Abstract—The application of the Soft Computing based methods, especially, the Tensor Product (TP) transformation has several beneficial properties from the biological modeling and control point of view, because complex, nonlinear processes can be handled by them effectively. Another advantage of these tools consists of the Linear Parameter Varying (LPV) and Linear Matrix Inequality (LMI) based techniques can be easily connected to them. The aim of this study is to develop TP models, which can describe the tumor growth beside anti-angiogenic treatment. The role of the anti-angiogenic therapies is to decrease the size of the tumor to operable or maintainable level. From control engineering point of view, the treatment process can be formulated as a control task. In this work, we realized two TP models, which approximates the initial transformed model with high accuracy, regardless the kind of input load and without stability problems. The TP models will be used for TP-based controller design on LMI basis.

Index Terms—Anti-angiogenic therapy, Tumor growth model, Tensor Product model transformation, TP-based modeling

I. INTRODUCTION

Beside the well known classical cancer therapies as radiotherapy, chemotherapy and surgical intervention, one of the modern treatment directions are the Targeted Molecular Therapy (TMT). In case of TMT, different drugs and/or other substances are used to block or eliminate the growth and spread of the cancer by interfering with specific molecules which play important roles in biological processes regard to the growth, progression and spread of the cancer. To sum up, the aim is the inhibition of certain processes and not to kill the tumor itself. Compared to the classical treatments, the main benefits of them are the limited side effects and the more focused therapy. Several TMTs exist, although, the most important ones are the apoptosis inducers, signal transmission inhibitors, gene expression modulators and anti-angiogenic therapies [1].

In case of the anti-angiogenic therapies the goal of the TMT is to inhibit the growing of the supplying vasculature of the cancer. It is known, that the supplying vasculature is needed to provide the oxygen and nutrients after the tumor grows beyond a certain volume. The limit coming from the local diffusion, which does not satisfy the nutrition needed for further growth or to maintain the reached size. By blocking the formation of new blood vessels – which can cover the nutrition of the tumor – the size of the affected cell population can be decreased or kept below a given level which is bearable from the human body point of view. Normally, the angiogenesis processes are infrequent in healthy adults, but frequent regard to tumor growth and by applying inhibition only limited side effects occur compared to the regular therapies.

The angiogenesis is regulated by pro- and anti-angiogen factors. The most important pro-angiogen factor is the vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF). The VEGF regulates the endothelial proliferation, namely, reproduction of endothelial cells which form the blood vessels – that makes it excellent target for such inhibitor therapy [1]–[3].

The anti-angiogenic therapies are mostly used beside regular therapies, such as chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy. Although, the application of them as monotherapy was considered recently, there are several open questions regarding to the appropriate drug dosage protocols [4]. In clinical practice, three approach are used for drug delivery: bolus doses therapy (BDT), metronomic low dose therapy (MLDT) and continuous infusion therapy (CIT). In the first case, the amount of the injected drug is mostly the maximum tolerable dosage and between the boluses there are no anti-angiogenic kind drug intake. The main drawbacks are the higher occurrence of side effects, moreover, the remaining tumor cells may become resistant to the therapy because of their fast evolution and proliferation [5]. In order to avoid these unfavorable effects, the MLDT can be used, in which case the anti-tumor drugs are delivered in minimal dosage based on strict schedule over longer periods [6]. Investigations concerning to the application of CIT (based on animal- and in-silico-experiments) recently showed that this can be the most effective treatment among the current anti-cancer therapies [7]–[9]. Although, in order to apply such kind of protocol, highly advanced biomedical modeling and controller design tools are needed which can efficiently handle the challenges regard this field, for example intra- and inter-patient variability, nonlinearities and so on.

In the last twenty years, several possible theorems and tools were developed to handle the aforementioned issues. One
of these is the Linear Parameter Varying (LPV) methodology which allows to use linear controller design theorems in case of nonlinear systems by enclosing the nonlinearities into internal bounded variables [10], [11]. The Robust Fixed Point Theorem (RFPT) based controller design also suitable for biological related controls, because of its flexibility and inverse approach [12], [13]. Advanced Soft Computing (SC) based methods can be appropriate solutions as well [14]. As the part of the SC, the recently developed TP-based modeling and control provides various beneficial tools, eg. transforms the nonlinear models into linear ones with high accuracy. The main goal of TP model transformation is to develop TP-model objects, which are ready for TP-based controller design. The resulting TP model and controller structures includes the uncertainties as a hidden way – moreover, LMI based techniques can be combined with them [15], [16].

In this study, we developed two TP model structures which approximate the transformed model with high accuracy and can be used for TP-based controller design.

The paper is structured in the following way: firstly the applied original and transformed tumor growth model were introduced. After, the TP model transformation was presented. In Sec. IV, we introduced the qLPV models and the developed TP models which is followed by the validation of them. Finally, our findings were presented.

II. INVESTIGATED TUMOR GROWTH MODEL

The examined tumor growth model under angiogenic inhibition originates from the well-known Hahnfeldt model [17]. This model describes the growing dynamics of the tumor and supporting vasculature over time as follows:

\[
\dot{x}_1(t) = -\lambda_1 x_1(t) \log \left( \frac{x_1(t)}{x_2(t)} \right),
\]

\[
\dot{x}_2(t) = bx_1(t) - d x_1^{2/3}(t) x_2(t) - \eta x_2(t) g(t),
\]

where \(x_1(t)\) [mm^3] and \(x_2(t)\) [mm^3] are the volume of the tumor and supporting vasculature, respectively and \(g(t)\) [mg/kg] describes the inhibitor level in time. The output of the model is the measurable state, \(x_1(t)\). The belonging model parameters are \(\lambda_1 = 0.1921\) 1/day, \(b = 5.851\) 1/day, \(d = 0.00871\) 1/(mm^2 day), \(\eta = 0.66\) kg/(mg day) and \(\lambda_3 = 1.31\) 1/day – these model parameters coming from [17] based on mice experiments (tumor: Lewis lung carcinoma, inhibitor: endostatin). The model contains multiple nonlinearities which have to be handled in practice. Although, according to [17] there is strict limitation concerning to the states, namely \(x_1(t), x_2(t) > \forall t (t > 0)\), feasibility problems can be occurred due to the \(\log \left( \frac{x_1(t)}{x_2(t)} \right)\) term in (1) \(- (0/0)\) type singularity can be occurred, if \(x_1(t)\) and \(x_2(t)\) are equal to zero and numerical stability problems may appear, if \(x_1(t)\) and \(x_2(t)\) are close to zero. In order to handle these kind of limitations, mathematical transformations can be applied such as [18], [19]. In this work we used the transformed version of the original model presented by [19]. By introducing the \(y_1(t) = \log(x_1(t))\) [mm^3] and \(y_2(t) = \log(x_2(t))\) [mm^3] new state variables, the following transformed model occurs:

\[
\dot{y}_1(t) = -\lambda_1 y_1(t) + \lambda_2 y_2(t),
\]

\[
\dot{y}_2(t) = b e^{y_1(t)} y_2(t) - d e^{y_1(t)/3} - \eta g(t),
\]

\[
\dot{g}(t) = -\lambda_3 g(t) + u(t),
\]

The nontrivial equilibrium of the original model ((1) and (2)) was described in [8], in which was proven that beside constant inhibitor level \(g(t) \equiv g_0\) the \(x_1,\infty\) and \(x_2,\infty\) can be calculated as follows:

\[
x_{1,\infty} = x_{2,\infty} = \left( \frac{b - \eta g_0}{d} \right)^{3/2}.
\]

From (7) it is clear that \(x_{1,\max} = x_{2,\max} = \left( \frac{b}{d} \right)^{3/2}\), if the inhibitor level is equal to zero \((g = 0)\). Thus, considering the limitations and (7), the operating domain becomes: \(x_1(t) = x_2(t) = (0, (b/d)^{3/2})\).

The aim of the anti-angiogenic therapy is to reach lower tumor volume via inhibition of its angiogenesis in order to make it operable or maintainable – however, the volume of the tumor cannot be totally eliminated only by anti-angiogenic therapy [3]. From this consideration, it is reasonable to select a higher lower limit for \(x_1\) and \(x_2\), which also leads to a more manageable transformed model from mathematical point of view as well. Assume the following domain for \(x_1(t) = x_2(t) = [1, (b/d)^{3/2}]\), which consequences that the domain of the transformed states become \(y_1(t) = y_2(t) = [\log(1), \log((b/d)^{3/2})]\). In order to make the TP models numerically stable, we applied an other restriction regard to the lower limit of the investigated domain, which will be detailed in Sec. IV. In this work we consider this new domain for the \(y_1(t)\) and \(y_2(t)\) transformed states.

The deep investigation of such limitation and the transformed model can be found in [19].

III. TENSOR PRODUCT MODEL TRANSFORMATION

The TP modeling originates from the Fuzzy System (FS) theorems. More precisely, the Takagi-Sugeno FS (TSFS) is able to describe a system model given by its quasi-LPV (qLPV) state space representation, if the universe of the FS (whereon the membership functions are defined) is the parameter vector of the qLPV model [20]. The TP model transformation has several beneficial properties compared to the TSFS – the most beneficial is that the TP models describe the original models with similar precision as the TSFS, but the parameter domain of them can be much more tighter than the TSFS’s domain.

The TP model transformation transforms a given qLPV function into a TP model structure. Because of the qLPV models (as state space representation) can be represented by qLPV functions, the TP transformation can be easily executed [16]. The occurring TP model is a multidimensional tensor product structure consists of convex combination of a
high-order core tensor and different weighting functions in 
appropriate dimensions belong to the parameter vector [15]. 
The resulting TP models – thankfully the convex hull manip-
ulation – realizes convex polytopic structures, which allows to 
combine the transformation with LMI-based techniques [16]. 
The approximation accuracy of the TP model is determined 
by the number of samples in the parameter domain, namely, 
the vertices of the polytopic structure.

A general qLPV model can be written as follows:
\[
\begin{align*}
\dot{x}(t) &= A(p(t))x(t) + B(p(t))u(t) \\
y(t) &= C(p(t))x(t) + D(p(t))u(t)
\end{align*}
\] (8)
where the matrices \(A(p(t)) \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}\), \(B(p(t)) \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times m}\), 
\(C(p(t)) \in \mathbb{R}^{l \times k}\), and \(D(p(t)) \in \mathbb{R}^{l \times m}\) represent the state-, 
input-, output- and forward-matrices, respectively. The \(x(t) \in \mathbb{R}^{k}\) is the state vector, \(u(t) \in \mathbb{R}^{m}\) is the input vector and 
\(y(t) \in \mathbb{R}^{l}\) is the output vector. The \(p(t) \in \Omega \in \mathbb{R}^{N}\) is the time 
dependent parameter vector – which consists of \(N\) scheduling 
variables \(p_i(t) \ i = [1, \ldots, N]\).

\[
S(p(t)) = A(p(t))B(p(t))C(p(t))D(p(t))
\] (9)
where the parameter dependent complex \(S(p(t)) \in \mathbb{R}^{(k+l) \times (k+m)}\) represents the qLPV function (system matrix).

The parameter vector \(p(t) \in \Omega \in \mathbb{R}^{N}\) is enclosed into the 
\(\Omega\) domain, where \(\Omega = [p_{1,\min}, p_{1,\max}] \times [p_{2,\min}, p_{2,\max}] \times \ldots \times [p_{N,\min}, p_{N,\max}] \in \mathbb{R}^{N}\) formalizes a limited hypercube 
in the \(N\)-dimensional hyperspace – which is determined by the 
extremes of the scheduling variables [15], [16].

The finite element polytopic TP model approximates 
\(S(p(t))\) inside the closed hypercube in the following way:
\[
S(p(t)) = \sum_{r=1}^{R} w_r(p(t))S_r
\] (10)
where \(w_r(p(t))\) are the parameter dependent weighting functions 
and \(S_r\) is the core tensor.

In other way, the \(S(p(t))\) can be described as a linear 
combination of convex weighting functions and the LTI vertex 
system for each \(p(t) \in \Omega\), which results convex combination 
[16], [21]. Accordingly, – through applying a sampling on the 
parameter space – the TP based polytopic finite element model 
can be described as follows [16], [22]:
\[
S(p(t)) = \sum_{i_1=1}^{I_1} \sum_{i_2=1}^{I_2} \ldots \sum_{i_N=1}^{I_N} \prod_{n=1}^{N} w_{n,i_n}(p_n(t))S_{i_1,i_2,\ldots,i_N}
\] (11)
The (11) can be written in the following TP form:
\[
S(p(t)) = S \prod_{n=1}^{N} w_n(p_n(t))
\] (12)
where \(S\) core tensor – built up from the \(S_{i_1,i_2,\ldots,i_N}\) LTI vertex 
system – contains the system coefficients in all dimensions as 
\(S \in \mathbb{R}^{I_1 \times I_2 \times \ldots \times I_N \times (k+l) \times (k+m)}\), further, the \(w_n(p_n(t))\) 
vector consist of the continuous convex weighting functions 
\(w_{n,i_n}(p_n(t)) (i_n = 1\ldots I_N)\). The aforementioned convexity 
criteria is satisfied regarding to the weighting functions and 
via the TP model as well, if the following statements are true:
\[
\forall n, i, p_n(t) : w_{n,i_n}(p_n(t)) \in [0, 1]
\]
\[
\forall n, p_n(t) : \sum_{i=1}^{I_n} w_{n,i_n}(p_n(t)) = 1 
\] (13)

Different convex hulls can be applied during the TP model 
transformation depends on the goals, eg. extended or tight 
operating domain [16]. In this work, we applied the a Minimal 
Volume Simplex (MVS) kind convex hull [15], [21] for the TP 
type polytopic qLPV model, which is able to provide a tight 
operating domain in the parameter space. The TP model well-
approximates the original model inside the \(\Omega\) hypercube and 
the volume of the \(\Omega\) is as low as possible. In this way, the TP 
model with MVS type convex hull can be described as:
\[
S(p) = S \prod_{n=1}^{N} w_n^{(n)}(p_n) 
\] (14)
where \(S \in \mathbb{S}^{I_1 \times \ldots \times J_N}\) core tensor is created from the \(S_{i_1,\ldots,i_N}\) 
vertices. In this way, the \((S)_{jn=j} n\)-mode sub-tensors realizes 
a minimal volume bounding hypercube for the \(S \times n w_n^{(n)}(p_n)\) 
trajectory over \(n = 1\ldots N\). Further details and explanations can 
be found in [15], [16], [21], [23].

IV. QLPV- AND TP-MODELS

During the examinations, we used the mentioned transform-
model from (4), (5) and (6). Since, our future goal is 
to use the mentioned models for control purposes, we 
investigated two possible qLPV model realizations and via 
TP model descriptions. Due to the fact, that the transformed 
model contains nonlinearities only in (5), these have to be 
selected as scheduling variables.

The selected terms from (5) were \(p_1(t) = e^{y_1(t)-\frac{y_2(t)}{2}}\) and 
\(p_2(t) = e^{2y_1/3}\), which means \(p(t) = [p_1(t), p_2(t)]^T\). These 
selections modify the (5) as follows:
\[
y_2(t) = b p_1(t) - d p_2(t) - ng(t)
\] (15)
To realize a qLPV model, both scheduling variables have to be 
paired to a given state in order to involve them into the qLPV 
function – although, this can be done in multiple ways. In 
this study, we investigated two cases which requires the extension 
of \(p_1\) and \(p_2\) as follows:

- Model I (qLPV): \(p_1(t) = \frac{e^{y_1(t)-y_2(t)}}{y_1(t)}\) and \(p_2(t) = \frac{e^{2y_1/3}}{y_2(t)}\)
- Model II (qLPV): \(p_1(t) = \frac{e^{y_1(t)-y_2(t)}}{y_2(t)}\) and \(p_2(t) = \frac{e^{4y_1/3}}{y_1(t)}\)

In both cases, the redefinition of the operating domain of the 
states are needed in order to avoid the singularity. Due to this 
fact, instead of the \(y_1(t) = y_2(t) = [\log(1), \log((b/d)^{3/2})]\) 
domain at least the following tighter lower limit should be 
considered: \(y_1(t) = y_2(t) = (\log(1), \log((b/d)^{3/2}))\) – which 
is in accordance that the phenomena and the possible control 
goals [8]. It has to be mentioned, that the lower limit can
be as low as possible to avoid the singularity, however, does not cause numerical problems. Although, we applied log(2), thus $y_1(t) = y_2(t) = \log(2) = [\log(2), \log((b/d)^{3/2})]$, which means $x_{1,min} = x_{2,min} = \log(2) = 0.6931$ [mm]$^3$. As a consequence, the developed TP models accurately describe the transformed model between these limits, moreover, the parameter domain became much more smaller which does not decrease the generality, but increase the numerical stability. For example, if the lower limit is $\log(1 + 10^{-5}) = 10^{-5}$ the singularities can be avoided, but it results a much bigger parameter domain than if the lower limit is $\log(2) = 0.6931$.

In case of Model I, the (15) has to be modified as follows, moreover, the gLPV function becomes:

$$
\dot{y}_2(t) = b p_1(t) y_1(t) - d p_2(t) y_2(t) - \eta g(t) .
$$

and

$$
S(p(t)) = \begin{bmatrix}
-\lambda_1 & \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 \\
1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & -\lambda_3 & 1 \\
0 & 0 & -d p_2(t) & bp_1(t) - \eta \\
\end{bmatrix} .
$$

Based on the mentioned domains of the states, the operating domain of the scheduling variables were $p_1(t) = [1.6548 \cdot 10^{-4}, 892.6771]$ and $p_2(t) = [0.1625, 970.0880]$. We applied medium sampling: 555 in both domains, which was satisfying from the accuracy point of view. The TP model transformation was applied on (17), which results the following general TP model structure:

$$
S(p_1(t), p_2(t)) = S \sum_{n=1}^{3} w_n(p_n(t)) = S \times_1 w_1(p_1(t)) \times_2 w_2(p_2(t)) .
$$

The vary of the applied MVS type weighting functions – which are linear in this case as well – can be seen on Fig. 1.

![Figure 1. Weighting function belong to TP model version 2](image1)

In case of Model II, the (15) has to be modified in the following way:

$$
y_2(t) = -d p_2(t) y_1(t) + b p_1(t) y_2(t) - \eta g(t) .
$$

and

$$
S(p(t)) = \begin{bmatrix}
-\lambda_1 & \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & -\lambda_3 & 1 \\
-\lambda_3 & \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 \\
1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
\end{bmatrix} .
$$

Due to the symmetry, the operating domains of $p_1(t) = [1.6548 \cdot 10^{-4}, 892.6771]$ and $p_2(t) = [0.1625, 970.0880]$ were the same and the applied sampling was 555 in both domains.

The TP model transformation was applied on (20), which results the following general TP model structure as follows:

$$
S(p_1(t), p_2(t)) = S \sum_{n=1}^{3} w_n(p_n(t)) = S \times_1 w_1(p_1(t)) \times_2 w_2(p_2(t)) .
$$

The vary of the applied MVS type weighting functions – which are linear in this case as well – can be seen on Fig. 2.

![Figure 2. Weighting function belong to TP model version 2](image2)

### V. Validation

During the validation we compared the behavior of the transformed model to the developed TP models. We applied three scenarios which covered the most important intake protocols from applicable control strategy point of view. These were the followings:

- Natural answer of the models (without external input);
- Answer of the models beside continuous sinusoidal control input;
- Answer of the models beside impulse kind control input.

In all cases we applied the following initial conditions: $y_1(0) = \log(10000)$, $y_2(0) = \log(9950)$, $g(0) = 0$. In both cases, we simulated 100 virtual days.

The basis of the comparison was the $L_1$ norm of the difference of the states of the transformed model and the developed TP models. Beside, the vary of the $p(t)$ and the applied input signals (if any) were represented on the diagrams.

#### A. Natural Answer of the Models

The first investigated properties were the behavior of the TP models compared to the transformed model without external input. This property is important due to the internal instability of the original model originates from the phenomena. However, the transformed model and via the TP models have more convenient boundaries. During the simulations, both the transformed model and the TP models reach their steady states $(y_{1,\infty} = \log(b/d)^{3/2} = 9.7663$, $i = 1, 2)$ started from their initial conditions $(y_1(0) = \log(10000), y_2(0) = \log(9950))$ without stability problems. Due to external input was not applied, the $g(t) = 0, \forall t \geq 0$.

As it can be seen (Fig. 3 and 4), the deviation dynamics were similar in case of the TP model I. and the TP model II. as well. Since the scheduling variables were symmetrical with the opposite dynamics.

It is visible on Fig. 3 and 4, the differences were only numerical ($\approx 10^{-10}$) in both cases between the states of the transformed model and the TP models.
B. Answer of the Models beside Continuous Sinusoidal Control Input

In this scenario, we tested the long term stability of the models beside continuous, softly oscillating input. Since, only positive input (thus, only inhibitor intake) is possible, the applied sinusoidal signal had the following properties: amplitude: 5 mg/kg; offset: +10 mg/kg; frequency: 1 rad/day.

As it can be seen on Fig. 5 and 6, the differences were only numerical ($\approx 10^{-9}$) in both cases between the states of the transformed model and the TP models beside sinusoidal input. Over the 100 day, the steady states of the models were not reached, however, it became around the day 140 – the order of the differences did not change.

C. Answer of the Models beside Impulse kind Control Input

From practical point of view, this test was the most important one, since, similar drug dosage delivery is applied in clinical environment and we would like to use similar strategy regard to the future controller design. As in the previous case, only positive input can be applied. The applied control input had impulse kind nature with the following properties: amplitude: 200 mg/kg; period: 10 mg/kg; pulse width: 1 % of the period.

Based on the results – Fig. 7 and 8 –, however the dynamics of both differences were similar and the order of them are only numerical ($\approx 10^{-10}$) as well, the highest dissimilarity occurred in this case concerning to the vary of the parameter vectors $p(t)$ over time.
VI. CONCLUSION

In this paper we investigated the applicability of the TP model transformation in case of a transformed tumor model in order to develop such TP models which can be used for control purposes in our future work. We compared the behavior of the transformed model to the developed TP models without external input signal and beside the presence of inhibitor intake. In all cases, we experienced that the TP models approximate the transformed model with high precision and in all cases only numerical deviation occurred between the models. During the numerical simulations, we did not experienced stability problems thank to the applied limitation – although, the introduced operating domain of the states and parameter vector were tighter than the original tumor growth model. Since, the control goal in such kind of tasks is to decrease the volume of the tumor to a maintainable or operable size, the selected limits do not decrease the generality of the TP models – which can be applied for TP-based tumor growth control. In our future work we will compare our results with measurements from animal experiments.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Authors thankfully acknowledge the support of the Robotics Special College of Öbuda University and the Öbuda University’s Research and Innovation Center.

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