Comments on integral variants of ISS

Eduardo D. Sontag *

Department of Mathematics, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ 08854-8019, USA

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Abstract

This note discusses two integral variants of the input-to-state stability (ISS) property, which represent nonlinear generalizations of $L^2$ stability, in much the same way that ISS generalizes $L^1$ stability. Both variants are equivalent to ISS for linear systems. For general nonlinear systems, it is shown that one of the new properties is strictly weaker than ISS, while the other one is equivalent to it. For bilinear systems, a complete characterization is provided of the weaker property. An interesting fact about functions of type $K^p$ is proved as well.

Keywords: Input-to-state stability; ISS; Nonlinear stability; System gains

1. Introduction

We deal here with controlled systems of the general form

\[ \dot{x} = f(x,u), \]

where $f : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \to \mathbb{R}^n$ is continuous, and locally Lipschitz on $x$ for bounded $u$, and inputs $u(\cdot) : [0,\infty) \to \mathbb{R}^m$ are assumed to be locally essentially bounded. The paper [7] introduced the notion of “input to state stability” (ISS), which roughly states that “no matter what is the initial state, if the inputs are uniformly small, then the state must eventually be small”. Some results, applications, and further developments can be found in, e.g. [4, 5, 9–11] as well as many other recent papers. One frequently remarked shortcoming of the ISS property is that provides no useful bounds in the situation in which inputs $u(\cdot)$ are unbounded but have in some sense finite energy. This note deals with two variants of ISS which take into account such “energy” information, and shows that one of them is, in fact, equivalent to ISS, while the other one is strictly weaker.

Notations: For a vector $z$ in a space $\mathbb{R}^q$, $|z|$ denotes Euclidean norm. If $z : I \to \mathbb{R}^q$ is a measurable function defined on an interval containing $[0,t]$, $\|z\|$ denotes the (essential) supremum of $\{ |z(s)|, s \in [0,t] \}$; for $t = \infty$, we write just $\|z\|$.

In order to motivate the definitions, we first review the classical case of linear systems

\[ \dot{x} = Ax + Bu. \]

One often defines input/output stability of such a system in various ways, depending on the norms being used for state and input trajectories. The most common choices are $L^2$ and $L^\infty$ norms. These can be used in various combinations, one of which (“$L^\infty \to L^2$”) is less interesting, being far too restrictive. The three possibilities that remain are defined by requiring the existence of constants $c$ and $\lambda$, with $\lambda > 0$, so that, for each input $u(\cdot)$ and each initial state $\xi$, the solution
x(t) of $\dot{x} = Ax + Bu$, $x(0) = \xi$, satisfies the respective estimate:

$$|x(t)| \leq ce^{-\mu t}|\xi| + c\|u\|_\infty \quad \text{for all } t \geq 0,$$

$$|x(t)| \leq ce^{-\mu t}|\xi| + c \int_0^t |u(s)|^2 \, ds \quad \text{for all } t \geq 0,$$

$$\int_0^t |x(s)|^2 \, ds \leq c|\xi|^2 + c \int_0^t |u(s)|^2 \, ds \quad \text{for all } t \geq 0.$$  

(2) (3) (4)

It is not difficult to see (and also follows from the more general results given later) that all these three properties are equivalent, and in fact they amount to simply asking that the matrix $A$ be Hurwitz (all eigenvalues have negative real parts).

Our goal is to understand analogues of the above properties for nonlinear systems. We take the point of view that good notions of stability should be invariant under (nonlinear) changes of variables. Suppose that $T : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$ is a change of variables, by which we mean here that $T$ is continuous, has a continuous inverse, and satisfies $T(0) = 0$. It is then easy to see that there are two functions $\chi_1, \chi_2 \in \mathcal{K}_\infty$ so that

$$\chi_1(|x|) \leq |T(x)| \leq \chi_2(|x|)$$

for all $x$. Under a coordinate change $x(t) = T(z(t))$ in states, $|x(t)|$ can be estimated below by $\chi_1(|z(t)|)$ and above by $\chi_2(|z(t)|)$, and similarly for any power like $|x(t)|^2$. Therefore, in the new variables, each instance of a norm (or of a power of a norm) of the state becomes an estimate of the type $\gamma(|x(t)|)$, where $\gamma$ is some function of class $\mathcal{K}_\infty$. Similarly, input norms should be replaced by $\gamma(|u(t)|)$, as this is the only way to formulate estimates in a fashion that is independent of the choice of coordinates in the input space. Finally, a decay term of the type $ce^{-\mu t}|\xi|$ becomes, after a change of variables, $e^{-\mu t}\gamma(|\xi|)$, which can also be written as $\beta(|\xi|, t)$, where the function $\beta \in \mathcal{KL}$ is $\beta(s, t) = e^{-\mu t}\gamma(s)$. (In the definitions to follow, we use arbitrary functions of class $\mathcal{KL}$, in order to stay close to other current literature. See later, cf. Section 3, for a proof that the same definitions would result if we had insisted upon the special form $e^{-\mu t}\gamma(s)$.)

In summary, we have the following nonlinear versions of the respective properties:

**"$L^\infty$ to $L^\infty$" property (2):** This gives rise, under coordinate changes, to:

There exist functions $\gamma, \gamma \in \mathcal{K}_\infty$ and $\beta \in \mathcal{KL}$ so that, for all initial states $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and all inputs $u(\cdot)$,

$$\gamma(|x(t)|) \leq \beta(|\xi|, t) + \sup_{x \in [0,1]} \gamma(|u(s)|) \quad \text{for all } t \geq 0,$$

(5)

where $x(t)$ is the solution of (1) with this input and with $x(0) = \xi$.

Observe that, for any given input $u(\cdot)$, the solution $x(\cdot)$ is defined on some maximal interval $[0, a)$, where a priori $a$ could be finite. As $\sup_{s \in [0, a]} \gamma(|u(s)|) < \infty$, however, the estimate (5) implies that the maximal trajectory stays bounded, and this, in turn, by standard facts from differential equations, see e.g. [8], Proposition 3.6 in Appendix C, implies that $a = +\infty$, that is to say, the solution is defined for all $t \geq 0$.

Applying the increasing function $\gamma^{-1}$ to both sides of the estimate (5), using the facts that $\gamma^{-1}(a + b) \leq \gamma^{-1}(2a) + \gamma^{-1}(2b)$ and that $\gamma(|u|) = \gamma(|u||u|_\infty)$, and redefining $\beta$ and $\gamma$, there results the following simpler but equivalent statement: there exist $\gamma \in \mathcal{K}_\infty$ and $\beta \in \mathcal{KL}$ so that, for all initial states $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and all inputs $u(\cdot)$,

$$|x(t)| \leq \beta(|\xi|, t) + \gamma(|u|_\infty) \quad \text{for all } t \geq 0.$$  

(5')

In other words, this property is precisely the input to state stability (ISS) property from [7].

**"$L^2$ to $L^\infty$" property (3):** This generalizes as follows:

There exist $\gamma, \gamma \in \mathcal{K}_\infty$ and $\beta \in \mathcal{KL}$ so that the following estimate holds for all initial states $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and all inputs $u(\cdot)$:

$$\gamma(|x(t)|) \leq \beta(|\xi|, t) + \int_0^t \gamma(|u(s)|) \, ds \quad \text{for all } t \geq 0,$$

(6)

As before, the solution $x(\cdot)$ is necessarily defined for all $t \geq 0$. We will call a system which satisfies the property defined by estimate (6) an integral-input to state stable (IISS) system.
“$L^2$ to $L^2$” property (4): This becomes:

There exist $x, y, x \in K_{\infty}$ so that the following estimate holds for all initial states $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and all inputs $u(\cdot)$:

$$\int_0^t \kappa(|x(s)|) \, ds \leq \kappa(|\xi|) + \int_0^t \gamma(|u(s)|) \, ds$$

for all $t \geq 0$. (7)

In this case, we assume that the solution is defined for all $t \geq 0$, as part of the definition of the property. We do not give a name to property (7), since we will prove as follows:

**Theorem 1.** A system (1) satisfies the property defined by estimate (7) if and only if it is an ISS system.

Corollary 4. If the system (1) is ISS, then it is also IISS.

Consider the special case of bilinear systems, that is, systems of the following form:

$$\dot{x} = (A + \sum_{i=1}^{m} u_i A_i) x + Bu, \quad (9)$$

where $A, A_1, \ldots, A_m$ are $n \times n$ matrices and $B$ is $n \times m$ (and $u_i, i = 1, \ldots, m$ are the coordinates of $u$).

Theorem 5. The system (9) is IISS if and only if $A$ is a Hurwitz matrix (all eigenvalues have negative real part).

Proposition 6. If a system satisfies the estimate (6), then, for any control $u$ such that $\int_0^\infty \gamma(|u(s)|) \, ds < \infty$, and for any initial state $\xi$, it holds for the corresponding trajectory that $x(t) \to 0$ as $t \to \infty$.

2. Proofs

We prove here the various statements.

Proof of Theorem 2. Without loss of generality, we will assume that $\gamma_1 = \gamma_2 = \gamma$. (It is enough to find a $\gamma \in K_{\infty}$ so that $\gamma_i(s) \leq \gamma(s)$ for all $s$ and $i = 1, 2$, and to observe that $(\gamma_1(s) - 1)P(x) \leq (\gamma(s) - 1)P(x)$ for all $s, x$, because $V \geq 0$.)

Since $V$ is positive definite, continuous, and proper, there exist two functions $z_1, z_2$ of class $K_{\infty}$ so that $z_1(|x|) \leq x \leq z_2(|x|)$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$. In terms of these functions, we introduce

$$\beta(s, t) := \theta_2^{-1}(\theta_1(e^{-\theta_2} z_2(s)))$$
and
\[ \varphi(s) := \theta_2^{-1}(\frac{1}{2}x_1(s)), \]
where
\[ \theta_1(r) := r + \frac{1}{2}r^2, \quad \theta_2(r) := \frac{1}{2}(e^r - 1)^2 + e^r \]
are both of class \( K_\infty \). Thus, \( \beta \in K_\infty \) and \( \varphi \in K_\infty \).
We prove next that the integral-input to state estimate (6) holds with these functions \( \beta, \varphi, \) and \( \gamma \).

Pick any initial state \( \xi \), input \( u(t) \), and the solution of the initial value problem \( \dot{x} = f(x, u), x(0) = \xi \).
Consider the absolutely continuous scalar function \( v(t) := V(x(t)) \). We have, using Eq. (8)
\[ \hat{v}(t) \leq (\gamma(|u(t)|) - q)v(t) + \gamma(|u(t)|) \]
for (almost all) \( t \geq 0 \). A standard comparison principle applied to the above differential inequality (see, e.g. [3, Theorem 6]; the assumption in that the right-hand side is continuous in \( t \) is not necessary) provides the estimate
\[ v(t) \leq U(t)e^{-q't}v(0) + \int_0^t U(t,s)e^{-q'(t-s)}\gamma(|u(s)|) ds \]
for all \( t \geq 0 \), where we are denoting
\[ U(t,s) := e^{\int_s^t \gamma(|u(\tau)|) d\tau} \]
and \( U(t) = U(t,0) \). Observe that \( U(t,s) \leq U(t) \) and \( e^{-q'(t-s)} \leq 1 \) for all \( s \in [0,t] \), so we also have
\[ v(t) \leq U(t)e^{-q't}v(0) + U(t)\int_0^t \gamma(|u(s)|) ds \quad (10) \]
for all \( t \geq 0 \). Writing
\[ U(t)e^{-q't}v(0) = e^{-q't}v(0) + (U(t) - 1)e^{-q't}v(0) \leq e^{-q't}v(0) + \frac{1}{2}(e^{-q't}v(0))^2 \]
\[ + \frac{1}{2}(U(t) - 1)^2, \]
we conclude from Eq. (10) that
\[ v(t) \leq \theta_1(e^{-q't}v(0)) + \theta_2 \left( \int_0^t \gamma(|u(\tau)|) d\tau \right) . \]
From this, and recalling that \( v(t) = V(x(t)) \) and \( v(0) = V(\xi) \), there follows the estimate:
\[ \varphi(\left| x(t) \right|) \leq \theta_1(e^{-q't}x_2(\left| \xi \right|)) + \theta_2 \left( \int_0^t \gamma(|u(\tau)|) d\tau \right) . \]
Finally, dividing both sides of this inequality by 2 and applying \( \theta_2^{-1} \), the desired conclusion follows from the fact that \( \theta_2^{-1}((a+b)/2) \leq \theta_2^{-1}(a) + \theta_2^{-1}(b) \) for all nonnegative \( a, b \). \[ \square \]

**Proof of Theorem 5.** The necessity part is clear from Proposition 6. Conversely, assume that \( A \) is Hurwitz, and pick any symmetric positive-definite matrix \( P \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \) so that \( PA + A'P = -2I \) (see, e.g. [8]), where we are using primes to denote transposes. Let \( V(x) := x'Px \), and write \( \dot{V}(x, u) \) for the directional derivative
\[ \nabla V(x). \left[ (A + \sum_{i=1}^m u_iA_i) x + Bu \right] . \]

Then
\[ \dot{V}(x, u) = -2x'PAx + \sum_{i=1}^m 2u_ix'PA_i x + 2x'PBu \]
for all \( t \geq 0 \). If \( p \) is the induced Euclidean norm of \( PB \), then for all vectors \( x, u \):
\[ 2x'PBu \leq 2|x|(p|u|) \leq |x|^2 + p^2|u|^2 \]
and there is also a constant \( c > 0 \) so that
\[ \sum_{i=1}^m 2u_ix'PA_i x \leq c|u||x|^2, \]
so we conclude, using \( 2x'PAx = -2|x|^2 \), that
\[ \dot{V}(x, u) \leq -|x|^2 + c|u||x|^2 + p^2|u|^2 \leq (cr|u| - q)V(x) + p^2|u|^2 \]
for all \( t \geq 0 \), where \( 1/q \) is the largest eigenvalue of \( P \) and \( 1/r \) is the smallest eigenvalue of \( P \). The proof is completed by appealing to Theorem 2. \[ \square \]

**Proof of Proposition 6.** Pick any \( \varepsilon > 0 \). We must find a \( T_\varepsilon \) so that \( |x(t)| < \varepsilon \) for all \( t \geq T_\varepsilon \). Pick \( \varepsilon_0 := \varepsilon^{-1}(\varepsilon) \) and a \( T_0 > 0 \) so that \( \int_{T_0}^\infty \gamma(|u(s)|) ds < \varepsilon_0/2 \). Such a \( T_0 \) exists because \( \int_{T_0}^\infty \gamma(|u(s)|) ds \rightarrow 0 \) as \( T \rightarrow \infty \). Consider the new initial state \( \xi := x(T) \) and the control \( u' \) which is the “tail” of \( u \): \( u'(t) := u(t+T) \) for \( t \geq 0 \). The ensuing trajectory \( x' \) satisfies \( x'(t) = x(t+T) \). Applying the estimates to this new pair \( (\xi', u') \), we conclude that, for all \( t \geq 0 \):
\[ \varphi(|x(t+T)|) \leq \beta(|\xi'|, t) + \int_{T_0}^{t+T} \gamma(|u(s)|) ds \]
\[ < \beta(|\xi'|, t) + \varepsilon_0/2. \]
If \( T' \) is so that \( \beta(|\xi'|, T') \leq \varepsilon_0/2 \), we conclude that \( x(t) < \varepsilon_0 \), and hence \( |x(t)| \leq \varepsilon_0 \), for all \( t \geq T_2 := T + T' \). □

**Proof of Theorem 1.** One implication is routine: if the system is ISS, then from Theorem 3 we have a function \( V \) with \( z_1(|x|) \leq V(x) \leq z_2(|x|) \) \( (z \in \mathcal{K}_\infty) \) so that, for each initial state \( \xi \) and input \( u(\cdot) \), \( v(t) = V(x(t)) \) satisfies \( \dot{v}(t) \leq -v(t) + \gamma(|u(t)|) \) for (almost all) \( t \geq 0 \). Therefore,

\[
\int_0^t v(s) \, ds \leq v(0) - v(t) + \int_0^t \gamma(|u(s)|) \, ds
\]

from which one has the estimate \( \int_0^t z_1(|x(s)|) \, ds \leq z_2(|\xi| + \int_0^t \gamma(|u(s)|) \, ds) \).

The converse is more interesting. We use a variation of one of the characterizations of ISS given in [10]: A system is ISS if and only if 0 is a stable equilibrium of the unforced system \( \dot{x} = f(x,0) \) and the so-called “LIM” property holds, namely there exists a function \( \theta \in \mathcal{K}_\infty \) so that, for all initial states \( \xi \) and inputs \( u(\cdot) \), \( \inf_{t \geq 0} |x(t)| \leq \theta(\|u\|_\infty) \). (To be precise, in [10] it is stated that ISS is equivalent to \( 0 \) being a center of \( \mathcal{K}_\infty \).

Since the converse was stated in [10], and it was an oversight not to have done so.)

Assume system (1) satisfies the property defined by the estimate (7). Then, the LIM property holds with \( \theta = \varphi^{-1} \circ \gamma \). Indeed, consider any \( \xi \) and \( u(\cdot) \). If it were the case that \( \inf_{t \geq 0} |x(t)| > \theta(\|u\|_\infty) \) then there is some \( \varepsilon > 0 \) so that \( z(\xi(t)) \geq \varepsilon + \gamma(u(t)) \) for (almost) all \( t > 0 \), and thus \( \int_0^t z(\xi(t)) \, ds \geq \varepsilon t + \int_0^t \gamma(u(s)) \, ds \), which gives the contradiction \( \kappa(|\xi|) > \varepsilon \) for all \( t \). So we are only left to show that 0 is a stable equilibrium of the unforced system \( \dot{x} = f(x,0) \). Pick any \( \varepsilon > 0 \). Let \( K \) be the set \( \{|x| < \varepsilon \} \) and take \( c := \sup_{x \in K} f(x,0) \). Finally, choose \( 0 < \delta < \varepsilon/2 \) so that \( r < \delta \) implies \( \kappa(r) < s_0 \), where \( s_0 := \frac{\varepsilon - c}{2\delta} \). Let \( |x(0)| < \delta \). Then \( |x(t)| < \varepsilon \) for all \( t > 0 \). Indeed, suppose that there exists some \( t > 0 \) so that \( |x(t)| \geq \varepsilon \). Then there is some interval \([t_1, t_2]\) so that \( |x(t_1)| = \varepsilon/2 \), \( |x(t_2)| = \varepsilon \), and \( x(t) \in K \) for all \( t \in [t_1, t_2] \). Thus,

\[
\int_0^\infty z(|x(s)|) \, ds \geq \int_{t_1}^{t_2} z(|x(s)|) \, ds \geq (t_2 - t_1) \varepsilon/2.
\]

On the other hand,

\[
\varepsilon/2 \leq |x(t_2) - x(t_1)| \leq \int_{t_1}^{t_2} |f(x(s),0)| \, ds \leq c(t_2 - t_1),
\]

so we conclude that \( s_0 \leq \int_0^\infty z(|x(s)|) \, ds \leq \kappa(|x(0)|) \).

3. A lemma on \( \mathcal{KL} \) functions

This section has the purpose of showing that, if we were to define the estimates in Eqs. (5) and (6) using only those functions of class \( \mathcal{KL} \) which have the particular form \( \beta(s,t) = e^{-\lambda t} \kappa(s) \), with \( \lambda > 0 \) and \( \kappa \in \mathcal{K}_\infty \), or even functions of this form with \( \lambda = 1 \), we would arrive at precisely the same notions. The proof relies upon a lemma involving \( \mathcal{KL} \) functions which seems not to have been remarked in the literature, and which is of independent interest:

**Proposition 7.** Assume that \( \beta \in \mathcal{KL} \). Then, there exist \( \theta_1, \theta_2 \in \mathcal{K}_\infty \) so that

\[
\beta(s,t) \leq \theta_1(\theta_2(s)e^{-t}) \quad \forall s \geq 0, \quad t \geq 0.
\]

Let us first see how, on the basis of this result, we can show that equivalent stability concepts result. Let \( \beta \) be given, and find \( \theta_1 \) and \( \theta_2 \) as in the above statement. Let \( \sigma \) be any function of class \( \mathcal{KL} \) with the property that, for all \( p \geq 0 \), \( \sigma(p) \geq \max\{2\theta_1(p), 2a\} \).

Since \( \sigma^{-1} \in \mathcal{KL} \), we have, for all \( p, q \geq 0 \)

\[
\sigma^{-1}(\theta_1(p) + q) \leq \sigma^{-1}(2\theta_1(p)) + \sigma^{-1}(2q) \leq p + q,
\]

or, equivalently, \( \theta_1(p) + q \leq \sigma(p + q) \). It follows that, for all \( s, t, q \geq 0 \)

\[
\beta(s,t) + q \leq \sigma(\theta_2(s)e^{-t} + q).
\]

Now, suppose that a system satisfies the estimate in Eq. (6), namely, \( z(|x(t)|) \leq \beta(|\xi|, t) + \int_0^t \gamma(|u(s)|) \, ds \) for all \( t \geq 0 \). Finding, for this \( \beta \), functions \( \theta_1, \theta_2, \sigma \) as just discussed, we conclude that solutions must also satisfy

\[
\tilde{z}(|x(t)|) \leq e^{-t} \theta_2(|\xi|) + \int_0^t \gamma(|u(s)|) \, ds,
\]

where \( \tilde{z}(r) := \sigma^{-1}(z(r)) \). In other words, we have proved that there is also an estimate involving the
special form \( \beta(s,t) = e^{-\gamma(s)} \) for the Ellis function. A similar remark applies to the estimate (5), the ISS property, though in that case, an alternative proof is easy from Theorem 3.

The keys to proving Proposition 7 are two lemmas.

**Lemma 8.** Assume that \( \beta \in \mathcal{X}_0 \). Then, there exist \( \gamma \in \mathcal{X}_\infty \) and \( \sigma \in \mathcal{X}_\infty \) so that
\[
\beta(s,t) \leq \gamma(s) \sigma(e^{-t}) \quad \forall s \geq 0, \quad t \geq 0.
\] (13)

**Proof.** Let \( \beta \in \mathcal{X}_0 \). Define
\[
\alpha_s(t) := \frac{\beta(s,t)}{\beta(s,0)^{1/2} + \beta(s,0)^2}
\]
for all \( t \geq 0 \) and all \( s > 0 \). Note that
\[
\alpha_s(t) \leq \frac{\beta(s,0)}{\beta(s,0)^{1/2} + \beta(s,0)^2} \leq 1
\] (14)
for all \( t \geq 0 \) and all \( s > 0 \), and that \( \alpha_s(t) \) decreases to zero as \( t \to \infty \), for each fixed \( s \). Let
\[
\alpha(t) := \sup_{s > 0} \alpha_s(t)
\]
for each \( t \geq 0 \). Since each \( \alpha_s \) is decreasing, \( \alpha \) is too, and \( \alpha(t) \leq 1 \) for all \( t \).

**Claim.** \( \alpha(t) \to 0 \) as \( t \to \infty \).

Indeed, pick any \( \varepsilon > 0 \). Since \( \beta(s,0)/(\beta(s,0)^{1/2} + \beta(s,0)^2) = \rho(\beta(s,0)) \), where \( \rho(x) := x(x^{1/2} + x^2) \), \( \beta(0) \in \mathcal{X}_\infty \), and \( \rho(x) \to 0 \) as \( x \to \infty \) or \( x \to 0^+ \), it follows that
\[
\frac{\beta(s,0)}{\beta(s,0)^{1/2} + \beta(s,0)^2} \to 0
\]
when \( s \to \infty \) and when \( s \to 0^+ \). Thus, there are \( 0 < a < b < \infty \) with the property that
\[
s \notin [a,b] \Rightarrow \alpha_s(t) < \varepsilon
\] (15)
for all \( t \geq 0 \) (using Eq. (14) and the above limit). Pick now any \( s \in [a,b] \). For such an \( s \),
\[
\alpha_s(t) \leq \frac{\beta(b,t)}{\beta(a,0)^{1/2} + \beta(a,0)^2}.
\]
Pick a \( t_0 \) so that \( t > t_0 \) implies
\[
\beta(b,t) < \alpha(\beta(a,0)^{1/2} + \beta(a,0)^2).
\]
Then for all \( t > t_0 \) we have that \( \alpha_s(t) < \varepsilon \), if \( s \in [a,b] \). Together with Eq. (15), we conclude that \( \alpha(t) < \varepsilon \) for all \( t > t_0 \) and all \( s \). Thus, \( \alpha(t) < \varepsilon \) for such \( t \), and the claim is proved.

Since \( \alpha \) is decreasing to zero, there is some function \( \theta : [0, \infty) \to [0, \infty) \) which is continuous and strictly decreasing to zero, so that, for all \( s > 0 \) and all \( t \geq 0 \),
\[
\frac{\beta(s,t)}{\beta(s,0)^{1/2} + \beta(s,0)^2} = \alpha_s(t) \leq \alpha(t) \leq \theta(t)
\]
and therefore
\[
\beta(s,t) \leq \gamma(s) \theta(t),
\] (16)
where we defined \( \gamma(s) := (\beta(s,0)^{1/2} + \beta(s,0)^2) \), and \( \gamma \in \mathcal{X}_\infty \). Note that Eq. (16) holds also at \( s = 0 \).

Finally, we let \( \sigma_0(r) := \theta(-\ln r) \) for \( x \in (0,1] \), and \( \sigma_0(0) := 0 \). We have that \( \sigma_0 : [0,1] \to \mathbb{R} \) is strictly increasing and continuous at zero, so there exists some \( \sigma \in \mathcal{X}_\infty \) so that \( \sigma(r) \leq \sigma_0(r) \) for all \( r \in [0,1] \). Therefore, Eq. (13) holds with this choice of \( \gamma \) and \( \sigma \). \( \Box \)

For the next lemma, we let \( \mathcal{F} \) be the set of continuous functions \( k : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R} \) which are strictly increasing and satisfy that \( \lim_{r \to +\infty} k(r) = +\infty \) and \( \lim_{r \to -\infty} k(r) = -\infty \).

**Lemma 9.** Assume that \( f \in \mathcal{F} \). Then, there exist two functions \( g, h \in \mathcal{F} \) so that
\[
f(x + y) \leq g(x) + h(y)
\] (17)
for all \( x, y \in \mathbb{R} \).

**Proof.** We start by defining a function \( \phi \in \mathcal{F} \) with the following three properties

- \( \phi(x) \geq 2x \) for all \( x \geq 0 \);
- \( \phi(x) \geq x/2 \) for all \( x \leq 0 \);
- \( f(x) - f(\phi(x)) \to -\infty \) as \( x \to +\infty \) and as \( x \to -\infty \).

One way to define \( \phi \) is by means of the following formula, for all \( x \in \mathbb{R} \):
\[
\phi(x) = \max \left\{ \frac{1}{2} f(x), \frac{1}{2} f(x/2), 2x, \frac{x}{2} \right\}.
\]
Observe that each of the four functions in the maximum is in \( \mathcal{F} \), so \( \phi \in \mathcal{F} \). Furthermore, \( f(\phi(x)) \geq f(f^{-1}(f(x)/2)) = f(x)/2 \), and similarly \( f(\phi(x)) \geq 2f(x) \), for all \( x \). So
\[
f(x) - f(\phi(x)) \leq f(x) - \frac{1}{2} f(x) = \frac{1}{2} f(x) \to -\infty
\]

Thus, \( \phi \) is strictly increasing, continuous, and satisfies the desired property.
as \( x \to -\infty \), and
\[
f(x) - f(\varphi(x)) \leq f(x) - 2f(x) = -f(x) \to -\infty
\]
as \( x \to +\infty \).

We let \( g(x) := f(\varphi(x)) \) and
\[
h_0(y) := \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} [f(x + y) - g(x)]
\]
for \( y \in \mathbb{R} \).

We claim that \( h_0(y) < \infty \) for all \( y \). To prove this, we consider the cases \( y \leq 0 \) and \( y > 0 \) separately. Take first \( y \leq 0 \). So \( f(x + y) \leq f(x) \) for all \( x \). If \( x \leq 0 \), then
\[
f(x) \leq f(x/2) \leq f(\varphi(x)) = g(x)
\]
and, if \( x \geq 0 \), then also
\[
f(x) \leq f(2x) \leq f(\varphi(x)) = g(x),
\]
so, taking the supremum over \( x \), we have \( h_0(y) \leq 0 \).

Now take the case \( y > 0 \). If \( x \leq -2y \), then \(-x/2 \geq y\), so \( \varphi(x) \geq x/2 \geq x + y \), and therefore
\[
f(x + y) - g(x) \leq f(x + y) - f(\varphi(x)) \leq 0.
\]
If \( x \geq y \) then \( x > 0 \), so \( g(x) = f(\varphi(x)) \geq f(2x) \geq f(x + y) \), so again \( f(x + y) - g(x) \leq 0 \). If, instead, \(-2y \leq x \leq y \), then \( f(x + y) \leq f(2y) \) and \( g(x) = f(\varphi(x)) \geq f(\varphi(-2y)) \geq f(-y) \) (because \(-2y < 0 \) implies \( \varphi(-2y) \geq -y \)). Thus, in that case
\[
f(x + y) - g(x) \leq f(2y) - f(-y).
\]
Therefore,
\[
h_0(y) \leq \max \{0, f(2y) - f(-y)\} < \infty
\]
as claimed.

Note that \( g \in \mathcal{I} \) and that, from the definition of \( h_0 \),
\[
f(x + y) \leq g(x) + h_0(y)
\]
for all \( x, y \in \mathbb{R} \). Furthermore, \( h_0 \) is nondecreasing, because, if \( y' > y \), then \( f(x + y') - g(x) > f(x + y) - g(x) \) for all \( x \in \mathbb{R} \).

Finally, we claim that
\[
h_0(y) \to -\infty
\]
as \( y \to -\infty \). Indeed, let \( K < 0 \) be arbitrary. Fix \( \rho \) so that \( |x| > \rho \) implies \( f(x) - g(x) < K \); such a \( \rho \) exists because of the last property required of \( \varphi \). As \( f(x + y) \leq f(x) \) when \( y \leq 0 \) (because \( f \) is an increasing function), it follows that
\[
f(x + y) - g(x) < K \quad \text{if} \quad y \leq 0, |x| > \rho.
\]

Now, take any \( x \in [-\rho, \rho] \). Since \( x + y \leq \rho + y \) and \( \varphi(x) \geq \varphi(\rho) \),
\[
f(x + y) - g(x) \leq f(\rho + y) - f(\varphi(\rho)) \quad (20)
\]
As \( f(z) \to -\infty \) when \( z \to -\infty \), there is some \( \zeta \) so that
\[
z < \zeta \Rightarrow f(z) < K + f(\varphi(\rho)).
\]
It follows that if \( y < \zeta - \rho \) then \( f(\rho + y) - f(\varphi(\rho)) < K \). So Eqs. (19) and (20) imply that \( f(x + y) - g(x) < K \) for all \( y < \min\{0, \zeta - \rho\} \), and all \( x \in \mathbb{R} \). Therefore, \( h_0(y) < K \) for all \( y < \min\{0, \zeta - \rho\} \), proving the claim.

As \( h_0 : (-\infty, \infty) \to \mathbb{R} \) is nondecreasing and has \( h_0(y) \to -\infty \) when \( y \to -\infty \), there is some \( h \in \mathcal{I} \) so that \( h_0(y) \leq h(y) \) for all \( y \). The conclusion follows then from Eq. (18).

Although not needed here, it is worth stating the “exponential” version of the above lemma:

**Corollary 10.** For each \( \gamma \in \mathcal{K}_\infty \) there exist \( \sigma_1 \) and \( \sigma_2 \) in \( \mathcal{K}_\infty \) so that
\[
\gamma(rs) \leq \sigma_1(r)\sigma_2(s)
\]
for all \( r, s \geq 0 \).

**Proof.** Consider \( f(x) := \ln \gamma(e^x) \). Since \( \gamma \in \mathcal{K}_\infty \), \( f \in \mathcal{I} \). Thus, there exist \( g \) and \( h \) as in Lemma 9. We then let \( \sigma_1(r) := e^{\sigma_1(ln r)} \) and \( \sigma_2(r) := e^{\sigma_2(ln r)} \).

**Remark 11.** The functions \( g \) and \( h \) in Lemma 9 can be chosen to be the same. Indeed, given \( g \) and \( h \) from the lemma, we have that
\[
f(x + y) \leq g(x) + h(y)
\]
\[
\leq \max \{g(x), h(x)\} + \max \{g(y), h(y)\},
\]
so \( f(x + y) \leq k(x) + h(y) \), where \( k(z) := \max \{g(y), h(y)\} \) defines also a function in \( \mathcal{I} \). Similarly, the functions \( \sigma_1 \) and \( \sigma_2 \) in Corollary 10 can also be chosen equal.

**Proof of Proposition 7.** Let \( \beta \in \mathcal{K}_\mathcal{L} \). By Lemma 8, there exist \( \gamma \in \mathcal{K}_\infty \) and \( \sigma \in \mathcal{K}_\infty \) so that \( \beta(s, t) \leq \gamma(s)\sigma(e^{-t}) \) for all \( s \geq 0 \) and \( t \geq 0 \). We apply Lemma 9 with
\[
f(u) := -\ln \sigma^{-1}(e^{-u}).
\]
It is clear that \( f \in \mathcal{I} \). So there exist \( g \) and \( h \) in \( \mathcal{I} \) so that Eq. (17) holds for all reals \( x, y \).
We define
\[ z_1(r) := \exp(-g(-\ln r)) \]
for \( r \in (0, \infty) \), and \( z_1(0) := 0 \). Because \( g \in \mathcal{F} \), it follows that \( z_1 \in \mathcal{K}_\infty \). Note for future reference that
\[ g(x) = -\ln z_1(e^{-x}) \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathbb{R}. \tag{21} \]

Finally, we define
\[ z_2(r) := \exp(h(\ln r)) \]
for \( r \in (0, \infty) \), and \( z_2(0) := 0 \). Since \( h \in \mathcal{F} \), it follows that \( z_2 \in \mathcal{K}_\infty \) as well, and we note that
\[ h(y) = \ln z_2(e^y) \quad \text{for all } y \in \mathbb{R}. \tag{22} \]

Pick now any \( t \in [0, \infty) \) and any \( s \in (0, \infty) \). Let
\[ x := -\ln \gamma(s) - \ln \sigma(e^{-t}) \quad \text{and} \quad y := \ln \gamma(s). \]

Observe that
\[ -(x + y) = \ln \sigma(e^{-t}) \]
so
\[ f(x + y) = -\ln \sigma^{-1}(\exp(\ln(\sigma(e^{-t})))) = t, \]
\[ g(x) = -\ln z_1(\exp(\ln \gamma(s) + \ln \sigma(e^{-t}))) \]
\[ = -\ln z_1(\gamma(s)\sigma(e^{-t})) \]
and
\[ h(y) = \ln z_2(\exp(\ln \gamma(s))) = \ln z_2(\gamma(s)). \]

Therefore, Eq. (17), applied with these \( x \) and \( y \), gives
\[ t \leq -\ln z_1(\gamma(s)\sigma(e^{-t})) + \ln z_2(\gamma(s)). \]

Taking \( \exp(-\cdot) \) in both sides, we conclude that
\[ e^{-t} \geq \frac{z_1(\gamma(s)\sigma(e^{-t}))}{z_2(\gamma(s))}. \]

Thus, \( z_1(\gamma(s)\sigma(e^{-t})) \leq z_2(\gamma(s))e^{-t} \), and hence
\[ \gamma(s)\sigma(e^{-t}) \leq z_2^{-1}(\gamma(s))e^{-t}. \]

This equation holds for \( s = 0 \) as well. Taking \( \theta_1 := z_1^{-1} \) and \( \theta_2 := z_2 \circ \gamma \), the theorem is proved. \( \square \)

4. Remark

The proof of Theorem 3 in [6] relies upon a sharpening of the dissipation characterization obtained in [9], which gave only an estimate of the type \( \nabla V(x).f(x,u) \leq -\alpha(V(x)) + \gamma_2(|u|) \), where \( \alpha \) is of class \( \mathcal{K} \), not necessarily the identity. One might conjecture, in view of this fact, that it may be possible to weaken the assumption in Eq. (8) to asking merely that \( \nabla V(x).f(x,u) \leq (\gamma_1(|u|) - \alpha)g(V(x)) + \gamma_2(|u|) \), where \( \alpha \) is some function of class \( \mathcal{K} \). This, however, will not be a sufficient condition: consider as an illustration the system \( \dot{x} = (u^2 - 1)x^3 \) and \( V(x) = x^2 \); then \( \dot{V} = (u^2 - 1)(2V^2) \), but the system is not IISS, since for \( \xi = 1 \) and any input with \( u(t) \equiv 1 \) for \( t \in [0, 1/6], x(1/6) \) is undefined.

References