


# Observer-based Adaptive Fuzzy Control for Strict-feedback Nonlinear Systems with Prescribed Performance and Dead Zone

Wen Zeng, Zhigang Li\* , Chuang Gao, and Libing Wu

**Abstract:** This paper proposes an observer-based fuzzy controller for strict-feedback nonlinear systems. A fuzzy state observer is designed to estimate unmeasurable system states via a fuzzy logic system to approximate the unknown nonlinear functions of the system. A tangent prescribed performance function is utilized to gather the tracking error in a small neighborhood of the origin. The control input is designed to deal with the dead-zone property of the system. The proposed controller can guarantee that all the signals in the closed-loop system are semi-globally, uniformly, and ultimately bounded. Simulation results demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed controller.

**Keywords:** Backstepping, fuzzy observer, prescribed performance, strict-feedback nonlinear system.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The backstepping method has become a general tool to construct controllers for dynamic nonlinear systems. It was first presented to obtain asymptotic tracking and global stability for single-input single-output (SISO) strict-feedback nonlinear systems [1]. This method effectively solves the nonlinear system controller design problem that does not satisfy the matching condition. Some improvements of the controller design for strict-feedback systems were developed for multi-input multi-output systems [2] and extended to switching systems [3] and pure feedback systems [4]. Some intelligent methods with universal approximation ability were combined into the approaches of the backstepping-based tracking controller, such as fuzzy logic systems (FLSs) [5–9] and neural networks (NNs) [10–13]. These developments have been widely applied to the control design of uncertain nonlinear systems.

Most system states are not measurable in real applications. Therefore, extensive attention has been paid to nonlinear output feedback control, and some significant results have been obtained. Adaptive fuzzy observers were designed for output feedback control of SISO nonlinear systems [15] and MIMO nonlinear systems [16]. By considering the fault-tolerant problem, an adaptive fuzzy control approach was investigated for nonlinear non-strict

feedback systems [17, 18]. A novel fuzzy observer scheme was proposed to solve unknown virtual control coefficients of nonlinear systems [19]. With the in-depth study of the control theory, the prescribed performance control theory proposed by Bechlioulis and Rovithakis has attracted wide attention [20]. The basic idea is to make the error of system response fall strictly within an area preset by the designer. Other forms of prescribed performance control were subsequently proposed. Funnel control was proposed by Ilchmann *et al.* [21], and the barrier Lyapunov function was considered in designing a controller [22]. A series of barrier Lyapunov function controls were achieved [23, 24]. Based on previous work [22], a tan-type prescribed performance was proposed [25]. Further results based on a tan-type prescribed performance function were presented [26, 27].

Prescribed performance control has become a major strategy in many nonlinear systems. A prescribed performance adaptive controller was designed for tracking problems for nonlinear systems with zero dynamics [28], and a prescribed performance controller with the method of command filters was designed to solve the problem of “explosion of complexity” [29]. An adaptive finite-time fuzzy funnel controller was proposed [30]. An event-triggered funnel controller for strict-feedback nonlinear systems with unknown parameters was constructed [31]. In industrial systems, many measuring and executing mechanisms

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Wen Zeng, Zhigang Li, and Chuang Gao are with the School of Electronic and Information Engineering, University of Science and Technology Liaoning, Anshan, Liaoning 114051, P. R. China (e-mails: {azw262, li7275, 13500422153}@163.com). Libing Wu is with the School of Sciences, University of Science and Technology Liaoning, Anshan, Liaoning, 114051, P. R. China (e-mail: beyondwlb@163.com).

\* Corresponding author.

include uncertain dead-zone phenomena to varying degrees due to their design processes and for manufacturing reasons. The existence of a dead zone will affect the output accuracy of the system. Scholars have done much to improve the effect of dead zones on system output. The dead zone is a common nonsmooth nonlinearity with a huge impact in many industrial processes, since it can severely limit system performance. Many control methods have been developed to overcome the impact of unknown dead zones in industrial systems [32–36]. An unknown dead zone in a MIMO nonlinear system was raised [32]. A control scheme was developed for an SISO nonlinear system [33]. A dynamic surface controller was designed for a pure-feedback nonlinear system [34]. An adaptive NN control design scheme was proposed for nonlinear discrete systems [35]. An unknown dead zone was designed for a nonlinear system with prescribed performance [36].

The use of adaptive fuzzy or neural network backstepping controllers is important and practical for nonlinear systems with unmeasured states and dead zones, and this motivates our research. Based on the study of nonlinear control theory, the exploration process of fuzzy observers has always been valuable, but there is scant literature on the steady-state performance of nonlinear systems with unknown dead zones. By considering the use of recursive design technology combined with a tan-type Lyapunov function, a fuzzy adaptive output feedback control scheme is developed to study the steady-state performance of a closed-loop system.

The main contributions of this paper include: 1) This is the first application of the tan-type Lyapunov function to strict-feedback systems with dead zones, so as to ensure that the tracking error of the system converges to a predetermined range, and the control scheme can be efficiently applied to practical systems. 2) Based on a nonlinear system including the information of the dead zone slope and the unmeasured system state, we design a state observer, and develop a new adaptive fuzzy backstepping output feedback control scheme. The controller ensures that the closed-loop system obtains better steady-state performance and convergence of the observer. 3) To overcome the constraint on the unmeasured state, we adopt the tan-type Lyapunov function, including prediction performance, to ensure the boundedness of tracking and observation errors, and to achieve good tracking performance.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: Section 2 describes the system and presents preliminaries. Section 3 introduces the design of a fuzzy state observer. Section 4 analyzes the design and stability of the controller. Section 5 presents simulation results. Section 6 summarizes this work and relates our conclusions.

## 2. PROBLEM FORMULATION AND PRELIMINARIES

A common form of strict-feedback nonlinear system is considered:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_i = x_{i+1} + f_i(\bar{x}_i), \\ \dot{x}_n = u + f_n(\bar{x}_n), \\ y = x_1, \quad 1 \leq i \leq n-1, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where  $\bar{x}_i = [x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]^T \in R^n$  is the system state,  $y \in R$  is the system output, the nonlinear function  $f_i(\cdot)$  is presumed unknown and smooth, and  $u \in R$  is the system input. The input dead zone is defined by

$$u = D(\Xi) = \begin{cases} m_r(\Xi), & \Xi \geq b_r, \\ 0, & b_l < \Xi < b_r, \\ m_l(\Xi), & \Xi \leq b_l, \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where  $\Xi$  is an intermediate control input, and  $b_r$  and  $b_l$  are respective design parameters for the positive and negative dead zones.

**Assumption 1** [37]: Consider the unmeasurable states for the output of a dead zone. Assume the functions  $m_r(\Xi)$  and  $m_l(\Xi)$  are uncertain and smooth, and that there exist unknown positive constants  $h_{l0}, h_{l1}, h_{r0}$ , and  $h_{r1}$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} 0 < h_{l0} \leq Z'_l(\Xi) \leq h_{l1}, \quad \forall \Xi \in (-\infty, b_l], \\ 0 < h_{r0} \leq Z'_r(\Xi) \leq h_{r1}, \quad \forall \Xi \in [b_r, +\infty), \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where  $Z'_l(\Xi) = dZ_l(\Xi)/d\Xi$  and  $Z'_r(\Xi) = dZ_r(\Xi)/d\Xi$ . Assume also that  $\beta_0 \leq \min\{h_{l0}, h_{r0}\}$  is an unknown parameter. The function of the dead zone can be expressed via Assumption 1 as

$$u(t) = D(\Xi) = H^T(t)\phi(t)\Xi + d(\Xi), \quad (4)$$

where  $\phi(t) = [\varphi_r(t), \varphi_l(t)]^T$ ,  $H(t) = [h_r(\Xi), h_l(\Xi)]^T$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_r(t) &= \begin{cases} 1, & \Xi(t) > b_l, \\ 0, & \Xi(t) \leq b_l, \end{cases} \\ \varphi_l(t) &= \begin{cases} 1, & \Xi(t) < b_r, \\ 0, & \Xi(t) \geq b_r, \end{cases} \\ h_r(\Xi) &= \begin{cases} 0, & \Xi \leq b_l, \\ m'_r(g(\Xi)), & b_l < \Xi < +\infty, \end{cases} \\ h_l(\Xi) &= \begin{cases} m'_l(g(\Xi)), & -\infty < \Xi < b_r, \\ 0, & \Xi \geq b_r, \end{cases} \\ d(\Xi) &= \begin{cases} -m'_r(g_r(\Xi))b_r, & \Xi \geq b_r, \\ -[m'_l(g_l(\Xi)) + m'_r(g_r(\Xi))]\Xi, & b_l < \Xi < b_r, \\ -m'_l(g_l(\Xi))b_l, & \Xi \leq b_l, \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

where  $g_l(\Xi) \in (\Xi, b_l)$  if  $v < b_l$ ;  $g_l(\Xi) \in (b_l, \Xi)$  if  $b_l \leq \Xi < b_r$ ;  $g_r(\Xi) \in (b_r, \Xi)$  if  $b_r < \Xi$ ;  $g(\Xi) \in (\Xi, b_r)$  if  $b_l < \Xi <$

$b_r$ ;  $|d(\Xi)| \leq \rho^*$ ; and  $\rho^*$  is an unknown positive constant,  $\rho^* = (h_{r1} + h_{l1}) \max\{b_r, -b_l\}$ .

**Remark 1:** (4) describes most of the dead-zone models that appear in practical problems, and  $H^T(t)\phi(t) \in [\beta_0, h_{l0} + h_{r0}] \subset (0, +\infty)$  [35].

Our goal is to design a controller to make the system output  $y$  track a given reference signal  $y_d$ , and to ensure that all the signals in the closed-loop system are semi-globally, uniformly, and ultimately bounded.

**Assumption 2:** The desired signal  $y_d(t)$  and its  $j$ -th order derivative  $y_d^{(j)}(t)$  are continuous and bounded for  $j = 1, \dots, n$ .

**Assumption 3:** For any  $X, Y \in R^{i+1}$ , there are known constants  $\bar{m}_i$  such that

$$|f_i(X) - f_i(Y)| \leq \bar{m}_i \|X - Y\|, i = 1, \dots, n. \quad (6)$$

### 2.1. Fuzzy logic systems

Fuzzy logic systems are affected by four factors: the knowledge base, fuzzifier, fuzzy inference engine, and defuzzifier. The knowledge base rests on some rules of fuzzy IF-THEN.

$R^r$ : If  $x_1$  is  $L_1^r$ ,  $x_2$  is  $L_2^r$ , ..., and  $x_n$  is  $L_n^r$ , then  $Y$  is  $P^r$ ,  $r = 1, 2, \dots, N$ , where  $X = [X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n]^T$  is the FLS input and  $Y$  is the FLS output. The fuzzy sets  $L_i^r$  and  $P^r$  are associated with the fuzzy membership functions  $v_{L_i^r}(X_i)$  and  $v_{P^r}(Y)$ , respectively, and  $N$  is the number of IF-THEN rules.

Based on the singleton fuzzifier, the center average defuzzification, and product inference, the FLS can be described as

$$Y(X) = \frac{\sum_{r=1}^N \bar{Y}_r \prod_{i=1}^n v_{L_i^r}(X_i)}{\sum_{r=1}^N [\prod_{i=1}^n v_{L_i^r}(X_i)]}, \quad (7)$$

where  $\bar{Y}_l = \max_{Y \in R} v_{P^l}(Y)$ .

The fuzzy basis functions can be defined as

$$S_r(X) = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^n v_{L_i^r}(X_i)}{\sum_{l=1}^N [\prod_{i=1}^n v_{L_i^l}(X_i)]}. \quad (8)$$

Define  $S(X) = [S_1(X), S_2(X), \dots, S_N(X)]^T$  and  $W^T = [\bar{Y}_1, \bar{Y}_2, \dots, \bar{Y}_N] = [T_1, T_2, \dots, T_N]$ . Then the FLS (7) can be expressed as

$$y(X) = T^T S(X). \quad (9)$$

**Lemma 1** [38]:  $f(X)$  is defined to be continuous on a compact set  $\Omega$ . Using the approximation method of FLSs,  $f(X)$  can attain arbitrary positive accuracy  $\varpi$ , and

$$\sup_{X \in \Omega} |f(X) - T^{*T} S(X)| \leq \varpi, \quad (10)$$

where  $|\varpi| < \gamma$  is the approximation accuracy, which can be arbitrarily small, and  $T^*$  is the desired weight vector.

### 3. FUZZY STATE OBSERVER DESIGN

To estimate the unknown states for system (1), a fuzzy state observer is designed as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\zeta}_1 = \zeta_2 + l_1(y - \zeta_1) + \omega_1^T \psi_1(x_1), \\ \dot{\zeta}_i = \zeta_{i+1} + l_i(y - \zeta_1) + \omega_i^T \psi_i(\bar{\zeta}_i), \\ \dot{\zeta}_n = u + l_n(y - \zeta_1) + \omega_n^T \psi_n(\bar{\zeta}_n), \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

where  $\bar{\zeta}_i = [\zeta_1, \zeta_2, \dots, \zeta_i]^T$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ ,  $\zeta_i$  is the estimate of  $x_i$ , and  $l_i$  is a parameter of the observer. Furthermore,  $\omega_i$  is the estimate of  $\omega_i^*$ , and it is an ideal constant vector for the FLSs  $\omega_i^T \psi_i(\bar{\zeta}_i)$  to approximate the unknown functions  $f_i(\bar{\zeta}_i)$ , which can be defined by

$$f_1(x_1) = \omega_1^{*T} \psi_1(x_1) + \delta_1(x_1), |\delta_1(x_1)| \leq \varepsilon_1, \quad (12)$$

$$f_i(\bar{\zeta}_i) = \omega_i^{*T} \psi_i(\bar{\zeta}_i) + \delta_i(\bar{\zeta}_i), |\delta_i(\bar{\zeta}_i)| \leq \varepsilon_i, \quad 2 \leq i \leq n, \quad (13)$$

where  $\delta_1(x_1)$  and  $\delta_i(\bar{\zeta}_i)$  are the approximation errors and  $\varepsilon_i > 0$ .

Then define  $\tilde{\omega}_i^T = \omega_i^{*T} - \omega_i^T$  and the state estimation error  $e_i = x_i - \zeta_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . The time derivatives of  $e_i$  can be derived as

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{e}_1 &= \dot{x}_1 - \dot{\zeta}_1 \\ &= e_2 - l_1 e_1 + \tilde{\omega}_1^T \psi_1(x_1) + \delta_1(x_1), \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{e}_i &= \dot{x}_i - \dot{\zeta}_i \\ &= e_{i+1} - l_i e_1 + f_i(\bar{x}_i) - \omega_i^T \psi_i(\bar{\zeta}_i). \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

Using the mid-value theorem and (13), it can be seen that  $f_i(\bar{x}_i) - \omega_i^T \psi_i(\bar{\zeta}_i)$  is equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} f_i(\bar{x}_i) - \omega_i^T \psi_i(\bar{\zeta}_i) &= f_i(\bar{x}_i) - f_i(\bar{\zeta}_i) + f_i(\bar{\zeta}_i) \\ &\quad - \omega_i^{*T} \psi_i(\bar{\zeta}_i) + \omega_i^{*T} \psi_i(\bar{\zeta}_i) - \omega_i^T \psi_i(\bar{\zeta}_i) \\ &= \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x} \bar{e}_i + \delta_i(\bar{\zeta}_i) + \tilde{\omega}_i^T \psi_i(\bar{\zeta}_i), \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

where  $\partial f_i / \partial x = [\partial f_i / \partial x_1, \dots, \partial f_i / \partial x_i]$  and  $\bar{e}_i = [e_1, e_2, \dots, e_i]^T$ .

**Assumption 4** [19]: Assume that  $f_i$ s are smooth functions and there exist constants  $d_{lij}$  and  $d_{uij}$  satisfying

$$d_{lij} \leq \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j} \leq d_{uij}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq n, \quad 1 \leq j \leq n. \quad (17)$$

Substituting (16) in (15) gives

$$\dot{e}_i = e_{i+1} - l_i e_i + \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x} \bar{e}_i + \delta_i(\bar{\zeta}_i) + \tilde{\omega}_i^T \psi_i(\bar{\zeta}_i). \quad (18)$$

Similarly,  $\dot{e}_n$  can be derived as

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{e}_n &= \dot{x}_n - \dot{\zeta}_n = u + f_n(\bar{x}_n) - u - l_n e_1 - \omega_n^T \psi_n(\bar{\zeta}_n) \\ &= -l_n e_1 + \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x} e + \delta_n(\bar{\zeta}_n) + \tilde{\omega}_n^T \psi_n(\bar{\zeta}_n),\end{aligned}\quad (19)$$

where  $e = [e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n]^T$ .

Then

$$\dot{e} = (K - LB)e + Je + \delta(\bar{\zeta}) + \tilde{\omega}^T \psi(\bar{\zeta}),\quad (20)$$

where

$$K = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \ddots & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix},\quad (21)$$

$$L = [l_1, \dots, l_n]^T,\quad (22)$$

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 1, 0, \dots, 0 \\ \underbrace{\hspace{2cm}}_{n-1} \end{bmatrix},\quad (23)$$

$$J = \left[ \bar{0}^T, \left( \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x} \right)^T, \dots, \left( \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x} \right)^T \right]^T,\quad (24)$$

$$\bar{0} = \begin{bmatrix} 0, \dots, 0 \\ \underbrace{\hspace{2cm}}_n \end{bmatrix},\quad (25)$$

$$\delta(\bar{\zeta}) = [\delta_1(x_1), \delta_2(\bar{\zeta}_2), \dots, \delta_n(\bar{\zeta}_n)]^T,\quad (26)$$

$$\tilde{\omega}^T \psi(\bar{\zeta}) = [\tilde{\omega}_1^T \psi(x_1), \dots, \tilde{\omega}_n^T \psi(\bar{\zeta}_n)]^T.\quad (27)$$

The Lyapunov function is chosen as

$$V_e = e^T \bar{P} e,\quad (28)$$

where  $\bar{P}$  is a symmetric and positive definite matrix.

Then the time derivative of  $V_e$  can be obtained as

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{V}_e &= e^T (((K - LB)^T \bar{P} + \bar{P}(A - LB) + J^T \bar{P} \\ &\quad + \bar{P}J)e + 2e^T (\bar{P} \tilde{\omega}^T \psi(\bar{\zeta}) + \delta(\bar{\zeta})).\end{aligned}\quad (29)$$

According to Young's inequality,  $\delta_i(\zeta_i) \leq \varepsilon_i$  and  $0 < \psi(\bar{\zeta}) \psi^T(\bar{\zeta}) \leq 1$ , we can obtain

$$\begin{aligned}2e^T \bar{P} \delta(\bar{\zeta}) &\leq \kappa e^T \bar{P} e + \frac{1}{\kappa} \|\bar{P}\| \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_i^2(\bar{\zeta}) \\ &\leq \kappa e^T \bar{P} e + \frac{1}{\kappa} \|\bar{P}\| \sum_{i=1}^n \varepsilon_i^2,\end{aligned}\quad (30)$$

$$\begin{aligned}2e^T \bar{P} \tilde{\omega}^T \psi(\bar{\zeta}) &\leq \kappa e^T \bar{P} e + \frac{1}{\kappa} \|\bar{P}\| \tilde{\omega}^T \psi(\bar{\zeta}) \psi(\bar{\zeta})^T \tilde{\omega} \\ &\leq \kappa e^T \bar{P} e + \frac{1}{\kappa} \|\bar{P}\| \tilde{\omega}^T \tilde{\omega},\end{aligned}\quad (31)$$

where  $\kappa > 0$  is a design parameter. Substituting (30) and (31) in (29) gives

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{V}_e &\leq e^T (((K - LB)^T \bar{P} + \bar{P}(K - LB) + J^T \bar{P} \\ &\quad + \bar{P}J + 2\kappa \bar{P})e + \frac{1}{\kappa} \|\bar{P}\| \sum_{i=1}^n \varepsilon_i^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{\kappa} \|\bar{P}\| \tilde{\omega}^T \tilde{\omega}).\end{aligned}\quad (32)$$

#### 4. CONTROLLER DESIGN AND STABILITY ANALYSIS

We present a computationally and structurally efficient controller.

Define the state errors as

$$z_i = \zeta_i - \alpha_{i-1},\quad (33)$$

where  $\alpha_i$  is the virtual control signal with  $\alpha_0 = y_d$ .

Then the system can be rewritten as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{z}_1 = \zeta_2 + l_1 e_1 + \omega_1^T \psi_1(x_1) - \dot{y}_d, \\ \dot{z}_i = \zeta_{i+1} + l_i e_1 + \omega_i^T \psi_i(\bar{\zeta}_i) - \dot{\alpha}_{i-1}, \\ \dot{z}_n = u + l_n e_1 + \omega_n^T \psi_n(\bar{\zeta}_n) - \dot{\alpha}_{n-1}. \end{cases}\quad (34)$$

The design process for the controller is carried out in steps. For simplicity, let  $\psi_i(\bar{\zeta}_n) = \psi_i$  and  $f_i(\bar{\zeta}_i) = f_i$ .

##### Step 1:

Considering both the prescribed performance control and fuzzy state observer, the Lyapunov function has the form

$$V_{z1} = \frac{1}{2} \tan^2\left(\frac{\pi z_1}{2 \varkappa}\right) + \frac{1}{2r_1} \tilde{\theta}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2\eta_1} \tilde{\omega}_1^T \tilde{\omega}_1,\quad (35)$$

where  $\varkappa(t) = (k_0 - k_\infty) e^{-\tau t} + k_\infty$  is the prescribed performance function;  $k_0$ ,  $k_\infty$ , and  $\tau$  are positive constants satisfying  $k_0 > k_\infty$ ; and  $r_1$  and  $\eta_1$  are positive design parameters. The approximation error is  $\tilde{\theta}$ ,  $\tilde{\theta}_1 = \theta_1^* - \theta_1$ , and  $\theta_1$  is the estimate of  $\theta_1^*$ . Define

$$D(t) = \frac{\tan\left(\frac{\pi z_1}{2 \varkappa}\right)}{\cos^2\left(\frac{\pi z_1}{2 \varkappa}\right)}.\quad (36)$$

It is worth noting that the prescribed performance function  $\varkappa(t)$  and its  $j$ -th order derivative  $\varkappa^{(j)}(t)$  are continuous and bounded for  $j = 1, \dots, n$ .

The time-derivative of  $V_{z1}$  is

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{V}_{z1} &= \rho D \left( \dot{z}_1 - \frac{\dot{\varkappa}}{\varkappa} z_1 \right) - \frac{1}{r_1} \tilde{\theta}_1 \dot{\theta}_1 - \frac{1}{\eta_1} \tilde{\omega}_1^T \dot{\omega}_1 \\ &= \rho D (\zeta_2 + l_1 e_1 + \omega_1^* \psi_1(x_1) - \tilde{\omega}_1^T \psi_1(x_1) \\ &\quad - \dot{y}_d - \frac{\dot{\varkappa}}{\varkappa} z_1 + \frac{1}{2} \rho D) - \frac{1}{r_1} \tilde{\theta}_1 \dot{\theta}_1 \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{\eta_1} \tilde{\omega}_1^T \dot{\omega}_1 - \frac{1}{2} \rho^2 D^2\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \rho D \zeta_2 - \rho D \tilde{\omega}_1^T \psi_1(x_1) - \frac{1}{r_1} \tilde{\theta}_1 \dot{\theta}_1 \\
&\quad - \frac{1}{\eta_1} \tilde{\omega}_1^T \dot{\omega}_1 - \frac{1}{2} \rho^2 D^2 + \rho D(l_1 e_1 - \dot{y}_d \\
&\quad - \frac{\dot{z}}{z} z_1 + \omega_1^{*T} \psi_1(x_1) + \frac{1}{2} \rho D), \quad (37)
\end{aligned}$$

where  $\rho = \frac{\pi}{2\kappa}$ .

Define an unknown packaged function as  $F_1(x_1, \zeta_1, y_d, \dot{y}_d, z, \dot{z}) = l_1 e_1 - \dot{y}_d - \frac{\dot{z}}{z} z_1 + \omega_1^{*T} \psi_1(x_1) + \frac{1}{2} \rho D$ . By substituting  $z_2 = \zeta_2 - \alpha_1$  into (37),  $\dot{V}_{z_1}$  can be described as

$$\begin{aligned}
\dot{V}_{z_1} \leq & \rho D z_2 + \rho D \alpha_1 - \rho D \tilde{\omega}_1^T \psi_1(x_1) + \rho D F_1 \\
& - \frac{1}{r_1} \tilde{\theta}_1 \dot{\theta}_1 - \frac{1}{\eta_1} \tilde{\omega}_1^T \dot{\omega}_1 - \frac{1}{2} \rho^2 D^2. \quad (38)
\end{aligned}$$

According to Lemma 1, the unknown function  $F_1$  can be approximated by FLS as

$$F_1 = W_1^{*T} S_1 + \varpi_1, |\varpi_1| \leq \gamma_1. \quad (39)$$

It follows from Young's inequality that

$$\begin{aligned}
\rho D F_1 \leq & \frac{1}{2a_1^2} \rho^2 D^2 \theta_1^* S_1^T S_1 + \frac{1}{2} a_1^2 \\
& + \frac{1}{2} \rho^2 D^2 + \frac{1}{2} \gamma_1^2, \quad (40)
\end{aligned}$$

where  $\theta_1^* = \|W_1\|^2$ , and  $a_1 > 0$  is a design parameter. Substituting (40) in (38) gives

$$\begin{aligned}
\dot{V}_{z_1} \leq & \frac{1}{2a_1^2} \rho^2 D^2 \theta_1 S_1^T S_1 + \frac{1}{2a_1^2} \rho^2 D^2 \tilde{\theta}_1 S_1^T S_1 \\
& + \frac{1}{2} a_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} \gamma_1^2 + \rho D z_2 + \rho D \alpha_1 \\
& - \frac{1}{r_1} \tilde{\theta}_1 \dot{\theta}_1 - \frac{1}{\eta_1} \tilde{\omega}_1^T (\dot{\omega}_1 + \eta_1 \rho D \psi_1(x_1)). \quad (41)
\end{aligned}$$

Define the following virtual control:

$$\alpha_1 = -\frac{c_1}{\rho} \tan(\rho z_1) \cos^2(\rho z_1) - \frac{1}{2a_1^2} \rho D \theta_1 S_1^T S_1, \quad (42)$$

where  $c_1 > 0$  is a design parameter.

Substituting (42) in (41) gives

$$\begin{aligned}
\dot{V}_{z_1} \leq & -c_1 \tan^2(\rho z_1) + \frac{1}{2a_1^2} \rho^2 D^2 \tilde{\theta}_1 S_1^T S_1 \\
& - \frac{1}{\eta_1} \tilde{\omega}_1^T (\dot{\omega}_1 + \eta_1 \rho D \psi_1(x_1)) - \frac{1}{r_1} \tilde{\theta}_1 \dot{\theta}_1 \\
& + \rho D z_2 + \frac{1}{2} a_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} \gamma_1^2. \quad (43)
\end{aligned}$$

The adaptive laws  $\dot{\theta}_1$  and  $\dot{\omega}_1$  can be designed as

$$\dot{\theta}_1 = \frac{r_1}{2a_1^2} \rho^2 D^2 S_1^T S_1 - m_1 \theta_1 \quad (44)$$

and

$$\dot{\omega}_1 = -\eta_1 \rho D \psi_1(x_1) - q_1 \omega_1, \quad (45)$$

where  $m_1 > 0$  and  $q_1 > 0$  are design parameters. Substituting (44) and (45) in (43), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\dot{V}_{z_1} \leq & -c_1 \tan^2(\rho z_1) + \rho D z_2 + \frac{1}{2} a_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} \gamma_1^2 \\
& + \frac{m_1}{r_1} \theta_1 \tilde{\theta}_1 + \frac{q_1}{\eta_1} \omega_1 \tilde{\omega}_1^T. \quad (46)
\end{aligned}$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned}
\theta_1 \tilde{\theta}_1 &= \tilde{\theta}_1 (\theta_1^* - \tilde{\theta}_1) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{2} \theta_1^{*2} + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\theta}_1^2 - \tilde{\theta}_1^2 \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \theta_1^{*2} - \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\theta}_1^2, \quad (47)
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\omega_1 \tilde{\omega}_1^T \leq \frac{1}{2} \omega_1^{*T} \omega_1^* - \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\omega}_1^T \tilde{\omega}_1, \quad (48)$$

we can rewrite (46) as

$$\begin{aligned}
\dot{V}_{z_1} \leq & -c_1 \tan^2(\rho z_1) - \frac{m_1}{2r_1} \tilde{\theta}_1^2 - \frac{q_1}{2\eta_1} \tilde{\omega}_1^T \tilde{\omega}_1 \\
& + \rho D z_2 + \frac{1}{2} a_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} \gamma_1^2 + \frac{m_1}{2r_1} \theta_1^{*2} \\
& + \frac{q_1}{2\eta_1} \omega_1^{*T} \omega_1^*. \quad (49)
\end{aligned}$$

## Step 2:

Construct the Lyapunov function as

$$V_{z_2} = V_{z_1} + \frac{1}{2} z_2^2 + \frac{1}{2r_2} \tilde{\theta}_2^2 + \frac{1}{2\eta_2} \tilde{\omega}_2^T \tilde{\omega}_2. \quad (50)$$

The time yields of  $V_{z_2}$  can be described as

$$\begin{aligned}
\dot{V}_{z_2} &= \dot{V}_{z_1} + z_2 (\zeta_3 + l_2 e_1 + \omega_2^T \psi_2(\bar{\zeta}_2) - \dot{\alpha}_1) \\
&\quad - \frac{1}{r_2} \tilde{\theta}_2 \dot{\theta}_2 - \frac{1}{\eta_2} \tilde{\omega}_2^T \dot{\omega}_2. \quad (51)
\end{aligned}$$

By substituting (49) in (51), we can write

$$\begin{aligned}
\dot{V}_{z_2} &= -c_1 \tan^2(\rho z_1) - \frac{m_1}{2r_1} \tilde{\theta}_1^2 - \frac{q_1}{2\eta_1} \tilde{\omega}_1^T \tilde{\omega}_1 \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{2} a_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} \gamma_1^2 + \frac{m_1}{2r_1} \theta_1^{*2} + \frac{q_1}{2\eta_1} \omega_1^{*T} \omega_1^* \\
&\quad + z_2 (\zeta_3 + l_2 e_1 + \omega_2^T \psi_2(\bar{\zeta}_2) - \dot{\alpha}_1) \\
&\quad - \frac{1}{r_2} \tilde{\theta}_2 \dot{\theta}_2 - \frac{1}{\eta_2} \tilde{\omega}_2^T \dot{\omega}_2 + \rho D z_2. \quad (52)
\end{aligned}$$

Substituting  $z_3 = \zeta_3 - \alpha_2$  into (52) gives

$$\dot{V}_{z_2} = -c_1 \tan^2(\rho z_1) - \frac{m_1}{2r_1} \tilde{\theta}_1^2 - \frac{q_1}{2\eta_1} \tilde{\omega}_1^T \tilde{\omega}_1 + z_2 \alpha_2$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + \frac{1}{2}a_1^2 + \frac{1}{2}\gamma_1^2 + \frac{m_1}{2r_1}\theta_1^{*2} + \frac{q_1}{2\eta_1}\omega_1^{*T}\omega_1^* + z_2z_3 \\
 & - \frac{1}{r_2}\tilde{\theta}_2\theta_2 - \frac{1}{\eta_2}\tilde{\omega}_2^T\dot{\omega}_2 - \frac{1}{2}z_2^2 - z_2\tilde{\omega}_2^T\psi_2(\bar{\zeta}_2) \\
 & + z_2\left(\frac{1}{2}z_2 + l_2e_1 + \omega_2^{*T}\psi_2(\bar{\zeta}_2)\right) \\
 & - \dot{\alpha}_1 + \rho D). \tag{53}
 \end{aligned}$$

Define  $F_2(x_1, \zeta_1, \zeta_2, \theta_1, \chi, \chi^{(2)}, \chi^{(3)}, y_d, y_d^{(1)}, y_d^{(2)}) = \rho D + l_2e_1 + \omega_2^{*T}\psi_2(\bar{\zeta}_2) - \dot{\alpha}_1 + \frac{1}{2}z_2$ , which can be approximated by FLS as

$$F_2 = W_2^{*T}S_2 + \bar{\omega}_2, |\bar{\omega}_2| \leq \gamma_2. \tag{54}$$

Then we can obtain the inequality

$$\begin{aligned}
 z_2F_2 & = z_2W_2^{*T}S_2 + z_2\bar{\omega}_2 \\
 & \leq \frac{1}{2a_2^2}z_2^2\theta_2^*S_2^TS_2 + \frac{1}{2}a_2^2 + \frac{1}{2}z_2^2 + \frac{1}{2}\gamma_2^2, \tag{55}
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\theta_2^* = \|W_2\|^2$ , and  $a_2 > 0$  is a design parameter.

Design the virtual control

$$\alpha_2 = -c_2z_2 - \frac{1}{2a_2^2}z_2\theta_2^*S_2^TS_2, \tag{56}$$

where  $c_2 > 0$  is a design parameter.

Combining (55) and (56), we can derive

$$\begin{aligned}
 \dot{V}_{z_2} & \leq -c_1 \tan^2(\rho z_1) - c_2z_2^2 - \frac{m_1}{2r_1}\tilde{\theta}_1^2 - \frac{q_1}{2\eta_1}\tilde{\omega}_1^T\tilde{\omega}_1 \\
 & + \frac{1}{2a_2^2}z_2^2\tilde{\theta}_2^*S_2^TS_2 - \frac{1}{r_2}\tilde{\theta}_2\theta_2 + z_2z_3 \\
 & - z_2\tilde{\omega}_2^T\psi_2(\bar{\zeta}_2) - \frac{1}{\eta_2}\tilde{\omega}_2^T\dot{\omega}_2 + \frac{1}{2}a_1^2 \\
 & + \frac{1}{2}\gamma_1^2 + \frac{1}{2r_1}\theta_1^{*2} + \frac{1}{2\eta_1}\omega_1^{*T}\omega_1^* \\
 & + \frac{1}{2}a_2^2 + \frac{1}{2}\gamma_2^2. \tag{57}
 \end{aligned}$$

Construct the adaptive laws  $\dot{\theta}_2$  and  $\dot{\omega}_2$  as

$$\dot{\theta}_2 = \frac{r_2}{2a_2^2}z_2^2S_2^TS_2 - m_2\theta_2, \tag{58}$$

$$\dot{\omega}_2 = -\eta_2z_2\psi_2(\bar{\zeta}_2) - q_2\omega_2, \tag{59}$$

where  $m_2 > 0$  and  $q_2 > 0$  are design parameters.

Moreover, (57) can be transformed to

$$\begin{aligned}
 \dot{V}_{z_2} & \leq -c_1 \tan^2(\rho z_1) - c_2z_2^2 - \frac{1}{2r_1}\tilde{\theta}_1^2 - \frac{1}{2\eta_1}\tilde{\omega}_1^T\tilde{\omega}_1 \\
 & - \frac{m_2}{r_2}\tilde{\theta}_2\theta_2 - \frac{q_2}{\eta_2}\tilde{\omega}_2^T\dot{\omega}_2 + z_2z_3 \\
 & + \frac{1}{2}a_1^2 + \frac{1}{2}\gamma_1^2 + \frac{m_1}{2r_1}\theta_1^{*2} \\
 & + \frac{q_1}{2\eta_1}\omega_1^{*T}\omega_1^* + \frac{1}{2}a_2^2 + \frac{1}{2}\gamma_2^2. \tag{60}
 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, it can be seen that

$$\tilde{\theta}_2\theta_2 \leq \frac{1}{2}\theta_2^{*2} - \frac{1}{2}\tilde{\theta}_2^2, \tag{61}$$

$$\tilde{\omega}_2^T\dot{\omega}_2 \leq \frac{1}{2}\omega_2^{*T}\omega_2^* - \frac{1}{2}\tilde{\omega}_2^T\tilde{\omega}_2. \tag{62}$$

Therefore, we can write

$$\begin{aligned}
 \dot{V}_{z_2} & \leq -c_1 \tan^2(\rho z_1) - c_2z_2^2 - \frac{m_1}{2r_1}\tilde{\theta}_1^2 - \frac{m_2}{2r_2}\tilde{\theta}_2^2 \\
 & - \frac{q_2}{2\eta_2}\tilde{\omega}_2^T\dot{\omega}_2 + \frac{1}{2}\sum_{i=1}^2a_i^2 \\
 & + \frac{1}{2}\sum_{i=1}^2\gamma_i^2 + z_2z_3 - \frac{q_1}{2\eta_1}\tilde{\omega}_1^T\tilde{\omega}_1 \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^2\frac{m_i}{2r_i}\theta_i^{*2} + \sum_{i=1}^2\frac{q_i}{2r_i}\omega_i^{*T}\omega_i^*. \tag{63}
 \end{aligned}$$

### Step i:

For the  $i$ -th subsystem, we choose the Lyapunov function

$$V_{z_i} = V_{z_{i-1}} + \frac{1}{2}z_i^2 + \frac{1}{2r_i}\tilde{\theta}_i^2 + \frac{1}{2\eta_i}\tilde{\omega}_i^T\tilde{\omega}_i. \tag{64}$$

The time derivative of  $V_{z_i}$  can be obtained as

$$\begin{aligned}
 \dot{V}_{z_i} & = \dot{V}_{z_{i-1}} + z_i(\zeta_{i+1} + l_i e_1 + \omega_i^T\psi_i(\bar{\zeta}_i) - \dot{\alpha}_{i-1}) \\
 & - \frac{1}{r_i}\tilde{\theta}_i\dot{\theta}_i - \frac{1}{\eta_i}\tilde{\omega}_i^T\dot{\omega}_i. \tag{65}
 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $z_{i+1} = \zeta_{i+1} - \alpha_i$ , we can derive that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \dot{V}_{z_i} & = -c_1 \tan^2(\rho z_1) - \sum_{j=2}^{i-1}c_jz_j^2 - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1}\frac{m_j}{2r_j}\tilde{\theta}_j^2 + z_i\alpha_i \\
 & - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1}\frac{q_j}{2\eta_j}\tilde{\omega}_j^T\dot{\omega}_j + \sum_{j=1}^{i-1}\frac{q_j}{2\eta_j}\omega_j^{*T}\omega_j^* \\
 & + \frac{1}{2}\sum_{j=1}^{i-1}a_j^2 + \frac{1}{2}\sum_{j=1}^{i-1}\gamma_j^2 \\
 & + \sum_{j=1}^{i-1}\frac{m_j}{2r_j}\theta_j^{*2} - \frac{1}{2}z_i^2 + z_iz_{i+1} \\
 & + z_i(z_{i-1} + l_i e_1 + \omega_i^{*T}\psi_i(\bar{\zeta}_i) \\
 & - \dot{\alpha}_{i-1} + \frac{1}{2}z_i) - \frac{1}{r_i}\tilde{\theta}_i\dot{\theta}_i \\
 & - \frac{1}{\eta_i}\tilde{\omega}_i^T\dot{\omega}_i - z_i\tilde{\omega}_i^T\psi_i(\bar{\zeta}_i). \tag{66}
 \end{aligned}$$

Define  $F_i(x_1, \zeta_1, \dots, \zeta_i, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_{i-1}, \chi, \dots, \chi^{(i)}, y_d, \dots, y_d^{(i)}) = z_{i-1} + l_i e_1 + \omega_i^{*T}\psi_i(\bar{\zeta}_i) - \dot{\alpha}_{i-1} + \frac{1}{2}z_i$ , which can be approximated by FLS as

$$F_i = W_i^{*T}S_i + \bar{\omega}_i, |\bar{\omega}_i| \leq \gamma_i. \tag{67}$$

Similar to Step 1, we can obtain

$$\begin{aligned} z_i F_i &= z_i W_i^{*T} S_i + z_i \bar{\omega}_i \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2a_i^2} z_i^2 \theta_i^* S_i^T S_i + \frac{1}{2} a_i^2 + \frac{1}{2} z_i^2 + \frac{1}{2} \gamma_i^2, \end{aligned} \quad (68)$$

where  $\theta_i^* = \|W_i\|^2$  and  $a_i > 0$  is a positive design parameter.

Then a virtual control  $\alpha_i$  is designed as

$$\alpha_i = -c_i z_i - \frac{1}{2a_i^2} z_i \theta_i S_i^T S_i, \quad (69)$$

where  $c_i$  is a design parameter.

Combining (68) and (69) produces

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_{z_i} &\leq -c_1 \tan^2(\rho z_1) - \sum_{j=2}^{i-1} c_j z_j^2 - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \frac{m_j}{2r_j} \tilde{\theta}_j^2 \\ &\quad - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \frac{q_j}{2\eta_j} \tilde{\omega}_j^T \tilde{\omega}_j + \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \frac{m_j}{2r_j} \theta_j^{*2} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^i a_j^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^i \gamma_j^2 \\ &\quad + \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \frac{q_j}{2\eta_j} \omega_j^{*T} \omega_j^* + z_i z_{i+1} \\ &\quad - z_i \tilde{\omega}_i^T \psi_i(\bar{\zeta}_i) + \frac{1}{2a_i^2} z_i^2 \tilde{\theta}_i S_i^T S_i \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{r_i} \tilde{\theta}_i \dot{\theta}_i - \frac{1}{\eta_i} \tilde{\omega}_i^T \dot{\omega}_i. \end{aligned} \quad (70)$$

Construct the adaptive laws  $\dot{\theta}_2$  and  $\dot{\omega}_2$  as

$$\dot{\theta}_i = \frac{r_i}{2a_i^2} z_i^2 S_i^T S_i - m_i \theta_i, \quad (71)$$

$$\dot{\omega}_i = -\eta_i z_i \psi_i(\bar{\zeta}_i) - q_i \omega_i, \quad (72)$$

where  $m_i > 0$  and  $q_i > 0$  are design parameters.

Then it can be seen that

$$\tilde{\theta}_i \theta_i \leq \frac{1}{2} \theta_i^{*2} - \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\theta}_i^2, \quad (73)$$

$$\tilde{\omega}_i^T \omega_i \leq \frac{1}{2} \omega_i^{*T} \omega_i^* - \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\omega}_i^T \tilde{\omega}_i. \quad (74)$$

Moreover,  $\dot{V}_{z_i}$  can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_{z_i} &\leq -c_1 \tan^2(\rho z_1) - \sum_{j=2}^i c_j z_j^2 - \sum_{j=1}^i \frac{m_j}{2r_j} \tilde{\theta}_j^2 \\ &\quad - \sum_{j=1}^i \frac{q_j}{2\eta_j} \tilde{\omega}_j^T \tilde{\omega}_j + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^i a_j^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^i \gamma_j^2 + z_i z_{i+1} \\ &\quad + \sum_{j=1}^i \frac{m_j}{2r_j} \theta_j^{*2} + \sum_{j=1}^i \frac{q_j}{2\eta_j} \omega_j^{*T} \omega_j^*. \end{aligned} \quad (75)$$

**Step n:**

Consider the Lyapunov function candidate

$$V_{z_n} = V_{n-1} + \frac{1}{2} z_n^2 + \frac{\beta_0}{2r_n} \tilde{\theta}_n^2 + \frac{1}{2\eta_n} \tilde{\omega}_n^T \tilde{\omega}_n. \quad (76)$$

The time yields of  $V_{z_n}$  can be described as

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_{z_n} &= \dot{V}_{n-1} + z_n \dot{z}_n - \beta_0 \tilde{\theta}_n \dot{\theta}_n - \tilde{\omega}_n^T \dot{\omega}_n \\ &= -c_1 \tan^2(\rho z_1) - \sum_{j=2}^{n-1} c_j z_j^2 - \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{m_j}{2r_j} \tilde{\theta}_j^2 \\ &\quad - \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{q_j}{2\eta_j} \tilde{\omega}_j^T \tilde{\omega}_j + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} a_j^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \gamma_j^2 - z_n \tilde{\omega}_n^T \psi_n(\bar{\zeta}_n) + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{m_j}{2r_j} \theta_j^{*2} \\ &\quad + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{q_j}{2\eta_j} \omega_j^{*T} \omega_j^* + z_n (H^T(t)\phi(t)v + d(v)) \\ &\quad + z_n (z_{n-1} + l_n e_1 + \omega_n^{*T} \psi_n(\bar{\zeta}_n) - \dot{\alpha}_{n-1} + z_n) \\ &\quad - \frac{\beta_0}{r_n} \tilde{\theta}_n \dot{\theta}_n - \frac{1}{\eta_n} \tilde{\omega}_n^T \dot{\omega}_n - z_n^2. \end{aligned} \quad (77)$$

Define  $F_n(x_1, \zeta_1, \dots, \zeta_n, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_{n-1}, \varkappa, \dots, \varkappa^{(n)}, y_d, \dots, y_d^{(n)}) = z_{n-1} + l_n e_1 + \omega_n^{*T} \psi_n(\bar{\zeta}_n) - \dot{\alpha}_{n-1} + z_n$ , which can be approximated by FLS as

$$F_n = W_n^{*T} S_n + \bar{\omega}_n, |\bar{\omega}_n| \leq \gamma_n. \quad (78)$$

Similar to Step 1, we can obtain the inequality

$$\begin{aligned} z_n F_n &= z_n W_n^{*T} S_n + z_n \bar{\omega}_n \\ &\leq \frac{\beta_0}{2a_n^2} z_n^2 \theta_n^* S_n^T S_n + \frac{1}{2} a_n^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} z_n^2 + \frac{1}{2} \gamma_n^2, \end{aligned} \quad (79)$$

where  $\theta_n^* = \|W_n\|^2 / \beta_0$ , and  $a_n$  is a positive design parameter.

Define the intermediate control law

$$\Xi = -c_0 z_n - \frac{1}{2a_n^2} z_n \theta_n S_n^T S_n, \quad (80)$$

where  $c_0 > 0$  is a design parameter.

According to Remark 1, we have  $H^T(t)\phi(t) \geq \beta_0$  and  $|d(\Xi)| < \rho^*$ , hence

$$z_n H^T(t)\phi(t)\Xi \leq -c_0 \beta_0 z_n^2 - \frac{\beta_0}{2a_n^2} z_n^2 \theta_n S_n^T S_n, \quad (81)$$

$$z_n d(\Xi) \leq |z_n| |d(\Xi)| \leq \frac{1}{2} z_n^2 + \frac{1}{2} \rho^{*2}. \quad (82)$$

Combining (79), (80), (81), (82), and (77) yields

$$\dot{V}_{z_n} \leq -c_1 \tan^2(\rho z_1) - \sum_{i=2}^{n-1} c_i z_i^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{m_i}{2r_i} \tilde{\theta}_i^2$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & -c_0\beta_0z_n^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} a_i^2 \\
 & + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \gamma_i^2 - \frac{\beta_0}{r_n} \tilde{\theta}_n \dot{\theta}_n \\
 & - \frac{1}{\eta_n} \tilde{\omega}_n^T \dot{\omega}_n - z_n \tilde{\omega}_n^T \Psi_n(\bar{\zeta}_n) \\
 & - \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{q_i}{2\eta_i} \tilde{\omega}_i^T \tilde{\omega}_i + \frac{\beta_0}{2a_n^2} z_n^2 \tilde{\theta}_n S_n^T S_n \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{m_i}{2r_i} \theta_i^{*2} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{q_i}{2\eta_i} \omega_i^{*T} \omega_i^* \\
 & + \frac{1}{2} a_n^2 + \frac{1}{2} \gamma_n^2 + \frac{1}{2} \rho^{*2}, \tag{83}
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $c_n = c_0\beta_0$ .

The adaptive laws  $\dot{\theta}_n$  and  $\dot{\omega}_n$  are constructed as

$$\dot{\theta}_n = \frac{r_n}{2a_n^2} z_n^2 S_n^T S_n - m_n \theta_n, \tag{84}$$

$$\dot{\omega}_n = -r_n z_n \Psi_n(\bar{\zeta}_n) - q_n \omega_n, \tag{85}$$

where  $m_n > 0$  and  $q_n > 0$  are design parameters.

Similarly,  $\dot{V}_{zn}$  can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned}
 \dot{V}_{zn} & \leq -c_1 \tan^2(\rho z_1) - \sum_{i=2}^n c_i z_i^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{m_i}{2r_i} \tilde{\theta}_i^2 \\
 & - \frac{m_n \beta_0}{2r_n} \tilde{\theta}_n^2 - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{q_i}{2\eta_i} \tilde{\omega}_i^T \tilde{\omega}_i \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{q_i}{2\eta_i} \omega_i^{*T} \omega_i^* + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2 \\
 & + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{m_i}{2r_i} \theta_i^{*2} \\
 & + \frac{m_n \beta_0}{2r_n} \theta_n^{*2} + \frac{1}{2} \rho^{*2}. \tag{86}
 \end{aligned}$$

Define  $V = V_e + V_{zn}$ . Then we can obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \dot{V} & = \dot{V}_e + \dot{V}_{zn} \\
 & \leq e^T \left( (K - LB)^T \bar{P} + P(K - LB) \right. \\
 & \quad \left. + J^T \bar{P} + \bar{P}J + 2\kappa \bar{P} \right) e + \frac{1}{\kappa} \|\bar{P}\| \sum_{i=1}^n \varepsilon_i^2 \\
 & \quad + \frac{1}{\kappa} \|\bar{P}\| \tilde{\omega}^T \tilde{\omega} - c_1 \tan^2(\rho z_1) \\
 & \quad - \sum_{i=2}^{n-1} c_i z_i^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{m_i}{2r_i} \tilde{\theta}_i^2 \\
 & \quad - \frac{m_n \beta_0}{2r_n} \tilde{\theta}_n^2 - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{q_i}{2\eta_i} \tilde{\omega}_i^T \tilde{\omega}_i \\
 & \quad + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i^2 \\
 & \quad + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{m_i}{2r_i} \theta_i^{*2} + \frac{m_n \beta_0}{2} \theta_n^{*2}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$+ \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{q_i}{2\eta_i} \omega_i^{*T} \omega_i^* + \frac{1}{2} \rho^{*2}. \tag{87}$$

To ensure the stability of the error dynamics, it must hold that  $(K - LB)^T \bar{P} + \bar{P}(K - LB) + J^T \bar{P} + \bar{P}J + 2\kappa \bar{P} + M = -Q$ . Then  $L$  and  $\bar{P}$  can be determined with  $Q$  being a positive matrix, and

$$\begin{aligned}
 \dot{V} & \leq -e^T Q e + \frac{1}{\kappa} \|\bar{P}\| \sum_{i=1}^n \varepsilon_i^2 + \frac{1}{\kappa} \|\bar{P}\| \tilde{\omega}^T \tilde{\omega} \\
 & - c_1 \tan^2(\rho z_1) - \sum_{i=2}^{n-1} c_i z_i^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{m_i}{2r_i} \tilde{\theta}_i^2 \\
 & - \frac{m_n \beta_0}{2r_n} \tilde{\theta}_n^2 - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{q_i}{2\eta_i} \tilde{\omega}_i^T \tilde{\omega}_i \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{q_i}{2\eta_i} \omega_i^{*T} \omega_i^* + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i^2 \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{m_i}{2r_i} \theta_i^{*2} + \frac{m_n \beta_0}{2} \theta_n^{*2} + \frac{1}{2} \rho^{*2}. \tag{88}
 \end{aligned}$$

According to Assumption 3, there exists  $0 < \sigma_{0ij} < 1$  such that

$$\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j} = \sigma_{0ij} d_{lij} + (1 - \sigma_{0ij}) d_{uij}. \tag{89}$$

To ensure that (89) holds, we must have

$$(K - LB)^T \bar{P} + P(K - LB) + J_\sigma^T \bar{P} + \bar{P}J_\sigma + 2\kappa \bar{P} < 0, \tag{90}$$

where

$$[J_\sigma]_{ij} = \begin{cases} d_{lij} \text{ or } d_{uij}, & j \leq i, 1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq n, \\ 0, & j > i, 1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq n. \end{cases} \tag{91}$$

The controller design procedure is complete, with the following main results.

**Theorem 1:** Based on system (1) with Assumptions 1-3, the controller was designed as (80), the state observer was designed as (11), and the adaptive control laws (44), (45), (71), and (72) ensure that: i) all the signals of the stable closed-loop system are semi-globally, uniformly, and ultimately bounded; ii) the tracking error  $z_1$  and prescribed performance function  $\varkappa$  satisfy  $|z_1| < \varkappa$ ; and iii) the tracking error  $z_1$  converges to a small neighborhood around zero under the prescribed performance.

**Proof:**

$\dot{V}$  can be rewritten as

$$\dot{V} \leq -a_0 V + b_0. \tag{92}$$

Define

$$a_0 = \min \left\{ \frac{\lambda_{\min}(Q)}{\lambda_{\max}(P)}, 2c_i, m_i, q_i, i = 1, \dots, n \right\}, \tag{93}$$



and

$$b_0 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{m_i}{2r_i} \theta_i^{*2} + \frac{m_n \beta_0}{2r_n} \theta_n^{*2} + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{q_i}{2\eta_i} \omega_i^{*T} \omega_i^* + \frac{1}{2} \rho^{*2}. \quad (94)$$

Equation (92) implies that for all  $t \geq 0$ ,

$$V(t) \leq V(0)e^{-a_0 t} + \frac{b_0}{a_0}. \quad (95)$$

Therefore,  $z_i, e_i, \theta_i$ , and  $\omega_i$ , the signals of the closed-loop system, are semi-globally, uniformly, and ultimately bounded. Similarly,  $\zeta_i$  and  $x_1$  are obviously bounded.

In addition, it follows from (95) that

$$\frac{1}{2} \tan^2 \left( \frac{\pi z_1}{2 \varkappa} \right) \leq V(0)e^{-a_0 t} + \frac{b_0}{a_0}. \quad (96)$$

Then it holds that

$$|z_1| \leq \frac{2}{\pi} \arctan \left( \left( 2 \left( V(0)e^{-a_0(t-t_0)} + \frac{b_0}{a_0} \right) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) \varkappa < \varkappa.$$

This shows that  $|z_1| < \varkappa$ , hence the tracking error  $|z_1|$  converges to a small area of the origin within the prescribed performance function  $\varkappa$ . This completes the proof.

## 5. SIMULATION RESULTS

We provide two examples to verify the proposed approach. To more clearly illustrate the effectiveness of the proposed method, we consider a simulation comparison for examples with the control method proposed in [39].

**Example 1:** Consider a 2nd-order strict feedback nonlinear system:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = x_2 + 0.5x^3, \\ \dot{x}_2 = u + \sin x_1 \cos x_2, \\ y = x_1. \end{cases} \quad (97)$$

Assume that  $-1 \leq \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_2} \leq 1$  for  $i = 1, 2$ . Moreover,

$$K = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (98)$$

and

$$J_0 \in \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}. \quad (99)$$

Select  $\kappa = \frac{1}{3}$ , and solve LMI (90) to obtain

$$\bar{P} = \begin{bmatrix} 79.298 & -52.901 \\ -52.901 & 50.714 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } L = \begin{bmatrix} 37.78 \\ 78.63 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (100)$$

To approximate the packaged unknown nonlinear functions, nine fuzzy sets are adopted over the interval  $[-3, 3]$ . The fuzzy membership functions of this system are defined as

$$s_i(X_i) = \exp \left( -0.5(X_i + p_j)^2 \right), \quad (101)$$

where  $1 \leq i \leq 10$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq 9$ ,  $p_j \in \{3, 0, -3\}$  are the partitioning points, and  $X_1 = x_1$ ,  $X_2 = y_d$ ,  $X_3 = \dot{y}_d$ ,  $X_4 = \varkappa$ ,  $X_5 = \dot{\varkappa}$ ,  $X_6 = \zeta_1$ ,  $X_7 = \zeta_2$ ,  $X_8 = \theta_1$ ,  $X_9 = y_d^{(2)}$ , and  $X_{10} = \varkappa^{(2)}$ .

Then  $S_1 = [S_1^1, \dots, S_1^{3^6}]^T$  and  $S_2 = [S_2^1, \dots, S_2^{3^{10}}]^T$  can be calculated by

$$S_1^a = \prod_{i=1}^6 (s_j(X_i)) / \sum_{j=1}^a \left( \prod_{i=1}^6 s_j(X_i) \right), \quad a = 1, \dots, 3^6,$$

$$S_2^b = \prod_{i=1}^{10} (s_j(X_i)) / \sum_{j=1}^b \left( \prod_{i=1}^{10} s_j(X_i) \right), \quad b = 1, \dots, 3^{10}.$$

Similarly, for the observer, five fuzzy sets are adopted over the interval  $[-5, 5]$ , with fuzzy membership functions

$$h_i(\zeta_i) = \exp \left( -0.5(\zeta_i + q_j)^2 \right), \quad (102)$$

where  $1 \leq i \leq 2$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq 5$ , and  $q_j \in \{5, 2, 0, -2, -5\}$  are the partitioning points.

Then  $\psi_1 = [\psi_1^1, \dots, \psi_1^5]^T$  and  $\psi_2 = [\psi_2^1, \dots, \psi_2^{25}]^T$  can be given by

$$\psi_1^c = h_j(x_1) / \sum_{j=1}^c h_j(x_1), \quad c = 1, \dots, 5,$$

$$\psi_2^d = h_j(x_1) h_j(\zeta_2) / \sum_{j=1}^d (h_j(x_1) h_j(\zeta_2)), \quad d = 1, \dots, 25.$$

The virtual control  $\alpha_1$  and intermediate control law  $\Xi$  are determined as

$$\alpha_1 = -\frac{c_1}{\rho} \tan(\rho z_1) \cos^2(\rho z_1) - \frac{1}{2a_1^2} \rho D \theta_1 S_1^T S_1, \quad (103)$$

and

$$\Xi = -\left( c_0 + \frac{1}{2} \right) z_n - \frac{1}{2a_n^2} z_n \theta_n S_n^T S_n. \quad (104)$$

The model of the dead-zone input  $u$  is

$$u = D(\Xi) = \begin{cases} (1 - 0.2 \sin(\Xi))(\Xi - 1.25), & \Xi \geq 1.25, \\ 0, & -2.5 < \Xi < 1.25, \\ (0.8 - 0.2 \cos(\Xi))(\Xi + 2.5), & \Xi \leq -2.5. \end{cases}$$

The adaptive laws are constructed as

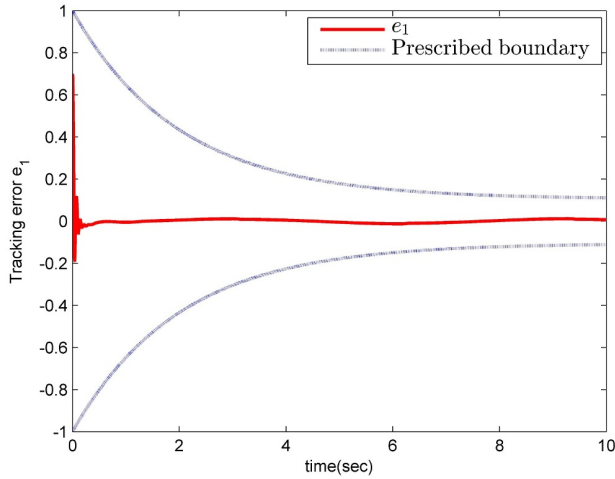


Fig. 1. Trajectory of tracking error.

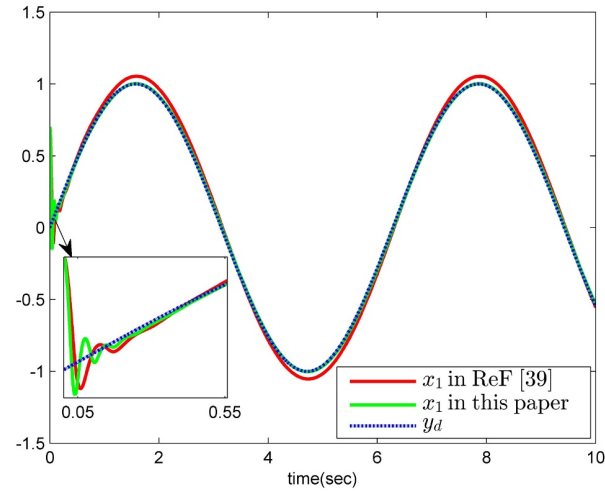


Fig. 2. Tracking performance of system.

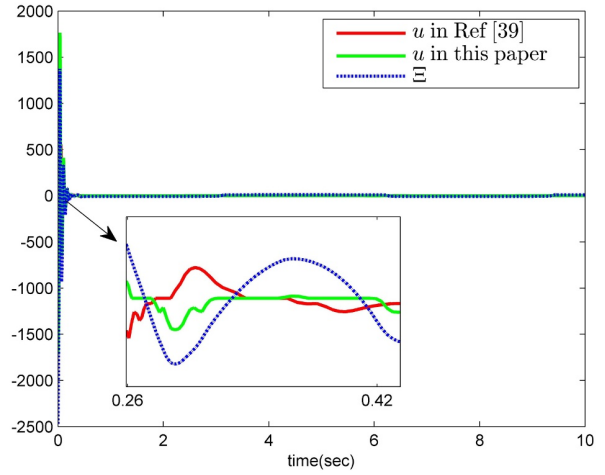
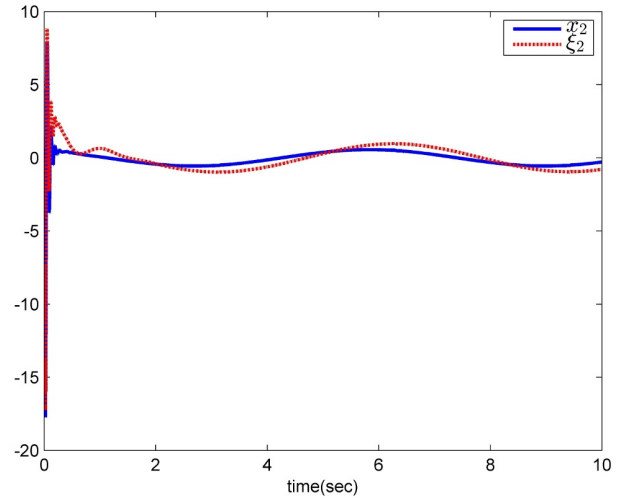
$$\begin{cases} \dot{\theta}_1 = \frac{\rho^2 r_1}{2a_1^2} D^2 S_1^T S_1 - m_1 \theta_1, \\ \dot{\theta}_2 = \frac{r_2}{2a_2^2} z_2^2 S_2^T S_2 - m_2 \theta_2, \\ \dot{\omega}_1 = -\eta_1 \rho D \psi_1(\bar{\zeta}_1) - q_1 \omega_1, \\ \dot{\omega}_2 = -\eta_2 z_2 \psi_2(\bar{\zeta}_2) - q_2 \omega_2. \end{cases} \quad (105)$$

The relative parameters are chosen through constant adjustment as follows:  $x_1(0) = 0.7$ ,  $x_2(0) = 0.2$ ,  $\zeta_1(0) = \zeta_2(0) = 0$ ,  $\theta_1(0) = 0$ ,  $\theta_2(0) = 0.8$ ,  $\omega_1(0) = \underbrace{[0, \dots, 0]^T}_5$ ,

$\omega_2(0) = \underbrace{[0, \dots, 0]^T}_{25}$ ,  $k_0 = 1.5$ ,  $k_\infty = 0.105$ ,  $\tau = 2$ ,  $a_1 = 6$ ,

$a_2 = 100$ ,  $r_1 = 15$ ,  $r_2 = 20$ ,  $\eta_1 = 15$ ,  $\eta_2 = 20$ ,  $m_1 = m_2 = 0.1$ ,  $q_1 = q_2 = 0.1$ ,  $c_1 = 85$ , and  $c_0 = 60$ . The target reference trajectory is given as  $y_d = \sin t$ .

The tracking performance and tracking error  $e_1$  of the proposed controller are shown in Fig. 1. The results show that the system has good tracking performance and the


 Fig. 3. Control input  $u$  and intermediate control input  $\Xi$ .

 Fig. 4. Trajectory of  $x_2$  and its observer state.

tracking error  $e_1$  trajectory is limited under the specified performance, eventually converging from 0.5 to a small neighborhood around zero within 0.8 second. Fig. 2 shows the good tracking performance of the system output  $x_1$  and the trajectory of the reference signal  $y_d$ . The results show that the reference signal is well tracked in about 0.18 second. By comparison to [39], it can be seen that the tracking speed is slightly slower. The tracking effect of the control method in this paper is more accurate than that of reference [39]. Fig. 3 shows the trajectories of control input  $u$  in this paper, control input  $u$  in [39], and intermediate control law  $\Xi$ . The results show that the control input proposed in this paper has good control performance in overcoming the influence of the dead zone. The trajectories of the system state  $x_2$  and its observer state  $\zeta_2$  are shown in Fig. 4, indicating that the proposed fuzzy state observer well solves the problem of the unmeasured state of the system. Fig. 5 shows that the adaptive laws  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$  are ultimately restricted. The final simulation results show that the proposed controller is reasonable.

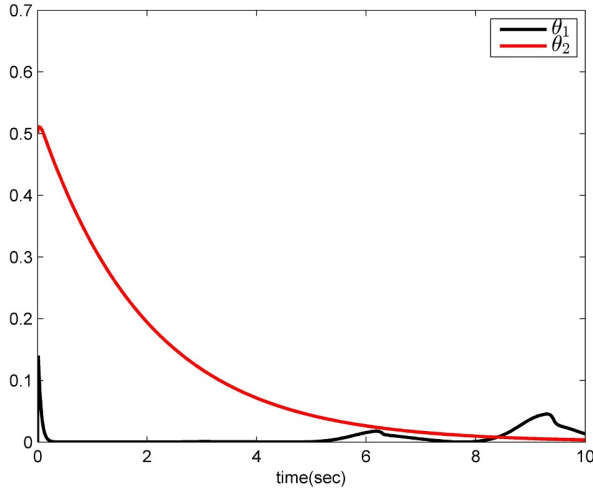


Fig. 5. Trajectory of adaptive parameters  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$ .

**Example 2:** To more clearly illustrate the effectiveness of the proposed method, we consider a simulation comparison for a model with the control method proposed in [39],

$$\begin{cases} K\ddot{\vartheta} + \frac{1}{2}m_nGN\sin\vartheta = u, \\ y = \vartheta, \end{cases} \quad (106)$$

where  $\vartheta$  is the angle of the system,  $u$  is the input torque of the system,  $K$  is the moment of inertia,  $G$  is the acceleration of gravity,  $m_n$  is the mass of the linkage, and  $N$  is the length of the linkage. We choose parameter values  $m_n = 1, N = 1, K = 2$ , and  $G = 9.8$ . Rewrite the single-link robot equation as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = x_2, \\ \dot{x}_2 = \frac{1}{K} \left( u - \frac{m_nGN\sin\vartheta}{2} \right), \\ y = x_1, \end{cases} \quad (107)$$

where  $x_1 = \vartheta, x_2 = \dot{\vartheta}$ . The above conditions are chosen to be  $x_1(0) = 0.7, x_2(0) = 0.3$ .

The matrix  $P, L$ , the fuzzy membership functions of FLSs, the virtual control law, the model of the dead-zone input, and the adaptive laws are the same as in the above simulation. The other parameters are selected as follows:  $\zeta_1(0) = \zeta_2(0) = 0, \theta_1(0) = 0, \theta_2(0) = 0.4, \omega_1(0) = \underbrace{[0, \dots, 0]^T}_5, \omega_2(0) = \underbrace{[0, \dots, 0]^T}_{25}, k_0 = 1.5, k_\infty =$

$0.105, \tau = 2, a_1 = 6, a_2 = 70, r_1 = 15, r_2 = 20, \eta_1 = 10, \eta_2 = 22, m_1 = m_2 = 2, q_1 = q_2 = 0.5, c_1 = 80$ , and  $c_0 = 60$ .

Fig. 6 shows the trajectory of the tracking error  $e_1$ , from which it can be seen that the tracking error converges from 0.9 to a small neighborhood near the origin within about 0.2 second within the specified performance range. In addition, the tracking error is under the bound of the

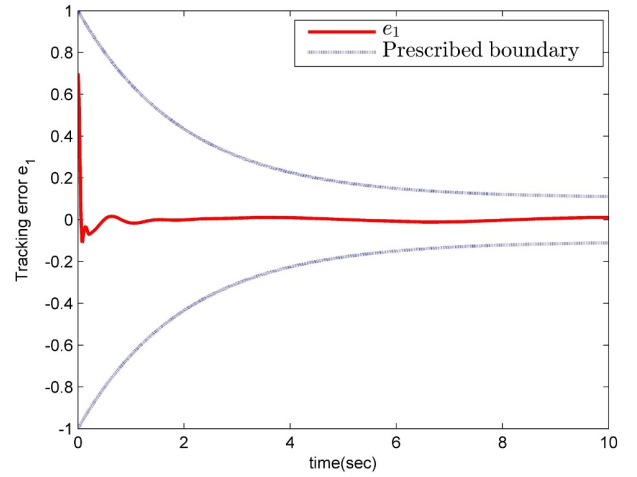


Fig. 6. Trajectory of tracking error.

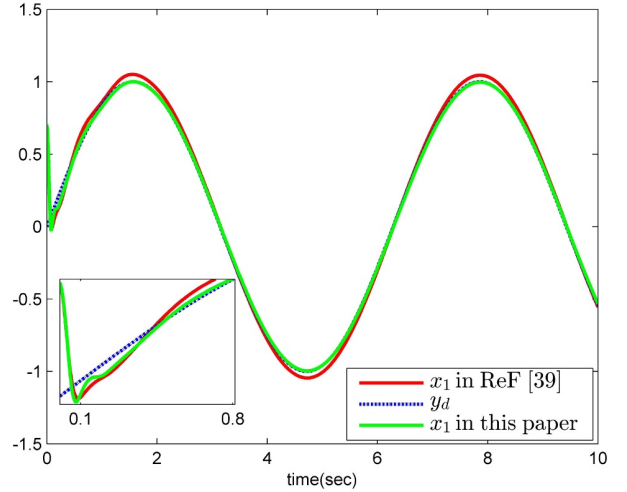


Fig. 7. Tracking performance of system.

prescribed performance. Fig. 7 shows the tracking performance of the output  $x_1$  of the system, the output  $x_1$  of the system in [39], and the trajectory of the reference signal  $y_d$ . The results show that  $x_1$  in [39] takes about 0.4 second to track the reference signal, and the control method proposed in this paper takes about 0.2 second. In terms of tracking accuracy, the results show that the proposed control method is better. Fig. 8 shows the trajectories of the control input  $u$  in this paper, the control input  $u$  in [39], and the intermediate control law  $\Xi$ . The results show that the control method proposed in this paper has good control performance in overcoming the influence of the dead zone. Fig. 9 shows the trajectory of system state  $x_2$  and its observer state  $\zeta_2$ . From the figure, the observer state  $\zeta_2$  can estimate the system state with a small error. This shows the effectiveness of the fuzzy state observer. Fig. 10 shows the adaptive parameters  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$ . With the same results as the above example, they finally became bounded. These

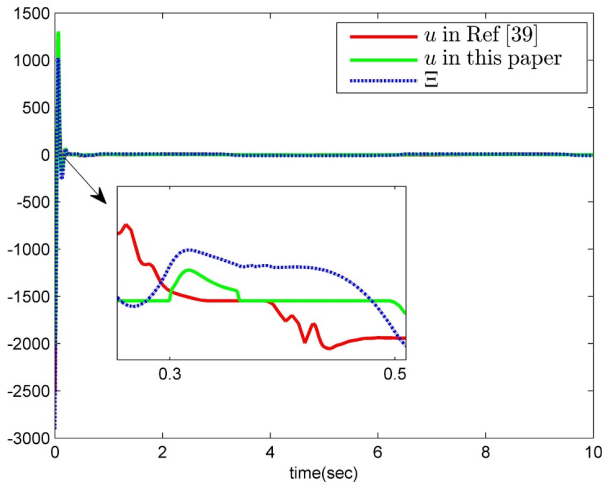


Fig. 8. Control input  $u$  and intermediate control input  $\bar{E}$ .

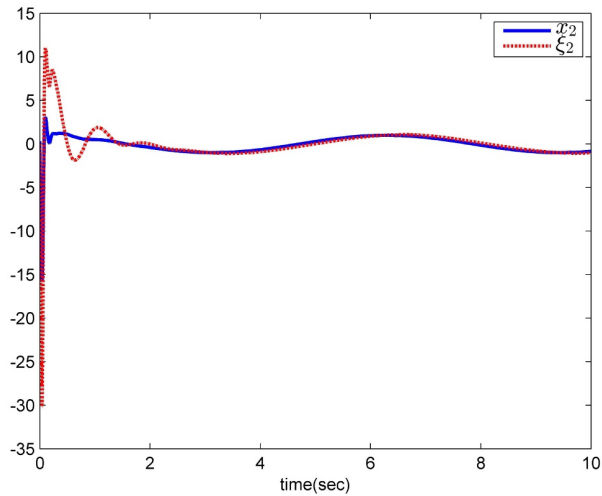


Fig. 9. Trajectory of  $x_2$  and its observer state.

simulation results show that the proposed controller is effective.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

We introduced an observer-based adaptive fuzzy control scheme for a class of strict-feedback nonlinear systems with prescribed performance and a dead zone. The proposed scheme ensures the stability of a closed-loop system, and the tracking error falls within a preset boundary. Simulation results confirm its feasibility.

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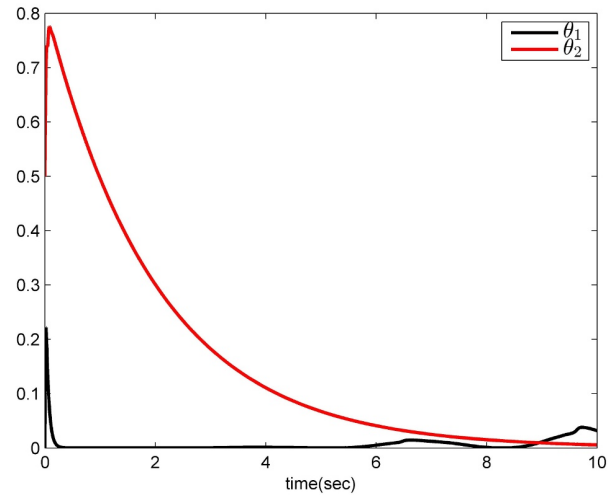


Fig. 10. Trajectory of adaptive parameters  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$ .

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**Wen Zeng** was born in Liaoning province, China in 1994, received his B.S. degree from University of Science and Technology Liaoning. Now he is a graduate student of control science and engineering in Liaoning University of Science and Technology, engaged in nonlinear system research.



**Zhigang Li** received his B.S. degree from Xi'an Jiaotong University, his M.S. degrees from Liaoning University of Technology. Now he is an associate professor and master's supervisor of University of Science and Technology Liaoning. His research interests include artificial intelligence and pattern recognition.



**Chuang Gao** received his B.S. degree in Electronic and Communication Engineering from Warwick University, Coventry, UK, the M.S. degree in Digital Signal Processing from King's College London, UK and a Ph.D. degree in Iron and Steel Metallurgy from University of Science and Technology Liaoning, Anshan, P. R. China, in 2005, 2007, and 2020, respectively. He has authored over 20 research papers indexed by SCI and EI. His research interests include nonlinear system control, machine learning and intelligent control.



**Libing Wu** received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the Department of Mathematics, Jinzhou Normal College, Jinzhou, China, in 2004, and in Basic Mathematics from Northeastern University, Shenyang, China, in 2007, respectively, and a Ph.D. degree in Control Theory and Control Engineering from Northeastern University, Shenyang, China, in 2016. He is currently an Associate Professor at the School of Science, University of Science and Technology Liaoning, and also as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Electrical Engineering, Yeungnam University. His research interests include adaptive control, fault-tolerant control, nonlinear control and fault estimation.

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