



## Brief paper

A region-dependent gain condition for asymptotic stability<sup>☆</sup>Humberto Stein Shiromoto<sup>a</sup>, Vincent Andrieu<sup>c,d</sup>, Christophe Prieur<sup>b</sup><sup>a</sup> INCAS3 Dr. Nassaulaan 9, 9401 HJ Assen, The Netherlands<sup>b</sup> GIPSA-lab, Grenoble Campus, 11 rue des Mathématiques, BP 46, 38402 Saint Martin d'Hères Cedex, France<sup>c</sup> LAGEP, Université de Lyon, Rue Victor Grignard, CPE, Bât. G, 69622 Villeurbanne, France<sup>d</sup> Fachbereich C - Mathematik und Naturwissenschaften, Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Gaußstraße 20, 42097 Wuppertal, Germany

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## ABSTRACT

A sufficient condition for the stability of a system resulting from the interconnection of dynamical systems is given by the small gain theorem. Roughly speaking, to apply this theorem, it is required that the gains composition is continuous, increasing and upper bounded by the identity function. In this work, an alternative sufficient condition is presented for the case in which this criterion fails due to either lack of continuity or the bound of the composed gain is larger than the identity function. More precisely, the local (resp. non-local) asymptotic stability of the origin (resp. global attractivity of a compact set) is ensured by a region-dependent small gain condition. Under an additional condition that implies convergence of solutions for almost all initial conditions in a suitable domain, the almost global asymptotic stability of the origin is ensured. Two examples illustrate and motivate this approach.

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## 1. Introduction

The use of nonlinear input–output gains for stability analysis was introduced in Zames (1966) by considering a system as an input–output operator. The condition that ensures stability, called Small Gain Theorem, of interconnected systems is based on the contraction principle.

The work (Sontag, 1989) introduces a new concept of gain relating the input to system states. This notion of stability links Zames' and Lyapunov's approaches (Sontag, 2001). Characterizations in terms of dissipation and Lyapunov functions are given in Sontag and Wang (1995).

In Jiang, Teel, and Praly (1994), the contraction principle is used in the input-to-state stability notion to obtain an equivalent Small Gain Theorem. A formulation of this criterion in terms of Lyapunov functions may be found in Jiang and Mareels (1996).

Besides stability analysis, the Small Gain Theorem may also be used for the design of dynamic feedback laws satisfying robustness constraints. The interested reader is invited to see Freeman and Kokotović (2008), Sastry (1999) and references therein. Other versions of the Small Gain theorem do exist in the literature, see Angeli and Astolfi (2007), Astolfi and Praly (2012), Ito (2006) and Ito and Jiang (2009) for not necessarily ISS systems.

In order to apply the Small Gain Theorem, it is required that the composition of the nonlinear gains is smaller than the argument for all of its positive values. Such a condition, called Small Gain Condition, restricts the application of the Small Gain Theorem to a composition of well chosen gains.

In this work, an alternative criterion for the stabilization of interconnected systems is provided when a single Small Gain Condition does not hold globally. It consists in showing that if the two conditions hold: (1) a local (resp. non-local) Small Gain Condition holds in a local (resp. non-local) region of the state space, and the intersection of the local and non-local is empty, and (2) outside the union of these regions, the set of initial conditions from which the associated trajectories do not converge to the local region has measure zero, then the resulting interconnected system is almost asymptotically stable (this notion is precisely defined below). In this paper, a sufficient condition guaranteeing this property to hold is presented. Moreover, for planar systems, an extension of Bendixson's criterion to regions which are not simply connected is given. This allows to obtain global asymptotic stability of the origin.

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This approach may be seen as a unification of two small gain conditions that hold in different regions: a local and a non-local. The use of a unifying approach for local and non-local properties is well known in the literature see [Andrieu and Prieur \(2010\)](#) in the context of control Lyapunov functions, see [Chaillat, Angeli, and Ito \(2012\)](#) when uniting iISS and ISS properties.

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, the system under consideration and the problem statement are presented. Section 3 states the assumptions to solve the problem under consideration and the main results. Section 4 presents examples that illustrate the assumptions and main results. In Section 5 the proofs of the main results are presented. Section 6 collects some concluding remarks.

**Notation.** Let  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ . Let  $\mathbf{S}$  be a subset of  $\mathbb{R}^k$  containing the origin, the notation  $\mathbf{S}_{\neq 0}$  stands for  $\mathbf{S} \setminus \{0\}$ . The closure of  $\mathbf{S}$  is denoted by  $\text{cl}\{\mathbf{S}\}$ . Let  $x \in \mathbb{R}^k$ , the notation  $|x|$  stands for Euclidean norm of  $x$ . An open (resp. closed) ball centered at  $x \in \mathbb{R}^k$  with radius  $r > 0$  is denoted by  $\mathbf{B}_{<r}(x)$  (resp.  $\mathbf{B}_{\leq r}(x)$ ). A continuous function  $f: \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is positive definite if, for every  $x \in \mathbb{R}^k \setminus \{0\}$ ,  $f(x) > 0$  and  $f(0) = 0$ . It is proper if  $|f(x)| \rightarrow \infty$ , as  $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ . By  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{loc}}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^k)$  the class of functions  $\eta: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$  that are locally essentially bounded. By  $\mathcal{C}^s$  it is denoted the class of  $s$ -times continuously differentiable functions, by  $\mathcal{P}$  it is denoted the class of positive definite functions, by  $\mathcal{K}$  it is denoted the class of continuous, positive definite and strictly increasing functions  $\gamma: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ ; it is denoted by  $\mathcal{K}_{\infty}$  if, in addition, they are unbounded. Let  $c \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ , the notation  $\Omega_{\diamond c}(f)$  stands for the subset of  $\mathbb{R}^k$  defined by  $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^k: f(x) \diamond c\}$ , where  $\diamond$  is a comparison operator (i.e.,  $=, <, \geq$  etc). The support of the function  $f$  is the set  $\text{supp} := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^k: f(x) \neq 0\}$ . By  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{loc}}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}, \mathbb{R}^k)$  it is denoted the class of functions  $g: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$  that are locally essentially bounded. Let  $x, \bar{x} \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ , the notation  $x \nearrow \bar{x}$  (resp.  $x \searrow \bar{x}$ ) stands for  $x \rightarrow \bar{x}$  with  $x < \bar{x}$  (resp.  $x > \bar{x}$ ).

## 2. Background and problem statement

Consider the system

$$\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), u(t)), \quad (1)$$

where, for every  $t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ ,  $x(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , and  $u \in \mathcal{L}_{\text{loc}}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}, \mathbb{R}^m)$ , for some positive integers  $n$  and  $m$ . Also,  $f \in \mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{R}^{n+m}, \mathbb{R}^n)$ . A solution of (1) with initial condition  $x$ , and input  $u$  at time  $t$  is denoted by  $X(t, x, u)$ . From now on, arguments  $t$  will be omitted, and assume that the origin is input-to-state stable (ISS for short) for (1). For further details on this concept, the interested reader is invited to consult [Sontag \(2001\)](#) or [Sontag and Wang \(1996\)](#).

A locally Lipschitz function  $V: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  for which there exist  $\alpha_x, \bar{\alpha}_x \in \mathcal{K}_{\infty}$  such that, for every  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\alpha_x(|x|) \leq V(x) \leq \bar{\alpha}_x(|x|)$  is called storage function.

Inspired by [Dashkovskiy, Ruffer, and Wirth \(2010\)](#) and [Liberzon, Nešić, and Teel \(2014\)](#), the following notion of derivative will be used.

**Definition 1.** Consider the function  $\xi: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , the limit at  $t \in [a, b]$

$$D^+ \xi(t) = \limsup_{\tau \searrow 0} \frac{\xi(t+\tau) - \xi(t)}{\tau}$$

(if it exists) is called Dini derivative. Let  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  be positive integers,  $(y_1, y_2) \in \mathbb{R}^{k_1} \times \mathbb{R}^{k_2}$ , functions  $\varphi: \mathbb{R}^{k_1+k_2} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $h_1: \mathbb{R}^{k_1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{k_1}$  and  $h_2: \mathbb{R}^{k_2} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{k_2}$ . The limit

$$D_{h_1, h_2}^+ \varphi(y_1, y_2) = \limsup_{\tau \searrow 0} \frac{\varphi(y_1 + \tau h_1(y_1), y_2 + \tau h_2(y_2)) - \varphi(y_1, y_2)}{\tau}$$

(if it exists) is called Dini derivative of  $\varphi$  in the  $h_1$  and  $h_2$ -directions at  $(y_1, y_2)$ .<sup>1</sup> ◁

<sup>1</sup> When the Dini derivative is taken in only one direction, the subscript denotes only such a direction.

If, for a given storage function  $V$ , there exist a proper function  $\lambda_x \in (\mathcal{C}^0 \cap \mathcal{P})(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$ , and  $\alpha_x \in \mathcal{K}_{\infty}$  called ISS-Lyapunov gain such that, for every  $(x, u) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m$ ,

$$|x| \geq \alpha_x(|u|) \Rightarrow D_f^+ V(x, u) \leq -\lambda_x(x), \quad (2)$$

then  $V$  is called ISS-Lyapunov function for (1). As in [Dashkovskiy et al. \(2010\)](#), the proof that the existence of an ISS-Lyapunov implies that (1) is ISS goes along the lines presented in [Sontag and Wang \(1995\)](#).

Consider the system<sup>2</sup>

$$\dot{z} = g(v, z), \quad (3)$$

where  $v \in \mathcal{L}_{\text{loc}}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}, \mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $z \in \mathbb{R}^m$ , and  $g \in \mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{R}^{n+m}, \mathbb{R}^m)$ . From now on, assume that  $W: \mathbb{R}^{n+m} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  is an ISS-Lyapunov function for (3) with  $\lambda_z \in (\mathcal{C}^0 \cap \mathcal{P})(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$ , and  $\alpha_z \in \mathcal{K}_{\infty}$  satisfying, for every  $(v, z) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+m}$ ,

$$W(z) \geq \alpha_z(|v|) \Rightarrow D_g^+ W(v, z) \leq -\lambda_z(z). \quad (4)$$

**System under consideration.** Interconnecting systems (1) and (3) yields the system

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x} = f(x, z), \\ \dot{z} = g(x, z). \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

Using the vectorial notation  $y = (x, z)$ , system (5) is denoted by  $\dot{y} = h(y)$ . A solution initiated from  $y$  in  $\mathbb{R}^{n+m}$  and evaluated at time  $t$  is denoted  $Y(t, y)$ . The two ISS-Lyapunov inequalities (2) and (4) can be rephrased as follows. For every couple  $(x, z) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+m}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} V(x) \geq \gamma(W(z)) &\Rightarrow D_f^+ V(x, z) \leq -\lambda_x(x), \\ W(z) \geq \delta(V(x)) &\Rightarrow D_g^+ W(x, z) \leq -\lambda_z(z) \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

with suitable functions  $\gamma, \delta \in \mathcal{K}_{\infty}$ .

A sufficient condition that ensures the stability of (5) is given by the small gain theorem ([Jiang & Mareels, 1996](#)). Roughly speaking if,

$$\forall s \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}, \quad \gamma \circ \delta(s) < s, \quad (7)$$

then the origin is globally asymptotically stable for (5).

**Problem statement.** At this point, it is possible to explain the problem under consideration. ISS systems for which (7) does not hold in a bounded set of  $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  are considered. This paper shows that by merging small gain arguments in different regions of the state space and employing some tools from measure theory, a sufficient condition ensuring almost global asymptotic stability of the origin is possible to be given. For planar interconnected systems, by using an extension of Bendixon's criterion, global asymptotic stability of the origin may be established.

## 3. Assumptions and main results

**Assumption 1.** There exist constant values  $0 \leq \underline{M} < \overline{M} \leq \infty$  and  $0 \leq \underline{N} < \overline{N} \leq \infty$ , and class  $\mathcal{K}_{\infty}$  functions  $\gamma$  and  $\delta$  such that, for every  $(x, z) \in \mathbf{S} \subset \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m$ , the implications

$$V(x) \geq \gamma(W(z)) \Rightarrow D_f^+ V(x, z) \leq -\lambda_x(x) \quad (8)$$

$$W(z) \geq \delta(V(x)) \Rightarrow D_g^+ W(x, z) \leq -\lambda_z(z) \quad (9)$$

hold, where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{S} := \{ &(x, z) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m : \underline{M} \leq V(x) \leq \overline{M}, \\ &W(z) \leq \overline{N} \} \cup \{ (x, z) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m : \\ &V(x) \leq \overline{M}, \underline{N} \leq W(z) \leq \overline{N} \}, \quad \triangleleft \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

<sup>2</sup> A solution of (3) with initial condition  $z$ , and input  $v$  at time  $t$  is denoted by  $Z(t, z, v)$ .

In other words, Assumption 1 states that the set  $\Omega_{\leq \bar{M}}(V) \times \Omega_{\leq \bar{N}}(W)$  is locally ISS for the  $x$  and  $z$ -subsystems of (5). To see more details on locally ISS systems, the interested reader may consult Dashkovskiy and Ruffer (2010).

**Assumption 2.**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{if } \bar{M} < \infty, \quad s \in [\underline{M}, \bar{M}] \setminus \{0\}, \quad \gamma \circ \delta(s) < s, \\ \text{if } \bar{M} = \infty, \quad s \in [\underline{M}, \bar{M}] \setminus \{0\}, \quad \gamma \circ \delta(s) < s. \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

Assumption 2 states that the small gain condition holds in the interval corresponding to the value of  $V$ , when  $x$  is restricted to  $\mathbf{S}$ .

**Proposition 1.** Under Assumptions 1 and 2, if

$$\tilde{M} := \max\{\gamma^{-1}(\underline{M}), \underline{N}\} < \min\{\delta(\bar{M}), \bar{N}\} =: \hat{M}, \quad (12)$$

then there exists a proper function  $U \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^{n+m}, \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$  that is locally Lipschitz on  $\mathbb{R}^{n+m} \setminus \{0\}$  and such that,

$$\forall y \in \Omega_{\leq \hat{M}}(U) \setminus \Omega_{\leq \tilde{M}}(U), \quad \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} U(Y(t, y)) \leq \tilde{M}.$$

Moreover, if  $\gamma, \delta \in (\mathcal{C}^1 \cap \mathcal{K}_{\infty})$ , then a suitable  $U$  can be defined, for every  $(x, z) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m$ , by

$$U(x, z) = \max \left\{ \frac{\delta(V(x)) + \gamma^{-1}(W(z))}{2}, W(z) \right\}. \quad (13)$$

Condition (12) implies that  $\Omega_{\leq \tilde{M}}(U) \subsetneq \Omega_{\leq \hat{M}}(U)$ . Proposition 1 states that solutions of (5) starting in  $\Omega_{\leq \tilde{M}}(U)$  will converge to the set  $\Omega_{\leq \tilde{M}}(U)$ . The proof of Proposition 1 is provided in Section 5.1.

**Corollary 1 (Local Stabilization).** Consider Assumptions 1 and 2 with the constant values  $\underline{M} = \underline{N} = 0, M_{\ell} := \bar{M} < \infty$  or  $N_{\ell} := \bar{N} < \infty$ . The set  $\Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_{\ell}}(U_{\ell})$  is included in the basin of attraction of the origin of (5), where  $U_{\ell}$  and  $\hat{M}_{\ell}$  are given by Proposition 1.

In other words, Corollary 1 states that the set  $\Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_{\ell}}(U_{\ell})$  is an estimation of the set of initial conditions from which issuing solution of (5) remains close and converges to the origin.

Before stating the second corollary, some concepts regarding the asymptotic behavior of solutions are recalled. A set  $\mathbf{M} \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+m}$  is said to be positively invariant with respect to (5) if, for every  $t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}, y \in \mathbf{M} \Rightarrow Y(t, y) \in \mathbf{M}$  (cf. Khalil (2001, p. 127)). A compact positively invariant set  $\mathbf{M} \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+m}$  is said to be globally attractive if, for all  $y \in \mathbb{R}^{n+m}, \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |Y(t, y)|_{\mathbf{M}} = 0$ .

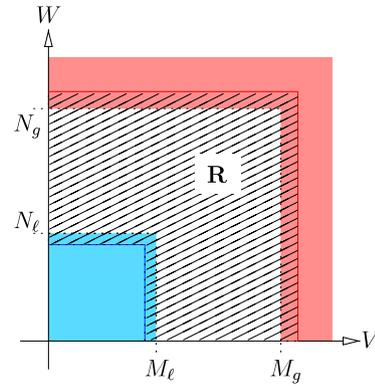
**Corollary 2 (Global Attractivity).** Consider Assumptions 1 and 2 with the constant values  $M_g := \underline{M} > 0$  or  $N_g := \underline{N} > 0$ , and  $\bar{M} = \bar{N} = \infty$ . The set  $\Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_g}(U_g)$  is globally attractive for (5), where  $U_g$  and  $\hat{M}_g$  are given by Proposition 1.

In other words, Corollary 2 states that the set  $\Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_g}(U_g)$  is an estimation of the global attractor of (5).

The proofs of Corollaries 1 and 2 are not provided and follow from Proposition 1. The interested reader may also consult Dashkovskiy and Ruffer (2010) and Dashkovskiy et al. (2010).

Under the assumptions of Corollaries 1 and 2, if the estimation of the global attractor  $\Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_g}(U_g)$  is contained in the estimation of the basin of attraction  $\Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_{\ell}}(U_{\ell})$ , then global asymptotic stability of the origin for (5) follows trivially. However, when this inclusion does not hold, the set  $\mathbf{R} = \Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_g}(U_g) \setminus \Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_{\ell}}(U_{\ell})$  is not empty, and solutions of (5) may converge to positively invariant sets contained in  $\mathbf{R}$  instead (cf. Birkhoff's Theorem (Isidori, 1995)). Fig. 1 illustrates the region  $\mathbf{R}$  obtained in this situation.

The next result provides sufficient conditions ensuring that, for almost every initial condition, issuing solutions remain close and



**Fig. 1.** Illustration of sets  $\Omega_{\leq M_{\ell}}(V) \times \Omega_{\leq N_{\ell}}(W)$  (blue region),  $\Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_{\ell}}(U_{\ell})$  (dark blue line),  $\Omega_{\geq \underline{M}}(V) \times \Omega_{\geq \underline{N}}(W)$  (pink region),  $\Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_g}(U_g)$  (red line), and  $\mathbf{R} = \text{cl}\{\Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_g}(U_g) \setminus \Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_{\ell}}(U_{\ell})\}$  (pattern filled). (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

converge to the origin. For the case in which (5) is planar, global asymptotic stability of the origin is established.

Before stating the main results, the concept of stability introduced in Angeli (2004) is presented. The origin is called almost globally asymptotically stable for (5) if it is locally stable in the Lyapunov sense and attractive for almost every initial condition. More precisely, there exists  $\mathfrak{N} \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+m}, \mu(\mathfrak{N}) = 0$  such that, for every  $y \in \mathbb{R}^{n+m} \setminus \mathfrak{N}, \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |Y(t, y)| = 0$ , where  $\mu$  is the Lebesgue measure.

**Theorem 1.** Under Assumptions 1 and 2, if the constant values of Corollaries 1 and 2 are such that  $M_{\ell} < M_g$  or  $N_{\ell} < N_g$ , there exists a function  $\rho \in \mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{R}^{n+m} \setminus \{0\}, \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$  with  $\text{supp}(\rho) \supseteq \mathbf{R}$ , where  $\mathbf{R} = \text{cl}\{\Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_g}(U_g) \setminus \Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_{\ell}}(U_{\ell})\}$ , and if for every  $y \in \mathbf{R}, \text{div}(h\rho)(y) > 0$ , then the origin is almost globally asymptotically stable for (5).

In other words, Theorem 1 states that with an extra assumption on the vector field of system (4), solutions converge to the origin for almost every initial condition and the origin is locally asymptotically stable. The proof of Theorem 1 is provided in Section 5.2.

**Theorem 2.** Let  $n = m = 1$ . Under Assumptions 1 and 2, if the constant values of Corollaries 1 and 2 are such that  $M_{\ell} < M_g$  or  $N_{\ell} < N_g$ , and for every  $y \in \mathbf{R} = \text{cl}\{\Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_g}(U_g) \setminus \Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_{\ell}}(U_{\ell})\}, \text{div } h(y) \neq 0$  and  $h(y) \neq 0$ , then the origin is globally asymptotically stable for (5).

Theorem 2 states that, when (5) is planar and under mild conditions on the vector field, the origin is globally asymptotically stable for (5). In other words, no  $\omega$ -limit sets exist in  $\mathbf{R}$ . The proof of Theorem 2 is provided in Section 5.3.

**4. Illustration**

Here, the results given in the previous section are illustrated in two examples. The first concerns the vectorial case, while the second concerns the planar case.

**4.1. A class of systems satisfying an asymptotic small-gain condition**

Recall system (5), and assume that there exist locally Lipschitz and proper functions  $V \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$  and  $W \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$  satisfying,<sup>3</sup> for every  $(x, z) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m$ ,

$$\begin{cases} D_f^+ V(x, z) \leq -V(x) + \gamma(W(z)), \\ D_g^+ W(x, z) \leq -W(z) + \delta(V(x)), \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

<sup>3</sup> From Remark 2.4 of Sontag and Wang (1995) Eq. (14) is equivalent to (6).

where  $\gamma, \delta \in \mathcal{K}_\infty$  are such that<sup>4</sup>

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \frac{\gamma \circ \delta(s)}{s} < 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\gamma \circ \delta(s)}{s} < 1. \quad (15)$$

In other words, the composition  $\gamma \circ \delta$  satisfies the small-gain condition in the bi-limit: 0 and  $\infty$ . Note that to apply Astolfi and Praly (2012) it would be necessary to impose that, for every  $b_1, b_2 \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ , and for some  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $\gamma(b_1)\delta(b_2) \leq (1 - \varepsilon)b_1b_2$ .

From (15), there exists a positive constant  $M_\ell$  (resp.  $M_g$ ) that is sufficiently small (resp. large) and such that, for every  $s \in (0, M_\ell]$  (resp.  $s \in [M_g, \infty)$ ),  $\gamma \circ \delta(s) < s$ . Together with (14) and since  $W$  is continuous and proper, Assumptions 1 and 2 hold locally on the compact set  $\Omega_{\leq M_\ell}(V) \times \Omega_{\leq N_\ell}(W)$  (resp. non-locally on the set  $\Omega_{\geq M_g}(V) \times \Omega_{\geq N_g}(W)$ ).

Since condition Eq. (12) is satisfied, as formulated in Corollary 1 (resp. 2), from this result the set  $\Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell) \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+m}$  (resp.  $\Omega_{\leq \tilde{M}_g}(U_g) \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+m}$ ) is an estimation of the basin of attraction of the origin (resp. global attractor) of (17). Also,  $\Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell) \subset \Omega_{\leq \tilde{M}_g}(U_g)$ .

Let<sup>5</sup>

$$\begin{cases} r_V(x, z) := -V(x) + \gamma(W(z)), \\ r_W(x, z) := -W(z) + \delta(V(x)). \end{cases}$$

For any  $(x, z)$  belonging to the sets  $\Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell)$  and  $\Omega_{\geq \tilde{M}_g}(U_g) \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+m}$  either

1.  $r_V(x, z) \geq 0$  and  $r_W(x, z) \leq 0$  or;
2.  $r_V(x, z) \leq 0$  and  $r_W(x, z) \geq 0$  or;
3.  $r_V(x, z) \leq 0$  and  $r_W(x, z) \leq 0$ .

While in the compact set  $\mathbf{R} = \Omega_{\leq \tilde{M}_g}(U_g) \setminus \Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell)$ , it may happen that  $r_V(x, z) \geq 0$  and  $r_V(x, z) \geq 0$ . In this case, the result given in Angeli and Astolfi (2007) cannot be applied, because it requires that the union of the regions described by items 1–3 forms a cover of  $\mathbb{R}^{n+m}$ .

Note that in contrast to Ito (2006), the existence of a Lyapunov function candidate for the system (5) whose derivative is definite negative on  $\mathbb{R}^{n+m}$  is not requested.

Let, for every  $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+m}$ ,  $\rho(x, y) = (V(x) + W(z))^{-1}$ , and assume that for every  $(x, z) \in \mathbf{R}$ ,

$$(\operatorname{div} h(x, z))(V(x) + W(z)) \geq \gamma(W(z)) + \delta(V(x)). \quad (16)$$

In such a compact set, note that

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{div}(h\rho)(x, z) &= \rho(x, z)\operatorname{div} h(x, z) + \operatorname{grad}\rho(x, z) \cdot h(x, z) \\ &= \frac{\operatorname{div} h(x, z)}{V(x) + W(z)} - \frac{D_f^+ V(x, z) + D_g^+ W(x, z)}{(V(x) + W(z))^2} \\ &\geq \frac{\operatorname{div} h(x, z) + 1}{V(x) + W(z)} - \frac{\gamma(W(z)) + \delta(V(x))}{(V(x) + W(z))^2} \\ &> 0, \end{aligned}$$

where the first inequality is due to (14): for every  $(x, z) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m$ ,  $-D_f^+ V(x, z) - D_g^+ W(x, z) \geq V(x) - \gamma(W(z)) + W(z) - \delta(V(x))$ ,

and last inequality is due to (16).

From Theorem 1, the origin is almost globally asymptotically stable for the system (5), as stated below.

**Proposition 2.** Assume that there exist ISS-Lyapunov functions for the sub-systems of (5) with ISS-Lyapunov gains satisfying (15), assume moreover that (16) holds, then the origin is almost globally asymptotically stable for system (5).

<sup>4</sup> Note that, in contrast to Astolfi and Praly (2012), Ito (2006) and Ito and Jiang (2009), no information is given about the behavior of the function  $s \mapsto \gamma \circ \delta(s)$ , in the interval  $(0, \infty)$ .

<sup>5</sup> Note that, in contrast to Angeli and Astolfi (2007), here it is not assumed that  $\Omega_{\geq \tilde{M}_g}(U_g) \cup \Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell) = \mathbb{R}^{n+m}$ .

## 4.2. The planar case

Consider the system

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x} = f(x, z) = -1.5x + 2p(z), \\ \dot{z} = g(x, z) = -z + \sin(x^2/10), \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

where, for every  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $p(s) := s^3/3 - 3s^2/2 + 2s$ .

Let, for every  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  (resp.  $z \in \mathbb{R}$ ),  $V(x) = |x|$  (resp.  $W(z) = |z|$ ). Taking its Lie derivative in the  $f$ -direction yields, for every  $(x, z) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ ,

$$D_f^+ V(x, z) \leq -1.5V(x) + 2|p(W(z))|. \quad (18)$$

Define, for every  $s \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ ,  $\gamma(s) = \max\{1.3|p(r)| : 0 \leq r \leq s\}$ . From (18),

$$V(x) \geq \gamma(W(z)) \Rightarrow D_f^+ V(x, z) \leq -\lambda_x(x) \quad (19)$$

holds with a suitable  $\lambda_x \in (\mathcal{C}^0 \cap \mathcal{P})(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$ . The Lie derivative of  $W$  in the  $g$ -direction yields, for every  $(x, z) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ ,

$$D_g^+ W(x, z) \leq -W(z) + \left| \sin\left(\frac{V(x)^2}{10}\right) \right|$$

which can be rephrased as follows:

$$W(z) \geq \delta(V(x)) \Rightarrow D_g^+ W(x, z) \leq -\lambda_z(z)$$

with a suitable  $\lambda_z \in (\mathcal{C}^0 \cap \mathcal{P})(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$ , where  $\delta(s) = \max\{|\sin(r^2/10)| : 0 \leq r \leq s\}$ .

The composition of the function  $\gamma$  and  $\delta$  yields

$$\gamma \circ \delta(s) = \max \left\{ 1.3|p(r)| : 0 \leq r \leq \max_{0 \leq a \leq s} \left\{ \left| \sin\left(\frac{a^2}{10}\right) \right| \right\} \right\}.$$

Note that there exist values  $\bar{s} > 0$  for which  $\gamma \circ \delta(\bar{s}) = 1.11$ . Also,

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \frac{\gamma \circ \delta(s)}{s} < 1, \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\gamma \circ \delta(s)}{s} < 1. \quad (20)$$

From (20), and following the reasoning of the previous example, there exists  $M_\ell > 0$  small (resp.  $M_g > 0$  large) enough such that, for every  $s \in (0, M_\ell]$  (resp.  $s \in [M_g, \infty)$ ),  $\gamma \circ \delta(s) < s$ . Also, there exist<sup>6</sup>  $\gamma_\ell, \delta_\ell \in \mathcal{K}_\infty$  (resp.<sup>7</sup>  $\gamma_g \in \mathcal{K}$  and  $\delta_g \in \mathcal{K}_\infty$ ) satisfying, for every  $s \in [0, M_\ell]$  (resp.  $s \in [M_g, \infty)$ ),  $\gamma_\ell(s) = \gamma(s)$  and  $\gamma_\ell(s) = \gamma(s)$  (resp.  $\gamma_g(s) = \gamma(s)$  and  $\delta_g(s) = \delta(s)$ ). Thus, analogously to the reasoning of the previous example, Assumptions 1 and 2 hold locally on the compact set  $\Omega_{\leq M_\ell}(V) \times \Omega_{\leq N_\ell}(W)$  (resp. non-locally on the set  $\Omega_{\geq M_g}(V) \times \Omega_{\geq N_g}(W)$ ).

Since condition Eq. (12) is satisfied, as formulated in Corollary 1 (resp. 2), from this result the set  $\Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell) \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+m}$  (resp.  $\Omega_{\leq \tilde{M}_g}(U_g) \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+m}$ ) is estimation of the basin of attraction of the origin (resp. global attractor) of (17). Also,  $\Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell) \subset \Omega_{\leq \tilde{M}_g}(U_g)$ .

It now remains to check whether there exist  $\omega$ -limit sets in  $\mathbf{R} = \Omega_{\leq \tilde{M}_g}(U_g) \setminus \Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell)$ . Since

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x, z) + \frac{\partial g}{\partial z}(x, z) \equiv -2.5 \quad \text{and}$$

$$f(x, z) = 0 = g(x, z) \Leftrightarrow (x, z) = (0, 0),$$

from Theorem 2 the origin is globally asymptotically stable for (17).

## 5. Proofs

### 5.1. Proof of Proposition 1

**Proof.** The proof of Proposition 1 is based on the proof of Jiang and Mareels (1996, Theorem 3.1). Here, it is divided into 3 parts. Firstly, the function  $\sigma \in \mathcal{K}_\infty \cap \mathcal{C}^1$  is obtained. In the second

<sup>6</sup> Recall that  $\gamma$  and  $\delta$  are continuous positive definite functions. Thus, they are strictly increasing in a neighborhood of the origin. Note also that  $\gamma$  is proper.

<sup>7</sup> Although  $\gamma_g$  is of class  $\mathcal{K}$ , the result of Proposition 1 is still applicable. The main difference in this case would be the construction of the function  $\sigma \in \mathcal{C}^1 \cap \mathcal{K}_\infty$  satisfying (21). The interested reader may consult Jiang and Mareels (1996) to check how this is done.

part, the Dini derivative of a locally Lipschitz and proper function  $U \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^{n+m}, \mathbb{R}_{>0})$  is shown to be decreasing in the set  $\mathbf{S}$  defined in (10). In the third part, solutions of (5) starting in  $\Omega_{\leq \widehat{M}}(U) \setminus \Omega_{\leq \widetilde{M}}(U)$  are shown to converge to  $\Omega_{\leq \widetilde{M}}(U)$ .

FIRST PART. Under Assumptions 1 and 2, the function  $\gamma$  being of class  $\mathcal{K}_\infty$  satisfies, for every  $s \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ ,  $\delta(s) < \gamma^{-1}(s)$ . Together with the fact that  $\delta$  is of class  $\mathcal{K}_\infty$ , from Jiang and Mareels (1996, Lemma A.1), there exists  $\sigma \in \mathcal{K}_\infty \cap \mathcal{C}^1$  whose derivative is strictly positive and satisfies,

$$\forall s \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}, \quad \delta(s) < \sigma(s) < \gamma^{-1}(s). \tag{21}$$

SECOND PART. Define, for every  $(x, z) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m$ ,  $U(x, z) = \max\{\sigma(V(x)), W(z)\}$ . Note that  $U \in (\mathcal{C}^0 \cap \mathcal{P})(\mathbb{R}^{n+m}, \mathbb{R}_{>0})$  is a proper function. Pick  $(x, z) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m$ , one of three cases is possible:  $\sigma(V(x)) < W(z)$ ,  $W(z) < \sigma(V(x))$  or  $W(z) = \sigma(V(x))$ . The proof follows by showing that the Dini derivative of  $U$  is negative definite. For each case, assume that  $(x, z) \in \mathbf{S}_{\neq 0} := \mathbf{S} \setminus \{(0, 0)\}$ , where  $\mathbf{S}$  is defined in (10).

Case 1. Assume that  $\sigma(V(x)) < W(z)$ . This implies that  $U(x, z) = W(z)$  and  $D_{f,g}^+ U(x, z) = D_g^+ W(x, z)$ . From (21),  $\delta(V(x)) < \sigma(V(x)) < W(z)$ . Since  $(x, z) \in \mathbf{S}_{\neq 0}$ , the inequality  $D_g^+ W(x, z) \leq -\lambda_z(z)$  follows from (9). Thus,  $W(z) > \sigma(V(x)) \Rightarrow D_{f,g}^+ U(x, z) \leq -\lambda_z(z)$ .

Case 2. Assume that  $W(z) < \sigma(V(x))$ . This implies that  $U(x, z) = \sigma(V(x))$  and  $D_{f,g}^+ U(x, z) = \sigma'(V(x))D_f^+ V(x, z)$ . Since  $(x, z) \in \mathbf{S}_{\neq 0}$ , and from (21),

$$W(z) < \sigma(V(x)) < \gamma^{-1}(V(x)). \tag{22}$$

From (8), the inequality  $D_f^+ V(x, z) \leq -\lambda_x(x)$  holds.

Case 3. Assume that  $W(z) = \sigma(V(x))$ . Let  $U^*(x, z) := W(z) = \sigma(V(x))$ . This implies

$$\begin{aligned} D_{f,g}^+ U^*(x, z) &= \limsup_{t \searrow 0} \frac{1}{t} [\max\{\sigma(V(X(t, x, z))), \\ &\quad W(Z(t, z, x))\} - U^*(x, z)] \\ &= \limsup_{t \searrow 0} \max \left\{ \frac{\sigma(V(X(t, x, z))) - \sigma(V(x))}{t}, \frac{W(Z(t, z, x)) - W(z)}{t} \right\} \\ &= \max\{\sigma'(V(x))D_f^+ V(x, z), D_g^+ W(x, z)\}. \end{aligned}$$

The analysis of  $D_{f,g}^+ U^*$  is divided into two sub cases. In the first one, the function  $D_g^+ W$  is analyzed while in the last the function  $D_f^+ V$  is analyzed.

Case 3.a. The analysis of  $D_g^+ W$ . From (21), and the fact that  $x \neq 0$  and  $z \neq 0$ , the inequality  $\delta(V(x)) < \sigma(V(x)) = W(z)$  holds. Moreover since  $(x, z) \in \mathbf{S}_{\neq 0}$ , the inequality  $D_g^+ W(x, z) \leq -\lambda_z(z)$  follows from (9).

Case 3.b. The analysis of  $D_f^+ V$ . From (21), and the fact that  $x \neq 0$  and  $z \neq 0$ , the inequality  $W(z) = \sigma(V(x)) < \gamma^{-1}(V(x))$  holds. Moreover, since  $(x, z) \in \mathbf{S}_{\neq 0}$ , the inequality  $D_f^+ V(x, z) \leq -\lambda_x(x)$  follows from (8).

Summing up Case 3,  $0 \neq W(z) = \sigma(V(x)) \Rightarrow D_{f,g}^+ U^*(x, z) \leq -\min\{\sigma'(V(x))\lambda_x(x), \lambda_z(z)\}$ .

**Claim 1.** *There exists  $c > 0$  such that  $\Omega_{\leq c}(U) \subset \Omega_{\leq \widetilde{M}}(V) \times \Omega_{\leq \widetilde{N}}(W)$ . Moreover, the constants  $\widetilde{M}$  and  $\widetilde{N}$  are such that*

$$\begin{aligned} (\Omega_{\leq \widetilde{M}}(V) \times \Omega_{\leq \widetilde{N}}(W)) &\subset \Omega_{\leq \widetilde{M}}(U) \subset \Omega_{\leq \widehat{M}}(U) \\ &\subset (\Omega_{\leq \widetilde{M}}(V) \times \Omega_{\leq \widetilde{N}}(W)). \end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

The proof of Claim 1 is provided in Section 5.4.

From the above case study and (23),

$$\widetilde{M} \leq U(x, z) \leq \widehat{M} \Rightarrow D_{f,g}^+ U(x, z) \leq -E(x, z), \tag{24}$$

where  $E \in (\mathcal{C}^0 \cap \mathcal{P})(\mathbb{R}^{n+m}, \mathbb{R})$  is the proper function defined, for every  $(x, z) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m$ , by  $E(x, z) = \min\{\sigma'(V(x))\lambda_x(x), \lambda_z(z)\}$ .

THIRD PART. The local Lipschitz property of  $U$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \setminus \{(0, 0)\}$  is due to the fact that  $\sigma(V(\cdot))$  (resp.  $W(\cdot)$ ) is locally Lipschitz on  $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$  (resp.  $\mathbb{R}^m$ ).

From Rouche, Habets, and Laloy (1977, Theorem 4.3) and (24), for all  $(x, z) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m$ , and all  $t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ , along solutions of (5),  $D^+ U(X(t, x, z), Z(t, z, x)) = D_{f,g}^+ U(X(t, x, z), Z(t, z, x))$ .

Since solutions of (5) are absolutely continuous functions and the right hand side of  $E$  is a continuous and positive definite function, from Rouche et al. (1977, Remark 4.4.b), for every  $(x, z)$  such that  $\widetilde{M} \leq U(x, z) \leq \widehat{M}$ , and all  $t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ , the function

$$t \mapsto U(X(t, x, z), Z(t, z, x)) \tag{25}$$

is strictly decreasing and satisfies

$$U^\infty := \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} U(X(t, x, z), Z(t, z, x)) \leq \widetilde{M}.$$

To see this claim suppose, for purposes of contradiction, that  $U^\infty > \widetilde{M}$ . From the continuity of  $U$ , there exists  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that  $U^\infty - \varepsilon > \widetilde{M}$  and  $U^\infty - \varepsilon \leq U(x, z) \leq U^\infty + \varepsilon$ . Since  $U$  is proper, the constant  $\xi = \min\{E(x, z)\} > 0 : U^\infty - \varepsilon \leq U(x, z) \leq U^\infty + \varepsilon\}$  exists. Recalling the definition of  $U$ , there exists  $T > 0$  such that, for all  $t \geq T$ ,  $U(X(t, x, z), Z(t, z, x)) - U^\infty < \varepsilon$ . Moreover, from the definition of the constant  $\xi$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} U(X(t, x, z), Z(t, z, x)) - U(X(T, x, z), Z(T, z, x)) \\ = \int_T^t D^+ U(X(s, x, z), Z(s, z, x)) ds \leq -\xi(t - T). \end{aligned}$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} U^\infty &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} U(X(t, x, z), Z(t, z, x)) \\ &= U(X(T, x, z), Z(T, z, x)) \\ &\quad + \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_T^t D^+ U(X(s, x, z), Z(s, z, x)) ds \leq -\infty \end{aligned}$$

which contradicts the fact that  $U$  is positive definite. Thus,  $U^\infty \leq \widetilde{M}$ . Hence, solutions of (5) starting in  $\Omega_{\leq \widehat{M}}(U) \setminus \Omega_{\leq \widetilde{M}}(U)$  converge towards  $\Omega_{\leq \widetilde{M}}(U)$ .

To see that  $U$  can be given by (13), note that  $U$  relies on the computation of  $\sigma$ . Let, for every  $s \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ ,  $\sigma(s) = (\delta(s) + \gamma^{-1}(s))/2$ . Its derivative yields, for every  $s > 0$ ,  $2\sigma'(s) = \delta'(s) + 1/(\gamma' \circ \gamma(s))$  which is positive, because  $\delta'(s) > 0$  and  $\gamma' \circ \gamma^{-1}(s) > 0$ . Moreover, such a function  $\sigma$  satisfies (21). This concludes the proof. ■

### 5.2. Proof of Theorem 1

This proof is divided into 4 parts. The first one shows that solutions starting in  $\Omega_{\geq \widetilde{M}_g}(U_g)$  converge to  $\mathbf{R}$ . The second part shows that almost all solutions starting in  $\mathbf{R}$  converge to  $\Omega_{\leq \widehat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell)$ . The third part shows that solutions starting in the latter set converge to the origin. The fourth part concludes the almost global asymptotic stability of the origin.

1ST PART. From Corollary 2, the set  $\Omega_{\leq \widetilde{M}_g}(U_g)$  is globally attractive for (5), where  $\widetilde{M}_g = \max\{\gamma_g^{-1}(M_g), N_g\}$ ,  $M_g$  and  $N_g$  are defined in Corollary 2, and  $\gamma_g$  is given by Assumption 1.

2ND PART. From the proof of Proposition 1, there exist proper functions  $U_g, E_g \in (\mathcal{C}^0 \cap \mathcal{P})(\mathbb{R}^{n+m}, \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$  (resp.  $U_\ell, E_\ell \in (\mathcal{C}^0 \cap \mathcal{P})(\mathbb{R}^{n+m}, \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$ ) with  $U_g$  (resp.  $U_\ell$ ) being also locally Lipschitz and such that, for every  $y \in \Omega_{\geq \widetilde{M}_g}(U_g)$ ,  $D_h^+ U_g(y) \leq -E_g(y)$  (resp. for every  $y \in \Omega_{\leq \widehat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell)$ ,  $D_h^+ U_\ell(y) \leq -E_\ell(y)$ ).

To see that  $\Omega_{\leq \widehat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell) \subsetneq \Omega_{\leq \widetilde{M}_g}(U_g)$ . From the proof of Claim 1,  $U_\ell(x, z) \leq \widehat{M}_\ell \Rightarrow \max\{V(x), W(z)\} \leq \min\{M_\ell, N_\ell\}$ . Analogously,  $U_g(x, z) \geq M_g \Rightarrow \min\{V(x), W(z)\} \geq \max\{M_g, N_g\}$ . Since  $\min\{M_\ell, N_\ell\} < \max\{M_g, N_g\}$ ,  $\Omega_{\leq \widehat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell) \subsetneq \Omega_{\leq \widetilde{M}_g}(U_g)$ .

<sup>8</sup> Recall that  $\delta, \gamma \in (\mathcal{C}^1 \cap \mathcal{K}_\infty)$ .

The proof proceeds by showing that, for almost every initial condition starting in  $\mathbf{R} = \Omega_{\leq \widehat{M}_g}(U_g) \setminus \Omega_{\leq \widehat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell)$ , issuing solutions of (5) converge to  $\Omega_{\leq \widehat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell)$ . To do so, the same lines as in Rantzer (2001, Theorem 1) and Angeli (2004, Theorem 3) are followed. However, here a less conservative condition is required, since a set that is only positively invariant, and the divergence to be positive only in a compact set are needed.

Let  $\mathbf{Z} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be a set given by<sup>9</sup>

$$\mathbf{Z} = \bigcap_{l=1}^{\infty} \{y \in \Omega_{\leq \widehat{M}_g}(U_g) : U_\ell(Y(t, y)) > \widehat{M}_\ell, t > l\}.$$

For every  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , let  $Y(t, \mathbf{Z}) = \{Y(t, z) : z \in \mathbf{Z}, t \in \text{dom}(z)\}$ , where  $\text{dom}(z)$  is the maximum time interval where  $Y(t, z)$  exists. Since  $\Omega_{\leq \widehat{M}_g}(U_g)$  is positively invariant,  $\mathbf{Z}$  is also positively invariant. Thus, given a fixed  $\tau \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ , for all  $t \geq \tau$ ,  $Y(t, \mathbf{Z}) \subset Y(\tau, \mathbf{Z})$ . Hence, for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ ,

$$\int_{Y(t, \mathbf{Z})} \rho(y) dy - \int_{\mathbf{Z}} \rho(y) dy \leq 0, \tag{26}$$

where  $\rho \in \mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{R}^{n+m} \setminus \{0\}, \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$  and  $\text{supp}(\rho) \supseteq \mathbf{R}$ .

From Liouville's Theorem (see Rantzer (2001, Lemma A.1)), for every  $t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ ,

$$\int_0^t \int_{Y(s, \mathbf{Z})} \text{div}(h\rho)(y) dy ds = \int_{Y(t, \mathbf{Z})} \rho(y) dy - \int_{\mathbf{Z}} \rho(y) dy.$$

Since  $\mathbf{Z} \subset \mathbf{R}$ , for every  $t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ , the inequality

$$\begin{aligned} t \int_{Y(t, \mathbf{Z})} \text{div}(h\rho)(y) dy &\leq \int_0^t \int_{Y(s, \mathbf{Z})} \text{div}(h\rho)(y) dy ds \\ &\leq \int_{Y(t, \mathbf{Z})} \rho(y) dy - \int_{\mathbf{Z}} \rho(y) dy \end{aligned}$$

holds. From (26), for every  $t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ ,  $\int_{Y(t, \mathbf{Z})} \text{div}(h\rho)(y) dy \leq 0$ . Together with the fact that, for every  $y \in \mathbf{R}$ ,  $\text{div}(h\rho)(y) > 0$ , it yields  $\int_{Y(t, \mathbf{Z})} \text{div}(h\rho)(y) dy = 0$ , for every  $t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ . Thus, for every  $t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ ,  $Y(t, \mathbf{Z})$  has Lebesgue measure zero. In particular,  $\mathbf{Z}$  has also Lebesgue measure zero. Consequently, for almost every  $y \in \mathbf{R}$ ,  $\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} U_\ell(Y(t, y)) \leq \widehat{M}_\ell$ .

It remains to check if the initial conditions belonging to  $\Omega_{\geq \widehat{M}_g}(U_g)$  from which issuing solutions converge to  $\mathbf{Z}$  have also measure zero. Since  $\mathbf{Z}$  is positively invariant, for all  $t_1 < t_2 \leq 0$ ,  $Y(t_2, \mathbf{Z}) \subset Y(t_1, \mathbf{Z})$ . This inclusion implies that  $\mathbf{Y} := \bigcup_{t \leq 0} \{Y(t, \mathbf{Z})\} = \bigcup_{l \in \mathbb{Z}_{<0}} \{Y(l, \mathbf{Z})\}$ . Hence, the set  $\mathbf{Y}$  is a countable union of images of  $\mathbf{Z}$  by the flow. Since  $\mathbf{Z}$  is measurable and, for every  $t \in \text{dom}(y)$ , the map  $\mathbf{Z} \ni y \mapsto Y(t, y)$  is a diffeomorphism,<sup>10</sup>  $\mathbf{Y}$  is also measurable.

For every  $t \in \text{dom}(\mathbf{Z})$ ,  $\int_{Y(t, \mathbf{Z})} dz \leq \int_{\mathbf{Z}} |\text{grad}Y(t, y)| dy = 0$ , because  $\mathbf{Z}$  has measure zero. This implies that, for all  $t \in \text{dom}(\mathbf{Z})$ , the set  $Y(t, \mathbf{Z})$  has measure zero. Since  $\mathbf{Y}$  is the countable union of sets of measure zero, it has also measure zero.<sup>11</sup> Hence the set of solutions starting in  $\Omega_{\geq \widehat{M}_g}(U_g)$  that converge to  $\mathbf{Z}$  have also measure zero.

3RD PART. From Corollary 1, the set  $\Omega_{\leq \widehat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell)$  is contained in the basin of attraction of the origin, where  $\widehat{M}_\ell = \min\{\delta_\ell(M_\ell), N_\ell\}$ ,  $M_\ell$  and  $N_\ell$  are defined in Corollary 1, and  $\gamma_\ell$  is given by Assumption 1.

4TH PART. From the above discussion, the origin is locally stable and almost globally attractive for (5). Thus, it is almost globally asymptotically stable for (5). This concludes the proof. ■

<sup>9</sup> Note that  $\mathbf{Z}$  is the set of all initial conditions belonging to  $\Omega_{\leq \widehat{M}_g}(U_g)$  from which issuing solutions do not converge to  $\Omega_{\leq \widehat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell)$ .

<sup>10</sup> Because (5) is of class  $\mathcal{C}^1$  and solutions are unique.

<sup>11</sup> Recall that  $\mathbf{Y}$  is the set of initial conditions from which issuing solutions of (5) converge  $\mathbf{Z}$ .

### 5.3. Proof of Theorem 2

Before proving Theorem 2, some concepts regarding the asymptotic behavior of solutions of planar systems are recalled. A point  $p$  is said to be a positive limit point of  $Y(\cdot, y)$  if there exists a sequence  $\{t_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ , with  $t_n \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , such that  $Y(t_n, y) \rightarrow p$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  (cf. Khalil (2001, p. 127)). The set  $\omega(y)$  of all positive limit points of  $Y(\cdot, y)$  is called  $\omega$ -limit set of  $y$  (cf. Isidori (1995, p. 517)). For planar systems, a closed curve  $C \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  is called closed orbit if  $C$  is not an equilibrium point and there exists a time  $T < \infty$  such that, for each  $y \in C$ ,  $Y(nT, y) = y, \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}$  (cf. Sastry (1999, Definition 2.6)).

**Proof.** The proof of Theorem 2 follows the same line as the proof of Theorem 1. The difference here consists in the second and fourth parts.

1ST PART. Recall that from Corollary 2, the set  $\Omega_{\leq \widehat{M}_g}(U_g)$  is globally attractive for (5), where  $\widehat{M}_g = \max\{\gamma_g^{-1}(M_g), N_g\}$ ,  $M_g$  and  $N_g$  are defined in Corollary 2, and  $\gamma_g$  is given by Assumption 1.

2ND PART (Bendixson's criterion for non simply connected regions). From the proof of Proposition 1, there exist proper functions  $U_g, E_g \in (\mathcal{C}^0 \cap \mathcal{P})(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$  (resp.  $U_\ell, E_\ell \in (\mathcal{C}^0 \cap \mathcal{P})(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$ ) with  $U_g$  (resp.  $U_\ell$ ) being also locally Lipschitz and such that, for every  $y \in \Omega_{\geq \widehat{M}_g}(U_g)$ ,  $D_h^+ U_g(y) \leq -E_g(y)$  (resp. for every  $y \in \Omega_{\leq \widehat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell)$ ,  $D_h^+ U_\ell(y) \leq -E_\ell(y)$ ).

Since the set  $\mathbf{R} = \text{cl}\{\Omega_{\leq \widehat{M}_g}(U_g) \setminus \Omega_{\leq \widehat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell)\}$  is compact, and for each  $y \in \mathbf{R}$ ,  $U_g(y) \neq 0$ , from Alberti, Bianchini, and Crippa (2013, Theorem 2.5)

- The set  $\Omega_{=\widehat{M}_g}(U_g)$  has finite perimeter.
- The function  $U_g$  is almost everywhere differentiable on  $\Omega_{=\widehat{M}_g}(U_g)$ .
- Let  $\mathbf{N}_g \subset \Omega_{=\widehat{M}_g}(U_g)$  be set in which  $U_g$  is not differentiable. There exists a Lipschitz parametrization  $p_g : [a_g, b_g] \subset \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \Omega_{=\widehat{M}_g}(U_g)$  that is injective and satisfies, for almost every  $s \in [a_g, b_g]$ ,  $p_g(s) \notin \mathbf{N}_g$  and  $p'_g(s)$  is perpendicular to  $\nabla U_g(p_g(s))$ .

Recall that by assumption, for every  $y \in \mathbf{R}$ ,  $h(y) \neq 0$ . Together with the fact that  $h \in \mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{R}^2)$ , and almost each sublevel set of  $U_g$  has finite perimeter. From the generalized divergence theorem (Marzocchi, 2005, Theorem 1.7) (see also (Pfeffer, 2012))

$$\iint_{\Omega_{\leq \widehat{M}_g}(U_g)} \text{div} h(y) dy = \oint_{\Omega_{=\widehat{M}_g}(U_g)} h(y) \cdot n_g(y) dx dz. \tag{27}$$

Together with the above discussions and the existence of the parametrization  $p_g$ , for almost every  $s \in [a_g, b_g]$ ,  $h(p_g(s)) \cdot n_g(p_g(s)) < 0$ , where for almost every  $s \in [a_g, b_g]$ ,  $n_g(p_g(s)) = \nabla U_g(p_g(s)) / |\nabla U_g(p_g(s))|$ ,

$$\iint_{\Omega_{\leq \widehat{M}_g}(U_g)} \text{div} h(y) dy = \int_{[a_g, b_g]} h(p_g(s)) \cdot n_g(p_g(s)) ds < 0. \tag{28}$$

Analogously to the above, and by letting  $p_\ell : [a_\ell, b_\ell] \rightarrow \Omega_{=\widehat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell)$  be a parametrization of  $\Omega_{=\widehat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell)$  with outward unit normal  $n_\ell$ , based on Eq. (27),

$$\iint_{\Omega_{\leq \widehat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell)} \text{div} h(y) dy = \int_{[a_\ell, b_\ell]} h(p_\ell(s)) \cdot n_\ell(p_\ell(s)) ds < 0. \tag{29}$$

Suppose, for purposes of contradiction, that there exists a closed orbit  $C \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , parametrized by  $p : [a, b] \rightarrow C$  and with outward unit normal  $n$ , and contained in  $\mathbf{R}$ . From the generalized divergence theorem,

$$\iint_{\mathbf{D}_C} \text{div} h(x, z) dx dz = \int_{[a, b]} h(p(s)) \cdot n(p(s)) ds = 0, \tag{30}$$

where  $\mathbf{D}_C$  is the simply connected region bounded by  $C$ .

Note that,

$$\begin{aligned} & \iint_{\Omega_{\leq \tilde{M}_g}(U_g) \setminus \mathbf{D}_C} \operatorname{div} h(y) \, dy \\ &= \iint_{\Omega_{\leq \tilde{M}_g}(U_g)} \operatorname{div} h(y) \, dy - \iint_{\mathbf{D}_C} \operatorname{div} h(y) \, dy \\ &= \iint_{\Omega_{\leq \tilde{M}_g}(U_g)} \operatorname{div} h(y) \, dy, \end{aligned} \tag{31}$$

where the last equality is due to (30). From (28),

$$\iint_{\Omega_{\leq \tilde{M}_g}(U_g) \setminus \mathbf{D}_C} \operatorname{div} h(y) \, dy < 0. \tag{31}$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} & \iint_{\mathbf{D}_C \setminus \Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell)} \operatorname{div} h(y) \, dy \\ &= \iint_{\mathbf{D}_C} \operatorname{div} h(y) \, dy - \iint_{\Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell)} \operatorname{div} h(y) \, dy \\ &= - \iint_{\Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell)} \operatorname{div} h(y) \, dy, \end{aligned}$$

where the last equality is due to (30). From (29),

$$\iint_{\mathbf{D}_C \setminus \Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell)} \operatorname{div} h(x, z) \, dx dz > 0. \tag{32}$$

From (31), (32) and the continuity of  $\operatorname{div} h$ , the function  $\operatorname{div} h$  changes sign in  $\mathbf{R}$ . Thus, there exists  $\bar{y} \in \mathbf{R}$  such that  $\operatorname{div} h(\bar{y}) = 0$  which is a contradiction with the hypothesis  $\operatorname{div}(y) \neq 0$ , for every  $y \in \mathbf{R}$ . Thus, there exist no closed orbits  $C$  contained in  $\mathbf{R}$ .

From the Poincaré–Bendixson Theorem (Sastry, 1999, Theorem 2.15), the  $\omega$ -limit set of a solution starting in  $\mathbf{R}$  is a closed orbit or equilibrium. Since equilibria are impossible by assumption, and from above analysis there exist no  $\omega$ -limit sets in  $\mathbf{R}$ , all solutions starting in  $\mathbf{R}$  will converge to  $\Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell)$ .

3RD PART. Recall that from Corollary 1, the set  $\Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell)$  is contained in the basin of attraction of the origin, where  $\hat{M}_\ell = \min\{\delta_\ell(M_\ell), N_\ell\}$ ,  $M_\ell$  and  $N_\ell$  are defined in Corollary 1, and  $\gamma_\ell$  is given by Assumption 1.

4TH PART. From the above discussion, the origin is locally stable and globally attractive for (5). Thus, it is globally asymptotically stable for (5). This concludes the proof. ■

**Remark 1.** Note that, if  $\Omega_{\leq \hat{M}_\ell}(U_\ell) = \{0\}$ , then  $\mathbf{R} = \Omega_{\leq \tilde{M}_g}(U_g)$  is a simply connected region, and the second part of the proof of Theorem 2 can be reduced to the proof of the known Bendixson’s criterion.

#### 5.4. Proof of Claim 1

Let  $c$  be a positive real number<sup>12</sup> such that  $\Omega_{\leq c}(U) \subset \Omega_{\leq \bar{M}}(V) \times \Omega_{\leq \bar{N}}(W)$ .

<sup>12</sup> Such a positive real number always exists. Otherwise, for all  $n \geq \mathbb{N}$ , there exists  $y_n$  such that  $y_n \in \Omega_{\leq 1/n}(U)$  and  $y_n \notin \Omega_{\leq \bar{M}}(V) \times \Omega_{\leq \bar{N}}(W)$ . Since  $U$  is proper,  $\Omega_{\leq 1/n}(U) \subset \Omega_{\leq 1}(U)$  is compact. Hence, there exists  $\{y_{n_j}\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \subset \{y_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  such that  $y_{n_j} \xrightarrow{j \rightarrow \infty} y^*$  and  $U(y^*) = 0$ . From the positive definiteness of  $U$ ,  $y^* = 0$ . Consequently,  $y_{n_j}$  is a sequence converging to zero and outside  $\Omega_{\leq \bar{M}}(V) \times \Omega_{\leq \bar{N}}(W)$ . This is impossible since this set is a neighborhood of the origin.

In the first part, it will be shown that, for all  $(x, z) \in \mathbf{S}$ ,

$$U(x, z) \leq \hat{M} \Rightarrow \max\{V(x), W(z)\} \leq \min\{\bar{M}, \bar{N}\}. \tag{33}$$

In the second part, it will be shown that, for all  $(x, z) \in \mathbf{S}$ ,

$$\tilde{M} \leq U(x, z) \Rightarrow \max\{\underline{M}, \underline{N}\} \leq \min\{V(x), W(z)\}. \tag{34}$$

Part 1.  $U(x, z) \leq \hat{M}$ . This implies  $U(x, z) = \max\{\sigma(V(x)), W(z)\} \leq \hat{M} = \min\{\delta(\bar{M}), \bar{N}\}$ .

Assume that  $\max\{\sigma(V(x)), W(z)\} = \sigma(V(x))$  and  $\min\{\delta(\bar{M}), \bar{N}\} = \delta(\bar{M})$ . This implies  $\sigma(V(x)) \leq \delta(\bar{M})$ . From (21),  $V(x) \leq \sigma^{-1} \circ \delta(\bar{M}) < \bar{M}$ . Assume now that  $\max\{\sigma(V(x)), W(z)\} = W(z)$  and  $\min\{\delta(\bar{M}), \bar{N}\} = \delta(\bar{M})$ . This implies  $W(z) \leq \delta(\bar{M}) \leq \bar{N}$ . The other two cases are straightforward. Thus, (33) holds. Hence,  $\Omega_{\leq \hat{M}}(U) \subset (\Omega_{\leq \bar{M}}(V) \times \Omega_{\leq \bar{N}}(W))$ ;

Part 2.  $\tilde{M} \leq U(x, z)$ . This implies  $\tilde{M} = \max\{\gamma^{-1}(\underline{M}), \underline{N}\} \leq U(x, z) = \max\{\sigma(V(x)), W(z)\}$ .

Assume that  $\max\{\gamma^{-1}(\underline{M}), \underline{N}\} = \gamma^{-1}(\underline{M})$  and  $\max\{\sigma(V(x)), W(z)\} = \sigma(V(x))$ . This implies  $\gamma^{-1}(\underline{M}) \leq \sigma(V(x))$ . From (21),  $\underline{M} \leq \gamma \circ \sigma(V(x)) < V(x)$ . Assume now that  $\max\{\gamma^{-1}(\underline{M}), \underline{N}\} = \gamma^{-1}(\underline{M})$  and  $\max\{\sigma(V(x)), W(z)\} = W(z)$ . This implies  $\underline{N} \leq \gamma^{-1}(\underline{M}) \leq W(z)$ . The other two cases are straightforward. Thus, (34) holds. Hence,  $(\Omega_{\leq \underline{M}}(V) \times \Omega_{\leq \underline{N}}(W)) \subset \Omega_{\leq \tilde{M}}(U)$ ;

Since (12) is a strict inequality, from the continuity and surjectivity of  $U$ , there exists  $(x, z) \in \mathbf{S}$  such that  $\hat{M} \leq U(x, z) \leq \tilde{M}$ . From (33) and (34),  $\hat{M} \leq U(x, z) \leq \tilde{M} \Rightarrow \max\{\underline{M}, \underline{N}\} \leq \min\{V(x), W(z)\} \leq \max\{V(x), W(z)\} \leq \min\{\bar{M}, \bar{N}\}$ . Thus, the inclusion (23) holds. This concludes the proof. ■

## 6. Conclusion

Systems for which the small gain theorem cannot be used, a sufficient condition for the stability of the resulting interconnected system is proposed. The approach consists in verifying if the small gain condition holds in two different regions of the state space: a local and a non-local. In the gap between both regions, assuming mild properties on the vector field, a sufficient condition ensuring the convergence of solutions, for almost every initial condition, is provided. An approach is proposed for planar system for which Bendixson’s criterion does not hold. Two examples illustrate the results.

The authors plan to extend the proposed approach for the case in which, in a countable number of intervals, the small gain condition holds and, between such intervals, a condition ensuring the absence of  $\omega$ -limit set holds.

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