

Received January 17, 2019, accepted January 29, 2019, date of publication February 1, 2019, date of current version February 22, 2019. *Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/ACCESS.2019.2896983*

An Improved Complex-Valued Recurrent Neural Network Model for Time-Varying Complex-Valued Sylvester Equation

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This work was supported in part by the National Natural Science Foundation of China under Grant 61866013, Grant 61503152, Grant 61573298, Grant 61473259, and Grant 61562029, in part by the Hunan Provincial Science and Technology Project Foundation under Grant 2018TP1018, Grant 2018RS3065, and Grant 13C754, in part by the Open Fund Project of Hunan Engineering laboratory under Grant DNGC1703, and in part by the Scientific Research Fund of Hunan Provincial Education Department under Grant 17A173.

ABSTRACT Complex-valued time-varying Sylvester equation (CVTVSE) has been successfully applied into mathematics and control domain. However, the computation load of solving CVTVSE will rise significantly with the increase of sampling rate, and it is a challenging job to tackle the CVTVSE online. In this paper, a new sign-multi-power activation function is designed. Based on this new activation function, an improved complex-valued Zhang neural network (ICZNN) model for tackling the CVTVSE is established. Furthermore, the strict proof for the maximum time of global convergence of the ICZNN is given in detail. A total of two numerical experiments are employed to verify the performance of the proposed ICZNN model, and the results show that, as compared with the previous Zhang neural network (ZNN) models with different nonlinear activation functions, this ICZNN model with the sign-multi-power activation function has a faster convergence speed to tackle the CVTVSE.

INDEX TERMS Zhang neural network, complex-valued time-varying Sylvester equation, convergence speed, sign-multi-power function, finite-time convergence.

I. INTRODUCTION

Today the Sylvester equation (SE) has been successfully applied into many fields, such as the robotic application [1], the waveguide eigenvalue problem [2], the commutative rings [3], the isogeometric preconditioners [4], the multiagent linear parameter-varying systems [5]. Generally speaking, the Sylvester equation can be divided into two categories: namely the static SE and the dynamic SE (i.e., time-varying Sylvester equation, TVSE). The classical algorithms to tackle the static SE are the Bartels−Stewart and Hessenberg−Schur methods [6], [7]. The main shortcoming of the above algorithms is that they only fit for solving the small-scale problems due to the dense matrix operation. Recently, a series of iteration algorithms using the gradient information have

been proposed to tackle the static SE, such as the relaxed gradient based iterative algorithm [8], the least-squares iterative algorithm [9], the accelerated gradient algorithm [10], and the alternating direction implicit algorithm [11]. However, the above methods can not effectively tackle the TVSE online. The main reason is that the TVSE should be calculated in every sampling cycle, and the computational burden will significantly increase within a sampling cycle when the sampling rate increases. Thus the above algorithm may not complete a calculation if the computational burden is too big. Today the neural networks have caused widely attention [12]–[14]. As a kind of neural network, the recurrent neural networks (RNNs) have a stronger real-time computation ability than the traditional numerical algorithms [15]–[21]. So a series of RNN models have been designed for tackling the dynamic SE. For example, the gradient-based RNNs are designed to tackle the real-valued SE [22], [23]. But the

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The associate editor coordinating the review of this manuscript and approving it for publication was Yan-Jun Liu.

gradient-based RNNs may need very long time to obtain its ideal solution because its performance indicator is the Frobenius norm of errors. So a novel RNN called Zhang neural network (ZNN), which can converge to zero exponentially, is proposed because its performance indicator is a vector/matrix-valued error function [24]–[29], [33]. But Xiao pointed [30] out that the traditional ZNN cannot obtain its theoretical solution in finite time. So a series of improved ZNNs with the finite time convergence property have been proposed [31]–[33]. Furthermore, some of improved ZNNs have been successfully employed to tackle the TVSE online [1], [34], [35].

Now the complex-valued neural networks have shown more advantages than the real-valued neural networks in some fields, such as the high-capacity auto-associative memories [36], the spectral domain [37], the millimeter-wave active imaging [38], and the geometric measures [39]. Inspired by the previous studies for the ZNNs, we explore a novel complex-valued ZNN model for solving the complexvalued time-varying Sylvester equation (CVTVSE) in this paper. Before that, some related work about complex-valued ZNNs is reviewed as follows. In [40], a ZNN model is applied to tackle a complex matrix inversion. However, a linear activation function is used in this ZNN model, which causes this ZNN model cannot obtain its ideal solution in finite time. Li *et al*. [41] proposed a novel sign-bi-power nonlinear activation function to build an improved ZNN model, which can obtain its theoretical results in finite time for tackling the TVSE. We can describe this sign-bi-power function as

$$
\Psi(u) = \frac{1}{2} \text{sgn}^z(u) + \frac{1}{2} \text{sgn}^{1/z}(u),\tag{1}
$$

where *z* is an odd integer and satisfy $z > 1$, and

$$
sgn^{z}(u) = \begin{cases} |u|^{z}, & \text{if } u > 0\\ 0, & \text{if } u = 0\\ -|u|^{z}, & \text{if } u < 0. \end{cases}
$$

Furthermore, Li *et al*. [42] proposed a complex-valued ZNN based on the sign-bi-power function to tackle the CVTVSE. Inspired by the sign-bi-power function, a tunable activation function is designed to obtain a higher convergence rate in [43]. Ding *et al*. [44] designed an improved ZNN activation function to tackle the complex-valued linear equations (CVLE), which is transformed into a real-valued linear equation, and the improved ZNN activation function can be described as

$$
\Psi(u) = sign(u)(j_1|u|^h + j_2|u|^{1/h} - j_3|u|),
$$
 (2)

where $j_1 > j_3 > 0$, $j_2 > j_3 > 0$, *h* is an odd integer and satisfies $h > 1$, and

sign(u) =
\n
$$
\begin{cases}\n1, & \text{if } u > 0 \\
0, & \text{if } u = 0 \\
-1, & \text{if } u < 0.\n\end{cases}
$$

According to the above idea, to obtain a higher convergence rate for online solving the CVTVSE, an improved nonlinear

activation function is designed and investigated in this paper. Based on this new activation function, an improved complexvalued Zhang neural network (ICZNN) model for tackling the CVTVSE is established. Furthermore, the strict proof for the maximum time of global convergence of the ICZNN is given in detail. Two numerical experiments are employed to verify the performance of the proposed ICZNN model.

The remaining parts contain the following content. In Section [II,](#page-1-0) we give the description of the problem. In Section [III,](#page-2-0) we design a sign-multi-power function to build a novel ICZNN to tackle the CVTVSE, and give the theoretical proof for the maximum time of global convergence of the ICZNN. In Section [IV,](#page-7-0) we give two digit experiments to verify the superiority of the sign-multi-power function. Finally, we give the final conclusions of this paper in Section [V.](#page-10-0)

Before finishing this section, we can summarize the contribution of this paper as below.

- 1) A novel sign-multi-power activation function is designed.
- 2) A novel ICZNN is derived to tackle the CVTVSE in complex-valued domain, and the strict theoretical proof is explained.
- 3) The digit experiments demonstrate that this novel model for online tackling the CVTVSE can increase the convergence rate significantly.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM

The CVTVSE can be described as

$$
G(t)X(t) - X(t)Q(t) = -S(t) \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n},
$$
 (3)

where $G(t)$, $Q(t)$ and $S(t)$ are all the complex-valued coefficient matrices, t means time, and $X(t)$ is a time-varying matrix needs to be calculated. Now we give the following assumptions: the complex-valued matrices $G(t)$, $Q(t)$, and *S*(*t*) have no identical eigenvalues, and are all first-order differentiable. So there will be only a solution for the equa-tion [\(3\)](#page-1-1). To help the future description, let $\tilde{X}(t)$ denote the theoretical solution. Our target is to design a novel nonlinear complex-valued activation function to build a neural network for tackling the CVTCSE.

First suppose $G(t)$, $Q(t)$, $X(t)$ and $S(t)$ are all real-valued matrices, and the procedure for the real-valued TVSE using the ZNN model can be described as the following three steps.

Step 1: The error function can be represented as:

$$
D(t) = G(t)X(t) - X(t)Q(t) + S(t).
$$
 (4)

Step 2: The evolution procedure is designed as follows:

$$
\dot{D}(t) = q\Psi(D(t)),\tag{5}
$$

where $q > 0$ denotes the coefficient to accelerate the convergence rate, and $\Psi(\cdot)$ denotes the activation function.

Step 3: Substitute [\(4\)](#page-1-2) into [\(5\)](#page-1-3), and we will have the following equation:

$$
G(t)\dot{X}(t) - \dot{X}(t)Q(t)
$$

= $q\Psi(G(t)X(t) - X(t)Q(t)$
+ $S(t)) - \dot{G}(t)X(t) + X(t)\dot{Q}(t) - \dot{S}(t)$. (6)

Now suppose $G(t) = G_{\text{re}}(t) + jG_{\text{im}}(t), Q(t) = Q_{\text{re}}(t) + jG_{\text{im}}(t)$ $jQ_{\text{im}}(t)$, $X(t) = X_{\text{re}}(t) + jX_{\text{im}}(t)$ and $S(t) = S_{\text{re}}(t) + S_{\text{im}}(t)$, where $j = \sqrt{-1}$ denotes an imaginary unit. Then according to the equation [\(6\)](#page-1-4), we have

$$
G(t)\dot{X}(t) - \dot{X}(t)Q(t) = q(\Psi(G_{\text{re}}(t)X_{\text{re}}(t)) - G_{\text{im}}(t)X_{\text{im}}(t) - X_{\text{re}}(t)Q_{\text{re}}(t) + X_{\text{im}}(t)Q_{\text{im}}(t)) + j\Psi(G_{\text{im}}(t)X_{\text{re}}(t) + G_{\text{re}}(t)X_{\text{im}}(t) - X_{\text{im}}(t)Q_{\text{re}}(t) - X_{\text{re}}(t)Q_{\text{im}}(t))) - \dot{G}(t)X(t) + X(t)\dot{Q}(t) - \dot{S}(t).
$$
 (7)

III. A NOVEL RECURRENT NEURAL NETWORK

A. A NEW NONLINEAR ACTIVATION FUNCTION

From the equation [\(7\)](#page-2-1), we can find that a suitable activation function will increase the convergence rate significantly. So a novel nonlinear activation function called the sign-multipower function can be designed as follows:

$$
\Psi(k) = a_1 \text{sgn}^z(k) + a_2 \text{sgn}^{z-2^1}(k) + a_3 \text{sgn}^{z-2^2}(k) + \dots + a_n \text{sgn}^1(k) + a_{n+1} \text{sgn}^{1/z}(k), \quad (8)
$$

where *z* is odd integer and satisfy $z > 1$, the parameters a_1 , \cdots , a_{n+1} are all the positive numbers, and

$$
sgn^{z}(u) = \begin{cases} |u|^{z}, & \text{if } u > 0\\ 0, & \text{if } u = 0\\ -|u|^{z}, & \text{if } u < 0. \end{cases}
$$

B. A SIGN-MULTI-POWER MODEL FOR TACKLING THE CVTVSE

For ease of comparison, we first introduce two improved ZNN models. One is a sign-bi-power model [42], and the other is an IZNN model [44]. For ease of description, we first give the following definition:

$$
f_1(t) = G_{\rm re}(t)X_{\rm re}(t) - G_{\rm im}(t)X_{\rm im}(t)
$$

$$
-X_{\rm re}(t)Q_{\rm re}(t) + X_{\rm im}(t)Q_{\rm im}(t),
$$

and

$$
f_2(t) = G_{\text{im}}(t)X_{\text{re}}(t) + G_{\text{re}}(t)X_{\text{im}}(t)
$$

$$
-X_{\text{im}}(t)Q_{\text{re}}(t) - X_{\text{re}}(t)Q_{\text{im}}(t).
$$

Then the sign-bi-power model is represented as:

$$
G(t)\dot{X}(t) - \dot{X}(t)Q(t) = q(\frac{1}{2}\text{sgn}^{z}(f_{1}(t)) + \frac{1}{2}\text{sgn}^{1/z}(f_{1}(t)) + j(\frac{1}{2}\text{sgn}^{z}(f_{2}(t))) + \frac{1}{2}\text{sgn}^{1/z}(f_{2}(t)))) - \dot{G}(t)X(t) + X(t)\dot{Q}(t) - \dot{S}(t).
$$
\n(9)

The IZNN model is represented as:

$$
G(t)\dot{X}(t) - \dot{X}(t)Q(t)
$$

= $q(\text{sign}(f_1(t))(j_1|f_1(t))^{h}$

$$
+ j_2 |f_1(t)|^{1/h} - j_3 |f_1(t)|)+ j(sign(f_2(t))(j_1|f_2(t))h+ j_2 |f_2(t)|^{1/h} - j_3 |f_2(t)|)) - \dot{G}(t)X(t)+ X(t)\dot{Q}(t) - \dot{S}(t),
$$
\n(10)

where $j_1 > j_3 > 0$, $j_2 > j_3 > 0$, and *h* is an odd integer and satisfy $h > 1$, and

$$
sign(u) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } u > 0 \\ 0, & \text{if } u = 0 \\ -1, & \text{if } u < 0. \end{cases}
$$

Now we can build a novel improved ZNN using the signmulti-power function, which is designed as:

$$
G(t)\dot{X}(t) - \dot{X}(t)Q(t)
$$

= $q(a_1 \text{sgn}^z(f_1(t))$
+ $a_2 \text{sgn}^{z-2^1}(f_1(t)) + a_3 \text{sgn}^{z-2^2}(f_1(t))$
+ $\cdots + a_n \text{sgn}^1(f_1(t)) + a_{n+1} \text{sgn}^{1/z}(f_1(t))$
+ $j(a_1 \text{sgn}^z(f_2(t)) + a_2 \text{sgn}^{z-2^1}(f_2(t))$
+ $a_3 \text{sgn}^{z-2^2}(f_2(t)) + \cdots + a_n \text{sgn}^1(f_2(t))$
+ $a_{n+1} \text{sgn}^{1/z}(f_2(t))) - \dot{G}(t)X(t)$
+ $X(t)\dot{Q}(t) - \dot{S}(t),$ (11)

where $q > 0$, *z* is an odd integer and satisfies $z > 1$, $q > 0$, and the parameters a_1, \dots, a_{n+1} are all the positive numbers. We can call this model (11) as the ICZNN model.

C. THEOREM ANALYSIS OF ICZNN MODEL

Theorem 1: The ICZNN model [\(11\)](#page-2-2) is globally stable no matter what its randomly generated initial value $X(0)$ is.

Proof: According to the error evolution [\(5\)](#page-1-3), we can find each element of the matrix $D(t)$ has the same dynamics, then we have

$$
\dot{D}_{iw}(t) = q\Psi(D_{iw}(t)),\tag{12}
$$

where $D_{iw}(t)$ denotes the *iwth* element of the error matrix *D*(*t*). According to $D_{iw}(t) = D_{iw,re}(t) + jD_{iw,im}(t)$, the following two real-valued equations are derived:

$$
\dot{D}_{iw,\text{re}}(t) = q\Psi(D_{iw,\text{re}}(t)),
$$
\n
$$
\dot{D}_{iw,\text{im}}(t) = q\Psi(D_{iw,\text{im}}(t)),
$$
\n(13)

where $D_{iw, \text{re}}(t)$ and $D_{iw, \text{im}}(t)$ denote the real part and imaginary part of $D_{iw}(t)$, respectively. Then we can design the following Lyapunov functions:

$$
V_{\rm re}(t) = D_{iw, \rm re}^{2}(t),
$$

\n
$$
V_{\rm im}(t) = D_{iw, \rm im}^{2}(t).
$$
\n(14)

Considering the equation $V_{\text{re}}(t) = D_{i w, \text{re}}^2(t)$ and the equation $V_{\text{im}}(t) = D_{iw,im}^2(t)$ have the identical dynamic, we need only take the equation $V_{\text{re}}(t) = D_{iw,\text{re}}^2(t)$ as a example to analyse the convergence property. Now we have

$$
\dot{V}_{\rm re}(t) = -2qD_{iw,\rm re}(t)\Psi(D_{iw,\rm re}(t)).\tag{15}
$$

FIGURE 1. Output trajectories of neural states $X_{11}(t)$ synthesized by the model [\(9\)](#page-2-3) in example 1.The dotted red line denotes the theoretical values, and the blue solid line denotes the calculated values. (a) Element of real part of $X_{11}(t)$. (b) Element of imaginary part of $X_{11}(t)$.

FIGURE 2. Output trajectories of neural states $X_{21}(t)$ synthesized by the model [\(9\)](#page-2-3) in example 1. The dotted red line denotes the theoretical values, and the blue solid line denotes the calculated values. (a) Element of real part of $X_{21}(t)$. (b) Element of imaginary part of $X_{21}(t)$.

FIGURE 3. Output trajectories of neural states $X_{12}(t)$ synthesized by the model [\(9\)](#page-2-3) in example 1. The dotted red line denotes the theoretical values, and the blue solid line denotes the calculated values. (a) Element of real part of $X_{12}(t)$. (b) Element of imaginary part of $X_{12}(t)$.

FIGURE 4. Output trajectories of neural states $X_{22}(t)$ synthesized by the model [\(9\)](#page-2-3) in example 1. The dotted red line denotes the theoretical values, and the blue solid line denotes the calculated values. (a) Element of real part of $X_{22}(t)$. (b) Element of imaginary part of $X_{22}(t)$.

FIGURE 5. Output trajectories of the residual errors synthesized by the model [\(10\)](#page-2-4) in example 1. (a) Element of real part of the residual errors, (b) Element of imaginary part of the residual errors.

FIGURE 6. Output trajectories of neural states $X_{11}(t)$ synthesized by the model [\(10\)](#page-2-4) in example 1. The dotted red line denotes the theoretical values, and the blue solid line denotes the calculated values. (a) Element of real part of the residual errors. (a) Element of real part of $X_{11}(t)$. (b) Element of imaginary part of $X_{11}(t)$.

If we choose the sign-multi-power activation function, we will have

$$
\Psi(D_{iw,\text{re}}(t)) = a_1 \text{sgn}^z(D_{iw,\text{re}}(t)) + a_2 \text{sgn}^{z-2^1}(D_{iw,\text{re}}(t))
$$

 $+ a_3 sgn^{z-2^2}(D_{iw,re}(t))$ + \cdots + a_n sgn¹($D_{iw,re}(t)$) $+a_{n+1}sgn^{1/z}(D_{iw,re}(t)).$ (16)

FIGURE 7. Output trajectories of neural states $X_{21}(t)$ synthesized by the model [\(10\)](#page-2-4) in example 1. The dotted red line denotes the theoretical values, and the blue solid line denotes the calculated values. (a) Element of real part of $X_{21}(t)$. (b) Element of imaginary part of $X_{21}(t)$.

FIGURE 8. Output trajectories of neural states $X_{12}(t)$ synthesized by the model [\(10\)](#page-2-4) in example 1. The dotted red line denotes the theoretical values, and the blue solid line denotes the calculated values. (a) Element of real part of $X_{12}(t)$. (b) Element of imaginary part of $X_{12}(t)$.

From the equation [\(16\)](#page-4-0), we can first find $sgn^{z}(t)$, \cdots and $sgn^{1/z}(t)$ are monotone increasing functions. Then the equation [\(16\)](#page-4-0) is an odd and monotone increasing function. So $D_{iw,re}(t)\Psi(D_{iw,re}(t))$ is positive definite. Now according to the equation [\(15\)](#page-2-5), \dot{V} is negative definite. Then the corresponding conclusion can be given that $D_{iw, re}(t)$ will converge to 0 globally with time for all *i* and *w*. Similarly, we can prove the convergence property of $D_{iw,im}(t)$ for all *i* and *w*.

Now from the equation [\(4\)](#page-1-2), the corresponding conclusions can be given that the *X*(*t*) of the sign-multi-power model [\(11\)](#page-2-2) will also converge to 0 globally. This proof is successful.

Theorem 2: The state $X(t)$ of ICZNN model [\(11\)](#page-2-2) will obtain its theoretical solution within the time *th*:

$$
t_h = \frac{z}{q(z-1)} V_{max}^{\frac{z-1}{2z}}(0)
$$

where $V_{max}(0)$ denotes the maximum initial element of $D_{iw,re}(t)$ and $D_{iw,im}(t)$ for all possible *i* and *w*, and *z* is an odd integer and satisfy $z > 1$.

Proof: According to the equation [\(13\)](#page-2-6), we first design the following Lyapunov function:

$$
V_{\rm re}(t) = D_{iw, \rm re}^{2}(t),
$$

\n
$$
V_{\rm im}(t) = D_{iw, \rm im}^{2}(t).
$$
\n(17)

Now we take the equation $V_{\text{re}}(t) = D_{iw,\text{re}}^2(t)$ as a example to analyse the maximum convergence time, and have

$$
\begin{split}\n\dot{V}_{\text{re}}(t) &= -2qD_{iw,\text{re}}(t)(a_1 \text{sgn}^z(D_{iw,\text{re}}(t)) \\
&+ a_2 \text{sgn}^{z-2^1}(D_{iw,\text{re}}(t)) + a_3 \text{sgn}^{z-2^2}(D_{iw,\text{re}}(t)) \\
&+ \cdots + a_n \text{sgn}^1(D_{iw,\text{re}}(t)) \\
&+ a_{n+1} \text{sgn}^{1/z}(D_{iw,\text{re}}(t))) \\
&= -2q|D_{iw,\text{re}}(t)|(a_1 \text{sgn}^z(|D_{iw,\text{re}}(t)|) \\
&+ a_2 \text{sgn}^{z-2^1}(|D_{iw,\text{re}}(t)|) \\
&+ a_3 \text{sgn}^{z-2^2}(|D_{iw,\text{re}}(t)|) \\
&+ \cdots + a_n \text{sgn}^1(|D_{iw,\text{re}}(t)|) \\
&+ a_{n+1} \text{sgn}^{1/z}(|D_{iw,\text{re}}(t)|))\n\end{split}
$$

FIGURE 9. Output trajectories of neural states $X_{22}(t)$ synthesized by the model [\(10\)](#page-2-4) in example 1. The dotted red line denotes the theoretical values, and the blue solid line denotes the calculated values. (a) Element of real part of $X_{22}(t)$. (b) Element of imaginary part of $X_{22}(t)$.

FIGURE 10. Output trajectories of the residual errors synthesized by the model [\(10\)](#page-2-4) in example 1. (a) Element of real part of the residual errors. (b) Element of imaginary part of the residual errors.

FIGURE 11. Output trajectories of neural states $X_{11}(t)$ synthesized by the model [\(11\)](#page-2-2) in example 1. The dotted red line denotes the theoretical values, and the blue solid line denotes the calculated values. (a) Element of real part of $X_{11}(t)$. (b) Element of imaginary part of $X_{11}(t)$.

$$
\leq -2q|D_{iw, \text{re}}(t)|(a_{n+1}\text{sgn}^{1/z}(|D_{iw, \text{re}}(t)|))
$$

= -2qV_{re}^{1/2}(t)(a_{n+1}\text{sgn}^{1/z}(V_{re}^{1/2}(t))). (18)

Then we have

$$
\dot{V}_{\rm re}(t) \le -2qV_{\rm re}^{1/2}(t)a_{n+1}\text{sgn}^{1/z}(V_{\rm re}^{1/2}(t))
$$

FIGURE 12. Output trajectories of neural states $X_{21}(t)$ synthesized by the model [\(11\)](#page-2-2) in example 1. The dotted red line denotes the theoretical values, and the blue solid line denotes the calculated values. (a) Element of real part of $X_{21}(t)$. (b) Element of imaginary part of $X_{21}(t)$.

FIGURE 13. Output trajectories of neural states $X_{12}(t)$ synthesized by the model [\(11\)](#page-2-2) in example 1. The dotted red line denotes the theoretical values, and the blue solid line denotes the calculated values. (a) Element of real part of $X_{12}(t)$. (b) Element of imaginary part of $X_{12}(t)$.

$$
= -2qV_{\rm re}^{1/2}(t)V_{\rm re}^{1/2z}(t)
$$

= $-2qV_{\rm re}^{1+z}(t)$. (19)

Now let's integrate the equation [\(19\)](#page-6-0) from zero to *t*, and we will have

$$
V_{\rm re}(t) \leq (V \, {\rm re}^{\frac{z-1}{2z}}(0) - \frac{q(z-1)}{z}t)^{\frac{2z}{z-1}}.
$$

Let

$$
t_{1,i} = \frac{z}{q(z-1)} \nu^{\frac{z-1}{2z}}(0). \tag{20}
$$

Now we can draw a conclusion if $t \geq t_{1,i}$, $V_{\text{re}}(t) = 0$. Suppose $V_{\text{re},max}(0)$ denote the maximum element of $D_{iw,re}(t)$ for all possible *i* and *w*, and $t_{1,re} = \frac{z}{q(z-1)} V_{re, max}^{\frac{z-1}{2z}}(0)$. Therefore if $t \ge$ $t_{1, \text{re}}, V_{\text{re}}(t) = 0$. Similarly, we can deal with the Lyapunov function $V_{\text{im}}(t) = D_{iw,im}^2(t)$ using the above method. Suppose $V_{\text{im},\text{max}}(0)$ denote the maximum element of $D_{\text{iw},\text{im}}(t)$ for all possible *i* and *w*, and $t_{1,im} = \frac{z}{q(z-1)} V_{im,max}^{\frac{z-1}{2z}}(0)$. Then we can find if $t \ge t_{1,\text{im}}$, $V_{\text{im}}(t) = 0$.

Suppose $t_1 = max(t_{1, \text{re}}, t_{1, \text{im}})$, and we can draw a conclusion that if $t \geq t_1$, the Lyapunov function [\(17\)](#page-5-0) will converge to zero.

Now the proof is successful.

IV. NUMERICAL SIMULATION

Now, two illustrative examples are provided in this section. Furthermore to show the advantage of the ICZNN model [\(11\)](#page-2-2), the sign-bi-power model [\(9\)](#page-2-3) and the IZNN model [\(10\)](#page-2-4) are also used to calculate the solution of CVTVSE. The convergence process of each neural-state solution and the residual error norm of each model are shown in corresponding figures. For the convenience of comparison, the following parameters are chosen $q = 1$, $z = h = 5$, $a_1 = a_2 = a_3 = a_4 = i_1 = i_2 = i_3$ $\frac{1}{2}$, and $j_3 = 0.25$.

Example 1: In this example, the sign-bi-power model [\(9\)](#page-2-3), the IZNN model [\(10\)](#page-2-4) and the ICZNN model [\(11\)](#page-2-2) are employed to calculate the theoretical solution $\tilde{X}(t)$, respectively. The specific CVTVSE example is presented as below:

$$
G_1(t)X(t) - X(t)Q_1(t) = -S_1(t) \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}
$$

,

where

$$
G_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(5t) + j4\sin(2t) & 3\sin(4t) + j6\cos(3t) \\ 6 - \sin(t) + j\cos(4t) & 2 + \cos(2t) + j3\sin(2t) \end{bmatrix}
$$

$$
Q_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix},
$$

and

$$
S_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \sin(3t) & \sin(2t) \\ -\cos(t) + j4\sin(3t) & \sin(t) \end{bmatrix}
$$

The calculation results are displayed in Figs[.1](#page-3-0)[-15.](#page-8-0) The Figs. [1](#page-3-0)[-4,](#page-4-1) the Figs. [6](#page-4-2)[-9](#page-6-1) and the Figs. [11-](#page-6-2)[14](#page-8-1) display the output trajectories of neural state $X(t)$. From these figures, we can find that the complex-valued time-varying parameters $X_{11}(t)$, $X_{21}(t)$, $X_{12}(t)$, $X_{22}(t)$ of different models will all converge to the theoretical solution in finite time. However, the ICZNN model [\(11\)](#page-2-2) has the highest convergence speed. The Fig. [5,](#page-4-3) the Fig. [10](#page-6-3) and the Figs. [15](#page-8-0)[-18](#page-9-0) display the output trajectories of the residual error norm $||D(t)||_2$. From these figures, we can find that the convergence time of the sign-bi-power model [\(9\)](#page-2-3),

the IZNN model [\(10\)](#page-2-4), and the ICZNN model [\(11\)](#page-2-2) is about 2.6s, 4.7s, and 1.7s, respectively. Compared with the sign-bipower model [\(9\)](#page-2-3) and the IZNN model [\(10\)](#page-2-4), the ICZNN model increases the convergence speed about percent 34% and 62%,

Example 2: In this example, the sign-bi-power model [\(9\)](#page-2-3), the IZNN model [\(10\)](#page-2-4) and the sign-multi-power model [\(11\)](#page-2-2) are further employed to calculate the following CVTVSE:

$$
G_2(t)X(t) - X(t)Q_2(t) = -S_2(t) \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n},
$$

where

respectively.

,

.

$$
G_2 = p \begin{bmatrix} \cos(t) + j3\sin(4t) & 5\sin(3t) + j\cos(4t) \\ 8 - j\cos(4t) & 6\cos(3t) + j\sin(4t) \end{bmatrix},
$$

\n
$$
Q_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 + j\cos(2t) & 4 + j\sin(3t) \\ \cos(3t) - j\sin(2t) & 3 + \cos(t) \end{bmatrix},
$$

and

$$
S_2 = \begin{bmatrix} \sin(t) + j4\cos(t) & \cos(t) \\ -\cos(t) + j\sin(3t) & \sin(t) + j\sin(2t) \end{bmatrix}.
$$

FIGURE 14. Output trajectories of neural states $X_{22}(t)$ synthesized by the model [\(11\)](#page-2-2) in example 1. The dotted red line denotes the theoretical values, and the blue solid line denotes the calculated values. (a) Element of real part of $X_{22}(t)$. (b) Element of imaginary part of $X_{22}(t)$.

FIGURE 15. Output trajectories of the residual errors synthesized by the model [\(11\)](#page-2-2) in example 1. (a) Element of real part of the residual errors. (b) Element of imaginary part of the residual errors.

FIGURE 16. Output trajectories of the residual errors synthesized by the model [\(9\)](#page-2-3) in example 2. (a) Element of real part of the residual errors. (b) Element of imaginary part of the residual errors.

FIGURE 17. Output trajectories of the residual errors synthesized by the model [\(10\)](#page-2-4) in example 2. (a) Element of real part of the residual errors. (b) Element of imaginary part of the residual errors.

FIGURE 18. Output trajectories of the residual errors synthesized by the model [\(11\)](#page-2-2) in example 2. (a) Element of real part of the residual errors. (b) Element of imaginary part of the residual errors.

The calculation results are displayed in Fig[.16-](#page-9-1)[18](#page-9-0) which show the output trajectories of the residual error norm $||D(t)||_2$. Similarly, we can find the the sign-multipower model [\(11\)](#page-2-2) has a higher convergence speed than the sign-bi-power model [\(9\)](#page-2-3) and the IZNN model [\(10\)](#page-2-4).

V. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper a novel activation function is designed. Based on this novel activation function, a new finite-time ZNN model [\(11\)](#page-2-2) is designed to tackle the CVTVSE, and the strict proof of global convergence and the upper bound are described. The simulation results validate the proposed ICZNN model can increase the convergence speed significantly. So it has a certain significance for tackling the CVTVSE online.

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