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Fixed-Time Adaptive Tracking Control for a Quadrotor Unmanned Aerial Vehicle with Input Saturation

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Abstract: Considering the problem of tracking control for a quadrotor unmanned aerial vehicle (QUAV) with input saturation, parameter uncertainties and external disturbances, a command filtered backstepping-based fixed-time adaptive control scheme was developed. The problem of “explosion of complexity” (EOC) is tackled by utilizing the fixed-time command filter, and the influence of filtered error is removed based on the fractional power-error-compensation mechanism. A fixed-time auxiliary system was designed to compensate for the input saturation of the QUAV. It strictly proves that the closed-loop system signals are fixed-time bounded, and the tracking errors converge to a sufficiently small region near the origin in a fixed time, and the convergence time is independent of the initial states. Finally, the effectiveness of the proposed fixed-time adaptive control algorithm is demonstrated via a numerical simulation.

Keywords: command filtered backstepping; fixed-time control; QUAV; input saturation



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1. Introduction

Quadrotor unmanned aerial vehicles (QUAVs) have outstanding advantages, such as low cost, accurate hovering, and maneuverability, and they play a key role in the fields of cargo transportation, high-altitude photography, and military reconnaissance [1]. Nevertheless, QUAV is a class of multi-input and multi-output system with six degrees of freedom and four independent inputs [2], which has typical characteristics, including high nonlinearity, underactuation, and strong coupling [3]. Thus, the research on high-performance control for the QUAV has gradually become a hot spot.

In recent years, all sorts of flight control algorithms have been developed for the QUAV—for example, sliding mode control [4], backstepping control [5], dynamic surface control [6], and adaptive control [7]. For a QUAV with external disturbances and system uncertainties, an adaptive sliding mode control scheme was designed in [8]. However, the chattering problem is the main shortcoming of the aforesaid sliding mode control strategies. Based on the backstepping design method, in [9], an adaptive trajectory tracking control algorithm was developed for the QUAV with prescribed performance. It is worth noting that the virtual control signals need to be differentiated several times in the standard backstepping design process, which leads to the problem of “explosion of complexity” (EOC). By means of the dynamic surface control approach, a prescribed performance control strategy was proposed for the QUAV in [10], where the problem of EOC was addressed via a first order filter. Nevertheless, the influence of filtered error was not considered in those dynamic surface control schemes, and the performance of the QUAV will decline to a certain extent. Fortunately, the command filtered backstepping technique was first proposed in [11], such that the problem of EOC and the influence of filtered error can be eliminated simultaneously. Considering the QUAV with sensor faults, a command filtered backstepping-based fault-tolerant control strategy was presented in [12]. By fusing the command filtered backstepping method, an active anti-disturbance flight-control algorithm was designed in [13].

It should be mentioned that many asymptotically convergent control schemes of the QUAV require infinite time to realize accurate trajectory tracking, which is impractical for engineering applications. Recently, the finite-time stability theory was established in [14] for equilibrium of continuous autonomous systems. Although various finite-time control schemes [15–17] have been developed for QUAV, the convergence time heavily depends on the initial states. If the initial states of the QUAV are not accurately available, the finite-time control method will fail. Fortunately, the fixed-time stability theory was first proposed in [18], which guarantees that the upper bound of convergence time does not depend on the initial states and is only in connection with the control parameters. Subsequently, the fixed-time stability theory has been successfully employed for robotic systems [19], surface vehicles [20], and rigid spacecraft [21], whose outstanding advantage is that the system can be stabilized to the equilibrium in a fixed time without the information of initial conditions. A fixed-time output-feedback control algorithm was proposed in [22], where the fixed-time state observer was designed to estimate unavailable velocity states and unknown uncertainties. Similarly, in [23], a fixed-time observer-based safety control scheme was developed for the QUAV with actuator faults and disturbances. To guarantee the transient performance of the QUAV, a fixed-time prescribed performance adaptive trajectory tracking algorithm was proposed in [24]. By fusing fixed-time stability theory and the sliding mode control technique, in [25], the attitude tracking problem of the QUAV was addressed within a fixed time.

Note that the input saturation of the QUAV is unavoidable owing to the limitation of battery energy or physical structure. If no effective methods are used to cope with this problem, system instability and flight accidents will worsen. Current approaches to solving the input saturation mainly include the smooth function to approximate the saturation nonlinearity [26] and the auxiliary system to compensate for the saturation's influence [27]. Considering the QUAV is subject to wind perturbation and model uncertainty, a finite-time sliding mode control scheme was proposed in [28], where a compensation system was used to address the input saturation. By means of the dynamic surface control approach and auxiliary system, a distributed output feedback anti-saturation formation control algorithm was presented in [29]. To the best of authors' knowledge, there are few efforts to study the fixed-time adaptive tracking control problem for a QUAV with input saturation, which motivated our present study.

Based on the above discussion, this article proposes a fixed-time adaptive control scheme for the QUAV with input saturation, parameter uncertainties, and external disturbances under the command-filtered backstepping design framework. The main contributions are given as follows.

- (1) In contrast to backstepping control strategies [5,9] and dynamic surface control schemes [6,10], a fixed-time command filter can be constructed to address the problem of EOC, and the influence of filtered error is removed by the fractional power-error compensation mechanism within a fixed time.
- (2) Unlike the existing finite-time control algorithms [15–17], the designed fixed-time adaptive control scheme ensures that the tracking errors of the QUAV converge to a sufficiently small region near the origin in a fixed time, and the convergence time is independent of the initial states.
- (3) Differently from the traditional anti-saturation control strategies for the QUAV [28,29], an auxiliary system with fixed-time convergence is designed to compensate for the effect of input saturation within a fixed time, which is more useful in practice.

The rest of this paper is given as follows. The problem formulation and preliminaries are shown in Section 2. The main results, including fixed-time adaptive controller design and stability analysis, are presented in Section 3. The simulation results in Section 4 demonstrate the effectiveness of the developed fixed-time control algorithm. Section 5 gives the conclusions.

2. Problem Formulation and Preliminaries

The QUAUV has six degrees of freedom in space and can either move linearly along or rotate around three-coordinate axes. Define two coordinate systems, including the Earth coordinate system $\mathcal{E} = \{O_e, x_e, y_e, z_e\}$ and the body coordinate system $\mathcal{B} = \{O_b, x_b, y_b, z_b\}$. The corresponding rotation matrix is denoted as $R_1: \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$. O_b is the center of mass, and the structure of the QUAUV is presented in Figure 1. Rotation matrix R_1 indicates the linear velocity relationship between body coordinate system and Earth coordinate system, which is given as

$$R_1 = \begin{bmatrix} C_\theta C_\psi & S_\phi S_\theta C_\psi - C_\phi S_\psi & C_\phi S_\theta C_\psi + S_\phi S_\psi \\ C_\theta S_\psi & S_\phi S_\theta S_\psi + C_\phi C_\psi & C_\phi S_\theta S_\psi - S_\phi C_\psi \\ -S_\theta & S_\phi C_\theta & C_\phi C_\theta \end{bmatrix}$$

and R_2 is defined as the transfer matrix from a body-fixed to an Earth-fixed coordinate system, which is expressed as

$$R_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & S_\phi T_\theta & C_\phi T_\theta \\ 0 & C_\phi & -S_\phi \\ 0 & S_\phi / C_\theta & C_\phi / C_\theta \end{bmatrix}$$

where $C(\cdot) \triangleq \cos(\cdot)$, $S(\cdot) \triangleq \sin(\cdot)$ and $T(\cdot) \triangleq \tan(\cdot)$.

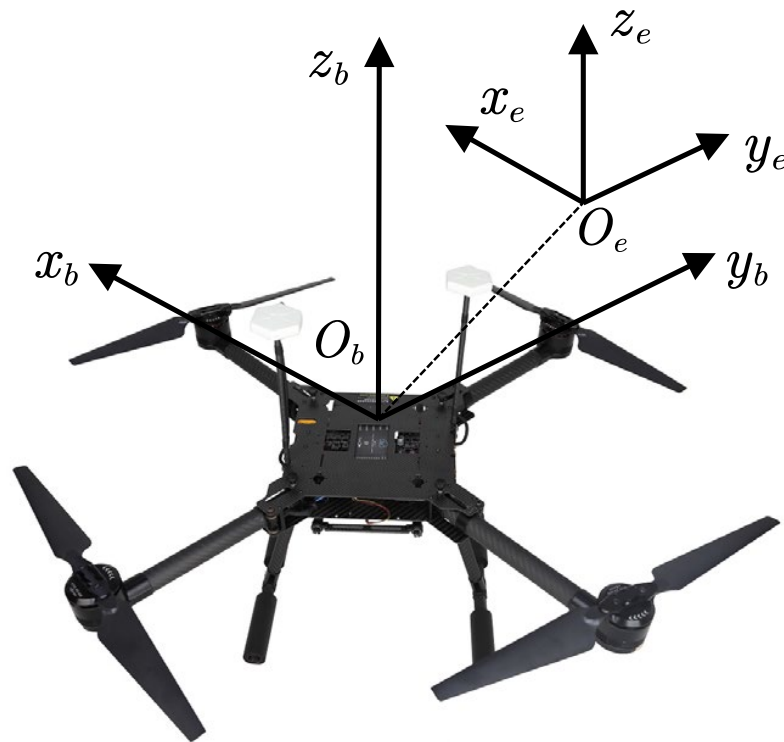


Figure 1. The structure of the QUAUV.

Based on the Newton–Euler formula, the dynamics of the QUAUV are given as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{X} = v \\ m\dot{v} = u_F R_1 E - mgE - F_X \dot{X} + d_X \\ \dot{\Theta} = R_2 \Omega \\ J\dot{\Omega} = u_\Theta - \Omega \times J\Omega - F_\Theta \dot{\Theta} + d_\Theta \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where $E = [0, 0, 1]^\top$.

Considering the cases of small angle change and input saturation, Equation (1) is rewritten as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{X} = v \\ \dot{v} = G_1 \Phi_1(U_X) - gE + f_1 + d_1 \\ \dot{\Theta} = \Omega \\ \dot{\Omega} = G_2 \Phi_2(U_\Theta) + f_2 + d_2 \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where $G_1 = m^{-1}$, $G_2 = J^{-1}$, $f_1 = -m^{-1}F_X \dot{X} = [f_{1,1}, f_{1,2}, f_{1,3}]^\top$, $f_2 = -J^{-1}\Omega \times J\Omega - J^{-1}F_\Theta \dot{\Theta} = [f_{2,1}, f_{2,2}, f_{2,3}]^\top$, $d_1 = m^{-1}d_X = [d_{1,1}, d_{1,2}, d_{1,3}]^\top$, and $d_2 = J^{-1}d_\Theta = [d_{2,1}, d_{2,2}, d_{2,3}]^\top$. $\Phi_1(U_X) = [\text{sat}(u_x), \text{sat}(u_y), \text{sat}(u_z)]^\top$ and $\Phi_2(U_\Theta) = [\text{sat}(u_\phi), \text{sat}(u_\theta), \text{sat}(u_\psi)]^\top$ are the control inputs with saturation nonlinearity, where $u_x = u_F(C_\phi S_\theta C_\psi + S_\phi S_\psi)$, $u_y = u_F(C_\phi S_\theta S_\psi - S_\phi C_\psi)$, $u_z = u_F C_\phi C_\theta$, and

$$\text{sat}(u_i) = \begin{cases} \Phi_{i,L}, & u_i < \Phi_{i,L} \\ u_i, & \Phi_{i,L} \leq u_i \leq \Phi_{i,R} \\ \Phi_{i,R}, & u_i > \Phi_{i,R} \end{cases} \quad i = x, y, z, \phi, \theta, \psi.$$

with $\Phi_{i,L} < 0$ and $\Phi_{i,R} > 0$ being constants, and $U_X = [u_x, u_y, u_z]^\top$ is the control input of the position subsystem.

Control Objective: This paper aims to design a fixed-time adaptive control scheme for the QUAV with input saturation, which ensures that the closed-loop system signals are fixed-time bounded, and the tracking errors converge to a sufficiently small region near the origin in a fixed time.

Assumption 1. The QUAV flies at a low speed and a small angle. Assume that all states of the QUAV are available, and $\phi \in (-\pi/2, \pi/2)$, $\theta \in (-\pi/2, \pi/2)$ hold.

Assumption 2. The desired signals x_d, y_d, z_d, ψ_d and their first-order derivatives $\dot{x}_d, \dot{y}_d, \dot{z}_d, \dot{\psi}_d$ are known and bounded.

Assumption 3. The external disturbances $d_1 = [d_{1,1}, d_{1,2}, d_{1,3}]^\top$ and $d_2 = [d_{2,1}, d_{2,2}, d_{2,3}]^\top$ are continuous and bounded; i.e., $|d_{i,s}| \leq \bar{d}_{i,s}, \bar{d}_{i,s} > 0, i = 1, 2, 3, s = 1, 2$.

Lemma 1. [30] Suppose that $F(x)$ is a continuous function defined on a compact set Ω . For any given constant $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a fuzzy logic system $\varphi^\top S(x)$ such that

$$\sup_{x \in \Omega} |F(x) - \varphi^\top S(x)| \leq \varepsilon$$

where $\varphi = [\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \dots, \varphi_n]^\top$ denotes the ideal weight vector; $S(x) = [S_1(x), S_2(x), \dots, S_n(x)]^\top / \sum_{i=1}^n S_i(x)$ is the basis function vector with n being the number of the fuzzy rules, and $S_i(x) = \exp\left[-\frac{(x - \bar{\mu}_i)^\top (x - \bar{\mu}_i)}{\bar{\sigma}_i^2}\right]$ with $\bar{\mu}_i = [\bar{\mu}_{i,1}, \bar{\mu}_{i,2}, \dots, \bar{\mu}_{i,N}]^\top$ being the center vector and $\bar{\sigma}_i$ being the width.

Lemma 2. [31] For $m > 0, n > 0$, and the real-valued function $\Lambda(x, y) > 0$, one obtains

$$|x|^m |y|^n \leq \frac{m\Lambda(x, y)|x|^{m+n}}{m+n} + \frac{n\Lambda(x, y)^{-\frac{m}{n}}|y|^{m+n}}{m+n}.$$

Lemma 3. [32] For $a \geq 0, b > 0, c > 0, k > 0, l \leq k$, and $\rho > 1$, one has

$$a^c(b-a) \leq \frac{1}{1+c}(b^{1+c} - a^{1+c})$$

$$(l-k)^\rho \geq l^\rho - k^\rho.$$

Lemma 4. [33] For $i = 1, \dots, n, \mathcal{C}_i \in \mathbb{R}, 0 < \bar{p} \leq 1$, and $\bar{q} > 1$, one obtains

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^n |\mathcal{C}_i| \right)^{\bar{p}} \leq \sum_{i=1}^n |\mathcal{C}_i|^{\bar{p}}$$

$$n^{1-\bar{q}} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n |\mathcal{C}_i| \right)^{\bar{q}} \leq \sum_{i=1}^n |\mathcal{C}_i|^{\bar{q}}.$$

Lemma 5. [34] Consider a system $\dot{\xi} = F(\xi), \xi(0) = \xi_0$. If there exists a continuous positive definite function V and constants $\lambda_1 > 0, \lambda_2 > 0, \iota > 0, 0 < \alpha < 1$, and $\beta > 1$, such that $\dot{V}(\xi) \leq -\lambda_1 V^\alpha(\xi) - \lambda_2 V^\beta(\xi) + \iota$, the system is practical fixed-time stable, and the convergence time is calculated as

$$T \leq T_{max} = \frac{1}{\lambda_1 \omega (1-\alpha)} + \frac{1}{\lambda_2 \omega (\beta-1)}$$

where $0 < \omega < 1$, and ξ finally converges to the compact set

$$\xi \in \left\{ V(\xi) \leq \min \left\{ \left(\frac{\iota}{\lambda_1 (1-\omega)} \right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}, \left(\frac{\iota}{\lambda_2 (1-\omega)} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta}} \right\} \right\}.$$

3. Main Results

Define the tracking errors as follows:

$$e_1 = \mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X}_d = [e_{1,1}, e_{2,1}, e_{3,1}]^\top \quad (3)$$

$$e_2 = \mathbf{v} - \bar{\mathbf{v}}_d = [e_{1,2}, e_{2,2}, e_{3,2}]^\top \quad (4)$$

$$e_3 = \mathbf{\Theta} - \mathbf{\Theta}_d = [e_{1,3}, e_{2,3}, e_{3,3}]^\top \quad (5)$$

$$e_4 = \mathbf{\Omega} - \bar{\mathbf{\Omega}}_d = [e_{1,4}, e_{2,4}, e_{3,4}]^\top \quad (6)$$

where $\mathbf{X}_d = [x_d, y_d, z_d]^\top$ and $\mathbf{\Theta}_d = [\phi_d, \theta_d, \psi_d]^\top$ are the desired position and attitude signals of the QUAV, and ϕ_d and θ_d will be given later. $\bar{\mathbf{v}}_d = [\bar{v}_{1,1}, \bar{v}_{2,1}, \bar{v}_{3,1}]^\top$ and $\bar{\mathbf{\Omega}}_d = [\bar{\Omega}_{1,2}, \bar{\Omega}_{2,2}, \bar{\Omega}_{3,2}]^\top$ are the output signals of the virtual control signal. $\mathbf{v}_d = [v_{1,1}, v_{2,1}, v_{3,1}]^\top$ and $\mathbf{\Omega}_d = [\Omega_{1,2}, \Omega_{2,2}, \Omega_{3,2}]^\top$ are taken as the inputs of the fixed-time command filter. The fixed-time command filter is designed as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{N}_1 = -R_1 \iota_1(\sigma) + N_2 \\ \dot{N}_2 = -R_2 \iota_2(\sigma) \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

where N_1 and N_2 are the state variables; $\iota_1(\sigma) = \text{sig}(\sigma)^{1/2} + \mu \text{sig}(\sigma)^{3/2}$, $\iota_2(\sigma) = \frac{1}{2} \text{sign}(\sigma) + \frac{3}{2} \mu^2 \text{sig}(\sigma)^2 + 2\mu\sigma$, $\text{sig}(\sigma)^\gamma = |\sigma|^\gamma \text{sign}(\sigma)$, $\gamma = \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}, 2$, $\sigma = \bar{N}_{i,s} - N_{i,s}$, $N = \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{\Omega}$, $\bar{N} = \bar{\mathbf{v}}, \bar{\mathbf{\Omega}}$, $i = 1, 2, 3$, and $s = 1, 2$; R_1, R_2 , and μ are the filtering constants.

Define the compensated tracking errors as follows:

$$\eta_1 = e_1 - \kappa_1 = [\eta_{1,1}, \eta_{2,1}, \eta_{3,1}]^\top \quad (8)$$

$$\eta_2 = e_2 - \kappa_2 - \zeta_1 = [\eta_{1,2}, \eta_{2,2}, \eta_{3,2}]^\top \quad (9)$$

$$\eta_3 = e_3 - \kappa_3 = [\eta_{1,3}, \eta_{2,3}, \eta_{3,3}]^\top \quad (10)$$

$$\eta_4 = e_4 - \kappa_4 - \zeta_2 = [\eta_{1,4}, \eta_{2,4}, \eta_{3,4}]^\top \quad (11)$$

where the compensation signals κ_1 , κ_2 , κ_3 and κ_4 along with auxiliary signals ς_1 and ς_2 will be specified later.

3.1. Position Subsystem Controller Design

The virtual control signal v_d is designed as

$$v_d = -a_1 \eta_1^\alpha - \check{a}_1 \eta_1^\beta + \dot{X}_d - \varsigma_1 \quad (12)$$

where $a_1 = \text{diag}\{a_{1,1}, a_{2,1}, a_{3,1}\}$ and $\check{a}_1 = \text{diag}\{\check{a}_{1,1}, \check{a}_{2,1}, \check{a}_{3,1}\}$ denote the positive definite matrices, and $0 < \alpha = \frac{\alpha_1}{\alpha_2} < 1$, $\beta = \frac{\beta_1}{\beta_2} > 1$, with α_1 , α_2 , β_1 , and β_2 being positive odd numbers. Note that for a given vector $\Psi = [\Psi_1, \Psi_2, \dots, \Psi_n]^\top$ and the scalar δ , $\Psi^\delta = [|\Psi_1|^\delta \text{sign}(\Psi_1), |\Psi_2|^\delta \text{sign}(\Psi_2), \dots, |\Psi_n|^\delta \text{sign}(\Psi_n)]^\top$, $\delta = \alpha, \beta$.

The error compensation signal $\kappa_1 = [\kappa_{1,1}, \kappa_{2,1}, \kappa_{3,1}]^\top$ is devised as

$$\dot{\kappa}_1 = -b_1 \kappa_1^\alpha - \check{b}_1 \kappa_1^\beta + \dot{v}_d - v_d + \kappa_2 \quad (13)$$

where $b_1 = \text{diag}\{b_{1,1}, b_{2,1}, b_{3,1}\}$ and $\check{b}_1 = \text{diag}\{\check{b}_{1,1}, \check{b}_{2,1}, \check{b}_{3,1}\}$ are the positive definite matrices.

To effectively compensate for the effect of input saturation, the auxiliary signal $\varsigma_1 = [\varsigma_{1,1}, \varsigma_{2,1}, \varsigma_{3,1}]^\top$ with fixed-time convergence is designed as

$$\dot{\varsigma}_1 = -G_1 \varsigma_1^\alpha - G_1 \varsigma_1^\beta + G_1 (\Phi_1(U_X) - U_X). \quad (14)$$

The actual controller is devised as

$$U_X = G_1^{-1} \left(-a_2 \eta_2^\alpha - \check{a}_2 \eta_2^\beta - e_1 + \dot{v}_d + gE - \eta_2 - Y_1 \right) - \varsigma_1^\alpha - \varsigma_1^\beta \quad (15)$$

where $a_2 = \text{diag}\{a_{1,2}, a_{2,2}, a_{3,2}\}$ and $\check{a}_2 = \text{diag}\{\check{a}_{1,2}, \check{a}_{2,2}, \check{a}_{3,2}\}$ are the positive definite matrices. $Y_1 = [\frac{\eta_{1,2} \hat{\Xi}_{1,1} \bar{S}_{1,1}}{2h_{1,1}^2}, \frac{\eta_{2,2} \hat{\Xi}_{2,1} \bar{S}_{2,1}}{2h_{2,1}^2}, \frac{\eta_{3,2} \hat{\Xi}_{3,1} \bar{S}_{3,1}}{2h_{3,1}^2}]^\top$, where $h_{i,1} > 0$ is a constant; $\bar{S}_{i,1} = S_{i,1}^\top S_{i,1}$, and $S_{i,1}$ stands for the basis function vector of the fuzzy logic system; $\hat{\Xi}_1 = [\hat{\Xi}_{1,1}, \hat{\Xi}_{2,1}, \hat{\Xi}_{3,1}]^\top$, and $\hat{\Xi}_{i,1}$ denotes the estimated value of the unknown constant $\Xi_{i,1} = \|\varphi_{i,1}\|^2$, with $\varphi_{i,1}$ being the weight vector. The estimation error is defined as $\tilde{\Xi}_{i,1} = \Xi_{i,1} - \hat{\Xi}_{i,1}$, $\tilde{\Xi}_1 = [\tilde{\Xi}_{1,1}, \tilde{\Xi}_{2,1}, \tilde{\Xi}_{3,1}]^\top$, $\Xi_1 = [\Xi_{1,1}, \Xi_{2,1}, \Xi_{3,1}]^\top$. The adaptive parameter updating law $\dot{\hat{\Xi}}_1 = [\dot{\hat{\Xi}}_{1,1}, \dot{\hat{\Xi}}_{2,1}, \dot{\hat{\Xi}}_{3,1}]^\top$ is designed as

$$\dot{\hat{\Xi}}_1 = Y_2 - m_1 \hat{\Xi}_1^\alpha - \check{m}_1 \hat{\Xi}_1^\beta \quad (16)$$

with $Y_2 = [\frac{\Gamma_{1,1} \eta_{1,2}^2 \bar{S}_{1,1}}{2h_{1,1}^2}, \frac{\Gamma_{2,1} \eta_{2,2}^2 \bar{S}_{2,1}}{2h_{2,1}^2}, \frac{\Gamma_{3,1} \eta_{3,2}^2 \bar{S}_{3,1}}{2h_{3,1}^2}]^\top$, where $\Gamma_{i,1}$ is a positive constant; $m_1 = \text{diag}\{m_{1,1}, m_{2,1}, m_{3,1}\}$ and $\check{m}_1 = \text{diag}\{\check{m}_{1,1}, \check{m}_{2,1}, \check{m}_{3,1}\}$ denote the positive definite matrices.

The error compensation signal $\kappa_2 = [\kappa_{1,2}, \kappa_{2,2}, \kappa_{3,2}]^\top$ is constructed as

$$\dot{\kappa}_2 = -b_2 \kappa_2^\alpha - \check{b}_2 \kappa_2^\beta - \kappa_1 \quad (17)$$

where $b_2 = \text{diag}\{b_{1,2}, b_{2,2}, b_{3,2}\}$ and $\check{b}_2 = \text{diag}\{\check{b}_{1,2}, \check{b}_{2,2}, \check{b}_{3,2}\}$ are the positive definite matrices.

3.2. Attitude Subsystem Controller Design

The virtual control signal Ω_d is devised as

$$\Omega_d = -a_3 \eta_3^\alpha - \check{a}_3 \eta_3^\beta + \dot{\Theta}_d - \varsigma_2 \quad (18)$$

where $a_3 = \text{diag}\{a_{1,3}, a_{2,3}, a_{3,3}\}$ and $\check{a}_3 = \text{diag}\{\check{a}_{1,3}, \check{a}_{2,3}, \check{a}_{3,3}\}$ represent the positive definite matrices.

The error compensation signal $\kappa_3 = [\kappa_{1,3}, \kappa_{2,3}, \kappa_{3,3}]^\top$ is designed as

$$\dot{\kappa}_3 = -b_3\kappa_3^\alpha - \check{b}_3\kappa_3^\beta + \bar{\Omega}_d - \Omega_d + \kappa_4 \quad (19)$$

where $b_3 = \text{diag}\{b_{1,3}, b_{2,3}, b_{3,3}\}$ and $\check{b}_3 = \text{diag}\{\check{b}_{1,3}, \check{b}_{2,3}, \check{b}_{3,3}\}$ are the positive definite matrices.

The auxiliary signal $\varsigma_2 = [\varsigma_{1,2}, \varsigma_{2,2}, \varsigma_{3,2}]^\top$ with fixed-time convergence is constructed as

$$\dot{\varsigma}_2 = -G_2\varsigma_2^\alpha - G_2\varsigma_2^\beta + G_2(\Phi_2(U_\Theta) - U_\Theta). \quad (20)$$

The actual controller is given as

$$U_\Theta = G_2^{-1} \left(-a_4\eta_4^\alpha - \check{a}_4\eta_4^\beta - e_3 + \dot{\Omega}_d - \eta_4 - Y_3 \right) - \varsigma_2^\alpha - \varsigma_2^\beta \quad (21)$$

with $a_4 = \text{diag}\{a_{1,4}, a_{2,4}, a_{3,4}\}$ and $\check{a}_4 = \text{diag}\{\check{a}_{1,4}, \check{a}_{2,4}, \check{a}_{3,4}\}$ being the positive definite matrices. $Y_3 = [\frac{\eta_{1,4}\hat{\Xi}_{1,2}\bar{S}_{1,2}}{2h_{1,2}^2}, \frac{\eta_{2,4}\hat{\Xi}_{2,2}\bar{S}_{2,2}}{2h_{2,2}^2}, \frac{\eta_{3,4}\hat{\Xi}_{3,2}\bar{S}_{3,2}}{2h_{3,2}^2}]^\top$, where $h_{i,2}$ is a positive constant; $\bar{S}_{i,2} = S_{i,2}^\top S_{i,2}$, and $S_{i,2}$ represents the basis function vector; $\hat{\Xi}_2 = [\hat{\Xi}_{1,2}, \hat{\Xi}_{2,2}, \hat{\Xi}_{3,2}]^\top$, and $\hat{\Xi}_{i,2}$ indicates the estimated value of the unknown constant $\Xi_{i,2} = \|\varphi_{i,2}\|^2$, with $\varphi_{i,2}$ being the weight vector, and the estimation error is expressed by $\tilde{\Xi}_{i,2} = \Xi_{i,2} - \hat{\Xi}_{i,2}$, $\tilde{\Xi}_2 = [\tilde{\Xi}_{1,2}, \tilde{\Xi}_{2,2}, \tilde{\Xi}_{3,2}]^\top$, $\Xi_2 = [\Xi_{1,2}, \Xi_{2,2}, \Xi_{3,2}]^\top$. The adaptive parameter updating law $\dot{\hat{\Xi}}_2 = [\dot{\hat{\Xi}}_{1,2}, \dot{\hat{\Xi}}_{2,2}, \dot{\hat{\Xi}}_{3,2}]^\top$ is devised as

$$\dot{\hat{\Xi}}_2 = Y_4 - m_2\hat{\Xi}_2^\alpha - \check{m}_2\hat{\Xi}_2^\beta \quad (22)$$

where $Y_4 = [\frac{\Gamma_{1,2}\eta_{1,4}^2\bar{S}_{1,1}}{2h_{1,2}^2}, \frac{\Gamma_{2,2}\eta_{2,4}^2\bar{S}_{2,1}}{2h_{2,2}^2}, \frac{\Gamma_{3,2}\eta_{3,4}^2\bar{S}_{3,1}}{2h_{3,2}^2}]^\top$ with $\Gamma_{i,2}$ being a positive constant; $m_2 = \text{diag}\{m_{1,2}, m_{2,2}, m_{3,2}\}$ and $\check{m}_2 = \text{diag}\{\check{m}_{1,2}, \check{m}_{2,2}, \check{m}_{3,2}\}$ stand for the positive definite matrices.

The error compensation signal $\kappa_4 = [\kappa_{1,4}, \kappa_{2,4}, \kappa_{3,4}]^\top$ is designed as

$$\dot{\kappa}_4 = -b_4\kappa_4^\alpha - \check{b}_4\kappa_4^\beta - \kappa_3 \quad (23)$$

where $b_4 = \text{diag}\{b_{1,4}, b_{2,4}, b_{3,4}\}$ and $\check{b}_4 = \text{diag}\{\check{b}_{1,4}, \check{b}_{2,4}, \check{b}_{3,4}\}$ are the positive definite matrices.

Owing to the feature of underactuation for the QUAUV, the desired roll angle and pitch angle can be obtained by virtue of the control inputs of position subsystem and the given yaw angle.

$$\theta_d = \arctan\left(\frac{u_x C_{\psi_d} + u_y S_{\psi_d}}{u_z}\right)$$

$$\phi_d = \arctan\left(\frac{u_x S_{\psi_d} - u_y C_{\psi_d}}{u_z} C_{\theta_d}\right).$$

3.3. Stability Analysis

Theorem 1. For the QUAUV under Assumptions 1–3, the error compensation signals (13), (17), (19) and (23), the virtual control signals (12) and (18), actual controllers (15) and (21), and adaptive parameter updating laws (16) and (22), can guarantee that the closed-loop system signals are fixed-time bounded, and the tracking errors converge on a sufficiently small region near the origin in a fixed time.

Proof. Based on Equations (3), (4), and (8), the derivative of η_1 is obtained

$$\dot{\eta}_1 = \dot{e}_1 - \dot{\kappa}_1 = e_2 + \bar{v}_d - v_d + v_d - \dot{X}_d - \dot{\kappa}_1. \quad (24)$$

Choose the Lyapunov function $V_1 = \frac{1}{2}\eta_1^\top \eta_1 + \frac{1}{2}\kappa_1^\top \kappa_1$. According to Equations (12), (13), and (24), the derivative of V_1 is derived as

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{V}_1 = & -\eta_1^\top a_1 \eta_1^\alpha - \eta_1^\top \check{a}_1 \eta_1^\beta + \eta_1^\top b_1 \kappa_1^\alpha + \eta_1^\top \check{b}_1 \kappa_1^\beta + \eta_1^\top \eta_2 \\ & - \kappa_1^\top b_1 \kappa_1^\alpha - \kappa_1^\top \check{b}_1 \kappa_1^\beta + \kappa_1^\top (\bar{v}_d - v_d) + \kappa_1^\top \kappa_2.\end{aligned}\quad (25)$$

On the basis of Equations (2), (4), (9), (14), and (15), the derivative of η_2 is obtained

$$\dot{\eta}_2 = \dot{e}_2 - \dot{\kappa}_2 - \dot{\zeta}_1 = -a_2 \eta_2^\alpha - \check{a}_2 \eta_2^\beta - e_1 - \eta_2 - Y_1 + f_1 + d_1 - \kappa_2. \quad (26)$$

Select the Lyapunov function: $V_2 = V_1 + \frac{1}{2}\eta_2^\top \eta_2 + \frac{1}{2}\kappa_2^\top \kappa_2 + \frac{1}{2}\tilde{\Xi}_1^\top \Gamma_1^{-1} \tilde{\Xi}_1$. According to Equation (26), one has

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{V}_2 = & \eta_2^\top \left(-a_2 \eta_2^\alpha - \check{a}_2 \eta_2^\beta - e_1 - \eta_2 - Y_1 + f_1 + d_1 - \kappa_2 \right) \\ & + \kappa_2^\top \kappa_2 - \tilde{\Xi}_1^\top \Gamma_1^{-1} \dot{\tilde{\Xi}}_1 + \dot{V}_1.\end{aligned}\quad (27)$$

From Lemma 2, a fuzzy logic system $\varphi_{i,1}^\top \mathcal{S}_{i,1}$ is used to identify the unknown function $f_{i,1}$, such that $f_{i,1} = \varphi_{i,1}^\top \mathcal{S}_{i,1} + \varepsilon_{i,1}$, $|\varepsilon_{i,1}| \leq \bar{\varepsilon}_{i,1}$, with $\bar{\varepsilon}_{i,1}$ being a positive constant. By means of Lemma 3, one obtains

$$\begin{aligned}\eta_{i,2} f_{i,1} = & \eta_{i,2} \varphi_{i,1}^\top \mathcal{S}_{i,1} + \eta_{i,2} \bar{\varepsilon}_{i,1} \\ \leq & \frac{\eta_{i,2}^2 \|\varphi_{i,1}\|^2 \mathcal{S}_{i,1}^\top \mathcal{S}_{i,1}}{2h_{i,1}^2} + \frac{1}{2}h_{i,1}^2 + \frac{1}{2}\eta_{i,2}^2 + \frac{1}{2}\bar{\varepsilon}_{i,1}^2.\end{aligned}\quad (28)$$

By virtue of Assumption 3 and Lemma 3, one has

$$\eta_{i,2} d_{i,1} \leq \frac{1}{2}\eta_{i,2}^2 + \frac{1}{2}\bar{d}_{i,1}^2. \quad (29)$$

Substituting Equations (16), (17), (25), (28), and (29) into Equation (27) yields

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{V}_2 \leq & -\eta_2^\top a_2 \eta_2^\alpha - \eta_2^\top \check{a}_2 \eta_2^\beta - \eta_2^\top e_1 - \eta_2^\top \kappa_2 + \kappa_2^\top \kappa_2 + \dot{V}_1 \\ & + \sum_{i=1}^3 \left(\frac{m_{i,1}}{\Gamma_{i,1}} \tilde{\Xi}_{i,1} \hat{\Xi}_{i,1}^\alpha + \frac{\check{m}_{i,1}}{\Gamma_{i,1}} \tilde{\Xi}_{i,1} \hat{\Xi}_{i,1}^\beta + \frac{1}{2} \left(h_{i,1}^2 + \bar{\varepsilon}_{i,1}^2 + \bar{d}_{i,1}^2 \right) \right) \\ = & \sum_{j=1}^2 \left(-\eta_j^\top a_j \eta_j^\alpha - \eta_j^\top \check{a}_j \eta_j^\beta + \eta_j^\top b_j \kappa_j^\alpha + \eta_j^\top \check{b}_j \kappa_j^\beta - \kappa_j^\top b_j \kappa_j^\alpha - \kappa_j^\top \check{b}_j \kappa_j^\beta \right) \\ & + \sum_{i=1}^3 \left(\frac{m_{i,1}}{\Gamma_{i,1}} \tilde{\Xi}_{i,1} \hat{\Xi}_{i,1}^\alpha + \frac{\check{m}_{i,1}}{\Gamma_{i,1}} \tilde{\Xi}_{i,1} \hat{\Xi}_{i,1}^\beta + \frac{1}{2} \left(h_{i,1}^2 + \bar{\varepsilon}_{i,1}^2 + \bar{d}_{i,1}^2 \right) \right) + \kappa_1^\top (\bar{v}_d - v_d).\end{aligned}\quad (30)$$

According to Equations (5), (6), and (10), the derivative of η_3 is derived as

$$\dot{\eta}_3 = \dot{e}_3 - \dot{\kappa}_3 = e_4 + \bar{\Omega}_d - \Omega_d + \Omega_d - \dot{\Theta}_d - \kappa_3. \quad (31)$$

Consider the Lyapunov function $V_3 = \frac{1}{2}\eta_3^\top \eta_3 + \frac{1}{2}\kappa_3^\top \kappa_3$. With the aid of Equations (18), (19), and (31), the derivative of V_3 is obtained:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{V}_3 = & -\eta_3^\top a_3 \eta_3^\alpha - \eta_3^\top \check{a}_3 \eta_3^\beta + \eta_3^\top b_3 \kappa_3^\alpha + \eta_3^\top \check{b}_3 \kappa_3^\beta + \eta_3^\top \eta_4 - \kappa_3^\top b_3 \kappa_3^\alpha \\ & - \kappa_3^\top \check{b}_3 \kappa_3^\beta + \kappa_3^\top (\bar{\Omega}_d - \Omega_d) + \kappa_3^\top \kappa_4.\end{aligned}\quad (32)$$

Based on Equations (2), (6), (11), (20), and (21), the derivative of η_4 is attained:

$$\dot{\eta}_4 = \dot{e}_4 - \dot{\kappa}_4 - \dot{\zeta}_2 = -a_4 \eta_4^\alpha - \check{a}_4 \eta_4^\beta - e_3 - \eta_4 - Y_3 + f_2 + d_2 - \kappa_4. \quad (33)$$

Choose the Lyapunov function: $V_4 = V_3 + \frac{1}{2}\eta_4^\top \eta_4 + \frac{1}{2}\kappa_4^\top \kappa_4 + \frac{1}{2}\tilde{\Xi}_2^\top \Gamma_2^{-1} \tilde{\Xi}_2$. By means of Equation (33), one obtains

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_4 = & \eta_4^\top \left(-a_4 \eta_4^\alpha - \check{a}_4 \eta_4^\beta - \mathbf{e}_3 - \eta_4 - \mathbf{Y}_3 + f_2 + d_2 - \kappa_4 \right) \\ & + \kappa_4^\top \kappa_4 - \tilde{\Xi}_2^\top \Gamma_2^{-1} \dot{\tilde{\Xi}}_2 + \dot{V}_3. \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

According to Lemma 2, a fuzzy logic system $\varphi_{i,2}^\top \mathcal{S}_{i,2}$ is employed to identify $f_{i,2}$, and one has $f_{i,2} = \varphi_{i,2}^\top \mathcal{S}_{i,2} + \varepsilon_{i,2}$, $|\varepsilon_{i,2}| \leq \bar{\varepsilon}_{i,2}$, where $\bar{\varepsilon}_{i,2}$ is a positive constant. By using Lemma 3, one obtains

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_{i,4} f_{i,2} = & \eta_{i,4} \varphi_{i,2}^\top \mathcal{S}_{i,2} + \eta_{i,4} \bar{\varepsilon}_{i,2} \\ \leq & \frac{\eta_{i,4}^2 \|\varphi_{i,2}\|^2 \mathcal{S}_{i,2}^\top \mathcal{S}_{i,2}}{2h_{i,2}^2} + \frac{1}{2}h_{i,2}^2 + \frac{1}{2}\eta_{i,4}^2 + \frac{1}{2}\bar{\varepsilon}_{i,2}^2. \end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

From Assumption 3 and Lemma 3, one has

$$\eta_{i,4} d_{i,2} \leq \frac{1}{2}\eta_{i,4}^2 + \frac{1}{2}\bar{d}_{i,2}^2. \quad (36)$$

Substituting Equations (22), (23), (32), (35), and (36) into Equation (34) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_4 \leq & -\eta_4^\top a_4 \eta_4^\alpha - \eta_4^\top \check{a}_4 \eta_4^\beta - \eta_4^\top \mathbf{e}_3 - \eta_4^\top \kappa_4 + \kappa_4^\top \kappa_4 + \dot{V}_3 \\ & + \sum_{i=1}^3 \left(\frac{m_{i,2}}{\Gamma_{i,2}} \tilde{\Xi}_{i,2} \hat{\Xi}_{i,2}^\alpha + \frac{\check{m}_{i,2}}{\Gamma_{i,2}} \tilde{\Xi}_{i,2} \hat{\Xi}_{i,2}^\beta + \frac{1}{2} \left(h_{i,2}^2 + \bar{\varepsilon}_{i,2}^2 + \bar{d}_{i,2}^2 \right) \right) \\ = & \sum_{j=3}^4 \left(-\eta_j^\top a_j \eta_j^\alpha - \eta_j^\top \check{a}_j \eta_j^\beta + \eta_j^\top b_j \kappa_j^\alpha + \eta_j^\top \check{b}_j \kappa_j^\beta - \kappa_j^\top b_j \kappa_j^\alpha - \kappa_j^\top \check{b}_j \kappa_j^\beta \right) \\ & + \sum_{i=1}^3 \left(\frac{m_{i,2}}{\Gamma_{i,2}} \tilde{\Xi}_{i,2} \hat{\Xi}_{i,2}^\alpha + \frac{\check{m}_{i,2}}{\Gamma_{i,2}} \tilde{\Xi}_{i,2} \hat{\Xi}_{i,2}^\beta + \frac{1}{2} \left(h_{i,2}^2 + \bar{\varepsilon}_{i,2}^2 + \bar{d}_{i,2}^2 \right) \right) + \kappa_3^\top (\bar{\Omega}_d - \Omega_d). \end{aligned} \quad (37)$$

Consider the Lyapunov function $V = V_2 + V_4$. In light of Equations (30) and (37), the derivative of V is obtained:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V} \leq & \sum_{j=1}^4 \left(-\eta_j^\top a_j \eta_j^\alpha - \eta_j^\top \check{a}_j \eta_j^\beta + \eta_j^\top b_j \kappa_j^\alpha + \eta_j^\top \check{b}_j \kappa_j^\beta - \kappa_j^\top b_j \kappa_j^\alpha - \kappa_j^\top \check{b}_j \kappa_j^\beta \right) \\ & + \sum_{i=1}^3 \left(\frac{m_{i,1}}{\Gamma_{i,1}} \tilde{\Xi}_{i,1} \hat{\Xi}_{i,1}^\alpha + \frac{\check{m}_{i,1}}{\Gamma_{i,1}} \tilde{\Xi}_{i,1} \hat{\Xi}_{i,1}^\beta + \frac{m_{i,2}}{\Gamma_{i,2}} \tilde{\Xi}_{i,2} \hat{\Xi}_{i,2}^\alpha + \frac{\check{m}_{i,2}}{\Gamma_{i,2}} \tilde{\Xi}_{i,2} \hat{\Xi}_{i,2}^\beta \right) \\ & + \sum_{i=1}^3 \frac{1}{2} \left(h_{i,1}^2 + \bar{\varepsilon}_{i,1}^2 + \bar{d}_{i,1}^2 + h_{i,2}^2 + \bar{\varepsilon}_{i,2}^2 + \bar{d}_{i,2}^2 \right) + \kappa_1^\top (\bar{\nu}_d - \nu_d) + \kappa_3^\top (\bar{\Omega}_d - \Omega_d). \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

According to [35], one has $|\bar{\nu}_{i,1} - \nu_{i,1}| \leq \Delta_{i,1}$, with $\Delta_{i,1}$ being a positive constant. Based on Lemma 3, one has

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa_{i,1}(\bar{\nu}_{i,1} - \nu_{i,1}) & \leq \frac{1}{2}\kappa_{i,1}^2 + \frac{1}{2}\Delta_{i,1}^2 \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2} \left(\kappa_{i,1}^{1+\alpha} + \kappa_{i,1}^{1+\beta} + \Delta_{i,1}^2 \right). \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

Similarly, $|\bar{\Omega}_{i,2} - \Omega_{i,2}| \leq \Delta_{i,2}$ holds, where $\Delta_{i,2}$ is a positive constant, and one obtains

$$\kappa_{i,3}(\bar{\Omega}_{i,2} - \Omega_{i,2}) \leq \frac{1}{2} \left(\kappa_{i,3}^{1+\alpha} + \kappa_{i,3}^{1+\beta} + \Delta_{i,2}^2 \right). \quad (40)$$

Based on Lemma 3, $b_{i,j}\eta_{i,j}\kappa_{i,j}^\alpha$ and $\check{b}_{i,j}\eta_{i,j}\kappa_{i,j}^\beta$, $i = 1, 2, 3$ and $j = 1, 2, 3, 4$ can be obtained:

$$b_{i,j}\eta_{i,j}\kappa_{i,j}^\alpha \leq \frac{b_{i,j}}{1+\alpha}\eta_{i,j}^{1+\alpha} + \frac{\alpha b_{i,j}}{1+\alpha}\kappa_{i,j}^{1+\alpha} \quad (41)$$

$$\check{b}_{i,j}\eta_{i,j}\kappa_{i,j}^\beta \leq \frac{\check{b}_{i,j}}{1+\beta}\eta_{i,j}^{1+\beta} + \frac{\beta \check{b}_{i,j}}{1+\beta}\kappa_{i,j}^{1+\beta}. \quad (42)$$

By virtue of Lemma 4, $\tilde{\Xi}_{i,s}\hat{\Xi}_{i,s}^\alpha$ and $\tilde{\Xi}_{i,s}\hat{\Xi}_{i,s}^\beta$, $i = 1, 2, 3$ and $s = 1, 2$ can be derived as

$$\tilde{\Xi}_{i,s}\hat{\Xi}_{i,s}^\alpha \leq -\frac{1}{1+\alpha}\tilde{\Xi}_{i,s}^{1+\alpha} + \frac{2}{1+\alpha}\Xi_{i,s}^{1+\alpha} \quad (43)$$

$$\tilde{\Xi}_{i,s}\hat{\Xi}_{i,s}^\beta \leq -\frac{1}{1+\beta}\tilde{\Xi}_{i,s}^{1+\beta} + \frac{2}{1+\beta}\Xi_{i,s}^{1+\beta}. \quad (44)$$

By substituting Equations (39)–(44) into Equation (38) and based on Lemma 5, one has

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V} \leq & \sum_{i=1}^3 \left\{ -\sum_{j=1}^4 \left(a_{i,j} - \frac{b_{i,j}}{1+\alpha} \right) \eta_{i,j}^{1+\alpha} - \sum_{j=1}^4 \left(\check{a}_{i,j} - \frac{\check{b}_{i,j}}{1+\beta} \right) \eta_{i,j}^{1+\beta} \right. \\ & - \frac{b_{i,2}}{1+\alpha}\kappa_{i,2}^{1+\alpha} - \frac{\check{b}_{i,2}}{1+\beta}\kappa_{i,2}^{1+\beta} - \frac{b_{i,4}}{1+\alpha}\kappa_{i,4}^{1+\alpha} - \frac{\check{b}_{i,4}}{1+\beta}\kappa_{i,4}^{1+\beta} \\ & - \left(\frac{b_{i,1}}{1+\alpha} - \frac{1}{2} \right) \kappa_{i,1}^{1+\alpha} - \left(\frac{\check{b}_{i,1}}{1+\beta} - \frac{1}{2} \right) \kappa_{i,1}^{1+\beta} - \left(\frac{b_{i,3}}{1+\alpha} - \frac{1}{2} \right) \kappa_{i,3}^{1+\alpha} - \left(\frac{\check{b}_{i,3}}{1+\beta} - \frac{1}{2} \right) \kappa_{i,3}^{1+\beta} \\ & - \frac{m_{i,1}}{\Gamma_{i,1}(1+\alpha)}\tilde{\Xi}_{i,1}^{1+\alpha} - \frac{\check{m}_{i,1}}{\Gamma_{i,1}(1+\beta)}\tilde{\Xi}_{i,1}^{1+\beta} - \frac{m_{i,2}}{\Gamma_{i,2}(1+\alpha)}\tilde{\Xi}_{i,2}^{1+\alpha} - \frac{\check{m}_{i,2}}{\Gamma_{i,2}(1+\beta)}\tilde{\Xi}_{i,2}^{1+\beta} \\ & + \frac{2m_{i,1}}{\Gamma_{i,1}(1+\alpha)}\Xi_{i,1}^{1+\alpha} + \frac{2\check{m}_{i,1}}{\Gamma_{i,1}(1+\beta)}\Xi_{i,1}^{1+\beta} + \frac{2m_{i,2}}{\Gamma_{i,2}(1+\alpha)}\Xi_{i,2}^{1+\alpha} + \frac{2\check{m}_{i,2}}{\Gamma_{i,2}(1+\beta)}\Xi_{i,2}^{1+\beta} \\ & \left. + \frac{1}{2} \left(h_{i,1}^2 + \bar{\epsilon}_{i,1}^2 + \bar{d}_{i,1}^2 + h_{i,2}^2 + \bar{\epsilon}_{i,2}^2 + \bar{d}_{i,2}^2 + \Delta_{i,1}^2 + \Delta_{i,2}^2 \right) \right\} \\ \leq & -\lambda_1 V^{\frac{1+\alpha}{2}} - \lambda_2 V^{\frac{1+\beta}{2}} + \iota \end{aligned} \quad (45)$$

where $\lambda_1 = 2^{\frac{1+\alpha}{2}} \min \left\{ \left(a_{i,j} - \frac{b_{i,j}}{1+\alpha} \right), \left(\frac{b_{i,1}}{1+\alpha} - \frac{1}{2} \right), \left(\frac{b_{i,3}}{1+\alpha} - \frac{1}{2} \right), \frac{b_{i,2}}{1+\alpha}, \frac{b_{i,4}}{1+\alpha}, \frac{m_{i,1}}{1+\alpha}\Gamma_{i,1}^{\frac{\alpha-1}{2}}, \frac{m_{i,2}}{1+\alpha}\Gamma_{i,2}^{\frac{\alpha-1}{2}} \right\}$,

$\lambda_2 = 2^{\frac{1+\beta}{2}} 30^{\frac{\beta-1}{2}} \min \left\{ \left(\check{a}_{i,j} - \frac{\check{b}_{i,j}}{1+\beta} \right), \left(\frac{\check{b}_{i,1}}{1+\beta} - \frac{1}{2} \right), \left(\frac{\check{b}_{i,3}}{1+\beta} - \frac{1}{2} \right), \frac{\check{b}_{i,2}}{1+\beta}, \frac{\check{b}_{i,4}}{1+\beta}, \frac{\check{m}_{i,1}}{1+\beta}\Gamma_{i,1}^{\frac{\beta-1}{2}}, \frac{\check{m}_{i,2}}{1+\beta}\Gamma_{i,2}^{\frac{\beta-1}{2}} \right\}$,

$\iota = \sum_{i=1}^3 \left\{ \frac{2m_{i,1}}{\Gamma_{i,1}(1+\alpha)}\Xi_{i,1}^{1+\alpha} + \frac{2\check{m}_{i,1}}{\Gamma_{i,1}(1+\beta)}\Xi_{i,1}^{1+\beta} + \frac{2m_{i,2}}{\Gamma_{i,2}(1+\alpha)}\Xi_{i,2}^{1+\alpha} + \frac{2\check{m}_{i,2}}{\Gamma_{i,2}(1+\beta)}\Xi_{i,2}^{1+\beta} + \frac{1}{2} \left(h_{i,1}^2 + \bar{\epsilon}_{i,1}^2 + \bar{d}_{i,1}^2 + h_{i,2}^2 + \bar{\epsilon}_{i,2}^2 + \bar{d}_{i,2}^2 + \Delta_{i,1}^2 + \Delta_{i,2}^2 \right) \right\}$.

According to Lemma 1, $\eta_{i,j}$, $\kappa_{i,j}$ and $\tilde{\Xi}_{i,s}$, $i = 1, 2, 3$, $j = 1, 2, 3, 4$ and $s = 1, 2$ finally converge to the region

$$(\eta_{i,j}, \kappa_{i,j}, \tilde{\Xi}_{i,s}) \in \left\{ V \leq \min \left\{ \left(\frac{\iota}{(1-\omega)\lambda_1} \right)^{\frac{2}{1+\alpha}}, \left(\frac{\iota}{(1-\omega)\lambda_2} \right)^{\frac{2}{1+\beta}} \right\} \right\}$$

and the convergence time is obtained:

$$T \leq T_{\max} = \frac{2}{\lambda_1 \omega (1-\alpha)} + \frac{2}{\lambda_2 \omega (\beta-1)}.$$

Obviously, all the signals of a closed-loop system are fixed-time bounded. In addition, based on Equations (8) and (10), $e_{i,1}$ and $e_{i,3}$ eventually converge on the following region:

$$|e_{i,1}| \leq \min \left\{ 2 \sqrt{2 \left(\frac{\iota}{(1-\omega)\lambda_1} \right)^{\frac{2}{1+\alpha}}}, 2 \sqrt{2 \left(\frac{\iota}{(1-\omega)\lambda_2} \right)^{\frac{2}{1+\beta}}} \right\}$$

$$|e_{i,3}| \leq \min \left\{ 2 \sqrt{2 \left(\frac{\iota}{(1-\omega)\lambda_1} \right)^{\frac{2}{1+\alpha}}}, 2 \sqrt{2 \left(\frac{\iota}{(1-\omega)\lambda_2} \right)^{\frac{2}{1+\beta}}} \right\}.$$

By adjusting the control parameters, the tracking errors can converge to a sufficiently small region near the origin in a fixed time. \square

Remark 1. The radius of the region for tracking errors mainly depends on the control parameters $a_{i,j}$, $\check{a}_{i,j}$, $b_{i,j}$, $\check{b}_{i,j}$, $\Gamma_{i,s}$, $m_{i,s}$, $\check{m}_{i,s}$, $i = 1, 2, 3$, $j = 1, 2, 3, 4$, and $s = 1, 2$. By selecting the larger control parameters $a_{i,j}$, $\check{a}_{i,j}$, $b_{i,j}$, $\check{b}_{i,j}$, and $\Gamma_{i,s}$ and the smaller control parameters $m_{i,s}$ and $\check{m}_{i,s}$, one can obtain a lower convergence time and a smaller convergence region. However, this makes control energy become larger. Therefore, in order to obtain better tracking performance and smaller control energy, the error test method can be used to adjust the control parameters.

4. Simulation Results

By implementing a numerical simulation, the effectiveness of the developed fixed-time adaptive control scheme was demonstrated. The parameters of the QUAUV are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. The modeled parameters of the QUAUV.

Parameter	Value	Units
m	2	kg
g	9.8	m/s ²
J_x, J_y	0.045	kg · m ²
J_z	0.083	kg · m ²
F_x, F_y, F_z	0.01	kg/m
F_ϕ, F_θ, F_ψ	0.01	kg/rad

The desired signals were set as $x_d = \sin(\pi t/7)$, $y_d = \cos(\pi t/6)$, $z_d = 3$, and $\psi_d = \pi/4$. The external disturbances were assumed as $d_k = 0.01 \sin(\pi t/10)$, $k = x, y, z, \phi, \theta, \psi$. The initial states of the QUAUV were chosen as $[x(0), y(0), z(0), \phi(0), \theta(0), \psi(0)] = [1, 0, 2.2, \frac{2\pi}{5}, -\frac{\pi}{3}, -\frac{\pi}{5}]$. The input saturations for QUAUV were selected as $[\Phi_{x,L}, \Phi_{y,L}, \Phi_{z,L}, \Phi_{\phi,L}, \Phi_{\theta,L}, \Phi_{\psi,L}] = [-40, -40, -40, -1, -1, -1]$, and $[\Phi_{x,R}, \Phi_{y,R}, \Phi_{z,R}, \Phi_{\phi,R}, \Phi_{\theta,R}, \Phi_{\psi,R}] = [40, 40, 40, 1, 1, 1]$. The control parameters were listed as $a_{i,j} = \check{a}_{i,j} = 2.5$, $b_{i,j} = \check{b}_{i,j} = 2$, $m_{i,s} = \check{m}_{i,s} = 1.5$, $\Gamma_{i,s} = 1$, $h_{i,s} = 0.5$, $R_1 = 2$, $R_2 = 1$, $\mu = 1$, $\alpha = 5/7$, $\beta = 7/5$, $i = 1, 2, 3$, $j = 1, 2, 3, 4$, and $s = 1, 2$.

The simulation results are shown in Figures 2–7. Figures 2 and 3 display the trajectory tracking curves for the position and attitude subsystems of the QUAUV. Figures 4 and 5 describe the tracking errors of the position and attitude subsystems. Figures 6 and 7 show the response curves of control inputs for the QUAUV. Obviously, despite the QUAUV being subject to input saturation, parameter uncertainties, and external disturbances, it can precisely and rapidly track the desired signals within 5 s. The tracking errors can converge to a sufficiently small region near the origin in a fixed time, and the control inputs do not violate the predefined constraints.

To show the superiority of the proposed fixed-time adaptive control scheme for the QUAUV with input saturation, the command filtered backstepping (CFB) control scheme in [12]

was utilized for a comparison. The control parameters for the CFB control scheme were chosen as $a_{i,j} = 0$, $\check{a}_{i,j} = 2.5$, $b_{i,j} = 0$, $\check{b}_{i,j} = 2$, $m_{i,s} = 0$, $\check{m}_{i,s} = 1.5$, $\Gamma_{i,s} = 1$, $h_{i,s} = 0.5$, $\alpha = 0$, $\beta = 1$, $i = 1, 2, 3$, $j = 1, 2, 3, 4$, and $s = 1, 2$. The simulations were implemented in MATLAB R2016a/Simulink on a 1.80 GHz Intel(R) Core(TM) i7-8565U computer operating on Windows 11, where the solver was selected as the ode 4 and the fixed-step size was set to 0.01 s. Define the overall tracking error $OTE = ||[e_{1,1}, e_{2,1}, e_{3,1}, e_{1,3}, e_{2,3}, e_{3,3}]||$; the root-mean-square

error $RMSE = \sqrt{\sum_{w=1}^M (e_{1,1}(w)^2 + e_{2,1}(w)^2 + e_{3,1}(w)^2 + e_{1,3}(w)^2 + e_{2,3}(w)^2 + e_{3,3}(w)^2) / M}$ to compare the tracking performance, where w is the sample index, and M is the total number of samples.

The OTE values of the proposed control scheme and the CFB control strategy in [12] are presented in Figure 8. The convergence time and the RMSE in the performance comparison between the two control schemes are shown in Table 2, where we suppose that the convergence time is the time after which $OTE \leq 0.1$ always holds. It can be seen that the convergence time and RMSE of the proposed control scheme are lower than those of the CFB control strategy in [12]. Clearly, when compared with the CFB in [12], the proposed fixed-time adaptive tracking control strategy not only has a quicker convergence rate, but also achieves better tracking performance.

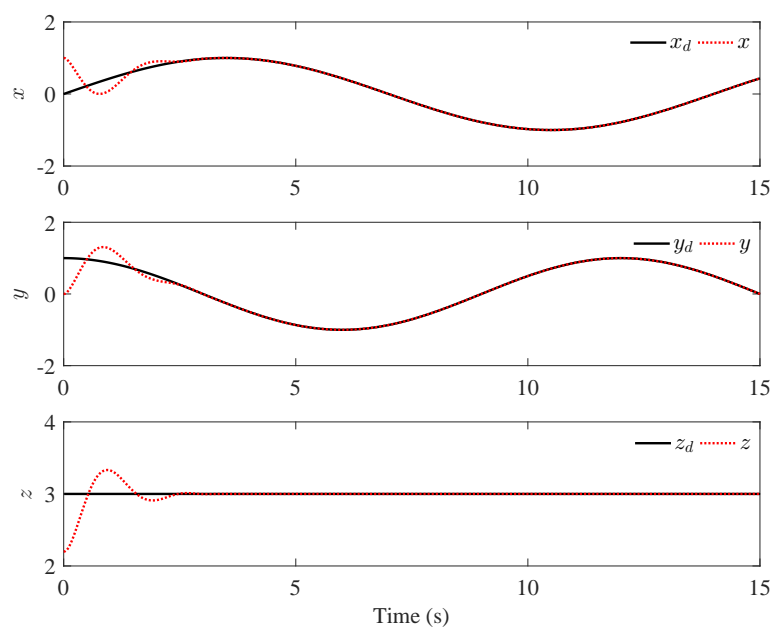


Figure 2. The tracking curves of the position subsystem.

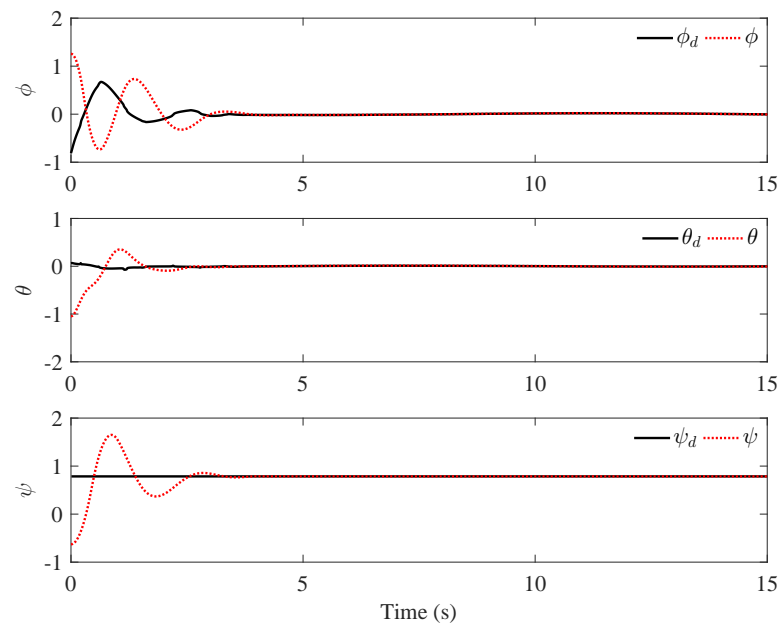


Figure 3. The tracking curves of the attitude subsystem.

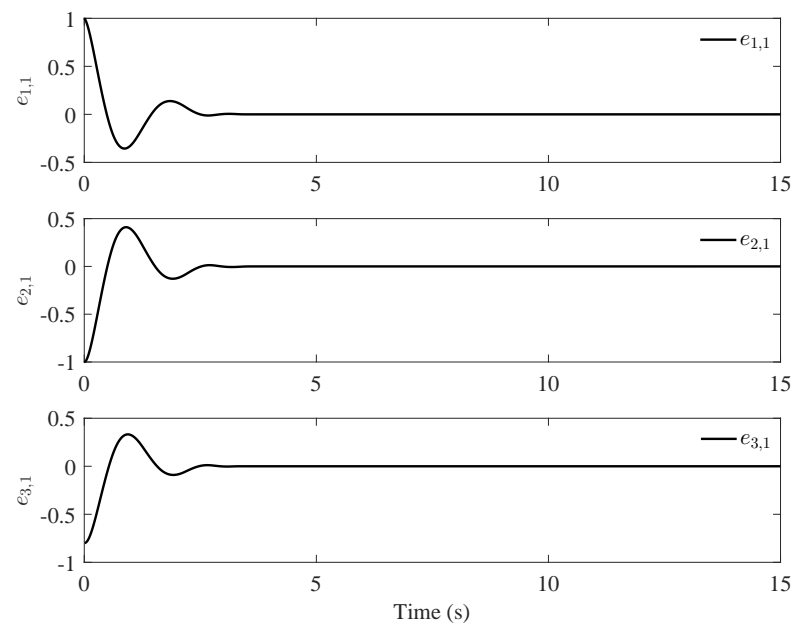


Figure 4. The tracking errors of the position subsystem.

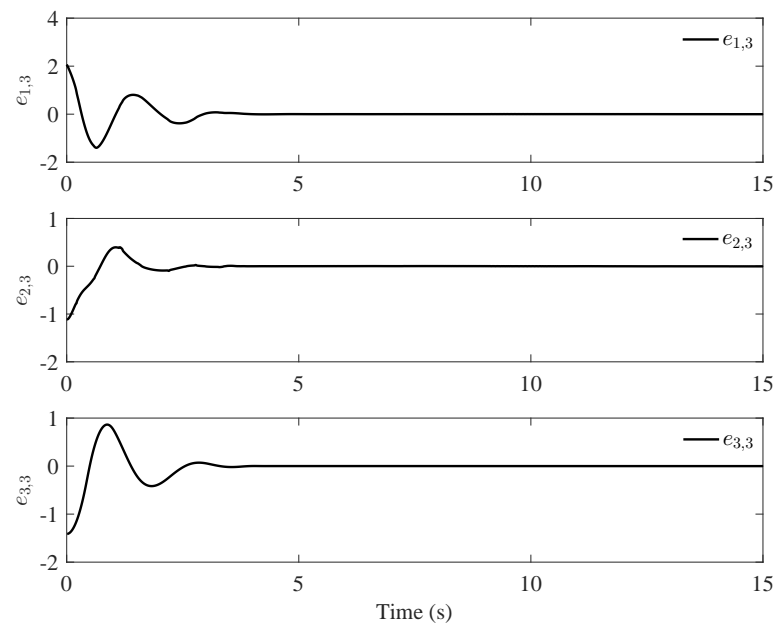


Figure 5. The tracking errors of the attitude subsystem.

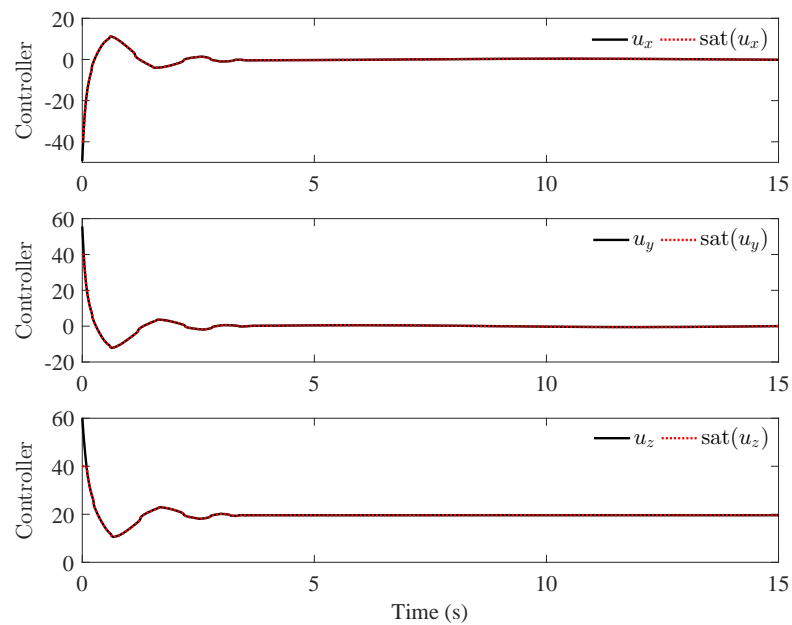


Figure 6. The control inputs of the position subsystem.

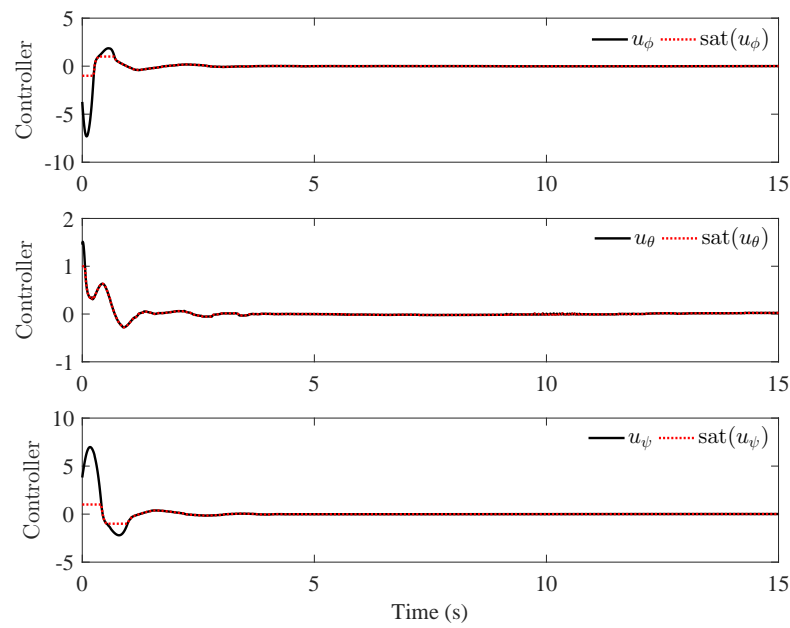


Figure 7. The control inputs of the attitude subsystem.

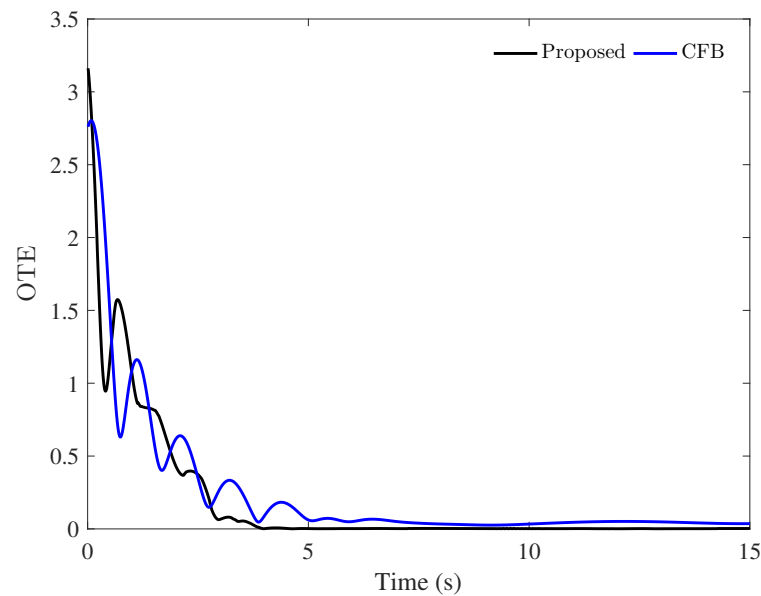


Figure 8. The OTE under different control schemes.

Table 2. Performance comparison.

Scheme	Convergence Time (s)	RMSE
Proposed	2.87	0.4922
CFB in [12]	4.84	0.5354

5. Conclusions

This article has proposed a fixed-time adaptive tracking control scheme for a QUAV suffering from input saturation, parameter uncertainties, and external disturbances. By designing the fixed-time command filter and the fractional power-error compensation mechanism, the fixed-time command-filtered backstepping technique can tackle the problem of EOC and remove the influence of filtered error simultaneously. The auxiliary system with fixed-time convergence was constructed to compensate for the effect of input saturation.

It proved that the tracking errors converge to a sufficiently small region near the origin in a fixed time. Simulation results have verified the effectiveness and superiority of the proposed fixed-time, adaptive control algorithm.

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Nomenclature

m	Mass
g	Gravitational acceleration
$\mathbf{X} = [x, y, z]^T$	Position
$\boldsymbol{\Theta} = [\phi, \theta, \psi]^T$	Euler angles (roll, pitch, yaw)
$\mathbf{v} = [\dot{x}, \dot{y}, \dot{z}]^T$	Linear velocity
$\boldsymbol{\Omega} = [\dot{\phi}, \dot{\theta}, \dot{\psi}]^T$	Angular velocity
$\mathbf{J} = \text{diag}\{J_x, J_y, J_z\}$	Inertia matrix
$\mathbf{F}_X = \text{diag}\{F_x, F_y, F_z\}$	Coefficients of resistance in position subsystem
$\mathbf{F}_\Theta = \text{diag}\{F_\phi, F_\theta, F_\psi\}$	Coefficients of resistance in attitude subsystem
$\mathbf{d}_X = [d_x, d_y, d_z]^T$	External disturbance in position subsystem
$\mathbf{d}_\Theta = [d_\phi, d_\theta, d_\psi]^T$	External disturbance in attitude subsystem
u_F	Total lift
$\mathbf{U}_\Theta = [u_\phi, u_\theta, u_\psi]^T$	Control torque of attitude subsystem

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