REVIEW



Extended state observer-based adaptive prescribed performance control for a class of nonlinear systems with full-state constraints and uncertainties

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Abstract In this paper, an extended state observerbased adaptive prescribed performance control technique is proposed for a class of nonlinear systems with full-state constraints and uncertainties. An extraordinary feature is that not only the control problem of prescribed performance tracking and full-state constraints are solved simultaneously, but also the parametric uncertainties and disturbances are considered, which will make it difficult to design a stable controller. For this purpose, the extended state observer and adaptive technique are integrated to obtain estimations of disturbances and parameters. Then, based on the combination of prescribed performance and barrier Lyapunov function, a novel backstepping control scheme is developed with feedforward compensation of parameters and disturbances to ensure that the tracking error is kept within a specified prescribed performance bound without violation of full states at all times. Moreover, the boundedness of

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all signals in the closed-loop system is proved and asymptotic tracking can be realized if the disturbances are time-invariant. Finally, two simulation examples are performed to highlight the efficiency of the proposed approach.

Keywords Nonlinear systems · Uncertainties · Prescribed performance control · Barrier Lyapunov function · Full-state constraints · Extended state observer · Adaptive control

1 Introduction

For practical control systems, high-performance control of nonlinear systems has always attracted much attention due to uncertainties (including parametric uncertainties and disturbances), which exist in most physical systems and may reduce the tracking accuracy and even lead to system instability. Many nonlinear control approaches are designed for nonlinear systems to improve their performance, such as adaptive control [1], adaptive robust control [2], robust adaptive control [3], sliding mode control (SMC) [4] and $H\infty$ control [5]. However, when the disturbance becomes the main obstacle for highperformance control of the system, the above approaches always employ high-gain feedback to suppress the influence of disturbance on the system.

 Table 1
 Parameters of the spring, mass and damper system

k	Spring stiffness constant	8 N/m
c	Damping coefficient	2 N s/m
m	Object mass	1 kg

As we know, high-gain feedback should be avoided in practical control systems due to high-frequency dynamics and measurement noise, which can deteriorate the control performance of the system and even destabilize system. If disturbances are known, they can be simply compensated by feedforward to eliminate their influence on the control performance. But in fact, the disturbances are unknown and generally immeasurable. Thus, based on disturbance observer, which is employed to get the estimated value of the disturbance disturbance, compensation control approaches are developed to eliminate its adverse effect on the control performance and enhance the anti-disturbance capability of the system. In recent years, nonlinear control strategies based on disturbance observers for total uncertainties were developed [6–12]. However, due to the bandwidth limitation of the observer caused by noise, the performance of the disturbance observer is limited, so it is difficult to achieve the perfect compensation of the total uncertainties. Putting system parametric uncertainties into system total interference will increase observer burden and reduce observation accuracy. When the uncertainties of the system mainly come from the strong parametric uncertainties, the control performance of disturbance compensation approach is often inferior to the nonlinear adaptive control with strong learning ability for parametric uncertainties [13]. Thus, adaptive control for parametric uncertainties was integrated into the disturbance compensation control, and better control effect was obtained [14–16].

However, transient control performance of tracking error is not considered emphatically in the above control strategies, and the performance indexes such as overshoot, convergence speed and steady-state tracking error should be guaranteed by the proposed control scheme in practical engineering. Recently, because of the ability to constrain the tracking performance of the system, prescribed performance control (PPC) attracts a lot of attention [17–19]. In order to suppress uncertainties, an adaptive dynamic surface controller with prescribed tracking performance was proposed for MIMO nonlinear systems in [17]. Based on a new formulation of performance, an improved prescribed performance controller was designed for nonaffine pure-feedback systems in [18]. When the system suffers from strong disturbance, these disturbance suppression control strategies still rely on high gain feedback to achieve good control accuracy, which are conservative. Furthermore, some compensation strategies for uncertainties are designed [20–23]. An adaptive prescribed performance motion controller and a RISE-based asymptotic prescribed performance tracking controller were proposed for nonlinear servo mechanisms [20, 21], where neural network was applied to approximate the system unknown dynamics. A composite controller with sliding mode disturbance observer is designed for space manipulators with prescribed performance [23].

On the other hand, as many practical systems are subject to the effect of the constraints, state constraint control also attracts many researchers. However, the existing PPC studies rarely take into account the system state constraints except [24-28]. In [26], an improved prescribed performance constraint control method was proposed for a strict-feedback nonlinear dynamic system. However, this control strategy only estimates the upper bound of the disturbance to suppress the influence of the disturbance on the control performance, which will cause the control strategy to be conservative. In [27], based on barrier Lyapunov function (BLF), a PPC method with neural network was proposed for Euler-Lagrange systems to constrain full states and achieve prescribed performance tracking, where the adaptive neural network was designed to approximate system uncertainties. In [28], a prescribed performance output feedback dynamic surface control is proposed for a class of strict-feedback uncertain nonlinear systems, full-state constraints is guaranteed by BLF, and neural network is also applied to approximate the system unknown dynamics. As we all know, neural network needs a lot of data for training, which may lead to the accurate estimation convergence time is too long.

Inspired by the above studies, drawn on the experience of the controller design idea in [29, 30], an extended state observer-based adaptive prescribed performance control is studied for a class of nonlinear systems with full-state constraints and uncertainties.

The main contributions of the proposed controller are as follows:

- This paper studies a more general class of nonlinear systems with parametric uncertainties and disturbances; the disturbance observer and adaptive control are first integrated into area of prescribed performance-full-state constraints control of nonlinear systems. Compensation strategy for uncertainties is designed. Hence, the control performance is expected to be improved without high gain feedback and the conservatism of controller can be reduced in this study. More importantly, the elimination of uncertainties can improve the feasibility of prescribed performance and state constraints.
- (2) In order to solve synthetically the control problem of prescribed performance tracking and full-state constraints, a backstepping design with uncertainties compensation is proposed by integrating prescribed performance function (PPF) and full-state constraint function, which can guarantee that the constraints of all the state are not violated and the tracking error is kept within a specified bound at all times, simultaneously.

2 Problem formulation and preliminaries

Consider a class of full-state constrained single-input single-output (SISO) nonlinear systems with uncertainties:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x_i} = x_{i+1} + \theta^T \varphi_i(\bar{x}_i) + d_i(t), \ 1 \le i \le n-1 \\ \dot{x_n} = u + \theta^T \varphi_n(x) + d_n(t) \\ y = x_1 \end{cases}$$
(1)

where $\overline{x}_i = [x_1, x_2, ..., x_i]^T \in R^i$ with $i = 1, 2, ..., n.\overline{x}_n = x = [x_1, x_2, ..., x_n]^T \in R^n$ is the state vector, $u \in R$ is control input, $y \in R$ is system output, $\varphi_i \in R^{\rho}$, i = 1, ..., n, are known shape functions, which are also assumed to satisfy the Lipchitz condition, $\theta = [\theta_1, ..., \theta_{\rho}]^T \in R^{\rho}$ is unknown constant parameters vector, $d_i(t) \in R$, i = 1, ..., n, are disturbances.

In order to ensure that: (1) All signals in the closedloop system are bounded; (2) all system states x_i , i = 1, ..., n, are constrained in $\Omega_{x_i} = \{x_i : |x_i| \le c_i, i = 1, ..., n\}$ for all $t \ge 0$ when $x(0) \in \Omega_{x_i}, c_i > 0$ are constants; (3) the high control performance with prescribed tracking precision is also achieved. Then, the following assumptions are given and the proposed controller is designed in next section.

Assumption 1 The time derivative \dot{d}_i is as follows [31], i.e.,

$$\left|\dot{d}_{i}\right| \leq \overline{d}_{id}, \ i = 1, ..., n. \tag{2}$$

where $\overline{d}_{id} > 0$ are constants.

Assumption 2 [32] The desired trajectory $x_{1d}(t)$ and its *i*th-order derivatives $x_{1d}^{(i)}(t)$, i = 1,..., n satisfy $x_{1d}(t) \le v_0 \le c_1 - \rho_0$ and $\left| x_{1d}^{(i)}(t) \right| \le v_i, v_i > 0$ are constants.

Remark 1 Assumption 1 is a basic premise for extended state observer (ESO)-based control and has been given in [33-35], and these studies show that this assumption is applicable to physical applications.

The following lemmas will be used in our design.

Lemma 1 [36] There exist positive definite continuous functions $V_i:(-c_i, c_i) \to R+$, i = 1, 2, ..., n, which are also differentiable on Ω_{x_i} . $V_i(x_i) \to \infty$ when $x_i \to \pm c_i$, i = 1, 2, ..., n. If $dV_i(x_i)/dt \le 0$ in set Ω_{x_i} , then for all $t \in [0, +\infty]$, $x(t) \in \Omega_{x_i}$.

Lemma 2 [37] Consider error e(t) and transformed errors $z_1(t)$. If $z_1(t)$ is bounded, prescribed performance of e(t) is satisfied for all $t \ge 0$.

3 The controller design and stability analysis

3.1 Extended state observer

In order to estimate all uncertainties, we extend the uncertainties as additional states x_{e1} , x_{e2} ,..., x_{en} , respectively, and let $h_i(t)$, i = 1, 2, ..., n represent their time derivatives. Different from Cheng et al. [38], this structure cannot be used to estimate the state of the system. Throughout this paper, $\hat{\bullet}$ represents the estimation of \bullet and $\tilde{\bullet} = \bullet - \hat{\bullet}$ denotes the estimation error. ESOs are constructed for each equation of the system model (1) as:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_{i} = x_{i+1} + \hat{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{i}(\overline{x}_{i}) + \hat{x}_{ei}(\overline{x}_{i}, t) + l_{1} \omega_{i}(x_{i} - \hat{x}_{i}) \\ \dot{x}_{ei} = l_{2} \omega_{i}^{2}(x_{i} - \hat{x}_{i}), \quad i = 1, ..., n - 1 \\ \begin{cases} \dot{x}_{n} = u + \hat{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{n}(x) + \hat{x}_{en}(x, t) + l_{1} \omega_{n}(x_{n} - \hat{x}_{n}) \\ \dot{x}_{en} = l_{2} \omega_{n}^{2}(x_{n} - \hat{x}_{n}) \end{cases}$$
(3)

where $\omega_i > 0$, i = 1, ..., n are design parameters of observers, l_1 and l_2 are factors of the Hurwitz polynomial $s^2 + l_1s + l_2$. Since the uncertainties of each equation in (1) consist of both disturbances $d_i(\bar{x}_i, t)$ and parametric uncertainties $\tilde{\theta}$, two definitions of the extended states are given.

Case 1 We extend $x_{ei} = d_i$, $i = 1,...,n_i$, let $h_i(t)$ be the time derivatives of x_{ei} . Then, we have

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_{i} = x_{i+1} + \hat{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{i}(\overline{x}_{i}) + x_{ei}(\overline{x}_{i}, t) + \tilde{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{i}(\overline{x}_{i}) \\ \dot{x}_{ei} = h_{i}(t), \quad i = 1, ..., n - 1 \\ \begin{cases} \dot{x}_{n} = u + \hat{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{n}(x) + x_{en}(x, t) + \tilde{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{n}(x) \\ \dot{x}_{en} = h_{n}(t) \end{cases}$$

$$(4)$$

Define $\varepsilon_i = [\varepsilon_{i1}, \varepsilon_{i2}]^{\mathrm{T}} = [\tilde{x}_i, \tilde{x}_{ei}/\omega_i]^{\mathrm{T}}$, i = 1, ..., n, the estimation error dynamics are obtained as follows:

$$L_{1} = k_{c_{1}} - A_{0}$$
(5)
where $A = \begin{bmatrix} -l_{1} & 1 \\ -l_{2} & 0 \end{bmatrix}, B_{1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1, 0 \end{bmatrix}^{\mathrm{T}}, B_{2} = \begin{bmatrix} 0, 1 \end{bmatrix}^{\mathrm{T}}.$

Case 2 We extend $x_{ei} = d_i + \theta^T \varphi_i$, i = 1, ..., n. Then, the dynamic of estimation errors can be obtained by

$$\dot{\varepsilon}_i = \omega_i A \varepsilon_i + B_2 \frac{h_i(t)}{\omega_i} \tag{6}$$

As the matrix A is Hurwitz, $A^T P + PA = -2I$ is established with a positive definite matrix P, the matrix I is an identity matrix.

Remark 2 In the above two cases, the structures of ESOs are the same, according to the different definitions of extended states; we have different dynamic state estimation errors. Based on the BLF with this property, two different results can be obtained by two stability analyses discussed later.

3.2 Controller design

Let the tracking error $e(t) = x_1 - x_{1d}$ satisfy strictly the following inequality to realize the prescribed performance.

$$-\rho(t) < e(t) < \rho(t), \quad \forall t > 0 \tag{7}$$

where $\delta_l > 0$ and $\delta_u > 0$ are design parameters. The performance function $\rho(t)$ is given in (8), which is strictly positive decreasing smooth and bounded:

$$\rho(t) = (\rho_0 - \rho_\infty) e^{-kt} + \rho_\infty$$
$$\lim_{t \to \infty} \rho(t) = \rho_\infty > 0$$
(8)

where ρ_0 , ρ_∞ and k are positive constants. The approximate curve of prescribed performance index inequality (7) is shown in Fig. 1.

Obviously, in (7), $-\rho_0$ and ρ_0 constrain the lower bound of the undershoot and the upper bound of the overshoot of the output control error e(t), respectively. k is the convergence rate, and ρ_{∞} constrains the steady-state bound of e(t). By selecting appropriate parameters such as ρ_0 , ρ_{∞} and k, the transient and stability performance of output control error can be planned in advance, and the improvement of transient performance can be completed according to the actual demand of the system.

Define $z_i = x_i - \alpha_{i-1}$, $i = 2, ..., n, \alpha_{i-1}$ are virtual controllers. The controller design process is given as follows:

Step 1: Define the positive definite BLF as follows:

$$V_1 = \frac{1}{2}\log\frac{\rho^2(t)}{\rho^2(t) - e^2(t)} = \frac{1}{2}\log\frac{1}{1 - z_1^2}$$
(9)

where $\log(\chi)$ is the natural logarithm of $\chi, z_1 = e(t)/\rho(t)$.

Differentiating V_1 , substituting (1) into it yields



Fig. 1 The prescribed performance diagram

$$\dot{V}_{1} = \frac{z_{1}\rho^{-1}}{1-z_{1}^{2}}(\dot{e} - \dot{\rho}z_{1})$$

$$= \frac{z_{1}\rho^{-1}}{1-z_{1}^{2}}(z_{2} + \alpha_{1} + \theta^{T}\varphi_{1}(x_{1}) + d_{1}(x_{1}, t) - \dot{x}_{1d} - \dot{\rho}z_{1})$$
(10)

The virtual controller α_1 is designed to be

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_1 &= -\hat{\theta}^T \varphi_1(x_1) - \hat{x}_{e1} + \dot{x}_{1d} + \dot{\rho} z_1 - k_1 z_1 \\ &- \frac{\omega_1^2 \rho^{-1} z_1}{2(1 - z_1^2)} \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

where $k_1 > 0$ is a design parameter.

Then, the dynamic \dot{z}_1 becomes

$$\dot{V}_{1} = \frac{z_{1}\rho^{-1}}{1 - z_{1}^{2}} (z_{2} - k_{1}z_{1}) + \frac{z_{1}\rho^{-1}}{1 - z_{1}^{2}} \left(\tilde{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{1}(x_{1}) - \hat{x}_{e1} + d_{1}(x_{1}, t) \right) - \frac{\omega_{1}^{2}\rho^{-2}z_{1}^{2}}{2(1 - z_{1}^{2})^{2}}$$
(12)

Step 2: Define the following positive definite BLF

$$V_2 = \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{L_2^2}{L_2^2 - z_2^2} + V_1 \tag{13}$$

where $L_2 > 0$ is a design parameter.

Differentiating (13) and noting (1), we have

$$\begin{split} \dot{V}_2 &= \frac{z_2 \dot{z}_2}{L_2^2 - z_2^2} + \dot{V}_1 \\ &= \frac{z_2}{L_2^2 - z_2^2} \left(z_3 + \alpha_2 + \theta^T \varphi_2(\overline{x}_2) + d_2(\overline{x}_2, t) - \dot{\alpha}_1 \right) + \dot{V}_1 \end{split}$$
(14)

The virtual controller α_2 is designed to be

where $k_2 > 0$ is design parameter, $\dot{\alpha}_1 = \dot{\alpha}_{1c} + \dot{\alpha}_{1u}$, $\dot{\alpha}_{1c}$ and $\dot{\alpha}_{1u}$ are the calculable part and incalculable part, respectively.

$$\dot{\alpha}_{1c} = \frac{\partial \alpha_1}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \alpha_1}{\partial x_1} \dot{\hat{x}}_1 + \frac{\partial \alpha_1}{\partial \hat{x}_{e1}} \dot{\hat{x}}_{e1} + \frac{\partial \alpha_1}{\partial \hat{\theta}} \dot{\hat{\theta}}$$

$$\dot{\alpha}_{1u} = \frac{\partial \alpha_1}{\partial x_1} \tilde{\hat{x}}_1$$
(16)

Then, we have

$$\dot{V}_{2} = \frac{z_{2}}{L_{2}^{2} - z_{2}^{2}} \left(\tilde{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{2}(\bar{x}_{2}) - \hat{x}_{e2} - \dot{\alpha}_{1u} + d_{2}(\bar{x}_{2}, t) \right) - \frac{k_{2} z_{2}^{2}}{L_{2}^{2} - z_{2}^{2}} + \frac{z_{2} z_{3}}{L_{2}^{2} - z_{2}^{2}} - \frac{\omega_{2}^{2} z_{2}^{2}}{2 \left(L_{2}^{2} - z_{2}^{2}\right)^{2}} - \frac{\left(\omega_{1} \frac{\partial \alpha_{1}}{\partial x_{1}}\right)^{2} z_{2}^{2}}{2 \left(L_{2}^{2} - z_{2}^{2}\right)^{2}} + \frac{-\rho^{-1} k_{1} z_{1}^{2}}{1 - z_{1}^{2}} + \frac{z_{1}}{1 - z_{1}^{2}} \rho^{-1} \left(\tilde{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{1}(x_{1}) - \hat{x}_{e1} + d_{1}(x_{1}, t)\right) - \frac{\omega_{1}^{2} \rho^{-2} z_{1}^{2}}{2 \left(1 - z_{1}^{2}\right)^{2}}$$
(17)

Step i: $(3 \le i \le n - 1)$: Define the following positive definite functions

$$V_i = \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{L_i^2}{L_i^2 - z_i^2} + V_{i-1}, \quad i = 3, ..., n-1$$
(18)

where $L_i > 0$ are design parameters. Differentiating (18) and noting (1), we have

$$\begin{split} \dot{V}_{i} &= \frac{z_{i}\dot{z}_{i}}{L_{i}^{2} - z_{i}^{2}} + \dot{V}_{i-1} = \frac{z_{i}(\dot{x}_{i} - \dot{\alpha}_{i-1})}{L_{i}^{2} - z_{i}^{2}} + \dot{V}_{i-1} \\ &= \frac{z_{i}(x_{i+1} + \theta^{T}\varphi_{i}(\overline{x}_{i}) + d_{i}(\overline{x}_{i}, t) - \dot{\alpha}_{i-1})}{L_{i}^{2} - z_{i}^{2}} + \dot{V}_{i-1} \\ &= \frac{z_{i}(z_{i+1} + \alpha_{i} + \theta^{T}\varphi_{i}(\overline{x}_{i}) + d_{i}(\overline{x}_{i}, t) - \dot{\alpha}_{i-1})}{L_{i}^{2} - z_{i}^{2}} + \dot{V}_{i-1} \end{split}$$

$$(19)$$

Similar to (15), the virtual controllers α_i are developed to be

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_{i} &= -\hat{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{i}(\bar{x}_{i}) - \hat{x}_{ei} + \dot{\alpha}_{(i-1)c} - k_{i} z_{i} - \frac{z_{i-1} \left(L_{i}^{2} - z_{i}^{2}\right)}{\left(L_{i-1}^{2} - z_{i-1}^{2}\right)} \\ &- \frac{\omega_{i}^{2} z_{i}}{2\left(L_{i}^{2} - z_{i}^{2}\right)} - \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{i-1} \left(\omega_{k} \frac{\partial z_{i-1}}{\partial x_{k}}\right)^{2} z_{i}}{2\left(L_{i}^{2} - z_{i}^{2}\right)} \end{aligned}$$
(20)

where $k_i > 0$ are design parameters, $\dot{\alpha}_{i-1} = \dot{\alpha}_{(i-1)c} + \dot{\alpha}_{(i-1)u}$, $\dot{\alpha}_{(i-1)c}$ and $\dot{\alpha}_{(i-1)u}$ are the calculable part and incalculable part, respectively.

$$\dot{\alpha}_{(i-1)c} = \frac{\partial \alpha_{i-1}}{\partial t} + \sum_{k=1}^{i-1} \frac{\partial \alpha_{i-1}}{\partial x_k} \dot{\hat{x}}_k + \sum_{k=1}^{i-1} \frac{\partial \alpha_{i-1}}{\partial \hat{x}_{ek}} \dot{\hat{x}}_{ek} + \frac{\partial \alpha_{i-1}}{\partial \hat{\theta}} \dot{\hat{\theta}}$$
$$\dot{\alpha}_{(i-1)u} = \sum_{k=1}^{i-1} \frac{\partial \alpha_{i-1}}{\partial x_k} \dot{\tilde{x}}_k$$
(21)

Then, we have

$$\dot{V}_{i} = \dot{V}_{i-1} - \frac{k_{i}z_{i}^{2}}{L_{i}^{2} - z_{i}^{2}} + \frac{z_{i}z_{i+1}}{L_{i}^{2} - z_{i}^{2}} + \frac{z_{i}\left(d_{i}(\bar{x}_{i}, t) + \tilde{\theta}^{T}\varphi_{i}(\bar{x}_{i}) - \hat{x}_{ei} - \dot{\alpha}_{(i-1)u}\right)}{L_{i}^{2} - z_{i}^{2}} - \frac{z_{i}z_{i-1}}{L_{i-1}^{2} - z_{i-1}^{2}} - \frac{\omega_{i}^{2}z_{i}^{2}}{2(L_{i}^{2} - z_{i}^{2})^{2}} - \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{i-1}\left(\omega_{k}\frac{\partial\alpha_{i-1}}{\partial\chi_{k}}\right)^{2}z_{i}^{2}}{2(L_{i}^{2} - z_{i}^{2})^{2}}$$

$$(22)$$

From (22), we have

$$\dot{V}_{i} = \frac{z_{i+1}z_{i}}{L_{i}^{2} - z_{i}^{2}} - \sum_{k=2}^{i} \frac{k_{k}z_{k}^{2}}{L_{k}^{2} - z_{k}^{2}} + \sum_{k=2}^{i} \frac{z_{k} \left(d_{k}(\bar{x}_{k}, t) + \tilde{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{k}(\bar{x}_{k}) - \hat{x}_{ek} \right)}{L_{k}^{2} - z_{k}^{2}} - \sum_{k=2}^{n} \frac{z_{k}^{2} \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \left(\omega_{j} \frac{\partial \alpha_{k-1}}{\partial x_{j}} \right)^{2}}{2(L_{k}^{2} - z_{k}^{2})^{2}} - \sum_{k=2}^{i} \frac{z_{k} \dot{\alpha}_{(k-1)u}}{L_{k}^{2} - z_{k}^{2}} - \sum_{k=2}^{i} \frac{\omega_{k}^{2} z_{k}^{2}}{2(L_{k}^{2} - z_{k}^{2})^{2}} - \frac{\rho^{-1} k_{1} z_{1}^{2}}{1 - z_{1}^{2}} + \frac{z_{1}}{1 - z_{1}^{2}} \rho^{-1} \left(\tilde{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{1}(x_{1}) - \hat{x}_{e1} + d_{1}(x_{1}, t) \right) - \frac{\omega_{1}^{2} \rho^{-2} z_{1}^{2}}{2(1 - z_{1}^{2})^{2}}$$
(23)

Step n: Choose *n*th positive definite function as follows:

$$V_n = \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{L_n^2}{L_n^2 - z_n^2} + V_{n-1}$$
(24)

where $L_n > 0$ is a design parameter.

Differentiating V_n , substituting (1) into it yields

$$\dot{V}_{n} = \frac{z_{n}\dot{z}_{n}}{L_{n}^{2} - z_{n}^{2}} + \dot{V}_{n-1} = \frac{z_{n}(\dot{x}_{n} - \dot{\alpha}_{n-1})}{L_{i}^{2} - z_{i}^{2}} + \dot{V}_{n-1}$$
$$= \frac{z_{n}(u + \theta^{T}\varphi_{n}(x) + d_{n}(x, t) - \dot{\alpha}_{n-1})}{L_{n}^{2} - z_{n}^{2}} + \dot{V}_{n-1}$$
(25)

The input u is designed as

$$u = -\hat{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{n}(x) - \hat{x}_{en} + \dot{\alpha}_{(n-1)c} - k_{n} z_{n} - \frac{z_{n-1} \left(L_{n}^{2} - z_{n}^{2}\right)}{\left(L_{n-1}^{2} - z_{n-1}^{2}\right)} - \frac{\omega_{n}^{2} z_{n}}{2\left(L_{n}^{2} - z_{n}^{2}\right)} - \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \left(\omega_{k} \frac{\partial \alpha_{n-1}}{\partial x_{k}}\right)^{2} z_{n}}{2\left(L_{n}^{2} - z_{n}^{2}\right)}$$

$$(26)$$

where $k_n > 0$ is a design parameter, $\dot{\alpha}_{n-1} = \dot{\alpha}_{(n-1)c} + \dot{\alpha}_{(n-1)u}$, $\dot{\alpha}_{(n-1)c}$ denotes the calculable part, ble part, $\dot{\alpha}_{(n-1)u}$ denotes the incalculable part.

$$\dot{\alpha}_{(n-1)c} = \frac{\partial \alpha_{n-1}}{\partial t} + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \frac{\partial \alpha_{n-1}}{\partial x_k} \dot{\hat{x}}_k + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \frac{\partial \alpha_{n-1}}{\partial \hat{x}_{ek}} \dot{\hat{x}}_{ek} + \frac{\partial \alpha_{n-1}}{\partial \hat{\theta}} \dot{\hat{\theta}}$$
$$\dot{\alpha}_{(n-1)u} = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \frac{\partial \alpha_{n-1}}{\partial x_k} \ddot{\hat{x}}_k$$
(27)

When the following conditions hold:

(1) Suitable parameters k_i , ω_i and L_i are selected to satisfy

 $c_{i+1} \ge |\alpha_i|_{\max} + L_{i+1}$

(2) The initial conditions $z_i(0)$ satisfy

$$|z_1(0)| \le \rho_0, \quad |z_i(0)| \le L_i, i = 2, ..., n$$

The following two theorems are carried out to ensure the stability of the closed-loop system.

Theorem 1 If the disturbances d_i , i = 1,..., n, are time-invariant in system (1), i.e., h_i (t) = 0, with the proposed controller (26) with the adaptation law as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\hat{\theta}} &= \Gamma \left(\sum_{j=2}^{n} \frac{z_{j} \varphi_{j}(x)}{L_{j}^{2} - z_{j}^{2}} - \sum_{k=2}^{n} \frac{z_{k} \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \frac{\hat{c}_{X_{k}-1}}{\hat{c}_{X_{j}}} \varphi_{j}(\overline{x}_{j})}{L_{k}^{2} - z_{k}^{2}} + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \varepsilon_{i}^{T} P B_{1} \varphi_{i} \right. \\ &+ \frac{z_{1}}{1 - z_{1}^{2}} \rho^{-1} \varphi_{1}(\overline{x}_{1}) \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$(28)$$

where $\Gamma > 0$ is a diagonal adaptation rate matrix. Then, all signals of closed-loop system can be guaranteed to be bounded with prescribed performance tracking, the constraints of full states are not violated, and asymptotic track performance is also achieved, i.e., $z_1 \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$.

Proof See Appendix 1.

Theorem 2 If the disturbances d_i , i = 1,..., n, are time-variant, i.e., $h_i(t) \neq 0$, all signals are bounded with the proposed control law (26), prescribed performance tracking is obtained and the constraints of full states are not violated. The following positive definite Lyapunov function

$$V_b = V_n + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_i^T P \varepsilon_i$$
⁽²⁹⁾

is bounded by

$$V_b(t) \le \exp(-\lambda t) V_b(0) + \frac{\sigma}{\lambda} [1 - \exp(-\lambda t)]$$
(30)

where $\lambda = \{2\rho_0^{-1}k_1, 2k_2, ..., 2k_n, \frac{2\omega_1 - n - 1}{2\lambda_{\max}(P)}, ..., \frac{2\omega_n - n - 1}{2\lambda_{\max}(P)}\}_{\min}, \lambda_{\max}(P) \text{ is the maximum eigenvalue of matrix } P, \sigma = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\|PB_2\|^2 |h_i(t)|_{\max}^2}{2\omega_i^2}.$

Proof. See Appendix 2.

4 Simulation

Two simulation examples are carried out to testify the validity of the proposed algorithm as follows.

Example 1. A spring, mass and damper system given in [3, 39] is considered. The dynamic model is modeled as follows:

$$\dot{x}_1 = x_2$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = \frac{u}{m} - \theta^T \varphi + d(t)$$
(31)

where x_1 is the position and x_2 is the velocity, $\theta = [\theta_1, \theta_2]^T = [k/m, c/m]^T$, $\varphi = [x_1, x_2]^T$. The system parameters are found in Table 1.

The ESO is constructed for (31):

$$\begin{cases} \hat{x}_{1} = x_{2} - 3\omega_{1}(x_{1} - \hat{x}_{1}) \\ \dot{x}_{2} = \frac{u}{m} + \hat{\theta}^{T} \varphi + \hat{x}_{e} - 3\omega_{1}^{2}(x_{1} - \hat{x}_{1}) \\ \dot{x}_{e} = -\omega_{1}^{3}(x_{1} - \hat{x}_{1}) \end{cases}$$
(32)

The controller is designed as

$$u = m \left(\hat{\theta}^{T} \varphi - \hat{x}_{e} + \dot{\alpha}_{1} - k_{2} z_{2} - \frac{\rho^{-1} z_{1} (L_{2}^{2} - z_{2}^{2})}{1 - z_{1}^{2}} - \frac{\omega_{1}^{4} z_{2}}{2(L_{2}^{2} - z_{2}^{2})} \right)$$
(33)

The virtue controller is designed as

$$\alpha_1 = \dot{x}_{1d} + \dot{\rho} z_1 - k_1 z_1 \tag{34}$$

The adaptation law is designed as

$$\dot{\hat{\theta}} = \Gamma_1 \left(\frac{z_2 \varphi}{L_2^2 - z_2^2} + \varepsilon_1^T P B_1 \varphi \right)$$
(35)

where $\Gamma_1 > 0$ is a diagonal adaptation rate matrix, $\varepsilon_1 = [\varepsilon_{11}, \varepsilon_{12}, \varepsilon_{13}]^{\mathrm{T}} = [\tilde{x}_1, \tilde{x}_2/\omega_1, \tilde{x}_e/\omega_1^2]^{\mathrm{T}},$ $B_1 = [0, 1, 0]^{\mathrm{T}}.$

The parameters of the proposed controller (i.e., APC) are selected as $k_1 = 200$, $k_2 = 500$, $L_2 = 2$, $\omega_1 = 200$, $\theta_0 = 100$, $\hat{\theta}(0) = [5, 3]^T$, $\Gamma_1 = [5.7, 2.2]^T$, $\rho_0 = 0.3$, $\rho_{\infty} = 0.012$, k = 0.0009, $c_1 = 0.8$, $c_2 = 2$. The desired trajectory $y_d(t) = 0.5\sin(0.5\pi t)[1 - \exp(-t^3)]$, the initial value of x_1 is set as $x_1(0) = 0.2$, $d(t) = \sin(2\pi t)$.

Remark 3 As the accurate disturbance estimation can be guaranteed by increasing the observer parameters, in order to test the performance of ESO, large disturbance is added into the system; In addition, the initial value of $x_1(0)$ is assigned to be 0.2 to test the effectiveness of the prescribed performance control and state constraint control.

The simulation results are exhibited in Figs. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. Figure 2 shows the desired trajectory x_{1d} and output state x_1 . After a short transient response process, the output trajectory can track the desired trajectory quite well. Figure 3 presents the control input *u*. The tracking error e(t) and prescribed performance bounds are given in Fig. 4. Obviously, the output tracking error of the proposed controller converges to the neighborhood of zero and the prescribed performance bounds



Fig. 2 Desired trajectory $x_{1d}(t)$ and the trajectory $x_1(t)$



Fig. 3 Control input *u*



Fig. 4 Tracking error e(t) and prescribed performance bounds



Fig. 5 Output x_1



Fig. 6 Output x₂

are not violated. From Figs. 5 and 6, it can be seen that the proposed controller can meet the requirements of state constraints. The parameters estimation is presented in Fig. 7. The real parameters of the system are estimated accurately. Figure 8 illustrates d and disturbance estimations. Obviously, the actual disturbances are obtained by ESO.

Example 2. A single inverted pendulum (SIP) system [40, 41] is given as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = x_2\\ \dot{x}_2 = \beta_1(x)u + \theta^T \varphi + d(t) \end{cases}$$
(36)

where $\theta^T = [\theta_1, \theta_2] = [1, 1], \quad \varphi = [f_1(x), -f_2(x)]^T,$ $f_1(x) = \frac{g \sin x_1}{l(4/3 - m \cos^2 x_1/(m_c + m))},$



Fig. 7 Parameter estimations



Fig. 8 Disturbance d and disturbance estimation

$$f_2(x) = \frac{m x_2^2 \cos x_1 \sin x_1 / (m_c + m)}{4/3 - m \cos^2 x_1 / (m_c + m)},$$

$$\beta_1(x) = \frac{\cos x_1 / (m_c + m)}{l(4/3 - m \cos^2 x_1 / (m_c + m))}.$$

The SIP is described by the states found in Table 2. The ESO is constructed for (36):

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\hat{x}}_1 = x_2 - 3\omega_1(x_1 - \hat{x}_1) \\ \dot{\hat{x}}_2 = \beta_1(x)u + \hat{\theta}^T \varphi_2 + \hat{x}_e - 3\omega_1^2(x_1 - \hat{x}_1) \\ \dot{\hat{x}}_e = -\omega_1^3(x_1 - \hat{x}_1) \end{cases}$$
(37)

The controller is designed as

Table 2 Parameters of SIP

m	Mass of the pendulum	0.2 kg
m _c	Mass of the cart	1 kg
g	Gravitational constant	9.8 m/s ²
1	Length to pendulum center of mass	0.3 m

$$u = \left(-\hat{\theta}^{T} \varphi - \hat{x}_{e} + \dot{\alpha}_{1} - k_{2} z_{2} - \frac{\rho^{-1} z_{1} (L_{2}^{2} - z_{2}^{2})}{1 - z_{1}^{2}} - \frac{\omega_{1}^{4} z_{2}}{2(L_{2}^{2} - z_{2}^{2})}\right) / \beta_{1}$$
(38)

The virtue controller is designed as

$$\alpha_1 = \dot{x}_{1d} + \dot{\rho}z_1 - k_1 z_1 \tag{39}$$

The adaptation law is designed as

$$\mu = \Gamma_1 \left(\frac{z_2 \varphi}{L_2^2 - z_2^2} + \varepsilon_1^T P B_1 \varphi \right) \tag{40}$$

where $\Gamma_1 > 0$ is a diagonal adaptation rate matrix, $\varepsilon_1 = [\varepsilon_{11}, \varepsilon_{12}, \varepsilon_{13}]^{\mathrm{T}} = [\tilde{x}_1, \tilde{x}_2/\omega_1, \tilde{x}_e/\omega_1^2]^{\mathrm{T}},$ $B_1 = [0, 1, 0]^{\mathrm{T}}.$

In this simulation, the desired trajectory $y_d(t) = 2\sin(\pi t)[1 - \exp(-0.01t^3)]$, $d = 30\sin(2\pi t)$. In order to prove the validity of disturbance compensation term, adaptive law, prescribed control performance of the proposed controller, the initial values of the states are $x_1(0) = 0.2$. The parameters of the proposed controller (i.e., APC) are given as $k_1 = 5$, $k_2 = 50$, $L_2 = 2$, $\omega_1 = 300$, $\theta_0 = 20$, $\hat{\theta}(0) = [1.6, 1.6]^T$, $\Gamma_1 = [10, 4.2]^T$, $\rho_0 = 0.3$, $\rho_{\infty} = 0.0005$, k = 0.003, $c_1 = 0.4$, $c_2 = 2$.

The simulation results are shown in Figs. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15. Figure 9 shows the desired trajectory x_{1d} and output state x_1 . The output trajectory can track the desired trajectory quite quickly and well. Figure 10 presents the control input u. The tracking error e(t) and prescribed performance bounds are given in Fig. 11. Obviously, the output tracking error of the proposed controller converges to the neighborhood of zero within the bounds of the prescribed performance function limitation. From Fig. 12 and Fig. 13, it can be seen that the requirements of state constraints can be satisfied by the proposed controller. As presented in Fig. 14, the real parameters of the system are estimated accurately. Figure 15 illustrates d and disturbance estimations. Obviously, the actual disturbances are obtained by ESO.



Fig. 9 Desired trajectory $x_{1d}(t)$ and the trajectory $x_1(t)$



Fig. 10 Control input u



Fig. 11 Tracking error e(t) and prescribed performance bounds



Fig. 12 Output x_1 of two controllers



Fig. 13 Output x_2 of two controllers

5 Conclusion

In this study, an ESO-based adaptive prescribed performance controller is developed for a class of nonlinear systems with full-state constraints and uncertainties. Adaptive control for the system parametric uncertainties and multiple ESOs for disturbances are integrated into the prescribed performance and full-state constraints design via backstepping technique to achieve prescribed performance tracking of output error without violation of full states. The global stability of the proposed control approach is proved. Finally, two simulation examples are employed to demonstrate the performance of the proposed method.



Fig. 14 Parameter estimations



Fig. 15 Disturbance d and disturbance estimation

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Declarations

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Appendix 1

Proof of Theorem 1. If the disturbances d_i , i = 1,..., n, are time-invariant, the following positive definite Lyapunov function is defined with $x_{ei} = d_i$ in this case

$$V_a = V_n + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_i^T P \varepsilon_i + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\theta}^T \Gamma^{-1} \tilde{\theta}$$
(41)

Differentiating V_n , substituting (5) into it yields

$$\begin{split} \dot{V}_{a} &= \dot{V}_{n} + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(\frac{1}{2} \dot{\varepsilon}_{i}^{T} P \varepsilon_{i} + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_{i}^{T} P \dot{\varepsilon}_{i} \right) - \tilde{\theta}^{T} \Gamma^{-1} \dot{\theta} \\ &= \dot{V}_{n} - \tilde{\theta}^{T} \Gamma^{-1} \dot{\theta} + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(\frac{1}{2} \left(\omega_{i} A \varepsilon_{i} + B_{1} \bar{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{i} \right)^{T} P \varepsilon_{i} + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_{i}^{T} P \left(\omega_{i} A \varepsilon_{i} + B_{1} \bar{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{i} \right) \right) \\ &= \dot{V}_{n} - \tilde{\theta}^{T} \Gamma^{-1} \dot{\theta} + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(\frac{1}{2} \omega_{i} \varepsilon_{i}^{T} A^{T} P \varepsilon_{i} + \frac{1}{2} \omega_{i} \varepsilon_{i}^{T} P A \varepsilon_{i} + \varepsilon_{i}^{T} P B_{1} \bar{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{i} \right) \end{split}$$

$$(42)$$

As the matrix A is Hurwitz, $A^T P + PA = -2I$ is established, noting (23)–(26), we have

$$\begin{split} \dot{V}_{a} &\leq -\sum_{j=2}^{n} \frac{k_{j} z_{j}^{2}}{L_{j}^{2} - z_{j}^{2}} - \frac{\rho^{-1} k_{1} z_{1}^{2}}{1 - z_{1}^{2}} + \sum_{j=2}^{n} \frac{z_{j} \tilde{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{j}(\overline{x}_{j})}{L_{j}^{2} - z_{j}^{2}} \\ &+ \sum_{k=2}^{n} \frac{z_{k} (d_{k}(\overline{x}_{k}, t) - \hat{x}_{ek})}{L_{k}^{2} - z_{k}^{2}} \\ &- \sum_{k=2}^{n} \frac{z_{k} \dot{\alpha}_{(k-1)u}}{L_{k}^{2} - z_{k}^{2}} - \sum_{k=2}^{n} \frac{z_{k}^{2} \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \left(\omega_{j} \frac{\partial u_{k-1}}{\partial x_{j}}\right)^{2}}{2(L_{k}^{2} - z_{k}^{2})^{2}} \\ &- \sum_{k=2}^{n} \frac{\omega_{k}^{2} z_{k}^{2}}{2(L_{k}^{2} - z_{k}^{2})^{2}} + \frac{\rho^{-1} z_{1}}{1 - z_{1}^{2}} \tilde{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{1}(\overline{x}_{1}) \\ &+ \frac{\rho^{-1} z_{1}}{2(L_{k}^{2} - z_{k}^{2})^{2}} + \frac{\rho^{-1} z_{1}}{1 - z_{1}^{2}} \tilde{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{1}(\overline{x}_{1}) \\ &+ \frac{\rho^{-1} z_{1}}{1 - z_{1}^{2}} \left(d_{1}(x_{1}, t) - \hat{x}_{e1}\right) - \frac{\omega_{1}^{2} \rho^{-2} z_{1}^{2}}{2(1 - z_{1}^{2})^{2}} \\ &- \tilde{\theta}^{T} \Gamma^{-1} \dot{\theta} - \sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega_{i} ||\varepsilon_{i}||^{2} + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \varepsilon_{i}^{T} P B_{1} \tilde{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{i} \\ &= -\sum_{j=2}^{n} \frac{k_{j} z_{j}^{2}}{L_{j}^{2} - z_{j}^{2}} - \frac{\rho^{-1} k_{1} z_{1}^{2}}{1 - z_{1}^{2}} + \sum_{j=2}^{n} \frac{z_{j} \tilde{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{j}(\overline{x}_{j})}{L_{j}^{2} - z_{j}^{2}} \\ &+ \frac{\rho^{-1} z_{1}}{1 - z_{1}^{2}} \tilde{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{1}(\overline{x}_{1}) + \sum_{k=2}^{n} \frac{z_{k} \tilde{x}_{ek}(\overline{x}_{k}, t)}{L_{k}^{2} - z_{k}^{2}} \\ &- \sum_{k=2}^{n} \frac{z_{k} \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \frac{\partial u_{k} \omega_{j}}{\partial x_{j}} \left(\tilde{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{j}(\overline{x}_{j}) + \tilde{x}_{ej}(\overline{x}_{j}, t)\right)}{L_{k}^{2} - z_{k}^{2}} \\ &- \sum_{k=2}^{n} \frac{z_{k}^{2} \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \left(\omega_{j} \frac{\partial u_{k-1}}{\partial x_{j}}\right)^{2}}{2(L_{k}^{2} - z_{k}^{2})^{2}} - \sum_{k=2}^{n} \frac{\omega_{k}^{2} z_{k}^{2}}{2(L_{k}^{2} - z_{k}^{2})^{2}} \\ &+ \frac{\rho^{-1} z_{1}}{1 - z_{1}^{2}} \tilde{x}_{e1} - \frac{\omega_{1}^{2} \rho^{-2} z_{1}^{2}}{2(1 - z_{1}^{2})^{2}} - \tilde{\theta}^{T} \Gamma^{-1} \dot{\theta} \\ &- \sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega_{i} ||\varepsilon_{i}||^{2} + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \varepsilon_{i}^{T} P B_{1} \tilde{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{i} \end{split}$$

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Utilizing the Young's inequality, we obtain

$$\sum_{k=2}^{n} \frac{z_k \tilde{x}_{ek}}{L_k^2 - z_k^2} \leq \sum_{k=2}^{n} \frac{\omega_k^2 z_k^2}{2(L_k^2 - z_k^2)^2} + \sum_{k=2}^{n} \frac{\varepsilon_{k2}^2}{2}$$

$$\sum_{k=2}^{n} \frac{z_k \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \frac{\partial z_{k-1}}{\partial x_j} \tilde{x}_{ej}(\overline{x}_j, t)}{L_k^2 - z_k^2} \leq \sum_{k=2}^{n} \frac{z_k^2 \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \left(\omega_j \frac{\partial z_{k-1}}{\partial x_j}\right)^2}{2(L_k^2 - z_k^2)^2}$$

$$+ \sum_{k=2}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \frac{\varepsilon_{j2}^2}{2}$$

$$\frac{\rho^{-1}}{1 - z_1^2} z_1 \tilde{x}_{e1} \leq \frac{\omega_1^2 \rho^{-2} z_1^2}{2(1 - z_1^2)^2} + \frac{\varepsilon_{12}^2}{2}$$
(44)

Substituting (28) and (44) into (43), then we have

$$\begin{split} \dot{V_a} &\leq -\sum_{j=2}^n \frac{k_j z_j^2}{L_j^2 - z_j^2} - \frac{\rho^{-1} k_1 z_1^2}{1 - z_1^2} - \sum_{i=1}^n \omega_i \|\varepsilon_i\|^2 \\ &+ \sum_{k=2}^n \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \frac{\varepsilon_{j2}^2}{2} + \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\varepsilon_{k2}^2}{2} \\ &- \tilde{\theta}^T \bigg(\Gamma^{-1} \dot{\theta} - \sum_{j=2}^n \frac{z_j \varphi_j(\overline{x}_j)}{L_j^2 - z_j^2} + \sum_{k=2}^n \frac{z_k \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \frac{\partial z_{k-1}}{\partial x_j} \varphi_j(\overline{x}_j)}{L_k^2 - z_k^2} \\ &- \sum_{i=1}^n \varepsilon_i^T P B_1 \varphi_i - \frac{\rho^{-1} z_1}{1 - z_1^2} \varphi_1(\overline{x}_1) \bigg) \leq - \sum_{j=2}^n \frac{k_j z_j^2}{L_j^2 - z_j^2} \\ &- \frac{\rho^{-1} k_1 z_1^2}{1 - z_1^2} - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{2\omega_i - n}{2} \|\varepsilon_i\|^2 \\ &= -W \end{split}$$

$$(45)$$

According to Lyapunov's theorem, V_a is uniformly ultimately bounded; thus, errors z_i , $\tilde{\theta}$, and $\tilde{\epsilon}$ are bounded. This further guarantees the boundedness of e_1 . Moreover, the adaptive parameters $\hat{\theta}$ and \hat{x}_{ei} are all bounded. As $x_1 = e(t) + x_{1d}(t)$, $z_1 = e(t)/\rho(t)$, $|z_1| \le 1$ with Assumption 2 and (8), we have $|x_1| \le c_1$, and x_1 is bounded. α_1 in (12) is a function of $x_1, z_1, \hat{\theta}, \dot{x}_{1d}$ and \hat{x}_{e1} . Since the boundedness of x_1, z_1 , $\hat{\theta}, \dot{x}_{1d}$ and \hat{x}_{e1}, α_1 is guaranteed. As $|x_2| \le |\alpha_1|_{\max} + |z_2|$ and $|z_2| \le L_2$, we obtain $x_2 \le c_2$ and α_2 is bounded. Similarly, $|x_{i+1}|, \alpha_i, i = 3, ..., n-1$ and the control input u are bounded. Consequently, all signals in the closedloop system are bounded, prescribed performance tracking is obtained and full states are ensured to remain in the constrained field.

Appendix 2

Proof of Theorem 2. If the disturbances d_i , i = 1,..., n, are time-variant, $x_{ei} = d_i(\overline{x}_i, t) + \tilde{\theta}^T \varphi_i(\overline{x}_i)$. With (6), differentiating V_b defined in (29), we have

$$\dot{V}_{b} = \dot{V}_{n} + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(\frac{1}{2} \omega_{i} \varepsilon_{i}^{T} A^{T} P \varepsilon_{i} + \frac{1}{2} \omega_{i} \varepsilon_{i}^{T} P A \varepsilon_{i} + \varepsilon_{i}^{T} P B_{2} \frac{h_{i}(t)}{w_{i}} \right)$$

$$(46)$$

As $A^T P + PA = -2I$, noting (23), (25) and (28), we have

$$\begin{split} \dot{V}_{b} &\leq \dot{V}_{n} - \sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega_{i} \|\varepsilon_{i}\|^{2} + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \varepsilon_{i}^{T} PB_{2} \frac{h_{i}(t)}{\omega_{i}} \\ &\leq -\sum_{j=2}^{n} \frac{k_{j} z_{j}^{2}}{L_{j}^{2} - z_{j}^{2}} - \frac{\rho^{-1} k_{1} z_{1}^{2}}{1 - z_{1}^{2}} \\ &+ \sum_{k=2}^{n} \frac{z_{k} \left(d_{k}(\bar{x}_{k}, t) + \tilde{\theta}^{T} \varphi_{k}(\bar{x}_{k}) - \hat{x}_{ek} \right)}{L_{k}^{2} - z_{k}^{2}} \\ &- \sum_{k=2}^{n} \frac{z_{k} \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \frac{\partial \omega_{k-1}}{\partial x_{j}} \left(\tilde{x}_{ej}(\bar{x}_{j}, t) \right)}{L_{k}^{2} - z_{k}^{2}} \\ &- \sum_{k=2}^{n} \frac{z_{k}^{2} \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \left(\omega_{j} \frac{\partial z_{k-1}}{\partial x_{j}} \right)^{2}}{2(L_{k}^{2} - z_{k}^{2})^{2}} - \sum_{k=2}^{n} \frac{\omega_{k}^{2} z_{k}^{2}}{2(L_{k}^{2} - z_{k}^{2})^{2}} \\ &+ \frac{\rho^{-1} z_{1}}{2(L_{k}^{2} - z_{k}^{2})^{2}} - \sum_{k=2}^{n} \frac{\omega_{k}^{2} z_{k}^{2}}{2(L_{k}^{2} - z_{k}^{2})^{2}} \\ &+ \frac{\rho^{-2} z_{1}^{2}}{2(1 - z_{1}^{2})^{2}} - \sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega_{i} \|\varepsilon_{i}\|^{2} + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \varepsilon_{i}^{T} PB_{2} \frac{h_{i}(t)}{\omega_{i}} \\ &\leq -\sum_{j=2}^{n} \frac{k_{j} z_{j}^{2}}{L_{j}^{2} - z_{j}^{2}} - \frac{\rho^{-1} k_{1} z_{1}^{2}}{1 - z_{1}^{2}} - \sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega_{i} \|\varepsilon_{i}\|^{2} \\ &+ \sum_{j=2}^{n} \frac{|PB_{2}||^{2} |h_{i}(t)|^{2}}{2\omega_{i}^{2}} \\ &\leq -\sum_{j=2}^{n} \frac{k_{j} z_{j}^{2}}{L_{j}^{2} - z_{j}^{2}} - \frac{\rho^{-1} k_{1} z_{1}^{2}}{1 - z_{1}^{2}} - \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{2\omega_{i} - n - 1}{2} \|\varepsilon_{i}\|^{2} \\ &+ \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{|PB_{2}||^{2} |h_{i}(t)|^{2}}{2\omega_{i}^{2}} \end{split}$$

As $\log \frac{L_j^2}{L_j^2 - z_j^2} \le \frac{z_j^2}{L_j^2 - z_j^2}$ in the interval $z_j < L_j$ [42], then

$$\begin{split} \dot{V}_{b} &\leq -\sum_{j=2}^{n} k_{j} \log \frac{L_{j}^{2}}{L_{j}^{2} - z_{j}^{2}} - \rho^{-1} k_{1} \log \frac{1}{1 - z_{1}^{2}} \\ &-\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{2\omega_{i} - n - 1}{2\lambda_{\max}(P)} \varepsilon_{i}^{T} P \varepsilon_{i} + \sigma \\ &\leq -\lambda V_{a} + \sigma \end{split}$$
(48)

which leads to (30). Similar to the proof of Theorem 1, all signals in the closed-loop system are also bounded and prescribed performance tracking is obtained without violation of constraints of the full states.

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