

Distributed fault diagnosis observer for multi-agent system against actuator and sensor faults

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Abstract: Component failures can cause multi-agent system (MAS) performance degradation and even disasters, which provokes the demand of the fault diagnosis method. A distributed sliding mode observer-based fault diagnosis method for MAS is developed in presence of actuator and sensor faults. Firstly, the actuator and sensor faults are extended to the system state, and the system is transformed into a descriptor system form. Then, a sliding mode-based distributed unknown input observer is proposed to estimate the extended state. Furthermore, adaptive laws are introduced to adjust the observer parameters. Finally, the effectiveness of the proposed method is demonstrated with numerical simulations.

Keywords: multi-agent system (MAS), sensor fault, actuator fault, unknown input observer, sliding mode, fault diagnosis.

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1. Introduction

In the last decade, multi-agent systems (MAS) have attracted vast amounts of the attention. In comparison with single dynamics system, the merits of MAS include low cost, high reliability, and good scalability [1]. MAS such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), unmanned ground vehicles (UGV), multi-robot systems, and UAV-UGV cooperative teams have been devoted into applications and make huge profits [2–8]. The MAS is more likely to encounter faults as the amount of agents increases. However, the distributed fault diagnosis problem receives few concerns comparing with the distributed control problem.

The existing distributed fault diagnosis researches mainly address the actuator fault problem [9–12]. It is because the actuator fault has no impact on the measure-

ment of the system state, which eases the fault diagnosis method design for MAS [13]. Different from the actuator fault, the sensor fault disturbs the measurement of the system state [14–16]. The fault detection is not affected by sensor fault, while the fault estimation is challenging without a reliable measurement [17]. There are few studies carried out on the sensor fault diagnosis problem in comparison with actuator fault, in which only minority of them aims at MAS [18–21]. Among the studies on sensor fault diagnosis, the descriptor system approach is popular owing to its mature and plentiful analysis methods on singular system, which facilitates the study by extending the sensor fault into the system states [22–28]. However, these works focus on the single dynamics system.

To our best knowledge, there are only handful studies addressing the distributed sensor fault diagnosis problem of MAS [29–33]. The existing works carry out the study by transforming the system into a descriptor form, for which the observer is then designed to estimate the extended system states. By introducing the distributed feedback items in the observer, the fault diagnosis is performed based on information from neighboring agents. The sensor fault estimation is finally extracted from the extended states estimation. Nevertheless, the upper bounds of the faults which are assumed to be known in these works are usually unavailable in practice. The observation effectiveness relies on the proper setting of the values of the fault bounds, which motivates the study of this paper.

This paper develops an adaptive sliding mode-based distributed fault diagnosis method for MAS with actuator and sensor faults. The contribution of this paper primarily lies in the following features:

(i) Different from [18–21] of which the subject is single dynamic system, this paper studies the distributed fault diagnosis of MAS. A distributed feedback term is introduced to guarantee the stability of the overall estimation error dynamics.

(ii) Different from [9–12] which address the dis-

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tributed actuator fault diagnosis, the actuator and sensor faults are considered simultaneously in this work. To avoid the sensor fault disturbing the observation, the MAS is transformed into a descriptor system form.

(iii) Comparing with [29,30,32,33], an adaptive law is introduced to update the sliding mode feedback term which reduces the requirements on the priori knowledge of the MAS.

The structure of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 introduces the system and some fundamental knowledge. Section 3 is devoted to the main results, i.e., the system transformation, the distributed observer design, and the stability analysis. Section 4 demonstrates the effectiveness of the proposed method.

Notations: In this paper, the definitions of some symbols and operations are given as follows. For a vector $\mathbf{v} = [v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n]^T \in \mathbf{R}^n$, $\|\mathbf{v}\|$ represents its norm value. $\text{sign}(\mathbf{v}) = \frac{\mathbf{v}}{\|\mathbf{v}\|}$ is the signum function. \mathbf{I}_n and $\mathbf{0}_{p \times q}$ represent an $n \times n$ identity matrix and a $p \times q$ matrix with 0 as all its elements, respectively. \otimes is the Kronecker product. \mathbf{M}^T is the transpose of matrix \mathbf{M} , and \mathbf{M}^{-T} is the inverse of \mathbf{M}^T if \mathbf{M} is invertible.

2. Preliminaries and problem formulation

2.1 Graph theory

Algebraic graph theory is introduced to describe the communication relationships among the MAS. A directed graph $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{A})$ consists of a vertices set $\mathcal{V} = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_l\}$, an edge set $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V}$ in which $\varepsilon_{ij} \in \mathcal{E}$ if there is a communication link from vertex i to vertex j , and $\mathcal{A} = [a_{ij}] \in \mathbf{R}^{l \times l}$ is the adjacency matrix in which $a_{ij} > 0$ if $\varepsilon_{ij} \in \mathcal{E}$, $a_{ij} = 0$ if $\varepsilon_{ij} \notin \mathcal{E}$ or $i = j$. Denote $\mathcal{D} = \text{diag}(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_l)$ as the degree matrix of graph \mathcal{G} , in which $d_i = \sum_{j=1}^l a_{ij}$ is the incoming communication weights sum of vertex v_i . The Laplacian matrix of graph \mathcal{G} is denoted by $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{D} - \mathcal{A}$.

Lemma 1 [34] Denote $\mathcal{A}' = \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{A}^T)$ and $\mathcal{L}' = \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{L} + \mathcal{L}^T)$ as the adjacency matrix and Laplacian matrix of a new undirected graph, respectively. If \mathcal{G} is connected, then \mathcal{G}' is also connected. \mathcal{L}' is a symmetric positive semi-definite matrix.

Lemma 2 [35] According to eigenvalue decomposition theory, there exists an orthogonal matrix \mathbf{M} that satisfies $\mathbf{M}\mathbf{M}^T = \mathbf{I}$ and $\mathbf{M}^T \mathcal{L}' \mathbf{M} = \Lambda_2 = \text{diag}(\lambda'_1, \lambda'_2, \dots, \lambda'_l)$ where $0 = \lambda'_1 \leq \lambda'_2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda'_l$.

2.2 Problem formulation

Consider a MAS consists of l agents among which the communication connections are described with a directed

graph $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{A})$. The dynamics of agent $i (i = 1, 2, \dots, l)$ is formulated as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\mathbf{x}}_i(t) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_i(t) + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}_i(t) + \mathbf{F}_a \mathbf{f}_{ai}(t) \\ \mathbf{y}_i(t) = \mathbf{C}\mathbf{x}_i(t) + \mathbf{D}\mathbf{u}_i(t) + \mathbf{F}_s \mathbf{f}_{si}(t) \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where $\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathbf{R}^n$, $\mathbf{y}_i \in \mathbf{R}^m$, and $\mathbf{u}_i \in \mathbf{R}^{n_u}$ are the system states, output, and input, respectively. $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbf{R}^{n \times n}$, $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbf{R}^{n \times n_u}$, $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbf{R}^{m \times n}$, and $\mathbf{D} \in \mathbf{R}^{m \times n_u}$ are the parametric matrices of the system. $\mathbf{f}_{ai} \in \mathbf{R}^p$ and $\mathbf{f}_{si} \in \mathbf{R}^q$ represent the actuator fault and sensor fault, respectively. $\mathbf{F}_a \in \mathbf{R}^{n \times p}$ and $\mathbf{F}_s \in \mathbf{R}^{m \times q}$ stand for the parametric matrices of system faults.

Assumption 1 There exist unknown positive constants r_a , $r_{a\delta}$, and r_s such that $\|\mathbf{f}_{ai}(t)\| \leq r_a$, $\|\dot{\mathbf{f}}_{ai}(t)\| \leq r_{a\delta}$, and $\|\mathbf{f}_{si}(t)\| \leq r_s$ hold for all $i (i = 1, 2, \dots, l)$.

Assumption 2 For system (1), the dimensions of actuator fault \mathbf{f}_{ai} and sensor fault \mathbf{f}_{si} satisfy $p + q \leq m$.

Assumption 3 System (1) satisfies conditions $\text{rank}(\mathbf{F}_a) \geq p$ and $\text{rank}(\mathbf{F}_s) \geq q$.

Remark 1 Since the observer achieves the system states estimation through the system output, the system output has no redundancy if the fault vector can be fully decoupled for all dimensions of the system output. In this case, it is impossible to achieve a reliable state estimation from the system output. Assumption 2 and Assumption 3 set restrictions to the system faults. On the one hand, this avoids the fault decoupling issue. On the other hand, this avoids the problem that the fault parametric matrices being uninvertible such that we cannot gain observation for each dimension of faults.

Throughout this paper, we study the fault diagnosis method for MAS consists of l agents with dynamics (1) in presents with actuator fault \mathbf{f}_{ai} and sensor fault \mathbf{f}_{si} .

3. Main results

In this paper, the distributed fault diagnosis is studied on the basis of the descriptor system model. First, we extend the actuator and sensor faults to the system state and rewrite the system (1) into a descriptor system form as

$$\begin{cases} \bar{\mathbf{E}}\dot{\bar{\mathbf{x}}}_i(t) = \bar{\mathbf{A}}\bar{\mathbf{x}}_i(t) + \bar{\mathbf{B}}\mathbf{u}_i(t) + \bar{\mathbf{F}}\bar{\mathbf{f}}_i(t) \\ \mathbf{y}_i(t) = \bar{\mathbf{C}}\bar{\mathbf{x}}_i(t) + \mathbf{D}\mathbf{u}_i(t) \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_i = [\mathbf{x}_i^T, \mathbf{f}_{ai}^T, \mathbf{f}_{si}^T]^T$ is the augmented system state, $\bar{\mathbf{f}}_i = [(\mathbf{f}_{ai} - \hat{\mathbf{f}}_{ai})^T, \mathbf{f}_{si}^T]^T$ is the fault. Denote the dimensions of the extended state by $\bar{n} = n + p + q$, then

$$\bar{\mathbf{E}} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I}_n & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{I}_p & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0}_{q \times q} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{A}} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{F}_a & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{I}_p & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{I}_q \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{\mathbf{B}} &= \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{0}_{p \times n_u} \\ \mathbf{0}_{q \times n_u} \end{bmatrix}, \\ \bar{\mathbf{F}} &= \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0}_{n \times p} & \mathbf{0}_{n \times q} \\ -\mathbf{I}_p & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & -\mathbf{I}_q \end{bmatrix}, \\ \bar{\mathbf{C}} &= \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{C}^\top \\ \mathbf{0}_{m \times p}^\top \\ \mathbf{F}_s^\top \end{bmatrix}^\top.\end{aligned}$$

Remark 2 By extending the actuator and sensor faults to the system state, the sensor faults f_{s_i} are eliminated from the output equation and replaced by the measurement of the augmented system state $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$. Therefore, the fault estimation can be extracted from the system state estimation $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ if an observer is designed appropriately for the augmented system (2).

3.1 Distributed observer design

Since $\bar{f}_i(t)$ is unknown and causes an impact on the observation stability, it is preferred to design an observer which is insensitive to the unknown input. Therefore, the following sliding mode-based distributed unknown input observer is proposed.

$$\begin{cases} \bar{\mathbf{S}}\dot{\hat{\mathbf{x}}}_i = \bar{\mathbf{A}}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_i + \bar{\mathbf{B}}\mathbf{u}_i + \bar{\mathbf{K}}(\mathbf{y}_i - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{u}_i) + \mathbf{L}_s\mathbf{u}_{s_i} + \mathbf{L}_p\mathbf{u}_{p_i} \\ \hat{\mathbf{x}}_i = \hat{\mathbf{z}}_i + \bar{\mathbf{S}}^{-1}\mathbf{L}_D(\mathbf{y}_i - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{u}_i) \\ \hat{\mathbf{y}}_i = \bar{\mathbf{C}}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_i + \mathbf{D}\mathbf{u}_i \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

where $\bar{\mathbf{S}} \in \mathbf{R}^{\bar{n} \times \bar{n}}$ is a non-singular matrix. $\mathbf{u}_{s_i} \in \mathbf{R}^{p+q}$ and $\mathbf{u}_{p_i} \in \mathbf{R}^m$ are sliding mode feedback term and distributed feedback term, respectively. $\mathbf{L}_s \in \mathbf{R}^{\bar{n} \times (p+q)}$ and $\mathbf{L}_p \in \mathbf{R}^{\bar{n} \times m}$ are sliding mode feedback gain matrix and distributed feedback gain matrix, respectively. $\bar{\mathbf{K}} \in \mathbf{R}^{\bar{n} \times m}$ and $\mathbf{L}_D \in \mathbf{R}^{\bar{n} \times m}$ will be determined later.

Denote the state estimation error as

$$\mathbf{e}_i = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_i - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i. \quad (4)$$

Then, the sliding mode feedback term \mathbf{u}_{s_i} is designed as follows:

$$\begin{cases} s_i = \bar{\mathbf{F}}^\top \bar{\mathbf{S}}^{-\top} \bar{\mathbf{P}}\mathbf{e}_i \\ \mathbf{u}_{s_i} = -(\hat{r}_a + \hat{r}_{a\delta} + \hat{r}_s + \varepsilon)\text{sign}(s_i) \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

where $s_i \in \mathbf{R}^{p+q}$ is the sliding mode surface, $\bar{\mathbf{P}} \in \mathbf{R}^{\bar{n} \times \bar{n}}$ is a symmetric positive definite matrix which will be determined later. $\varepsilon > 0$ is a parameter designed to guarantee the convergence. \hat{r}_a , $\hat{r}_{a\delta}$, and \hat{r}_s are the estimation of r_a , $r_{a\delta}$, and r_s , respectively.

Let $e_{r_a} = \hat{r}_a - r_a$, $e_{r_{a\delta}} = \hat{r}_{a\delta} - r_{a\delta}$, $e_{r_s} = \hat{r}_s - r_s$, and $\varrho \triangleq e_{r_a} + e_{r_{a\delta}} + e_{r_s} + r_a + r_{a\delta} + r_s$, then the sliding mode feedback term can be rewritten as

$$\mathbf{u}_{s_i} = -(\varrho + \varepsilon)\text{sign}(s_i). \quad (6)$$

The distributed feedback term \mathbf{u}_{p_i} is designed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{u}_{p_i} &= -\sum_{j=1}^l a_{ij} [(\hat{\mathbf{y}}_i - \mathbf{y}_i) - (\hat{\mathbf{y}}_j - \mathbf{y}_j)] = \\ &= -\sum_{j=1}^l a_{ij} \bar{\mathbf{C}}(\mathbf{e}_i - \mathbf{e}_j). \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

3.2 Error dynamics

The distributed unknown input observer (3), the sliding mode feedback item (5), and the distributed feedback item (7) are designed above. However, some of the parametric matrices used above cannot be determined until the estimation error dynamics reveal its structure step-by-step in the derivation. In this subsection, the main objective is to derive the observation error equation and determine the observer parametric matrices.

In the light of (3), we have

$$\bar{\mathbf{A}}\dot{\hat{\mathbf{z}}}_i = \bar{\mathbf{A}}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_i - \bar{\mathbf{A}}\bar{\mathbf{S}}^{-1}\mathbf{L}_D(\mathbf{y}_i - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{u}_i). \quad (8)$$

Taking the time derivative of both sides yields

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{\mathbf{S}}\dot{\hat{\mathbf{x}}}_i &= \bar{\mathbf{S}} \left[\dot{\hat{\mathbf{z}}}_i + \bar{\mathbf{S}}^{-1}\mathbf{L}_D(\dot{\mathbf{y}}_i - \mathbf{D}\dot{\mathbf{u}}_i) \right] = \\ &= \bar{\mathbf{A}}\hat{\mathbf{z}}_i + \bar{\mathbf{B}}\mathbf{u}_i + \bar{\mathbf{K}}(\mathbf{y}_i - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{u}_i) + \mathbf{L}_s\mathbf{u}_{s_i} + \\ &= \bar{\mathbf{A}}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_i - \bar{\mathbf{A}}\bar{\mathbf{S}}^{-1}\mathbf{L}_D(\mathbf{y}_i - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{u}_i) + \bar{\mathbf{K}}(\mathbf{y}_i - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{u}_i) + \\ &= \bar{\mathbf{B}}\mathbf{u}_i + \mathbf{L}_s\mathbf{u}_{s_i} + \mathbf{L}_p\mathbf{u}_{p_i} + \mathbf{L}_D\bar{\mathbf{C}}\dot{\hat{\mathbf{x}}}_i. \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

To eliminate the term $\mathbf{y}_i - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{u}_i$ in (9), $\bar{\mathbf{K}}$ is given as follows:

$$\bar{\mathbf{K}} \triangleq \bar{\mathbf{A}}\bar{\mathbf{S}}^{-1}\mathbf{L}_D. \quad (10)$$

Substituting (10) into (9) yields

$$\bar{\mathbf{S}}\dot{\hat{\mathbf{x}}}_i = \bar{\mathbf{A}}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_i + \bar{\mathbf{B}}\mathbf{u}_i + \mathbf{L}_s\mathbf{u}_{s_i} + \mathbf{L}_p\mathbf{u}_{p_i} + \mathbf{L}_D\bar{\mathbf{C}}\dot{\hat{\mathbf{x}}}_i. \quad (11)$$

Comparing (2) and (11), select an appropriate \mathbf{L}_D such that

$$\bar{\mathbf{S}} \triangleq \bar{\mathbf{E}} + \mathbf{L}_D\bar{\mathbf{C}} \quad (12)$$

which is invertible.

Remark 3 Recalling Assumption 3, one has $\text{rank}(\bar{\mathbf{C}}) \geq q$. Further there exist two matrices $\mathbf{T}_L \in \mathbf{R}^{\bar{n} \times m}$ and $\mathbf{T}_R \in \mathbf{R}^{m \times \bar{n}}$ satisfying $\mathbf{T}_L\mathbf{T}_R = \text{diag}(\mathbf{I}_m, \mathbf{0}_{\bar{n}-m})$ such that $\bar{\mathbf{C}}\mathbf{T}_R = [\bar{\mathbf{C}}_1 \ \bar{\mathbf{C}}_2]$ where $\text{rank}(\bar{\mathbf{C}}_2) = q$. $\mathbf{L}_D = \mathbf{T}_L \left[\mathbf{0}_{(n-q) \times n}^\top \ \mu((\bar{\mathbf{C}}_2^\top \bar{\mathbf{C}}_2)^{-1} \bar{\mathbf{C}}_2^\top)^\top \right]^\top$ where $\mu > 0$ can be selected such that $\bar{\mathbf{S}}$ in (12) which is invertible.

By multiplying $\dot{\hat{\mathbf{x}}}_i$ to the both sides of (12), and taking (2) into the result, one has

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{\mathbf{S}}\dot{\hat{\mathbf{x}}}_i &= \bar{\mathbf{E}}\dot{\hat{\mathbf{x}}}_i + \mathbf{L}_D\bar{\mathbf{C}}\dot{\hat{\mathbf{x}}}_i = \\ &= \bar{\mathbf{A}}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_i + \bar{\mathbf{B}}\mathbf{u}_i + \bar{\mathbf{F}}\bar{\mathbf{f}}_i + \mathbf{L}_D\bar{\mathbf{C}}\dot{\hat{\mathbf{x}}}_i. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

According to (4), subtracting (13) from (11) gives the error dynamics equation

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{e}_i &= \bar{S}^{-1}(\bar{S}\dot{\hat{x}}_i - \bar{S}\dot{x}_i) = \\ &\bar{S}^{-1}[\bar{A}\hat{x}_i + \bar{B}u_i + L_s u_{si} + L_p u_{pi} + L_D \bar{C}\hat{x}_i] - \\ &\bar{S}^{-1}[\bar{A}\bar{x}_i + \bar{B}u_i + \bar{F}\bar{f}_i + L_D \bar{C}\bar{x}_i] = \\ &\bar{S}^{-1}[\bar{A}e_i - \bar{F}\bar{f}_i + L_s u_{si} + L_p u_{pi}]. \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

Denote $e = [e_1^T, e_2^T, \dots, e_l^T]^T$ as the estimation error of the overall MAS. Let $\bar{f} = [\bar{f}_1^T, \bar{f}_2^T, \dots, \bar{f}_l^T]^T$, $s = [s_1^T, s_2^T, \dots, s_l^T]^T$, $u_s = [u_{s1}^T, u_{s2}^T, \dots, u_{sl}^T]^T$, $u_p = [u_{p1}^T, u_{p2}^T, \dots, u_{pl}^T]^T$. The error dynamics of the overall system is formulated as follows:

$$\dot{e} = I_l \otimes \bar{S}^{-1}(\bar{A}e - \bar{F}\bar{f} + L_s u_s) + \mathcal{L} \otimes \bar{S}^{-1} L_p u_p. \quad (15)$$

This subsection sheds light on the precise expression of the observer. However, the parameters have not yet been determined.

3.3 Stability analysis

In this subsection, we will analyze the stability of the estimation error dynamics (15), and determine the parameters and the adaptive law for the observer (3).

Theorem 1 Take $L_p = \eta \bar{S} \bar{C}^T$ and $L_s = \bar{F}$, where $\eta \in \mathbf{R}^+$ is an adjustable gain coefficient. The adaptive law of the sliding mode feedback term (5) is designed as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\hat{r}}_a = \alpha \|s_i\| \\ \dot{\hat{r}}_{a\delta} = \beta \|s_i\| \\ \dot{\hat{r}}_s = \gamma \|s_i\| \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

where $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \mathbf{R}^+$ are adjustable parameters. There exists a symmetric positive definite matrix P , and a matrix $\bar{H} \in \mathbf{R}^{(p+q) \times m}$ that hold the following inequation and equation:

$$P \bar{S}^{-1} \bar{A} + \bar{A}^T \bar{S}^{-T} P \leq 0, \quad (17)$$

$$\bar{F}^T \bar{S}^{-T} P = \bar{H} \bar{C}, \quad (18)$$

then the estimation error e of the distributed observer (3) converges to 0.

Proof To analyze the stability of the estimation error (15), we choose the Lyapunov function candidate as follows:

$$V(t) = e^T (I_l \otimes \bar{P}) e + \frac{1}{\alpha} e_{r_a}^2 + \frac{1}{\beta} e_{r_{a\delta}}^2 + \frac{1}{\gamma} e_{r_s}^2. \quad (19)$$

Taking time derivative of $V(t)$ yields

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}(t) &= 2e^T (I_l \otimes P \bar{S}^{-1}) [I_l \otimes (\bar{A}e - \bar{F}\bar{f} - L_s u_s)] - \\ &2e^T (I_l \otimes P \bar{S}^{-1}) [\mathcal{L} \otimes L_p u_p] + \\ &\frac{2}{\alpha} e_{r_a} \dot{e}_{r_a} + \frac{2}{\beta} e_{r_{a\delta}} \dot{e}_{r_{a\delta}} + \frac{2}{\gamma} e_{r_s} \dot{e}_{r_s}. \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

Recalling (5) and Theorem 1, one has

$$\begin{aligned} -e_i^T P \bar{S}^{-1} L_s u_s &= -(\varrho + \varepsilon) e_i^T P \bar{S}^{-1} \bar{F} \text{sign}(s_i) = \\ &-(\varrho + \varepsilon) \|s_i\|. \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

Furthermore, we have

$$\begin{aligned} e_i^T P \bar{S}^{-1} (-\bar{F} \cdot \bar{f}_i + L_s u_{si}) &= \\ -e_i^T P \bar{S}^{-1} \bar{F} \cdot \bar{f}_i - (\varrho + \varepsilon) \|s_i\| &\leq \\ \|e_i^T P \bar{S}^{-1} \bar{F}\| \|\bar{f}_i\| - (\varrho + \varepsilon) \|s_i\| &= \\ \|s_i\| \|\bar{f}_i\| - (\varrho + \varepsilon) \|s_i\| &\leq \\ (r_a + r_{a\delta} + r_s) \|s_i\| - (\varrho + \varepsilon) \|s_i\| &= \\ -(e_{r_a} + e_{r_{a\delta}} + e_{r_s} + \varepsilon) \|s_i\|. \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

Since $r_a, r_{a\delta}$, and r_s are constants, one has $\dot{e}_{r_a} = \hat{r}_a, \dot{e}_{r_{a\delta}} = \hat{r}_{a\delta}$, and $\dot{e}_{r_s} = \hat{r}_s$. In the light of the adaptive law (16), we have

$$\begin{aligned} e_i^T P \bar{S}^{-1} (-\bar{F} \cdot \bar{f}_i + L_s u_{si}) + \frac{1}{\alpha} e_{r_a} \dot{e}_{r_a} + \\ \frac{1}{\beta} e_{r_{a\delta}} \dot{e}_{r_{a\delta}} + \frac{1}{\gamma} e_{r_s} \dot{e}_{r_s} = -\varepsilon \|s_i\|. \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Furthermore, by substituting (23) into the form of the overall system (15), the following result is obtained:

$$\begin{aligned} 2e^T (I_l \otimes P \bar{S}^{-1}) [- (I_l \otimes \bar{F}) \bar{f} - (I_l \otimes L_s) u_s] \leq \\ -2\varepsilon \sum_{i=1}^l \|s_i\| \leq -2\varepsilon \|s\|. \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

Notice that P and $\bar{C}^T \bar{C}$ are symmetric positive matrices, thus we have $P \bar{C}^T \bar{C} = (P \bar{C}^T \bar{C})^T$. Let $\Gamma = P \bar{S}^{-1} \bar{A} + \bar{A}^T \bar{S}^{-T} P$ and $\Xi = P \bar{C}^T \bar{C} + \bar{C}^T \bar{C} P$. According to Theorem 1 and Lemma 1, the Lyapunov function derivative (20) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}(t) &\leq 2e^T I_l \otimes P \bar{S}^{-1} [I_l \otimes \bar{A}e - \mathcal{L} \otimes L_p u_p] - 2\varepsilon \|s\| = \\ &e^T (I_l \otimes \Gamma) e - 2\varepsilon \|s\| - \\ &e^T [\mathcal{L} \otimes P \bar{S}^{-1} L_p \bar{C} + \mathcal{L}^T \otimes (\bar{S}^{-1} L_p \bar{C})^T P] e = \\ &e^T (I_l \otimes \Gamma) e - 2\varepsilon \|s\| - \\ &e^T [\eta (\mathcal{L} + \mathcal{L}^T) \otimes \Xi] e. \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

In the light of Lemma 1, the Lyapunov derivative (25) become

$$\dot{V}(t) \leq e^T (I_l \otimes \Gamma) e - \eta e^T [\Lambda \otimes \Xi] e - 2\varepsilon \|s\|. \quad (26)$$

Since $P \bar{C}^T \bar{C} + \bar{C}^T \bar{C} P \geq 0$, according to Theorem 1 there is $\dot{V}(t) \leq 0$, thus the estimation error system (15) is asymptotic stable, that is, the observer (3) is able to track the system (2). \square

Remark 4 In (18), only when $\bar{C} \in \mathbf{R}^{m \times n}$ satisfies $\text{rank}(\bar{C}) \geq n$, \bar{H} can be calculated by $\bar{H} = \bar{F}^T \bar{S}^{-T} P \bar{C}^T$

where \bar{C}^+ is the pseudo-inverse of \bar{C} . However, it is impossible to find a suitable \bar{H} to make (18) hold when $m < \bar{n}$ or $\text{rank}(\bar{C}) < \bar{n}$. Thus we need an alternative solution to find a suitable \bar{H} . Equation (18) is equivalent to

$$\text{Trace}[(\bar{F}^T \bar{S}^{-T} \mathbf{P} - \bar{H} \bar{C})^T (\bar{F}^T \bar{S}^{-T} \mathbf{P} - \bar{H} \bar{C})] = 0. \quad (27)$$

The above equation can be approximated by solving the following inequality [36]:

$$(\bar{F}^T \bar{S}^{-T} \mathbf{P} - \bar{H} \bar{C})^T (\bar{F}^T \bar{S}^{-T} \mathbf{P} - \bar{H} \bar{C}) < \epsilon \mathbf{I}_{n+p+q} \quad (28)$$

where $\epsilon > 0$ is small enough. Furthermore, according to Schur complement, (28) can be transformed into the following linear matrix inequality:

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\epsilon \mathbf{I}_{\bar{n}} & (\bar{F}^T \bar{S}^{-T} \mathbf{P} - \bar{H} \bar{C})^T \\ * & -\mathbf{I}_{p+q} \end{bmatrix} < \mathbf{0} \quad (29)$$

where * represents the element that forms a symmetric matrix.

Remark 5 The parameters and matrices of the proposed method are calculated or selected in the following sequence:

Step 1 Select an appropriate L_D that makes the \bar{S} in (12) invertible.

Step 2 Calculate \bar{K} by (10) with \bar{S} from Step 1.

Step 3 Solve matrix inequalities (17) and (19) to obtain \mathbf{P} and \bar{H} .

Step 4 Select an appropriate $\eta > 0$ to tune the tracking performance of the distributed observer.

Step 5 Select appropriate $\alpha, \beta, \gamma > 0$ for the adaptive laws (16).

4. Simulations

This section presents a numerical simulation to demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed fault diagnosis method. Considering a MAS consisting of five agents, the communication topology is shown in Fig. 1.

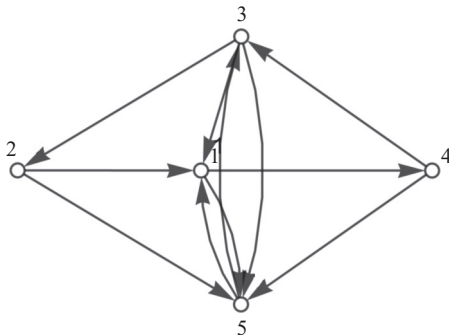


Fig. 1 Connections among agents

The system matrices of each agent are taken as

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathbf{D} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathbf{C} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathbf{F}_a = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathbf{F}_s = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The following commonly used control law is deployed on the MAS [37,38]:

$$\mathbf{u}_i(t) = -\mathbf{K}_u \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^l a_{ij} (\mathbf{y}_i(t) - \mathbf{y}_j(t)) \quad (30)$$

where $\mathbf{K}_u = -\begin{bmatrix} 7.625 & 6.125 & 0.875 \end{bmatrix}$ is the control gain.

The observer parameters are determined as follows. Let $\mathbf{T}_L = \mathbf{T}_R^T = [\mathbf{I}_m, \mathbf{0}_{m \times (\bar{n}-m)}]^T$, then calculate L_D according to Remark 3. \bar{S} and \bar{K} are then calculated by (12) and (10), respectively. \mathbf{P} and \bar{H} are calculated according to (17) and (29), respectively. Let $\eta = 1$, L_p is then calculated according to Theorem 1. \mathbf{P} and \bar{H} are given as

$$\mathbf{P} = 10^{-2} \times \begin{bmatrix} 5.67 & -7.97 & 2.18 & -0.26 & 2.04 \\ -7.97 & 11.45 & -3.4 & 0.16 & -1.31 \\ 2.18 & -3.4 & 1.3 & 0.16 & -1.43 \\ -0.26 & 0.16 & 0.16 & 0.21 & -1.05 \\ 2.04 & -1.31 & -1.43 & -1.05 & 12.29 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\bar{H} = 10^{-3} \times \begin{bmatrix} 1.6 & -4.5 & 0.1 \\ 0.7 & 0.4 & -0.3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

For the adaptive laws, $\alpha = 20$, $\beta = 30$, and $\gamma = 50$ are taken, the initial values are $\hat{r}_a(0) = \hat{r}_{as}(0) = \hat{r}_s(0) = 0$.

The initial states x_{1-5} of the agents are set as random values between -10 and 10 . $\hat{z}_{1-5}(0) = [0, 0, 0, 0, 0]^T$ is taken for all observers. There are four scenarios simulated: fault-free, actuator fault, sensor fault, and concurrent fault.

4.1 Scenario: fault-free

Firstly, a fault-free scenario is simulated to illustrate the estimation effect of the proposed method under the fault-free situation.

The results are shown as Figs. 2–5. In the following simulation results, the actual value of the states and faults are illustrated in the colored solid line, while the estimated value is in the dashed line with the same color. As can be seen from Fig. 2, the estimation errors converge to finetune stage in two seconds. Fig. 3 shows that \hat{x}_{1-5} converges in 3 s and then reaches x_{1-5} under the driving of the distributed feedback term. Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 show that the actuator and sensor faults estimation converge to the actual value in $t < 3$ s.

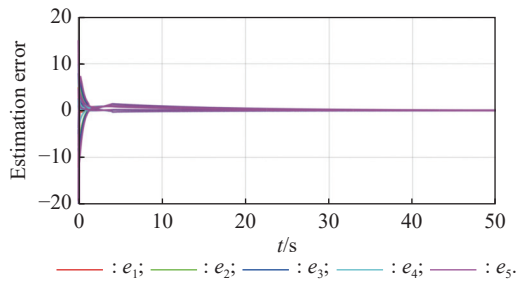


Fig. 2 Fault-free scenario: estimation error e_{1-5}

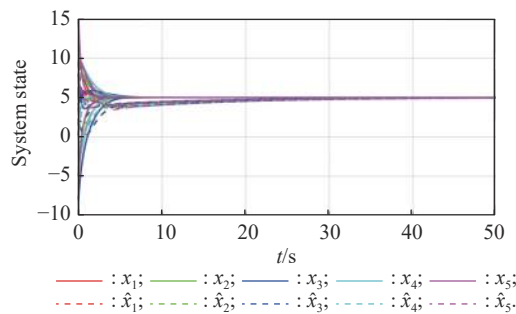


Fig. 3 Fault-free scenario: x and \hat{x}

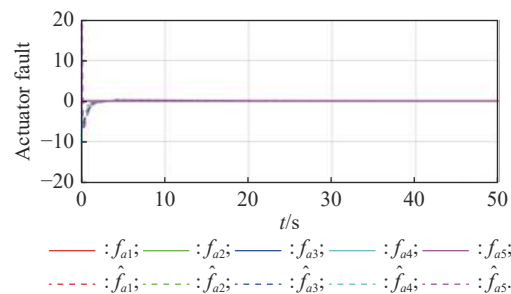


Fig. 4 Fault-free scenario: f_a and \hat{f}_a

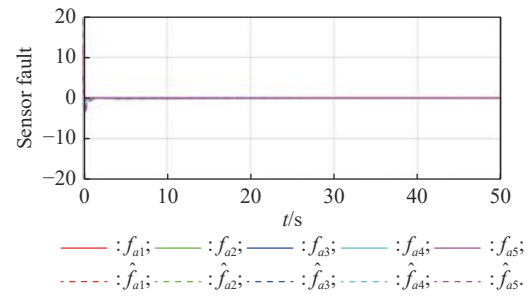


Fig. 5 Fault-free scenario: f_s and \hat{f}_s

4.2 Scenario: actuator fault

In this scenario, agent 1 is injected by the actuator fault (31). The results are shown in Figs. 6–9. Fig. 6 shows that the error e_1 spikes at $t = 15$ s and then converges to 0 in less than 1 s. Fig. 8 reveals the reason of the spike is that $f_{a1}(15) \neq 0$. Fig. 9 shows that affected by the actuator fault (31), the sensor fault estimation also spikes at $t = 15$ s. Comparing with fault-free scenarios, although the actuator fault causes the system instability, the estimation \hat{x}_{1-5} still track the system state x_{1-5} well. As shown in Fig. 6, due to the adaptive law, the estimation error bound $\|e_{1-5}\|$ becomes smaller over time which means the observer achieves better estimation over time.

$$f_{ai}(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & 0 \leq t < 15 \text{ s} \\ 20 \sin(0.5t), & t \geq 15 \text{ s} \end{cases} \quad (31)$$

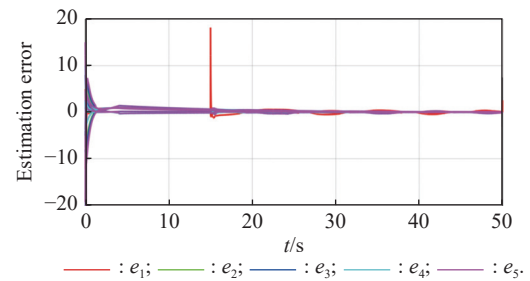


Fig. 6 Actuator fault scenario: estimation error: e_{1-5}

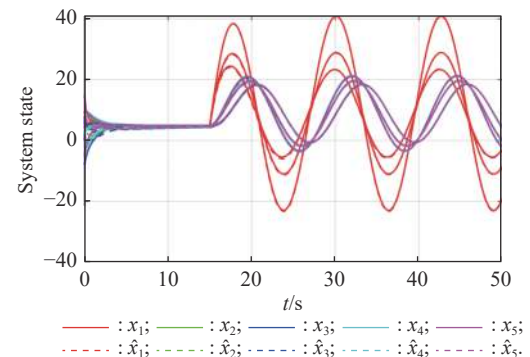


Fig. 7 Actuator fault scenario: x and \hat{x}

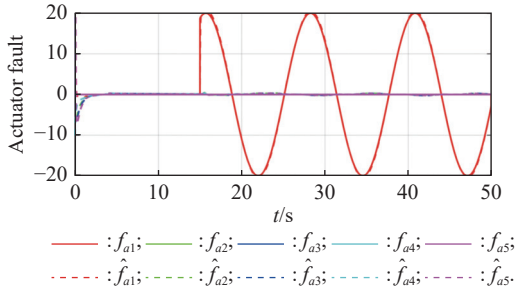


Fig. 8 Actuator fault scenario: f_a and \hat{f}_a

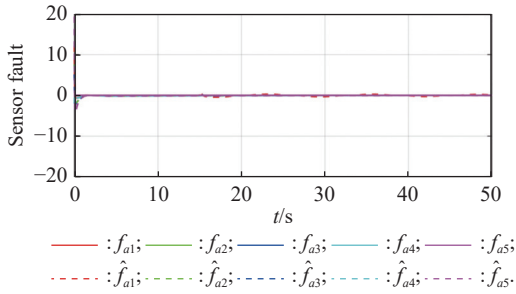


Fig. 9 Actuator fault scenario: f_s and \hat{f}_s

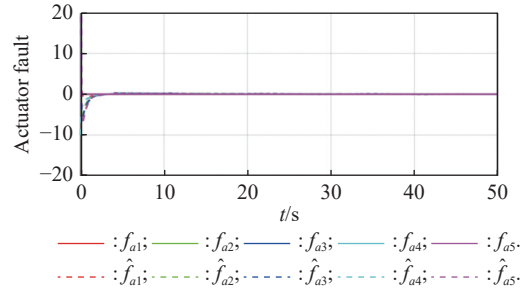


Fig. 12 Sensor fault scenario: f_a and \hat{f}_a

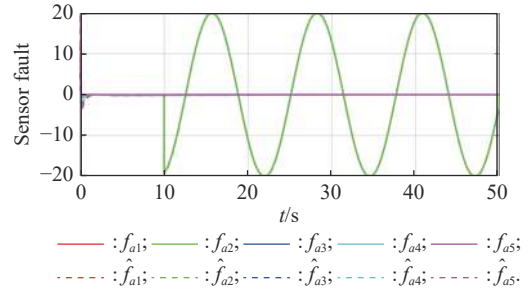


Fig. 13 Sensor fault scenario: f_s and \hat{f}_s

4.3 Scenario: sensor fault

To demonstrate the sensor fault effectiveness of the proposed method, agent 2 is injected by the sensor fault (32). The results are shown in Figs. 10–13. The sensor fault driving the system state fluctuates in $t \geq 10$ s which is estimated timely. Comparing with Figs. 6–9, the sensor fault does not cause noticeable influence on estimation error e_{1-5} or actuator fault estimation \hat{f}_{ai} .

$$f_{si}(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & 0 \leq t < 20 \text{ s} \\ 20 \sin(0.5t), & t \geq 20 \text{ s} \end{cases} \quad (32)$$

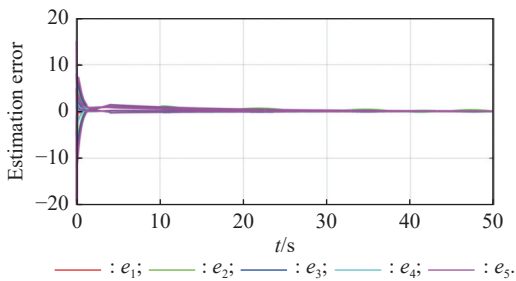


Fig. 10 Sensor fault scenario: estimation error: e_{1-5}

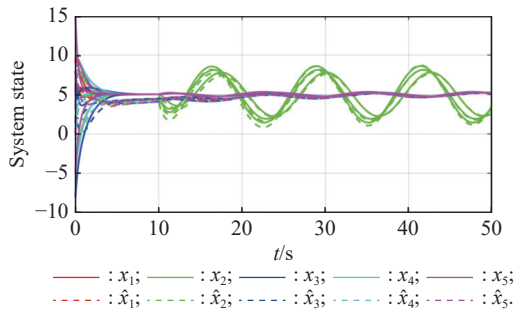


Fig. 11 Sensor fault scenario: x and \hat{x}

4.4 Scenario: concurrent fault

In this simulation, agent 1 and agent 2 are injected by actuator fault (31) and sensor fault (32), respectively. The results are shown as Figs. 14–17. It can be seen from Fig. 14 that the estimation error e_{1-5} converge to a small region around 0 in 3 s. The similarity between Fig. 14 and Fig. 6 demonstrates the effectiveness of MAS actuator and sensor fault diagnosis.

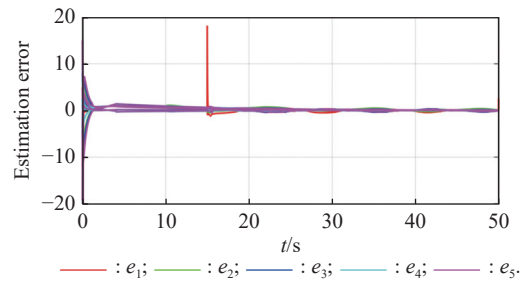


Fig. 14 Concurrent fault scenario: estimation error: e_{1-5}

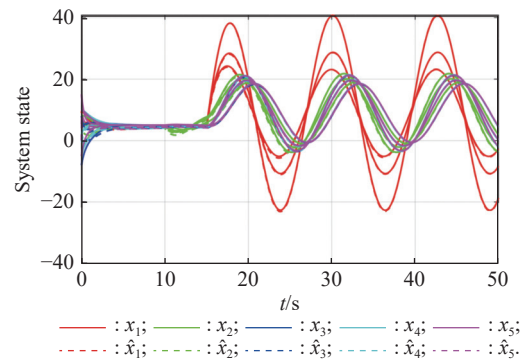


Fig. 15 Concurrent fault scenario: x and \hat{x}

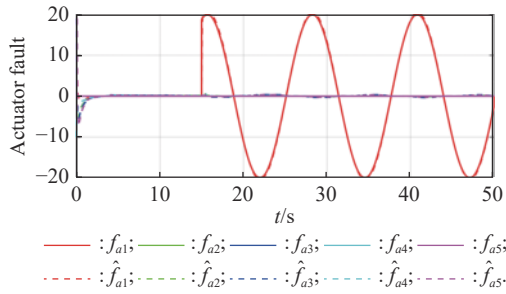


Fig. 16 Concurrent fault scenario: f_a and \hat{f}_a

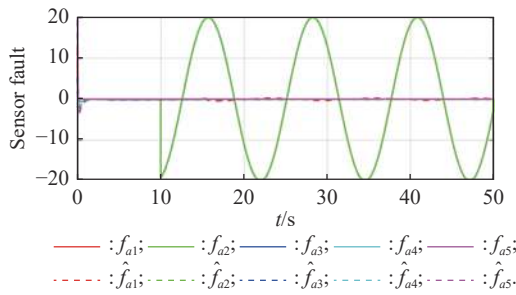


Fig. 17 Concurrent fault scenario: f_s and \hat{f}_s

In a conclusion, the proposed method achieves ideal estimation of the MAS states regardless of the actuator fault, sensor fault, or concurrent fault. The actuator fault and sensor fault are also diagnosed effectively in the same time.

5. Conclusions

In this paper, the problem of actuator and sensor fault diagnosis for MAS has been considered. The descriptor system approach has been introduced to eliminate the sensor fault in the measurement function. An adaptive law is adopted to adjust the gains of the sliding mode-based distributed observer and reduce the priori knowledge requirements of the MAS. Numerical simulations demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed method.

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Biographies



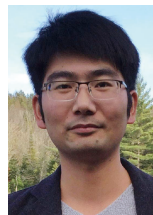
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