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Designing discrete predictor-based controllers for networked control systems with time-varying delays: application to a visual servo inverted pendulum system

Yang Deng, Vincent Léchappé, Changda Zhang, Emmanuel Moulay, Dajun Du, Franck Plestan, *Member, IEEE*, and Qing-Long Han, *Fellow, IEEE*

Abstract—A discrete predictor-based control method is developed for a class of linear time-invariant networked control systems with a sensor-to-controller time-varying delay and a controller-to-actuator uncertain constant delay, which can be potentially applied to vision-based control systems. The control scheme is composed of a state prediction and a discrete predictor-based controller. The state prediction is used to compensate for the effect of the sensor-to-controller delay, and the system can be stabilized by the discrete predictor-based controller. Moreover, it is shown that the control scheme is also robust with respect to slight message rejections. Finally, the main theoretical results are illustrated by simulation results and experimental results based on a networked visual servo inverted pendulum system.

Index Terms—Networked control system, vision-based control, time-varying delay, inverted pendulum system, discrete predictor-based control.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Motivations

VISION-BASED sensors are widely used in various control applications (e.g. self-driving cars [1], [2], robots [3], UAVs [4], and inverted pendulums [5]–[7]) due to their low cost (compared with LIDAR [2, pp.176]) and the rapid progress of image-processing-based sensing techniques (e.g. indoor navigation [8], collision avoidance [9]). In such a

control system, state information can be resolved from the sampled images captured by a camera [3, pp.132] by using an image-processing algorithm. After resolution, the state information is available for the controller design, and it is transmitted to the controller through a wired or wireless sensor-to-controller communication channel that is subject to a small uncertain time-varying transmission delay of several milliseconds [10, pp.147]. After receiving state information, the controller updates the control signal and sends it to the actuator with the help of the controller-to-actuator channel. Finally, the updated control input is applied to the controlled plant. Based on the previous statements, the whole control process of such a system is subject to the following time-delays:

- the exposure time of the camera (constant);
- the computational delay introduced by the image-processing algorithm (long, time-varying);
- the transmission latency induced from the sensor-to-controller communication channel (small, time-varying);
- the computation time of the control algorithm (small, constant);
- the transmission latency induced from the controller-to-actuator communication channel (small, time-varying);
- the physical dead time of the actuator (constant).

Note that the time-delays introduced by data communication are time-varying because of network congestion, the communication protocol, and the real-time intensity of the communication network. The computational time of the image-processing algorithm is also time-varying since it is usually affected by the number of feature points in each frame, the number of image edges in each frame, and the real-time illumination intensity.

Based on the discussions above, the vision-based control system can be modeled as a networked control system (NCS) [11] with **sensor-to-controller time-varying delay** and the **controller-to-actuator uncertain constant delay**¹. Thus, due to its high potential for application (e.g. an indoor mobile robot, or a UAV in weak GPS environment [4]), it is important to develop new control strategies to stabilize the system.

¹The controller-to-actuator delay is the sum of a constant delay (dead time of the actuator) and a small time-varying delay (controller-to-actuator data transmission latency). Therefore, it can be equivalently modeled as an uncertain constant delay.

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B. Interests of the discrete-time method

Some discussions are given in this subsection in order to explain the reason why the discrete-time control method is adopted. The main challenges for the vision-based control systems mentioned in Subsection I-A are given in the sequel:

- **Problem 1:** The image-processing algorithm needs a long computational time (compared with the transmission delays). As a result, a long sensor-to-controller time-varying delay is introduced [6], [12];
- **Problem 2:** The vision-based control system can only run at a low sampling rate. Indeed, the sampling rate of such a system depends on the frame rate of the camera and the computational time of the image-processing algorithm. On the one hand, if the frame rate is high, then the quality of the captured images will be lower (*i.e.* low-contrast [5, pp.8138]), and it may introduce more measurement errors. On the other hand, a high sampling rate will make unprocessed images accumulate if no distributed computation is applied [13, pp.554], and this problem will make the control task more complicated.

After discussing the main issues of the vision-based control systems modeled as an NCS, three main control solution to NCSs [14], [15] are recalled:

- **Discrete-time method** [16]–[18]: This method turns the original NCS into a discrete-time extended system, where the control law is designed for the extended system in the discrete-time domain;
- **Impulsive system method** [19]: Using this method, an NCS is considered as a hybrid system (*i.e.* continuous-time system with state jumps), and the discontinuous Lyapunov functional is used for the stability analysis;
- **Time-delay method** [20]–[22]: This method treats the effects of sampling & ZOH (zero-order hold) as a time-varying delay, where a Lyapunov-Krasovskii stability analysis is provided.

To solve **Problem 1**, predictor-based controllers designed by using the **discrete-time method** [18] and the **time-delay method** [23] are able to deal with long time-delays, whereas the **impulsive system method** is not effective.

Next, the arguments given in [15, pp.61] explain that the **discrete-time method** is less conservative in the maximum allowable transmission interval (MATI) for linear time-invariant (LTI) networked control systems, which indicates that this method can stabilize the LTI networked control systems with a lower sampling rate. Thus, it can better meet the requirement of **Problem 2**.

In conclusion, the **discrete-time method** can solve **Problems 1 and 2** together, and is suitable for LTI vision-based control systems. Therefore, the main objective of this paper is to develop a discrete predictor-based control technique for a class of LTI networked control systems, and then implement the control algorithm on a real vision-based control system.

C. Contributions and organizations

This paper proposes a control solution to stabilize NCSs with sensor-to-controller time-varying delay and controller-to-actuator uncertain constant delay, which can be applied to

vision-based control systems. The controller design is based on the discrete-time extended system representation [16]–[18], [24] in order to deal with long time-delays and a long sampling period. The message rejection (packet disordering) is also considered. The main theoretical contribution of this paper is threefold:

- compared with work [18], where the network-induced delay is a constant, this paper considers that the network-induced delay is time-varying;
- in [24], discrete predictor-based control of the sampled-data system with a single uncertain constant input-delay is developed, but the explicit upper bound on the allowable delay uncertainty is not given; this bound is calculated in detail by this paper;
- the effects of the time-varying delays are analyzed in [17], [25], but they did not consider the effect of message rejection (packet disordering) caused by the time-varying delays, whereas the proposed method deals with the message rejection phenomenon in the sensor-to-controller channel.

Furthermore, the proposed control scheme is implemented on the networked inverted pendulum visual servo system (NIPVSS) introduced in [6], [7], the experimental results are given in Section VII.

In conclusion, this paper provides a control scheme for vision-based control systems (which can be modeled as a class of LTI networked control systems with time-varying delays), and the proposed method has the following main features:

- The state prediction technique is used to compensate for the effects of sensor-to-controller time-varying delay, and also deals with slight message rejection.
- The discrete predictor-based controller is designed to stabilize the LTI plant which is subject to controller-to-actuator uncertain constant delay. The benefit of this control algorithm is lower conservativeness in the sense of MATI, as stated in Subsection I-B.
- The experimental validation of the proposed control technique on the NIPVSS test bench, which illustrates that the proposed method is able and suitable to cope with the real visual servo control problem. Moreover, based on the experimental results presented in Subsection VII-C, it is observed that the proposed method can provide better control performance than the non-predictive control method.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. The problem statement is given in Section II in order to explain modeling and some necessary assumptions. The extended system representation, the state prediction technique, and the discrete predictor-based controller are introduced in Section III. The main theoretical results for the unperturbed plant are presented in Section IV. Then the theoretical results are extended to the case with external disturbances in Section V, and they are illustrated by simulation results of Section VI and experimental results provided in Section VII. Finally, a conclusion is presented in Section VIII.

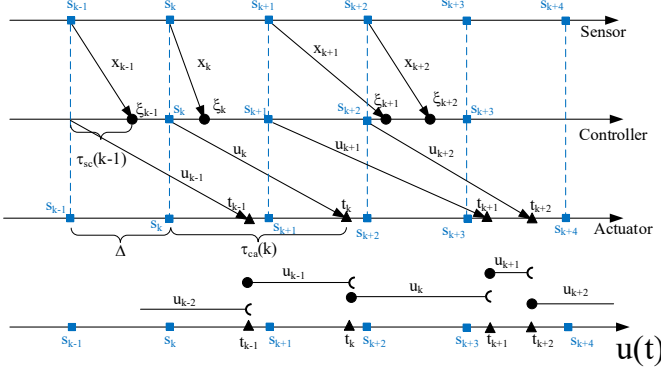


Fig. 1: Timing diagram of the control scheme with time-driven sensor, time-driven controller and event-driven actuator.

II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

A. Notations

In this paper, the following notations are used. The symbols $\mathbb{N}$ and $\mathbb{N}_+$ represent the sets of non-negative integers and strictly positive integers. The set of all real matrices with m rows and n columns reads as $\mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$. The identity matrix of size $m \times m$ writes as I_m . The superscript “ T ” denotes the matrix transposition. The symbol $\|\cdot\|$ gives the Euclidean norm of a vector and the 2-norm of a matrix, respectively. Finally, the maximum and minimum eigenvalues of a symmetric matrix read as $\lambda_{\max}(\cdot)$ and $\lambda_{\min}(\cdot)$.

B. System modeling

In this subsection, the modeling of the LTI networked control system for the LTI vision-based control system (as described in Subsection I-A) is introduced. Consider the following LTI plant

$$\dot{x}(t) = Ax(t) + Bu(t), \quad t \geq 0 \quad (1)$$

controlled through a network with $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ and $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$. The control input is piecewise-constant such that

$$\begin{aligned} u(t) &= u_k, & t \in [t_k, t_{k+1}), & k \in \mathbb{N} \\ u(t) &= 0, & t < t_0. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where t_k is the instant that the k th control input u_k is applied to the plant. In this work, the sensor and the controller have time-driven behavior with a sampling period $\Delta > 0$, which means that they update the state measurement and the control input each Δ seconds and send them out. The actuator is event-driven, which applies the new control input to the plant as soon as it receives the updated control signal. Fig. 1 is the timing diagram of this method, and the sequence $\{s_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ represents the sampling instants of the sensor and the updating instants of the controller. The sequence $\{\xi_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ describes the arriving instants (at the controller) of the state measurement $x(s_k)$, and $\{t_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ denotes the instants that a new control input u_k is applied to the plant, as shown in (2). The state information of the controlled plant is periodically measured (with sampling period $\Delta > 0$) and sent to the controller through the sensor-to-controller network. Namely, at instants $s_k = k\Delta$, $k \in \mathbb{N}$,

the sensor takes action and sends the state measurement to the controller. According to Fig. 1, one defines the sensor-to-controller time-varying delay as $\tau_{sc}(k) \triangleq \xi_k - s_k$, and it is supposed to be bounded by:

$$0 < \tau_{sc}(k) \leq N_1 \Delta \quad (3)$$

with known $N_1 \in \mathbb{N}_+$. Due to the discussions above and Fig. 1, the controller is time-driven, so it also updates the new control input at instants $s_k = k\Delta$, $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Therefore, the controller-to-actuator delay is defined as $\tau_{ca}(k) = t_k - s_k$, and is modeled as an uncertain constant delay (based on the discussions given in Subsection I-A) such that

$$\tau_{ca}(k) = \bar{\tau}_{ca} + \Delta\tau(k) \quad (4)$$

where the nominal controller-to-actuator constant delay $\bar{\tau}_{ca}$ is known and bounded by

$$(N_2 - 1)\Delta < \bar{\tau}_{ca} \leq N_2 \Delta \quad (5)$$

with known $N_2 \in \mathbb{N}_+$, and the delay uncertainty is bounded by

$$0 < \Delta\tau(k) \leq \Delta. \quad (6)$$

Remark 1. According to the discussions of Subsection I-A, the delay uncertainty $\Delta\tau(k)$ of a visual feedback system arises from the time-varying data communication latency (e.g. transmission delay through the controller-to-actuator communication network), and this kind of time-delay is usually smaller than 10ms [10, pp.147]. However, the sampling period Δ of a real visual feedback system is always in the level of 10–40ms (e.g. 11.5ms in [5], 12.5–25ms in [13], 40ms in [3]), which is greater than the delay uncertainty. Thus, (6) is not a strong constraint for control applications.

Fig. 1 shows that the controller is time-driven, but not event-driven. The main benefit of the time-driven controller is the compensation of the sensor-to-controller time-varying delay with the state prediction technique provided in Section III, without solving the Bellemann equation [17] nor checking large numbers of LMIs (linear matrix inequalities) [16].

Assumption 1. Define $\bar{A} = e^{A\Delta}$, $\bar{B}_1 = \int_0^{N_2\Delta - \bar{\tau}_{ca}} e^{A\theta} d\theta B$ and $\bar{B}_2 = \int_{N_2\Delta - \bar{\tau}_{ca}}^{\Delta} e^{A\theta} d\theta B$. It is assumed that the pair $(\bar{A}, \bar{A}^{-N_2+1}\bar{B}_1 + \bar{A}^{-N_2}\bar{B}_2)$ is controllable.

Assumption 1 is a sufficient condition for controller design based on the discrete-time method, and some similar assumptions are given in [18], [26]. In this assumption, the nominal controller-to-actuator delay is utilized since the controller design method requires the nominal delay value [24]. The effect of the delay uncertainty is analyzed in Subsection III-B.

Next, it is assumed that the sensor and the controller are synchronized so that $\tau_{sc}(k)$ can be measured when the controller receives a new state measurement, this assumption is also made in [22], [23], [27]. Note that clock synchronization can be achieved in practice by using the time-stamp technique based on the IEEE 1588 protocol [28].

Remark 2. The Zeno phenomenon never occurs since the updates of the state measurement and the control law are periodic.

In [22], it is assumed that the older control inputs and the older state measurements cannot arrive at the destination later than a newer one. In other words, the sequences $\{t_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $\{\xi_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ are strictly increasing:

$$\begin{aligned} t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_k < t_{k+1} < \dots \\ \xi_0 < \xi_1 < \dots < \xi_k < \xi_{k+1} < \dots \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

in order to avoid message rejection (message disordering). In this paper, only a weaker assumption is required as below.

Assumption 2. The sequence $\{t_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ is supposed to be strictly increasing.

Assumption 2 can also be ensured by (4), (5), and (6) due to the fact that $\tau_{ca}(k-1) < \tau_{ca}(k) + \Delta$ is always ensured by these inequalities. This assumption shows that the proposed method deals with slight message rejection in the sensor-to-controller channel.

III. EXTENDED SYSTEM REPRESENTATION AND DISCRETE PREDICTOR-BASED CONTROLLER

In this section, the extended system representation and the discrete predictor-based controller are introduced. Subsection III-A presents the control scheme with a controller-to-actuator constant delay. Subsection III-B considers the case when the controller-to-actuator delay is an uncertain constant.

A. Controller-to-actuator constant delay case

This subsection introduces the discrete predictor-based controller [16], [18]. Firstly, one considers the simple case, *i.e.* there is **no delay uncertainty in the controller-to-actuator channel**, and the controller-to-actuator delay is constant, *i.e.* $\tau_{ca}(k) = \bar{\tau}_{ca}$, $\Delta\tau(k) = 0$. Therefore, the state-translation equation [29, Chapter 2.3] between $x(s_k)$ and $x(s_{k+1})$ reads as

$$\begin{aligned} x(s_{k+1}) = & e^{A\Delta} x(s_k) + \int_{s_k}^{t_{k-N_2+1}} e^{A(s_{k+1}-\theta)} d\theta B u_{k-N_2} \\ & + \int_{t_{k-N_2+1}}^{s_{k+1}} e^{A(s_{k+1}-\theta)} d\theta B u_{k-N_2+1} \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

with N_2 defined in (5). Under Assumption 1, (8) can be equally considered as the following discrete-time system:

$$x(s_{k+1}) = \bar{A}x(s_k) + \bar{B}_1 u_{k-N_2+1} + \bar{B}_2 u_{k-N_2}. \quad (9)$$

Assumption 1 ensures that the discrete-time system (9) is controllable [26, Theorem 1]. Define the extended state $z_k =$

$[x^T(s_k) \ u_k^T \ \dots \ u_{k-N_2+1}^T \ u_{k-N_2}^T \ \dots \ u_{k-N_1-N_2-1}^T]^T$. Using (9), it leads to

$$z_{k+1} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \bar{A} & 0 & \dots & \bar{B}_1 & \bar{B}_2 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & I_m & \dots & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & I_m & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \dots & 0 & I_m & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathcal{A}} z_k + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ I_m \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathcal{B}} u_{k+1}. \quad (10)$$

The controllability of (9) and the controllability of (10) are equivalent since (9) and (10) are two different descriptions of the same system, see [18, Remark 5]. Therefore, the controllability of the extended system (10) can be guaranteed if Assumption 1 is satisfied. It is the possible to find a state-feedback control law

$$u_{k+1} = \mathcal{K} z_k \quad (11)$$

that makes the matrix $\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}\mathcal{K}$ Schur, *i.e.* the closed-loop poles of $\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}\mathcal{K}$ are all within the unit circle of the complex plane. Thanks to the property of the Schur matrix, for all $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a symmetric positive definite matrix P with appropriate dimensions such that

$$(\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}\mathcal{K})^T P (\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}\mathcal{K}) - P = -\varepsilon I. \quad (12)$$

Moreover, by applying the recursive analysis given in [31, pp.51-52], the existence and uniqueness of the solution to the continuous-time plant (1) under the digital feedback control law (11) can be ensured. To calculate the control law (11) at instant $t = s_{k+1}$, one needs the knowledge of $x(s_k)$ which may not arrive at the controller before $t = s_{k+1}$. To overcome this problem, one can use the latest available state measurement $x(s_{k-d})$ (with $1 \leq d \leq N_1$) and the control history to predict the state $x(s_k)$ by iterating (9) for d times:

$$\begin{cases} \hat{x}(s_{k-d+1}) = \bar{A}x(s_{k-d}) + \bar{B}_1 u_{k-N_2-d+1} + \bar{B}_2 u_{k-N_2-d}, \\ \hat{x}(s_{k-d+2}) = \bar{A}\hat{x}(s_{k-d+1}) + \bar{B}_1 u_{k-N_2-d+2} + \bar{B}_2 u_{k-N_2-d+1}, \\ \vdots \\ \hat{x}(s_{k-1}) = \bar{A}\hat{x}(s_{k-2}) + \bar{B}_1 u_{k-N_2-1} + \bar{B}_2 u_{k-N_2-2}, \\ \hat{x}(s_k) = \bar{A}\hat{x}(s_{k-1}) + \bar{B}_1 u_{k-N_2} + \bar{B}_2 u_{k-N_2-1}. \end{cases}$$

As stated after Assumption 1, the value of d can be determined by using the clock synchronization technique [28] in practice. Then, the equations above can provide the state estimation $\hat{x}(s_k)$ as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{x}(s_k) = & \bar{A}^d x(s_{k-d}) + \bar{A}^{d-1} \bar{B}_2 u_{k-N_2-d} + \bar{B}_1 u_{k-N_2} \\ & + \sum_{i=1}^{d-1} (\bar{A}^i \bar{B}_1 + \bar{A}^{i-1} \bar{B}_2) u_{k-N_2-i}. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

Finally, the control law can be calculated by using state-feedback control (11) and state prediction (13).

Remark 3. Since the controller-to-actuator delay is assumed to be constant in this subsection, (13) is a perfect prediction

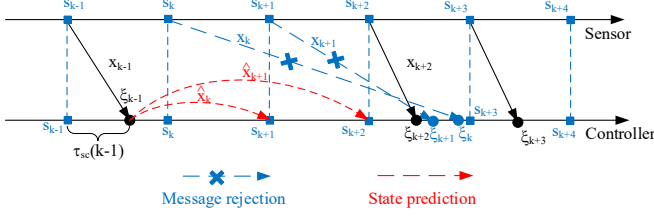


Fig. 2: Timing diagram of the sensor-to-controller channel with message rejections.

such that $\hat{x}(s_k) = x(s_k)$. If the controller-to-actuator delay is uncertain, then there exists an estimation error $e(s_k) = x(s_k) - \hat{x}(s_k)$. The effects of the estimation error will be analyzed in Subsection III-B.

Remark 4. Consider the case when the time-delays are large (i.e. N_1, N_2 are large), but the sampling period Δ is small. The sizes of the matrices $\mathcal{A}$, $\mathcal{B}$ are large, and it may lead to numerical issues when using the Matlab pole assignment functions `place` and `acker`. In this case, one can use the alternative method provided in [18, Section 6] to compute the control law u_{k+1} :

Step 1. Redefine the auxiliary state z_k as:

$$z_k = \hat{x}_k + \sum_{j=0}^{N_2-1} \bar{A}^{-j-1} \bar{B}_1 u_{k-N_2+j+1} + \sum_{j=0}^{N_2} \bar{A}^{-j-1} \bar{B}_2 u_{k-N_2+j}, \quad (14)$$

with $\bar{A}$, $\bar{B}_1$, and $\bar{B}_2$ defined in Assumption 1.

Step 2. Define $\bar{B} = \bar{A}^{-N_2} \bar{B}_1 + \bar{A}^{-N_2-1} \bar{B}_2$. Then compute the feedback gain K_z such that the matrix $\bar{A} + \bar{B}K_z$ is Schur stable. Therefore, the system plant can be stabilized by using the alternative control law

$$u_{k+1} = K_z z_k. \quad (15)$$

Note that the dimension of the alternative control law (14)-(15) is equivalent to the dimension of the original system, which is smaller than the extended one. More detailed analysis about these two methods are available in [18, Remarks 8,9,10].

The state prediction technique (13) is able to deal with slight message rejection [16, pp.1576] (packet reordering [32, pp.1775]) in the sensor-to-controller network. In the communication channel, if an older data packet arrives at its destination after a newer packet, then this older one is discarded in order to ensure that the newest data is processed. This phenomenon is presented in Fig. 2, where the measurements $x(s_k)$ and $x(s_{k+1})$ are neglected due to message rejection since they arrive at the controller after the measurement $x(s_{k+2})$.

In order to deal with the message rejection shown by Fig. 2, at $t = s_{k+1}$ and $t = s_{k+2}$, one uses the technique (13) to predict the states $\hat{x}(s_k)$ (with the case $d = 1$) and $\hat{x}(s_{k+1})$ (with the case $d = 2$), after which the control inputs u_{k+1} and u_{k+2} are successfully calculated even though the message rejection occurs.

Lemma 1. At least one measurement $x(s_{k-d})$ with $1 \leq d \leq N_1$ is available to the controller at $t = s_k$.

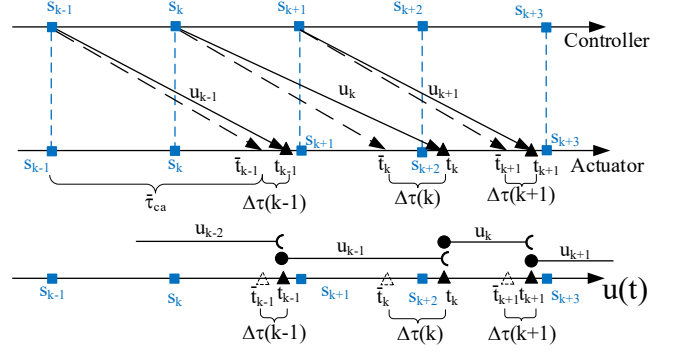


Fig. 3: Timing diagram of the controller-to-actuator channel with uncertain delays.

Proof. Firstly, because the sensor-to-controller delay is upper bounded by $N_1\Delta$, the measurement $x(s_{k-N_1})$ must arrive at the controller before $t = s_k$ since

$$\xi_{k-N_1} = s_{k-N_1} + \tau_{sc}(k-N_1) \leq s_{k-N_1} + N_1\Delta \leq s_k. \quad (16)$$

Secondly, if the measurement $x(s_{k-N_1})$ is not discarded, then Lemma 1 is proven with $d = N_1$. Thirdly, if $x(s_{k-N_1})$ is rejected, then there must exist an integer $1 \leq d < N_1$ such that $x(s_{k-d})$ successfully arrives at the controller and its arriving time ξ_{k-d} is earlier than the arriving time of $x(s_{k-N_1})$ such that

$$\xi_{k-d} \leq \xi_{k-N_1} \leq s_k. \quad (17)$$

Thus, $x(s_{k-d})$ is available to the controller at $t = s_k$ and this ends the proof. $\square$

Lemma 1 ensures that the maximum value of d in (13) is N_1 .

B. Controller-to-actuator uncertain delay case

In this subsection, we develop the technique given in Subsection III-A, and take into account the delay uncertainty in the controller-to-actuator channel. Consider (5) and (6). The controller-to-actuator delay satisfies

$$(N_2 - 1)\Delta < \tau_{ca}(k) \leq (N_2 + 1)\Delta. \quad (18)$$

Fig. 3 shows a timing diagram of the controller-to-actuator uncertain delay case with $N_2 = 2$ for instance. Let $\{\bar{t}_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ be the expected arriving times of each control input (without delay uncertainties) such that

$$\bar{t}_k = s_k + \bar{\tau}_{ca}, \quad (19)$$

and the sequence $\{t_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ presents the true arriving times of each control input such that

$$t_k = s_k + \tau_{ca}(k) = \bar{t}_k + \Delta\tau(k). \quad (20)$$

Comparing (5) and (18), two cases must be considered.

Case 1:

$$(N_2 - 1)\Delta < \bar{\tau}_{ca} < \tau_{ca}(k) \leq N_2\Delta. \quad (21)$$

In this case, the delay uncertainty $\Delta\tau(k)$ is not greater than $N_2\Delta - \bar{\tau}_{ca}$, and it implies that

$$s_k < \bar{t}_{k-N_2+1} < t_{k-N_2+1} \leq s_{k+1}. \quad (22)$$

In Fig. 3, the control input u_{k-1} illustrates this case. The state-translation equation between $x(s_k)$ and $x(s_{k+1})$ reads as

$$\begin{aligned} x(s_{k+1}) = & e^{A\Delta}x(s_k) + \int_{s_k}^{\bar{t}_{k-N_2+1}} e^{A(s_{k+1}-\theta)} d\theta B u_{k-N_2} \\ & + \int_{\bar{t}_{k-N_2+1}}^{t_{k-N_2+1}} e^{A(s_{k+1}-\theta)} d\theta B u_{k-N_2} \\ & + \int_{t_{k-N_2+1}}^{s_{k+1}} e^{A(s_{k+1}-\theta)} d\theta B u_{k-N_2+1} \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Under Assumption 1, one has that $\bar{B}_1 = \int_{\bar{t}_{k-N_2+1}}^{s_{k+1}} e^{A(s_{k+1}-\theta)} d\theta B$ and $\bar{B}_2 = \int_{\bar{t}_{k-N_2+1}}^{t_{k-N_2+1}} e^{A(s_{k+1}-\theta)} d\theta B$. Let $\Delta\bar{B}_1(k - N_2 + 1) = \int_{\bar{t}_{k-N_2+1}}^{t_{k-N_2+1}} e^{A(s_{k+1}-\theta)} d\theta B$. Then (23) equals to

$$\begin{aligned} x(s_{k+1}) = & \bar{A}x(s_k) + [\bar{B}_1 - \Delta\bar{B}_1(k - N_2 + 1)]u_{k-N_2+1} \\ & + [\bar{B}_2 + \Delta\bar{B}_1(k - N_2 + 1)]u_{k-N_2}. \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

Case 2:

$$(N_2 - 1)\Delta < \bar{\tau}_{ca} \leq N_2\Delta < \tau_{ca}(k). \quad (25)$$

This case shows that the delay uncertainty $\Delta\tau(k)$ is greater than $N_2\Delta - \bar{\tau}_{ca}$, and it leads to

$$s_k < \bar{t}_{k-N_2+1} \leq s_{k+1} < t_{k-N_2+1}. \quad (26)$$

The control input u_k in Fig. 3 describes this case. The state-translation equation between $x(s_{k+1})$ and $x(s_{k+2})$ is given by

$$x(s_{k+2}) = \bar{A}x(s_{k+1}) + [\bar{B}_1 - \bar{B}_1]u_{k-N_2+2} + [\bar{B}_2 + \bar{B}_1]u_{k-N_2+1}. \quad (27)$$

Indeed, if this case occurs, the delay uncertainty $\Delta\tau(k)$ also has an influence on the system plant during the next sampling period. For instance, the control input u_{k-1} of Fig. 3 is also applied to the plant on interval $[s_{k+2}, t_k) \subset [s_{k+2}, s_{k+3}]$ which yields

$$\begin{aligned} x(s_{k+3}) = & \bar{A}x(s_{k+2}) + [\bar{B}_1 - \Delta\bar{B}_1(k - N_2 + 3)]u_{k-N_2+3} \\ & + [\bar{B}_2 + \Delta\bar{B}_1(k - N_2 + 3) - \Delta\bar{B}_2(k - N_2 + 2)]u_{k-N_2+2} \\ & + \Delta\bar{B}_2(k - N_2 + 2)u_{k-N_2+1} \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

$$\text{with } \Delta\bar{B}_2(k - N_2 + 2) = \int_{s_{k+2}}^{t_k} e^{A(s_{k+3}-\theta)} d\theta B.$$

In conclusion, for both **Case 1** and **Case 2**, one defines

$$\Delta\bar{B}_1(k) = \begin{cases} \bar{B}_1, & \text{if } \Delta\tau(k) > N_2\Delta - \bar{\tau}_{ca} \\ \int_{\bar{\tau}_{ca}-(N_2-1)\Delta}^{\bar{\tau}_{ca}-(N_2-1)\Delta+\Delta\tau(k)} e^{A(\Delta-\theta)} d\theta B, & \text{if } \Delta\tau(k) \leq N_2\Delta - \bar{\tau}_{ca} \end{cases} \quad (29)$$

and

$$\Delta\bar{B}_2(k) = \begin{cases} \int_0^{\bar{\tau}_{ca}+\Delta\tau(k)-N_2\Delta} e^{A(\Delta-\theta)} d\theta B, & \text{if } \Delta\tau(k) > N_2\Delta - \bar{\tau}_{ca} \\ 0, & \text{if } \Delta\tau(k) \leq N_2\Delta - \bar{\tau}_{ca}. \end{cases} \quad (30)$$

Thus, the following state-translation equation describes all the cases mentioned above:

$$\begin{aligned} x(s_{k+1}) = & \bar{A}x(s_k) + [\bar{B}_1 - \Delta\bar{B}_1(k - N_2 + 1)]u_{k-N_2+1} \\ & + [\bar{B}_2 + \Delta\bar{B}_1(k - N_2 + 1) - \Delta\bar{B}_2(k - N_2)]u_{k-N_2} \\ & + \Delta\bar{B}_2(k - N_2)u_{k-N_2-1}. \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

Remark 5. If there is no delay uncertainty in the controller-to-actuator channel, then the matrices $\Delta\bar{B}_1(k - N_2 + 1)$, $\Delta\bar{B}_2(k - N_2)$ given in (31) are zero, and (31) is reduced to (9).

Lemma 2. If the delay uncertainty satisfies $0 \leq \Delta\tau(k) \leq \mu \leq \Delta$ for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$, then the norms of the matrices $\Delta\bar{B}_1(k)$ and $\Delta\bar{B}_2(k)$ satisfy

$$\|\Delta\bar{B}_1(k)\| \leq \mu e^{\|A\|\Delta}\|B\|, \quad \|\Delta\bar{B}_2(k)\| \leq \mu e^{\|A\|\Delta}\|B\| \quad (32)$$

for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$.

Proof. Suppose that $\Delta\tau(k) > N_2\Delta - \bar{\tau}_{ca}$ hold. Then one has

$$\Delta\bar{B}_1(k) = \bar{B}_1 = \int_{\bar{\tau}_{ca}-(N_2-1)\Delta}^{\Delta} e^{A(\Delta-\theta)} d\theta B. \quad (33)$$

By using the triangle inequality for integrals, (33) leads to

$$\begin{aligned} \|\Delta\bar{B}_1(k)\| & \leq \int_{\bar{\tau}_{ca}-(N_2-1)\Delta}^{\Delta} \|e^{A(\Delta-\theta)}\| d\theta \|B\| \\ & \leq \int_{\bar{\tau}_{ca}-(N_2-1)\Delta}^{\Delta} e^{\|A\|\Delta} d\theta \|B\| \\ & \leq [\Delta - \bar{\tau}_{ca} + (N_2 - 1)\Delta] e^{\|A\|\Delta} \|B\| \leq \mu e^{\|A\|\Delta} \|B\|. \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

Similarly, $\|\Delta\bar{B}_2(k)\| \leq \mu e^{\|A\|\Delta} \|B\|$ is proven by using the same inequality (34) and the fact that $\bar{\tau}_{ca} + \Delta\tau(k) - N_2\Delta \leq \Delta\tau(k)$. Now, consider the case $\Delta\tau(k) \leq N_2\Delta - \bar{\tau}_{ca}$. One can prove that $\|\Delta\bar{B}_1(k)\| \leq \mu e^{\|A\|\Delta} \|B\|$ the same way as with (34), after which one has $\|\Delta\bar{B}_2(k)\| = 0$. This ends the proof. $\square$

Similar to Subsection III-A, one uses the state prediction (13) to predict the state $x(s_k)$ when the expected state measurement of $x(s_k)$ is not available to the controller at instant $t = s_{k+1}$. However, one cannot perfectly calculate the system state $x(s_k)$ due to delay uncertainty $\Delta\tau(k)$, and only a state estimation $\hat{x}(s_k)$ can be computed. Assume that only the previous state measurement $x(s_{k-d})$ is available to the controller at instant $t = s_{k+1}$. Then, one can calculate the state prediction error as follows.

Step 1. Firstly, the true state-translation equation (31) between $x(s_{k-d})$ and $x(s_{k-d+1})$ reads as

$$\begin{aligned} x(s_{k-d+1}) = & \bar{A}x(s_{k-d}) + \Delta\bar{B}_2(k - d - N_2)u_{k-d-N_2-1} \\ & + [\bar{B}_2 + \Delta\bar{B}_1(k - d - N_2 + 1) - \Delta\bar{B}_2(k - d - N_2)]u_{k-d-N_2} \\ & + [\bar{B}_1 - \Delta\bar{B}_1(k - d - N_2 + 1)]u_{k-d-N_2+1} \end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

and the 1-step state prediction based on $x(s_{k-d})$ is calculated as

$$\hat{x}(s_{k-d+1}) = \bar{A}x(s_{k-d}) + \bar{B}_1 u_{k-d-N_2+1} + \bar{B}_2 u_{k-d-N_2}. \quad (36)$$

Taking the difference between (35) and (36), the 1-step prediction error is

$$\begin{aligned} e(s_{k-d+1}) = & x(s_{k-d+1}) - \hat{x}(s_{k-d+1}) \\ = & \Delta\bar{B}_1(k - d - N_2 + 1)(u_{k-d-N_2} - u_{k-d-N_2+1}) \\ & + \Delta\bar{B}_2(k - d - N_2)(u_{k-d-N_2-1} - u_{k-d-N_2}). \end{aligned} \quad (37)$$

Step 2. Secondly, one considers the estimation error $e(s_{k-d+2})$ in a similar way, but one assumes that $x(s_{k-d+1})$ is still not received by the controller, so the state prediction $\hat{x}(s_{k-d+1})$

provided in (36) is used for the further state prediction of $x(s_{k-d+2})$ as follows:

$$\hat{x}(s_{k-d+2}) = \bar{A}\hat{x}(s_{k-d+1}) + \bar{B}_1 u_{k-d-N_2+2} + \bar{B}_2 u_{k-d-N_2+1}. \quad (38)$$

Then, the true state-translation equation (31) between $x(s_{k-d+1})$ and $x(s_{k-d+2})$ is obtained in the sequel:

$$\begin{aligned} x(s_{k-d+2}) &= \bar{A}x(s_{k-d+1}) + \Delta\bar{B}_2(k-d-N_2+1)u_{k-d-N_2} \\ &+ [\bar{B}_2 + \Delta\bar{B}_1(k-d-N_2+2) - \Delta\bar{B}_2(k-d-N_2+1)]u_{k-d-N_2+1} \\ &+ [\bar{B}_1 - \Delta\bar{B}_1(k-d-N_2+2)]u_{k-d-N_2+2}. \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

Taking the difference between (39) and (38), one can calculate the 2-step estimation error as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} e(s_{k-d+2}) &= \bar{A}e(s_{k-d+1}) \\ &+ \Delta\bar{B}_1(k-d-N_2+2)(u_{k-d-N_2+1} - u_{k-d-N_2+2}) \\ &+ \Delta\bar{B}_2(k-d-N_2+1)(u_{k-d-N_2} - u_{k-d-N_2+1}). \end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

Step 3. Recursively, the d -step state estimation error $e(s_k)$ based on the state measurement $x(s_{k-d})$ reads as:

$$\begin{aligned} e(s_k) &= \bar{A}^{d-1}\Delta\bar{B}_1(k-d-N_2+1)(u_{k-d-N_2} - u_{k-d-N_2+1}) \\ &+ \bar{A}^{d-1}\Delta\bar{B}_2(k-d-N_2)(u_{k-d-N_2-1} - u_{k-d-N_2}) \\ &+ \bar{A}^{d-2}\Delta\bar{B}_1(k-d-N_2+2)(u_{k-d-N_2+1} - u_{k-d-N_2+2}) \\ &+ \bar{A}^{d-2}\Delta\bar{B}_2(k-d-N_2+1)(u_{k-d-N_2} - u_{k-d-N_2+1}) \\ &+ \dots \\ &+ \Delta\bar{B}_1(k-N_2)(u_{k-N_2-1} - u_{k-N_2}) \\ &+ \Delta\bar{B}_2(k-N_2-1)(u_{k-N_2-2} - u_{k-N_2-1}). \end{aligned} \quad (41)$$

Finally, the control law u_{k+1} is calculated by

$$u_{k+1} = \mathcal{K}\hat{z}_k \quad (42)$$

$$\text{with } \hat{z}_k = [\hat{x}^T(s_k) \quad u_k^T \quad u_{k-1}^T \quad \dots \quad u_{k-N_1-N_2}^T \quad u_{k-N_1-N_2-1}^T]^T.$$

Remark 6. Note that (42) is designed to deal with the case $1 \leq d \leq N_1$. If $d = 0$ holds, then it implies that the state measurement $x(s_k)$ is available to the controller at instant $t = s_{k+1}$ and there is no need to use the state prediction (13). In this case, one can directly set $\hat{x}(s_k) = x(s_k)$, and the control law (42) is equivalent to (11).

Lemma 3. The 2-norm of a class of block matrices

$$\Gamma = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & -B & B & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (43)$$

satisfies that

$$\|\Gamma\| \leq \sqrt{2}\|B\|. \quad (44)$$

Proof. The 2-norm of Γ is the induced norm [33, pp.281] such that

$$\|\Gamma\| = \sup \{ \|\Gamma x\| : \|x\| = 1 \} \quad (45)$$

where x is a vector with appropriate dimension. One assumes that $\bar{x} = [x_1^T \quad \dots \quad x_j^T \quad x_{j+1}^T \quad \dots \quad x_r^T]^T$ satisfies $\|\bar{x}\| = 1$ and

$$\|\Gamma\| = \sup \{ \|\Gamma x\| : \|x\| = 1 \} = \|\Gamma \bar{x}\|, \quad (46)$$

then one has

$$\|\Gamma\| = \left\| \begin{bmatrix} (-Bx_j + Bx_{j+1})^T & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix}^T \right\| = \|-Bx_j + Bx_{j+1}\|. \quad (47)$$

By using the triangle inequality, (47) is upper bounded as

$$\|\Gamma\| \leq \|B\|(\|x_j\| + \|x_{j+1}\|). \quad (48)$$

Note that according to the definition of the Euclidean vector norm [33, pp.270] and the fact that $\|\bar{x}\| = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{i=r} \|x_i\|^2} = 1$,

$$(\|x_j\| + \|x_{j+1}\|)^2 \leq 2\|x_j\|^2 + 2\|x_{j+1}\|^2 \leq 2 \sum_{i=1}^{i=r} \|x_i\|^2 = 2. \quad (49)$$

Finally, (48) and (49) imply (44), which ends the proof. $\square$

IV. MAIN THEORETICAL RESULTS

The main theoretical results of this work are presented in this section. Before stating the main convergence result of this work, one uses the results given in Lemmas 1–3 to find the upper bound on the estimation error (41).

Lemma 4. Consider the extended states

$$z_k = [x^T(s_k) \quad u_k^T \quad \dots \quad u_{k-N_2+1}^T \quad u_{k-N_2}^T \quad \dots \quad u_{k-N_1-N_2-1}^T]^T \quad (50)$$

and

$$\hat{z}_k = [\hat{x}^T(s_k) \quad u_k^T \quad \dots \quad u_{k-N_2+1}^T \quad u_{k-N_2}^T \quad \dots \quad u_{k-N_1-N_2-1}^T]^T, \quad (51)$$

where there exists a constant $\Theta > 0$ such that the extended error $e(z_k) = z_k - \hat{z}_k$ is upper bounded as follows:

$$\|e(z_k)\| \leq \Theta\mu\|z_k\| \quad (52)$$

with μ defined in Lemma 2.

Proof. Firstly, if $d = 0$, then the estimation error is zero according to Remark 6, and (52) holds with an arbitrary $\Theta > 0$. Then one moves on to the case $1 \leq d \leq N_1$, where Lemma 1 ensures that the maximum value of d in (41) is N_1 , and all of the control inputs mentioned in the right-hand side of (41) are contained in (50) and (51).

Secondly, the extended error between z_k and $\hat{z}_k$ reads as

$$e(z_k) = [e^T(s_k) \quad 0^T \quad \dots \quad 0^T]^T. \quad (53)$$

Consider that the last term of (41) and the error term (53) yields

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[[\Delta\bar{B}_2(u_{k-N_2-2} - u_{k-N_2-1})]^T \quad 0^T \quad \dots \quad 0^T \right]^T = \\ & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \dots & 0 & -\Delta\bar{B}_2 & \Delta\bar{B}_2 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix} z_k \end{aligned} \quad (54)$$

where the matrix $\Delta\bar{B}_2(k-N_2-1)$ is written as $\Delta\bar{B}_2$ due to space limitations. Taking the norm of (54) and applying Lemmas 2–3, it leads to

$$\left\| \begin{bmatrix} \Delta\bar{B}_2(u_{k-N_2-2}-u_{k-N_2-1}) \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\| \leq \sqrt{2}\|\Delta\bar{B}_2(k-N_2-1)\|\|z_k\| \leq \sqrt{2}\mu e^{\|A\|\Delta}\|B\|\|z_k\|. \quad (55)$$

Repeating the calculations of (54)–(55) for all of the terms presented in the right-hand side of (41), then taking the sum of them leads to

$$\|e(z_k)\| \leq 2\sqrt{2} \left(\sum_{i=0}^{d-1} \|\bar{A}\|^i \right) \mu e^{\|A\|\Delta}\|B\|\|z_k\| \leq \begin{cases} 2\sqrt{2} \frac{\|\bar{A}\|^d - 1}{\|\bar{A}\| - 1} \mu e^{\|A\|\Delta}\|B\|\|z_k\|, & \text{if } \|\bar{A}\| \neq 1 \\ 2\sqrt{2}d\mu e^{\|A\|\Delta}\|B\|\|z_k\|, & \text{if } \|\bar{A}\| = 1 \end{cases}. \quad (56)$$

Finally, by virtue of Lemma 1, one has that $d \leq N_1$. Then (52) is proven with

$$\Theta = \begin{cases} 2\sqrt{2} \frac{\|\bar{A}\|^{N_1-1}}{\|\bar{A}\|-1} e^{\|A\|\Delta}\|B\|, & \text{if } \|\bar{A}\| \neq 1 \\ 2\sqrt{2}N_1 e^{\|A\|\Delta}\|B\|, & \text{if } \|\bar{A}\| = 1 \end{cases}. \quad (57)$$

□

The main convergence result of this work is given in the following theorem.

Theorem 1. Consider the fact that system (1) is controlled through a network that is subject to the sensor-to-controller time-varying delay (3) and a controller-to-actuator uncertain constant delay (4) satisfying (5)–(6). The controller is supposed to be time-driven, and the control algorithm is composed of state prediction (13) and the discrete predictor-based controller (42). If the controller-to-actuator delay uncertainty is smaller than a certain bound² μ^* as follows:

$$0 \leq \Delta\tau(k) \leq \mu \leq \mu^*, \quad (58)$$

for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$, then there exist constants $M > 0$ and $\eta \in (0, 1)$ such that the extended discrete-time system is globally exponentially stable:

$$\|z_k\| \leq M\|z_0\|\eta^k, \quad (59)$$

and the sequence $\{x(s_k)\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ also globally converges to zero with decay rate η . ■

Proof. Firstly, consider the state-translation equation (31) and the control law (42), which leads to

$$\begin{aligned} z_{k+1} &= (\mathcal{A} + \Delta\mathcal{A}_k)z_k + \mathcal{B}u_{k+1} \\ &= (\mathcal{A} + \Delta\mathcal{A}_k)z_k + \mathcal{B}\mathcal{K}\hat{z}_k \\ &= (\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}\mathcal{K})z_k + \Delta\mathcal{A}_k z_k - \mathcal{B}\mathcal{K}e(z_k) \end{aligned} \quad (60)$$

with

$$\Delta\mathcal{A}_k = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \cdots & 0 & -\Delta\bar{B}_1 & \Delta\bar{B}_1 - \Delta\bar{B}_2 & \Delta\bar{B}_2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (61)$$

where the indexes of $\Delta\bar{B}_1(k-N_2+1)$, $\Delta\bar{B}_2(k-N_2)$ are omitted due to space limitations. Taking the norm of $\Delta\mathcal{A}_k$ and using Lemmas 2–3 gives

$$\|\Delta\mathcal{A}_k\| \leq \sqrt{2}(\|\Delta\bar{B}_1(k-N_2+1)\| + \|\Delta\bar{B}_2(k-N_2)\|) \leq 2\sqrt{2}e^{\|A\|\Delta}\|B\|\mu. \quad (62)$$

Define the discrete-time Lyapunov function as

$$V_k = z_k^T P z_k \quad (63)$$

with P satisfying (12). Taking the difference between V_{k+1} and V_k leads to

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta V_k &= V_{k+1} - V_k \\ &= -\varepsilon z_k^T z_k + z_k^T \Delta\mathcal{A}_k^T P \Delta\mathcal{A}_k z_k + e^T(z_k) \mathcal{K}^T \mathcal{B}^T P \mathcal{B} \mathcal{K} e(z_k) \\ &\quad + 2z_k^T (\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}\mathcal{K})^T P \Delta\mathcal{A}_k z_k - 2z_k^T \Delta\mathcal{A}_k^T P \mathcal{B} \mathcal{K} e(z_k) \\ &\quad - 2z_k^T (\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}\mathcal{K})^T P \mathcal{B} \mathcal{K} e(z_k). \end{aligned} \quad (64)$$

Taking the norm of the right-hand side of (64) and using (62), (52) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta V_k &\leq -\varepsilon\|z_k\|^2 + 8e^{2\|A\|\Delta}\|B\|^2\|P\|\mu^2\|z_k\|^2 \\ &\quad + \|\mathcal{B}\mathcal{K}\|^2\|P\|\Theta^2\mu^2\|z_k\|^2 \\ &\quad + 4\sqrt{2}\|\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}\mathcal{K}\|e^{\|A\|\Delta}\|B\|\|P\|\mu\|z_k\|^2 \\ &\quad + 4\sqrt{2}\|\mathcal{B}\mathcal{K}\|e^{\|A\|\Delta}\|B\|\|P\|\Theta\mu^2\|z_k\|^2 \\ &\quad + 2\|\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}\mathcal{K}\|\|\mathcal{B}\mathcal{K}\|\|P\|\Theta\mu\|z_k\|^2. \end{aligned} \quad (65)$$

Define

$$\alpha = (8e^{2\|A\|\Delta}\|B\|^2 + \|\mathcal{B}\mathcal{K}\|^2\Theta^2 + 4\sqrt{2}\|\mathcal{B}\mathcal{K}\|e^{\|A\|\Delta}\|B\|\|\Theta\|)\|P\| \quad (66)$$

and

$$\beta = (4\sqrt{2}\|\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}\mathcal{K}\|e^{\|A\|\Delta}\|B\| + 2\|\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}\mathcal{K}\|\|\mathcal{B}\mathcal{K}\|\|\Theta\|)\|P\| \quad (67)$$

then (65) is simplified as

$$\Delta V_k \leq -[-\alpha\mu^2 - \beta\mu + \varepsilon]\|z_k\|^2. \quad (68)$$

Given a constant $0 < \gamma < \min\{\lambda_{\max}(P), \varepsilon\}$, and defining

$$\mu^* = \min \left\{ \frac{\sqrt{\beta^2 + 4\alpha(\varepsilon - \gamma)} - \beta}{2\alpha}, \Delta \right\}, \quad (69)$$

note that if $0 \leq \mu \leq \mu^*$, then (69) ensures that

$$-\alpha\mu^2 - \beta\mu + (\varepsilon - \gamma) \geq 0 \quad (70)$$

and (68) further implies that

$$V_{k+1} - V_k = \Delta V_k \leq -\gamma\|z_k\|^2 \leq -\frac{\gamma}{\lambda_{\max}(P)}V_k. \quad (71)$$

²the detailed calculation of this bound is given in the proof of this theorem.

Since $0 < \gamma < \lambda_{\max}(P)$, it follows that $0 < 1 - \gamma/\lambda_{\max}(P) < 1$. Finally, (71) and (50) lead to

$$\|x(s_k)\| \leq \|z_k\| \leq \underbrace{\sqrt{\frac{\lambda_{\max}(P)}{\lambda_{\min}(P)}}}_M \left(\underbrace{\sqrt{1 - \frac{\gamma}{\lambda_{\max}(P)}}}_\eta \right)^k \|z_0\|. \quad (72)$$

Considering the fact that $1 - \gamma/\lambda_{\max}(P) \in (0, 1)$, the proof of Theorem 1 is finished. $\square$

Remark 7. If $\Delta\tau(k) = 0$, then Theorem 1 implies that the proposed method stabilizes NCSs with a long $\tau_{sc}(k)$, long Δ and long $\bar{\tau}_{ca}$ by virtue of the extended system representation (10) and the perfect state prediction (13). On the one hand, suppose that $\Delta\tau(k) = 0$ holds. Then, the stability condition (68) is reduced to $\Delta V_k \leq -\varepsilon\|z_k\|^2$ which is not constrained by the sizes of $\tau_{sc}(k)$, $\bar{\tau}_{ca}$, and Δ (given that μ is the upper bound on $\Delta\tau(k)$); on the other hand, long time-delays can be endured by the proposed method since the effects of the time-delays are converted to the structure of the delay-free extended system (10). A similar discussion about the above benefit of the discrete-time approach is also given in [18, Section 7.1].

Remark 8. In Theorem 1, the exponential convergence of the discrete-time sequence $\{x(s_k)\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ is obtained. Indeed, since the original system (1) is linear, the continuous-time exponential convergence of $x(t)$ can be derived if the following conditions hold:

- the matrix A does not have any eigenvalue with the form of $(2\pi/\Delta) \cdot kj$;
- if λ is an eigenvalue of A whose real part is nonnegative, then $\lambda + (2\pi/\Delta) \cdot kj$ is not an eigenvalue of A ;

for any nonzero integer k , a detailed analysis is given in [30, Section VIII].

Theorem 1 provides a discrete-time control scheme for a class of NCSs with sensor-to-controller time-varying delay, and the robustness to delay uncertainty is also analyzed.

V. RESULTS WITH EXTERNAL DISTURBANCE

In this section, the main theoretical results of Theorem 1 are extended to a case with external disturbance, and it will be shown that the discrete-time extended system $\{z_k\}$ is globally ISS (input-to-state stable) even with an external disturbance. In this case, the system plant is redefined as:

$$\dot{x}(t) = Ax(t) + Bu(t) + Dw(t) \quad (73)$$

with external disturbance $w(t) \in \mathbb{R}^p$ and $D \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$. Therefore, the following ISS property can be obtained:

Proposition 1. Consider the perturbed system (73) controlled through the network with the sensor-to-controller time-varying delay (3) and the controller-to-actuator uncertain constant delay (4) such that conditions (5)–(6) are satisfied. Under the same conditions as Theorem 1, the discrete-time predictor-based controller composed of (13) and (42) is able to guarantee that the closed-loop system of $\{z_k\}$ is globally ISS. $\blacksquare$

Sketch of Proof. The sketch of proof is almost the same as the one of Theorem 1, except that the effects of the external disturbance are taken into account.

Firstly, consider the state-translation equation (31). It is modified to the following perturbed equation:

$$\begin{aligned} x(s_{k+1}) = & \bar{A}x(s_k) + [\bar{B}_1 - \Delta\bar{B}_1(k - N_2 + 1)]u_{k-N_2+1} \\ & + [\bar{B}_2 + \Delta\bar{B}_1(k - N_2 + 1) - \Delta\bar{B}_2(k - N_2)]u_{k-N_2} \\ & + \Delta\bar{B}_2(k - N_2)u_{k-N_2-1} + W_{k+1}, \end{aligned} \quad (74)$$

with $W_{k+1} \triangleq \int_{s_k}^{s_{k+1}} e^{A(s_{k+1}-\theta)} D w(\theta) d\theta$, where the disturbance term is bounded as follows:

$$\|W_{k+1}\| \leq \Delta \cdot e^{\|A\|\Delta} \|D\| \sup_{s \in [s_k, s_{k+1}]} \|w(s)\|. \quad (75)$$

The new state-translation equation (74) implies that the effects of the external disturbance can not only influence the current state, but also be accumulated in the state prediction procedure. Namely, applying (74) to (37), (40), and (41) yields the 1-step perturbed estimation error:

$$\begin{aligned} e(s_{k-d+1}, W) = & \Delta\bar{B}_1(k - d - N_2 + 1)(u_{k-d-N_2} - u_{k-d-N_2+1}) \\ & + \Delta\bar{B}_2(k - d - N_2)(u_{k-d-N_2-1} - u_{k-d-N_2}) + W_{k-d+1}, \end{aligned} \quad (76)$$

the 2-step perturbed estimation error:

$$\begin{aligned} e(s_{k-d+2}, W) = & \bar{A}e(s_{k-d+1}, W) + W_{k-d+2} \\ & + \Delta\bar{B}_1(k - d - N_2 + 2)(u_{k-d-N_2+1} - u_{k-d-N_2+2}) \\ & + \Delta\bar{B}_2(k - d - N_2 + 1)(u_{k-d-N_2} - u_{k-d-N_2+1}), \end{aligned} \quad (77)$$

and the d -step perturbed estimation error:

$$\begin{aligned} e(s_k, W) = & \bar{A}^{d-1} \Delta\bar{B}_1(k - d - N_2 + 1)(u_{k-d-N_2} - u_{k-d-N_2+1}) \\ & + \bar{A}^{d-1} \Delta\bar{B}_2(k - d - N_2)(u_{k-d-N_2-1} - u_{k-d-N_2}) \\ & + \bar{A}^{d-2} \Delta\bar{B}_1(k - d - N_2 + 2)(u_{k-d-N_2+1} - u_{k-d-N_2+2}) \\ & + \bar{A}^{d-2} \Delta\bar{B}_2(k - d - N_2 + 1)(u_{k-d-N_2} - u_{k-d-N_2+1}) \\ & + \dots \\ & + \Delta\bar{B}_1(k - N_2)(u_{k-N_2-1} - u_{k-N_2}) \\ & + \Delta\bar{B}_2(k - N_2 - 1)(u_{k-N_2-2} - u_{k-N_2-1}) \\ & + \sum_{i=1}^d \bar{A}^{d-i} W_{k-d+i}. \end{aligned} \quad (78)$$

After calculating the prediction error (78), one moves on to the stability analysis. Taking (78) into account, the main results of Lemma 4 should be modified as:

$$\|e(z_k, W)\| \leq \Theta\mu\|z_k\| + \sum_{i=1}^d \|\bar{A}\|^{d-i} \|W_{k-d+i}\|. \quad (79)$$

Define $\bar{W}_{k+1} = [W_{k+1}^T \ 0^T \ \dots \ 0^T]^T$. Then the extended state-translation equation (60) is recalculated as:

$$z_{k+1} = (\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}\mathcal{K})z_k + \Delta\mathcal{A}z_k - \mathcal{B}\mathcal{K}e(z_k, W) + \bar{W}_{k+1} \quad (80)$$

where $e(z_k)$ takes the redefined value given in (79). Finally, considering the same Lyapunov function as given in Theorem

1 for the discrete-time perturbed extended system (80), it leads to:

$$\begin{aligned} V_{k+1} - V_k &\leq -\gamma \|z_k\|^2 + \bar{\sigma}_1 \|\mathbf{w}\|^2 + \bar{\sigma}_2 \|z_k\| \|\mathbf{w}\| \\ &\leq -\frac{\gamma}{2} \|z_k\|^2 + \left(\bar{\sigma}_1 + \frac{\bar{\sigma}_2^2}{2\gamma} \right) \|\mathbf{w}\|^2, \end{aligned} \quad (81)$$

with $\|\mathbf{w}\| \triangleq \sup\{\|w(s)\| | s \in \mathbb{R}^+\}$, and

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\sigma}_1 &= (\|\mathcal{BK}\| \Xi + 1)^2 \|P\| e^{2\|A\|\Delta} \|D\|^2 \cdot \Delta^2, \\ \bar{\sigma}_2 &= 2\|P\| \left(\|\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{BK}\| + 2\sqrt{2}e^{\|A\|\Delta} \|B\| \mu + \|\mathcal{BK}\| \Theta \mu \right) \\ &\quad \cdot (\|\mathcal{BK}\| \Xi + 1) \cdot e^{\|A\|\Delta} \|D\| \cdot \Delta, \end{aligned} \quad (82)$$

where $\Xi \triangleq \sum_{i=1}^d \|\bar{A}\|^{d-i}$. Inequality (81) ensures that the discrete-time extended system $\{z_k\}$ is globally ISS under the definition given in [34, Theorem II.4] which ends the sketch of proof. $\square$

In Proposition 1, the input-to-state stability of the discrete-time extended system is obtained, which implies that the proposed method can deal with the case when the system plant is perturbed by an uniformly bounded external disturbance.

VI. SIMULATION RESULTS

In this section, some simulation results are provided to demonstrate the benefits of the proposed control method based on the discrete-time approach, *i.e.* it is able to stabilize the NCS under a low sampling rate, as described in Subsection I-B. Moreover, the message rejection is also considered in the simulation, and it is compensated by the proposed state prediction technique (13).

Consider the continuous-time unperturbed plant

$$\dot{x}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0.7 \\ -0.4 & 0 \end{bmatrix} x(t) + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0.02 \end{bmatrix} u(t), \quad (83)$$

and the continuous-time perturbed plant

$$\dot{x}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0.7 \\ -0.4 & 0 \end{bmatrix} x(t) + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0.02 \end{bmatrix} u(t) + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} w(t), \quad (84)$$

with $w(t) = 0.2 \sin(2t)$, controlled through a network. The sampling period is set to $\Delta = 0.8s$, the sensor-to-controller delay is set to

$$\tau_{sc}(k) = \begin{cases} 0.5s, & k = 4m, & m \in \mathbb{N} \\ 2.0s, & k = 4m + 1, & m \in \mathbb{N} \\ 1.0s, & k = 4m + 2, & m \in \mathbb{N} \\ 0.7s, & k = 4m + 3, & m \in \mathbb{N} \end{cases} \quad (85)$$

and the controller-to-actuator delay is chosen as an uncertain constant delay such that $1.56s \leq \tau_{ca}(k) \leq 1.64s$. Thus, the controller-to-actuator delay can be modeled as (4) with $\bar{\tau}_{ca} = 1.56s$ and $\Delta\tau(k) \in (0, 0.08s]$.

The time-delays of this simulation have the following features:

- the sensor-to-controller delay is upper bounded by $N_1\Delta$ with $N_1 = 3$, and the nominal controller-to-actuator delay $\bar{\tau}_{ca}$ satisfies (5) with $N_2 = 2$;
- the message rejection is found in the sensor-to-controller channel, and the state measurements $x(s_{4m+1})$ with $m \in \mathbb{N}$ are discarded;

- the controller-to-actuator delay can be greater or smaller than $N_2\Delta$, namely, both Cases 1 and 2 given in Subsection III-B can occur;
- the external disturbance $Dw(t)$ is introduced in (84), which affects the performance of the closed-loop system.

In term of the discussions above, the parameters $N_1 = 3$ and $N_2 = 2$ are determined, the extended state is then defined as

$$\hat{z}_k = [\hat{x}^T(s_k) \quad u_k^T \quad u_{k-1}^T \quad \cdots \quad u_{k-6}^T]^T, \quad (86)$$

and the feedback controller is chosen as

$$\begin{aligned} u_{k+1} &= [0.3067 \quad 0.0245 \quad 0.7148 \quad -0.2276 \dots \\ &\quad \dots 0.0289 \quad -0.0016 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0] \hat{z}_k, \end{aligned} \quad (87)$$

which makes the matrix $\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{BK}$ Schur. Considering the proposed parameter settings, it is possible to determine $\Theta = 0.3121$ for Lemma 4. Next, we set $\varepsilon = 1$ and solve the Lyapunov equation (12). Then, the maximum allowable upper bound on the delay uncertainty (69) under Theorem 1 (for the case of $\gamma = 0.05$) is computed as $\mu^* = 0.0846s$, which is greater than the upper bounded $\mu = 0.08s$ in the simulation. Finally, the initial conditions of the simulation are set to $x(0) = [3 \quad -5]^T$, and $u_k = 0$ for all $k < 0$.

In addition, considering the fact that $N_1 = 3$, one may use a state-feedback without prediction or a 1-step/ 2-step state prediction to compute control law u_{k+1} . The detailed control strategies for these three cases are introduced as follows:

- **No state prediction is required:** the control law can be directly calculated as (87) where $\hat{z}_k$ is replaced by z_k ;
- **1-step state prediction is required:** one firstly calculates $\hat{x}(s_k) = \bar{A}x(s_{k-1}) + \bar{B}_1 u_{k-2} + \bar{B}_2 u_{k-3}$, then one can use (87) to compute the control input u_{k+1} ;
- **2-step state prediction is required:** in this case, the state prediction reads as $\hat{x}(s_k) = \bar{A}^2 x(s_{k-2}) + \bar{B}_1 u_{k-2} + (\bar{B}_2 + \bar{A}\bar{B}_1) u_{k-3} + \bar{A}\bar{B}_2 u_{k-4}$, and the estimation is then plugged into (87) for the controller design.

Namely, under the 1-step state prediction and the 2-step state prediction, the complete control laws are computed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} u_{k+1} &= [0.1164 \quad 0.1376 \quad 0.7148 \quad -0.2276 \dots \\ &\quad \dots 0.029 \quad -0.0002 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0] z_{1-step}, \\ u_{k+1} &= [0.0167 \quad 0.1717 \quad 0.7148 \quad -0.2276 \dots \\ &\quad \dots 0.029 \quad 0 \quad 0.0024 \quad 0 \quad 0] z_{2-step}, \end{aligned} \quad (88)$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} z_{1-step} &= [x^T(s_{k-1}) \quad u_k^T \quad u_{k-1}^T \quad \cdots \quad u_{k-6}^T]^T, \\ z_{2-step} &= [x^T(s_{k-2}) \quad u_k^T \quad u_{k-1}^T \quad \cdots \quad u_{k-6}^T]^T. \end{aligned} \quad (89)$$

The simulation results are provided in Fig. 4. The trajectories of the system (83) under control law (86)-(87) converge to the origin (see the blue/ red curves of Fig. 4a) for the unperturbed system (83), although the sampling period Δ is long and the sensor-to-controller delay $\tau_{sc}(k)$ is fast-varying. Next, the blue/ red dash curves of Fig. 4a illustrate that trajectories of the states converge into a small interval around the origin for the perturbed system (84). Moreover, it is observed that the message rejection that occurred in the sensor-to-controller network is also successfully overcome by the control solution of Theorem 1.

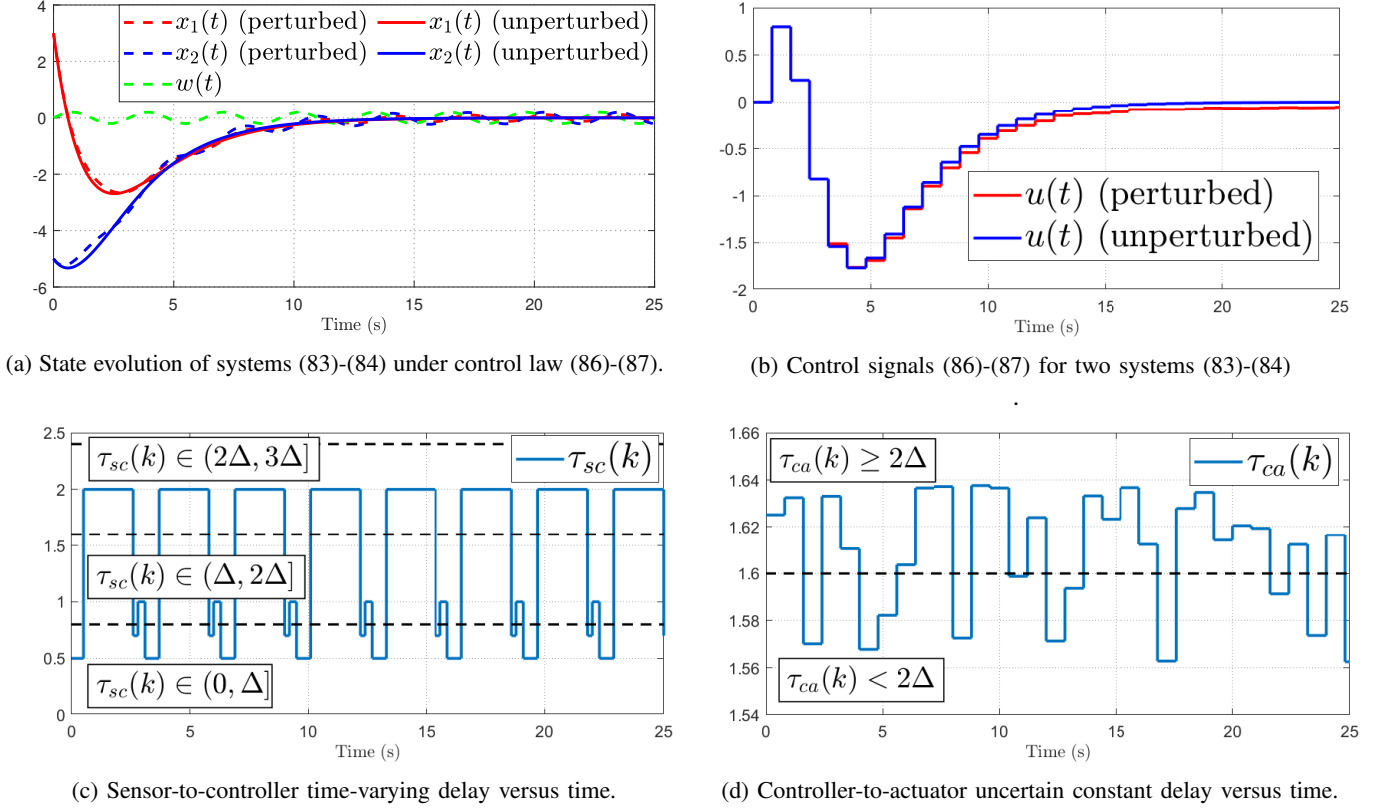


Fig. 4: State evolution, control signal, and network-induced delays versus time for the unperturbed/ perturbed systems (83)–(84)

The simulation results presented in this section highlight the following contributions of Theorem 1 and Proposition 1:

- the state prediction technique (13) is able to deal with slight sensor-to-controller message rejections;
- due to the properties of the discrete-time approach [16], [18], the proposed method provides endurance even with a long sampling period;
- the control technique is able to cope with a uniformly bounded external disturbance, and the ISS stability/ convergence is illustrated by the simulation results.

Furthermore, the calculation of the maximum allowable delay uncertainty μ^* in Theorem 1 is conservative, and the choice of the feedback matrix $\mathcal{K}$ can be more flexible in practice.

VII. EXPERIMENTAL VALIDATION ON NIPVSS

In this section, the main theoretical results of Theorem 1 are implemented on the NIPVSS test bench [6], [7] in order to test the effectiveness and the performance of the proposed control method on a real vision-based control system.

A. Configuration of the NIPVSS test bench

In this subsection, the NIPVSS test bench [6], [7] is introduced. The test bench is firstly composed of an inverted pendulum displayed in Fig. 5. The movement of the inverted pendulum is captured by an *Aca640-120gm* monochrome industrial camera (see Fig. 6), after which the state information

$x(s_k)$ is obtained by the image-processing algorithm (based on *Microsoft Visual Studio 2010* and *OpenCV 2.4.11*) on each frame. In this experimental set-up, the cart position is obtained by applying the translation between the pixel coordinate system and the world coordinate system since the camera and the moving plane are fixed. The pendulum angle is measured in the pixel coordinate system by using the edge detection technique based on the Hough Transformation [35]. Once the controller (*i.e.* a host computer) receives the vision-based state measurements through the communication channel, it runs the control algorithm and then sends the control signal to a *GT-400-SV-PCI* movement control card. Finally, a *MSDA023A1A* servo driver receives the control signal and drives the cart to move on the rail.

B. Controller design for NIPVSS based on Theorem 1

The controller design is based on the linearized inverted pendulum plant around the straight-up position

$$\dot{x}(t) = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & lmg/J & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_A x(t) + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ ml/J \end{bmatrix}}_B u(t) \quad (90)$$

with $x(t) = \text{col}\{\alpha, \theta, \dot{\alpha}, \dot{\theta}\}$. The parameters of (90) are provided in Table I. The NIPVSS is subject to the following time-delays:

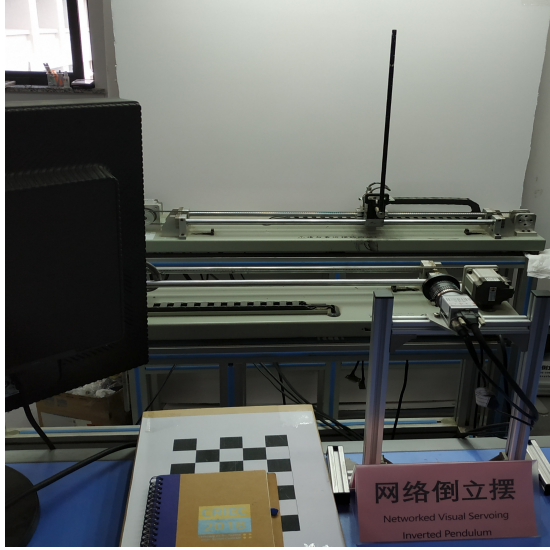


Fig. 5: The experimental set-up of the NIPVSS.

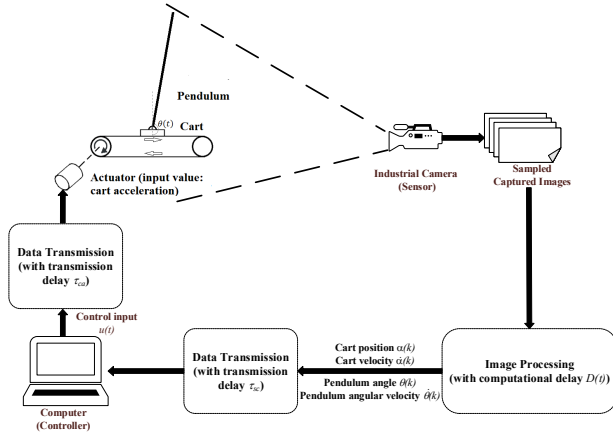


Fig. 6: Control diagram of the NIPVSS.

- the computational time $D(t) \in [0.015s, 0.016s]$ caused by the image-processing algorithm;
- the sensor-to-controller transmission delay bounded in $(0s, 0.007s]$ introduced by data communication;
- the controller-to-actuator transmission delay bounded in $(0s, 0.007s]$ introduced by data communication.

Thus, the control of the NIPVSS can be modeled as an NCS with the plant (90) and the time-delays mentioned above. The sensor-to-controller delay is the sum of the computational time and the transmission delay such that $\tau_{sc}(k) \in (0.015s, 0.023s]$, and the controller-to-actuator delay satisfies $\tau_{ca}(k) \in (0s, 0.007s]$.

TABLE I: Model parameters of the inverted pendulum (reprint from [7, Table 1]).

g	Gravitational acceleration	$9.81m/s^2$
m	Mass of the pendulum	$0.109kg$
J	Moment of the inertia of the pendulum	$0.009083kg \cdot m^2$
l	Length to the pendulum center of mass	$0.25m$
α	Cart position	m
θ	Pendulum angle	rad

Note that the max frame rate of the industrial camera is $120Hz$, i.e. the industrial camera can maximumly take 120 photos per second, but the image-processing algorithm cannot follow up with this sampling rate. Indeed, by considering the image-processing time $D(t)$, the image-processing algorithm cannot process more than $1/0.015 = 66.67$ frames per second. In the experiment, the sampling period is set to $\Delta = 0.02s$ in order to ensure that each frame is captured after the state information resolution of the previous frame, and a similar discussion is given in [13, pp.554].

Consider the time-delays $\tau_{sc}(k)$, $\tau_{ca}(k)$, the sampling period Δ and the system modeling provided in (3)–(5). The parameters $N_1 = 2$, $\bar{\tau}_{ca} = 0s$, and $N_2 = 1$ are then determined.

Remark 9. According to Lemma 4, one should add u_{k-i} , $i = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$ into the extended state (51) since $N_1 = 2$ and $N_2 = 1$. However, it is not necessary to use u_{k-4} since the case described by (25) cannot occur in this experiment because

$$\tau_{ca}(k) \leq 0.007s < N_2\Delta = \Delta, \quad k \in \mathbb{N}_+. \quad (91)$$

By virtue of (91), u_{k-4} cannot influence the state-translation between $x(s_k)$ and $x(s_{k+1})$, so it is not necessary to be used in the controller design.

By considering Remark 9, the following extended state is chosen to build the control law for this experiment:

$$\hat{z}_k = [\hat{x}^T(s_k) \quad u_k^T \quad u_{k-1}^T \quad u_{k-2}^T \quad u_{k-3}^T]^T. \quad (92)$$

Next, in order to guarantee the experimental control performance, the following closed-loop poles of the discrete-time extended system have been obtained by trial and error:

$$\{e^{-1.6\Delta}, e^{-1.7\Delta}, e^{-3\Delta}, e^{-19\Delta}, e^{-35\Delta}, e^{-36\Delta}, e^{-37\Delta}, e^{-38\Delta}\},$$

and the proposed control law reads as

$$u_{k+1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.2959 & -5.5002 & 0.5043 & -1.0435 & \dots \\ \dots & 1.4770 & -0.9802 & 0.2888 & -0.0325 \end{bmatrix} \hat{z}_k. \quad (93)$$

Under the parameter setting of the NIPVSS, the control law u_{k+1} can be calculated through a state-feedback without prediction (93) or the one with a 1-step prediction by using the same technique presented in (88)–(89), and the complete control law under the 1-step prediction is computed as:

$$u_{k+1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.2959 & -6.1481 & 0.5103 & -1.1598 & \dots \\ \dots & 1.4770 & -1.0361 & 0.2888 & -0.0325 \end{bmatrix} z_{1-step}, \quad (94)$$

with

$$z_{1-step} = [x^T(s_{k-1}) \quad u_k^T \quad u_{k-1}^T \quad \dots \quad u_{k-6}^T]^T. \quad (95)$$

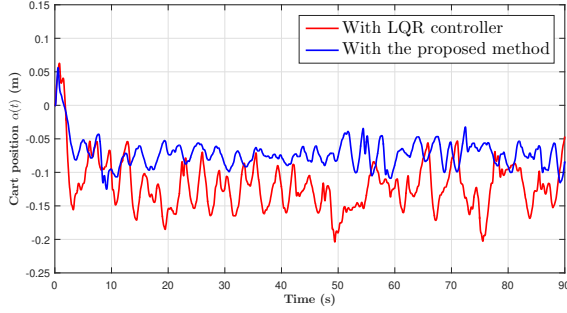
In order to evaluate the control performance of the proposed method, the continuous-time LQR controller³ (with $Q = \text{diag}(50, 230, 0, 0)$ and $R = 50$):

$$u(t) = [1 \quad -25.5765 \quad 1.7944 \quad -4.7004] x(t) \quad (96)$$

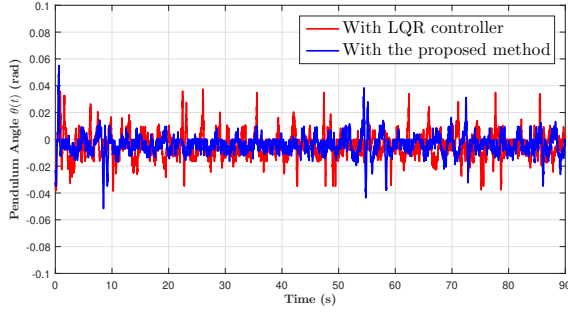
provided in [37, pp.439] is used for a comparison. Note that [37] is based on the same inverted pendulum experimental set-up as Fig. 5.

³The continuous-time controller (96) is emulated [36, Section 2.2] to the sampled-data form for the experiment on the NIPVSS.

C. Experimental results



(a) Cart positions $\alpha(t)$ versus time with controllers (93) and (96).



(b) Pendulum angles $\theta(t)$ versus time with controllers (93) and (96).

Fig. 7: Experimental results with the LQR controller (96) and the proposed controller (93)-(95).

The experimental results⁴ are presented in Fig. 7. Firstly, Fig. 7b shows that the two methods can achieve good control performance on the pendulum angle $\theta(t)$: it is maintained in a neighborhood around zero (namely, the curves are almost bounded over $[-0.04\text{rad}, 0.04\text{rad}]$). Secondly, the experimental results displayed in Fig. 7a show that the cart position $\alpha(t)$ cannot return perfectly to the original position ($\alpha(t) = 0$) due to the measurement error introduced by the image-processing algorithm [7, Remarks 3-4] and the imperfect linearized modeling of (90). However, the experimental results still confirm that the proposed method provides better control performance on the cart position than the LQR controller.

Next, as done in [7, Section V-B], the following indexes are used for the analysis of the results presented in Fig. 7:

- MCP: mean of cart position;
- SCP: standard deviation of cart position;
- MPA: mean of pendulum angle;
- SPA: standard deviation of pendulum angle.

The normalized (with respect to LQR controller (96)) performance indexes of the two controllers (93) and (96) are provided in Fig. 8: smaller the value is, better the result is. Apparently, the results obtained by the proposed controller (93) are better than the ones obtained by the LQR method (96).

⁴The videos of the two experiments are available at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WEp7VUt5JTcUlbQf6cAt4z4ZHKKJzGjN?usp=sharing>.

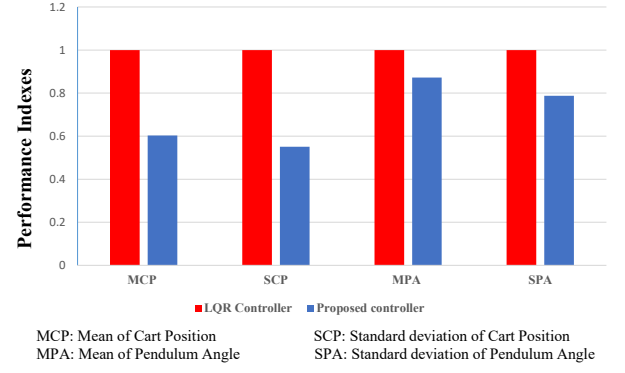


Fig. 8: Normalized (with respect to LQR controller) performance indexes of the experimental results.

The experimental results displayed by Figs. 7–8 illustrate that the proposed method is successfully implemented on the real remote visual servo control system. Moreover, the proposed method provides better experimental control performance than the non-predictive control solution (96). Furthermore, the proposed method has good control performances on such a fast motion control system, which shows that the proposed method has wide application prospects in control engineering.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS

A discrete-time control solution (state prediction and discrete predictor-based controller) is designed to stabilize a class of LTI networked control systems, and this method is applied to a networked visual servo inverted pendulum system. The state prediction technique is used to deal with the sensor-to-controller time-varying delay, and the uncertain constant controller-to-actuator delay is compensated for using the predictor-based controller. Moreover, the message rejection phenomenon is also considered in this work. The theoretical results are illustrated by the simulation and experimental results. In the future, the following research activities will be investigated:

- Theoretical part: the output-feedback control technique will be developed, some additional network-induced imperfections (e.g. quantization [18], cyber-attack [38]) will be considered, and the stochastic Lyapunov approaches will be applied in order to systematically deal with stochastic packet-dropout and message rejection at the same time. Besides, more analysis will be given in order to relax the assumption $\Delta\tau(k) \in (0, \Delta]$, and the controller-to-actuator message rejection will be studied as well.
- Experimental part: in order to improve the control performance of the cart position, the robust H_∞ control technique will be used to calculate the feedback gain $\mathcal{K}$ in a more systematic way.

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