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Robustness of Homogeneous Systems with Respect to Time-Varying Perturbations*

H. Ríos[†], D. Efimov^{‡§}, A. Polyakov^{‡§} and W. Perruquetti[‡]

Abstract—The problem of stability robustness with respect to time-varying perturbations of a given frequency spectrum is studied applying homogeneity framework. The notion of finite-time stability over time intervals of finite length, *i.e.* *short-finite-time stability*, is introduced and used for that purpose. The results are applied to demonstrate some robustness properties of the three-tank system. Some simulation examples illustrate these robustness properties.

I. INTRODUCTION

IN homogeneous time-invariant dynamical systems, the local and global behaviors are the same [1], and for stability/instability analysis, Lyapunov or Chetaev function of a homogeneous system can also be chosen homogeneous [2], [3], [4]. Such a strong symmetry has been found useful for stability analysis [5], [1], [6], [7], [3], approximation of system dynamics and/or solutions [8], [9], stabilization [10], [11], [12], [13], [14] and estimation [5], [9], [15]. Numerical analysis and design of homogeneous systems may be simpler since, for instance, a Lyapunov function has to be constructed on a sphere only (on the whole state space it can be extended using homogeneity).

In the context of robustness, the homogeneous systems have certain intrinsic properties [16], [17], [18], [19]. For example, if a system is homogeneous (considering disturbance as an auxiliary variable) and asymptotically stable without disturbances, then it is robustly stable (input-to-state stable (ISS) or integral ISS (iISS) [19]). In some cases perturbations have a certain structure or features, robustness with respect to which it is necessary to establish. As an example the spectrum frequency of the perturbation can be considered, a

dynamical system can be stable or have bounded solutions for some frequencies and be extremely sensitive to a particular frequency of exogenous disturbance (resonance phenomenon in dynamical systems). In order to evaluate robustness with respect to frequencies the study of time-varying dynamical systems may be helpful. An extension of the homogeneity concept to time-varying systems has been given in [20], [21], where in the latter a re-parametrization of time has also been required together with the state dilation. Recently the ideas of [20] have been extended in [22], where several stability results, uniformly in frequencies of the time-varying part, have been established. In this work this line of research is carried on, showing that if a homogeneous system is asymptotically stable for zero frequency (in the time-invariant case), then it inherits stable behavior for some sufficiently small frequencies (boundedness of the perturbation will not be asked).

Establishing stability properties, it is also important to quantify the rate of convergence in the system: exponential, asymptotic, finite-time or fixed-time [23], [24], [13], [25], [26], [27]. Frequently, the homogeneity theory is used to establish finite-time or fixed-time stability [10], [5], [28], [27]: for example, if a system is globally asymptotically stable and homogeneous of negative degree, then it is finite-time stable. In this work the problem of finite-time stability analysis will be also addressed for time-varying systems.

In some situations the stability may be analyzed on a limited time window, then the notion of short-time stability [29], [30], [31], [32] appears. This is the case studied in the present work, and the results are built on the intersection of finite-time and short-time stability.

The outline of this work is as follows. The preliminary definitions and the homogeneity framework are given in Section II. The robustness property for some class of homogeneous time-varying systems is presented in Section III. Application of the developed theory is considered in Section IV to show some robustness properties of the three-tank system. Some concluding remarks are given in Section V.

II. PRELIMINARIES

Consider a time-varying differential equation [33]:

$$\frac{dx(t)}{dt} = f(t, x(t)), \quad t \geq t_0, \quad t_0 \in \mathbb{R}, \quad (1)$$

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where $x(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is the state vector; $f : \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is a continuous function with respect to x and piecewise continuous with respect to t , $f(t, 0) = 0$ for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$. It is assumed that solution of the system (1) for an initial state $x(t_0) = x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, where $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ is the initial time, is denoted as $x(t, t_0, x_0)$ and it is defined on some finite time interval $[t_0, t_0 + T)$ (the notation $x(t)$ is used to reference $x(t, t_0, x_0)$ if the origin of x_0 and t_0 is clear from the context).

Remark 1. *Since it is not required that f would be locally Lipschitz in x , then the system (1) may have non-unique solutions for some initial states. Following [26], assume that (1) has unique solutions for all initial states $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$ except at the origin, and since $f(t, 0) = 0$, for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$, in the origin always there is a solution $x(t, t_0, 0) = 0$ for all $t \geq t_0$. In this case, by selecting only solution that stays at the origin, “weak” stability results can be presented.*

Example 1. To illustrate the previous remark, consider a variant of (1)

$$\dot{x}(t) = (|t| - 1)x^{\frac{1}{3}}(t),$$

with $x \in \mathbb{R}$, which for $x(t_0) = 0$ has not a unique solution since a family of solutions could be given as follows

$$x(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & \forall t \leq t_0 + \varepsilon, \\ \left[\frac{t}{3}(|t| - 2) - \frac{(t_0 + \varepsilon)}{3}(|t_0 + \varepsilon| - 2) \right]^{\frac{3}{2}}, & \forall t > t_0 + \varepsilon, \end{cases}$$

for all $|t_0 + \varepsilon| \geq 2$ and all $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_+$.

A continuous function $\sigma : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ belongs to class \mathcal{K} if it is strictly increasing and $\sigma(0) = 0$; it belongs to class \mathcal{K}_∞ if it is also unbounded. A continuous function $\beta : \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ belongs to class \mathcal{KL} if $\beta(\cdot, r) \in \mathcal{K}$ and $\beta(r, \cdot)$ is a strictly decreasing to zero for any fixed $r \in \mathbb{R}_+$. Denote a sequence of integers $1, \dots, m$ as $\overline{1, m}$, and $|q|$ the Euclidean norm of a vector q .

A. Stability definitions

Let Ω, Ξ be open neighborhoods of the origin in \mathbb{R}^n , $0 \in \Omega \subset \Xi$.

Definition 1. [33], [26] *At the steady state $x = 0$ the system (1) is said to be*

a) *Uniformly stable (US) if for any $\epsilon > 0$ there is $\delta(\epsilon) > 0$ such that for any $x_0 \in \Omega$ with any $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$, if $|x_0| \leq \delta(\epsilon)$ then $|x(t, t_0, x_0)| \leq \epsilon$, for all $t \geq t_0$ and any $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$;*

b) *Uniformly asymptotically stable (UAS) if it is US and for any $\kappa > 0$ and $\epsilon > 0$ there exists $T(\kappa, \epsilon) \geq 0$ such that for any $x_0 \in \Omega$ with any $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$, if $|x_0| \leq \kappa$ then $|x(t, t_0, x_0)| \leq \epsilon$, for all $t \geq t_0 + T(\kappa, \epsilon)$ and any $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$;*

c) *Uniformly finite-time stable (UFTS) if it is US and finite-time converging from Ω , i.e. for any $x_0 \in \Omega$ with any $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ there exists $0 \leq T^{t_0, x_0} < +\infty$ such that $x(t, t_0, x_0) = 0$ for all $t \geq T^{t_0, x_0}$. The function $T_0(t_0, x_0) = \inf\{T^{t_0, x_0} \geq 0 : x(t, t_0, x_0) = 0 \forall t \geq T^{t_0, x_0}\}$ is called the settling time of the system (1).*

If $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^n$, then the corresponding properties are called global uniform stability/asymptotic-stability/finite-time-stability of $x = 0$.

Another version of uniform finite-time stability has also been proposed in [21].

In this work a special stability notion defined not for all $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$, as in Definition 1, will be also of interest but for a compact interval of initial times t_0 , and only on a fixed interval of time [29], [30], [31], [32]:

Definition 2. *At the steady state $x = 0$ the system (1) is said to be*

a) *Short-time stable (Short-TS) with respect to (Ω, Ξ, T^0, T_f) if for any $x_0 \in \Omega$, $|x(t, t_0, x_0)| \in \Xi$ for all $t \in [t_0, T_f]$ for any $t_0 \in [-T^0, T^0]$;*

b) *Short-finite-time stable (Short-FTS) with respect to (Ω, Ξ, T^0, T_f) if it is Short-TS with respect to (Ω, Ξ, T^0, T_f) and finite-time converging from Ω with the convergence time $T^{t_0, x_0} \leq T_f$ for all $x_0 \in \Omega$ and $t_0 \in [-T^0, T^0]$;*

c) *Globally short-finite-time stable (GShort-FTS) if for any bounded set $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ containing the origin there exist a bounded set $\Xi \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $\Omega \subset \Xi$ and $T_f > 0$ such that the system is Short-FTS with respect to (Ω, Ξ, T^0, T_f) for any T^0 .*

In [29], [30], [31], [32] the short-time stability is considered for a fixed initial time instant t_0 only.

Remark 2. *Short-time stability [31] was originally called stability over a finite interval of time [29], [30], [32] but the latter notion is used here to avoid a confusion with finite-time stability from [23], [10], since both concepts of stability are used in the paper.*

B. Homogeneity

For any $r_i > 0$, $i = \overline{1, n}$ and $\lambda > 0$, define the dilation matrix $\Lambda_r(\lambda) = \text{diag}\{\lambda^{r_i}\}_{i=1}^n$ and the vector of weights $r = [r_1, \dots, r_n]^T$.

For any $r_i > 0$, $i = \overline{1, n}$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ the homogeneous norm can be defined as follows

$$|x|_r = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|^{\frac{\rho}{r_i}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\rho}}, \quad \rho = \prod_{i=1}^n r_i.$$

For all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, its Euclidean norm $|x|$ is related with the homogeneous one:

$$\underline{\sigma}_r(|x|_r) \leq |x| \leq \bar{\sigma}_r(|x|_r), \quad (2)$$

for some $\underline{\sigma}_r, \bar{\sigma}_r \in \mathcal{K}_\infty$. In the following, due to this “equivalence”, stability analysis with respect to the norm $|x|$ will be substituted with analysis for the norm $|x|_r$. The homogeneous norm has an important property that is $|\Lambda_r(\lambda)x|_r = \lambda|x|_r$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Define $\mathbb{S}_r = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x|_r = 1\}$.

Definition 3. [2] *The function $g : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is called r -homogeneous ($r_i > 0$, $i = \overline{1, n}$), if for any $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ the*

relation

$$g(\Lambda_r(\lambda)x) = \lambda^\nu g(x),$$

holds for some $\nu \in \mathbb{R}$ and all $\lambda > 0$.

The function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is called r -homogeneous ($r_i > 0$, $i = \overline{1, n}$), if for any $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ the relation

$$f(\Lambda_r(\lambda)x) = \lambda^\nu \Lambda_r(\lambda)f(x),$$

holds for some $\nu \geq -\min_{1 \leq i \leq n} r_i$ and all $\lambda > 0$. In both cases, the constant ν is called the degree of homogeneity.

A dynamical system

$$\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t)), \quad t \geq 0, \quad (3)$$

is called r -homogeneous of degree ν if this property is satisfied for the vector function f in the sense of Definition 3. An advantage of homogeneous systems described by nonlinear ordinary differential equations is that any of its solution can be obtained from another solution under the state dilation and a suitable time rescaling:

Proposition 1. [1] Let $x : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a solution of the r -homogeneous system (3) with the degree ν for an initial state $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$. For any $\lambda > 0$ define $y(t) = \Lambda_r(\lambda)x(\lambda^\nu t)$ for all $t \geq 0$, then $y(t)$ is also a solution of (3) with the initial state $y_0 = \Lambda_r(\lambda)x_0$.

Homogeneous systems possess certain robustness with respect to external disturbances. For example, consider the system

$$\dot{x}(t) = F(x(t), d(t)), \quad t \geq 0, \quad (4)$$

where $x(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is the state, $d(t) \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is external disturbance, $d : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is measurable and essentially bounded function of time, $F : \mathbb{R}^{n+m} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is locally Lipschitz continuous.

Theorem 1. [19] Let $F(\Lambda_r(\lambda)x, \Lambda_{\tilde{r}}(\lambda)d) = \lambda^\nu \Lambda_r(\lambda)F(x, d)$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $d \in \mathbb{R}^m$ and all $\lambda > 0$ with the weights $r = [r_1, \dots, r_n] > 0$, $\tilde{r} = [\tilde{r}_1, \dots, \tilde{r}_m] \geq 0$ with a degree $\nu \geq -\min_{1 \leq i \leq n} r_i$. Assume that the system (4) is globally asymptotically stable for $d = 0$, then the system (4) is

- ISS if $\tilde{r}_{\min} > 0$, where $\tilde{r}_{\min} = \min_{1 \leq j \leq m} \tilde{r}_j$;
- iISS if $\tilde{r}_{\min} = 0$ and $\nu \leq 0$.

C. Homogeneity for time-varying systems

The weighted homogeneity property, introduced for time-invariant systems in Definition 3, is understood for the time-varying systems (1) in the following sense.

Definition 4. [20] The function $g : \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is called r -homogeneous ($r_i > 0$, $i = \overline{1, n}$), if for any $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $t \in \mathbb{R}$ the relation

$$g(t, \Lambda_r(\lambda)x) = \lambda^\nu g(t, x),$$

holds for some $\nu \in \mathbb{R}$ and all $\lambda > 0$.

The function $f : \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is called r -homogeneous ($r_i > 0$, $i = \overline{1, n}$), if for any $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $t \in \mathbb{R}$ the relation

$$f(t, \Lambda_r(\lambda)x) = \lambda^\nu \Lambda_r(\lambda)f(t, x),$$

holds for some $\nu \geq -\min_{1 \leq i \leq n} r_i$ and all $\lambda > 0$.

Thus, in the time-varying case (1) the homogeneity can be verified interpreting t as a constant parameter. Consider also the following modification of the system (1):

$$\frac{dx(t)}{dt} = f(\omega t, x(t)), \quad t \geq t_0, \quad t_0 \in \mathbb{R}, \quad (5)$$

for some $\omega > 0$. The parameter ω represents the frequency of time-varying part of the system. For an initial state $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ denote the corresponding solution of (5) as $x_\omega(t, t_0, x_0)$, thus $x(t, t_0, x_0) = x_1(t, t_0, x_0)$. In this case the following extension of Proposition 1 is provided.

Proposition 2. [22], [20] Let $x(t, t_0, x_0)$ be a solution of the r -homogeneous system (1) with the degree ν for an initial state $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$. For any $\lambda > 0$ the system (5) with $\omega = \lambda^\nu$ has a solution $y(t, t_0, y_0) = \Lambda_r(\lambda)x(\lambda^\nu t, \lambda^\nu t_0, x_0)$ for all $t \geq t_0$ with the initial state $y_0 = \Lambda_r(\lambda)x_0$.

It is a well known fact that for linear time-varying systems (i.e. homogeneous systems of degree $\nu = 0$) that its stability for some ω does not imply stability for all $\omega \in (0, +\infty)$. Surprisingly, for nonlinear homogeneous time-varying systems with degree $\nu \neq 0$ this is not the case:

Lemma 1. [22], [20] Let the system (1) be r -homogeneous with degree $\nu \neq 0$ and GUAS, i.e. there is $\beta \in \mathcal{KL}$ such that

$$|x(t, t_0, x_0)|_r \leq \beta(|x_0|_r, t - t_0), \quad \forall t \geq t_0,$$

for any $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and any $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$. Then, (5) is GUAS for any $\omega > 0$ and

$$|x_\omega(t, t_0, x_0)|_r \leq \beta_\omega(|x_0|_r, t - t_0), \quad \forall t \geq t_0,$$

for any $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and any $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$, where $\beta_\omega(s, t) = \omega^{1/\nu} \beta(\omega^{-1/\nu} s, \omega t)$.

Thus, it is shown in Lemma 1 that the rate of convergence will be scaled by ω , then the time of transients in these systems is predefined by the time-varying part, which is not the case for the degree $\nu = 0$, where the rate of convergence cannot be modified by ω . Several useful consequences of Proposition 2 and Lemma 1 can be formulated (see [22] for more details).

III. SHORT-FINITE-TIME STABILITY

In this section the problem of stability robustness is considered with respect to time-varying part. Assuming that for $\omega = 0$ the system (5) is stable and homogeneous, it will be shown that in this case a certain stability will be preserved for a frequency spectrum sufficiently close to zero. The following continuity restriction is imposed on f in (5).

Assumption 1. For (5), there exists a function $\sigma \in \mathcal{K}_\infty$ such that

$$\sup_{\xi \in \mathbb{S}_r} |f(\tau, \xi) - f(0, \xi)| \leq \sigma(|\tau|), \quad \forall \tau \in \mathbb{R}.$$

In the following, two cases will be considered depending on the sign of homogeneity degree.

Lemma 2. Let the system (5) be r -homogeneous with degree $\nu > 0$, asymptotically stable for $\omega = 0$, and Assumption 1 be satisfied. Then for any $\rho > 0$ and $T^0 > 0$ there is $\omega_0 > 0$ such that the set B_ρ is reached by any solution of (5) with $\omega \in [-\omega_0, \omega_0]$ for all initial states $x_0 \notin B_\rho$ at initial times $t_0 \in [-T^0, T^0]$.

Note that the result of Lemma 2 does not claim that the set B_ρ is stable or invariant since, in general, a trajectory can next leave B_ρ and return to infinity. Such a behavior is possible since the term proportional to ωt may be asymptotically unbounded in the lemma conditions. This result can be interpreted as a short-finite-time stability of B_ρ .

Lemma 3. Let the system (5) be r -homogeneous with degree $\nu < 0$, asymptotically stable for $\omega = 0$, and Assumption 1 be satisfied. Then for any $\rho > 0$ and $T^0 > 0$ there are $\omega_0 > 0$, $\vartheta \geq 1$ and $T_f > T^0$ such that (5) with $\omega \in [-\omega_0, \omega_0]$ is Short-FTS at the origin with respect to $(B_\rho, B_{\vartheta\rho}, T^0, T_f)$.

For Lemma 2, since $f(t, 0) = 0$ for any $t \in \mathbb{R}$, there is a solution which stays at the origin for all $t \geq T_f$, then a kind of standard finite-time stability notion can be recovered in “weak” sense, for a part of solutions.

Remark 3. If it is assumed that the system (5) is periodical in time, i.e. $f(t, x) = f(t + \mathcal{T}, x)$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, all $t \in \mathbb{R}$ and some $\mathcal{T} > 0$, then initial times can be selected always in the interval $t_0 \in [-0.5\mathcal{T}, 0.5\mathcal{T}]$. Therefore, Lemma 2 implies that for any $\rho > 0$ there is $\omega_0 > 0$ such that the set B_ρ is uniformly reached by any solution of (5) with $\omega \in [-\omega_0, \omega_0]$ for initial states $x_0 \notin B_\rho$, while Lemma 3 ensures Short-FTS of (5) with $\omega \in [-\omega_0, \omega_0]$ uniformly in T^0 .

The result of Lemma 3, under additional mild conditions on the system robustness and boundedness of the time-varying perturbation, can be extended to global short-finite-time stability. For this reason the following class of functions is introduced for $\varrho \in \mathcal{K}$ and $\delta > 0$:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\varrho, \delta}^m &= \{d : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m : |d(s)| \leq \varrho(s) \forall s \geq 0; \\ &\exists \tau > 0 : d(s) = 0, \forall |s| \geq \tau; \\ &\max\{|d|_1, |d|_\infty\} \leq \delta\}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$|d|_1 = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |d(t)| dt, \quad |d|_\infty = \sup_{t \in \mathbb{R}} |d(t)|.$$

Theorem 2. Let conditions of Theorem 1 be satisfied for (4) with $\nu < 0$ and $\tilde{r} = [0, \dots, 0]$. Then there exist $\varrho \in \mathcal{K}$ and $\delta > 0$ such that (4) is GShort-FTS provided that $d \in \mathcal{L}_{\varrho, \delta}^m$, and $d(t) = d(t + \mathcal{T})$ for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$, with $d(t) \neq 0$ and some

$\mathcal{T} > 0$.

This theorem illustrates, in particular, the features of resonance behavior in nonlinear systems: it is dependent on the amplitude and frequency of the excitation, since selection of the gain function ϱ is related with the frequency restriction. For linear systems, i.e. with $\nu = 0$, there is dependence on frequency only.

Theorem 2 provides also an extension of Theorem 4.1 in [26]:

Corollary 1. Let the system in (5) possess a Lyapunov function $V : \mathbb{R} \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$, where $0 \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is an open neighborhood of the origin, such that for all $x \in \Omega$ and $t \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_1(|x|) &\leq V(t, x) \leq \alpha_2(|x|), \quad \alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in \mathcal{K}_\infty; \\ \dot{V}(t, x) &\leq -\alpha V^\eta + k(\omega t) V^\eta, \quad \alpha > 0, \eta \in (0, 1), \end{aligned}$$

for a continuous $k : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $k(0) = 0$. Then for any $T^0 > 0$ there exist $\omega_0 > 0$ such that for $|\omega| \leq \omega_0$ the system (5) is Short-FTS with respect to (Ω, Ξ, T^0, T_f) for some $\Omega \subset \Xi \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ and $T_f \geq T^0$.

If $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^n$ and $k(t)$ is periodic, then there exist $\omega_0 > 0$ and $\delta > 0$ such that for $k \in \mathcal{L}_{\varrho, \delta}^1$, $\varrho(s) = \sup_{|t| \leq s} k(\omega_0 t)$ the system (5) is GShort-FTS.

Contrarily to [26] there is no requirement on the sign of the function k in Corollary 1.

Remark 4. Note that the results given in this section can be extended for dynamical systems (5) with discontinuous right-hand side through the ISS/iISS results given in Theorem 1 [19], and the homogeneity notion for differential inclusions [34].

All the corresponding proofs are omitted due to space limitation.

IV. APPLICATION: THREE-TANK SYSTEM

Let us consider the three-tank system depicted by Fig. 1. The dynamical model is described as follows (see, e.g. [35], Chapter 10; and [36]):

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{h}_1(t) &= \frac{1}{A} \left(q_{P_1} - c_{12} [h_{12}(t)]^{\frac{1}{2}} \right), \\ \dot{h}_2(t) &= \frac{1}{A} \left(c_{12} [h_{12}(t)]^{\frac{1}{2}} - c_{23} [h_{23}(t)]^{\frac{1}{2}} - q_2(t) \right), \\ \dot{h}_3(t) &= \frac{1}{A} \left(q_{P_2} + c_{23} [h_{23}(t)]^{\frac{1}{2}} \right), \end{aligned}$$

where $[\cdot]^\gamma \doteq |\cdot|^\gamma \text{sign}(\cdot)$, for any $\gamma > 0$, c_{ij} is a constant depending on the geometry of the connecting pipe and the corresponding valve, and $h_{ij} = h_i - h_j$ is the difference between the water levels h_i and h_j , respectively. The flows q_{P_1} , q_{P_2} depend on the position of the valves and it is assumed that they are constants; whilst the flow $q_2 = c_2 \sqrt{h_2}$ is the outflow to consumer. All the corresponding parameters are given in Table I.

Consider the nominal system without inputs, i.e. $q_{P_i} = 0$, $i = 1, 2$; then the three-tank system is r -homogeneous with

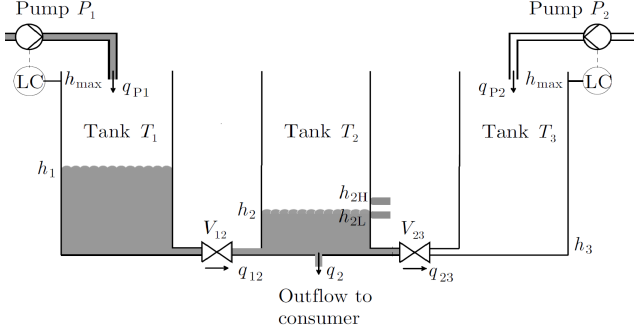


Figure 1. Three-Tank System

Table I
VARIABLES AND PARAMETERS OF THREE-TANK SYSTEM.

Variables and Parameters	Description	Unit
h_1, h_2, h_3	Tank levels in meters	[m]
q_{P1}, q_{P2}, q_L, q_2	Volume flows in cubic meters per second	[m ³ /s]
A	Cross-section area	$1.54 \times 10^{-2} [m^2]$
h_{max}	Height of tanks	$0.60 [m]$
c_{12}	Flow constant of valve V_{12}	$1.6 \times 10^{-4} [m^{\frac{5}{2}}/s]$
c_{23}	Flow constant of valve V_{23}	$1.6 \times 10^{-4} [m^{\frac{5}{2}}/s]$
c_2	Flow constant of the outlet of tank 2	$1.6 \times 10^{-4} [m^{\frac{5}{2}}/s]$
c_{P1}	Flow constant of pump 1	$1 \times 10^{-4} [m^3/s]$
c_{P2}	Flow constant of pump 2	$1 \times 10^{-4} [m^3/s]$

degree $\nu = -0.5$ for $r = [r_1, r_2, r_3] = [1, 1, 1]$. Then, let us show that the nominal system without inputs is GAS. Consider the following function

$$V(h_1, h_2, h_3) = h_1 + h_2 + h_3.$$

Such a function V is positive definite since $h_i \geq 0$, $i = \overline{1, 3}$, and continuously differentiable with $\dot{V}(h_1, h_2, h_3) = -c_2 \sqrt{h_2} \leq -W(h_1, h_2, h_3)$, negative semi-definite. Note that the limit $W(h_1, h_2, h_3) \rightarrow 0$ implies that $h_2(t)$ approaches to the set $E = \{(h_1, h_2, h_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 | W(h_1, h_2, h_3) = 0\}$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$. Note that $W(h_1, h_2, h_3) = 0$ implies $h_2(t) = 0$, and from the system dynamics, it follows that also $h_1(t) = 0$ and $h_3(t) = 0$. Thus, the set E contains no solutions other than the trivial solution, and by LaSalle's theorem (see, e.g. [33]), global asymptotic stability is concluded. Hence, by homogeneity the three-tank system is ISS with respect to the inputs q_{P_i} , $i = 1, 2$ (see, e.g. [34]).

Define $\bar{h}_i(t) = h_i(t) - h_{eq_i}$, $i = \overline{1, 3}$, where h_{eq_i} is an equilibrium-point for the tank $i \in \overline{1, 3}$. Then, it is easy to prove that the three-tank system is GAS with respect to any equilibrium-point; and consequently, it is also ISS with respect to the inputs q_{P_i} , $i = 1, 2$, for its particular equilibrium-point.

Now, let us apply the results established in Theorem 2 in order to prove the *short-finite-time stability* of the three-tank

system with respect to some time-varying perturbations.

Consider that all the flow constants of the corresponding valves are affected by a time-varying perturbation $d(t)$, i.e. $c_{ij}(t) = (d(t) + 1)c_{ij}$ (for brevity, the same perturbation is considered for all the coefficients). Thus, for the system without inputs, the conditions of Theorem 1 are satisfied with $r = [1, 1, 1]$, $\tilde{r} = 0$ (the weight corresponding to d), and $\nu = -0.5$. Then, for all the time-varying perturbations satisfying $d \in \mathcal{L}_{\varrho, \delta}^1$, and $d(t) = d(t + \mathcal{T})$, for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$, with $d(t) \neq 0$ and some $\mathcal{T} > 0$, one can conclude by Theorem 2 that the three-tank system is *Short-FTS* with respect to any equilibrium-point. For the case in which the flows q_{P_i} , $i = 1, 2$ are viewed as perturbations, one gets that $r = [1, 1, 1]$, $\tilde{r} = [0.5, 0.5, 0]$ (the weights corresponding to q_{P_1} , q_{P_2} , and d), and then based on Theorem 1, only iISS with respect to its particular equilibrium-point is concluded.

Let us consider $q_{P_i} = 1 \times 10^{-4}$, $i = 1, 2$, $d(t) = \delta(1 - \cos(\omega t)) \in \mathcal{L}_{\varrho, 2\delta}^1$, with $\varrho(s) = s$; initial state $h(0) = [0.3, 0.2, 0.1]^T$, equilibrium-point $h_{eq} = [0.3906, 0, 0.3906]^T$, and the parameters given in Table I. The three-tank system was simulated on the time interval $[0, 500]$ for different values of (ω, δ) . The results given by Fig. 2 depict the behavior of the map $a(\omega, \delta) = \log [\max_{300 \leq t \leq 500} |\bar{h}(t)|]$ from which one concludes that the “resonance” may happen for particular values of ω and δ .

Finally, the results depicted in Fig. 3 show the integral input-to-state stability described in Theorem 1, for different values of frequency. The results show that there exists $\omega_0 > 0$ such that for $\omega \in [-\omega_0, \omega_0]$ the three-tank system is *Short-TS* with respect to certain $(B_\rho, B_{\partial\rho}, T^0, T_f)$.

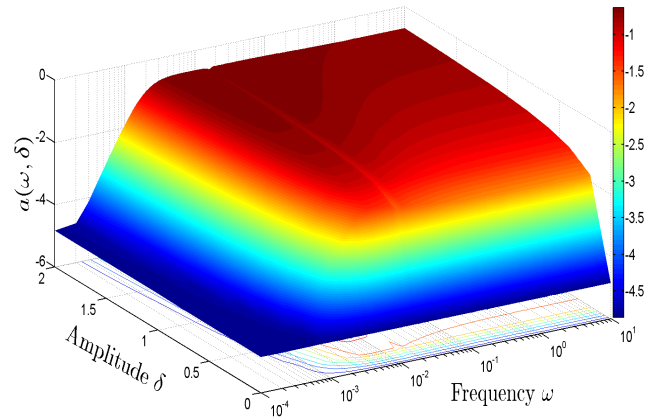


Figure 2. Map $a(\omega, \delta) = \log [\max_{300 \leq t \leq 500} |\bar{h}(t)|]$ applied to three-tank system with $d(t) = \delta(1 - \cos(\omega t))$.

V. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper the problem of stability robustness with respect to time-varying perturbations of a given frequency spectrum is studied applying homogeneity framework. The notion of *short-finite-time stability* is introduced and used for that purpose. The results are applied to demonstrate some robustness properties of the three-tank system. Some

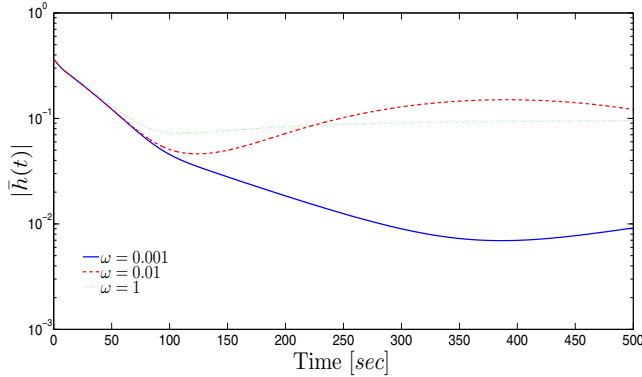


Figure 3. Illustration for iISS properties applied to the three-tank system with $d(t) = \delta(1 - \cos(\omega t))$, $\delta = 0.1$.

simulation examples illustrated these robustness properties. Application of the developed results on robustness for *designing* of control, estimation or identification algorithms in time-varying systems is a direction of future research.

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