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## Robust structural feedback linearization based on the nonlinearities rejection

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# Journal of the Franklin Institute

## Robust Structural Feedback Linearization Based on the Nonlinearities Rejection --Manuscript Draft--

<b>Manuscript Number:</b>	FI-D-19-00248R1
<b>Article Type:</b>	Original Research—Control Systems
<b>Keywords:</b>	nonlinear dynamic systems, non-standard feedback linearization, nonlinearities rejection, failure reconstruction.
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<b>Manuscript Region of Origin:</b>	
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>In this paper, we consider a class of affine control systems and propose a new structural feedback linearization technique. This relatively simple approach involves a generic linear-type control scheme and follows the classic failure detection methodology. The robust linearization idea proposed in this contribution makes it possible an effective rejection of nonlinearities that belong to a specific class of functions. The nonlinearities under consideration are interpreted here as specific signals that affect the initially given systems dynamics. The implementability and efficiency of the proposed robust control methodology is illustrated via the attitude control of a PVTOL.</p>

Please find hereafter the revised version of the paper:

Robust Structural Feedback Linearization Based on the Nonlinearities Rejection,

which we are submitting to Journal of The Franklin Institute,  
by: Bonilla, Blass, Azhmyakov, Malabre and Salazar.

Research Article:

## Robust Structural Feedback Linearization Based on the Nonlinearities Rejection

Authors:

M. Bonilla, L.A. Blas, V. Azhmyakov, M. Malabre, S. Salazar

Abstract:

In this paper, we consider a class of affine control systems and propose a new structural feedback linearization technique.

This relatively simple approach involves a generic linear-type control scheme and follows the classic failure detection methodology.

The robust linearization idea proposed in this contribution makes it possible an effective rejection of nonlinearities that belong to a specific class of functions.

The nonlinearities under consideration are interpreted here as specific signals that affect the initially given systems dynamics.

The implementability and efficiency of the proposed robust control methodology is illustrated via the attitude control of a Planar Vertical Take Off Landing (PVTOL) system.

Keywords:

nonlinear dynamic systems,  
non-standard feedback linearization,  
nonlinearities rejection,  
failure reconstruction.

Reviewers' Reply  
 Robust Structural Feedback Linearization Based on the  
 Nonlinearities Rejection  
 Paper Reference: FI-19-00248

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## 1. Associate Editor Comments

Three reviews have been obtained in this submission. There are quite a few comments and criticisms from the reviewers. Especially, Reviewer #1 raises an issue of applicability of the results in the paper. Based on the review reports, it is my recommendation that the paper is not acceptable in its present form, but the author can try to modify and revise the paper provided that all the comments are carefully addressed.

## 2. Reviewers Comments

### 2.1. Reviewer # 1

In this paper, The Authors consider a class of affine control systems and propose a new structural feedback linearization technique. This approach involves a generic linear-type control scheme and follows the classic failure detection methodology. The robust linearization idea proposed in this contribution makes it possible an effective rejection of nonlinearities that belong to a specific class of functions. The nonlinearities under consideration are interpreted here as specific signals that affect the initially given systems dynamics. The implementability and efficiency of the proposed robust control methodology is illustrated via the attitude control of a PVTOL

#### 2.1.1. Minor comments:

1. The chapters are harmonized and well structured.

2. Good English, some mistakes should be corrected in the final version such as “behaviour, non-modelled, neighbourhood, . . .”. The authors used “Let us” 32 times!!
3. The abbreviation PVTOL must be explained when first appearing in the abstract.
4. In the introduction, when The Authors stated that “These applications are devoted (but not restricted) to the helicopters flight dynamics, high-performance aircraft control, industrial robots behaviour design, biomedical devices and intelligent vehicles control”, the corresponding references should be added at the end of this sentence.
5. There are many equations that are not numbered
6. The bibliography used by the authors lacked new references from other works. I also recommend citing some JFI works.

*2.1.2. Major comments:*

1. Authors stated that their developed new structural feedback linearization technique is “relatively simple”, but when examining deeply this approach, we notice that it is based on many hypothesis that reduce the field of application, whereas, for analytical systems, we could keep the nonlinear model of the physical system and use the polynomial approach for the synthesis of stabilizing and efficient control laws.
2. Why should  $C$  be an epic matrix?
3. Could the authors further explain how they obtained that  $dV/dt$  is negative defined when proving the local asymptotic stability of the autonomous system (3.13)?
4. In section 6, The authors used the Riccati equation to compute state feedbacks (2.2) and (2.6). Please explain why you used optimal control and why you chose the  $-1/5$  and  $I_2$  as weighting matrices?

*2.2. Reviewer # 2*

In my opinion, this study has enough merits and contributions to be accepted, provided the authors to address the following minor comments:

1. In page 6, eq. (1), please explain why the coupling parameter  $\epsilon$  is not considered. At least the author should mention that in the absence of this parameter, the system is a non-minimum phase system.
2. In Pg. 8, eq. (22), please explain what happened if the parameters (mass, inertia, etc.) are unknown.
3. Please explain why in parameter  $\epsilon$  is neglected.
4. Please explain why it is important using the Beard-Jones filter (subsection 2.4).
5. Please explain if it is possible to apply the proposed strategy to accomplish trajectory tracking.
6. What happens if the system is perturbed by a crosswind.

7. Is it possible to provide more friendly numerical experiments set up descriptions?
8. There are several works dealing with the control of PVTOLs published in recent years. Please consider including some of these references with newly results.

### 2.3. Reviewer # 3

The authors have considered a class of affine control systems and proposed a new structural feedback linearization technique. In my opinion, the main contributions of this paper are reflected in two aspects: firstly, an exact scheme of the structural feedback linearization which is supported by Theorem 1, secondly, a robust asymptotic feedback linearization approach which enlarges its stability neighborhood, and is supported by Theorem 2 & Corollary 1. The paper is organized and presented well, and the results are interesting. The following are my concern:

1. The discussion of “Input-Output Linearization Techniques” (section 2) seems to be somewhat lengthy. 2.1-2.4 are all existing techniques, why are there so many analyses? In addition, section 1(Introduction and Motivation) has led to a discussion of “Input-Output Linearization”, so it seems that section 1&2 can be merged.
2. Line 2 on page 7,  $\langle PI \rangle z(s) = \dots$  I haven’t found any description or definition of  $\langle PI \rangle z(s)$  in the previous content.
3. In section 5, the authors claim that the Robust Asymptotic Feedback Linearization can widely enlarged the stability neighborhood when the nonlinear uncertainty estimator (4.3) and (4.2) is added. This is an important conclusion. The reviewer strongly recommends adding a “figure” to illustrate this effect so that the readers can understand it more easily.
4. All the theoretical deductions in this paper are based on the PVTOL model. The question I am interested in is: what is the universality or generalization of applications about the method proposed by the authors? The authors need to provide further appropriate discussions or explanations.

From my point of view, this is a well-written paper containing interesting results and some practical significance which merits publication. I suggest the authors should make a few modifications before publication.

### 3. Response to Reviewers

Dear Chief Editor, James Lam, Dear Managing Editor, Emily Rogers,

We are very grateful for the review of our contribution (Paper D-19-00248) entitled Robust Structural Feedback Linearization Based on the Nonlinearities Rejection (by M. Bonilla, L.A. Blas, V. Azhmyakov, M. Malabre and S. Salazar). Following the recommendations expressed in your last email and taking into

consideration the Reviewers comments, we have prepared a revised version of our paper.

Let us now give a detailed description of the realized improvements.

### 3.1. Reviewer # 1

#### 3.1.1. Minor comments:

1. Thanks.
2. We have corrected our English grammar mistakes. Moreover we have corrected the general article style, and avoided 21 times the expression “*Let us*”.
3. The abbreviation PVTOL (we use in our manuscript) is now satisfactorily explained in the Abstract.
4. We have added seven new references.
5. In the revised version of our paper only the equations which are referenced through the text have been numbered.
6. We have added three references to the Journal of The Franklin Institute.

#### 3.1.2. Major comments:

1. Let us note that there are in fact not so many main (!) hypotheses in use. Here are some additional explanations and meanings of the principal hypotheses we formulated:
  - (a) Hypotheses **H1** and **H2** guarantee the existence and uniqueness of a local solution for the class of considered system<sup>1</sup> (1.1).
  - (b) Hypotheses **H3** and **H4** have a technical meaning and are only needed for a complete explanation of the classical *Exact Input-Output Linearization technique*.
  - (c) Hypothesis **H5** deals with the controllable and observable state space description  $\Sigma(A, B, C)$ . Let us note that the classical *Exact Input-Output Linearization technique* leads to a controllable and observable state space description  $\Sigma(A, B, C)$ . The assumption “*B monic*” also constitutes a usual technical hypothesis which guarantees the independence of the control components.
  - (d) Hypotheses **H6** and **H7** define a specific class of nonlinear systems studied in this paper. **H6** guarantees that the *nonlinear perturbation signal*,  $q(x, u)$  “acts” through a map  $S$  we defined. **H7** makes it possible to justify the necessary change of variable:

$$\zeta = x + M \mathcal{C}_{(M, S)} \Psi_n(d/dt) q(x, u)$$

in (2.12); and also the *nonlinear uncertainty signal*,

$$q_*(x, u) = X \mathcal{C}_{(M, S)} \Psi_n(d/dt) q(x, u),$$

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<sup>1</sup>All the number equations and number Sections correspond to the revised version of the paper.



is in  $\text{Im } B$  (cf. (2.13) and (2.14)). The Hypotheses discussed above provide a necessary analytic basis for the proposed decoupling disturbance techniques.

- (e) Hypothesis **H8** makes it possible to avoid the finite invariant zeros at the origin. This is a generic hypothesis from the conventional Robust Control Theory. It involves the steady state response of the disturbance (in our case  $q_*(x, u)$ ).
- (f) Hypotheses **H9** and **H10** are related to the frequency response of the *nonlinear uncertainty signal*  $q_*$  (cf. from (2.13) – (2.14)). In **H9** we assume the boundedness of the velocity of  $q_*$ . Moreover, **H10** assumes that  $q_*$  is a band-limited function.
- (g) In **P1** ( $\zeta = x + \alpha_M(x)$ ) and **P2** ( $q_* = \alpha_X(x) + \Gamma_X(x)u$ ) we determine a necessary structure for  $q_*$ . This structural property is similar to the generic  $\alpha(x) + \beta(x)u$  type structure used in the classical *Exact Input-Output Linearization technique*.
- (h) Finally, Hypothesis **H11** is in fact the necessary technical Lipschitz condition for  $\alpha_M(x)$ .

Thus, we have added two additional technical (non-restrictive) Hypotheses, **H6** and **H7**. Additionally we work with some “functional” Hypotheses, namely, with **H9**, **H10** and **H11** which are related to the frequency response of  $q_*$ .

We strongly agree that the hypotheses we use naturally restrict the application area of the proposed technique. From the other side, the “frequency” hypotheses we consider hold for a very representative class of controlled mechanical systems. Anyway all the hypotheses we consider in our paper are true in the specific case of the general (mechanical) aircraft systems we study in our contribution.

2. This is a generic hypothesis that makes it possible to avoid the linear dependency in the output equations. We followed the recommendation of the Reviewer and eliminated this classic hypothesis from our paper.
3. We have added more technical details to the technical explanation of Theorem 2. We also give more additional comments in the corresponding proof.
4. In our manuscript we have used the LQR technique, with the weighting matrices  $Q = I_2$  and  $R = \rho$  ( $\rho = 5$ ). This fact can be motivated as follows: under the necessary assumptions one can obtain a good closed-loop system behavior by tuning only parameter  $\rho$ . In [3] we have shown some related experimental results. Moreover, we now give more details for an adequate selection of the weighting matrix  $Q$ .

### 3.2. Reviewer # 2

1. Let us note that in the case the pair  $(A, B)$  from (2.2) is controllable, the algebraic equation (2.4) is solvable. By this way (using Theorem 1) we get the externally equivalent representation (2.13).

Please also note that  $q_*$  is contained in  $\text{Im } B$  and its “cancelation” is not a consequence of any pole-zero cancelation. This fact also holds for the condition:  $\text{Im } S \subset \langle A \mid \mathcal{B} \rangle$ . On the other hand, if  $\text{Im } S \not\subset \langle A \mid \mathcal{B} \rangle$ , and  $\text{Im } S \subset \mathcal{V}^* + \langle A \mid \mathcal{B} \rangle$ , where  $\mathcal{V}^*$  is the supremal  $(A, B)$ -invariant subspace contained in  $\ker C$ ,  $\sup\{\mathcal{V} \subset \ker C \mid \exists F : (A + BF)\mathcal{V} \subset \mathcal{V}\}$ , one can apply a so-called “friend” of  $\mathcal{V}^*$ , namely a state feedback

$$F_* \in \{F : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{U} \mid (A + BF)\mathcal{V}^* \subset \mathcal{V}^*\}.$$

This guarantees [8]:

$$\Pi \text{Im } S \subset \Pi \langle A + BF_* \mid \mathcal{B} \rangle,$$

where  $\Pi$  is the canonical projection from  $\mathcal{X}$  onto  $\mathcal{X}/\mathcal{V}^*$ .

2. In this paper, we assume the complete knowledge of the parameters. However, some uncertainties in the parameters can be taken into account by the nonlinear perturbation signal  $q$  (cf. (2.2)) as well.
3. There is no parameter disregard. The signals are exactly canceled and this fact constitutes the main contribution of Section 2. And in Sections 3 and 4 they are attenuated.
4. The Beard-Jones filter is a well-known uncertainties “reconstructor”. We refer to [1, 4, 5, 6, 7] for some necessary technical details.
5. We are very grateful for this remark. Let us note that the classic trajectory tracking problem constitutes a very important topic. Application of the techniques proposed in our paper to the above problem seems to be a very interesting idea and is in fact part of our “future work”.
6. A crosswind is interpreted here as an external perturbation  $q_w$ . In this case we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}x(t) &= Ax(t) + Bu(t) + \begin{bmatrix} S & S_w \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} q \\ q_w \end{bmatrix}, \\ y(t) &= Cx(t). \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 1 has to be applied to  $\begin{bmatrix} S & S_w \end{bmatrix}$ , instead of  $S$ .

7. In the context of the Reviewers question let us note that in the previous Authors work [2, 3] we provided some additional case studies and simulation results.
8. We refer to the items 4 and 6 of the *Minor comments* provided for Reviewer # 1.

### 3.3. Reviewer # 3

1. We have merged Sections 1 and 2 into an unique Section. The importance of the analysis we provided is related to the main idea of our manuscript: we clarify the main idea of our contribution in a brief and simple way. This makes it possible for a reader to get a quick compressive look into the paper. Next, in the subsequent Sections of this paper all these “qualitative” ideas are formally stated and rigorously proved.

2. The conceptual relation between equations (1.3) and (1.4) can be explained as follows: *Applying the conventional gravity compensation control law: < (1.3) > the z-dynamics is represented by the resulting differential equation*

$$(d^2/dt^2 + a_{z,1}d/dt + a_{z,2})z(t) = 0,$$

where  $\pi_z(s) = s^2 + a_{z,1}s + a_{z,2}$  is a Hurwitz polynomial.

3. We have added two figures which illustrate Theorem 2 and Corollary 1. We also shortly discuss these new figures at the end of new Section 4.
4. The PVTOL model is in fact a simple analytic model for the aircraft vehicles dynamics. It is formally close to the real version of a Quadrotor Laboratory Prototype. We have chosen this PVTOL system due to its simplicity and its proximity to the Quadrotor Laboratory Prototype mentioned above. Note that in the previous Authors work [3] we have given details of the control synthesis procedure for an experimental Quadrotor. The above work contains some relevant simulation results as well as necessary formal proofs.

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# Robust Structural Feedback Linearization Based on the Nonlinearities Rejection

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## Abstract

In this paper, we consider a class of affine control systems and propose a new structural feedback linearization technique. This relatively simple approach involves a generic linear-type control scheme and follows the classic failure detection methodology. The robust linearization idea proposed in this contribution makes it possible an effective rejection of nonlinearities that belong to a specific class of functions. The nonlinearities under consideration are interpreted here as specific signals that affect the initially given systems dynamics. The implementability and efficiency of the proposed robust control methodology is illustrated via the attitude control of a Planar Vertical Take Off Landing (PV-TOL) system.

*Keywords:* nonlinear dynamic systems, non-standard feedback linearization, nonlinearities rejection, failure reconstruction.

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**Notation.** The following notation is used through this paper.

- Script capitals  $\mathcal{V}$ ,  $\mathcal{W}$ , ... denote finite dimensional linear spaces with elements  $v$ ,  $w$ , ... The expression  $\mathcal{V} \approx \mathcal{W}$  stands for  $\dim(\mathcal{V}) = \dim(\mathcal{W})$ . Moreover, when  $\mathcal{V} \subset \mathcal{W}$ ,  $\frac{\mathcal{W}}{\mathcal{V}}$  or  $\mathcal{W}/\mathcal{V}$  stands for the quotient space  $\mathcal{W}$  modulo  $\mathcal{V}$ . Next,  $\mathcal{V}^\kappa$  denotes the Cartesian product  $\mathcal{V} \times \dots \times \mathcal{V}$  ( $\kappa$  times). By  $X : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}$ , we denote a linear transformation operating from  $\mathcal{V}$  to  $\mathcal{W}$ . As usually,  $\text{Im } X = X \mathcal{V}$  denotes the image of  $X$  and  $\ker X$  is its kernel. Moreover,  $X^{-1} \mathcal{T}$  stands for the inverse image of  $\mathcal{T} \subset \mathcal{W}$ . The special subspaces  $\text{Im } B$  and  $\ker C$  are denoted by  $\mathcal{B}$ , and  $\mathcal{K}$ , respectively. The zero dimension subspace is indicated as  $0$  and  $\sigma\{A\}$  denotes the spectrum of the linear transformation  $A$ . The identity operator is denoted by  $I$ :  $Ix = x$ ;  $A^0$  is the identity operator, for any given linear transformation  $A$ . The matrix of a given linear transformation  $A : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$  in a given basis is noted as  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ . Additionally, for the elements  $v$ ,  $w$ , ...  $\in$

$\mathcal{X}$  in the given basis, we use the notation  $\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}, \dots \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . In our paper,  $\mathbf{1}$  stands for the vector where all its components are equal to 1 and  $\text{BD}\{\mathbf{X}_1, \dots, \mathbf{X}_k\}$  denotes a block diagonal matrix.  $\mathcal{C}_{(M,S)}$  denotes the controllability map of the pair  $(M, S)$ ,  $M: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$  and  $S: \mathcal{Q} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$ , namely:

$$\mathcal{C}_{(M,S)} = [ S \quad MS \quad \dots \quad M^{(n-1)}S ]$$

and we denote:  $\langle A | \mathcal{B} \rangle = \text{Im } \mathcal{C}_{(A,B)}$ . We also introduce:

$$\mathcal{C}_{(M,S)}^{[\bar{n}]} = [ S \quad MS \quad \dots \quad M^{(\bar{n}-1)}S ].$$

The unobservable subspace of the pair  $(C, M)$ ,  $C: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$  and  $M: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$  is denoted by  $\langle \mathcal{X} | M \rangle$ .

- $d^0/dt^0$  stands for the identity operator:  $d^0v/dt^0 = v$ .  $\Psi_n(d/dt)$  stands for the differential operator (from  $\mathcal{Q}$  to  $\mathcal{Q}^n$ ):

$$\Psi_n(d/dt) = [ I \quad I d/dt \quad \dots \quad I d^{n-1}/dt^{n-1} ]^T.$$

- Given a vector  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , the expression  $\|\mathbf{x}\|$  means the Euclidean norm and  $\mathcal{B}_\rho$  stands for a specific neighborhood with a radius  $\rho$ :

$$\mathcal{B}_\rho = \{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|\mathbf{x}\| < \rho \}.$$

Similarly to the above notation,  $\|\mathbf{x}\|_\infty$  is the usual *sup*-norm and  $\mathcal{C}^\infty$  denotes the set of infinitely differentiable functions.

- We next define the matrix  $A_{c_n} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , and the vectors  $\chi_n^i \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$ ,  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ , as follows:

$$A_{c_n} \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \dots & \cdot & \cdot \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \chi_n^1 \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \chi_n^2 \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \dots, \chi_n^n \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

## 1. Introduction and Motivation

Linearization techniques have been established for a long-time as a powerful tool for simplified analysis and design of general nonlinear dynamic systems. “Linearize” the initial nonlinear problem has various meanings in Applied Mathematics, depending on the areas where it is defined, depending also on what one linearizes (a functional, an equation *etc.*). In the context of a robust control design, when dealing with the practical stabilization of the initially given nonlinear dynamic model, the most common way of looking at linearization is to consider a suitable version of the so called feedback linearization [21]. The initial

concept of feedback linearization was introduced by [21, 35]. The linearization techniques constitute nowadays a crucial tool of the modern Control Theory and are widely used in various engineering applications.

Recall that a general idea for linearization based on the choice of a different state representation has been established since the work of [21] and [29]. This pioneering technique is in some sense similar to a specific choice of references or suitable coordinate systems in Lagrange mechanics. Roughly speaking, the conventional feedback linearization constitutes an equivalent transformation of the original system models into equivalent dynamic models. This resulting model is a simpler one and possesses some useful behavioral properties. In modern engineering, there are many applications of the various feedback linearization approaches. These applications are devoted (but not restricted) to the helicopters flight dynamics, high-performance aircraft control, industrial robots behavior design, biomedical devices and intelligent vehicles control [26, 25, 14, 31, 38, 30, 42].

Also notice that the main idea of the classic feedback linearization is associated in fact with an algebraic transformation of the initially given nonlinear system (see *e.g.* [35, 21, 28, 20]). Evidently, a general linearization benefits the engineering analysis and design from the possibility to apply the well-established techniques of the Linear Control Theory. Consider the following (nonlinear) control-affine system:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}x(t) &= f(x(t)) + g(x(t))u(t), \\ y(t) &= Cx(t), \end{aligned} \tag{1.1}$$

where  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  denotes the state variable,  $y \in \mathbb{R}^p$  is an output and  $u \in \mathbb{R}^m$  is the control input. Here  $p \leq m$ ,  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  are analytic vector fields on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $C \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times n}$ . We now make some technical assumptions that guarantee existence and uniqueness of a local solution to the initial system (1.1).

**H1.** *The origin  $x_o = 0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is an equilibrium point of the autonomous system (1.1) ( $u = 0$ ). That means  $f(0) = 0$ .*

**H2.** *The given functions  $f$  and  $g$  are continuously infinitely differentiable in a neighborhood of the equilibrium point 0.*

From the above assumptions also follows the existence of positive constants  $r_\ell$ ,  $K_{\mathcal{L}_f}$  and  $K_{\mathcal{L}_g}$  such that  $\|f(x_1) - f(x_2)\| \leq K_{\mathcal{L}_f} \|x_1 - x_2\|$ , and  $\|g(x_1) - g(x_2)\| \leq K_{\mathcal{L}_g} \|x_1 - x_2\|$  for all  $x_1, x_2 \in \mathcal{B}_{r_\ell}$ . Note that from **H1** also follows the existence of some positive constants  $h_f$  and  $h_g$  such that  $\|f(0)\| \leq h_f$  and  $\|g(0)\| \leq h_g$  for all  $t \geq 0$ . We refer to [39] for the necessary proofs and corresponding analytical details.

In order to have a wide panorama of this paper, a short overview related to some existing (classic) linearization techniques is now given, as well as the principal ideas issued in this contribution. For this, an academic example is introduced, which will be used all along this paper.

**Example 1.** (*Academic Example*) The PVTOL (Planar Vertical Take off Landing) System of Fig. 1. The PVTOL is one to the most simple (theoretical) aircraft vehicles, which is very close to a (real) Quadrotor Laboratory Prototype. Here  $m_T$  is the total mass,  $J$  is the moment of inertia with respect to the rotation axis  $oy$  and  $L$  denotes the distance from the center of gravity to the thrusters. The motion is considered with respect to a fixed orthogonal axis set  $(oxyz)$ , where  $oz$  points vertically down along the gravity vector  $[0 \ 0 \ g]^T$ . The origin  $o$  is located at the desired height  $\bar{z}$  to the ground level. Moreover,  $\theta$  denotes here the Euler angle determined by the axis  $o_B y_B$ . Here  $(o_B x_B y_B z_B)$  is the body axis system with its origin in  $o_B$  (fixed at the centre of gravity of the PVTOL). The PVTOL moves in the plane  $(oxz)$ . By  $f_1, f_2 \in [0, mg)$  we denote the actuators (thrusters).

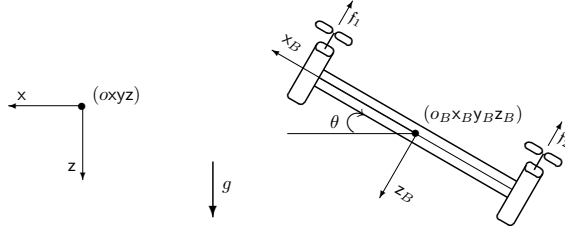


Figure 1: Schematic PVTOL diagram

The mathematical model of the PVTOL system is represented by the following (behavioral) equations. We refer to [15, 11]) for the analytical details.

$$\begin{bmatrix} d^2x/dt^2 \\ d^2\theta/dt^2 \\ d^2z/dt^2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (1/m_T) u_z \tan(\theta) \\ (L/J) u_x \\ (1/m_T) u_z + g \end{bmatrix}. \quad (1.2)$$

Here:

$$u_z = -(f_1 + f_2) \cos \theta \quad \text{and} \quad u_x = (f_1 - f_2).$$

The output and the state variables of the above model can be interpreted as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} y &\doteq x, \\ x &\doteq [x \ dx/dt \ \theta \ d\theta/dt \ z \ dz/dt]^T. \end{aligned}$$

Applying the conventional gravity compensation control law:

$$u_z = m_T ([0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ -a_{z,2} \ -a_{z,1}] x - g) \quad \text{and} \quad u \doteq (L/J) u_x, \quad (1.3)$$

the  $z$ -dynamics is represented by the differential equation:

$$(d^2/dt^2 + a_{z,1} d/dt + a_{z,2}) z(t) = 0,$$

where  $\pi_z(s) = s^2 + a_{z,1}s + a_{z,2}$  is a Hurwitz polynomial. Finally we deduce the nonlinear state description (cf. (1.1))

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}x &= \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ -(g + a_{z,2}x_5 + a_{z,1}x_6)\tan(x_3) \\ x_4 \\ 0 \\ x_6 \\ -(a_{z,2}x_5 + a_{z,1}x_6) \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{f}(x)} + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{g}(x)} u, \\ y &= \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{h(x)} x. \end{aligned} \quad (1.4)$$

### 1.1. An Approximated Input-Output Linearization

One of the classic linearization techniques (widely used by “pioneers” of the modern Control Theory) consists in representation of (1.1) in the form of Taylor’s series around the equilibrium point  $x_o = 0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and in the corresponding approximation using the first order terms. Applying this simple idea we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}x(t) &= Ax(t) + Bu(t) + f_o(x(t), u(t)), \\ y(t) &= Cx(t), \end{aligned} \quad (1.5)$$

where

$$A \doteq [\partial f / \partial x]_{x=0} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}, \quad B \doteq [g]_{x=0} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}, \quad (1.6)$$

and  $x \in \mathcal{X} \approx \mathbb{R}^n$  is the state,  $u \in \mathcal{U} \approx \mathbb{R}^m$  is the input,  $y \in \mathcal{Y} \approx \mathbb{R}^p$  is the output. Moreover, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} f_o(x(t), u(t)) &= \Delta f(x(t)) + \Delta g(x(t))u(t), \\ \Delta f(x(t)) &= f(x(t)) - Ax(t), \\ \Delta g(x(t)) &= g(x(t)) - B. \end{aligned} \quad (1.7)$$

From the above formalism we can deduce that for a sufficiently small neighborhood  $\mathcal{B}_\rho$ :  $|\Delta f(x(t))| \rightarrow 0$  and  $|\Delta g| \rightarrow 0$ , the resulting obtained linear state approximation (for all  $x_\ell \in \mathcal{B}_\rho$ ) can then be written as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}x_\ell(t) &= Ax_\ell(t) + Bu(t), \\ y(t) &= Cx_\ell(t), \end{aligned} \quad (1.8)$$

This classical linearization technique is a formal consequence of the celebrated Stability Principle of the First Approximation (SPFA). Recall that this principle states that the existence of a state feedback,  $F_{st} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , which stabilizes the linear state approximation (1.8), implies the required stability property of (1.5) (by  $F_{st}$ ) in the neighborhood  $\mathcal{B}_\rho$ . We refer to [22], [39], [23], [35], [33] for the corresponding technical details.



For the academic example (1.4), the matrices  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  of (1.8) are (cf. (1.6)):

$$A = \left[ \begin{array}{c|c} A_{0,x} & 0 \\ \hline 0 & A_z \end{array} \right], \quad B = \left[ \begin{array}{c} B_x \\ 0 \end{array} \right], \quad C = [ C_x \mid 0 ], \quad (1.9)$$

where:

$$A_{0,x} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -g & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{cases} A_z = \bar{A}_z + B_z F_z, & F_z = [ -a_{z,2} & -a_{z,1} ] , \\ B_x = \chi_4^4, & C_x = (\chi_4^1)^T, \bar{A}_z = A_{c_2}, B_z = \chi_2^2. \end{cases} \quad (1.10)$$

Moreover, we have  $x = [ x_x \quad x_z ]^T$ ,  $x_x = [ x \quad dx/dt \quad \theta \quad d\theta/dt ]^T$ ,  $x_z = [ z \quad dz/dt ]^T$ .

We next apply the stabilizing state feedback:

$$u = F_x x_x + \bar{u}_x, \quad \text{where: } F_x = [ a_{x,4}/g \quad a_{x,3}/g \quad -a_{x,2} \quad -a_{x,1} ]. \quad (1.11)$$

Note that the characteristic polynomial of the closed loop matrix,

$$A_x = A_{0,x} + B_x F_x, \quad (1.12)$$

is the Hurwitz polynomial:

$$\pi_{x_x}(s) = \det(sI - A_x) = s^4 + a_{x,1}s^3 + a_{x,2}s^2 + a_{x,3}s + a_{x,4}. \quad (1.13)$$

The state space description of the obtained closed loop system can be expressed as:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} x &= \left[ \begin{array}{c|c} A_x & 0 \\ \hline 0 & A_z \end{array} \right] x + \left[ \begin{array}{c} B_x \\ 0 \end{array} \right] \bar{u}_x + \left[ \begin{array}{c} S_x \\ 0 \end{array} \right] q_x(x), \\ x &= [ C_x \mid 0 ] x. \end{aligned} \quad (1.14)$$

Here:

$$\begin{aligned} S_x &= \chi_4^2, \\ q_x(x) &= -(a_{z,2}x_5 + a_{z,1}x_6) \tan(x_3) + g(x_3 - \tan(x_3)) = d^2x/dt^2 + g\theta. \end{aligned} \quad (1.15)$$

## 1.2. An Exact Input-Output Linearization

The next linearization technique we examine here is the so called “*exact input output linearization*”. Consider the basic hypothesis **H1**, **H2** and additionally make the following non-restrictive assumption.

**H3.** *The dynamic system under consideration has relative degree<sup>1</sup>  $n$  at any point in  $\mathbb{R}^n$*

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<sup>1</sup>For the definition of relative degree see [21] and [23].

Taking into consideration the above assumptions, the conventional feedback linearization can effectively be applied to the initial system (1.1) (see *e.g.* [21], [23] and [35]). Let us briefly examine the input-output linearization technique for the specific case:

$$p = m = 1.$$

From **H3** it follows that there exists a specific diffeomorphism  $T_{dif} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\xi(t) = T_{dif}(x(t))$  such that:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}\xi(t) &= A_{c_n} \xi(t) + \chi_n^n (\alpha(x) + \beta(x)u(t)) , \\ y(t) &= (\chi_n^1)^T \xi(t) . \end{aligned} \quad (1.16)$$

Here  $\xi := [\xi_1 \ \cdots \ \xi_n]^T$ .

To get an explicit linearization control law, the additional hypothesis is added.

**H4.** *There exists a known positive constant  $\bar{\beta}$  such that for all  $x$  we have  $0 < \bar{\beta} < \beta(x)$ .*

Taking into consideration the complete knowledge of the system's parameters and applying the ideal control law:

$$u(t) = \beta^{-1}(x) (-\alpha(x) + F_n \xi(t)), \quad F_n = [-a_n \ \cdots \ -a_1] \quad (1.17)$$

we obtain the resulting linear closed loop system

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}\xi(t) &= (A_{c_n} + \chi_n^n F_n) \xi(t) , \\ y(t) &= (\chi_n^1)^T \xi(t) . \end{aligned} \quad (1.18)$$

Here  $\pi_n(s) = s^n + a_1 s^{n-1} + \cdots + a_n$  is a Hurwitz polynomial.

We now apply the exact input-output linearization technique to the academic example (1.4). Differentiating the output and taking into consideration the corresponding relative degree, we observe that:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}\xi &= \left[ \begin{array}{c|c} A_{c_d} & 0 \\ \hline 0 & A_z \end{array} \right] \xi + \left[ \begin{array}{c} B_x \\ 0 \end{array} \right] (\alpha(x) + \beta(x)u) , \\ y &= [ C_x \mid 0 ] \xi . \end{aligned} \quad (1.19)$$

We use here the additional notation:

$$\begin{aligned} \xi &= [ \xi_x^T \quad \xi_z^T ]^T, \quad \xi_x = [ x \quad dx/dt \quad d^2x/dt^2 \quad d^3x/dt^3 ]^T, \\ d^2x/dt^2 &= L_f^2(h) = -(g + a_{z,2}z + a_{z,1}dz/dt) \tan(\theta), \\ d^3x/dt^3 &= L_f^3(h) = -d\theta/dt (g + a_{z,2}z + a_{z,1}dz/dt) \sec^2(\theta) \\ &\quad + (a_{z,1}a_{z,2}z + (a_{z,1}^2 - a_{z,2})dz/dt) \tan(\theta), \end{aligned} \quad (1.20)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\alpha(x) &= L_f^4(h) = d\theta/dt \left( -2 d\theta/dt (g + a_{z,2}z + a_{z,1} dz/dt) \tan(\theta) + a_{z,1} a_{z,2} z \right. \\
&\quad \left. + (a_{z,1}^2 - a_{z,2}) dz/dt \right) \sec^2(\theta) + a_{z,2} dz/dt \left( -d\theta/dt \sec^2(\theta) + a_{z,1} \tan(\theta) \right) \\
&\quad - (a_{z,2}z + a_{z,1} dz/dt) \left( -a_{z,1} d\theta/dt \sec^2(\theta) + (a_{z,1}^2 - a_{z,2}) \tan(\theta) \right), \\
\beta(x) &= L_g^1(L_f^3(h)) = -(g + a_{z,2}z + a_{z,1} dz/dt) \sec^2(\theta).
\end{aligned} \tag{1.21}$$

Implementing the stabilizing state feedback (*cf.* (1.17))  $u = \beta^{-1}(x) (-\alpha(x) + F_4 \xi + \bar{u}_x)$ ,  $F_4 = \begin{bmatrix} -a_{x,4} & -a_{x,3} & -a_{x,2} & -a_{x,1} \end{bmatrix}$ , we finally get the closed loop state space description:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{dt} \xi &= \left[ \begin{array}{c|c} A_{c_4 F_4} & 0 \\ \hline 0 & A_z \end{array} \right] \xi + \left[ \begin{array}{c} B_x \\ 0 \end{array} \right] \bar{u}_x, \\
x &= \left[ C_x \mid 0 \right] \xi.
\end{aligned} \tag{1.22}$$

Note that the characteristic polynomial of the closed loop matrix  $A_{c_4 F_4} = A_{c_4} + B_x F_4$  is the Hurwitz polynomial (1.13).

### 1.3. Exact Structural Linearization

With the help of the academic example (1.4), we now introduce an exact linearization technique based on the system structure. For this, we first apply the change of variable:<sup>2</sup>

$$\zeta_x = x_x - \frac{1}{g} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ d/dt \end{bmatrix} q_x(x) \tag{1.23}$$

to the closed loop system described by (1.14). We next get the state space realization:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{dt} \zeta &= \left[ \begin{array}{c|c} A_x & 0 \\ \hline 0 & A_z \end{array} \right] \zeta + \left[ \begin{array}{c} B_x \\ 0 \end{array} \right] (\bar{u}_x + q_{x,*}(x)), \\
x &= \left[ C_x \mid 0 \right] \zeta.
\end{aligned} \tag{1.24}$$

Observe that  $\zeta = \begin{bmatrix} \zeta_x & x_z \end{bmatrix}^T$  and:<sup>3</sup>

$$\begin{aligned}
q_{x,*}(x) &= -(1/g) (d^2/dt^2 + a_{x,1} d/dt + a_{x,2}) q_x(x) \\
&= -(a_{x,1}/g) (d^3x/dt^3 + g d\theta/dt) - (a_{x,2}/g) (d^2x/dt^2 + g\theta) \\
&\quad - (1/g) (\alpha(x) + (\beta(x) + g) d^2\theta/dt^2).
\end{aligned} \tag{1.25}$$

We also get an expression for the transfer function of the state space realization (1.24):<sup>4</sup>

$$F_{\zeta_x}(s) = C_x (sI - A_x)^{-1} B_x = -g/\pi_{x_x}(s). \tag{1.26}$$

<sup>2</sup>In Section 2.2, we formalize this change of variable, and the computations are done in Example 2.

<sup>3</sup>Recall (1.14), (1.15), (1.12), (1.10), (1.11), and:  $d^4x/dt^4 = \alpha(x) + \beta(x) d^2\theta/dt^2$  (see (1.19) and (1.4)).

<sup>4</sup>Recall (1.12), (1.10), (1.11) and (1.13).

We can now conclude that with the following control law:

$$\bar{u}_x = -q_{x,*}(x)$$

system (1.24) is exactly linearized.

#### 1.4. Robust Asymptotic Feedback Linearization

If the computation of (1.25) would not be possible or would be a hard work, we could try to estimate it. Based on the Beard-Jones filter (cf. [4, 19, 27, 36, 41]), the following dynamic output feedback is proposed:<sup>5</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}w_x &= (A_{K_x} + B_x G_x^\ell C_x) w_x - (K_x + B_x G_x^\ell) x, \\ \bar{u}_x &= G_x^\ell C_x w_x - G_x^\ell x, \end{aligned} \quad (1.27)$$

where:

$$A_{K_x} = A_x + K_x C_x, \quad G_x^\ell = -(C_x A_{K_x}^{-1} B_x)^\ell, \\ K_x = \begin{bmatrix} a_{x,3} & a_{x,2} & -a_{x,1}g & -g \\ a_{x,2} & a_{x,1} & -g & 0 \\ a_{x,1} & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} a_{x,4} - a_{x_o,4} \\ a_{x,3} - a_{x_o,3} \\ a_{x,2} - a_{x_o,2} \\ a_{x,1} - a_{x_o,1} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (1.28)$$

The characteristic polynomial of  $A_{K_x}$  is the Hurwitz polynomial:

$$\pi_{e_x}(s) = \det(sI - A_{K_x}) = s^4 + a_{x_o,1}s^3 + a_{x_o,2}s^2 + a_{x_o,3}s + a_{x_o,4}. \quad (1.29)$$

Introducing the new state variable,  $e_x = w_x - \zeta_x$ , we get from (1.27) and (1.24), the modified closed loop state description:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} e_x \\ \zeta_x \\ x_z \end{bmatrix} &= \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} A_{K_x} & 0 & 0 \\ B_x G_x^\ell C_x & A_x & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & A_z \end{bmatrix}}_{A_{CL}} \begin{bmatrix} e_x \\ \zeta_x \\ x_z \end{bmatrix} + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} -B_x \\ B_x \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{B_{CL}} q_{x,*}(x), \\ x &= \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & C_x & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{C_{CL}} \begin{bmatrix} e_x^T & \zeta_x^T & x_z^T \end{bmatrix}^T. \end{aligned} \quad (1.30)$$

The transfer functions involved in the state space realization (1.30) are defined here:<sup>6</sup>

$$F_{e_x}(s) = G_x^\ell C_x (sI - A_{K_x})^{-1} B_x = a_{x_o,4}/\pi_{e_x}(s), \quad (1.31)$$

<sup>5</sup>This control law is studied in Section 3, and the computations are done in Example 3.

<sup>6</sup>Recall (1.28), (1.26), (1.29), (1.10), (1.11) and (1.12),

$$\begin{aligned}
F_{CL}(s) &= C_{CL} (sI - A_{CL})^{-1} B_{CL} \\
&= [ 0 \mid C_x ] \left[ \begin{array}{c|c} (sI - A_{K_x})^{-1} & 0 \\ \hline (sI - A_x)^{-1} B_x G_x^t C_x (sI - A_{K_x})^{-1} & (sI - A_x)^{-1} \end{array} \right] \left[ \begin{array}{c} -I \\ I \end{array} \right] B_x \\
F_{CL}(s) &= F_{\zeta_x}(s) \left( 1 - F_{e_x}(s) \right) = -\frac{g}{\pi_{x_x}(s)} \left( 1 - \frac{a_{x_o,4}}{\pi_{e_x}(s)} \right) = -g \frac{s \bar{\pi}_{w_x}(s)}{\pi_{x_x}(s) \pi_{e_x}(s)}.
\end{aligned} \tag{1.32}$$

We use above the additional notation  $\bar{\pi}_{w_x}(s) = s^3 + a_{x_o,1} s^2 + a_{x_o,2} s + a_{x_o,3}$ .

### 1.5. Discussion

Let us compare the linearization techniques overviewed in Section 1.

*1. The Approximated Input-Output Linearization.* A natural approach to control nonlinear systems is to use the classical Taylor approximation. This is in fact a very simple approach. However, the corresponding techniques must be applicable in a small neighborhood of a fixed set point. Under some restrictive assumptions related to the external disturbance, this technique can be useful for classes of regulation problems. On the other hand, it is not recommended, for example, in tracking control problems.

*2. Exact Input-Output Linearization.* The feedback linearization problem is implemented by a (specific) exact state transformation and an application of the feedback control strategy. Notice that this analytic approach requires a complete knowledge of the dynamic model parameters as well as of the corresponding derivatives. However, in many engineering applications, this assumption is not valid. This is true, for example, for problems from the area of industrial robotics, helicopters control, high-performance aircraft control. This situation also occurs in biomedicine and vehicles control (see [37]). To study this problem, many alternative solution approaches have been proposed. We refer to [1, 3, 8, 10, 13, 18, 24] for some well-established and practically implementable feedback linearization techniques in the absence of the exact systems description. In all the works mentioned above, it is required to make some (usually restrictive) additional assumptions related to the main system model. We can mention the so called ‘‘communication’’ system or external dynamics or the complete state measurability assumptions. Evidently, for the general nonlinear systems and also for the control-affine class, these *a priori* assumptions are difficult to verify.

*3. Exact Structural Linearization.* In Section 1.3, we propose an exact linearization methodology based on a change of variable (*cf.* (1.23)). In Theorem 1 (see Section 2), we explain in details how to find it. Additionally in Lemma 1, we show that this change of variable is supported by the controllability structure of the linearized system (obtained by means of the first order Taylor series based approximation).

Let us compare the exact structural feedback linearization introduced in Section 1.3 and the well known exact input-output linearization, recalled in Section 1.2. In order to enlighten the main idea, consider here  $a_{x,4} = a_{x,3} = a_{x,2}$

$= a_{x,1} = 0$ . From (1.11), (1.4) and taking into consideration (1.25), we next get the specific control design that corresponds to the proposed linearization

$$u = \bar{u}_x, \quad d^2\theta/dt^2 = u \quad \text{and} \quad q_{x,*}(x) = -(1/g) \left( \alpha(x) + (\beta(x) + g) u \right).$$

Additionally, we also obtain the useful relations (recall (1.24), (1.23) and (1.15)):

$$\begin{aligned} (\alpha(x) + \beta(x) u) &= -g (u + q_{x,*}(x)) = -g \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T d\zeta_x/dt \\ &= -g d^2\theta/dt^2 + d^2q_x/dt^2 \\ (\alpha(x) + \beta(x) u) &= d^4x/dt^4, \end{aligned}$$

which can be exactly identified with (1.19).

Note that the above compliance is not a surprising result. Both of the considered procedures are in fact exact linearizations and naturally lead to the same formal result. The formal difference consists in the manner of obtaining this exact linearization. The advantage of the linear representation which we propose is that the nonlinear uncertainty signal  $q_*$  can be treated as an additive disturbance signal. Note that this approach constitutes a specific MIMO procedure that pre-stabilizes the given system matrix  $A$ .

*4. Robust Asymptotic Feedback Linearization .* Some important features of the indicated control scheme are emphasized hereafter.

1. Since the nonlinear uncertainty signal  $q_*$  obtained in Section 1.3 can be treated as an additive disturbance signal (*cf.* (1.24)), one can then use the well developed linear tools for the disturbances rejections (as for example the Beard-Jones filter (1.27)).
2. For synthesizing the Beard-Jones filter (1.27) the only information one needs is the linear approximation of first variation (1.8) ((1.9)-(1.12) in example).
3. The transfer function (1.32) of the closed-loop state space representation (1.30) constitutes a typical low-pass filter. If the norm of the time derivative of the nonlinear uncertainty signal (1.25) is bounded  $\|dq_{x,*}/dt\|_\infty \leq \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{R}}$  ( $q_{x,*}$  has a finite slew rate  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{R}}$ ), this implies that the steady-state response of (1.30) can be attenuated by increasing the bandwidth of the Beard-Jones filter (1.27). This fact is formally proved in our Lemmas 2 and 3 of Section 3.
4. From consideration of the transfer function (1.31), we can deduce that the remainder generator  $\hat{q}_{x,*} = -G_x^\ell C_x e$  of the Beard-Jones filter (1.27) is in fact a reconstructor of the nonlinear uncertainty signal  $q_{x,*}$ . Therefore the “increment” of the bandwidth of the Beard-Jones filter (1.27) implies that the remainder generator  $\hat{q}_{x,*}$  tends to the nonlinear uncertainty signal  $q_{x,*}$ . The last one implies its attenuation (see the algebraic part of equation (1.27)). Resulting from that, the usual neighborhood stability will be extended (in the sense of an extended neighborhood). This useful property of the proposed control design is formally proved in Corollary 1 (see Section 4).

When using linearization techniques in control, one needs to discuss the conservativeness of the resulting control design approach. This necessity is a simple consequence of the obvious approximating character of the linearization procedures with respect to the initially given dynamics. We discuss these conservativeness [16, 17, 23] aspects after our main theoretical results, namely, after Theorem 2 and Corollary 1, in Section 4.

The remainder of our paper is organized as follows.

In Section 2, we present our main result, namely, the structural feedback linearization technique that we propose. The robust asymptotic extension of the resulting structural feedback linearization is discussed in Section 3. Section 4 is devoted to some theoretical extensions of the main linearization idea proposed in Section 2. The practically oriented example of a PVTOL system is used throughout the paper to illustrate the efficiency of the proposed linearization approach. This culminates in Section 5 that is devoted to the numerical treatment of the PVTOL control. Section 6 summarizes our paper.

## 2. The Structural Linearization Approach

This section introduces a novel linearization technique for the class of control-affine dynamic systems under consideration. The proposed linearization methodology is based on the given internal structure of the state description of the linearized system characterized by the pair  $(A, B)$ , with:

$$A \doteq [\partial f / \partial x]_{x=0} \quad \text{and} \quad B \doteq [g]_{x=0} .$$

For this reason, we characterize formally the admissible system nonlinearities (see Theorem 1) which are specified by an additional nonlinear perturbation signal  $q$ . This characterization is based on a suitable change of variable obtained by means of an auxiliary algebraic structural equation, stated in Lemma 1. The last result makes it possible to map the nonlinear perturbation signal  $q$  into a new *nonlinear perturbation signal*  $q_*$ .

Let us now introduce some additional technical assumptions.

### H5. *Structural Assumptions:*

1.  $B$  is monic, that is:  $\ker B = 0$ .
2. The pair  $(A, B)$  is controllable.
3. The pair  $(C, A)$  is observable.

For the technical proofs of our main theoretic results, we also need some auxiliary results and facts that are collected in the following subsection.

### 2.1. The Structural Decomposition

Consider the following assumption.

**H6.** *There exist an uncertainty vector (nonlinear perturbation signal)  $q \in \mathcal{Q} \approx \mathbb{R}^\mu$  and a linear transformation  $S : \mathcal{Q} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$  such that:*

$$f_o(x(t), u(t)) = S q(x(t), u(t)). \quad (2.1)$$

Application of the above transformation to the initially given system (1.5), implies the rewritten dynamic model:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}x(t) &= A x(t) + B u(t) + S q, \\ y(t) &= C x(t). \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

We now prove our next result.

**Lemma 1.** *Assume that **H5.1** and **H5.2** are true. Then:*

1. *the images of  $A$  and  $B$  span the whole state space  $\mathcal{X}$ :*

$$\text{Im } A + \mathcal{B} = \mathcal{X}; \quad (2.3)$$

2. *the linear transformation  $[A \ B] : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$  is right invertible and there exist linear transformations  $M : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$  and  $X : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  such that:*

$$A M + B X = I; \quad (2.4)$$

3. *there exists a nilpotent solution  $M : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$  of (2.4) which satisfies:*

$$M^n = 0. \quad (2.5)$$

*Proof.* From **H5.2**, we get:  $\mathcal{X} = \langle A \mid \mathcal{B} \rangle \subset \text{Im } A + \mathcal{B} \subset \mathcal{X}$ , which implies:  $\text{Im } A + \mathcal{B} = \mathcal{X}$ . The right invertibility (2.4) of  $[A \ B]$  is a direct consequence of (2.3).

From (2.4), we conclude that  $\text{Im } (I - A M) \subset \text{Im } B = \ker \widehat{N}$ , where  $\widehat{N} : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}/\mathcal{B}$  is the canonical projection, thus:

$$\widehat{N} A M = \widehat{N}. \quad (2.6)$$

From **H5.1**, there exists a left inverse  $B^\ell : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  of  $B : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$ , then once found a matrix  $M$  solving (2.6), one solution of (2.4) is:

$$X = B^\ell (I - A M), \quad (2.7)$$

Using now the celebrated Brunovsky's Theorem [9], one can deduce the existence of bases in  $\mathcal{X}$ ,  $\mathcal{U}$  and  $\mathcal{X}/\mathcal{B}$  with the property:

$$\widehat{N} A = \text{BD} \{G_1, \dots, G_m\} \quad \text{and} \quad \widehat{N} = \text{BD} \{N_1, \dots, N_m\}, \quad (2.8)$$



Here  $G_i$  and  $N_i$  are matrices in  $\mathbb{R}^{(\kappa_{i-1}) \times \kappa_i}$ ,  $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$  with the property  $\sum_{i=1}^m \kappa_i = n$  and:

$$G_i = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdots & \cdot & \cdot \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad N_i = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdots & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (2.9)$$

The last relation implies that the matrix  $M$  is defined as follows<sup>7</sup>:

$$M = \text{BD} \left\{ M_{1[\kappa_1]}, \dots, M_{m[\kappa_m]} \right\}, \quad M_{i[\kappa_i]} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdots & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{\kappa_i \times \kappa_i}, \quad (2.10)$$

where  $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ . It satisfies conditions (2.4) and (2.5). The proof is completed.  $\square$

We are now ready to present our first main result. For a better readability, this result is organized in a separated subsection.

## 2.2. The Exact Scheme of the Structural Feedback

### Linearization

The next technical assumption constitutes in fact a future restriction of the dynamic models under consideration. On the other hand, novel control design techniques (in our case a linearization based design) are nowadays associated with some subclasses of general control systems. These particular subclasses are of a specific interest in some areas of the modern Control Engineering and one can treat and “robustify” these systems using some specific properties of the given dynamics. Exactly these properties constitute in fact the systems restrictions mentioned above.

**H7.** *The subspace  $M \text{Im } S$  is contained in the unobservable subspace  $\langle \mathcal{K} \mid M \rangle$ , namely:*

$$C M C_{(M,S)} = 0. \quad (2.11)$$

**Theorem 1.** *Given the linear transformations  $M$  and  $X$  from Lemma 1, consider the following change of variable:*

$$\zeta(t) = x(t) + M C_{(M,S)} \Psi_n(d/dt) q(x(t), u(t)). \quad (2.12)$$

---

<sup>7</sup>Notice that this matrix  $M$  corresponds to the transpose matrix of the Brunovsky canonical form of  $A$ .

Under Assumptions **H5.1**, **H5.2** and **H7**, the state representation (2.2) is externally equivalent to the following <sup>8</sup>:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dt}\zeta(t) &= A\zeta(t) + B\left(u(t) + q_*(x(t), u(t))\right), \\ y(t) &= C\zeta(t),\end{aligned}\tag{2.13}$$

where the nonlinear uncertainty signal  $q_*$  is given by:

$$q_*(x(t), u(t)) = X\mathcal{C}_{(M,S)}\Psi_n(d/dt)q(x(t), u(t)).\tag{2.14}$$

*Proof.* From (2.12) and (2.11), we deduce:

$$C\zeta(t) = Cx(t) + CM\mathcal{C}_{(M,S)}\Psi_n(d/dt)q(x(t), u(t)) = Cx(t).\tag{2.15}$$

Applying the change of variable (2.12) to (2.2), and taking into account (2.4) and (2.5), we get:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dt}\zeta &= A\left(\zeta - M\sum_{i=0}^{n-1}M^iS\frac{d^i}{dt^i}q\right) + Bu + Sq + M\sum_{i=0}^{n-1}M^iS\frac{d^{i+1}}{dt^{i+1}}q \\ &= A\zeta + (BX - I)\sum_{i=0}^{n-1}M^iS\frac{d^i}{dt^i}q + Bu + Sq + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1}M^iS\frac{d^i}{dt^i}q \\ &= A\zeta + B\left(u + X\sum_{i=0}^{n-1}M^iS\frac{d^i}{dt^i}q\right).\end{aligned}$$

The proof is completed. □

Theorem 1 makes it possible to represent an initially given sophisticated system (2.2) in a specific form which includes an uncertainty signal explicitly determined. We can next use this result and easily define a control strategy that constitutes a feedback linearization. Following this linearization idea, we conclude that the input design:

$$u(t) = -q_*(x(t), u(t)),\tag{2.16}$$

for the dynamic system described by (2.13) represents an exact feedback linearizing control.

Hereafter, some conceptual observations are done.

**Remark 1.** *Roughly speaking, condition (2.11)  $M\text{Im}S \subset \langle \mathcal{K} \mid M \rangle$  implies that  $M\text{Im}S$  is contained in the output decoupling zeros modes [34, 2] of the Brunovsky dual system (cf. (2.10))  $d\bar{x}/dt = M\bar{x} + Sq$  and  $\bar{y} = C\bar{x}$ .*

---

<sup>8</sup>Recall that two representations are called externally equivalent if the corresponding sets of all possible trajectories for the external variables expressed in an *input/output partition*  $(u, y)$  are the same [40, 33].

**Remark 2.** Condition (2.11)  $M \text{Im } S \subset \langle \mathcal{X} \mid M \rangle$  involves that any trajectory  $\bar{x}(\cdot)$  of the Brunovsky dual system (cf. (2.10))  $d\bar{x}/dt = M\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y} = C\bar{x}$  (such that the initial condition belongs to  $M \text{Im } S$ ) is unobservable.

**Remark 3.** When the pair  $(A, B)$  of the system represented by (2.2) is controllable, then the algebraic equation (2.4) is solvable, and thus from Theorem 1, we get the externally equivalent representation (2.13). Notice that  $q_*$  is contained in  $\text{Im } B$ , so its cancelation is not due to any pole-zero cancelation. This fact remains true for the condition:  $\text{Im } S \subset \langle A \mid \mathcal{B} \rangle$ . In the case that  $\text{Im } S \not\subset \langle A \mid \mathcal{B} \rangle$ , but  $\text{Im } S \subset \mathcal{V}^* + \langle A \mid \mathcal{B} \rangle$ , where  $\mathcal{V}^*$  is the supremal  $(A, B)$ -invariant subspace contained in  $\ker C$ ,  $\sup\{\mathcal{V} \subset \ker C \mid \exists F : (A + BF)\mathcal{V} \subset \mathcal{V}\}$ , one can then apply a friend state feedback,  $F_* \in \{F : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{U} \mid (A + BF)\mathcal{V}^* \subset \mathcal{V}^*\}$ , for getting [43]:  $\Pi \text{Im } S \subset \Pi \langle A + BF_* \mid \mathcal{B} \rangle$ , where  $\Pi$  is the canonical projection of  $\mathcal{X}$  onto  $\mathcal{X}/\mathcal{V}^*$ . Hence, Theorem 1 is applied to the system quotiented by  $\mathcal{V}^*$ . In this quotient procedure could occur a pole-zero cancelation, and one must thus check that there is no a non-Hurwitz zero cancelation.

The second technical part of our main Example is now presented.

**Example 2** (Structural Linearization Approach). Consider the Academic Example 1 introduced in Section 1 and use the main Theorem 1. Taking into account (1.6)–(1.7) in (1.4) and applying the stabilizing state feedback (1.11), we get (1.14).

Recall that  $\pi_x(s) = \det(sI - A_x)$  is a Hurwitz polynomial (cf. (1.13)), and notice that (i)  $\ker B_x = 0$ , (ii) the pair  $(A_x, B_x)$  is controllable and (iii) the pair  $(C_x, A_x)$  is observable.

We now consider the solution of equation  $A_x M_x + B_x X_x = I_4$  that can formally be expressed as:

$$M_x = T_x M_{1[4]} T_x^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1/g & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad X_x = B_x^\ell (I_4 - A_x M_x) = \begin{bmatrix} -a_{x,3}/g \\ -a_{x,2}/g \\ a_{x,1} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}^T. \quad (2.17)$$

From (2.17) and (1.12) we next deduce:

$$\begin{aligned} A_x M_x + B_x X_x &= I_4, \quad M_x^4 = 0, \quad C_x M_x \mathcal{C}_{(M_x, S_x)} = 0, \\ M_x \mathcal{C}_{(M_x, S_x)} \Psi_4(d/dt) &= -(1/g) [0 \ 0 \ 1 \ d/dt]^T, \\ X_x \mathcal{C}_{(M_x, S_x)} \Psi_4(\frac{d}{dt}) &= -(1/g) (d^2/dt^2 + a_{x,1} d/dt + a_{x,2}). \end{aligned} \quad (2.18)$$

Moreover, from (2.18), (2.12) and (2.14), it follows that the change of variable  $\zeta_x = x_x + M_x \mathcal{C}_{(M_x, S_x)} \Psi_4(d/dt) q_x(x)$  has the form (1.23) and that the nonlinear uncertainty signal  $q_{x,*}(x) = X_x \mathcal{C}_{(M_x, S_x)} \Psi_4(\frac{d}{dt}) q_x(x)$  has the form (1.25).

### 3. Robust Asymptotic Feedback Linearization

Recall that the exact feedback linearization (2.16) usually requires a complete knowledge of the system model. Moreover, one also needs the exact formal expressions of the necessary time derivatives in the given nonlinear perturbation signal  $q(x, u)$  (cf. (2.14)). On the other hand, the approach that we propose has some evident advantages in comparison with the mentioned classical feedback linearizations. Note that we deal with *a priori* unknown nonlinearities  $q_*(x, u)$  that belong to  $\mathcal{B}$ . In the context of Assumption **H5.3** these unknown nonlinearities can effectively be treated with disturbance rejectors based on standard state observers. Let us now introduce the necessary formal hypothesis.

**H8.** *The state space description  $\Sigma(A, B, C)$  (2.2) has no finite invariant zeros at the origin. That formally means:*

$$\text{Im } B \cap A \ker C = 0. \quad (3.1)$$

Assumptions **H5.3** and **H8** make it possible to apply results of [5] and to design a robust disturbance rejection (based on the Beard-Jones filter (cf. [4, 19, 27, 36, 41])):

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} w(t) &= (A + KC) w(t) - Ky(t) + Bu(t), \\ \hat{q}_*(t) &= -G^\ell (C w(t) - y(t)), \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

and:

$$u(t) = u_c(t) - \hat{q}_*(t). \quad (3.3)$$

Here  $K : \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  is an “output injection” that can be computed as follows:

$$\sigma \{(A + KC)\} \subset \mathbb{C}^-, \quad (3.4)$$

and  $G^\ell$  is a left inverse of the static gain  $-C(A + KC)^{-1}B$ . The remainder generator is expressed as:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} e(t) &= A_K e(t) - B q_*(x, u), \\ \hat{q}_*(t) &= -G^\ell C e(t), \end{aligned} \quad (3.5)$$

where  $A_K \doteq (A + KC)$ , and  $e(t) = w(t) - \zeta(t)$ .

When the classic Laplace transform of  $q_*(x, u)$  is well-defined, we get:

$$\hat{q}_*(s) = G^\ell F(s) q_*(s). \quad (3.6)$$

Under the natural boundedness assumptions for  $q(x, u)$  with a bandwidth  $\omega_c$ , we have to synthesize a Hurwitz low-pass filter  $F(s)$  with a corner frequency  $\omega_c$ . This is with the aims to achieve a robust disturbance in a neighborhood around the equilibrium point  $(x, u) = (0, 0)$ . We also deduce:

$$\|q_*(\omega) - \hat{q}_*(\omega)\| \leq \|(I - G^\ell F(j\omega)) X \mathcal{C}_{(M, S)} \Psi_n(j\omega)\| \|q(\omega)\|. \quad (3.7)$$

We now study the third technical part of the main illustrative example.

**Example 3** (Robust Asymptotic Linearization Approach). *From (1.24), (1.12), (3.2) and (3.3), we deduce the state description (cf. (1.27)):*

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dt}\bar{w}_x &= (\bar{A}_{\bar{K}_x} + \bar{B}_x G_x^\ell \bar{C}_x) \bar{w}_x - (\bar{K}_x + \bar{B}_x G_x^\ell) x, \\ \bar{u}_x &= G_x^\ell \bar{C}_x \bar{w}_x - G_x^\ell x,\end{aligned}\quad (3.8)$$

where  $\bar{w}_x = T_{ox}^{-1} w_x$ ,  $T_{ox} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{x,3} & a_{x,2} & -a_{x,1}g & -g \\ a_{x,2} & a_{x,1} & -g & 0 \\ a_{x,1} & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}^{-1}$ ,  $\bar{A}_{\bar{K}_x} = \bar{A}_x + \bar{K}_x \bar{C}_x$ ,  
 $(\bar{A}_x, \bar{B}_x, \bar{C}_x, \bar{K}_x) = (T_{ox}^{-1} A_x T_{ox}, T_{ox}^{-1} B_x, C_x T_{ox}, T_{ox}^{-1} K_x)$ ,  $G_x^\ell = -(C_x A_{\bar{K}_x}^{-1} B_x)^\ell$   
 $= -(\bar{C}_x \bar{A}_{\bar{K}_x}^{-1} \bar{B}_x)^\ell$ , and (cf. (1.28))

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{A}_x &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & -a_{x,4} \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & -a_{x,3} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -a_{x,2} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -a_{x,1} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \bar{B}_x = \begin{bmatrix} -g \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \bar{K}_x = \begin{bmatrix} a_{x,4} - a_{x_o,4} \\ a_{x,3} - a_{x_o,3} \\ a_{x,2} - a_{x_o,2} \\ a_{x,1} - a_{x_o,1} \end{bmatrix}, \\ G_x^\ell &= -(\bar{C}_x \bar{A}_{\bar{K}_x}^{-1} \bar{B}_x)^\ell = -a_{x_o,4}/g, \quad \bar{C}_x = [0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1].\end{aligned}\quad (3.9)$$

The characteristic polynomial and the corresponding transfer function are expressed as follows (cf. (1.31) and (1.29)):

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_{e_x}(s) &= \det(sI - \bar{A}_{\bar{K}_x}) = s^4 + a_{x_o,1}s^3 + a_{x_o,2}s^2 + a_{x_o,3}s + a_{x_o,4}, \\ F_{e_x}(s) &= G_x^\ell \bar{C}_x (sI - \bar{A}_{\bar{K}_x})^{-1} \bar{B}_x = a_{x_o,4}/\pi_{e_x}(s).\end{aligned}\quad (3.10)$$

The characteristic polynomial, the system zeros polynomial and the transfer function of the Beard-Jones filter (3.8) have the known expressions (recall (1.13)):

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_{\bar{w}_x}(s) &= \det(sI - (\bar{A}_{\bar{K}_x} + \bar{B}_x G_x^\ell \bar{C}_x)) = s \bar{\pi}_{\bar{w}_x}(s), \\ \bar{\pi}_{\bar{w}_x}(s) &= s^3 + a_{x_o,1}s^2 + a_{x_o,2}s + a_{x_o,3},\end{aligned}\quad (3.11)$$

$$\varphi_{\bar{w}_x}(s) = \det \left[ \frac{sI - (\bar{A}_{\bar{K}_x} + \bar{B}_x G_x^\ell \bar{C}_x)}{-G_x^\ell \bar{C}_x} \middle| \begin{array}{c} -(\bar{K}_x + \bar{B}_x G_x^\ell) \\ -G_x^\ell \end{array} \right] = -G_x^\ell \pi_{x_x}(s), \quad (3.12)$$

$$F_{\bar{w}_x}(s) = \varphi_{\bar{w}_x}(s)/\pi_{\bar{w}_x}(s) = -G_x^\ell \pi_{x_x}(s) / (s \bar{\pi}_{\bar{w}_x}(s)). \quad (3.13)$$

Note that:

$$s \bar{\pi}_{\bar{w}_x}(s) + a_{x_o,4} = \pi_{e_x}(s). \quad (3.14)$$

The last equation is of a primary importance because it makes it possible to define the Hurwitz polynomials  $\bar{\pi}_{\bar{w}_x}(s)$  and  $\pi_{e_x}(s)$ . In that case, the transfer function of the closed loop system (3.8) and (1.24) has a self-closed form (cf. (1.32))<sup>9</sup>:

$$F_{CL}(s) = \frac{F_{\zeta_x}(s)}{1 - F_{\zeta_x}(s)F_{\bar{w}_x}(s)} = \frac{-g}{\pi_{x_x}(s)} \frac{s \bar{\pi}_{\bar{w}_x}(s)}{(s \bar{\pi}_{\bar{w}_x}(s) + a_{x_o,4})} = -g \frac{s \bar{\pi}_{\bar{w}_x}(s)}{\pi_{x_x}(s) \pi_{e_x}(s)}. \quad (3.15)$$

<sup>9</sup>Recall that:  $G_x^\ell = -a_{x_o,4}/g$ ; see (3.9).

If  $q_{x,*}(x)$  is a bounded signal, its steady-state response tends to zero. If it is a signal with a bounded slew rate, then its steady-state response can be attenuated by increasing the bandwidth  $a_{x_o,4}/a_{x_o,3}$ . These conclusions and the possibility to study the corresponding equivalent representations of the given control-affine dynamic systems are direct consequences of the main Theorem 1.

We now consider dynamic systems (2.13), (3.5) and (3.3). The corresponding closed-loop model is expressed as follows (cf. (1.30)):

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dt}\zeta(t) &= A\zeta(t) + B(u_c(t) + \tilde{q}_*(t)), \\ \frac{d}{dt}e(t) &= A_K e(t) - B q_*(x, u), \\ \tilde{q}_*(t) &= q_*(t) + G^\ell C e(t), \\ y(t) &= C \zeta(t).\end{aligned}\tag{3.16}$$

The time response of the uncertainty error  $\tilde{q}_*(t) = q_*(t) - \hat{q}_*(t)$  has the form:

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{q}_*(t) &= q_*(t) + G^\ell C \left( \exp(A_K t) e(0) - \int_0^t \exp(A_K(t-\tau)) B q_*(\tau) d\tau \right), \\ &= G^\ell C \exp(A_K t) \tilde{k}_0 - G^\ell C A_K^{-1} \int_0^t \exp(A_K(t-\tau)) B \frac{dq_*(\tau)}{d\tau} d\tau,\end{aligned}\tag{3.17}$$

where  $\tilde{k}_0 = e(0) - A_K^{-1} B q_*(0)$ . The time response of the output in that case can be directly calculated:

$$y(t) = C \exp(At) \zeta(0) + C \int_0^t \exp(A(t-\tau)) B (u_c(\tau) + \tilde{q}_*(\tau)) d\tau.\tag{3.18}$$

We additionally assume that the uncertainty signal  $q_*$  has a finite slew rate  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{R}}$ :

**H9.**  $\exists \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{R}} \in \mathbb{R}^+$  and  $\|dq_*/dt\|_\infty \leq \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{R}}$ .

Under the above hypothesis we obtain the next analytic result.

**Lemma 2.** Assume that the spectrum  $\sigma_K$  of  $A_K$ , has no repeated eigenvalues. Denote by  $\bar{\omega}_i$  the modulus of each eigenvalue of  $\sigma_K$  and assume that the elements of  $\sigma_K$  have been re-ordered with  $\bar{\omega}_1 \leq \dots \leq \bar{\omega}_n$ . Moreover, let  $\varrho_i$  be scale factors of the natural frequencies  $\bar{\omega}_i$ , namely  $\varrho_i = \bar{\omega}_i / \bar{\omega}_1$ . There then exist positive constants  $k_1, k_3$  and  $\alpha_0$  such that:

$$\|\tilde{q}_*(t)\| \leq k_1 e^{-\alpha_0 t} \|\tilde{k}_0\| + (k_3/\alpha_0) \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{R}} \frac{\varrho_n^{n-1}}{\bar{\omega}_1}.\tag{3.19}$$

Moreover, for any positive constant  $\varepsilon_1$  there exist a time  $t_1 > 0$  and a bandwidth  $\bar{\omega}_1 \in \mathbb{R}^+$  with the property:

$$\|\tilde{q}_*(t)\| \leq \varepsilon_1 \quad \forall t \geq t_1.\tag{3.20}$$

If (2.13) is Hurwitz stable, there then exists a positive constant  $k_4$  such that:

$$\left\| y(t) - \left( C \exp(A(t-t_1)) \zeta(t_1) + C \int_{t_1}^t \exp(A(t-\tau)) B u_c(\tau) d\tau \right) \right\| \leq k_4 \varepsilon_1,\tag{3.21}$$

for all  $t \geq t_1$ .

We next prove Lemma 2.

*Proof.* Since  $A_K$  is assumed to be Hurwitz, there exists  $k_0$  and  $\alpha_0$  such that the norm of the time response of the uncertainty error can be expressed as (see (3.17) and **H9**):

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{q}_*(t)\| &\leq k_1 e^{-\alpha_0 t} \|\tilde{k}_0\| + k_2 \|A_K^{-1}\| \int_0^t e^{-\alpha_0(t-\tau)} \left\| \frac{dq_*(\tau)}{d\tau} \right\| d\tau, \\ &\leq k_1 e^{-\alpha_0 t} \|\tilde{k}_0\| + (k_2/\alpha_0) \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{R}} \|A_K^{-1}\|, \end{aligned} \quad (3.22)$$

where  $k_1 = k_0 \|G^\ell C\|$  and  $k_2 = k_0 \|G^\ell C\| \|B\|$ . From Theorem II.5.10 of [12] we deduce:

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{q}_*(t)\| &\leq k_1 e^{-\alpha_0 t} \|\tilde{k}_0\| + (k_2/\alpha_0) \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{R}} \frac{\|A_K\|^{n-1}}{|\det A_K|}, \\ &\leq k_1 e^{-\alpha_0 t} \|\tilde{k}_0\| + (k_2/\alpha_0) \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{R}} \frac{\|A_K\|^{n-1}}{\bar{\omega}_1^n}, \\ &\leq k_1 e^{-\alpha_0 t} \|\tilde{k}_0\| + (k_3/\alpha_0) \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{R}} \frac{\rho_n^{n-1}}{\bar{\omega}_1}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.23)$$

This fact proves (3.19).

Moreover, (3.20) is a direct consequence of (3.19) and relation (3.21) follows from (3.18) - (3.20), where

$$k_4 = \left\| C \int_{t_1}^{\infty} \exp(A(t-\tau)) B d\tau \right\|. \quad (3.24)$$

□

Lemma 2 makes it possible to consider a disturbance with a band limited spectrum and to establish our next result under the next assumption.

**H10.** Assume  $q_*$  is a band-limited function, namely, there exists a  $\mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}} > 0$  such that:

$$\mathbf{Q}_*(\omega) = 0, \quad \text{for all } |\omega| > \mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}},$$

with  $\mathbf{Q}_*(\omega)$  as a Fourier transform of  $q_*(t)$ .

**Lemma 3.** Under Assumption **H10**, there exists a positive constant  $k_4$  such that:

$$\|\tilde{q}_*(t)\|_{\infty} \leq k_1 e^{-(\bar{\omega}_1/2)t} \|\tilde{k}_0\| + \frac{\mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}}}{\bar{\omega}_1} k_4 \|q_*(t)\|_{\infty}, \quad (3.25)$$

where  $\bar{\omega}_1$  is the bandwidth of the Beard-Jones filter (3.2) and  $\mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}}$  is the bandwidth of the introduced disturbances signal  $q_*$ .

We next prove Lemma 3.

*Proof.* Using the celebrated Szökefalvi-Nagy's inequality [32], we immediately deduce that:

$$\|q_*\|_\infty = \sqrt{m} \sqrt[4]{E_* E_{*1}}, \quad (3.26)$$

where  $E_*$  and  $E_{*1}$  are the energies of  $q_*$  and  $dq_*/dt$ . Here:

$$\begin{aligned} E_* &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \|q_*(t)\|^2 dt \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \|\mathbf{Q}_*(\omega)\|^2 d\omega = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\mathcal{B}_W}^{\mathcal{B}_W} \|\mathbf{Q}_*(\omega)\|^2 d\omega < \infty, \\ E_{*1} &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left\| \frac{dq_*(t)}{dt} \right\|^2 dt = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \omega^2 \|\mathbf{Q}_*(\omega)\|^2 d\omega \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\mathcal{B}_W}^{\mathcal{B}_W} \omega^2 \|\mathbf{Q}_*(\omega)\|^2 d\omega < \infty. \end{aligned} \quad (3.27)$$

Moreover,  $\|q_*(t)\| \leq \sqrt{m} \sqrt[4]{E_* E_1}$ , for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  and the above equality holds if and only if  $q_*(t) = \mathbf{1} \sqrt[4]{E_* E_{*1}} e^{-\sqrt{E_{*1}/E_*}|t|}$ . From (3.27) we additionally get:

$$E_{*1} \leq \mathcal{B}_W^2 E_*. \quad (3.28)$$

In the same manner we also obtain:

$$\|dq_*/dt\|_\infty = \sqrt{m} \sqrt[4]{E_{*1} E_{*2}}, \quad (3.29)$$

and finally:

$$E_{*2} \leq \mathcal{B}_W^2 E_{*1}, \quad (3.30)$$

where  $E_{*2}$  is the the energy of  $d^2q_*/dt^2$ . One can see that for all  $q_* \neq 0$  we have:

$$\|dq_*/dt\|_\infty \leq \sqrt{m} \sqrt[4]{\mathcal{B}_W^2 E_{*1}^2} = \sqrt{\mathcal{B}_W} \sqrt[4]{E_{*1}/E_*} \|q_*\|_\infty \leq \mathcal{B}_W \|q_*\|_\infty. \quad (3.31)$$

Therefore (3.22) and (3.31) imply:

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{q}_*(t)\| &\leq k_1 e^{-\alpha_0 t} \|\tilde{k}_0\| + k_2 \|A_K^{-1}\| \int_0^t e^{-\alpha_0(t-\tau)} \left\| \frac{dq_*(\tau)}{d\tau} \right\| d\tau, \\ &\leq k_1 e^{-\alpha_0 t} \|\tilde{k}_0\| + (k_2/\alpha_0) \|A_K^{-1}\| \mathcal{B}_W \|q_*\|_\infty. \end{aligned} \quad (3.32)$$

Setting  $\alpha_0 = \bar{\omega}_1/2$ , we finally deduce (3.25). The proof is completed.  $\square$

Note that it is a usual practice in Electronic Engineering to relate the slew rate  $\|dq_*/dt\|_\infty$  with the corresponding bandwidth  $\mathcal{B}_W$  (as mentioned in (3.31)).



#### 4. Further Extensions of the Neighborhood Stability Concept

We now rewrite the SPFA concept in the case of the particular nonlinear systems of the type (2.13) and prove our next main result.

We assume that the nonlinear perturbation signal  $q(x, u)$  satisfies the following two properties (recall (2.4), (2.12) and (2.14)):

**P1.**  $M \mathcal{C}_{(M, S)} \Psi_n(d/dt) q(x, u) = \alpha_M(x)$ . Here  $\alpha_M(x) : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is a continuous differentiable vector field and the matrix  $\partial\alpha_M(x)/\partial x \Big|_{x=0}$  has no eigenvalue  $\lambda = -1$ . That means:

$$\|\alpha_M(x_1) - \alpha_M(x_2)\| \leq L_M \|x_1 - x_2\|, \quad \forall x_1, x_2 \in \mathcal{B}_{\rho_1}, \quad L_M > 0, \rho_1 > 0; \quad (4.1)$$

$$\alpha_M(0) = 0; \quad (4.2)$$

$$\det \left( \mathbf{I} + \partial\alpha_M(x)/\partial x \Big|_{x=0} \right) \neq 0. \quad (4.3)$$

**P2.** Let  $X \mathcal{C}_{(M, S)} \Psi_n(d/dt) q(x, u) = \alpha_X(x) + \Gamma_X(x) u$ . Here  $\alpha_X(x) : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  and  $\Gamma_X(x) : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$  are continuous differentiable vector fields and  $\alpha_X(x)$  maps the zero vector into the zero vector. The Lipschitz constant of  $\alpha_X(x)$  tends to zero in the neighborhood of the origin and  $\Gamma_X(x)$  has no eigenvalue:  $\lambda = -1$ . Then:

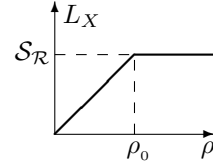
$$\|\alpha_X(x_1) - \alpha_X(x_2)\| \leq L_X \|x_1 - x_2\|, \quad \forall x_1, x_2 \in \mathcal{B}_\rho,$$

$$L_X = \min \left\{ \left( \frac{\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{R}}}{\rho_0} \right) \rho, \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{R}} \right\}, \quad \rho \in [0, \rho_1], \quad (4.4)$$

$$0 < \rho_0 \leq \rho_1;$$

$$\alpha_X(0) = 0; \quad (4.5)$$

$$\det(\mathbf{I} + \Gamma_X(x)) \neq 0 \quad \forall x \in \mathcal{B}_{\rho_1}, \quad \rho_1 > 0. \quad (4.6)$$



**Remark 4.** Under the properties **P1** and **P2**, (2.12) and (2.14) take the following respective forms:

$$\zeta = x + \alpha_M(x), \quad q_* = \alpha_X(x) + \Gamma_X(x) u. \quad (4.7)$$

From (2.12), (2.13), (2.14) and (4.7), we realize that we are obtaining a similar structure as in (1.16):  $\zeta = x + \alpha_M(x)$  instead of  $\xi = T_{dif}(x)$  and  $u + \alpha_X(x) + \Gamma_X(x) u$  instead of  $\alpha(x) + \beta(x)u$  (recall also Discussion of Section 1.5.3).

Notice also that in (2.2), the state space representation  $\Sigma\{A, B, C\}$  is describing the linearized model around the equilibrium point,  $(x, u) = (0, 0)$ , so  $q(x, u) \rightarrow 0$  when  $(x, u) \rightarrow (0, 0)$ , and thus:<sup>10</sup>  $q_*(x, u) \rightarrow 0$  when  $(x, u) \rightarrow (0, 0)$ . This phenomenon is characterized by the shape of the Lipschitz constant  $L_X$  (see (4.4)).

<sup>10</sup>We are also assuming that the time derivative of  $q$  vanish when  $(x, u) \rightarrow (0, 0)$ .

Based on the above results we are now ready to formulate our second main result.

**Theorem 2.** *Assume that the nonlinear perturbation signal  $q(x, u)$  satisfies properties **P1** and **P2**. Under the conditions of Lemma 2, we have  $(x, u) = (0, 0) \in \mathcal{X} \oplus \mathcal{U}$  is an equilibrium point of (2.13). Moreover, there exists a  $\rho_2 > 0$  such that:*

$$\mathbb{T}_x^\zeta(x) \doteq x + \alpha_M(x), \quad (4.8)$$

is a diffeomorphism that satisfies:

$$\|\mathbb{T}_x^\zeta(x)\| \leq (1 + L_M)\|x\|, \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathcal{B}_{\rho_1} \cap \mathcal{B}_{\rho_2}. \quad (4.9)$$

If in addition:

**H11.** *For a given  $\mu_0 > 1$  there exists  $\rho_3 > 0$  such that  $\|\alpha_M(x)\| \leq (1 - 1/\mu_0)\|x\|$ , for all  $x \in \bigcap_{i=1}^3 \mathcal{B}_{\rho_i}$ ,*

then, the inverse  $\mathbb{T}_\zeta^x : \mathbb{T}_x^\zeta(\mathcal{B}_{\rho_2}) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_{\rho_2}$  satisfies the following condition:

$$\|\mathbb{T}_\zeta^x(\zeta)\| \leq \mu_0 \|\zeta\|, \quad \text{for all } \zeta \in \mathbb{T}_x^\zeta(\bigcap_{i=1}^3 \mathcal{B}_{\rho_i}). \quad (4.10)$$

Also, for all non zero  $\zeta$  belonging to  $\mathbb{T}_x^\zeta(\mathcal{B}_\rho)$ , where  $\rho \in (0, \rho_0]$ , there holds:

$$\frac{\|q_*(\zeta, 0)\|}{\|\zeta\|} \leq \rho(\mu_0 \mathcal{S}_R / \rho_0). \quad (4.11)$$

Furthermore, if  $A$  is a Hurwitz matrix, then the autonomous system (2.13) is asymptotically stable in the neighborhood  $\mathbb{T}_x^\zeta(\mathcal{B}_{\rho_*})$ , where:

$$0 < \rho_* < \min\{\rho_0, \rho_1, \rho_2, \rho_3, \rho_\#\}, \quad (4.12)$$

$$\rho_\# = (2\|B\|\bar{\lambda}\mu_0 \mathcal{S}_R / \rho_0)^{-1}, \quad (4.13)$$

and  $\bar{\lambda}$  is the maximum eigenvalue of  $P$ . Here  $P$  is the positive definite matrix solution of the Lyapunov equation  $A^T P + P A = -I$ .

We next prove Theorem 2, summarized in Figure 2.

*Proof.* The proof is done in five steps.

1. Let us first prove that  $(x, u) = (0, 0) \in \mathcal{X} \oplus \mathcal{U}$  is an equilibrium point of (2.13). Denote  $\mathbf{p}_0 \doteq (0, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m$  and define the vector field  $\mathbf{f}_\zeta(x, u) : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  by:

$$\mathbf{f}_\zeta(x, u) \doteq A\zeta(t) + B\left(u(t) + q_*(x(t), u(t))\right). \quad (4.14)$$

Substituting (4.7) into (4.14), we deduce:

$$\mathbf{f}_\zeta(x, u) = A\left(x + \alpha_M(x)\right) + B\left(u + \alpha_X(x) + \Gamma_X(x)u\right). \quad (4.15)$$

Additionally, from (4.2) and (4.5), we also deduce  $\mathbf{f}_\zeta(\mathbf{p}_0) = 0$ . The last fact implies that  $\mathbf{p}_0$  is an equilibrium point of (2.13).

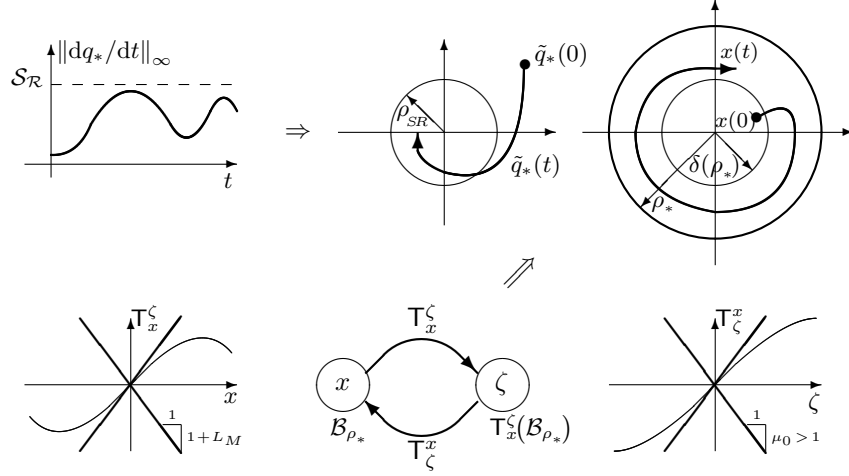


Figure 2: Lemma 2: If  $\|dq_*/dt\|_\infty \leq \mathcal{S}_R$ , then:  $\|\tilde{q}_*(t)\|_\infty \leq k_1 e^{-\alpha_0 t} \|\tilde{k}_0\| + \rho_{SR}$ , where:  $\rho_{SR} = (k_3/\alpha_0) \mathcal{S}_R (g_n^{n-1}/\bar{\omega}_1)$ ;  $\bar{\omega}_1$  is the bandwidth of (3.2) and  $\mathcal{S}_R$  is the slew rate of  $q_*$ :  $\|dq_*/dt\|_\infty \leq \mathcal{S}_R$ . Theorem 2: For all  $x \in \cap_{i=1}^2 \mathcal{B}_{\rho_i}$ ,  $T_x^\zeta(x) \doteq x + \alpha_M(x)$  is a diffeomorphism satisfying:  $\|T_x^\zeta(x)\| \leq (1 + L_M) \|x\|$ . For all  $\zeta \in T_x^\zeta(\cap_{i=1}^3 \mathcal{B}_{\rho_i})$ , the inverse  $T_\zeta^x$  satisfies ( $T_\zeta^x(T_x^\zeta(x)) = x$ ):  $\|T_\zeta^x(\zeta)\| \leq \mu_0 \|\zeta\|$ ,  $\mu_0 > 1$ . If  $A$  is Hurwitz, then (2.13) is asymptotically stable in  $T_x^\zeta(\mathcal{B}_{\rho_*})$ , where:  $\rho_* < \min\{\rho_0, \rho_1, \rho_2, \rho_3, \rho_\#\}$ ,  $\rho_\# = (2\|B\| \bar{\lambda} \mu_0 \mathcal{S}_R / \rho_0)^{-1}$ .

2. Let us next prove that (4.9) is satisfied. Note that from (4.8) and (4.3) it follows that the Jacobian matrix  $\partial T_x^\zeta(x)/\partial x$  is nonsingular at  $x = 0$ . Recall that the classic Inverse Function Theorem implies that there exists a  $\rho_2 > 0$  such that  $T_x^\zeta$  is a diffeomorphism in  $\mathcal{B}_{\rho_2}$  (see e.g., [39], [23], ...). Also, from (4.8), (4.2) and (4.1), we get:

$$\|T_x^\zeta(x)\| = \|x + \alpha_M(x)\| \leq (1 + L_M) \|x\|.$$

3. Let us now prove that (4.10) is satisfied. Using (4.8), (4.7) and **H11**, we obtain the series of formal consequences:

$$\begin{aligned} \|T_\zeta^x(\zeta)\| &= \|T_\zeta^x(x + \alpha_M(x))\| = \|T_\zeta^x(T_x^\zeta(x))\| = \|x\| = \|T_x^\zeta(x) - \alpha_M(x)\| \\ &= \|\zeta - \alpha_M(T_\zeta^x(\zeta))\| \leq \|\zeta\| + (1 - 1/\mu_0) \|T_\zeta^x(\zeta)\|. \end{aligned}$$

This fact finally implies (4.10).

4. Let us prove (4.11). From (4.7), (4.5), (4.4) and (4.10), we get:

$$\frac{\|q_*(\zeta, 0)\|}{\|\zeta\|} = \frac{\|\alpha_x(T_\zeta^x(\zeta))\|}{\|\zeta\|} \leq L_X \frac{\|T_\zeta^x(\zeta)\|}{\|\zeta\|} \leq L_X \mu_0 \leq \bar{\rho}(\mu_0 \mathcal{S}_R / \rho_0).$$

5. Let us finally prove the local asymptotic stability of the autonomous system (2.13). Introduce the Lyapunov function:

$$V(\zeta(t)) = \zeta^T(t) P \zeta(t),$$

with  $P$  the positive definite matrix solution of the associated Lyapunov equation:

$$A^T P + P A = -I.$$

From (2.13) and (4.11) we finally obtain for all non zero  $\zeta$  belonging to  $\mathbb{T}_x^\zeta(\mathcal{B}_{\rho_*})$  (recall (4.12) and (4.13)):

$$\begin{aligned} dV(\zeta(t))/dt &= \zeta^T(t)(A^T P + P A)\zeta(t) + 2(Bq_*(\zeta(t), 0))^T P \zeta(t), \\ &= -\|\zeta(t)\|^2 \left(1 - \frac{2\|B\|\|q_*(\zeta, 0)\|\|P\|}{\|\zeta(t)\|}\right), \\ &\leq -\|\zeta(t)\|^2 (1 - 2\|B\| \rho_* (\mu_0 \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{R}}/\rho_0) \bar{\lambda}) \\ &= -\|\zeta(t)\|^2 (1 - \rho_*/\rho_{\#}) < 0. \end{aligned}$$

The proof is now completed.  $\square$

The above result is the SPFA version for the case of particular nonlinear systems of the type (2.13) under the structural assumptions of Theorem 2.

Let us discuss shortly the possible conservativeness of the obtained theoretical result [16, 17, 23]. Theorem 2 is proven under specific assumptions for the signal  $q(x, u)$ , namely, assumptions **P1** and **P2**. The condition **P1** constitutes in fact the smoothness of the signal under consideration, the (global) Lipschitz property and the non-singularity hypothesis associated with the second derivative of the signal. Taking into consideration these natural analytic requirements one can characterize **P1** as a non-restrictive condition. The second assumption related to the signal  $q(x, u)$  in Theorem 2 (assumption **P2**) additionally implies a weak dependence on the state variable  $x$  at the origin. Evidently, this condition in combination with the assumed linear form of the derivative restricts the universality of the obtained result. However, taking into consideration a wide class of signals that satisfy the above condition **P1** and **P2** one can conclude that the developed theory is in some sense conservative for the class of signals under consideration. Since the proof of Theorem 2 uses explicitly the above mentioned assumptions, the ‘‘sensitivity’’ of the obtained robustness theory is a subject for future research.

We next deduce an immediate consequence for the system (2.13) fed back by (3.3) and (3.2), namely for the closed loop system represented by (3.16).

**Corollary 1.** *Let us consider the autonomous closed loop representation (3.16) satisfying the conditions of Theorem 2 and Lemma 3. Then, the nonlinear uncertainty signals  $q_*(x)$  and  $\tilde{q}_*(x)$  of the open loop system (2.13) and the closed loop system (3.16) are related as follows:*

$$\|q_*(x)\| \leq \gamma_1 \|\alpha_x(x)\| + \gamma_2 \|\tilde{q}_*(x)\|, \quad \forall x \in \mathcal{B}_{\rho_1}, \quad (4.16)$$

where  $\gamma_1 = \sup_{x \in \mathcal{B}_{\rho_1}} \left\| (I + \Gamma_x(x))^{-1} \right\|$  and  $\gamma_2 = \sup_{x \in \mathcal{B}_{\rho_1}} \left\| (I + \Gamma_x(x))^{-1} \Gamma_x(x) \right\|$ .

Moreover, if the bandwidth  $\bar{\omega}_1$  of the Beard-Jones filter (3.2) additionally satisfies:

$$\bar{\omega}_1 > \mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}} k_4 \gamma_2, \quad (4.17)$$

where  $\mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}}$  is the bandwidth of  $q_*$ , then:

$$\|\tilde{q}_*(\zeta(t))\|_{\infty} \leq \frac{k_1 \bar{\omega}_1 / \mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}}}{(\bar{\omega}_1 / \mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}} - k_4 \gamma_2)} \|\tilde{k}_0\| e^{-\alpha_0 t} + \frac{k_4 \mu_0 \gamma_1}{(\bar{\omega}_1 / \mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}} - k_4 \gamma_2)} L_X \|\zeta(t)\|_{\infty}, \quad (4.18)$$

for all  $\zeta \in \mathbb{T}_x^{\zeta} (\cap_{i=1}^3 \mathcal{B}_{\rho_i})$ .

Furthermore, given  $\underline{\rho}_{**}$  and  $\bar{\rho}_{**}$  such that  $0 < \underline{\rho}_{**} < \bar{\rho}_{**} < \min\{\rho_1, \rho_2, \rho_3\}$ , the time derivative of the Lyapunov function:

$$V(\zeta(t)) = \zeta^T(t) P \zeta(t),$$

where  $P$  is the positive definite matrix solution of the associated Lyapunov equation:

$$A^T P + P A = -I,$$

satisfies for all  $\zeta(t) \in \mathbb{T}_x^{\zeta} (\mathcal{B}_{\bar{\rho}_{**}}) \setminus \mathbb{T}_x^{\zeta} (\mathcal{B}_{\underline{\rho}_{**}})$  and all  $t > t_{\#\#}$ :

$$\frac{d}{dt} V(\zeta(t)) \leq - \left( (1 + L_M) \underline{\rho}_{**} \right)^2 \left( 1 - \frac{\rho_{\#\#} - k_4 \gamma_2}{\bar{\omega}_1 / \mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}} - k_4 \gamma_2} \right), \quad (4.19)$$

where  $\bar{\lambda}$  is the maximum eigenvalue of  $P$ ,  $\alpha_0$  is set to  $\bar{\omega}_1/2$ , and:

$$\rho_{\#\#} = 4 \|B\| \bar{\lambda} (k_4 \mu_0 \gamma_1) L_X \left( \frac{\bar{\rho}_{**}}{\underline{\rho}_{**}} \right)^2 + k_4 \gamma_2, \quad (4.20)$$

$$t_{\#\#} = \frac{2}{\bar{\omega}_1} \log \left( \frac{(k_1 \bar{\omega}_1 / \mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}}) \|\tilde{k}_0\|}{(k_4 \mu_0 \gamma_1) L_X \bar{\rho}_{**}} \right). \quad (4.21)$$

Finally, if the bandwidth  $\bar{\omega}_1$  of the Beard-Jones filter (3.2) satisfies:

$$\bar{\omega}_1 > \mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}} \rho_{\#\#}, \quad (4.22)$$

then any trajectory  $\zeta(t)$  inside  $\mathbb{T}_x^{\zeta} (\mathcal{B}_{\bar{\rho}_{**}})$  is attracted towards the neighborhood  $\mathbb{T}_x^{\zeta} (\mathcal{B}_{\underline{\rho}_{**}})$ , for  $t > t_{\#\#}$ .

We next prove Corollary 1, summarized in Figure 3.

*Proof of Corollary 1.* The proof is done in four steps.

1. Let us first prove that  $q_*(x)$  and  $\tilde{q}_*(x)$  are related by (4.16). From (2.14), **P2**, (3.3), (3.5(b)) and (3.16(c)) we deduce:

$$q_*(x) = \alpha_x(x) + \Gamma_x(x) (\tilde{q}_*(x) - q_*(x)).$$

Then  $(I + \Gamma_x(x))q_*(x) = \alpha_x(x) + \Gamma_x(x)\tilde{q}_*(x)$ . Relation (4.6) implies

$$q_*(x) = (I + \Gamma_x(x))^{-1} \alpha_x(x) + (I + \Gamma_x(x))^{-1} \Gamma_x(x) \tilde{q}_*(x), \quad \forall x \in \mathcal{B}_{\rho_1},$$

which finally leads to (4.16).

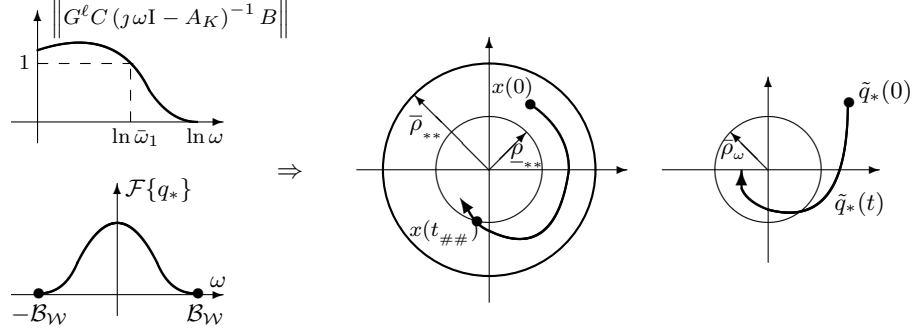


Figure 3: Lemma 3: If  $\mathcal{F}\{q_*\} = 0$  for all  $|\omega| > \mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}}$ , then:  $\|\tilde{q}_*(t)\|_{\infty} \leq k_1 e^{-(\bar{\omega}_1/2)t} \|\tilde{k}_0\| + \rho_{\omega}$ , where:  $\rho_{\omega} = (\mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}}/\bar{\omega}_1)k_4\|q_*(t)\|_{\infty}$ ;  $\bar{\omega}_1$  is the bandwidth of (3.2) and  $\mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}}$  is the bandwidth of  $q_*$  (see also (3.24)). Corollary 1: If  $\bar{\omega}_1 > \mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}}\rho_{\#\#}$ , then any  $x(t) \in \mathcal{B}_{\bar{\rho}_{**}}$  is attracted towards the neighborhood  $\mathcal{B}_{\bar{\rho}_{**}}$  for  $t > t_{\#\#}$ . If  $\bar{\omega}_1 > \mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}}k_4\gamma_2$ , then:  $\|\tilde{q}_*(t)\|_{\infty} \leq \bar{k}_1 e^{-\alpha_0 t} \|\tilde{k}_0\| + \bar{\rho}_{\omega}$ , where:  $\bar{k}_1 = k_1(\bar{\omega}_1/\mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}})/(\bar{\omega}_1/\mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}} - k_4\gamma_2)$  and  $\bar{\rho}_{\omega} = (k_4\mu_0\gamma_1/(\bar{\omega}_1/\mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}} - k_4\gamma_2))L_X \|\zeta(t)\|_{\infty}$ .

2. Let us next prove that  $\tilde{q}_*$  satisfies (4.18). From relations (3.25) and (4.16) we also get:

$$\|\tilde{q}_*(x(t))\|_{\infty} \leq k_1 e^{-\alpha_0 t} \|\tilde{k}_0\| + \frac{\mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}}}{\bar{\omega}_1} k_4 \left( \gamma_1 \|\alpha_x(x(t))\|_{\infty} + \gamma_2 \|\tilde{q}_*(x(t))\|_{\infty} \right),$$

and:

$$\left( 1 - \frac{\mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}}}{\bar{\omega}_1} k_4 \gamma_2 \right) \|\tilde{q}_*(x(t))\|_{\infty} \leq k_1 e^{-\alpha_0 t} \|\tilde{k}_0\| + \frac{\mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}}}{\bar{\omega}_1} k_4 \gamma_1 \|\alpha_x(x(t))\|_{\infty},$$

for all  $x \in \cap_{i=1}^3 \mathcal{B}_{\rho_i}$ . From (4.17), (4.4), (4.5) and (4.10), we simply obtain (4.18).

3. From (3.16(a)) and (4.18), we obtain that for all  $\zeta \in \mathbb{T}_x^{\zeta}(\cap_{i=1}^3 \mathcal{B}_{\rho_i})$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} V(\zeta(t)) &= \zeta^T(t) \left( A^T P + P A \right) \zeta(t) + 2 \left( B \tilde{q}_*(\zeta(t)) \right)^T P \zeta(t), \\ &= -\|\zeta(t)\|^2 + 2 \left( B \tilde{q}_*(\zeta(t)) \right)^T P \zeta(t), \\ &\leq -\|\zeta(t)\|^2 + 2 \|B\| \bar{\lambda} \|\tilde{q}_*(\zeta(t))\| \|\zeta(t)\|, \\ &\leq -\|\zeta(t)\|^2 + 2 \|B\| \bar{\lambda} \left( \frac{k_1 \bar{\omega}_1 / \mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}}}{(\bar{\omega}_1 / \mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}} - k_4 \gamma_2)} \right) \|\tilde{k}_0\| e^{-\alpha_0 t} \|\zeta(t)\|_{\infty} \\ &\quad + 2 \|B\| \bar{\lambda} \left( \frac{k_4 \mu_0 \gamma_1}{(\bar{\omega}_1 / \mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}} - k_4 \gamma_2)} \right) L_X \|\zeta(t)\|_{\infty}^2, \\ &\leq -\|\zeta(t)\|^2 + \frac{2 \|B\| \bar{\lambda}}{\bar{\omega}_1 / \mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}} - k_4 \gamma_2} \left( \left( k_1 \frac{\bar{\omega}_1}{\mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{W}}} \right) \|\tilde{k}_0\| e^{-\alpha_0 t} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (k_4 \mu_0 \gamma_1) L_X \|\zeta(t)\|_{\infty} \right) \|\zeta(t)\|_{\infty}. \end{aligned}$$

Setting  $\alpha_0$  to  $\bar{\omega}_1/2$  and considering trajectories of  $\zeta$  inside  $\mathbb{T}_x^\zeta(\mathcal{B}_{\bar{\rho}_{**}}) \setminus \mathbb{T}_x^\zeta(\mathcal{B}_{\rho_{**}})$ , we get (4.19) (recall (4.9)).

4. Let us finally prove that the trajectories of  $\zeta$  inside  $\mathbb{T}_x^\zeta(\mathcal{B}_{\bar{\rho}_{**}})$  are attracted towards  $\mathbb{T}_x^\zeta(\mathcal{B}_{\rho_{**}})$ . From (4.19) and (5.21) we get the negativity of  $dV(\zeta(t))/dt$ .

This completes the proof.  $\square$

For Corollary 1 one can establish similar conservativeness observations as for Theorem 2. We can additionally observe that the (useful) constructive estimation (4.18) is in fact a consequence of the conditions **P1** and **P2** and assumption (4.17). In that case the sensitive condition (4.17) has a crucial character for the resulting estimation (4.18).

Also, note that:

1. For the case of the *Approximated Input-Output Linearization*, we can see from Theorem 2 that the stability of system (2.13) (namely system (2.2)) is only guaranteed for the narrow neighborhood  $\rho_*$  (cf. (4.12) and (4.13)). See Figure 2.
2. For the case of the *Robust Asymptotic Feedback Linearization*, we can realize from Corollary 1 that the stability neighborhood is widely enlarged when the *nonlinear uncertainty estimator* (3.3) and (3.2) is added (cf. (3.16)). Indeed, for a given behavioral neighborhood  $\mathcal{B}_{\bar{\rho}_{**}}$ , a desired attractor neighborhood  $\mathcal{B}_{\rho_{**}}$  is reached by means of a sufficiently large bandwidth  $\bar{\omega}_1$  of the Beard-Jones filter (3.2) (cf. (4.20)). Moreover, with the bandwidth filter  $\bar{\omega}_1$ , we can sufficiently extend the usual linearity neighborhood  $\rho_\#$  to  $\rho_{\#\#}$ , and reduce the regular transitory time  $t_{\#\#}$ . See Figure 3.

Evidently, the presented results not only establish robustness of the resulting system closed by the proposed control law, but also some structural relations between systems under consideration.

## 5. Numerical Aspects

We now deal with the last technical part of the Academic Example 1. The final numerical results are obtained using the standard MATLAB<sup>®</sup> platform. Consider the following numerical values (obtained from a laboratory prototype):

$$m_T = 0.60 \text{ kg}, \quad J = 0.0032 \text{ kg m}^2, \quad L = 0.17 \text{ m}, \quad g = 9.81 \text{ m s}^{-2}.$$

The earth axes (*oxyz*) is located at height  $\bar{z} = 3.00$  [m] with respect to the ground level. Moreover, we examine the following suitable initial conditions:  $x(0) = 0$  [m],  $z(0) = \bar{z}$ ,  $dx(0)/dt = dz(0)/dt = 0$  [m s<sup>-1</sup>],  $\theta(0) = \theta_0$ ,  $\theta_0 = \pi/6$  [rad],  $d\theta(0)/dt = 0$  [rad s<sup>-1</sup>].

### 5.1. State feedbacks

The state feedbacks (1.3) and (1.11) are computed using the algebraic Riccati equations:<sup>11</sup>  $A_{c_2}^T P_2 + P_2 A_{c_2} - (1/5)P_2 B_z B_z^T P_2 + I_2 = 0$  and  $A_{c_4}^T P_4 + P_4 A_{c_4} - (1/5)P_4 B_x B_x^T P_4 + I_4 = 0$ . Here  $F_x = \begin{bmatrix} -a_{x,4} & -a_{x,3} & -a_{x,2} & -a_{x,1} \end{bmatrix} = -5 B_x^T P_4 = \begin{bmatrix} -0.4472 & -1.5814 & -2.5725 & -2.3119 \end{bmatrix}$ , and  $F_z = \begin{bmatrix} -a_{z,2} & -a_{z,1} \end{bmatrix} = -5 B_z^T P_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -0.4472 & -1.0461 \end{bmatrix}$ . The spectra of  $A_x$  and  $A_z$  are as follows  $\Lambda_x(s) = \{-0.4162 \pm 0.7387 i, -0.7398 \pm 0.2736 i\}$  and  $\Lambda_z(s) = \{-0.5231 \pm 0.4167 i\}$ . The spectral radii of  $\Lambda_x(s)$  and  $\Lambda_z(s)$  are  $\rho_x = 0.8479$  and  $\rho_z = 0.6687$ , respectively.

### 5.2. Beard-Jones filter

Following a root-locus procedure, we get  $s(s + 4.75)(s + 4)(s + 3.5) + 28.125 = (s + 1)^2 (s^2 + 10.25s + 28.125)$ . Implementing the Beard-Jones filter 100 times faster than the spectral radius  $\rho_x$  and  $\rho_{e_x} = 100 \rho_x$ , we obtain  $\bar{K}_x = \begin{bmatrix} -28.125 \rho_x^4 & -66.5 \rho_x^3 & -49.625 \rho_x^2 & -12.25 \rho_x \end{bmatrix}^T$ . The initial conditions of (3.8) were set up as (recall (1.23) and (1.20)):  $\bar{w}_x(0) = T_{ox}^{-1} \zeta_x(0)$ , such that:

$$\bar{w}_x(0) = \begin{bmatrix} a_{x,3} & a_{x,2} & -a_{x,1} g & -g \\ a_{x,2} & a_{x,1} & -g & 0 \\ a_{x,1} & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_0 \\ 0 \\ (1 + a_{z,2} z_0/g) \tan(\theta_0) \\ -(a_{z,1} a_{z,2} z_0/g) \tan(\theta_0) \end{bmatrix}.$$

### 5.3. Simulation results

We first have applied to (1.4) the usual exact feedback linearization procedure (1.3) and (1.17), where  $\alpha(x)$  and  $\beta(x)$  are defined by (1.21). The state  $\zeta$  is computed based on (1.20). The coefficients of the polynomials  $\pi_z(s)$  and  $\pi_4(s)$  are determined by the feedbacks  $F_z$  and  $F_x$  (see Figure 4). We have also applied to (1.4) the exact structural feedback linearization<sup>12</sup> (1.23) and (1.25). As mentioned above (in Example 2), we have obtained exactly the same time trajectories depicted on Figure 4. We next apply the structural asymptotic feedback linearization (1.3), (1.11) and (3.8) to the given dynamic model (1.2). The coefficients of the polynomials  $\pi_z(s)$  and  $\pi_{x_x}(s)$  are determined by the feedbacks  $F_z$  and  $F_x$ , respectively (see Figure 5). Moreover,  $q_{x,*}(x)$  is defined by (1.25). Notice that the Beard-Jones filter (3.8) quickly tends to the nonlinear uncertainty signal (1.25).

Figure 6 contains an important comparison between the control outputs  $u_x$  obtained in both simulations. We can note that the robust asymptotic feedback linearization scheme is effective in comparison with the usual exact feedback linearization. On the other hand, the asymptotic scheme does not need any nonlinear signal associated with the derivative computation.

<sup>11</sup>We have used the LQR technique, with weighting matrices  $Q = I_2$  and  $R = \rho$  ( $\rho = 5$ ), because one can obtain a good closed-loop behavior by tuning only one parameter,  $\rho$ . In [7], we show some experimental results obtained in open field, and we give more details for a good selection of the weight matrix  $Q$ .

<sup>12</sup>Together with the stabilizing feedback (1.11).



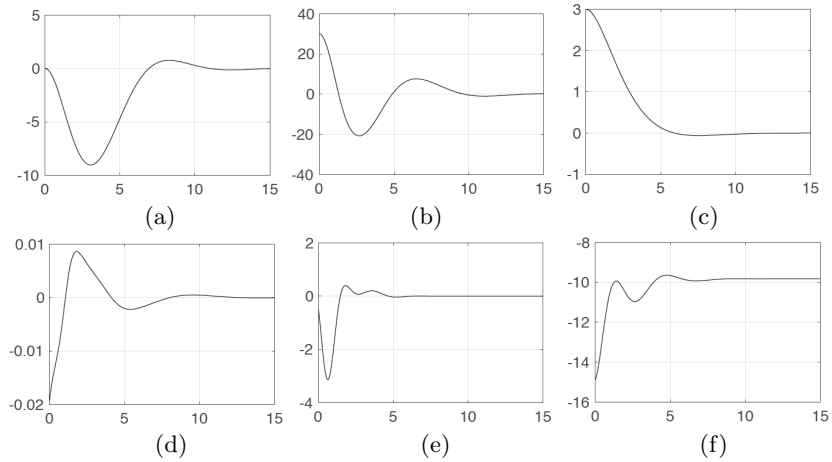


Figure 4: Nonlinear description (1.4) controlled by the usual exact feedback linearization (1.3) and (1.17). (a)  $x$  [m], (b)  $\theta$  [°], (c)  $z$  [m], (d)  $u_x$  [rad kg m s<sup>-2</sup>], (e)  $\alpha(x)$  [m s<sup>-4</sup>], (f)  $\beta(x)$  [m rad<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-2</sup>],

In this real-world oriented example, one cannot analyze correctly the extension of the linearity neighborhood  $\rho_{\#\#}$ . We refer to an advanced quadrotor model studied in [6] for this consideration. In the presented example we have obtained a good control performance under the perturbation of  $\pi/4$  [rad] with respect to the Euler angles  $(\phi, \theta, \psi)$ . An interesting and important feature of the robust asymptotic feedback linearization scheme that we propose can be expressed as follows: it takes into account the non-modeled dynamics; see [5] for the theoretic and experimental results. Also, in [7] is presented a detailed synthesis procedure for an experimental quadrotor laboratory prototype, where some simulations are shown, as well as an experimental proof in open field.

The numerical results presented in this section make it clear the advantage of the proposed structural asymptotic feedback linearization technique.

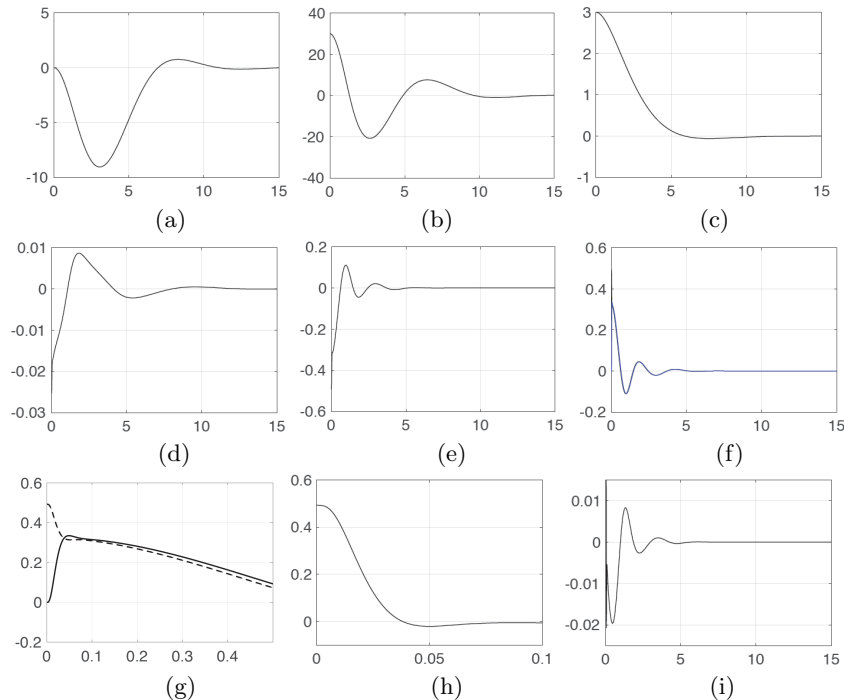


Figure 5: Nonlinear description (1.2) controlled by the robust asymptotic feedback linearization (1.3), (1.11) and (3.8). (a)  $x$  [m], (b)  $\theta$  [°], (c)  $z$  [m], (d)  $u_x$  [ $\text{kg m s}^{-2}$ ], (e)  $q_{x,*}(x)$  [ $\text{s}^{-2}$ ], (f) and (g)  $q_{x,*}(x)$  (dash line) vs  $\bar{u}_x$  (solid line) [ $\text{rad s}^{-2}$ ], (h) and (i)  $q_{x,*}(x) - \bar{u}_x$  [ $\text{rad s}^{-2}$ ].

## 6. Conclusion

In this paper, we propose a **robust structural feedback linearization** approach based on failure detection techniques. We consider the non-linear affine system (1.1), and describe it equivalently by the specific state space representation (2.2), together with (2.1), (1.7) and (1.6). The newly obtained equivalent system's non-linearities are correspondingly determined by a generic disturbance signal  $q$ . The controllability condition for the pair  $(A, B)$  makes it possible to treat constructively the derived structural algebraic equation (2.4). The last one defines in fact the necessary change of variable (2.12), that also maps the non-linear disturbance signal  $q$  under consideration into a nonlinear uncertainty signal  $q_*$ , contained in the image of  $B$ ; see (2.13) and (2.14).

The proposed equivalent “rewriting” technique makes it finally possible to **design a robust feedback** and to **prove the asymptotic stability** of the initially given dynamic model. The abstract mapping mentioned above involves the basic dynamic representation (2.13). This form implies the possibility of the direct “cancellation” (2.16) of  $q_*$ .

If that is not the case, it can be still asymptotically rejected using the Beard-

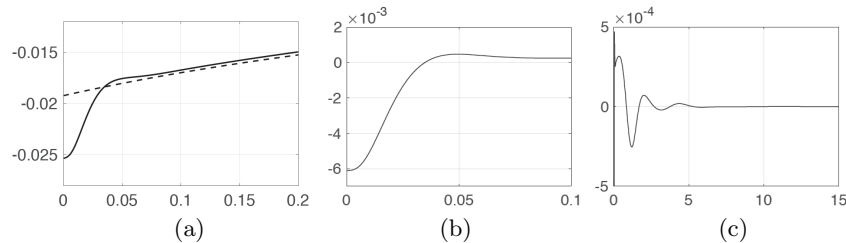


Figure 6: Comparison of control outputs  $u_x$  obtained in both simulations. (a)  $u_x$  from Figure 4 (obtained with the exact feedback linearization (1.3) and (1.17); dash line) vs  $u_x$  from Figure 5 (obtained with the robust asymptotic feedback linearization (1.3), (1.11) and (3.8); solid line) [rad kg m s<sup>-2</sup>], (b) and (c) Difference of the control signals  $u_x$  issued from Figures 4 and 5.

Jones filter (3.2) and (3.3). The main advantage of the developed robust control design is the possibility of the linearity neighborhood extension around the generic equilibrium point 0. Note that the possible uncertainties model is in fact “absorbed” (constructively represented) by  $q_*$ . Additionally, we have obtained a useful theoretical fact, summarized in Corollary 1,

“If the bandwidth  $\bar{\omega}_1$  of the Beard-Jones filter (3.2) satisfies:

$$\bar{\omega}_1 > \mathcal{B}_W \rho_{\#\#}, \quad (5.21)$$

where  $\mathcal{B}_W$  is the bandwidth of  $q_*$ , then any trajectory  $\zeta(t)$  inside  $\mathcal{T}_x^\zeta(\mathcal{B}_{\bar{\rho}_{**}})$  is attracted towards the neighborhood  $\mathcal{T}_x^\zeta(\mathcal{B}_{\rho_{**}})$ , for  $t > t_{\#\#}$ ”,

namely, the high values of the conventional Beard-Jones filter bandwidth of an uncertain signal extend the necessary linearity neighborhood and sufficiently reduce the transitory time.

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