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Stability analysis of load frequency control for power systems with interval time-varying delays

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This study investigates the stability problem of load frequency control (LFC) for power systems with interval time-varying delays. The two categories of time delays, the lower bound being zero and non-zero, are considered. The systems can be described as time delay systems of load disturbances. First, an augmented Lyapunov-Krasovskii functional (LKF) is constructed. Some delay-dependent nonintegral terms and single integral terms are additionally introduced to make full use of the information on the system state variables and the time-varying delays. Second, to overcome the problem of nonlinear inequalities caused by the augmented LKF, the nonlinear inequalities are converted into linear matrix inequalities (LMIs) by applying the new negative definite inequality equivalence transformation lemma, which can be solved easily by the MATLAB LMI toolbox. A new stability criterion is presented by applying the Lyapunov stability theory. The stability criterion is less conservative than some existing literature studies, which further improves the stability margin for the power systems based on LFC. Finally, some numerical examples are given to show the effectiveness of the proposed method and the superiority of the results.

KEYWORDS

interval time-varying delays, load frequency control, Lyapunov stability theory, power systems, stability analysis

1 Introduction

Load frequency control (LFC) has been used in power systems for many years, owing to its ability to be responsible for maintaining the grid frequency (an important indicator of grid quality) at an ideal level after disturbances (Kundur, 1994; Hassan, 2014; Aminov and Garievskii, 2019; Baykov et al., 2019; Ladygin et al., 2020; Shakibjoo et al., 2020; Giudice et al., 2021). For the traditional LFC schemes, dedicated independent communication networks are used to guarantee fast measurement and control signal transmission (Bhowmik et al., 2004; Khalil and Swee, 2018), and the transmission delays are very small and can usually be ignored. Nevertheless, with the continuous expansion of modern power systems and the increasingly decentralized

control services, the LFC scheme requires a large amount of data and information to be exchanged over an open communication network. The use of open communication networks can introduce random delays and data packets into the LFC schemes (Martin et al., 1995), thus leading to instability of the LFC power system. Moreover, since the communication delays usually vary throughout the interval, the ideal value of the lower bound may not be equal to zero. Therefore, it is necessary to study the stability of LFC power systems with interval time-varying delays due to the existence of the non-zero lower bound for time-varying delays. Significantly, there is a lack of literature on the non-zero lower bound for the LFC power systems, which makes it crucial to address this gap.

For the LFC power systems based on open communication networks, time-varying delays are unavoidable in data transmission between the controller and the plant (Jiang et al., 2011; Xu et al., 2017; Shen et al., 2020; Feng et al., 2021). A number of scholars have studied the communication time delay from the control center to the governor (Ramakrishnan and Ray, 2015; Yang et al., 2017a; Chen et al., 2020; Manikandan and Kokil, 2020), where the LFC power systems based on open communication networks can be modeled as time delay systems. In addition, in order to ensure the operation stability and anti-interference ability of the LFC power systems, many control methods have been applied, such as the PI control design (Shangguan et al., 2021), the decentralized control strategy (Shangguan et al., 2021), the network predictive control method (Shangguan et al., 2022b), and the H_{∞} control (Saravanakumar et al., 2018). In order to maintain stable system operations, it is extremely important to find the maximum allowable time delay of the LFC power systems (Shangguan et al., 2022a). Both frequency and time domain methods can be used to calculate the maximum allowable time delay. The accuracy of the maximum allowable delay can be calculated directly using the frequency domain method by obtaining the critical eigenvalue and eigenroot from the characteristic equation of the systems (Liu et al., 2008). It is impossible to extend the frequency domain method to the analysis and design of controllers for time delay systems. Instead, the time domain method can use the Lyapunov stability theory coupled with LMI to analyze system stability. Meanwhile, it is also the main way to deal with the maximum allowable delay (Yang et al., 2017b; Saravanakumar et al., 2018; Xiong et al., 2018). The stability criterion derived by this method is a sufficient condition and necessarily has certain conservatism. Recently, how to reduce the conservatism of the stability criterion has currently been the focus of a heated debate. One of the critical factors is to construct suitable Lyapunov-Krasovskii functionals (LKFs), such as LKFs with delayed decompositions (Duan et al., 2019; Hua et al., 2021), LKFs with multiple integral terms (Tian and Wang, 2020; Gholami, 2021), and LKFs with some augmented vectors (Zhang et al., 2017; Duan et al., 2020).

Another critical factor is the technique for estimating the upper bounds on the derivatives of LKFs, such as free-weighted matrix zero equations (Wen et al., 2015), reciprocally convex matrix inequalities (Shi et al., 2022; Zhong et al., 2022), and integral inequalities including Jensen's inequality (Ren and Tian, 2022) and the B-L inequality (Seuret and Gouaisbaut, 2015).

Recently, a new negative definite inequality equivalent transformation lemma for the linear time delay systems has been given in Oliveira and Souza (2020). The lemma can increase the degree of freedom of matrix inequalities and transform nonlinear inequalities into LMIs, which not only reduces the conservatism of the stability criterion but also reduces the complexity of solving them. Inspired by this, this study considers the stability problem of the LFC power systems with interval time-varying delays. The main contributions are as follows:

- When constructing the LKF, delay-dependent Lyapunov matrices are introduced into the nonintegral terms, which contain more coupling information between time-varying delay intervals and state variables than the LKFs constructed in some literature studies (Chen et al., 2020; Manikandan and Kokil, 2020; Shen et al., 2020). This can further reduce the conservatism of the stability criterion and improve the stability margin of the LFC power systems.
- In addition, four additional integral terms, $\int_{t-h_2}^{s} x(\theta) d\theta$, $\int_{h_d}^{t-h_1} x(\theta) d\theta$, $\int_{h_d}^{s} x(\theta) d\theta$, and $\int_{t-h_2}^{h_d} x(\theta) d\theta$, under two different subintervals $[h_1, h_t]$ and $[h_t, h_2]$ are augmented to the single integral terms $\varphi_3(\theta)$, $\varphi_4(\theta)$, and $\varphi_5(\theta)$, which are exactly some necessary terms of the integral inequality lemma so that the integral inequality lemma can be fully used to estimate the upper bound of the LKF derivatives. Thus, the augmented LKF can obtain a larger stability margin than those in some literature studies (Jiang et al., 2011; Ramakrishnan and Ray, 2015; Yang et al., 2017a).
- To further illustrate the advantages of the proposed method, the stability criterion of the non-zero lower bound of the time-varying delay is also applied to the case that the lower bound of the time-varying delay is zero. Finally, the numerical simulation analysis and discussion demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed method.

This study is structured as follows. In Section 2, the system model, research content, some hypothetical constraints, and necessary lemmas are given. Some new delay-dependent stability criteria, including theorems and corollaries, are derived in Section 3. Some numerical simulation analyses and discussions are provided in Section 4. The conclusion is provided in Section 5.

Notation: The *n*-dimensional Euclidean space is represented by \mathbb{R}^n . All $n \times m$ real matrices make up the set $\mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$. The symmetric and symmetric positive definite matrices are denoted as \mathbb{S}^n and \mathbb{S}^n_+ , respectively. The diagonal *n*-order matrix with elements a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n is denoted by the notation diag $\{a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n\}$. For $P \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, P^T stands for the transpose of the matrix *P*. P > 0 means that $P \in \mathbb{S}^n_+$. col{·} denotes a column vector Sym{ Ξ } = $\Xi + \Xi^T$.

2 Problem formulation

In this section, the PI controller-based time delay model for the one-area LFC power system is presented. The basic block diagram of the abovementioned power system is shown in **Figure 1**. From the figure, it is obvious that e^{-sd} is the time delay in communication from the control center to the governor. In addition to this, Δf is the deviation of frequency; ΔP_d is the deviation of the load; ΔP_v is the governor valve position; ΔP_m is the turbine output; T_g is the governor time constant; D is the damping coefficient of the generator; T_{ch} is the turbine time constant; ACE is the area control error; M is the moment of inertia; and R is the speed droop.

According to the PI controller-based time delay block diagram and literature (Xu et al., 2017), the state space equations of the LFC power system are expressed as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\tilde{x}}(t) = \tilde{A}\tilde{x}(t) + \tilde{B}u(t) + \tilde{D}_{w}w(t), \\ \tilde{y}(t) = \tilde{C}\tilde{x}(t). \end{cases}$$
(1)

The system parameters are shown as follows:

$$\begin{split} \tilde{x}^{T}(t) &= \begin{bmatrix} \Delta f & \Delta P_{m} & \Delta P_{v} \end{bmatrix}, \\ \tilde{y}(t) &= ACE, \\ \Delta P_{c}(t) &= u(t), \\ \Delta P_{d}(t) &= w(t), \end{split}$$

$$\begin{split} \tilde{A} &= \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{D}{M} & \frac{1}{M} & 0\\ 0 & -\frac{1}{T_{ch}} & \frac{1}{T_{ch}}\\ -\frac{1}{RT_g} & 0 & -\frac{1}{T_g} \end{bmatrix}, \\ \tilde{B} &= \begin{bmatrix} 0\\ 0\\ \frac{1}{T_g} \end{bmatrix}, \\ \tilde{D}_w &= \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{M}\\ 0\\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \\ \tilde{C} &= \begin{bmatrix} \beta\\ 0\\ 0 \end{bmatrix}^T. \end{split}$$

As can be seen in **Figure 1**, the one-area LFC power system does not have tie-line power exchange, so the ACE can be described as

$$ACE = \beta \Delta f,$$
 (2)

in which, the frequency bias factor $\beta > 0$.



The LFC is achieved by using the following PI controller with ACE as the input:

$$u(t) = -K_p ACE - K_I \quad ACE, \tag{3}$$

where K_p and K_I denote the controller gains.

In addition, it is also clear from **Figure 1** that there is a communication delay between the governor and the control center. To ensure that h(t) is differentiable and bounded, the non-negative constants h_1 , h_2 , and μ are given; the time-varying networked delay $h_t \triangleq h(t)$ satisfies the following condition:

$$0 \leq h_1 < h_t < h_2, \left| \dot{h}_t \right| = \left| \dot{h}(t) \right| \leq \mu, \forall t \geq 0.$$

Defining matrices $\kappa \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} K_p \\ K_I \end{bmatrix}$, $f(t) \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} ACE \\ \int ACE \end{bmatrix}$. Then, the PI-type controller in one-area LFC power system (3) can be rewritten as

$$u(t) = -\kappa f(t - h_t). \tag{4}$$

Redefining the state vector $\hat{x}(t) \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} \Delta f & \Delta P_m & \Delta P_v & \int ACE \end{bmatrix}^T$, the PI-type control problem is converted to a static output feedback control problem by adding (4) into (1). The closed-loop LFC power system takes the following forms:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\hat{x}}(t) = \hat{A}\hat{x}(t) + \hat{A}_{d}\hat{x}(t-h_{t}) + \hat{D}_{w}w(t), \\ \hat{y}(t) = \hat{C}\hat{x}(t), \\ \hat{x}(t) = \phi(t), t \in [-h_{2}, 0], \end{cases}$$
(5)

The system parameters are shown as follows:

$$\begin{split} \hat{A} &= \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{D}{M} & \frac{1}{M} & 0 & 0\\ 0 & -\frac{1}{T_{ch}} & \frac{1}{T_{ch}} & 0\\ -\frac{1}{RT_g} & 0 & -\frac{1}{T_g} & 0\\ \beta & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \\ \hat{D}_w &= \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{M} \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \\ \hat{A}_d &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0\\ -\frac{K_p\beta}{T_g} & 0 & 0 & -\frac{K_I}{T_g}\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \\ \hat{C} &= \begin{bmatrix} \beta & 0\\ 0 & 0\\ 0 & 0\\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T. \end{split}$$

Remark 1: for time-varying delay in power systems, unknown external load disturbances can be described as current and delay state vectors in the case of nonlinear disturbances (Ramakrishnan and Ray, 2015):

$$\hat{D}_{w}w(t) = \eta\left(x(t), x(h_{d})\right) \tag{6}$$

satisfying the constraint condition of the following inequality:

$$\|\eta(\cdot)\| \le \tilde{\omega} \|x(t)\| + v \|x(h_d)\| \tag{7}$$

with the known non-negative scalars ω and v. In a more general way, it is described as follows:

$$\eta(\cdot)^{T}\eta(\cdot) \leq \hat{\omega}^{2} x^{T}(t) E^{T} E x(t) + v^{2} x^{T}(h_{d}) N^{T} N x(h_{d}), \qquad (8)$$

where $h_d = t - h_t$, and *E* and *N* are known constant matrices with appropriate dimensions. To measure load disturbances in the power systems, non-negative scalars ϖ and *v* along with matrices *E* and *N* can be used.

Lemma 1 (Seuret and Gouaisbaut, 2015). For any $Q \in \mathbb{S}^n_+$ and $g: [m, n] \to \mathbb{R}^n$, the following integral inequality holds

$$\int_{-m}^{n} \dot{g}^{T}(\theta) \, Q \dot{g}(\theta) \, d\theta \geq \frac{1}{n-m} \varrho^{T} \bar{Q} \varrho,$$

where $\overline{Q} = \text{diag}\{Q, 3Q, 5Q\}, \quad \varrho = \text{col}\{\varrho_1, \varrho_2, \varrho_3\}$ with $\varrho_1 = g(n) - g(m),$

$$\varrho_2 = g(n) + g(m) - \frac{2}{n-m} \int_m^n g(\theta) \, d\theta,$$

$$\varrho_3 = \varrho_1 - \frac{6}{n-m} \int_m^n g(\theta) \, d\theta + \frac{12}{(n-m)^2} \int_m^n (n-\theta) g(\theta) \, d\theta.$$

Lemma 2 (Zhang et al., 2017). For the given scalar (0,1], Λ_1 , $\Lambda_2 \in \mathbb{S}^m_+$ and ϑ_1 , $\vartheta_2 \in \mathbb{R}^m$. If there exist ς_1 , $\varsigma_2 \in \mathbb{S}^m$ and Υ_1 , $\Upsilon_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$, then

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Lambda_1 - \varsigma_1 & \Upsilon_1 \\ * & \Lambda_2 \end{bmatrix} \ge 0, \begin{bmatrix} \Lambda_1 & \Upsilon_2 \\ * & \Lambda_2 - \varsigma_2 \end{bmatrix} \ge 0.$$

The following inequality holds

$$\frac{1}{\alpha} \vartheta_1^T \Lambda_1 \vartheta_1 + \frac{1}{1-\alpha} \vartheta_2^T \Lambda_2 \vartheta_2 \ge 2 \vartheta_1^T [\alpha \Upsilon_1 + (1-\alpha) \Upsilon_2] \vartheta_2 \\ + \vartheta_1^T [\Lambda_1 + (1-\alpha) \varsigma_1] \vartheta_1 \\ + \vartheta_2^T (\Lambda_2 + \alpha \varsigma_2) \vartheta_2.$$

Lemma 3 (Oliveira and Souza, 2020). Let P_2 , P_1 , $P_0 \in S^p$ and $\zeta \in \mathbb{R}^p$. Then, the inequality

$$\zeta^{T} \left(h_{t}^{2} P_{2} + h_{t} P_{1} + P_{0} \right) \zeta < 0$$

holds for all $h_t \in [h_1, h_2]$, if and only if there exist the matrix $M \in \mathbb{S}^p_+$ and skew-symmetric matrix $N \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}$; then

$$\begin{bmatrix} P_0 & \frac{1}{2}P_1 \\ * & P_2 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} C \\ J \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} -M & N \\ * & M \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} C \\ J \end{bmatrix} < 0,$$

where $C = [(h_{21}/2)I \quad 0]$ and $J = [(h_{21}/2)I \quad -I]$, and $h_{21} = h_2 - h_1$.

3 Main results

In this section, for the one-area LFC power system with an interval time-varying delay, two cases of lower bounds $h_1 > 0$ and $h_1 = 0$ for h_t are discussed, respectively, and the stability criterion satisfying system (5) is derived.

The following notations are used in the derivation to make the representation of vectors and matrices simpler.

$$\begin{split} h_{12} &= h_1 + h_2, \dot{h}_{1t} = 1 - \dot{h}_t, \\ Z_{1t} &= (h_t - h_1) Z_{11} + Z_{12}, Z_{2t} = (h_2 - h_t) Z_{21} + Z_{22}, \\ \zeta(t) &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ x(t), x(t - h_1), x(h_d), x(t - h_2), \rho_{1t}, \rho_{2t}, \rho_{3t}, \rho_{4t}, \\ \rho_{5t}, \rho_{6t}, \dot{x}(t - h_1), \dot{x}(h_d), \dot{x}(t - h_2), w(t) \right\}, \\ \rho_{1t} &= \int_{t-h_2}^{h_d} \frac{x(\theta)}{h_2 - h_t} d\theta, \rho_{2t} = \int_{t-h_2}^{t-h_1} \frac{(t - h_t - \theta)x(\theta)}{(h_2 - h_t)^2} d\theta, \\ \rho_{3t} &= \int_{t-h_1}^{t-h_1} \frac{x(\theta)}{h_1} d\theta, \rho_{6t} = \int_{t-h_1}^{t} \frac{(t - \theta)x(\theta)}{h_1^2} d\theta, \\ \rho_{5t} &= \int_{t-h_1}^{t} \frac{x(\theta)}{h_1} d\theta, \rho_{6t} = \int_{t-h_1}^{t} \frac{(t - \theta)x(\theta)}{h_1^2} d\theta, \\ \varphi_{0t} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ x(t), x(t - h_1), x(h_d), x(t - h_2) \right\}, \\ \varphi_{1t} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ x(t), x(t - h_1), x(h_d), \int_{t-h_2}^{t-h_1} x(\theta) d\theta \right\}, \\ \varphi_{2t} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \dot{x}(\theta), x(\theta), \varphi_{0t}, \int_{\theta}^{t-h_1} x(\theta) d\theta, \int_{h_d}^{\theta} x(\theta) d\theta, \\ \int_{t-h_2}^{h_d} x(\theta) d\theta \right\}, \\ \varphi_4(\theta) &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \dot{x}(\theta), x(\theta), \varphi_{0t}, \int_{\theta}^{h_d} x(\theta) d\theta, \int_{h_d}^{t-h_1} x(\theta) d\theta, \\ \int_{t-h_2}^{\theta} x(\theta) d\theta \right\}, \\ \varphi_5(\theta) &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \dot{x}(\theta), x(\theta), \varphi_{0t}, \int_{t-h_1}^{\theta} x(\theta) d\theta, \int_{h_d}^{t-h_1} x(\theta) d\theta, \\ \int_{t-h_2}^{h_d} x(\theta) d\theta \right\}. \end{split}$$

3.1 Case 1: *h*₁ > 0

Theorem 1. System (5) is stable in the presence of scalars μ , h_1 , and h_2 if there exist matrices $Z_{i1} \in \mathbb{S}^{4n}, Z_{i2} \in \mathbb{S}^{4n}_+, X_i \in \mathbb{S}^{3n}, Y_i \in \mathbb{R}^{3n \times 3n}, D_i \in \mathbb{S}^{14n}_+, Q_j \in \mathbb{S}^{9n}_+, H_j \in \mathbb{S}^n_+, (i = 1, 2; j = 1, 2, 3)$ and skew-symmetric matrices $G_i \in \mathbb{R}^{14n \times 14n}$ for (i = 1, 2) such that the following matrix inequalities hold for $0 < h_1 < h_t \leq h_2$ and $\dot{h}_t^{\ \Delta} = \mu_i \in \{-\mu, \mu\}.$

$$h_{21}Z_{11} + Z_{12} > 0, h_{21}Z_{21} + Z_{22} > 0, (9)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \bar{H}_1 - X_1 & Y_1 \\ * & \bar{H}_2 \end{bmatrix} \ge 0, \begin{bmatrix} \bar{H}_1 & Y_2 \\ * & \bar{H}_2 - X_2 \end{bmatrix} \ge 0,$$
(10)

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Omega_0(\mu_i) & \frac{1}{2}\Omega_1(\mu_i) \\ * & \Omega_2(\mu_i) \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} C \\ J \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} -D_i & G_i \\ * & D_i \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} C \\ J \end{bmatrix} < 0, \quad (11)$$

where

$$\begin{split} \overline{H}_{j} &= \operatorname{diag}\left\{H_{j}, \ 3H_{j}, \ 5H_{j}\right\}, \ j = 1, \ 2, \ 3, \\ C &= \left[(h_{21}/2)I \quad 0\right], J = \left[(h_{21}/2)I \quad -I\right], \\ \Omega_{0}\left(\dot{h}_{t}\right) &= \operatorname{Sym}\left\{D_{1}^{T}\left(-h_{1}Z_{11}+Z_{12}\right)c_{11}+D_{2}^{T}\left(h_{2}Z_{21}+Z_{22}\right)c_{21}\right. \\ &+ D_{3}^{T}Q_{1}c_{70}+D_{4}^{T}Q_{2}c_{80}+D_{5}^{T}Q_{3}d_{20}\right] + \dot{h}_{t}c_{11}^{T}Z_{11}c_{11} \\ &- \dot{h}_{t}c_{21}^{T}Z_{21}c_{21}+c_{31}^{T}Q_{1}c_{31}-\dot{h}_{1t}c_{41}^{T}Q_{1}c_{41}+\dot{h}_{1t}c_{51}^{T}Q_{2}c_{51} \\ &- c_{61}^{T}Q_{2}c_{61}+c_{91}^{T}Q_{3}c_{91}-d_{11}^{T}Q_{3}d_{11}+h_{21}h_{2}\tau_{11}^{T}H_{1}\tau_{11} \\ &- h_{21}h_{1}\tau_{13}^{T}H_{2}\tau_{13}+h_{1}^{2}c_{0}^{T}H_{3}c_{0}+\left(h_{1}/h_{21}\right)\Gamma_{1}^{T}X_{1}\Gamma_{1} \\ &- \Gamma_{1}^{T}H_{1}\Gamma_{1}-\Gamma_{2}^{T}H_{2}\Gamma_{2}-\Gamma_{3}^{T}H_{3}\Gamma_{3}-\left(h_{2}/h_{21}\right)\Gamma_{2}^{T}X_{2}\Gamma_{2} \\ &+ h_{21}h_{12}\dot{h}_{1t}\tau_{12}^{T}\left(H_{2}-H_{1}\right)\tau_{12} \\ &- \operatorname{Sym}\left\{\left(h_{2}/h_{21}\right)\Gamma_{1}^{T}Y_{1}\Gamma_{2}\right\} \\ &+ \operatorname{Sym}\left\{\left(h_{1}/h_{21}\right)\Gamma_{1}^{T}Y_{2}\Gamma_{2}\right\}+\lambda \omega^{2}\tau_{1}^{T}E^{T}E\tau_{1} \\ &+ \lambda v^{2}\tau_{2}^{T}N^{T}N\tau_{2}, \\ \Omega_{1}\left(\dot{h}_{t}\right) &= \operatorname{Sym}\left\{D_{1}^{T}Z_{11}c_{11}-D_{1}^{T}\left(h_{1}Z_{11}+Z_{12}\right)c_{12}-D_{2}^{T}Z_{21}c_{21} \\ &+ h_{2}^{T}\left(h_{2}Z_{21}+Z_{22}\right)c_{22}+D_{3}^{T}Q_{1}c_{71}+D_{4}^{T}Q_{2}c_{81} \\ &+ \dot{h}\left(t\right)c_{11}^{T}Z_{11}c_{12}-\dot{h}_{t}c_{21}^{T}Z_{1}c_{22}+c_{31}^{T}Q_{1}c_{32}-c_{61}^{T}Q_{2}c_{61} \\ &- \dot{h}_{1t}c_{41}^{T}Q_{42}+\dot{h}_{1t}c_{51}^{T}Q_{2}c_{52}+c_{91}^{T}Q_{3}c_{92}+D_{5}^{T}Q_{3}d_{21} \\ &- d_{11}^{T}Q_{3}d_{12}\right\}-h_{2}\dot{h}_{1}\dot{h}_{1}\tau_{12}^{T}\left(H_{2}-H_{1}\right)\tau_{12}-\left(1/h_{21}\right)\Gamma_{1}^{T}X_{1}\Gamma_{1} \\ &+ \left(1/h_{21}\right)\Gamma_{2}^{T}X_{2}\Gamma_{2}+\operatorname{Sym}\left\{\left(1/h_{21}\right)\Gamma_{1}^{T}\left(Y_{1}-Y_{2}\right)\Gamma_{2}\right\}, \\ \Omega_{2}\left(\dot{h}_{t}\right) &= \operatorname{Sym}\left\{D_{1}^{T}Z_{11}c_{12}-D_{2}^{T}Z_{21}c_{22}+c_{3}^{T}Q_{1}c_{72}+D_{4}^{T}Q_{2}c_{82}\right\} \\ &+ \dot{h}c_{1}^{T}Z_{11}c_{12}-\dot{h}c_{7}^{T}Z_{2}c_{1}c_{22}+c_{7}^{T}Q_{2}c_{7}c_{7}c_{7}Q_{2}c_{82}\right\} \\ &+ \dot{h}c_{1}^{T}Z_{11}c_{12}-\dot{h}c_{7}^{T}Z_{2}c_{1}c_{22}+c_{7}^{T}Q_{1}c_{72}-c_{7}^{T}Q_{2}c_{82}\right\}$$

 $-\dot{h}_{1t}c_{42}^TQ_1c_{42}+\dot{h}_{1t}c_{52}^TQ_2c_{52}+c_{92}^TQ_3c_{92}-d_{12}^TQ_3d_{12}$ with

$$\begin{split} c_{71} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \Delta, \tau_7, \tau_1, \tau_2, \tau_3, \tau_4, 2h_1 \left(\tau_8 - \tau_7 \right), -2h_1 \tau_8, (h_1 + h_2) \tau_5 \right\} \\ c_{72} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \Delta, \Delta, \Delta, \Delta, \Delta, \Delta, \tau_7 - \tau_8, \tau_8, -\tau_5 \right\}, \\ c_{80} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \tau_3 - \tau_4, h_2 \tau_5, h_2 \tau_1, h_2 \tau_2, h_2 \tau_3, h_2 \tau_4, h_2^2 \left(\tau_5 - \tau_6 \right), \\ -h_1 h_2 \tau_7, h_2^2 \tau_6 \right\}, \\ c_{81} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \Delta, -\tau_5, -\tau_1, -\tau_2, -\tau_3, -\tau_4, 2h_2 \left(\tau_6 - \tau_5 \right), (h_1 + h_2) \tau_7, \\ -2h_2 \tau_6 \right\}, \\ c_{82} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \Delta, \Delta, \Delta, \Delta, \Delta, \Delta, \tau_5 - \tau_6, -\tau_7, \tau_6 \right\}, \\ c_{91} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ c_0, \tau_1, \tau_1, \tau_2, \tau_3, \tau_4, h_1 \tau_9, -h_1 \tau_7, h_2 \tau_5 \right\}, \\ d_{11} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \tau_{11}, \tau_2, \tau_1, \tau_2, \tau_3, \tau_4, \Delta, -h_1 \tau_7, h_2 \tau_5 \right\}, \\ d_{12} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \Delta, \Delta, \Delta, \Delta, \Delta, \Delta, \Delta, \tau_7, -\tau_5 \right\}, \\ d_{12} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \Delta, \Delta, \Delta, \Delta, \Delta, \Delta, \Delta, \Lambda, \tau_7, -\tau_5 \right\}, \\ d_{20} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \tau_1 - \tau_2, h_1 \tau_9, h_1 \tau_1, h_1 \tau_2, h_1 \tau_3, h_1 \tau_4, h_1^2 \tau_{10}, -h_1^2 \tau_7, \\ h_1 h_2 \tau_5 \right\}, \\ d_{21} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \tau_2 - \tau_3, \tau_2 + \tau_3 - 2 \tau_7, \tau_2 - \tau_3 - 6 \tau_7 + 12 \tau_8 \right\}, \\ \Gamma_3 &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \tau_1 - \tau_2, \tau_1 + \tau_2 - 2 \tau_9, \tau_1 - \tau_2 - 6 \tau_9 + 12 \tau_{10} \right\}, \\ D_1 &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ c_0, h_{1t} \tau_{12}, \tau_{13}, \dot{h}_{1t} \tau_3, \tau_4 \right\}, \\ D_2 &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \Delta, \Delta, c_0, \tau_{11}, \dot{h}_{1t} \tau_{12}, \tau_{13}, \dot{h}_{1t} \tau_3, \tau_2 - \dot{h}_{1t} \tau_3, -\tau_4 \right\}, \\ D_5 &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \Delta, \Delta, c_0, \tau_{11}, \dot{h}_{1t} \tau_{12}, \tau_{13}, -\tau_2, \tau_2 - \dot{h}_{1t} \tau_3, \dot{h}_{1t} \tau_3 - \tau_4 \right\}. \end{split}$$

Proof: let us consider the LKF having integrable terms, where

$$V = \sum_{u=1}^{3} V_u \tag{12}$$

with

$$\begin{split} V_{1} &= \varphi_{1t}^{T} Z_{1t} \varphi_{1t} + \varphi_{2t}^{T} Z_{2t} \varphi_{2t}, \\ V_{2} &= \int_{h_{d}}^{t-h_{1}} \varphi_{3}^{T}(\theta) \, Q_{1} \varphi_{3}(\theta) \, d\theta \\ &+ \int_{t-h_{2}}^{h_{d}} \varphi_{4}^{T}(\theta) \, Q_{2} \varphi_{4}(\theta) \, d\theta \\ &+ \int_{t-h_{1}}^{t} \varphi_{5}^{T}(\theta) \, Q_{3} \varphi_{5}(\theta) \, d\theta, \\ V_{3} &= h_{21} \int_{h_{d}}^{t-h_{1}} (h_{12} - t + \theta) \, \dot{x}^{T}(\theta) \, H_{1} \dot{x}(\theta) \, d\theta \\ &+ h_{21} \int_{t-h_{2}}^{h_{d}} (h_{12} - t + \theta) \, \dot{x}^{T}(\theta) \, H_{2} \dot{x}(\theta) \, d\theta \\ &+ h_{1} \int_{t-h_{1}}^{t} (h_{1} - t + \theta) \, \dot{x}^{T}(\theta) \, H_{3} \dot{x}(\theta) \, d\theta. \end{split}$$

 $Z_i(t), (i = 1, 2)$ are affine functions in $h(t) \in [h_1, h_2]$. By applying $Z_{i2} > 0, h_{21}Z_{i1} + Z_{i2} > 0$, we can ensure the LKF V(t) positive definite value. Now, differentiating V(t), it gives

$$\dot{V}_1 = \varphi_{1t}^T \dot{Z}_{1t} \varphi_{1t} + 2 \dot{\varphi}_{1t}^T Z_{1t} \varphi_{1t} + \varphi_{2t}^T \dot{Z}_{2t} \varphi_{2t} + 2 \dot{\varphi}_{2t}^T Z_{2t} \varphi_{2t}, \qquad (13)$$

$$\begin{split} \dot{V}_{2} &= \varphi_{3}^{T} \left(t - h_{1} \right) Q_{1} \varphi_{3} \left(t - h_{1} \right) - \dot{h}_{1t} \varphi_{3}^{T} \left(h_{d} \right) Q_{1} \varphi_{3} \left(h_{d} \right) \\ &+ 2 \int_{h_{d}}^{t - h_{1}} \varphi_{3}^{T} \left(\theta \right) d\theta Q_{1} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \varphi_{3} \left(\theta \right) + \dot{h}_{1t} \varphi_{4}^{T} \left(h_{d} \right) Q_{2} \varphi_{4} \left(h_{d} \right) \\ &- \varphi_{4}^{T} \left(t - h_{2} \right) Q_{2} \varphi_{4} \left(t - h_{2} \right) + 2 \int_{t - h_{2}}^{h_{d}} \varphi_{4}^{T} \left(\theta \right) d\theta Q_{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \varphi_{4} \left(\theta \right) \\ &+ \varphi_{5}^{T} \left(t \right) Q_{3} \varphi_{5} \left(t \right) - \varphi_{5}^{T} \left(t - h_{1} \right) Q_{3} \varphi_{5} \left(t - h_{1} \right) \\ &+ 2 \int_{t - h_{1}}^{t} \varphi_{5}^{T} \left(\theta \right) d\theta Q_{3} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \varphi_{5} \left(\theta \right), \end{split}$$
(14)

$$\begin{split} \dot{V}_{3} &= h_{21}\dot{h}_{1t} \left(h_{12} - h_{t}\right) \dot{x}^{T} \left(h_{d}\right) (H_{2} - H_{1}) \dot{x} \left(h_{d}\right) \\ &+ h_{21}h_{2} \dot{x}^{T} (t - h_{1}) H_{1} \dot{x} (t - h_{1}) \\ &- h_{21} \int_{h_{d}}^{t - h_{1}} \dot{x}^{T} (\theta) H_{1} \dot{x} (\theta) d\theta \\ &- h_{21}h_{1} \dot{x}^{T} (t - h_{2}) H_{2} \dot{x} (t - h_{2}) \\ &- h_{21} \int_{t - h_{2}}^{h_{d}} \dot{x}^{T} (\theta) H_{2} \dot{x} (\theta) d\theta \\ &+ h_{1}^{2} \dot{x}^{T} (t) H_{3} \dot{x} (t) - h_{1} \int_{t - h_{1}}^{t} \dot{x}^{T} (\theta) H_{3} \dot{x} (\theta) d\theta, \end{split}$$

where

$$\begin{split} \dot{\varphi}_{1t}^{T} &= \zeta^{T}(t) D_{1}^{T}, \dot{\varphi}_{2t}^{T} = \zeta^{T}(t) D_{2}^{T}, \\ \varphi_{3}(h_{d}) &= (h_{t}c_{42} + c_{41})\zeta(t), \\ \varphi_{3}(t-h_{1}) &= (h_{t}c_{32} + c_{31})\zeta(t), \\ \varphi_{4}(t-h_{2}) &= (h_{t}c_{52} + c_{51})\zeta(t), \\ \varphi_{4}(h_{d}) &= (h_{t}c_{52} + c_{51})\zeta(t), \\ \varphi_{5}(t-h_{1}) &= (h_{t}d_{12} + d_{11})\zeta(t), \\ \varphi_{5}(t) &= (h_{t}c_{92} + c_{91})\zeta(t), \\ \int_{h_{d}}^{t-h_{1}} \varphi_{3}^{T}(\theta) d\theta Q_{1} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \varphi_{3}(\theta) &= \zeta^{T}(t) \left(c_{70}^{T} + h_{t}c_{71}^{T} + h_{t}^{2}c_{72}^{T}\right) \\ Q_{1}D_{3}\zeta(t), \\ \overset{h_{d}}{t-h_{2}} &= \varphi_{4}^{T}(\theta) d\theta Q_{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \varphi_{4}(\theta) &= \zeta^{T}(t) \left(c_{80}^{T} + h_{t}c_{81}^{T} + h_{t}^{2}c_{82}^{T}\right) \\ Q_{2}D_{4}\zeta(t), \\ \overset{t}{t} &= \varphi_{5}^{T}(\theta) d\theta Q_{3} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \varphi_{5}(\theta) &= \zeta^{T}(t) \left(d_{20}^{T} + h_{t}d_{21}^{T}\right) Q_{3}D_{5}\zeta(t). \end{split}$$

Let $\alpha = (h_2 - h_t)/h_{21}$, $\alpha_1 = 1/\alpha$, and $\alpha_2 = 1/(1 - \alpha)$. According to $H_1 > 0, H_2 > 0$ and $H_3 > 0$, the integral terms in V_3 can be obtained by Lemma 1 as the following integral inequalities:

$$h_{21} \int_{t-h_2}^{h_d} \dot{x}^T(\theta) H_1 \dot{x}(\theta) \, d\theta \ge \alpha_1 \zeta^T(t) \Gamma_1^T \overline{H}_1 \Gamma_1 \zeta(t) \,, \qquad (15)$$

$$h_{21} \int_{h_d}^{t-h_1} \dot{x}^T(\theta) H_2 \dot{x}(\theta) \, d\theta \ge \alpha_2 \zeta^T(t) \, \Gamma_2^T \, \overline{H}_2 \Gamma_2 \zeta(t) \,, \tag{16}$$

$$h_1 \int_{t-h_1}^t \dot{x}^T(\theta) H_3 \dot{x}(\theta) \, d\theta \ge \zeta^T(t) \Gamma_3^T \overline{H}_3 \Gamma_3 \zeta(t) \,. \tag{17}$$

Inequalities (15) and (16) are transformed into the following inequality by Lemma 2:

$$-\alpha_{1}\zeta^{T}(t)\Gamma_{1}^{T}\overline{H}_{1}\Gamma_{1}\zeta(t) - \alpha_{2}\zeta^{T}(t)\Gamma_{2}^{T}\overline{H}_{2}\Gamma_{2}\zeta(t)$$

$$\leq -\zeta^{T}(t)\left\{2\Gamma_{1}^{T}\left[(1-\alpha)Y_{2}+\alpha Y_{1}\right]\Gamma_{2}\right.$$

$$+\Gamma_{1}^{T}\left[(1-\alpha)X_{1}+\overline{H}_{1}\right]\Gamma_{1}$$

$$+\Gamma_{2}^{T}\left[\overline{H}_{2}+\alpha X_{2}\right]\Gamma_{2}\left\{\zeta(t).$$
(18)

According to the nonlinear constraint (8), for any $\lambda > 0$, the inequality holds

$$\lambda \eta^{T}(\cdot) \eta(\cdot) - \lambda \omega^{2} x^{T}(t) E^{T} E x(t) - \lambda v^{2} x^{T}(h_{d}) N^{T} N x(h_{d}) \leq 0.$$
(19)

Finally, from inequalities (13)–(19) in the derivation process, we can summarize and simplify into the following form.

$$\dot{V}(t) \le \zeta^{T}(t) \left[h_{t}^{2} \Omega_{2} \left(\dot{h}_{t} \right) + h_{t} \Omega_{1} \left(\dot{h}_{t} \right) + \Omega_{0} \left(\dot{h}_{t} \right) \right] \zeta(t), \qquad (20)$$

where $\Omega_0(\dot{h}_t)$, $\Omega_1(\dot{h}_t)$, and $\Omega_2(\dot{h}_t)$ given in theorem 1, respectively.

According to Lemma 3, if and only if there exist $D_i \in \mathbb{S}^{14n}_+$ and skew-symmetric matrices $G_i \in \mathbb{R}^{14n \times 14n}$, the nonlinear inequality (20) can be converted to the LMI (11) in theorem 1. Also, then $\dot{V}(t) < 0$ holds. As a result, the Lyapunov stability theorem can guarantee that system (5) is stable. It is sufficient and complete and is thus proved.

Remark 2: Recently, an improved stability criterion has been proposed in 2020 (Oliveira and Souza, 2020), where the LKF was augmented by introducing augmented single integral terms and delay-dependent nonintegral terms. Inspired by this, four integral components are added and expanded to $\varphi_3(\theta), \varphi_4(\theta), \varphi_4(\theta)$ and $\varphi_5(\theta)$ of V_2 when constructing the LKF. Compared with the literature Jiang et al. (2011), Ramakrishnan and Ray (2015), and Yang et al. (2017a), the LKF proposed in this study includes more coupling information between time delays and state variables, further reducing the conservatism of the stability criterion. In addition, the augmented LKF must be combined with some tight inequality techniques. The novel negative definite inequality equivalence transformation lemma (Lemma 3) proposed in Oliveira and Souza (2020) is used to convert inequality (20) into LMI (11). It can be easily solved with the MATLAB LMI toolbox.

Remark 3: In Jiang et al. (2011), Ramakrishnan and Ray (2015), Yang et al. (2017a), and Feng et al. (2021), when the lower bound of the time delay is zero, the stability of the LFC power system has been studied and some stability criteria have been obtained. However, in some cases, the time-varying delay always varies within a non-zero interval. Therefore, the stability criteria given in Jiang et al. (2011), Ramakrishnan and Ray (2015), Yang et al. (2017a), and Feng et al. (2021 are conservative because the importance of the non-zero lower bound on the time-varying delay is ignored. Based on this, theorem 1 provides a stability criterion in the case of $h_1 > 0$. Evidently, the stability criterion for $h_1 = 0$ is a special case of theorem 1, which can be given as a corollary in the next subsection.

3.2 Case 2: $h_1 = 0$

In this subsection, based on the analysis in remark 3, the following corollary 1 can be obtained based on theorem 1 for the case of $h_1 = 0$. The changes in notations during the derivation are as follows.

$$\begin{split} \zeta(t) &= \operatorname{col}\left\{x(t), x\left(h_{d}\right), x(t-h_{2}), \rho_{1t}, \rho_{2t}, \rho_{3t}, \rho_{4t}, \\ w(t), \dot{x}(h_{d}), \dot{x}(t-h_{2})\right\}, \\ \hat{\tau}_{i} &= \begin{bmatrix} 0_{n \times (i-1)n} & I & 0_{n \times (10-i)n} \end{bmatrix}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, 10. \end{split}$$

Corollary 1. System (5) is stable in the presence of scalars μ and h_2 , if there exist matrices $Z_{j1} \in \mathbb{S}^{3n}, Z_{j2} \in \mathbb{S}^{3n}_+, Q_j \in \mathbb{S}^{8n}_+, X_j \in \mathbb{S}^{3n}, Y_j \in \mathbb{R}^{3n \times 3n}, H_j \in \mathbb{S}^n_+, D_j \in \mathbb{S}^{10n}_+$ and skew-symmetric matrices $G_j \in \mathbb{R}^{10n \times 10n}$, for j = 1, 2, such that the LMIs (9–10) and the following matrix inequalities hold for $h_t \in [0, h_2]$ and $\dot{h}_t \stackrel{\Delta}{=} \mu_j \in \{-\mu, \mu\}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{\Omega}_0(\mu_j) & \frac{1}{2}\hat{\Omega}_1(\mu_j) \\ * & \hat{\Omega}_2(\mu_j) \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} C \\ J \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} -D_j & G_j \\ * & D_j \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} C \\ J \end{bmatrix} < 0, \quad (21)$$

where

$$\begin{split} \hat{\Omega}_{0}\left(\dot{h}_{t}\right) &= \mathrm{Sym}\left\{\hat{D}_{1}^{T}Z_{12}\hat{c}_{11} + \hat{D}_{2}^{T}\left(h_{2}Z_{21} + Z_{22}\right)\hat{c}_{21} \right. \\ &+ \hat{D}_{3}^{T}Q_{1}\hat{c}_{70} + \hat{D}_{4}^{T}Q_{2}\hat{c}_{80}\right\} \\ &+ \dot{h}_{i}\hat{c}_{11}^{T}Z_{11}\hat{c}_{11} - \dot{h}_{i}\hat{c}_{21}^{T}Z_{21}\hat{c}_{21} + \hat{c}_{31}^{T}Q_{1}\hat{c}_{31} \\ &- \dot{h}_{1i}\hat{c}_{41}^{T}Q_{1}\hat{c}_{41} - \hat{c}_{61}^{T}Q_{2}\hat{c}_{61} \\ &+ \dot{h}_{1i}\hat{c}_{51}^{T}Q_{2}\hat{c}_{51} + h_{2}^{2}\hat{c}_{0}^{T}H_{2}\hat{c}_{0} - \hat{\Gamma}_{2}^{T}\left(\dot{H}_{2} + X_{2}\right)\hat{\Gamma}_{2} \\ &- \mathrm{Sym}\left\{\hat{\Gamma}_{1}^{T}Y_{1}\hat{\Gamma}_{1}\right\} \\ &+ h_{2}^{2}\dot{h}_{1i}\hat{\tau}_{9}^{T}\left(H_{1} - H_{2}\right)\hat{\tau}_{9} - \hat{\Gamma}_{1}^{T}H_{1}\hat{\Gamma}_{1} \\ &+ \lambda\epsilon^{2}\hat{\tau}_{1}^{T}E^{T}E\hat{\tau}_{1} + \lambda\theta^{2}\hat{\tau}_{2}^{T}F^{T}F\hat{\tau}_{2}, \\ \hat{\Omega}_{1}\left(\dot{h}_{t}\right) &= \mathrm{Sym}\left\{\hat{D}_{1}^{T}Z_{11}\hat{c}_{11} + \hat{D}_{1}^{T}Z_{12}\hat{c}_{12} \\ &+ \hat{D}_{2}^{T}\left(h_{2}Z_{21} + Z_{22}\right)\hat{c}_{22} - \hat{D}_{2}^{T}Z_{21}\hat{c}_{21} \\ &+ \hat{D}_{3}^{T}Q_{1}\hat{c}_{71} + \hat{D}_{4}^{T}Q_{2}\hat{c}_{81} + \dot{h}_{i}\hat{c}_{11}^{T}Z_{11}\hat{c}_{12} \\ &- \dot{h}_{i}\hat{c}_{11}^{T}Z_{21}\hat{c}_{22} + \hat{c}_{31}^{T}Q_{1}\hat{c}_{32} \\ &- \dot{h}_{i}\hat{c}_{11}^{T}Z_{21}\hat{c}_{22} + \hat{h}_{1i}^{T}Q_{1}\hat{c}_{32} \\ &- \dot{h}_{i}\hat{c}_{11}^{T}Z_{12}\hat{c}_{12} + \dot{h}_{1i}\hat{c}_{11}^{T}Q_{2}\hat{c}_{52} \\ &- \hat{c}_{61}^{T}Q_{2}\hat{c}_{62}\right] - \dot{h}_{1i}h_{2}\hat{\tau}_{9}^{T}\left(H_{1} - H_{2}\right)\hat{\tau}_{9} \\ &- \frac{1}{h_{2}}\hat{\Gamma}_{1}^{T}X_{1}\hat{\Gamma}_{1} + \frac{1}{h_{2}}\hat{\Gamma}_{2}^{T}X_{2}\hat{\Gamma}_{2} \\ &+ \mathrm{Sym}\left\{\frac{1}{h_{2}}\hat{\Gamma}_{1}^{T}\left(Y_{1} - Y_{2}\right)\hat{\Gamma}_{2}\right\}, \\ \hat{\Omega}_{2}\left(\dot{h}_{t}\right) &= \mathrm{Sym}\left\{\hat{D}_{1}^{T}Z_{11}\hat{c}_{12} - \hat{D}_{2}^{T}Z_{21}\hat{c}_{22} + \hat{D}_{3}^{T}Q_{1}\hat{c}_{72} \\ &+ \hat{D}_{4}^{T}Q_{2}\hat{c}_{82}\right\} \\ &+ \dot{h}_{i}\hat{c}_{12}^{T}Z_{1}\hat{c}_{12} - \dot{h}_{1i}\hat{c}_{42}^{T}Q_{1}\hat{c}_{42} + \hat{c}_{32}^{T}Q_{1}\hat{c}_{32} \\ &- \dot{h}_{i}\hat{c}_{22}^{T}Z_{21}\hat{c}_{22} \\ &+ \dot{h}_{1i}\hat{c}_{52}^{T}Q_{2}\hat{c}_{52} - \hat{c}_{62}^{T}Q_{2}\hat{c}_{62} \end{aligned}$$

with

$$\begin{split} \hat{c}_{41} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \hat{r}_{9}, \ \hat{r}_{2}, \hat{r}_{1}, \ \hat{r}_{2}, \ \hat{r}_{3}, \ \hat{\Delta}, \ \hat{\Delta}, \ h_{2}\hat{\tau}_{4} \right\}, \\ \hat{c}_{42} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \hat{\lambda}, \hat{\Delta}, \ \hat{\lambda}, \hat{\lambda}, \ \hat{\lambda}, \ \hat{r}_{6}, \hat{\Delta}, -\hat{\tau}_{4} \right\}, \\ \hat{c}_{51} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \hat{\tau}_{9}, \ \hat{\tau}_{2}, \ \hat{\tau}_{1}, \ \hat{\tau}_{2}, \ \hat{\tau}_{3}, \ \hat{\lambda}, \ \hat{\Delta}, h_{2}\hat{\tau}_{4} \right\}, \\ \hat{c}_{52} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \hat{\lambda}, \ h_{2}\hat{\tau}_{4} \right\}, \\ \hat{c}_{61} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \hat{\tau}_{10}, \ \hat{\tau}_{3}, \ \hat{\tau}_{1}, \ \hat{\tau}_{2}, \ \hat{\tau}_{3}, h_{2} \ \hat{\tau}_{4}, \ \hat{\lambda}, \ \hat{\Delta} \right\}, \\ \hat{c}_{61} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \hat{\tau}_{10}, \ \hat{\tau}_{3}, \ \hat{\tau}_{1}, \ \hat{\tau}_{2}, \ \hat{\tau}_{3}, h_{2} \ \hat{\tau}_{4}, \ \hat{\lambda}, \ \hat{\Delta} \right\}, \\ \hat{c}_{61} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \hat{\tau}_{1}, \ \hat{\tau}_{3}, \ \hat{\lambda}, \ \hat{\lambda}, \ \hat{\lambda}, \ \hat{\lambda}, \ \hat{\lambda}, \ \hat{\lambda}, \ \hat{\lambda} \right\}, \\ \hat{c}_{61} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \hat{\tau}_{1}, \ \hat{\tau}_{2}, \ \hat{\tau}_{3}, h_{2} \ \hat{\tau}_{4}, \ \hat{\lambda}, \ \hat{\Delta} \right\}, \\ \hat{c}_{61} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \hat{\tau}_{1}, \ \hat{\tau}_{2}, \ \hat{\lambda}, \ \hat{\lambda} \right\}, \\ \hat{c}_{70} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \hat{\lambda}, \ \hat{\lambda}$$

Proof: for $h_1 = 0$, the LKF (12) is reduced to the following forms:

$$\begin{split} \hat{V}_{1} &= \hat{\varphi}_{1t}^{T} Z_{1t} \hat{\varphi}_{1t} + \hat{\varphi}_{2t}^{T} Z_{2t} \hat{\varphi}_{2t}, \\ \hat{V}_{2} &= \int_{h_{d}}^{t} \hat{\varphi}_{3}^{T}(\theta) \, Q_{1} \hat{\varphi}_{3}(\theta) \, d\theta \\ &+ \int_{t-h_{2}}^{h_{d}} \hat{\varphi}_{4}^{T}(\theta) \, Q_{2} \hat{\varphi}_{4}(\theta) \, d\theta, \\ \hat{V}_{3} &= h_{2} \int_{t-h_{2}}^{h_{d}} (h_{2} - t + \theta) \dot{x}^{T}(\theta) \, H_{1} \dot{x}(\theta) \, d\theta \\ &+ h_{2} \int_{h_{d}}^{t} (h_{2} - t + \theta) \dot{x}^{T}(\theta) \, H_{2} \dot{x}(\theta) \, d\theta, \end{split}$$

where

$$\begin{split} \hat{\varphi}_{0t} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ x(t), \ x(h_d), \ x(t-h_2) \right\}, \\ \hat{\varphi}_{1t} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ x(t), \ x(h_d), \ \int_{h_d}^t x(\theta) \, d\theta \right\}, \\ \hat{\varphi}_{2t} &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ x(h_d), \ x(t-h_2), \ \int_{t-h_2}^{h_d} x(\theta) \, d\theta \right\}, \\ \hat{\varphi}_3(\theta) &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \dot{x}(\theta), \ x(\theta), \ \hat{\varphi}_{0t}, \ \int_{\theta}^t x(\theta) \, d\theta, \ \int_{h_d}^{\theta} x(\theta) \, d\theta, \\ \int_{t-h_2}^{h_d} x(\theta) \, d\theta \right\}, \\ \hat{\varphi}_4(\theta) &= \operatorname{col} \left\{ \dot{x}(\theta), \ x(\theta), \ \hat{\varphi}_{0t}, \ \int_{\theta}^{h_d} x(\theta) \, d\theta, \ \int_{h_d}^t x(\theta) \, d\theta, \\ \int_{t-h_2}^{\theta} x(\theta) \, d\theta \right\}. \end{split}$$

For simplicity, the rest of the proof is omitted as it is similar to the proof of theorem 1. It is sufficient and complete and is thus proved.

4 Case studies

This section illustrates the effectiveness of the stability criterion for the one-area LFC system proposed in the study. By solving the LMIs in theorem 1 and corollary 1 *via* the MATLAB LMI toolbox application, the maximum admissible delay upper bound (MADUB) for various K_p and K_I can be obtained. In **Table 1**, the one-area LFC power system parameters are given as those in Jiang et al. (2011), Ramakrishnan and Ray (2015), Yang et al. (2017a), and Feng et al. (2021).

4.1 MADUBs for $h_1 = 0$

Based on the PI controller, the MADUBs to guarantee the stable operation of the one-area LFC power system can be calculated by solving the LMIs in corollary 1. For load disturbances, the parameters $E = F = 0.1I_4$, $\varepsilon = 0$, and $\theta = 0$ are set. For the given various control gains of K_p and K_I , Table 2 lists MADUBs with $\mu = 0$, and Table 3 lists MADUBs with $\mu = 0.9$. From **Tables 2**, **3**, for fixed K_I , MADUBs increase with the increase of K_p ; for fixed K_p , MADUBs decrease with the increase of K_I . For $\mu = 0$, the MADUBs are similar to those of Yang et al. (2017a) and Feng et al. (2021) but larger than those of Jiang et al. (2011) and Ramakrishnan and Ray (2015). However, for $\mu = 0.9$, the MADUBs are larger than those of Jiang et al. (2011), Ramakrishnan and Ray (2015), Yang et al. (2017a), and Feng et al. (2021). In terms of reducing conservatism, our stability criterion is evident under timevarying delay. In addition, the stability criterion proposed in theorem 1 can also solve the case of $h_1 > 0$, which is ignored in the literature (Jiang et al., 2011; Ramakrishnan and Ray, 2015; Yang et al., 2017a; Feng et al., 2021).

TABLE 1 System parameters.

Parameter	$T_g(s)$	$T_{ch}(s)$	\mathcal{R}	β	M(s)	\mathcal{D}
Area	0.1	0.3	0.05	21	1.0	1.0

TABLE 2 MADUBs h_2 for fixed $\mu = 0$ and various K_P and K_I .

 $\mu = 0$

K_P	Method $\smallsetminus K_I$	0.2	0.4	0.6
	Corollary 1	7.331	3.382	2.045
	Feng et al. (2021)	7.33	3.38	2.03
0	Yang et al. (2017a)	7.34	3.39	2.05
	Jiang et al. (2011)	6.69	3.12	1.91
	Ramakrishnan and Ray (2015)	6.69	3.38 3.39	1.91
	Corollary 1	7.79	3.61	2.193
	Feng et al. (2021)	7.81	3.62	2.19
0.1	Yang et al. (2017a)	7.79	3.61	2.19
	Jiang et al. (2011)	6.94	3.29	2.02
	Ramakrishnan and Ray (2015)	6.94	3.29	2.02

TABLE 3 MADUBs h_2 for fixed $\mu = 0.9$ and various K_P and K_I .

и	=	0.9
p	_	0.2

K _P	Method $\smallsetminus K_I$	0.2	0.4	0.6
	Corollary 1	7.14	3.23	1.93
	Feng et al. (2021)	7.12	3.20	1.91
0	Yang et al. (2017a)	6.43	2.91	1.71
	Jiang et al. (2011)	6.25	2.85	1.68
	Ramakrishnan and Ray (2015)	4.59	3.20 2.91	1.01
	Corollary 1	7.15	3.26	2.01
	Feng et al. (2021)	7.13	3.24	1.95
0.1	Yang et al. (2017a)	6.59	3.11	1.84
	Jiang et al. (2011)	5.93	2.87	1.75
	Ramakrishnan and Ray (2015)	4.67	1.85	1.05

TABLE 4 MADUBs h_2 for $\mu = 0$ and various h_1 under theorem 1.

$(K_p, K_I) \setminus h_1$	0.2	0.4	0.8	1	1.2
(0, 0.2)	7.331	7.332	7.332	7.332	7.332
(0, 0.4)	3.382	3.383	3.383	3.383	3.383
(0, 0.6)	2.045	2.046	2.046	2.046	2.046
(0.1, 0.2)	7.79	7.791	7.791	7.791	7.791
(0.1, 0.4)	3.61	3.611	3.611	3.611	3.611
(0.1, 0.6)	2.193	2.194	2.194	2.194	2.194

4.2 MADUBs for $h_1 > 0$

The MADUBs for fixed K_p and K_I and different μ are given in **Tables 4**, **5**. **Table 4** lists the MADUBs with $\mu = 0$, $h_1 = 0.2/0.4/0.8$, and different controller gains. **Table 5** lists the MADUBs with various μ , $h_1 = 0.2/0.4/0.8$, and different controller gains. From **Tables 4**, **5**, the MADUBs increase with the increase of h_1 . For fixed h_1 , K_p , and K_I , the MADUBs decrease with the increase of μ . For fixed h_1 , μ , and K_p , the MADUBs decrease with the increase of K_I . For fixed h_1 , μ , and K_I , the MADUBs increase with the increase of K_p .

4.3 Simulation

MATLAB simulations about the one-area LFC power system are run with a step load of 0.1pu at 1s. Some detailed simulation conditions are shown as follows. The responses of the power

TABLE 5 MADUBs h_2 for various $\mu > 0$ and various h_1 under theorem 1.

system with $K_p = 0$ and various K_I and μ can be seen in **Figure 2**. The responses of the power system with $K_p = 0.1$ and various K_I and μ can be seen in **Figure 3**. The LFC power system is stable, and it is clear that the LFC has succeeded in achieving its goals.

> Figures:2: $K_p = 0$ and various μ and K_I $A. K_I = 0.2, h_t = \frac{7.99}{2} + \frac{6.39}{2} \sin\left(\frac{0.4t}{6.39}\right)$ with $0.8 \le h_t \le 7.19$ and $\mu = 0.2$; $B. K_I = 0.4, h_t = 2.03 + 1.23 \sin\left(\frac{t}{1.23}\right)$ with $0.8 \le h_t \le 3.26$ and $\mu = 0.5$; $C. K_I = 0.6, h_t = \frac{2.35}{2} + \frac{1.55}{2} \sin\left(\frac{1.8t}{1.55}\right)$ with $0.4 \le h_t \le 1.95$ and $\mu = 0.9$.

μ	0.2			0.5			0.9		
$(K_P, K_I) \smallsetminus h_1$	0.2	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.8
(0, 0.2)	7.16	7.18	7.19	7.15	7.17	7.18	7.14	7.16	7.17
(0, 0.4)	3.24	3.26	3.27	3.23	3.25	3.26	3.22	3.24	3.25
(0, 0.6)	1.95	1.97	1.98	1.94	1.96	1.97	1.93	1.95	1.96
(0.1, 0.2)	7.17	7.19	7.20	7.16	7.18	7.19	7.15	7.17	7.18
(0.1, 0.4)	3.28	3.30	3.30	3.27	3.29	3.30	3.26	3.28	3.29
(0.1, 0.6)	1.99	1.99	1.99	1.98	1.99	1.99	1.97	1.99	1.99





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Figures:3: $K_P = 0.1$ and various μ and K_I

A.
$$K_I = 0.2, h_t = 4 + 3.2 \sin\left(\frac{0.8t}{3.2}\right)$$

with $0.8 \le h_t \le 7.20$ and $\mu = 0.2$;
B. $K_I = 0.4, h_t = \frac{4.1}{2} + \frac{2.5}{2} \sin\left(\frac{t}{2.5}\right)$
with $0.8 \le h_t \le 3.30$ and $\mu = 0.5$;
C. $K_I = 0.6, h_t = \frac{2.39}{2} + \frac{1.59}{2} \sin\left(\frac{1.8t}{1.59}\right)$
with $0.4 \le h_t \le 1.99$ and $\mu = 0.9$.

The curves A, B, and C in **Figures 2**, 3 correspond to simulation conditions A, B, and C, respectively. The curves tend to be in a steady state as time increases. This proves that the maximum allowable delay range obtained from theorem 1 is within the actual range.

5 Conclusion

The stability analysis of the LFC power systems with interval time-varying delays is investigated in this study. The two cases of the time delay lower bound $h_1 = 0$ and $h_1 > 0$ are considered. An improved stability criterion is given based on the Lyapunov stability theory. First, for load disturbances, time delay linear systems are used to characterize one-area LFC power systems. Second, when constructing the augmented LKF, the state and time-varying delay information on the LFC power systems are fully utilized. The LKF contains the delay-dependent matrices and four single integral terms. Third, by applying the equivalence transformation lemma 3 for quadratic matrix functions, the stability criterion can be described as the LMI. At last, the efficiency of the method is demonstrated with a few examples. The stability criteria in this study reduce the conservatism, however increases the complexity of solving LMI. For the LFC power system, the results obtained in this study can be expanded to the multi-time delays and multi-areas. In Shi et al. (2022) and Zhong et al. (2022), the sampling period and decentralized LFC schemes are proposed, respectively, which can improve the method in this study. It may be our future topics.

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Data availability statement

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/Supplementary Material. Further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

Author contributions

YS has made the construction and derivation of the function and wrote the manuscript. XB and YS have analyzed the data and wrote part of the manuscript. WD has carried out the simulation. QL was responsible for the language expression of the manuscript. WD and QL supported the project both financially and technically.

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Conflict of interest

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