

Research Article

Asymptotic Behavior of Switched Stochastic Delayed Cellular Neural Networks via Average Dwell Time Method

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The asymptotic behavior of a class of switched stochastic cellular neural networks (CNNs) with mixed delays (discrete time-varying delays and distributed time-varying delays) is investigated in this paper. Employing the average dwell time approach (ADT), stochastic analysis technology, and linear matrix inequalities technique (LMI), some novel sufficient conditions on the issue of asymptotic behavior (the mean-square ultimate boundedness, the existence of an attractor, and the mean-square exponential stability) are established. A numerical example is provided to illustrate the effectiveness of the proposed results.

1. Introduction

Since Chua and Yang's seminal work on cellular neural networks (CNNs) in 1988 [1, 2], it has witnessed the successful applications of CNN in various areas such as signal processing, pattern recognition, associative memory, and optimization problems (see, e.g., [3–5]). From a practical point of view, both in biological and man-made neural networks, processing of moving images and pattern recognition problems require the introduction of delay in the signals transmitted among the cells [6, 7]. After the widely use of discrete delays, distributed delays arise because that neural networks usually have a spatial extent due to the presences of a multitude of parallel pathway with a variety of axon sizes and lengths. The mathematical model can be described by the following differential equations:

$$dx_i(t) = -d_i x_i(t) + \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} f_j(x_j(t)) + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij} f_j(x_j(t - \tau_i(t)))$$

$$+ \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij} \int_{t-h_i(t)}^t f_j(x_j(s)) ds + J_i, \\ i = 1, \dots, n, \quad (1)$$

where $t \geq 0$, $n \geq 2$ corresponds to the number of units in a neural network; $x_i(t)$ denotes the potential (or voltage) of cell i at time t ; $f_j(\cdot)$ denotes a nonlinear output function; $d_i > 0$ denotes the rate with which the cell i resets its potential to the resting state when isolated from other cells and external inputs; a_{ij} , b_{ij} , c_{ij} denote the strengths of connectivity between cell i and j at time t , respectively; $\tau_i(t)$ and $h_i(t)$ correspond to the discrete time-varying delays and distributed time-varying delays, respectively.

Neural network is nonlinearity; in the real world, nonlinear problems are not exceptional, but regular phenomena. Nonlinearity is the nature of matter and its development [8, 9]. Although discrete delays combined with distributed delays can usually provide a good approximation for prime model, most real models are often affected by so many external perturbations which are of great uncertainty. For

instance, in electronic implementations, it was realized that stochastic disturbances are mostly inevitable owing to thermal noise. Just as Haykin [10] point out that in real nervous systems, synaptic transmission is a noisy process brought on by random fluctuations from the release of neurotransmitters and other probabilistic causes. Consequently, noise is unavoidable and should be taken into consideration in modeling. Moreover, it has been well recognized that a CNN could be stabilized or destabilized by certain stochastic inputs. Therefore, it is of significant importance to consider stochastic effects to the delayed neural networks. One approach to the mathematical incorporation of such effects is to use probabilistic threshold models. However, the previous literatures all focus on the stability of stochastic neural networks with delays [11–14]. Actually, studies on dynamical systems involve not only a discussion of the stability property, but also other dynamic behaviors such as the ultimate boundedness and attractor. However, there are very few results on the ultimate boundedness and attractor for stochastic neural networks [15–17]. Hence, discussing the asymptotic behavior of neural networks with mixed delays is valuable and meaningful.

On the other hand, neural networks often exhibit a special characteristic of network mode switching; that is, a neural network sometimes has finite modes that switch from one to another at different times according to a switching law generated from a switching logic. As an important class of hybrid systems, switched systems arise in many practical processes. In current papers, the analysis of switched systems has drawn considerable attention since they have numerous applications in control of mechanical systems, computer communities, automotive industry, electric power systems and many other fields [18–22]. Most recently, the stability analysis of switched neural systems has been further investigated which was mainly based on Lyapunov functions [23, 24]. It is worth noting that the average dwell time (ADT) approach is an effective method for the switched systems, which avoid the common Lyapunov function and can be adopted to obtain less conservative stability conditions. For instance, based on the average dwell time method, the problems of stability have been discussed for uncertain switched Cohen-Grossberg neural networks with interval time-varying delay and distributed time-varying delay in [25]. In [26], the average dwell time method has been utilized to get some sufficient conditions for the exponential stability and the weighted L_2 gain for a class of switched systems.

However, it is worth emphasizing that when the activation functions are unbounded in some special applications, the existence of equilibrium point cannot be guaranteed [27]. Therefore, in these circumstances, the discussing of stability of equilibrium point for switched neural networks turns to be unreachable, which motivated us to consider the ultimate boundedness and attractor for the switched neural networks. Unfortunately, as far as we know, the issue of asymptotic behavior of switched systems with mixed time delays has not been investigated yet, let alone studying the asymptotic behavior of switched stochastic systems. Therefore, these researches are challenging and interesting since they integrate the switched hybrid system into the stochastic system and are

thus theoretically and practically significant. Notice that the asymptotic behavior of switched stochastic neural networks with mixed delays should be studied intensively.

Motivated by the above analysis, the main purpose of this paper is to get sufficient conditions on the asymptotic behavior (the mean-square ultimate boundedness, the existence of an attractor, and mean-square exponential stability) for the switched stochastic system. This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, the considered model of switched stochastic CNN with mixed delays is presented. Some necessary assumptions, definitions and lemmas are also given in this section. In Section 3, mean-square ultimate boundedness and attractor for the proposed model are studied. A numerical example is arranged to demonstrate the effectiveness of the theoretical results in Section 4, and we conclude this paper in Section 5.

2. Problem Formulation

In general, a stochastic cellular neural network with mixed delays can be described as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} dx(t) = & \left[-Dx(t) + AF(x(t)) + BF(x(t - \tau(t))) \right. \\ & \left. + C \int_{t-h(t)}^t F(x(s)) ds + J \right] dt \\ & + G(x(t), x(t - \tau(t))) dw(t), \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where $x(t) = (x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))^T \in R^n$, $F(x(t)) = (f_1(x_1(t)), \dots, f_n(x_n(t)))^T$, $D = \text{diag}(d_1, \dots, d_n)$, $A = (a_{ij})_{n \times n}$, $B = (b_{ij})_{n \times n}$, $C = (c_{ij})_{n \times n}$, $J = (J_1, \dots, J_n)^T$, $\tau(t) = (\tau_1(t), \dots, \tau_n(t))^T$, $h(t) = (h_1(t), \dots, h_n(t))^T$, $G(\cdot, \cdot)$ is a $n \times n$ matrix valued function, and $w(t) = (w_1(t), \dots, w_n(t))^T$ is an n -dimensional Brownian motion defined on a complete probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbf{P})$ with a natural filtration $\{\mathcal{F}_t\}_{t \geq 0}$ (i.e., $\mathcal{F}_t = \sigma\{w(s) : 0 \leq s \leq t\}$).

By introducing switching signal into the system (2) and taking a set of neural networks as the individual subsystems, the switched system can be obtained, which is described as

$$\begin{aligned} dx(t) = & \left[-D_{\sigma(t)}x(t) + A_{\sigma(t)}F(x(t)) + B_{\sigma(t)}F(x(t - \tau(t))) \right. \\ & \left. + C_{\sigma(t)} \int_{t-h(t)}^t F(x(s)) ds + J \right] dt \\ & + G_{\sigma(t)}(x(t), x(t - \tau(t))) dw(t), \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where $\sigma(t) : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow \Sigma = \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$ is the switching signal. At each time instant t , the index $\sigma(t) \in \Sigma$ (i.e., $\sigma(t) = i$) of the active subsystem means that the i th subsystem is activated.

For the convenience of discussion, it is necessary to introduce some notations. R^n denotes the n -dimensional Euclidean space. $X \leq Y$ ($X < Y$) means that each pair of corresponding elements of X and Y satisfies the inequality " \leq

($<$)". X is especially called a positive (negative) matrix if $X > 0$ (< 0). X^T denotes the transpose of any square matrix X , and the symbol "*" within the matrix represents the symmetric term of the matrix. $\lambda_{\min}(X)$ means the minimum eigenvalue of matrix X , and $\lambda_{\max}(X)$ means the maximum eigenvalue of matrix X . I denotes unit matrix.

Let $\mathcal{C}([-\tau^*, 0], R^n)$ denote the Banach space of continuous functions which mapping from $[-\tau^*, 0]$ to R^n with is the topology of uniform convergence. For any $\|\varphi\| \in \mathcal{C}([-\tau^*, 0], R^n)$, we define $\|\varphi\| = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \sup_{t-\tau^* \leq s \leq t} |\varphi_i(s)|$.

The initial conditions for system (3) are given in the form:

$$x(t) = \varphi, \quad \varphi \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{F}_0}([-\tau^*, 0], R^n), \quad (4)$$

where $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{F}_0}([-\tau^*, 0], R^n)$ is the family of all \mathcal{F}_0 -measurable bounded $\mathcal{C}([-\tau^*, 0], R^n)$ -valued random variables.

Throughout this paper, we assume the following assumptions are always satisfied.

(H₁) The discrete time-varying delay $\tau(t)$ and distributed time-varying delay $h(t)$ are satisfying

$$0 \leq \tau(t) \leq \tau, \quad 0 \leq h(t) \leq h, \quad \tau^* = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \{\tau, h\}, \quad (5)$$

where τ, h, τ^* are scalars.

(H₂) There exist constants l_j and $L_j, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, such that

$$l_j \leq \frac{f_j(x) - f_j(y)}{x - y} \leq L_j, \quad \forall x, y \in R, x \neq y. \quad (6)$$

Moreover, we define

$$\Sigma_1 = \text{diag}\{l_1 L_1, l_2 L_2, \dots, l_n L_n\}, \quad (7)$$

$$\Sigma_2 = \text{diag}\{l_1 + L_1, l_2 + L_2, \dots, l_n + L_n\}.$$

(H₃) We assume that $G(t, x, y) : R^+ \times R^n \times R^n \rightarrow R^{n \times m}$ is locally Lipschitz continuous and satisfies the following condition:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{trace} [G^T(t, x, y)G(t, x, y)] &\leq x^T U_1^T U_1 x \\ &+ y^T U_2^T U_2 y + 2x^T U_1^T U_2 y, \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

where $U_1 > 0, U_2 > 0$ are constant matrices with appropriate dimensions.

Some definitions and lemmas are introduced as follows.

Definition 1 (see [15]). System (2) is called mean-square ultimate boundedness if there exists a constant vector $\bar{B} > 0$, such that, for any initial value $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{F}_0}$, there is a $t' = t'(\varphi) > 0$, for all $t \geq t'$, the solution $x(t, \varphi)$ of system (2) satisfies

$$E\|x(t, \varphi)\|^2 \leq \bar{B}. \quad (9)$$

In this case, the set $\mathbb{A} = \{\varphi \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{F}_0} \mid E\|\varphi(s)\|^2 \leq \bar{B}\}$ is said to be an attractor of system (2) in mean square sense.

Clearly, proposition above equals to $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup E\|x(t)\|^2 \leq \bar{B}$.

Definition 2 (see [28]). For any switching signal $\sigma(t)$, corresponding a switching sequence $\{(\sigma(t_0), t_0), \dots, (\sigma(t_k), t_k), \dots, \mid k = 0, 1, \dots\}$, where $(\sigma(t_k), t_k)$ means the $\sigma(t_k)$ th subsystem, is activated during $t \in [t_k, t_{k+1})$, and k denotes the switching ordinal number. Given any finite constants T_1, T_2 satisfying $T_2 > T_1 \geq 0$ denotes the number of discontinuity of a switching signal $\sigma(t)$ over the time interval (T_1, T_2) by $N_\sigma(T_1, T_2)$. If $N_\sigma(T_1, T_2) \leq N_0 + (T_2 - T_1)/T_\alpha$ holds for $T_\alpha > 0, N_0 > 0$, then $T_\alpha > 0$ is called the average dwell time. N_0 is the chatter bound.

Lemma 3. Let X and Y be any n -dimensional real vectors, P be a positive semidefinite matrix and a scalar $\varepsilon > 0$. Then the following inequality holds:

$$2X^T P Y \leq \varepsilon X^T P X + \varepsilon^{-1} Y^T P Y. \quad (10)$$

Lemma 4 (see [29]). For any positive definite constant matrix $M \in R^{n \times n}$, and a scalar r , if there exists a vector function $\eta : [0, r] \rightarrow R^n$ such that the integrals $\int_0^r \eta^T(s) M \eta(s) ds$ and $\int_0^r \eta(s) ds$ are well defined, then

$$\int_0^r \eta^T(s) M \eta(s) ds \geq \frac{1}{r} \int_0^r \eta^T(s) ds M \int_0^r \eta(s) ds. \quad (11)$$

3. Main Results

Let $\mathcal{C}^{2,1} : (R^n \times R^+; R^+)$ denote the family of all nonnegative functions $V(t, x)$ on $R^n \times R^+$ which are continuously twice differentiable in x and once differentiable in t . If $V \in \mathcal{C}^{2,1} : (R^n \times R^+; R^+)$, define an operator $\mathcal{L}V$ associated with general stochastic system $dx(t) = f(x(t), t)dt + G(x(t), x(t - \tau(t)))dw(t)$ as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}V(t, x) &= V_t(t, x) + V_x(t, x) f(x(t), t) \\ &+ \frac{1}{2} \text{trace} \left\{ G^T(x(t), x(t - \tau(t))) V_{xx}(t, x) \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times G(x(t), x(t - \tau(t))) \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} V_t(t, x) &= \frac{\partial V(t, x)}{\partial t}, \quad V_x(t, x) = \left(\frac{\partial V(t, x)}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial V(t, x)}{\partial x_n} \right)^T, \\ V_{xx}(t, x) &= \left(\frac{\partial V(t, x)}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} \right)_{n \times n}. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

Theorem 5. If there are constants μ, ν such that $\dot{\tau}(t) \leq \mu, \dot{h}(t) \leq \nu$, we denote $g(\mu), k(\nu)$ as:

$$\begin{aligned} g(\mu) &= \begin{cases} (1 - \mu) e^{-\alpha \tau}, & \mu \leq 1; \\ 1 - \mu, & \mu \geq 1, \end{cases} \\ k(\nu) &= \begin{cases} (1 - \nu) e^{-\alpha h}, & \nu \leq 1; \\ 1 - \nu, & \nu \geq 1. \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

For a given constant $\alpha > 0$, if there exist positive definite matrixes $P = \text{diag}(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n)$, $Q, R, S, Z, U_1, U_2, Y_i = \text{diag}(Y_{i1}, Y_{i2}, \dots, Y_{in}), i = 1, 2$, such that the following condition holds:

$$\Delta_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \Phi_{11} & \Phi_{12} & \Phi_{13} & \Phi_{14} & 0 & \Phi_{16} \\ * & \Phi_{22} & 0 & \Phi_{24} & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & \Phi_{33} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & \Phi_{44} & \Phi_{55} & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & 0 & \Phi_{66} \end{bmatrix} < 0,$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{11} &= 2\alpha P - 2DP + Q + \tau^2 S - 2\Sigma_1 Y_1 + \alpha I + U_1^T P U_1, \\ \Phi_{12} &= U_1^T P U_2, \quad \Phi_{13} = PA + \Sigma_2 Y_1, \\ \Phi_{14} &= PB, \quad \Phi_{16} = PC, \\ \Phi_{22} &= -g(\mu)Q - 2\Sigma_1 Y_2 + \alpha I + U_2^T P U_2, \\ \Phi_{24} &= \Sigma_2 Y_2, \quad \Phi_{33} = R + h^2 Z - 2Y_1 + \alpha I, \\ \Phi_{44} &= -k(\nu)R - 2Y_2 + \alpha I, \\ \Phi_{55} &= -g(\mu)S, \quad \Phi_{66} = -k(\nu)Z, \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

then system (2) is mean-square ultimate boundedness.

Proof. Consider the positive definite Lyapunov functional as follows:

$$V(t) = V_1(t) + V_2(t) + V_3(t) + V_4(t) + V_5(t), \quad (16)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} V_1(t) &= e^{\alpha t} x^T(t) P x(t), \\ V_2(t) &= \int_{t-\tau(t)}^t x^T(s) Q e^{\alpha s} x(s) ds, \\ V_3(t) &= \int_{t-h(t)}^t F^T(x(s)) R e^{\alpha s} F(x(s)) ds, \\ V_4(t) &= \tau \int_{-\tau(t)}^0 \int_{t+\theta}^t x^T(s) S e^{\alpha s} x(s) ds d\theta, \\ V_5(t) &= h \int_{-h(t)}^0 \int_{t+\theta}^t F^T(x(s)) Z e^{\alpha s} F(x(s)) ds d\theta. \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

Then, by Ito's formula, the stochastic derivative of $V(x, t)$ is

$$\begin{aligned} dV(x, t) &= \mathcal{L}V(x, t) dt \\ &+ V_x(x, t) G(x(t), x(t-\tau(t))) dw(t), \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

the operator $\mathcal{L}V$ along the trajectory of system (2) can be obtained

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}V_1(t) &= \frac{\partial V_1(x(t), t)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial V_1(x(t), t)}{\partial x} \\ &\times \left[-Dx(t) + AF(x(t)) + BF(x(t-\tau(t))) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + C \int_{t-h(t)}^t F(x(s)) ds + J \right] \\ &+ \frac{1}{2} \text{trace} \left[G^T(x(t), x(t-\tau(t))) \frac{\partial^2 V_1(x(t), t)}{\partial x^2} \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times G(x(t), x(t-\tau(t))) \right] \\ &= \alpha e^{\alpha t} x^T(t) P x(t) + 2e^{\alpha t} x^T(t) P \\ &\times \left[-Dx(t) + AF(x(t)) + BF(x(t-\tau(t))) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + C \int_{t-h(t)}^t F(x(s)) ds + J \right] \\ &+ e^{\alpha t} \text{trace} \left[G^T(x(t), x(t-\tau(t))) P \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times G(x(t), x(t-\tau(t))) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

From Assumption (H_3), Lemma 3, and (19), we can get

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}V_1(t) &\leq 2\alpha e^{\alpha t} x^T(t) P x(t) + 2e^{\alpha t} x^T(t) P \\ &\times \left[-Dx(t) + AF(x(t)) + BF(x(t-\tau(t))) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + C \int_{t-h(t)}^t F(x(s)) ds \right] + e^{\alpha t} \alpha^{-1} J^T P J \\ &+ e^{\alpha t} x^T(t) U_1^T P U_1 x(t) \\ &+ x^T(t-\tau(t)) U_2^T P U_2 x(t-\tau(t)) \\ &+ 2x^T(t) U_1^T P U_2 x(t-\tau(t)). \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

Similarly, calculating the operator $\mathcal{L}V_i$ ($i = 2, 3, 4, 5$), along the trajectory of system (2), one can get

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}V_2 &= e^{\alpha t} x^T(t) Q x(t) \\ &- (1 - \dot{\tau}(t)) e^{\alpha(t-\tau(t))} x^T(t-\tau(t)) Q x(t-\tau(t)) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\leq e^{\alpha t} x^T(t) Qx(t) \\
 &\quad - (1 - \mu) e^{\alpha(t-\tau)} x^T(t - \tau(t)) Qx(t - \tau(t)) \\
 &\leq e^{\alpha t} x^T(t) Qx(t) \\
 &\quad - g(\mu) e^{\alpha t} x^T(t - \tau(t)) Qx(t - \tau(t)), \\
 \mathcal{L}V_3 &\leq e^{\alpha t} F^T(x(t)) RF(x(t)) \\
 &\quad - k(\nu) e^{\alpha t} F^T(x(t - \tau(t))) RF(x(t - \tau(t))), \\
 \mathcal{L}V_4 &= \tau \left[\tau(t) e^{\alpha t} x^T(t) Sx(t) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. - (1 - \dot{\tau}(t)) e^{\alpha(t-\tau(t))} \int_{t-\tau(t)}^t x^T(s) Sx(s) ds \right] \\
 &\leq \tau^2 e^{\alpha t} x^T(t) Sx(t) \\
 &\quad - \tau g(\mu) e^{\alpha t} \int_{t-\tau(t)}^t x^T(s) Sx(s) ds, \\
 \mathcal{L}V_5 &\leq h^2 e^{\alpha t} F^T(x(t)) ZF(x(t)) \\
 &\quad - hk(\nu) e^{\alpha t} \int_{t-h(t)}^t F^T(x(s)) ZF(x(s)) ds.
 \end{aligned} \tag{21}$$

According to Lemma 4, the following inequalities can be obtained:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\int_{t-\tau(t)}^t x^T(s) Sx(s) ds \\
 &\quad \geq \frac{1}{\tau} \int_{t-\tau(t)}^t x^T(s) ds \int_{t-\tau(t)}^t x(s) ds, \\
 &\int_{t-h(t)}^t F^T(x(s)) ZF(x(s)) ds \\
 &\quad \geq \frac{1}{h} \int_{t-h(t)}^t F^T(x(s)) ds \int_{t-h(t)}^t F(x(s)) ds.
 \end{aligned} \tag{22}$$

Then, we can get

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{L}V_4 &\leq \tau^2 e^{\alpha t} x^T(t) Sx(t) \\
 &\quad - g(\mu) e^{\alpha t} \int_{t-\tau(t)}^t x^T(s) ds \int_{t-\tau(t)}^t x(s) ds, \\
 \mathcal{L}V_5 &\leq h^2 e^{\alpha t} F^T(x(t)) ZF(x(t)) \\
 &\quad - k(\nu) e^{\alpha t} \int_{t-h(t)}^t F^T(x(s)) ds \int_{t-h(t)}^t F(x(s)) ds.
 \end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

On the other hand, it follows from Assumption (H_2) that we can easily obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 &[f_i(x_i(t)) - f_i(0) - L_i x_i(t)] \\
 &\quad \times [f_i(x_i(t)) - f_i(0) - l_i x_i(t)] \leq 0, \\
 &[f_i(x_i(t - \tau(t))) - f_i(0) - L_i x_i(t - \tau(t))] \\
 &\quad \times [f_i(x_i(t - \tau(t))) - f_i(0) - l_i x_i(t - \tau(t))] \leq 0, \\
 &\hspace{20em} i = 1, 2, \dots, n.
 \end{aligned} \tag{24}$$

Then we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 0 \leq \delta_1 &= -2 \sum_{i=1}^n y_{1i} [f_i(x_i(t)) - f_i(0) - L_i x_i(t)] \\
 &\quad \times [f_i(x_i(t)) - f_i(0) - l_i x_i(t)], \\
 0 \leq \delta_2 &= -2 \sum_{i=1}^n y_{2i} [f_i(x_i(t - \tau(t))) - f_i(0) \\
 &\quad - L_i x_i(t - \tau(t))] \\
 &\quad \times [f_i(x_i(t - \tau(t))) - f_i(0) - l_i x_i(t - \tau(t))], \\
 \delta_1 &= -2 \sum_{i=1}^n y_{1i} [f_i(x_i(t)) - L_i x_i(t)] [f_i(x_i(t)) - l_i x_i(t)] \\
 &\quad - 2 \sum_{i=1}^n y_{1i} f_i^2(0) \\
 &\quad + 2 \sum_{i=1}^n y_{1i} f_i(0) [2f_i(x_i(t)) - (L_i + l_i) x_i(t)] \\
 &\leq -2 \sum_{i=1}^n y_{1i} [f_i(x_i(t)) - L_i x_i(t)] [f_i(x_i(t)) - l_i x_i(t)] \\
 &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^n [\alpha f_i^2(x_i(t)) + 4\alpha^{-1} f_i^2(0) y_{1i}^2 + \alpha x_i^2(t) \\
 &\quad + \alpha^{-1} f_i^2(0) y_{1i}^2 (L_i + l_i)^2].
 \end{aligned} \tag{25}$$

Similarly, one can get

$$\begin{aligned}
 \delta_2 &\leq -2 \sum_{i=1}^n y_{2i} [f_i(x_i(t - \tau(t))) - L_i x_i(t - \tau(t))] \\
 &\quad \times [f_i(x_i(t - \tau(t))) - l_i x_i(t - \tau(t))] \\
 &\quad + [\alpha f_i^2(x_i(t - \tau(t))) + 4\alpha^{-1} f_i^2(0) y_{2i}^2 \\
 &\quad + \alpha x_i^2(t - \tau(t)) + \alpha^{-1} f_i^2(0) y_{2i}^2 (L_i + l_i)^2].
 \end{aligned} \tag{26}$$

Denote

$$\zeta(t) = \begin{bmatrix} x^T(t), x^T(t - \tau(t)), F^T(x(t)), \\ F^T(x(t - \tau(t))), \left(\int_{t-\tau(t)}^t x(s) ds \right)^T, \\ \left(\int_{t-h(t)}^t F(x(s)) ds \right)^T \end{bmatrix}^T, \quad (27)$$

and combing with (16)–(26), we can get

$$\begin{aligned} dV &= \mathcal{L}V_1 dt + \mathcal{L}V_2 dt + \mathcal{L}V_3 dt + \mathcal{L}V_4 dt + \mathcal{L}V_5 dt \\ &+ 2Pe^{\alpha t} x^T(t) G(x(t), x(t - \tau(t))) dw(t) \\ &\leq e^{\alpha t} \zeta^T(t) \Delta_1 \zeta(t) dt + e^{\alpha t} \mathcal{N}_1 dt \\ &+ 2Pe^{\alpha t} x(t) G(x(t), x(t - \tau(t))) dw(t), \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{N}_1 &= \alpha^{-1} J^T P J \\ &+ \sum_{i=1}^n \left[4\alpha^{-1} f_i^2(0) y_{2i}^2 + \alpha^{-1} f_i^2(0) y_{1i}^2 (L_i + l_i)^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + 4\alpha^{-1} f_i^2(0) y_{2i}^2 + \alpha^{-1} f_i^2(0) y_{2i}^2 (L_i + l_i)^2 \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

By integrating both sides of (28) in time interval $t \in [t_0, t]$ and then taking expectation results in

$$\begin{aligned} Ke^{\alpha t} \|x(t)\|^2 &\leq V(x(t)) \leq V(x(t_0)) + \alpha^{-1} e^{\alpha t} \mathcal{N}_1 \\ &+ \int_{t_0}^t 2Pe^{\alpha s} x(s) G(x(s), x(s - \tau(s))) dw(s), \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

where $K = \lambda_{\min}(P)$.

Therefore, one obtains

$$E\{V(x(t))\} \leq E\{V(x(t_0))\} + E\{\alpha^{-1} e^{\alpha t} \mathcal{N}_1\}, \quad (31)$$

which implies

$$E\|x(t)\|^2 \leq \frac{e^{-\alpha t} E\{V(x(t_0))\} + \alpha^{-1} \mathcal{N}_1}{K}. \quad (32)$$

If one chooses $\tilde{B} = (1 + \alpha^{-1} \mathcal{N}_1)/K > 0$, then, for initial value $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{F}_0}$, there is $t' = t'(\varphi) > 0$, such that $e^{-\alpha t} E\{V(x(t_0))\} \leq 1$ for all $t \geq t'$. According to Definition 1, we have $E\|x(t, \varphi)\|^2 \leq \tilde{B}$ for all $t \geq t'$. That is to say, system (2) is mean-square ultimate boundedness. This completes the proof. \square

Theorem 6. *If all of the conditions of Theorem 5 hold, then there exists an attractor $\mathbb{A}_{\tilde{B}} = \{\varphi \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{F}_0} \mid E\|\varphi(s)\|^2 \leq \tilde{B}\}$ for the solutions of system (2).*

Proof. If one chooses $\tilde{B} = (1 + \alpha^{-1} \mathcal{N}_1)/K > 0$, Theorem 5 shows that, for any φ , there is $t' > 0$, such that $E\|x(t, \varphi)\|^2 \leq \tilde{B}$ for all $t \geq t'$. Let $\mathbb{A}_{\tilde{B}}$ denote by $\mathbb{A}_{\tilde{B}} = \{\varphi \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{F}_0} \mid E\|\varphi(s)\|^2 \leq \tilde{B}\}$. Clearly, $\mathbb{A}_{\tilde{B}}$ is closed, bounded, and invariant. Furthermore, $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup \inf_{y \in \mathbb{A}_{\tilde{B}}} \|x(t, \varphi) - y\| = 0$. Therefore, $\mathbb{A}_{\tilde{B}}$ is an attractor for the solutions of system (2). This completes the proof. \square

Corollary 7. *In addition to that all of the conditions of Theorem 5 hold, if $J = 0$, $G(t, 0, 0) = 0$, and $f_i(0) = 0$ for all $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, then system (2) has a trivial solution $x(t) \equiv 0$, and the trivial solution of system (2) is mean-square exponentially stable.*

Proof. If $J = 0$ and $f_i(0) = 0$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, n$), then $\mathcal{N}_1 = 0$, and it is obvious that system (2) has a trivial solution $x(t) \equiv 0$. From Theorem 5, one has

$$E\|x(t, \varphi)\|^2 \leq K^* e^{-\alpha t}, \quad \forall \varphi, \quad (33)$$

where $K^* = E\{V(x(t_0))\}/K$. Therefore, the trivial solution of system (2) is mean-square exponentially stable. This completes the proof. \square

According to Theorem 5–Corollary 7, we will present conditions of mean-square ultimate boundedness for the switched systems (3) by applying the average dwell time method in the follow-up studies.

Theorem 8. *If there are constants μ, ν such that $\dot{\tau}(t) \leq \mu, h(t) \leq \nu$, we denote $g(\mu), k(\nu)$ as*

$$\begin{aligned} g(\mu) &= \begin{cases} (1 - \mu) e^{-\alpha \tau}, & \mu \leq 1; \\ 1 - \mu, & \mu \geq 1, \end{cases} \\ k(\nu) &= \begin{cases} (1 - \nu) e^{-\alpha h}, & \nu \leq 1; \\ 1 - \nu, & \nu \geq 1. \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

For a given constant $\alpha > 0$, if there exist positive definite matrixs $Q_i, R_i, S_i, Z_i, U_{1i}, U_{2i}, P_i = \text{diag}(p_{i1}, p_{i2}, \dots, p_{in}), Y_i = \text{diag}(y_{i1}, y_{i2}, \dots, y_{in}), i = 1, 2$, such that the following condition holds

$$\Delta_{i1} = \begin{bmatrix} \Phi_{i11} & \Phi_{i12} & \Phi_{i13} & \Phi_{i14} & 0 & \Phi_{i16} \\ * & \Phi_{i22} & 0 & \Phi_{i24} & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & \Phi_{i33} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & \Phi_{i44} & \Phi_{i55} & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & 0 & \Phi_{i66} \end{bmatrix} < 0, \quad (35)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{i11} &= 2\alpha P_i - 2DP_i + Q_i + \tau^2 S_i - 2\Sigma_1 Y_1 + \alpha I + U_{1_i}^T P U_{1_i}, \\ \Phi_{i12} &= U_{1_i}^T P U_{2_i}, \quad \Phi_{i13} = P_i A_i + \Sigma_2 Y_1, \\ \Phi_{i14} &= P_i B_i, \quad \Phi_{i16} = P_i C_i, \\ \Phi_{i22} &= -g(\mu) Q_i - 2\Sigma_1 Y_2 + \alpha I + U_{2_i}^T P U_{2_i}, \\ \Phi_{i24} &= \Sigma_2 Y_2, \quad \Phi_{i33} = R_i + h^2 Z_i - 2Y_1 + \alpha I, \\ \Phi_{i44} &= -k(\nu) R_i - 2Y_2 + \alpha I, \quad \Phi_{i55} = -g(\mu) S_i, \\ \Phi_{i66} &= -k(\nu) Z_i. \end{aligned} \tag{36}$$

Then system (3) is mean-square ultimate boundedness for any switching signal with average dwell time satisfying

$$T_\alpha > T_\alpha^* = \frac{\ln \mathcal{R}_{\max}}{\alpha}, \tag{37}$$

where $\mathcal{R}_{\max} = \max_{k \in \Sigma, 1 \leq i \leq n} \{\mathcal{R}_{i_k}\}$.

Proof. Define the Lyapunov functional candidate

$$\begin{aligned} V_{\sigma(t)} &= e^{\alpha t} x^T(t) P_{\sigma(t)} x(t) \\ &+ \int_{t-\tau(t)}^t x^T(s) Q_{\sigma(t)} e^{\alpha s} x(s) ds \\ &+ \int_{t-h(t)}^t F^T(x(s)) R_{\sigma(t)} e^{\alpha s} F(x(s)) ds \\ &+ \tau \int_{-\tau(t)}^0 \int_{t+\theta}^t x^T(s) S_{\sigma(t)} e^{\alpha s} x(s) ds d\theta \\ &+ h \int_{-h(t)}^0 \int_{t+\theta}^t F^T(x(s)) Z_{\sigma(t)} e^{\alpha s} F(x(s)) ds d\theta. \end{aligned} \tag{38}$$

From (16) and (32), we have the following result:

$$E\|x(t)\|^2 \leq \frac{\mathcal{R}_0 E\|x(t_0)\|^2 e^{-\alpha(t-t_0)}}{K} + \frac{\Lambda}{K}, \tag{39}$$

where $\Lambda = \alpha^{-1} \mathcal{N}_1$, \mathcal{R}_0 is a positive constant.

When $t \in [t_k, t_{k+1}]$, the i_k th subsystem is activated; from (39) and Theorem 5, we can get

$$\begin{aligned} E\|x(t)\|^2 &\leq \frac{\mathcal{R}_{i_k} E\|x(t_k)\|^2 e^{-\alpha(t-t_k)}}{K_{i_k}} + \frac{\Lambda}{K_{i_k}} \\ &= \bar{H}_{i_k} E\|x(t_k)\|^2 e^{-\alpha(t-t_k)} + \bar{J}_{i_k}, \end{aligned} \tag{40}$$

where \mathcal{R}_{i_k} is a positive constant, $K_{i_k} = \lambda_{\min}(P_i)$, $\bar{H}_{i_k} = \mathcal{R}_{i_k}/K_{i_k}$, $\bar{J}_{i_k} = \Lambda/K_{i_k}$.

Since the system state is continuous, it follows from (40) that

$$\begin{aligned} E\|x(t)\|^2 &\leq \frac{\mathcal{R}_{i_k} \|x(t_k)\|^2 e^{-\alpha(t-t_k)}}{K_{i_k}} + \frac{\Lambda}{K_{i_k}} \\ &= \bar{H}_{i_k} E\|x(t_k)\|^2 e^{-\alpha(t-t_k)} + \bar{J}_{i_k} \leq \dots \\ &\leq e^{\sum_{v=0}^k \ln \bar{H}_{i_v} - \alpha(t-t_0)} E\|x(t_0)\|^2 \\ &\quad + [\bar{H}_{i_k} e^{-\alpha(t-t_k)} \bar{J}_{i_k} + \bar{H}_{i_k} \bar{H}_{i_{k-1}} e^{-\alpha(t-t_{k-1})} \bar{J}_{i_{k-1}} \\ &\quad + \bar{H}_{i_k} \bar{H}_{i_{k-1}} \bar{H}_{i_{k-2}} e^{-\alpha(t-t_{k-2})} \bar{J}_{i_{k-2}} + \dots \\ &\quad + \bar{H}_{i_k} \bar{H}_{i_{k-1}} \bar{H}_{i_{k-2}} \dots \bar{H}_{i_1} e^{-\alpha(t-t_1)} \bar{J}_{i_1} + \bar{J}_{i_k}] \\ &\leq e^{(k+1) \ln \bar{H}_{\max} - \alpha(t-t_0)} E\|x(t_0)\|^2 \\ &\quad + [\bar{H}_{\max}^k \bar{J}_{\max} + \bar{H}_{\max}^{k-1} \bar{J}_{\max} + \bar{H}_{\max}^{k-2} \bar{J}_{\max} \\ &\quad + \dots + \bar{H}_{\max}^2 \bar{J}_{\max} + \bar{H}_{\max} \bar{J}_{\max} + \bar{J}_{\max}] \\ &\leq \bar{H}_{\max} e^{k \ln \bar{H}_{\max} - \alpha(t-t_0)} E\|x(t_0)\|^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{\bar{J}_{\max}}{\bar{H}_{\max} - 1} [\bar{H}_{\max}^{k+1} - 1] \\ &\leq \bar{H}_{\max} e^{\ln \bar{H}_{\max} N_\sigma(t_0, t) - \alpha(t-t_0)} E\|x(t_0)\|^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{\bar{J}_{\max}}{\bar{H}_{\max} - 1} [\bar{H}_{\max}^{k+1} - 1] \\ &\leq \frac{\mathcal{R}_{\max} e^{N_0 \ln \mathcal{R}_{\max} - (\alpha - (\ln \mathcal{R}_{\max}/T_\alpha))(t-t_0)}}{K_{\min}^{k+1}} E\|x(t_0)\|^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{\Lambda [(\mathcal{R}_{\max}^{n+1}/K_{\min}^{n+1}) - 1]}{\mathcal{R}_{\max} - K_{\min}}, \end{aligned} \tag{41}$$

where $K_{\min} = \min_{i_k} \{K_{i_k}\}$, $\bar{H}_{\max} = \max_{i_k} \{\bar{H}_{i_k}\}$.

If one chooses $\bar{B} = (1/K_{\min}) + \Lambda[(\mathcal{R}_{\max}^{n+1}/K_{\min}^{n+1}) - 1]/(\mathcal{R}_{\max} - K_{\min}) > 0$, then, for initial value $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{F}_0}$, there is $t' = t'(\varphi) > 0$, such that $\mathcal{R}_{\max} e^{N_0 \ln \mathcal{R}_{\max} - (\alpha - (\ln \mathcal{R}_{\max}/T_\alpha))(t-t_0)} E\|x(t_0)\|^2 \leq 1$ for all $t \geq t'$. According to Definition 1, we have $E\|x(t, \varphi)\|^2 \leq \bar{B}$ for all $t \geq t'$. That is to say, system (3) is mean-square ultimate boundedness, and the proof is completed. \square

Remark 9. In this paper, we construct two piecewise functions $g(\mu)$, $k(\nu)$ to remove the restrictive condition $\mu < 1$ and $\nu < 1$ in the results, which have reduced the conservatism of the obtained results and also avoid the computational complexity.

Remark 10. The condition (35) is given as in the form of linear matrix inequalities, which are more relaxing than the algebraic formulation. Furthermore, by using the MATLAB LMI

toolbox, we can check the feasibility of (35) straightforward without tuning any parameters.

Theorem 11. *If all of the conditions of Theorem 8 hold, then there exists an attractor $\mathbb{A}'_{\tilde{B}}$ for the solutions of system (3), where $\mathbb{A}'_{\tilde{B}} = \{\varphi \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{F}_0} \mid E\|\varphi(s)\|^2 \leq \tilde{B}\}$.*

Proof. If one chooses $\tilde{B} = (1/K_{\min}) + \Lambda[(\mathcal{R}_{\max}^{n+1}/K_{\min}^{n+1}) - 1]/(\mathcal{R}_{\max} - K_{\min}) > 0$, Theorem 8 shows that, for any φ , there is $t' > 0$, such that $E\|x(t, \varphi)\|^2 \leq \tilde{B}$ for all $t \geq t'$. Let $\mathbb{A}'_{\tilde{B}}$ denote by $\mathbb{A}'_{\tilde{B}} = \{\varphi \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{F}_0} \mid E\|\varphi(s)\|^2 \leq \tilde{B}\}$. Clearly, $\mathbb{A}'_{\tilde{B}}$ is closed, bounded, and invariant. Furthermore, $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{y \in \mathbb{A}'_{\tilde{B}}} \|x(t, \varphi) - y\| = 0$. Therefore, $\mathbb{A}'_{\tilde{B}}$ is an attractor for the solutions of system (3). This completes the proof. \square

Corollary 12. *In addition to all that of the conditions of Theorem 8 hold, if $J = 0$, $G(t, 0, 0) = 0$ and $f_i(0) = 0$ for all $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, then system (3) has a trivial solution $x(t) \equiv 0$, and the trivial solution of system (3) is mean-square exponentially stable.*

Proof. If $J = 0$ and $f_i(0) = 0$ for all $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, then it is obvious that system (3) has a trivial solution $x(t) \equiv 0$. From Theorem 8, one has

$$E\|x(t, \varphi)\|^2 \leq \tilde{K}^* e^{-\alpha t}, \quad \forall \varphi, \quad (42)$$

where $\tilde{K}^* = (\mathcal{R}_{\max} e^{N_0 \ln \mathcal{R}_{\max} - (\alpha - (\ln \mathcal{R}_{\max} / T_\alpha))(t-t_0)} E\|x(t_0)\|^2) / K_{\min}^{k+1}$. Therefore, the trivial solution of system (3) is mean-square exponentially stable. This completes the proof. \square

Remark 13. Assumption (H_3) is less conservative than that in [17] since the constants l_j and L_j are allowed to be positive, negative, or zero. Hence, the resulting activation functions $f(\cdot)$ could be nonmonotonic and are more general than the usual forms $|f_j(u)| \leq K_j |u|$, $K_j > 0$, $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$. Moreover, unlike the bounded case, there will be no equilibrium point for the switched system (3) under the assumption (H_3) . For this reason, to investigate the asymptotic behavior (the ultimate boundedness and the existence of attractor) of switched system that contains mixed delays is more complex and challenge.

Remark 14. In this paper, the chatter bound N_0 is a positive integer, which is more practical in significance and can include the model $N_0 = 0$ in [16, 25, 26] as a special case.

Remark 15. If $\Sigma = 0$, which implies that the switched delay system (3) reduces to the usual stochastic CNN with delays. In this case, attractor and ultimate boundedness are discussed in [17]. And when $U_1 = U_2 = 0$, the model in our paper turns out to be a switched CNN with mixed delays; to the best of our knowledge, there are no published results in this aspect yet. Thus, the main results of this paper are novel. Moreover, when uncertainties appear in the switched stochastic CNN system (3), we can obtain the corresponding results, by applying the similar method as in [25].

4. Illustrative Examples

In this section, we shall give a numerical example to demonstrate the validity and effectiveness of our results. Consider the switched cellular neural networks with two subsystems.

Consider the switched stochastic cellular neural network system (3) with $f_i(x_i(t)) = 0.5 \tanh(x_i(t))$, $f_i(0) = 0$ ($i = 1, 2$), $\tau(t) = 0.25 \sin^2(t)$, $h(t) = 0.3 \sin^2(t)$, and the connection weight matrices as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 &= \begin{pmatrix} 0.3 & 0.1 \\ 0.2 & 0.2 \end{pmatrix}, & B_1 &= \begin{pmatrix} 0.2 & 0 \\ 0.3 & 0.5 \end{pmatrix}, \\ C_1 &= \begin{pmatrix} 0.2 & -0.1 \\ 0.3 & 0.1 \end{pmatrix}, & U_{1_1} &= \begin{pmatrix} 0.1 & 0 \\ -0.1 & 0.2 \end{pmatrix}, \\ U_{2_1} &= \begin{pmatrix} 0.2 & 0.1 \\ 0 & 0.1 \end{pmatrix}, & A_2 &= \begin{pmatrix} 0.2 & 0.4 \\ 0.1 & 0.3 \end{pmatrix}, & (43) \\ B_2 &= \begin{pmatrix} 0.1 & 0 \\ -0.1 & 0.2 \end{pmatrix}, & C_2 &= \begin{pmatrix} 0.3 & 0.2 \\ 0.1 & 0.2 \end{pmatrix}, \\ U_{1_2} &= \begin{pmatrix} 0.2 & 0.1 \\ 0 & 0.3 \end{pmatrix}, & U_{2_2} &= \begin{pmatrix} 0.1 & 0 \\ 0.2 & 0.1 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

From assumptions (H_1) – (H_3) , we can gain $d_i = 1$, $l_i = 0$, $L_i = 0.5$, ($i = 1, 2$), $\tau = 0.25$, $h = 0.3$, and $\mu = 0.5$, $\nu = 0.6$.

Therefore, for $\alpha = 0.5$, by solving LMIs (35), we get

$$\begin{aligned} P_1 &= \begin{pmatrix} 1.4968 & 0 \\ 0 & 1.4851 \end{pmatrix}, & Q_1 &= \begin{pmatrix} 1.6073 & -0.0528 \\ -0.0528 & 1.4567 \end{pmatrix}, \\ R_1 &= \begin{pmatrix} 1.8642 & 0.4698 \\ 0.4698 & 1.5241 \end{pmatrix}, & S_1 &= \begin{pmatrix} 2.7467 & 0.0225 \\ 0.0225 & 1.9941 \end{pmatrix}, \\ Z_1 &= \begin{pmatrix} 5.4373 & 0.0644 \\ 0.0644 & 4.5969 \end{pmatrix}, & P_2 &= \begin{pmatrix} 1.4316 & 0 \\ 0 & 1.4528 \end{pmatrix}, \\ Q_2 &= \begin{pmatrix} 1.6541 & 0.0229 \\ 0.0229 & 1.8391 \end{pmatrix}, & R_2 &= \begin{pmatrix} 1.0837 & 0.4540 \\ 0.4540 & 1.2710 \end{pmatrix}, \\ S_2 &= \begin{pmatrix} 1.6888 & 0.4356 \\ 0.4356 & 1.6165 \end{pmatrix}, & Z_2 &= \begin{pmatrix} 4.5736 & 0.5698 \\ 0.5698 & 4.4524 \end{pmatrix}. & (44) \end{aligned}$$

Using (37), we can get the average dwell time $T_a^* = 1.3445$.

5. Conclusions

In this paper, we studied the switched stochastic cellular neural networks with discrete time-varying delays and distributed time-varying delays. With the help of the average dwell time approach, the novel multiple Lyapunov-Krasovkii functionals methods, and some inequality techniques, we obtain the new sufficient conditions guaranteeing the mean-square ultimate boundedness, the existence of an attractor, and the mean-square exponential stability. A numerical example is also given to demonstrate our results. Furthermore, our derived conditions are presented in the forms of LMIs, which are more relaxing than the algebraic formulation and can be easily checked in practice by the effective LMI toolbox in MATLAB.

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