

New Approaches on Exponential Stability Analysis for Neural Networks with Time-Varying Delays

Qingqing Wang, Baocheng Chen, Shouming Zhong

Abstract—In this paper, utilizing the Lyapunov functional method and combining linear matrix inequality (LMI) techniques and integral inequality approach (IIA) to study the exponential stability problem for neural networks with discrete and distributed time-varying delays. By constructing new Lyapunov-Krasovskii functional and dividing the discrete delay interval into multiple segments, some new delay-dependent exponential stability criteria are established in terms of LMIs and can be easily checked. In order to show the stability condition in this paper gives much less conservative results than those in the literature, numerical examples are considered.

Keywords—Neural networks, Exponential stability, LMI approach, Time-varying delays.

I. INTRODUCTION

NEURAL networks have attracted many researchers attention during the past decades and have found successful applications in many areas, such as automatic control, signal processing, model identification, combinatorial optimization, and so on [1, 2]. However, the occurrence of time delays is unavoidable in some of these applications, and it may cause instability of neural networks. Therefore, stability analysis of delayed neural networks has been extensively investigated by many researchers. Now, many sufficient conditions ensuring global asymptotic stability and global exponential stability for delayed neural networks have been derived [3-30]. The main concern in delayed-dependent stability analysis for delayed neural networks is to enlarge the feasibility region of stability criteria to get the maximum allowable bound of time delays for guaranteed the stability. Some researchers found many new approaches on stability analysis for neural networks with time-varying delay, such as introducing new Lyapunov functional, dividing delay interval and so on.

Motivated by this mentioned above, in this paper, the exponential stability problem for neural networks with both time-varying and distributed delays is considered, two new delay-dependent stability criterion for neural networks with time-varying delays will be proposed by dividing the delay interval $[0, \varsigma]$ into $[0, \frac{\varsigma(t)}{2}]$, $[\frac{\varsigma(t)}{2}, \varsigma(t)]$, $[\varsigma(t), \frac{\varsigma+\varsigma(t)}{2}]$, $[\frac{\varsigma+\varsigma(t)}{2}, \varsigma]$,

constructing new Lyapunov-Krasovskii functional which contains some new integrals, and introducing $f(y(t - \frac{\varsigma}{2}))$ in vector $\xi(t)$, which are rarely considered in other literature. The obtained criterion are less conservative because LMI approach has been developed to deal with the problem of globally exponential stability for neural networks with time-varying delays. Finally, numerical examples are presented to illustrate the effectiveness of our results.

II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Consider the following neural networks with discrete and distributed time-varying delays:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{z}(t) &= -Cz(t) + Ag(z(t)) + Bg(z(t - \varsigma(t))) + D \int_{t-\rho}^t g(z(s)) ds + I_0 \\ z(t) &= \Phi(t), t \in [-h, 0] \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where $z(t) = [z_1(t), z_2(t), \dots, z_n(t)]^T \in R^n$ is the neuron state vector, $g(z(t)) = [g_1(z_1(t)), g_2(z_2(t)), \dots, g_n(z_n(t))]^T$ denotes the neuron activation function, and $I_0 = [I_1, I_2, \dots, I_n]^T \in R^n$ is a constant input vector, $C = \text{diag}\{c_i\} \in R^n$ is a positive diagonal matrix, $A = (a_{ij})_{n \times n} \in R^n$ is the connection weight matrix, $B = (b_{ij})_{n \times n} \in R^n$, and $D = (d_{ij})_{n \times n} \in R^n$ are the delayed connection weight matrices, the initial vector $\Phi(t)$ is bounded and continuous on $[-h, 0]$, where $h = \max\{\rho, \varsigma\}$.

The following assumptions are adopted throughout the paper.

Assumption 1: The delay $\varsigma(t)$ is time-varying continuous function and satisfies:

$$0 \leq \varsigma(t) \leq \varsigma, \dot{\varsigma}(t) \leq \mu \leq 1 \quad (2)$$

Assumption 2: Each neuron activation function $g_i(\cdot)$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, in (1) satisfies the following condition:

$$\gamma_i^- \leq \frac{g_i(\alpha) - g_i(\beta)}{\alpha - \beta} \leq \gamma_i^+, \forall \alpha, \beta \in R, \alpha \neq \beta \quad (3)$$

where γ_i^-, γ_i^+ , $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ are constants, and matrices $\Gamma_1 = \text{diag}\{\gamma_1^-, \gamma_2^-, \dots, \gamma_n^-\}$, $\Gamma_2 = \text{diag}\{\gamma_1^+, \gamma_2^+, \dots, \gamma_n^+\}$. Based on Assumption 1-2, it can be easily proven that there exists one equilibrium point for (1) by Brouwer's fixed-point theorem. Assuming that $z^* = [z_1^*, z_2^*, \dots, z_n^*]^T$ is the equilibrium point of (1) and using the transformation $y(\cdot) = z(\cdot) - z^*$, system (1) can be converted to the following system:

$$\dot{y}(t) = -Cy(t) + Af(y(t)) + Bf(y(t - \varsigma(t))) + D \int_{t-\rho}^t f(y(s)) ds \quad (4)$$

Qingqing Wang and Shouming Zhong are with the School of Mathematical Sciences, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Chengdu, Sichuan 611731, PR China.

Baocheng Chen is with National Key Laboratory of Science and Technology on Communications, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Chengdu, 611731, PR China.

Shouming Zhong is with Key Laboratory for NeuroInformation of Ministry of Education, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Chengdu, Sichuan 611731, PR China.

(e-mail address: wangqqchenbc@163.com).

where $y(t) = [y_1(t), y_2(t), \dots, y_n(t)]^T$, $f(y(t)) = [f_1(y_1(t)), f_2(y_2(t)), \dots, f_n(y_n(t))]^T$, $f_i(y_i(\cdot)) = g_i(z_i(\cdot) + z_i^*) - g_i(z_i^*)$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$.

From Eq.(4), $f_i(\cdot)$ satisfies the following condition:

$$\gamma_i^- \leq \frac{f_i(\alpha)}{\alpha} \leq \gamma_i^+, \forall \alpha \neq 0, i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \quad (5)$$

Due to the disturbance frequent occurs in many various applications, and ρ may be distributed time-varying delays, so by translating matrices A, B, C, D and constant ρ to function $A(t), B(t), C(t), D(t)$ and $\rho(t)$, respectively, we have

$$\dot{y}(t) = -C(t)y(t) + A(t)f(y(t)) + B(t)f(y(t-\zeta(t))) + D(t) \int_{t-\rho(t)}^t f(y(s))ds \quad (6)$$

Assumption 3: $\rho(t)$ is the time-varying continuous function and satisfies: $0 \leq \rho(t) \leq \rho$.

Assumption 4: Setting function $A(t) = A + \Delta A(t)$, $B(t) = B + \Delta B(t)$, $C(t) = C + \Delta C(t)$, $D(t) = D + \Delta D(t)$, where $\Delta A(t), \Delta B(t), \Delta C(t), \Delta D(t)$ are unknown constant matrices representing time-varying parametric uncertainties, and are of linear fractional forms:

$$[\Delta C(t), \Delta A(t), \Delta B(t), \Delta D(t)] = GF(t)[E_c, E_a, E_b, E_d] \quad (7)$$

with

$$F^T(t)F(t) \leq I \quad (8)$$

Definition 1 The equilibrium point 0 of system (7) is said to be globally exponentially stable if there exist $k > 0$ and $\gamma > 0$ such that

$$\|y(t)\| \leq \gamma e^{-kt} \sup_{-h \leq s \leq 0} \|y(s)\|, \forall t > 0 \quad (9)$$

Lemma 1 [9]. The following inequalities are true :

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq \int_0^{y_i(t)} (f_i(s) - \gamma_i^- s) ds \leq (f_i(y_i(t)) - \gamma_i^- y_i(t)) y_i(t), \\ 0 &\leq \int_0^{y_i(t)} (\gamma_i^+ s - f_i(s)) ds \leq (\gamma_i^+ y_i(t) - f_i(y_i(t))) y_i(t), \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

Lemma 2 [10]. For any constant matrix $Q, S \in R^{n \times n}$, $Q = Q^T > 0, S = S^T$, the following inequality hold:

$$\begin{aligned} &-\rho \int_{t-\rho}^t y^T(s) Q y(s) ds \\ &\leq - \left[\int_{t-\rho(t)}^t y(s) ds \right]^T \begin{bmatrix} Q & S \\ * & Q \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \int_{t-\rho(t)}^t y(s) ds \\ \int_{t-\rho}^t y(s) ds \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

III. MAIN RESULTS

In this section, a new Lyapunov functional is constructed and two less conservative delay-dependent stability criterion are obtained. First, we take up the case where $\Delta A(t) = 0, \Delta B(t) = 0, \Delta C(t) = 0, \Delta D(t) = 0$ in system (7) as follows:

$$\dot{y}(t) = -C y(t) + A f(y(t)) + B f(y(t-\zeta(t))) + D \int_{t-\rho(t)}^t f(y(s)) ds \quad (12)$$

Denote

$$\begin{aligned} \xi^T(t) &= [y^T(t), y^T(t - \frac{\zeta}{2}), y^T(t - \zeta), y^T(t - \zeta(t)), f^T(y(t)), \\ &f^T(y(t - \frac{\zeta}{2})), f^T(y(t - \zeta)), f^T(y(t - \zeta(t))), \\ &\int_{t-\rho(t)}^t f^T(y(s)) ds, \int_{t-\rho}^{t-\rho(t)} f^T(y(s)) ds] \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 1 Given that the Assumption 1-3 hold, the system (12) is globally exponentially stable with the exponential convergence rate index k if there exist symmetric positive

definite matrices $\begin{bmatrix} G_{11} & G_{12} & G_{13} & G_{14} \\ * & G_{22} & G_{23} & G_{24} \\ * & * & G_{33} & G_{34} \\ * & * & * & G_{44} \end{bmatrix}, P, Q_i, i = 1, 2, 3, 4, R_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, 5$, positive diagonal matrices $W_1, W_2, W_3, W_4, \Lambda = \text{diag}\{\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n\}, \Delta = \text{diag}\{\delta_1, \delta_2, \dots, \delta_n\}$, and symmetric matrix $S_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, 7$ such that the following LMIs hold:

$$\begin{bmatrix} R_1 & S_i \\ * & R_2 \end{bmatrix} > 0, i = 1, 4, 5. \quad (13)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} R_3 & S_i \\ * & R_4 \end{bmatrix} > 0, i = 2, 6, 7. \quad (14)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} E & \aleph^T Z \\ * & -Z \end{bmatrix} < 0 \quad (15)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} F & \aleph^T Z \\ * & -Z \end{bmatrix} < 0 \quad (16)$$

where

$$\aleph = [-C \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad A \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad B \quad D \quad 0]$$

$$Z = \frac{\zeta}{2}(R_2 + R_4)$$

$$E = \begin{bmatrix} E_{11} & E_{12} & 0 & 0 & E_{15} & E_{16} & 0 & E_{18} & E_{19} & 0 \\ * & E_{22} & E_{23} & 0 & E_{25} & E_{26} & E_{27} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & E_{33} & 0 & 0 & E_{36} & E_{37} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & E_{44} & 0 & 0 & 0 & E_{48} & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & E_{55} & E_{56} & 0 & E_{58} & E_{59} & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & E_{66} & E_{67} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & E_{77} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & * & E_{88} & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * & E_{99} & E_{9,10} \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * & E_{10,10} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$F = \begin{bmatrix} F_{11} & F_{12} & 0 & 0 & F_{15} & F_{16} & 0 & F_{18} & F_{19} & 0 \\ * & F_{22} & F_{23} & 0 & F_{25} & F_{26} & F_{27} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & F_{33} & 0 & 0 & F_{36} & F_{37} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & F_{44} & 0 & 0 & 0 & F_{48} & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & F_{55} & F_{56} & 0 & F_{58} & F_{59} & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & F_{66} & F_{67} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & F_{77} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & * & F_{88} & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * & F_{99} & F_{9,10} \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * & F_{10,10} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$E_{11} = 2kP - 2PC - 4k\Gamma_1\Lambda + 4k\Gamma_2\Delta + 2\Gamma_1\Lambda C - 2\Gamma_2\Delta C \\ + G_{11} + Q_1 + Q_2 + Q_3 + \frac{\varsigma}{2}(R_1 + R_3) + e^{-k\varsigma}S_1 \\ - 2\Gamma_1W_1\Gamma_2$$

$$E_{12} = G_{1,2}$$

$$E_{15} = PA + 2k\Lambda - 2k\Delta - \Gamma_1\Lambda A + \Gamma_2\Delta A - C\Lambda + C\Delta \\ + G_{13} + W_1(\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2)$$

$$E_{16} = G_{14}, E_{1,8} = PB - \Gamma_1\Lambda B + \Gamma_2\Delta B$$

$$E_{19} = PD - \Gamma_1\Lambda D + \Gamma_2\Delta D$$

$$E_{22} = G_{22} - e^{-k\varsigma}G_{11} - e^{-k\varsigma}S_4 + e^{-2k\varsigma}S_2 - 2\Gamma_1W_3\Gamma_2$$

$$E_{23} = -e^{-k\varsigma}G_{12}, E_{25} = G_{23}$$

$$E_{26} = G_{24} - e^{-k\varsigma}G_{13} + W_3(\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2), E_{27} = -e^{-k\varsigma}G_{14}$$

$$E_{33} = -e^{-k\varsigma}G_{22} - e^{-2k\varsigma}S_2 - 2\Gamma_1W_4\Gamma_2, E_{36} = -e^{-k\varsigma}G_{23}$$

$$E_{37} = -e^{-k\varsigma}G_{24} + W_4(\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2)$$

$$E_{44} = -(1 - \mu)e^{-2k\varsigma}Q_2 - 2\Gamma_1W_2\Gamma_2 - e^{-k\varsigma}(S_1 - S_4)$$

$$E_{48} = W_2(\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2)$$

$$E_{55} = 2\Lambda A - 2\Delta A + G_{33} + Q_4 + \rho^2 R_5 - 2W_1, E_{56} = G_{34}$$

$$E_{58} = \Lambda B - \Delta B, E_{59} = \Lambda D - \Delta D$$

$$E_{66} = G_{44} - e^{-k\varsigma}G_{33} - 2W_3, E_{67} = -e^{-k\varsigma}G_{34}$$

$$E_{77} = -e^{-k\varsigma}G_{44} - 2W_4, E_{88} = -(1 - \mu)e^{-2k\varsigma}Q_4 - 2W_2$$

$$E_{99} = -e^{-2k\rho}R_5, E_{9,10} = -e^{-2k\rho}S_3, E_{10,10} = -e^{-2k\rho}R_5$$

$$F_{11} = 2kP - 2PC - 4k\Gamma_1\Lambda + 4k\Gamma_2\Delta + 2\Gamma_1\Lambda C - 2\Gamma_2\Delta C \\ + G_{11} + Q_1 + Q_2 + Q_3 + \frac{\varsigma}{2}(R_1 + R_3) + e^{-k\varsigma}S_5 \\ - 2\Gamma_1W_1\Gamma_2$$

$$F_{22} = G_{22} - e^{-k\varsigma}G_{11} - e^{-k\varsigma}S_5 + e^{-2k\varsigma}S_6 - 2\Gamma_1W_3\Gamma_2$$

$$F_{33} = -e^{-k\varsigma}G_{22} - e^{-2k\varsigma}S_7 - 2\Gamma_1W_4\Gamma_2$$

$$F_{44} = -(1 - \mu)e^{-2k\varsigma}Q_2 - 2\Gamma_1W_2\Gamma_2 - e^{-2k\varsigma}(S_7 - S_6)$$

All the other items in matrix F satisfies $F_{ij} \neq 0$, we can get $F_{ij} = E_{ij}, i, j = 1, 2, \dots, 10$.

Proof: Construct a new class of Lyapunov functional candidate as follow:

$$V(y_t) = \sum_{i=1}^7 V_i(y_t)$$

$$V_1(y_t) = e^{2kt}y^T(t)Py(t)$$

$$V_2(y_t) = 2e^{2kt} \sum_{i=1}^n \int_0^{y_i(t)} [\lambda_i(f_i(s) - \gamma_i^- s) + \delta_i(\gamma_i^+ s - f_i(s))] ds$$

$$V_3(y_t) = \int_{t-\frac{\varsigma}{2}}^t e^{2ks} \eta^T(s) \begin{bmatrix} G_{11} & G_{12} & G_{13} & G_{14} \\ * & G_{22} & G_{23} & G_{24} \\ * & * & G_{33} & G_{34} \\ * & * & * & G_{44} \end{bmatrix} \eta(s) ds$$

where

$$\eta^T(s) = [y^T(s) \quad y^T(s - \frac{\varsigma}{2}) \quad f^T(y(s)) \quad f^T(y(s - \frac{\varsigma}{2}))]$$

$$V_4(y_t) = \int_{t-\frac{\varsigma(t)}{2}}^t e^{2ks} y^T(s) Q_1 y(s) ds + \int_{t-\varsigma(t)}^t e^{2ks} y^T(s) Q_2 y(s) ds \\ + \int_{t-\frac{\varsigma(t)+\varsigma}{2}}^t e^{2ks} y^T(s) Q_3 y(s) ds \\ + \int_{t-\varsigma(t)}^t e^{2ks} f^T(y(s)) Q_4 f(y(s)) ds$$

$$V_5(y_t) = \int_{-\frac{\varsigma}{2}}^0 \int_{t+\theta}^t e^{2ks} (y^T(s) R_1 y(s) + \dot{y}^T(s) R_2 \dot{y}(s)) ds d\theta$$

$$V_6(y_t) = \int_{-\varsigma}^{-\frac{\varsigma}{2}} \int_{t+\theta}^t e^{2ks} (y^T(s) R_3 y(s) + \dot{y}^T(s) R_4 \dot{y}(s)) ds d\theta$$

$$V_7(y_t) = \rho \int_{-\rho}^0 \int_{t+\theta}^t e^{2ks} f^T(y(s)) R_5 f(y(s)) ds d\theta$$

Then, taking the time derivative of $V(t)$ with respect to t along the system (12) yield

$$\dot{V}(y_t) = \sum_{i=1}^7 \dot{V}_i(y_t)$$

$$\dot{V}_1(y_t) = 2ke^{2kt}y^T(t)Py(t) + 2e^{2kt}y^T(t)P\dot{y}(t) \quad (17)$$

$$\dot{V}_2(y_t) = 4ke^{2kt} \sum_{i=1}^n \int_0^{y_i(t)} [\lambda_i(f_i(s) - \gamma_i^- s) + \delta_i(\gamma_i^+ s - f_i(s))] ds \\ + 2e^{2kt} [(f^T(y(t)) - y^T(t)\Gamma_1)\Lambda\dot{y}(t) \\ + (y^T(t)\Gamma_2 - f^T(y(t)))\Delta\dot{y}(t)] \\ \leq 4ke^{2kt} [(f^T(y(t)) - y^T(t)\Gamma_1)\Lambda y(t) \\ + (y^T(t)\Gamma_2 - f^T(y(t)))\Delta y(t)] \\ + 2e^{2kt} [f^T(y(t))(\Lambda - \Delta) + y^T(t)(\Gamma_2\Delta - \Gamma_1\Lambda)]\dot{y}(t) \quad (18)$$

$$\dot{V}_3(y_t) = e^{2kt} \eta^T(t) \begin{bmatrix} G_{11} & G_{12} & G_{13} & G_{14} \\ * & G_{22} & G_{23} & G_{24} \\ * & * & G_{33} & G_{34} \\ * & * & * & G_{44} \end{bmatrix} \eta(t) - e^{2k(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2})} \eta^T(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2}) \begin{bmatrix} G_{11} & G_{12} & G_{13} & G_{14} \\ * & G_{22} & G_{23} & G_{24} \\ * & * & G_{33} & G_{34} \\ * & * & * & G_{44} \end{bmatrix} \eta(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2}) \quad (19)$$

$$\dot{V}_4(y_t) \leq e^{2kt} [y^T(t)(Q_1 + Q_2 + Q_3)y(t) + f^T(y(t))Q_4f(y(t)) - (1 - \frac{\mu}{2})e^{-k\varsigma}y^T(t - \frac{\varsigma(t)}{2})Q_1y(t - \frac{\varsigma(t)}{2}) - (1 - \frac{\mu}{2})e^{-2k\varsigma}y^T(t - \frac{\varsigma(t) + \varsigma}{2})Q_3y(t - \frac{\varsigma(t) + \varsigma}{2}) - (1 - \mu)e^{-2k\varsigma}y^T(t - \varsigma(t))Q_2y(t - \varsigma(t)) - (1 - \mu)e^{-2k\varsigma}f^T(y(t - \varsigma(t)))Q_4f(y(t - \varsigma(t)))] \quad (20)$$

$$\dot{V}_5(y_t) \leq \frac{\varsigma}{2} e^{2kt} (y^T(t)R_1y(t) + \dot{y}^T(t)R_2\dot{y}(t)) - e^{2k(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2})} \int_{t-\frac{\varsigma}{2}}^t (y^T(s)R_1y(s) + \dot{y}^T(s)R_2\dot{y}(s))ds \quad (21)$$

$$\dot{V}_6(y_t) \leq \frac{\varsigma}{2} e^{2kt} (y^T(t)R_3y(t) + \dot{y}^T(t)R_4\dot{y}(t)) - e^{2k(t-\varsigma)} \int_{t-\varsigma}^{t-\frac{\varsigma}{2}} (y^T(s)R_3y(s) + \dot{y}^T(s)R_4\dot{y}(s))ds \quad (22)$$

$$\dot{V}_7(y_t) \leq \rho^2 e^{2kt} f^T(y(t))R_5f(y(t)) - \rho e^{2k(t-\rho)} \int_{t-\rho}^t f^T(y(s))R_5f(y(s))ds \leq e^{2kt} \left\{ \rho^2 f^T(y(t))R_5f(y(t)) - e^{-2k\rho} \left[\int_{t-\rho}^t f(y(s))ds \right]^T \begin{bmatrix} R_5 & S_5 \\ * & R_5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \int_{t-\rho}^t f(y(s))ds \\ \int_{t-\rho}^{t-\rho(t)} f(y(s))ds \end{bmatrix} \right\} \quad (23)$$

From (5), we can get that there exist positive diagonal matrices W_1, W_2, W_3, W_4 such that the following inequalities holds:

$$e^{2kt} [-2f^T(y(t))W_1f(y(t)) + 2y^T(t)W_1(\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2)f(y(t)) - 2y^T(t)\Gamma_1W_1\Gamma_2y(t)] \geq 0 \quad (24)$$

$$e^{2kt} [-2f^T(y(t-\varsigma(t)))W_2f(y(t-\varsigma(t))) + 2y^T(t-\varsigma(t))W_2(\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2)f(y(t-\varsigma(t))) - 2y^T(t-\varsigma(t))\Gamma_1W_2\Gamma_2y(t-\varsigma(t))] \geq 0 \quad (25)$$

$$e^{2kt} [-2f^T(y(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2}))W_3f(y(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2})) + 2y^T(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2})W_3(\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2)f(y(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2})) - 2y^T(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2})\Gamma_1W_3\Gamma_2y(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2})] \geq 0 \quad (26)$$

$$e^{2kt} [-2f^T(y(t-\varsigma))W_4f(y(t-\varsigma)) + 2y^T(t-\varsigma)W_4(\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2)f(y(t-\varsigma)) - 2y^T(t-\varsigma)\Gamma_1W_4\Gamma_2y(t-\varsigma)] \geq 0 \quad (27)$$

(1) When $0 \leq \varsigma(t) \leq \frac{\varsigma}{2}$, we consider the following three zero equalities with any symmetric matrix S_1, S_2, S_4 :

$$e^{2k(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2})} [y^T(t)S_1y(t) - y^T(t-\varsigma(t))S_1y(t-\varsigma(t)) - 2 \int_{t-\varsigma(t)}^t y^T(s)S_1\dot{y}(s)ds] = 0 \quad (28)$$

$$e^{2k(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2})} [y^T(t-\varsigma(t))S_4y(t-\varsigma(t)) - y^T(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2})S_4y(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2}) - 2 \int_{t-\frac{\varsigma}{2}}^{t-\varsigma(t)} y^T(s)S_4\dot{y}(s)ds] = 0 \quad (29)$$

$$e^{2k(t-\varsigma)} [y^T(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2})S_2y(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2}) - y^T(t-\varsigma)S_2y(t-\varsigma) - 2 \int_{t-\varsigma}^{t-\frac{\varsigma}{2}} y^T(s)S_2\dot{y}(s)ds] = 0 \quad (30)$$

From (17)-(30), we can get

$$\dot{V}(y_t) \leq e^{2kt} [\xi^T(t)(E + \aleph^T Z \aleph) \xi(t) - (1 - \frac{\mu}{2})(e^{-k\varsigma}y^T(t - \frac{\varsigma(t)}{2})Q_1y(t - \frac{\varsigma(t)}{2}) - e^{-2k\varsigma}y^T(t - \frac{\varsigma(t) + \varsigma}{2})Q_3y(t - \frac{\varsigma(t) + \varsigma}{2})) - e^{2k(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2})} \int_{t-\varsigma(t)}^t \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} R_1 & S_1 \\ * & R_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix} ds - e^{2k(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2})} \int_{t-\frac{\varsigma}{2}}^{t-\varsigma(t)} \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} R_1 & S_4 \\ * & R_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix} ds - e^{2k(t-\varsigma)} \int_{t-\varsigma}^{t-\frac{\varsigma}{2}} \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} R_3 & S_2 \\ * & R_4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix} ds]$$

(2) When $\frac{\varsigma}{2} \leq \varsigma(t) \leq \varsigma$, we consider the following three zero equalities with any symmetric matrix S_5, S_6, S_7 :

$$e^{2k(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2})} [y^T(t)S_5y(t) - y^T(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2})S_5y(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2}) - 2 \int_{t-\frac{\varsigma}{2}}^t y^T(s)S_5\dot{y}(s)ds] = 0 \quad (31)$$

$$e^{2k(t-\varsigma)} [y^T(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2})S_6y(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2}) - y^T(t-\varsigma(t))S_6y(t-\varsigma(t)) - 2 \int_{t-\varsigma(t)}^{t-\frac{\varsigma}{2}} y^T(s)S_6\dot{y}(s)ds] = 0 \quad (32)$$

$$e^{2k(t-\varsigma)} [y^T(t-\varsigma(t))S_7y(t-\varsigma(t)) - y^T(t-\varsigma)S_7y(t-\varsigma) - 2 \int_{t-\varsigma}^{t-\varsigma(t)} y^T(s)S_7\dot{y}(s)ds] = 0 \quad (33)$$

From (17)-(27),and (31)-(33),we can get

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{V}(y_t) &\leq e^{2kt}[\xi^T(t)(F + \mathbb{K}^T Z \mathbb{K})\xi(t) \\ &\quad - (1 - \frac{\mu}{2})(e^{-k\varsigma} y^T(t - \frac{\varsigma(t)}{2}) Q_1 y(t - \frac{\varsigma(t)}{2}) \\ &\quad - e^{-2k\varsigma} y^T(t - \frac{\varsigma(t) + \varsigma}{2}) Q_3 y(t - \frac{\varsigma(t) + \varsigma}{2})) \\ &\quad - e^{2k(t - \frac{\varsigma}{2})} \int_{t - \frac{\varsigma}{2}}^t \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} R_1 & S_5 \\ * & R_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix} ds \\ &\quad - e^{2k(t - \varsigma)} \int_{t - \varsigma(t)}^{t - \frac{\varsigma}{2}} \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} R_3 & S_6 \\ * & R_4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix} ds \\ &\quad - e^{2k(t - \varsigma)} \int_{t - \varsigma}^{t - \varsigma(t)} \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} R_3 & S_7 \\ * & R_4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix} ds\end{aligned}$$

Hence,combined with the Schur complement and (13)-(16), we can obtain $\dot{V}(y_t) \leq 0$,this means the system (12) is guaranted to be asymptotically stable for $0 \leq \varsigma(t) \leq \varsigma, 0 \leq \rho(t) \leq \rho$,on the other hand,we have the followings:

$$V_1(y_0) \leq \lambda_{\max}(P) \|y(0)\|^2 \leq \lambda_{\max}(P) \sup_{-h \leq s \leq 0} \|y(s)\|^2 \quad (34)$$

$$\begin{aligned}V_2(y_0) &\leq 2 \{ [f(y(0)) - \Gamma_1 y(0)]^T \Lambda + [\Gamma_2 y(0) - f(y(0))]^T \Delta \} y(0) \\ &\leq 2 \lambda_{\max}(\Gamma_1 - \Gamma_2) (\lambda_{\max}(\Lambda) + \lambda_{\max}(\Delta)) \sup_{-h \leq s \leq 0} \|y(s)\|^2\end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

$$\begin{aligned}V_3(y_0) &\leq \int_{-\frac{\varsigma}{2}}^0 \eta^T(s) \begin{bmatrix} G_{11} & G_{12} & G_{13} & G_{14} \\ * & G_{22} & G_{23} & G_{24} \\ * & * & G_{33} & G_{34} \\ * & * & * & G_{44} \end{bmatrix} \eta(s) ds \\ &\leq \varsigma(1 + \gamma^2) \lambda_{\max} \begin{pmatrix} G_{11} & G_{12} & G_{13} & G_{14} \\ * & G_{22} & G_{23} & G_{24} \\ * & * & G_{33} & G_{34} \\ * & * & * & G_{44} \end{pmatrix} \sup_{-h \leq s \leq 0} \|y(s)\|^2\end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

where

$$\gamma = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \{ |\gamma_i^-| \mid |\gamma_i^+| \}$$

$$V_4(y_0) \leq (\frac{\varsigma}{2} \lambda_{\max}(Q_1) + \varsigma \lambda_{\max}(Q_2) + \varsigma \lambda_{\max}(Q_3) + \varsigma \gamma^2 \lambda_{\max}(Q_4)) \sup_{-h \leq s \leq 0} \|y(s)\|^2 \quad (37)$$

$$\begin{aligned}V_5(y_0) &\leq \frac{\varsigma^2}{8} \lambda_{\max}(R_1) \sup_{-h \leq s \leq 0} \|y(s)\|^2 \\ &\quad + \lambda_{\max}(R_2) \int_{-\frac{\varsigma}{2}}^0 \int_{\theta}^0 \dot{y}^T(s) \dot{y}(s) ds d\theta\end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

$$\begin{aligned}V_6(y_0) &\leq \frac{3\varsigma^2}{8} \lambda_{\max}(R_3) \sup_{-h \leq s \leq 0} \|y(s)\|^2 \\ &\quad + \lambda_{\max}(R_4) \int_{-\varsigma}^{-\frac{\varsigma}{2}} \int_{\theta}^0 \dot{y}^T(s) \dot{y}(s) ds d\theta\end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

According to $2x^T y \leq x^T Y x + y^T Y y$ with $Y > 0$

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{y}^T(s) \dot{y}(s) &\leq 4[\lambda_{\max}(C^T C) + \gamma^2 \lambda_{\max}(A^T A) + \gamma^2 \lambda_{\max}(B^T B) \\ &\quad + \rho_m^2 \gamma^2 \lambda_{\max}(D^T D)] \sup_{-h \leq s \leq 0} \|y(s)\|^2\end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

$$\begin{aligned}V_7(y_0) &\leq \rho \lambda_{\max}(R_5) \int_{-\rho}^0 \int_{\theta}^0 f^T(y(s)) f(y(s)) ds d\theta \\ &\leq \frac{\rho^3 \gamma^2}{2} \lambda_{\max}(R_5) \sup_{-h \leq s \leq 0} \|y(s)\|^2\end{aligned} \quad (41)$$

According to (34)-(41),there exist a positive constant α ,such that

$$V(y_0) \leq \alpha \sup_{-h \leq s \leq 0} \|y(s)\|^2$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha &= \lambda_{\max}(P) + 2 \lambda_{\max}(\Gamma_1 - \Gamma_2) (\lambda_{\max}(\Lambda) + \lambda_{\max}(\Delta)) \\ &\quad + (\frac{\varsigma}{2} \lambda_{\max}(Q_1) + \varsigma \lambda_{\max}(Q_2) + \varsigma \lambda_{\max}(Q_3) + \varsigma \gamma^2 \lambda_{\max}(Q_4)) \\ &\quad + \frac{\varsigma^2}{8} \lambda_{\max}(R_1) + \frac{3\varsigma^2}{8} \lambda_{\max}(R_3) + 2\varsigma^2 (\lambda_{\max}(C^T C) \\ &\quad + \gamma^2 \lambda_{\max}(A^T A) + \gamma^2 \lambda_{\max}(B^T B) + \rho_m^2 \gamma^2 \lambda_{\max}(D^T D)) \\ &\quad + \frac{\rho^3 \gamma^2}{2} \lambda_{\max}(R_5) + \varsigma(1 + \gamma^2) \lambda_{\max} \begin{pmatrix} G_{11} & G_{12} & G_{13} & G_{14} \\ * & G_{22} & G_{23} & G_{24} \\ * & * & G_{33} & G_{34} \\ * & * & * & G_{44} \end{pmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

Furthermore , we have

$$V(y_t) \geq e^{2kt} \lambda_{\min}(P) \|y(t)\|^2$$

Then we can easily obtain

$$e^{2kt} \lambda_{\min}(P) \|y(t)\|^2 \leq \alpha \sup_{-h \leq s \leq 0} \|y(s)\|^2$$

Which leads to

$$\|y(t)\| \leq \sqrt{\frac{\alpha}{\lambda_{\min}(P)}} e^{-kt} \sup_{-h \leq s \leq 0} \|y(s)\|^2$$

Thus by Definition 1,when the system (7) satisfies $\Delta A(t) = \Delta B(t) = \Delta C(t) = \Delta D(t) = 0$ is exponentially stable with convergence rate k ,and the proof is completed. ■

Based on Theorem 1,we have the following result for neural networks with time-varying.

Theorem 2 Given that the Assumption 1-4 hold, the system (6) is globally exponentially stable with the exponential convergence rate index k if there exist symmetric positive definite matrices $P, H_1, H_2, Q_i, i = 1, 2, 3, 4, R_i, i =$

$$1, 2, \dots, 5, \begin{bmatrix} G_{11} & G_{12} & G_{13} & G_{14} \\ * & G_{22} & G_{23} & G_{24} \\ * & * & G_{33} & G_{34} \\ * & * & * & G_{44} \end{bmatrix}, \text{positive diagonal}$$

matrices $W_1, W_2, W_3, W_4, \Lambda = \text{diag}\{\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n\}, \Delta = \text{diag}\{\delta_1, \delta_2, \dots, \delta_n\}$, and any symmetric matrix $S_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, 7$, such that the following LMIs hold:

$$\begin{bmatrix} R_1 & S_i \\ * & R_2 \end{bmatrix} > 0, i = 1, 4, 5. \quad (42)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} R_3 & S_i \\ * & R_4 \end{bmatrix} > 0, i = 2, 6, 7. \quad (43)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} E + \aleph^T Z \aleph & \Im G & \Im G & \Psi_{11}^T H_1 & \Psi_{22}^T H_2 \\ * & -H_1 + G^T Z G & G^T Z G & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & -H_2 + G^T Z G & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & -H_1 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & -H_2 \end{bmatrix} < 0 \quad (44)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} F + \aleph^T Z \aleph & \Im G & \Im G & \Psi_{11}^T H_1 & \Psi_{22}^T H_2 \\ * & -H_1 + G^T Z G & G^T Z G & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & -H_2 + G^T Z G & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & -H_1 & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & -H_2 \end{bmatrix} < 0 \quad (45)$$

where

$$\Psi_{11} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{E_c}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{E_a}{2} & 0 & 0 & E_b & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Psi_1 = [\Psi_{11} \quad 0 \quad 0]$$

$$\Psi_{22} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{E_c}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{E_a}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & E_d & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Psi_2 = [\Psi_{22} \quad 0 \quad 0]$$

$$\Im^T = [P + \Gamma_2 \Delta - \Gamma_1 \Lambda - CZ, 0, 0, 0, \Lambda - \Delta + ZA, 0, 0, ZB, ZD, 0]$$

Proof: System (6) can be written as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{y}(t) = -Cy(t) + Af(y(t)) + Bf(y(t-\varsigma(t))) \\ \quad + D \int_{t-\rho(t)}^t f(y(s))ds + G(p_1(t) + q_1(t)) \\ p_1(t) = F(t)p_2(t) \\ q_1(t) = F(t)q_2(t) \\ p_2(t) = \frac{E_c}{2}y(t) + \frac{E_a}{2}f(y(t)) + E_b f(y(t-\varsigma(t))) \\ q_2(t) = \frac{E_c}{2}y(t) + \frac{E_a}{2}f(y(t)) + E_d \int_{t-\rho(t)}^t f(y(s))ds \end{cases} \quad (46)$$

Based on Assumption 4, we can get that

$$p_1^T(t)p_1(t) \leq p_2^T(t)p_2(t) = \varphi^T(t)\Psi_1^T\Psi_1\varphi(t)$$

$$q_1^T(t)q_1(t) \leq q_2^T(t)q_2(t) = \varphi^T(t)\Psi_2^T\Psi_2\varphi(t)$$

where

$$\varphi^T(t) = [\xi^T(t), p_1^T(t), q_1^T(t)]$$

There exist two positive matrices H_1, H_2 , satisfying the following inequality

$$\varphi^T(t)\Psi_1^T H_1 \Psi_1 \varphi(t) - p_1^T(t)H_1 p_1(t) \geq 0$$

$$\varphi^T(t)\Psi_2^T H_2 \Psi_2 \varphi(t) - q_1^T(t)H_2 q_1(t) \geq 0$$

Similarly, we can obtain that, when $0 \leq \varsigma(t) \leq \frac{\varsigma}{2}$, one can obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}(y_t) &\leq e^{2kt}[\varphi^T(t)(\Omega_1 + \Psi_1^T H_1 \Psi_1 + \Psi_2^T H_2 \Psi_2)\varphi(t) \\ &\quad - (1 - \frac{\mu}{2})(e^{-k\varsigma}y^T(t - \frac{\varsigma(t)}{2})Q_1 y(t - \frac{\varsigma(t)}{2}) \\ &\quad - e^{-2k\varsigma}y^T(t - \frac{\varsigma(t) + \varsigma}{2})Q_3 y(t - \frac{\varsigma(t) + \varsigma}{2}))] \\ &\quad - e^{2k(t - \frac{\varsigma}{2})} \int_{t-\varsigma(t)}^t \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} R_1 & S_1 \\ * & R_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix} ds \\ &\quad - e^{2k(t - \frac{\varsigma}{2})} \int_{t-\frac{\varsigma}{2}}^{t-\varsigma(t)} \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} R_1 & S_4 \\ * & R_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix} ds \\ &\quad - e^{2k(t-\varsigma)} \int_{t-\varsigma}^{t-\frac{\varsigma}{2}} \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} R_3 & S_2 \\ * & R_4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix} ds \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\Omega_1 = \begin{bmatrix} E + \aleph^T Z \aleph & \Im G & \Im G \\ * & -H_1 + G^T Z G & G^T Z G \\ * & * & -H_2 + G^T Z G \end{bmatrix}$$

when $\frac{\varsigma}{2} \leq \varsigma(t) \leq \varsigma$, one can obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}(y_t) &\leq e^{2kt}[\varphi^T(t)(\Omega_2 + \Psi_1^T H_1 \Psi_1 + \Psi_2^T H_2 \Psi_2)\varphi(t) \\ &\quad - (1 - \frac{\mu}{2})(e^{-k\varsigma}y^T(t - \frac{\varsigma(t)}{2})Q_1 y(t - \frac{\varsigma(t)}{2}) \\ &\quad - e^{-2k\varsigma}y^T(t - \frac{\varsigma(t) + \varsigma}{2})Q_3 y(t - \frac{\varsigma(t) + \varsigma}{2}))] \\ &\quad - e^{2k(t - \frac{\varsigma}{2})} \int_{t-\frac{\varsigma}{2}}^t \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} R_1 & S_5 \\ * & R_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix} ds \\ &\quad - e^{2k(t-\varsigma)} \int_{t-\varsigma(t)}^{t-\frac{\varsigma}{2}} \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} R_3 & S_6 \\ * & R_4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix} ds \\ &\quad - e^{2k(t-\varsigma)} \int_{t-\varsigma}^{t-\varsigma(t)} \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} R_3 & S_7 \\ * & R_4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y(s) \\ \dot{y}(s) \end{bmatrix} ds \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\Omega_2 = \begin{bmatrix} F + \aleph^T Z \aleph & \Im G & \Im G \\ * & -H_1 + G^T Z G & G^T Z G \\ * & * & -H_2 + G^T Z G \end{bmatrix}$$

According to (42)-(45), then we can obtain $\dot{V}(y_t) \leq 0$. On the other hand

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{y}^T(s)\dot{y}(s) &\leq 6\{\lambda_{\max}(C^T C) + \gamma^2 \lambda_{\max}(A^T A) + \gamma^2 \lambda_{\max}(B^T B) \\ &\quad + \rho_m^2 \gamma^2 \lambda_{\max}(D^T D) + 3\lambda_{\max}(G^T G)[\frac{1}{2}\lambda_{\max}(E_c^T E_c) \\ &\quad + \frac{\gamma^2}{2}\lambda_{\max}(E_a^T E_a) + \gamma^2 \lambda_{\max}(E_b^T E_b) \\ &\quad + \gamma^2 \rho_m^2 \lambda_{\max}(E_d^T E_d)]\} \sup_{-h \leq s \leq 0} \|y(s)\|^2 \end{aligned} \quad (47)$$

Similarly, from (34)-(41) and (47), there exist a positive constant β , such that

$$V(y_0) \leq \beta \sup_{-h \leq s \leq 0} \|y(s)\|^2$$

Furthermore, we have

$$\|y(t)\| \leq \sqrt{\frac{\beta}{\lambda_{\min}(P)}} e^{-kt} \sup_{-h \leq s \leq 0} \|y(s)\|^2$$

Then , Based on Theorem 1 and Definition 1, the system (6) is exponentially stable with convergence rate k , and the proof is completed. ■

Remark 1 Theorem 1 and 2 proposes an improved exponential stability condition for neural networks with discrete and distribute time-varying delays. This paper not only divide the delay interval $[0, \varsigma]$ into two ones $[0, \frac{\varsigma}{2}]$ and $[\frac{\varsigma}{2}, \varsigma]$, but also divides the interval $[0, \varsigma]$ into four intervals $[0, \frac{\varsigma(t)}{2}], [\frac{\varsigma(t)}{2}, \varsigma(t)], [\varsigma(t), \frac{\varsigma+\varsigma(t)}{2}], [\frac{\varsigma+\varsigma(t)}{2}, \varsigma]$, each segments has a different Lyapunov matrix in function V . In [18,19], they did not discuss by dividing interval of $\frac{\varsigma(t)}{2}$, and in [20], they didn't discuss by dividing interval of $\frac{\varsigma+\varsigma(t)}{2}$, which have potential to yield less conservative results.

Remark 2 Through model transformation, system (6) can be written as (46), this transformation can make us easy to understand to many complex problems, and two vectors $f(y(t-\varsigma)), f(y(t-\frac{\varsigma}{2}))$ are introduced in $\xi(t)$, which are rarely considered in other literature. This may lead to obtain an improved feasible region for delay-dependent stability criteria.

Remark 3 In this paper, Theorem 1 and 2 require the upper bound μ of the time-varying delay $\varsigma(t)$ to be known. However, in many cases μ is unknown, considering this situation, we can set $Q_i = 0, i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ in $V(y_t)$, and employ the same methods in Theorem 1 and 2, we can derive the delay-dependent and delay-derivative-independent stability criteria.

IV. NUMERICAL EXAMPLES

In this section, we provide three numerical examples to demonstrate the effectiveness and less conservatism of our delay-dependent stability criteria.

Example 1 Consider the system (12) with the following parameters:

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 2.3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3.4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2.5 \end{bmatrix}, A = \begin{bmatrix} 0.9 & -1.5 & 0.1 \\ -1.2 & 0.1 & 0.2 \\ 0.2 & 0.3 & 0.8 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 0.8 & 0.6 & 0.2 \\ 0.5 & 0.7 & 0.1 \\ 0.2 & 0.1 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix}, D = \begin{bmatrix} 0.3 & 0.2 & 0.1 \\ 0.1 & 0.2 & 0.1 \\ 0.1 & 0.1 & 0.2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Gamma_1 = \text{diag}\{0, 0, 0\}, \Gamma_2 = \text{diag}\{0.2, 0.2, 0.2\}.$$

In Table I, we consider the case of $\varsigma = \rho, k = 0$, the upper bound of ς for unknown μ is derived by Theorem 1 with $Q_i = 0, i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ in the Lyapunov-Krasovskii functional V . According to this Table, we can see this example shows that the stability condition in this paper gives much less conservative results than those in the literature.

Example 2 Consider the system (12) with the following parameters:

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 7 \end{bmatrix}, A = \begin{bmatrix} 1.2 & -0.8 & 0.6 \\ 0.5 & -1.5 & 0.7 \\ -0.8 & -1.2 & -1.4 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} -1.4 & 0.9 & 0.5 \\ -0.6 & 1.2 & 0.8 \\ 0.5 & -0.7 & 1.1 \end{bmatrix}, D = \begin{bmatrix} 1.8 & 0.7 & -0.8 \\ 0.6 & 0.4 & 1.0 \\ -0.4 & -0.6 & 1.2 \end{bmatrix}$$

TABLE I

ALLOWABLE UPPER BOUND OF ς FOR UNKNOWN μ IN EXAMPLE 1

Method	Maximum of allowable ς
[16]	1.833
[17]	3.597
[18]	6.938
[19]	9.338
[20]	11.588
Theorem 1	13.914

TABLE II

ALLOWABLE UPPER BOUND OF k FOR EXAMPLE 2

Method	[18]	[19]	[20]	Theorem 1
$\varsigma = 0.5, \rho = 0.2, \mu = 0$	0.46	0.58	0.56	0.86
$\varsigma = 0.5, \rho = 0.2, \mu = 0.5$	0.21	0.35	0.35	0.73
$\varsigma = 0.6, \rho = 0.2, \mu = 0.5$	0.06	0.20	0.33	0.55
$\varsigma = 0.8, \rho = 0.2, \mu = 0.5$	0.00	0.05	0.10	0.30

Let $\Gamma_1 = \text{diag}\{-1.2, 0, -2.4\}, \Gamma_2 = \text{diag}\{0, 1.4, 0\}$.

For various ς, ρ, μ , the maximum of the exponential convergence rate index k calculated by Theorem 1. According to Table II, this example shows that the stability criterion in this paper can lead to less conservative results.

Example 3 Consider the system (6) with the following parameters:

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 6.5618 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 5.5784 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 7.3269 \end{bmatrix}, A = \begin{bmatrix} 0.3256 & -0.1904 & 0.3322 \\ -0.1564 & 0.2446 & 0.3674 \\ -0.1753 & 0.2956 & -0.3115 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 0.1981 & -0.1313 & 0.1158 \\ 0.1645 & 0.0901 & 0.1013 \\ 0.0274 & -0.1518 & 0.0742 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$G = 0.8I, E_a = E_b = E_c = I, \Gamma_1 = \text{diag}\{0, 0, 0\},$$

$$\Gamma_2 = \text{diag}\{2, 2, 2\}.$$

Case (1) $D = \text{diag}\{0, 0, 0\}$, and $E_d = 0$. First, consider the condition with $k = 0$, and unknown μ . For this case, in [11,12], the upper bound of ς for guaranteeing stability were 0.4074 and 0.7245, respectively. However, in Theorem 2, we can get the upper bound of ς with the same condition as 2.970.

Second, consider the case of $k \neq 0$, and various μ , the upper bound of ς is derived by Theorem 2 in Table III.

$$\text{Case (2) } D = \begin{bmatrix} -0.1981 & 0.1313 & -0.1158 \\ -0.1645 & -0.0901 & -0.1013 \\ -0.0274 & 0.1518 & -0.0742 \end{bmatrix}, E_d = I,$$

the correspond upper bounds of ς for various k, μ derived by Theorem 2 (letting $k = 0.5, \rho = 0.1$) in Table IV.

V. CONCLUSION

In this paper, a new delay-dependent exponential stability criterion for neural networks with time-delaying has been

TABLE III

ALLOWABLE UPPER BOUND OF ς FOR CASE (1) OF EXAMPLE 3

Method	Theorem 3.2
$k = 0.1, \mu = 0.5$	4.196
$k = 0.1, \mu = 0.6$	3.308
$k = 0.3, \mu = 0.6$	1.629
$k = 0.4, \mu = 0.7$	1.414

TABLE IV
ALLOWABLE UPPER BOUND OF ς FOR CASE (2) OF EXAMPLE 3

Method	Theorem 3.2
$\mu = 0$	1.395
$\mu = 0.4$	1.234
$\mu = 0.8$	1.218
Unknown μ	1.213

investigated. By dividing the delay interval and constructing new Lyapunov-Krasovskii functional which contains some new integral terms, and fully uses the information about the bounding technique of integral terms with different free-weighting matrices in different delay intervals to reduce the conservatism of stability criteria. Finally, numerical examples have presented to illustrate the benefits and less conservativeness of the proposed method.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors would like to thank the reviewers and the editors for their valuable suggestions and comments which have led to a much improved paper. This work was supported by the National Basic Research Program of China (2010CB732501).

REFERENCES

- [1] M.T. Hagan, H.B. Demuth, M. Beale, Neural Network Design, PWS Publishing Company, Boston MA, 1996.
- [2] A. Cichoki, R. Unbehauen, Neural Networks for Optimization and Signal Processing, Wiley, Chichester, 1993.
- [3] J.D. Cao, L. Wang, Exponential stability and periodic oscillatory solution in BAM networks with delays, IEEE Trans. Neural Netw. 13(2002) 457-463.
- [4] J.H. Park, O.M. Kwon, Further results on state estimation for neural networks of neutral-type with time-varying delay, Appl. Math. Comput. 208(2009) 69-57.
- [5] O.M. Kwon, J.H. Park, Improved delay-dependent stability criterion for networks with time-varying, Phys. Lett. A 373(2009) 529-535.
- [6] Q.K. Song, Z.J. Zhao, Y.M. Li, Global exponential stability of BAM neural networks with distributed delays and reaction diffusion terms, Phys. Lett. A 335(2005) 213-225.
- [7] S. Arik, Global asymptotic stability of hybrid bidirectional associative memory neural networks with time delays. Phys. Lett. A 351(2006) 85-91.
- [8] X.F. Liao, G. Chen, E.N. Sanchez, Delay-dependent exponential stability analysis of delayed neural networks: an LMI approach, Neural Netw. 15(2002) 855-866.
- [9] X. Zhu, Y. Wang, Delay-dependent exponential stability for neural networks with time-varying delays, Phys. Lett. A 373(2009) 4066-4072.
- [10] P.G. Park, J.W. Ko, C. Jeong, Reciprocally convex approach to stability of systems with time-varying delays, Automatica 47(2011) 235-238.
- [11] O.M. Kwon, J.H. Park, S.M. Lee, On robust stability for uncertain neural networks with interval time-vary delays, IET Control Theory and Applications 7(2008) 625-634.
- [12] O.M. Kwon, Ju H. Park, Exponential stability analysis for uncertain neural networks with interval time-varying delays, Applied Mathematics and Computation 212(2009) 530-541.
- [13] Z.G. Wu, J.H. Park, H.Y. Su, J. Chu, New results on exponential passivity of neural networks with time-varying delays, Nonlinear Anal. Real World Appl. 13(2012) 1593-1599.
- [14] S.M. Lee, O.M. Kwon, J.H. Park, A novel delay-dependent criterion for delayed neural networks of neutral type, Phys. Lett. A 374(2010) 1843-1848.
- [15] J.H. Park, O.M. Kwon, Synchronization of neural networks of neutral type with stochastic perturbation, Mod. Phys. Lett. B 23(2009) 1743-1751.
- [16] Q. Song, Z. Wang, Neural networks with discrete and distributed time-varying delays: a general stability analysis, Chaos Solitons Fract. 37(2008) 1538-1547.
- [17] C. Lien, L. Chung, Global asymptotic stability for cellular neural networks with discrete and distributed time-varying delays, Chaos Solitons Fract. 34(2007) 1213-1219.
- [18] T. Li, Q. Luo, C. Y. Sun, B. Y. Zhang, Exponential stability of recurrent neural networks with time-varying discrete and distributed delays, Nonlinear Anal. Real World Appl. 10 (2009) 2581-2589.
- [19] X. Zhu, Y. Wang, Delay-dependent exponential stability for neural networks with discrete and distributed time-varying delays, Phys. Lett. A 373(2009) 4066-4072.
- [20] L. Shi, H. Zhu, S.M. Zhong, L. Y. Hou, Globally exponential stability for neural networks with time-varying delays, Applied Mathematics and Computation 219(2013) 10487-10498.
- [21] O.M. Kwon, Ju H. Park, Exponential stability analysis for uncertain neural networks with interval time-varying delays, Applied Mathematics and Computation 212(2009) 530-541.
- [22] J. Chen, H. Zhu, S.M. Zhong, G.H. Li, Novel delay-dependent robust stability criteria for neutral systems with mixed time-varying delays and nonlinear perturbations, Appl. Math. Comput. 219(2013) 7741-7753.
- [23] D. Yue, C. Peng, G. Y. Tang, Guaranteed cost control of linear systems over networks with state and input quantizations, IEE Proc. Control Theory Appl. 153 (6) (2006) 658-664.
- [24] J. K. Tain, S.M. Zhong, New delay-dependent exponential stability criteria for neural networks with discrete and distributed time-varying delays, Neurocomputing 74 (2011) 3365-3375.
- [25] S. Cui, T. Zhao, J. Guo, Global robust exponential stability for interval neural networks with delay, Chaos Solitons Fractals 42 (3) (2009) 1567C1576.
- [26] D. Lin, X. Wang, Self-organizing adaptive fuzzy neural control for the synchronization of uncertain chaotic systems with random-varying parameters, Neurocomputing 74 (12C13) (2011) 2241C2249.
- [27] J.L. Wang, H.N. Wu, Robust stability and robust passivity of parabolic complex networks with parametric uncertainties and time-varying delays, Neurocomputing 87 (2012) 26C32.
- [28] F. Long, S. Fei, Z. Fu, H_∞ control and quadratic stabilization of switched linear systems with linear fractional uncertainties via output feedback, Nonlinear Anal.: Hybrid Syst. 2(2008) 18-27.
- [29] O.M. Kwon, J.H. Park, Improved delay-dependent stability criterion for networks with time-varying, Phys. Lett. A 373(2009) 529-535.
- [30] Q.K. Song, Z.J. Zhao, Y.M. Li, Global exponential stability of BAM neural networks with distributed delays and reaction diffusion terms, Phys. Lett. A 335(2005) 213-225.

Qingqing Wang was born in Anhui Province, China, in 1989. She received the B.S. degree from Anqing University in 2012. She is currently pursuing the M.S. degree from University of Electronic Science and Technology of China. Her research interests include neural networks, switch and delay dynamic systems.

Baocheng Chen was born in Anhui Province, China, in 1990. He received the B.S. degree from Anqing University in 2011. He is currently pursuing the M.S. degree from University of Electronic Science and Technology of China. His research interests include dynamics systems and signal processing.

Shouming Zhong was born in 1955 in Sichuan, China. He received B.S. degree in applied mathematics from UESTC, Chengdu, China, in 1982. From 1984 to 1986, he studied at the Department of Mathematics in Sun Yatsen University, Guangzhou, China. From 2005 to 2006, he was a visiting research associate with the Department of Mathematics in University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Canada. He is currently as a full professor with School of Applied Mathematics, UESTC. His current research interests include differential equations, neural networks, biomathematics and robust control. He has authored more than 80 papers in reputed journals such as the International Journal of Systems Science, Applied Mathematics and Computation, Chaos, Solitons and Fractals, Dynamics of Continuous, Discrete and Impulsive Systems, Acta Automatica Sinica, Journal of Control Theory and Applications, Acta Electronica Sinica, Control and Decision, and Journal of Engineering Mathematics.