

# Imposing a Weight Norm Constraint for Neuro-Adaptive Control

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Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST)



2025-06-25

## 1 Background and Contributions

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- Introduction to Neuro-Adaptive Control
- Literature Review
- Contributions

## 2 Proposed Method

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- Architecture of the Proposed Method
- Problem Formulation
- Adaptation Law Derivation
- Stability Analysis

## 3 Experimental Validation

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- Validation Setup
- Validation 1: Simulation Setup
- Validation 1: Simulation Results
- Validation 2: Real-Time Implementation Setup
- Validation 2: Real-Time Implementation Results

## 4 Conclusion

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- Conclusion and Future Work



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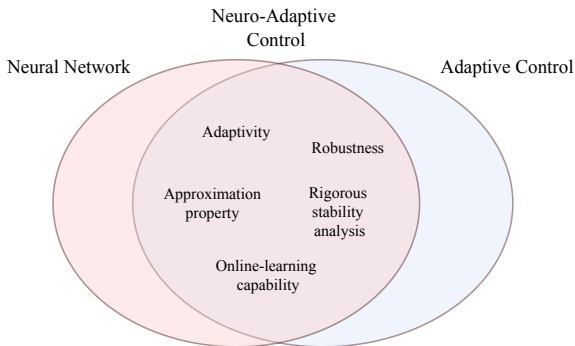


## 4 Conclusion

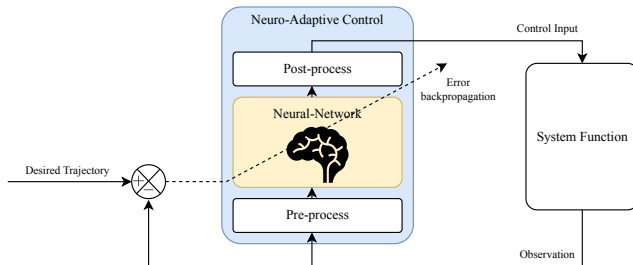


## Neuro-Adaptive Control

- **Neuro-adaptive control (NAC)** is a control strategy that combines **neural networks (NNs)** with **adaptive control** [1].
- Features of both **NNs** and **adaptive control** can be found in NAC.



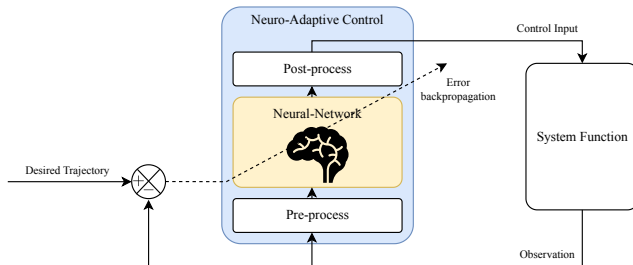
## Advantages of Neuro-Adaptive Control



**Figure:** General framework of neuro-adaptive control (NAC).

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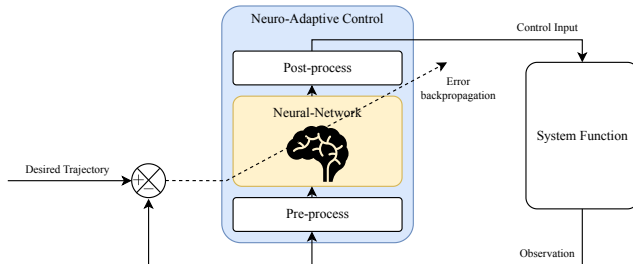
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**Figure:** General framework of neuro-adaptive control (NAC).

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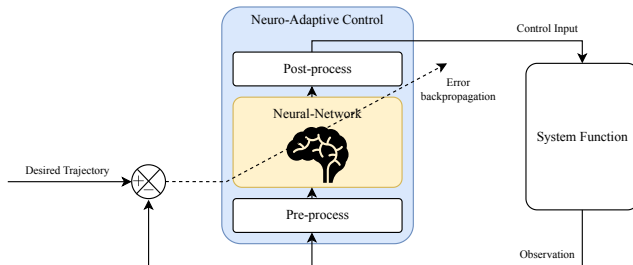
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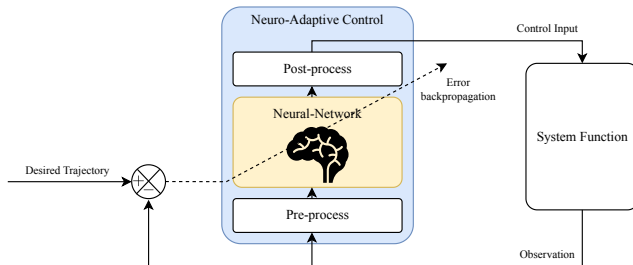
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- **Robustness:** NAC handles **uncertainties and disturbances** effectively with adaptive control techniques.



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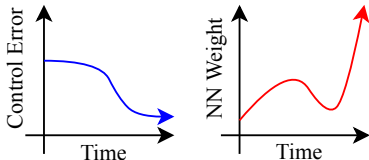
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### 1. Weight Boundedness:

- Generally, NN weights are adapted by **gradient descent method**.
  - Objective function typically consists of the control error.
- Hence, the NN weights can grow **unbounded**, leading to instability (also known as *parameter drift*).
- Unbounded weights can cause the NN to produce **large control inputs**, which may lead to following challenges.

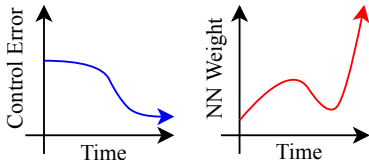


**Figure:** Divergence of NN weights even with convergent control error.

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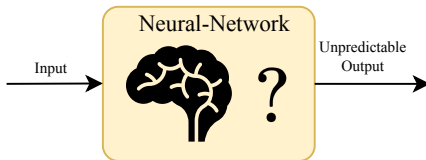
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**Figure:** Divergence of NN weights even with convergent control error.

### 2. Control Saturation (*unpredictable amplitude of NN outputs*):

- Typical issue of control problem in physical systems.
- The NN outputs are **unpredictable** and **not interpretable**.
- These features—unbounded NN weights and unpredictable amplitudes—can lead to **input saturation**.



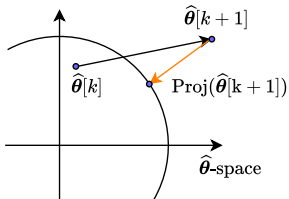
**Figure:** Unpredictable amplitude of NN outputs.

1. **Projection Operator** *for weight boundedness*
2.  **$\sigma$ -modification, and  $\epsilon$ -modification** *for weight boundedness*
3. **Additional Control Inputs** *for control saturation*

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- Projects the NN weights onto a convex set.
- Ensures that the weights **remain** within a predefined bound.

$$\hat{\theta} \leftarrow \text{Proj}_{\hat{\theta}}(\hat{\theta}) \quad (1)$$

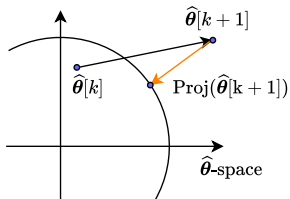


**Figure:** Projection of NN weights on a convex set.

# Literature Review

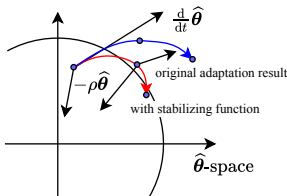
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2.  **$\sigma$ -modification, and  $\epsilon$ -modification** for weight boundedness
  - Add a **stabilizing term** (e.g.,  $-\sigma\hat{\theta}$ ) to adaptation law.
  - Construct a **invariant set** of the NN weights.
3. **Additional Control Inputs** for control saturation

$$\hat{\theta} \leftarrow \text{Proj}_{\bar{\theta}}(\hat{\theta}) \quad (1)$$



**Figure:** Projection of NN weights on a convex set.

$$\frac{d}{dt}\hat{\theta} \leftarrow \frac{d}{dt}\hat{\theta} - \sigma\hat{\theta} \quad (2)$$



**Figure:** Adaptation result with stabilizing function (e.g.,  $\sigma$ -modification).

# Literature Review

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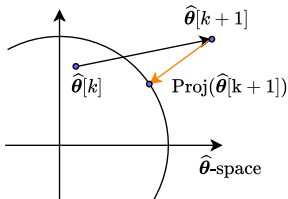


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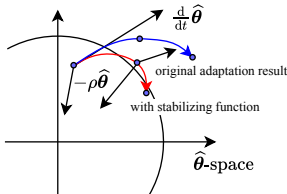


Figure: Adaptation result with stabilizing function (e.g.,  $\sigma$ -modification).

## 3. Additional Control Inputs for control saturation

- **Conventional controllers** are used to address control input saturation.
  - Barrier Lyapunov function or auxiliary system-based control inputs.
- In general, **nominal models** are required.

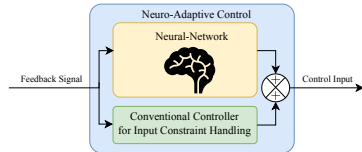


Figure: Control input saturation handling with additional control inputs.

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## Limitation 2: Disruption of Learning Process by Additional Control Inputs

- Feedback tracking error for learning is **disrupted** by additional control inputs.
  - The feedback error **does not reflect** the error induced by the NN, directly.
  - The additional control inputs may exceeds the **input saturation limits** , already.

**Contribution 1: Unified Constrained Optimization Framework**

**Contribution 2: Online Learning Capability (Stability Guarantees)**

**Contribution 3: Weight and Control Input Constraint Handling**

## Contribution 1: Unified Constrained Optimization Framework

- Trajectory tracking and constraint handling are formulated as a **unified constrained optimization** problem.
- The **conventional controllers** does not required.
  - Nominal model knowledge is not required for the conventional controllers.

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- Stability are rigorously proven using **Lyapunov stability theory**.
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- Stability are rigorously proven using **Lyapunov stability theory**.
- Hence, **online learning** with **no prior system knowledge** is possible.

## Contribution 3: Weight and Control Input Constraint Handling

- Weight and control input **constraints** are **explicitly considered** in the optimization problem.
- **Any combination** of convex input constraints can be handled.

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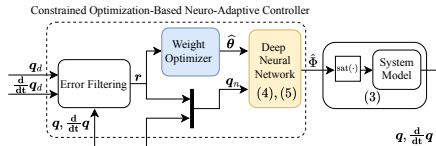


## 4 Conclusion





# Architecture of the Proposed Method



**Figure:** Architecture of the proposed method.

*Notations:*  $q \in \mathbb{R}^n$ : Joint position,  $M$ : Inertia matrix,  $C$ : Coriolis matrix,  $G$ : Gravity vector,  $\tau$ : Control input,  $\tau_d$ : Disturbance.

# Architecture of the Proposed Method

## Target Two-link Robotic Manipulator System:

- Control input **saturation function**  $\text{sat}(\cdot)$ .
- Desired trajectory  $q_d$  is given.

$$M\ddot{q} + V_m\dot{q} + F + G + \tau_d = \text{sat}(\tau) \quad (3)$$

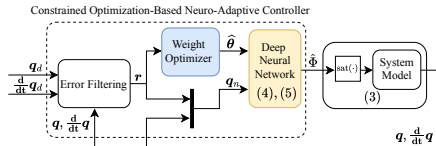


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## Control Input:

- NN's **output**  $\Phi$  is used as the control input.
- Consists of the **estimated NN weights**  $\hat{\theta}$ .

$$\tau := \Phi(q_n; \hat{\theta}) \quad (4)$$

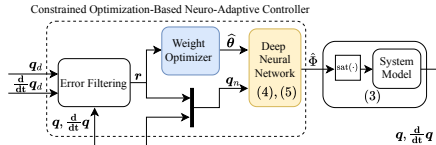


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## Deep Neural Network (DNN):

- $k$  layers with weights  $\hat{\theta}_i := \text{vec}(\hat{W}_i)$ .
- Activation function:  $\phi(\cdot) := \tanh(\cdot)$ .

$$\Phi(q_n; \hat{\theta}) := \begin{cases} \hat{W}_i^\top \phi_i(\Phi_{i-1}), & i \in \{1, \dots, k\}, \\ \hat{W}_0^\top q_n, & i = 0, \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

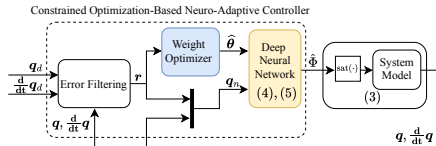


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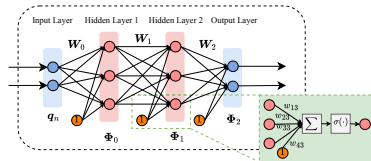


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## Optimization Problem Statement:

- Find NN weights  $\hat{\theta}$ ,
- That minimize objective function  $J(\cdot)$ ,

$$J(\mathbf{r}; \hat{\theta}) := \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{r}^\top \mathbf{r}. \quad (6)$$

- where  $\mathbf{r} := \frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{e} + \Lambda \mathbf{e}$  is filtered tracking error,
- while satisfying the following constraints:
  - Boundedness of the NN weights  $\hat{\theta}$ .
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Notations:  $\Lambda \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}^{n \times n}$ : filtering matrix

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## Considered Constraints

- Weight Boundedness for Each Layer:

$$c_{\theta_i}(\hat{\theta}) := \|\hat{\theta}_i\|^2 - \bar{\theta}_i^2 \leq 0, \forall i \in \{0, \dots, k\} \quad (7)$$

- Convex control Input Saturation:

- Input bound constraint for each control input:

$$c_{\bar{\tau}_i}(\hat{\theta}) := \tau_i - \bar{\tau}_i \leq 0, \quad c_{\underline{\tau}_i}(\hat{\theta}) := \underline{\tau}_i - \tau_i \leq 0 \quad (8)$$

- Input norm constraint:

$$c_{\tau}(\hat{\theta}) := \|\tau\|^2 - \bar{\tau}^2 \leq 0 \quad (9)$$

Notations:  $\Lambda \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}^{n \times n}$ : filtering matrix

**Original Optimization Problem**

- Constrained optimization problem to minimize the tracking error.
- Inequality constraints  $c_j(\hat{\theta}) \leq 0$  for  $j \in \mathcal{I}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{\hat{\theta}} J(\mathbf{r}; \hat{\theta}) \\ & \text{s.t. } c_j(\hat{\theta}) \leq 0, \forall j \in \mathcal{I} \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

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## Define Lagrangian Function

$$L(\mathbf{r}, \hat{\theta}, [\lambda_j]_{j \in \mathcal{I}}) := J(\mathbf{r}; \hat{\theta}) + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}} \lambda_j c_j(\hat{\theta}) \tag{11}$$



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## Dual Problem

- The dual problem is to **minimize** the Lagrangian function with respect to the **NN weights**  $\hat{\theta}$ , while **maximizing** with respect to the **Lagrange multipliers**  $\lambda_j$ .
- The Lagrange multipliers  $\lambda_j$  are non-negative, i.e.,  $\lambda_j \geq 0$ .

$$\min_{\hat{\theta}} \max_{[\lambda_j]_{j \in \mathcal{I}}} L(\mathbf{r}, \hat{\theta}, [\lambda_j]_{j \in \mathcal{I}}) \quad (12)$$

To solve the dual problem,

$$\min_{\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}} \max_{[\lambda_j]_{j \in \mathcal{I}}} L(\mathbf{r}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}, [\lambda_j]_{j \in \mathcal{I}}), \quad (13)$$

the first-order gradient descent/ascent method is used to derive the adaptation law.

## Adaptation Law

$\alpha$ : adaptation gain (learning rate),  $\beta_j$ : update rate of the Lagrange multipliers.

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## Adaptation Law

Gradient Descent Method for weights  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$ :

$$\frac{d}{dt} \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = -\alpha \frac{\partial L}{\partial \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}} = -\alpha \left( \frac{\partial J}{\partial \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}} + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}} \lambda_j \frac{\partial c_j}{\partial \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}} \right), \quad (14)$$

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**Gradient Ascent** Method for Lagrange multipliers  $\lambda_j, \forall j \in \mathcal{I}$ :

$$\frac{d}{dt} \lambda_j = \beta_j \frac{\partial L}{\partial \lambda_j} = \beta_j c_j, \quad (15)$$

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**Gradient Ascent Method for Lagrange multipliers  $\lambda_j, \forall j \in \mathcal{I}$ :**

$$\frac{d}{dt} \lambda_j = \beta_j \frac{\partial L}{\partial \lambda_j} = \beta_j c_j, \quad (15)$$

For non-negativity of the Lagrange multipliers,

$$\lambda_j \leftarrow \max(\lambda_j, 0). \quad (16)$$

$\alpha$ : adaptation gain (learning rate),  $\beta_j$ : update rate of the Lagrange multipliers.

## Theorem 1 [2]

For the dynamical system described in (3), the neuro-adaptive controller in (4) with the weight adaptation laws in (14), (15) and (16) ensure the boundedness of the filtered error  $r$  and the weight estimate  $\hat{\theta}$ , under the control input constraints satisfying Assumption 1 and 2. This holds under the weight norm constraint (7).

## Assumption 1 (Convex Input Constraint)

The constraint functions  $c_j(\hat{\theta})$ ,  $\forall j \in \mathcal{I}$ , are convex in the  $\tau$ -space and satisfy  $c_j(\hat{\theta}) \leq 0$  and  $c_j(\theta^*) \leq 0$ .

## Assumption 2, Linear Independence Constraint Qualification (LICQ)

The selected constraints satisfy the Linear Independence Constraint Qualification (LICQ) [3, Chap. 12 Def. 12.1].

Proof of Theorem 1 is **omitted** due to space limitations. The detailed proof can be found in [2].

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## 2 Proposed Method



## 3 Experimental Validation

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## Validation 1: **Simulation** of a Two-link Robotic Manipulator System

- **Weight norm** constraint is considered.
- Single-hidden layer NN is used.
- Parameter dependencies are investigated, by varying crucial parameters.

## Validation 2: **Real-time Implementation** on a Two-link Robotic Manipulator System

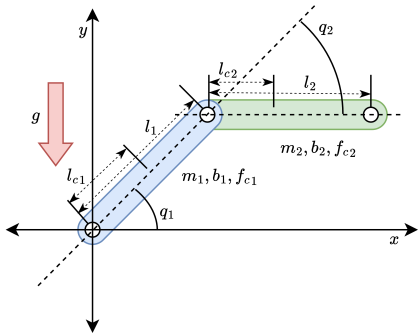
- **Weight norm** constraint and **input saturation** constraints are considered.
- 2 hidden layer NN is used.
- Constraint handling process is compared.



# Validation 1: Simulation Setup Two-Link Robotic Manipulator

**Target System:**

$$\mathbf{M}\ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{V}_m\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{F} + \mathbf{G} + \boldsymbol{\tau}_d = \boldsymbol{\tau}$$



**Figure:** Two-link robotic manipulator model.

**Desired Trajectory:**

$$\mathbf{q}_d = \begin{pmatrix} q_{d1} \\ q_{d2} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} +\cos(\frac{\pi}{2}t) + 1 \\ -\cos(\frac{\pi}{2}t) - 1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (17)$$

**System Model Parameters:**

**Table:** System model parameters.

Symbol	Description	Link 1	Link 2
$m_p$	Mass	23.902 kg	3.88 kg
$l_p$	Length	0.45 m	0.45 m
$l_{cp}$	COM	0.091 m	0.048 m
$b_p$	Viscous coef.	2.288 Nms	0.172 Nms
$f_{cp}$	Friction coef.	7.17 Nm	1.734 Nm

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## Controllers for Comparative Study

- NAC-CO denotes the proposed controller based on **constrained optimization**.
- For NAC-L2 and NAC-eMod, the **stabilizing terms**  $-\sigma\hat{\theta}$  and  $\rho\|\tilde{r}\|\hat{\theta}$  ensures the weights boundedness, respectively.

Name	Description	Adaptation Law
NAC-L2	NAC with $L_2$ -regularization (equal to $\sigma$ -modification) ( $\sigma$ stabilizes $\hat{\theta}$ towards origin)	$\frac{d}{dt}\hat{\theta} = -\alpha \left( \frac{\partial J}{\partial \theta} + \sigma\hat{\theta} \right)$
NAC-eMod	NAC with $\epsilon$ -modification ( $\rho$ stabilizes proportionally to filtered error $r$ )	$\frac{d}{dt}\hat{\theta} = -\alpha \left( \frac{\partial J}{\partial \theta} + \rho\ \tilde{r}\ \hat{\theta} \right)$
NAC-CO (proposed)	Constrained Optimization-based NAC ( $\beta_j$ determines $\lambda_j$ adaptation speed)	$\frac{d}{dt}\hat{\theta} = -\alpha \left( \frac{\partial J}{\partial \theta} + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}} \lambda_j \frac{\partial c_j}{\partial \theta} \right)$ $\frac{d}{dt}\lambda_j = \beta_j c_j$ , and $\lambda_j \leftarrow \max(\lambda_j, 0)$

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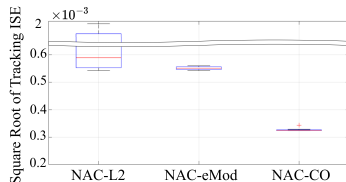
### Simulation Objective

By **varying the parameters**, i.e.,  $\beta_j$ ,  $\sigma$ , and  $\rho$ , the parameter dependencies will be investigated.

# Validation 1: Simulation Results Box-and-Whisker Plots

## Parameter Dependencies Investigation:

- The parameters ranged from 0.001 to 1 across 10 samples.



**Figure:** Box-and-whisker plots of the tracking error ISE.

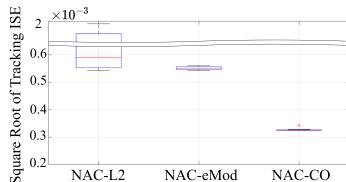
	NAC-L2	NAC-eMod	NAC-CO (proposed)
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Median	$0.5898 \times 10^{-3}$	$0.5519 \times 10^{-3}$	$0.3240 \times 10^{-3}$
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Squared root of the tracking error ISE (Integral of Squared Error), i.e.,  $\sqrt{\int_0^T \|r\|^2 dt}$ , where  $T$  denotes a simulation time.

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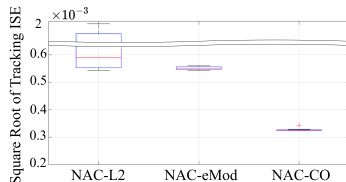
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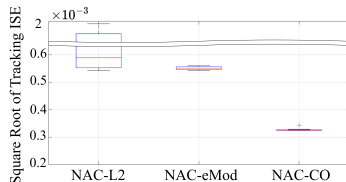
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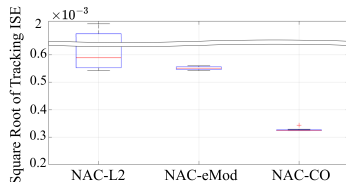
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 $\frac{d}{dt}\hat{\theta} = -\alpha(\frac{\partial J}{\partial \theta} + \sigma\hat{\theta})$  (NAC-L2) or  $+\rho\|r\|\hat{\theta}$  (NAC-eMod),  
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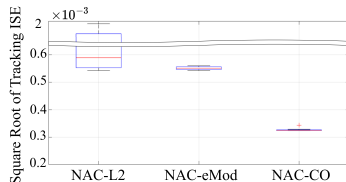
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  - $-\lambda_j \frac{\partial c_j}{\partial \theta}$  in NAC-CO (proposed) (i.e.,  $\frac{d}{dt}\hat{\theta} = -\alpha(\frac{\partial J}{\partial \theta} + \lambda_j \frac{\partial c_j}{\partial \theta})$ ) **disappears** when constraints are inactive (i.e.,  $c_j < 0$ , and  $\lambda = \beta_j c_j$  and  $\lambda_j \leftarrow \max(\lambda_j, 0)$ ).



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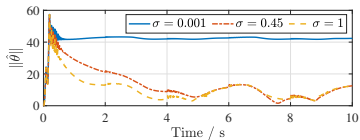


Figure: Weight norms of NAC-L2

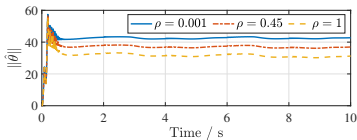


Figure: Weight norms of NAC-eMod

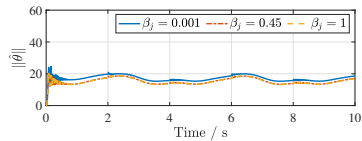


Figure: Weight norms of NAC-CO (proposed)

- NAC-CO (proposed) showed the weight norms are bounded under pre-defined constraint  $\bar{\theta} = 20$ .

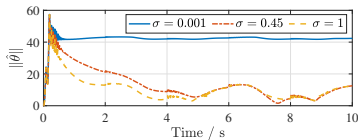


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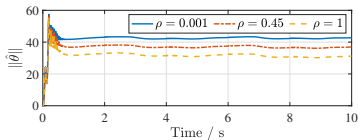


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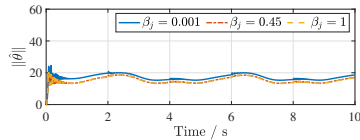


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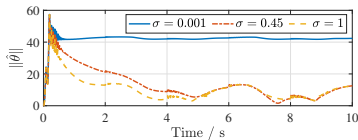


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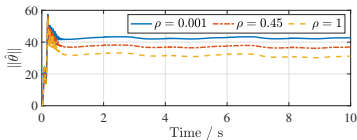


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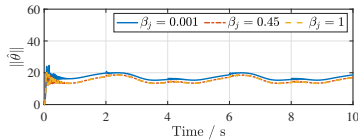


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- NAC-CO (proposed) showed the **weight norms** are bounded **under pre-defined constraint**  $\bar{\theta} = 20$ .
- NAC-L2 and NAC-eMod showed the bounded weight norms, but they **depended** on the parameters  $\sigma$  and  $\rho$ , respectively.
- In other words, NAC-CO tracked the desired trajectory with a **smaller weight** norm than NAC-L2 and NAC-eMod.

# Validation 1: Simulation Results Tracking Performance

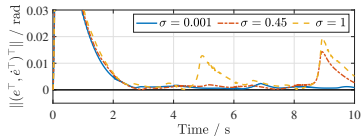


Figure: Tracking error of NAC-L2

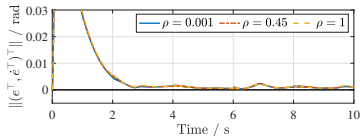


Figure: Tracking error of NAC-eMod

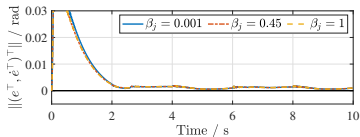


Figure: Tracking error of NAC-CO (proposed)

- NAC-CO (proposed) **outperformed** NAC-L2 and NAC-eMod in terms of **tracking performance**.
- As the weights are **biased** towards the origin proportionally to the parameters  $\sigma$  and  $\rho$  in NAC-L2 and NAC-eMod, respectively, the tracking performance of NAC-L2 and NAC-eMod deteriorated, as approaching toward **suboptimal points**.

## Controller:

- OpenCR 1.0 Board
- Control loop at 250 Hz (4 ms sampling time)

## Input Saturation Constraints:

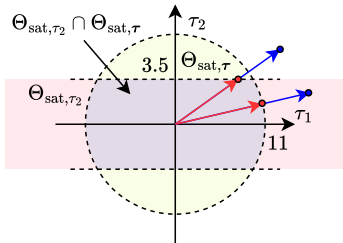


Figure: Input Saturation Function.

## Experimental Setup:

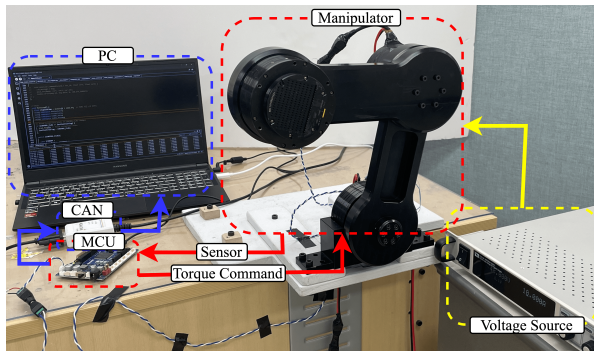


Figure: Experimental setup for real-time implementation.

- This video demonstrates:
  - **Applicability** of the proposed method to real-time control (under 4 ms sampling time).
  - **Convex input constraints** handling.

## 1 Background and Contributions



## 2 Proposed Method



## 3 Experimental Validation



## 4 Conclusion

- Conclusion and Future Work



## Summary of Contributions

- Proposed a constrained optimization-based neuro-adaptive control method.
- Adaptation laws are derived using **constrained optimization method**.
- The proposed method guarantees the **stability** of the system and the boundedness of the NN weights.
- Feasibility of the proposed method is validated through numerical simulation and real-time implementation.

## Future Work

- Extend the proposed method to **state constraints**.
- Enhance the **robustness** and **flexibility** of the proposed method for **various systems**.

*Thank you for your attention!*

- [1] J. A. Farrell and M. M. Polycarpou, *Adaptive Approximation Based Control: Unifying Neural, Fuzzy and Traditional Adaptive Approximation Approaches (Adaptive and Learning Systems for Signal Processing, Communications and Control Series)*. USA: Wiley-Interscience, 2006. [Online]. Available: <https://doi.org/10.1002/0471781819>
- [2] M. Ryu, N. Monzen, P. Seitter, K. Choi, and C. M. Hackl, "Constrained optimization-based neuro-adaptive control (conac) for synchronous machine drives under voltage constraints," TechRxiv, Preprint, Apr. 2025. [Online]. Available: <http://dx.doi.org/10.36227/techrxiv.174585949.94234666/v1>
- [3] J. Nocedal and S. Wright, *Numerical optimization*, 2nd ed., ser. Springer series in operations research and financial engineering. New York, NY: Springer, 2006. [Online]. Available: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-0-387-40065-5>