



## Article

# Synchronization of Fractional-Order Uncertain Delayed Neural Networks with an Event-Triggered Communication Scheme

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**Abstract:** In this paper, the synchronization of fractional-order uncertain delayed neural networks with an event-triggered communication scheme is investigated. By establishing a suitable Lyapunov–Krasovskii functional (LKF) and inequality techniques, sufficient conditions are obtained under which the delayed neural networks are stable. The criteria are given in terms of linear matrix inequalities (LMIs). Based on the drive–response concept, the LMI approach, and the Lyapunov stability theorem, a controller is derived to achieve the synchronization. Finally, numerical examples are presented to confirm the effectiveness of the main results.

**Keywords:** fractional order; synchronization; event triggered; uncertain



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## 1. Introduction

Fractional calculus is a mathematical theory that has been studied and applied in different fields for the past 300 years. Compared with traditional integer-order systems, fractional-order (FO) derivatives provide an excellent tool for the description of memory and inherent properties of various materials and processes, with applications in many areas, such as heat conduction, electronics, and abnormal diffusion [1,2]. As a result, fractional calculus has attracted increasing attention from physicists and engineers [3–7]. Moreover, fractional calculus has been applied to numerous neural network models [8,9]. Hence, the research on fractional neural networks (NNs) is important for practical applications, and many important results on chaotic dynamics, stability analysis, stabilization, synchronization, dissipativity, and passivity have been reported [10–16]. This popularity is due to the fact that fractional calculus has the ability to include memory when describing complex systems and gives a more precise characterization than the standard integer-order approach. A key characteristic is that the FO derivatives require an infinite number of terms, whereas the integer-order derivatives only indicate a finite series. Consequently, the integer derivatives are local operators, whereas the FO derivative has the memory of all past events.

In the real world, there are different types of uncertainty that can attenuate the performance of the system and affect its stability. These uncertainties may result from parameter variations and external disturbances. If a structural process is observed experimentally, it is not possible to assign precise values to the observed events. This means data uncertainty occurs, which may result from scale-dependent impacts that are not considered, which

create inaccuracies in the estimations and incomplete sets of observations. In this manner, the estimated results are more or less described by the data uncertainty that begins with imprecision. In addition, the parameter uncertainties are unavoidable while displaying a neural network, which creates unstable results. It is known that a precise physical model of an engineering plant is difficult to build because of the uncertainties and noises. In actual operation, due to the existence of some external or internal uncertain disturbances, system states sometimes are not always fully accessible [17–26].

Generally speaking, an event-triggered control strategy is more appealing than the traditional time-triggered one from an economic perspective, since the control input is updated only when the predetermined triggering condition is reached. Since the event-triggered control approach can reduce information exchange in systems, event-triggered synchronization or consensus for fractional-order systems has received increasing attention in recent years. Recently, there has been significant research on the event-triggered control (ETC) strategy [27–29]. Compared to the time-driven consensus, the event-triggered consensus is more realistic. The event-triggered controller introduced in the field of networked control systems has the advantage of using limited communication network resources efficiently. Recently, an event-triggered scheme (ETS) provided an effective way of determining when the sampling action should be carried out and when the packet should be transmitted. A number of researchers have recommended event-triggered control. To deal with network congestion, the ETS has been proposed to improve data transmission efficiency. In the past few years, event-triggered control has proved to be an efficient way to reduce the transmitted data in the networks, which can relieve the burden of network bandwidth. Thus event-triggered control strategies have been employed to study networked systems [30–32].

In addition, in many practical applications, the system is expected to reach synchronization as quickly as possible. Synchronization is an important phenomenon in the real world, which exists widely in practical systems, as well as in nature. The problem of achieving synchronization in a neural network is another research hotspot. Different kinds of synchronization, such as pinning synchronization [33], local synchronization [34,35], lag synchronization [36], and impulsive synchronization [37] have been considered in the literature. Recently synchronization has also attracted attention in the field of complex networks systems [38,39]. Synchronization techniques require communication among nodes, which creates network congestion and wastes network resources. Moreover, the treatment of the synchronization problem of fractional-order systems with input quantization is quite limited in the literature. Numerous consequences have been described for the synchronization-based event-triggered problem [40–42]. As collective behaviors, consensus and synchronization are important in nature.

There is no doubt that the Lyapunov functional method provides an effective approach to analyze the stability of integer-order nonlinear systems. The synchronization and stabilization of fractional Caputo neural network (FCNNs) were proved by constructing a simple quadratic Lyapunov function and calculating its fractional derivative. The contributions of this article are listed below:

1. The synchronization of fractional-order uncertain delayed neural networks with an event-triggered communication scheme is investigated.
2. A fractional integral, which is suitable for the considered fractional-order error system, is proposed.
3. A Lyapunov–Krasovskii (L–K) functional is established, and the conditions corresponding to asymptotic stability are derived for the design of an event-triggered controller based on linear matrix inequalities (LMIs).
4. The derived conditions are expressed in terms of linear matrix inequalities (LMIs), which can be checked numerically via the LMI toolbox very efficiently.
5. Numerical examples are provided to demonstrate the effectiveness and applicability of the proposed stability results.

The following notations are used in this paper.  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbb{R}^n$  denote the set of real numbers and the  $n$ -dimensional real spaces, respectively;  $\mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  denotes the set of  $n \times n$  matrices.  $\mathcal{I}$  denotes the identity matrix of appropriate dimension. The super script “ $\mathcal{T}$ ” denotes the matrix transposition. “ $(-1)$ ” represents the matrix inverse.  $\mathcal{X} > \mathbf{o}$  ( $\mathcal{X} < \mathbf{o}$ ) means that  $\mathcal{X}$  is positive definite (negative definite).  $\mathbf{I}$  represents the identity matrix and zero matrix with compatible dimensions. In symmetric block matrices or a long matrix expression, we use an asterisk (\*) to represent a term that is induced by symmetry.  $\mathcal{L}_2[0, \infty)$  denotes the space of square-integrable vector functions over  $[0, \infty)$ .

**2. Preliminaries**

In this section, we recall the basic definition and some properties concerning fractional-order calculus. In addition, definition, remark, assumption and some lemmas are presented.

**Definition 1** ([43]). *The Caputo fractional derivative of order  $\beta$  for a function  $f(t)$  is defined as*

$$D^\beta f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(m - \beta)} \int_0^t \frac{f^m(\gamma)}{(t - \gamma)^{\beta - m + 1}} d\gamma,$$

where  $t \geq 0$ , and  $m - 1 < \beta < m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ . In particular, when  $\beta \in (0, 1)$ ,

$$D^\beta f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1 - \beta)} \int_0^t \frac{f'(\gamma)}{(t - \gamma)^\beta} d\gamma.$$

**Lemma 1** ([44]). *Let a vector-valued function  $q(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  be differentiable. Then, for any  $t > 0$ , one has*

$$\mathcal{D}^\alpha (q^T(t) \mathcal{S} q(t)) \leq 2q^T(t) \mathcal{S} \mathcal{D}^\alpha q(t), 0 < \alpha < 1.$$

**Lemma 2** ([45]). *For the given positive scalar  $\lambda > 0$ ,  $\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{r} \in \mathbb{R}^m$  and matrix  $\mathcal{D}$ ,*

$$\mathbf{l}^T \mathcal{D} \mathbf{r} \leq \frac{\lambda^{-1}}{2} \mathbf{l}^T \mathcal{D} \mathcal{D}^T \mathbf{l} + \frac{\lambda}{2} \mathbf{r}^T \mathbf{r}.$$

**Lemma 3** ([46]). *If  $\mathcal{N} > 0$ , and the given matrices are  $\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{Q}, \mathcal{N}$ , then*

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{Q} & \mathcal{S}^T \\ \mathcal{S} & -\mathcal{N} \end{bmatrix} < 0,$$

if and only if

$$\mathcal{Q} + \mathcal{S}^T \mathcal{N}^{-1} \mathcal{S} < 0.$$

**Lemma 4** ([47]). *For a vector function  $\Xi : [t_1, t_2] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  and any positive definite matrix  $\mathcal{P}$ , we have*

$$\left( \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \Xi(\mathbf{s}) d\mathbf{s} \right)^T \mathcal{P} \left( \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \Xi(\mathbf{s}) d\mathbf{s} \right) \leq (t_2 - t_1) \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \Xi^{\mathcal{T}}(\mathbf{s}) \mathcal{P} \Xi(\mathbf{s}) d\mathbf{s}.$$

**Assumption 1.** *Let  $g_i(\cdot)$  be continuous and bounded;  $\mathcal{X}_s^-$  and  $\mathcal{X}_s^+$  are constants,*

$$\mathcal{X}_s^- \leq \frac{g_s(\mathbf{r}_1) - g_s(\mathbf{r}_2)}{\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2} \leq \mathcal{X}_s^+, s = 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

where  $\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2 \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbf{r}_1 \neq \mathbf{r}_2$ .

**Remark 1.** *From the literature survey, it is clear that most of the results on fractional order neural networks (FONNs) are derived with fractional-order Lyapunov stability criteria having quadratic*

terms. However, in this paper, we introduce the integral term  $\mathcal{D}^{(-\alpha+1)} \int_{t-\eta}^t e^{\mathcal{I}}(s) \mathcal{B}_2 \epsilon(s) ds$  in the Lyapunov functional candidate, which is solved by utilizing the properties of Caputo fractional-order derivatives and integrals. The Lyapunov functional is novel, as it contains the quadratic term. By applying fractional-order derivatives in the error system of the FCNNs under suitable adaptive update laws, a new sufficient condition can be derived in terms of solvable LMIs.

### 3. Main Results

Consider the following uncertain delayed neural network described by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}^\alpha \mathbf{w}_i(t) = & -(\mathbf{r}_i + \Delta \mathbf{r}_i(t)) \mathbf{w}_i(t) + \sum_{j=1}^n (\mathbf{c}_{ij} + \Delta \mathbf{c}_{ij}(t)) \mathbf{h}_j(\mathbf{w}_j(t)) \\ & + \sum_{j=1}^n (\mathbf{b}_{ij} + \Delta \mathbf{b}_{ij}(t)) \mathbf{h}_j(\mathbf{w}_j(t - \sigma_j(t))) \\ & + \sum_{j=1}^n (\mathbf{a}_{ij} + \Delta \mathbf{a}_{ij}(t)) \int_{t-\eta}^t \mathbf{w}_j(s) ds + \mathbf{p}_i(t). \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

Conveniently, we write the master system as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}^\alpha \mathbf{w}(t) = & -(\mathcal{R} + \Delta \mathcal{R}(t)) \mathbf{w}(t) + (\mathcal{C} + \Delta \mathcal{C}(t)) \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{w}(t)) + (\mathcal{B} + \Delta \mathcal{B}(t)) \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{w}(t - \sigma(t))) \\ & + (\mathcal{A} + \Delta \mathcal{A}(t)) \int_{t-\eta}^t (\mathbf{w}(s)) ds + \mathcal{P}(t), \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

in which  $\mathbf{w}(t) = (\mathbf{w}_1(t), \mathbf{w}_2(t), \dots, \mathbf{w}_n(t))^T \in \mathcal{R}^n$ , is the state vector associated with  $n$  neurons, the diagonal matrix  $\mathbf{r}_i(t) = \text{diag}\{\mathbf{r}_1(t), \mathbf{r}_2(t), \dots, \mathbf{r}_n(t)\}$ , and  $\mathcal{C}(t)$ ,  $\mathcal{B}(t)$ , and  $\mathcal{A}(t)$  are the known constant matrices of appropriate dimensions; the symbol  $\Delta$  denotes the uncertain term, and  $\Delta \mathcal{C}(t)$ ,  $\Delta \mathcal{B}(t)$ , and  $\Delta \mathcal{A}(t)$  are known matrices that represent the time-varying parameter uncertainties.  $\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{w}(t))$  is the neuron activation function.

Next, we consider the corresponding slave system as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}^\alpha \mathbf{v}_i(t) = & -(\mathbf{r}_i + \Delta \mathbf{r}_i(t)) \mathbf{v}_i(t) + \sum_{j=1}^n (\mathbf{c}_{ij} + \Delta \mathbf{c}_{ij}(t)) \mathbf{h}_j(\mathbf{v}_j(t)) \\ & + \sum_{j=1}^n (\mathbf{b}_{ij} + \Delta \mathbf{b}_{ij}(t)) \mathbf{h}_j(\mathbf{v}_j(t - \sigma_j(t))) \\ & + \sum_{j=1}^n (\mathbf{a}_{ij} + \Delta \mathbf{a}_{ij}(t)) \int_{t-\eta}^t \mathbf{v}_j(s) ds + \mathbf{p}_i(t) + \mathbf{h} \mathbf{q}_i(t). \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

The compact form of (3) is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}^\alpha \mathbf{v}(t) = & -(\mathcal{R} + \Delta \mathcal{R}(t)) \mathbf{v}(t) + (\mathcal{C} + \Delta \mathcal{C}(t)) \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{v}(t)) + (\mathcal{B} + \Delta \mathcal{B}(t)) \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{v}(t - \sigma(t))) \\ & + (\mathcal{A} + \Delta \mathcal{A}(t)) \int_{t-\eta}^t \mathbf{v}(s) ds + \mathcal{P}(t) + \mathcal{H} \mathcal{Q}(t). \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

Now, we introduce the  $\epsilon(t) = \mathbf{v}(t) - \mathbf{w}(t)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}^\alpha \epsilon(t) = & -(\mathcal{R} + \Delta \mathcal{R}(t)) \epsilon(t) + (\mathcal{C} + \Delta \mathcal{C}(t)) \mathbf{h}(\epsilon(t)) + (\mathcal{B} + \Delta \mathcal{B}(t)) \mathbf{h}(\epsilon(t - \sigma(t))) \\ & + (\mathcal{A} + \Delta \mathcal{A}(t)) \int_{t-\eta}^t \epsilon(s) ds + \mathcal{H} \mathcal{Q}(t). \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

The purpose of this paper is to design a controller  $\mathcal{Q}(t) = \mathcal{K} \epsilon(t)$ , such that the slave system (3) synchronizes with the master system (1), and  $\mathcal{K}$  is the controller gain to be determined.

Without distributed delays in the system (1), it is easy to obtain the error system

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}^\alpha \mathbf{e}(t) = & -(\mathcal{R} + \Delta\mathcal{R}(t))\mathbf{e}(t) + (\mathcal{C} + \Delta\mathcal{C}(t))\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t)) + (\mathcal{B} + \Delta\mathcal{B}(t))\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t))) \\ & + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{K}\mathbf{e}(t). \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

**Theorem 1.** *The FNNs (1) and (3) are globally asymptotically synchronized under the event-triggered control scheme, for the given scalars  $\delta_1, \delta_2, \delta_3, \delta_4, \delta_5$ , and  $\mu_1$ , and if there exist symmetric positive definite matrices  $\mathcal{R}_1 > 0, \mathcal{R}_2 > 0$ , such that a feasible solution exists for the following LMIs,*

$$\Omega = \begin{bmatrix} \Omega_{11} & \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{J}_r & \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{J}_c & \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{J}_b & \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{C} & \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{B} & 0 \\ * & -\delta_1 \mathcal{I} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & -\delta_2 \mathcal{I} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & -\delta_3 \mathcal{I} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & -\delta_4 \mathcal{I} & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & -\delta_5 \mathcal{I} & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & \Omega_{66} \end{bmatrix} < 0, \quad (7)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_{11} = & -2\mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{R} + \delta_1 \mathcal{L}_r^\mathcal{I} \mathcal{L}_r + \delta_2 \phi^\mathcal{I} \mathcal{L}_c^\mathcal{I} \mathcal{L}_c \phi + \delta_4 \phi^\mathcal{I} \phi + \mathcal{R}_2 + \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{H} \mathcal{K}, \\ \Omega_{66} = & \delta_3 \phi^\mathcal{T} \mathcal{L}_b^\mathcal{T} \mathcal{L}_b \phi + \delta_5 \phi^\mathcal{T} \phi - \mathcal{R}_2(1 - \mu) \end{aligned}$$

**Proof.** Now, let us define the Lyapunov–Krasovskii functional as follows:

$$\mathcal{V}(t) = \mathcal{V}_1(t) + \mathcal{V}_2(t), \quad (8)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{V}_1(t) = & \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{I}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathbf{e}(t), \\ \mathcal{V}_2(t) = & \mathcal{D}^{(-\alpha+1)} \int_{t-\sigma(t)}^t \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{I}(s) \mathcal{R}_2 \mathbf{e}(s) \mathcal{D}s. \end{aligned}$$

By using Lemma 2, we have,

$$\begin{aligned} 2\mathbf{e}^\mathcal{I}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \Delta\mathcal{R}(t) \mathbf{e}(t) \leq & 2\mathbf{e}^\mathcal{I}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{J}_d \mathcal{H}(t) \mathcal{L}_d \mathbf{e}(t), \\ \leq & \delta_1^{-1} \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{I}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{J}_d \mathcal{J}_d^\mathcal{I} \mathcal{R}_1 \mathbf{e}(t) \\ & + \delta_1 \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{I}(t) \mathcal{L}_r^\mathcal{I} \mathcal{L}_r \mathbf{e}(t), \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2\mathbf{e}^\mathcal{I}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \Delta\mathcal{C}(t) \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t)) \leq & 2\mathbf{e}^\mathcal{I}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{J}_c \mathcal{H}(t) \mathcal{L}_c \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t)), \\ \leq & \delta_2^{-1} \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{I}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{J}_c \mathcal{J}_c^\mathcal{T} \mathcal{R}_1 \mathbf{e}(t) \\ & + \delta_2 \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{I}(t) \phi^\mathcal{I} \mathcal{L}_c^\mathcal{I} \mathcal{L}_c \phi \mathbf{e}(t), \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2\mathbf{e}^\mathcal{I}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \Delta\mathcal{B}(t) \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t))) \leq & 2\mathbf{e}^\mathcal{I}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{J}_b \mathcal{H}(t) \mathcal{L}_b \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t))), \\ \leq & \delta_3^{-1} \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{I}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{J}_b \mathcal{J}_b^\mathcal{I} \mathcal{R}_1 \mathbf{e}(t) \\ & + \delta_3 \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{I}(t - \sigma(t)) \phi^\mathcal{I} \mathcal{L}_b^\mathcal{I} \mathcal{L}_b \phi \mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t)), \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2\mathbf{e}^\mathcal{I}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{C} \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t)) \leq & \delta_4^{-1} \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{I}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{C} \mathcal{C}^\mathcal{T} \mathcal{R}_1 \mathbf{e}(t) \\ & + \delta_4 \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{I}(t) \phi^\mathcal{I} \phi \mathbf{e}(t), \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2\mathbf{e}^\mathcal{I}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{B} \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t))) \leq & \delta_5^{-1} \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{I}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{B} \mathcal{B}^\mathcal{T} \mathcal{R}_1 \mathbf{e}(t) \\ & + \delta_5 \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{I}(t - \sigma(t)) \phi^\mathcal{I} \phi \mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t)). \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Then, with the support of Lemma 1 and the linearity nature of the Caputo fractional-order derivative, the fractional derivative along the trajectories of the system state is acquired as follows

$$\begin{aligned}
 D^\alpha \mathcal{V}(t) &\leq 2e^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{D}^\alpha e(t), \\
 &\leq 2e^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1 [ -(\mathcal{R} + \Delta\mathcal{R}(t))e(t) + (\mathcal{C} + \Delta\mathcal{C}(t))h(e(t)) \\
 &\quad + (\mathcal{B} + \Delta\mathcal{B}(t))h(e(t - \sigma(t))) + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{K}e(t)], \\
 &\leq -2e^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{R}e(t) + \delta_1^{-1}e^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{J}_\sigma \mathcal{J}_\sigma^{\mathcal{I}} \mathcal{R}_1^{\mathcal{I}} e(t) \\
 &\quad + \delta_1 e^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{L}_\sigma^{\mathcal{I}} \mathcal{L}_\sigma e(t) + 2e^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{C}h(e(t)) \\
 &\quad + \delta_2^{-1}e^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{J}_c \mathcal{J}_c^{\mathcal{I}} \mathcal{R}_1^{\mathcal{I}} e(t) + \delta_2 e^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\phi^{\mathcal{I}} \mathcal{L}_c^{\mathcal{I}} \mathcal{L}_c \phi e(t) \\
 &\quad + 2e^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{B}h(e(t - \sigma(t))) + \delta_3^{-1}e^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{J}_b \mathcal{J}_b^{\mathcal{I}} \mathcal{R}_1^{\mathcal{I}} e(t) \\
 &\quad + \delta_3 e^{\mathcal{I}}(t - \sigma(t))\phi^{\mathcal{I}} \mathcal{L}_b^{\mathcal{I}} \mathcal{L}_b \phi e(t - \sigma(t)) \\
 &\quad + \delta_4^{-1}e^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{C}^T \mathcal{C} \mathcal{R}_1^T e(t) + \delta_4 e^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\phi^T \phi e(t) \\
 &\quad + \delta_5^{-1}e^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{B}^T \mathcal{B} \mathcal{R}_1^T e(t) + \delta_5 e^{\mathcal{I}}(t - \sigma(t))\phi^T \phi e(t - \sigma(t)) \\
 &\quad + e^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{R}_2 e(t) - e^{\mathcal{I}}(t - \sigma(t))\mathcal{R}_2 e(t - \sigma(t))(1 - \mu). \tag{13}
 \end{aligned}$$

From (9)–(13), the following can be obtained.

$$D^\alpha \mathcal{V}(t) \leq \zeta^T(t)\Omega\zeta(t), \tag{14}$$

where

$$\zeta(t) = \text{col}[e(t), e(t - \sigma(t))].$$

From the aforementioned part, we know that matrix inequality (7) guarantees  $\Omega < 0$ .

Thereby, the master system (1) is synchronized with the slave system (3). The proof of Theorem 1 is complete.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.** *The FNNs (1) and (3) are globally asymptotically synchronized, for given scalars  $\delta_1, \delta_2, \delta_3, \delta_4, \delta_5$ , and  $\sigma$ , if there exist symmetric positive definite matrices  $\mathcal{R}_1 > 0, \mathcal{R}_2 > 0$ , such that the following LMIs hold:*

$$\pi = \begin{bmatrix} \pi_{11} & \mathcal{J}_r & \mathcal{J}_c & \mathcal{J}_b & \mathcal{C} & \mathcal{B} & 0 \\ * & -\delta_1 \mathcal{I} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & -\delta_2 \mathcal{I} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & -\delta_3 \mathcal{I} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & -\delta_4 \mathcal{I} & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & -\delta_5 \mathcal{I} & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & \pi_{66} \end{bmatrix} < 0, \tag{15}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 \pi_{11} &= -2\mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{X}_1 + \mathcal{X}_1 \delta_1 \mathcal{L}_r^{\mathcal{I}} \mathcal{L}_r \mathcal{X}_1 + \mathcal{X}_1 \delta_2 \phi^{\mathcal{I}} \mathcal{L}_c^{\mathcal{I}} \mathcal{L}_c \phi \mathcal{X}_1 \\
 &\quad + \mathcal{X}_1 \delta_4 \phi^{\mathcal{I}} \phi \mathcal{X}_1 + \mathcal{X}_1 \mathcal{R}_2 \mathcal{X}_1 + \mathcal{H} \mathcal{Y}_1, \\
 \pi_{66} &= \delta_3 \phi^T \mathcal{L}_b^T \mathcal{L}_b \phi + \delta_5 \phi^T \phi - \mathcal{R}_2(1 - \mu), \tag{16}
 \end{aligned}$$

and the other parameters are the same as in Theorem 1; among them, the gain matrix is defined with  $\mathcal{R}_1^{-1} = \mathcal{X}_1$ .

**Proof.** We pre- and post-multiply  $\Omega$  by  $\{\mathcal{R}_1^{-1}, \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{I}\}$  and  $\mathcal{R}_1^{-1} = \mathcal{X}_1$

$$\Phi = \begin{bmatrix} \Phi_{11} & \mathcal{I}_r & \mathcal{I}_c & \mathcal{I}_b & \mathcal{C} & \mathcal{B} & 0 \\ * & -\delta_1 \mathcal{I} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & -\delta_2 \mathcal{I} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & -\delta_3 \mathcal{I} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & -\delta_4 \mathcal{I} & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & -\delta_5 \mathcal{I} & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & \Phi_{66} \end{bmatrix} < 0, \tag{17}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{11} &= -2\mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{X}_1 + \mathcal{X}_1 \delta_1 \mathcal{L}_r^T \mathcal{L}_r \mathcal{X}_1 + \mathcal{X}_1 \delta_2 \phi^T \mathcal{L}_c^T \mathcal{L}_c \phi \mathcal{X}_1 \\ &\quad + \mathcal{X}_1 \delta_4 \phi^T \phi \mathcal{X}_1 + \mathcal{X}_1 \mathcal{R}_2 \mathcal{X}_1 + \mathcal{H} \mathcal{H} \mathcal{X}_1, \\ \Phi_{66} &= \delta_3 \phi^T \mathcal{L}_b^T \mathcal{L}_b \phi + \delta_5 \phi^T \phi - \mathcal{R}_2 (1 - \mu). \end{aligned}$$

At the same time, the controller gain matrix  $\mathcal{K}$  can be obtained as  $\mathcal{Y}_1 = \mathcal{K} \mathcal{X}_1$ ,

$$\pi = \begin{bmatrix} \pi_{11} & \mathcal{I}_r & \mathcal{I}_c & \mathcal{I}_b & \mathcal{C} & \mathcal{B} & 0 \\ * & -\delta_1 \mathcal{I} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & -\delta_2 \mathcal{I} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & -\delta_3 \mathcal{I} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & -\delta_4 \mathcal{I} & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & -\delta_5 \mathcal{I} & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & \pi_{66} \end{bmatrix} < 0. \tag{18}$$

Hence, (15) guarantees that

$$\pi < 0. \tag{19}$$

Thereby, the master system (1) is synchronized with the slave system (3). The proof of Theorem 2 is complete.  $\square$

**Remark 2.** Specifically, when there are no uncertainties in the given system, the neural network (6) reduces to

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}^\alpha \mathbf{e}(t) &= -\mathcal{R} \mathbf{e}(t) + \mathcal{C} \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t)) + \mathcal{B} \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t))) \\ &\quad + \mathcal{A} \int_{t-\eta}^t \mathbf{e}(s) ds + \mathcal{H} \mathcal{H} \mathbf{e}(t). \end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

**Corollary 1.** The scalars are  $\delta_4, \delta_5, \eta, \epsilon$ , and  $\sigma$ , and if there exist symmetric positive definite matrices  $\mathcal{R}_1 > 0, \mathcal{R}_2 > 0$ , a feasible solution exists for the following LMIs:

$$\beta < 0. \tag{21}$$

**Proof.** Now, let us define the Lyapunov–Krasovskii functional as follows:

$$\mathcal{V}(t) = \mathcal{V}_1(t) + \mathcal{V}_2(t), \tag{22}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{V}_1(t) &= \mathbf{e}^T(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathbf{e}(t), \\ \mathcal{V}_2(t) &= \mathcal{D}^{(-\alpha+1)} \int_{t-\sigma(t)}^t \mathbf{e}^T(s) \mathcal{R}_2 \mathbf{e}(s) ds. \end{aligned}$$

By using Lemma 2, we have

$$2e^{\mathcal{J}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{C}h(e(t)) \leq \delta_4^{-1}e^{\mathcal{J}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{C}\mathcal{C}^T\mathcal{R}_1^T e(t) + \delta_4e^{\mathcal{J}}(t)\phi^{\mathcal{J}}\phi e(t), \tag{23}$$

$$2e^{\mathcal{J}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{B}h(e(t-\sigma(t))) \leq \delta_5^{-1}e^{\mathcal{J}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{B}\mathcal{B}^T\mathcal{R}_1^T e(t) + \delta_5e^{\mathcal{J}}(t-\sigma(t))\phi^{\mathcal{J}}\phi e(t-\sigma(t)). \tag{24}$$

Further, the above term is computed in view of the procedure in [47], and by employing Lemma 2.1 in [47] and the Cauchy matrix inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 2e^{\mathcal{J}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{A}(t) \int_{t-\eta}^t e(s)ds &\leq \eta e^{\mathcal{J}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{A}\mathcal{R}_1^{-1}\mathcal{A}^T\mathcal{R}_1 e(t) \\ &+ \frac{1}{\eta} \left( \int_{t-\eta}^t e(s)ds \right)^T \mathcal{R}_1 \left( \int_{t-\eta}^t e(s)ds \right), \\ &\leq \eta e^{\mathcal{J}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{A}\mathcal{R}_1^{-1}\mathcal{A}^T\mathcal{R}_1 e(t) \\ &+ \frac{1}{\eta} \left( \int_{t-\eta}^t e^T(s)\mathcal{R}_1 e(s)ds \right), \\ &\leq \eta e^{\mathcal{J}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{A}\mathcal{R}_1^{-1}\mathcal{A}^T\mathcal{R}_1 e(t) \\ &+ \frac{1}{\eta} \left( \int_{-\eta}^0 e^T(t+s)\mathcal{R}_1 e(t+s)ds \right), \end{aligned} \tag{25}$$

since  $\mathcal{V}(t+s, r(t+s)) \leq \epsilon \mathcal{V}(t, r(t))$

$$2e^{\mathcal{J}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{A}(t) \int_{t-\eta}^t e(s)ds \leq \eta e^{\mathcal{J}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{A}\mathcal{R}_1^{-1}\mathcal{A}^T\mathcal{R}_1 e(t) + \eta \epsilon e^{\mathcal{J}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1 e(t). \tag{26}$$

Then, with the support of Lemma 1 and the linearity nature of the Caputo fractional-order derivative, the fractional derivative along the trajectories of the system state is acquired as follows

$$\begin{aligned} D^\alpha \mathcal{V}(t) &\leq 2e^{\mathcal{J}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{D}^\alpha e(t), \\ &\leq 2e^{\mathcal{J}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1[-\mathcal{R}e(t) + \mathcal{C}h(e(t)) + \mathcal{B}h(e(t-\sigma(t))) \\ &+ 2e^{\mathcal{J}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{A}(t) \int_{t-\eta}^t e(s)ds + \mathcal{H}e(t)], \\ &\leq -2e^{\mathcal{J}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{R}e(t) + \delta_4^{-1}e^{\mathcal{J}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{C}^T\mathcal{C}\mathcal{R}_1^T e(t) + \delta_4e^{\mathcal{J}}(t)\phi^T\phi e(t) \\ &+ \delta_5^{-1}e^{\mathcal{J}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{B}^T\mathcal{B}\mathcal{R}_1^T e(t) + \delta_5e^{\mathcal{J}}(t-\sigma(t))\phi^T\phi e(t-\sigma(t)) \\ &+ \eta e^{\mathcal{J}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{A}\mathcal{R}_1^{-1}\mathcal{A}^T\mathcal{R}_1 e(t) + \eta \epsilon e^{\mathcal{J}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1 e(t) \\ &+ e^T(t)\mathcal{R}_2 e(t) - e^T(t-\sigma(t))\mathcal{R}_2 e(t-\sigma(t))(1-\mu). \end{aligned} \tag{27}$$

From (23)–(27) and applying Lemma 4, we obtain

$$\Theta = \begin{bmatrix} \Theta_{11} & \mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{C} & \mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{B} & \eta\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{A} & 0 \\ * & -\delta_4\mathcal{I} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & -\delta_5\mathcal{I} & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & \eta\mathcal{R}_1 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & \delta_5\phi^T\phi - \mathcal{R}_2 \end{bmatrix} < 0, \tag{28}$$

$$\Theta_{11} = -2\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{R} + \eta\epsilon\mathcal{R}_1 + \mathcal{R}_2 + \mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{H}\mathcal{H}.$$

We pre- and post-multiply  $\Theta$  by  $\{\mathcal{R}_1^{-1}, \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{R}_1^{-1}, \mathcal{I}\}$



$$\Xi = \begin{bmatrix} \Xi_{11} & \mathcal{C} & \mathcal{B} & \eta \mathcal{A} \mathcal{X}_1 & 0 \\ * & -\delta_4 \mathcal{I} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & -\delta_5 \mathcal{I} & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & -\eta \mathcal{X}_1 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & \delta_5 \phi^T \phi - \mathcal{R}_2 \end{bmatrix}, \tag{29}$$

where  $\Xi_{11} = -2\mathcal{R} \mathcal{X}_1 + \mathcal{X}_1 \delta_4 \phi^T \phi \mathcal{X}_1 + \mathcal{X}_1 \eta \epsilon + \mathcal{X}_1 \mathcal{R}_2 \mathcal{X}_1 + \mathcal{H} \mathcal{H} \mathcal{X}_1$

$$\zeta = \begin{bmatrix} \zeta_{11} & \mathcal{C} & \mathcal{B} & \eta \mathcal{A} \mathcal{X}_1 & 0 \\ * & -\delta_4 \mathcal{I} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & -\delta_5 \mathcal{I} & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & -\eta \mathcal{X}_1 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & \delta_5 \phi^T \phi - \mathcal{R}_2 \end{bmatrix}, \tag{30}$$

where  $\zeta_{11} = -2\mathcal{R} \mathcal{X}_1 + \mathcal{X}_1 \delta_4 \phi^T \phi \mathcal{X}_1 + \mathcal{X}_1 \eta \epsilon + \mathcal{X}_1 \mathcal{R}_2 \mathcal{X}_1 + \mathcal{H} \mathcal{Y}$ .

Thereby, the master system (1) is synchronized with the slave system (3).  $\square$

### 4. Event-Triggered Control Scheme

In this section, we introduce an event generator in the controller node by using the following judgment algorithm

$$[\epsilon((k+j)h) - \epsilon(kh)]^T \Phi [\epsilon((k+j)h) - \epsilon(kh)] \leq \Sigma \epsilon^T((k+j)h) \Phi \epsilon((k+j)h), \tag{31}$$

where  $\Phi$  is a positive definite matrix to be determined,  $k, j \in \mathcal{Z}_+$  and  $kh$  denotes the release instant,  $\epsilon((k+j)h) = v((k+j)h) - w((k+j)h)$  is the error information at the instant  $(k+j)h$ , and  $\sigma \in [0, 1)$  is a given constant. Cases A and B relate to the following delayed differential equation

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}^\alpha \epsilon(t) = & -(\mathcal{R} + \Delta \mathcal{R}(t))\epsilon(t) + (\mathcal{C} + \Delta \mathcal{C}(t))h(\epsilon(t)) + (\mathcal{B} + \Delta \mathcal{B}(t))h(\epsilon(t - \sigma(t))) \\ & + (\mathcal{A} + \Delta \mathcal{A}(t)) \int_{t-\eta}^t h(\epsilon(s)) ds + \mathcal{H} \mathcal{H} \epsilon(t_k h), t \in [t_k h + \tau_k, t_{k+1} h + \tau_{k+1}). \end{aligned} \tag{32}$$

Case A: if  $t_k h + h + \bar{\tau} \geq t_{k+1} h + \tau_{k+1}$ , we can define  $\tau(t)$  as

$$\tau(t) = t - t_k h, t \in [t_k h + \tau_k, t_{k+1} h + \tau_{k+1}).$$

It can be seen that

$$\tau_t \leq \tau(t) \leq (t_{k+1} - t_k)h + t_{k+1} \leq h + \bar{\tau}.$$

Case B: if  $t_k h + h + \bar{\tau} < t_{k+1} h + \tau_{k+1}$ , since  $t_k \leq \bar{\tau}$ , we can easily demonstrate that a positive constant  $m$  exists such that  $t_k h + mh + \bar{\tau} < t_{k+1} h + \tau_{k+1} \leq t_k h + (m+1)h + \bar{\tau}$ . For the time intervals  $[t_k h + \tau_k, t_{k+1} h + \tau_{k+1})$ , we divide them as  $\mathcal{F}_0 = [t_k h + \tau_k, t_k h + h + \bar{\tau})$ ,  $\mathcal{F}_i = [t_k h + ih + \bar{\tau}, t_k h + (i+1)h + \bar{\tau})$ , and  $\mathcal{F}_m = [t_k h + mh + \bar{\tau}, t_{k+1} h + \tau_{k+1})$ , and we define  $\tau(t)$  as

$$\tau(t) = t - t_k(t) - ih, it \in \mathcal{F}_i, i = 0, 1, \dots, m.$$

It is easy to prove that  $0 \leq \tau_k \leq \tau(t) \leq h + \bar{\tau} = \tau_M, t \in [t_k h + \tau_k, t_{k+1} h + \tau_{k+1})$ . Finally, we define

$$\epsilon_k(t) = \epsilon(t_k h) - \epsilon(t_k h + ih), t \in \mathcal{F}_i, i = 0, 1, \dots, m. \tag{33}$$

For case A,  $m = 0$ , we have  $\epsilon_k(t) = 0$  from (33). Based on the analysis above, the event generator (31) can be rewritten as

$$\epsilon_k^T(t) \Phi \epsilon_k(t) \leq \Sigma \epsilon^T(t - \tau(t)) \Phi \epsilon(t - \tau(t)), t \in [t_k h + \tau_k, t_{k+1} h + \tau_{k+1}).$$

Then, the system is reduced to

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}^\alpha \mathbf{e}(t) = & -\mathcal{R}\mathbf{e}(t) + \mathcal{C}\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t)) + \mathcal{B}\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t))) \\ & + \mathcal{A} \int_{t-\eta}^t \mathbf{e}(s) \mathcal{D}s + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{K}\mathbf{e}(t) + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{K}\mathbf{e}(t - \tau(t)). \end{aligned} \tag{34}$$

**Theorem 3.** For the given scalars  $\delta_1, \delta_2, \delta_3, \delta_4, \delta_5, \mu_1$ , and  $\sigma$  and the diagonal matrices  $\mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2$ , and  $\mathcal{L}_3$ , if there exist symmetric positive definite matrices  $\mathcal{R}_1 > 0, \mathcal{R}_2 > 0$ , then a feasible solution exists for the following LMIs:

$$\xi < 0. \tag{35}$$

**Proof.** Now, let us define the Lyapunov–Krasovskii functional as follows:

$$\mathcal{V}(t) = \mathcal{V}_1(t) + \mathcal{V}_2(t), \tag{36}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{V}_1(t) &= \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathbf{e}(t), \\ \mathcal{V}_2(t) &= \mathcal{D}^{(-\alpha+1)} \int_{t-\sigma(t)}^t \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(s) \mathcal{R}_2 \mathbf{e}(s) ds. \end{aligned}$$

Using Lemma 2, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 2\mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \Delta \mathcal{R}(t) \mathbf{e}(t) &\leq 2\mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{J}_\mathcal{D} \mathcal{H}(t) \mathcal{L}_\mathcal{D} \mathbf{e}(t), \\ &\leq \delta_1^{-1} \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{J}_\mathcal{D} \mathcal{J}_\mathcal{D}^\mathcal{T} \mathcal{R}_1^\mathcal{T} \mathbf{e}(t) \\ &\quad + \delta_1 \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t) \mathcal{L}_\mathcal{D}^\mathcal{T} \mathcal{L}_\mathcal{D} \mathbf{e}(t), \end{aligned} \tag{37}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2\mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \Delta \mathcal{C}(t) \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t)) &\leq 2\mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{J}_\mathcal{C} \mathcal{H}(t) \mathcal{L}_\mathcal{C} \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t)), \\ &\leq \delta_2^{-1} \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{J}_\mathcal{C} \mathcal{J}_\mathcal{C}^\mathcal{T} \mathcal{R}_1^\mathcal{T} \mathbf{e}(t) \\ &\quad + \delta_2 \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t) \mathcal{L}_\mathcal{C}^\mathcal{T} \mathcal{L}_\mathcal{C} \mathbf{e}(t), \end{aligned} \tag{38}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2\mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \Delta \mathcal{B}(t) \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t))) &\leq 2\mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{J}_\mathcal{B} \mathcal{H}(t) \mathcal{L}_\mathcal{B} \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t))), \\ &\leq \delta_3^{-1} \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{J}_\mathcal{B} \mathcal{J}_\mathcal{B}^\mathcal{T} \mathcal{R}_1^\mathcal{T} \mathbf{e}(t) \\ &\quad + \delta_3 \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t - \sigma(t)) \mathcal{L}_\mathcal{B}^\mathcal{T} \mathcal{L}_\mathcal{B} \mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t)). \end{aligned} \tag{39}$$

Then, with the support of Lemma 1 and the linearity nature of the Caputo fractional-order derivative, the fractional derivative along the trajectories of the system state is acquired as follows

$$\begin{aligned} D^\alpha \mathcal{V}(t) &\leq 2\mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{D}^\alpha \mathbf{e}(t), \\ &\leq 2\mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 [ -(\mathcal{R} + \Delta \mathcal{R}(t)) \mathbf{e}(t) + (\mathcal{C} + \Delta \mathcal{C}(t)) \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t)) \\ &\quad + (\mathcal{B} + \Delta \mathcal{B}(t)) \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t))) + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{K}\mathbf{e}(t) + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{K}\mathbf{e}(t - \tau(t)) ], \\ &\leq -2\mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{R} \mathbf{e}(t) + \delta_1^{-1} \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{J}_\mathcal{D} \mathcal{J}_\mathcal{D}^\mathcal{T} \mathcal{R}_1^\mathcal{T} \mathbf{e}(t) + \delta_1 \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t) \mathcal{L}_\mathcal{D}^\mathcal{T} \mathcal{L}_\mathcal{D} \mathbf{e}(t) \\ &\quad + 2\mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{C} \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t)) + \delta_2^{-1} \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{J}_\mathcal{C} \mathcal{J}_\mathcal{C}^\mathcal{T} \mathcal{R}_1^\mathcal{T} \mathbf{e}(t) + \delta_2 \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t) \mathcal{L}_\mathcal{C}^\mathcal{T} \mathcal{L}_\mathcal{C} \mathbf{e}(t) \\ &\quad + 2\mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{B} \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t))) + \delta_3^{-1} \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t) \mathcal{R}_1 \mathcal{J}_\mathcal{B} \mathcal{J}_\mathcal{B}^\mathcal{T} \mathcal{R}_1^\mathcal{T} \mathbf{e}(t) \\ &\quad + \delta_3 \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t - \sigma(t)) \mathcal{L}_\mathcal{B}^\mathcal{T} \mathcal{L}_\mathcal{B} \mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t)) \\ &\quad + \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t) \mathcal{R}_2 \mathbf{e}(t) - \mathbf{e}^\mathcal{T}(t - \sigma(t)) \mathcal{R}_2 \mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t)) (1 - \mu). \end{aligned} \tag{40}$$

From Assumption 1, we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{e}(t) \\ \mathfrak{h}(\mathbf{e}(t)) \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} -\mathcal{L}_1\Gamma_2 & \mathcal{L}_1\Gamma_1 \\ * & -\mathcal{L}_1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{e}(t) \\ \mathfrak{h}(\mathbf{e}(t)) \end{bmatrix} \leq 0 \tag{41}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t)) \\ \mathfrak{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t))) \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} -\mathcal{L}_2\Gamma_2 & \mathcal{L}_2\Gamma_1 \\ * & -\mathcal{L}_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t)) \\ \mathfrak{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t))) \end{bmatrix} \leq 0 \tag{42}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{e}(t - \tau(t)) \\ \mathfrak{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \tau(t))) \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} -\mathcal{L}_3\Gamma_2 & \mathcal{L}_3\Gamma_1 \\ * & -\mathcal{L}_3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{e}(t - \tau(t)) \\ \mathfrak{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \tau(t))) \end{bmatrix} \leq 0. \tag{43}$$

From (37)–(43), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} D^\alpha \mathcal{V}(t) &\leq 2\mathbf{e}^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{D}^\alpha\mathbf{e}(t), \\ &\leq 2\mathbf{e}^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1[-(\mathcal{R} + \Delta\mathcal{R}(t))\mathbf{e}(t) + (\mathcal{C} + \Delta\mathcal{C}(t))\mathfrak{h}(\mathbf{e}(t)) \\ &\quad + (\mathcal{B} + \Delta\mathcal{B}(t))\mathfrak{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t))) + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{H}\mathbf{e}(t) + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{H}\mathbf{e}(t - \tau(t))], \\ &\leq -2\mathbf{e}^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{R}\mathbf{e}(t) + \delta_1^{-1}\mathbf{e}^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{J}_\delta\mathcal{J}_\delta^{\mathcal{I}}\mathcal{R}_1^{\mathcal{I}}\mathbf{e}(t) + \delta_1\mathbf{e}^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{L}_\delta^{\mathcal{I}}\mathcal{L}_\delta\mathbf{e}(t) \\ &\quad + 2\mathbf{e}^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{C}\mathfrak{h}(\mathbf{e}(t)) + \delta_2^{-1}\mathbf{e}^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{J}_c\mathcal{J}_c^{\mathcal{I}}\mathcal{R}_1^{\mathcal{I}}\mathbf{e}(t) + \delta_2\mathbf{e}^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\phi^{\mathcal{I}}\mathcal{L}_c^{\mathcal{I}}\mathcal{L}_c\phi\mathbf{e}(t) \\ &\quad + 2\mathbf{e}^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{B}\mathfrak{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t))) + \delta_3^{-1}\mathbf{e}^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{J}_b\mathcal{J}_b^{\mathcal{I}}\mathcal{R}_1^{\mathcal{I}}\mathbf{e}(t) \\ &\quad + \delta_3\mathbf{e}^{\mathcal{I}}(t - \sigma(t))\phi^{\mathcal{I}}\mathcal{L}_b^{\mathcal{I}}\mathcal{L}_b\phi\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t)) \\ &\quad + \delta_4^{-1}\mathbf{e}^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{C}^T\mathcal{C}\mathcal{R}_1^T\mathbf{e}(t) + \delta_4\mathbf{e}^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\phi^T\phi\mathbf{e}(t) \\ &\quad + \delta_5^{-1}\mathbf{e}^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{B}^T\mathcal{B}\mathcal{R}_1^T\mathbf{e}(t) + \delta_5\mathbf{e}^{\mathcal{I}}(t - \sigma(t))\phi^T\phi\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t)) \\ &\quad + \mathbf{e}^{\mathcal{I}}(t)\mathcal{R}_2\mathbf{e}(t) - \mathbf{e}^{\mathcal{I}}(t - \sigma(t))\mathcal{R}_2\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t)) \\ &\quad + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{e}(t) \\ \mathfrak{h}(\mathbf{e}(t)) \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} -\mathcal{L}_1\Gamma_2 & \mathcal{L}_1\Gamma_1 \\ * & -\mathcal{L}_1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{e}(t) \\ \mathfrak{h}(\mathbf{e}(t)) \end{bmatrix} \\ &\quad + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t)) \\ \mathfrak{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t))) \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} -\mathcal{L}_2\Gamma_2 & \mathcal{L}_2\Gamma_1 \\ * & -\mathcal{L}_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t)) \\ \mathfrak{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t))) \end{bmatrix} \\ &\quad + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{e}(t - \tau(t)) \\ \mathfrak{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \tau(t))) \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} -\mathcal{L}_3\Gamma_2 & \mathcal{L}_3\Gamma_1 \\ * & -\mathcal{L}_3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{e}(t - \tau(t)) \\ \mathfrak{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \tau(t))) \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Then,

$$\Lambda = \begin{bmatrix} \Lambda_{11} & \Lambda_{12} & 0 & \Lambda_{14} & \Lambda_{15} & 0 & \Lambda_{17} & \Lambda_{18} & \Lambda_{19} \\ * & \Lambda_{22} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & \Lambda_{33} & \Lambda_{34} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & \Lambda_{44} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & \Lambda_{55} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & \Lambda_{66} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & \Lambda_{77} & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & * & \Lambda_{88} & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * & \Lambda_{99} \end{bmatrix} < 0, \tag{44}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda_{11} &= -2\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{R} + \delta_1\mathcal{L}_r^{\mathcal{I}}\mathcal{L}_r + \delta_2\phi^{\mathcal{I}}\mathcal{L}_c^{\mathcal{I}}\mathcal{L}_c\phi + \mathcal{R}_2 + 2\mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{H}\mathcal{H} \\ &\quad - \mathcal{L}_1\Gamma_2 - \Phi, \Lambda_{12} = \mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{C} + \mathcal{L}_1\Gamma_1, \Lambda_{14} = \mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{B}, \Lambda_{15} = \mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{H}\mathcal{H}, \\ \Lambda_{17} &= \mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{J}_\tau, \Lambda_{18} = \mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{J}_c, \Lambda_{19} = \mathcal{R}_1\mathcal{J}_b, \Lambda_{22} = -\mathcal{L}_1, \Lambda_{33} = \delta_3\phi^T\mathcal{L}_b^T\mathcal{L}_b\phi \\ &\quad - \mathcal{R}_2(1 - \mu) - \mathcal{L}_2\Gamma_2, \Lambda_{34} = \mathcal{L}_2\Gamma_1, \Lambda_{44} = -\mathcal{L}_2, \Lambda_{55} = \Sigma\Phi - \mathcal{L}_3\Gamma_2, \\ \Lambda_{56} &= \mathcal{L}_3\Gamma_1, \Lambda_{66} = -\mathcal{L}_3, \Lambda_{77} = -\delta_1\mathcal{I}, \Lambda_{88} = -\delta_2\mathcal{I}, \Lambda_{99} = -\delta_3\mathcal{I}. \end{aligned}$$

We pre- and post-multiply  $\Lambda$  with  $\{\mathcal{R}_1^{-1}, \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{R}_1^{-1}, \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{I}\}$

$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} Y_{11} & Y_{12} & 0 & Y_{14} & Y_{15} & 0 & Y_{17} & Y_{18} & Y_{19} \\ * & Y_{22} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & Y_{33} & Y_{34} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & Y_{44} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & Y_{55} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & Y_{66} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & Y_{77} & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & * & Y_{88} & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * & Y_{99} \end{bmatrix} < 0, \tag{45}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} Y_{11} &= -2\mathcal{R}\mathcal{X}_1 + \mathcal{X}_1\delta_1\mathcal{L}_r^T\mathcal{L}_r\mathcal{X}_1 + \mathcal{X}_1\delta_2\phi^T\mathcal{L}_c^T\mathcal{L}_c\phi\mathcal{X}_1 + \mathcal{X}_1\mathcal{R}_2\mathcal{X}_1 \\ &\quad + 2\mathcal{H}\mathcal{K}\mathcal{X}_1 - \mathcal{X}_1\mathcal{L}_1\Gamma_2\mathcal{X}_1 - \mathcal{X}_1\phi\mathcal{X}_1, Y_{12} = \mathcal{C} + \mathcal{X}_1\mathcal{L}_1\Gamma_1, Y_{14} = \mathcal{B}, \\ Y_{15} &= \mathcal{H}\mathcal{K}\mathcal{X}_1, Y_{17} = \mathcal{J}_v, Y_{18} = \mathcal{J}_c, Y_{19} = \mathcal{J}_b, Y_{22} = -\mathcal{L}_1, Y_{33} = \delta_3\phi^T\mathcal{L}_b^T\mathcal{L}_b\phi \\ &\quad - \mathcal{R}_2(1 - \mu) - \mathcal{L}_2\Gamma_2, Y_{34} = \mathcal{L}_2\Gamma_1, Y_{44} = -\mathcal{L}_2, Y_{55} = \mathcal{X}_1\Sigma\Phi\mathcal{X}_1 - \mathcal{X}_1\mathcal{L}_3\Gamma_2\mathcal{X}_1, \\ Y_{56} &= \mathcal{L}_3\Gamma_1, Y_{66} = -\mathcal{L}_3, Y_{77} = -\delta_1\mathcal{I}, Y_{88} = -\delta_2\mathcal{I}, Y_{99} = -\delta_3\mathcal{I}. \end{aligned}$$

At the same time, the controller gain matrix  $\mathcal{K}$  can be obtained as  $\mathcal{Y}_1 = \mathcal{K}\mathcal{X}_1$

$$\zeta = \begin{bmatrix} \zeta_{11} & \zeta_{12} & 0 & \zeta_{14} & \zeta_{15} & 0 & \zeta_{17} & \zeta_{18} & \zeta_{19} \\ * & \zeta_{22} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & \zeta_{33} & \zeta_{34} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & \zeta_{44} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & \zeta_{55} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & \zeta_{66} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & \zeta_{77} & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & * & \zeta_{88} & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * & \zeta_{99} \end{bmatrix} < 0, \tag{46}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta_{11} &= -2\mathcal{R}\mathcal{X}_1 + \mathcal{X}_1\delta_1\mathcal{L}_r^T\mathcal{L}_r\mathcal{X}_1 + \mathcal{X}_1\delta_2\phi^T\mathcal{L}_c^T\mathcal{L}_c\phi\mathcal{X}_1 + \mathcal{X}_1\mathcal{R}_2\mathcal{X}_1 + 2\mathcal{H}\mathcal{Y} \\ &\quad - \mathcal{X}_1\mathcal{L}_1\Gamma_2\mathcal{X}_1 - \mathcal{X}_1\phi\mathcal{X}_1, \zeta_{12} = \mathcal{C} + \mathcal{X}_1\mathcal{L}_1\Gamma_1, \zeta_{14} = \mathcal{B}, \zeta_{15} = \mathcal{H}\mathcal{Y}, \zeta_{17} = \mathcal{J}_v, \\ \zeta_{18} &= \mathcal{J}_c, \zeta_{19} = \mathcal{J}_b, \zeta_{22} = -\mathcal{L}_1, \zeta_{33} = \delta_3\phi^T\mathcal{L}_b^T\mathcal{L}_b\phi - \mathcal{R}_2(1 - \mu) - \mathcal{L}_2\Gamma_2, \\ \zeta_{34} &= \mathcal{L}_2\Gamma_1, \zeta_{44} = -\mathcal{L}_2, \zeta_{55} = \mathcal{X}_1\Sigma\Phi\mathcal{X}_1 - \mathcal{X}_1\mathcal{L}_3\Gamma_2\mathcal{X}_1, \zeta_{56} = \mathcal{L}_3\Gamma_1, \zeta_{66} = -\mathcal{L}_3, \\ \zeta_{77} &= -\delta_1\mathcal{I}, \zeta_{88} = -\delta_2\mathcal{I}, \zeta_{99} = -\delta_3\mathcal{I}. \end{aligned}$$

$$D^\alpha\mathcal{V}(t) \leq \varphi^T(t)\zeta\varphi(t), \tag{47}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(t) &= \text{col}[\mathbf{e}(t), \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t)), \mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t)), \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t))), \mathbf{e}(t - \tau(t)), \\ &\quad \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \tau(t)))]. \end{aligned}$$

By the Lypunov stability theory analysis, the event-triggered synchronization of the fractional-order uncertain neural networks' error system (34) is globally asymptotic stable if LMI (35) holds. This completes the proof.  $\square$

### 5. Numerical Example

**Example 1.** Consider the following uncertain neural networks (5) with time-varying delays described by

$$\mathcal{D}^\alpha \mathbf{e}(t) = -(\mathcal{R} + \Delta\mathcal{R}(t))\mathbf{e}(t) + (\mathcal{C} + \Delta\mathcal{C}(t))\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t)) + (\mathcal{B} + \Delta\mathcal{B}(t))\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t))) + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{Q}(t), \tag{48}$$

with the following parameters

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{C} &= \begin{bmatrix} -1.5241 & 1.2489 & 1.6844 & 1.2946 & 1.8722 \\ -1.2567 & 1.1247 & 1.4211 & 1.6522 & 1.2807 \\ 1.5427 & 1.1227 & -1.4567 & 1.0425 & 1.1727 \\ 1.2514 & -1.1077 & 1.2404 & 1.6507 & 1.2701 \\ 1.9472 & -1.1174 & -1.2567 & 1.9989 & 1.2486 \end{bmatrix}, \\ \mathcal{B} &= \begin{bmatrix} -1.4932 & 1.5968 & 1.2567 & 1.0567 & 1.2674 \\ 1.2942 & 1.9942 & -1.6911 & 1.2849 & 1.5677 \\ 1.0977 & 1.4217 & -1.2415 & 1.5661 & 1.5717 \\ 1.2567 & -1.0741 & 1.2961 & 1.2247 & 1.2702 \\ 1.0047 & 1.2742 & 1.4274 & 1.6611 & 1.4428 \end{bmatrix}, \\ \mathcal{H} &= \begin{bmatrix} -1.5432 & 1.0968 & 1.2987 & 1.0097 & 1.9974 \\ 1.6542 & 1.5642 & -1.3411 & 1.7649 & 1.5767 \\ 1.2377 & 1.3417 & -1.9815 & 1.3461 & 1.5887 \\ 1.8767 & -1.8741 & 1.6561 & 1.9847 & 1.2092 \\ 1.3247 & 1.2652 & 1.4094 & 1.6871 & 1.4488 \end{bmatrix}, \\ \mathcal{R} &= \begin{bmatrix} 0.7289 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.7289 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.7289 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.7289 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.7289 \end{bmatrix}, \mathcal{I} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \\ \mathcal{I}_r &= \begin{bmatrix} 0.4428 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.4428 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.4428 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.4428 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.4428 \end{bmatrix}, \\ \mathcal{L}_d &= \begin{bmatrix} 1.7782 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1.7782 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1.7782 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1.7782 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1.7782 \end{bmatrix}, \\ \mathcal{I}_c &= \begin{bmatrix} 0.5242 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.5242 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.5242 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.5242 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.5242 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_c = \begin{bmatrix} 2.8976 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2.8976 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2.8976 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2.8976 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2.8976 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathcal{L}_b = \begin{bmatrix} 1.8974 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1.8974 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1.8974 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1.8974 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1.8974 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathcal{I}_b = \begin{bmatrix} 0.2995 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.2995 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.2995 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.2995 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.2995 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\phi = \begin{bmatrix} 0.2494 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.2494 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.2494 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.2494 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.2494 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Moreover, the activation functions are  $f(\mathbf{e}(t)) = \tanh(\mathbf{e}(t))$  and  $f(\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t))) = \sinh(\mathbf{e}(t))$ .

Solving the LMI conditions provided in (7) based on the MATLAB toolbox returns the following feasible solutions:

$$\mathcal{R}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0.0284 & 0.0154 & 0.0180 & -0.0127 & -0.0074 \\ 0.0154 & 0.0244 & 0.0120 & 0.0070 & -0.0260 \\ 0.0180 & 0.0120 & 0.0209 & -0.0054 & -0.0102 \\ -0.0127 & 0.0070 & -0.0054 & 0.0904 & -0.0873 \\ -0.0074 & -0.0260 & -0.0102 & -0.0873 & 0.1118 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathcal{R}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 36.6572 & 0.0000 & 0.0000 & -0.0000 & -0.0000 \\ 0.0000 & 36.6572 & 0.0000 & 0.0000 & -0.0000 \\ 0.0000 & 0.0000 & 36.6572 & -0.0000 & -0.0000 \\ -0.0000 & 0.0000 & -0.0000 & 36.6572 & -0.0000 \\ -0.0000 & -0.0000 & -0.0000 & -0.0000 & 36.6572 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The gain matrix of the designed controller can be obtained as:

$$\mathcal{K} = \begin{bmatrix} -9.2914 & 0.0000 & 0.0000 & -0.0000 & -0.0000 \\ 0.0000 & -9.2914 & 0.0000 & 0.0000 & -0.0000 \\ 0.0000 & 0.0000 & -9.2914 & -0.0000 & -0.0000 \\ -0.0000 & 0.0000 & -0.0000 & -9.2914 & -0.0000 \\ -0.0000 & -0.0000 & -0.0000 & -0.0000 & -9.2914 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$\delta_1 = 20.2099, \delta_2 = 20.2097, \delta_3 = 20.2099, \delta_4 = 20.2099$ , and  $\delta_5 = 20.2099$ , which preserves system (48) as synchronous.

**Example 2.** Consider the following uncertain neural networks with time-varying delays described by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}^\alpha \mathbf{e}(t) = & -(\mathcal{R} + \Delta\mathcal{R}(t))\mathbf{e}(t) + (\mathcal{C} + \Delta\mathcal{C}(t))\mathfrak{h}(\mathbf{e}(t)) + (\mathcal{B} + \Delta\mathcal{B}(t))\mathfrak{h}(\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t))) \\ & + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{Q}\mathcal{H}(t) \end{aligned} \quad (49)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{C} &= \begin{bmatrix} -1.7841 & 1.2499 & 1.6876 & 1.9046 & 1.8092 \\ -1.3367 & 1.3447 & 1.4541 & 1.6982 & 1.7807 \\ 1.2327 & 1.1447 & -1.4897 & 1.0895 & 1.5627 \\ 1.8714 & -1.7677 & 1.2094 & 1.9807 & 1.7801 \\ 1.3472 & -1.8974 & -1.6667 & 1.5689 & 1.2986 \end{bmatrix}, \\
\mathcal{B} &= \begin{bmatrix} -1.9832 & 1.5878 & 1.6767 & 1.0567 & 1.2674 \\ 1.3442 & 1.9482 & -1.9811 & 1.2899 & 1.5097 \\ 1.9877 & 1.4977 & -1.6615 & 1.5687 & 1.5787 \\ 1.6767 & -1.6741 & 1.2977 & 1.2277 & 1.2982 \\ 1.9847 & 1.2892 & 1.8774 & 1.6666 & 1.4499 \end{bmatrix}, \\
\mathcal{H} &= \begin{bmatrix} -1.7632 & 1.0878 & 1.2897 & 1.7897 & 1.9674 \\ 1.9942 & 1.3342 & -1.8711 & 1.7999 & 1.6767 \\ 1.9877 & 1.3817 & -1.5615 & 1.7861 & 1.4587 \\ 1.6567 & -1.6741 & 1.9561 & 1.8747 & 1.2702 \\ 1.6647 & 1.2652 & 1.4564 & 1.6771 & 1.6788 \end{bmatrix}, \\
\mathcal{R} &= \begin{bmatrix} 0.2389 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.2389 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.2389 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.2389 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.2389 \end{bmatrix}, \\
\mathcal{I}_r &= \begin{bmatrix} 0.7628 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.7628 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.7628 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.7628 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.7628 \end{bmatrix}, \\
\mathcal{L}_d &= \begin{bmatrix} 1.9882 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1.9882 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1.9882 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1.9882 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1.9882 \end{bmatrix}, \\
\mathcal{I}_c &= \begin{bmatrix} 0.9087 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.9087 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.9087 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.9087 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.9087 \end{bmatrix}, \\
\mathcal{L}_c &= \begin{bmatrix} 2.5676 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2.5676 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2.5676 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2.5676 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2.5676 \end{bmatrix}.
\end{aligned}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_b = \begin{bmatrix} 1.0987 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1.0987 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1.0987 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1.0987 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1.0987 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathcal{J}_b = \begin{bmatrix} 0.8765 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.8765 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.8765 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.8765 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.8765 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\phi = \begin{bmatrix} 0.2476 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.2476 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.2476 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.2476 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.2476 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathcal{I} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Moreover, the activation functions are  $f(\mathbf{e}(t)) = \tanh(\mathbf{e}(t))$  and  $f(\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t))) = \sinh(\mathbf{e}(t))$ . Solving the LMI conditions provided in (15) based on the MATLAB toolbox returns the following feasible solutions:

$$\mathcal{X}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0.0346 & 0.0132 & 0.0158 & -0.0124 & -0.0074 \\ 0.0132 & 0.0310 & 0.0070 & 0.0006 & -0.0156 \\ 0.0158 & 0.0070 & 0.0301 & -0.0123 & -0.0014 \\ -0.0124 & 0.0006 & -0.0123 & 0.1428 & -0.1226 \\ -0.0074 & -0.0156 & -0.0014 & -0.1226 & 0.1419 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathcal{R}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 34.3231 & 0.0000 & 0.0000 & -0.0000 & -0.0000 \\ 0.0000 & 34.3231 & 0.0000 & 0.0000 & -0.0000 \\ 0.0000 & 0.0000 & 34.3231 & -0.0000 & -0.0000 \\ -0.0000 & 0.0000 & -0.0000 & 34.3231 & -0.0000 \\ -0.0000 & -0.0000 & -0.0000 & -0.0000 & 34.3231 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathcal{Y} = \begin{bmatrix} -10.4053 & 0.0000 & 0.0000 & -0.0000 & -0.0000 \\ 0.0000 & -10.4053 & 0.0000 & 0.0000 & -0.0000 \\ 0.0000 & 0.0000 & -10.4053 & -0.0000 & -0.0000 \\ -0.0000 & 0.0000 & -0.0000 & -10.4053 & -0.0000 \\ -0.0000 & -0.0000 & -0.0000 & -0.0000 & -10.4053 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The gain matrix of the designed controller can be obtained as:

$$\mathcal{K} = \begin{bmatrix} -5.0940 & 1.0518 & 1.7014 & -1.6104 & -1.5249 \\ 1.0518 & -4.4548 & 0.0090 & -1.0158 & -1.3140 \\ 1.7014 & 0.0090 & -4.7390 & -0.8662 & -0.7067 \\ -1.6104 & -1.0158 & -0.8662 & -4.3173 & -3.9362 \\ -1.5249 & -1.3140 & -0.7067 & -3.9362 & -4.3671 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$\delta_1 = 21.1589, \delta_2 = 21.1589, \delta_3 = 21.1567, \delta_4 = 21.1590$ , and  $\delta_5 = 21.1583$ , which preserves (49) as synchronous.

**Example 3.** Consider the following neural networks (20), with the following parameters



$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{C} &= \begin{bmatrix} -1.5041 & 1.0489 & 1.0844 & 1.9946 & 1.8762 \\ -1.7567 & 1.5247 & 1.7211 & 1.4522 & 1.2877 \\ 1.0427 & 1.8227 & -1.5567 & 1.9425 & 1.1877 \\ 1.6514 & -1.0077 & 1.2904 & 1.6507 & 1.7601 \\ 1.9872 & -1.6174 & -1.6567 & 1.9989 & 1.0986 \end{bmatrix}, \\
\mathcal{A} &= \begin{bmatrix} -1.0941 & 1.9889 & 1.6544 & 1.2096 & 1.1722 \\ -1.1567 & 1.6547 & 1.4871 & 1.6672 & 1.7807 \\ 1.5727 & 1.1347 & -1.4987 & 1.0765 & 1.6727 \\ 1.2514 & -1.8777 & 1.2094 & 1.6597 & 1.9701 \\ 1.9272 & -1.8874 & -1.6767 & 1.8089 & 1.9486 \end{bmatrix}, \\
\mathcal{B} &= \begin{bmatrix} -1.4872 & 1.5878 & 1.8767 & 1.6667 & 1.9074 \\ 1.8742 & 1.9452 & -1.9911 & 1.9049 & 1.8877 \\ 1.0877 & 1.4987 & -1.2315 & 1.7761 & 1.0917 \\ 1.0567 & -1.3441 & 1.9861 & 1.0947 & 1.8902 \\ 1.6047 & 1.2872 & 1.4874 & 1.0911 & 1.0928 \end{bmatrix}, \\
\mathcal{R} &= \begin{bmatrix} 0.1459 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.1459 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.1459 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.1459 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.1459 \end{bmatrix}, \\
\mathcal{H} &= \begin{bmatrix} -1.5782 & 1.0068 & 1.7687 & 1.0097 & 1.0974 \\ 1.6942 & 1.8742 & -1.0911 & 1.6749 & 1.8767 \\ 1.6377 & 1.9817 & -1.4515 & 1.9861 & 1.7687 \\ 1.8097 & -1.8651 & 1.0961 & 1.0947 & 1.0992 \\ 1.3677 & 1.2698 & 1.4874 & 1.8671 & 1.9888 \end{bmatrix}, \\
\mathcal{I} &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \phi = \begin{bmatrix} 0.0987 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.0987 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.0987 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.0987 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.0987 \end{bmatrix}.
\end{aligned}$$

Moreover, the activation functions are  $f(\mathbf{e}(t)) = \tanh(\mathbf{e}(t))$  and  $f(\mathbf{e}(t - \sigma(t))) = \sinh(\mathbf{e}(t))$ . Solving the LMI conditions provided in (21) based on the MATLAB toolbox returns the following feasible solutions:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{R}_1 &= \begin{bmatrix} 0.6253 & 0.2376 & 0.3124 & -0.1046 & -0.2094 \\ 0.2376 & 0.4979 & 0.1106 & -0.1841 & -0.0731 \\ 0.3124 & 0.1106 & 0.4894 & 0.1397 & -0.3460 \\ -0.1046 & -0.1841 & 0.1397 & 1.4658 & -1.2618 \\ -0.2094 & -0.0731 & -0.3460 & -1.2618 & 1.5839 \end{bmatrix}, \\
\mathcal{R}_2 &= \begin{bmatrix} 29.0877 & 0.0002 & 0.0001 & 0.0005 & -0.0009 \\ 0.0002 & 29.0933 & -0.0006 & 0.0017 & -0.0018 \\ 0.0001 & -0.0006 & 29.0873 & 0.0002 & -0.0008 \\ 0.0005 & 0.0017 & 0.0002 & 29.0905 & -0.0026 \\ -0.0009 & -0.0018 & -0.0008 & -0.0026 & 29.0847 \end{bmatrix}.
\end{aligned}$$

The gain matrix of the designed controller and trigger parameters can be obtained as follows:

$$\mathcal{H} = \begin{bmatrix} -6.6909 & 0.0173 & 0.0082 & 0.0374 & -0.0673 \\ 0.0173 & -6.4671 & -0.0464 & 0.1301 & -0.1326 \\ 0.0082 & -0.0464 & -6.7093 & 0.0127 & -0.0577 \\ 0.0374 & 0.1301 & 0.0127 & -6.5897 & -0.1818 \\ -0.0673 & -0.1326 & -0.0577 & -0.1818 & -6.8241 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$\delta_4 = 4.3607$  and  $\delta_5 = 4.5189$ . Therefore, preserves system (20) is synchronous.

## 6. Conclusions

In this paper, the synchronization problem was investigated for neural networks. It is well known that the Lyapunov direct method is the most effective method to analyze the stability of neural networks; the authors gave an important inequality on the Caputo derivative of quadratic functions, which plays an important role in analyzing the stability of fractional-order systems. By using Lyapunov functionals and analytical techniques, we obtained some sufficient conditions, and we derived event triggering to guarantee the synchronization of the delayed neural networks. We applied the Lyapunov functional method and the LMI approach to establish the synchronization criteria for the fractional-order neural network matrix. A linear matrix inequality approach was developed to solve the problem. Numerical examples were given to demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed schemes. Future work will focus on event-triggered control for fractional-order systems with time-delay and measurement noises. In addition, more effective event-triggered schemes such as an adaptive one, a dynamic one, and a hybrid one will also be considered for the stability analysis of fractional-order systems.

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