

Article

Bipartite Consensus of Nonlinear Agents in the Presence of Communication Noise

Sabyasachi Mondal *  and Antonios Tsourdos 

School of Aerospace, Transport and Manufacturing (SATM), Cranfield University, Cranfield MK43 0AL, UK;
e-a.tsourdos@cranfield.ac.uk

* Correspondence: sabyasachi.mondal@cranfield.ac.uk

Abstract: In this paper, a Distributed Nonlinear Dynamic Inversion (DNDI)-based consensus protocol is designed to achieve the bipartite consensus of nonlinear agents over a signed graph. DNDI inherits the advantage of nonlinear dynamic inversion theory, and the application to the bipartite problem is a new idea. Moreover, communication noise is considered to make the scenario more realistic. The convergence study provides a solid theoretical base, and a realistic simulation study shows the effectiveness of the proposed protocol.

Keywords: bipartite consensus; Distributed Nonlinear Dynamic Inversion; communication noise; signed graph



Citation: Mondal, S.; Tsourdos, A. Bipartite Consensus of Nonlinear Agents in the Presence of Communication Noise. *Sensors* **2022**, *22*, 2357. <https://doi.org/10.3390/s22062357>

Academic Editor: Evangelos Kranakis

Received: 31 January 2022

Accepted: 15 March 2022

Published: 18 March 2022

Publisher's Note: MDPI stays neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.



Copyright: © 2022 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

1. Introduction

In the last decade, multiple agents has been considered an attractive area of research for different applications, such as cooperative mobile robotics [1], sensory networks [2], flocking [3], formation control of robot teams [4], rendezvous of multiple spacecraft [5] etc. These agents are connected by a communication network and share information to achieve a common goal cooperatively. The consensus or agreement among agents is the key to successfully attaining the common goal (e.g., the common value of certain dynamic variables). Generally, the consensus is achieved by consensus protocols, which are designed using different branches of control theory.

However, these protocols are designed considering the communication topology represented by a graph. Therefore, the role of the graph is critical. Many researchers have solved different kinds of consensus problems considering communication issues, such as [6–21] and many more. It is important to note that all these papers show cooperation among the agents, which is analyzed over the nonnegative graph having nonnegative edge weights (antagonistic interactions). However, there should be a way for the agents not to be a part of the consensus and form another group with a different consensus value.

This type of problem was first addressed by Altafini [22] who showed that cooperation and competition are possible over a signed graph with positive and negative edge weights. A single group of agents are divided into two with a consensus value that is the same in magnitude but has an opposite sign. This type of consensus problem is named bipartite consensus. After the bipartite consensus scheme was proposed, there has been an effort to apply the concept to solve different problems in the area, such as a social network and opinion dynamics [23].

Similarly to ordinary consensus, researchers solved various categories of consensus problems for agents with linear dynamics [24–34]. A few researchers experimented with nonlinear agents [35–40]. These papers primarily focused on mechanizing a consensus protocol suitable for different types of bipartite consensus problems using different branches of control theory. Along with different control techniques, a nonlinear control technique is popular for designing a nonlinear controller for conventional control problems.

This control technique is known as Nonlinear Dynamic Inversion (NDI) [41]. Recently, a distributed consensus controller was proposed in [21], which was designed using NDI and named Distributed NDI or DNDI. This inherits all the advantages of NDI and is applicable to consensus problems of nonlinear agents. Moreover, DNDI was found to be robust against communication issues, such as noise.

There exist a few papers where the bipartite consensus studied for linear agents considering the noise [42–48], but none exist (to the best of the authors' knowledge) for nonlinear agents. DNDI was introduced in the context of ordinary consensus of MASs, and it is not applicable to bipartite problems in its current form. In this paper, we aim to modify the DNDI and make it suitable to apply to bipartite problems of nonlinear agents in the presence of communication noise.

- Feedback linearization theory is used to cancel the nonlinearities in the plant. Moreover, the closed-loop response of the plant is similar to a stable linear system.
- The NDI controller has many advantages. Examples of these advantages include (1) simple and closed-form control expression, (2) easily implementable, global exponential stability of the tracking error, (3) use of nonlinear kinematics in the plant inversion and (4) minimize the need for individual gain tuning, etc.

The contributions of this work are given below:

1. Distributed Nonlinear Dynamic Inversion (DNDI) control protocol is used for bipartite consensus of nonlinear agents for the first time. This is a unique idea because the advantages of NDI are inherited in DNDI and applied to bipartite problems.
2. The mathematical details for the convergence study are presented, which gives a solid theoretical base.
3. The effect of communication noise is studied, which is a practical consideration in the context of multi-agent operation.
4. The detailed simulation study considering the noise separately gives a clear understanding regarding the effectiveness of the proposed consensus protocol.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, the preliminaries are given. In Section 3, the problem description is presented. Mathematical details of DNDI for bipartite consensus protocol are shown in Section 4. The convergence study of DNDI is presented in Section 5. Simulation results are shown in Section 6, and Section 7 gives our conclusions.

2. Preliminaries

A brief description about the topics required for this work is discussed in this section.

2.1. Bipartite Consensus of MASs

Definition 1. A group of agents is said to achieve a bipartite consensus if $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (x_i(t) - x_d(t)) = 0, \forall i \in p$ and $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (x_j(t) + x_d(t)) = 0, \forall j \in q$, where $x_d(t)$ is a desired trajectory, and $p \cup q = \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$; $p \cap q = \emptyset$. It can be mentioned that the definition leads to ordinary consensus when p or q is empty.

2.2. Graph Theory

In this work, we define a weighted graph $\mathcal{G} = \{\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E}\}$ to represent the communication topology among the agents. The vertices of $\mathcal{G}$ are given by $\mathcal{V} = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_N\}$, which represent the agents. The edges are represented using the set $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V}$, which denote the communication among the agents. The connection among the agents are described by an adjacency matrix $\mathcal{A} = [a_{ij}] \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$. The elements of weighted adjacency matrix $\mathcal{A}$ of $\mathcal{G}$ are $a_{ij} > 0$ if $(v_i, v_j) \in \mathcal{E}$, otherwise $a_{ij} = 0$. Since there is no self loop, the adjacency matrix $\mathcal{A}$ has diagonal elements, which are 0, i.e., $v_i \in \mathcal{V}, a_{ii} = 0$. The degree matrix is written as $D \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N} = \text{diag}\{d_1 \ d_2 \ \dots \ d_N\}$, where $d_i = \sum_{j \in N_i} a_{ij}$. The Laplacian matrix is written as $\mathcal{L} = D - \mathcal{A}$.

The Laplacian matrix $\mathcal{L}$ is used to analyze the synchronization of networked agents on a nonnegative graph. However, the Laplacian matrix needs to be defined differently for a signed graph. In the case of a signed graph, $a_{ij} > 0$ means the cooperative interaction, and $a_{ij} < 0$ represents the antagonistic interaction. We define the Laplacian matrix for a signed graph as signed Laplacian ($\mathcal{L}_s$) given by

$$\mathcal{L}_s = \text{diag} \left(\sum_{j=1}^N |a_{1j}|, \dots, \sum_{j=1}^N |a_{Nj}| \right) - \mathcal{A} \quad (1)$$

2.3. Communication Noise

The agents share their information over the communication network, but channel noise perturbs them. Therefore the information received by i th agent from its neighbours is noisy. In this work, we consider the noise is additive and adopt a noise model, which shows how the noise is added to information shared by the agents with their neighbours. Let us consider the perturbed information received by i th agent from j th neighbour $j \in N_i$ can be given by $\tilde{X}_{ji} = X_{ji} + \sigma_{ji}\omega_{ji}$, where $X_i, X_j \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are states, $\omega_{ji}; i, j \in 1, 2, \dots, N$ are independent standard white noises, and σ_{ji} is the noise intensity. This model is used in the simulation study.

2.4. Theorems and Lemmas

The useful Lemmas are given here.

Definition 2 ((Structural balance) [22,49]). A signed graph is structurally balanced if it has a bipartition of the nodes $\mathcal{V}_1, \mathcal{V}_2$, i.e., $\mathcal{V}_1 \cup \mathcal{V}_2 = \mathcal{V}$ and $\mathcal{V}_1 \cap \mathcal{V}_2 = \emptyset$ such that $a_{ij} \leq 0, \forall v_i \in \mathcal{V}_p, v_j \in \mathcal{V}_q$ where $p, q \in 1, 2, p \neq q$, and $\emptyset$ is empty set; otherwise $a_{ij} \geq 0$.

Lemma 1 ([50]). A spanning tree is structurally balanced.

Lemma 2 ([51]). Suppose the signed graph $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A})$ has a spanning tree. Denote the signature matrices set as

$$\mathcal{D} = \{D = \text{diag}(\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_N) | \sigma_i \in \{1, -1\}\} \quad (2)$$

Then the following statements are equivalent.

1. $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A})$ is structurally balanced.
2. $a_{ij}a_{ji} \geq 0$ and the associated undirected graph $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A}_u)$ is structurally balanced, where $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A}_u) = \frac{\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{A}^T}{2}$.
3. $\exists D \in \mathcal{D}$, such that $\tilde{\mathcal{A}} = [\tilde{a}_{ij}] = D\mathcal{A}D$ is a nonnegative matrix.
4. either there are no directed semicycles, or all directed semicycles are positive.

It can be mentioned that the most important property of nonnegative graphs is that when the graph has a spanning tree. In this case, 0 is a simple eigenvalue of the ordinary Laplacian matrix, and all its other eigenvalues have positive real parts ([52]). Some significant results are given for signed digraphs as follows.

Lemma 3 ([53]). Suppose the signed digraph $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A})$ has a spanning tree. If the graph is structurally balanced, then 0 is a simple eigenvalue of its Laplacian matrix and all its other eigenvalues have positive real parts; but not vice versa.

Corollary 1 ([30]). Let $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A})$ be a nonnegative digraph having a spanning tree. Then for any $D \in \mathcal{D}$, which has both positive and negative entries, the graph $\mathcal{G}(D\mathcal{A}D)$ is a signed digraph, has a spanning tree and is structurally balanced.

Corollary 2 ([30]). Suppose the signed graph $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A})$ is undirected and connected. The graph is structurally balanced, if and only if 0 is a simple eigenvalue of $\mathcal{L}$ and all other eigenvalues have positive real parts.

3. Problem Description

This paper aims to design a controller to achieve bipartite consensus among the agents in MASs. The communication among the agents is described as a signed digraph $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A})$, which has a spanning tree and is structurally balanced. The controller is designed by modifying Distributed NDI (DNDI), briefly described in the following section. The dynamics of i th agent is given in Equations (3) and (4).

$$\dot{X}_i = f(X_i) + g(X_i)U_i \quad (3)$$

$$Y_i = X_i \quad (4)$$

The state and control of i th agent is given by $X_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $U_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$, respectively. The output of i th agent is given by

$$Y_i = X_i \in \mathbb{R}^n \quad (5)$$

The agents are assumed to be working in a randomly changing environment. We considered the communication issues, such as communication noise.

4. Distributed Nonlinear Dynamic Inversion (DNDI) Controller for Bipartite Consensus

A derivation of Distributed Nonlinear Dynamic Inversion (DNDI) controller for bipartite consensus is presented in this section. The DNDI is proposed by Mondal et al. [21] for ordinary consensus. In this section, DNDI is modified to achieve bipartite consensus among nonlinear agents. We already mentioned that we consider a signed graph here to analyze the consensus. Therefore, the error in states of i th agent (scalar agent dynamics, i.e., $X_i \in \mathbb{R}$) is given by

$$\epsilon_i = \sum_{j \in N_i} (|a_{ij}|X_i - a_{ij}X_j) \quad (6)$$

Error expression in Equation (6) is simplified to obtain Equation (7).

$$\epsilon_i = |d_i|X_i - a_iX \quad (7)$$

where

$$|d_i| = \sum_j |a_{ij}| \in \mathbb{R}, \quad a_i = [a_{i1} \ a_{i2} \ \dots \ a_{iN}] \in \mathbb{R}^N$$

and

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ \vdots \\ X_N \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^N$$

In the case of the state of the i th agents being a vector, i.e., $X_i \in \mathbb{R}^n; n > 1$, the error in Equation (7) is modified as

$$\epsilon_i = |\bar{d}_i|X_i - \bar{a}_iX \quad (8)$$

where $|\bar{d}_i| = (|d_i| \otimes \mathbf{I}_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, $\bar{a}_i = (a_i \otimes \mathbf{I}_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times nN}$, and $X \in \mathbb{R}^{nN}$. $\mathbf{I}_n$ is $n \times n$ identity matrix. ' $\otimes$ ' denotes the kroneker product.

To obtain the consensus protocol, we define a Lyapunov function

$$\Psi = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_i^T \epsilon_i \quad (9)$$

Differentiation of Equation (9) yields

$$\dot{\Psi} = \epsilon_i^T \dot{\epsilon}_i \quad (10)$$

Lyapunov stability condition requires the time derivative of the Lyapunov function to be

$$\dot{\Psi} = -\epsilon_i^T \kappa_i \epsilon_i \quad (11)$$

where $\kappa_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is a positive diagonal gain matrix. Using the expressions of $\dot{\Psi}$ in Equations (10) and (11), we can write

$$\epsilon_i^T \dot{\epsilon}_i = -\epsilon_i^T \kappa_i \epsilon_i \quad (12)$$

Therefore, Equation (12) is written as

$$\dot{\epsilon}_i + \kappa_i \epsilon_i = 0 \quad (13)$$

Expression of $\dot{\epsilon}$ can be obtained by differentiating Equation (8) as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\epsilon}_i &= |\bar{d}_i| \dot{X}_i - \bar{a}_i \dot{X} \\ &= |\bar{d}_i| [f(X_i) + g(X_i)U_i] - \bar{a}_i \dot{X} \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

The expressions of ϵ_i and $\dot{\epsilon}_i$ are substituted in Equation (13)

$$|\bar{d}_i| [f(X_i) + g(X_i)U_i] - \bar{a}_i \dot{X} + \kappa_i (|\bar{d}_i| X_i - \bar{a}_i X) = 0 \quad (15)$$

Finally, Equation (15) is simplified to obtain the expression of U_i for i th agent as follows

$$U_i = (g(X_i))^{-1} \left[-f(X_i) + |\bar{d}_i|^{-1} (\bar{a}_i \dot{X} - \kappa_i (|\bar{d}_i| X_i - \bar{a}_i X)) \right] \quad (16)$$

In the next section, we present the convergence study of the DNDI-based consensus protocol obtained in Equation (16). Before we proceed to the next section, we mentioned a few Lemmas (Lemma 4–6) here, which will be used in the convergence study.

Lemma 4 ([54]). *The Laplacian matrix L in an undirected graph is semi-positive definite, it has a simple zero eigenvalue, and all the other eigenvalues are positive if and only if the graph is connected. Therefore, L is symmetric and it has N non-negative, real-valued eigenvalues $0 = \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_N$.*

Lemma 5 ([55]). *Let $\psi_1(t), \psi_2(t) \in \mathbb{R}^m$ be continuous positive vector functions, by Cauchy inequality and Young's inequality, there exists the following inequality:*

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_1(t)\psi_2(t) &\leq \|\psi_1(t)\| \|\psi_2(t)\| \\ &\leq \frac{\|\psi_1(t)\|^\lambda}{\lambda} + \frac{\|\psi_2(t)\|^\zeta}{\zeta} \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

where

$$\frac{1}{\lambda} + \frac{1}{\zeta} = 1$$

Lemma 6 ([56]). *Let $R(t) \in \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous positive function with bounded initial $R(0)$. If the inequality holds $\dot{R}(t) \leq -\beta R(t) + \eta$ where $\beta > 0, \eta > 0$, then the following inequality holds.*

$$R(t) \leq R(0)e^{-\beta t} + \frac{\eta}{\beta} (1 - e^{-\beta t}) \quad (18)$$

5. Convergence Study of DNDI for Bipartite Consensus

Convergence study of DNDI for bipartite consensus is presented here. We define a Lyapunov function

$$\Delta = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{X}^T (L_s \otimes \mathbf{I}_n) \mathbf{X} \quad (19)$$

We considered a undirected and connected signed graph. Therefore, $L_s \otimes \mathbf{I}_n$ can be written as

$$L_s \otimes \mathbf{I}_n = \Gamma \Phi \Gamma^T \quad (20)$$

where $\Gamma \in \mathbb{R}^{nN \times nN}$ is the left eigenvalue matrix of $L_s \otimes \mathbf{I}_n$, $\Phi = (\text{diag}\{0, \lambda_2(L_s), \lambda_3(L_s), \dots, \lambda_N(L_s)\} \otimes \mathbf{I}_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{nN \times nN}$ is eigenvalue matrix, $\Gamma^T \Gamma = \Gamma \Gamma^T = \mathbf{I}_{nN \times nN}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta &= \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{X}^T (L_s \otimes \mathbf{I}_n) \mathbf{X} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{X}^T \Gamma \Phi \Gamma^T \mathbf{X} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{X}^T \Gamma \sqrt{\Phi} \sqrt{\Phi} \Gamma^T \mathbf{X} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{X}^T \Gamma \sqrt{\Phi \Phi^{-1}} \sqrt{\Phi^{-1}} \sqrt{\Phi^{-1}} \sqrt{\Phi} \Gamma^T \mathbf{X} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{X}^T \Gamma \Phi \Phi^{-1} \Phi \Gamma^T \mathbf{X} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{X}^T \Gamma \Phi (\Gamma^T \Gamma) \Phi^{-1} (\Gamma^T \Gamma) \Phi \Gamma^T \mathbf{X} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{X}^T (\Gamma \Phi \Gamma^T) (\Gamma \Phi^{-1} \Gamma^T) (\Gamma \Phi \Gamma^T) \mathbf{X} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{X}^T (L_s \otimes \mathbf{I}_n) \Omega (L_s \otimes \mathbf{I}_n) \mathbf{X} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \Xi^T \Omega \Xi \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

where $\Phi = (\text{diag}\{\lambda_2(L_s), \lambda_2(L_s), \lambda_3(L_s), \dots, \lambda_N(L_s)\} \otimes \mathbf{I}_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{nN \times nN}$, $\Xi = [\epsilon_1^T \epsilon_2^T \dots \epsilon_N^T]^T \in \mathbb{R}^{nN}$, and $\Omega = \Gamma \Phi^{-1} \Gamma^T \in \mathbb{R}^{nN \times nN}$.

Remark 1. Using Equations (19) and (21), we can write

$$\frac{\lambda_{\min}(\Omega)}{2} \|\Xi\|^2 \leq \Delta \leq \frac{\lambda_{\max}(\Omega)}{2} \|\Xi\|^2 \quad (22)$$

$$\Delta = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{X}^T (L_s \otimes \mathbf{I}_n) \mathbf{X} = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{X}^T \Xi \quad (23)$$

Remark 2. According to Lemma 4, $\lambda_2 > 0$. Hence, Φ is invertible.

Remark 3. It can be observed that $\Omega = \Gamma \Phi^{-1} \Gamma^T$ is positive definite matrix. Therefore, Δ is positive definite subject to consensus error and qualify for a Lyapunov function.

Differentiation of Equation (19) yields

$$\dot{\Delta} = \mathbf{X}^T (L_s \otimes \mathbf{I}_n) \dot{\mathbf{X}} = \Xi^T \dot{\mathbf{X}} = \sum_{i=1}^N \epsilon_i^T [f(X_i) + g(X_i) U_i] \quad (24)$$

where $\Xi = [\epsilon_1^T \ \epsilon_2^T \ \dots \ \epsilon_N^T]^T \in \mathbb{R}^{nN}$. Substitution of the control expression of U_i in Equation (24) gives

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\Delta} &= \sum_{i=1}^N \epsilon_i^T \left[|\bar{d}_i^{-1}| (\bar{a}_i \dot{\mathbf{X}} - \kappa_i \epsilon_i) \right] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N -\epsilon_i^T |\bar{d}_i^{-1}| \kappa_i \epsilon_i + \sum_{i=1}^N \epsilon_i^T |\bar{d}_i^{-1}| \bar{a}_i \dot{\mathbf{X}}\end{aligned}\quad (25)$$

Using Lemma 5, we can write

$$\epsilon_i^T |\bar{d}_i^{-1}| \bar{a}_i \dot{\mathbf{X}} \leq \|\epsilon_i\| \|\bar{d}_i^{-1}| \bar{a}_i \dot{\mathbf{X}}\| \leq \frac{\|\epsilon_i\|^2}{2} + \frac{\|\bar{d}_i^{-1}| \bar{a}_i \dot{\mathbf{X}}\|^2}{2} \quad (26)$$

Substituting $\sum_{i=1}^N -\epsilon_i^T |\bar{d}_i^{-1}| \kappa_i \epsilon_i$ in Equation (25) with inequality relation, we get

$$\dot{\Delta} \leq \sum_{i=1}^N \left[-\epsilon_i^T |\bar{d}_i^{-1}| \kappa_i \epsilon_i + \frac{\|\epsilon_i\|^2}{2} + \frac{\|\bar{d}_i^{-1}| \bar{a}_i \dot{\mathbf{X}}\|^2}{2} \right] \quad (27)$$

By designing the gain κ_i as

$$\kappa_i = |\bar{d}_i| \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\alpha_i}{2} \lambda_{\max}(\Omega) \right) \quad (28)$$

Equation (27) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\Delta} &\leq \sum_{i=1}^N \left[-\frac{\alpha_i}{2} \lambda_{\max}(\Omega) \|\epsilon_i\|^2 + \frac{\|\bar{d}_i^{-1}| \bar{a}_i \dot{\mathbf{X}}\|^2}{2} \right] \\ &\leq -\alpha_i \Delta + \zeta\end{aligned}\quad (29)$$

where $\zeta = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\|\bar{d}_i^{-1}| \bar{a}_i \dot{\mathbf{X}}\|^2}{2}$. Applying Lemma 6 we get

$$\Delta \leq \frac{\zeta}{\alpha_i} + \left(\Delta(0) - \frac{\zeta}{\alpha_i} \right) e^{-\alpha_i t} \quad (30)$$

Hence, we conclude that Δ is bounded as $t \rightarrow \infty$. In addition, we show the Uniformly Ultimate Boundedness (UUB) here.

Using Equations ((22)) and ((30)), and Lemma 1.2 presented by Ge et al. in [56] we can write

$$\frac{\lambda_{\min}(\Omega)}{2} \|\Xi\|^2 \leq \Delta \leq \frac{\zeta}{\alpha_i} + \left(\Delta(0) - \frac{\zeta}{\alpha_i} \right) e^{-\alpha_i t} \quad (31)$$

Equation (31) is simplified as

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\lambda_{\min}(\Omega)}{2} \|\Xi\|^2 &\leq \frac{\zeta}{\alpha_i} + \left(\Delta(0) - \frac{\zeta}{\alpha_i} \right) e^{-\alpha_i t} \\ \|\Xi\| &\leq \sqrt{\frac{2 \frac{\zeta}{\alpha_i} + 2 \left(\Delta(0) - \frac{\zeta}{\alpha_i} \right) e^{-\alpha_i t}}{\lambda_{\min}(\Omega)}}\end{aligned}\quad (32)$$

If $\Delta(0) = \frac{\zeta}{\alpha_i}$, then we can write

$$\|\Xi\| \leq \Theta^* \quad (33)$$

$\forall t \geq 0$ and $\Theta^* = \sqrt{\frac{2\zeta}{\alpha_i \lambda_{\min}(\Omega)}}$. If $\Delta(0) \neq \frac{\zeta}{\alpha_i}$ then for any given $\Theta > \Theta^*$ there exist a time $T > 0$ such that $\forall t > T, \|\Xi\| \leq \Theta$.

$$\Theta = \sqrt{\frac{2\frac{\zeta}{\alpha_i} + 2\left(\Delta(0) - \frac{\zeta}{\alpha_i}\right)e^{-\alpha_i T}}{\lambda_{\min}(\Omega)}} \quad (34)$$

Therefore, we can conclude

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \|\Xi\| = \Theta^* \quad (35)$$

6. Simulation Study

The simulation results are presented here. We considered two cases. In the first case (Case 1), we describe the performance of DNDI without the communication noise. The second case (Case 2) shows the effect of communication noise.

- Case 1: Bipartite consensus without noise
- Case 2: Bipartite consensus with noise

6.1. Agent Dynamics and Control Calculation

We considered six agents in this study. The agents are having highly nonlinear terms in their dynamics. The dynamics for i th agent [21] is given in Equations (36) and (37).

$$\dot{X}_{i_1} = X_{i_2} \sin(2X_{i_1}) + U_{i_1} \quad (36)$$

$$\dot{X}_{i_2} = X_{i_1} \cos(3X_{i_2}) + U_{i_2} \quad (37)$$

where $X_i = [X_{i_1} \ X_{i_2}]^T$. Placing the dynamics of Equations (36) and (37) in the form given in Equations (3) and (4) gives

$$f(X_i) = \begin{bmatrix} X_{i_2} \sin(2X_{i_1}) \\ X_{i_1} \cos(3X_{i_2}) \end{bmatrix} \quad (38)$$

and

$$g(X_i) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (39)$$

and

$$U_i = \begin{bmatrix} U_{i_1} \\ U_{i_2} \end{bmatrix} \quad (40)$$

where $X_i \in \mathbb{R}^2$. The states X_{i_1} of all the agents are denoted by $\mathbf{X}_1 = [X_{1_1} \ X_{2_1} \ \dots \ X_{6_1}]$. Similarly, we denote $\mathbf{X}_2 = [X_{1_2} \ X_{2_2} \ \dots \ X_{6_2}]$, $\mathbf{U}_1 = [U_{1_1} \ U_{2_1} \ \dots \ U_{6_1}]$, and $\mathbf{U}_2 = [U_{1_2} \ U_{2_2} \ \dots \ U_{6_2}]$. The errors in $\mathbf{X}_1$ and $\mathbf{X}_2$ is given by $\mathbf{e}_1$ in $\mathbf{X}_1$ and $\mathbf{e}_2$ in $\mathbf{X}_2$, respectively.

The initial conditions for the agents ($\mathbf{X}_1$ and $\mathbf{X}_2$) are given in the Table 1.

Table 1. The initial conditions of the agents.

Agents	1	2	3	4	5	6
$\mathbf{X}_{10}$	6.25	−3.6	5	3.3	3.6	7.6
$\mathbf{X}_{20}$	7.2	2.7	7	3.4	−4.7	6.6

6.2. Communication Topology

The communication topology is represented by a signed graph. The adjacency matrix corresponding to the graph is given in Equation (41).

$$\mathcal{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & 0 & -5 & 0 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 & -4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -4 & 0 & 0.5 & 0 & 0 \\ -5 & 0 & 0.5 & 0 & -3.5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -3.5 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (41)$$

The graph corresponding to the adjacency matrix is shown in Figure 1. The weights are on each edge. The signed graph is undirected and connected. The eigenvalues of the Laplacian matrix (L_s) of this signed graph are shown in Figure 2. One eigenvalue is zero and the other have a positive real part. Therefore, the graph has a spanning tree, and it is structurally balanced (Corollary 2).

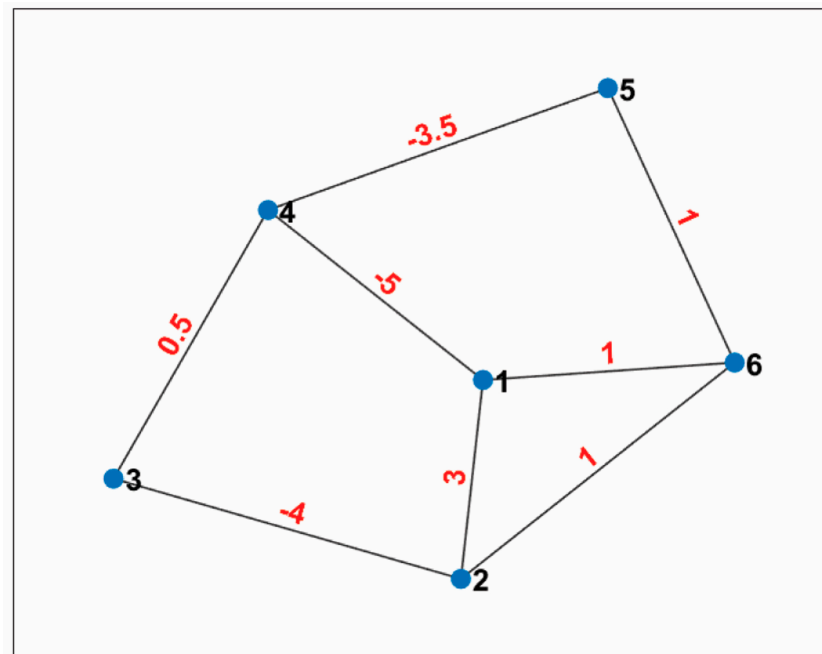


Figure 1. Signed graph corresponding to $\mathcal{A}$.

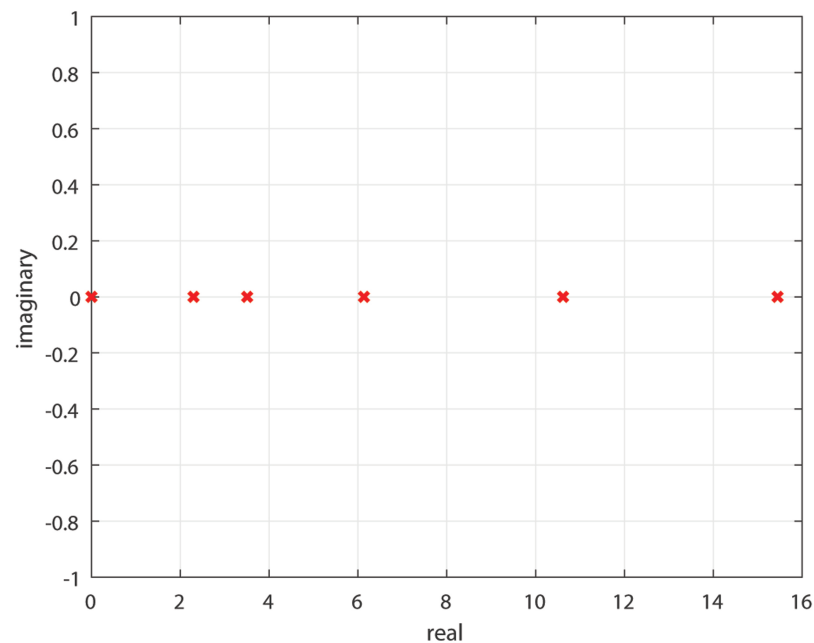


Figure 2. Eigen values of signed graph.

6.3. Case 1: Bipartite Consensus without Noise

The control signals U_1 and U_2 obtained by DNDI are given in Figures 3 and 4, respectively. These controls have generated the bipartite consensus among the agents. It can be observed that the states of the agents are divided into two groups. This is primarily for the signed graph and the consensus protocol used in this work. One group contains the agents 1, 2, 5, and 6. The other group contains agents 3 and 4. The states of all the agents, i.e., X_1 and X_2 are shown in Figures 5 and 6, respectively. It is clear that the states of agents in each group achieved the consensus with different values. The consensus errors in states X_1 and X_2 are shown in Figures 7 and 8, respectively. The errors converge to zero in a few seconds, which shows the effectiveness of the proposed controller.

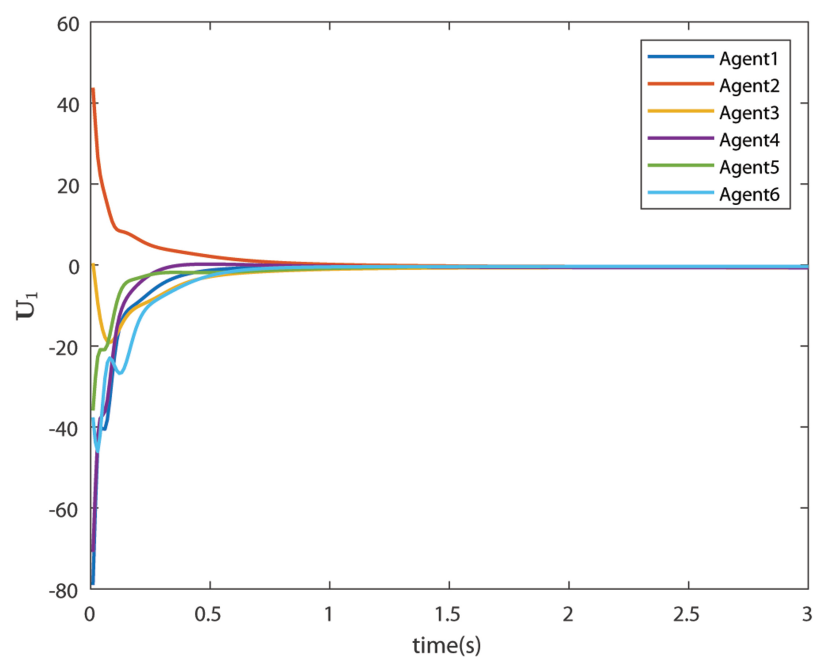


Figure 3. Control U_1 (Case 1).

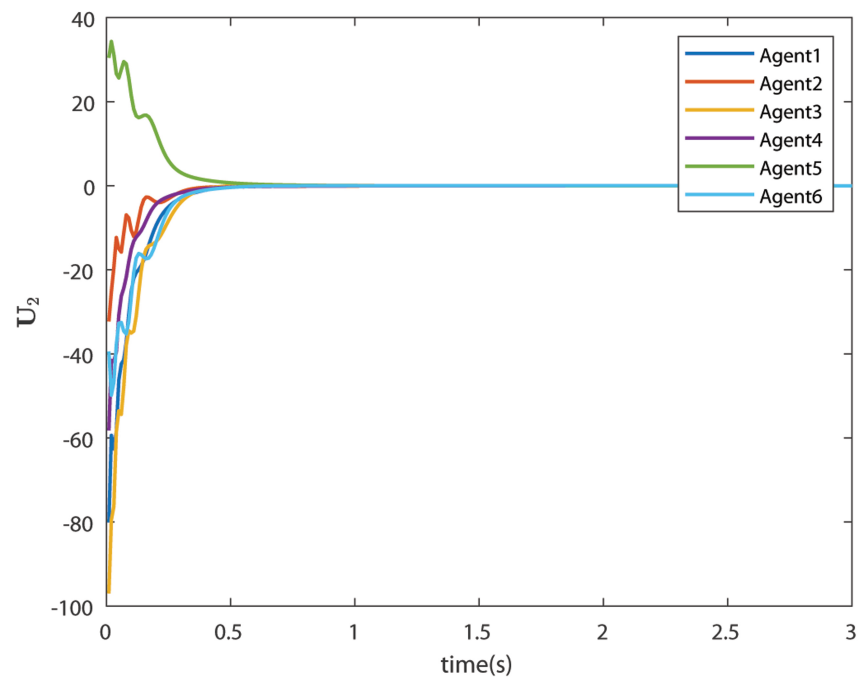


Figure 4. Control U_2 (Case 1).

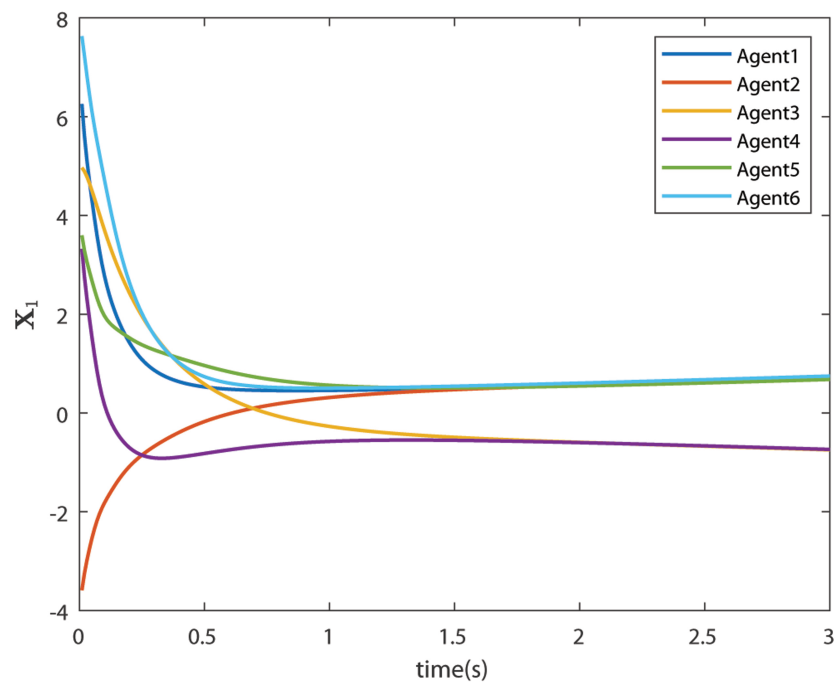


Figure 5. States of the agents X_1 (Case 1).

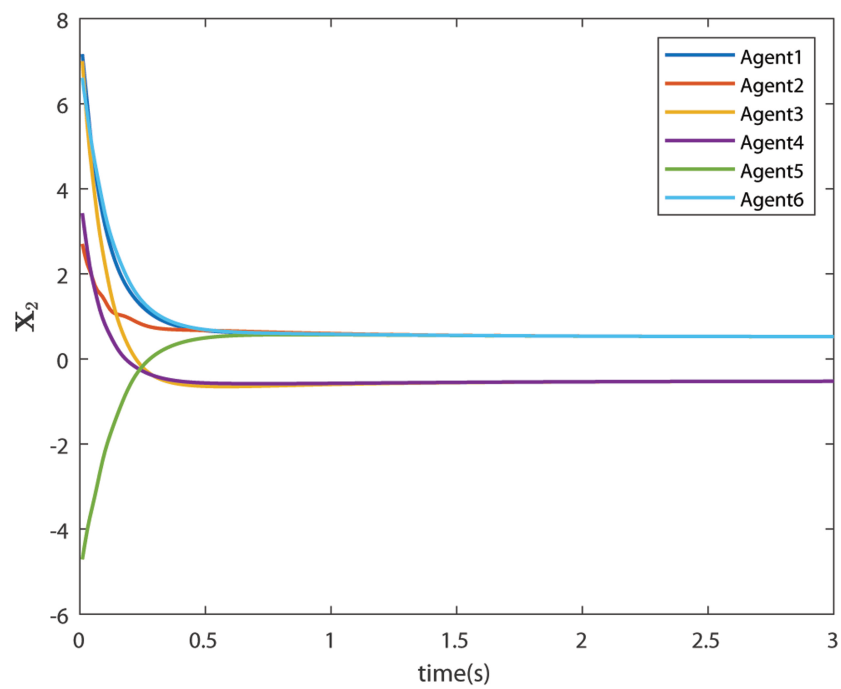


Figure 6. States of the agents X_2 (Case 1).

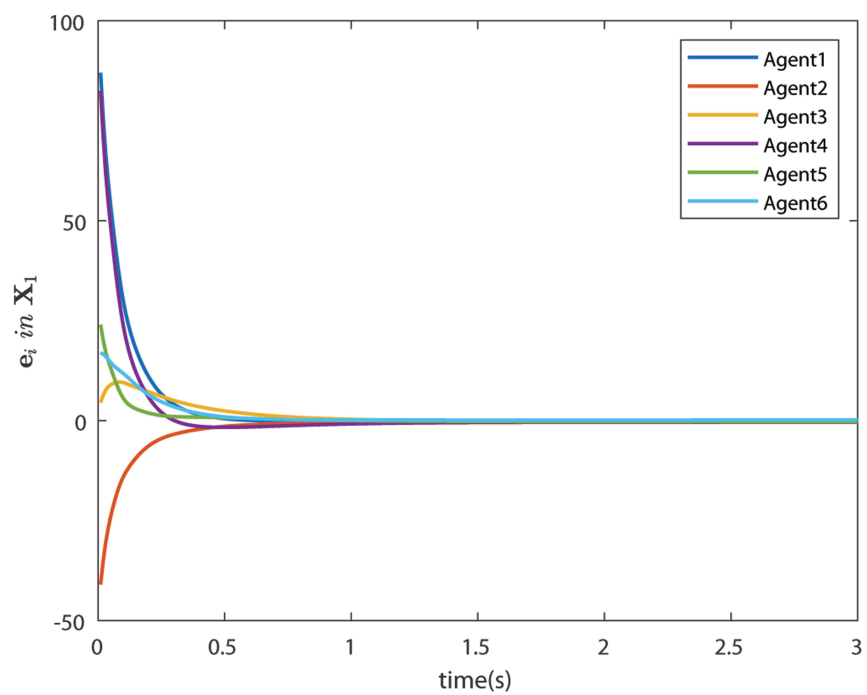


Figure 7. Consensus errors of agents in state X_1 (Case 1).

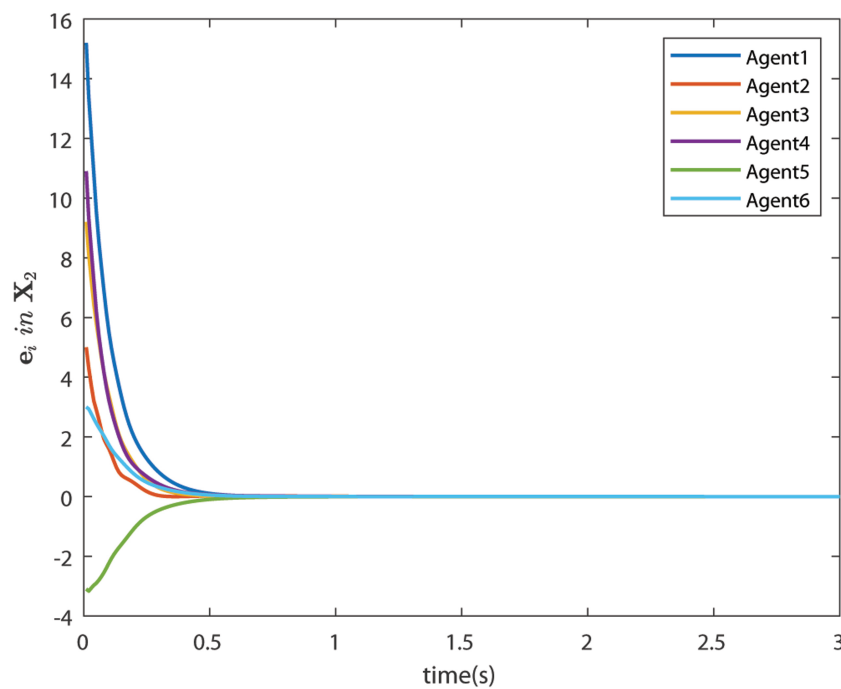


Figure 8. Consensus errors of agents in state X_2 (Case 1).

6.4. Case 2: Bipartite Consensus with Noise

In this case, the effect of communication noise is studied. The control signals U_1 and U_2 are given in Figures 9 and 10, respectively. The figures show the effect of communication noise. The noise intensity is considered as $\sigma_{ji} = 0.25 \times \text{rand}()$, where $\text{rand}()$ is a MATLAB function, which generates random number between 0 and 1. The effect of communication noise on states X_1 and X_2 is shown in Figures 11 and 12, respectively. The consensus errors (Figures 13 and 14) confirms the performance of the DNDI controller. Therefore, it is clear that the proposed controller is able to achieve the bipartite consensus in the presence of communication noise.

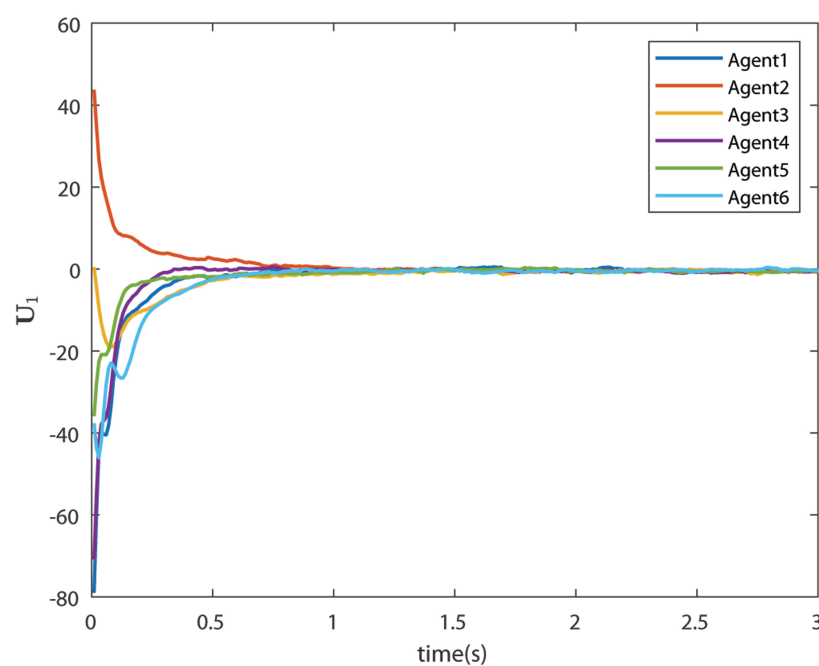


Figure 9. Control U_1 (Case 2).

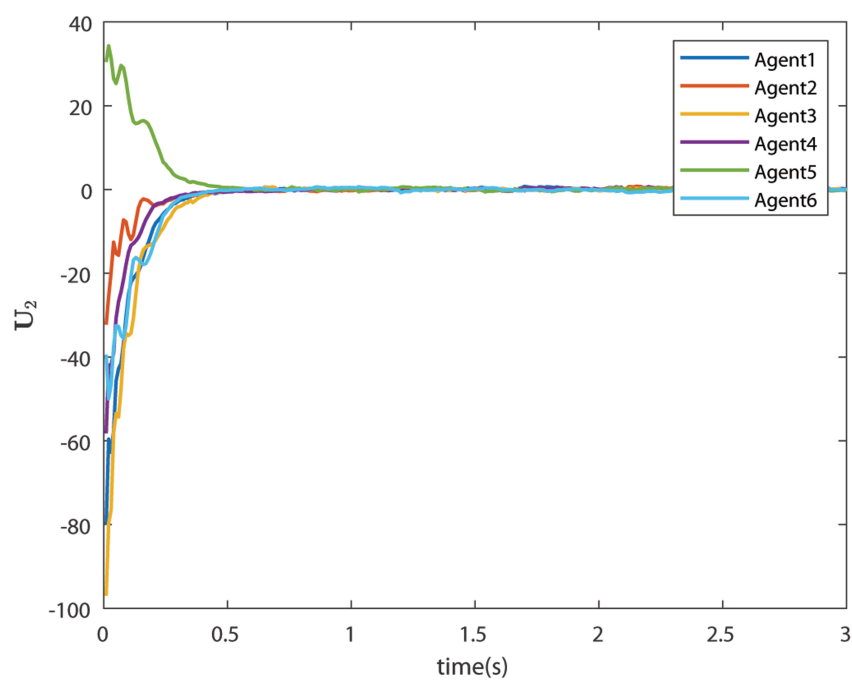


Figure 10. Control U_2 (Case 2).

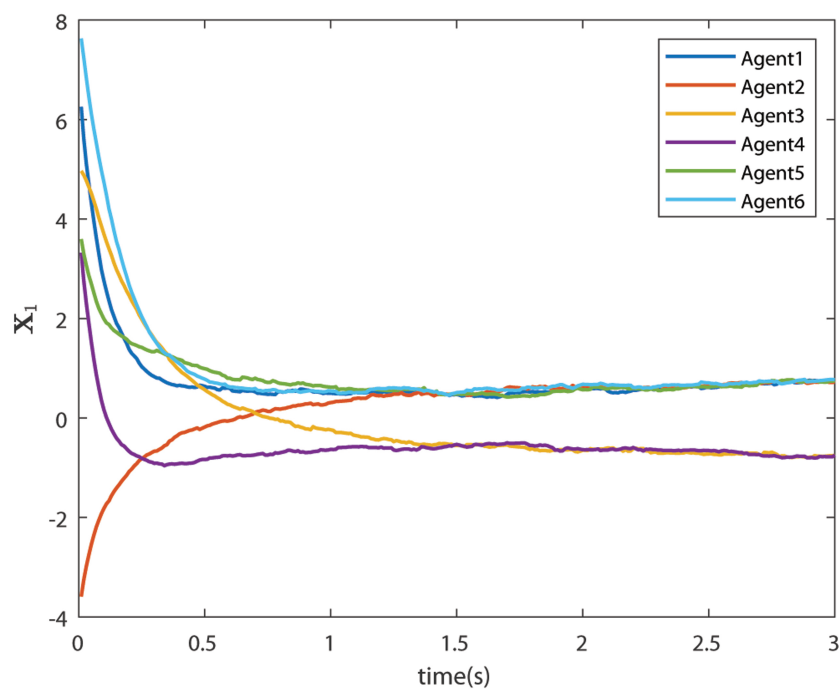


Figure 11. States of the agents X_1 (Case 2).

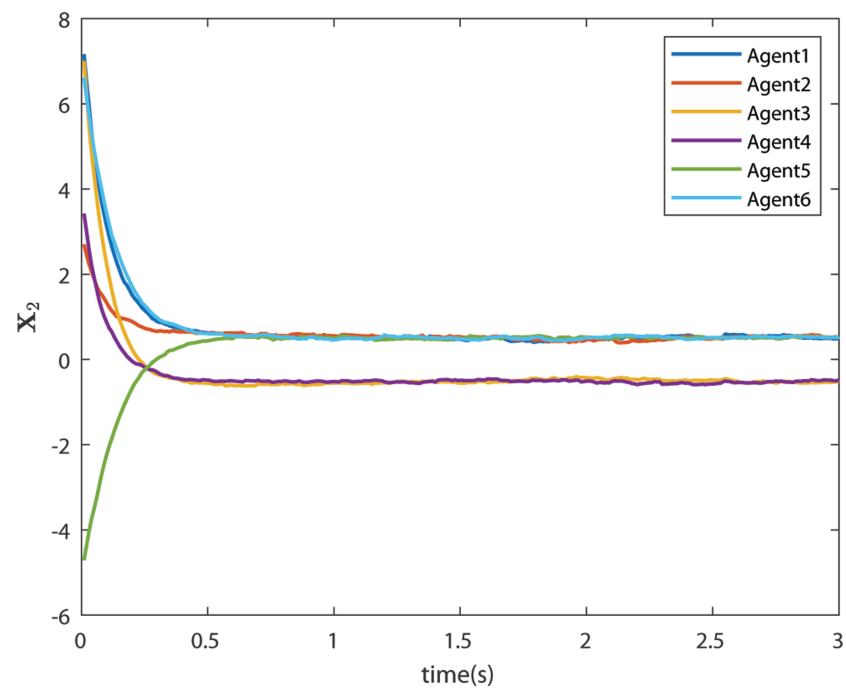


Figure 12. States of the agents X_2 (Case 2).

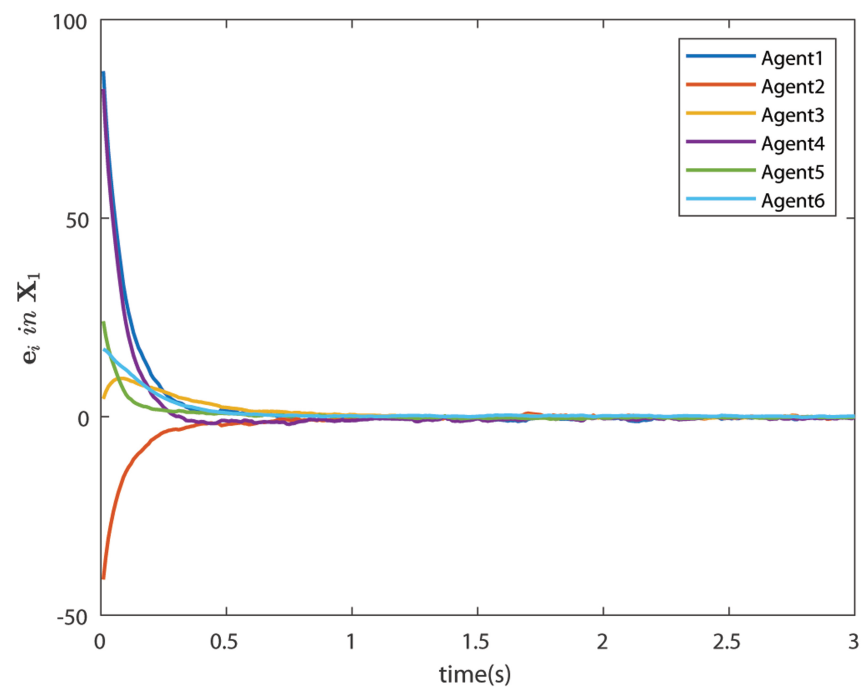


Figure 13. Consensus errors of agents in state X_1 (Case 2).

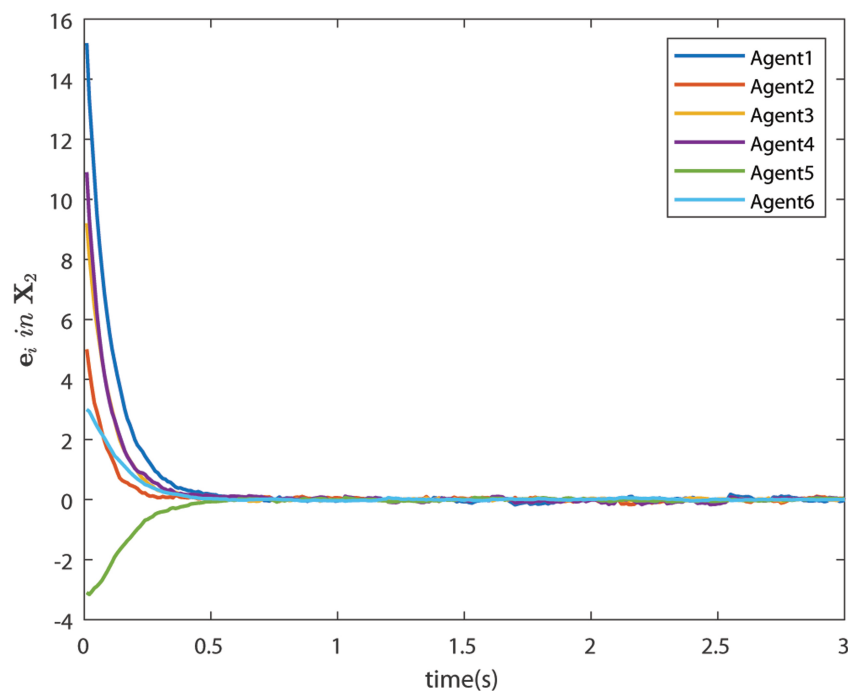


Figure 14. Consensus errors of agents in state X_2 (Case 2).

7. Conclusions

We modified the DNDI controller to achieve bipartite consensus among nonlinear agents. The application of DNDI in the bipartite consensus problem is a new idea. We also included communication noise in the simulation study, which is realistic. The convergence study showed the theoretical proof of the effectiveness of the controller. The simulation results provided in the paper show the assured performance of the proposed controller. Therefore, DNDI is a potential candidate for achieving bipartite consensus among nonlinear agents.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization, S.M. and A.T.; methodology, S.M.; validation, S.M. and A.T.; writing—original draft preparation, S.M.; writing—review and editing, S.M. and A.T.; supervision, A.T.; project administration, A.T.; funding acquisition, A.T. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This research was partially funded by an Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) project CASCADE (EP/R009953/1).

Institutional Review Board Statement: Not applicable.

Data Availability Statement: No new data were created or analyzed in this study. Data sharing is not applicable to this article.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest. The funders had no role in the design of the study; in the collection, analyses, or interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript, or in the decision to publish the results.

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this manuscript:

DNDI	Distributed Nonlinear Dynamic Inversion
N-DNDI	Neuro-adaptive augmented DNDI

References

1. Cao, Y.U.; Kahng, A.B.; Fukunaga, A.S. Cooperative mobile robotics: Antecedents and directions. In *Robot Colonies*; Springer: Dordrecht, The Netherlands, 1997; pp. 7–27.
2. Florens, C.; Franceschetti, M.; McEliece, R.J. Lower bounds on data collection time in sensory networks. *IEEE J. Sel. Areas Commun.* **2004**, *22*, 1110–1120. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
3. Olfati-Saber, R. Flocking for multi-agent dynamic systems: Algorithms and theory. *IEEE Trans. Autom. Control* **2006**, *51*, 401–420. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
4. Ren, W.; Beard, R.W. *Distributed Consensus in Multi-Vehicle Cooperative Control*; Springer: London, UK, 2008.
5. Gao, H.; Yang, X.; Shi, P. Multi-objective robust H_∞ Control of spacecraft rendezvous. *IEEE Trans. Control Syst. Technol.* **2009**, *17*, 794–802.
6. Das, A.; Lewis, F.L. Distributed adaptive control for synchronization of unknown nonlinear networked systems. *Automatica* **2010**, *46*, 2014–2021. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
7. Park, M.; Kwon, O.; Park, J.H.; Lee, S.A.; Cha, E. Randomly changing leader-following consensus control for Markovian switching multi-agent systems with interval time-varying delays. *Nonlinear Anal. Hybrid Syst.* **2014**, *12*, 117–131. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
8. Wen, G.; Duan, Z.; Chen, G.; Yu, W. Consensus tracking of multi-agent systems with Lipschitz-type node dynamics and switching topologies. *IEEE Trans. Circuits Syst. I Regul. Pap.* **2013**, *61*, 499–511. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
9. Kim, J.M.; Park, J.B.; Choi, Y.H. Leaderless and leader-following consensus for heterogeneous multi-agent systems with random link failures. *IET Control Theory Appl.* **2014**, *8*, 51–60. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
10. Song, C.; Cao, J.; Liu, Y. Robust consensus of fractional-order multi-agent systems with positive real uncertainty via second-order neighbors information. *Neurocomputing* **2015**, *165*, 293–299. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
11. Wen, G.; Yu, Y.; Peng, Z.; Rahmani, A. Consensus tracking for second-order nonlinear multi-agent systems with switching topologies and a time-varying reference state. *Int. J. Control* **2016**, *89*, 2096–2106. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
12. Liu, W.; Zhou, S.; Qi, Y.; Wu, X. Leaderless consensus of multi-agent systems with Lipschitz nonlinear dynamics and switching topologies. *Neurocomputing* **2016**, *173*, 1322–1329. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
13. Wang, A. Event-based consensus control for single-integrator networks with communication time delays. *Neurocomputing* **2016**, *173*, 1715–1719. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
14. Li, Y.; Yan, F.; Liu, W. Distributed consensus protocol for general third-order multi-agent systems with communication delay. In Proceedings of the 2019 Chinese Control And Decision Conference (CCDC), Nanchang, China, 3–5 June 2019; pp. 3436–3441.
15. Tariverdi, A.; Talebi, H.A.; Shafiee, M. Fault-tolerant consensus of nonlinear multi-agent systems with directed link failures, communication noise and actuator faults. *Int. J. Control* **2019**, *94*, 60–74. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
16. Li, M.; Deng, F.; Ren, H. Scaled consensus of multi-agent systems with switching topologies and communication noises. *Nonlinear Anal. Hybrid Syst.* **2020**, *36*, 100839. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
17. Li, M.; Deng, F. Necessary and Sufficient Conditions for Consensus of Continuous-Time Multiagent Systems With Markovian Switching Topologies and Communication Noises. *IEEE Trans. Cybern.* **2019**, *50*, 3264–3270. [\[CrossRef\]](#) [\[PubMed\]](#)
18. Shang, Y. Consensus seeking over Markovian switching networks with time-varying delays and uncertain topologies. *Appl. Math. Comput.* **2016**, *273*, 1234–1245. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
19. Zong, X.; Li, T.; Zhang, J.F. Consensus conditions of continuous-time multi-agent systems with time-delays and measurement noises. *Automatica* **2019**, *99*, 412–419. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
20. Ming, P.; Liu, J.; Tan, S.; Li, S.; Shang, L.; Yu, X. Consensus stabilization in stochastic multi-agent systems with Markovian switching topology, noises and delay. *Neurocomputing* **2016**, *200*, 1–10. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
21. Mondal, S.; Tsourdos, A. The consensus of non-linear agents under switching topology using dynamic inversion in the presence of communication noise and delay. *Proc. Inst. Mech. Eng. Part G J. Aerosp. Eng.* **2021**, *236*, 352–367. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
22. Altafini, C. Consensus problems on networks with antagonistic interactions. *IEEE Trans. Autom. Control* **2012**, *58*, 935–946. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
23. Altafini, C.; Lini, G. Predictable dynamics of opinion forming for networks with antagonistic interactions. *IEEE Trans. Autom. Control* **2014**, *60*, 342–357. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
24. Qin, J.; Fu, W.; Zheng, W.X.; Gao, H. On the bipartite consensus for generic linear multiagent systems with input saturation. *IEEE Trans. Cybern.* **2016**, *47*, 1948–1958. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
25. Liu, M.; Wang, X.; Li, Z. Robust bipartite consensus and tracking control of high-order multiagent systems with matching uncertainties and antagonistic interactions. *IEEE Trans. Syst. Man Cybern. Syst.* **2018**, *50*, 2541–2550. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
26. Hu, J.; Xiao, Z.; Zhou, Y.; Yu, J. Formation control over antagonistic networks. In Proceedings of the 32nd Chinese Control Conference, Xi'an, China, 26–28 July 2013; pp. 6879–6884.
27. Li, H. H-infinity bipartite consensus of multi-agent systems with external disturbance and probabilistic actuator faults in signed networks. *AIMS Math.* **2022**, *7*, 2019–2043. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
28. Hu, J.; Zheng, W.X. Bipartite consensus for multi-agent systems on directed signed networks. In Proceedings of the 52nd IEEE Conference on Decision and Control, Firenze, Italy, 10–13 December 2013; pp. 3451–3456.
29. Valcher, M.E.; Misra, P. On the consensus and bipartite consensus in high-order multi-agent dynamical systems with antagonistic interactions. *Syst. Control Lett.* **2014**, *66*, 94–103. [\[CrossRef\]](#)

30. Zhang, H.; Chen, J. Bipartite consensus of general linear multi-agent systems. In Proceedings of the 2014 American Control Conference, Portland, OR, USA, 4–6 June 2014; pp. 808–812.
31. Meng, D.; Du, M.; Jia, Y. Interval bipartite consensus of networked agents associated with signed digraphs. *IEEE Trans. Autom. Control* **2016**, *61*, 3755–3770. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
32. Cheng, M.; Zhang, H.; Jiang, Y. Output bipartite consensus of heterogeneous linear multi-agent systems. In Proceedings of the 2016 35th Chinese Control Conference (CCC), Chengdu, China, 27–29 July 2016; pp. 8287–8291.
33. Zhang, H.; Chen, J. Bipartite consensus of multi-agent systems over signed graphs: State feedback and output feedback control approaches. *Int. J. Robust Nonlinear Control* **2017**, *27*, 3–14. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
34. Bhowmick, S.; Panja, S. Leader–follower bipartite consensus of uncertain linear multiagent systems with external bounded disturbances over signed directed graph. *IEEE Control Syst. Lett.* **2019**, *3*, 595–600. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
35. Yu, T.; Ma, L. Bipartite containment control of nonlinear multi-agent systems with input saturation. In *Chinese Intelligent Systems Conference*; Springer: Singapore, 2017; pp. 397–406.
36. Li, H. Event-triggered bipartite consensus of multi-agent systems in signed networks. *AIMS Math.* **2022**, *7*, 5499–5526. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
37. Liang, H.; Guo, X.; Pan, Y.; Huang, T. Event-triggered fuzzy bipartite tracking control for network systems based on distributed reduced-order observers (revised manuscript of TFS-2019-1049). *IEEE Trans. Fuzzy Syst.* **2020**, *29*, 1601–1614. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
38. Wu, Y.; Pan, Y.; Chen, M.; Li, H. Quantized adaptive finite-time bipartite NN tracking control for stochastic multiagent systems. *IEEE Trans. Cybern.* **2020**, *51*, 2870–2881. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
39. Wang, D.; Ma, H.; Liu, D. Distributed control algorithm for bipartite consensus of the nonlinear time-delayed multi-agent systems with neural networks. *Neurocomputing* **2016**, *174*, 928–936. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
40. Zhai, S.; Li, Q. Practical bipartite synchronization via pinning control on a network of nonlinear agents with antagonistic interactions. *Nonlinear Dyn.* **2017**, *87*, 207–218. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
41. Mondai, S.; Padhi, R. Formation Flying using GENEX and Differential geometric guidance law. *IFAC-PapersOnLine* **2015**, *48*, 19–24. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
42. Ma, C.Q.; Qin, Z.Y. Bipartite consensus on networks of agents with antagonistic interactions and measurement noises. *IET Control Theory Appl.* **2016**, *10*, 2306–2313. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
43. Hu, J.; Wu, Y.; Li, T.; Ghosh, B.K. Consensus control of general linear multiagent systems with antagonistic interactions and communication noises. *IEEE Trans. Autom. Control* **2018**, *64*, 2122–2127. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
44. Ma, C.Q.; Xie, L. Necessary and sufficient conditions for leader-following bipartite consensus with measurement noise. *IEEE Trans. Syst. Man Cybern. Syst.* **2018**, *50*, 1976–1981. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
45. Du, Y.; Wang, Y.; Zuo, Z.; Zhang, W. Stochastic bipartite consensus with measurement noises and antagonistic information. *J. Frankl. Inst.* **2021**, *358*, 7761–7785. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
46. Wu, Y.; Liang, Q.; Zhao, Y.; Hu, J.; Xiang, L. Adaptive bipartite consensus control of general linear multi-agent systems using noisy measurements. *Eur. J. Control* **2021**, *59*, 123–128. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
47. Cai, H.; Yuan, F.; Liang, H.; Zhou, Z. Mean Square Consensus under Cooperative Social Networks with Communication Noise. In Proceedings of the 2021 40th Chinese Control Conference (CCC), Shanghai, China, 26–28 July 2021; pp. 800–805.
48. Du, Y.; Wang, Y.; Zuo, Z. Bipartite consensus for multi-agent systems with noises over Markovian switching topologies. *Neurocomputing* **2021**, *419*, 295–305. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
49. Harary, F. On the notion of balance of a signed graph. *Mich. Math. J.* **1953**, *2*, 143–146. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
50. Wen, G.; Chen, C.P.; Liu, Y.J.; Liu, Z. Neural network-based adaptive leader-following consensus control for a class of nonlinear multiagent state-delay systems. *IEEE Trans. Cybern.* **2016**, *47*, 2151–2160. [\[CrossRef\]](#) [\[PubMed\]](#)
51. Ren, C.E.; Chen, C.P. Sliding mode leader-following consensus controllers for second-order non-linear multi-agent systems. *IET Control Theory Appl.* **2015**, *9*, 1544–1552. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
52. Lewis, F.L.; Zhang, H.; Hengster-Movric, K.; Das, A. *Cooperative Control of Multi-Agent Systems: Optimal and Adaptive Design Approaches*; Springer: London, UK, 2013.
53. Hu, J.; Zheng, W.X. Emergent collective behaviors on coopetition networks. *Phys. Lett. A* **2014**, *378*, 1787–1796. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
54. Ren, W.; Beard, R.W. Consensus seeking in multiagent systems under dynamically changing interaction topologies. *IEEE Trans. Autom. Control* **2005**, *50*, 655–661. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
55. Ma, H.; Wang, Z.; Wang, D.; Liu, D.; Yan, P.; Wei, Q. Neural-network-based distributed adaptive robust control for a class of nonlinear multiagent systems with time delays and external noises. *IEEE Trans. Syst. Man Cybern. Syst.* **2015**, *46*, 750–758. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
56. Ge, S.S.; Wang, C. Adaptive neural control of uncertain MIMO nonlinear systems. *IEEE Trans. Neural Netw.* **2004**, *15*, 674–692. [\[CrossRef\]](#)



DSPACE

<https://dspace.org/>

Bipartite consensus of nonlinear agents in the presence of communication noise

Mondal, Sabyasachi; Tsourdos, Antonios

2022-03-18

MDPI

<https://doi.org/10.3390/s22062357>

Sabyasachi M, Tsourdos A. (2022) Bipartite consensus of nonlinear agents in the presence of communication noise, Sensors, Volume 22, Issue 6, March 2022, Article number 2357