

All-Wheel Steering Vehicle Control Based on Contraction Theory with Neural Network

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1 Motivations and Contributions

- Importance of All-Wheel Steering
- Recent Advances in Contraction Theory
- Integration of Neural Networks with Contraction Theory Based Control
- Contributions of this work

2 Proposed Method

- Problem Formulation and Control Objectives
- Contraction Theory Based Control Design
- Neural Network Integration

3 Simulation Validation

- Simulation Setup
- Simulation Results and Analysis

4 Conclusion

1 Motivations and Contributions

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Importance of All-Wheel Steering

All-Wheel Steering (AWS) provides enhanced **maneuverability** and **stability** by allowing independent control of the front and rear wheels, rather than front-wheel steering (FWS) alone.

- **Reverse-phase (at low speed):** Steering rear wheels in the opposite direction
 → enhanced **maneuverability** by reducing turning radius.
- **In-phase (at high speed):** Steering rear wheels in the same direction
 → enhanced **stability** by reducing slip angle.
- Many control approaches have been applied, e.g., MPC [1], SMC [2], and robust control [3].

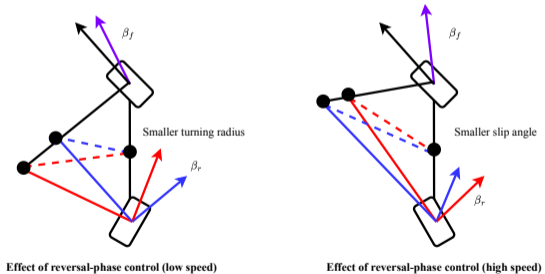


Figure: Effectiveness of All-Wheel Steering (AWS [—], FWS [—]).

Contraction Theory is a powerful tool for analyzing the stability of nonlinear systems by examining **differential dynamics**, providing insights into the behavior of **trajectories** (not points) and their convergence properties [4].

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}, t) \rightarrow \text{diff. dyn. } \frac{d}{dt} \delta \mathbf{x} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \delta \mathbf{x}. \quad (1)$$

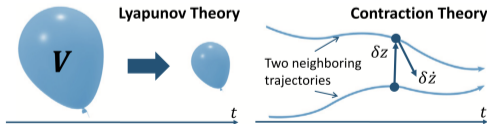


Figure: Lyapunov theory versus contraction theory [5].

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- If there exists positive definite **Contraction Metric** \mathbf{M} such that $\frac{d}{dt} V \leq -\alpha V$, the system is contracting.
- $\delta \mathbf{x}$ shrinks exponentially in the Riemannian space defined by \mathbf{M} (exponential convergence of trajectories).

$$\text{Lya. func. } V = \delta \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{x}, t) \delta \mathbf{x}, \quad \text{cond. for contraction } \frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{M} + 2 \text{sym} \left(\mathbf{M} \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right) \leq -2\alpha \mathbf{M} \quad (2)$$

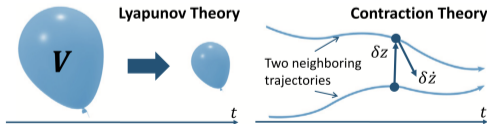


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- **Exponential Convergence:** Trajectories globally exponentially converge to each other regardless of initial conditions.
- **Control Design:** Owing to nature of differential dynamics, **LPV control design** methods can be applied.

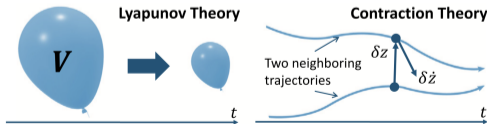


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Challenges in Contraction Theory Based Control Design

Uncertain parameters degrades the performance, as they rely on accurate system models to ensure contraction.

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- NNs can be employed to compensate for model uncertainties.
- Online learning capabilities of NNs and closed-loop stability are ensured using Lyapunov stability analysis [7].

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- NNs can be employed to compensate for model uncertainties.
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Neural networks can be integrated with contraction theory based control to compensate for model uncertainties by learning online.

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3. Parameter uncertainties are compensated by NNs.

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4 **Conclusion**

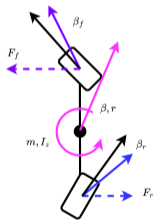
Problem Formulation and Control Objectives

Lateral Dynamics: [8]

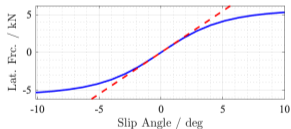
- 2-DOF bicycle model (3).
- β : sideslip angle, r : yaw rate.
- δ_f : front steering angle, δ_r : rear steering angle.
- Tire forces contains uncertain parameters (cornering stiffness C_f, C_r).

$$\begin{cases} m v_x (\frac{d}{dt} \beta + r) = F_f + F_r, \\ I_z \frac{d}{dt} r = F_f l_f - F_r l_r, \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

$$\begin{cases} F_f = C_f \left(\beta + \frac{l_f r}{v_x} - \delta_f \right), \\ F_r = C_r \left(\beta - \frac{l_r r}{v_x} \right). \end{cases} \quad (4)$$



Bicycle Vehicle Model



Tire Characteristic

Figure: Vehicle model and tire forces.

System Modeling:

- State vector $\mathbf{x} = (\beta, r)^\top$, control input $\mathbf{u} = (\delta_f, \delta_r)^\top$.
- Uncertain parameters $\boldsymbol{\pi} = (C_f, C_r)^\top$.

$$\frac{d}{dt}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\pi}) + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\pi})\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{d}, \quad (5)$$

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Desired Trajectory:

- Simulate linear 2-DOF reference model with nominal parameters $\boldsymbol{\pi}_n$.
- Assume ideal control input \mathbf{u}_d is given in advance.
- Entries of worst-case input matrix $\underline{\mathbf{g}}$ are lower bounds of \mathbf{g} 's entries.

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LPV Formulation using State Dependent Coefficients (SDC):

- $\mathbb{A} := \mathbb{A}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_d) = \int_0^1 \left[\frac{\partial \bar{\mathbf{f}}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right] (c\mathbf{x} + (1-c)\mathbf{x}_d) dc$,
 where $\bar{\mathbf{f}} := \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\pi}_n) - \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_d, \boldsymbol{\pi}_n) + (\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\pi}_n) - \underline{\mathbf{g}})\mathbf{u}_d$,
 see [9, Lemma 1].
- $\boldsymbol{\delta}(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\pi}, \boldsymbol{\pi}_n, \mathbf{u}_d)$ is lumped uncertainty.

$$\frac{d}{dt}\mathbf{e} = \mathbb{A}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_d) + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\pi})(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_d) + \boldsymbol{\delta}, \quad (7)$$

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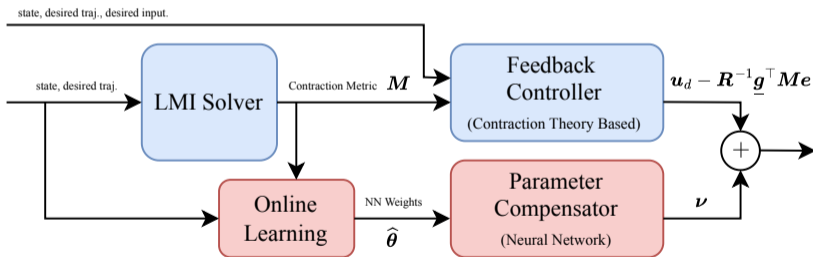


Figure: Diagram of Proposed Controller.

Control Objectives:

- Design a control law \mathbf{u} to track the desired trajectory \mathbf{x}_d by making error dynamics (8) **contracting**.

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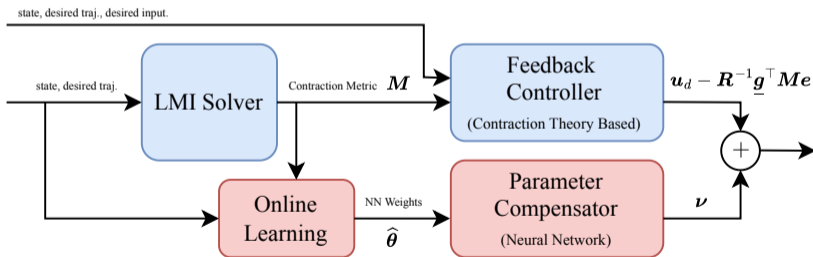


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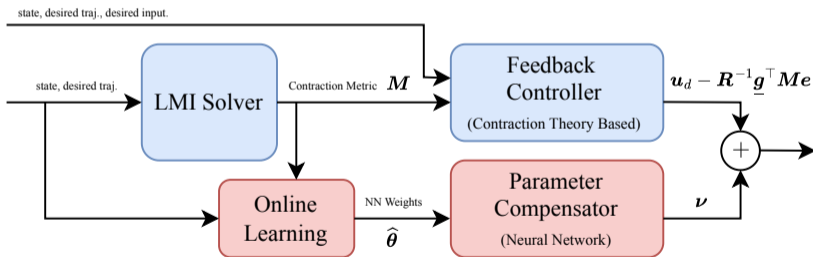


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- Compensate for the lumped uncertainty δ using a **neural network** with online learning capability.

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{e} = \mathbb{A}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_d) + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\pi})(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_d) + \delta, \quad (8)$$

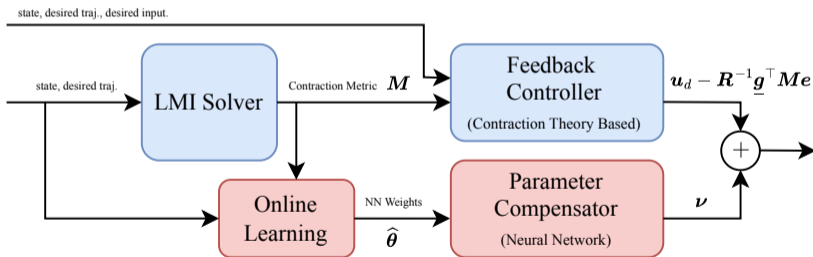


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Contraction Theory Based Control Design:

- Feedback control law using contraction metric \mathbf{M} .
- Contraction metric \mathbf{M} should satisfy (11) to ensure the error dynamics (8) is contracting.
- \mathbf{R} is weighting matrix for control input and $\boldsymbol{\nu}$ is auxiliary control input (NN) for the lumped uncertainty $\boldsymbol{\delta}$.

$$\mathbf{u} := \mathbf{u}_d - \mathbf{R}^{-1} \underline{\mathbf{g}}^\top \mathbf{M} \mathbf{e} + \boldsymbol{\nu}, \quad (9)$$

which lead to the following error dynamics:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{e} = \left(\mathbb{A} - \mathbf{g} \mathbf{R}^{-1} \underline{\mathbf{g}}^\top \mathbf{M} \right) \mathbf{e} + \mathbf{g} \boldsymbol{\nu} + \boldsymbol{\delta}, \quad (10)$$

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Condition for Contraction and Steady State Error:

- related theorem is omitted for brevity, see [4].
- Minimizing **condition number** $\chi := \text{cond}(\mathbf{M})$ can reduce the **steady state error bound**.

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{M} + 2 \text{sym}(\mathbf{M} \mathbf{A}) - 2 \text{sym}(\mathbf{M} \mathbf{g} \mathbf{R}^{-1} \underline{\mathbf{g}}^\top \mathbf{M}) \preceq -2\alpha \mathbf{M}. \quad (11)$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \|\mathbf{e}(t)\| = \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega_x, \boldsymbol{\pi}, \boldsymbol{\pi}_n \in \Omega_\pi} \|\mathbf{g} \boldsymbol{\nu} + \boldsymbol{\delta}\| \frac{\sqrt{\chi}}{\alpha}, \quad (12)$$

LMI formulation and Consideration of Worst-Case Input Matrix:

- By multiplying $\mathbf{M}^{-1} = \mathbf{W}$, the contraction condition (11) can be reformulated as the following LMI.
- Considering the worst-case input matrix $\underline{\mathbf{g}}$, the LMI condition can be relaxed to (13).

$$-\frac{\mathbf{W} - \mathbf{W}_{\text{pre}}}{T_s} + 2 \text{sym}(\mathbb{A} \mathbf{W}) + 2\alpha \mathbf{W} \preceq 2 \text{sym}(\underline{\mathbf{g}} \mathbf{R}^{-1} \underline{\mathbf{g}}^{\top}) \preceq 2 \text{sym}(\mathbf{g} \mathbf{R}^{-1} \underline{\mathbf{g}}^{\top}). \quad (13)$$

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Final Optimization Problem to obtain M :

- By solving (14), $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{W}^{-1}$ can be obtained for the feedback control law.
- λ can be used to balance condition number (steady state error) and magnitude of \mathbf{M} (control effort).

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{\overline{\mathbf{W}}, \chi, \mu} \chi + \lambda\mu \\ \text{s.t. } & \begin{cases} \mathbf{I}_n \preceq \overline{\mathbf{W}} \preceq \chi \mathbf{I}_n, \\ -\frac{\mathbf{W} - \mathbf{W}_{\text{pre}}}{T_s} + 2 \text{sym}(\mathbb{A}\overline{\mathbf{W}}) + 2\alpha\overline{\mathbf{W}} \preceq 2 \text{sym}(\underline{\mathbf{g}}\mathbf{R}^{-1}\underline{\mathbf{g}}^{\top}), \\ \overline{\mathbf{W}} = \mu\mathbf{W}, \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

Steady State Error Bound from Contraction Theory Based Control Design:

- Lumped uncertainty δ should be compensated to reduce the steady state error bound.

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \|\mathbf{e}(t)\| = \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega_x, \boldsymbol{\pi}, \boldsymbol{\pi}_n \in \Omega_\pi} \|\mathbf{g}\boldsymbol{\nu} + \delta\| \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{\alpha}. \quad (15)$$

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Neural Network Integration:

- The auxiliary control input $\boldsymbol{\nu}$ is designed to **compensate for the lumped uncertainty δ** .
- NN $\Phi(\mathbf{x}_n; \boldsymbol{\theta})$ with online learning capability is employed to estimate δ .
- $\boldsymbol{\theta}$: vectorized NN weight \mathcal{W} , ϵ : NN approximation error.

$$\boldsymbol{\nu}^* = \Phi(\mathbf{x}_n; \boldsymbol{\theta}^*) + \epsilon, \text{ and } \boldsymbol{\nu} = \Phi(\mathbf{x}_n; \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}), \quad (16)$$

where

$$\Phi(\mathbf{x}_n; \boldsymbol{\theta}) := \mathcal{W}_1^\top \phi(\mathcal{W}_0^\top \mathbf{x}_n), \quad (17)$$

Adaptation Law Derivation:

$$V(\mathbf{z}) := \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{e}^\top \mathbf{M} \mathbf{e} + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_1^\top \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_1^{-1} \tilde{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_1, \quad (18)$$

- The adaptation law $\frac{d}{dt} \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$ is derived using [Lyapunov stability analysis](#).
- **Uniformly ultimate boundedness (UBB)** of the error dynamics is guaranteed.
- Contraction metric \mathbf{M} is used as a weighting matrix for feedback tracking error \mathbf{e} .
- Stability analysis is omitted for brevity, see original paper for details.

$$\frac{d}{dt} \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} := -\boldsymbol{\Gamma} \left(\frac{\partial \Phi(\mathbf{x}_n; \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}})}{\partial \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}}^\top \underline{\mathbf{g}}^\top \mathbf{M} \mathbf{e} + \sigma \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \right), \quad (19)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\Gamma}$ is the learning rate matrix and σ is σ -modification gain (regularization).

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Simulation Setup

Simulation Environment:

- Numerical simulations are conducted using MATLAB.

Test Scenarios ($v_x = 110 \text{ km h}^{-1}$):

- Step steering** front steering and **proportional rear steering** are considered as desired input \mathbf{u}_d to simulate reference model.
- Uniformly distributed random disturbances** on each state with magnitudes of 10 and 20, respectively.

Vehicle Model:

- $m = 1463 \text{ kg}$, $I_z = 1967.8 \text{ kg m}^2$, $l_f = 1.2 \text{ m}$, and $l_r = 1.6 \text{ m}$.
- Assume heavy load on rear axle ($C_f = 78.4 \text{ kN rad}^{-1}$, $C_r = 145.6 \text{ kN rad}^{-1}$).

Heavy Rear Load

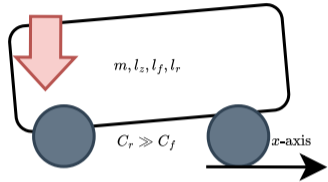


Figure: Simulation environment and test scenarios.

Table: Controllers for comparative study.

	Description	Control Input
(C ₁) [—]	Proposed controller	$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_d - \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{g}^T \mathbf{M} \mathbf{e} + \boldsymbol{\nu}$
(C ₂) [—]	Conventional feedback controller based on contraction theory [10]	$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_d - \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{g}^T \mathbf{M} \mathbf{e}$
(C ₃) [—]	Desired controller	$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_d$

Simulation Results and Analysis

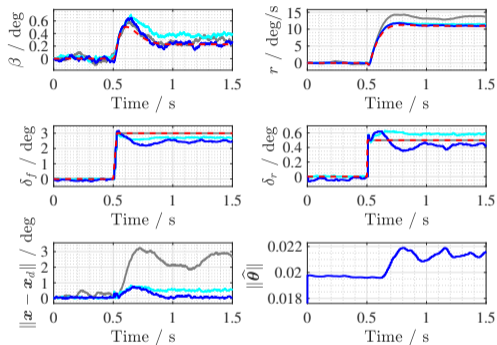


Figure: Validation results of (C₁) [—], (C₂) [—] and (C₃) [—], and the desired trajectory [···].

- Using contraction theory, both (C₁) and (C₂) showed better tracking performance than (C₃).
- NN in (C₁) further improved the tracking performance by compensating for uncertainties.

Table: Tracking performances in L_2 norm.

	(C ₁) [—]	(C ₂) [—]	(C ₃) [—]
$\sqrt{\int_0^T \ e\ ^2 dt}$	9.768 (-87.34%)	17.469 (-77.36%)	77.150 (-)

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- Contraction metric is obtained by solving LMI problem and used in feedback controller.
- Neural networks are employed to compensate for uncertainties, ensuring closed-loop stability.
- Numerical simulations demonstrated the effectiveness of the proposed controller.

Thank you for your attention!

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