

1 **Finite-time combination-combination synchronization**
2 **of hyperchaotic systems and its application in secure**
3 **communication**

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5
6 **Abstract:** Global finite time synchronization of a class of combination- combination
7 chaotic systems via master-slave coupling is investigated. A nonlinear feedback
8 controller and a continuous generalized linear state-error feedback controller with
9 simple structure are introduced into the synchronization scheme. They are applied to a
10 practical master-slave synchronization scheme for combination- combination systems,
11 which consists of the Chen chaotic systems, hyperchaotic Chen systems and
12 hyperchaotic Lorenz systems. Numerical simulations are provided to illustrate the
13 effectiveness of the new synchronization criteria. Based on the proposed
14 synchronization, a scheme of secure communication is then established and the
15 continuous or digital signals are transmitted by the chaotic mask method. Finally,
16 simulation examples show that the transmitted message can be recovered successfully
17 in the receiver end.

18 **Keywords:** Chaos synchronization, combination-combination chaotic systems,
19 finite-time stability, feedback control, secure communication

20

21 **1 Introduction**

22 Chaos is really an interesting phenomenon in nonlinear science. It is especially high
23 sensitive to the initial conditions and attracts many researchers' attentions. In the past
24 two decades, many methods of chaos asymptotical synchronization have been
25 investigated, such as active control^[1], adaptive control^[2], state feedback control^[3],
26 backstepping control^[4], and sliding mode control^[5]. The asymptotical synchronization
27 mentioned here means that two (or many) chaotic systems actually evolve and
28 consequently reach the defined conditions, e.g., equality of the systems' state
29 variables, as the time goes to infinity.

30 In real-world applications, however, it is often desired that synchronization of
31 chaotic systems should be achieved in finite-time as small as possible. Recently, some
32 finite-time control techniques have been applied to synchronize the master-slave
33 chaotic systems in finite-time, e.g., Yang and Wu investigates the global finite time
34 synchronization of a class of the second-order nonautonomous chaotic systems via a
35 master-slave coupling and a continuous generalized linear state-error feedback
36 controller with simple structure is introduced into the synchronization scheme^[6], the
37 terminal sliding-mode control technique^[7], the active control technique^[8], and the
38 observer-based control technique^[9], and so forth.

39 This paper introduces a nonlinear feedback controller and a so-called generalized
40 linear state-error feedback controller into a master-slave synchronization scheme for
41 the high-order (third and forth) chaotic systems to make the scheme synchronize in
42 finite-time. Much different from the other synchronization of chaotic systems, we
43 propose three chaotic systems as the master systems, and slave systems are also
44 combined by three chaotic systems. They will complete combination-combination
45 synchronization in finite time by the designed controllers. As an effective approach,
46 combination-combination synchronization of the high-order chaotic systems has
47 potential applications to many scientific and technological fields such as secure digital
48 communication. Hence, a secure communication scheme is proposed based on
49 combination-combination synchronization of hyperchaotic systems. Continuous
50 signals and digital signals are taken as the transmitted signals, and numerical
51 simulations show that the original information can be recovered correctly in the
52 receiver end.

53

54 **2 The combination-combination synchronization scheme**

55 We consider three chaotic systems as the master systems, let $A, B, C \in R^{n \times n}$ be a
56 constant matrix, $M(t) = (m(t))_{n \times n} \in R^{n \times n}$ a bounded time-varying matrix and
57 $f : R^n \rightarrow R^n$ a continuous nonlinear function such that

58
$$f(X) - f(Y) = M(t)(X - Y),$$

59 and $\delta^\alpha : R^n \rightarrow R^n$ is defined as:

60
$$\delta^\alpha(X, Y) = |X - Y|^\alpha \operatorname{sign}(X - Y), \alpha \in (0, 1),$$

61 where $X, Y \in R^n$ are the state vectors of master and slave systems respectively.

62 Consider a master-slave synchronization scheme for two autonomous chaotic
63 systems coupled by a generalized linear feedback controller as follows:

64 Master systems
$$\begin{aligned} \dot{X}_1 &= AX_1 + f_1(X_1) \\ \dot{X}_2 &= BX_2 + f_2(X_2), \\ \dot{X}_3 &= CX_3 + f_3(X_3) \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

65 Slave systems
$$\begin{aligned} \dot{Y}_1 &= AY_1 + f_1(Y_1) + U_1(t) \\ \dot{Y}_2 &= BY_2 + f_2(Y_2) + U_2(t), \\ \dot{Y}_3 &= CY_3 + f_3(Y_3) + U_3(t) \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

66 Controllers
$$U_i(t) = F_i(X_i, Y_i) + u_i(t), i = 1, 2, 3,$$

67 where $u(t) = K(X - Y) + S\delta^\alpha(X - Y), \tag{3}$

68 and $X_1, X_2, X_3, Y_1, Y_2, Y_3$ are the subsystems of X, Y respectively, and $K, S \in R^{n \times n}$
69 are constant feedback gain matrices to be determined.

70 Letting the error state vectors $E = X_1 + X_2 + X_3 - \varphi Y_1 - \beta Y_2 - \gamma Y_3$, we can get the
71 error systems

72
$$\dot{E} = (G(A(t), B(t), C(t)) + M(t) - K)E - S\delta^\alpha(E). \tag{4}$$

73 where $G(A(t), B(t), C(t)) \in R^{4 \times 4}$ is a matrix connected with subsystems linear
74 matrix A, B, C . If we can design suitable feedback gain matrices K, S that the error
75 systems with different initial values $x(0), y(0), z(0)$ satisfies

76
$$\lim_{t \rightarrow T_s} \|E(t)\| = \lim_{t \rightarrow T_s} \|X_1(t) + X_2(t) + X_3(t) - \varphi Y_1(t) - \beta Y_2(t) - \gamma Y_3(t)\| \rightarrow 0, \forall t > T_s,$$

77 where $\|\bullet\|$ denotes the Euclidean norm of the vectors.

78 **Lemma 1** ([10]) (Gerschgorin disc theorem) Let $H = (h_{ij})_{n \times n} \in R^{n \times n}$ and

79 $r_i = \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^n |h_{ij}|, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$. Then all eigenvalues of H are located in the union of n

80 discs as $G(H) \equiv \bigcup_{i=1}^n \{z \in C : |z - h_{ii}| \leq r_i\}$, where C is the set of complex numbers.

81 **Lemma 2** ([11]) Assume $D(t) = (G + M(t))^T + (G + M(t)) = (d_{ij}(t))_{n \times n}$ is bounded.

82 That is, we have $d_{ij}(t) = d_{ij}^*(t)$, $|d_{ij}(t)| \leq d_{ij}^*$, $d_{ii}(t) \leq \bar{d}_{ii}$, $\forall t \geq 0$, for $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$, and
 83 $i \neq j$. Then synchronization among master-slave systems (1)-(3) can be achieved in
 84 finite time, if the feedback gain matrix $S = \text{diag}(s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n)$ is positive definite and
 85 the feedback gain matrix $K = \text{diag}(k_1, k_2, \dots, k_n)$ satisfies

$$86 Dk = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{d}_{11} - 2k_1 & d_{12}^* & \cdots & d_{1n}^* \\ d_{21}^* & \bar{d}_{22} - 2k_2 & \cdots & d_{2n}^* \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ d_{n1}^* & d_{n2}^* & \cdots & \bar{d}_{nn} - 2k_n \end{bmatrix} < 0. \quad (5)$$

87 Furthermore, the corresponding settling time satisfies

$$88 T(e(0)) \leq \frac{2}{-\lambda_{\max}(1-\alpha)} \ln \left| 1 - \frac{\lambda_{\max}}{2s} V(e(0))^{(1-\alpha)/2} \right|, \quad (6)$$

89 where $e(0) = x(0) - y(0)$, $V(e(0)) = e(0)^T e(0)$, $\alpha \in (0, 1)$, $s = \min \{s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n\}$, and
 90 $\lambda_{\max} < 0$ is the maximal eigenvalue of the matrix Dk defined above.

91

92 **3 Implementation of combination-combination synchronization**

93 Based on the definitions and Lemmas in section 2, controllers (3) are designed to
 94 synchronize the combination-combination chaotic systems.

95 The master systems consist of the Chen chaotic systems, hyperchaotic Chen
 96 systems and hyperchaotic Lorenz systems. It's given as follow

$$97 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{subsystem 1} \quad \begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = a_1(x_2 - x_1) \\ \dot{x}_2 = -7x_1 - x_1x_3 + c_1x_2 \\ \dot{x}_3 = x_1x_2 - b_1x_3 \end{cases} \\ \text{subsystem 2} \quad \begin{cases} \dot{x}_4 = a_2(x_5 - x_4) + x_7 \\ \dot{x}_5 = d_2x_4 + c_2x_5 - x_4x_6 \\ \dot{x}_6 = x_4x_5 - b_2x_6 \\ \dot{x}_7 = x_5x_6 + r_2x_7 \end{cases} \\ \text{subsystem 3} \quad \begin{cases} \dot{x}_8 = a_3(x_9 - x_8) + x_{11} \\ \dot{x}_9 = c_3x_8 - x_9 - x_8x_{10} \\ \dot{x}_{10} = x_8x_9 - b_3x_{10} \\ \dot{x}_{11} = -x_9x_{10} + d_3x_{11} \end{cases} \end{array} \right. \quad (7)$$

98 where $a_1 = 35, b_1 = 3, c_1 = 28, a_2 = 35, b_2 = 3, c_2 = 12, d_2 = 7, 0.0085 < r_2 \leq 0.798, a_3 = 10,$
 99 $b_3 = 8/3, c_3 = 28, -1.52 < d_3 \leq -0.06$. Under these parameters the master systems all
 100 are chaotic. Similarly, the slave systems are in the form of

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll}
 \text{subsystem 1} & \begin{cases} \dot{y}_1 = a_1(y_2 - y_1) + U_1 \\ \dot{y}_2 = -7y_1 - y_1y_3 + c_1y_2 + U_2 \\ \dot{y}_3 = y_1y_2 - b_1y_3 + U_3 \end{cases} \\
 \text{subsystem 2} & \begin{cases} \dot{y}_4 = a_2(y_5 - y_4) + y_7 + U_4 \\ \dot{y}_5 = d_2y_4 + c_2y_5 - y_4y_6 + U_5 \\ \dot{y}_6 = y_4y_5 - b_2y_6 + U_6 \\ \dot{y}_7 = y_5y_6 + r_2y_7 + U_7 \end{cases}, \\
 \text{subsystem 3} & \begin{cases} \dot{y}_8 = a_3(y_9 - y_8) + y_{11} + U_8 \\ \dot{y}_9 = c_3y_8 - x_9 - y_8y_{10} + U_9 \\ \dot{y}_{10} = y_8y_9 - b_3y_{10} + U_{10} \\ \dot{y}_{11} = -y_9y_{10} + d_3y_{11} + U_{11} \end{cases}
 \end{array} \right. \quad (8)$$

101 where $U(t) = \begin{pmatrix} U_1 \\ \vdots \\ U_{10} \\ U_{11} \end{pmatrix} = F(x, y) + u(t), u(t) = KE + S\delta^\alpha(E), \alpha \in (0, 1)$ are designed to

102 synchronize the combination-combination chaotic systems respectively.

103 In the first, the errors are defined as

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l}
 E_1 = x_1 + x_4 + x_8 - \varphi_1 y_1 - \beta_1 y_4 - \gamma_1 y_8 \\
 E_2 = x_2 + x_5 + x_9 - \varphi_2 y_2 - \beta_2 y_5 - \gamma_2 y_9 \\
 E_3 = x_3 + x_6 + x_{10} - \varphi_3 y_3 - \beta_3 y_6 - \gamma_3 y_{10} \\
 E_4 = x_1 + x_7 + x_{11} - \varphi_4 y_1 - \beta_4 y_7 - \gamma_4 y_{11}
 \end{array} \right. \quad (9)$$

104 In order to prove the error equation (9) is asymptotically stable, we just need to
 105 synchronize the combination master systems (7) and slave systems (8). We have

$$108 \quad G(A(t), B(t), C(t)) = \begin{bmatrix} -a_1 & a_1 & 0 & \cdots & & \cdots & 0 \\ -7 & c_1 & 0 & & & & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & -b_1 & & & & \\ \vdots & & -a_2 & a_2 & 0 & 1 & \\ & & d_2 & c_2 & 0 & 0 & \\ 0 & 0 & -b_2 & 0 & & & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & r_2 & & & 0 \\ & & & & -a_3 & a_3 & 0 & 1 \\ & & & & c_3 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & & & & 0 & 0 & -b_3 & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & & & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & d_3 \end{bmatrix}_{11 \times 11}$$

$$109 \quad M(t) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -x_1 & & & \\ 0 & x_1 & 0 & & & \\ \vdots & & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & 0 & 0 & -x_4 & 0 \\ 0 & x_4 & 0 & 0 & & \\ 0 & 0 & x_5 & 0 & & \vdots \\ & & & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & 0 & 0 & -x_8 & 0 \\ 0 & x_8 & 0 & 0 & & \\ 0 & 0 & -x_9 & 0 & & \end{bmatrix}_{11 \times 11}$$

110 If we choose controllers as

$$111 \quad \begin{cases} U_1 = ((\varphi_2 - \varphi_1)a_1 y_2 + k_1(x_1 - \varphi_1 y_1) + s_1 \delta^\alpha(x_1 - \varphi_1 y_1)) / \varphi_1 \\ U_2 = (7(\varphi_2 - \varphi_1)y_1 + y_3(x_1 \varphi_3 - \varphi_2 y_1) + k_2(x_2 - \varphi_1 y_2) + s_2 \delta^\alpha(x_2 - \varphi_2 y_2)) / \varphi_2 \\ U_3 = ((\varphi_1 x_1 - \varphi_3 y_1)y_2 + k_3(x_3 - \varphi_3 y_3) + s_3 \delta^\alpha(x_3 - \varphi_3 y_3)) / \varphi_3 \\ U_4 = ((\beta_2 - \beta_1)a_2 y_1 + y_7(\beta_4 - \beta_1) + k_4(x_4 - \beta_1 y_4) + s_4 \delta^\alpha(x_4 - \varphi_4 y_4)) / \beta_1 \\ U_5 = ((\beta_1 - \beta_2)d_2 y_4 + y_6(\beta_2 x_4 - \beta_3 x_4) + k_5(x_5 - \beta_2 y_5) + s_5 \delta^\alpha(x_5 - \varphi_5 y_5)) / \beta_2 \\ U_6 = (y_5(\beta_2 x_4 - \beta_3 y_4) + k_6(x_6 - \beta_3 y_6) + s_6 \delta^\alpha(x_6 - \varphi_6 y_6)) / \beta_3 \\ U_7 = (y_6(\beta_3 x_5 - \beta_4 y_5) + k_7(x_7 - \beta_4 y_7) + s_7 \delta^\alpha(x_7 - \varphi_7 y_7)) / \beta_4 \\ U_8 = (a_3 y_9 (\gamma_2 - \gamma_1) + (\gamma_4 - \gamma_1)y_{11} + k_8(x_8 - \gamma_1 y_8) + s_8 \delta^\alpha(x_8 - \varphi_8 y_8)) / \gamma_1 \\ U_9 = (c_3(\gamma_1 - \gamma_2)y_8 - y_{10}(\gamma_3 x_8 - \gamma_2 y_8) + k_9(x_9 - \gamma_2 y_9) + s_9 \delta^\alpha(x_9 - \varphi_9 y_9)) / \gamma_2 \\ U_{10} = (y_9(\gamma_2 x_8 - \gamma_3 y_8) + k_{10}(x_{10} - \gamma_3 y_{10}) + s_{10} \delta^\alpha(x_{10} - \varphi_{10} y_{10})) / \gamma_3 \\ U_{11} = (y_{10}(\gamma_4 y_9 - \gamma_3 x_9) + k_{11}(x_{11} - \gamma_4 y_{11}) + s_{11} \delta^\alpha(x_{11} - \varphi_{11} y_{11})) / \gamma_4 \end{cases}$$

112 Based on the Lemma 2, we have

$$113 \quad Dk = \begin{bmatrix} -2a_1 - 2k_1 & a_1 - 7 & 0 & & \\ a_1 - 7 & c_1 - 2k_2 & 0 & & \\ 0 & 0 & -2k_3 - 2b_1 & & \\ & & & -2a_2 - 2k_4 & a_2 + d_2 \\ & & & a_2 + d_2 & 2c_2 - 2k_5 \\ & & & 0 & 0 \\ & & & 1 & 0 \\ & & & 0 & -2b_2 - 2k_6 \\ & & & x_5 & x_5 \\ & & & 1 & 0 \\ & & & x_5 & 2r_2 - 2k_7 \\ & & & & -2a_3 - 2k_8 \\ & & & & a_3 + c_3 \\ & & & & 0 \\ & & & & 1 \\ & & & & a_3 + c_3 \\ & & & & -2 - 2k_9 \\ & & & & 0 \\ & & & & 0 \\ & & & & -2b_3 - 2k_{10} \\ & & & & -x_9 \\ & & & & 1 \\ & & & & 0 \\ & & & & x_9 \\ & & & & -2k_1 + 2d_3 \end{bmatrix}_{11 \times 11}$$

114 And the value feedback gain of K need to satisfy

$$115 \quad k_1 > \frac{1}{2} \bar{d}_{11} + \frac{1}{2p_1} \sum_{j=2, j \neq 1}^3 p_j d_{1j}^* = \frac{1}{2}(-a_1 - 7), k_2 > \frac{1}{2} \bar{d}_{22} + \frac{1}{2p_2} \sum_{j=1, j \neq 2}^3 p_j d_{2j}^* = \frac{1}{2}(c_1 + a_1 - 7),$$

$$116 \quad k_3 > \frac{1}{2} \bar{d}_{33} + \frac{1}{2p_3} \sum_{j=1, j \neq 3}^3 p_j d_{3j}^* = \frac{1}{2}(-2b_1), k_4 > \frac{1}{2} \bar{d}_{11} + \frac{1}{2p_1} \sum_{j=2, j \neq 1}^4 p_j d_{1j}^* = \frac{1}{2}(-a_2 + d_2 + 1),$$

$$117 \quad k_5 > \frac{1}{2} \bar{d}_{22} + \frac{1}{2p_2} \sum_{j=1, j \neq 2}^4 p_j d_{2j}^* = \frac{1}{2}(2c_2 + a_2 + d_2), k_6 > \frac{1}{2} \bar{d}_{33} + \frac{1}{2p_3} \sum_{j=1, j \neq 3}^4 p_j d_{3j}^* = \frac{1}{2}(-2b_2 + x_5),$$

$$118 \quad k_7 > \frac{1}{2} \bar{d}_{44} + \frac{1}{2p_4} \sum_{j=1, j \neq 4}^4 p_j d_{3j}^* = \frac{1}{2}(1 + x_5 + 2r_2), k_8 > \frac{1}{2} \bar{d}_{11} + \frac{1}{2p_1} \sum_{j=2, j \neq 1}^4 p_j d_{1j}^* = \frac{1}{2}(-a_3 + c_3 + 1),$$

$$119 \quad k_9 > \frac{1}{2} \bar{d}_{22} + \frac{1}{2p_2} \sum_{j=1, j \neq 2}^4 p_j d_{2j}^* = \frac{1}{2}(a_3 + c_3 - 2), k_{10} > \frac{1}{2} \bar{d}_{33} + \frac{1}{2p_3} \sum_{j=1, j \neq 3}^4 p_j d_{3j}^* = \frac{1}{2}(-2b_3 - x_9),$$

$$120 \quad k_{11} > \frac{1}{2} \bar{d}_{44} + \frac{1}{2p_4} \sum_{j=1, j \neq 4}^4 p_j d_{3j}^* = \frac{1}{2}(1 - x_9 + 2d_3),$$

121 Then the master systems (7) and slave systems (8) can be synchronized in finite time,

$$122 \quad \text{i.e. } \lim_{t \rightarrow T_s} \begin{bmatrix} E_1 \\ E_2 \\ E_3 \\ E_4 \end{bmatrix} = \lim_{t \rightarrow T_s} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 + x_4 + x_8 - \varphi_1 y_1 - \beta_1 y_4 - \gamma_1 y_8 \\ x_2 + x_5 + x_9 - \varphi_2 y_2 - \beta_2 y_5 - \gamma_2 y_9 \\ x_3 + x_6 + x_{10} - \varphi_3 y_3 - \beta_3 y_6 - \gamma_3 y_{10} \\ x_1 + x_7 + x_{11} - \varphi_4 y_1 - \beta_4 y_7 - \gamma_4 y_{11} \end{bmatrix} = 0,$$

123 and the synchronization time satisfies

$$124 \quad T(e(0)) \leq \frac{2}{-\lambda_{\max}(1-\alpha)} \ln \left| 1 - \frac{\lambda_{\max}}{2s} V(e(0))^{(1-\alpha)/2} \right|.$$

125 **Case 1** If we choose

$$\begin{aligned}
126 \quad \varphi = diag(\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \varphi_3, \varphi_4) &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \beta = diag(\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \beta_4) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & & & \\ & 2 & & \\ & & 2 & \\ & & & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \\
\gamma = diag(\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3, \gamma_4) &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 2 & & \\ & & 3 & \\ & & & 4 \end{pmatrix}, S = diag(1, 1, \dots, 1) \in R^{11 \times 11}, \alpha = 0.5.
\end{aligned}$$

127 and the variables of chaotic systems are bounded as

$$128 \quad -23 < x_1 < 31, -32 < x_2 < 37, 0 < x_3 < 60, -19 < x_4 < 22, -23 < x_5 < 24, 0 < x_6 < 38, ,$$

$$129 \quad -184 < x_7 < 102, -22 < x_8 < 25, -24 < x_9 < 28, 0 < x_{10} < 48, -166 < x_{11} < 193.$$

130 Therefore, the feedback gains can be taken as follow,

$$131 \quad k_1 = \max\left(\frac{1}{2}(-a_1 - 7 + c_1)\right) = -7, k_2 = \max\left(\frac{1}{2}(c_1 + a_1 - 7)\right) = 56, k_3 = \max\left(\frac{1}{2}(-2b_1)\right) = -3,$$

$$132 \quad k_4 = \max\left(\frac{1}{2}(-a_2 + d_2 + 1)\right) = -13.5, k_5 = \max\left(\frac{1}{2}(2c_2 + a_2 + d_2)\right) = 33,$$

$$133 \quad k_6 = \max\left(\frac{1}{2}(-2b_2 + x_5)\right) = 9, k_7 = \max\left(\frac{1}{2}(2c_2 + a_2 + d_2)\right) = 33,$$

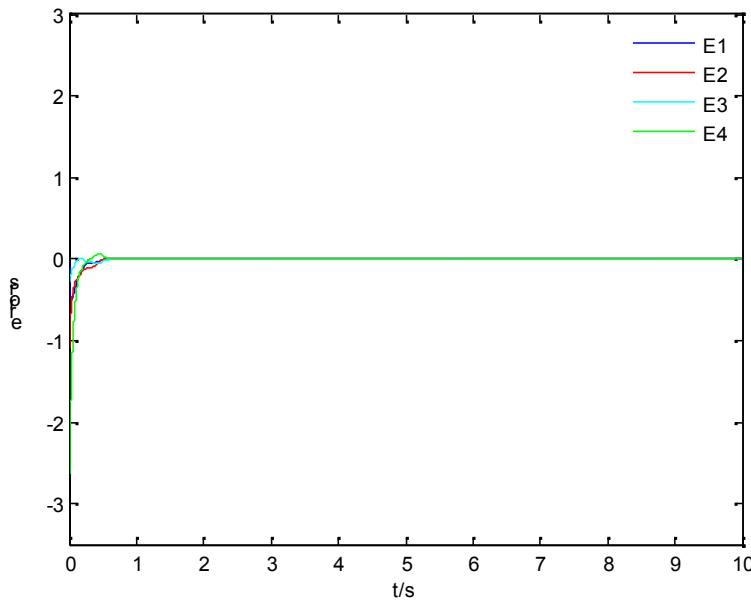
$$134 \quad k_8 = \max\left(\frac{1}{2}(-a_3 + c_3 + 1)\right) = 9, k_9 = \max\left(\frac{1}{2}(a_3 + c_3 - 2)\right) = 8,$$

$$135 \quad k_{10} = \max\left(\frac{1}{2}(-2b_3 - x_9)\right) = 10, k_{11} = \max\left(\frac{1}{2}(1 - x_9 + 2d_3)\right) = 13,$$

136 Based on the Lemma 2, the master systems (12) and slave systems (13) will be
137 synchronized in finite time. It's synchronized in finite time as

$$138 \quad T(e(0)) \leq \frac{2}{-\lambda_{\max}(1-\alpha)} \ln \left| 1 - \frac{\lambda_{\max}}{2s} V(e(0))^{(1-\alpha)/2} \right| \approx 1.0.$$

139 The simulation result of combination-combination synchronization of chaotic
140 systems is showed in figure 1.



141

142 Fig. 1 Errors of combination-combination synchronization of chaotic systems

143

144 **Remark 1** If we choose $k_i (i = 1, \dots, 11)$ large enough, the synchronizations of chaotic
 145 systems will be much quicker than the small one. But these values of gain coefficients
 146 $k_i (i = 1, \dots, 11)$ can not get too large to keep the initial systems stable, i.e. it may lead
 147 the simulation results to overflow.

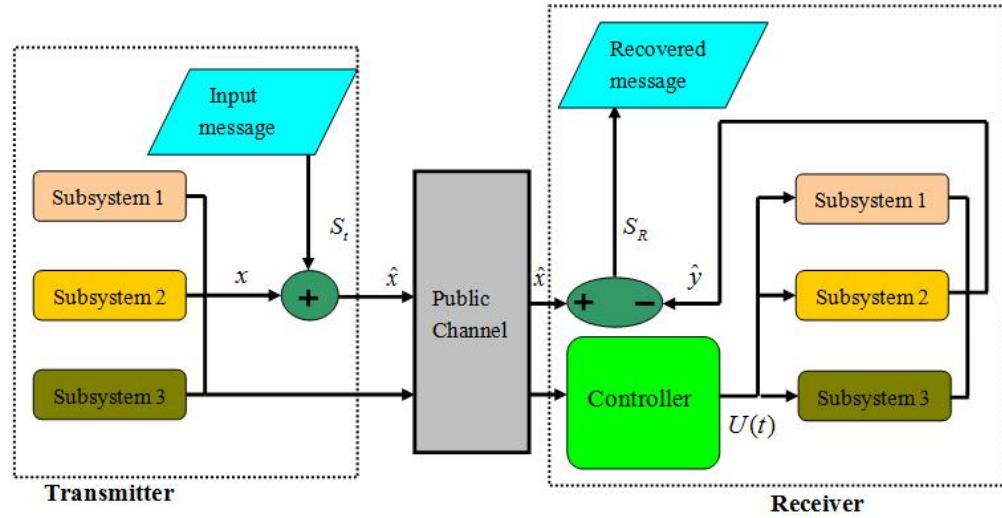
148 **Remark 2** In the simulations, there are so many available values of gain coefficients
 149 $k_i (i = 1, \dots, 11)$ to be set, because the $k_i (i = 1, \dots, 11)$ all connect with the bounded
 150 variables of master system that are changing by the time. So we just choose the proper
 151 maximal values of gain coefficients $k_i (i = 1, \dots, 11)$ that will keep the stability of
 152 slave systems.

153

154 **4 The application of secure communication**

155 In this section, we apply the proposed combination-combination synchronization to
 156 secure communication, for example, the continuous signals of sine functions and the
 157 digital signals. The secure communication scheme is sketched as figure 2. In the
 158 transmitter side, the master systems are combined with three chaotic subsystems,
 159 which will produce high random sequences $x(t)$. Then the message $m(t)$ is masked
 160 by the random sequences $x(t)$, and $\hat{x}(t)$ is transmitted through the public channels.

161 In the receiver side, the combination-combination synchronization chaotic systems
 162 will recover the original message $S_R(t)$ from the random chaotic signals $\hat{x}(t)$.



163
 164 Fig. 2 Secure communication scheme of combination-combination synchronization
 165

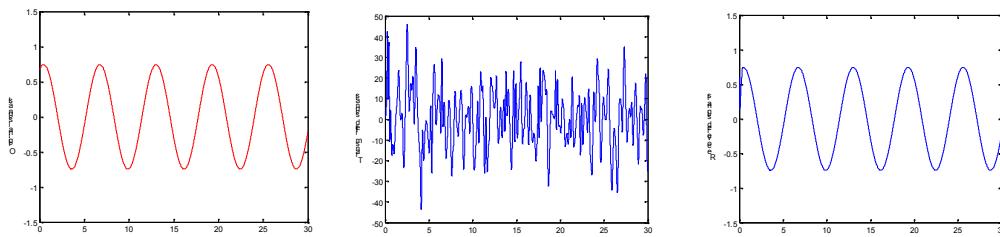
166 Here the chaotic mask method is used for secure communication, $S(t)$ is the
 167 original signals, and it's masked by the pseudorandom sequence produced by the
 168 combination chaotic systems. Finally, the original signals are recovered by the
 169 synchronization of combined chaotic systems in the receiver side.

170 The originals are given as follow

171

$$S(t) = \frac{1}{d} (a \sin(t) + b \cos(t)), \text{ where } d = |a| + |b|,$$

172 Here parameter $a = 1, b = 2, d = 3$. The results are showed in Fig. 3.



173
 174 a) Original signals b) Transmitted signals c) Recovered signals.

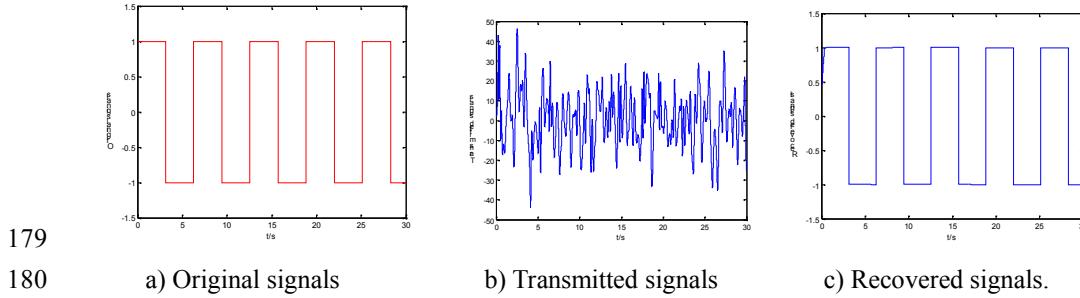
175 Fig. 3 Process of transmitted signals and recovered signals.

176 Then we choose the digital signals, such as square signals

177

$$S(t) = \frac{1}{d} (\text{square}(t)), \text{ where } d = \max(\text{square}(t)),$$

178 The results are showed in Fig. 4.



179

180

a) Original signals

181

b) Transmitted signals

c) Recovered signals.

182

183 **4 Conclusions**

184 This paper has developed a unified method for analyzing the global finite-time
 185 synchronization of a large class of the high-order autonomous chaotic systems under
 186 the master-slave scheme. Combination-combination synchronization of chaotic
 187 systems has been proposed by a nonlinear feedback controller and a continuous linear
 188 state-error feedback controller. Then a secure communication scheme of chaotic mask
 189 method is given based on the combination-combination synchronization of
 190 hyperchaotic systems. The original information signal is masked into the random
 191 sequences of the chaotic systems and the resulting system is still chaotic. In the
 192 receiver end, the information signal can also be recovered accurately. Theoretical
 193 analysis and numerical simulations are shown to verify the results.

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