



<b>Title</b>	<b>Necessary and sufficient conditions for analysis and synthesis of markov jump linear systems with incomplete transition descriptions</b>
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## Necessary and Sufficient Conditions for Analysis and Synthesis of Markov Jump Linear Systems With Incomplete Transition Descriptions

Lixian Zhang and James Lam

**Abstract**—This technical note is concerned with exploring a new approach for the analysis and synthesis for Markov jump linear systems with incomplete transition descriptions. In the study, not all the elements of the transition rate matrices (TRMs) in continuous-time domain, or transition probability matrices (TPMs) in discrete-time domain are assumed to be known. By fully considering the properties of the TRMs and TPMs, and the convexity of the uncertain domains, necessary and sufficient criteria of stability and stabilization are obtained in both continuous and discrete time. Numerical examples are used to illustrate the results.

**Index Terms**—Markov jump linear systems, stability, stabilization.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Markov jump linear system (MJLS) is a class of multi-modal systems in which the transitions among different modes are governed by a Markov chain. The studies of these systems are motivated by the powerful modeling capability of Markov chains in practical applications, and many useful results have been obtained, see [1]–[11] for instance. The concepts of semi-Markov chain, hidden Markov chain, time-non-homogeneous Markov chain, have also been imported to the control community in recent years and have promoted many applications of MJLSs [12]–[14]. However, in most of the studies, complete knowledge of the mode transitions is required as a prerequisite for analysis and synthesis of MJLSs. This means that the transition probabilities (TPs) of the underlying Markov chain are assumed to be completely known. However, in practice, incomplete TPs are often encountered especially if adequate samples of the transitions are costly or time-consuming to obtain. Examples with such difficulties can be found in many fields, such as communication systems with delay variations and packet losses, biochemical systems with diverse changes of environmental conditions, temperature, humidity.

To relax the assumption that all the TPs are known, a new concept for MJLSs with partially unknown TPs is proposed [15] and a series of studies have been carried out [16]–[18]. The proposed systems are therefore more general, by which much more complex switching phenomena can be modeled. Meanwhile, as two extreme cases, the so-called switched systems under arbitrary switching [19], [20] and the conventional Markov jump systems are covered in the framework. However, although the works laid a conceptual foundation for analysis

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and synthesis of MJLSs, the approach developed still has room for improvement in terms of conservatism. In fact, the properties of both the transition rate matrix (TRM) in continuous-time domain and the transition probability matrix (TPM) in discrete-time domain have not been fully used.

In this technical note, a new approach will be explored for the analysis and synthesis of MJLSs with incomplete description of their transitions. Using the properties that the sum of each row is zero in a TRM or one in a TPM, together with the convexity of the uncertain domains, necessary and sufficient conditions for the stability analysis and stabilization synthesis problems are first derived for both continuous-time and discrete-time cases. The conservatism in the previous studies is eliminated by considering the fact that the unknown elements of each row in TRM or TPM form a polytope. Moreover, for the continuous-time case, the difficulty that the unknown elements contain diagonal elements is also overcome by introducing a lower bound of the diagonal element without additional conservatism. The rest of the technical note is organized as follows. We formulate the considered systems in Section II. Section III is devoted to the issue of stability and stabilization for the system in both continuous-time and discrete-time cases. Numerical examples are provided to demonstrate the theoretical findings. The technical note is concluded in Section IV.

*Notation:* The notation used in this technical note is standard. The superscript “ $T$ ” stands for matrix transposition,  $\mathbb{R}^n$  denotes the  $n$ -dimensional Euclidean space;  $\mathbb{N}^+$  represents the sets of positive integers, respectively. For the notation  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{P})$ ,  $\Omega$  represents the sample space,  $\mathcal{F}$  is the  $\sigma$ -algebra of subsets of the sample space and  $\mathcal{P}$  is the probability measure on  $\mathcal{F}$ .  $E[\cdot]$  stands for the mathematical expectation. In addition, in symmetric block matrices or long matrix expressions, we use  $*$  as an ellipsis for the terms that are introduced by symmetry and  $\text{diag}\{M_1, M_2, \dots, M_N\}$  stands for a block-diagonal matrix constituted by  $M_1, M_2, \dots, M_N$ . The notation  $P > 0$  ( $\geq 0$ ) means  $P$  is real symmetric positive (semi-positive) definite, and  $M_i$  is adopted to denote  $M(i)$  for brevity.  $I$  and  $0$  represent respectively, identity matrix and zero matrix. Matrices, if their dimensions are not explicitly stated, are assumed to be compatible for algebraic operations.

## II. PRELIMINARIES

Given the probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{P})$  and consider the following continuous-time and discrete-time MJLS, respectively:

$$\dot{x}(t) = A(r_t)x(t) + B(r_t)u(t) \quad (1)$$

and

$$x(k+1) = A(r_k)x(k) + B(r_k)u(k) \quad (2)$$

where  $x(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  (respectively,  $x(k)$ ) is the state vector and  $u(t) \in \mathbb{R}^l$  (respectively,  $u(k)$ ) is the control input. The stochastic process  $\{r_t, t \geq 0\}$  (respectively, the Markov chain  $\{r_k, k \geq 0\}$ ), taking values in a finite set  $\mathcal{I} \triangleq \{1, \dots, N\}$ , governs the switching among the different system modes. In the continuous-time MJLS,  $\{r_t, t \geq 0\}$  is a continuous-time, discrete-state homogeneous Markov process and has the following mode transition probabilities:

$$\Pr(r_{t+h} = j | r_t = i) = \begin{cases} \lambda_{ij}h + o(h), & \text{if } j \neq i \\ 1 + \lambda_{ii}h + o(h), & \text{if } j = i \end{cases}$$

where  $h > 0$ ,  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (o(h)/h) = 0$  and  $\lambda_{ij} \geq 0$  ( $i, j \in \mathcal{I}, j \neq i$ ) denotes the switching rate from mode  $i$  at time  $t$  to mode  $j$  at time  $t+h$ , and  $\lambda_{ii} = -\sum_{j=1, j \neq i} \lambda_{ij}$  for all  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ . Hence, the transition rate matrix (TRM) in the Markov process is given by

$$\mathbf{\Lambda} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_{11} & \lambda_{12} & \cdots & \lambda_{1N} \\ \lambda_{21} & \lambda_{22} & \cdots & \lambda_{2N} \\ & & \ddots & \\ \lambda_{N1} & \lambda_{N2} & \cdots & \lambda_{NN} \end{bmatrix}.$$

For the discrete-time case, the process  $\{r_k, k \geq 0\}$  is described by a discrete-time homogeneous Markov chain, which takes values in finite set  $\mathcal{I}$  with mode transition probabilities

$$\Pr(r_{k+1} = j | r_k = i) = \pi_{ij}$$

where  $\pi_{ij} \geq 0, \forall i, j \in \mathcal{I}$ , and  $\sum_{j=1}^N \pi_{ij} = 1$ . Likewise, the transition probability matrix (TPM) is given by

$$\mathbf{\Pi} = \begin{bmatrix} \pi_{11} & \pi_{12} & \cdots & \pi_{1N} \\ \pi_{21} & \pi_{22} & \cdots & \pi_{2N} \\ & & \ddots & \\ \pi_{N1} & \pi_{N2} & \cdots & \pi_{NN} \end{bmatrix}.$$

The set  $\mathcal{I}$  contains  $N$  modes of system (1) (or system (2)) and for  $r_t = i \in \mathcal{I}$  (respectively,  $r_k = i$ ), the system matrices of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  mode are denoted by  $A_i, B_i, C_i, D_i, E_i, F_i$ , which are real and known.

The transition rates or probabilities described above are considered to be partially available, that is, some elements in matrix  $\mathbf{\Lambda}$  or  $\mathbf{\Pi}$  are unknown. Take system (1) or system (2) with 4 operation modes for example, the TRM  $\mathbf{\Lambda}$  or TPM  $\mathbf{\Pi}$  may be written as

$$\begin{bmatrix} \lambda_{11} & \hat{\lambda}_{12} & \lambda_{13} & \hat{\lambda}_{14} \\ \hat{\lambda}_{21} & \hat{\lambda}_{22} & \hat{\lambda}_{23} & \lambda_{24} \\ \hat{\lambda}_{31} & \lambda_{32} & \lambda_{33} & \hat{\lambda}_{34} \\ \hat{\lambda}_{41} & \hat{\lambda}_{42} & \lambda_{43} & \lambda_{44} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} \pi_{11} & \hat{\pi}_{12} & \pi_{13} & \hat{\pi}_{14} \\ \hat{\pi}_{21} & \hat{\pi}_{22} & \hat{\pi}_{23} & \pi_{24} \\ \pi_{31} & \hat{\pi}_{32} & \pi_{33} & \hat{\pi}_{34} \\ \hat{\pi}_{41} & \hat{\pi}_{42} & \pi_{43} & \pi_{44} \end{bmatrix}$$

where each unknown element is labeled with a hat “ $\hat{\cdot}$ ”

For convenience,  $\forall i \in \mathcal{I}$ , we denote

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} &\triangleq \{j : \lambda_{ij} \text{ (or } \pi_{ij}) \text{ is known}\}, \\ \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{U}\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} &\triangleq \{j : \lambda_{ij} \text{ (or } \pi_{ij}) \text{ is unknown}\} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

In addition, if  $\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} \neq \emptyset$ ,  $\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}$  is further described as

$$\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} = \{\mathcal{K}_1, \mathcal{K}_2, \dots, \mathcal{K}_{m_i}\}, \quad m_i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N-2\} \quad (4)$$

where  $\mathcal{K}_s \in \mathbb{N}^+$ ,  $s \in \{1, 2, \dots, m_i\}$ , represents the index of the  $s^{\text{th}}$  known element in the  $i^{\text{th}}$  row of matrix  $\mathbf{\Lambda}$  or  $\mathbf{\Pi}$ . Also, throughout the technical note, we denote

$$\lambda_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} \triangleq \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}} \lambda_{ij}, \quad \pi_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} \triangleq \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}} \pi_{ij}.$$

In the continuous-time case, when  $\hat{\lambda}_{ii}$  is unknown, it is necessary to provide a lower bound  $\lambda_d^{(i)}$  for it and we have  $\lambda_d^{(i)} \leq -\lambda_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}$ .

*Remark 1:* The case  $m_i = N-1, \forall i \in \mathcal{I}$ , is excluded in (4), which means if we have only one unknown element, one can naturally calculate it from the known elements in each row and the TRM or TPM property.

For MJLSs, the following stability definition will be used [1], [2].

*Definition 1:* System (1) (respectively, (2)) is said to be stochastically stable if for  $u(t) \equiv 0$  (respectively,  $u(k) \equiv 0$ ) and every initial condition  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $r_0 \in \mathcal{I}$ , the following holds:

$$\begin{aligned} &E \left\{ \int_0^\infty \|x(t)\|^2 | x_0, r_0 \right\} < \infty \\ &\left( \text{respectively, } E \left\{ \sum_{k=0}^\infty \|x(k)\|^2 | x_0, r_0 \right\} < \infty \right). \end{aligned}$$

### III. STABILITY AND STABILIZATION

In this section, we will derive the stochastic stability criteria for system (1) and system (2) when the transition rates or probabilities are partially unknown, and to design a state-feedback stabilizing controller such that the closed-loop system is stochastically stable. The mode-dependent controller considered here has the form

$$u(t) = K(r_t)x(t) \quad (\text{respectively, } u(k) = K(r_k)x(k)) \quad (5)$$

where  $K_i$  ( $\forall r_t = i \in \mathcal{I}$ , or  $r_k = i \in \mathcal{I}$ ) are the controller gains to be determined. First, we provide the following preliminary stability results for MJLSs with completely known TRM or TPM.

*Lemma 1 ([1]):* System (1) (with  $u(t) \equiv 0$ ) is stochastically stable if and only if there exists a set of positive-definite matrices  $P_i$ ,  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ , satisfying

$$A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i + \mathcal{P}^{(i)} < 0 \quad (6)$$

where  $\mathcal{P}^{(i)} \triangleq \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}} \lambda_{ij} P_j$ .

*Lemma 2 ([2]):* System (2) (with  $u(k) \equiv 0$ ) is stochastically stable if and only if there exists a set of positive-definite matrices  $P_i$ ,  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ , satisfying

$$A_i^T \mathcal{P}^{(i)} A_i - P_i < 0 \quad (7)$$

where  $\mathcal{P}^{(i)} \triangleq \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}} \pi_{ij} P_j$ .

#### A. Continuous-Time Case

Let us first give the stability result for the unforced system (1) (with  $u(t) \equiv 0$ ). The following theorem presents a necessary and sufficient condition on the stochastic stability of the considered system with partially unknown transition rates.

*Theorem 1:* Consider unforced system (1) with partially unknown transition rates. The corresponding system is stochastically stable if and only if there exists a set of matrices  $P_i > 0$ ,  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ , such that,  $\forall i \in \mathcal{I}$

$$A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i + \mathcal{P}_K^{(i)} - \lambda_K^{(i)} P_j < 0, \quad \forall j \in \mathcal{I}_{UK}^{(i)}, \quad \text{if } i \in \mathcal{I}_K^{(i)} \quad (8)$$

$$A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i + \mathcal{P}_K^{(i)} + \lambda_d^{(i)} P_i - \lambda_d^{(i)} P_j - \lambda_K^{(i)} P_j < 0, \quad \forall j \in \mathcal{I}_{UK}^{(i)}, \quad \text{if } i \in \mathcal{I}_{UK}^{(i)} \quad (9)$$

where  $\mathcal{P}_K^{(i)} \triangleq \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}_K^{(i)}} \lambda_{ij} P_j$  and  $\lambda_d^{(i)}$  is a given lower bound for the unknown diagonal element.

*Proof:* We shall separate the proof into two cases,  $i \in \mathcal{I}_K^{(i)}$  and  $i \in \mathcal{I}_{UK}^{(i)}$ , and bear in mind that system (1) is stochastically stable if and only if (6) holds.

1) Case 1:  $i \in \mathcal{I}_K^{(i)}$ .

It should be first noted that in this case one has  $\lambda_K^{(i)} \leq 0$ . We only need to consider  $\lambda_K^{(i)} < 0$  here since  $\lambda_K^{(i)} = 0$  means the elements in the  $i^{\text{th}}$  row of the TRM are known.

Now we rewrite the left-hand side of (6) as

$$\begin{aligned} \Theta_i &\triangleq A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i + \mathcal{P}_K^{(i)} + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}_{UK}^{(i)}} \hat{\lambda}_{ij} P_j \\ &= A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i + \mathcal{P}_K^{(i)} - \lambda_K^{(i)} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}_{UK}^{(i)}} \frac{\hat{\lambda}_{ij}}{-\lambda_K^{(i)}} P_j \end{aligned}$$

where the elements  $\hat{\lambda}_{ij}$ ,  $\forall j \in \mathcal{I}_{UK}^{(i)}$ , are unknown. Since we have  $0 \leq (\hat{\lambda}_{ij} / -\lambda_K^{(i)}) \leq 1$  and  $\sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}_{UK}^{(i)}} (\hat{\lambda}_{ij} / -\lambda_K^{(i)}) = 1$ , we know that

$$\Theta_i = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}_{UK}^{(i)}} \frac{\hat{\lambda}_{ij}}{-\lambda_K^{(i)}} \left[ A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i + \mathcal{P}_K^{(i)} - \lambda_K^{(i)} P_j \right].$$

Therefore, for  $0 \leq \hat{\lambda}_{ij} \leq -\lambda_K^{(i)}$ ,  $\Theta_i < 0$  is equivalent to  $A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i + \mathcal{P}_K^{(i)} - \lambda_K^{(i)} P_j < 0$ ,  $\forall j \in \mathcal{I}_{UK}^{(i)}$ , which implies that, in the presence of unknown elements  $\hat{\lambda}_{ij}$ , the system stability is ensured if and only if (8) holds.

2) Case 2:  $i \in \mathcal{I}_{UK}^{(i)}$ .

In this case,  $\hat{\lambda}_{ii}$  is unknown,  $\lambda_K^{(i)} \geq 0$  and  $\hat{\lambda}_{ii} \leq -\lambda_K^{(i)}$ . Also, we only consider  $\hat{\lambda}_{ii} < -\lambda_K^{(i)}$  here since if  $\hat{\lambda}_{ii} = -\lambda_K^{(i)}$ , then the  $i^{\text{th}}$  row of the TRM is completely known.

Now the left-hand side of the stability condition in (6) can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} \Theta_i &= A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i + \mathcal{P}_K^{(i)} + \hat{\lambda}_{ii} P_i + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}_{UK}^{(i)}, j \neq i} \hat{\lambda}_{ij} P_j \\ &= A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i + \mathcal{P}_K^{(i)} + \hat{\lambda}_{ii} P_i \\ &\quad + \left( -\hat{\lambda}_{ii} - \lambda_K^{(i)} \right) \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}_{UK}^{(i)}, j \neq i} \frac{\hat{\lambda}_{ij}}{-\hat{\lambda}_{ii} - \lambda_K^{(i)}} P_j. \end{aligned}$$

Likewise, since we have  $0 \leq (\hat{\lambda}_{ij} / -\hat{\lambda}_{ii} - \lambda_K^{(i)}) \leq 1$  and  $\sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}_{UK}^{(i)}, j \neq i} (\hat{\lambda}_{ij} / -\hat{\lambda}_{ii} - \lambda_K^{(i)}) = 1$ , we know that

$$\begin{aligned} \Theta_i &= \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}_{UK}^{(i)}, j \neq i} \frac{\hat{\lambda}_{ij}}{-\hat{\lambda}_{ii} - \lambda_K^{(i)}} \left[ A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i + \mathcal{P}_K^{(i)} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \hat{\lambda}_{ii} P_i - \hat{\lambda}_{ii} P_j - \lambda_K^{(i)} P_j \right] \end{aligned}$$

which means that  $\Theta_i < 0$  is equivalent to  $\forall j \in \mathcal{I}_{UK}^{(i)}, j \neq i$

$$A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i + \mathcal{P}_K^{(i)} + \hat{\lambda}_{ii} P_i - \hat{\lambda}_{ii} P_j - \lambda_K^{(i)} P_j < 0. \quad (10)$$

As  $\hat{\lambda}_{ii}$  is lower bounded by  $\lambda_d^{(i)}$ , we have

$$\lambda_d^{(i)} \leq \hat{\lambda}_{ii} < -\lambda_K^{(i)}$$

which implies that  $\hat{\lambda}_{ii}$  may take any value between  $[\lambda_d^{(i)}, -\lambda_K^{(i)} + \epsilon]$  for some  $\epsilon < 0$  arbitrarily small. Then  $\hat{\lambda}_{ii}$  can be further written as a convex combination

$$\hat{\lambda}_{ii} = -\alpha \lambda_K^{(i)} + \alpha \epsilon + (1 - \alpha) \lambda_d^{(i)}$$

where  $\alpha$  takes value arbitrarily in  $[0, 1]$ . Thus, (10) holds if and only if  $\forall j \in \mathcal{I}_{UK}^{(i)}, j \neq i$

$$A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i + \mathcal{P}_K^{(i)} - \lambda_K^{(i)} P_i + \lambda_K^{(i)} P_j - \lambda_K^{(i)} P_j + \epsilon (P_i - P_j) < 0 \quad (11)$$

and

$$A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i + \mathcal{P}_K^{(i)} + \lambda_d^{(i)} P_i - \lambda_d^{(i)} P_j - \lambda_K^{(i)} P_j < 0 \quad (12)$$

simultaneously hold. Since  $\epsilon$  is arbitrarily small, (11) holds if and only if

$$A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i + \mathcal{P}_K^{(i)} - \lambda_K^{(i)} P_i < 0$$

which is the case in (12) when  $j = i$ ,  $\forall j \in \mathcal{I}_{UK}^{(i)}$ . Hence (10) is equivalent to (9).

Therefore, in the presence of unknown elements in the TRM, one can readily conclude that the system is stable if and only if (8) and (9) hold for  $i \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}$  and  $i \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{U}\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}$ , respectively.  $\square$

*Remark 2:* The stability criterion developed in Theorem 1 is less conservative than the one obtained in [15]. More specifically, in Theorem 1 of [15], if  $i \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}$ , the conditions are

$$\begin{cases} (1 + \lambda_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}) (A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i) + \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} < 0 \\ A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i + P_j \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

which, since  $\lambda_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} < 0$ , ensure

$$(1 + \lambda_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}) (A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i) + \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} - \lambda_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} (A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i + P_j) < 0$$

which is (8). Also, if  $i \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{U}\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}$ , the criteria in Theorem 1 of [15] are

$$\begin{cases} (1 + \lambda_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}) (A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i) + \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} < 0 \\ A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i + P_j \geq 0, & \forall j \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{U}\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}, \quad j = i \\ A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i + P_j \leq 0, & \forall j \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{U}\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}, \quad j \neq i. \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

In this case, since  $\lambda_d^{(i)} < 0$  and  $-\lambda_d^{(i)} - \lambda_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} > 0$ , we have

$$(1 + \lambda_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}) (A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i) + \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} + \lambda_d^{(i)} (A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i + P_i) + (-\lambda_d^{(i)} - \lambda_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}) (A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i + P_j) < 0$$

which guarantees

$$A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i + \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} + \lambda_d^{(i)} P_i - \lambda_d^{(i)} P_j - \lambda_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} P_j < 0, \quad \forall j \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{U}\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}$$

Therefore, the conditions (8), (9) are less conservative than (13). Note that the obtained conditions are without loss of generality since the lower bound,  $\lambda_d^{(i)}$ , of  $\lambda_i$  is allowed to be arbitrarily negative.

Now let us consider the stabilization problem of system (1) in the presence of unknown elements in the TRM. The following theorem presents a necessary and sufficient criterion for the existence of a mode-dependent stabilizing controller of the form in (5).

*Theorem 2:* Consider system (1) with partially unknown transition rates. If there exist matrices  $X_i > 0$  and  $Y_i, \forall i \in \mathcal{I}$  such that

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Lambda_i + \lambda_{ii} X_i & \mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} & \sqrt{-\lambda_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}} X_i \\ * & -\mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} & 0 \\ * & * & -X_j \end{bmatrix} < 0, \quad \forall j \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{U}\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}, \quad \text{if } i \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} \quad (14)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Lambda_i + \lambda_d^{(i)} X_i & \mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} & \sqrt{-\lambda_d^{(i)} - \lambda_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}} X_i \\ * & -\mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} & 0 \\ * & * & -X_j \end{bmatrix} < 0, \quad \forall j \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{U}\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}, \quad \text{if } i \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{U}\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} \quad (15)$$

where  $\Lambda_i \triangleq A_i X_i + X_i A_i^T + B_i Y_i + Y_i^T B_i^T$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} &\triangleq \text{diag} [X_{\mathcal{K}_1}, \dots, X_{\mathcal{K}_{m_i}}], \\ \mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} &\triangleq [\sqrt{\lambda_{i\mathcal{K}_1}} X_i, \dots, \sqrt{\lambda_{i\mathcal{K}_{m_i}}} X_i] \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

and  $\forall s \in \{1, 2, \dots, m_i\}$ ,  $\mathcal{K}_s$  is described in (4),  $\mathcal{K}_s \neq i$ , then there exists a mode-dependent stabilizing controller of the form in (5) such that the closed-loop system is stochastically stable. Moreover, if the LMIs in (14), (15) have a solution, an admissible controller gain is given by

$$K_i = Y_i X_i^{-1}. \quad (17)$$

*Proof:* Consider system (1) with the control input (5) and replace  $A_i$  by  $A_i + B_i K_i$  in (8), (9), respectively. Then, if  $i \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}$ , performing a congruence transformation to (8) by  $P_i^{-1}$ , we can obtain

$$(A_i + B_i K_i) P_i^{-1} + P_i^{-1} (A_i + B_i K_i)^T + P_i^{-1} \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} P_i^{-1} - P_i^{-1} \lambda_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} P_j P_i^{-1} < 0. \quad (18)$$

Setting  $X_i \triangleq P_i^{-1}$ ,  $Y_i \triangleq K_i X_i$  and considering (16), by Schur complement, one can obtain that (18) is equivalent to (14). In a similar way, if  $i \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{U}\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}$ , (15) can be worked out from (9). Meanwhile, due to  $Y_i = K_i X_i$ , the desired controller gain is given by (17).  $\square$

*Remark 3:* It is noted from (15) that if the diagonal elements in the TRM contain unknown ones, the system stability, the existence of the admissible controller and the controller gains solution will be dependent on  $\lambda_d^{(i)}$ . This dependency, therefore, will reduce the conservatism existed in the previous “ $\lambda_d^{(i)}$ -independent” results obtained in [15].

## B. Discrete-Time Case

The following theorem presents a necessary and sufficient condition on the stochastic stability of the unforced system (2) with partially unknown transition probabilities.

*Theorem 3:* Consider the unforced system (2) with partially unknown transition probabilities. The corresponding system is stochastically stable if and only if there exists a set of matrices  $P_i > 0$ ,  $i \in \mathcal{I}$  such that

$$A_i^T \left( \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} + (1 - \pi_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}) P_j \right) A_i - P_i < 0, \quad \forall j \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} \quad (19)$$

where  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} \triangleq \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}} \pi_{ij} P_j$ .

*Proof:* It should be first noted that  $\pi_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} \leq 1$  in the discrete-time case, and we exclude  $\pi_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} = 1$  here since it means that all the elements in the  $i^{\text{th}}$  row are known.

Now the left-hand side of stability condition (7) in Lemma 2 can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi_i &\triangleq A_i^T \left( \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{U}\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}} \hat{\pi}_{ij} P_j \right) A_i - P_i \\ &= A_i^T \left( \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} + (1 - \pi_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}) \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{U}\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}} \frac{\hat{\pi}_{ij}}{1 - \pi_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}} P_j \right) A_i - P_i \end{aligned}$$

where the elements  $\hat{\pi}_{ij}$ ,  $j \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{U}\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}$ , are unknown. Since  $0 \leq (\hat{\pi}_{ij}/1 - \pi_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}) \leq 1$ ,  $\forall j \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{U}\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}$  and  $\sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{U}\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}} (\hat{\pi}_{ij}/1 - \pi_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}) = 1$ , we know that

$$\Psi_i = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{U}\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}} \frac{\hat{\pi}_{ij}}{1 - \pi_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}} \left[ A_i^T \left( \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} + (1 - \pi_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}) P_j \right) A_i - P_i \right]$$

Therefore, for  $0 \leq \hat{\pi}_{ij} \leq 1 - \pi_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}$ ,  $\Psi_i < 0$  is equivalent to  $A_i^T (\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} + (1 - \pi_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}) P_j) A_i - P_i < 0, \forall j \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{U}\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}$ , which implies that, in the presence of unknown elements  $\hat{\pi}_{ij}$ , the system stability is ensured if and only if (19) holds.  $\square$

*Remark 4:* Analogous to Remark 2 for the continuous-time case, the necessary and sufficient criterion developed in Theorem 3 is also less conservative when compared with Theorem 3 in [15], where the stability conditions are given by

$$\begin{aligned} A_i^T \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} A_i - \pi_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} P_i &< 0 \\ A_i^T P_j A_i - P_i &< 0, \quad \forall j \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{U}\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}. \end{aligned}$$

The inequalities yield

$$A_i^T P_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} A_i - \pi_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} P_i + \left(1 - \pi_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}\right) \left(A_i^T P_j A_i - P_i\right) < 0, \quad \forall j \in \mathcal{I}_{U\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}$$

which is (19). Therefore, combined with Remark 1, it is seen that the approach adopted in Theorems 1 and 3 in this technical note, which uses the TRM or TPM property (the sum of all the elements in each row is zero or one), gives the necessary and sufficient criteria and are less conservative than the existing results.

Now consider the system (2) with control input  $u(k)$ , the following theorem presents a condition for the existence of a mode-dependent stabilizing controller with the form in (5).

**Theorem 4:** Consider system (2) with partially unknown transition probabilities. If there exist matrices  $X_i > 0$  and  $Y_i, \forall i \in \mathcal{I}$  such that

$$\begin{bmatrix} -X_i & \left[\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}(A_i X_i + B_i Y_i)\right]^T \\ * & -\mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} \end{bmatrix} < 0 \quad (20)$$

where

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} \triangleq \left[ \sqrt{\pi_{i\mathcal{K}_1}} I, \dots, \sqrt{\pi_{i\mathcal{K}_{m_i}}} I, \sqrt{1 - \pi_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}} I \right]^T \quad (21)$$

$$\mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} \triangleq \text{diag} [X_{\mathcal{K}_1}, \dots, X_{\mathcal{K}_{m_i}}, X_j], \quad j \in \mathcal{I}_{U\mathcal{K}}^{(i)} \quad (22)$$

and  $\forall s \in \{1, 2, \dots, m_i\}$ ,  $\mathcal{K}_s$  is described in (4), then there exists a mode-dependent stabilizing controller of the form in (5) such that the closed-loop system is stochastically stable. Moreover, if the LMIs in (20) have a solution, an admissible controller gain is given by (17).

*Proof:* First of all, by Theorem 3, we know that system (2) is stochastically stable with partially unknown transition probabilities if the inequality (19) holds. By Schur complement, (19) is equivalent to

$$\begin{bmatrix} -P_i & * & * & * & * & * \\ \sqrt{\pi_{i\mathcal{K}_1}} P_{\mathcal{K}_1} A_i & -P_{\mathcal{K}_1} & * & * & * & * \\ \sqrt{\pi_{i\mathcal{K}_2}} P_{\mathcal{K}_2} A_i & 0 & -P_{\mathcal{K}_2} & * & * & * \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & * & * \\ \sqrt{\pi_{i\mathcal{K}_{m_i}}} P_{\mathcal{K}_{m_i}} A_i & 0 & 0 & \cdots & -P_{\mathcal{K}_{m_i}} & * \\ \sqrt{1 - \pi_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}} P_j A_i & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & -P_j \end{bmatrix} < 0. \quad (23)$$

Now, consider the system with the control input (5) and replace  $A_i$  by  $A_i + B_i K_i$  in (23). Setting  $X_i \triangleq P_i^{-1}$ , performing a congruence transformation to (23) by  $\text{diag}[X_i, \mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}]$  and applying the change of variable  $Y_i \triangleq K_i X_i$ , we can readily obtain (20). Therefore, if (20) holds, (19) will be satisfied in Theorem 3, that is, the underlying system is stochastically stable. Meanwhile, due to  $Y_i = K_i X_i$ , the desired controller gain is given by (17).  $\square$

**Remark 5:** In contrast with the continuous-time case, the discrete-time case is relatively simpler since all the elements in the TPM are nonnegative and we need not distinguish the cases of diagonal elements known or unknown.

**Remark 6:** It is noted that an interesting conclusion can be directly drawn from Theorem 1 and Theorem 3. That is, when all the elements in the TRM or TPM are unknown, the underlying systems are subject to switchings without known statistics. This leads to the so-called deterministic switched systems under arbitrary switchings (see [19], [20] for continuous-time and discrete-time case, respectively). We can therefore obtain the necessary and sufficient stability criterion of such switched systems in continuous-time and discrete-time cases, respectively. More specifically, in the discrete-time case, we have the stability condition is  $A_i^T P_j A_i - P_i < 0, \forall i \times j \in \mathcal{I} \times \mathcal{I}$ , which is reduced from (19) when all the elements in the TPM are unknown. Likewise, for the

TABLE I  
CONTROLLERS FOR TRM (25)

Results	Controller Gains
Theorem 2	$K_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -0.47 & -0.53 \end{bmatrix}$
	$K_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -0.17 & 0.64 \end{bmatrix}$
	$K_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -0.33 & -0.14 \end{bmatrix}$
Theorem 2 in [15]	Infeasible

continuous-time case, if all the elements in the TRM are unknown, the conditions leads to (9) only and it reduces to

$$A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i + \lambda_d^{(i)} (P_i - P_j) < 0, \quad (24)$$

Since  $\lambda_d^{(i)}$  can be arbitrarily negative, inequality (24) requires  $P_i = P_j \equiv P$  which leads to the condition

$$A_i^T P + P A_i < 0, \quad \forall i \times j \in \mathcal{I} \times \mathcal{I}.$$

C. Numerical Examples

The validity and the reduction of conservatism of the results obtained above are verified by the following numerical examples.

**Example 1:** Consider MJLS (1) with three operation modes and the following system matrices:

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 &= \begin{bmatrix} -0.50 & -0.75 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, & A_2 &= \begin{bmatrix} -2.4 & -0.33 \\ 1 & -1.4 \end{bmatrix}, \\ A_3 &= \begin{bmatrix} -0.20 & 0.1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, & B_1 &= \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \\ B_2 &= \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, & B_3 &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Assume the TRM is given by

$$TRM = \begin{array}{c|ccc} \text{Mode} & 1 & 3 & 4 \\ \hline 1 & -1.3 & \hat{\lambda}_{12} & \hat{\lambda}_{13} \\ 2 & 0.7 & -1.2 & 0.5 \\ 3 & \hat{\lambda}_{31} & \hat{\lambda}_{32} & -0.5 \end{array} \quad (25)$$

where  $\hat{\lambda}_{ij}, \forall i \times j \in \mathcal{I} \times \mathcal{I}_{U\mathcal{K}}^{(i)}$  denote the unknown elements.

The purpose of this example is to verify the reduced conservatism of the obtained results in the continuous-time case. First, one can check that the open loop system is unstable by both Theorem 1 in the technical note and Theorem 1 in [15]. Then, based on Theorem 2 in the technical note, we obtain the controller gains for the system as shown in Table I. However, it is verified that the stabilization criterion developed previously cannot yield a feasible solution of the controller, which shows that the developed approach in the technical note is less conservative.

Notice that in Example 1, all the diagonal elements of  $TRM$  (25) are known. Now we further provide another example with unknown diagonal elements in the TRM to illustrate the dependency of controller design on the lower bound  $\lambda_d^{(i)}$  of the corresponding unknown diagonal element.

**Example 2:** Consider MJLS (1) with four operation modes and the following system matrices:

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 &= \begin{bmatrix} -15 & -7.5 \\ 10 & 10 \end{bmatrix}, & A_2 &= \begin{bmatrix} 2.4 & -3.3 \\ 10 & 14 \end{bmatrix}, \\ A_3 &= \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 10 & 10 \end{bmatrix}, & A_4 &= \begin{bmatrix} 10 & -2.3 \\ 10 & -11 \end{bmatrix}, \\ B_1 &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, & B_2 &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, & B_3 &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}, & B_4 &= \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

TABLE II  
CONTROLLERS FOR TRM (26)

Results	Solutions of controller gains
Theorem 2 ( $\lambda_d^{(2)} = -1$ )	$K_1 = [ -60.69 \quad -119.67 ]$ , $K_2 = [ -1.02 \quad 0.07 ] \times 10^3$ , $K_3 = [ 96.36 \quad 81.97 ]$ , $K_4 = [ 72.16 \quad 25.86 ]$
Theorem 2 ( $\lambda_d^{(2)} = -1.5$ )	$K_1 = [ -132.19 \quad -219.41 ]$ , $K_2 = [ -1.78 \quad 0.13 ] \times 10^3$ , $K_3 = [ 169.73 \quad 145.87 ]$ , $K_4 = [ 115.47 \quad 36.99 ]$
Theorem 2 ( $\lambda_d^{(2)} = -2.5$ )	Infeasible
Theorem 2 in [15]	Infeasible

The TRM is given by

Mode	1	2	3	4
1	-1.3	0.2	$\hat{\lambda}_{13}$	$\hat{\lambda}_{14}$
2	$\hat{\lambda}_{21}$	$\hat{\lambda}_{22}$	0.5	0.5
3	0.1	$\hat{\lambda}_{32}$	-2.5	$\hat{\lambda}_{34}$
4	0.4	0.2	0.6	-1.2

In the 2nd row of  $TRM$  (26), the diagonal element  $\hat{\lambda}_{22}$  is unknown, we assign its lower bound  $\lambda_d^{(2)}$  a priori with different values. It can be checked that the open-loop system is unstable based on Theorem 1 in [15], or Theorem 1 in this technical note for any  $\lambda_d^{(2)} \in (-\infty, -1]$ . Then, by Theorem 2 in [15] and Theorem 2 in the technical note with different  $\lambda_d^{(2)}$ , we obtain the controller gains as shown in Table II.

It is seen from Table II that the obtained controller gains are dependent on  $\lambda_d^{(2)}$ . By applying the bisection method with the conditions in Theorem 2, one can further obtain the minimal value of  $\lambda_d^{(2)}$ , below which the stabilizing controller will not exist (here we get  $\hat{\lambda}_d^{(2)} = -2.2758$  by some standard numerical software). It is also worth mentioning here that, for some systems, one may obtain that the controller solution is independent on the bound of diagonal elements, as the system in Example 1 of [15] shows that the controller exists despite that  $\hat{\lambda}_{22}$  is unknown and has no given lower bound.

*Example 3:* Consider MJLS (2) with four operation modes and the following system matrices:

$$\begin{aligned}
 A_1 &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1.25 \\ 2.5 & -2.5 \end{bmatrix}, & A_2 &= \begin{bmatrix} 0.25 & -0.83 \\ 2.5 & -3.5 \end{bmatrix}, \\
 A_3 &= \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 & -0.25 \\ 2.5 & -3.0 \end{bmatrix}, & A_4 &= \begin{bmatrix} 1.5 & -0.56 \\ 2.5 & -2.75 \end{bmatrix}, \\
 B_1 &= \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, & B_2 &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, & B_3 &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, & B_4 &= \begin{bmatrix} 0.8 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, the TPM is given by

Mode	1	4	3	4
1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4
2	$\hat{\pi}_{21}$	0.2	0.3	$\hat{\pi}_{24}$
3	$\hat{\pi}_{31}$	$\hat{\pi}_{32}$	-0.5	0.5
4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.5

TABLE III  
CONTROLLERS FOR TPM (27)

Results	Controller Gains
Theorem 4	$K_1 = [ 1.87 \quad -1.60 ]$ , $K_2 = [ 1.28 \quad -1.56 ]$ , $K_3 = [ -5.42 \quad 7.02 ]$ , $K_4 = [ 0.76 \quad -1.37 ]$
Theorem 4 in [15]	Infeasible

The comparison of Theorem 4 in the technical note with Theorem 4 in [15] is summarized in Table III, where the reduction of conservatism of the new criterion is demonstrated.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

In this technical note, we have revisited the analysis and synthesis problems of Markov jump linear system with incomplete transition descriptions. Necessary and sufficient criteria are obtained for MJLSs in both continuous-time domain and discrete-time domain by fully exploiting the properties of the transition rates matrix and the transition probabilities matrix. The conservatism of the approach developed previously, which only leads to sufficient conditions for the system, is reduced by the newly developed approach. Numerical examples have verified the theoretical results given in the technical note. It is expected that the approach can be further used for other analysis and synthesis issues such as  $H_\infty$  analysis,  $H_\infty$  synthesis and other applications such as Markov jumping neural networks, e.g., [21] with incomplete transition descriptions therein.

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## Topological Obstructions to Submanifold Stabilization

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**Abstract**—We consider the problem of local asymptotic feedback stabilization—via a continuously differentiable feedback law—of a control system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$  defined in Euclidean space  $\mathbb{R}^n$  (with  $\mathbf{f}$  being continuously differentiable) to a compact, connected, oriented  $m$ -dimensional submanifold  $M$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with codimension strictly larger than one. We obtain necessary conditions on the topology of  $M$  for such a stabilizing feedback law to exist. This extends the work done in [6], where only the codimension one case was treated. We also briefly discuss the case where the control is only assumed continuous.

**Index Terms**—Euler-Poincaré characteristic, homology groups, submanifold stabilization.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Consider the following modification of Brockett's non-holonomic integrator [1], introduced in [6]: In  $\mathbb{R}^3$  (with canonical coordinate functions  $x, y, z$ ), we define

$$(I) \begin{cases} \dot{x} = u, \\ \dot{y} = v, \\ \dot{z} = (yu - xv)e^z \end{cases}$$

where  $u, v$  are the control functions. The control function  $f$  is given

here, with  $\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix}$ , by

$$(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) \mapsto f((\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})) = \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \\ (yu - xv)e^z \end{pmatrix}$$

and is continuously differentiable. It is clear that  $f$  is not onto any neighborhood of the origin in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ; indeed, no point on the  $z$ -axis of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  other than the origin is in the range of  $f$ . It follows [1] that there exists no continuously differentiable feedback law that can stabilize this system to the origin. Consider now the problem of asymptotically stabilizing this control system to a submanifold of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  homeomorphic to the unit sphere  $S^2$  of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ; defining

$$\Sigma_{f,\infty} = \{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^2 \mid f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) \neq 0\}$$

we easily have that  $\Sigma_{f,\infty} = \mathbb{R}^3 \times (\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{0\})$ ; hence, we obtain  $H_2(\Sigma_{f,\infty}; \mathbb{Z}) \simeq H_2(\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{0\}; \mathbb{Z}) = 0$ , where  $H_k(\cdot; \mathbb{Z})$  denotes the  $k^{\text{th}}$  singular homology group with coefficients in  $\mathbb{Z}$ , and " $\simeq$ " denotes a group isomorphism (see e.g., Chapter 4 of [7]). On the other hand, the Euler-Poincaré characteristic  $\chi(S^2)$  of  $S^2$  is non-zero (see Chapter 4 of [7]). It follows therefore from Theorem 4 of [6] that there exists no continuously differentiable feedback law stabilizing the above control system to  $S^2$ . Consider now the problem of asymptotically stabilizing this control system to the unit circle in the  $xy$ -plane, defined by  $S^2 \cap \{z = 0\}$ . As noted in [6], this stabilization is achievable, and

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