A Time-Periodic Lyapunov Approach for Motion Planning of Controllable Driftless Systems on SU(n)

H.B. Silveira, P.S. Pereira da Silva, Pierre Rouchon

A Time-Periodic Lyapunov Approach for Motion Planning of Controllable Driftless Systems on SU(n)

H. B. Silveira, P. S. Pereira da Silva and P. Rouchon

***Abstract*— For a right-invariant and controllable driftless system on SU(n), we consider a time-periodic reference trajectory along which the linearized control system generates $\mathfrak{su}(n)$: such trajectories always exist and constitute the basic ingredient of Coron's Return Method. The open-loop controls that we propose, which rely on a left-invariant tracking error dynamics and on a fidelity-like Lyapunov function, are determined from a finite number of left-translations of the tracking error and they assure global asymptotic convergence towards the periodic reference trajectory. The role of these translations is to avoid being trapped in the critical region of this Lyapunov-like function. The convergence proof relies on a periodic version of LaSalle's invariance principle and the control values are determined by numerical integration of the dynamics of the system. Simulations illustrate the obtained controls for $n = 4$ and the generation of the C–NOT quantum gate.**

I. INTRODUCTION

Consider the right-invariant driftless system

$$\dot{X} = \sum_{k=1}^{m} u_k H_k X, \quad X(0) = I, \tag{1}$$

where $X \in M^n$ is the state, M^n is the Banach space of square $n \times n$ matrices with complex entries endowed with the Euclidean norm, $H = \{H_1, \ldots, H_m\} \subset \mathfrak{su}(n)$, $u_k \in \mathbb{R}$ are the controls, and I is the identity matrix of M^n. The *periodic motion planning problem* for this system is formulated as follows. Given a *goal state* $X_\infty \in \mathrm{SU}(n)$ and $T > 0$, find a smooth periodic *reference trajectory* $X_r\colon \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathrm{SU}(n)$ of period T, with $X_r(0) = X_\infty$, and determine continuous open-loop controls $u_k\colon \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}$, for $1 \le k \le m$, in a manner that the tracking error between the trajectory $X\colon \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathrm{SU}(n)$ of (1) and X_r converges to zero as $t \to \infty$, that is, $\lim_{t\to\infty}[X(t) - X_r(t)] = 0$.

We remark that there is no loss of generality in assuming that $X(0) = I$ in (1). Indeed, since system (1) is right-invariant, if $(X(t), (u_1(t), \ldots, u_m(t)))$, for $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$, is a solution of (1) with $X(0) = I$, then $(X(t)X_0, (u_1(t), \ldots, u_m(t)))$, for $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$, is a solution of (1) with initial condition $X(0) = X_0 \in \mathrm{SU}(n)$. Therefore, if the periodic motion planning problem has been solved for system (1) with $X(0) = I$, it is straightforward to show that it will also be solved for (1) with $X(0) = X_0 \in \mathrm{SU}(n)$.

The main result of this paper is the determination of a solution for the periodic motion planning problem. This is established by Theorem 2 in Section 2, whose only assumption is that system (1) regular, in the sense of Definition 1 in Section 2. The results of Coron's Return Method show that such condition is always met in case the system is controllable on SU(n) (see Remark 2 in Section 2). Loosely speaking, by finding an appropriate reference trajectory X_r, using the time-dependent change of coordinates $Z = Z(X, t) = X^\dagger X_r(t)$, which corresponds to the tracking error on the group SU(n), and defining an adequate "feedback", we determine an algorithm that obtains, in a finite number of steps, continuous open-loops controls u_k, for every $1 \le k \le m$, which assure that the tracking error $X - X_r$ converges to zero as $t \to \infty$. This algorithm relies on Lyapunov-like convergence results inspired in the periodic version of LaSalle's invariance principle presented in [11], and in the *ad-condition* stabilization method of [6]. In a certain sense, we have used the real part of the trace of the left-invariant tracking error Z as a Lyapunov-like function, that is, $V(Z) = \Re(tr(Z))$. In the case of quantum systems, V can then be seen as a fidelity-like Lyapunov function.

The problem of steering a quantum system from a given initial state to an arbitrary final state, which can be regarded as a particular case of the periodic motion planning problem here formulated, has recently been treated in [8] using a flatness-based approach and in the book [4] (see also the references therein), where many quantum control techniques used in the literature are grouped together and explained in detail, such as Lyapunov-based methods, optimal control and decompositions of SU(n). Our Lyapunov-like approach has no restrictions on the goal state $X_\infty \in \mathrm{SU}(n)$ and on n, as long as system (1) is regular.

The layout of the paper is as follows. Section 2 is entirely dedicated to the proof of Theorem 2 mentioned above. Simulations illustrate in Section 3 the generation of the Controlled-NOT (C–NOT) gate for a quantum system with $n = 4$. Appendix presents the proof of the important convergence result of Theorem 1 in Section 2.

II. MAIN RESULT

Based on (1), we define the *reference system*

$$\dot{X}_r = \sum_{k=1}^{m} u_k^r H_k X_r, \quad X_r(0) = X_\infty \in \mathrm{SU}(n), \tag{2}$$

The first author was fully supported by CAPES. The third author was partially supported by CNPq. The second and third authors were partially supported by CAPES/COFECUB and "Agence Nationale de la Recherche" (ANR), Projet Blanc CQUID number 06-3-13957.

H. B. Silveira and P. S. Pereira da Silva are with Laboratory of Automation and Control, Department of Telecommunications and Control Engineering, University of São Paulo, Brazil hectorbessa@yahoo.com.br and paulo@lac.usp.br

P. Rouchon is with Mines ParisTech, Centre Automatique et Systèmes, Mathématiques et Systèmes, France pierre.rouchon@mines-paristech.fr

where $X_r \in M^n$ and the smooth time functions $u_k^r\colon \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ are still to be specified.

Definition 1: System (1) is said to be *regular* when, given $T > 0$, there exist smooth periodic functions $u_k^T\colon \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ of period T, for all $1 \leq k \leq m$, such that the solution $X_r^T\colon \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathrm{SU}(n)$ of (2), with $X_r^T(0) = I$ and $u_k^r = u_k^T$, is also periodic of period T and satisfies

$$\mathrm{span}\{B_k^j(0), 1 \leq k \leq m, j \in \mathbb{N}\} = \mathfrak{su}(n), \qquad (3)$$

where $\mathbb{N}$ is the set of natural numbers (including zero), $A(t) = \sum_{k=1}^m u_k^T(t) H_k \in \mathfrak{su}(n)$, $B_k^0(t) = H_k X_r^T(t)$, $B_k^{j+1}(t) = -A(t)B_k^j(t) + \dot{B}_k^j(t)$, $1 \leq k \leq m$, $j \in \mathbb{N}$, $t \in \mathbb{R}$.

Remark 1: Note that $A\colon \mathbb{R} \to \mathfrak{su}(n)$, B_k^j, $\dot{B}_k^j\colon \mathbb{R} \to M^n$ are smooth and also have period T, for every $1 \leq k \leq m$, $j \in \mathbb{N}$. Hence, they are bounded mappings.

Remark 2: Note that the linearized control system of (2) (or of (1)) along the trajectory $(X_r^T, (u_1^T, \ldots, u_m^T))$ is given by $\dot{X}_r^\ell = A(t)X_r^\ell + \sum_{k=1}^m w_k B_k^0(t)$, $w_k \in \mathbb{R}$. Based on Coron's Return Method (see [2], [3]), it can be shown that (1) is regular in case $\mathrm{Lie}(H) = \mathfrak{su}(n)$. We recall that (1) is controllable on $\mathrm{SU}(n)$ if and only if $\mathrm{Lie}(H) = \mathfrak{su}(n)$ [1].

For simplicity, we shall assume throughout this paper that system (1) is regular, that $T > 0$ has been fixed and that the functions u_k^r in (2) were specified accordingly, that is, $u_k^r = u_k^T$, for $1 \leq k \leq m$. Moreover, we also assume that the goal state $X_\infty \in \mathrm{SU}(n)$ is fixed. Define $X_r\colon \mathbb{R} \to \mathrm{SU}(n)$ as $X_r = X_r^T X_\infty$. Note that X_r is the solution of (2) with $X_r(0) = X_\infty$ and that X_r also has period T. It will be shown afterwards that X_r can indeed be used as a reference trajectory. We also adopt the following notations. The imaginary unit of $\mathbb{C}$ is denoted by $\imath$ and if $z \in \mathbb{C}$, then $\Re(z)$ is its real part and $\Im(z)$ its imaginary part.

It is straightforward to verify from (1) and (2) that the time-dependent change of coordinates

$$Z = Z(t, X) = X^\dagger X_r(t), \qquad \text{for all } (t, X) \in \mathbb{R} \times M^n,$$

along with the time-varying control shift

$$v_k \triangleq u_k^r(t) - u_k = u_k^T(t) - u_k, \qquad \text{for all } t \in \mathbb{R},\ 1 \leq k \leq m,$$

determine the left-invariant "closed-loop system"

$$\dot{Z} = Z X_r^\dagger(t) \sum_{k=1}^m v_k H_k X_r(t), \quad Z(0) = X_\infty \in \mathrm{SU}(n), \quad (4)$$

for all $(t, Z) \in \mathbb{R} \times M^n$. If we can find continuous functions $v_k\colon \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}$, for each $1 \leq k \leq m$, such that

$$\lim_{t\to\infty} Z(t) = \lim_{t\to\infty} X^\dagger(t) X_r(t) = I, \qquad (5)$$

where $Z\colon \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathrm{SU}(n)$ is the solution of system (4) and $X\colon \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathrm{SU}(n)$ is the solution of system (1) with the continuous open-loop controls

$$u_k(t) = u_k^T(t) - v_k(t), \qquad \text{for all } t \in \mathbb{R}_+,\ 1 \leq k \leq m,$$

it is then clear that

$$\lim_{t\to\infty} [X(t) - X_r(t)] = 0, \qquad (6)$$

thus solving the periodic motion planning problem.

Let $V\colon M^n \to \mathbb{R}$ be defined by

$$V(X) = \Re(tr(X)), \qquad \text{for all } X \in M^n, \qquad (7)$$

and consider the *auxiliar system*

$$\dot{W} = W X_r^\dagger(t) \sum_{k=1}^m f_k a_k(t, W) H_k X_r(t), \qquad (8)$$

where $(t, W) \in \mathbb{R} \times M^n$, $f_k \neq 0$ is a fixed real number, $1 \leq k \leq m$, and

$$a_k(t, W) = f_k \mathrm{V}(W X_r^\dagger(t) H_k X_r(t)). \qquad (9)$$

Notice that the "closed-loop" system (4) with "feedbacks" $v_k = f_k a_k(t, Z)$ is nothing but the auxiliar system (8)–(9). Note also that V in (7) is linear and that, for $X \in \mathrm{SU}(n)$, we have $-n \leq V(X) \leq n$ and $V(X) = n$ if and only if $X = I$. Furthermore, by construction, $\dot{\mathrm{V}}(t, W) = \sum_{k=1}^m a_k(t, W)^2 \geq 0$, for all $(t, W) \in \mathbb{R} \times M^n$.

In what follows, we shall show how the next theorem, which is a Lyapunov-like convergence result for the auxiliar system with Lyapunov-like function $V(W) = \Re(tr(W))$, and whose proof is deferred to Appendix, determines continuous functions $v_k\colon \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}$, for $1 \leq k \leq m$, such that (5) is satisfied for the "closed-loop" system (4). We remark that the properties of V stated above are essential in the proof. Our approach to solve the periodic motion planning problem is then summarized in Theorem 2.

Theorem 1: Consider the set

$$G = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : x = \sum_{i=1}^n \Re(\lambda_i), \text{ for some } \lambda_i \in \mathbb{C} \text{ such that } |\lambda_i| = 1, \prod_{i=1}^n \lambda_i = 1, \Im(\lambda_1) = \cdots = \Im(\lambda_n)\}.$$

Then, G is a finite set, $n \in G$ and $n = \max(G)$. Furthermore, letting δ be the maximal element of the set $G \setminus \{n\}$, we have that, for all $q = (t_0, W_{t_0}) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathrm{SU}(n)$,

$$V(W_{t_0}) > \delta \Rightarrow \lim_{t\to\infty} W_q(t) = I,$$

where $W_q\colon \mathbb{R} \to \mathrm{SU}(n)$ is the solution of (8)–(9) with initial condition $W_q(t_0) = W_{t_0}$.

Suppose that $V(X_\infty) > \delta$. In Theorem 1, we choose $q = (0, X_\infty) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathrm{SU}(n)$. Therefore, $\lim_{t\to\infty} W_q(t) = I$. Hence, the smooth "feedbacks" $v_k\colon \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}$ defined as

$$v_k(t) \triangleq f_k a_k(t, Z(t)) = f_k^2 \mathrm{V}(X^\dagger(t) H_k X_r(t)),$$

for $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$, $1 \leq k \leq m$, assure that $Z(t) = W_q(t)$, for $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$. Indeed, compare (4) with (8)–(9). Thus, (5) holds.

Now, assume that $V(X_\infty) \leq \delta$. For this case, based on continuity arguments, we determine an adequate (continuous) path from X_∞ to I which, in a certain sense, reduces the problem to the situation where $V(X_\infty) > \delta$. In order to achieve this, the main idea is to find a path $\overline{Z}\colon [0, 1] \to \mathrm{SU}(n)$, with $\overline{Z}(0) = X_\infty$ and $\overline{Z}(1) = I$, and obtain $0 = \theta_0 < \theta_1 < \cdots < \theta_{N-1} < \theta_N = 1$, such that $V(\overline{Z}(\theta_{\ell+1})^\dagger \overline{Z}(\theta_\ell)) > \delta$, for all $0 \leq \ell \leq N - 1$. It thus follows from Theorem 1 that, for $1 \leq \ell \leq N$,

$\lim_{t\to\infty} \overline{Z}(\theta_\ell)W_\ell(t) = \overline{Z}(\theta_\ell)$, where $W_\ell\colon \mathbb{R} \to \mathrm{SU}(n)$ is the solution of (8)–(9) with initial condition $W_\ell(T_\ell) = \overline{Z}(\theta_\ell)^\dagger \overline{Z}(\theta_{\ell-1}) \in \mathrm{SU}(n)$, where $0 = T_1 < \cdots < T_{N+1}$ are such that $W_\ell(T_{\ell+1}) \approx I$. Loosely speaking, we then "glue" together the left-translations $\overline{Z}(\theta_1)W_1, \ldots, \overline{Z}(\theta_N)W_N$ in an appropriate manner in order to define a continuous solution $(Z(t), (v_1(t), \ldots, v_m(t)))$, for $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$, of system (4) that satisfies (5). We remark that, for every $1 \le \ell \le N$, it is as if we were in the case $V(X_\infty) > \delta$. In the sequel, we formalise these arguments in detail and determine an algorithm which obtains, in N steps, continuous functions $v_k\colon \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}$, for $1 \le k \le m$, such that (5) holds.

It is a standard result that any $X_\infty \in \mathrm{SU}(n)$ can be written as $X_\infty = M^\dagger \mathrm{diag}(\exp \imath\lambda_1, \ldots, \exp \imath\lambda_n) M$, where M is a unitary matrix, $\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_n \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i = 0$. Consider the path $\overline{Z}\colon [0,1] \to \mathrm{SU}(n)$ from X_∞ to I defined by

$$\overline{Z}(\theta) = M^\dagger \mathrm{diag}(\exp \imath\lambda_1(1-\theta), \ldots, \exp \imath\lambda_n(1-\theta)) M,$$

for all $\theta \in [0,1]$. Let $a, b \in [0,1]$. Hence, $\overline{Z}(b)^\dagger \overline{Z}(a) = M^\dagger \mathrm{diag}(\exp \imath\lambda_1(b-a), \ldots, \exp \imath\lambda_n(b-a)) M$ and therefore $V(\overline{Z}(b)^\dagger \overline{Z}(a)) = \sum_{j=1}^n \cos(\lambda_j(b-a))$. Since the function $\gamma\colon [0,1] \to \mathbb{R}$ defined by $\gamma(\theta) = \sum_{j=1}^n \cos(\lambda_j \theta)$, for all $\theta \in [0,1]$, is continuous with $\gamma(0) = n$, there exists $\nu > 0$ such that $\gamma(\theta) > \delta$ in case $|\theta| < \nu$, for all $\theta \in [0,1]$ (indeed, choose $\epsilon = n - \delta > 0$). Hence, $V(\overline{Z}(b)^\dagger \overline{Z}(a)) > \delta$ whenever $|b-a| < \nu$, for all $a, b \in [0,1]$, and there exists a non-zero $\eta \in \mathbb{N}$ such that, for all $N \ge \eta$,

$$V(\overline{Z}_{\ell+1}^\dagger \overline{Z}_\ell) = \sum_{j=1}^n \cos(\lambda_j \Delta) > \delta, \tag{10}$$

for all $0 \le \ell \le N-1$, where $\overline{Z}_\ell = \overline{Z}(\theta_\ell)$, $\theta_\ell = \ell\Delta$, for every $0 \le \ell \le N$, with $\Delta = 1/N$. Note that $\overline{Z}_0 = \overline{Z}(0) = X_\infty$ and $\overline{Z}_N = \overline{Z}(1) = I$. Let $N \ge \eta$ and consider the continuous function $\beta\colon M^n \times M^n \to \mathbb{R}$ defined by $\beta(X,Y) = V(Y^\dagger X)$, for all $(X,Y) \in M^n \times M^n$. Since $\mathrm{SU}(n) \times \mathrm{SU}(n)$ is compact, $\beta|(\mathrm{SU}(n) \times \mathrm{SU}(n))$ is uniformly continuous. Therefore, by (10), there exists $\mu > 0$ such that, for all $X \in \mathrm{SU}(n)$ and $0 \le \ell \le N-1$, we have

$$\|X - \overline{Z}_\ell\| < \mu \Rightarrow V(\overline{Z}_{\ell+1}^\dagger X) > \delta \tag{11}$$

(indeed, choose $\epsilon = \sum_{j=1}^n \cos(\lambda_j\Delta) - \delta > 0$ and consider the sup norm on $M^n \times M^n$). The aforementioned algorithm is described below. Recall that $\overline{Z}_0 = X_\infty$ and $\overline{Z}_N = I$.

Algorithm 1: Let $X_\infty \in \mathrm{SU}(n)$. Choose any non-zero $N \in \mathbb{N}$ in a manner that (10) holds. Define $T_1 = 0$ and $W_0(T_1) = I$. For every $1 \le \ell \le N-1$, choose a real number $T_{\ell+1} > T_\ell$ such that $V(\overline{Z}_{\ell+1}^\dagger \overline{Z}_\ell W_\ell(T_{\ell+1})) > \delta$, where $W_\ell\colon \mathbb{R} \to \mathrm{SU}(n)$ is the solution of the auxiliar system (8)–(9) with initial condition $W_\ell(T_\ell) = \overline{Z}_\ell^\dagger \overline{Z}_{\ell-1} W_{\ell-1}(T_\ell) \in \mathrm{SU}(n)$. Define

$$\begin{aligned} Z(t) &= \overline{Z}_\ell W_\ell(t) \in \mathrm{SU}(n), && \text{for } t \in [T_\ell, T_{\ell+1}), \\ v_k(t) &= f_k a_k(t, W_\ell(t)) \in \mathbb{R},\ 1 \le k \le m, && \text{for } t \in [T_\ell, T_{\ell+1}). \end{aligned}$$

If $T_N > T_{N-1}$ has been chosen as above, define

$$\begin{aligned} Z(t) &= W_N(t) \in \mathrm{SU}(n), && \text{for } t \ge T_N, \\ v_k(t) &= f_k a_k(t, W_N(t)) \in \mathbb{R},\ 1 \le k \le m, && \text{for } t \ge T_N, \end{aligned}$$

where $W_N\colon \mathbb{R} \to \mathrm{SU}(n)$ is the solution of (8)–(9) with initial condition $W_N(T_N) = \overline{Z}_{N-1} W_{N-1}(T_N) \in \mathrm{SU}(n)$. ■

Some remarks are in order. First of all, from the reasoning preceding Algorithm 1, we know that there always exists some non-zero $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that (10) is true. Furthermore, Theorem 1 and property (11) assure that $T_{\ell+1} > T_\ell$ can always be chosen as required in the algorithm, for every $1 \le \ell \le N-1$. It is also clear that $(Z(t), (v_1(t), \ldots, v_m(t)))$, for $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$, determined by the algorithm is a continuous solution of the "closed-loop" system (4). Indeed, compare (4) with (8)–(9). Finally, since $V(\overline{Z}_N^\dagger \overline{Z}_{N-1} W_{N-1}(T_N)) = V(\overline{Z}_{N-1} W_{N-1}(T_N)) > \delta$, Theorem 1 implies that $\lim_{t\to\infty} W_N(t) = I$. However, $Z(t) = W_N(t)$, for $t \ge T_N$. Therefore, the continuous functions $v_k\colon \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}$ determined by Algorithm 1 are such that (5) is satisfied. We have thus shown our main result:

Theorem 2: Assume that system (1) is regular, in the sense of Definition 1. Given $X_\infty \in \mathrm{SU}(n)$, $T > 0$ and "feedback gains" $f_k^2 > 0$, consider $X_r^T\colon \mathbb{R} \to \mathrm{SU}(n)$ and $u_k^T\colon \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ as in Definition 1, for $1 \le k \le m$. Define $X_r = X_r^T X_\infty$. Then, there exist continuous open-loop controls $u_k\colon \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}$, for $1 \le k \le m$, such that (6) is satisfied. In other words, the periodic motion planning problem always has a solution when (1) is regular. More precisely, if $V(X_\infty) > \delta$, where δ is as in Theorem 1, then the smooth open-loop controls $u_k(t) = u_k^T(t) - f_k^2 \mathrm{V}(X^\dagger(t) H_k X_r(t))$, obtained by numerical integration, for $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$, $1 \le k \le m$, assure that (6) holds. Otherwise, in case $V(X_\infty) \le \delta$, then by following Algorithm 1 we determine continuous functions $v_k\colon \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}$, for $1 \le k \le m$, such that the corresponding continuous open-loop controls $u_k(t) = u_k^T(t) - v_k(t)$, for $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$, assure that (6) is satisfied.

III. QUANTUM MECHANICAL EXAMPLE

After some approximations, an appropriate change of coordinates, scalings and simplifications, a controlled quantum system consisting of two coupled spin-$\frac{1}{2}$ particles with Heisenberg interaction and driven by an external electromagnetic field, can be modeled as [4]

$$\dot{Y} = (D + D_x u_x + D_y u_y + D_z u_z) Y, \quad Y(0) = I, \tag{12}$$

where $Y \in M^4$ ($n = 4$), the controls u_x, u_y, $u_z \in \mathbb{R}$ are the x, y, z components of the electromagnetic field, respectively, $D = \mathrm{diag}(3\imath, -\imath, -\imath, -\imath)$, $D_x = H_{14}^R - 3H_{23}^R$, $D_y = H_{13}^R + 3H_{24}^R$, $D_z = H_{12}^R - 3H_{34}^R \in \mathfrak{su}(4)$, and $H_{ij}^R = (h_{k\ell}^{R,ij})$, $H_{ij}^I = (h_{k\ell}^{I,ij}) \in \mathfrak{su}(4)$ are the matrices with entries

$$\begin{aligned} h_{ij}^{R,ij} &= 1,\ h_{ji}^{R,ij} = -1,\ h_{k\ell}^{R,ij} = 0, && \text{for } k,\ell \ne i,j, \\ h_{ij}^{I,ij} &= h_{ji}^{I,ij} = \imath, && h_{k\ell}^{I,ij} = 0, \quad \text{for } k,\ell \ne i,j, \end{aligned}$$

respectively, for all $1 \le i < j \le n$.

Now, in order to remove the drift term DY in (12), we define, as usual, the time-dependent change of coordinates

$X = \Phi(t, Y) = e^{-Dt}Y$, for all $(t, Y) \in \mathbb{R} \times M^4$. In these coordinates, (12) is described as[1]

$$\dot{X} = (C_x u_x + C_y u_y + C_z u_z)X, \quad X(0) = I, \qquad (13)$$

where

$$C_x = e^{-Dt}D_x e^{Dt} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & e^{-\imath 4t} \\ 0 & 0 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ -e^{\imath 4t} & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$C_y = e^{-Dt}D_y e^{Dt} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & e^{-\imath 4t} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\ -e^{\imath 4t} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$C_z = e^{-Dt}D_z e^{Dt} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & e^{-\imath 4t} & 0 & 0 \\ -e^{\imath 4t} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$. We choose the real controls u_x, u_y, u_z as

$$\begin{aligned} u_x &= (u_1 + \imath u_2)e^{\imath 4t} + (u_1 - \imath u_2)e^{-\imath 4t}, \\ u_y &= (u_3 + \imath u_4)e^{\imath 4t} + (u_3 - \imath u_4)e^{-\imath 4t}, \\ u_z &= (u_5 + \imath u_6)e^{\imath 4t} + (u_5 - \imath u_6)e^{-\imath 4t}, \end{aligned} \qquad (14)$$

respectively, for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$, where $u_1, \ldots, u_6 \in \mathbb{R}$ are the new controls. By applying the rotating wave approximation (RWA) (see e.g. [9], [4], [5]) to system (13)–(14), which consists in considering only the terms that are time-independent and in disregarding all the oscillating ones, we obtain the following time-independent driftless system

$$\dot{X} = (u_1 H_{14}^R + u_2 H_{14}^I + u_3 H_{13}^R + u_4 H_{13}^I + u_5 H_{12}^R + u_6 H_{12}^I)X, \qquad (15)$$

with initial condition $X(0) = I$. It is straightforward to verify that $\mathrm{Lie}(\{H_{14}^R, H_{14}^I, H_{13}^R, H_{13}^I, H_{12}^R, H_{12}^I\}) = \mathfrak{su}(4)$, i.e. the system is controllable on $\mathrm{SU}(4)$. Hence, Coron's Return Method implies that the system is regular (see Remark 2) and therefore Theorem 2 can be applied. We choose $T = 1$ and as goal state the C–NOT (Controlled-Not) gate

$$X_\infty = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathrm{SU}(4),$$

which is one of the universal gates and has great importance in quantum information theory [7], [5]. It is easy to see from the proof of Theorem 1 that $G = \{-4, 0, 4\}$ with $\delta = 0$. Since $V(X_\infty) = 2 > 0$, Theorem 2 implies that the smooth open-loop controls $u_k(t) = u_k^1(t) - f_k^2 \mathrm{V}(X^\dagger(t) H_k X_r(t)) = u_k^1(t) - v_k(t)$, for $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$, $1 \le k \le 6$, obtained by numerical integration, assure that $\lim_{t\to\infty}[X(t) - X_r(t)] = 0$, for any "feedback gains" $f_k^2 > 0$. Here, $u_k^1 = u_k^T$ with $T = 1$, and $H_1 = H_{14}^R$, $H_2 = H_{14}^I$, $H_3 = H_{13}^R$, $H_4 = H_{13}^I$, $H_5 = H_{12}^R$, $H_6 = H_{12}^I$. However, the periodic functions $u_1^1, \ldots, u_6^1$ are not known explicitly. Coron's Return Method only establishes their existence. Fortunately, for system (15), symbolic computation software packages have shown that if we define them as $u_k^1(t) = \sum_{\ell=1}^{n_f} a_{k\ell} \sin(2\pi\ell t)$, for $t \in \mathbb{R}$, $1 \le k \le 6$, with $n_f > 1$ and where $a_{k\ell} \in \mathbb{R}$ are randomly chosen from the uniform distribution on the interval $[-a, a]$ with "sufficiently large" $a > 0$, then it is "very likely" that $\dim(\mathrm{span}\{B_k^j(0), 1 \le k \le 6, 0 \le j \le 6\}) = 15$, that is, (3) holds (recall that $\dim(\mathfrak{su}(4)) = 15$). And, when (3) is true, it follows that $\lim_{t\to\infty}[X(t) - X_r(t)]$, where $X_r = X_r^1 X_\infty$. We remark that since u_k^1 is an odd periodic function with period $T = 1$, the solution $X_r^1 \colon \mathbb{R} \to \mathrm{SU}(n)$ in Definition 1 is also periodic with period $T = 1$. Note that a and n_f determine the "excitation level" of u_k^1. For $f_k = 1$, computer simulations have suggested that as a and n_f get larger, the faster the convergence of the tracking error $X - X_r$ to zero (assuming that $\dim(\mathrm{span}\{B_j^k(0)\}) = 15$, of course).

The obtained simulation results are now presented for $f_k = 1$, $a = n_f = 5$ and $a_{k\ell}$ having as values the corresponding entries of the matrix $\overline{A} = (a_{k\ell})$ below

$$\overline{A} = \begin{pmatrix} -2.00 & -1.39 & 4.66 & 4.31 & 1.80 \\ -0.31 & -1.54 & 0.92 & -3.20 & -2.18 \\ -4.69 & -0.31 & 1.75 & 3.94 & -1.11 \\ -2.79 & 0.77 & 4.09 & 2.34 & 3.46 \\ 2.19 & 0.60 & -0.27 & 0.43 & -3.75 \\ -0.18 & -4.44 & -1.38 & -4.58 & 2.59 \end{pmatrix}.$$

With these choices, we have indeed verified that $\dim(\mathrm{span}\{B_j^k(0)\}) = 15$. Figure 1 exhibits the convergence of $\|X - X_r\|$ to zero (Euclidean norm on M^4). We see that the norm of the tracking error is non-increasing. In Figure 2, the controls u_1, u_2 (top) and the "feedbacks" v_1, v_2 (bottom) on the time interval $[0, 10]$ are shown. Notice that v_k is relatively small in comparison with the control u_k, for $k = 1, 2$. Therefore, the control u_k is relatively close to u_k^1 as defined above, for $k = 1, 2$. In order not to overwhelm the presentation, we have chosen not to exhibit u_k, v_k, for $3 \le k \le 6$. They have, however, a similar behavior and a similar order of magnitude as for $k = 1, 2$.

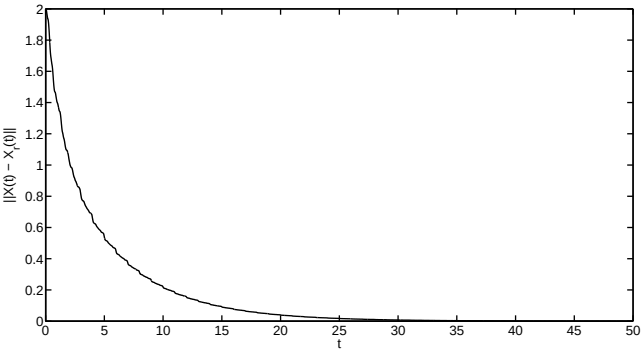

Fig. 1. Convergence of the norm of the tracking error to zero.

IV. CONCLUDING REMARKS

In the solution here presented for the periodic motion planning problem, the only needed assumption is that system

[1] In quantum mechanics, this description is usually called the interaction picture or interaction representation.

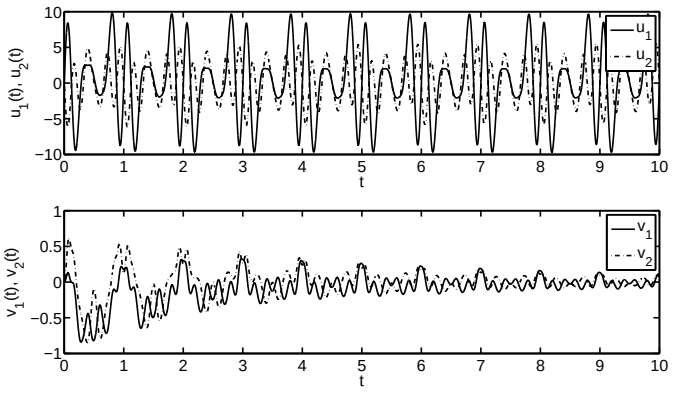

Fig. 2. Controls u_1, u_2 and "feedbacks" v_1, v_2 on the interval $[0, 10]$.

(1) is regular, which requires that the periodic functions u_k^T satisfying (3) are explicitly known. Nevertheless, this will hardly be the case in general. For this reason, currently under investigation is the explicit determination of u_k^r in (2) in a manner that Theorem 1 still holds under assumptions other than the regularity of system (1).

V. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors would like to thank Jean-Michel Coron and Mazyar Mirrahimi for valuable discussions and suggestions.

APPENDIX

In order to prove Theorem 1, we need first a few intermediate definitions and results. For simplicity, we consider throughout this section that $q = (t_0, W_{t_0}) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathrm{SU}(n)$ is fixed and that W_q: $\mathbb{R} \to \mathrm{SU}(n)$ denotes the solution of the auxiliar system (8)–(9) with initial condition $W_q(t_0) = W_{t_0}$.

Definition 2: [11] A point $\overline{W} \in M^n$ is called a *limit point* of W_q if there exists a real sequence $\{t_m\}$ such that $\lim_{m\to\infty} t_m = \infty$ and $\lim_{m\to\infty} W_q(t_m) = \overline{W}$. The set of all limit points of W_q is called the *limit set* of W_q and is denoted by $\Omega(W_q)$.

Remark 3: Since $\mathrm{SU}(n)$ is a compact subset of M^n, it is clear that $\Omega(W_q)$ is a non-empty subset of $\mathrm{SU}(n)$.

Proposition 1: [11] $\lim_{t\to\infty} d(W_q(t), \Omega(W_q)) = 0$.

The next 2 lemmas are essential in the proof of the important convergence result of Theorem 3 given below, which was inspired in the periodic version of LaSalle's invariance principle presented in [11] and in the *ad-condition* stabilization method of [6].

Lemma 1: Let W: $\mathbb{R} \to M^n$ be a continuously differentiable mapping such that $\lim_{t\to\infty} \dot{W}(t) = 0$. Suppose that $\{t_m\}$ is a real sequence such that $\lim_{m\to\infty} t_m = \infty$ and $\lim_{m\to\infty} W(t_m) = \overline{W}$. Then, for every $\epsilon \in \mathbb{R}$, we have that $\lim_{m\to\infty} W(t_m + \epsilon) = \overline{W}$.

Proof: Let $\epsilon \geq 0$ and $m \in \mathbb{N}$. We have that $W(t_m + \epsilon) - W(t_m) = \int_{t_m}^{t_m+\epsilon} \dot{W}(t)\, dt$. Thus, the inequality $\|W(t_m + \epsilon) - W(t_m)\| \leq |\epsilon| \sup_{t\in[t_m, t_m+\epsilon]} \|\dot{W}(t)\|$ holds. The assumptions then imply that $\lim_{m\to\infty} W(t_m + \epsilon) = \overline{W}$. For $\epsilon < 0$, we can proceed in an analogous manner. ∎

Lemma 2: Consider that $\overline{W} \in \Omega(W_q)$, $j \in \mathbb{N}$ and let $1 \leq k \leq m$. Assume that $\lim_{t\to\infty} \dot{W}_q(t) = 0$ and that $\lim_{t\to\infty} \mathrm{V}(W_q(t) X_r^\dagger(t) B_k^j(t) X_\infty) = 0$, where B_k^j is as in (3). Then, $\mathrm{V}(\overline{W} X_\infty^\dagger B_k^j(0) X_\infty) = 0$.

Proof: Let $\overline{W} \in \Omega(W_q)$. By definition, there exists a real sequence $\{t_m\}$ such that $\lim_{m\to\infty} t_m = \infty$ and $\lim_{m\to\infty} W_q(t_m) = \overline{W}$. Now, for each $m \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists $\ell_m \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $s_m = t_m - \ell_m T \in [0, T)$, where $T > 0$ is the period of X_r and of B_k^j (see Remark 1). Since $[0, T]$ is compact, there exists a subsequence $\{s_{m_i}\}$ in which $\lim_{i\to\infty} s_{m_i} = \theta \in [0, T]$. Let $\{t_{m_i}\}$ be the corresponding subsequence of $\{t_m\}$. Define the sequences $\{t_{m_i}^*\}$ and $\{s_{m_i}^*\}$ as $t_{m_i}^* = t_{m_i} - \theta$ and $s_{m_i}^* = s_{m_i} - \theta$, respectively. We have that $\lim_{t\to\infty} \dot{W}_q(t) = 0$ as well as $\lim_{t\to\infty} \mathrm{V}(W_q(t) X_r^\dagger(t) B_k^j(t) X_\infty) = 0$ (assumptions). Therefore, by definition, $\lim_{i\to\infty} s_{m_i}^* = 0$, and Lemma 1 gives that $\lim_{i\to\infty} W_q(t_{m_i}^*) = \lim_{i\to\infty} W_q(t_{m_i} - \theta) = \overline{W}$. Hence, the continuity and periodicity of X_r and of B_k^j imply that $\lim_{i\to\infty} \mathrm{V}(W_q(t_{m_i}^*) X_r^\dagger(t_{m_i}^*) B_k^j(t_{m_i}^*) X_\infty) = \lim_{i\to\infty} \mathrm{V}(W_q(t_{m_i}^*) X_r^\dagger(s_{m_i}^*) B_k^j(s_{m_i}^*) X_\infty) = \mathrm{V}(\overline{W} X_\infty^\dagger B_k^j(0) X_\infty) = 0$. ∎

Theorem 3: Consider the subset $E = \{W \in \mathrm{SU}(n) : \mathrm{V}(W X_\infty^\dagger B_k^j(0) X_\infty) = 0, \text{ for all } j \in \mathbb{N}, 1 \leq k \leq m\}$, where B_k^j is as in (3). Then, $\lim_{t\to\infty} d(W_q(t), E) = 0$ and E is non-empty.

Proof: Due to Proposition 1, it suffices to prove that the non-empty limit set $\Omega(W_q)$ of the solution W_q is contained in the set E. We remark that since V: $M^n \to \mathbb{R}$ is a continuous linear function, there exists $c > 0$ such that $|\mathrm{V}(X)| \leq c\|X\|$, for all $X \in M^n$. Furthermore, it follows from (2), (8)–(9), Remark 1 and the compactness of $\mathrm{SU}(n)$ that each of the mappings X_r, $X_r^\dagger$, W_q, B_k^j, $\dot{X}_r$, $\dot{X}_r^\dagger$, $\dot{W}_q$, $\dot{B}_k^j$ is bounded, for every $j \in \mathbb{N}$, $1 \leq k \leq m$.

Consider the functions α: $\mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$, b_k^j: $\mathbb{R} \times M^n \to \mathbb{R}$, β_k^j: $\mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ defined respectively as

$$\begin{array}{ll} \alpha(t) = \mathrm{V}(W_q(t)), & \text{for all } t \in \mathbb{R}, \\ b_k^j(t, W) = \mathrm{V}(W X_r^\dagger(t) B_k^j(t) X_\infty), & (t, W) \in \mathbb{R} \times M^n, \\ \beta_k^j(t) = b_k^j(t, W_q(t)), & \text{for all } t \in \mathbb{R}, \end{array}$$

for $j \in \mathbb{N}$, $1 \leq k \leq m$. We will prove by induction that

$$\lim_{t\to\infty} \beta_k^j(t) = \lim_{t\to\infty} \mathrm{V}(W_q(t) X_r^\dagger(t) B_k^j(t) X_\infty) = 0, \quad (16)$$

for $j \in \mathbb{N}$, $1 \leq k \leq m$. From (8)–(9) and the definition of b_k^0, we have that $\dot{\mathrm{V}}(t, W) = \sum_{k=1}^m f_k^2 b_k^0(t, W)^2 \geq 0$ and $\ddot{\mathrm{V}}(t, W) = 2\sum_{k=1}^m f_k^2 \dot{b}_k^0(t, W) b_k^0(t, W)$, where $\dot{b}_k^0(t, W) = \mathrm{V}(W X_r^\dagger(t) \sum_{\ell=1}^m f_\ell^2 b_\ell^0(t, W) H_\ell B_k^0(t) X_\infty) + b_k^1(t, W)$ and $f_1, \ldots, f_m \in \mathbb{R}$ are non-zero, for $(t, W) \in \mathbb{R} \times M^n$. Since $\dot{\mathrm{V}}$ is a non-negative function, we conclude that α is a non-decreasing function bounded from above such that $\ddot{\alpha}$ is bounded. Hence, $\lim_{t\to\infty} \alpha(t)$ exists and is finite. This relation along with Barbalat's Lemma (see e.g. [10]) give that $\lim_{t\to\infty} \dot{\alpha}(t) = \sum_{k=1}^m f_k^2 b_k^0(t, W_q(t))^2 = 0$. Thus, $\lim_{t\to\infty} \beta_k^0(t) = \lim_{t\to\infty} \mathrm{V}(W_q(t) X_r^\dagger(t) B_k^0(t) X_\infty) = 0$, for each $1 \leq k \leq m$, from which (8)–(9) imply that

$$\lim_{t\to\infty} \dot{W}_q(t) = 0. \quad (17)$$

Now, consider the induction hypothesis

$$\lim_{t\to\infty} \beta_k^j(t) = \lim_{t\to\infty} \mathrm{V}(W_q(t)X_r^\dagger(t)B_k^j(t)X_\infty) = 0, \quad (18)$$

for some $j \in \mathbb{N}$ and all $1 \leq k \leq m$. We have that $\dot{b}_k^j(t,W) = \mathrm{V}(WX_r^\dagger(t)\sum_{\ell=1}^m f_\ell^2 b_\ell^0(t,W)H_\ell B_k^j(t)X_\infty) + b_k^{j+1}(t,W)$, for all $1 \leq k \leq m$, $(t,W) \in \mathbb{R}\times M^n$. Straightforward computations show that $\ddot{\beta}_k^j$ is bounded because $\ddot{\beta}_k^j(t) = \ddot{b}_k^j(t,W_q(t))$, for all $1 \leq k \leq m$, $t \in \mathbb{R}$. Hence, (18) and Barbalat's Lemma imply that $\lim_{t\to\infty}\beta_k^{j+1}(t) = \lim_{t\to\infty}\mathrm{V}(W_q(t)X_r^\dagger(t)B_k^{j+1}(t)X_\infty) = 0$, for $1 \leq k \leq m$. We have thus proved that (16) is true. At this moment, it is simple to prove that $\Omega(W_q) \subset E$. Indeed, assume that $\overline{W} \in \Omega(W_q) \subset \mathrm{SU}(n)$. Then, (16), (17) and Lemma 2 imply that $\mathrm{V}(\overline{W}X_\infty^\dagger B_k^j(0)X_\infty) = 0$, for each $j \in \mathbb{N}$, $1 \leq k \leq m$. ■

Lemma 3: Consider the subset $F = \{W \in \mathrm{SU}(n) : V(W) = \sum_{i=1}^n \Re(\lambda_i),$ for some $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $|\lambda_i| = 1, \prod_{i=1}^n \lambda_i = 1, \Im(\lambda_1) = \cdots = \Im(\lambda_n)\}$. Then, $I \in F$ and $\lim_{t\to\infty} d(W_q(t), F) = 0$.

Proof: According to Theorem 3, it suffices to show the inclusion $E \subset F$. Let $W \in E \subset \mathrm{SU}(n)$. It is a well-known result in linear algebra that $W \in \mathrm{SU}(n)$ can be decomposed as $W = M\mathrm{diag}(\lambda_1,\ldots,\lambda_n)M^\dagger$, where M is unitary, $\lambda_1,\ldots,\lambda_n \in \mathbb{C}$, $|\lambda_i| = 1$ and $\prod_{i=1}^n \lambda_i = 1$. Thus, $V(W) = \sum_{i=1}^n \Re(\lambda_i)$ and $\mathrm{V}(WX_\infty^\dagger B_k^j(0)X_\infty) = \mathrm{V}(\mathrm{diag}(\lambda_1,\ldots,\lambda_n)(X_\infty M)^\dagger B_k^j(0)(X_\infty M)) = 0$, for each $1 \leq k \leq m$, $j \in \mathbb{N}$. Since $X_\infty M$ is unitary, it is clear that N: $\mathfrak{su}(n) \to \mathfrak{su}(n)$ defined by $N(Y) = (X_\infty M)^\dagger Y (X_\infty M)$, for every $Y \in \mathfrak{su}(n)$, is a linear surjective isomorphism. Now, by assumption, system (1) is regular and (3) is satisfied. Hence, $\mathrm{V}(\mathrm{diag}(\lambda_1,\ldots,\lambda_n)X) = 0$, for every $X \in \mathfrak{su}(n)$, and thus $\mathrm{V}(\mathrm{diag}(\lambda_1,\ldots,\lambda_n)D_\ell) = 0$, for each $1 \leq \ell \leq n$, where $D_1 = \mathrm{diag}(\imath,-\imath,0,\ldots,0)$, $D_2 = \mathrm{diag}(0,\imath,-\imath,0,\ldots,0),\ldots,D_{n-1} = \mathrm{diag}(0,\ldots,\imath,-\imath)$ and $D_n = \mathrm{diag}(\imath,0,\ldots,0,-\imath)$ are the canonical diagonal matrices of $\mathfrak{su}(n)$. From the diagonal structure of $D_1,\ldots,D_n$, we conclude that $\lambda_1,\ldots,\lambda_n$ must satisfy $\Im(\lambda_1) = \cdots = \Im(\lambda_n)$. This implies that $W \in F$ and therefore $E \subset F$. ■

The proof of Theorem 1 is given below.

Proof: It is clear that $n = \max(G)$ because $I \in F$. We will first show that G is finite. Let $x \in G$. Then, there exist $\lambda_1,\ldots,\lambda_n \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $x = \sum_{j=1}^n \Re(\lambda_j)$ with (i) $\prod_{j=1}^n \lambda_j$, (ii) $|\lambda_j| = 1$ and (iii) $\Im(\lambda_1) = \cdots = \Im(\lambda_n)$. Property (ii) implies that $\lambda_j = e^{\imath\theta_j}$, for some $\theta_j \in \mathbb{R}$, and it follows from (iii) that $\lambda_j = \lambda_1 = e^{\imath\theta_1}$ or $\lambda_j = e^{\imath(\pi-\theta_1)}$, for each $1 \leq j \leq n$. Let n_1 be the number of $j \in \{1,\ldots,n\}$ such that $\lambda_j = \lambda_1$ and define $n_2 = n - n_1$. Therefore, $x = n_1\cos(\theta_1) + n_2\cos(\pi-\theta_1) = (n_1-n_2)\cos(\theta_1)$ with $n_1, (n_2+1) \in \{1,\ldots,n\}$ and $n_1+n_2 = n$. If $n_1 = n_2$, then $x = 0$. Thus, assume that $n_1 \neq n_2$. From property (i) we obtain that $e^{\imath n_1\theta_1}e^{\imath n_2(\pi-\theta_1)} = 1$. Hence, there exists $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $n_1\theta_1 + n_2(\pi-\theta_1) = 2k\pi$. This relation implies that $\theta_1 = (2k-n_2)\pi/(n-2n_2)$. Note that n_1, n_2, k depend on $x \in G$ and that n_2, n_1-n_2 can only assume a finite number of values. If we show that θ_1 can only assume a finite number of values, we will have shown that the same holds for $x \in G$, which implies that G is finite. It is clear that the function η: $\mathbb{Z} \to \mathbb{R}$ defined as $\eta(\ell) = \cos((2\ell-n_2)\pi/(n-2n_2))$, for all $\ell \in \mathbb{Z}$, has period $|n-2n_2| > 0$. Thus, the values assumed by θ_1 must be finite in number.

Now, the convergence result will be shown. Recall that, for all $X \in \mathrm{SU}(n)$, we have that $-n \leq V(X) \leq n$ and that $V(X) = n$ if and only if $X = I$. Let $\delta = \max(G \setminus \{n\})$. Since G is finite, we have that

$$\delta < x \leq n \Rightarrow x = n, \qquad \text{for all } x \in G. \quad (19)$$

Suppose that $V(W_{t_0}) > \delta$. Since $\mathrm{SU}(n)$ is compact and V: $M^n \to \mathbb{R}$ is continuous, it follows that $V|\mathrm{SU}(n)$ is uniformly continuous. Define the function α: $\mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ by $\alpha(t) = \mathrm{V}(W_q(t))$, for $t \in \mathbb{R}$. Recall that, by construction, we have that $\dot{\mathrm{V}}(t,W) = \sum_{k=1}^m a_k(t,W)^2 \geq 0$, for all $(t,W) \in \mathbb{R}\times M^n$. Note that a_k and $\dot{\mathrm{V}}$ are smooth, for each $1 \leq k \leq m$. Since $\dot{\mathrm{V}}$ is a non-negative function, we conclude that α is a smooth non-decreasing function. Therefore, $V(W_q(t)) \geq V(W_{t_0}) > \delta$, for all $t \geq t_0$. The uniform continuity of $V|\mathrm{SU}(n)$ then implies that there exists $\mu > 0$ such that

$$\|X - W_q(t)\| < \mu \Rightarrow V(X) > \delta, \qquad \text{for } t \geq t_0,\ X \in \mathrm{SU}(n) \quad (20)$$

(indeed, choose $\epsilon = V(W_{t_0}) - \delta > 0$). The convergence result of Lemma 3 means that

$$\forall \epsilon > 0\ \exists \overline{T} \in \mathbb{R}\ \forall t \geq \overline{T}\ \exists \alpha(t) \in F \text{ s.t. } \|\alpha(t) - W_q(t)\| < \epsilon.$$

Let $\epsilon > 0$ and define $\overline{\epsilon} = \min(\epsilon, \mu)$. Thus,

$$\forall t \geq \overline{T}\ \exists \alpha(t) \in F \text{ s.t. } \|\alpha(t) - W_q(t)\| < \overline{\epsilon} \leq \mu,$$

for some $\overline{T} \in \mathbb{R}$. Define $\widetilde{T} = \max(\overline{T}, t_0)$ and let $t \geq \widetilde{T}$. Since $\alpha(t) \in F \subset \mathrm{SU}(n)$ and $V(F) \subset G$, (20) gives that $\delta < V(\alpha(t)) \in G$. However, $\delta < V(\alpha(t)) \leq n$. Therefore, from (19), we obtain that $V(\alpha(t)) = n$, which implies that $\alpha(t) = I$. We have thus shown that $\lim_{t\to\infty} W_q(t) = I$. ■

REFERENCES

[1] F. Albertini and D. D'Alessandro. Notions of controllability for bilinear multilevel quantum systems. *IEEE Trans. Automat. Control*, 48(8):1399–1403, 2003.

[2] J.-M. Coron. Linearized control systems and applications to smooth stabilization. *SIAM J. Control Optim.*, 32(2):358–386, 1994.

[3] J.-M. Coron. *Control and Nonlinearity*. American Mathematical Society, 2007.

[4] D. D'Alessandro. *Introduction to Quantum Control and Dynamics*. Chapman & Hall/CRC, Boca Raton, 2008.

[5] S. Haroche and J-M. Raimond. *Exploring the Quantum: Atoms, Cavities and Photons*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2006.

[6] V. Jurdjevic and J. P. Quinn. Controllability and stability. *J. Diff. Equations*, 28:381–389, 1978.

[7] M. A. Nielsen and I. L. Chuang. *Quantum Computation and Quantum Information*. Cambridge Universisty Press, Cambridge, 2000.

[8] P. S. Pereira da Silva and P. Rouchon. Flatness-based control of a single qubit gate. *IEEE Trans. Automat. Control*, 53(3):775–779, 2008.

[9] P. Rouchon. Quantum systems and control. *ARIMA*, 9:325–357, 2008.

[10] J.-J. E. Slotine and W. Li. *Applied Nonlinear Control*. Prentice Hall, New Jersey, 1991.

[11] M. Vidyasagar. *Nonlinear Systems Analysis*. Prentice Hall, New Jersey, 2nd edition, 1993.