

# Quasi-projective Synchronization for Caputo Type Fractional-order Complex-valued Neural Networks with Mixed Delays

Jingshun Cheng, Hai Zhang\* , Weiwei Zhang , and Hongmei Zhang 

**Abstract:** Without decomposing the complex-valued systems into two real-valued subsystems, this paper investigates quasi-projective synchronization (QPS) problem for Caputo type fractional-order complex-valued neural networks (FOCVNNs) with mixed delays by choosing suitable controllers. To realize QPS, the linear feedback controller and adaptive feedback controller are designed, by constructing suitable Lyapunov function, utilizing the fractional Razumikhin theorem and the properties of Mittag-Leffler function and inequality technique, and several sufficient criteria for QPS of FOCVNNs with mixed delays are derived. In addition, the upper bound of the error of QPS is estimated. Finally, two numerical examples are simulated to verify the effectiveness and feasibility of the proposed results.

**Keywords:** Adaptive feedback control, fractional Razumikhin theorem, fractional-order complex-valued neural networks, linear feedback control, mixed delays, quasi-projection synchronization.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In 1696, Leibniz extended the integral calculus in the general sense to obtain fractional calculus. In recent decades, in the wake of developments in science, fractional calculus has been generally applied to many scientific fields, such as viscoelastic materials [1,2], biology [3–5], molecular diffusion theory [6,7], and image processing [8,9]. The main advantages of fractional calculus are infinite memory and more freedom. Therefore, it is very meaningful to study fractional order systems.

The occurrence of synchronization is a collective behavior, due to its applications in signal processing [10], secure communication [11], image encryption [12] and so on. So far, many types of synchronization have been studied, such as complete synchronization [13,14], phase synchronization [15,16], exponential synchronization [17, 18]. As we all know, most networks can not realize synchronization only by themselves, and some effective control strategies have been proposed including impulsive control [19], intermittent control [20], adaptive control [21–23]. In synchronization schemes, the feature of projective synchronization is that it can be synchronized in proportion. The hybrid controllers are adopted in [24,25] to discuss the projective synchronization. Evidently, the complex controllers are inconvenient and undesirable in

the practical applications.

With the development of modern science and technology, mathematician Pitts and neurologist McCulloch first proposed the concept of artificial neural network (ANN) in 1943 [26]. ANN is a network system with parallel computing capability in which many processing units are connected to each other according to a certain topological structure [27–32]. The advantage of NNs is that they can process continuous analog signals and chaotic, incomplete information [33,34]. The research results show that the fractional calculus model can more accurately describe the dynamic behavior of the actual systems [1–6], and is beneficial to describe the memory and genetic properties of neurons [13,14].

As is known to all, there are numerous types of delay, such as time-varying delay [35,36], discrete delay [37], distributed delay [38], leakage delay [39–41], etc. The occurrence of these delays usually causes oscillation, bifurcation and instability of the power system. Therefore, the study of dynamic systems with time delays has become a hot topic in the theoretical and application fields. However, to the best of our knowledge, the problem of QPS for FOCVNNs with mixed delays has not been found in the existing literature.

In the practical applications, NNs are related to complex signals. In order to solve this problem, scholars have

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proposed CVNNs. The two feasible approaches have been used to analyze the dynamical behaviors of CVNNs: one is to handle the considered FOCVNNs as a compact entirety [42–44], the other is to decompose the CVNNs into two RVNNs [45–47]. In this paper, we use complex function theory to discuss the stability or synchronization of FOCVNNs without decomposing complex-valued systems into two real-valued systems, which not only greatly decrease the difficulty of theoretical analysis, but also reduce the complexity of derived results.

It is well known that the Lyapunov direct method is the most effective method to analyze the stability of system in [48], where observer-based chaos synchronization using Legendre polynomials has been presented and applied to secure communications. In [49], a secure communication system based on chaos synchronization using brain emotional learning-based intelligent controller is presented.

By the aforementioned discussions, the main objective of this paper is to investigate the problem of QPS of Caputo type FOCVNNs with mixed delays. By constructing an appropriate Lyapunov function, using the fractional Razumikhin theorem, the properties of the Mittag-Leffler function, and some inequality analysis techniques, using linear feedback controllers and adaptive feedback controllers, several sufficient criteria ensuring the QPS for the concerned network models are derived. The main contributions of this paper can be summarized as follows:

- In the existing QPS literature, the FOCVNNs models almost focus on discrete delays. In this paper, we consider the FOCVNNs with mixed delays including discrete delay and the distributed delay, thus the considered model in this article is more general and less conservative.
- Without decomposing the CVNNs into two RVNNs for analysis, the CVNNs is handled directly as a whole, which greatly reduces the difficulty of theoretical analysis and the complexity of calculation.
- Adopting the linear feedback controller and adaptive feedback controller respectively, two algebraic criteria of QPS of the FOCVNNs with mixed delays are obtained, which are easy to check and judge the synchronization. Moreover, the upper bound of synchronization error is estimated. The comparison between the two cases of controllers is presented by numerical simulation.

## 2. PRELIMINARIES AND MODEL DESCRIPTION

This section introduces some definitions, lemmas and Caputo type FOCVNNs with mixed delays.

**Definition 1 [50]:** The fractional integral of order  $p$  for a function  $m(t) \in C[[0, +\infty), R]$  is defined as

$${}_0D_t^{-p}m(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(p)} \int_0^t (t-s)^{p-1}m(s)ds,$$

where  $p > 0$ , and  $\Gamma(\cdot)$  is the gamma function defined as

$$\Gamma(p) = \int_0^{+\infty} e^{-t}t^{p-1}dt.$$

**Definition 2 [50]:** The Caputo fractional derivative of order  $p$  for a function  $m(t) \in C[[0, +\infty), R]$  is defined as

$${}_t^C D_t^p f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(k-p)} \int_{t_0}^t \frac{f^{(k)}(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^{p-k+1}}d\tau,$$

where  $t \geq t_0$ , and  $k$  is a positive integer such that  $k-1 < p < k$ .

**Definition 3 [50]:** The two-parameter Mittag-Leffler function is defined as

$$E_{\nu,\omega}(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^k}{\Gamma(k\nu + \omega)}, \nu > 0, \omega > 0, z \in \mathbb{C}.$$

The one-parameters Mittag-Leffler function is defined as

$$E_\nu = E_{\nu,1}(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^k}{\Gamma(k\nu + 1)}, \nu > 0, z \in \mathbb{C}.$$

**Lemma 1 [39]:** The following inequality holds if  $m(t) \in \mathbb{C}$  is a continuous analytic function, then

$${}_t^C D_t^p m(t)\overline{m(t)} \leq m(t){}_t^C D_t^p \overline{m(t)} + \overline{m(t)}{}_t^C D_t^p m(t),$$

where  $t \geq t_0, 0 < p < 1$ .

**Lemma 2 [39]:** For any two complex numbers  $\eta$  and  $\mu$ , the inequality holds

$$\eta\bar{\mu} + \bar{\eta}\mu \leq \gamma\eta\bar{\eta} + \frac{1}{\gamma}\mu\bar{\mu},$$

where  $\gamma > 0$ .

**Lemma 3 [42]:** Let  $t \geq t_0$ , then  $E_p(\varpi(t-t_0)^p)$  is monotonically non-increasing and  $0 \leq E_p(\varpi(t-t_0)^p) \leq 1$ , where  $\varpi \leq 0$ .

**Lemma 4 [51]:** Let  $U(t)$  and  $V(t)$  be two nonnegative continuous functions, and satisfy

$${}_t^C D_t^p (V(t) + U(t)) \leq -\sigma V(t) + \rho,$$

where  $0 < p < 1, \sigma > 0, \rho > 0$ , then

$$V(t) \leq (V(t_0) + U(t_0) - \frac{\rho}{\sigma})E_p(-\sigma(t-t_0)^p) + \frac{\rho}{\sigma},$$

where  $t \geq t_0 + \left(\frac{\Gamma(p)}{\sigma}\right)^{\frac{1}{1-p}}$ .

**Lemma 5 [53]:** For nondecreasing and differentiable function  $m(t)$  on  $t \in [t_0, +\infty)$ , then

$${}_t^C D_t^p (m(t) - \lambda)^2 \leq 2(m(t) - \lambda){}_t^C D_t^p m(t),$$

where  $0 < p < 1, \lambda$  is any constant.

**Lemma 6** [42]: For  $\forall \beta \in \mathbb{C}$ , the following inequality holds:

$$\beta + \bar{\beta} \leq 2|\beta|,$$

where  $\mathbb{C}$  denotes complex field.

In this article, we discuss a class of FOCVNNs with mixed delays as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} {}^C D_t^p x_i(t) = & -d_i x_i(t) + \sum_{k=1}^n a_{ik} f_k(x_k(t)) \\ & + \sum_{k=1}^n b_{ik} g_k(x_k(t - \tau_1)) \\ & + \sum_{k=1}^n m_{ik} \int_{t-\tau_2}^t h_k(x_k(s)) ds + J_i(t), \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where  $0 < p < 1$ ,  $x_i(t) = (x_{i1}(t), x_{i2}(t), \dots, x_{in}(t))^T \in \mathbb{C}^n$  represents the state variable of the  $i$ th neuron,  $f(x)$ ,  $g(x)$ ,  $h(x)$  denote the activation functions without and with delay respectively,  $d_i \in \mathbb{C}$  denote the connection weight,  $a_{ik}$ ,  $b_{ik}$ ,  $m_{ik} \in \mathbb{C}$  respectively expression the connection weight of the  $k$ th neuron to the  $i$ th neuron at time  $t$ ,  $t - \tau_1$  and  $t - \tau_2$ , respectively, where  $\tau_1$ ,  $\tau_2$  is non-negative constant transmission delay,  $J_i$  is bias. The initial state with system (1) is

$$x_i(s) = \phi_i(s), \quad t \in [-\gamma, 0], \quad \gamma \in \max\{\tau_1, \tau_2\},$$

where  $\|\phi(t)\| = \sup_{s \in [-\gamma, 0]} \|\phi(s)\|$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . To investigate the synchronization, the response system is

$$\begin{aligned} {}^C D_t^p y_i(t) = & -d_i y_i(t) + \sum_{k=1}^n a_{ik} f_k(y_k(t)) \\ & + \sum_{k=1}^n b_{ik} g_k(y_k(t - \tau_1)) \\ & + \sum_{k=1}^n m_{ik} \int_{t-\tau_2}^t h_k(y_k(s)) ds \\ & + J_i(t) + v_i(t), \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where  $y_i(t) = (y_{i1}(t), y_{i2}(t), \dots, y_{in}(t))^T \in \mathbb{C}^n$  represents the state variable of the response system (2), others are the same as for the drive system (1),  $v_i(t)$  is the controller. The initial state with system (2) is

$$y_i(s) = \varphi_i(s), \quad t \in [-\gamma, 0], \quad \gamma \in \max\{\tau_1, \tau_2\},$$

where  $\|\phi(t)\| = \sup_{s \in [-\gamma, 0]} \|\phi(s)\|$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

**Definition 4** [51]: System (1) and system (2) achieve QPS, provided that for any initial values  $x_i(s) = \phi_i(s) \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $y_i(s) = \varphi_i(s) \in \mathbb{C}$ , there exists a small error bound  $\delta > 0$  such that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |y_i(t) - \alpha x_i(t)| \leq \delta,$$

where  $t \geq t_0$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$  is the projective coefficient. Especially, systems (1) and (2) achieve quasi-complete synchronized if  $\alpha = 1$  and achieve quasi-anti synchronized if  $\alpha = -1$ .

Let the synchronization error between system (1) and system (2) be  $u_i(t) = y_i(t) - \alpha x_i(t)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} {}^C D_t^p u_i(t) = & -d_i u_i(t) + \sum_{k=1}^n a_{ik} [f_k(y_k(t)) - f_k(\alpha x_k(t))] \\ & + \sum_{k=1}^n a_{ik} [f_k(\alpha x_k(t)) - \alpha f_k(x_k(t))] \\ & + \sum_{k=1}^n b_{ik} [g_k(y_k(t - \tau_1)) - g_k(\alpha x_k(t - \tau_1))] \\ & + \sum_{k=1}^n b_{ik} [g_k(\alpha x_k(t - \tau_1)) - \alpha g_k(x_k(t - \tau_1))] \\ & + \sum_{k=1}^n m_{ik} \int_{t-\tau_2}^t [h_k(y_k(s)) - h_k(\alpha x_k(s))] ds \\ & + \sum_{k=1}^n m_{ik} \int_{t-\tau_2}^t [h_k(\alpha x_k(s)) - \alpha h_k(x_k(s))] ds \\ & + (1 - \alpha) J_i(t) + v_i(t). \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

The initial state with system (3) is

$$u_i(s) = \psi_i(s) = \varphi_i(s) - \phi_i(s), \quad t \in [-\gamma, 0],$$

where  $\gamma \in \max\{\tau_1, \tau_2\}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .

**Assumption 1:** Assume that  $f(x)$ ,  $g(x)$  and  $h(x)$  are activation functions,  $p, q \in \mathbb{C}$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} |f(p) - f(q)| & \leq \Lambda_1 |p - q|, \\ |g(p) - g(q)| & \leq \Lambda_2 |p - q|, \\ |h(p) - h(q)| & \leq \Lambda_3 |p - q|, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2, \Lambda_3 > 0$  are Lipschitz constants.

**Assumption 2:** For any  $\theta \in \mathbb{C}$ , the real numbers  $l_1, l_2, l_3, l_4 > 0$  exist such that

$$|f(\theta)| \leq l_1, \quad |g(\theta)| \leq l_2, \quad |h(\theta)| \leq l_3, \quad |J(\theta)| \leq l_4.$$

### 3. MAIN RESULTS

In this section, we mainly construct the Lyapunov functions, by using the fractional Razumikhin theorem, the properties of Mittag-Leffler function and some skills of inequality. The sufficient criteria of QPS for Caputo type FONNs with mixed delays are derived under the linear feedback controller and adaptive feedback controller respectively.

The linear feedback controller is proposed as follows:

$$v_i(t) = -k_i(y_i(t) - \alpha x_i(t)), \quad (4)$$

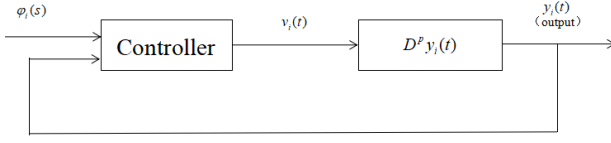


Fig. 1. Control framework of linear feedback controller.

where  $k_i \in \mathbb{C}$  is the gain. Fig. 1 represents the control framework of linear feedback controller.

For convenience, we introduce the following denotations

$$\begin{aligned} \varpi &= \min_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\{ d_i + k_i + \bar{d}_i + \bar{k}_i - l_4^2 - n\Lambda_1^2 - n\Lambda_3^2 \tau_2^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \sum_{k=1}^n 2(a_{ik}\bar{a}_{ik} + b_{ik}\bar{b}_{ik} + m_{ik}\bar{m}_{ik}) \right\}, \\ \vartheta &= 2(1 + \alpha\bar{\alpha})(l_1^2 + l_2^2 + l_3^2 \tau_2^2) + (1 - \alpha)\overline{(1 - \alpha)}, \\ \eta &= \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \Lambda_2^2 \sum_{k=1}^n (b_{ki}\bar{b}_{ki})^{\frac{1}{2}}, \\ \mu &= \min_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\{ d_i + \bar{d}_i + 2k_i^* - l_4 - 2 \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ (a_{ik}\bar{a}_{ik})^{\frac{1}{2}} \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. + (b_{ik}\bar{b}_{ik})^{\frac{1}{2}} + (m_{ik}\bar{m}_{ik})^{\frac{1}{2}} \right] - \Lambda_1^2 \sum_{k=1}^n (a_{ki}\bar{a}_{ki})^{\frac{1}{2}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \Lambda_3^2 \tau_2^2 \sum_{k=1}^n (m_{ki}\bar{m}_{ki})^{\frac{1}{2}} \right\}, \\ \delta &= 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n (1 + \alpha\bar{\alpha}) \left[ (a_{ik}\bar{a}_{ik})^{\frac{1}{2}} l_1^2 + (b_{ik}\bar{b}_{ik})^{\frac{1}{2}} l_2^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (m_{ik}\bar{m}_{ik})^{\frac{1}{2}} l_3^2 \tau_2^2 \right] + l_4(1 - \alpha)\overline{(1 - \alpha)}. \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 1:** Under Assumptions 1 and 2, if  $k_i$  satisfies the inequality  $\varpi > n\Lambda_2^2\zeta$ ,  $\zeta > 1$ , then the drive system (1) is QPS with the response system (2) under the linear feedback controller (4). In addition, the error bound can be estimated by  $\sqrt{\frac{\vartheta}{\varpi - n\Lambda_2^2\zeta}}$ .

**Proof:** Consider the following Lyapunov function

$$V_1(t) = \sum_{i=1}^n u_i(t)\overline{u_i(t)}. \quad (5)$$

By Lemma 1, we can obtain the  $p$ -order Caputo derivative of  $V_1(t)$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & {}_{t_0}^C D_t^p V_1(t) \\ & \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ u_i(t) D^p \overline{u_i(t)} + \overline{u_i(t)} D^p u_i(t) \right] \\ & = - \sum_{i=1}^n (d_i + k_i + \bar{d}_i + \bar{k}_i) u_i(t)\overline{u_i(t)} \\ & \quad + \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ \overline{(1 - \alpha)J_i(t)} u_i(t) + (1 - \alpha)J_i(t)\overline{u_i(t)} \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{a_{ik}u_i(t)} (f_k(y_k(t)) - f_k(\alpha x_k(t))) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + a_{ik}\overline{u_i(t)} (f_k(y_k(t)) - f_k(\alpha x_k(t))) \right] \\ & + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{a_{ik}u_i(t)} (f_k(\alpha x_k(t)) - \alpha f_k(x_k(t))) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + a_{ik}\overline{u_i(t)} (f_k(\alpha x_k(t)) - \alpha f_k(x_k(t))) \right] \\ & + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{b_{ik}u_i(t)} (g_k(y_k(t - \tau_1)) - g_k(\alpha x_k(t - \tau_1))) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + b_{ik}\overline{u_i(t)} (g_k(y_k(t - \tau_1)) - g_k(\alpha x_k(t - \tau_1))) \right] \\ & + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{b_{ik}u_i(t)} (g_k(\alpha x_k(t - \tau_1)) - \alpha g_k(x_k(t - \tau_1))) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + b_{ik}\overline{u_i(t)} (g_k(\alpha x_k(t - \tau_1)) - \alpha g_k(x_k(t - \tau_1))) \right] \\ & + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{m_{ik}u_i(t)} \int_{t-\tau_2}^t \overline{(h_k(y_k(s)) - h_k(\alpha x_k(s)))} ds \right. \\ & \quad \left. + m_{ik}\overline{u_i(t)} \int_{t-\tau_2}^t (h_k(y_k(s)) - h_k(\alpha x_k(s))) ds \right] \\ & + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{m_{ik}u_i(t)} \int_{t-\tau_2}^t \overline{(h_k(\alpha x_k(s)) - \alpha h_k(x_k(s)))} ds \right. \\ & \quad \left. + m_{ik}\overline{u_i(t)} \int_{t-\tau_2}^t (h_k(\alpha x_k(s)) - \alpha h_k(x_k(s))) ds \right]. \quad (6) \end{aligned}$$

According to Lemma 2 and Assumption 1, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{a_{ik}u_i(t)} (f_k(y_k(t)) - f_k(\alpha x_k(t))) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + a_{ik}\overline{u_i(t)} (f_k(y_k(t)) - f_k(\alpha x_k(t))) \right] \\ & \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ a_{ik}\overline{a_{ik}u_i(t)} \overline{u_i(t)} \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \overline{(f_k(y_k(t)) - f_k(\alpha x_k(t)))} \right. \\ & \quad \left. \times (f_k(y_k(t)) - f_k(\alpha x_k(t))) \right] \\ & \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ a_{ik}\overline{a_{ik}u_i(t)} \overline{u_i(t)} + \Lambda_1^2 u_k(t)\overline{u_k(t)} \right] \\ & \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n a_{ik}\overline{a_{ik}u_i(t)} \overline{u_i(t)} + n \sum_{i=1}^n \Lambda_1^2 u_i(t)\overline{u_i(t)}. \quad (7) \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{b_{ik}u_i(t)} (g_k(y_k(t - \tau_1)) - g_k(\alpha x_k(t - \tau_1))) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + b_{ik}\overline{u_i(t)} (g_k(y_k(t - \tau_1)) - g_k(\alpha x_k(t - \tau_1))) \right] \\ & \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n b_{ik}\overline{b_{ik}u_i(t)} \overline{u_i(t)} \\ & \quad + n\Lambda_3^2 \sum_{i=1}^n e_i(t - \tau_1)\overline{e_i(t - \tau_1)}, \quad (8) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{m_{ik} u_i(t)} \int_{t-\tau_2}^t \overline{(h_k(y_k(s)) - h_k(\alpha x_k(s)))} ds \right. \\
 & \quad \left. + m_{ik} \overline{u_i(t)} \int_{t-\tau_2}^t (h_k(y_k(s)) - h_k(\alpha x_k(s))) ds \right] \\
 & \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n m_{ik} \overline{m_{ik} u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)}} + n \sum_{i=1}^n \Lambda_3^2 \tau_2^2 u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)}. \quad (9)
 \end{aligned}$$

According to Lemma 2 and Assumption 2, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{a_{ik} u_i(t)} \overline{(f_k(\alpha x_k(t)) - \alpha f_k(x_k(t)))} \right. \\
 & \quad \left. + a_{ik} \overline{u_i(t)} (f_k(\alpha x_k(t)) - \alpha f_k(x_k(t))) \right] \\
 & \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ a_{ik} \overline{a_{ik} u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)}} + \overline{(f_k(\alpha x_k(t)) - \alpha f_k(x_k(t)))} \right. \\
 & \quad \left. \times (f_k(\alpha x_k(t)) - \alpha f_k(x_k(t))) \right] \\
 & \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ a_{ik} \overline{a_{ik} u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)}} + 2 \left( f_k(\alpha x_k(t)) \overline{f_k(\alpha x_k(t))} \right) \right. \\
 & \quad \left. + \alpha \overline{\alpha} f_k(x_k(t)) \overline{f_k(x_k(t))} \right] \\
 & \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ a_{ik} \overline{a_{ik} u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)}} + 2(l_1^2 + \alpha \overline{\alpha} l_1^2) \right] \\
 & = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n a_{ik} \overline{a_{ik} u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)}} + 2(1 + \alpha \overline{\alpha}) l_1^2. \quad (10)
 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{b_{ik} u_i(t)} \overline{(g_k(\alpha x_k(t - \tau_1)) - \alpha g_k(x_k(t - \tau_1)))} \right. \\
 & \quad \left. + b_{ik} \overline{u_i(t)} (g_k(\alpha x_k(t - \tau_1)) - \alpha g_k(x_k(t - \tau_1))) \right] \\
 & \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n b_{ik} \overline{b_{ik} u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)}} + 2(1 + \alpha \overline{\alpha}) l_2^2, \quad (11)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{m_{ik} u_i(t)} \int_{t-\tau_2}^t \overline{(h_k(\alpha x_k(s)) - \alpha h_k(x_k(s)))} ds \right. \\
 & \quad \left. + m_{ik} \overline{u_i(t)} \int_{t-\tau_2}^t (h_k(\alpha x_k(s)) - \alpha h_k(x_k(s))) ds \right] \\
 & \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n m_{ik} \overline{m_{ik} u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)}} + 2(1 + \alpha \overline{\alpha}) l_3^2 \tau_2^2, \quad (12)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ \overline{(1 - \alpha) J_i(t) u_i(t)} + (1 - \alpha) J_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)} \right] \\
 & \leq (1 - \alpha) \overline{(1 - \alpha)} + \sum_{i=1}^n l_4^2 u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)}. \quad (13)
 \end{aligned}$$

Submitting (7)-(13) into (6), by fractional Razumikhin theorem [44], we can get

$$\begin{aligned}
 & {}^C D_t^\rho V_1(t) \\
 & \leq - \sum_{i=1}^n \left( d_i + k_i + \overline{d}_i + \overline{k}_i - l_4^2 - n \Lambda_1^2 - n \Lambda_3^2 \tau_2^2 \right. \\
 & \quad \left. - \sum_{k=1}^n 2(a_{ik} \overline{a_{ik}} + b_{ik} \overline{b_{ik}} + m_{ik} \overline{m_{ik}}) \right) u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + n \sum_{i=1}^n \Lambda_2^2 u_i(t - \tau_1) \overline{u_i(t - \tau_1)} + 2(1 + \alpha \overline{\alpha}) \\
 & \quad \times (l_1^2 + l_2^2 + l_3^2 \tau_2^2) + (1 - \alpha) \overline{(1 - \alpha)} \\
 & \leq -\vartheta V_1(t) + n \Lambda_2^2 V_1(t - \tau_1) + \vartheta \\
 & \leq -(\vartheta - n \Lambda_2^2 \varsigma) V_1(t) + \vartheta, \quad (14)
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\varsigma > 1$ . According to Lemma 4 and (14), there exists  $t_1 = t_0 + \left( \frac{\Gamma(\rho)}{\vartheta - n \Lambda_2^2 \varsigma} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\rho}}$ , such that

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_1(t) & \leq \left( V_1(t_0) - \frac{\vartheta}{\vartheta - n \Lambda_2^2 \varsigma} \right) \\
 & \quad \times E_\rho \left( -(\vartheta - n \Lambda_2^2 \varsigma) (t - t_0)^\rho \right) \\
 & \quad + \frac{\vartheta}{\vartheta - n \Lambda_2^2 \varsigma}, \quad t \geq t_1.
 \end{aligned}$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|u(t)\| & \\
 & \leq \sqrt{A E_\rho \left[ -(\vartheta - n \Lambda_2^2 \varsigma) (t - t_0)^\rho \right] + \frac{\vartheta}{\vartheta - n \Lambda_2^2 \varsigma}}, \quad (15)
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $t \geq t_1$ ,  $A = V_1(t_0) - \frac{\vartheta}{\vartheta - n \Lambda_2^2 \varsigma}$ . Finally, from Lemma 3 and (15), it could be found that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \|u(t)\| \leq \sqrt{\frac{\vartheta}{\vartheta - n \Lambda_2^2 \varsigma}}.$$

Hence, systems (1) and (2) are QPS under the linear feedback controller (4). The proof of Theorem 1 is completed.

Next, the adaptive controller is proposed

$$\begin{cases} v_i(t) = -k_i(t) (y_i(t) - \alpha x_i(t)), \\ {}^C D_t^\rho k_i(t) = \rho_i e_i(t) \overline{e_i(t)}, \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

where  $k_i(t)$  is the adaptive feedback strength,  $\rho_i$  is a positive constant. Fig. 2 shows the control framework of adaptive feedback controller.

**Theorem 2:** Under Assumptions 1 and 2, if  $k_i^*$  satisfies the inequality  $\mu > \eta \xi$ , where  $\xi > 1$ , then the drive system (1) is QPS with the response system (2) under the

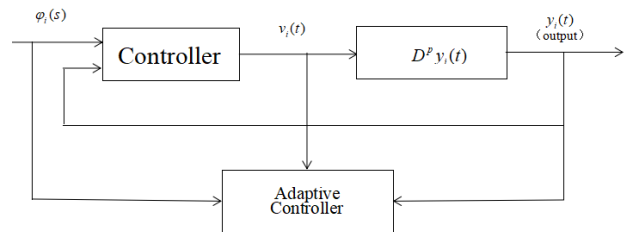


Fig. 2. Control framework of adaptive feedback controller.

adaptive controller (16). In addition, the error bound can be estimated by  $\sqrt{\frac{\delta}{\mu - \eta \xi}}$ .

**Proof:** Consider the following Lyapunov function:

$$\begin{aligned} V_2(t) &= V_{21}(t) + V_{22}(t) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)} + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\rho_i} (k_i(t) - k_i^*)^2. \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

By Lemmas 1 and 5, the  $p$ -order Caputo derivative of  $V_2(t)$  can be estimated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & {}^C_{t_0} D_t^p V_2(t) \\ & \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ u_i(t) D^p \overline{u_i(t)} + \overline{u_i(t)} D^p u_i(t) \right] \\ & \quad + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{2}{\rho_i} (k_i(t) - k_i^*) D^p k_i(t) \\ & \leq - \sum_{i=1}^n (d_i + \overline{d}_i + 2k_i^*) u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)} \\ & \quad + \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ (1 - \alpha) J_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)} + (1 - \alpha) J_i(t) u_i(t) \right] \\ & \quad + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{a_{ik}} u_i(t) \overline{(f_k(y_k(t)) - f_k(\alpha x_k(t)))} \right. \\ & \quad \left. + a_{ik} \overline{u_i(t)} (f_k(y_k(t)) - f_k(\alpha x_k(t))) \right] \\ & \quad + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{a_{ik}} u_i(t) \overline{(f_k(\alpha x_k(t)) - \alpha f_k(x_k(t)))} \right. \\ & \quad \left. + a_{ik} \overline{u_i(t)} (f_k(\alpha x_k(t)) - \alpha f_k(x_k(t))) \right] \\ & \quad + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{b_{ik}} u_i(t) \overline{(g_k(y_k(t - \tau_1)) - g_k(\alpha x_k(t - \tau_1)))} \right. \\ & \quad \left. + b_{ik} \overline{u_i(t)} (g_k(y_k(t - \tau_1)) - g_k(\alpha x_k(t - \tau_1))) \right] \\ & \quad + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{b_{ik}} u_i(t) \overline{(g_k(\alpha x_k(t - \tau_1)) - \alpha g_k(x_k(t - \tau_1)))} \right. \\ & \quad \left. + b_{ik} \overline{u_i(t)} (g_k(\alpha x_k(t - \tau_1)) - \alpha g_k(x_k(t - \tau_1))) \right] \\ & \quad + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{m_{ik}} u_i(t) \int_{t-\tau_2}^t \overline{(h_k(y_k(s)) - h_k(\alpha x_k(s)))} ds \right. \\ & \quad \left. + m_{ik} \overline{u_i(t)} \int_{t-\tau_2}^t (h_k(y_k(s)) - h_k(\alpha x_k(s))) ds \right] \\ & \quad + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{m_{ik}} u_i(t) \int_{t-\tau_2}^t \overline{(h_k(\alpha x_k(s)) - \alpha h_k(x_k(s)))} ds \right. \\ & \quad \left. + m_{ik} \overline{u_i(t)} \int_{t-\tau_2}^t (h_k(\alpha x_k(s)) - \alpha h_k(x_k(s))) ds \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

According to Lemma 6 and Assumption 1, we derive

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{a_{ik}} u_i(t) \overline{(f_k(y_k(t)) - f_k(\alpha x_k(t)))} \right. \\ & \quad \left. + a_{ik} \overline{u_i(t)} (f_k(y_k(t)) - f_k(\alpha x_k(t))) \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \leq 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left( a_{ik} \overline{a_{ik}} u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} [f_k(y_k(t)) \\ & \quad - f_k(\alpha x_k(t)) \overline{(f_k(y_k(t)) - f_k(\alpha x_k(t)))}]^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ & \leq 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n (a_{ik} \overline{a_{ik}})^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[ \frac{1}{2} (u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)}) + \frac{1}{2} \right. \\ & \quad \left. \times (f_k(y_k(t)) - f_k(\alpha x_k(t))) \overline{(f_k(y_k(t)) - f_k(\alpha x_k(t)))} \right] \\ & \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n (a_{ik} \overline{a_{ik}})^{\frac{1}{2}} (u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)} + \Lambda_1^2 u_k(t) \overline{u_k(t)}) \\ & \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n (a_{ik} \overline{a_{ik}})^{\frac{1}{2}} u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)} \\ & \quad + \Lambda_1^2 \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n (a_{ki} \overline{a_{ki}})^{\frac{1}{2}} u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)}. \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{b_{ik}} u_i(t) \overline{(g_k(y_k(t - \tau_1)) - g_k(\alpha x_k(t - \tau_1)))} \right. \\ & \quad \left. + b_{ik} \overline{u_i(t)} (g_k(y_k(t - \tau_1)) - g_k(\alpha x_k(t - \tau_1))) \right] \\ & \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n (b_{ik} \overline{b_{ik}})^{\frac{1}{2}} u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)} + \Lambda_2^2 \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n (b_{ki} \overline{b_{ki}})^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ & \quad \times u_i(t - \tau_1) \overline{u_i(t - \tau_1)}, \quad (20) \\ & \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{m_{ik}} u_i(t) \int_{t-\tau_2}^t \overline{(h_k(y_k(s)) - h_k(\alpha x_k(s)))} ds \right. \\ & \quad \left. + m_{ik} \overline{u_i(t)} \int_{t-\tau_2}^t (h_k(y_k(s)) - h_k(\alpha x_k(s))) ds \right] \\ & \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n (m_{ik} \overline{m_{ik}})^{\frac{1}{2}} u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)} \\ & \quad + \Lambda_3^2 \tau_2^2 \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n (m_{ki} \overline{m_{ki}})^{\frac{1}{2}} u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)}. \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

According to Lemma 6 and Assumption 2, we derive

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{a_{ik}} u_i(t) \overline{(f_k(\alpha x_k(t)) - \alpha f_k(x_k(t)))} \right. \\ & \quad \left. + a_{ik} \overline{u_i(t)} (f_k(\alpha x_k(t)) - \alpha f_k(x_k(t))) \right] \\ & \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n (a_{ik} \overline{a_{ik}})^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[ u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)} \right. \\ & \quad \left. + (f_k(\alpha x_k(t)) - \alpha f_k(x_k(t))) \right. \\ & \quad \left. \times (f_k(\alpha x_k(t)) - \alpha f_k(x_k(t))) \right] \\ & \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n (a_{ik} \overline{a_{ik}})^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[ u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)} + 2(1 + \alpha \overline{\alpha}) l_1^2 \right] \\ & \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n (a_{ik} \overline{a_{ik}})^{\frac{1}{2}} u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)} \\ & \quad + 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n (a_{ik} \overline{a_{ik}})^{\frac{1}{2}} (1 + \alpha \overline{\alpha}) l_1^2. \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$



Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{b_{ik} u_i(t)} \left( \overline{g_k(\alpha x_k(t - \tau_1)) - \alpha g_k(x_k(t - \tau_1))} \right) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + b_{ik} \overline{u_i(t)} (g_k(\alpha x_k(t - \tau_1)) - \alpha g_k(x_k(t - \tau_1))) \right] \\ & \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n (b_{ik} \overline{b_{ik}})^{\frac{1}{2}} u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)} + 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n (b_{ik} \overline{b_{ik}})^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ & \quad \times (1 + \alpha \overline{\alpha}) l_2^2, \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \overline{m_{ik} u_i(t)} \int_{t-\tau_2}^t \overline{(h_k(\alpha x_k(s)) - \alpha h_k(x_k(s)))} ds \right. \\ & \quad \left. + m_{ik} \overline{u_i(t)} \int_{t-\tau_2}^t (h_k(\alpha x_k(s)) - \alpha h_k(x_k(s))) ds \right] \\ & \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n (m_{ik} \overline{m_{ik}})^{\frac{1}{2}} u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)} + 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n (m_{ik} \overline{m_{ik}})^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ & \quad \times (1 + \alpha \overline{\alpha}) l_3^2 \tau_2^2, \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ \overline{(1 - \alpha) J_i(t) u_i(t)} + (1 - \alpha) J_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)} \right] \\ & \leq 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \left( J_i(t) \overline{J_i(t)} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( (1 - \alpha) \overline{(1 - \alpha) u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ & \leq l_4 \sum_{i=1}^n u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)} + l_4 (1 - \alpha) \overline{(1 - \alpha)}. \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

Submitting (19)-(25) into (18), by fractional Razumikhin theorem [52], we can get

$$\begin{aligned} & {}^C D_t^p V_2(t) \\ & = - \sum_{i=1}^n \left\{ d_i + \overline{d_i} + 2k_i^* - l_4 - 2 \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ (a_{ik} \overline{a_{ik}})^{\frac{1}{2}} \right. \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. + (b_{ik} \overline{b_{ik}})^{\frac{1}{2}} + (m_{ik} \overline{m_{ik}})^{\frac{1}{2}} \right] - \Lambda_1^2 \sum_{k=1}^n (a_{ki} \overline{a_{ki}})^{\frac{1}{2}} \right. \\ & \quad \left. - \Lambda_3^2 \tau_2^2 \sum_{k=1}^n (m_{ki} \overline{m_{ki}})^{\frac{1}{2}} \right\} u_i(t) \overline{u_i(t)} \\ & \quad + \Lambda_2^2 \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n (b_{ki} \overline{b_{ki}})^{\frac{1}{2}} u_i(t - \tau_1) \overline{u_i(t - \tau_1)} \\ & \quad + 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n (1 + \alpha \overline{\alpha}) \left[ (a_{ik} \overline{a_{ik}})^{\frac{1}{2}} l_1^2 + (b_{ik} \overline{b_{ik}})^{\frac{1}{2}} l_2^2 \right. \\ & \quad \left. + (m_{ik} \overline{m_{ik}})^{\frac{1}{2}} l_3^2 \tau_2^2 \right] + l_4 (1 - \alpha) \overline{(1 - \alpha)} \\ & \leq -(\mu - \eta \xi) V_{21}(t) + \delta, \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

where  $\xi > 1$ , according to Lemma 4 and (26), there exists  $t_2 = t_0 + \left( \frac{\Gamma(p)}{\mu - \eta \xi} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-p}}$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} V_{21}(t) & \leq \left( V_{21}(t_0) + V_{22}(t_0) - \frac{\delta}{\mu - \eta \xi} \right) \\ & \quad \times E_p(-(\mu - \eta \xi)(t - t_0)^p) + \frac{\delta}{\mu - \eta \xi}, \\ & t \geq t_2. \end{aligned}$$

Then,

$$\|u(t)\| \leq \sqrt{B E_p(-(\mu - \eta \xi)(t - t_0)^p) + \frac{\delta}{\mu - \eta \xi}}, \quad (27)$$

where  $t \geq t_2$ ,  $B = V_{21}(t_0) + V_{22}(t_0) - \frac{\delta}{\mu - \eta \xi}$ . Finally, from Lemma 3 and (27), it could be found that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \|u(t)\| \leq \sqrt{\frac{\delta}{\mu - \eta \xi}}.$$

Therefore, systems (1) and (2) are QPS under the controller (16).

**Remark 1:** When  $\tau_1 = 0$ ,  $\tau_2 = 0$ , system (1) degenerates into a FOCVNNs, whose QPS has been studied in [42]. When  $\tau_1 \neq 0$ ,  $\tau_2 = 0$ , system (1) degenerates into a FOCVNNs with delay, the QPS has been studied in [43]. Therefore, the model used in this paper is more general.

**Remark 2:** The problem of QPS of fractional-order neural networks with adaptive controllers has not been discussed. Therefore, the research of this paper is meaningful.

**Remark 3:** In most of the existing literature, it is customary to decompose the complex-valued system into two real-valued systems for discussion, such as [39–41]. However, in this paper, the complex-valued system is discussed as a compact whole, which greatly reduces the difficulty of theoretical analysis and the complexity of calculation. Therefore, the method used in this paper is of more research significance.

**Remark 4:** In [24,25], the hybrid controllers are used, which is inconvenient and undesirable in applications. In this paper we adopt linear controllers and adaptive controllers to discuss the QPS of FOCVNNs with mixed delays, where the used methods are very convenient and applicable.

#### 4. NUMERICAL SIMULATIONS

In this section, two numerical examples are given to verify the above results.

**Example 1:** Consider the following 2-dimensional FOCVNNMD as the drive system

$$\begin{aligned} {}^C D_t^p x_i(t) & = -d_i x_i(t) + \sum_{k=1}^2 a_{ik} f_k(x_k(t)) \\ & \quad + \sum_{k=1}^2 b_{ik} g_k(x_k(t - \tau_1)) \\ & \quad + \sum_{k=1}^2 m_{ik} \int_{t-\tau_2}^t h_k(x_k(s)) ds \\ & \quad + J_i(t), \quad i = 1, 2. \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

The corresponding response system is described as

$$\begin{aligned}
{}_{t_0}^C D_i^p y_i(t) &= -d_i y_i(t) + \sum_{k=1}^2 a_{ik} f_k(y_k(t)) \\
&+ \sum_{k=1}^2 b_{ik} g_k(y_k(t - \tau_1)) \\
&+ \sum_{k=1}^2 m_{ik} \int_{t-\tau_2}^t h_k(x_k(s)) ds \\
&+ J_i(t) + v_i(t), \quad i = 1, 2. \quad (29)
\end{aligned}$$

where  $p = 0.7$ ,  $x_i(t) = m_i(t) + iq_i(t)$ ,  $m_i(t), q_i(t) \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\tau_1 = 1$ ,  $\tau_2 = 0.5$ ,

$$C = \text{diag}(c_1, c_2) = (1 + i, 1 + i),$$

$$J_i(t) = (J_1(t), J_2(t))^T = (0, 0),$$

$$A = (a_{ij})_{2 \times 2} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.2 + 0.2i & -0.1 - 0.1i \\ 0.1 + 0.1i & -0.2 - 0.2i \end{pmatrix},$$

$$B = (b_{ij})_{2 \times 2} = \begin{pmatrix} -0.5 - 0.5i & -1 - i \\ -2 - 2i & 1 + i \end{pmatrix},$$

$$M = (m_{ij})_{2 \times 2} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 + 3i & -1 - i \\ 1 + i & 2 + 2i \end{pmatrix}.$$

The linear feedback controller  $v_i(t)$  is designed as (4), choose  $k_1 = 25 + 25i$ ,  $k_2 = 30 + 30i$ ,  $\zeta = 1.2$ . The initial conditions of system (28) and (29) are selected as  $\phi_1(s) = -0.3 + 0.4i$ ,  $\phi_2(s) = 0.7 - 0.6i$ ,  $\varphi_1 = 0.9 + 0.4i$ ,  $\varphi_2(s) = 0.8 - 0.5i$ ,  $s \in [-1, 0)$ .  $f(x(t)) = g(x(t)) = h(x(t)) = \frac{1 - e^{-m_i(t)}}{1 + e^{-m_i(t)}} + i \frac{1}{1 + e^{-q_i(t)}}$ . By calculation, we have  $\Lambda_1 = \Lambda_2 = \Lambda_3 = 1$ ,  $l_1 = l_2 = l_3 = \sqrt{2}$ ,  $l_4 = 0$ ,  $\alpha = 0.3 + 0.8i$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
\varpi &= \min_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\{ d_i + k_i + \bar{d}_i + \bar{k}_i - l_4^2 - n\Lambda_1^2 - n\Lambda_3^2 \tau_2^2 \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \sum_{k=1}^n 2(a_{ik}\bar{a}_{ik} + b_{ik}\bar{b}_{ik} + m_{ik}\bar{m}_{ik}) \right\} = 9.3,
\end{aligned}$$

and  $9.3 = \varpi > n\Lambda_2^2\zeta = 2.4$ , then the condition and assumption of Theorem 1 are satisfied. Moreover, the error bounded is estimated as follows:

$$\sqrt{\frac{\vartheta}{\varpi - n\Lambda_2^2\zeta}} \approx 1.56.$$

Fig. 3 shows the state trajectory of the error system when  $\alpha = 0.3 + 0.8i$ , Fig. 4 shows the trajectory of the error norm  $\|u(t)\|$  when  $\alpha = 0.3 + 0.8i$ , illustrating that the (28)-(29) can achieve QPS under the condition of Theorem 1. The phase trajectories of real and imaginary part of system (28) are shown in Figs. 5 and 6, respectively.

**Example 2:** About the 2-dimensional FOCVNNMD given by (28) and (29), we consider the QPS of Theorem 2. Take the same system parameters as Example 1. The adaptive controller  $v_i(t)$  is designed as (17), where the initial value of  $k_i(t)$  are set as  $k_1(0) = 1 + 0.2i$ ,  $k_2(0) = 0.2 + i$ ,  $k_1^* = 25$ ,  $k_2^* = 20$ ,  $\alpha = 0.4 + 0.5i$ ,  $\xi = 1.5$ .

The initial conditions of system (28) and (29) are chosen as  $\phi_1(s) = -0.3 + 0.4i$ ,  $\phi_2(s) = 0.2 - 0.7i$ ,  $\varphi_1 =$

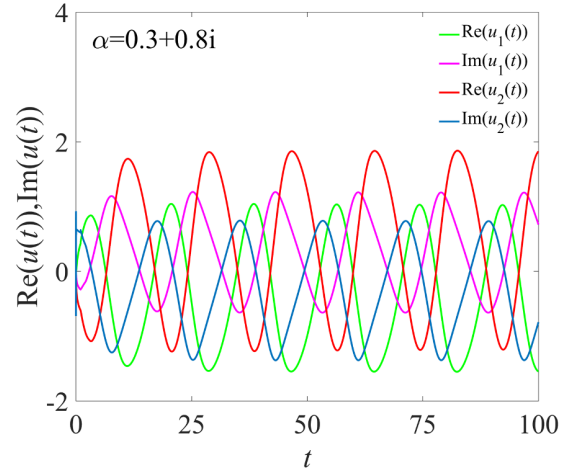


Fig. 3. The state trajectory of the error system when  $\alpha = 0.3 + 0.8i$ .

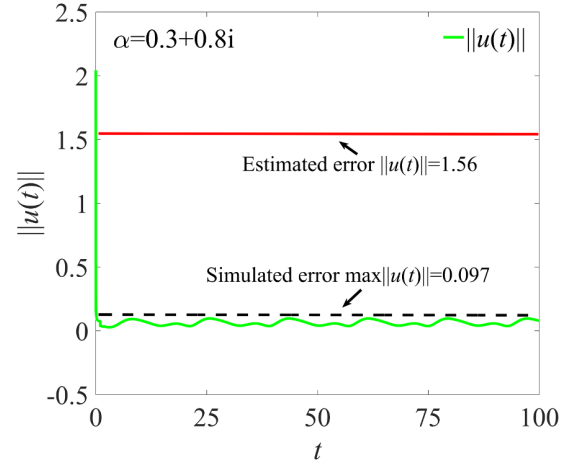


Fig. 4. The trajectory of the error norm  $\|u(t)\|$  when  $\alpha = 0.3 + 0.8i$ .

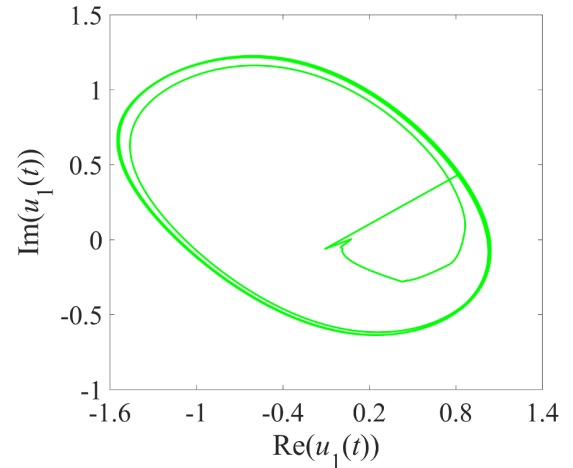


Fig. 5. The phase trajectories of real part and imaginary part of system (28).



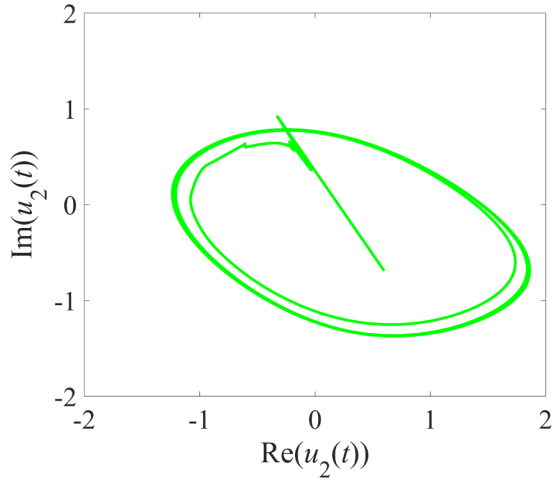


Fig. 6. The phase trajectories of real part and imaginary part of system (28).

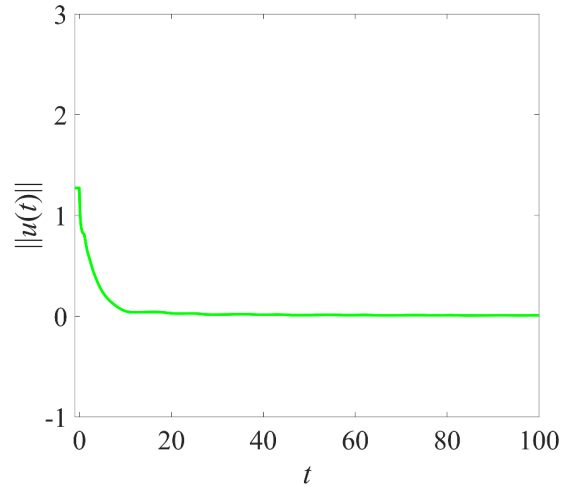


Fig. 8. The trajectory of the error norm  $\|u(t)\|$  when  $\alpha = 1$ .

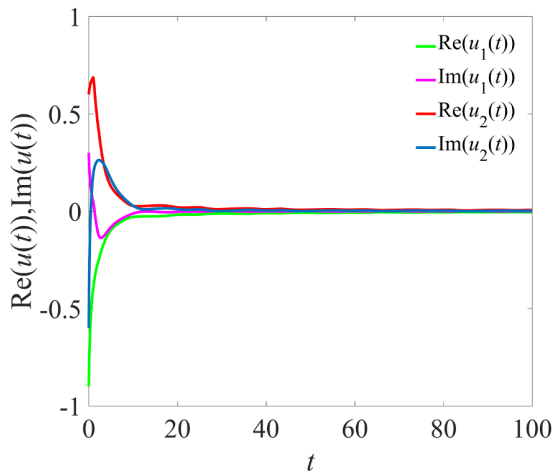


Fig. 7. The state trajectory of the error system when  $\alpha = 1$ .

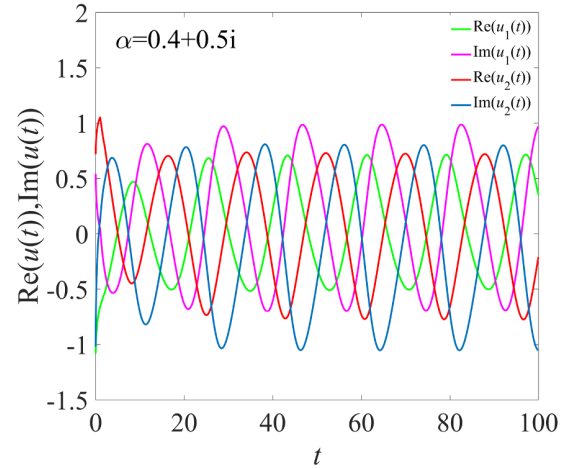


Fig. 9. The state trajectory of the error system when  $\alpha = 0.4 + 0.5i$ .

$-1.2 + 0.7i$ ,  $\varphi_2(s) = 0.8 - 1.3i$ ,  $s \in [-1, 0)$ . By calculation, we have

$$\eta = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \Lambda_2^2 \sum_{k=1}^n (b_{ki} \overline{b_{ki}})^{\frac{1}{2}} \approx 2.83,$$

$$\mu = \min_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\{ d_i + \overline{d_i} + 2k_i^* - l_4 - 2 \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ (a_{ik} \overline{a_{ik}})^{\frac{1}{2}} + (b_{ik} \overline{b_{ik}})^{\frac{1}{2}} + (m_{ik} \overline{m_{ik}})^{\frac{1}{2}} \right] - \Lambda_1^2 \sum_{k=1}^n (a_{ki} \overline{a_{ki}})^{\frac{1}{2}} - \Lambda_3^2 \tau_2^2 \sum_{k=1}^n (m_{ki} \overline{m_{ki}})^{\frac{1}{2}} \right\} \approx 22.70,$$

$22.70 = \mu > \eta \xi = 4.245$ , then the condition and assumptions of Theorem 2 are satisfied. Moreover, the error

bounded is estimated as follows:

$$\sqrt{\frac{\delta}{\mu - \eta \xi}} \approx 2.49.$$

Figs. 7 and 8 respectively show the state trajectory of the error system and the trajectory of the error norm  $\|u(t)\|$  when  $\alpha = 1$ , illustrating that the (28)-(29) can achieve quasi-complete synchronization under the condition of Theorem 2. Figs. 9 and 10 respectively show the state trajectory of the error system and the trajectory of the error norm  $\|u(t)\|$  when  $\alpha = 0.4 + 0.5i$ , illustrating that the (28)-(29) can achieve QPS synchronization under the condition of Theorem 2.

**Remark 5:** Examples 1 and 2 show that the synchronization time of linear controller is about 0.0033, while that of the adaptive controller is about 0.00014. As we

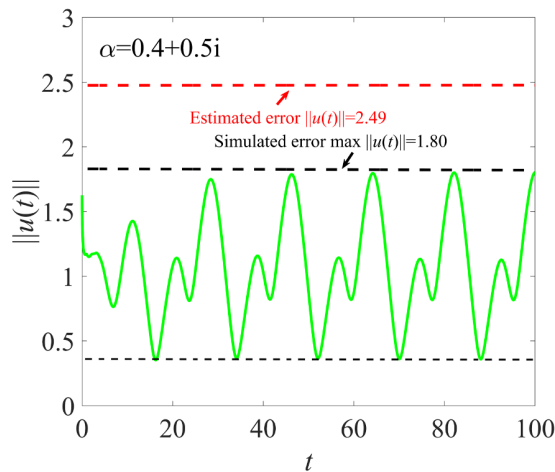


Fig. 10. The trajectory of the error norm  $\|u(t)\|$  when  $\alpha = 0.4 + 0.5i$ .

all know, the shorter the synchronization time, the better. Therefore, the synchronization effect is better under adaptive control.

**Remark 6:** The MATLAB numerical simulations in examples 1 and 2 show that the synchronization error under the linear controller tends to 0, and the simulation error upper bound is much smaller than the estimated error upper bound. However, the synchronization error of adaptive controller tends to 1. Therefore, the synchronization convergence of linear feedback controller is better.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, by constructing the Lyapunov function, using the fractional Razumikhin theorem, the properties of the Mittag-Leffler function and some inequality techniques, the sufficient conditions for the QPS of the FOCVNNs with mixed delays are obtained. The feasibility of the results are verified by two numerical simulation examples.

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