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Singular-Perturbations-Based Analysis of Dynamic Consensus in Directed Networks of Heterogeneous Nonlinear Systems

Mohamed Maghenem Elena Panteley Antonio Loria

Abstract— We analyze networked heterogeneous nonlinear systems, with diffusive coupling and interconnected over a generic static directed graph. Due to the network’s heterogeneity, complete synchronization is impossible, in general, but an emergent dynamics arises. This may be characterized by two dynamical systems evolving in two time-scales. The first, “slow”, corresponds to the dynamics of the network on the synchronization manifold. The second, “fast”, corresponds to that of the synchronization errors. We present a framework to analyse the emergent dynamics based on the behavior of the slow dynamics. Firstly, we give conditions under which if the slow dynamics admits a globally asymptotically stable equilibrium, so does the networked systems. Secondly, we give conditions under which, if the slow dynamics admits an asymptotically stable orbit and a single unstable equilibrium point, there exists a unique periodic orbit that is almost-globally asymptotically stable. The emergent behavior is thus clear, the systems asymptotically synchronize in frequency and, in the limit, as the coupling strength grows, the emergent dynamics approaches that of the slow system. Our analysis is established using singular-perturbations theory. In that regard, we contribute with original statements on stability of disconnected invariant sets and limit cycles.

Index Terms— Consensus, multi-agent systems, singular perturbations, network systems, synchronization.

I. INTRODUCTION AND MOTIVATION

NETWORKS of nonlinear heterogeneous systems are both, ubiquitous and *complex*. Their ubiquity motivates their study across numerous research disciplines, as varied as Engineering Systems theory [1], Complexity theory [2] or, even, Philosophy of Science [3]. Their complexity is motor for two apparently antagonistic trains of thought that attempt to explain the collective behavior of networked systems in a broad sense: *reductionism* and *emergentism*. The first asserts that any whole can be reduced to its constituent parts—as in the case of networked linear systems [4], while the tenet of emergentism is that a new behavior appears as a consequence of the interaction of the said parts [3]—as in networks of heterogeneous nonlinear systems. What is more, one of the

accepted definitions of Complexity is that it corresponds to the difference between the network as a whole and the sum of its parts and, in that regard, nonlinearity is a necessary condition for complexity to appear [5].

In this paper, we show that, to some extent, both emergentism and reductionism are not necessarily mutually exclusive, but their respective underlying postulates are useful to assess the behavior of networks of heterogeneous nonlinear systems. We focus on systems with dynamics given by

$$\dot{x}_i = f_i(x_i) + u_i, \quad i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}, \quad x_i \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad (1)$$

where $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$, $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is the state of the i th system and $u_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is the decentralized control input to each system, defined as the consensus control law

$$u_i := -\sigma \left[l_{i1}(x_i - x_1) + \dots + l_{iN}(x_i - x_N) \right], \quad (2)$$

where l_{ij} are different non-negative real numbers denoting the individual interconnection weights and the scalar parameter $\sigma > 0$ is the common coupling strength.

The control law (2) is reminiscent of that commonly used in the literature on consensus control, in which, the coupling strength $\sigma = 1$. This is specifically the case for networks of linear systems, in which case *complexity* hardly appears and the focus turns towards relaxing the various conditions pertaining to the nature of the interconnections. These may be linear [4]; nonlinear [6], [7]; time-varying [8], [9]; switching [10], [11] or even state dependent [12], [13]. Other topology aspects, such as whether the graph is directed [14] or the interconnections are signed [15], may also alter consensus. For networks of heterogeneous nonlinear systems, however, the coupling strength plays a central role. Different kinds of emergent behavior may arise depending on whether σ is “weak” [16], [17] or “strong” [18], [19].

Our main interest in this paper is to assess the behavior of the corresponding closed-loop system, specifically, in the case that the coupling gain σ is larger than a certain threshold, but we restrict our analysis to networks with an underlying static directed graph. Akin to [20] and [18], we analyze the closed-loop networked system via a change of coordinates—introduced in [21]—that exhibits an intrinsic dichotomous structure composed of two dynamics defined in orthogonal spaces. On one hand, one has a *reduced-order dynamics* with state $x_m \in \mathbb{R}^n$ (miscalled *emergent dynamics* in [18]) and, on the other, the dynamics of synchronization errors, denoted by

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$e_i := x_i - x_m$. This characterization of the networked system is driven by the objective of characterizing synchronization phenomena that may appear (or not) in view of the systems' interconnections.

In [18], we say that the systems reach *dynamic consensus* if, for all $i \leq N$, the synchronization errors e_i converge to zero asymptotically. The dynamic consensus paradigm generalizes the more common *equilibrium* consensus, in which case, the reduced-order dynamics is null, *i.e.* $\dot{x}_m = 0$, because the collective behavior is *static* and the state of the reduced-order dynamics satisfies $x_m(t) \equiv x_m(0)$, where $x_m(0)$ is a weighted average of the nodes' states' initial values. In the case of a network of oscillators, the reduced-order dynamics may admit an asymptotically stable equilibrium (an example is provided in [18]) or an asymptotically stable attractor [22]. However, in general, asymptotic dynamic consensus is unreachable due to the heterogeneity [19]. An exception is that of systems that admit an internal model [23]–[25]. Otherwise, for general nonlinear heterogeneous systems, dynamic consensus may be guaranteed only in a *practical* sense [18].

In this paper, we establish two statements, each addressing one of two possible cases: one in which the (slow) reduced-order dynamics admits a globally asymptotically stable equilibrium and another one, in which, it admits a periodic solution. In the first case, we give sufficient conditions, under which, the origin for the networked system is globally asymptotically stable. In the second case, we prove that the synchronization errors converge to a unique attractive periodic orbit, so the systems synchronize in frequency. Moreover, for “large” values of the coupling strength σ , this orbit is “close” to that generated by periodic solutions of the reduced dynamics. Thus, the emergent dynamics approaches that of the reduced-order system, as the coupling gain grows.

The analysis is based on the recognized premise that in self-organized complex systems, emergence is *multi-level*, as occurring in multiple timescales [2], [26]. Here, we only consider two, one that is *slow* and pertains to the reduced-order system and another that is *fast* and pertains to the synchronization errors. We rely on singular perturbation theory, on statements found in [27]–[30], but also on original refinements of some statements from [27] for systems admitting disconnected sets composed of equilibria and periodic orbits.

The model-reduction-and-multi-time-scale perspective is certainly not new, neither in systems theory [1] nor in other disciplines. In the seminal work [31], which follows up on [1], the authors consider a modular network composed of sparsely connected clusters of densely interconnected dynamical systems modeled by simple integrators—the paradigm is motivated by that of large electrical networks. Using classical singular-perturbation theory [27], [28], it is showed that such networks achieve synchronization at two levels, within and among the clusters. The analysis is based on relating the network's sparsity to a singular-perturbation parameter. These concepts have been revisited in many succeeding works, such as [32] and [14]. In the former, for networks of simple integrators through sector nonlinearities, and in the latter, for linear homogeneous systems interconnected through time-

varying persistently-exciting gains *a la* [8]. On the other hand, in [33], [34], networks of linear homogeneous singularly-perturbed systems are considered. Thus, in all of the above, the setting is fundamentally different from the one adopted here.

In [21], for a particular case-study of networked Andronov-Hopf oscillators, we use a coordinate transformation to exhibit the presence of the two-timescale emergent dynamics and singular-perturbation theory to analyze the collective behavior under the premise that the reduced-order system admits an asymptotically stable orbit. Based on the coordinate transformation introduced in [21], singular-perturbation theory is used in [19] on a wider class of nonlinear systems with rank-deficient coupling to establish synchronization in the practical sense. Thus, there are several articles in the literature that explicitly use reduction and singular-perturbation theory, even in a multi-agent context. Yet, we are not aware of any such work whose scope covers generic nonlinear heterogeneous systems interconnected over directed graphs and characterize the collective behavior with higher precision. Conceptually, in phase with the emergentism posit, we exhibit the emergence of a *complex* (in the sense of [5]) dynamic behavior, as a result of the systems' interactions. At the same time, we give a more precise characterization (well beyond practical asymptotic stability of the synchronization manifold) of the collective behavior of networked systems based on that of a reduced-order model.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In Section II we exhibit the network's reduced-order and synchronization dynamics, under an invertible coordinate transformation. In Sections III and IV we present our main results for the two cases described above, respectively. In Section V we provide concluding remarks and comments on future research directions. The paper is completed with technical appendices.

Notation. Given a nonempty set $K \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $|x|_K := \inf_{y \in K} |x - y|$, where $|s|$ denotes the Euclidean norm of s , defines the distance between x and the set K . For a nonempty set $O \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $K \setminus O$ denotes the subset of elements of K that are not in O . For a matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, A^{-1} denotes its inverse, A^\top denotes its transpose, and $|A|$ denotes its norm. For a matrix $\Gamma \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, $\lambda_{\min}(\Gamma)$ and $\lambda_{\max}(\Gamma)$ denote the smallest and the largest eigenvalues of Γ , respectively. By $\mathbf{1}_N \in \mathbb{R}^N$, we denote the vector whose entries are equal to 1. For a sequence $\{A_i\}_{i=1}^N \subset \prod_{i=1}^N \mathbb{R}^{n_i \times n_i}$, $\text{blkdiag}\{A_i\}_{i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}}$ is the block-diagonal matrix whose i -th diagonal block corresponds to the matrix A_i . By \otimes , we denote the Kronecker product. For a complex number $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$, $\Re(\lambda)$ denotes the real part of λ and $\Im(\lambda)$ denotes the imaginary part of λ .

II. ON STRONGLY-COUPLED CONNECTED NETWORKS

A. The model and standing assumptions

Consider a group of N nonlinear systems as in (1) driven by the distributed control inputs in (2), where each $l_{ij} \geq 0$ is constant but not necessarily equal to l_{ji} . In particular, when l_{ij} is strictly positive, then there exists an interconnection from the j th node to the i th node, but l_{ji} may be null, in which

case, the interconnection is unidirectional. More precisely, we pose the following hypothesis.

Assumption 1 (connected di-graph): The network's graph is connected.

Remark 1: We stress that under Assumption 1, any kind of directed graph containing a rooted spanning-tree (with or without cycles) is considered. Moreover, under Assumption 1 the Laplacian L has exactly one eigenvalue (say, λ_1) that equals zero, while the others have positive real part, *i.e.*, $0 = \lambda_1 < \Re\{\lambda_2\} \leq \dots \leq \Re\{\lambda_n\}$. Furthermore, the right eigenvector corresponding to the simple eigenvalue $\lambda_1 = 0$, is $v_r = 1_N \in \mathbb{R}^N$, while the left eigenvector, denoted v_l , contains only non-negative elements [10] and satisfies $1_N^\top v_l = 1$. •

In addition, for each unit, we impose the following regularity and structural hypotheses:

Assumption 2 (equilibrium): The functions f_i are continuously differentiable and, without loss of generality, we assume that $f_i(0) = 0$ for all $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$.

Assumption 3 (Semi passive units): Each agent is input-to-state strictly semi-passive; namely, for each $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$, there exists a continuously differentiable and radially unbounded storage function $V_i : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$, a positive constant ρ , a continuous function $H_i : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, and a continuous function $\psi_i : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ such that

$$\dot{V}_i(x_i) \leq x_i^\top u_i - H_i(x_i)$$

and $H_i(x) \geq \psi_i(|x|)$ for all $|x| \geq \rho$.

Assumption 3 is useful to assess the boundedness of solutions for system (1) in closed loop with (2) for a sufficiently large coupling strength σ . More precisely, we have the following result.

Lemma 1 (Global ultimate boundedness [18]): Consider the systems in (1) in closed loop with the control inputs in (2) and let Assumptions 1–3 be satisfied. Then, the closed-loop system is (uniformly in σ) ultimately bounded; namely, there exist $\sigma^* > 0$ and $r > 0$ such that, for any $R \geq 0$, there exists $\tau_R \geq 0$ such that, for each solution $x(t)$ starting from $x_o \in \mathbb{R}^{nN}$, we have

$$|x_o| \leq R \implies |x(t)| \leq r \quad \forall t \geq \tau_R, \quad \forall \sigma \geq \sigma^*,$$

where $x \in \mathbb{R}^{nN}$ denotes the network's state, *i.e.*, $x = [x_1, \dots, x_N]^\top$. □

Under the assumptions listed above, we investigate the problem of assessing the behavior of the networked closed-loop system (1)-(2). To this end, as it is customary, let us collect the individual interconnection coefficients ℓ_{ij} into the Laplacian matrix $L := [\ell_{ij}] \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$, where

$$\ell_{ij} = \begin{cases} \sum_{k \in \mathcal{N}_i} a_{ik} & i = j \\ -a_{ij} & i \neq j. \end{cases}$$

Then, replacing (2) in (1), we see that the overall network dynamics takes the form

$$\dot{x} = F(x) - \sigma[L \otimes I_n]x, \quad (3)$$

where the function $F : \mathbb{R}^{nN} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{nN}$ is given by

$$F(x) := [f_1(x_1) \cdots f_N(x_N)]^\top.$$

As in [18] and [20], to analyze the behavior of the network system (3), we acknowledge its dichotomous nature. In these references as well as in many others—see, *e.g.*, [35]–[37], synchronization is defined as the property of the trajectories of each individual system following the trajectories of an “averaged” unit with state

$$x_m := [v_l^\top \otimes I_n]x. \quad (4)$$

The quotes in “averaged” are superfluous in the case of undirected networks, in which case $v_l = 1_N$, so $x_m = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i$, but for directed connected networks the state x_m is more generically defined as a weighted average of the respective systems' states since $v_{l_i} \geq 0$ for all $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$ and $v_l^\top 1_N = 1$.

In either case, a sensible way to define the synchronization errors e is as the difference between the units' states and x_m , that is,

$$e := x - [1_N \otimes I_n]x_m. \quad (5)$$

Thus, in [18] and [20] the collective behavior of network systems is studied in function of the dynamics of the “averaged” unit x_m and that of the synchronization errors e .

In the next section, we introduce another change of coordinates to rewrite system (3) in an equivalent form that exhibits two motions; one that is generated by the averaged dynamics and another by a *projection* of the synchronization errors e on a certain subspace. This coordinate transformation is not a simple artifice for analysis, it exhibits two time-scales that are inherent to networked systems satisfying Assumption 1 and subject to a sufficiently large coupling σ .

B. Intrinsic two-time-scales decomposition

After Assumption 1 and Remark 1, because $\lambda_1 = 0$ has multiplicity one, the Laplacian admits the following Jordan-block decomposition of over $\mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$:

$$L = U \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \Lambda \end{bmatrix} U^{-1}, \quad (6)$$

where $\Lambda \in \mathbb{R}^{(N-1) \times (N-1)}$ is composed by the Jordan blocks corresponding to the $N - 1$ non-zero eigenvalues.

Remark 2: Note that even though a Jordan decomposition does not necessarily exist with a real matrix U , it is always possible to use the spectral-invariant-subspace decomposition as in [38, Theorem 1.5., p. 224]—see also [39, Lemma 13]—to generate a real matrix U . •

The convertible matrix U is constituted, column-wise, of the right eigenvector of the Laplacian, 1_N , and a left-invertible matrix $V \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times (N-1)}$, which consists of the eigenvectors corresponding to the nonzero eigenvalues of L . That is,

$$U = [1_N \quad V], \quad U^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} v_l^\top \\ V^\dagger \end{bmatrix}, \quad (7)$$

where $V^\dagger \in \mathbb{R}^{(N-1) \times N}$, and

$$v_l^\top V = 0, \quad V^\dagger V = I_{N-1}. \quad (8)$$

So, using (7) and (8), we also have the useful identity

$$VV^\dagger = I_N - \mathbf{1}_N v_l^\top.$$

Now, using U^{-1} , we define the new coordinates

$$\bar{x} := [U^{-1} \otimes I_n]x \quad (9)$$

and their inverse transformation

$$x := [U \otimes I_n]\bar{x}. \quad (10)$$

The interest of the coordinate \bar{x} is that it consists in the familiar ‘‘averaged’’ states x_m and a projection of the synchronization errors e defined in (5) onto the subspace that is generated by V^\dagger , which is orthogonal to the right eigenvector $\mathbf{1}_N$. To better see this, note that such projection yields

$$[V^\dagger \otimes I_n]e = [V^\dagger \otimes I_n][x - [\mathbf{1}_N \otimes I_n]x_m]$$

In the sequel, we refer to the left-hand side of the latter equation as the projected synchronization errors,

$$e_v := [V^\dagger \otimes I_n]x. \quad (11)$$

Hence, in view of (4), (7), (9), and (11), we have

$$\bar{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_m \\ e_v \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} [v_l^\top \otimes I_n]x \\ [V^\dagger \otimes I_n]x \end{bmatrix}. \quad (12)$$

In the new coordinates, the network system (3) is equivalently written as

$$\dot{\bar{x}} = [U^{-1} \otimes I_n][F(x) - \sigma[L \otimes I_n]x],$$

which consists in two interconnected dynamics, that of the ‘‘averaged’’ state x_m and that of the projected synchronization errors e_v . Therefore, the behavior of the trajectories of (3) may be assessed via the behavior of the latter dynamics. To this end, we use $\bar{x} = [x_m^\top \ e_v^\top]^\top$ and $U = [\mathbf{1}_N \ V]$ in (10) to write

$$x = [\mathbf{1}_N \otimes I_n]x_m + [V \otimes I_n]e_v. \quad (13)$$

So, differentiating on both sides of (4), using (3), (13), and the fact that $v_l^\top L = 0$, we obtain

$$\dot{x}_m = F_m(x_m) + G_m(x_m, e_v), \quad (14)$$

where $F_m(x_m) := [v_l^\top \otimes I_n]F([\mathbf{1}_N \otimes I_n]x_m)$ and

$$G_m(x_m, e_v) := [v_l^\top \otimes I_n][F([\mathbf{1}_N \otimes I_n]x_m + [V \otimes I_n]e_v) - F([\mathbf{1}_N \otimes I_n]x_m)].$$

Note that $F_m(x_m)$ effectively corresponds to an ‘‘averaged’’ dynamics of the systems in (1),

$$F_m(x_m) = \sum_{i=1}^N v_{li} f_i(x_m),$$

$G_m(x_m, 0) = 0$ and, under Assumption 2, all these functions are smooth and there exists a continuous function $h : \mathbb{R}^{nN} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ such that

$$|G_m(x_m, e_v)| \leq h(x_m, e_v)|e_v| \quad \forall (x_m, e_v) \in \mathbb{R}^{nN}. \quad (15)$$

On the other hand, by differentiating on both sides of $e_v = [V^\dagger \otimes I_n]x$ and using (6), (7), and (13), we obtain the *synchronization-errors dynamics*

$$\dot{e}_v = -\sigma[\Lambda \otimes I_n]e_v + G_e(x_m, e_v), \quad (16)$$

where

$$G_e(x_m, e_v) := [V^\dagger \otimes I_n]F([V \otimes I_n]e_v + [\mathbf{1}_N \otimes I_n]x_m).$$

The complete collective behavior of the networked control system (3), up to the globally invertible coordinate transformation in (9), may be assessed by analyzing that of the interconnected systems (14) and (16). We see that the systems in (1) under the action of the control laws in (2) *synchronize* if the errors e_v tend asymptotically to zero. However, the characterization of the networked systems’ behavior would be incomplete unless one can ascertain what the individual systems do *when* they synchronize. Indeed, *a priori*, not even boundedness of solutions is guaranteed (whence Assumption 3). To assess any kind of stable behavior, we analyze the network system (3) *on* the synchronization subspace corresponding to $e_v = 0$. On such a subspace, we have the *reduced-order dynamics*

$$\dot{x}_m = F_m(x_m). \quad (17)$$

So, it is clear that the motion of the synchronized systems is fully determined by that of the reduced-order dynamics (17). In this regard, it is important to underline that (17), as well as the ‘‘averaged’’ dynamics (14) are independent of the coupling gain σ . This dynamics is *inherent* to the network and appears simply as a consequence of the graph’s connectivity imposed by Assumption 1. The synchronization dynamics (16), on the other hand, clearly depends on the coupling strength σ . In this paper we are interested in investigating the synchronization behavior for ‘large’ values of the coupling strength. More precision about the meaning of ‘large’ is given farther below.

We consider two scenarii of major interest. The first pertains to the case in which the reduced-order dynamics (17) admits the origin as a globally asymptotically stable equilibrium point. This case covers, in particular, the classical problem of consensus for heterogeneous nonlinear systems interconnected over generic connected graphs, since in this case $\dot{x}_m \equiv 0$. Our main statement in this case (Theorem 1) is that not only the networked system achieves dynamic consensus but the origin $\{x = 0\}$ is GAS for (3). The second scenario pertains to the case in which the reduced-order dynamics admits an unstable equilibrium and a stable periodic orbit. Our main statement in this case (Theorem 2) establishes sufficient conditions for almost global asymptotic stability. For instance, for a network of periodic heterogeneous nonlinear oscillators, it is possible to assess the conditions under which they synchronize *and* to characterize the resulting collective oscillatory behavior.

The analysis of (3) is carried out using singular-perturbations theory. For this, we write the network system (3) in the familiar singular-perturbation form [29], [30]

$$\dot{x}_m = F_m(x_m) + G_m(x_m, e_v) \quad (18a)$$

$$\varepsilon \dot{e}_v = -(\Lambda \otimes I_n) e_v + \varepsilon G_e(x_m, e_v), \quad \varepsilon := 1/\sigma, \quad (18b)$$

in which we recognize two time scales, “slow” and “fast”, corresponding, respectively, to the dynamics of the averaged-unit states x_m and the projected synchronization errors e_v . Now, in accordance with singular-perturbation theory; see [30, p. 358], the behavior of (18) is ineluctably determined by that of the *slow* dynamics, obtained by setting $\varepsilon = 0$, which clearly corresponds to the reduced-order model (17). Thus, the rest of the paper is devoted to the analysis of (18) in the two cases evoked above.

Even though the analysis relies on the study of the system in singularly-perturbed form, (18), we remark that our two main statements are formulated for system (3), which remains the main subject study in this paper. Therefore, we finish this section by re-expressing the properties of (3) in Assumptions 1–3 in terms of (18), in the form of the following, rather evident, statement that is extensively used in the sequel.

Lemma 2: Consider system (3) such that Assumptions 1–3 hold. Then, the resulting system (18), with states defined in (12), enjoys the following properties:

- (i) the functions F_m , G_m , and G_e are continuously differentiable;
- (ii) the origin $\{(x_m, e_v) = (0, 0)\}$ as an isolated equilibrium point;
- (iii) the solutions to (18) are globally uniformly (in σ) ultimately bounded;
- (iv) the matrix Λ is Hurwitz. \square

III. CASE I: GLOBAL ASYMPTOTIC STABILITY

Consider the network system (3) in its equivalent singular-perturbation representation (18). In the case that the reduced-order dynamics (17) admits the origin as a globally asymptotically stable equilibrium, under Assumptions 1–3, global asymptotic stability of the origin for (18) follows under a sufficiently small perturbation $\varepsilon > 0$. According to [40], we recall the practical-stability notions of a closed subset $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ for a general nonlinear system of the form

$$\dot{x} = f(x, \varepsilon) \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad \varepsilon \in [0, 1]. \quad (19)$$

- The set \mathcal{A} is globally practically attractive if, for each $\beta > 0$, there exists $\varepsilon^* > 0$ such that, for each $\varepsilon \leq \varepsilon^*$, every solution $x(t)$ to (19), there exists $T > 0$ such that $\|x(t_o + T)\| \leq \beta$.
- The set \mathcal{A} is globally practically stable if there exists $\kappa \in \mathcal{K}$ such that, for each $\beta > 0$, there exists $\varepsilon^* > 0$ such that, for each $\varepsilon \geq \varepsilon^*$, we have

$$|x(t)| \leq \kappa(|x(t_o)|) + \beta \quad \forall t \geq t_o.$$

- The set \mathcal{A} is globally asymptotically practically stable if it is globally practically attractive and globally practically stable.

Our first statement is the following.

Theorem 1 (GAS): Consider system (3) under Assumptions 1–3. In addition, assume that for system (17), the origin $\{x_m = 0\}$ is globally asymptotically stable. Then,

- (i) the origin for (3) is globally asymptotically practically stable.

Furthermore, assume in addition that there exists a continuously differentiable Lyapunov function $V_m : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ and a class \mathcal{K}_∞ function α such that

$$\frac{\partial V_m(x_m)}{\partial x_m^\top} F_m(x_m) \leq -\alpha(|x_m|)^2 \quad (20)$$

and there exists $c_r > 0$ such that, for all $\bar{x} \in B_r$ —see (12),

$$\max_{\bar{x} \in B_r} \left\{ |G_e(x_m, e_v) - G_e(0, e_v)|, \left| \frac{\partial V(x_m)}{\partial x_m} \right| \right\} \leq c_r \alpha(|x_m|), \quad (21)$$

where $r > 0$ is the global ultimate bound established in Lemma 1. Then,

- (ii) there exists $\sigma^* > 0$ such that, for all $\sigma \geq \sigma^*$, the origin for (3) is globally asymptotically stable. \square

Proof: The statement in Item (i) follows by establishing global asymptotic practical stability of the origin $\{\bar{x} = 0\}$ for (18). To this end, we first remark that, after Assumptions 2–3 and Lemma 2, system (18) is globally uniformly (in σ) ultimately bounded. That is, there exist $\sigma^* > 0$ and $r > 0$ such that, for any $R \geq 0$, there exists $\tau_R \geq 0$ such that

$$|\bar{x}_o| \leq R \Rightarrow |\bar{x}(t)| \leq r \quad \forall t \geq \tau_R, \quad \forall \sigma \geq \sigma^*.$$

Hence, it suffices to show (i) only inside the compact set B_r . To do so, we show that, for every positive constant $r_f < r$, there exists $\sigma_f > 0$ such that, for each $\sigma \geq \sigma_f$, the compact set B_{r_f} is globally asymptotically stable for (18) on B_r [40]. We first rewrite the perturbed system (18) in the following form

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}_m &= F_m(x_m) + G_m(x_m, e_v) \\ \varepsilon \dot{e}_v &= -(\Lambda \otimes I_n) e_v + \varepsilon G_e(0, e_v) \\ &\quad + \varepsilon [G_e(x_m, e_v) - G_e(0, e_v)]. \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

Next, using Assumption 2, we conclude the existence of a constant $d_r > 0$ such that, for each $\bar{x} \in B_r$,

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\bar{x} \in B_r} \{ |G_m(x_m, e_v)|, |G_e(0, e_v)| \} &\leq d_r |e_v|, \\ |G_e(x_m, e_v) - G_e(0, e_v)| &\leq d_r |x_m| \quad \forall \bar{x} \in B_r. \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Furthermore, after Item (iv) in Lemma 2, the linear system

$$\dot{e}_v = -(\Lambda \otimes I_n) e_v$$

is exponentially stable. As a result, there exists $P \in \mathbb{R}^{(N-1) \times (N-1)}$ symmetric and positive definite such that

$$P\Lambda + \Lambda^\top P \leq -I_N.$$

Finally, we use the converse Lyapunov theorem in [30, Theorem 3.14] to conclude that, since the origin for (17) is globally asymptotically stable, there exists a function $V_m :$

$\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ and positive constants α_{rrf} and β_{rrf} such that, for each $\bar{x} \in B_r \setminus B_{r_f}$, we have

$$\left| \frac{\partial V_m(x_m)}{\partial x_m} \right| \leq \beta_{rrf} |x_m|, \quad (25)$$

$$\frac{\partial V_m(x_m)}{\partial x_m^\top} F_m(x_m) \leq -\alpha_{rrf} |x_m|^2. \quad (26)$$

Therefore, under (23)–(26), the total derivative of the Lyapunov function candidate

$$V(\bar{x}) := V_m(x_m) + V_e(e_v), \quad (27)$$

where $V_e(e_v) := e_v^\top (P \otimes I_n) e_v$, satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}(\bar{x}) &\leq -\alpha_{rrf} |x_m|^2 + d_r [\lambda_{\max}(P) + \beta_{rrf}] |x_m| |e_v| \\ &\quad - [\sigma - d_r \lambda_{\max}(P)] |e_v|^2 \quad \forall \bar{x} \in B_r \setminus B_{r_f}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, for $\sigma_f := d_r^2 (\lambda_{\max}(P) + \beta_{rrf})^2 + 2d_r \lambda_{\max}(P)$, we conclude that, for each $\sigma \geq \sigma_f$, we have

$$\dot{V}(e_v, x_m) \leq -\frac{1}{2} \alpha_{rrf} |x_m|^2 - \frac{1}{2} \sigma |e_v|^2 \quad \forall \bar{x} \in B_r \setminus B_{r_f}.$$

The statement in Item (ii) follows by establishing global asymptotic stability of the origin $\{\bar{x} = 0\}$ for (18). However, since (18) is globally uniformly (in σ) ultimately bounded, it is enough to prove that the origin is asymptotically stable on for all solutions contained in B_r . So in the rest of the proof, we restrict the analysis on B_r . Let us reconsider the Lyapunov function V introduced in (27). Note that the time derivative of V along the solutions to (18) satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}(\bar{x}) &= -\alpha (|x_m|)^2 + \frac{\partial V_m}{\partial x_m^\top} G_m(x_m, e_v) - \sigma |e_v|^2 \\ &\quad + 2e_v^\top P [G_e(0, e_v) + (G_e(x_m, e_v) - G_e(0, e_v))]. \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

Now, after (23) and (21), we conclude that

$$\frac{\partial V(\bar{x})}{\partial x_m} G_m(x_m, e_v) \leq c_r d_r \alpha (|x_m|) |e_v| \quad \forall \bar{x} \in B_r, \quad (29)$$

and, consequently, from (28), (23), and (29), it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}(\bar{x}) &\leq -\alpha (|x_m|)^2 + c_r [2\lambda_{\max}(P) + d_r] \alpha (|x_m|) |e_v| \\ &\quad - [\sigma - 2d_r \lambda_{\max}(P)] |e_v|^2 \quad \forall \bar{x} \in B_r. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, for $\sigma^* := c_r^2 [\lambda_{\max}(P) + d_r]^2 + 4d_r \lambda_{\max}(P)$, we conclude that, for each $\sigma \geq \sigma^*$,

$$\dot{V}(\bar{x}) \leq -\frac{1}{2} \alpha (|x_m|)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \sigma |e_v|^2 \quad \forall \bar{x} \in B_r. \quad \blacksquare$$

Remark 3: The first statement in Theorem 1 can be deduced using [18, Corollaries 1 and 3], a detailed proof is included in this paper for the sake of self containedness. •

Remark 4: The regularity conditions in (20)–(21) are required to ensure negativity of the time derivative of the Lyapunov function V along the solutions to (18). Even though they may appear conservative, since they are certainly not necessary —see [30, Exercise 9.24], it is important to stress that the origin is not necessarily globally asymptotically stable if these conditions do not hold. In [39] we provide an example

that illustrates this claim. Furthermore, the inequalities (20)–(21) are required to hold only in a compact set containing the origin. •

IV. CASE II: PERIODIC BEHAVIOR

In this section, we present our second and main statement, which pertains to the case where (17) admits a periodic orbit that is attractive from almost all initial conditions. Under this condition, Theorem 2 below establishes that for $\sigma > 0$ sufficiently large, the network system (3) also admits a unique periodic orbit and it is globally attractive from almost all initial conditions. In particular, frequency synchronization is achieved and the synchronization errors can be made arbitrary small by choosing σ sufficiently large. It is important to stress that our main statement establishes a precise periodic behavior for the network system (3) rather than just approaching the periodic solution to (17).

For completeness and clarity, we start by recalling some notions and tools related to the stability of periodic solutions to nonlinear systems.

Consider the system

$$\dot{x} = f(x) \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad (30)$$

where $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is locally Lipschitz.

Definition 1 (Periodic solution and periodic orbit): A solution $t \mapsto \phi(t)$, or simply $\phi(t)$, to (30) is said to be α -periodic if there exists $\alpha > 0$ (the period) such that, for each $t \geq 0$,

$$\phi(t + \alpha) = \phi(t) \quad \text{and} \quad \phi(t + s) \neq \phi(t) \quad \forall s \in (0, \alpha).$$

Moreover, if the system (30) admits a periodic solution ϕ , we say that it admits a (closed) periodic orbit $\gamma \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ generated by the image of ϕ .

Then, according with Lyapunov theory, we may single out the following desired properties for periodic solutions.

Definition 2 (Orbital Stability): Let γ be a periodic orbit for (30).

- The orbit γ is orbitally stable if, for each $\varepsilon > 0$, there exist $\delta > 0$ and $T \geq 0$, such that, for each initial condition x_o satisfying $|x_o|_\gamma \leq \delta$, the solution ϕ starting from x_o satisfies $|\phi(t)|_\gamma \leq \varepsilon$ for all $t \geq T$.
- The orbit γ is orbitally asymptotically stable, if it is orbitally stable and attractive; *i.e.*, if there exists $R \in (0, +\infty]$ such that, for each x_o satisfying $|x_o|_\gamma \leq R$, the solution ϕ starting from x_o satisfies $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |\phi(t)|_\gamma = 0$.
- The orbit γ is globally orbitally asymptotically stable if it is orbitally asymptotically stable with $R = +\infty$ and almost globally asymptotically stable if it is orbitally asymptotically stable for all $x_o \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \mathcal{D}$, where $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ has a null Lebesgue measure.

Finally, we recall some orbital stability criteria in terms of the so-called characteristics multipliers [41, Section III.7] which, for linear periodic systems, are the counterpart of eigenvalues for linear autonomous systems. To see this, we assume that f is continuously differentiable and we consider

the α -periodic matrix $A(t) := \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^\top}(\phi(t))$, where $\phi(t)$ is the α -periodic solution to (30) generating the orbit γ . After Floquet theory—see *e.g.*, [42] and [43], there exist an α -periodic non-singular matrix $P : [t_o, +\infty] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ and a constant matrix $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ such that the transition matrix associated to the linear time-varying system

$$\dot{x} = A(t)x \quad (31)$$

is given by $X(t) := P(t)e^{Bt}$ and the non-singular change of coordinates $y := P(t)^{-1}x$ transforms the linear system (31) into $\dot{y} = By$.

Definition 3 (Characteristic multipliers): The characteristic multipliers of the α -periodic matrix $A(t)$ are the eigenvalues of the matrix $e^{B\alpha}$.

Definition 4 (Non-singular periodic orbit): The periodic orbit γ generated by the periodic solution $\phi(t)$ is non-singular if the matrix $A(t) := \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^\top}(\phi(t))$ admits a simple characteristic multiplier equal to 1.

Lemma 3 (Theorem 2.1, Section VI.2. [41]): Consider system (30) with f continuously differentiable and let ϕ be a non-trivial α -periodic solution generating the orbit γ . Assume that the matrix $A(t) := \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^\top}(\phi(t))$ is non-singular and all the characteristic multipliers, except one, have modulus strictly less than 1. Then, the resulting periodic orbit γ is asymptotically orbitally stable. \square

Sufficient conditions for orbital stability

As mentioned above, generally speaking, the standing assumption in this section is that the reduced-order dynamics (17) admits an orbitally asymptotically stable periodic solution. However, we remark that some nonlinear systems defined on compact and convex sets and that admit a limit cycle, also admit at least one equilibrium point [44]. This imposes particular richness to the network's collective behavior and considerable difficulty to analyze it since it translates into studying the stability of a disconnected invariant set. In that light, we pose the following, more precise hypothesis.

Assumption 4: The reduced-order dynamics (17) admits a unique compact invariant subset $\omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ that is globally attractive; namely, for each $x_{m0} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, the solution $x_m(t)$ starting from x_{m0} satisfies

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} |x_m(t)|_\omega = 0 \quad (32)$$

Furthermore, the set ω is composed of a non-singular periodic orbit γ_o , of period α_o , that is orbitally asymptotically stable and

- the origin $\{x_m = 0\}$, when the latter is repulsive.
- the homoclinic orbit $\gamma_1 := W_o^u(0) \cap W_o^s(0)$ when the origin is hyperbolic¹, where $W_o^s(0)$ and $W_o^u(0)$ are, respectively, the global stable and unstable manifolds of the origin.

¹*i.e.* the eigenvalues of $A := \frac{\partial f_m(x_m)}{\partial x_m} \Big|_{x_m=0}$ has $0 < k < n$ eigenvalues with positive real part and $n - k$ with negative real part.

Remark 5: Note that the global attractivity property in (32) plus the structure of the invariant set ω imply the existence of a Lyapunov function enjoying useful properties along the solutions to (17)—see [45, Theorem 1]. \bullet

Lemma 4: Under Assumption 4 and Item (i) in Lemma 2, the periodic orbit γ_o is almost globally orbitally asymptotically stable for (17). \square

We are ready to present our main statement.

Theorem 2 (Almost global orbital asymptotic stability):

Consider the network system (3) under the Assumptions 1–3 and such that the reduced-order dynamics (17) satisfies Assumption 4. Then, there exists $\sigma^f > 0$, such that, for all $\sigma \geq \sigma^f$, the networked system (3) admits a unique nontrivial periodic orbit $\mathcal{O}_{1/\sigma}$, of period $\alpha_{1/\sigma}$ and that is almost globally orbitally asymptotically stable. Moreover, $\mathcal{O}_{1/\sigma} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_o$, where

$$\mathcal{O}_o := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^{nN} : x_m \in \gamma_o \text{ and } e_v = 0\}$$

—see (12), and $\alpha_{1/\sigma} \rightarrow \alpha_o$ as $\sigma \rightarrow \infty$. \square

The proof of Theorem 2, which is provided farther below, follows a sequence of logical steps to assess the existence, uniqueness, and almost global orbital asymptotic stability of an orbit for (3). The analysis relies on studying the singularly-perturbed system (18), but we emphasize that the available literature on stability (of the origin or a compact set) for singularly-perturbed systems [46], [28], [30] does not apply to (18), when (17) admits a limit cycle and an isolated equilibrium point. Therefore, the proof of Theorem 2 relies on technical lemmata that are presented next, but, for clarity of exposition, the proofs of these lemmata are given in the Appendix.

- Lemma 5 establishes global asymptotic practical stability of the

$$\{(x_m, e_v) \in \mathbb{R}^{nN} : x_m \in \gamma_o \cup \gamma_1 \text{ and } e_v = 0\};$$

- Lemma 6 establishes that, given a torus sufficiently tight around \mathcal{O}_o , for each coupling gain σ sufficiently large, system (17) admits a unique periodic orbit $\mathcal{O}_{1/\sigma}$ contained in the torus;
- Lemma 7 establishes that each such orbit $\mathcal{O}_{1/\sigma}$ is (locally) asymptotically stable and admits the aforementioned torus as a basin of attraction;
- Lemmata 8 and 11 (in the Appendix) provide a local analysis around the origin, to establish that it attracts only the solutions starting from a null-measure set.

Technical Lemmata

We start by introducing the following notations. Correspondingly to $\gamma_o \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\gamma_1 \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, which denote, respectively, the closed periodic and homoclinic orbits for system (17)—see Assumption 4, we introduce their “lifting” $\Gamma_o \subset \mathbb{R}^{nN}$ and $\Gamma_1 \subset \mathbb{R}^{nN}$ in the space of system (18), as

$$\Gamma_o := \{(x_m, e_v) \in \mathbb{R}^{nN} : x_m \in \gamma_o \text{ and } e_v = 0\}, \quad (33)$$

$$\Gamma_1 := \{(x_m, e_v) \in \mathbb{R}^{nN} : x_m \in \gamma_1 \text{ and } e_v = 0\}. \quad (34)$$

Furthermore, we denote by T_ρ the torus defined as

$$T_\rho := \left\{ (e_v, x_m) \in \mathbb{R}^{N(n-1)} \times \mathbb{R}^n : |(x_m, e_v)|_{\Gamma_o} \leq \rho \right\}, \quad (35)$$

and we use $\Gamma_\varepsilon \subset \mathbb{R}^{nN}$ to denote a closed orbit generated by a periodic solution to system (18), *if it exists*. That is, Γ_ε is a subset in the space of (x_m, e_v) that consists in the image points generated by the parameterized solutions of (18), $t \mapsto (x_m(t), e_v(t))$, that are periodic with period α_ε .

The first technical lemma provides a statement for system (18) on global practical asymptotic (GApS) stability of the set

$$\Omega := \Gamma_o \cup \Gamma_1,$$

where Γ_o and Γ_1 are introduced in (33)-(34).

Lemma 5 (GApS of Ω): Consider system (18) such that Items (i)–(iii) of Lemma 2 hold and let Assumption 4 be satisfied for the corresponding reduced-order system (17). Then, the set $\Omega := \Gamma_o \cup \Gamma_1$ is GApS for (18). In particular, for any $\rho > 0$, there exists $\varepsilon_1(\rho) > 0$, such that, for each $\varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_1(\rho)$ and for each initial condition $x_o = (e_{v_o}, z_{m_o}) \in \mathbb{R}^{nN}$, the solution $(x_m(t), e_v(t))$ satisfies $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |x_m(t), e_v(t)|_\Omega \leq \rho$. \square

The next lemma establishes that, for all sufficiently small values of $\rho > 0$, there exist sufficiently small values of ε , such that there exists a unique periodic orbit $\Gamma_\varepsilon \subset T_\rho$ generated by a solution to (18) of period $\alpha_\varepsilon \approx \alpha_o$.

Lemma 6 (Existence of Γ_ε): Consider system (18) such that Items (i) and (iii) of Lemma 2 hold and let Assumption 4 hold for the reduced-order dynamics (17). Then, there exist $\rho_o > 0$ and a class \mathcal{K} function ε_o such that, for each $\rho \in (0, \rho_o]$ and for each $\varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_o(\rho)$, system (18) has a unique nontrivial periodic orbit Γ_ε , which is strictly contained in T_ρ . Moreover, the period α_ε of the solution to (18) generating the orbit Γ_ε tends to α_o , which is the period of the solution to (17) generating the orbit Γ_o . \square

Remark 6: The existence result in Lemma 6 follows from a direct application of Anosov Theorem—see Lemma 9 in the Appendix. \bullet

The next lemma establishes local asymptotic orbital stability of all periodic orbits Γ_ε lying inside the torus T_ρ for sufficiently small values of ε and ρ . Moreover, we show that the corresponding domain of attraction is uniform in ε .

Lemma 7 (Stability of Γ_ε): Let system (18) satisfy Items (i) and (iii) of Lemma 2 and let Assumption 4 be satisfied for the corresponding reduced-order dynamics (17). Then, there exist $\varepsilon^{**} > 0$ and $\rho^{**} > 0$ such that, for each $\varepsilon \leq \varepsilon^{**}$, each periodic orbit $\Gamma_\varepsilon \subset T_{\rho^{**}}$ generated by an α_ε -periodic solution to (18), with α_ε sufficiently close to α_o , is asymptotically orbitally stable with a domain of attraction that contains $T_{\rho^{**}}$. \square

Remark 7: Lemma 7 is reminiscent of a statement established by Anosov— [27, Theorem 5]—that pertains to the case in which the periodic orbit γ_o for (17) is only non-singular (or hyperbolic). Although it is claimed in [27] that the proof therein translates directly to the case where γ_o is non-singular and asymptotically stable, in this paper, we provide an original

proof for the latter case using the theory of perturbed matrices [38], [47]. \bullet

The next statement links those from Lemmata 5–7. It establishes that if ε is sufficiently small, then the periodic behavior of the reduced order system (17) is preserved for system (18) as well as its stability properties.

Proposition 1: Consider the dynamical system (18) under the assumption that Items (i)–(iv) of Lemma 2 hold and assume further that the reduced-order dynamics (17) satisfies Assumption 4.

Then, there exists $\rho_o > 0$ such that, for each $\rho \in (0, \rho_o]$, there exists $\varepsilon_2(\rho) > 0$ such that, for each $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_2(\rho))$,

- (i) system (18) admits a unique orbit $\Gamma_\varepsilon \subset T_\rho$ generated by a non-trivial (α_ε) -periodic solution, with $\Gamma_\varepsilon \rightarrow \Gamma_o$ and $\alpha_\varepsilon \rightarrow \alpha_o$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$;
- (ii) Γ_ε is (locally) asymptotically stable;
- (iii) for any initial condition $\bar{x}_o \in \mathbb{R}^{nN}$ the corresponding solution $\bar{x}(t)$ to (18) either converges to Γ_ε or to a ρ -neighborhood of Γ_1 , that is,

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} |\bar{x}(t)|_{\Gamma_1} \leq \rho. \quad (36)$$

\square

Proof: Items (i)–(iv) in Lemma 2 and Assumption 4 imply that the statements of Lemmata 5–7 hold. Then, let Lemma 7 generate $\varepsilon^{**} > 0$ and $\rho^{**} > 0$. Furthermore, let Lemma 6 generate $(\rho_o, \varepsilon_o(\cdot))$, for each $\rho \in (0, \rho_o]$, let Lemma 5 generate $(\varepsilon_1(\rho), \varepsilon_1(\rho^{**}))$, and let

$$\varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_2(\rho) := \min\{\varepsilon^{**}, \varepsilon_o(\rho), \varepsilon_o(\rho^{**}), \varepsilon_1(\rho), \varepsilon_1(\rho^{**})\}$$

be arbitrarily fixed.

After Lemma 6, there exists a unique periodic orbit $\Gamma_\varepsilon \subset T_\rho \cap T_{\rho^{**}} = T_{\min\{\rho, \rho^{**}\}}$ generated by a solution to (18). Now, given any sequence $\{\varepsilon_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$ that converges to zero and such that $\varepsilon_i \leq \varepsilon_2(\rho)$ for all $i \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$, from the above, we know that, for i large enough, the unique orbit Γ_{ε_i} satisfies $\Gamma_{\varepsilon_i} \subset T_{\rho_i}$, where $\rho_i := \varepsilon_o^{-1}(\varepsilon_i)$ —note that ε_o^{-1} exists and is of class \mathcal{K} because so it ε_o . Item [i] of the proposition follows since T_{ρ_i} converges to Γ_o —see (35).

Next, after Lemma 7, we conclude that Γ_ε is orbitally asymptotically stable and $T_{\rho^{**}}$ is inside the domain of attraction of Γ_ε . This establishes Item (ii).

Finally, from Lemma 5 we conclude that each solution to (18) either converges to $T_{\min\{\rho, \rho^{**}\}} \subset T_{\rho^{**}}$, so it also converges to Γ_ε , or it converges to a $\min\{\rho, \rho^{**}\}$ -neighborhood of Γ_1 . This establishes Item (iii). \blacksquare

The last technical lemma provides a local stability analysis around the origin of (18). It states that the origin is a hyperbolic equilibrium point, for all sufficiently-small values of ε . Furthermore, inspired by the Stable Manifold Theorem [48, Theorem 13.4.1], we show that the stable and unstable manifolds around the origin are uniquely defined on a neighborhood whose size does not shrink with ε .

Lemma 8 (Local behavior around the origin): Consider system (18) and let Items (i)–(ii) of Lemma 2 hold. Assume further that the corresponding reduced-order dynamics (17)

satisfies Assumption 4. Then, there exist $\rho^* > 0$, $\varepsilon^* > 0$, a neighborhood of the origin denoted $U \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, and $r > 0$ such that, for each $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon^*)$,

- (i) system (18) admits a unique unstable and stable manifolds $(W_\varepsilon^u(0), W_\varepsilon^s(0))$ defined on U ;
- (ii) for each $\bar{x}(t)$ bounded solution to (18) starting from $\bar{x}_0 \in U \setminus W_\varepsilon^s(0)$, there exists $T_1 > 0$ such that $|\bar{x}(t)| \geq r$ for all $t \geq T_1$;
- (iii) for each $\bar{x}(t)$ solution to (18) such that $|\bar{x}(0)|_{\Gamma_1} \leq \rho^*$, there exists $T_2 > 0$ such that $|\bar{x}(T_2)| < r$. \square

Proof of Theorem 2

Under Assumptions 1–3, Items (i)–(iv) of Lemma 2 hold for system (18). This and Assumption 4 imply that the statements of Proposition 1 and Lemmata 5–8 hold. Then, let Lemma 8 generate $\rho^* > 0$ and $\varepsilon^* > 0$ and let Proposition 1 generate $(\rho_o, \varepsilon_2(\min\{\rho^*, \rho_o\}/4))$. We show that the statement of Theorem 2 holds with $\sigma^f := 1/\min\{\varepsilon^*, \varepsilon_2(\min\{\rho^*, \rho_o\}/4)\}$ in the following four steps:

- 1) First, for any $\sigma \geq \sigma^f$ or, equivalently, any $\varepsilon = 1/\sigma$ satisfying $\varepsilon \leq \min\{\varepsilon^*, \varepsilon_2(\min\{\rho^*, \rho_o\}/4)\}$, we use Item (i) of Proposition 1 to conclude the existence of a unique nontrivial periodic orbit Γ_ε generated by a periodic solution to (18) of period α_ε . From Item (ii) of the same Proposition it follows that Γ_ε is locally asymptotically stable. In addition, from Item (iii) of Proposition 1 it follows that each solution $\bar{x}(t)$ to system (18) either converges to the orbit Γ_ε , otherwise, it converges to a $(\min\{\rho^*, \rho_o\}/4)$ -neighborhood of Γ_1 ; that is, (36) holds with $\rho = \min\{\rho^*, \rho_o\}/4$ and, consequently, there exists $T < \infty$ such that

$$|\bar{x}(t)|_{\Gamma_1} = |(x_m(t), e_v(t))|_{\Gamma_1} \leq \min\{\rho^*, \rho_o\}/2 \quad \forall t \geq T. \quad (37)$$

- 2) Let us now introduce the backward propagation of the stable manifold $W_\varepsilon^s(0)$ introduced for (18) in Lemma 8. That is, we introduce set

$$R(W_\varepsilon^s(0)) := \{\bar{x}(t) : t \leq 0, \bar{x}(0) \in W_\varepsilon^s(0)\}$$

and prove by contradiction that the solution \bar{x} to (18) satisfying (37) must start from the set $R(W_\varepsilon^s(0))$. Indeed, assume that the opposite holds. Then, using Item (iii) in Lemma 8, we conclude that the solution \bar{x} must enter B_r at some $T^* \geq T$. In particular, $\bar{x}(T^*) \in U$ and $\bar{x}(T^*) \notin W_\varepsilon^s(0)$. Now, using Item (ii) in Lemma 8, we conclude that there exists $T_1 > 0$ such that

$$|\bar{x}(T^* + t)| \geq r \quad \forall t \geq T_1.$$

However, since $|\bar{x}(T^* + T_1)|_{\Gamma_1} \leq \min\{\rho^*, \rho_o\}/2$, it follows that \bar{x} must enter B_r again under Item (iii) of Lemma 8, which contradicts Item (ii).

- 3) Next, we show that the set $R(W_\varepsilon^s(0))$ is a null measure set using contradiction. That is, let $S_o \subset R(W_\varepsilon^s(0))$ such that $\mu(S_o) \neq 0$. Assume without loss of generality that for some $T < 0$, we have

$$S_o \subset \{\bar{x}(t) : t \in [-T, 0], \bar{x}(0) \in W_\varepsilon^s(0), \bar{x} \text{ sol. to (18)}\}.$$

Note that

$$R^b(T, S_o) := \{\bar{x}(T) : \bar{x}(0) \in S_o\} \subset W_\varepsilon^s(0)$$

with $\mu(W_\varepsilon^s(0)) = 0$. However, using Lemma 11 from the Appendix, we conclude that $\mu(S_o) = 0$.

- 4) Finally, using the inverse transformation (10), it follows that the orbit

$$\mathcal{O}_\varepsilon := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^{nN} : (x_e, e_v) \in \Gamma_\varepsilon\}$$

is almost GAS for (3). The second statement follows from Lemma 6. \blacksquare

V. CONCLUSION

We presented a framework to analyse networks of heterogeneous nonlinear systems. Our approach allows to qualitatively characterize the collective behavior for “large” values of the coupling gains. The proposed approach, however, does not give much information about the quantitative properties of such behavior. In particular, we do not provide explicit values of the coupling strength under which the networked system exhibit the established behavior. Characterizing the emergent behavior, such as orbital asymptotic stability, both qualitatively and quantitatively (in terms of the coupling gain) is still an open problem. Furthermore, beyond the analysis problems solved in this paper, the control design problem is widely open. To find conditions under which a network of heterogeneous systems may be controlled so that it admits a *desired* reduced-order dynamics. Finally, we believe that extending the proposed framework for general classes of nonlinear systems such as hybrid systems is an interesting perspective as well.

APPENDIX I: BACKGROUND

Existence of periodic orbits for singularly perturbed systems

The following result, which is a consequence of the main statements in [27], establishes the existence of periodic solutions for singularly-perturbed systems,

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{z} &= f(z, e, \varepsilon) \\ \varepsilon \dot{e} &= g(z, e, \varepsilon) \quad (z, e) \in \mathbb{R}^{m_z} \times \mathbb{R}^{m_e}. \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

Lemma 9: Consider the singularly perturbed system (38) such that the following properties hold:

- 1) the functions f and g are continuous with respect to (z, e, ε) and differentiable with respect to z and e . Moreover, the derivatives of f and g with respect to z and e depend continuously on (z, e, ε) .
- 2) There is a unique function $h : \mathbb{R}^{m_z} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{m_e}$ such that $g(z, h(z), 0) = 0$.
- 3) The equilibrium state $y = 0$ (with $y = e - h(z)$) of the boundary-layer system

$$y' = g(z, y + h(z), 0), \quad (39)$$

where $y' := dy/d(t/\varepsilon)$, is hyperbolic uniformly in z .

4) The unperturbed system

$$\dot{z} = f(\bar{z}, h(\bar{z}), 0) \quad (40)$$

has a nontrivial nonsingular periodic orbit $\gamma_o \subset \mathbb{R}^{m_z}$.

Then, there exists $\rho_o > 0$ and a class \mathcal{K} function ε_o such that for each $\rho \in (0, \rho_o]$ and for each $\varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_o(\rho)$, the system (38) has a unique nontrivial periodic orbit Γ_ε , which is strictly contained in the ρ -neighborhood of Γ_o , where

$$\Gamma_o := \{(z, e) \in \mathbb{R}^{m_z} \times \mathbb{R}^{m_e} : z \in \gamma_o \text{ and } e = h(z)\}.$$

Moreover, the period α_ε of the periodic solution to (38) generating the orbit Γ_ε tends to α_o the period of the solution to (40) generating the orbit Γ_o . \square

APPENDIX II: AUXILIARY LEMMATA

Given a function of two scalar variables that is smooth in one and only continuous in the other, the following original lemma shows the existence of a smooth approximation to any given 'nonuniform' degree of precision.

Lemma 10: Consider a function $T : [0, 1] \times [0, \alpha_o] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ such that $\tau \mapsto T(\varepsilon, \tau)$ is continuous, $\varepsilon \mapsto T(\varepsilon, \tau)$ is continuously differentiable, and $\tau \mapsto T(0, \tau)$ is continuously differentiable. Then, for each $\rho > 0$, there exists $\hat{T} : [0, 1] \times [0, \alpha_o] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ continuously differentiable such that

$$\hat{T}(0, \tau) = T(0, \tau) \quad \forall \tau \in [0, \alpha_o], \quad (41)$$

$$|\hat{T}(\varepsilon, \tau) - T(\varepsilon, \tau)|_\infty \leq \rho\varepsilon + o(\varepsilon) \quad \forall \tau \in [0, \alpha_o], \quad (42)$$

and

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \dot{\hat{T}}(\varepsilon, \tau) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{\partial \hat{T}(\varepsilon, \tau)}{\partial \tau} = \dot{T}(0, \tau). \quad (43)$$

\square

Proof: Since the matrix T is continuously differentiable in ε and continuous in τ , then it admits a first-order Taylor expansion of the form

$$T(\varepsilon, \tau) = T(0, \tau) + a(\tau)\varepsilon + g(\varepsilon, \tau),$$

where $a : [0, \alpha_o] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is continuous and $g : [0, 1] \times [0, \alpha_o] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ enjoys the same continuity and smoothness properties as T . Furthermore, there exists $M > 0$ such that, for each $\tau \in [0, \alpha_o]$, we have

$$|g(\varepsilon, \tau)| \leq M\varepsilon^2 \quad \forall \varepsilon \in [0, 1].$$

Now, we choose the matrix \hat{T} as

$$\hat{T}(\varepsilon, \tau) = T(0, \tau) + \hat{a}(\tau)\varepsilon,$$

where $\hat{a} : [0, \alpha_o] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is a continuously differentiable approximation of a on $[0, \alpha_o]$ satisfying

$$\sup_{\tau \in [0, \alpha_o]} \{|a(\tau) - \hat{a}(\tau)|\} \leq \rho.$$

Note that to obtain the latter inequality, we used Stone–Weierstrass theorem stating that every continuous function defined on a closed interval $[0, \alpha_o]$ can be uniformly approximated as closely as desired by a polynomial function [49].

As a result, (41) holds. Furthermore, we note that

$$T(\varepsilon, \tau) - \hat{T}(\varepsilon, \tau) = (a(\tau) - \hat{a}(\tau))\varepsilon + g(\varepsilon, \tau),$$

which implies that (42) also holds. Finally, (43) holds under (41) and the continuous differentiability of \hat{T} . \blacksquare

Consider the dynamical system

$$\dot{x} = f(x) \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad (44)$$

where $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is continuously differentiable and the origin $x = 0$ is a hyperbolic equilibrium point. The following lemma allows us to show that the propagation of the local stable manifold $W^s(0)$ using the backward solutions to (44) is a null-measure set.

Lemma 11: Consider the dynamical system (44) and let $S_o \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ and $T > 0$ such that, for each $x_o \in S_o$, the solution $x(t)$ is well defined on $[0, T]$. Furthermore, for each $t \in [0, T]$, we define the reachable set

$$R^b(t, S_o) := \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n : y = x(t), x(0) = x_o \in S_o\}.$$

Then, if there exists $\tau \in [0, T]$ such that $\mu(R^b(\tau, S_o)) = 0$ then $\mu(S_o) = 0$, where $\mu(\cdot)$ is the Lebesgue measure of (\cdot) . \square

Proof: To find a contradiction, we assume that $\mu(S_o) > 0$ and $\mu(R^b(\tau, S_o)) = 0$ for some $\tau \in [0, T]$. Next, we introduce the mapping $\phi_\tau : S_o \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $\phi_\tau(x_o) := x(\tau)$, where $x(\tau)$ is the unique solution to (44) starting from x_o . Using [50, Theorem V.2.1], we conclude that the mapping ϕ_τ is continuous and clearly the reciprocal mapping satisfies $\phi_\tau^-(x_o) := x(-\tau, x_o)$. Hence, $\phi_\tau^-(\cdot)$ is also continuous and therefore ϕ_τ is a homeomorphism; thus, an open map. Let us now fix $x_o \in S_o$ arbitrary such that there exists $U(x_o)$ an open set containing x_o that is contained in S_o , the latter is possible to find since $\mu(S_o) \neq 0$. Let $\phi_\tau(U(x_o))$ be the image of $U(x_o)$ by the homeomorphism ϕ_τ . Since ϕ_τ is a homeomorphism, $\phi_\tau(U(x_o))$ is an open set containing $\phi_\tau(x_o)$. Hence, $\mu(\phi_\tau(U(x_o))) \neq 0$. However, $\phi_\tau(U(x_o)) \subset R^b(\tau, S_o)$ and we already assumed that $\mu(R^b(\tau, S_o)) = 0$, which yields to a contradiction. \blacksquare

APPENDIX III: PROOFS

Proof of Lemma 4

By Assumption 4, γ_o is globally orbitally asymptotically stable. Also, ω is globally attractive. Since γ_o and γ_1 are disconnected, the solutions must converge to either one. Then, to show the statement of the Lemma, we show that the solutions to (17) converging to γ_1 must start from a null measure set which is the global stable manifold $W_o^s(0)$. Indeed, to find a contradiction, we let $x_{m_o} \notin W_o^s(0)$ such that the solution $x_m(t)$ to (17) starting from x_{m_o} converges γ_1 . Now, using [39, Lemma 16]—cf. [51, Theorem 4.1], we conclude the existence of $r > 0$ and $t_1 > 0$ such that

$$|x_m(t)| \geq r \quad \forall t \geq t_1. \quad (45)$$

As a result, the solution $x_m(t)$ must converge to $\gamma_1 \setminus B_r$. Now, we let a strictly increasing sequence of times $\{t_1, t_2, \dots, \infty\}$

and the corresponding sequence of points

$$y_i := \text{Proj}_{\gamma_1 \setminus B_r}(x_m(t_i)) := \text{argmin}\{|y - x_m(t_i)| : y \in \gamma_1 \setminus B_r\}.$$

Note that, since $x_m(t)$ converges to $\gamma_1 \setminus B_r$, it follows that

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} |y_i - x_m(t_i)| = 0.$$

Now, by definition of γ_1 and since it is compact, we conclude the existence of $T > 0$ such that, each solution $y_{mi}(t)$ to (17) starting from y_i satisfies

$$|y_{mi}(t)| \leq r/2 \quad \forall t \geq T.$$

However, since the right-hand side in (17) is continuously differentiable, we the continuous dependence of the solutions on the initial data [50, Theorem V.2.1] to conclude that, for each $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $i_\epsilon \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$ such that, for each $i \geq i_\epsilon$, we have

$$|y_{mi}(t) - x_m(t + t_i)| \leq \epsilon \quad \forall t \in [0, T].$$

The latter implies that $x_m(t_i)$ must lie inside B_r , which contradicts (45).

Proof of Lemma 5

We start noting, by definition of the sets Ω and ω , that $(x_m, e_v) \in \Omega$ if and only if $e_v = 0$ and $x_m \in \omega$. As a result,

$$|(x_m, e_v)|_\Omega \leq |e_v| + |x_m|_\omega.$$

Then, to prove the lemma, we show that

(*) there exists $\varepsilon_1 \in \mathcal{K}$ such that, for each $\rho > 0$, for each $\varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_1(\rho)$, and for each initial condition $(x_{m_0}, e_{v_0}) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^{n(N-1)}$, the solution $(x_m(t), e_v(t))$ to (18) satisfies

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (|e_v(t)| + |x_m(t)|_\omega) \leq \rho.$$

In turn, to prove (*), we first show that

(**) there exists $\varepsilon_v \in \mathcal{K}$ such that, for each $\rho_v > 0$, for each $\varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_v(\rho_v)$, and for each initial condition $(x_{m_0}, e_{v_0}) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^{n(N-1)}$, the solution $(x_m(t), e_v(t))$ to (18) satisfies

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |e_v(t)| \leq \rho_v. \quad (46)$$

To prove (**), we use the following four properties:

- The dynamics of e_v in (18b) can be expressed as in (22); namely, in the following form

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon \dot{e}_v &= -(\Lambda \otimes I_n) e_v + \varepsilon G_e(0, e_v) \\ &\quad + \varepsilon [G_e(x_m, e_v) - G_e(0, e_v)]. \end{aligned}$$

- By assumption, system (18) is globally (uniformly in $\sigma := 1/\varepsilon$) ultimately bounded. That is, there exists $\varepsilon^* > 0$ and $r > 0$ such that, for any $R \geq 0$, there exists $T_R \geq 0$ such that, for each $\varepsilon \leq \varepsilon^*$ and for each solution $(x_m(t), e_v(t))$ to (18) starting from $(x_{m_0}, e_{v_0}) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^{n(N-1)}$, we have

$$|(x_{m_0}, e_{v_0})| \leq R \implies |(x_m(t), e_v(t))| \leq r \quad \forall t \geq T_R.$$

- We recall from (23)-(24) the existence of a constant $d_r > 0$ such that, for each $(x_m, e_v) \in B_r$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |G_e(0, e_v)| &\leq d_r |e_v|, \\ |G_e(x_m, e_v) - G_e(0, e_v)| &\leq d_r |x_m|. \end{aligned} \quad (47)$$

- Using Item (iv) in Lemma 2, we conclude that the system

$$\dot{e}_v = -(\Lambda \otimes I_n) e_v$$

is exponentially stable and there exists $P \in \mathbb{R}^{(N-1) \times (N-1)}$ symmetric and positive definite such that

$$P\Lambda + \Lambda^\top P \leq -I_{N-1}.$$

As a result, combining the aforementioned four properties, we conclude that the time derivative of the Lyapunov function candidate

$$V_e(e_v) := e_v^\top (P \otimes I_n) e_v,$$

under (47) and along the solution $(x_m(t), e_v(t))$ to (18) starting from $(x_{m_0}, e_{v_0}) \in B_R$, satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_e(e_v(t)) &\leq d_r \lambda_{\max}(P) r |e_v(t)| - \left[\frac{1}{\varepsilon} - d_r \lambda_{\max}(P) \right] |e_v(t)|^2 \\ &\quad \forall t \geq T_R. \end{aligned}$$

Now, for $\varepsilon \leq \frac{1}{d_r \lambda_{\max}(P)}$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_e(e_v(t)) &\leq d_r \lambda_{\max}(P) r - \frac{[1 - (1+r)d_r \lambda_{\max}(P)\varepsilon]}{\lambda_{\max}(P)\varepsilon} V_e(e_v(t)) \\ &\quad \forall t \geq T_R. \end{aligned}$$

As a result,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} |e_v(t)|^2 &\leq \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{V_e(e_v(t))}{\lambda_{\min}(Q)} \\ &= \frac{d_r \lambda_{\max}(P)^2 r \varepsilon}{[\lambda_{\min}(Q) - (1+r)d_r \lambda_{\max}(P)\lambda_{\min}(Q)\varepsilon]}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, by introducing the class \mathcal{K} function

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon_v(\rho_v) &:= \min \left\{ \varepsilon^*, \frac{1}{(1+r)d_r \lambda_{\max}(P)} \right\} \\ &\quad \times \frac{\rho_v}{\frac{d_r \lambda_{\max}(P)^2 r}{(1+r)d_r \lambda_{\max}(P)\lambda_{\min}(Q)} + \rho_v}, \end{aligned}$$

we conclude that, for each $\rho_v > 0$ and for each $\varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_v(\rho_v)$, each solution $(x_m(t), e_v(t))$ to (18) satisfies (46), which proves (**).

To complete the proof of (*), we rewrite the dynamics of x_m in (18b) as in (14); namely, we have

$$\dot{x}_m = F_m(x_m) + G_m(x_m, e_v),$$

where

$$G_m(x_m, e_v) := F_m(x_m, e_v) - F_m(x_m).$$

Next, we recall from (15) the existence of $h : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^{n(N-1)} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ continuous such that

$$|G_m(x_m, e_v)| \leq h(x_m, e_v) |e_v| \quad \forall (x_m, e_v) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^{n(N-1)}.$$

Hence, for each $\rho_v > 0$, for each $\varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_v(\rho_v)$, and for each solution $(x_m(t), e_v(t))$ to (18) starting from B_R , under the

global ultimate boundedness of (18) and (46), we conclude the existence of $T_{R1} > T_R > 0$ and $c_r > 0$ such that

$$|G_m(x_m(t), e_v(t))| \leq c_r \rho_v \quad \forall t \geq T_{R1}.$$

Next, we use Assumption 4 to show that, according to the notation in Appendix II.C, the decomposition $\omega := \gamma_o \cup \gamma_1$ has no cycles and we can only have $\gamma_o < \gamma_1$. Indeed, since the periodic orbit γ_o is asymptotically orbitally stable, we conclude that $R(\gamma_o) = \gamma_o$; hence, $R(\gamma_o) \cap U(\gamma_1) = \gamma_o \cap U(\gamma_1)$ and, since γ_o is invariant, compact, and $\gamma_o \cap \gamma_1 = \emptyset$, it follows that $R(\gamma_o) \cap U(\gamma_1) = \emptyset$. Thus, we cannot have $\gamma_1 < \gamma_o$. The latter also implies that we cannot have a 2-cycle. Next, we exclude the possibility of having a 1-cycle using asymptotic orbital stability of γ_o and by definition of the set γ_1 . Finally, the compact disconnected subset $\omega := \gamma_o \cup \{0\}$ is globally attractive for the unperturbed dynamics (17). Hence, using [39, Lemma 11]—cf. [45, Theorem 1]—we conclude the existence of a continuously differentiable Lyapunov function $V : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$, class \mathcal{K}^∞ functions $\alpha, \bar{\alpha}, \underline{\alpha}$, and a positive constant $c \geq 0$, such that

$$\underline{\alpha}(|x_m|_\omega) \leq V(x_m) \leq \bar{\alpha}(|x_m|_\omega + c)$$

and

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial x_m^\top}(x_m) F_m(x_m) \leq -\alpha(|x_m|_\omega) \quad \forall x_m \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

Hence, along the solution $(x_m(t), e_v(t))$ to (18) starting from B_R , the time-derivative of the Lyapunov function V satisfies the following upper-bound

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}(x_m(t)) &\leq -\alpha(|x_m(t)|_\omega) + \left| \frac{\partial V}{\partial x_m^\top}(x_m(t)) \right| c_r \rho_v \\ &\forall t \geq T_{R1}. \end{aligned}$$

Next, using the global ultimate boundedness of (18) and the continuity of $\frac{\partial V}{\partial x_m^\top}$, we conclude the existence of b_r and $T_{R2} > T_R > 0$ such that

$$\left| \frac{\partial V}{\partial x_m^\top}(x_m(t)) \right| \leq b_r \quad \forall t \geq T_{R2}.$$

As a result, for all $t \geq \sup\{T_{R1}, T_{R2}\}$, we have

$$\dot{V}(x_m(t)) \leq -\alpha(\underline{\alpha}^-(V(x_m(t)))) + b_r c_r \rho_v.$$

The last step invokes the comparison lemma [30, Lemma 2.5], that establishes the existence of $\mu \in \mathcal{K}^\infty$ such that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} V(x_m(t)) \leq \mu(b_r c_r \rho_v),$$

and consequently,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |x_m(t)|_\omega = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |(x_m(t), 0)|_\Omega \leq \underline{\alpha}^-(\mu(b_r c_r \rho_v)).$$

Finally, to complete the proof, it is enough to take $\varepsilon_1(\rho) := \varepsilon_v(\chi^{-1}(\rho))$, where

$$\chi(\rho_v) := \underline{\alpha}^-(\mu(b_r c_r \rho_v)) + \rho_v.$$

Proof of Lemma 6

The proof is based on a direct application of Lemma 9. The first item in Lemma 9 is holds under Assumption 2, the second item holds with $e_v = h(x_m) = 0$, the third item is satisfied since the boundary-layer model of (18) is the linear system $\dot{e}_v = -(\Lambda \otimes I_n)e_v$ with Λ Hurwitz since the graph is connected; see Lemma 2, and the last item in Lemma 9 holds under Assumption 4. ■

Proof of Lemma 7

Consider a periodic orbit $\Gamma_\varepsilon \subset T_\rho$, for some $\rho \in (0, 1]$, generated by an α_ε -periodic solution to (18) denoted by $\bar{x}_\varepsilon(t) := (x_{m\varepsilon}(t), e_{v\varepsilon}(t))$. Also, we let the α_o -periodic solution to (17), denoted by $x_{mo}(t)$, generating the periodic orbit γ_o introduced in Assumption 4. We also let $\tilde{\alpha} := \alpha_\varepsilon - \alpha_o$. Finally, we introduce the following error coordinate $\tilde{x} = \bar{x} - \bar{x}_\varepsilon$.

In the coordinates \tilde{x} , we re-express system (18) as follows

$$\dot{\tilde{x}} = A(\bar{x}_\varepsilon(t))\tilde{x} + g(\bar{x}_\varepsilon(t), \tilde{x}), \quad (48)$$

where

$$A(\bar{x}_\varepsilon(t)) := \left[\begin{array}{cc} \frac{\partial F_m}{\partial x_m^\top} & \frac{\partial G_m}{\partial e_v^\top} \\ \frac{\partial G_e}{\partial x_m^\top} & -\frac{1}{\varepsilon}(\Lambda \otimes I_n) + \frac{\partial G_e}{\partial e_v^\top} \end{array} \right] \Bigg|_{\substack{x_m = x_{m\varepsilon}(t) \\ e_v = e_{v\varepsilon}(t)}}$$

$$g(\bar{x}_\varepsilon(t), \tilde{x}) := \bar{F}(\bar{x}_\varepsilon(t) + \tilde{x}) - \bar{F}(\bar{x}_\varepsilon(t)) - A(\bar{x}_\varepsilon(t))\tilde{x}.$$

Note that $g(\bar{x}_\varepsilon(t), \tilde{x})$ is continuously differentiable in \tilde{x} , continuous in $\bar{x}_\varepsilon(t)$, and we can find $\kappa \in \mathcal{K}$ (independent of ε since $\Gamma_\varepsilon \subset T_\rho \subset T_{\rho=1}$) such that

$$|g(\bar{x}_\varepsilon(t), \tilde{x})| \leq \kappa(\tilde{x})|\tilde{x}|. \quad (49)$$

To prove the lemma, we follow the following steps:

- 1) We start re-describing (48) using the new time scale $\tau := \frac{\alpha_o}{\alpha_\varepsilon}t$, which gives us

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{x}' &:= \frac{d\tilde{x}}{d\tau} = \frac{\alpha_\varepsilon}{\alpha_o} A\left(\bar{x}_\varepsilon\left(\frac{\alpha_\varepsilon}{\alpha_o}\tau\right)\right) \tilde{x} \\ &:= A_1(\bar{x}_1(\tau)) \tilde{x} + \left(\frac{\alpha_\varepsilon}{\alpha_o}\right) g(\bar{x}_1(\tau), \tilde{x}_\varepsilon), \end{aligned}$$

where

$$A_1(\cdot) := \frac{\alpha_\varepsilon}{\alpha_o} A(\cdot) \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{x}_1(\tau) := \bar{x}_\varepsilon\left(\frac{\alpha_\varepsilon}{\alpha_o}\tau\right).$$

- 2) Next, we re-express $A_1(\bar{x}_1(\tau))$ as

$$A_1(\bar{x}_1(\tau)) = A(\bar{x}_o(\tau)) + \Delta_1(\bar{x}_1(\tau), \bar{x}_o(\tau), \varepsilon, \rho, \tilde{\alpha}), \quad (50)$$

where $\bar{x}_o(\tau) := (x_{mo}(\tau), 0)$ and

$$\Delta_1(\bar{x}_1(\tau), \bar{x}_o(\tau), \varepsilon, \rho) :=$$

$$A_1(\bar{x}_1(\tau)) - A_1(\bar{x}_o(\tau)) + \left(\frac{\tilde{\alpha}}{\alpha_o}\right) A(\bar{x}_o(\tau)).$$

Furthermore, we show that

$$\lim_{(\rho, \varepsilon, \tilde{\alpha}) \rightarrow (0,0,0)} |\Delta_1(\bar{x}_1(\tau), \bar{x}_o(\tau), \varepsilon, \rho, \tilde{\alpha})| = 0 \quad \forall \tau \in [0, \alpha_o] \quad (51)$$

by following two steps.

- We first apply Tikhonov Theorem (see, e.g., [30, Theorem 9.1]—see also [39, Remark 8]) on the singularly perturbed system (18), to conclude the existence of $\varepsilon^* > 0$ and $M > 0$ such that, for each $\varepsilon \in [0, \varepsilon^*]$, the solution $\bar{x}_\varepsilon(t)$ to (18) and the signal $\bar{x}_o(t)$, with $x_{mo}(t)$ solution to (17), satisfy

$$|\bar{x}_\varepsilon(0) - \bar{x}_o(0)| \leq \rho \implies |\bar{x}_\varepsilon(t) - \bar{x}_o(t)| \leq M\rho \quad (52)$$

$$\forall t \in [0, \alpha_\varepsilon].$$

- Now, using (52), we conclude that, for each $\tau \in [0, \alpha_o]$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{x}_\varepsilon \left(\frac{\alpha_\varepsilon}{\alpha_o} \tau \right) &= \bar{x}_o \left(\frac{\alpha_\varepsilon}{\alpha_o} \tau \right) + O(\rho) \\ &= \bar{x}_o(\tau) - \Delta_{\bar{x}_o}(\tau, \varepsilon, \tilde{\alpha}) + O(\rho), \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\Delta_{\bar{x}_o}(\tau, \varepsilon, \tilde{\alpha}) := \bar{x}_o \left(\frac{\alpha_\varepsilon}{\alpha_o} \tau - \left(\frac{\tilde{\alpha}}{\alpha_o} \right) \tau \right) - \bar{x}_o \left(\frac{\alpha_\varepsilon}{\alpha_o} \tau \right).$$

Under Item (i) in Lemma 2, there exists $M_\rho > 0$ such that, for each $\tau \in [0, \alpha_o]$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\Delta_{\bar{x}_o}(\tau, \varepsilon, \tilde{\alpha})| &\leq \sup_{0 \leq t \leq \alpha_\varepsilon} |\dot{\bar{x}}_o(t)| |\tilde{\alpha}| \\ &\leq \sup_{0 \leq t \leq \alpha_\varepsilon} |\bar{F}(\bar{x}_o(t))| |\tilde{\alpha}| \\ &\leq M_\rho |\tilde{\alpha}|, \end{aligned}$$

where, for $\bar{x}_o(t) := (x_m(t), 0)$, we have

$$\bar{F}(\bar{x}_o(t)) := \begin{bmatrix} F_m(x_m(t)) + G_m(x_m(t), 0) \\ G_e(x_m(t), 0) \end{bmatrix}.$$

As a result, since both $\bar{x}_1(\tau)$ and $\bar{x}_o(\tau)$ are α_o -periodic, we conclude that

$$\lim_{(\rho, \varepsilon, \tilde{\alpha}) \rightarrow (0, 0, 0)} |\bar{x}_1(\tau) - \bar{x}_o(\tau)| = 0 \quad \forall \tau \geq 0. \quad (53)$$

As a result, using (53) and Item (i) in Lemma 2, we conclude that (51) holds.

- 3) Now, we decompose the matrix $A(\bar{x}_o(\tau))$ as

$$A(\bar{x}_o(\tau)) := \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial F_m}{\partial x_m^\top}(x_{mo}(\tau)) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} A_\varepsilon(\bar{x}_o(\tau)),$$

where

$$A_\varepsilon := \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\Lambda \otimes I_n \end{bmatrix} + \varepsilon \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \frac{\partial G_m}{\partial e_v^\top} \\ \frac{\partial G_e}{\partial x_m^\top} & \frac{\partial G_e}{\partial e_v^\top} \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} x_m = x_{mo}(\tau) \\ e_v = 0. \end{matrix}$$

Under Lidskii-Vishik-Lyusternik Theorem [47, Theorem 2.1]—see also [39, Lemma 12]—we know that $A_\varepsilon(\bar{x}_o(\tau))$ admits n eigenvalues of the form

$$\lambda_j(A_\varepsilon(\bar{x}_o(\tau))) = o(\varepsilon) \quad \forall j = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}.$$

Furthermore, we consider the non-singular matrix $T(\varepsilon, \tau)$ transforming $A_\varepsilon(\bar{x}_o(\tau))$, as in [39, Lemma 13], into the block-diagonal form

$$J_\varepsilon(\tau) := \begin{bmatrix} \Lambda_o(A_\varepsilon(\bar{x}_o(\tau))) & 0_{n \times n(N-1)} \\ 0_{n(N-1) \times n} & \Lambda_1(A_\varepsilon(\bar{x}_o(\tau))) \end{bmatrix},$$

where $\Lambda_o(A_\varepsilon(\bar{x}_o(\tau))) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is the representation of $A_\varepsilon(\bar{x}_o(\tau))$ on the invariant spectral subspace corresponding to $\{\lambda_j(A_\varepsilon(\bar{x}_o(\tau)))\}_{j=1}^n$. Similarly, $\Lambda_1(A_\varepsilon(\bar{x}_o(\tau))) \in \mathbb{R}^{n(N-1) \times n(N-1)}$ is the representation of $A_\varepsilon(\bar{x}_o(\tau))$ on the invariant spectral subspace corresponding to the remaining eigenvalues.

Now, for $\varepsilon > 0$ sufficiently small, we use [52, Theorem 15.5.1]—see also [39, Lemma 14]—to conclude that the transformation matrix $T(\varepsilon, \tau)$ is continuous. We also conclude that $T(\varepsilon, \tau)$ is analytic (smooth) in ε . As a result, for each $\tau \in [0, \alpha_o)$, we have $\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} T(\varepsilon, \tau) = I_{nN}$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \Lambda_o(A_\varepsilon(\bar{x}_o(\tau))) &= 0, \\ \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} [\Lambda_1(A_\varepsilon(\bar{x}_o(\tau))) + (\Lambda \otimes I_n)] &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (54)$$

- 4) At this point, we introduce the change of coordinates $\tilde{x}_\varepsilon := \hat{T}(\varepsilon, \tau)\bar{x}$, where \hat{T} is a continuously differentiable non-singular approximation of T chosen according to Lemma 10. In the new coordinates, (50) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{x}'_\varepsilon &= \hat{T} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial F_m}{\partial x_m^\top}(x_{mo}(\tau)) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \hat{T}^- \tilde{x}_\varepsilon + \hat{T} A_\varepsilon(\bar{x}_o(\tau)) \hat{T}^- \tilde{x}_\varepsilon \\ &\quad + \left[\hat{T} \Delta_1 \hat{T}^- + \dot{\hat{T}} \hat{T}^- \right] \tilde{x}_\varepsilon + \left(\frac{\alpha_\varepsilon}{\alpha_o} \right) \hat{T} g(\bar{x}_1(\tau), \hat{T}^- \tilde{x}_\varepsilon). \end{aligned}$$

The latter can be further expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{x}'_\varepsilon &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial F_m}{\partial x_m^\top}(x_{mo}(\tau)) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \tilde{x}_\varepsilon + \frac{J_\varepsilon(\tau)}{\varepsilon} \tilde{x}_\varepsilon \\ &\quad + [T - I_{nN}] \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial F_m}{\partial x_m^\top}(x_{mo}(\tau)) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} [T^- - I_{nN}] \tilde{x}_\varepsilon \\ &\quad + \left[\hat{T} \Delta_1 \hat{T}^- + \dot{\hat{T}} \hat{T}^- \right] \tilde{x}_\varepsilon \\ &\quad + [\hat{T} - T] A(\bar{x}_o(\tau)) [\hat{T}^- - T^-] \tilde{x}_\varepsilon \\ &\quad + \left(\frac{\alpha_\varepsilon}{\alpha_o} \right) \hat{T} g(\bar{x}_1(\tau), \hat{T}^- \tilde{x}_\varepsilon), \end{aligned}$$

which allows us to write

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{x}'_\varepsilon &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial F_m}{\partial x_m^\top}(x_{mo}(\tau)) & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \Lambda_1(A_\varepsilon(\bar{x}_o(\tau))) \end{bmatrix} \tilde{x}_\varepsilon \\ &\quad + \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \Lambda_o(A_\varepsilon(\bar{x}_o(\tau))) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \tilde{x}_\varepsilon \\ &\quad + [T - I_{nN}] \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial F_m}{\partial x_m^\top}(x_{mo}(\tau)) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} [T^- - I_{nN}] \tilde{x}_\varepsilon \\ &\quad + \left[\hat{T} \Delta_1 \hat{T}^- + \dot{\hat{T}} \hat{T}^- \right] \tilde{x}_\varepsilon \\ &\quad + [\hat{T} - T] A(\bar{x}_o(\tau)) [\hat{T}^- - T^-] \tilde{x}_\varepsilon \\ &\quad + \left(\frac{\alpha_\varepsilon}{\alpha_o} \right) \hat{T} g(\bar{x}_1(\tau), \hat{T}^- \tilde{x}_\varepsilon). \end{aligned}$$

Finally, let

$$A_2(\tau, \varepsilon) := \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial F_m}{\partial x_m^\top}(x_{mo}(\tau)) & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{(\Lambda \otimes I_n) - [\Lambda_1(A_\varepsilon(\bar{x}_o(\tau))) + (\Lambda \otimes I_n)]}{-\varepsilon} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$A_3(\tau, \rho, \varepsilon, \tilde{\alpha}) := \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\Lambda_o(A_\varepsilon(\bar{x}_o(\tau)))}{\varepsilon} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ + [T - I_{nN}] \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial F_m}{\partial x_m^\top}(x_{mo}(\tau)) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} [T^- - I_{nN}] \\ + [\hat{T}\Delta_1\hat{T}^- + \hat{T}\hat{T}^-] + [\hat{T} - T]A(\bar{x}_o(\tau))[\hat{T}^- - T^-],$$

$$h_\varepsilon(\tau, \tilde{x}_\varepsilon) := \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_\varepsilon \\ \alpha_o \end{pmatrix} \hat{T}g(\bar{x}_1(\tau), \hat{T}^- \tilde{x}_\varepsilon).$$

5) As a last step, applying Floquet Theory, we conclude the existence of a non-singular α_o -periodic matrix $P_o : \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ and $B_o \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, such that

$$\dot{P}_o(\tau) + P_o(\tau)^- \frac{\partial F_m(x_{mo}(\tau))}{\partial x_m^\top} P_o(\tau) = B_o.$$

Now, using the change of coordinates $y := \mathcal{P}(\tau)^- \tilde{x}_\varepsilon$, with

$$\mathcal{P}(\tau) := \text{blkdiag} \{P_o(\tau), I_{n(N-1)}\},$$

we obtain

$$y' = B(\varepsilon, \tau)y + \bar{A}_3(\tau, \rho, \varepsilon, \tilde{\alpha})y + \mathcal{P}(\tau)^- h_\varepsilon(\tau, \mathcal{P}(\tau)y), \quad (55)$$

where

$$\bar{A}_3(\tau, \rho, \varepsilon, \tilde{\alpha}) := \mathcal{P}(\tau)^- A_3(\tau, \rho, \varepsilon, \tilde{\alpha}) \mathcal{P}(\tau), \\ B(\varepsilon, \tau) := \begin{bmatrix} B_o & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{(\Lambda \otimes I_n) - [\Lambda_1(A_\varepsilon(\bar{x}_o(\tau))) + (\Lambda \otimes I_n)]}{-\varepsilon} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Note that \bar{A}_3 is continuous in its arguments and, using (51), (54), and Lemma 10, we conclude that

$$\lim_{(\rho, \varepsilon, \tilde{\alpha}) \rightarrow 0} |\bar{A}_3(\tau, \varepsilon, \rho, \tilde{\alpha})| = 0 \quad \forall \tau \in [0, \alpha_o].$$

Furthermore, for the block-diagonal matrix $B(\varepsilon, \tau)$, we use Assumption 4 and Lemma 3, to conclude that the upper block B_o is Hurwitz. Moreover, the lower block $\frac{(\Lambda \otimes I_n) - [\Lambda_1(A_\varepsilon(\bar{x}_o(\tau))) + (\Lambda \otimes I_n)]}{-\varepsilon}$, for sufficiently small $\varepsilon > 0$, has all its characteristic multipliers inside the unit circle since Λ is Hurwitz and

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} [\Lambda_1(A_\varepsilon(\bar{x}_o(\tau))) + (\Lambda \otimes I_n)] = 0 \quad \forall \tau \in [0, \alpha_o].$$

Finally, $h_\varepsilon(\tau, \tilde{x}_\varepsilon)$ is continuous in τ and continuously differentiable in \tilde{x}_ε , and under (49), we can find $\kappa_h \in \mathcal{K}$ such that

$$\mathcal{P}(\tau)^- h_\varepsilon(\tau, \mathcal{P}(\tau)y) \leq \kappa_h(|y|)|y| \quad \forall \tau \in [0, \alpha_o].$$

Hence, we can find $\rho^{**} > 0$ and $\varepsilon^{**} > 0$ such that, for each $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon^{**}]$, the origin $y = 0$ for (55) is uniformly exponentially stable on the set $\{y \in \mathbb{R}^{nN} : |y| \leq \rho^{**}\}$.

Proof of Lemma 8

To establish the proof, we start analyzing the linearization of (18) around the origin, which is given by

$$\dot{\tilde{x}} = (A_\varepsilon/\varepsilon)\tilde{x},$$

where

$$A_\varepsilon := \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -(\Lambda \otimes I_n) \end{bmatrix} + \varepsilon \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial F_m}{\partial x_m^\top}(0) & \frac{\partial G_m}{\partial e_v^\top}(0, 0) \\ \frac{\partial G_e}{\partial x_m^\top}(0) & \frac{\partial G_e}{\partial e_v^\top}(0, 0) \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

After Lidskii-Vishik-Lyusternik Theorem, we know that A_ε admits n eigenvalues of the form

$$\lambda_j(A_\varepsilon) = \lambda_j \left(\frac{\partial F_m}{\partial x_m^\top}(0) \right) \varepsilon + o(\varepsilon) \quad \forall j = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}.$$

Furthermore, we consider the non-singular matrix $T(\varepsilon)$ transforming A_ε , as in [39, Lemma 13], into the block-diagonal form

$$J_\varepsilon := \begin{bmatrix} [\Lambda_u(A_\varepsilon) & 0] & 0_{n \times n(N-1)} \\ 0 & \Lambda_s(A_\varepsilon) & \\ 0_{n(N-1) \times n} & & \Lambda_l(A_\varepsilon) \end{bmatrix},$$

where $\Lambda_u(A_\varepsilon) \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}$ is the representation of A_ε on the spectral subspace corresponding to the unstable eigenvalues in $\{\lambda_j(A_\varepsilon)\}_{j=1}^n$, $\Lambda_s(A_\varepsilon) \in \mathbb{R}^{(n-k) \times (n-k)}$ is the representation of A_ε on the spectral subspace corresponding to the stable eigenvalues in $\{\lambda_j(A_\varepsilon)\}_{j=1}^n$. Similarly, $\Lambda_l(A_\varepsilon) \in \mathbb{R}^{n(N-1) \times n(N-1)}$ is the representation of A_ε on the spectral subspace corresponding to the remaining eigenvalues of A_ε .

For $\varepsilon > 0$ sufficiently small, we use [52, Theorem 18.7.2]—see also [39, Lemma 15]—to conclude that $T(\varepsilon)$ is analytic (smooth) in ε . As a result, we have

$$\Lambda_u(A_\varepsilon) = \varepsilon \left[\frac{\partial F_m}{\partial x_m^\top}(0) \right]_u + o(\varepsilon), \\ \Lambda_s(A_\varepsilon) = \varepsilon \left[\frac{\partial F_m}{\partial x_m^\top}(0) \right]_s + o(\varepsilon), \quad (56) \\ \Lambda_l(A_\varepsilon) = -(\Lambda \otimes I_n) + O(\varepsilon).$$

where $\left[\frac{\partial F_m}{\partial x_m^\top}(0) \right]_u \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}$ is a representation $\frac{\partial F_m}{\partial x_m^\top}(0)$ on its unstable subspace and $\left[\frac{\partial F_m}{\partial x_m^\top}(0) \right]_s \in \mathbb{R}^{(n-k) \times (n-k)}$ is a representation $\frac{\partial F_m}{\partial x_m^\top}(0)$ on its stable subspace.

According to the aforementioned properties, we conclude the existence of $\varepsilon^* > 0$ such that, for each $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon^*]$, the origin is a hyperbolic equilibrium for (18). On the other hand, following the notation of [39, Lemma 16], we conclude that

$$r_s(A_\varepsilon/\varepsilon) := \{\min |\Re(\lambda_j(A_\varepsilon/\varepsilon))| : \Re(\lambda_j(A_\varepsilon/\varepsilon)) < 0\} \\ = r_s \left(\frac{\partial F_m}{\partial x_m^\top}(0) \right) + O(\varepsilon), \\ r_u(A_\varepsilon/\varepsilon) := \{\min |\Re(\lambda_j(A_\varepsilon/\varepsilon))| : \Re(\lambda_j(A_\varepsilon/\varepsilon)) > 0\} \\ = r_u \left(\frac{\partial F_m}{\partial x_m^\top}(0) \right) + O(\varepsilon). \quad (57)$$

Moreover, the forward and the backward overshoots of $A_\varepsilon/\varepsilon$ satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} c_s(A_\varepsilon/\varepsilon) &= c_s(A_\varepsilon) = c_s(J_\varepsilon) = c_s(\text{blkdiag}\{\Lambda_s(A_\varepsilon), \Lambda_1(A_\varepsilon)\}), \\ c_u(A_\varepsilon/\varepsilon) &= c_u(A_\varepsilon) = c_u(J_\varepsilon) = c_u(\Lambda_u(A_\varepsilon)). \end{aligned} \quad (58)$$

Using (56), we conclude that for ε^* small enough, the forward and backward overshoots $(c_u(\Lambda_u(A_\varepsilon)), c_s(\Lambda_s(A_\varepsilon)))$ can be chosen as

$$\begin{aligned} c_s(\Lambda_s(A_\varepsilon)) &= c_s\left(\left[\frac{\partial F_m}{\partial x_m^\top}(0)\right]_s\right) + c_s(\Lambda), \\ c_u(\Lambda_u(A_\varepsilon)) &= c_u\left(\left[\frac{\partial F_m}{\partial x_m^\top}(0)\right]_u\right) \quad \forall \varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon^*). \end{aligned}$$

Now, if we let

$$g(\bar{x}) := \bar{F}(\bar{x}) - (A_\varepsilon/\varepsilon)\bar{x},$$

we conclude that g does not depend on ε and we can find $\kappa \in \mathcal{K}$ such that

$$|g(\bar{x})| \leq \kappa(|\bar{x}|)|\bar{x}|. \quad (59)$$

As a result, under (57), (58), and (59), we conclude that, for $\varepsilon^* > 0$ sufficiently small, we can find $\gamma > 0$ and $\Delta > 0$ such that, for each $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon^*)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} c_s(A_\varepsilon/\varepsilon)\gamma \\ + \kappa(\gamma) \left(\frac{c_s(A_\varepsilon/\varepsilon)}{r_s(A_\varepsilon/\varepsilon) - \mu(A_\varepsilon/\varepsilon)} + \frac{c_u(A_\varepsilon/\varepsilon)}{r_u(A_\varepsilon/\varepsilon) + \mu(A_\varepsilon/\varepsilon)} \right) \Delta \\ \leq \Delta. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, using [39, Lemma 16], Items (i) and (ii) in Lemma 8 follow with $U := B_\gamma$ and $r := \gamma/2$.

To prove Item (iii), we apply Tikhonov Theorem—as in [39, Lemma 9], see also [39, Remark 8]—to conclude that, given $T > 0$, we can find $\rho^* > 0$ and $\varepsilon^* > 0$ sufficiently small and $M > 0$ such that, for each $\varepsilon \in [0, \varepsilon^*]$, the solution $\bar{x}(t)$ to (18) and the signal $\bar{x}_o(t) := (x_{mo}(t), 0)$, with $x_{mo}(t)$ solution to (17), satisfy

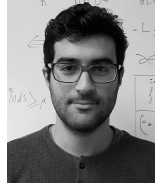
$$|\bar{x}(0) - \bar{x}_o(0)| \leq \rho^* \implies |\bar{x}(t) - \bar{x}_o(t)| \leq M\rho^* \quad \forall t \in [0, T].$$

Now, we pick $T > 0$ as the largest time a solution $x_m(t)$ to (17) starting from $\Gamma_1 \setminus B_r$ takes to enter the ball $B_{r/2}$. Such a $T > 0$ always exists by definition of the set Γ_1 and is finite since the set Γ_1 is compact. By taking $\rho^* = \frac{r}{3M}$, we conclude that $|\bar{x}(T)|$ must be inside B_r .

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