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*Research article*

## **Synchronization robustness analysis of memristive-based neural networks with deviating arguments and stochastic perturbations**

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**Abstract:** In this article, we investigate the robustness of memristive-based neural networks (MNNs) with deviating arguments (DAs) and stochastic perturbations (SPs). Based on the set-valued mapping method, differential inclusion theory and Gronwall inequalities, we derive the upper bounds for the width of DAs and the intensity of SPs. When the DAs and SPs are smaller than these upper bounds, the MNNs maintains exponential synchronization. Finally, several specific simulation examples demonstrate the effectiveness of the results.

**Keywords:** memristive-based neural networks; deviating arguments; stochastic perturbations; exponential synchronization

**Mathematics Subject Classification:** 93B35, 93D23

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### **1. Introduction**

The memristors were initially introduced by Chua in 1971 to describe the relationship between charge and magnetic flux [1]. It was predicted to be the fourth fundamental circuit element, distinct from resistors, capacitors and inductors. In 2008, the research team at HP laboratories successfully created a practical memristor device with valuable applications [2]. Similar to conventional resistors, the memristors can handle safe currents through the device. Furthermore, its value changes based on the amount of charge passing through it, therefore the memristors have memory functionality [3–7]. As a result, an increasing number of researchers have been using memristors instead of traditional resistors to serve as connection weights between neurons and for self-feedback connection weights, forming a state-dependent nonlinear switching system known as a memristive neural networks (MNNs). Compared to conventional artificial neural networks (NNs), MNNs possess stronger computational capabilities and information capacity, thereby enhancing the applications of NNs in associative memory, signal processing and image processing [8–13].

The dynamic behavior of MNNs is fundamental to their applications; therefore, it necessary to

analyze their dynamic characteristics [10, 14]. Among the various dynamic behaviors of MNNs, synchronization is an important and fundamental feature. The synchronization of MNNs has garnered extensive attention from researchers due to its numerous potential applications in artificial intelligence, information science, secure communications and various other fields [15–17]. In [5], Du et al. derived finite-time (FNT) synchronization criteria for fractional-order MNNs with delays using the fractional-order Gronwall inequality. The FNT/fixed time (FXT) stability of MNNs was studied in [18], by designing a synovial membrane controller, the MNNs reaches the sliding-mode surface in FNT/FXT. In [10–18], synchronization criteria were obtained for MNNs with either delays or random interference. The above discussions mostly focus on the synchronization of MNNs with time delays, and few have considered the exponential synchronization (ESy) of MNNs with deviating arguments (DAs).

The theory of DAs differential equations was proposed by Shah and Wiener in 1983 [19]. In [20], by transforming these equations into equivalent integral equations, new stability conditions were obtained. These equations involve DAs, combining the properties of discrete and continuous equations [21–23]. During the system's operation, the relevant arguments characteristics can be altered, allowing the system to become a combination of lag and advance equations [24, 25]. As a result, systems with DAs have broader applications compared to systems with time delays. Reference [26] investigates recurrent neural networks with DAs and establishes criteria for the global exponential stability. In order to further explore the impact of DAs on the exponential stability (ESt) of the systems, the robustness analysis of a fuzzy cellular neural networks with DAs and stochastic disturbance is discussed in [23]. The signals transmitted between MNNs are inevitably subject to stochastic perturbations (SPs) caused by environmental uncertainties [27–31]. For systems with SPs, the feature can significantly impact the dynamic behavior of the system, leading to either synchronization or desynchronization under certain levels of SPs [32–34]. For example, for the following simple linear systems  $dx(t) = ax(t)dt$  and  $dy(t) = ay(t)dt$ , the error system is  $de(t) = ae(t)dt$ . The system is stable only when  $a < 0$ . However, the stability of the system is affected by SPs. Therefore, consider the following system  $de(t) = ae(t)dt + be(t)dB(t)$ . The system is almost surely ESt if and only if the condition  $b^2 > 2a$  is satisfied [35]. Then, the error system is ESt, it implies that  $x(t)$  and  $y(t)$  are exponential synchronization (ESy). Based on the above discussions, we reach the following conclusion: SPs can disrupt the ESy of a system that was synchronized or facilitate the ESy of a system that was initially unsynchronized. If a MNNs with SPs are ESy, can we obtain upper bounds such that the MNNs remains ESy when the SPs are smaller than the bounds?

Based on the discussion above, MNNs can lose synchronization when subjected to disturbances from external perturbations and DAs, provided that the intensity of perturbations and the width of arguments exceed certain limits. In [27, 30–34, 36, 37], there are important results regarding the synchronization of MNNs under external disturbances. In [21–23], scholars research on MNNs with DAs. It is important to note that the aforementioned literature primarily focuses on the synchronization of MNNs than its robustness. Therefore, an interesting question arises: Under the control strategy, how much argument length and perturbation intensity can MNNs with ESy endure without losing synchronization?

The major contributions of this paper include the following aspects:

- Compared to the references [5–7, 11, 16], we focus on the synchronization of MNNs with DAs. The systems with DAs have broader applications compared to traditionally time-delayed systems.

• The references [8–17] extensively investigated MNNs with time delays, providing various stability and synchronization criteria. In references [28, 29, 33, 34], the robustness of ESt in systems with both time delays and SPs was further explored. In references [23, 27], Fang et al. studied the robustness of ESt in fuzzy cellular neural networks with DAs. In contrast to the aforementioned literatures, we focus on the robustness of ESy in MNNs, utilizing the set-valued mapping method, differential inclusion theory and Gronwall inequalities, we derive the upper bounds for the DAs and SPs.

• Compared to the references [22–25, 32–34]. The MNNs with state switching that we consider and results in a more complex system structure.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section II, we introduce the model, assumptions and some preliminary lemmas. In Section III, we present the theorems and lemmas derived in this paper. In Section VI, we provide several examples to validate the feasibility of our results. Finally, in Section V, we have summarized the work carried out in this paper.

## 2. Preliminaries

### 2.1. Notation

In the paper,  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is Euclidean space,  $\mathbb{N}$  represents integers,  $\|\chi(t)\|$  is the norm of vector  $\chi(t)$ , where  $\chi(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\|\chi(t)\| = \sum_{p=1}^n |\chi_p(t)|$ , the norm  $\|A\|$  of the matrix  $A$  is given by  $\|A\|$ , where  $A = \max_{1 \leq q \leq n} \sum_{p=1}^n |a_{pq}|$ . For two real-valued sequences  $\rho_k, \eta_k$ , where  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , it holds that  $\rho_k < \rho_{k+1}$ ,  $\rho_k \leq \eta_k \leq \rho_{k+1}$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $\eta_k \rightarrow \infty$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .

Let  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \{\mathcal{F}_t\}_{t \geq t_0}, P)$  is a complete probability space with a filtration  $\{\mathcal{F}_t\}_{t \geq t_0}$  (the filtration contains all  $P$ -null sets and is right continuous).  $L_{\mathcal{F}_0}^p([-\tau, 0]; \mathbb{R}^n)$  is the family of all  $\mathcal{F}_0$ -measurable  $\mathbb{C}([-\tau, 0]; \mathbb{R}^n)$ , the state variable  $\xi = \{\xi(s); \tau \leq \xi(s) \leq 0\}$  satisfies  $\sup_{-\tau \leq s \leq 0} \mathbb{E}(\|\xi(s)\|^p) \leq \infty$ .  $\mathbb{E}(\cdot)$  is the mathematical expectation in the probability space.

### 2.2. Preparation

Consider the MNNs as the derive system with the SPs,

$$dw_p(t) = [-d_p w_p(t) + \sum_{q=1}^n a_{pq}(w_q(t)) f_q(w_q(t)) + I_p(t)] dt + \sigma w_p(t) d\omega(t), \quad (2.1)$$

where  $p = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ,  $w_p(t)$  are the state variables, and  $f_q(w_q(t))$  are the activation functions;  $d_p > 0$  is a self-feedback connection weights and  $I_p(t)$  is the external inputs,  $a_{pq}(w_q(t))$  is the memristive connection weights,  $\sigma$  is the interference intensity.  $\omega_i(t)$  represents Brownian motion on the complete space.

For convenience, we use  $w_p, w_q, a_{pq}(w_q), u_p, \omega$  to replace  $w_p(t), w_q(t), a_{pq}(w_q(t)), u_p(t), \omega(t)$ , respectively. The initial conditions of (2.1) is

$$w_p(t_0) = \varphi_p.$$

The corresponding response system,

$$dv_p(t) = [-d_p v_p(t) + \sum_{q=1}^n a_{pq}(v_q(t)) f_q(v_q(t)) + I_p(t) + u_p(t)] dt + \sigma v_p(t) d\omega(t). \quad (2.2)$$

For convenience, we use  $v_p, v_q, a_{pq}(v_q), u_p$  to replace  $v_p(t), v_q(t), a_{pq}(v_q(t)), u_p(t)$ , respectively. Then, the memristive parameter of (2.1) and (2.2) are expressed as

$$a_{ij}(w_q) = \begin{cases} \hat{a}_{pq}, & |w_q| \leq T_q, \\ \check{a}_{pq}, & |w_q| > T_q, \end{cases} \quad a_{ij}(v_q) = \begin{cases} \hat{a}_{pq}, & |v_q| \leq T_q, \\ \check{a}_{pq}, & |v_q| > T_q, \end{cases}$$

where  $i, j \in \mathbb{N}$ , weights  $\hat{a}_{pq}, \check{a}_{pq}$  and switching jumps  $T_q > 0$ . The initial value of (2) are

$$v_p(t_0) = \phi_p.$$

The linear feedback controller  $u_p$  is designed as follows

$$u_p(t) = -\xi_p(v_p(t) - w_p(t)).$$

The error system between the drive system (2.1) and the response system (2.2) is defined as

$$e_p = v_p - w_p, \quad \psi_p^1 = \phi_p - \varphi_p, \quad p \in \mathbb{N}. \quad (2.3)$$

**Remark 1.** We can observe that MNNs can be categorized as discontinuous switched systems, which necessitates considering the solution to MNNs (1) using the Filippov's sense. In the following, we will introduce certain definitions pertaining to set-valued maps and the Filippov solution.

**Definition 1.** (Set-valued map [38]) Consider a set  $E \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . A set-valued map is defined as follows: For each point  $x$  in the set  $E$ , there exists a nonempty set  $F(x) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $x$  is mapped to  $F(x)$ .

**Definition 2.** (Differential inclusion [38]) For a discontinuous differential system  $\dot{r}(t) = \mathbb{F}(t, r_t)$ ,  $t \geq 0$ , the function  $r_t$  is the solution of the differential equation in the Filippov sense,  $t \in [0, t_1]$ ,  $t_1 \geq 0$ , if it is absolutely continuous and satisfies the following differential inclusion:

$$\dot{r} \in \mathbb{G}(t, r_t),$$

where  $t \in [0, +\infty]$ ,  $r \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , the initial condition  $r(0) = r_0 \in \mathbb{C}([-\tau, 0], \mathbb{R}^n)$ . The  $\mathbb{G}(t, r_t)$  is a set-valued mapping, satisfies

$$\mathbb{G}(t, r_t) = \bigcap_{\Gamma > 0} \bigcap_{\delta(\mathbb{N})=0} \overline{\text{co}}[f(\mathbb{B}(r_t, \Gamma) \setminus \mathbb{N})],$$

where  $\overline{\text{co}}$  is the convex closure hull of a set,  $\mathbb{B}(r_t, \Gamma) = \{x : \|x - r_t\| \leq \Gamma\}$ ,  $\Gamma > 0$  and  $\delta(\mathbb{N})$  is Lebesgue measure of set  $\mathbb{N}$ .

The set value maps of memristive parameters is as follows:

$$K[a_{pq}(w_q)] = \begin{cases} \hat{a}_{pq}, & |w_q| < T_q, \\ \overline{\text{co}}\{\hat{a}_{pq}, \check{a}_{pq}\}, & |w_q| = T_q, \\ \check{a}_{pq}, & |w_q| > T_q, \end{cases} \quad K[a_{pq}(v_q)] = \begin{cases} \hat{a}_{pq}, & |v_q| < T_q, \\ \overline{\text{co}}\{\hat{a}_{pq}, \check{a}_{pq}\}, & |v_q| = T_q, \\ \check{a}_{pq}, & |v_q| > T_q, \end{cases}$$

where  $p, q \in \mathbb{N}$ .  $K[a_{pq}(w_q)]$  and  $K[a_{pq}(v_q)]$  are all closed, convex and compact about  $w_q, v_q$ .

According to Definitions 1 and 2, the Filippov solution of the systems (1) and (2) can be written as:

$$dw_p(t) \in [-d_p w_p + \sum_{q=1}^n K[a_{pq}(w_q)] f_q(w_q) + I_p] ds + \sigma w_p d\omega. \quad (2.4)$$

$$dv_p(t) \in [-d_p v_p + \sum_{q=1}^n K[a_{pq}(v_q)]f_q(v_q) + I_p + u_p]dt + \sigma w_p(t)d\omega. \quad (2.5)$$

Similarly, there exist

$$\bar{a}_{pq}(w_q) \in K[a_{pq}(w_q)], \check{a}_{pq}(v_q) \in K[a_{pq}(v_q)],$$

such that

$$\begin{aligned} dw_p &= [-d_p w_p + \sum_{q=1}^n \bar{a}_{pq}(w_q)f_q(w_q) + I_p]ds + \sigma w_p d\omega, \\ dv_p &= [-d_p v_p + \sum_{q=1}^n \check{a}_{pq}(v_q)f_q(v_q) + I_p + u_p]dt + \sigma w_p d\omega. \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

From (6), let  $e_p = v_p - w_p$ ,

$$de_p = -[(d_p + \xi_p)e_p + \sum_{q=1}^n \hat{a}_{pq}(e_q)f_q(e_p)]dt + \sigma e_p d\omega, \quad (2.7)$$

where  $\hat{a}_{pq}(e_q)f_q(e_p) = \bar{a}_{pq}(w_q)f_q(w_q) - \check{a}_{pq}(v_q)f_q(v_q)$ .

The following error system without random disturbance:

$$\dot{z}_p = -(d_p + \xi_p)z_p + \sum_{q=1}^n \hat{a}_{pq}(z_q)f_q(z_q). \quad (2.8)$$

The initial conditions is

$$z_p(t_0) = \psi_p^2, \quad p = 1, \dots, n.$$

The (2.7) and (2.8) can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} de(t) &= [-(D + C)e(t) + \hat{A}F(e(t))]dt + \sigma e(t)d\omega(t) \\ \dot{z}(t) &= -(D + C)z(t) + \hat{A}F(z(t)), \end{aligned} \quad (2.9)$$

where  $e(t) = (e_1(t), \dots, e_n(t))^T$ ,  $z(t) = (z_1(t), \dots, z_n(t))^T$ ,  $C = \text{diag}\{\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n\}$ ,  $D = \text{diag}\{d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n\}$ ,  $\hat{A} = (\hat{a}_{pq})_{n \times n}$ ,  $F(e(t)) = (f_1(e_1(t)), \dots, f_n(e_n(t)))^T$ .

The main result of the paper are based on the following definitions, assumptions and lemmas.

**Definition 3.** (Exponential synchronization (ESy)) If the error system  $\chi(t)$  is exponential stability (ESt). Then, the MNNs (2.1) and (2.2) are described as ESy, there exist two nonnegative constant  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ ,

$$\|\chi(t)\| \leq \alpha \|\psi^1\| \exp(-\beta(t - t_0)),$$

where  $\psi^1 = (\psi_1^1, \dots, \psi_n^1)^T$  is any initial condition,  $t \leq 0$ .

**Definition 4.** (Mean square exponential synchronization (MSESy)) The state  $\chi(t)$  of system (2.7) is said to be MSESt. Then the MNNs (2.1) and (2.2) are described as MSESy, if for any  $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}^+$ ,  $\psi^1 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , there exist  $\theta > 0$  and  $\vartheta > 0$  such that

$$E\|\chi(t)\|^2 \leq \theta \|\psi^1\|^2 \exp\{-2\vartheta(t - t_0)\}.$$

**Assumption 1.** The activation functions  $f_q(\cdot)$  and  $g_q(\cdot)$  satisfy

$$\|f_q(w_p) - f_q(v_p)\| \leq f_q^* \|w_p - v_p\|, \quad \|g_q(w_p) - g_q(v_p)\| \leq g_q^* \|w_p - v_p\|,$$

where  $f_q^*, g_q^* > 0$  are Lipschitz constants,  $w_p, v_p \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

Under Assumption 1, we have the following conclude: The MSESt of system (2.7) implies the almost sure ESt of system (2.7), see [39].

**Assumption 2.**  $f_q(\pm T_q) = g_q(\pm T_q) = 0$ .

**Lemma 1.** [14] From Assumptions 1 and 2, then

$$\left| K \left[ a_{pq}(v_q) \right] f_q(v_q) - K \left[ a_{pq}(w_q) \right] f_q(w_q) \right| \leq a_{pq}^* f_q^* |v_q - w_q|$$

for  $i, j \in \mathbb{N}$ .

That is, for any  $\bar{a}_{pq}(w_q) \in K \left[ a_{pq}(w_q) \right], \check{a}_{pq}(v_q) \in K \left[ a_{pq}(v_q) \right]$ .

$$\left| \check{a}_j(v_q) f_q(v_q) - \bar{a}_{pq}(w_q) f_q(w_q) \right| \leq a_{pq}^* f_q^* |v_q - w_q|,$$

where  $a_{pq}^* = \max \left\{ \left| \dot{a}_{pq} \right|, \left| \check{a}_{pq} \right| \right\}$ .

**Lemma 2.** [40] (Granwall inequalities) Suppose  $\vartheta(t), \theta(t)$  and  $u(t)$  are continuous real-valued functions, and  $\theta(t)$  is integrable over the interval  $I = [t_0, t]$ , if  $\vartheta(t) \geq 0$  and  $u(t)$  satisfies

$$u(t) \leq \theta(t) + \int_{t_0}^t \vartheta(s) u(s) ds,$$

then,

$$u(t) \leq \theta(t) + \int_{t_0}^t \theta(s) \vartheta(s) \exp \left( \int_s^t \vartheta(r) dr \right) ds,$$

where  $t > t_0$ .

In addition, if  $\theta(t)$  is non-decreasing, then

$$u(t) \leq \theta(t) \exp \left( \int_{t_0}^t \vartheta(s) ds \right).$$

**Assumption 3.** There exists a nonnegative constant  $\rho$  that satisfies,  $\rho_{k+1} - \rho_k \leq \rho$ , for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Assumption 4.**  $h_1 \rho + h_2 \rho (1 + h_1 \rho) \exp\{h_2 \rho\} < 1$ ,

where  $h_1 = \|B^*\| \|G^*\| \rho, h_2 = \|C\| + \|D\| + \|A^*\| \|F^*\|$ .

**Assumption 5.**  $\rho(3l_1 + 9l_2 + l_1^2 + 3l_1 l_2) < 1$ ,

where  $l_1 = 9\rho^2 \|B^*\|^2 \|G^*\|^2, l_2 = 3\rho(2\|C\|^2 + 2\|D\|^2 + \|A^*\|^2 \|F^*\|^2) + \theta^2$ .

Under the influence of the linear controller, the error system (2.7) can achieve ESt, that is, systems (2.1) and (2.2) can achieve ESy. The next question is how much the SPs and DAs intensities can make the system can maintain ESy.

### 3. Main results

#### 3.1. Effects of SPs on MNNs synchronization

**Theorem 1.** Let Assumption 1 hold, MNNs (2.8) is ESt. Then MNNs (2.7) is ESt, that is, the master system MNNs (2.1) and the slave system MNNs (2.2) are ESy. if  $|\sigma| \leq \bar{\sigma}$ ,  $\bar{\sigma}$  is the unique nonnegative solution of the transcendental equation below.

$$(24\mathbb{T}\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2 + 2\sigma^2)\theta/\vartheta \exp\{8\mathbb{T}(4\mathbb{T}(\|D\|^2 + \|C\|^2 + 3\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2) + \sigma^2)\} + 2\theta \exp\{-4\vartheta\mathbb{T}\} = 1, \quad (3.1)$$

where  $\mathbb{T} > \ln(2\theta)/(4\vartheta) > 0$ ,  $A^* = (a_{pq}^*)_{n \times n}$ ,  $F^* = \max_{j \in \mathbb{N}}\{f_j^*\}$ ,  $\mathbb{T}$  is the time interval.

*Proof.*  $z(t)$  and  $e(t)$  have the same initial value,  $\psi^1 = \psi^2$ ,

$$z(t) - e(t) = \int_{t_0}^t [-D(z(s) - e(s)) + \hat{A}F(z(s)) - \hat{A}F(e(s)) - C(z(s) - e(s))]dt - \int_{t_0}^t \sigma e(s)d\omega(s).$$

The ESt of the MNNs (2.8), when  $t > t_0$ ,

$$\int_{t_0}^t E\|z(s)\|^2 = \int_{t_0}^t \theta\|\psi^2\| \exp\{-2\vartheta(t - t_0)\} \leq \theta\|\psi^2\|^2/2\vartheta.$$

When  $t \leq t_0 + 2\mathbb{T}$ , by utilizing the Cauchy-Schwarz inequalities and Lemma 1, we can conclude the following:

$$\begin{aligned} E\|z(t) - e(t)\|^2 &\leq 2E\left\|\int_{t_0}^t [-D(z(s) - e(s)) + \hat{A}F(z(s)) - \hat{A}F(e(s)) - C(z(s) - e(s))] ds\right\|^2 \\ &\quad - 2E\left\|\int_{t_0}^t \sigma e(s)d\omega(s)\right\|^2 \\ &\leq 2E \int_{t_0}^t 1 ds \int_{t_0}^t \left[\| -D(z(s) - e(s)) + \hat{A}F(z(s)) - \hat{A}F(e(s)) - C(z(s) - e(s))\|\right]^2 dt \\ &\quad + 2\sigma^2 \int_{t_0}^t E\|e(s) - z(s) + z(s)\|^2 ds \\ &\leq 4\mathbb{T}E \int_{t_0}^t 4(\|D\|^2\|z(s) - e(s)\|^2 + \|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2\|z(s)\|^2 + \|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2\|e(s)\|^2 \\ &\quad + \|C\|^2\|z(s) - e(s)\|^2) ds + 2\sigma^2 \int_{t_0}^t E\|e(s) - z(s) + z(s)\|^2 ds. \end{aligned}$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} E\|z(t) - e(t)\|^2 &\leq \left[16\mathbb{T}(\|D\|^2 + \|C\|^2 + 2\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2) + 4\sigma^2\right] \int_{t_0}^t E\|z(s) - e(s)\|^2 ds \\ &\quad + \left(16\mathbb{T}(3\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2) + 4\sigma^2\right) \int_{t_0}^t E\|z(s)\|^2 ds \\ &\leq \left[16\mathbb{T}(\|D\|^2 + \|C\|^2 + 2\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2) + 4\sigma^2\right] \int_{t_0}^t E\|z(s) - e(s)\|^2 ds \\ &\quad + \left(8\mathbb{T}(3\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2) + 2\sigma^2\right) \theta\|\psi^2\|^2/\vartheta, \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

When  $t_0 + \mathbb{T} \leq t \leq t_0 + 2\mathbb{T}$ , by applying Lemma 2,

$$\begin{aligned} E\|z(t) - e(t)\|^2 &\leq \left(8\mathbb{T}(3\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2) + 2\sigma^2\right)\theta\|\psi^2\|^2/\vartheta \exp\left\{(16\mathbb{T}(\|D\|^2\right. \\ &\quad \left. + \|C\|^2 + 2\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2) + 4\sigma^2)(t - t_0)\right\} \\ &\leq \left(24\mathbb{T}\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2 + 2\sigma^2\right)\theta/\vartheta \exp\left\{8\mathbb{T}(4(\|D\|^2 + \|C\|^2 + 2\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2) + \sigma^2)\right\} \\ &\quad \times \left(\sup_{t_0 \leq t \leq t_0 + 2\mathbb{T}} E\|z(t)\|^2\right). \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

When  $t_0 + \mathbb{T} \leq t \leq t_0 + 2\mathbb{T}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} E\|e(t)\|^2 &\leq 2E\|z(t) - e(t)\|^2 + 2E\|z(t)\|^2 \\ &\leq \left((24\mathbb{T}\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2 + 2\sigma^2)\theta/\vartheta \exp\{8\mathbb{T}(4\mathbb{T}(\|D\|^2 + \|C\|^2 + 2\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2) + \sigma^2)\}\right) \\ &\quad \times \left(\sup_{t_0 \leq t \leq t_0 + \mathbb{T}} E\|z(t)\|^2\right) + 2\theta\|\psi^2\|^2 \exp\{-2\vartheta(t - t_0)\} \\ &\leq \left((24\mathbb{T}\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2 + 2\sigma^2)\theta/\vartheta \exp\{8\mathbb{T}(4\mathbb{T}(\|D\|^2 + \|C\|^2 + 2\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2) + \sigma^2)\}\right) \\ &\quad + 2\theta \exp\{-4\vartheta\mathbb{T}\} \times \left(\sup_{t_0 \leq t \leq t_0 + \mathbb{T}} \|e(t)\|^2\right). \end{aligned} \quad (3.4)$$

From (11), when  $|\sigma| < \bar{\sigma}$ ,

$$(24\mathbb{T}\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2 + 2\sigma^2)\theta/\vartheta \exp\{8\mathbb{T}(4\mathbb{T}(\|D\|^2 + \|C\|^2 + 3\|A^*\|^2k^2) + \sigma^2)\} + 2\theta \exp\{-4\vartheta\mathbb{T}\} < 1.$$

Let

$$\gamma = -\ln\left\{(24\mathbb{T}\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2 + 2\sigma^2)\theta/\vartheta \exp\{8\mathbb{T}(4\mathbb{T}(\|D\|^2 + \|C\|^2 + 3\|A^*\|^2k^2) + \sigma^2)\} + 2\theta \exp\{-4\vartheta\mathbb{T}\}\right\}/\mathbb{T}.$$

So,  $\gamma > 0$ ,

$$\sup_{t_0 + \mathbb{T} \leq t \leq t_0 + 2\mathbb{T}} \|e(t)\| \leq \exp(-\gamma\mathbb{T}) \left(\sup_{t_0 \leq t \leq t_0 + \mathbb{T}} \|e(t)\|\right). \quad (3.5)$$

Then, for any nonnegative integer  $\mathbb{M} = 1, 2, \dots$ , when  $t \geq t_0 + (\mathbb{M} - 1)\mathbb{T}$ ,

$$e(t; t_0, e_0) = e(t; t_0 + (\mathbb{M} - 1)\mathbb{T}, e(t_0 + (\mathbb{M} - 1)\mathbb{T})). \quad (3.6)$$

From (3.5) and (3.6)

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{t_0 + \mathbb{M}\mathbb{T} \leq t \leq t_0 + (m+1)\mathbb{T}} \|e(t; t_0, e_0)\| &= \left(\sup_{t_0 + (\mathbb{M}-1)\mathbb{T} + \mathbb{T} \leq t \leq t_0 + (\mathbb{M}-1)\mathbb{T} + 2\mathbb{T}} \|e(t; t_0 + (\mathbb{M} - 1)\mathbb{T}, e(t_0 + (\mathbb{M} - 1)\mathbb{T}; t_0, e_0))\|\right) \\ &\leq \exp(-\gamma\mathbb{T}) \left(\sup_{t_0 + (\mathbb{M}-1)\mathbb{T} \leq t \leq t_0 + m\mathbb{T}} \|e(t; t_0, e_0)\|\right) \\ &\leq \exp(-\gamma\mathbb{M}\mathbb{T}) \left(\sup_{t_0 \leq t \leq t_0 + \mathbb{T}} \|e(t; t_0, e_0)\|\right) \\ &= \aleph \exp(-\gamma\mathbb{M}\mathbb{T}), \end{aligned}$$



where

$$\mathfrak{N} = \sup_{t_0 \leq t \leq t_0 + \mathbb{T}} \|e(t; t_0, e_0)\|.$$

So for  $\forall t > t_0 + \mathbb{T}$ , there have a nonnegative integer  $\mathbb{M}$  such that  $t_0 + \mathbb{M}\mathbb{T} \leq t \leq t_0 + (\mathbb{M} + 1)\mathbb{T}$ ,

$$\|e(t; t_0, e_0)\| \leq \mathfrak{N} \exp(-\gamma t + \gamma t_0 + \gamma T) = (\mathfrak{N} \exp(\gamma T)) \exp(-\gamma(t - t_0)).$$

The condition is also genuine when  $t_0 \leq t \leq t_0 + \mathbb{T}$ . So system (2.7) is ESt.

The following analysis considers the influence of the DAs on the ESy of the master-slave system.

### 3.2. Effects of DAs on MNNs synchronization

Consider the derive system with the DAs,

$$\dot{w}_p(t) = -d_p w_p(t) + \sum_{q=1}^n a_{pq}(w_q(t)) f_q(w_q(t)) + \sum_{q=1}^n b_{pq}(w_q(\gamma(t))) g_q(w_q(\gamma(t))) + I_p(t) \tag{3.7}$$

$$w_p(t_0) = \varphi_0,$$

where  $g_q(w_q(t))$  is the activation functions with DAs,  $a_{pq}(w_q(t))$  and  $b_{pq}(w_q(\gamma(t)))$  are the memristive connection weights without and with DAs respectively.

The corresponding response system:

$$\dot{v}_p(t) = -d_p v_p(t) + \sum_{q=1}^n a_{pq}(v_q(t)) f_q(v_q(t)) + \sum_{q=1}^n b_{pq}(v_q(\gamma(t))) g_q(v_q(\gamma(t))) + I_p(t) + u_p(t) \tag{3.8}$$

$$v_p(t_0) = \phi_0.$$

The Filippov solution of the systems (3.7) and (3.8) are

$$\dot{w}_p \in -d_p w_p + \sum_{q=1}^n K[a_{pq}(w_q)] f(w_q) + \sum_{q=1}^n K[b_{pq}(w_q(\gamma))] g(w_q(\gamma)) + w_p, \tag{3.9}$$

$$\dot{v}_p \in -d_p v_p + \sum_{q=1}^n K[a_{pq}(v_q)] f(v_q) + \sum_{q=1}^n K[b_{pq}(v_q(\gamma))] g(v_q(\gamma)) + w_p + u_p, \tag{3.10}$$

in which  $w(\gamma) = w(\gamma(t))$ ,  $v(\gamma) = v(\gamma(t))$ .

The set-valued maps be defined as follows

$$K[b_{pq}(\tilde{w}_q)] = \begin{cases} \dot{b}_{pq}, & |\tilde{w}_q| < T_q, \\ \overline{\text{co}}\{\dot{b}_{pq}, \check{b}_{pq}\}, & |\tilde{w}_q| = T_q, \\ \check{b}_{pq}, & |\tilde{w}_q| > T_q, \end{cases} \quad K[b_{pq}(\tilde{v}_q)] = \begin{cases} \dot{b}_{pq}, & |\tilde{v}_q| < T_q, \\ \overline{\text{co}}\{\dot{b}_{pq}, \check{b}_{pq}\}, & |\tilde{v}_q| = T_q, \\ \check{b}_{pq}, & |\tilde{v}_q| > T_q, \end{cases}$$

where  $\tilde{w}_q, \tilde{v}_q$  to replace  $w_q(\gamma), v_q(\gamma)$ .  $K[a_{pq}(\tilde{w}_q)]$  and  $K[a_{pq}(\tilde{v}_q)]$  are all closed, convex and compact about  $\tilde{w}_q, \tilde{v}_q$ .

There exist

$$\bar{a}_{pq}(w_q) \in K[a_{pq}(w_q)], \quad \bar{b}_{pq}(\tilde{w}_q) \in K[b_{pq}(\tilde{w}_q)],$$

$$\check{a}_{pq}(v_q) \in K[a_{pq}(v_q)], \quad \check{b}_{pq}(\tilde{v}_q) \in K[b_{pq}(\tilde{v}_q)].$$

Let  $e_p = v_p - w_p$ ,

$$\dot{e}_p = -(d_p + \xi_p)e_p + \sum_{q=1}^n \hat{a}_{pq}(e_q)f_q(e_q) + \sum_{q=1}^n \hat{b}_{pq}(e_q(\gamma))g_q(e_p(\gamma)), \quad (3.11)$$

where  $\hat{b}_{pq}(e_q)g_q(e_p) = \bar{b}_{pq}(w_q)g_q(w_p) - \check{b}_{pq}(v_q)g_q(v_p)$ .

The following error system without DAs,

$$\dot{z}_p = -(d_p + \xi_p)z_p + \sum_{q=1}^n \hat{a}_{pq}(z_q)f_q(z_q) + \sum_{q=1}^n \hat{b}_{pq}(z_q)g_q(z_q). \quad (3.12)$$

The (3.11) and (3.12) can be rewritten as

$$\dot{e}(t) = -De(t) + \hat{A}Fe(t) + \hat{B}G(e(\gamma(t))) - Ce(t), \quad (3.13)$$

$$\dot{z}(t) = -Dz(t) + \hat{A}Fz(t) + \hat{B}G(e(t)) - Cz(t), \quad (3.14)$$

where  $\hat{B} = (\hat{b}_{pq})_{n \times n}$ ,  $G(e(t)) = (g_1(e_1(t)), \dots, g_n(e_n(t)))^T$ .

**Lemma 3.** Consider the MNNs (3.11) with DAs and the Assumptions 3 and 4 hold, the following inequality is established,

$$e(\gamma(t)) \leq \mu e(t). \quad (3.15)$$

*Proof.* For  $\gamma(t) = \eta_k$  and  $\eta_k \in [\rho_k, \rho_{k+1}]$ ,

$$e(t) = e(\eta_k) + \int_{\eta_k}^t (-De(s) + \hat{A}F(e(s)) + \hat{B}G(e(s))) - Ce(s) ds.$$

Utilizing Lemmas 1 and 2,

$$\begin{aligned} \|e(t)\| &\leq \|e(\eta_k)\| + \left\| \int_{\eta_k}^t (-De(s) + \hat{A}F(e(s)) + \hat{B}Ge(\eta_k) - Ce(s)) ds \right\| \\ &\leq (1 + \|B^*\| \|G^*\| \rho) \|e(\eta_k)\| + \int_{\eta_k}^t (\|C\| + \|D\| + \|A^*\| \|F^*\|) \|e(s)\| ds \\ &\leq [(1 + \|B^*\| \|G^*\| \rho) \|e(\eta_k)\|] \exp\{(\|C\| + \|D\| + \|A^*\| \|F^*\|) \rho\}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $B^* = (b_{pq}^*)_{n \times n}$ ,  $G^* = \max_{q \in \mathbb{N}} \{g_q^*\}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \|e(\eta_k)\| &\leq \|e(t)\| + \rho \|B^*\| \|G^*\| \|e(\eta_k)\| + \int_{\eta_k}^t (\|C\| + \|D\| + \|A^*\| \|F^*\|) \|e(s)\| ds \\ &\leq \|e(t)\| + (h_1 \rho + h_2 \rho (1 + h_1 \rho)) \|e(\eta_k)\| \exp\{h_2 \rho\}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $h_1 = \|B^*\| \|G^*\|$ ,  $h_2 = \|C\| + \|D\| + \|A^*\| \|F^*\|$ .

$$\left(1 - (h_1 \rho + h_2 \rho (1 + h_1 \rho)) \exp\{h_2 \rho\}\right) \|e(\eta_k)\| \leq \|e(t)\|.$$

Therefore, for Assumption 4,

$$\begin{aligned} \|e(\eta_k)\| &\leq \left(1 - (h_1\rho + h_2\rho(1 + h_1\rho) \exp\{h_2\rho\})\right)^{-1} \|e(t)\| \\ &= \mu \|e(t)\|, \end{aligned} \quad (3.16)$$

where  $\mu = \left(1 - (h_1\rho + h_2\rho(1 + h_1\rho) \exp\{h_2\rho\})\right)^{-1}$ , for  $t \in [\rho_k, \rho_{k+1}]$ . With regards to arbitrary values of  $t$  and  $k$ , (3.16) holds for  $t \in \mathbb{R}^+$ .

**Remark 2.** When considering MNNs (3.11) on the interval  $[\rho_k, \rho_{k+1}]$ , where  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , if  $\rho_k \leq t < \eta_k$ , MNNs (3.11) behaves as an advanced system. Conversely, if  $\eta_k < t \leq \rho_{k+1}$ , MMN (3.11) behaves as a retarded system.

**Theorem 2.** If Assumptions 1–4 hold, MNNs (3.11) is ESt. Then MMNs (3.12) is ESt, that is, the derive system MNNs (3.7) and the response system MNNs (3.8) are ESy. If  $|\rho| \leq \min\{\bar{\rho}, \tilde{\rho}\}$ , where  $\bar{\rho}$  is a unique nonnegative solution of the transcend equation:

$$k_2\alpha/\beta \exp\{2k_1\mathbb{T}\} + \alpha \exp\{-\beta\mathbb{T}\} = 1, \quad (3.17)$$

where  $\mathbb{T} > \ln(\alpha)/\beta$ ,  $k_1 = \|C\| + \|D\| + \|A^*\| \|F^*\| + \mu \|B^*\| \|G^*\|$ ,  $k_2 = (1 + \mu) \|B^*\| \|G^*\|$ .

The  $\tilde{\rho}$  is a unique positive solution of the transcend equation:

$$(h_1\rho + h_2\rho(1 + h_1\rho) \exp\{h_2\rho\}) = 1. \quad (3.18)$$

*Proof.* Utilizing Lemmas 1 and 3, initial value  $\psi^1 = \psi^2$ , we can conclude the following

$$\begin{aligned} \|z(t) - e(t)\| &\leq \left\| \int_{t_0}^t \left[ -(C + D)(z(s) - e(s)) + \hat{A}F(z(s)) - \hat{A}F(e(s)) + \hat{B}G(z(s)) - \hat{B}G(\gamma(s)) \right] ds \right\| \\ &\leq \int_{t_0}^t (\|C\| + \|D\| + \|A^*\| \|F^*\|) \|z(s) - e(s)\| ds + \|B^*\| \|G^*\| \|z(s)\| + \|B^*\| \|G^*\| \|e(\gamma(s))\| ds \\ &\leq \int_{t_0}^t (\|C\| + \|D\| + \|A^*\| \|F^*\|) \|z(s) - e(s)\| \\ &\quad + \|B^*\| \|G^*\| \|z(s)\| + \mu \|B^*\| \|G^*\| \|e(s) - z(s) + z(s)\| ds \\ &\leq \int_{t_0}^t (\|C\| + \|D\| + \|A^*\| \|F^*\| + \mu \|B^*\| \|G^*\|) \|z(s) - e(s)\| ds \\ &\quad + \int_{t_0}^t ((1 + \mu) \|B^*\| \|G^*\|) \|z(s)\| ds \\ &\leq \int_{t_0}^t k_1 (z(s) - e(s)) ds + k_2 \|\psi^2\| \alpha / \beta, \end{aligned} \quad (3.19)$$

where  $k_1 = \|C\| + \|D\| + \|A^*\| \|F^*\| + \mu \|B^*\| \|G^*\|$ ,  $k_2 = (1 + \mu) \|B^*\| \|G^*\|$ .

By Lemma 2, when  $t_0 + \mathbb{T} - \rho \leq t \leq t_0 + 2\mathbb{T}$ ,

$$\|e(t) - z(t)\| \leq k_2\alpha/\beta \|\psi^2\| \exp\{2k_1\mathbb{T}\}.$$

So, when  $t_0 + \mathbb{T} - \rho \leq t \leq t_0 + 2\mathbb{T}$ , from (3.19) and the global exponential stability of (3.12),

$$\begin{aligned} \|e(t)\| &= \|e(t) - z(t) + z(t)\| \\ &\leq k_2\alpha/\beta\|\psi^2\| \exp\{2k_1\mathbb{T}\} + \alpha\|\psi^2\| \exp\{-\beta\mathbb{T}\} \\ &\leq (k_2\alpha/\beta \exp\{2k_1\mathbb{T}\} + \alpha \exp\{-\beta\mathbb{T}\}) \left( \sup_{t_0-\rho \leq t \leq t_0+\mathbb{T}} \|e(t)\| \right). \end{aligned} \tag{3.20}$$

From (3.20), when  $|\rho| \leq \bar{\rho}$ ,

$$k_2\alpha/\beta \exp\{2k_1T\} + \alpha \exp\{-\beta T\} < 1.$$

Let  $\kappa_1 = -(\ln(k_2\alpha/\beta \exp\{2k_1T\} + \alpha \exp\{-\beta T\}))/\mathbb{T}$ ,  $\kappa_1 > 0$ , when  $t_0 - \rho + \mathbb{T} \leq t \leq t_0 + 2\mathbb{T}$ ,

$$\sup_{t_0-\rho+\mathbb{T} \leq t \leq t_0+2\mathbb{T}} \|e(t)\| \leq \exp(-\rho\mathbb{T}) \sup_{t_0-\rho \leq t \leq t_0+\mathbb{T}} \|e(t)\|. \tag{3.21}$$

Consider the existence and uniqueness of the solution  $e(t)$  of (8), when  $t > t_0 - \xi + (\mathbb{M} - 1)\mathbb{T}$ ,

$$e(t, t_0, x_0) = e(t, t_0 - \xi + (\mathbb{M} - 1)\mathbb{T}, e(t_0 - \xi + (\mathbb{M} - 1)\mathbb{T}, x_0)). \tag{3.22}$$

From (3.21) and (3.22),

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{t_0-\rho+m\mathbb{T} \leq t \leq t_0+(m+1)\mathbb{T}} \|e(t, t_0, e_0)\| &= \sup_{t_0-\rho+(\mathbb{M}-1)\mathbb{T}+\mathbb{T} \leq t \leq t_0+(\mathbb{M}-1)\mathbb{T}+2\mathbb{T}} \|e(t, t_0 - \rho + (\mathbb{M} - 1)\mathbb{T}, \\ e(t_0 - \rho + (\mathbb{M} - 1)\mathbb{T}; t_0, e_0)\| &\leq \exp(-\rho\mathbb{T}) \sup_{t_0-\rho+(\mathbb{M}-1)\mathbb{T} \leq t \leq t_0+m\mathbb{T}} \|e(t; t_0, e_0)\| \\ &\leq \exp(-\rho m\mathbb{T}) \sup_{t_0-\rho \leq t \leq t_0+\mathbb{T}} \|e(t; t_0, e_0)\| \\ &= \kappa_2 \exp -\rho m\mathbb{T}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\kappa_2 = \sup_{t_0-\rho \leq t \leq t_0+\mathbb{T}} \|e(t; t_0, e_0)\|$ .

To go a step further, there is the only scalar  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $t_0 - \rho + (\mathbb{M} - 1)\mathbb{T} \leq t \leq t_0 + \mathbb{M}\mathbb{T}$ ,

$$\|e(t; t_0, x_0)\| \leq \kappa_2 \exp(-\rho\mathbb{M}\mathbb{T}) \leq \kappa_2 \exp(\rho\mathbb{T}) \exp(-\rho(t - t_0)). \tag{3.23}$$

Clearly, (3.23) holds for  $t_0 - \rho \leq t \leq t_0 + \mathbb{T}$ .

### 3.3. Effects of DAs and SPs on MNNs synchronization

The following consider MNNs with SPs and DAs,

$$dw_p(t) = [-d_p w_p(t) + \sum_{q=1}^n a_{pq}(w_q(t))f_q(w_q(t)) + \sum_{q=1}^n b_{pq}(w_q(\gamma(t)))g_q(w_q(\gamma(t))) + w_p(t)]dt + \sigma w_p(t)d\omega(t). \tag{3.24}$$

The corresponding response system,

$$\begin{aligned} dv_p(t) &= [-d_p v_p(t) + \sum_{q=1}^n a_{pq}(v_q(t))f(v_q(t)) + \sum_{q=1}^n b_{pq}(v_q(\gamma(t)))g_q(v_q(\gamma(t))) + w_p(t) + u_p(t)]ds \\ &+ \sigma v_p(t)d\omega(t). \end{aligned} \tag{3.25}$$

Let  $e_p = v_p - w_p$ ,

$$de_p = [-d_p e_p + \sum_{q=1}^n \hat{a}_{pq}(e_q) f_q(e_p) + \sum_{q=1}^n \hat{b}_{pq}(e_q(\gamma)) g_q(e_q(\gamma)) - \xi_p e_p] ds + \sigma e_p d\omega. \quad (3.26)$$

The original system is

$$\dot{z}_p = -d_p z_p + \sum_{q=1}^n \hat{a}_{pq}(z_q) f_q(z_q) + \hat{b}_{pq}(z_q) g_q(z_q) - \xi_p e_p. \quad (3.27)$$

Further,

$$\begin{aligned} de(t) &= [-De(t) + \hat{A}Fe(t) + \hat{B}G((\gamma(t))) - Ce(t)]dt + \sigma e(t)d\omega(t) \\ \dot{z}(t) &= -De(t) + \hat{A}Fe(t) + \hat{B}G((t)) - Ce(t). \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 4.** Let Assumptions 3 and 5 hold, then the following inequality

$$E\|e(\gamma(t))\|^2 \leq \lambda \|e(t)\|^2 \quad (3.28)$$

holds for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}^+$ , where  $\lambda = 3(1 - \varpi)^{-1}$ ,  $\varpi = \rho(3l_1 + 9l_2 + l_1^2 + 3l_1 l_2)$ .

*Proof.* For  $\gamma(t) = \eta_k$ ,  $t \in [\rho_k, \rho_{k+1}]$ ,  $\forall t \in \mathbb{R}^+$ ,  $\exists k \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} E\|e(t)\|^2 &\leq E\|e(\eta_k)\|^2 + \int_{\eta_k}^t \left[ -(C + D)e(s) + \hat{A}F(e(s)) + \hat{B}G((\eta_k)) \right] ds + \int_{\eta_k}^t \sigma e(s) d\omega(s) \|^2 \\ &\leq 3 \left[ E\|e(\eta_k)\|^2 + E \left\| \int_{\eta_k}^t \left[ -(C + D)e(s) + \hat{A}F(e(s)) + \hat{B}G((\eta_k)) \right] ds \right\|^2 + E \left\| \int_{\eta_k}^t \sigma e(s) d\omega(s) \right\|^2 \right] \\ &\leq 3 \left[ E\|e(\eta_k)\|^2 + 3\rho E \int_{\eta_k}^t 2(\|C\|^2 + \|D\|^2) \|e(s)\|^2 + \|A^*\|^2 \|F^*\|^2 \|e(s)\|^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \|B^*\|^2 \|G^*\|^2 \|e(\eta_k)\|^2 + \sigma^2 \int_{\eta_k}^t E\|e(s)\|^2 ds \right] \\ &\leq 3(1 + 3\rho^2 \|B^*\|^2 \|G^*\|^2) E\|e(\eta_k)\|^2 + 3(3\rho(2\|C\|^2 + 2\|D\|^2 + \|A^*\|^2 \|F^*\|^2) + \sigma^2) \int_{\eta_k}^t E\|e(s)\|^2 ds. \end{aligned}$$

Applying Lemma 2,

$$\begin{aligned} E\|e(t)\|^2 &\leq (3 + 9\rho^2 \|B^*\|^2 \|G^*\|^2) E\|e(\eta_k)\|^2 \exp\{3\rho(3\rho(2\|C\|^2 + 2\|D\|^2 + \|A^*\|^2 \|F^*\|^2) + \sigma^2)\} \\ &= (3 + l_1) E\|e(\eta_k)\|^2 \exp\{3\rho l_2\}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $l_1 = 9\rho^2 \|B^*\|^2 \|G^*\|^2$ ,  $l_2 = 3\rho(2\|C\|^2 + 2\|D\|^2 + \|A^*\|^2 \|F^*\|^2) + \sigma^2$ .

Similarly, for  $t \in [\rho_k, \rho_{k+1}]$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 E\|e(\eta_k)\|^2 &\leq 3\left[E\|e(s)\|^2 + E\left\|\int_{\eta_k}^t (-(C+D)e(s) + \hat{A}Fe(s) + \hat{B}Ge(s))ds\right\|^2 + E\left\|\int_{\eta_k}^t \sigma e(s)d\omega(s)\right\|^2\right] \\
 &\leq 3\left[E\|e(s)\|^2 + 3\rho E\int_{\eta_k}^t (2(\|C\|^2 + \|D\|^2)\|e(s)\|^2 + \|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2\|e(s)\|^2 \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \|B^*\|^2\|G^*\|^2\|e(\eta_k)\|^2)ds + \sigma^2 \int_{\eta_k}^t E\|e(s)\|^2 ds\right] \\
 &= 3E\|e(s)\|^2 + 9\rho^2\|B^*\|^2\|G^*\|^2\|e(\eta_k)\|^2 + 3(3\rho(\|C^*\|^2 + 2\|D^*\|^2) \\
 &\quad + \|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2) + \sigma^2) \int_{\eta_k}^t E\|e(s)\|^2 ds \\
 &= 3E\|e(s)\|^2 + \rho(3l_1 + 9l_2 + l_1^2 + 3l_1l_2) \exp\{3\rho l_2\}\|e(\eta_k)\|^2.
 \end{aligned}$$

By the Assumption 5,

$$\begin{aligned}
 E\|e(\eta_k)\|^2 &\leq 3(1 - \varpi)^{-1}E\|e(s)\|^2 \\
 &= \lambda E\|e(s)\|^2,
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.29}$$

where  $\varpi = \rho(3l_1 + 9l_2 + l_1^2 + 3l_1l_2)$ ,  $\lambda = 3(1 - \varpi)^{-1}$ . Therefore, (3.29) holds for  $t \in [\rho_k, \rho_{k+1}]$ . By the randomities of  $t$  and  $k$ , (3.29) holds for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ .

In the following, we investigate the effects of DAs and SPs on the robustness of ESy of MNNs (3.26).

**Theorem 3.** If Assumptions 3–5 and Definition 4 hold, MNNs (3.27) is ESt. Then MMNs (3.26) is ESt, that is, the derive system MNNs (3.24) and the response system MNNs (3.25) are ESy. If  $|\sigma| \leq \bar{\sigma}$ ,  $|\rho| \leq \min\{\bar{\rho}, \tilde{\rho}\}$  where  $\bar{\rho}$  is a unique nonnegative solution of the transcend equation:

$$v_2\theta\|\psi^2\|^2/\beta \exp\{2v_1\mathbb{T}\} + 2\theta\|\psi^2\|^2 \exp\{-2\mathbb{T}\beta\} = 1, \tag{3.30}$$

where  $v_1 = (24\mathbb{T}(\|C\|^2 + \|D\|^2 + 2\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2 + 2\lambda^2\|B^*\|^2\|G^*\|^2) + 4\sigma^2)$ ,  $v_2 = (12\mathbb{T}(2 + 2\lambda^2)\|B^*\|^2\|G^*\|^2 + 2\sigma^2)$ . The  $\tilde{\rho}$  is a unique nonnegative solution of the transcend equation:

$$l_1 + 9\rho l_1 l_2 \exp\{3\rho l_2\} = 1. \tag{3.31}$$

The  $\bar{\sigma}$  is a unique nonnegative solution of the transcend equation:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (36\mathbb{T}(\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2 + \|B^*\|^2\|G^*\|^2) + 2\sigma^2)\theta/\vartheta \exp\{12\mathbb{T}(4\mathbb{T}(\|D\|^2 \\
 + \|C\|^2 + 3\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2 + 3\|B^*\|^2\|G^*\|^2) + \sigma^2)\} + 2\theta \exp\{-4\vartheta\mathbb{T}\} = 1.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.32}$$

*Proof.* When  $t_0 - \rho \leq t \leq t_0 + 2\mathbb{T}$ , By applying Lemma 4, initial value  $\psi^1 = \psi^2$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} E\|z(t) - e(t)\|^2 &\leq 2E\left\|\int_{t_0}^t [-(C + D)(z(s) - e(s)) + \hat{A}F(z(s)) - \hat{A}F(e(s)) + \hat{B}G(z(s)) - \hat{B}G(e(s))]ds\right\|^2 \\ &\quad + 2E\left\|\int_{t_0}^t \sigma e(s)d\omega(s)\right\|^2 \\ &\leq 2E\int_{t_0}^t 1^2 ds \int_{t_0}^t 6[(\|C\|^2 + \|D\|^2) + \|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2\|z(s)\|^2 + \|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2\|e(s)\|^2 \\ &\quad + \|B^*\|^2\|G^*\|^2\|z(s)\|^2 + \|B^*\|^2\|G^*\|^2\|e(s)\|^2]ds + 2\sigma^2\int_{t_0}^t E\|e(s)\|^2 ds \\ &\leq 4\mathbb{T}E\int_{t_0}^t 6[(\|C\|^2 + \|D\|^2 + 2\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2)\|z(s) - e(s)\|^2 + (2\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2 \\ &\quad + \|B^*\|^2\|G^*\|^2)\|z(s)\|^2 + 2\lambda^2\|B^*\|^2\|G^*\|^2\|e(s) - z(s) + z(s)\|^2]ds \\ &\quad + 2\sigma^2\int_{t_0}^t E\|e(s) - z(s) + z(s)\|^2 ds \\ &\leq (24\mathbb{T}(\|C\|^2 + \|D\|^2 + 2\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2 + 2\lambda^2\|B^*\|^2\|G^*\|^2) + 4\sigma^2)\int_{t_0}^t E\|z(s) - e(s)\|^2 \\ &\quad + (24\mathbb{T}(2 + 2\lambda^2)\|B^*\|^2\|G^*\|^2 + 4\sigma^2)\int_{t_0}^t E\|e(s)\|^2 \\ &\leq (24\mathbb{T}(\|C\|^2 + \|D\|^2 + 2\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2 + 2\lambda^2\|B^*\|^2\|G^*\|^2) + 4\sigma^2)\int_{t_0}^t E\|z(s) - e(s)\|^2 \\ &\quad + (12\mathbb{T}(2 + 2\lambda^2)\|B^*\|^2\|G^*\|^2 + 2\sigma^2)\theta\|\psi^2\|^2/\vartheta \\ &= v_1\int_{t_0}^t E\|z(s) - e(s)\|^2 ds + v_2\theta\|\psi^2\|^2/\vartheta, \end{aligned}$$

where  $v_1 = (24\mathbb{T}(\|C\|^2 + \|D\|^2 + 2\|A^*\|^2\|F^*\|^2 + 2\lambda^2\|B^*\|^2\|G^*\|^2) + 4\sigma^2)$ ,  $v_2 = (12\mathbb{T}(2 + 2\lambda^2)\|B^*\|^2\|G^*\|^2 + 2\sigma^2)$ .

When  $t_0 - \rho \leq t \leq t_0 + 2\mathbb{T}$ , By applying Lemma 2,

$$E\|z(t) - e(t)\|^2 \leq v_2\theta\|\psi^2\|^2/\vartheta \exp\{2v_1\mathbb{T}\} \times \sup_{t_0-\rho \leq t \leq t_0+\mathbb{T}} E\|z(t)\|^2.$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} E\|e(t)\|^2 &\leq 2E\|z(t) - e(t)\|^2 + 2E\|z(t)\|^2 \\ &\leq v_2\theta\|\psi^2\|^2/\vartheta \exp\{2v_1\mathbb{T}\} \sup_{t_0-\rho \leq t \leq t_0+\mathbb{T}} E\|z(t)\|^2 + 2\theta\|\psi^2\|^2 \exp\{-2\vartheta(t - t_0)\} \\ &\leq (v_2\theta\|\psi^2\|^2/\vartheta \exp\{2v_1\mathbb{T}\} + 2\theta \exp\{-2\mathbb{T}\vartheta\}) \sup_{t_0-\rho \leq t \leq t_0+\mathbb{T}} E\|e(t)\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

When  $|\rho| \leq \min\{\bar{\rho}, \tilde{\rho}\}$ ,  $|\sigma| \leq \bar{\sigma}$ ,

$$v_2\theta\|\psi^2\|^2/\vartheta \exp\{2v_1\mathbb{T}\} + 2\theta\|\psi^2\|^2 \exp\{-2\mathbb{T}\vartheta\} \leq 1.$$

### 4. Simulations

We demonstrate the aforementioned theoretical results through three numerical simulations.

**Example 1.** Consider two dimensional MNNs with SPs.

$$dw_p(t) = [-d_p w_p(t) + \sum_{q=1}^2 a_{pq}(w_q(t))f_q(w_q(t)) + w_p(t)]dt + \sigma w_p(t)d\omega(t), \quad i = 1, 2, \quad (4.1)$$

where

$$a_{11}(w_1) = \begin{cases} 0.1, & |w_1| \leq 1, \\ -0.1, & |w_1| > 1, \end{cases} \quad a_{12}(w_2) = \begin{cases} 0.2, & |w_2| \leq 1, \\ -0.2, & |w_2| > 1, \end{cases}$$

$$a_{21}(w_1) = \begin{cases} 0.1, & |w_1| \leq 1, \\ -0.1, & |w_1| > 1, \end{cases} \quad a_{22}(w_2) = \begin{cases} 0.2, & |w_2| \leq 1, \\ -0.2, & |w_2| > 1, \end{cases}$$

$w_1 = (w_1, w_2), d_1 = d_2 = 1, q = 1, 2, f_q(w_q) = \tanh(w_q), w_1 = w_2 = 0, \phi_1 = (0.3, 0.35)^T, \phi_2 = (0.2, 0.25)^T$ .

The response system is

$$dv_p(t) = [-d_p v_p(t) + \sum_{q=1}^2 a_{pq}(v_q(t))f(v_q(t)) + w_p(t) + u_p(t)]dt + \sigma v_p(t)d\omega(t), \quad i = 1, 2, \quad (4.2)$$

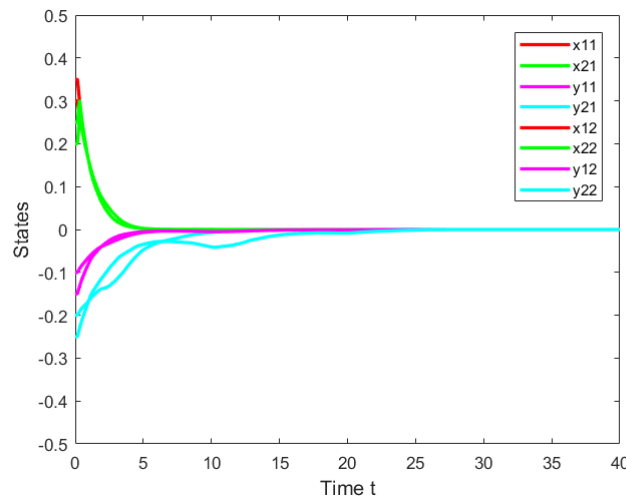
where  $\varphi_1 = (-0.1, -0.15)^T, \varphi_2 = (-0.2, -0.25)^T$ .

Let  $\theta = 1.1, \vartheta = 0.2, \mathbb{T} \leq \ln(\theta)/\vartheta = 0.01, \|A^*\| = 0.1, \|F^*\| = 1, \|C\| = 0.7, \|D\| = 1$ .

Solving the following transcendental equation,

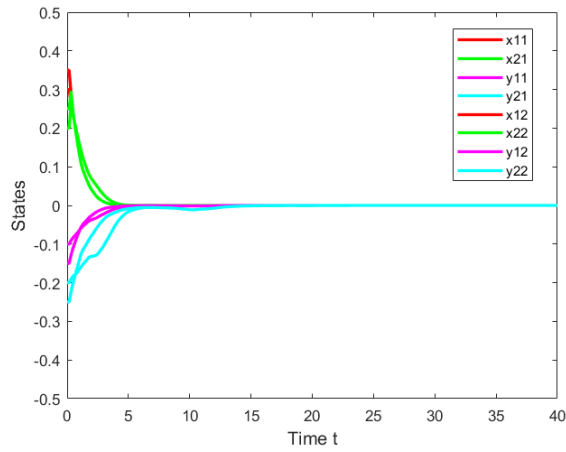
$$2.2(24 \times 0.01 \times 0.01 + 2\sigma) \exp\{0.08(0.04(1 + 0.49 + 0.03) + \sigma)\} + 2.2 \exp\{-4.4 \times 0.2\} = 1.$$

We can obtain  $\bar{\sigma} = 0.1364$ , let  $\sigma = 0.04, \sigma = 0.06, \sigma = 0.1$ , The state trajectories of MMNs (4.1) and MNNs (4.2) are shown in Figures 1–3, respectively. It can be seen from the figures that when time tends to infinity, the states of a and b tend to 0. This can show that when the perturbations intensity  $\sigma$  is less than  $\bar{\sigma}$ , the drive-response systems can achieve Esy. When  $\sigma = 0.25$ , The states are illustrated in Figure 4.

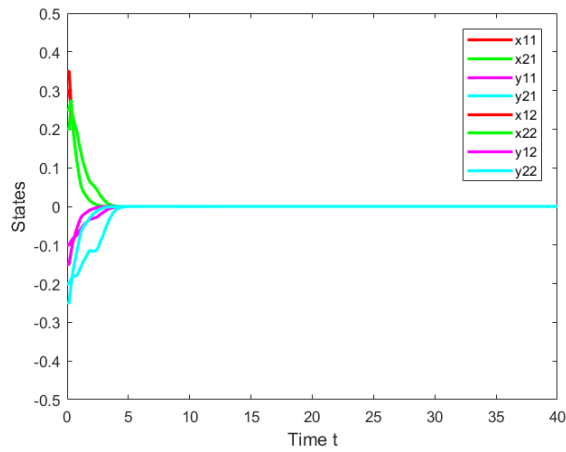


**Figure 1.** State of  $x(t)$  and  $y(t)$  with  $\sigma = 0.04$ .

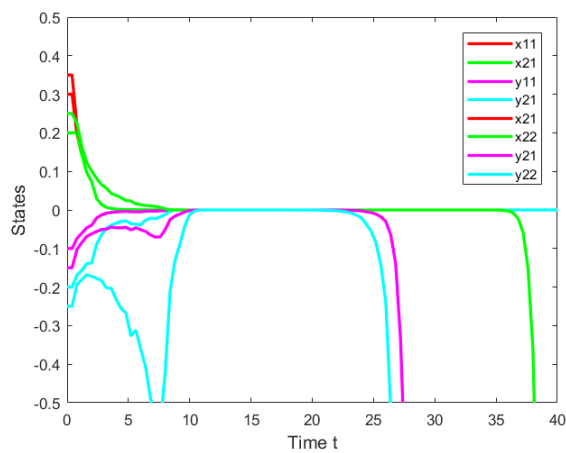




**Figure 2.** State of  $x(t)$  and  $y(t)$  with  $\sigma = 0.06$ .



**Figure 3.** State of  $x(t)$  and  $y(t)$  with  $\sigma = 0.1$ .



**Figure 4.** State of  $x(t)$  and  $y(t)$  with  $\sigma = 0.25$ .

**Example 2.** Consider two-dimensional MNNs with DAs,

$$\dot{w}_p(t) = -d_p w_p(t) + \sum_{q=1}^2 a_{pq}(w_q(t))f_q(w_q(t)) + \sum_{q=1}^2 b_{pq}(w_q(\gamma(t)))g_q(w_q(\gamma(t))) + w_p(t), \quad i = 1, 2, \quad (4.3)$$

where

$$a_{11}(w_1) = \begin{cases} 0.125, & |w_1| \leq 1, \\ -0.125, & |w_1| > 1, \end{cases} \quad a_{12}(w_2) = \begin{cases} 0.15, & |w_2| \leq 1, \\ -0.15, & |w_2| > 1, \end{cases}$$

$$a_{21}(w_1) = \begin{cases} 0.125, & |w_1| \leq 1, \\ -0.125, & |w_1| > 1, \end{cases} \quad a_{22}(w_2) = \begin{cases} 0.15, & |w_2| \leq 1, \\ -0.15, & |w_2| > 1, \end{cases}$$

$$b_{11}(\tilde{w}_1) = \begin{cases} 0.2, & |\tilde{w}_1| \leq 1, \\ -0.2, & |\tilde{w}_1| > 1, \end{cases} \quad b_{12}(\tilde{w}_2) = \begin{cases} 0.1, & |\tilde{w}_2| \leq 1, \\ -0.1, & |\tilde{w}_2| > 1, \end{cases}$$

$$b_{21}(\tilde{w}_1) = \begin{cases} 0.2, & |\tilde{w}_1| \leq 1, \\ -0.2, & |\tilde{w}_1| > 1, \end{cases} \quad b_{22}(\tilde{w}_2) = \begin{cases} 0.1, & |\tilde{w}_2| \leq 1, \\ -0.1, & |\tilde{w}_2| > 1, \end{cases}$$

where  $\tilde{w}_q = w_q(\gamma)$ ,  $w_1 = (w_1, w_2)$ ,  $d_1 = d_2 = 1$ ,  $q = 1, 2$ ,  $f_q(w_q) = \tanh(w_q)$ ,  $g_q(w_q) = |w_q + 1| - |w_q - 1|$ ,  $w_1 = w_2 = 0$ ,  $\phi_1 = (3, 4)^T$ ,  $\phi_2 = (1, 2)^T$ .

The response system is

$$\dot{v}_p(t) = -d_p v_p(t) + \sum_{q=1}^2 a_{pq}(v_q(t))f_q(v_q(t)) + \sum_{q=1}^2 b_{pq}(v_q(\gamma(t)))g_q(v_q(\gamma(t))) + w_p(t) + u_p(t), \quad i = 1, 2, \quad (4.4)$$

where  $\varphi_1 = (-3, -4)^T$ ,  $\varphi_2 = (-1, -2)^T$ .

Let  $\alpha = 1.1$ ,  $\beta = 0.5$ ,  $\mathbb{T} \leq \ln(\theta)/\vartheta = 0.01$ ,  $\|A^*\| = 0.726$ ,  $\|B^*\|^2 = 0.1$ ,  $\|F^*\| = 1$ ,  $\|G^*\| = 1$ ,  $\|C\| = 0.01$ ,  $\|D\| = -1$ .

Solving the following transcendental equations,

$$0.001\rho + 1.772\rho(1 + 1.772\rho) \exp\{1.772\rho\} = 1,$$

$$0.22(1 + \mu) \exp\{0.02(1.772 + 0.1\mu)\} + 1.1 \exp\{-0.5 \times 0.01\} = 1.$$

We can obtain  $\bar{\rho} = 0.2506$ ,  $\tilde{\rho} = 0.3314$ , let  $\rho = 0.2$ ,  $\rho = 0.15$ ,  $\rho = 0.1$ ,  $\rho = 0.25$ , when the length of the DAs in the systems is less than the calculated upper bound, we have that MNNs (4.3) and (4.4) with the controllers is ESy. The states of the MNNs (4.3) and (4.4) are shown in Figures 4–8, respectively.

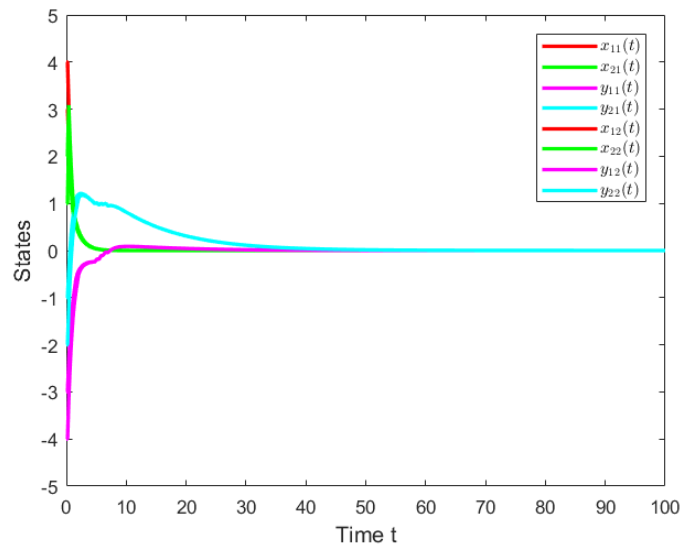
**Example 3.** Consider two-dimensional MNNs with DAs and SPs.

$$dw_p(t) = -[d_p w_p(t) + \sum_{q=1}^2 a_{pq}(w_q(t))f_q(w_q(t)) + \sum_{q=1}^2 b_{pq}(w_q(\gamma(t)))g_q(w_q(\gamma(t))) + w_p(t)]dt + \sigma w_p d\omega(t), \quad i = 1, 2, \quad (4.5)$$

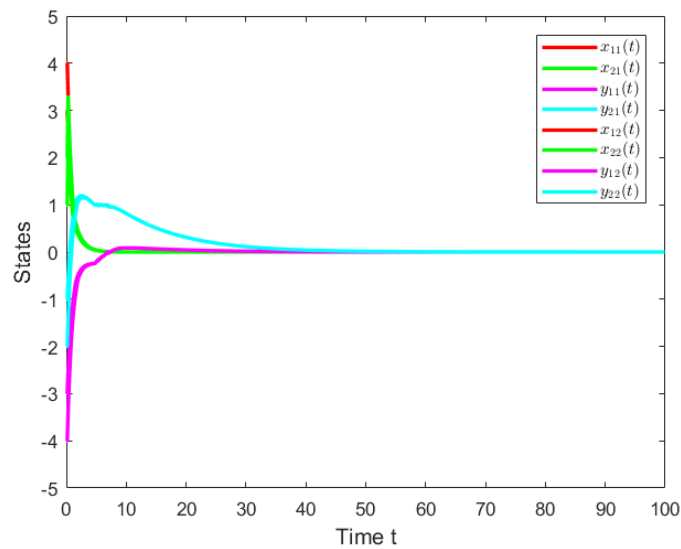
All other parameters remain the same as in Example 2. The response system is,

$$dv_p(t) = -[d_p v_p(t) + \sum_{q=1}^2 a_{pq}(v_q(t))f_q(v_q(t)) + \sum_{q=1}^2 b_{pq}(v_q(\gamma(t)))g_q(v_q(\gamma(t))) + w_p(t) + u_p(t)]dt + \sigma v_p d\omega(t), \quad i = 1, 2, \quad (4.6)$$

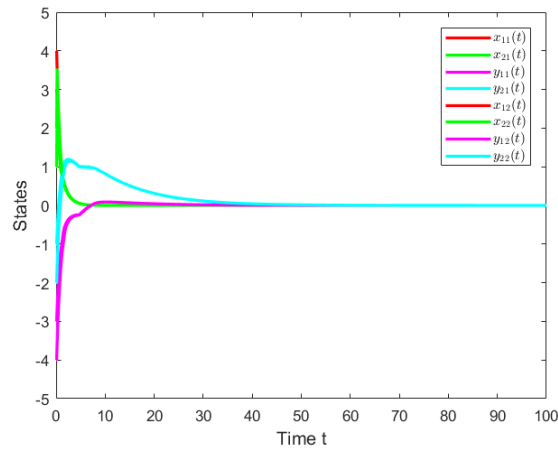
Solving the transcendental equations. We can obtain  $\bar{\rho} = 0.1567$ ,  $\bar{\rho} = 0.4374$ ,  $\bar{\sigma} = 0.2463$ , let  $\rho = 0.1$ ,  $\sigma = 0.04$ , we have that MNNs (4.5) and (4.6) is ESy, the state trajectories are shown in Figure 9. when  $\rho = 0.05$ ,  $\sigma = 0.04$ , the state trajectories are shown in Figure 10. When  $\rho = 0.9$ ,  $\sigma = 0.1$ , the state trajectories are shown in Figure 11.



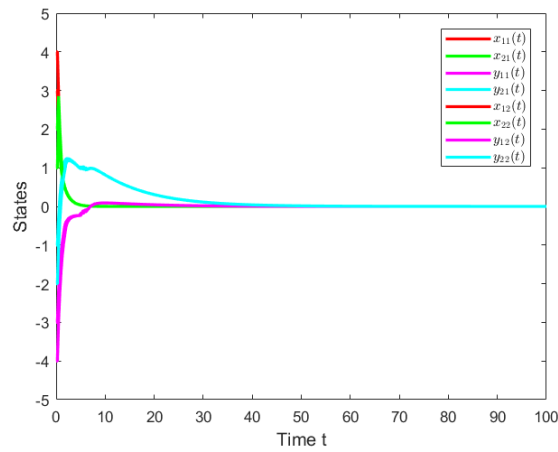
**Figure 5.** The state with  $\rho = 0.2$ .



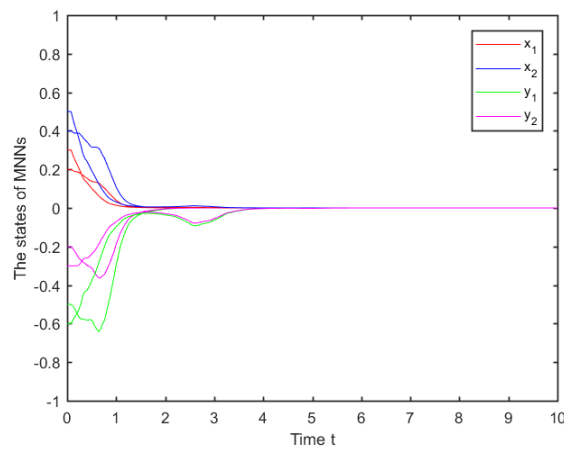
**Figure 6.** The state with  $\rho = 0.15$ .



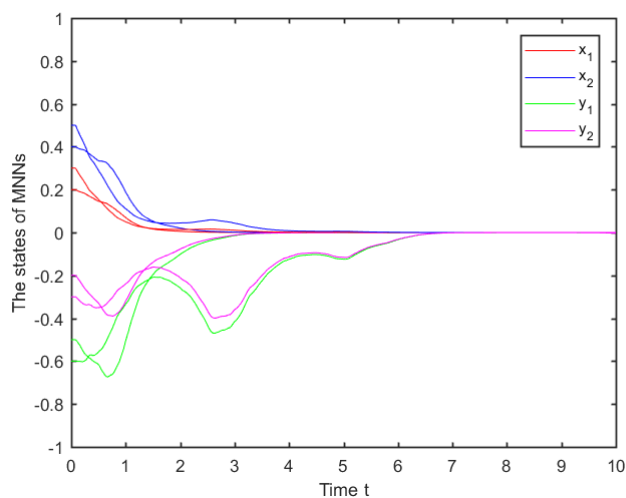
**Figure 7.** The state with  $\rho=0.1$ .



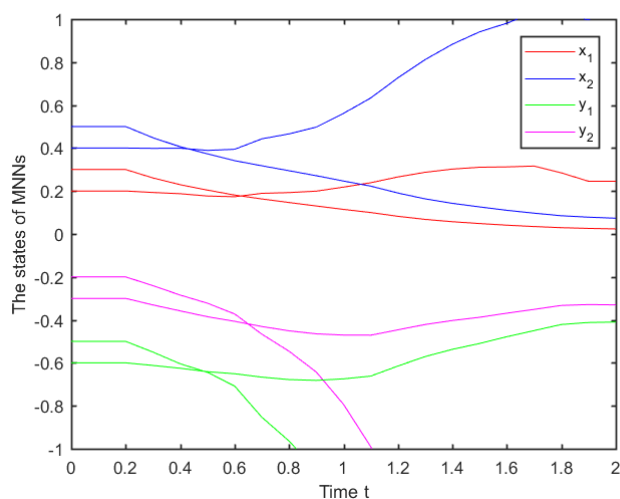
**Figure 8.** The state with  $\rho=0.25$ .



**Figure 9.** The state of MMNs (51) and (52) with  $\sigma = 0.1$  and  $\rho=0.04$ .



**Figure 10.** The state of MMNs (51) and (52) with  $\sigma = 0.05$  and  $\rho=0.04$ .



**Figure 11.** The state of MMNs (51) and (52) with  $\sigma = 0.1$  and  $\rho=0.9$ .

## 5. Conclusions

In this paper, the robustness analysis of MNNs exponential synchronization problem with DAs and SPs is studied by using the Granwall inequalities and inequality techniques, and a method different from Linear Matrix Inequality method (LMI) and Lyapunov theory is used to solve the synchronization robustness of MNNs.

### Use of AI tools declaration

The authors declare they have not used Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in the creation of this article.

## Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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