

An Optimization Framework for the Design of Noise Shaping Loop Filters with Improved Stability Properties

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Abstract A framework using semidefinite programming is proposed to enable the design of sigma delta modulator loop filters at the transfer function level. Both continuous-time and discrete-time, low-pass and band-pass designs are supported. For performance, we use the recently popularized Generalized Kalman-Yakubovič-Popov (GKYP) lemma to place constraints on the \mathcal{H}_∞ norm of the noise transfer function (NTF) in the frequency band of interest. We expand the approach to incorporate common stability criteria in the form of \mathcal{H}_2 and ℓ_1 norm NTF constraints. Furthering the discussion of stability, we

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introduce techniques from control systems to improve the robustness of the feedback system over a range of quantizer gains. The performance-stability trade-off is examined using this framework and motivated by simulation results.

Keywords sigma delta modulation · semidefinite programming · noise transfer function · generalized KYP lemma · analog/digital conversion

1 Introduction

Sigma delta modulators ($\Sigma\Delta$ Ms) are nonlinear feedback systems containing a noise shaping filter and coarse quantizer element. Applied as an A/D converter, the systems operate on an oversampled input and produce a discrete-time, sampled value output. The feedback loop contains a noise shaping loop filter that pushes the error introduced by quantization out of the signal band, where it can be removed by a digital decimation filter outside the loop. The sigma delta architecture is widely used to digitize signals with moderate frequency content because of high resolution and reliance on less expensive digital circuitry rather than precision analog components. However, the presence of a nonlinearity in the feedback system makes analysis difficult and higher order systems are prone to instability.

The design of the loop filter transfer function may be done in many ways. Often, a linearized model is used, where the nonlinear quantizer is replaced by a fixed gain and an additive “quantization noise” signal. A loop filter of just one or two pure integrators is provably stable for dc inputs with magnitude less than one [29]. For higher orders, a common approach is to design a prototype noise transfer function (NTF), equivalent to the sensitivity function $S(\lambda)$ of the linearized model. The popular Delta Sigma Toolbox for MATLAB [29] uses the Chebyshev type II filter as an NTF prototype where the stop-band attenuation is related to the performance and the peak out-of-band gain is a proxy for instability.

Optimization techniques have been used in place of prototype filters to generate suitable noise transfer functions. For example, the CLANS approach assumes the quantization error can be represented as white noise, then uses nonlinear optimization to minimize the integral of this signal in the pass-band. [11]. Genetic algorithms have been used to design continuous-time sigma delta modulators with a combination of linear approximations and simulations [19]. Using the linear matrix inequality (LMI) methods from \mathcal{H}_∞ control, one can define the quantizer as a very simple feedthrough plant and augment it with weighting filters with desirable noise rejection properties. The loop filter is then designed as an optimal controller for performance and stability [21]. However, the system is bound to the order of the augmented plant and this method relies on the designer to select the weighting filters.

The Generalized Kalman-Yakubovič-Popov (GKYP) lemma provides a way to optimize noise rejection over a finite frequency interval, eliminating the need for weighting filters. Unfortunately, the problem becomes non-convex if both

poles and zeros are to be optimized. As a way around this, the poles may be fixed [24] or a finite impulse response (FIR) loop filter may be assumed [20, 31], which is a sub-optimal choice [6]. Alternatively, iterative methods have been shown to provide a workaround for \mathcal{H}_∞ minimization [15]. GKYP optimization can also be carried out to limit the reduction in performance resulting from quantization of the filter coefficients in the hardware implementation of the loop filter [4].

In Section 2 of this paper, we outline the structure of a general $\Sigma\Delta\text{M}$ and introduce several stability criteria with varying levels of robustness. In Section 3, we introduce a semidefinite programming (SDP) framework used to optimize performance of the modulator under these stability criteria. In Section 4, simulation results are shown to compare modulator performance under different stability conditions. This paper is concerned with sigma delta A/D converters with single bit quantization, but would be easily generalizable to D/A designs and those with multi-bit quantization. Most of the paper is focused on the discrete-time ($\lambda = z$) systems used in switched capacitor designs but the framework also works with continuous-time ($\lambda = s$) systems with the caveat that many of the stability criteria are no longer valid. The frequency range of interest is from dc to the clock frequency driving the sample-and-hold block, located at the input for discrete-time modulators and in the loop for continuous-time modulators. The signal band is restricted to a small fraction of the system sampling frequency and expressed as the oversampling ratio (OSR). Using the proposed method, discrete-time modulators can be designed to a given OSR then scaled to any necessary sampling frequency. Continuous-time designs require the inclusion of constraints around the signal band as seen in Section 4.5.

2 Background

2.1 General Sigma Delta Modulator Model

In its general case, the block diagram of the sigma delta A/D converter is shown in Figure 1. The two input, one output loop filter $H(\lambda)$ may be manipulated into a conventional, negative feedback loop filter $H_1(\lambda)$ and an input pre-filter $H_0(\lambda)$ operating on input signal r without loss of generality. The pre-filter may be used to shape the signal transfer function (STF) to unity, and can be neglected in this analysis to focus on the design of $H_1(\lambda)$. The nonlinear quantizer has been modelled by a variable gain K and the addition of fictitious quantization noise d that is summed with the output of the filter to produce output signal y , which is passed to the digital decimation filters.

For optimization, we are interested in placing constraints on the closed loop sensitivity function $S(\lambda)$ and possibly on the system robustness to the uncertain quantizer gain. For the former, we introduce a performance channel e at the feedback error, which is equivalent to the NTF shown in Figure 1. For the latter, we model K as a multiplicative uncertainty and extract the

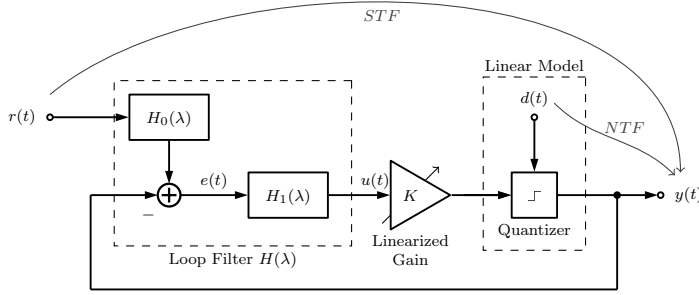


Fig. 1 The general linearized $\Sigma\Delta M$ block diagram with variable gain and additive quantization noise signal (see Section 2.1).

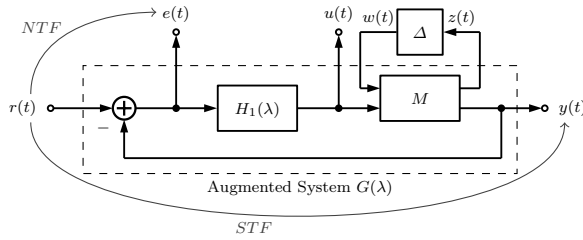


Fig. 2 The augmented system is derived from Figure 1 by setting $H_0(\lambda) = 1$, taking the LFT of the uncertain gain, extracting the signals of interest, and writing the closed-loop equations.

norm-bounded uncertain block Δ using the upper linear fractional transform (LFT), as is common in robust control problems. The input w and output z encompass a robustness channel and matrix $M_{2 \times 2}$ is a constant gain block.

From this model, an augmented state-space model is derived. Let the loop filter $H_1(\lambda)$ be an order n strictly proper rational transfer function of the form shown in (1), which has an equivalent state-space representation (2). Naturally, the state-space feedthrough matrix D_H must be zero to impose closed-loop realizability.

$$H_1(\lambda) = \frac{b_{n-1}\lambda^{n-1} + b_{n-2}\lambda^{n-2} + \dots + b_1\lambda + b_0}{\lambda^n + a_{n-1}\lambda^{n-1} + a_{n-2}\lambda^{n-2} + \dots + a_1\lambda + a_0} \quad (1)$$

$$= C_H(\lambda I - A_H)^{-1}B_H \quad (2)$$

Taking $w(t)$, $r(t)$ as inputs and $z(t)$, $e(t)$, $u(t)$, $y(t)$ as outputs, the augmented system $G(\lambda)$ from Figure 2 may be shown in matrix form in (3), where m_{ij} is element (i, j) of gain matrix M . The notation $G_{qp}(\lambda)$ indicates the transfer function of $G(\lambda)$ from some input channel $p(t)$ to some output channel $q(t)$. The state-space matrices of G are denoted in (4).

$$G : \begin{bmatrix} \lambda \mathbf{x}(t) \\ z(t) \\ e(t) \\ u(t) \\ y(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_H - m_{22}B_H C_H & -m_{21}B_H & B_H \\ m_{12}C_H & m_{11} & 0 \\ -m_{22}C_H & -m_{21} & 1 \\ C_H & 0 & 0 \\ m_{22}C_H & m_{21} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}(t) \\ w(t) \\ r(t) \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_w & \mathcal{B}_r \\ \mathcal{C}_z & \mathcal{D}_{zw} & \mathcal{D}_{zr} \\ \mathcal{C}_e & \mathcal{D}_{ew} & \mathcal{D}_{er} \\ \mathcal{C}_u & \mathcal{D}_{uw} & \mathcal{D}_{ur} \\ \mathcal{C}_y & \mathcal{D}_{yw} & \mathcal{D}_{yr} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}(t) \\ w(t) \\ r(t) \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

2.2 Performance Goal and Stability Criteria

Modulator design is done by solving a multiobjective optimization problem with a single performance goal and one or more of the four stability criteria discussed in this section. The criteria range from heuristics to sufficient conditions. We introduce these criteria and show how they can be interpreted as norm bounds on the augmented system (4), which may be solved using the framework in Section 3.

2.2.1 Performance Goal

The common performance goal in the optimization process is the \mathcal{H}_∞ norm of the noise transfer function. We specify a frequency range of interest $[\omega_l, \omega_h]$ centred at the signal band with width inversely proportional to the OSR of the modulator. Using the GKYP LMI expression, the \mathcal{H}_∞ norm of the NTF in the signal band is minimized, either below a target value (feasibility problem) or as low as possible (optimization problem). With reference to the state space system (3), the GKYP constraint is placed on the $r \rightarrow e$ channel as shown in Problem 1.

Problem 1 *Given frequency range of the signal band $[\omega_l, \omega_h]$, find the following for stable $H_1(\lambda)$:*

$$\min_{\lambda \in [\omega_l, \omega_h]} \|G_{er}(\lambda)\|_\infty$$

2.2.2 \mathcal{H}_∞ Stability Criterion

Lee's rule is a heuristic predictor of stability which states that a modulator is likely to be stable if the NTF peak out-of-band gain, or \mathcal{H}_∞ norm of the sensitivity function, does not exceed a benchmark value [5]. The criterion is not necessary nor sufficient for stability and must be verified with extensive simulations. Generally, $\|S(z)\|_\infty = 2$ is used, but this has been found to be conservative for low-order and insufficient for high-order designs [28]. Lee's

rule is valid for discrete-time designs only, but has been used extensively and is easily included as part of an optimization problem. In this framework, the Lee's rule heuristic may be applied with an \mathcal{H}_∞ constraint on the $r \rightarrow e$ channel as shown in Problem 2 by using the GKYP lemma with an infinite frequency interval.

Problem 2 For given positive γ_∞ , find $H_1(\lambda)$ such that:

$$\|G_{er}(\lambda)\|_\infty < \gamma_\infty.$$

2.2.3 Root Locus Stability

With single-bit quantization, the instantaneous quantizer gain K is in the interval $[k_0, k_1] = [1/\|u\|_\infty, \infty]$ with nominal value k_0 . One method to design stable $\Sigma\Delta$ M loop filters is to position the poles and zeros such that the root locus remains in the stable region of the complex plane when sweeping through this interval [32, 13, 10]. Using our optimization framework, the non-linear quantizer gain is modelled as a multiplicative parametric uncertainty. Using the definition of the upper LFT [34, Def. 10.1], uncertain gain K is split into fixed certain gain matrix M and norm-bounded uncertain part Δ :

$$\begin{aligned} K &= \mathcal{F}_U\{M, \Delta\} \quad \|\Delta\|_\infty < 1 \\ &= m_{22} + m_{21}\Delta(1 - m_{11}\Delta)^{-1}m_{12} \end{aligned}$$

To find the entries of matrix M for a range of gains $K \in [k_l, k_h]$, we use the fact that $\mathcal{F}_U\{M, 1\} = k_h$, $\mathcal{F}_U\{M, 0\} = k_0$, and $\mathcal{F}_U\{M, -1\} = k_l$ that follows from the normalized nature of Δ . Equation 5 shows M found by setting $m_{21} = 1$ and solving the system of equations.

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{k_h - 2k_0 + k_l}{k_h - k_l} & \frac{-2(k_0 - k_h)(k_0 - k_l)}{k_h - k_l} \\ 1 & k_0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (5)$$

The root locus stability criterion can be used in the optimization framework by constraining the \mathcal{H}_∞ norm to unity for the $z \rightarrow w$ robustness channel and minimizing the performance goal like in previous sections.

Problem 3 Given M from (5) with gain $k_l < K < k_h$, find stable $H_1(\lambda)$ such that:

$$\|G_{zw}(\lambda)\|_\infty < 1.$$

2.2.4 \mathcal{H}_2 Stability Criterion

A statistical look at the $\Sigma\Delta$ M loop with a single-bit quantizer shows that if the probability density function (PDF) of u at the quantizer input is known, the quantizer gain K is no longer undefined, the quantization noise d is uncorrelated to the input r , and the stability of the modulator can be evaluated

[25]. With this analysis, the stability is dependent on the PDF and the power gain from d to y , which is equal to $\|S(\lambda)\|_2^2$. In reality, the PDF depends on the input signal r , but may be assumed to be a standard type such as uniform, triangular, or Gaussian. The Gaussian PDF has been shown to be a close approximation for high-order modulators but is more conservative than the others [25].

To employ the stability criterion, the \mathcal{H}_2 LMI is used to constrain the 2-norm of the $r \rightarrow e$ channel to a value dependent on the desired maximum stable input amplitude $\|u\|_\infty$ and the choice of PDF, as in Problem 4. The \mathcal{H}_2 criterion is only applicable to discrete-time designs because continuous-time sensitivity functions have infinite \mathcal{H}_2 norm.

Problem 4 For given positive γ_2 , solve the following for stable $H_1(z)$:

$$\|G_{er}(z)\|_2 < \gamma_2.$$

2.2.5 Improved ℓ_1 Stability Criterion

The bounded-input bounded-output ℓ_1 stability criterion is a sufficient criterion for stability. The ℓ_1 norm of the loop filter, $\|H(\lambda)\|_1$, denotes its maximal peak-to-peak gain with a worst-case quantization noise signal. Assuming the quantized feedback is bounded $y \in [-1, 1]$, a limit to $\|H(\lambda)\|_1$ can be derived that ensures stability for a class of ℓ_∞ -bounded input signals [2]. This bound is extremely conservative, but may be improved to some degree by taking advantage of the fact that the single-bit quantizer is invariant to any choice of positive gain K that precedes the quantization operation. The improved ℓ_1 criterion states that the modulator is guaranteed stable for inputs r where $\min_K \|S(\lambda)\|_1 \leq 3 - \|r\|_\infty$ [25]. A time domain interpretation of this stability criterion is a bound on the sum of impulse response coefficients of the loop filter. Problem 5 shows the ℓ_1 norm optimization objective.

Problem 5 For given positive γ_1 , solve the following for stable $H_1(\lambda)$:

$$\|G_{er}(\lambda)\|_1 < \gamma_1.$$

3 Optimization Framework

The optimization framework unifies the expression for the GKYP, \mathcal{H}_2 , and ℓ_1 norm LMIs for the augmented system (3) and allows it to be solved despite the infinite impulse response filter design problem being non-convex.

3.1 GKYP Lemma

The Generalized Kalman-Yakubovič-Popov lemma is a semidefinite expression that allows \mathcal{H}_∞ minimization in only a specific finite frequency interval, such as that used in solving Problem 1.

Lemma 3.1 (GKYP lemma [8]) *Given state-space matrices $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, $\mathcal{B}_p \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$, $\mathcal{C}_q \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times n}$, $\mathcal{D}_{qp} \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times 1}$ of system $G_{qp}(\lambda)$, frequency range $[\omega_l, \omega_h]$, and symmetric matrix variables $P, Q \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, the finite frequency condition:*

$$\|G_{qp}(\lambda)\|_\infty^2 < \gamma_\infty^2 \quad \omega_l \leq \lambda \leq \omega_h$$

holds if and only if $Q \geq 0$ and quadratic matrix inequality (QMI):

$$-\begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix}^T (\Phi \oplus P + \Psi \oplus Q) \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{C}_q & \mathcal{D}_{pq} \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -\gamma_\infty^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{C}_q & \mathcal{D}_{pq} \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \geq 0 \quad (6)$$

is satisfied, where \oplus denotes the Kronecker product. For the continuous-time case:

$$\Phi = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \Psi = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & j\omega_c \\ -j\omega_c & -\omega_1\omega_h \end{bmatrix} \quad (7)$$

while for the discrete-time case:

$$\Phi = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \Psi = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & e^{j\omega_c} \\ e^{-j\omega_c} & -2 \cos \omega_0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (8)$$

where¹:

$$\omega_1 = \begin{cases} -\omega_h & \omega_l = 0 \\ \omega_l & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}, \quad \omega_c = \frac{\omega_h + \omega_1}{2}, \quad \omega_0 = \frac{\omega_h - \omega_1}{2}.$$

For \mathcal{H}_∞ minimization across all frequencies, i.e. in Problem 3, Lemma 3.1 is modified by fixing Q and adding an additional non-negative definiteness constraint:

$$Q = \mathbf{0} \quad P \geq 0. \quad (9)$$

Although the strict inequality form of (6) is typically used in control problems (e.g. [33]), the non-strict positive-real LMI is presented here because it allows poles to occupy the unit circle (discrete-time) or imaginary axis (continuous-time) [9], as is often seen in heuristic-based $\Sigma\Delta M$ designs. To use the nonstrict inequality, the system must also be controllable, a guarantee of which follows in Section 3.4.

¹ The high-pass case of Lemma 3.1 where $\omega_h = \infty$ (continuous-time) or $\omega_h = \pi$ (discrete-time) is a special case and not shown here, because only low-pass or band-pass modulators are commonly used. For more information on high-pass GKYP design, see [8].

3.2 \mathcal{H}_2 Semidefinite Expression

The \mathcal{H}_2 norm can be minimized between 2 channels by solving a pair of inequalities with some similarities to Lemma 3.1.

Theorem 3.2 *Given state-space matrices $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, $\mathcal{B}_p \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$, $\mathcal{C}_q \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times n}$, $\mathcal{D}_{qp} \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times 1}$ of system $G_{qp}(\lambda)$, symmetric matrix variable $P \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ and Φ from (7) or (8), the \mathcal{H}_2 condition:*

$$\|G_{qp}(\lambda)\|_2^2 < \gamma_2^2$$

holds if and only if the following QMI and LMI are satisfied:

$$-\begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix}^T (\Phi \oplus P) \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} > 0 \quad (10)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \gamma_2^2 & \mathcal{C}_q & \mathcal{D}_{qp} \\ \mathcal{C}_q^T & P & 0 \\ \mathcal{D}_{qp}^T & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} > 0. \quad (11)$$

Proof Simplifying (10) by multiplying outer factors and summing yields:

$$-\begin{bmatrix} P\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{A}^T P & P\mathcal{B}_p \\ \mathcal{B}_p^T P & -1 \end{bmatrix} > 0 \quad (12)$$

for continuous-time designs. Assuming $\mathcal{D}_{qp} = 0$ as is necessary for the continuous-time case, (11) simplifies to:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \gamma_2^2 & \mathcal{C}_q \\ \mathcal{C}_q^T & P \end{bmatrix} > 0. \quad (13)$$

Equations 12 and 13 comprise the well-known \mathcal{H}_2 QMI for continuous-time systems [27, 18]. For the discrete-time case, the simplification of (10) along the same lines results in:

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\mathcal{A}^T P \mathcal{A} + P & -\mathcal{A}^T P \mathcal{B}_p \\ -\mathcal{B}_p^T P \mathcal{A} & -\mathcal{B}_p^T P \mathcal{B}_p + 1 \end{bmatrix} > 0 \quad (14)$$

which can be manipulated into the form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} P & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A}^T \\ \mathcal{B}_p^T \end{bmatrix} P \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \end{bmatrix} > 0. \quad (15)$$

By Schur complement around P^{-1} , this becomes:

$$\begin{bmatrix} P^{-1} & \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ \mathcal{A}^T & P & 0 \\ \mathcal{B}_p^T & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} > 0. \quad (16)$$

Finally, after a congruent transformation of (16) by $\text{diag}(P, I, 1)$, combining it with (11) matches the well-known \mathcal{H}_2 QMI for discrete-time systems [18].

3.3 ℓ_1 Semidefinite Expression

The computation of the ℓ_1 norm is made tractable by instead minimizing the \star -norm, an upper bound on the ℓ_1 norm. The \star -norm minimization is a set of 1 LMI, 1 QMI, and 1 bilinear matrix inequality (BMI) with a scalar parameter that enters nonlinearly. The equations can be solved by running a one-dimensional constrained minimization problem.

Theorem 3.3 *Given state-space matrices $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, $\mathcal{B}_p \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$, $\mathcal{C}_q \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times n}$, $\mathcal{D}_{qp} \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times 1}$ of system $G_{qp}(\lambda)$, symmetric matrix variable $P \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, auxiliary scalar variables $\mu > 0$, $\nu > 0$, and $\alpha \in (0, 1)$, and Φ from (7) or (8), the \star -norm condition:*

$$\|G_{qp}(\lambda)\|_{\star}^2 < \gamma_{\star}^2$$

holds if and only if $P \geq 0$, the following QMI and BMI:

$$- \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix}^T \left(\left(\Phi + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha \end{bmatrix} \right) \oplus P \right) \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} > 0 \quad (17)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \alpha P & 0 & \mathcal{C}_q \\ 0 & \mu - 1 & \mathcal{D}_{qp} \\ \mathcal{C}_q^T & \mathcal{D}_{qp}^T & \nu \end{bmatrix} > 0 \quad (18)$$

are satisfied for some α , and the following LMI is also satisfied:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \gamma_{\star}^2 & \mu & \nu \\ \mu & 1 & 0 \\ \nu & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} > 0. \quad (19)$$

Proof The proof proceeds in a similar way to that of Theorem 3.2 by transforming (17) as was done with (10) in Proof 3.2. Then, combined with (18) and (19), the equations are in the form of the \star -norm semidefinite program reported in literature [3,22].

3.4 Convexification

Equations 6, 10, and 17 are non-convex because there are products between the state-space matrices and the optimization variable P . The number of product terms can be reduced by assuming the state space system (2) is in controllable canonical form (CCF) as shown below:

$$\lambda \mathbf{x} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \\ -a_0 & -a_1 & -a_2 & \cdots & -a_{n-1} \end{bmatrix}}_{A_H} \mathbf{x} + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{B_H} e \quad (20)$$

$$u = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} b_0 & b_1 & b_2 & \cdots & b_{n-1} \end{bmatrix}}_{C_H} \mathbf{x} \quad (21)$$

where $a_H \equiv [a_0 \ a_1 \ a_2 \ \cdots \ a_{n-1}]^T$ and $b_H \equiv [b_0 \ b_1 \ b_2 \ \cdots \ b_{n-1}]^T$ for brevity. Note that when the system (2) is in CCF, sub-systems $G_{er}(\lambda)$ and $G_{zw}(\lambda)$ (3) are in CCF as well, possibly after a trivial state-space transformation by $T = \frac{1}{-m_{21}} I_n$ for the latter to ensure that the lower element of $T\mathcal{B}_w$ is unity. Having the system in CCF also permits the use of the non-strict GKYP lemma because the system is controllable by definition. In the following, we seek to design a_H and b_H by solving an optimization problem in different variables consisting of one or more of Problems 1–5.

3.4.1 Change of Variables

Let $a \equiv a_H + m_{22}b_H$, the negative transpose of the lower row of \mathcal{A} , and define $b \equiv a_H$ for system $G_{er}(\lambda)$ and b be that shown in (22) depending on the subsystem $G_{qp}(\lambda)$. The semidefinite program is redefined in terms of these variables to simplify nomenclature.

$$b \equiv \begin{cases} -m_{22}b_H & G_{qp}(\lambda) = G_{er}(\lambda) \\ -m_{12}m_{12}b_H & G_{qp}(\lambda) = G_{zw}(\lambda) \\ m_{22}b_H & G_{qp}(\lambda) = G_{yr}(\lambda) \\ b_H & G_{qp}(\lambda) = G_{ur}(\lambda) \end{cases} \quad (22)$$

3.4.2 Sensitivity Shaping

Addressing Problem 1, the authors of [15, Th. 1] have shown that a congruent transformation of Equation 6 by the matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (23)$$

on the left and its transpose on the right eliminates any products between a , b and P , Q , restoring linearity in the first summation term. This leaves only products between a and b in the second term of (6). Simplifying and using a Schur complement results in only one non-convex term, that is aa^T in the upper-left block. The procedure in [15] is only applicable to shaping the

sensitivity function $G_{er}(\lambda)$ because it assumes $\mathcal{D} = 1$. A full derivation that is valid for any \mathcal{D} , such as that encountered when solving Problem 3, is given in Appendix A.1.

3.4.3 \mathcal{H}_2 , ℓ_1 Optimization

The congruent transformation procedure from Section 3.4.2 does not depend on the centre expression (that may be a function of any of Φ , Ψ , P , Q) so it is applicable to both \mathcal{H}_2 (10) and ℓ_1 (17) cases, which have the same outer factors. This procedure restores linearity to the first summation term, while the second term of both is the same. Equation 24 shows this second term with congruent transformation (23) applied:

$$\begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T = \begin{bmatrix} aa^T & a \\ a^T & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (24)$$

It is seen that, like (6), the other semidefinite programs can undergo a change of variables to have the same, single nonlinear term aa^T . The full expression is given in Appendix A.2.

3.4.4 Iterative Procedure

The solving of a quadratically constrained LMI is a difficult problem. Several methods of solving (28) and (35) were attempted but had poor results. These included directly using a general non-convex solver, using a rank-constrained LMI solver [23], and using Shor's relaxation to linearize the problem [14]. Instead, we use the iterative method from [30] which, for problems with simple non-convexities, appears to be similar to the method used in [15] but with an extra parameter to guarantee finite convergence. The iterative LMI problems generated with this method were solved numerically using the YALMIP Toolbox for MATLAB [17] with the LMILAB solver [7].

4 Design Examples

The following design examples are intended to show how the optimization framework can be used with various stability criteria to design $\Sigma\Delta$ Ms. In Examples 4.1 to 4.4, we designed discrete-time fourth- or fifth-order loop filters with an oversampling ratio of 32 intended for audio applications, i.e. low pass signals with Nyquist frequency 44.1 kHz. This architecture of modulator has been used for digital audio [26, 1]. In Example 4.5, we designed a continuous-time modulator for the same application.

4.1 \mathcal{H}_∞ Design

The \mathcal{H}_∞ design procedure is done by solving Problem 1 while enforcing stability with Problem 2. We used Lemma 3.1 for the former and also for the latter, along with conditions in Equation 9, which implicitly forces the NTF to be stable. In this example, the Lee criterion of $\gamma_\infty = 1.5$ was chosen. The optimization problem converged to the loop filter transfer function:

$$H_1(z) = \frac{0.799 (z^2 - 1.59z + 0.657) (z^2 - 1.92z + 0.966)}{(z - 0.954) (z^2 - 1.95z + 0.953) (z^2 - 1.99z + 0.994)}.$$

The sensitivity function of this filter can be seen in Figure 3. Note that the Lee criterion for stability is satisfied across all frequencies and the peak gain in the signal band has been minimized to -64 dB by the GKYP lemma. This compared favourably (in the \mathcal{H}_∞ sense) to the design produced with the toolbox² in [29], which has peak gain in the signal band of -55 dB.

Like most high-order designs using the Lee criterion, stability is conditional on input amplitude. A simulation of this can be seen in Figure 4, also performed with the Delta Sigma Toolbox. A peak signal-to-quantization-noise ratio (SQNR) of 86 dB at an input amplitude of 0.62 was achieved with a maximum stable input amplitude (MSIA) of 0.71 and a minimum resolvable input amplitude of -91 dB full scale (FS). The comparable toolbox design achieved a very similar peak SQNR but with a slightly better MSIA and minimum resolvable input amplitude of 0.76 and -96 dB FS, respectively.

4.2 Robust Root Locus Design

The root locus design technique is equivalent to solving Problems 1 and 3 simultaneously. Similar to the previous example, we applied Lemma 3.1 to the sensitivity channel $r \rightarrow e$ for performance and Lemma 3.1 along with conditions in Equation 9 to the robustness channel $w \rightarrow z$ for stability. While a sufficient condition for stability would be that the root locus remains in the stable region for all positive quantizer gains K , this produces a very conservative design. Instead, we investigated how using the quantizer gain robustness criterion can be used to enhance the stable input range of Design 4.1. Instability in $\Sigma\Delta$ Ms is often associated with low quantizer gains. To improve stability, we modulate the lower bound of the quantizer gain, k_l , and solve the optimization problem. Thus, k_l is a parameter that trades off performance and stability. We designed a fourth order modulator in order to compare it with the root locus design method described in [16]. With some trial-and-error, $k_l = 0.08$ was the lowest lower bound on the quantizer gain that maintained empirical full-scale stability. The solver converged to the loop transfer function:

² The Delta Sigma Toolbox command `synthesizeNTF(5, 32, 1, 1.5, 0)` was used to produce the transfer function used in this comparison.

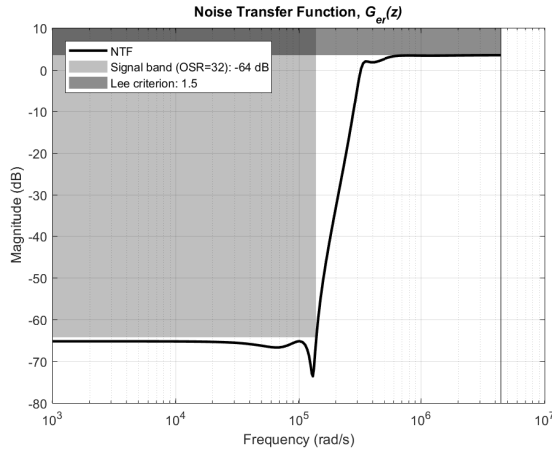


Fig. 3 The sensitivity function of the design in Example 4.1. The dark shaded area represents the stability constraint and the light shaded area represents the achieved noise attenuation performance.

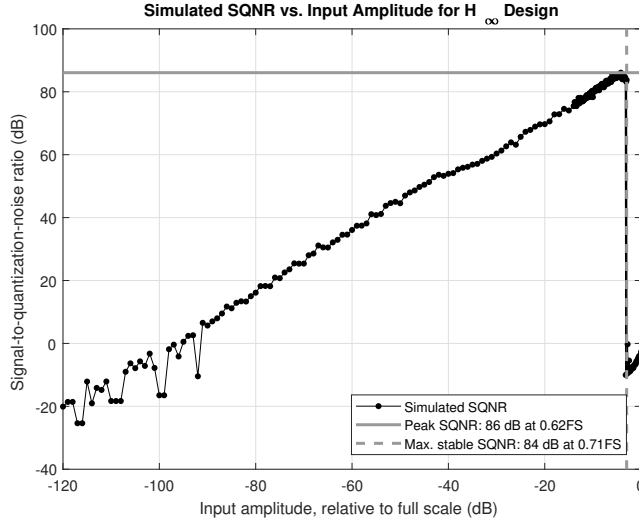


Fig. 4 An SQNR plot of 247 simulations of the design in Example 4.1 to an input sinusoid of frequency $3.46 \times 10^4 \text{ rad s}^{-1}$ and varying amplitude to investigate its conditional stability.

$$H_1(z) = \frac{2.16(z - 0.852)(z^2 - 1.93z + 0.947)}{(z^2 - 1.96z + 0.958)(z^2 - 1.98z + 0.993)}$$

The robustness and sensitivity channels are shown in Figure 5 and the root locus is shown in Figure 6. A simulation like done previously confirmed that system is stable for input amplitudes up to full scale. As expected when order

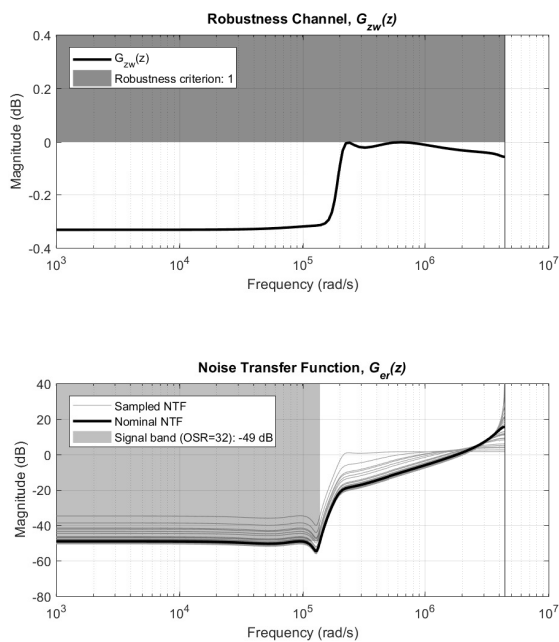


Fig. 5 Upper: a frequency response plot of the robustness channel for the design in Example 4.2. The \mathcal{H}_∞ norm of the transfer function is below 1 (shaded region) for all frequencies, showing that the system is stable for all norm-bounded quantizer gains in the range $[0.085, \infty)$. Lower: the nominal sensitivity function of the same design along with sensitivity functions for randomly sampled quantizer gains with the achieved noise attenuation performance shaded.

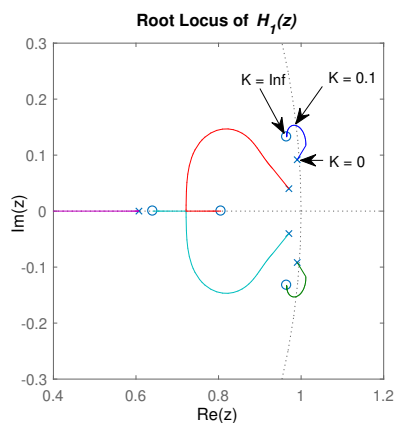


Fig. 6 A subset of the complex plane showing the root locus of the filter from Example 4.2 across quantizer gains.

is decreased and stability is increased, the empirical peak SQNR is reduced, to 63 dB with the minimum resolvable input amplitude at -53 dB FS. In comparison, a similar fourth-order, 32 OSR sigma delta modulator designed using the procedure described in [16] with the root locus stability criterion achieves a peak SQNR of 52 dB at the margin of full-scale input stability.

4.3 \mathcal{H}_2 Design

The \mathcal{H}_2 design technique is done by solving Problems 1 and 4. The former is for performance and uses Lemma 3.1 while the latter favours stability and uses Theorem 3.2. In this example, we designed a modulator for the same specifications as Example 4.1. One advantage of the \mathcal{H}_2 criterion is that there is a more systematic way to target a specific MSIA using the Gaussian PDF [25]. For a target MSIA of 0.46, the criterion was satisfied when $\|G_{er}(z)\|_2^2 < 2.246$. Using this constraint along with the performance optimization, the solver converged to the loop filter transfer function:

$$H_1(z) = \frac{(z - 0.932)(z^2 - 1.96z + 0.959)(z^2 - 1.99z + 0.995)}{(z - 0.374)(z^2 - 1.92z + 0.967)(z^2 - 1.66z + 0.797)}.$$

Computing the NTF gain for the optimum value of $K = 0.881$, we obtain $\|G_{er}(z)\|_2^2 = 2.16$, indicating that the 2-norm constraint was satisfied. Because this stability criteria is only an approximation (in this case, pessimistic), the empirical MSIA was considerably higher at 0.63. The peak SQNR was found to be 89 dB at an input amplitude of 0.56 FS. The minimum resolvable input amplitude was -98 dB FS. These measurements can be seen in Figure 7. These results compare closely to the NTF design method in [12, Fig. 5], which achieved around 90 dB peak SQNR and a very similar stability threshold for a design with equivalent specifications.

4.4 Guaranteed Stable ℓ_1 Design

In this example, we produced a modulator design that is mathematically guaranteed to be stable for a range of input amplitudes by solving Problems 1 and 5. As discussed in Section 3.3, the optimization target was an upper bound on the ℓ_1 norm, so there was some trial-and-error to find the \star -norm upper bound that produces the desired ℓ_1 norm bound. In this case, running the optimization problem with a \star -norm constraint of 4 resulted in $\|S(z)\|_1 = 2.36$ and a loop filter as follows:

$$H_1(z) = \frac{0.444(z^2 - 1.78z + 0.795)}{(z - 0.944)(z^2 - 1.945z + 0.955)}.$$

This design is guaranteed to be stable for input amplitudes up to 0.64 FS, but empirical stability is seen for the entire input range. The cost for

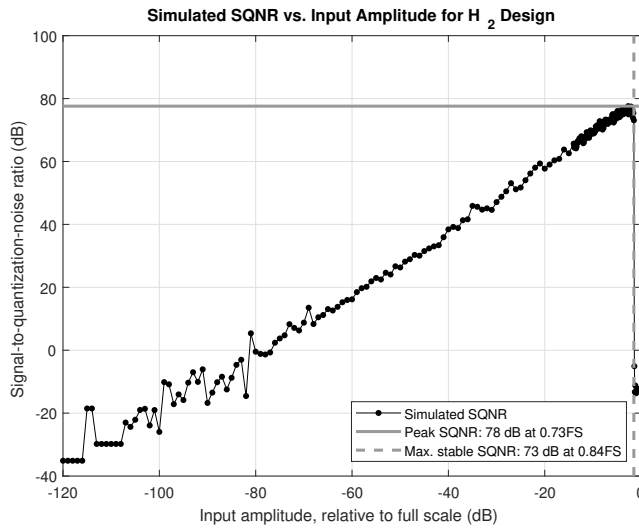


Fig. 7 An SQNR plot of 121 simulations of the design in Example 4.3 to an input sinusoid of frequency $3.46 \times 10^4 \text{ rad s}^{-1}$ and varying amplitude to investigate its conditional stability.

this stability was a decrease in performance: a peak SQNR of 62 dB and a minimum resolvable input amplitude of -40 dB FS . Note that similar to the case in Example 4.3, there are now 2 pole-zero cancellations in the final loop filter resulting in an order 3 transfer function. The NTF magnitude for this design can be seen in Figure 8 as well as its impulse response, the time-domain equivalent to the ℓ_1 norm.

4.5 A Continuous-Time Design

As a proof of concept, we designed a 3rd order continuous-time loop filter to the same specifications as the discrete-time examples above. In the absence of stability criteria that may be directly applied to continuous-time designs, we specified the following (somewhat arbitrary) constraints:

$$\min_{\omega \in [0, 2\pi \cdot 4.41 \times 10^5]} \|G_{er}(j\omega)\|_{\infty} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad (25)$$

$$\|G_{er}(j\omega)\|_{\infty} \leq 4 \text{ dB} \quad \forall \omega \quad (26)$$

$$\|G_{yr}(j\omega)\|_{\infty} \leq -10 \text{ dB} \quad \omega \in [2\pi \cdot 7.056 \times 10^5, \infty) \quad (27)$$

The constraint in (25) uses Problem 1 to minimize the in-band noise of the sensitivity function. The constraint in Equation 26 favours stability using Problem 1. Unlike discrete-time designs, there is no influence of the quantizer sampling frequency captured in the first two constraints. Thus, we introduced

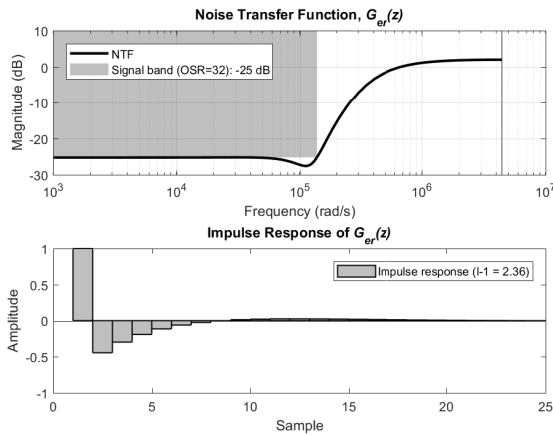


Fig. 8 Upper: The sensitivity function of the ℓ_1 norm design from Section 4.4 shows the signal band rejection has been diminished in order to provide mathematically guaranteed stability. Lower: the impulse response of the NTF has been minimized by the ℓ_1 norm criterion.

the constraint in Equation 27 to force high roll-off by reducing the complementary sensitivity function (STF) outside the signal band.

The optimization process converged on the loop filter transfer function:

$$\frac{1.11 \times 10^8 (s^2 + 3.25 \times 10^6 + 1.178 \times 10^{13})}{(s + 2.37 \times 10^8) (s^2 + 3.80 \times 10^4 + 3.94 \times 10^{10})},$$

for which the sensitivity and complementary sensitivity functions are shown in Figure 9 and the spectrum of the simulated quantizer output is shown in Figure 10.

5 Conclusion

In this paper, we introduce an optimization framework using the GKYP lemma for IIR loop filter design that is compatible with any stability constraints that can be defined in terms of \mathcal{H}_∞ , \mathcal{H}_2 , and ℓ_1 norms. We allow the robustness against the linearized quantizer gain to be controlled by forming a closed-loop system and extracting the uncertainty via LFT. Building on the work of [15], we expand the GKYP lemma expression to support arbitrary state-space systems. Finally, the procedure can be used to design continuous-time $\Sigma\Delta$ Ms. The design examples showcase how this procedure may be used with a wide range of stability criteria and is competitive with existing methods. The \mathcal{H}_2 design criteria produced a fourth-order loop filter with 89 dB SQNR and stability under inputs up to 0.63 FS in simulation. This method of design is a good balance because it retains performance while allowing stability to

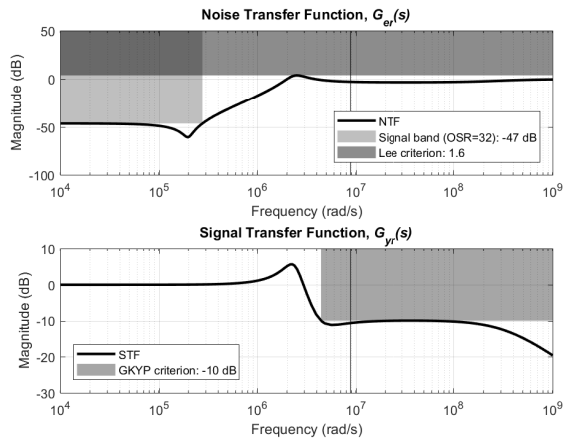


Fig. 9 Upper: the sensitivity function of the continuous-time design from Section 4.5. Lower: the complementary sensitivity function with a GKYP constraint to enforce sharp roll-off.

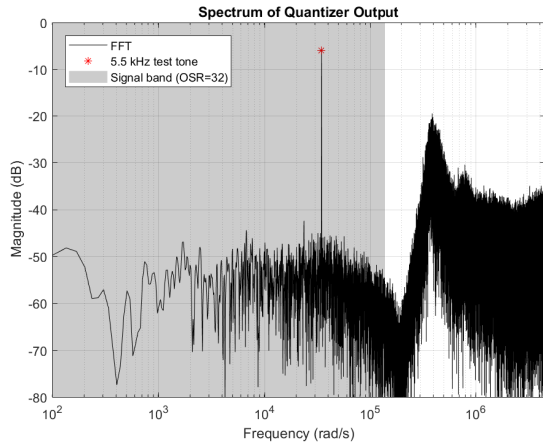


Fig. 10 The 14 000-point FFT of the quantizer output of the continuous-time design from Section 4.5 shows about 40 dB of noise shaping to a $3.46 \times 10^4 \text{ rad s}^{-1}$ input sinusoid with amplitude 0.5 FS.

be maintained in an intuitive way. While not a guarantee of stability like the ℓ_1 criterion, it relies on reasonable assumptions and is suited for high order, single-bit designs. The root locus method shares many of these properties, however, the \mathcal{H}_2 stability criterion had a more broad and well-behaved range of design targets that yielded respectable loop filters. Areas of future interest include a closer look into the termination criteria of the iterative procedure used to solve the semidefinite program, formalizing how each stability criteria

affects the resulting filter, using alternative performance criteria, and a better way of defining constraints for continuous-time designs.

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A Derivation of Matrix Inequalities with One Non-Convex Term

A.1 Derivation of GKYP Inequality with Arbitrary \mathcal{D}

Theorem A.1 Equation 6 from Section 3.1 is equivalent to the following:

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\Xi_{11} + aa^T & -\Xi_{12} + a & -C_q^T - a\mathcal{D}_{qp}^T \\ -\Xi_{12}^T + a^T & -\Xi_{22} + 1 & -\mathcal{D}_{qp}^T \\ -C_q - a^T\mathcal{D}_{qp} & -\mathcal{D}_{qp} & \gamma_\infty \end{bmatrix} \geq 0 \quad (28)$$

where (28) contains just one nonlinear term in variable a , and:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Xi_{11} & \Xi_{12} \\ \Xi_{12}^T & \Xi_{22} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix}^T (\Phi \oplus P_\gamma + \Psi \oplus Q_\gamma) \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T$$

$$P_\gamma = \gamma_\infty^{-1}P \quad Q_\gamma = \gamma_\infty^{-1}Q. \quad (29)$$

Proof Starting from (6), we follow the procedure mentioned in Section 3.4.2 to eliminate non-convex products in the first term of the QMI [15, Th. 1]:

$$- \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix}^T f(\Phi, \Psi, P, Q) \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T + \dots \geq 0 \quad (30)$$

and introduce the notation Ξ_{ij} for this linear part:

$$- \begin{bmatrix} \Xi_{11} & \Xi_{12} \\ \Xi_{12}^T & \Xi_{22} \end{bmatrix} + \dots \geq 0. \quad (31)$$

Equation 31 may undergo a congruent transformation by $\gamma_\infty^{-\frac{1}{2}}I$ introducing a commutable factor of γ_∞^{-1} to every element. For the first summation term, we absorb the factor with redefinition (36) yielding:

$$- \begin{bmatrix} \Xi_{11} & \Xi_{12} \\ \Xi_{12}^T & \Xi_{22} \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} C_q & \mathcal{D}_{qp} \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_\infty^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} C_q & \mathcal{D}_{qp} \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T \geq 0. \quad (32)$$

Multiplying the inner factors in the second term of (32) leads to:

$$- \begin{bmatrix} \Xi_{11} & \Xi_{12} \\ \Xi_{12}^T & \Xi_{22} \end{bmatrix}^T - \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_\infty^{-1}C_q^T C_q & \gamma_\infty^{-1}C_q^T \mathcal{D}_{qp} \\ \gamma_\infty^{-1}\mathcal{D}_{qp}^T C_q & \gamma_\infty^{-1}\mathcal{D}_{qp}^T \mathcal{D}_{qp} - 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T \geq 0$$

which can be expanded into:

$$- \begin{bmatrix} \Xi_{11} & \Xi_{12} \\ \Xi_{12}^T & \Xi_{22} \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & a\mathcal{D}_{qp}^T \\ 0 & \mathcal{D}_{qp}^T \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} C_q^T \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \gamma_\infty^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} C_q^T \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} I & a\mathcal{D}_{qp}^T \\ 0 & \mathcal{D}_{qp}^T \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T + \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T \geq 0. \quad (33)$$

The 3 outer factors multiplied with γ_∞^{-1} in the middle term of (33) are then combined together and the last summation term is also multiplied through, resulting in the following:

$$-\begin{bmatrix} \Xi_{11} & \Xi_{12} \\ \Xi_{12}^T & \Xi_{22} \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} C_q^T + aD_{qp}^T \\ D_{qp}^T \end{bmatrix} \gamma_\infty^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} C_q^T + aD_{qp}^T \\ D_{qp}^T \end{bmatrix}^T + \begin{bmatrix} aa^T & a \\ a^T & 1 \end{bmatrix} \geq 0. \quad (34)$$

The last summation term of (34) is then added with the linear part Ξ . Because $\gamma_\infty > 0 \leftrightarrow \gamma_\infty^{-1} > 0$, a Schur complement taken around γ_∞ allows (34) to be written as the single matrix inequality (28).

A.2 Derivation of \mathcal{H}_2 and ℓ_1 Inequalities

Theorem A.2 *Equations 10 from Section 3.2 and (17) from Section 3.3 are equivalent to the following:*

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\Xi_{11} + aa^T & -\Xi_{12} + a \\ -\Xi_{12}^T + a^T & -\Xi_{22} + 1 \end{bmatrix} > 0 \quad (35)$$

where (35) contains just one nonlinear term in variable a , and:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Xi_{11} & \Xi_{12} \\ \Xi_{12}^T & \Xi_{22} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix}^T f(\Phi, P_\gamma, \alpha) \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{A} & \mathcal{B}_p \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T$$

$$f(\Phi, P_\gamma, \alpha) = \begin{cases} \Phi \oplus P_\gamma & \text{for the } \mathcal{H}_2 \text{ case} \\ \left(\Phi + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha \end{bmatrix} \right) \oplus P_\gamma & \text{for the } \ell_1 \text{ case} \end{cases} \quad (36)$$

$$P_\gamma = \gamma_\infty^{-1} P. \quad (37)$$

Proof Starting from either (10) or (17), we follow the procedure mentioned in Section 3.4.3 to eliminate non-convex products in the first term of the QMI independent of $f(\Phi, P_\gamma, \alpha)$. The second summation term is the same in both QMIs and simplifies as shown in (24). Combining these results in the matrix inequality (35).