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# Adaptive finite-time tracking control for nonlinear systems with unmodeled dynamics using neural networks

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## Abstract

This paper presents a novel adaptive finite-time tracking control scheme for nonlinear systems. During the design process of control scheme, the unmodeled dynamics in nonlinear systems are taken into account. The radial basis function neural networks (RBFNNs) are adopted to approximate the unknown nonlinear functions. Meanwhile, based on RBFNNs, the assumptions with respect to unmodeled dynamics are also relaxed. This paper provides a new finite-time stability criterion, making the adaptive tracking control scheme more suitable in the practice than traditional methods. Combining RBFNNs and the backstepping technique, a novel adaptive controller is designed. Under the presented controller, the desired system performance is realized in finite time. Finally, a numerical example is presented to demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed control method.

**Keywords:** Nonlinear systems; Unmodeled dynamics; Adaptive control; Backstepping; Radial basis function neural networks; Finite-time stability

## 1 Introduction

In recent years, the adaptive control of nonlinear systems has achieved remarkable breakthroughs by combining with the backstepping technology [1–24]. Many of the technical limitations in traditional adaptive control, such as matching condition and relative-degree constraint, can be eliminated by an adaptive backstepping control scheme. Fuzzy logic systems and neural networks (NNs) provide useful tools for designing control schemes of uncertain nonlinear systems, because of their capability of nonlinear approximation [7, 25–52]. One of the breakthroughs in neural networks control is the introduction of adaptive algorithms for tuning the weights of NNs [53]. However, the application of this method is limited by the large computation. This phenomenon is due mainly to the fact that the number of adaptive parameters is always affected by the nodes of the neural network. This problem has been resolved by the adaptive control scheme proposed in [54] to a certain extent. In [54], the key technique to relaxing the limitation lies in employing norms of unknown neural weight vectors as the estimated parameters. It is also well known that the applicability of the adaptive backstepping control method is limited by unmodeled dynamics existing in many practical nonlinear systems. Consequently, adaptive control for nonlinear systems with unmodeled dynamics has been given widely attention in the past several years [55, 56].

Unmodeled dynamics are caused by many factors, such as measuring errors, modeling errors and uncertain perturbations. The traditional adaptive control methods are not suitable in the presence of unmodeled dynamics. There are two possible ways to eliminate the influence of unmodeled dynamics. The first way is to introduce a dynamics signal to dominate the dynamics perturbation. In [57], K-filters and dynamic signal are introduced to estimate the unmeasured states and deal with the dynamic uncertainties, respectively. This method also was employed in nonlinear systems with fuzzy dead zone and dynamic uncertainties based on fuzzy adaptive algorithm [58]. The second avenue is to make the assumption with respect to unmodeled dynamics satisfying a lower triangular condition [59, 60]. The control laws designed in [59] did not require an extra dynamic signal to prove Lagrange stability. The same method was also employed in nonlinear systems with many types of uncertainties, such as unknown dead-zone inputs, time-varying delay uncertainties, unknown dynamic disturbances [60]. However, the control schemes proposed in the above literature can only achieve desired system performance when the time tends to infinity. In practical engineering, it is necessary to ensure that the performance of the system can be realized in finite time.

Finite-time control has received much attention because it can provide many benefits such as strong robustness and better disturbance resistance capability [3, 4, 61]. The Lyapunov theory of finite-time stability for nonlinear systems has been clearly established by several authors [62, 63]. It is necessary to point out that the nonlinear functions in these systems all meet the linear growth condition. However, in practice, the nonlinear functions are often completely unknown for the constraints of the modeling method or unknown dynamic disturbances. In this case, the linear growth condition might not be satisfied. To eliminate this limitation, a new finite-time stability criterion was proposed in [64]. However, the controller proposed in [64] cannot be applied to the nonlinear system with unmodeled dynamics. In other words, there is still some room for improvement in making the finite-time control scheme implemented more efficiently. These facts motivate us to provide a new finite-time adaptive backstepping control scheme for uncertain nonlinear system with unmodeled dynamics. In contrast with the existing literature, the control scheme in this note offers the following benefits.

(1) The traditional adaptive neural or fuzzy control strategies can only guarantee the system performance when time tends to infinity. These existing adaptive fuzzy control methods are not suitable for the finite-time tracking control for uncertain nonlinear system. Based on the Lyapunov theory of finite-time stability of nonlinear systems, this paper constructs a neural network controller which can ensure the tracking performance of the system in finite time. Therefore, to a certain extent, the control strategy proposed in this paper is more meaningful than the control methods presented in [1, 2, 5, 56] in the practical application fields.

(2) During the design process of control scheme, the unmodeled dynamics are considered. Meanwhile, based on RBFNNs, the assumptions with respect to unmodeled dynamics are also relaxed. Moreover, in the presence of unknown dynamic disturbances and unmodeled dynamics, finite-time control can provide many benefits such as strong robustness and better disturbance resistance capability.

(3) The classical stability criteria draw a conclusion on finite-time stability based on inequality  $\dot{V} \leq -a_0 V^\varphi$  with  $a_0 > 0$  and  $0 < \varphi < 1$ . In contrast with the existing finite-time control methods, the corresponding approximation errors in this paper will result in a

positive constant  $d_0$  appearing in the right side of the inequality  $\dot{V} \leq -a_0 V^\rho$ . These facts motivate us to provide a novel criterion of finite-time stability, say  $\dot{V} \leq -a_0 V^\rho + d_0$  with  $d_0 > 0$ . With the new adaptive control scheme based on the novel criterion of finite-time stability proposed in this article, the nonlinear functions can be completely unknown and they are only required to be continuous. Consequently, in contrast with the existing finite-time control methods in [62–64], the control method in this note is more adaptable to the realistic systems.

The paper is organized as follows. The control problem of the nonlinear system with unmodeled dynamics is formulated in Sect. 2. The main results are presented in Sect. 3, where the adaptive neural networks controller is presented to achieve the control objective in finite time. Simulation results are presented in Sect. 4. The paper ends with the conclusion in Sect. 5.

## 2 Preliminaries and problem formulation

### 2.1 System description

The nonlinear systems with unmodeled dynamics in this paper can be expressed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{s} &= \varphi(t, s, z_1), \\ \dot{\bar{x}}_i &= x_{i+1} + f_i(\bar{x}_i) + p_i(t, s, x), \\ \dot{x}_n &= u + f_n(x) + p_n(t, s, x), \\ y &= x_1, \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

where  $\bar{x}_i = [x_1, \dots, x_i]^T$ ,  $f_i$  denotes unknown smooth nonlinear function,  $u$  represents the control input,  $z_1 = x_1 - y_d$  and  $y_d$  denotes the desired trajectory. Unmodeled dynamics are represented by  $s(t) \in R^{\tilde{n}}$ , while  $x = [x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]^T$  denotes part of the measured states.  $p_i(t, s, x)$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ) are the uncertain dynamic disturbances. In this paper, it is assumed that  $p_i(t, s, x)$  are unknown Lipschitz continuous functions.

In this article, the adaptive neural networks controller  $u$  is proposed, so that the control performance can be guaranteed in finite time.

**Definition 1** ([65]) The solution  $\{z(t), t \geq 0\}$  of  $\dot{z} = f(z, v)$  is semi-globally uniformly finite-time bounded (SGUFB), if for all  $z(t_0) = z_0 \in \Omega_0$  (some compact set containing the origin), there exist  $\epsilon > 0$  and a settling time  $T(\epsilon, z_0) < \infty$ , such that  $\|z(t)\| < \epsilon$ , for all  $t \geq t_0 + T$ .

**Assumption 1** Assume that the desired trajectory  $y_d = y_d^{(0)}$  and its  $k$ th time derivative  $y_d^{(k)}$  ( $1 \leq k \leq n$ ) are continuous and bounded.

**Assumption 2** Consider  $\dot{s} = \varphi(t, s, z_1)$  and  $p_i(t, s, x)$  in (1). Suppose that:

- The equilibrium  $s = 0$  of  $\dot{s} = \varphi(t, s, 0) - \varphi(t, 0, 0)$  is globally exponentially stable equilibrium point, and there is a Lyapunov function  $V_\varphi(t, s)$  that satisfies

$$k_1 \|s\|^2 \leq V_\varphi(t, s) \leq k_2 \|s\|^2, \tag{2}$$

$$\frac{\partial V_\varphi}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial V_\varphi}{\partial s} (\varphi(t, s, 0) - \varphi(t, 0, 0)) \leq -k_3 \|s\|^2, \tag{3}$$

$$\left| \frac{\partial V_\varphi}{\partial s} \right| \leq k_4 \|s\|, \tag{4}$$

$$\|\varphi(t, 0, 0)\| \leq k_5, \quad \forall t \geq 0, \tag{5}$$

where  $k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4$  and  $k_5$  are unknown positive constants.

- $\varphi$  and  $p_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ) satisfy the inequalities

$$\|\varphi(t, s, z_1) - \varphi(t, s, 0)\| \leq e_0 \rho_0(\|z_1\|), \tag{6}$$

$$\|p_i(t, s, x)\| \leq e_i \sigma_{i1}(\|\bar{x}_i\|) + e_i \|s\| \sigma_{i2}(\bar{x}_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, n, \tag{7}$$

where  $e_0$  and  $e_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ) are unknown positive constants,  $\rho_0(\|z_1\|) \in C_1$  is unknown continuous function,  $\rho_0(0) = 0$ ,  $\sigma_{i1}(\|\bar{x}_i\|)$  and  $\sigma_{i2}(\bar{x}_i)$  are unknown positive continuous functions.

*Remark 1* Assumption 2 is similar to assumptions used in [59, 66]. However, in this article,  $\rho_0, \sigma_{i1}$  and  $\sigma_{i2}$  can be completely unknown. To a certain extent, the control method in this note is more adaptable to realistic systems, in contrast with [59].

**Lemma 1** ([67]) For  $a_j \in R, j = 1, \dots, M, 0 < \varrho \leq 1$ , we have

$$\left( \sum_{j=1}^M |a_j| \right)^\varrho \leq \sum_{j=1}^M |a_j|^\varrho \leq M^{1-\varrho} \left( \sum_{j=1}^M |a_j| \right)^\varrho. \tag{8}$$

**Lemma 2** ([68]) For  $\forall (x_0, y_0) \in R^2$  and positive constants  $\mu, \rho, \lambda$ , the following inequality holds:

$$|x_0|^\mu |y_0|^\rho \leq \frac{\mu}{\mu + \rho} \lambda |x_0|^{\mu+\rho} + \frac{\rho}{\mu + \rho} \lambda^{-\frac{\mu}{\rho}} |y_0|^{\mu+\rho}. \tag{9}$$

**Lemma 3** Consider the system

$$\dot{z} = f(z, v). \tag{10}$$

Let  $V(z) \in C^1$  satisfy the inequality

$$\dot{V}(z) \leq -c_0 V^\wp(z) + d_0, \quad t \geq 0 \quad (c_0 > 0, 0 < \wp < 1, d_0 > 0), \tag{11}$$

where  $c_0, \wp$  and  $d_0$  are constants. Then the solution of the nonlinear system  $\dot{z} = f(z, v)$  is semi-globally uniformly finite-time bounded (SGUFB).

*Proof* It follows from (11) that

$$\dot{V}(z) \leq -\zeta c_0 V^\wp(z) - (1 - \zeta)c_0 V^\wp(z) + d_0, \quad \forall 0 < \zeta \leq 1.$$

Let  $\Omega_z = \{z | V^\wp(z) \leq \frac{d_0}{(1-\zeta)c_0}\}$  and  $\tilde{\Omega}_z = \{z | V^\wp(z) > \frac{d_0}{(1-\zeta)c_0}\}$ .

Let  $z(t) \in \tilde{\Omega}_z$ . Then we have

$$\dot{V}(z) \leq -\zeta c_0 V^\wp(z). \tag{12}$$

Therefore

$$\int_0^T \frac{\dot{V}(z)}{V^\wp(z)} dt \leq - \int_0^T \zeta c_0 dt. \tag{13}$$

Hence

$$\frac{V^{1-\wp}(z(T))}{1-\wp} - \frac{V^{1-\wp}(z(0))}{1-\wp} \leq -\zeta c_0 T. \tag{14}$$

Let

$$T_r = \frac{1}{(1-\wp)\zeta c_0} \left[ V^{1-\wp}(z(0)) - \left( \frac{d_0}{(1-\zeta)c_0} \right)^{(1-\wp)/\wp} \right], \tag{15}$$

where  $z(0)$  denotes the initial value of  $z(t)$ . Then one has  $z_t \in \Omega_z$  for  $\forall T \geq T_r$ . If  $z_t \in \Omega_z$ ,  $z_t$  does not exceed the set  $\Omega_z$ . In conclusion, the solution of the nonlinear system  $\dot{z} = f(z, v)$  is SGUFB.  $\square$

*Remark 2* It is difficult to achieve the asymptotic stability of the nonlinear system in the presence of uncertain perturbations. The system performance we can expect to realize is that the solution of the system is bounded in finite time and the bound can be sufficiently small.

### 2.2 RBF neural networks

In the following design, the radial basis function neural networks (RBFNNs) will be utilized to approximate the unknown function  $f(\zeta)$  defined on some compact set  $\Omega \in R^p$ .  $\mathfrak{N}(\zeta) = [\mathfrak{N}_1(\zeta), \mathfrak{N}_2(\zeta), \dots, \mathfrak{N}_\kappa(\zeta)]^T$  is the basis function vector and  $h^T = [h_1, h_2, \dots, h_\kappa]^T$  denotes the weight vector. In this research, the following Gaussian basis function  $\mathfrak{N}_i(\zeta)$  will be utilized:

$$\mathfrak{N}_i(\zeta) = \exp \left[ -\frac{(\zeta - \iota_i)^T (\zeta - \iota_i)}{\omega_i^2} \right], \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, \kappa, \tag{16}$$

where  $\kappa$  is the neural networks node number,  $\iota_i = [\iota_{i1}, \iota_{i2}, \dots, \iota_{ip}]^T$  denotes the center of the receptive field and  $\omega_i$  represents the width of the Gaussian function.

**Lemma 4** ([69]) *Let  $f(\zeta)$  be a continuous function defined on a compact set  $\Omega$ . Then, for  $\forall \varepsilon > 0$ , there exists a neural network  $h^{*T} \mathfrak{N}(\zeta)$  such that*

$$f(\zeta) = h^{*T} \mathfrak{N}(\zeta) + \epsilon(\zeta), \tag{17}$$

where  $h^* = \arg \min_{h \in R^\kappa} \{ \sup_{\zeta \in \Omega} |f(\zeta) - h^T \mathfrak{N}(\zeta)| \}$  and  $\epsilon(\zeta) \leq \varepsilon$ .

## 3 Adaptive tracking controller design and stability analysis

### 3.1 Controller design

In this section we propose a novel adaptive backstepping controller in which the uncertain nonlinear function is approximated by RBFNNs.

The controller design is based on the coordinate transformation as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} z_1 &= x_1 - y_d, \\ z_k &= x_k - \xi_{k-1}, \quad k = 2, \dots, n, \end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

where  $\xi_{k-1}$  denotes an intermediate controller, which will be established later.

Before the design procedure, we define a positive constant as follows:

$$\tau_k = \|h_k^*\|^2, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n. \tag{19}$$

Obviously,  $\tau_k$  is an unknown positive constant because  $\|h_k^*\|$  is unknown. Define  $\hat{\tau}_k$  as the estimate of  $\tau_k$ , and  $\check{\tau}_k = \tau_k - \hat{\tau}_k$ . The control law is defined as

$$u = -\frac{1}{2\mu_n^2} z_n \hat{\tau}_n \mathfrak{N}_n^T \mathfrak{N}_n - \frac{1}{2} z_n - l_n z_n^{2\wp-1}, \tag{20}$$

where  $l_n > 0$ ,  $0 < \wp < 1$ ,  $\mu_n$  are design parameters.

The adaptive laws are designed as

$$\dot{\hat{\tau}}_k = \frac{q_k}{2\mu_k^2} z_k^2 \mathfrak{N}_k^T \mathfrak{N}_k - \zeta_k \hat{\tau}_k, \tag{21}$$

where  $q_k$ ,  $\mu_k$  and  $\zeta_k$  are positive constants.

### 3.2 Stability analysis

**Theorem 1** *Consider the uncertain nonlinear system with unmodeled dynamics (1). If the state feedback controller is designed as (20) and the adaptive laws are designed as (21), then all the signals in the system are SGUFB for any bounded initial conditions and the tracking error converges to a small neighborhood of the origin.*

*Proof Step 1.* Consider a Lyapunov function candidate

$$\bar{V}_\varphi(t, s, z_1) = \frac{1}{\gamma_0} V_\varphi(t, s) + \frac{1}{4} z_1^2, \tag{22}$$

where  $\gamma_0$  is a positive constant and  $V_\varphi(t, s)$  is given in Assumption 2. In the light of Assumption 2, the time derivative of  $V_\varphi(t, s)$  along the solutions of (1) satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_\varphi(t, s) &= \frac{\partial V_\varphi}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial V_\varphi}{\partial s} \varphi(t, s, z_1) \\ &= \frac{\partial V_\varphi}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial V_\varphi}{\partial s} (\varphi(t, s, z_1) - \varphi(t, s, 0)) \\ &\quad + \frac{\partial V_\varphi}{\partial s} (\varphi(t, s, 0) - \varphi(t, 0, 0)) + \frac{\partial V_\varphi}{\partial s} (\varphi(t, 0, 0)) \\ &\leq -k_3 \|s\|^2 + k_4 k_5 \|s\| + k_4 \|s\| e_0 \rho_0(|z_1|). \end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

According to Lemma 2, one has

$$\frac{1}{\gamma_0} k_4 k_5 \|s\| \leq \frac{k_3}{8\gamma} \|s\|^2 + \frac{2}{\gamma_0 k_3} k_4^2 k_5^2 \tag{24}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{k_4 \|s\|}{\gamma_0} e_0 \rho_0 (\|z_1\|) &\leq \frac{k_3}{8\gamma_0} \|s\|^2 + \frac{2}{\gamma_0 k_3} k_4^2 e_0^2 \rho_0^2 (\|z_1\|) \\ &\leq \frac{k_3}{8\gamma_0} \|s\|^2 + \rho_0^4 (\|z_1\|) + \frac{1}{\gamma_0^2 k_3^2} k_4^4 e_0^4. \end{aligned} \tag{25}$$

Now, by substituting (23)–(25) into (22) we obtain

$$\bar{V}_\varphi(t, s, z_1) \leq -\frac{3k_3}{4\gamma} \|s\|^2 + \frac{2}{\gamma_0 k_3} k_4^2 k_5^2 + \rho_0^4 (\|z_1\|) + \frac{1}{\gamma_0^2 k_3^2} k_4^4 e_0^4 + \frac{1}{2} z_1 \dot{z}_1. \tag{26}$$

According to Assumption 2 and Lemma 2, we also obtain

$$\|z_i\| |p_i| \leq \frac{k_3}{2^{i+1} \gamma_0} \|s\|^2 + \frac{2^{2i-3} \gamma_0^2}{\alpha_{i1}^2 k_3^2} z_i^4 \sigma_{i2}^4 + \frac{z_i^2 \sigma_{i1}^2}{2\beta_{i1}^2} + \frac{\beta_{i1}^2 e_i^2}{2} + \frac{\alpha_{i1}^2 e_i^4}{2} \tag{27}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} -z_i \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \frac{\partial \xi_{i-1}}{\partial x_j} p_j &\leq \frac{k_3}{2^{i+1} \gamma_0} \|s\|^2 + \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \frac{2^{2i-3} \gamma_0^2 (i-1)^2}{\alpha_{j1}^2 k_3^2} \left( \frac{\sigma_{j2} z_j \partial \xi_{j-1}}{\partial x_j} \right)^4 \\ &\quad + \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \left( \left( \frac{\partial \xi_{j-1}}{\partial x_j} \right)^2 \frac{z_j^2 \sigma_{j1}^2}{2\beta_{j1}^2} + \frac{\beta_{j1}^2 e_j^2}{2} + \frac{\alpha_{j1}^2 e_j^4}{2} \right), \end{aligned} \tag{28}$$

where  $\alpha_{i1}$  and  $\beta_{i1}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) are design parameters.

Now consider the Lyapunov function candidate  $V_1$

$$V_1 = \bar{V}_\varphi(t, s, z_1) + \frac{1}{4} z_1^2 + \frac{\check{\tau}_1^2}{2q_1}. \tag{29}$$

Differentiating (29) with respect to time and using (27)–(28) yield

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_1 &= z_1 \dot{z}_1 + \frac{1}{\gamma_0} \dot{V}_\varphi - \frac{1}{q_1} \check{\tau}_1 \dot{\check{\tau}}_1 \\ &= z_1 (x_2 + f_1(\bar{x}_1) + p_1 - \dot{y}_d) + \frac{1}{\gamma_0} \dot{V}_\varphi - \frac{1}{q_1} \check{\tau}_1 \dot{\check{\tau}}_1 \\ &\leq z_1 z_2 + z_1 \xi_1 + z_1 f_1 + |z_1| |p_1| - z_1 \dot{y}_d + \frac{1}{\gamma_0} \dot{V}_\varphi - \frac{1}{q_1} \check{\tau}_1 \dot{\check{\tau}}_1 \\ &\leq -\frac{k_3}{2\gamma_0} \|s\|^2 + \Delta_1 + \Delta_0 + z_1 \hat{f}_1 + \frac{1}{2} z_2^2 + z_1 \xi_1 - \frac{1}{q_1} \check{\tau}_1 \dot{\check{\tau}}_1, \end{aligned} \tag{30}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_0 &= \frac{2}{\gamma_0 k_3} k_4^2 k_5^2 + \frac{1}{\gamma_0^2 k_3^2} k_4^4 e_0^4 + \rho_0^4 (\|z_1\|), \\ \Delta_1 &= \frac{\beta_{11}^2 e_1^2}{2} + \frac{\alpha_{11}^2 e_1^4}{2}, \\ \hat{f}_1 &= \frac{1}{2} z_1 + f_1 - \dot{y}_d + \frac{z_{11} \sigma_{11}^2}{2\beta_{11}^2} + \frac{\gamma_0^2}{2\alpha_{11}^2 k_3^2} z_1^3 \sigma_{12}^4 + \frac{z_1}{k_1^2} \rho_0^4. \end{aligned} \tag{31}$$

Obviously,  $\hat{f}_1$  is an unknown function because  $\sigma_{11}$ ,  $\sigma_{12}$  and  $f_1$  are unknown. According to Lemma 4, for  $\forall \varepsilon_1 > 0$ , there is a RBFNN  $h_1^{*T} \mathfrak{R}_1$  such that

$$\hat{f}_1 = h_1^{*T} \mathfrak{R}_1(X_1) + \varepsilon_1(X_1), \quad |\varepsilon_1(X_1)| \leq \varepsilon_1, \tag{32}$$

where  $X_1 = [y, y_d, \dot{y}_d]^T$ . Based on Lemma 4 and (19), one has

$$\begin{aligned} z_1 \hat{f}_1 &= z_1 h_1^{*T} \mathfrak{R}_1(X_1) + z_1 \varepsilon_1(X_1) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2\mu_1^2} z_1^2 \tau_1 \mathfrak{R}_1^T \mathfrak{R}_1 + \frac{1}{2} \mu_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} z_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_1^2. \end{aligned} \tag{33}$$

Choose the virtual control signal as

$$\xi_1 = -\frac{1}{2\mu_1^2} z_1 \hat{\tau}_1 \mathfrak{R}_1^T \mathfrak{R}_1 - \frac{1}{2} z_1 - l_1 z_1^{2\wp-1}, \tag{34}$$

where  $\wp$  and  $l_1$  are design parameters. Substituting (21), (33) and (34) into (30) yields the following:

$$\dot{V}_1 \leq -\frac{k_3}{2\gamma_0} \|s\|^2 + \Delta_1 + \Delta_0 + \frac{1}{2} z_2^2 + \frac{1}{2} \mu_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_1^2 + \frac{\zeta_1}{q_1} \check{\tau}_1 \hat{\tau}_1 - l_1 z_1^{2\wp}. \tag{35}$$

*Step m* ( $2 \leq m \leq n - 1$ ). Let  $V_{m-1} = V_{m-2} + \frac{1}{2} z_{m-1}^2 + \frac{1}{2q_{m-1}} \check{\tau}_{m-1}^2$ , where  $q_{m-1} > 0$  are design parameters. Assuming that  $V_{m-1}$  satisfies the following inequality:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_{m-1} &\leq -\frac{k_3}{2^{m-1}\gamma_0} \|s\|^2 + \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} \Delta_i + \frac{1}{2} z_m^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \left( \frac{1}{2} \mu_i^2 + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_i^2 \right) \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \frac{\zeta_i}{q_i} \check{\tau}_i \hat{\tau}_i - \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} l_i z_i^{2\wp}, \end{aligned} \tag{36}$$

where  $\Delta_i = \frac{\beta_{ii}^2 e_i^2}{2} + \frac{\alpha_{ii}^2 e_i^4}{2}$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ).

Consider the Lyapunov function candidate

$$V_m = V_{m-1} + \frac{1}{2} z_m^2 + \frac{1}{2q_m} \check{\tau}_m^2. \tag{37}$$

Establish the virtual control signal as

$$\xi_m = -\frac{1}{2\mu_m^2} z_m \hat{\tau}_m \mathfrak{R}_m^T \mathfrak{R}_m - \frac{1}{2} z_m - l_m z_m^{2\wp-1}, \tag{38}$$

where  $\wp$  and  $l_m$  are design parameters. Differentiating  $\xi_{m-1}$  with respect to time yields

$$\dot{\xi}_{m-1} = \sum_{j=1}^{m-1} \frac{\partial \xi_{m-1}}{\partial x_j} (x_{j+1} + f_j(\bar{x}_j)) + \Xi_{m-1} + \sum_{j=1}^{m-1} \frac{\partial \xi_{m-1}}{\partial x_j} p_j, \tag{39}$$

where  $\Xi_{m-1} = \sum_{j=1}^{m-1} \left( \frac{\partial \xi_{m-1}}{\partial \check{\tau}_j} + \frac{\partial \xi_{m-1}}{\partial y_d^{(j)}} y_d^{(j)} \right)$ .



Differentiating  $V_m$  with respect to time and using (39) yield

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_m &= \dot{V}_{m-1} + z_m \dot{z}_m - \frac{1}{q_m} \check{\tau}_m \dot{\hat{\tau}}_m \\ &\leq -\frac{k_3}{2^m \gamma_0} \|s\|^2 + \sum_{i=0}^m \Delta_i + z_m \hat{f}_m + z_m \xi_m - \frac{1}{q_m} \check{\tau}_m \dot{\hat{\tau}}_m + \frac{1}{2} z_{m+1}^2, \end{aligned} \tag{40}$$

where

$$\hat{f}_m = \frac{1}{2} z_m + f_m + \sum_{j=1}^{m-1} \frac{\partial \xi_{m-1}}{\partial x_j} (x_{j+1} + f_j(\bar{x}_j)) + \Xi_{m-1} + \frac{z_m \sigma_{m1}^2}{2\beta_{m1}^2} + \frac{2^{2m-3} \gamma_0^2}{\alpha_{m1}^2 k_3^2} z_m^3 \sigma_{m2}^4.$$

Obviously,  $\hat{f}_m$  is an unknown function. According to Lemma 4, for  $\forall \varepsilon_m > 0$ , there is a RBFNN  $h_m^{*T} \mathfrak{R}_m$  such that

$$\hat{f}_m = h_m^{*T} \mathfrak{R}_m + \epsilon_m(X_m), \quad |\epsilon_m(X_m)| \leq \varepsilon_m, \tag{41}$$

where  $X_m = [\bar{x}_m^T, \xi_{m-1}, \bar{y}_d^{(m)}, \bar{\tau}_m]^T$ . Based on Lemma 4 and (19), one has

$$\begin{aligned} z_m \hat{f}_m &= z_m h_m^{*T} \mathfrak{R}_m(X_m) + z_m \epsilon_m(X_m) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2\mu_m^2} z_m^2 \tau_m \mathfrak{R}_m^T \mathfrak{R}_m + \frac{1}{2} \mu_m^2 + \frac{1}{2} z_m^2 + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_m^2, \end{aligned} \tag{42}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{y}_d^{(m)} &= [y_d^{(1)}, \dots, y_d^{(m)}], \\ \bar{\tau}_m &= [\hat{\tau}_1, \dots, \hat{\tau}_m]. \end{aligned}$$

Substituting (21), (38), (41) and (42) into (40) yields the following:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_m &\leq -\frac{k_3}{2^m \gamma_0} \|s\|^2 + \sum_{j=0}^m \Delta_m + \sum_{j=1}^m \left( \frac{1}{2} \mu_m^2 + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_m^2 \right) + \sum_{j=1}^m \frac{\zeta_m}{q_m} \check{\tau}_m \hat{\tau}_m \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} z_{m+1}^2 - \sum_{j=1}^m l_j z_j^{2\wp}. \end{aligned} \tag{43}$$

*Step n.* Consider the Lyapunov function candidate

$$V_n = V_{n-1} + \frac{1}{2} z_n^2 + \frac{1}{2q_n} \check{\tau}_n^2, \tag{44}$$

where  $q_{n-1}, q_n > 0$ . Establish the control signal as (20).

Differentiating  $\xi_{n-1}$  with respect to time yields

$$\dot{\xi}_{n-1} = \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{\partial \xi_{n-1}}{\partial x_j} (x_{j+1} + f_j(\bar{x}_j)) + \Xi_{n-1} + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{\partial \xi_{n-1}}{\partial x_j} p_j, \tag{45}$$

where  $\Xi_{n-1} = \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \left( \frac{\partial \xi_{n-1}}{\partial \hat{\tau}_j} + \frac{\partial \xi_{n-1}}{\partial y_d^{(j-1)}} y_d^{(j)} \right)$ .

Differentiating  $V_n$  with respect to time and using (45) yield

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_n &= \dot{V}_{n-1} + z_n \dot{z}_n - \frac{1}{q_n} \check{\tau}_n \dot{\hat{\tau}}_n \\ &\leq -\frac{k_3}{2^n \gamma_0} \|s\|^2 + \sum_{i=0}^n \Delta_i + z_n \hat{f}_n + z_n u - \frac{1}{q_n} \check{\tau}_n \dot{\hat{\tau}}_n, \end{aligned} \tag{46}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{f}_n &= f_n + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{\partial \xi_{n-1}}{\partial x_j} (x_{j+1} + f_j(\bar{x}_j)) + \Xi_{n-1} \\ &\quad + \frac{z_n \sigma_{n1}^2}{2\beta_{n1}^2} + \frac{2^{2n-3} \gamma_0^2}{\alpha_{n1}^2 k_3^2} z_n^3 \sigma_{n2}^4. \end{aligned}$$

Obviously,  $\hat{f}_n$  is an unknown function. According to Lemma 4, for  $\forall \varepsilon_n > 0$ , there is a RBFNN  $h_n^{*T} \mathfrak{R}_n$  such that

$$\hat{f}_n = h_n^{*T} \mathfrak{R}_n + \epsilon_n(X_n), \quad |\epsilon_n(X_n)| \leq \varepsilon_n, \tag{47}$$

where  $X_n = [\bar{x}_n^T, \xi_{n-1}, \bar{y}_d^{(n)}, \bar{\tau}_n]^T$ . Based on Lemma 2, one has

$$\begin{aligned} z_n \hat{f}_n &= z_n h_n^{*T} \mathfrak{R}_n(X_n) + z_n \epsilon_n(X_n) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2v_n^2} z_n^2 \tau_n \mathfrak{R}_n^T \mathfrak{R}_n + \frac{1}{2} v_n^2 + \frac{1}{2} z_n^2 + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_n^2. \end{aligned} \tag{48}$$

Performing in the same way as in step  $m$ , one has

$$\dot{V}_n \leq -\frac{k_3}{2^n \gamma_0} \|s\|^2 + \sum_{j=0}^n \Delta_j + \sum_{j=1}^n \left( \frac{1}{2} \mu_j^2 + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_j^2 \right) + \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\zeta_j}{q_j} \check{\tau}_j \hat{\tau}_j - \hat{l} \sum_{j=1}^n z_j^{2\wp}, \tag{49}$$

where  $\hat{l} = \min_{j=1, \dots, n} \{l_j\}$ .

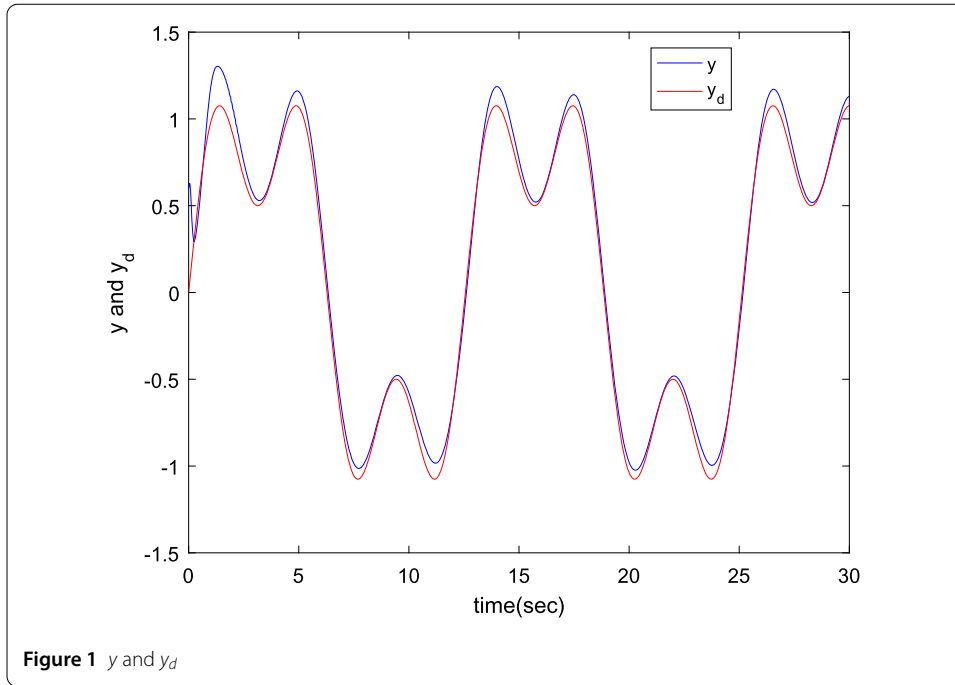
Nothing that  $\check{\tau}_j = \tau_j - \hat{\tau}_j$ , the following inequality holds for  $j = 1, \dots, n$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_j \check{\tau}_j \hat{\tau}_j &= \eta_j \check{\tau}_j (-\check{\tau}_j + \tau_j) = \eta_j (-\check{\tau}_j^2 + \check{\tau}_j \tau_j) \\ &\leq \eta_j \left( -\check{\tau}_j^2 + \frac{1}{2\hat{a}} \check{\tau}_j^2 + \frac{\hat{a}}{2} \tau_j^2 \right) \\ &= \frac{-\eta_j (2\hat{a} - 1)}{2\hat{a}} \check{\tau}_j^2 + \frac{\hat{a} \eta_j}{2} \tau_j^2, \end{aligned} \tag{50}$$

where  $\hat{a}$  is a positive constant satisfying  $\hat{a} \geq \frac{1}{2}$ , and  $\eta_j = \frac{\zeta_j}{q_j}$ .

According to Lemma 1 and Lemma 2, we get

$$\begin{aligned} -2^{\wp} \hat{l} V^{\wp} &\geq -\hat{l} \sum_{j=1}^n z_j^{2\wp} - \hat{l} \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{q_j} \check{\tau}_j^2 \right)^{\wp} - \frac{k_3}{2^n \gamma_0} \|s\|^2 \\ &\geq -\hat{l} \sum_{j=1}^n z_j^{2\wp} - \hat{l} \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{q_j^{\wp}} \check{\tau}_j^{2\wp} \right) - \frac{k_3}{2^n \gamma_0} \|s\|^2 \end{aligned} \tag{51}$$



and

$$\hat{l} \frac{1}{q_j^\wp} \check{\tau}_j^{2\wp} \leq \frac{\eta_j(2\hat{a}-1)}{2\hat{a}} \check{\tau}_j^2 + (1-\wp) \left( \frac{2\hat{a}\wp}{\eta_j(2\hat{a}-1)} \right)^{\frac{\wp}{1-\wp}} \left( \frac{\hat{l}}{q_j^\wp} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\wp}}. \tag{52}$$

From (49)–(52) we have

$$\dot{V}_n \leq -\bar{c}_0 V^\wp + \bar{d}_0, \tag{53}$$

where  $\bar{c}_0 = -2^\wp c_0$ ,  $c_0 = \min\{\hat{l}, \frac{k_3}{(2^\wp \gamma)^\wp}\}$  and

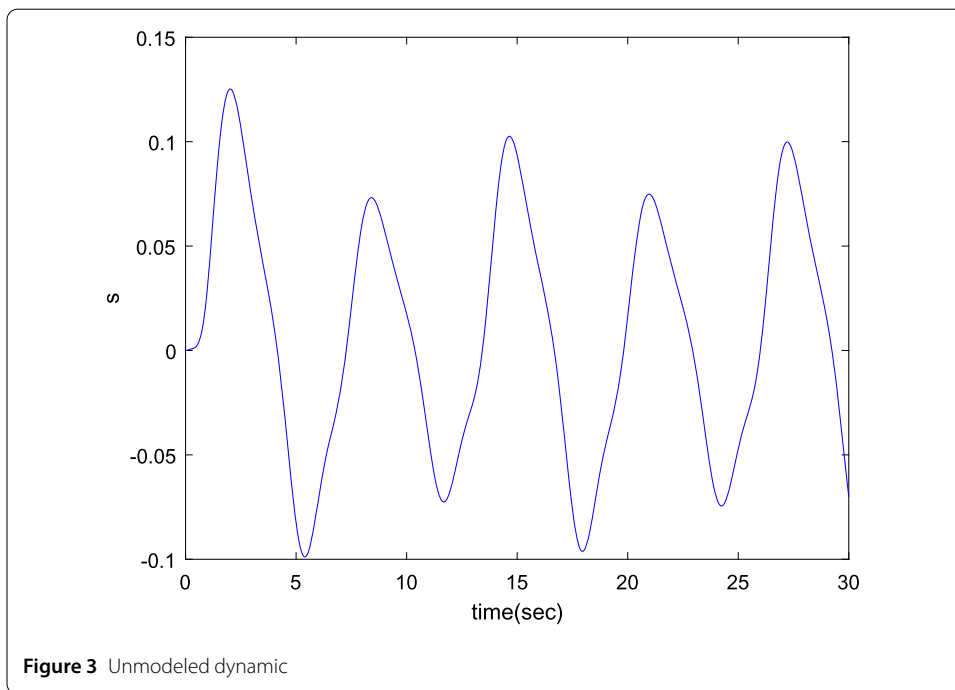
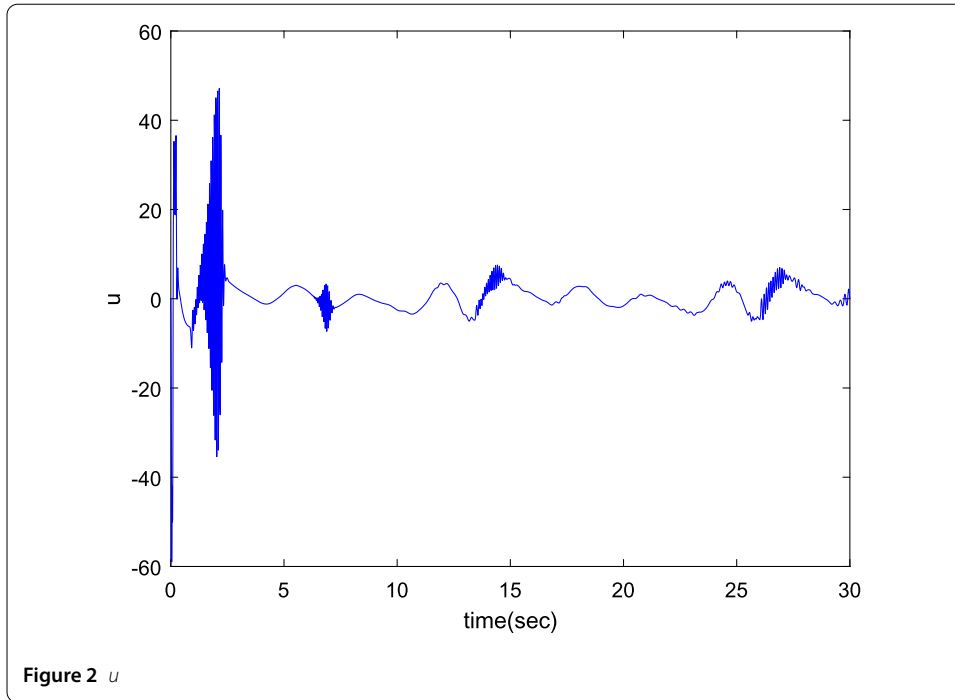
$$\begin{aligned} \bar{d}_0 &= \sum_{j=0}^n \Delta_j + \sum_{j=1}^n \left( \frac{1}{2} \mu_j^2 + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_j^2 \right) + \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\hat{a}\eta_j}{2} \check{\tau}_j^2 \\ &+ \sum_{j=1}^n (1-\wp) \left( \frac{2\hat{a}\wp}{\eta_j(2\hat{a}-1)} \right)^{\frac{\wp}{1-\wp}} \left( \frac{\hat{l}}{q_j^\wp} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\wp}}. \end{aligned} \tag{54}$$

Define a positive constant  $\varsigma_0 = \frac{\bar{d}_0}{(1-\zeta_0)\bar{c}_0}$ , where  $\zeta_0$  is a constant which satisfies  $0 < \zeta_0 < 1$ .

Let

$$T_r = \frac{1}{(1-\wp)\zeta_0\bar{c}_0} \left[ V_n^{1-\wp}(X(0)) - \varsigma_0^{\frac{1-\wp}{\wp}} \right], \tag{55}$$

where  $V_n(X(0))$  represents the initial of  $V_n(X)$  with  $X = [\bar{x}_n^T, \xi_{n-1}, \bar{y}_d^{(n)}, \bar{\tau}_n]^T$ . Then according to Lemma 3, the time to reach the set  $X(t) \in \Omega_z$ , is bounded as  $T_r$  where  $\Omega_z = \{X | V_n^\wp(X) \leq \frac{\bar{d}_0}{(1-\zeta_0)\bar{c}_0}\}$ . Consequently, all signals in the resulting system are SGUFB.  $\square$

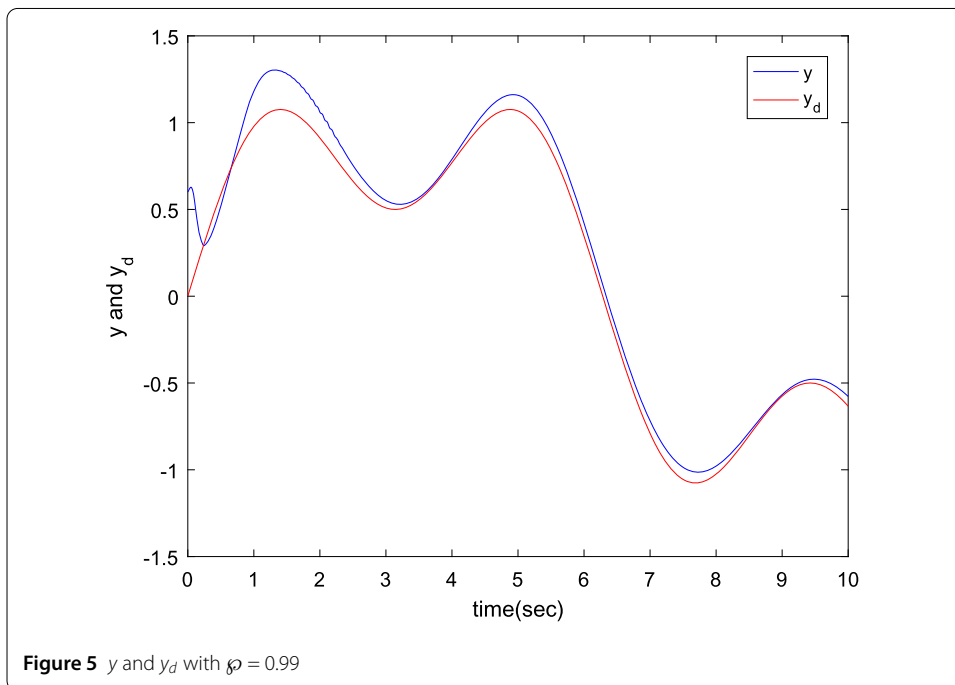
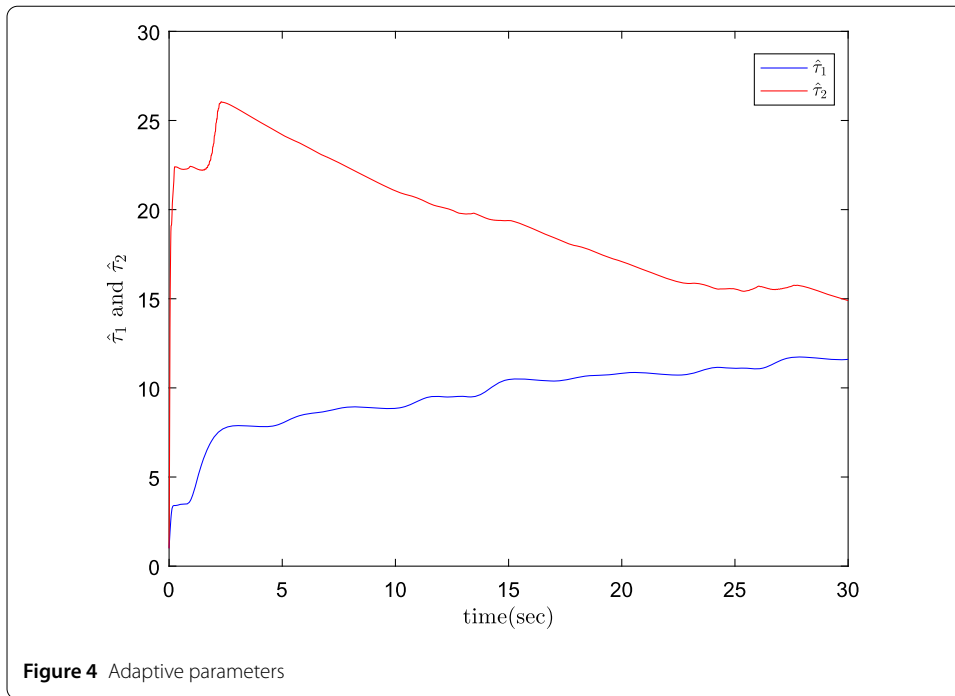


#### 4 Simulation example

In this section, an example will be used to expound our design scheme and verify the results obtained.

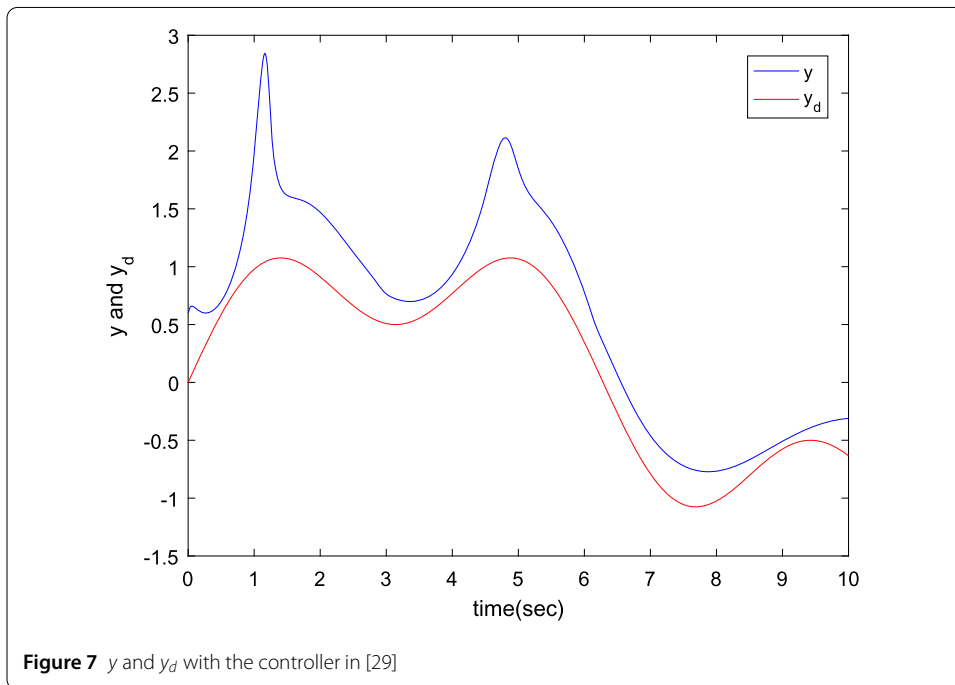
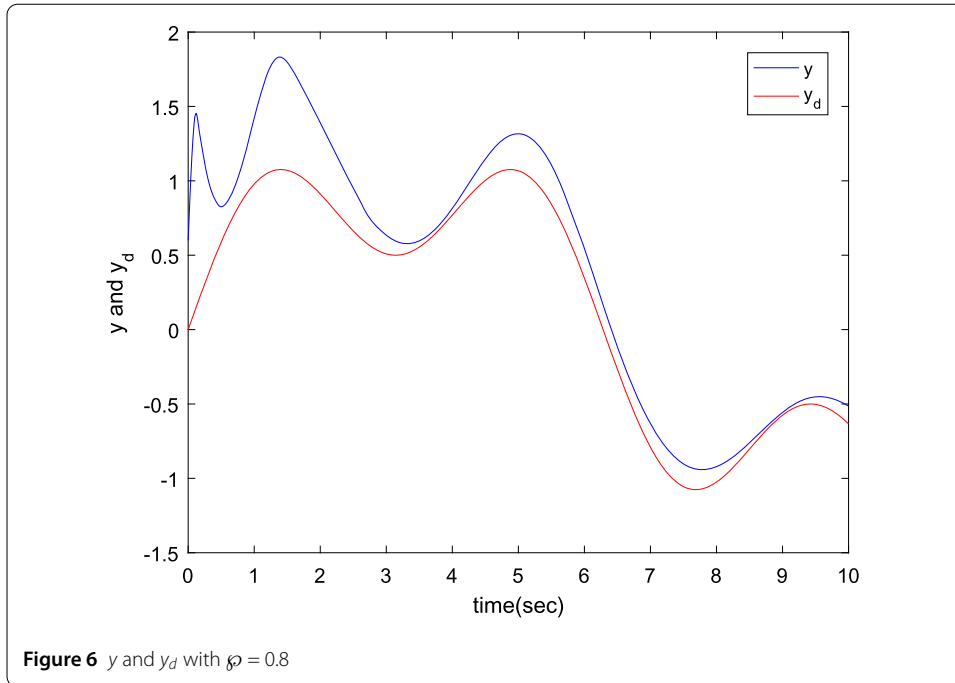
The nonlinear system with unmodeled dynamics is given as

$$\dot{s} = -s + \frac{1}{8}x_1^2 \sin t,$$



$$\begin{aligned}
 \dot{x}_1 &= x_2 + 2x_1^2 + p_1, \\
 \dot{x}_2 &= u + x_1x_2 + p_2, \\
 y &= x_1,
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{56}$$

where  $s(t)$  represents the unmodeled dynamics,  $p_1 = s^2 + 0.5x_1 \sin t$  and  $p_2 = 5s^2 + 0.2 \cos(0.5x_2)$ . The reference signal is chosen as  $y_d = \sin(\frac{1}{2}t) + 0.5 \sin(\frac{3}{2}t)$ .



The intermediate control function, adaptive laws and control law are, respectively, chosen as (20), (21), (34). The related simulation parameters are selected as  $\mu_1 = 0.3$ ,  $\mu_2 = 0.36$ ,  $l_1 = 0.1$ ,  $l_2 = 0.1$ ,  $\varrho = 0.8$ ,  $\zeta_1 = 0.01$  and  $\zeta_2 = 0.05$ . Choose the initial conditions as  $x_1(0) = 0.6$ ,  $x_2(0) = 10$ ,  $s(0) = 0$ ,  $\hat{\tau}_1(0) = 1$  and  $\hat{\tau}_2(0) = 12$ . Gaussian basis function  $\mathfrak{H}_j(X_j)$  is chosen as (16), where  $X_1 = [x_1, y_d, \dot{y}_d]^T$  and  $X_2 = [x_1, x_2, \xi_1, \dot{y}_d, \ddot{y}_d, \hat{\tau}_1, \hat{\tau}_2]^T$ . The results of the simulation are shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4.

In order to give some suggestions in choosing the design parameter  $\wp$ , we select  $\wp = 0.99$ , while the rest of parameters remain the same. Compared with the existing control strategies, a previous adaptive fuzzy control scheme proposed in [29] is also utilized to control this system with the above controller parameter. The simulation results are shown in Figs. 5, 6, 7. From Figs. 5, 6, we see that the tracking errors converge to a small neighborhood of the origin in finite time  $T_r \approx 1.7$  and  $T_r \approx 2.2$ , respectively. It can be seen from Figs. 5, 6, 7 that the control system with the developed finite-time adaptive neural controller has a smaller tracking error.

## 5 Conclusion

In this paper, the issue of finite-time control for a class of uncertain nonlinearity systems with unmodeled dynamics is investigated. During the design process of the adaptive NN control scheme, the unmodeled dynamics are considered. The proposed adaptive NN control can guarantee that all the signals in the closed-loop system are semi-globally uniformly finite-time bounded.

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### Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

### Authors' contributions

All authors contributed equally to the writing of this paper. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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