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https://hdl.handle.net/2324/4784736

出版情報: IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control. 61 (6), pp. 1565-1574, 2016-06. Institute of

Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) バージョン:

イーフョン 権利関係:



Bounded Disturbance Amplification for Mass Chains with Passive Interconnection

Kaoru Yamamoto, Member, IEEE and Malcolm C. Smith, Fellow, IEEE

Abstract—This paper introduces the problem of passive control of a chain of N identical masses in which there is an identical passive connection between neighbouring masses and a similar connection to a movable point. The problem arises in the design of multi-storey buildings which are subjected to earthquake disturbances, but applies in other situations, for example vehicle platoons. The paper studies the scalar transfer functions from the disturbance to a given intermass displacement. It is shown that these transfer functions can be conveniently represented in the form of complex iterative maps and that these maps provide a method to establish boundedness in N of the \mathcal{H}_{∞} -norm of these transfer functions for certain choices of interconnection impedance.

Index Terms—Passivity-based control, disturbance rejection, mechanical networks, suspension systems, vibration absorption, complex iterative maps, scalability.

I. Introduction

THE main focus in this paper is disturbance amplification in a chain of masses with passive interconnection. The problem is motivated by the problem of vibration suppression in multi-storey buildings subjected to earthquake disturbances. One of the main objectives for seismic design is to limit the inter-storey displacements in response to disturbances. For this purpose, the installation of passive control devices between floors is widely accepted [1]–[3]. In the present paper we consider passive interconnections of the most general type, which may require the use of inerters [4] in addition to springs and dampers. The use of such devices is already under consideration for multi-storey buildings [5]–[7].

With an increasing trend to build ever taller buildings, the general question arises whether it is possible to achieve uniform boundedness of disturbance amplification as the number of storeys grows. This can be characterised as a "scalability" property. More precisely in the present context, this is the question whether the \mathcal{H}_{∞} -norm of the frequency responses from ground disturbance to the individual inter-storey displacements remains bounded as the number of storeys increases.

A similar problem has been considered in the literature on automatic control of vehicles; see for example [8]–[12]. Using terminology from that area, our problem formulation corresponds to "symmetric bidirectional control", i.e., control laws in which the control action for each vehicle is equally dependent on the spacing errors with the predecessor and the follower. In [10] a general result has been shown that,

This work was supported by the Funai Overseas Scholarship.

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using symmetric bidirectional control, the infinity norm of the transfer function vector from lead vehicle trajectory to spacing error grows without bound as the number of vehicles increases, if the combined vehicle-controller dynamics contains a double integrator. This corresponds to a positive static (spring) stiffness in the case of a mass chain with passive interconnection, which is the usual case. However, it may be noted that well-regulated individual intermass displacements may be a satisfactory performance objective for buildings. In [13] it is pointed out that, for a large vehicular platoon, the least stable closed-loop pole tends to the origin as the size of platoon increases, and hence, the time constant of the closed-loop system grows without bound. It is also interesting that, in [14], it is observed that slow accordion-like motion of the entire formation in a large vehicular platoon may not be inconsistent with the spacing between each vehicle being well regulated.

In the present paper we study the scalar transfer functions from the movable point displacement x_0 to a given individual intermass displacement (an inter-storey drift in the building application) in a chain of N identical masses with identical passive interconnection (Fig. 1). It is shown that these transfer functions can be defined recursively in N. These recursions give a convenient method to accurately compute these transfer functions. They can also be interpreted as complex iterative maps, in particular, iterated Möbius transformations. Making use of the properties of Möbius transformations, the fixed points of these recursions are shown to provide the asymptotic behaviours of these transfer functions. It is also shown that the \mathcal{H}_{∞} -norm of these individual transfer functions is bounded above independently of the length of the mass chain for a suitable choice of the interconnection impedance. The paper goes further to provide a graphical means to design a suitable interconnection impedance so that the supremum of the \mathcal{H}_{∞} norm over N is no greater than a prescribed value. This can be thought of as an \mathcal{H}_{∞} control design for an infinite family of plants in which the interconnection impedance is the controller.

The paper is structured as follows. In Section II-A, we present some definitions and facts on passive mechanical networks. In Section III, a mass chain model with passive interconnections is introduced. We describe the transfer functions from a movable point to a given intermass displacements as a function of a dimensionless parameter *h* depending on the impedance and mass. Then the stability of the system is discussed in Section IV. Section V is the main part of the paper. The transfer functions are described in the form of iterated Möbius transformations and the asymptotic behaviours are discussed. Theorem 7 shows the boundedness result. These results are also illustrated graphically in this section.

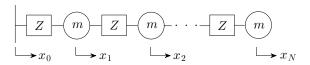


Fig. 1: Chain of N masses m connected by a passive mechanical impedance Z(s) (admittance $Y(s) = Z(s)^{-1}$), and connected to a movable point x_0 .

In numerical examples, we compare a standard spring-damper suspension to the use of inerters. Some concluding remarks follow in Section VI.

II. PRELIMINARIES

A. Background on Passive Mechanical Networks

A mechanical one-port network with force-velocity pair (F,v) is *passive* if for all square integrable pairs F(t) and v(t) on $(-\infty,T]$, $\int_{-\infty}^T F(t)v(t)dt \geq 0$ [15]. For a linear time-invariant network the impedance Z(s) is defined by the ratio $\hat{v}(s)/\hat{F}(s)$ where $\hat{}$ denotes the Laplace transform, and $Y(s) = Z(s)^{-1}$ is called the admittance. Such a network can be shown to be passive if and only if Z(s) or Y(s) is positive real [16], [17]. A real-rational function G(s) is *positive real* if G(s) is analytic and $Re(G(s)) \geq 0$ in Re(s) > 0.

The passive components considered are springs, dampers and inerters. The *inerter* is a mechanical two-terminal, one-port device with the property that the applied force at the terminals is proportional to the relative acceleration between the terminals, i.e., $F = b(\dot{v}_2 - \dot{v}_1)$ where b is the constant of proportionality called the *inertance* which has units of kilograms [4] and v_1, v_2 are the terminal velocities. The inerter completes a standard analogy between mechanical and electrical networks which allows classical results from electrical network synthesis to be translated over exactly to mechanical systems. In particular, any real-rational positive-real function can be realised as the impedance or admittance of a network with springs, inerters, and dampers only [4].

III. PROBLEM FORMULATION

A. General notation

The set of natural, real and complex numbers is denoted by \mathbb{N} , \mathbb{R} , \mathbb{C} , respectively. $\mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ is the set of m by n real matrices. \mathbb{R}_+ is the set of non-negative numbers and \mathbb{C}_+ is the closed right-half plane. \mathcal{H}_{∞} is the standard Hardy space on the right-half plane and $\|\cdot\|_{\infty}$ represents the \mathcal{H}_{∞} -norm. The composition of two functions is denoted by $f \circ g(x) = f(g(x))$ and $f^n(x)$ is the n-fold composition of f.

B. Chain model

We consider a chain of N identical masses m connected by identical passive mechanical networks (Fig. 1). Each passive mechanical network provides an equal and opposite force on each mass and is assumed here to have negligible mass. The system is excited by a movable point $x_0(t)$ and the displacement of the ith mass is denoted by $x_i(t)$, $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$.

We assume that the initial conditions of the movable point and the mass displacements are all zero.

The equations of motion in the Laplace transformed domain are

$$ms^{2}\hat{x}_{i} = sY(s)(\hat{x}_{i-1} - \hat{x}_{i}) + sY(s)(\hat{x}_{i+1} - \hat{x}_{i})$$

for $i = 1, \dots, N-1$,
$$ms^{2}\hat{x}_{N} = sY(s)(\hat{x}_{N-1} - \hat{x}_{N})$$

where denotes the Laplace transform. In matrix form this can be written as

$$ms^2\hat{x} = sY(s)H_N\hat{x} + sY(s)e_1\hat{x}_0$$

and hence

$$\hat{x} = (h(s)I_N - H_N)^{-1}e_1\hat{x}_0 \tag{1}$$

where I_N is the $N \times N$ identity matrix,

$$h(s) = sZ(s)m, \quad Z = Y^{-1},$$

$$\hat{x} = [\hat{x}_1, \dots, \hat{x}_N]^T,$$

$$e_1 \in \mathbb{R}^N, \quad e_1 = [1, \ 0, \dots, \ 0]^T,$$

$$H_N \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N},$$

$$H_N = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Let us consider the characteristic polynomials d_i of $H_i \in \mathbb{R}^{i \times i}$ in the variable h given by

$$d_{i} = \det(hI_{i} - H_{i})$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} h+2 & -1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ -1 & h+2 & -1 & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & -1 & h+2 & -1 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & -1 & h+1 \end{vmatrix}$$
(2)

Then $d_1 = h + 1$. Suppose also $d_{-1} = 1$ and $d_0 = 1$. Using the Laplace expansion of (2), we find that

$$d_i(h) = (h+2)d_{i-1}(h) - d_{i-2}(h)$$
 for $i = 1, ..., N$. (3)

Equation (1) can be written using d_i as

$$\hat{x} = \frac{\operatorname{adj}(h(s)I_N - H_N)}{\det(h(s)I_N - H_N)} e_1 \hat{x}_0$$

$$= \frac{1}{d_N} \begin{bmatrix} d_{N-1} & * & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ d_0 & * & \cdots \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \hat{x}_0$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} d_{N-1}/d_N \\ \vdots \\ d_0/d_N \end{bmatrix} \hat{x}_0. \tag{4}$$

Then the intermass displacement of the *i*th mass defined by $\delta_i = x_i - x_{i-1}$ in the Laplace domain is given by

$$\hat{\delta}_i = ((d_{N-i} - d_{N-i+1})/d_N) \,\hat{x}_0 =: T_{\hat{x}_0 \to \hat{\delta}_i} \,\hat{x}_0 \tag{5}$$

for i = 1, ..., N.

IV. STABILITY OF PASSIVE INTERCONNECTION

We first establish some properties of the sequence $d_i(h)$, treating h as the independent variable, namely that they are Hurwitz with real distinct roots in the interval (-4,0) for $i=1,2,\ldots$ and form a Sturm sequence.

Theorem 1:

- 1) $d_i(h)$ has negative real distinct roots which interlace the roots of $d_{i+1}(h)$ for i = 1, 2, ...
- 2) The roots of $d_i(h)$ lie in the interval (-4,0) for i = 1,2,...

Proof:

- 1) It is evident that $d_i(0) = 1$ and $d_i(h)$ are continuous and monic for all i. Let a_m for m = 1, ..., n + 1denote the roots of $d_{n+1}(h)$ and b_m the roots of $d_n(h)$ for $m=1,\ldots,n$. Suppose the result holds for the i = n, namely, $0 > a_1 > b_1 > a_2 > b_2 >$ $\cdots > a_n > b_n > a_{n+1}$. Since $d_{n+1}(0) = 1$ and $d_{n+2}(a_1) = -d_n(a_1) < 0, d_{n+2}(h)$ has at least one root in $(a_1,0)$. Similarly, $d_{n+2}(h)$ has at least one root in each interval (a_m, a_{m-1}) for $m = 2, \ldots, n+1$ since $d_{n+2}(a_{m-1})d_{n+2}(a_m) = (-d_n(a_{m-1}))(-d_n(a_m)) <$ 0 using (3). Further $d_n(h)$ and $d_{n+2}(h)$ have the same sign in the limit as $h \to -\infty$, which is opposite to that of $d_{n+1}(h)$. This implies there exists at least one root of $d_{n+2}(h)$ in $(-\infty, a_{n+1})$. Since $d_{n+2}(h)$ has at most n+2 roots, it has exactly one root in each interval. Hence the result holds for i = n + 1. It is straightforward to check the case of i = 1, and the proof then follows by
- 2) Let $\mathbb{P} = \bigcup_N \sigma(H_N)$ where $\sigma(\cdot)$ denotes the spectrum. Note that a Gershgorin disc bound on the eigenvalues of H_N [10], [11], [18] (this holds for all N) implies $\mathbb{P} \subset [-4,0]$. It is straightforward to check that $d_i(0)=1$ and $d_i(-4)=(-1)^i(2i+1)$. Hence, the roots of $d_i(h)$ lie in the interval (-4,0).

We will say that the system of Fig. 1 is stable if all poles in the transfer functions $T_{\hat{x}_0 \to \hat{\delta}_i}$ have negative real parts (in the s-domain). We note that [19] has investigated the stability of systems which are a generalised version of our model using the notion of "generalized frequency variables." Here we provide an explicit condition for stability for a general N.

Theorem 2: For $0 \not\equiv Z(s)$ positive real, the system of Fig. 1 is stable if sZ(s)m does not take values in the interval (-4,0) for any s with $\mathrm{Re}(s)=0$.

Proof: From (4), poles in $T_{\hat{x}_0 \to \hat{\delta}_i}$ can only occur at an s for which $d_N(h(s)) = 0$. From [16] (Theorem VI) $\operatorname{Re}(Z(s)) > 0$ for $\operatorname{Re}(s) > 0$. The result now follows from Theorem 1.

V. INTERMASS DISPLACEMENTS

It is shown in this section that the transfer functions from the disturbance to a given intermass displacement in a chain of N masses are represented in the form of complex iterative maps.

Theorem 3: For any $i=1,2,\ldots$, intermass displacements in a chain of N masses satisfy the recursion:

$$-T_{\hat{x}_0 \to \hat{\delta}_i} =: F_N^{(i)} = \frac{d_{i-2} F_{N-1}^{(i)} + h}{F_{N-1}^{(i)} + d_i}$$
 (6)

for $N=i,i+1,\ldots$, where $T_{\hat{x}_0 \to \hat{\delta}_i}$ is the transfer function from the disturbance x_0 to the ith intermass displacement δ_i , $F_{i-1}^{(i)}=0,\ h(s)=sZ(s)m$ and d_i is as defined in (2).

Proof: See Appendix A.

The above recursion describes a sequence of transfer functions in the complex variable s. It can also be interpreted as a complex iterative map [20] for a given fixed $s \in \mathbb{C}$, or equivalently a fixed $h \in \mathbb{C}$. In particular, writing

$$f_i(z) = \frac{d_{i-2}z + h}{z + d_i} \tag{7}$$

we see that the sequence $F_N^{(i)}$ for $N=i-1, i, i+1, \ldots$ is the same as $0, f_i(0), f_i(f_i(0)), \ldots$ for a given $h \in \mathbb{C}$. This is called the orbit of 0 for the recursion (complex iterative map) defined by (7).

A. Convergence to Fixed Points

A complex number μ is called a fixed point of a mapping f if $f(\mu) = \mu$. For a fixed $h \in \mathbb{C}$, the sequence $\{F_N^{(i)}\}$ in (6) has at most two fixed points $\mu = \mu_\pm^{(i)}$ which satisfy

$$\mu^2 + (d_i - d_{i-2})\mu - h = 0.$$
(8)

It may be observed that (7) takes the form of a Möbius transformation which has the normalised form [21]

$$f_i(z) = \frac{az+b}{cz+d}$$

where $a = d_{i-2}/d_{i-1}$, $b = h/d_{i-1}$, $c = 1/d_{i-1}$, $d = d_i/d_{i-1}$ and ad - bc = 1 since

$$d_{i-2}d_i - d_{i-1}^2 = h (9)$$

which is easily shown by induction. The properties of the recursion are then determined by $\operatorname{trace}^2(f_i) = (a+d)^2 = (h+2)^2$ as follows: f_i is (i) parabolic when h=0 or -4, (ii) elliptic when $h \in (-4,0)$ and (iii) loxodromic when $h \notin [-4,0]$. (This uses the terminology of [22] in which hyperbolic maps are a subclass of loxodromic maps.) The following theorem can be shown by the use of a conjugacy transformation (see [22]).

Theorem 4:

- 1) When h=0 or -4, there is a unique fixed point, in this case $\mu_+^{(i)}$, and the sequence $\{F_N^{(i)}\}$ defined by (6) converges pointwise for any initial condition.
- 2) When $h \in (-4,0)$, $\{F_N^{(i)}\}$ fails to converge for any initial condition other than the fixed points.

3) When $h \notin [-4,0]$, there are two fixed points, an attractive fixed point and a repulsive fixed point, in this case $\mu_{+}^{(i)}$ and $\mu_{-}^{(i)}$ respectively, and $\{F_{N}^{(i)}\}$ converges pointwise to $\mu_{+}^{(i)}$ for any initial condition other than $\mu_{-}^{(i)}$.

For the specific case of the orbit of 0, Theorem 4 specialises to: $\{F_N^{(i)}\}$ converges to $\mu_+^{(i)}$ when $h \notin (-4,0)$ but fails to converge otherwise. Hence, if $h(s) \notin (-4,0)$ for all $s \in$ $\mathbb{C}_+, \ \sup_{\omega} \lim_{N \to \infty} |F_N^{(i)}(h(j\omega))| = \sup_{\omega} |\mu_+^{(i)}(h(j\omega))|. \ \text{Furthermore}, \ \sup_{\omega} |\mu_+^{(i)}(h(j\omega))| \leq \sup_{N} \|F_N^{(i)}(h(s))\|_{\infty} \ \ \text{(since the property of the property of the property)}$ $|\mu_{+}^{(i)}(h(j\omega))| = \lim_{N\to\infty} |F_{N}^{(i)}(h(j\omega))|$. In Theorem 6 it is shown that $|\mu_{+}^{(i)}(h)| < 2$ for any $h \notin [-4, 0]$. However, it is not clear whether $\sup_N \|F_N^{(i)}(h(s))\|_\infty$ can be suitably bounded or indeed whether it is finite. This is our main result which will be shown in Theorem 7. The proof relies on the conjugacy transformation of $f_i(z)$ which is explicitly described in the next theorem.

Theorem 5: For $h \notin [-4,0]$

$$f_i(z) = \frac{d_{i-2}z + h}{z + d_i} = \varphi_i^{-1} \circ \lambda_i \circ \varphi_i(z)$$
 (10)

with

$$\varphi_{i}(z) = \frac{z - \mu_{+}^{(i)}}{z - \mu_{-}^{(i)}},$$

$$\varphi_{i}^{-1}(z) = \frac{\mu_{+}^{(i)} - z\mu_{-}^{(i)}}{1 - z},$$

$$\lambda_{i}(z) = \frac{d_{i-2} - \mu_{+}^{(i)}}{d_{i-2} - \mu_{-}^{(i)}}z$$
(10a)

(10b)

where

$$\zeta = \frac{d_{i-2} - \mu_+^{(i)}}{d_{i-1}}.\tag{10c}$$

Moreover, ζ is independent of i and is the root of

$$\zeta^2 - (h+2)\zeta + 1 = 0 \tag{10d}$$

satisfying $|\zeta| < 1$.

Proof: (10) with (10a) follows by direct algebraic computation. In Appendix B it is shown that (10b) and (10d) hold for ζ as defined in (10c). We can check directly that (10d) has roots ζ_+ , ζ_- satisfying $|\zeta_+| < 1 < |\zeta_-|$ if and only if $h \notin [-4,0]$. In this case (10c) holds with $\zeta = \zeta_+$. We remark that, for $h \notin [-4,0]$, the labelling of the roots $\mu_{+}^{(i)}, \mu_{-}^{(i)}$ of (8) can be determined by finding the root ζ_{+} of (10d) which satisfies $\zeta_+ < 1$ and then solving (10c) for $\mu_+^{(i)}$. Theorem 6: For $h \notin [-4, 0]$

$$\mu_{+}^{(i+1)} = \zeta \mu_{+}^{(i)} \tag{11}$$

and

$$|\mu_{\perp}^{(i)}| < |\mu_{\perp}^{(i-1)}| < \dots < |\mu_{\perp}^{(1)}| < 2$$
 (12)

where ζ is as defined in (10c).

Proof: Since ζ is independent of i,

$$\zeta = \frac{d_{i-2} - \mu_+^{(i)}}{d_{i-1}} = \frac{d_{i-1} - \mu_+^{(i+1)}}{d_{i}}.$$

Therefore,

$$\mu_{+}^{(i+1)} = \frac{d_{i}\mu_{+}^{(i)} + d_{i-1}^{2} - d_{i-2}d_{i}}{d_{i-1}}$$

$$= \frac{d_{i}\mu_{+}^{(i)} - h}{d_{i-1}} \quad \text{(see (9))}$$

$$= \frac{d_{i}\mu_{+}^{(i)} - (\mu_{+}^{(i)^{2}} + (d_{i} - d_{i-2})\mu_{+}^{(i)})}{d_{i-1}} \quad \text{(see (8))}$$

$$= \frac{d_{i-2} - \mu_{+}^{(i)}}{d_{i-1}}\mu_{+}^{(i)} = \zeta\mu_{+}^{(i)}.$$

Since $|\zeta| < 1$ if $h \notin [-4,0]$ and $\mu_+^{(1)} = 1 - \zeta$ given by substituting i = 1 in (10c),

$$|\mu_+^{(i)}| < |\mu_+^{(i-1)}| < \dots < |\mu_+^{(1)}| = |1 - \zeta| < 2.$$

Remark: We remark that (11) holds also for $h \in [-4, 0]$. In particular, if h = 0 or -4, (10d) has a multiple root and (10c) determines a unique fixed point. If $h \in (-4,0)$, two roots of (10d) ζ_+ and ζ_- satisfy $|\zeta_+| = |\zeta_-| = 1$, and either root may be selected for ζ_+ with $\mu_+^{(i)}$ then determined by (10c). Consequently, if $h \in [-4,0]$, $|\mu_+^{(i)}| = |\mu_+^{(i-1)}| = \cdots = |\mu_+^{(1)}| \le 2$. The equality $|\mu_+^{(1)}| = 2$ holds only when $\zeta = -1$ corresponding to h = -4.

B. Bounds on Iterative Maps

Considering the orbit of 0 for (10), for N = i - 1, i, ...,

$$F_N^{(i)} = f_i^{N-i+1}(0) = \varphi_i^{-1} \circ \lambda_i^{N-i+1} \circ \varphi_i(0)$$

$$= \mu_+^{(i)} \frac{1 - \zeta^{2(N-i+1)}}{1 - \frac{\mu_+^{(i)}}{\mu_-^{(i)}}}$$

$$= \mu_+^{(i)} \frac{1 - \zeta^{2(N-i+1)}}{1 + \zeta^{2N+1}}$$

$$= \mu_+^{(i)} \frac{1 - \zeta^{2(N-i+1)}}{1 + \zeta^{2N+1}}$$
(13)

since $\varphi_i(0)=\mu_+^{(i)}/\mu_-^{(i)}=-\zeta^{2i-1}$ (see Appendix C). We now make use of (13) to establish upper bounds on $|F_N^{(i)}(h(s))|$ for suitable choices of h(s).

Theorem 7: Suppose $Z(s) = (k/s + Y_1(s))^{-1}$ where k is a positive constant and $Y_1(s)$ is a positive-real admittance satisfying $Y_1(0) > 0$. Suppose $h(j\omega) = mj\omega Z(j\omega)$ does not intersect the interval [-4,0) for any $\omega \geq 0$. Then

$$\sup_{N>i} \left\| F_N^{(i)} \left(h(s) \right) \right\|_{\infty}$$

is finite for any $i = 1, 2, \ldots$

Proof: See Appendix D.

Since Z(s) is positive real $(\operatorname{Re}(Z(j\omega)) \geq 0 \text{ for all } \omega)$, we note that the condition that h(s) does not intersect [-4,0)is equivalent to $m\omega Z(j\omega)$ not touching the imaginary axis between (0, i4]. This essentially means that the mechanical impedance does not behave in a purely lossless manner for any frequencies for which $m\omega Z(j\omega) \in (0, j4]$, which is a very mild condition that is easy to satisfy (and hard to violate) in practice. We note that the condition $Y_1(0) > 0$ can be interpreted in the same manner.

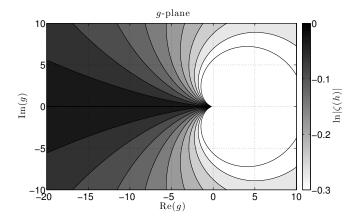


Fig. 2: Contour plot of $|\zeta(h)|$ where $h = g^{-1}$.

Theorem 7 shows that the individual transfer functions from x_0 to a given intermass displacement are uniformly bounded with respect to the size of the chain of masses for a suitable choice of h. It is evident that the increasing length of the error vector as $N \to \infty$ is playing a role in the unboundedness property of [10], and that the unboundedness of the vector need not imply that the \mathcal{H}_{∞} -norm of individual entries is unbounded with N. In this sense our result could be viewed as a relaxation of the definition of string stability. We point out that [23] has considered a different alternative to string stability, formulated in the time domain, and shown that this may be satisfied by a vehicle string with integral action.

C. Examples

For the purpose of graphical representations we now introduce the inverse of h:

$$g(s) = h^{-1}(s) = Y(s)/(sm).$$
 (14)

From (13) the speed of convergence of $F_N^{(i)}$ to $\mu_+^{(i)}$ is determined by $|\zeta|$, with the slowest convergence occurring for $|\zeta|$ close to 1. Fig. 2 shows a contour plot of $|\zeta|$ where $h=g^{-1}$ which shows that the speed of convergence will be slower when g is closer to the real axis between $(-\infty,-1/4)$ (corresponding to $h\in (-4,0)$).

A contour map of the magnitude of $\mu_+^{(1)}$ in the g-plane is shown in Fig. 3. The outermost boundary represents $\ln |\mu_+^{(1)}| = -1.5$ and the spacing of the contours is 0.1. As stated in the remark of Theorem 6, $|\mu_+^{(1)}|$ takes its maximum value $2 \ (\approx \ln(0.693))$ when g = -1/4. The figure shows that the asymptotic value of $F_N^{(1)}(j\omega)$ as $N \to \infty$ is directly related to the proximity of $h(j\omega)^{-1}$ to the point -1/4.

We now illustrate graphically the boundedness result of Theorem 7. Fig. 4 shows the region of the complex values of g (= h^{-1}) for which $\max_N |F_N^{(1)}(h)| \leq \gamma$ with $1 \leq N \leq 200$ for a positive constant γ . The spacing of the contours is 0.2 where $\ln(\gamma)$ takes the value $0,0.2,0.4,\ldots$. The outermost boundary represents $\gamma=1$ and \mathcal{G}_1 denotes the set $\{g\in\mathbb{C}:\max_N |F_N^{(1)}(g^{-1})|\leq 1\}$. This means that $\max_N \|F_N^{(1)}(h(s))\|_\infty \leq 1$ if and only if $g(s)\in\mathcal{G}_1$ for $s\in\mathbb{C}_+$. Note that from Fig. 2 the sequence $\{F_N^{(1)}\}$ converges to

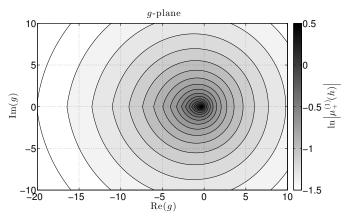


Fig. 3: Contour plot of $|\mu_{+}^{(1)}(h)|$ where $h = g^{-1}$.

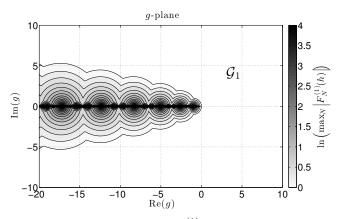


Fig. 4: Contour plot of $\max_N |F_N^{(1)}(h)| = \gamma$ for $\ln(\gamma) = 0, 0.2, 0.4, \ldots$ where $h = g^{-1}$.

the fixed point $\mu_+^{(1)}$ quickly when $g \in \mathcal{G}_1$ so the choice of N=200 is large enough to accurately determine the shape of the boundary in the figure.

Fig. 5 is a similar figure to Fig. 4 but shows a contour map of $\max_i \max_N |F_N^{(i)}(h)| = \gamma \in \mathbb{R}_+$ for $i=1,2,\ldots,N$, $i \leq N \leq 200$ with the Nyquist diagrams of g(s) of three passive vibration control devices. The layouts of these devices are shown in Table I and their structural parameters are given in Table II. We fix the parameters of the building model as $m=1.0\times 10^5$ kg, $k=1.7\times 10^5$ kN/m (based on values given in [24]). The outermost boundary of the contours again represents $\gamma=1$ so $\max_i \max_N \|F_N^{(i)}(h(s))\|_\infty \leq 1$ if the Nyquist diagram $g(j\omega)$ lies outside this boundary. We see that devices 2 and 3 achieve this. It is also observed that the use of the inerters improves the high frequency performance (corresponding to the origin in the g-plane). The frequency domain plots of $\max_i |F_N^{(i)}(j\omega)|$ (Figs. 6 and 7) confirm these observations. Fig. 8 shows the curves which represent $\max_N |F_N^{(i)}| = 1$ where $i=1,2,\ldots,5$ with $1\leq N\leq 200$. We observe that the set $\{g\in\mathbb{C}:\max_N |F_N^{(i)}(g^{-1})|\leq 1\}$ contains the sets $\{g\in\mathbb{C}:\max_N |F_N^{(i)}(g^{-1})|\leq 1\}$, $i=2,\ldots,5$.

TABLE I: Vibration control device layouts.

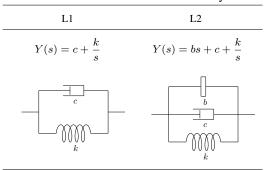


TABLE II: Parameters of vibration control devices.

	Layout	c [kNs/m]	b [kg]
Device 1	L1	4.0×10^3	-
Device 2	L1	6.0×10^3	-
Device 3	L2	6.0×10^3	1.0×10^{5}

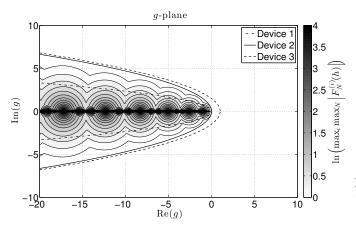


Fig. 5: Nyquist diagrams of g(s) = Y(s)/(sm) for the vibration control devices in Table II and contour plot of $\max_i \max_N |F_N^{(i)}(h)| = \gamma$ for $\ln(\gamma) = 0, 0.2, 0.4, \ldots$ where $h = g^{-1}$.

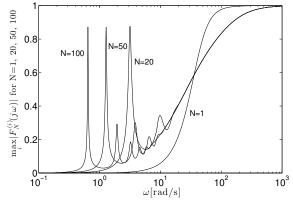


Fig. 6: $\max_{i} |F_{N}^{(i)}(j\omega)|$ using Device 2 for N = 1, 20, 50, 100.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

The interconnection of a chain of N identical masses has been studied in which neighbouring masses are connected

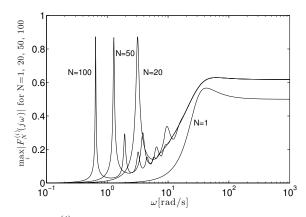


Fig. 7: $\max_{i} |F_N^{(i)}(j\omega)|$ using Device 3 for N = 1, 20, 50, 100.

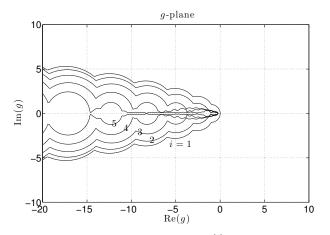


Fig. 8: Curves representing $\max_N |F_N^{(i)}(h)| = 1$ for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, 5$ where $h = g^{-1}$.

by identical two-terminal passive mechanical impedances, and where the first mass is also connected by the same impedance to a movable point. The problem is similar to that of symmetric bidirectional control of a vehicle string, albeit with a passivity constraint. Formulae for the transfer functions from the movable point displacement to a given intermass displacement have been derived in the form of complex iterative maps as a function of a dimensionless parameter h depending on the impedance and mass. The maps take the form of an iterated Möbius transformation. It is shown that the fixed points of the mappings provide information on the asymptotic behaviour of the disturbance transfer functions. Further, the use of a conjugacy transformation allows the iterative map to be written in a convenient form to derive formal upper bounds on the infinity norm of the individual transfer functions from the movable point displacement to a given intermass displacement. In particular they are shown to be uniformly bounded with respect to N for a suitable choice of h. This boundedness result was illustrated graphically. The graph indicates the region of the complex plane for h^{-1} to achieve a small infinity norm. The method is presented in the context of the design of a multi-storey building. A comparison is made between a standard spring-damper model for the lateral inter-storey suspension and the use of inerters.

APPENDIX A PROOF OF THEOREM 3

Proof: Define

$$p(N,i) = \overbrace{(d_{N-i+1} - d_{N-i})(d_{N-i} - d_{N-i-1} + d_{N-1}d_i)}_{-d_N d_{i-2}(d_{N-i} - d_{N-i-1}) - h d_{N-1}d_N}.$$
(15)

From (5) and the recursion of $F_N^{(i)}$ in (6), we see that the theorem is equivalent to p(N,i)=0 for all $i\in\mathbb{N}$ and $i\leq N\in\mathbb{N}$. The proof will follow by induction after establishing the following facts:

- 1) p(N,1) = 0 for all $N \ge 1$.
- 2) p(N,2) = 0 for all $N \ge 2$.
- 3) p(N,i) = p(N,i-1) + p(N-1,i-1) p(N-1,i-2) for any $i \ge 3, N \ge i$.

We now establish these facts in turn.

1)
$$p(N,1) = (d_N - d_{N-1} - d_N d_{-1})(d_{N-1} - d_{N-2}) + d_{N-1}(d_1(d_N - d_{N-1}) - hd_N)$$

= $d_{N-1}(d_N - (h+2)d_{N-1} + d_{N-2})$
= 0.

where the second step uses $d_{-1} = 1$ and $d_1 = h + 1$, and the third step follows from (3).

2)
$$p(N,2) = (d_{N-1} - d_{N-2} - d_N d_0)(d_{N-2} - d_{N-3})$$

 $+ d_{N-1} d_2 (d_{N-1} - d_{N-2}) - h d_{N-1} d_N$
 $= (-(h+1)d_{N-1})(d_{N-1} - (h+1)d_{N-2})$
 $+ d_{N-1}(h^2 + 3h + 1)(d_{N-1} - d_{N-2})$
 $- h d_{N-1} d_N$
 $= - h d_{N-1} (d_N - (h+2)d_{N-1} + d_{N-2})$
 $= 0,$

where the second step follows from $d_{N-2} - d_{N-3} = d_{N-2} - ((h+2)d_{N-2} - d_{N-1}), d_{N-1} - d_{N-2} - d_N d_0 = d_{N-1} - ((h+2)d_{N-1} - d_N) - d_N$ and $d_2 = h^2 + 3h + 1$ using (3).

3) Consider the expression

$$X(N,i) = p(N,i) - p(N,i-1)$$
$$-p(N-1,i-1) + p(N-1,i-2).$$
 (16)

It may be observed that four terms in (16) corresponding to the overbrace in (15) cancel pairwise. Also the four terms in (16) of the form $-hd_{N-1}d_N$ cancel pairwise. Thus

$$X(N,i) = (d_{N-i} - d_{N-i-1})(d_{N-1}d_{i-3} - d_Nd_{i-2})$$

$$+ (d_{N-i+1} - d_{N-i})(d_{N-1}d_i + d_Nd_{i-3}$$

$$- d_{N-2}d_{i-1} - d_{N-1}d_{i-4})$$

$$+ (d_{N-i+2} - d_{N-i+1})(d_{N-2}d_{i-2} - d_{N-1}d_{i-1}).$$

$$(17)$$

Using the following substitution

$$d_{i} = (h+2)d_{i-1} - d_{i-2}$$

$$d_{N} = (h+2)d_{N-1} - d_{N-2}$$

$$d_{i-1} = (h+2)d_{i-2} - d_{i-3}$$

$$d_{i-4} = (h+2)d_{i-3} - d_{i-2}$$

in the second term of (17) and rearranging gives

$$X(N,i) = (d_{N-i} - d_{N-i-1})(d_{N-1}d_{i-3} - d_Nd_{i-2})$$

$$+ (d_{N-2}d_{i-2} - d_{N-1}d_{i-1})(d_{N-i+2} - d_{N-i+1}$$

$$- (h+2)(d_{N-i+1} - d_{N-i})).$$

Now note that

$$\begin{aligned} d_{N-i+2} - d_{N-i+1} - (h+2)(d_{N-i+1} - d_{N-i}) \\ &= (h+1)d_{N-i} - d_{N-i+1} \\ &= -(d_{N-i} - d_{N-i-1}). \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{split} X(N,i) &= (d_{N-i} - d_{N-i-1})(d_{N-1}d_{i-3} - d_Nd_{i-2} \\ &- d_{N-2}d_{i-2} + d_{N-1}d_{i-1}) \\ &= (d_{N-i} - d_{N-i-1})(d_{N-1}d_{i-3} - (h+2)d_{N-1}d_{i-2} \\ &+ d_{N-2}d_{i-2} - d_{N-2}d_{i-2} + (h+2)d_{N-1}d_{i-2} \\ &- d_{N-1}d_{i-3}) \\ &= 0. \end{split}$$

APPENDIX B PROOF OF (10b) AND (10d)

Proof: First we show (10b).

$$\begin{split} \frac{d_{i-2} - \mu_{+}^{(i)}}{d_{i-2} - \mu_{-}^{(i)}} &= \frac{d_{i-2} - \mu_{+}^{(i)}}{d_{i-2} - \mu_{-}^{(i)}} \times \frac{d_{i-2} - \mu_{+}^{(i)}}{d_{i-2} - \mu_{+}^{(i)}} \\ &= \frac{\left(d_{i-2} - \mu_{+}^{(i)}\right)^{2}}{d_{i-2}^{2} - d_{i-2}\left(\mu_{+}^{(i)} + \mu_{-}^{(i)}\right) + \mu_{+}^{(i)}\mu_{-}^{(i)}} \\ &= \frac{\left(d_{i-2} - \mu_{+}^{(i)}\right)^{2}}{d_{i-2}d_{i} - h} \\ &= \left(\frac{d_{i-2} - \mu_{+}^{(i)}}{d_{i}}\right)^{2} \end{split}$$

where the third step follows from $\mu_+^{(i)} + \mu_-^{(i)} = -(d_i - d_{i-2})$ and $\mu_+^{(i)} \mu_-^{(i)} = -h$ (see (8)) and the fourth step follows from

To show (10d), note that

$$\begin{split} \zeta + \frac{1}{\zeta} &= \frac{d_{i-2} - \mu_+^{(i)}}{d_{i-1}} + \frac{d_{i-1}}{d_{i-2} - \mu_+^{(i)}} \\ &= \frac{d_{i-2}^2 - 2d_{i-2}\mu_+^{(i)} + \mu_+^{(i)^2} + d_{i-1}^2}{d_{i-1}(d_{i-2} - \mu_+^{(i)})} \\ &= \frac{(d_{i-2} + d_i)(d_{i-2} - \mu_+^{(i)})}{d_{i-1}(d_{i-2} - \mu_+^{(i)})} \\ &= h + 2. \end{split}$$

where the third step substitutes for $\mu_{+}^{(i)^2}$ and d_{i-1}^2 from (8) and (9) and the fourth step uses (3).

Appendix C Proof of
$$\mu_+^{(i)}/\mu_-^{(i)}=-\zeta^{2i-1}$$

Proof: Since $\mu_+^{(i)}$ are the solutions of (8), $\mu_+^{(i)}\mu_-^{(i)}=-h$. Therefore,

$$\begin{split} \frac{\mu_{+}^{(i)}}{\mu_{-}^{(i)}} &= -\frac{{\mu_{+}^{(i)}}^2}{h} \\ &= -\frac{\left(\zeta^{i-1}\mu_{+}^{(1)}\right)^2}{h} \\ &= -\zeta^{2i-2}\left(1-\mu_{+}^{(1)}\right) \\ &= -\zeta^{2i-1}, \end{split}$$

where we use (11), (8) and (10c) in the second, third and fourth steps above.

APPENDIX D **PROOF OF THEOREM 7**

We first establish two lemmas which we need in the proof of this theorem. The first lemma gives a relatively straightforward bound on $\sup_{N>i} |F_N^{(i)}(h)|$ for h bounded away from the interval [-4,0]. The second lemma is significantly more delicate and deals with the fact that $h(j\omega) \to 0$ as $\omega \to 0$. The manner in which this convergence occurs is critical to establish an upper bound.

Lemma 1: Let $h \in \mathbb{C}$ lie on an ellipse with foci (-4,0) and (0,0), and semi-major axis A. Then

$$\sup_{N>i} |F_N^{(i)}| \le \frac{(1+|\zeta|)(1+|\zeta|^2)}{1-|\zeta|^3}$$

where ζ is defined by (10c). Moreover

$$|\zeta| = \frac{A - \sqrt{A^2 - 4}}{2}, \quad A = \frac{|h| + |h + 4|}{2}.$$

Proof: From (10d), $\zeta+\zeta^{-1}=h+2$. Letting $\zeta=|\zeta|{\rm e}^{j\theta},\ -\pi\leq\theta\leq\pi,$ we have

$$\left(|\zeta| + \frac{1}{|\zeta|}\right)\cos\theta + j\left(|\zeta| - \frac{1}{|\zeta|}\right)\sin\theta = h + 2.$$
 (18)

Keeping $|\zeta|$ fixed and solving (18) for h as a function of θ gives an ellipse in the h-plane with centre (-2,0), foci (-4,0), (0,0) and semi-major axis $A = |\zeta| + 1/|\zeta|$ (Fig. 9). Therefore $|\zeta| = (A - \sqrt{A^2 - 4})/2$ where A > 2 and $|\zeta| < 1$. Since the sum of the distances from the two foci and to a point on the ellipse is constant and equal to the major axis,

$$A = \frac{|h| + |h+4|}{2}. (19)$$

Then from (13), for all N > i > 1

$$\begin{split} \sup_{N \ge i} |F_N^{(i)}| &\leq |\mu_+^{(1)}| \frac{1 + |\zeta|^2}{1 - |\zeta|^3} \\ &\leq \frac{(1 + |\zeta|)(1 + |\zeta|^2)}{1 - |\zeta|^3} \end{split}$$

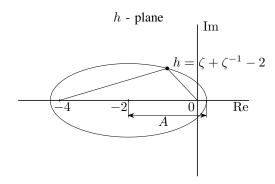


Fig. 9: The ellipse defined by $h = \zeta + \zeta^{-1} - 2$ for $|\zeta|$ fixed and $arg(\zeta)$ varying.

Lemma 2: Let h(s) be defined as in Theorem 7. Then $h(j\omega) = -c_1\omega^2 + jc_2\omega^3 + \omega^4 h_1(j\omega)$ for $\omega \geq 0$ where c_1 and c_2 are positive constants and $|h_1(j\omega)| \leq c_3 \in \mathbb{R}_+$ for $0 \le \omega \le \omega_1$. Furthermore there exists ω_0 with $0 < \omega_0 \le \omega_1$

$$\sup_{N \ge i} |F_N^{(i)}(h(j\omega))| < \frac{2\sqrt{c_1 + c_2 + c_3}\omega_0}{1 - \exp\left(-\frac{(c_2 - \omega_0 c_3)\pi\omega_0}{8c_4^2}\right)}$$

for $0 \le \omega < \omega_0$ where $c_4 = \sqrt{2(2c_1+c_2+2c_3)}$. *Proof:* First note that when $\omega=0,\ h(j\omega)=0$ and $|F_N^{(i)}|=0$ for any $N\ge i$ from (6).

When $\omega \neq 0$, we see that $h \notin [-4,0]$ and therefore ζ as defined in (10c) is nonreal and $|\zeta| < 1$. Hence $|1-\zeta^{2(N-i+1)}|<1+|\zeta|^2$. The magnitude of the denominator in (13) takes its smallest value when ζ^{2N+1} is at the closest point to -1. Let p be the positive real number such that ζ^p has the minimum real part. With p defined in this way, the smallest value is always larger than $1 - |\zeta|^p$. Therefore,

$$\sup_{N>i} |F_N^{(i)}| \le |\mu_+^{(1)}| \frac{1+|\zeta|^2}{1-|\zeta|^p}. \tag{20}$$

Since $\mu_+^{(1)^2} = h(1 - \mu_+^{(1)}) = h\zeta$ from (8) and (10c), for $0 < \omega \le \min\{1, \omega_1\}$,

$$\left|\mu_{+}^{(1)}\right|^{2} < |h|$$

$$\leq |-c_{1}\omega^{2} + jc_{2}\omega^{3}| + |\omega^{4}h_{1}(j\omega)|$$

$$\leq \sqrt{(c_{1}^{2} + c_{2}^{2})\omega^{4}} + |h_{1}(j\omega)|\omega^{2}$$

$$\leq (c_{1} + c_{2} + c_{3})\omega^{2}.$$
(21)

Therefore, the numerator in (20) is bounded above:

$$|\mu_{+}^{(1)}|(1+|\zeta|^2) < 2\sqrt{c_1 + c_2 + c_3}\omega.$$

We next show a lower bound on the denominator in (20). First note the general inequality

$$|\zeta| + \frac{1}{|\zeta|} > 2. \tag{22}$$

since $|\mu_+^{(i)}| < |\mu_+^{(1)}|$ as shown in Theorem 6 and $\mu_+^{(1)} = 1 - \zeta$. Defining A as in (19), we obtain $A \leq 2 + |h|$. Writing $\zeta = |\zeta| \mathrm{e}^{j\theta}$ we have, from (10d), $A\cos\theta = \mathrm{Re}(h+2) = 0$

$$\begin{split} 2 - (c_1 - \omega^2 \operatorname{Re}(h_1(j\omega)))\omega^2 &\geq 2 - (c_1 + c_3)\omega^2. \text{ Hence,} \\ \cos\theta &= \frac{\operatorname{Re}(h+2)}{A} \\ &\geq \frac{2 - (c_1 + c_3)\omega^2}{2 + |h|} = 1 - \frac{(c_1 + c_3)\omega^2 + |h|}{2 + |h|} \end{split}$$

and if $\omega \leq \sqrt{2/(c_1+c_3)}$, $-\pi/2 \leq \theta \leq \pi/2$. On the other hand, $\cos \theta \leq 1 - \theta^2/4$ when $-\pi/2 \leq \theta \leq \pi/2$. Therefore, for $0 < \omega \leq \min\{1, \omega_1, \sqrt{2/(c_1+c_3)}\}$,

$$|\theta| \le 2\sqrt{\frac{(c_1 + c_3)\omega^2 + |h|}{2 + |h|}}$$

$$\le 2\sqrt{\frac{(c_1 + c_3)\omega^2 + (c_1 + c_2 + c_3)\omega^2}{2}}$$

$$= \sqrt{2(2c_1 + c_2 + 2c_3)\omega}$$

$$=: c_4\omega$$

using (21). Also, $\text{Im}(h+2) = (c_2 + \omega \text{Im}(h_1(j\omega)))\omega^3 \ge (c_2 - \omega c_3)\omega^3 > 0$ when $\omega < c_2/c_3$. Hence

$$\frac{1}{|\zeta|} - |\zeta| = \left| \frac{\operatorname{Im}(h+2)}{\sin \theta} \right| \ge \frac{(c_2 - \omega c_3)\omega^2}{c_4} \tag{23}$$

for $0 < \omega < \min\{1, \omega_1, \sqrt{2/(c_1+c_3)}, c_2/c_3\}$. We also note that $-\pi < \theta < 0$ follows from (18) when $\operatorname{Im}(h+2) > 0$. Adding (23) to (22) gives

$$\frac{2}{|\zeta|} > 2 + \frac{(c_2 - \omega c_3)\omega^2}{c_4}$$

and therefore,

$$|\zeta| < \frac{2c_4}{2c_4 + (c_2 - \omega c_3)\omega^2}$$

$$\leq 1 - \frac{(c_2 - \omega c_3)\omega^2}{4c_4}$$
(24)

if $0 \le (c_2 - \omega c_3)\omega^2/2c_4 \le 1$. This condition is satisfied if $\omega \le c_2/c_3$ and $\omega \le \sqrt{2c_4/c_2}$.

Now let $\omega_0 = \min\{1, \omega_1, \sqrt{2/(c_1+c_3)}, c_2/c_3, \sqrt{2c_4/c_2}\}$. Since p is the positive real number such that ζ^p has minimum real part, we see that $-\pi \leq p\theta < 0$ on noting that $-\pi/2 \leq \theta < 0$ for $\omega < \omega_0$. We further observe that $-\pi \leq p\theta \leq -\pi/2$, which gives

$$p \ge \frac{\pi}{2|\theta|} > \frac{\pi}{2c_4\omega}.\tag{25}$$

Using (24) and (25), since $(1 - x/n)^n < e^{-x}$ for $x/n \le 1$,

$$|\zeta|^p < \left(1 - \frac{(c_2 - \omega c_3)\omega^2}{4c_4}\right)^{\frac{n}{2c_4\omega}}$$

$$< \exp\left(-\frac{(c_2 - \omega c_3)\pi\omega}{8c_4^2}\right)$$

$$< \exp\left(-\frac{(c_2 - \omega_0 c_3)\pi\omega}{8c_4^2}\right)$$

for $\omega < \omega_0$ which establishes the required lower bound on the denominator in (20).

The proof is now complete since $ax/(1 - e^{-bx})$ is a monotonically increasing function if a and b are positive. \blacksquare We will now prove Theorem 7.

Proof of Theorem 7: For $h(j\omega) = mj\omega Z(j\omega)$, from Lemma 2, there exists $\omega_0 > 0$ such that

$$\sup_{N \ge i} |F_N^{(i)}(h(j\omega))| < \frac{2\sqrt{c_1 + c_2 + c_3}\omega_0}{1 - \exp\left(-\frac{(c_2 - \omega_0 c_3)\pi\omega_0}{8c_4^2}\right)}$$

for $0 \le \omega < \omega_0$ where c_1, c_2, c_3 and c_4 are positive constants defined in Lemma 2. For $\omega_0 \le \omega \le \infty$, since $h(j\omega)$ is bounded away from [-4, 0], from Lemma 1,

$$\sup_{N>i} |F_N^{(i)}(h(j\omega))| \le \frac{(1+|\zeta_0|)(1+|\zeta_0|^2)}{1-|\zeta_0|^3}$$

where

$$|\zeta_0| = \frac{A_0 - \sqrt{A_0^2 - 4}}{2}, A_0 = \min_{\omega \ge \omega_0} \left(\frac{|h(j\omega)| + |h(j\omega) + 4|}{2} \right).$$

From Theorem 2, $T_{\hat{x}_0 \to \hat{\delta}_i} (= -F_N^{(i)})$ is a stable transfer function under the condition of Theorem 7. Therefore the maximum modulus principle can be applied to complete the proof.

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