_{12}$ and $T_{21}$, the two set of curves are almost identical at low frequencies. For $\omega \geq 10 rad/sec$, there is a major difference between the curves for $S_w(Q_1, G_{zw,2})$ and $G_{zw,2}$.  

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VI. DISCUSSION

Some new analysis and controller design results for closed-loop interconnected systems has been presented here. The key element in both the analysis and the design is an application of the YJBK and the dual YJBK parameterization. The closed-loop stability analysis is based directly on the dual YJBK transfer function. Analysis results are given in both cases where the sub-system is known and in the case where it is unknown. Further, it is shown that it is possible to design the YJBK transfer function, pre- and post-filters such that a connected sub-system can be estimated directly without having a direct access to the sub-system.

The last, design of controllers has been investigated. Two different controller concepts have been described. In the first case, a local controller is designed for the sub-system. In the other case, the existing controller for the main system is modified by using the YJBK transfer function. In both cases, the nominal controller is not changed by the new controllers.

Only the closed-loop stability has been considered in this paper. The next step is to include the performance of the interconnected in both the analysis and the controller design.

Another area for further research is a more detailed investigation of the conditions for obtaining an exact or an almost exact decoupling in connection with the estimation of the connected sub-system.

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