Distributed $\ell_1$-state-and-fault estimation for Multi-agent systems

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**Abstract**—In this paper, we propose a distributed state-and-fault estimation scheme for multi-agent systems. The estimator is based on an $\ell_1$-norm optimization problem, which is inspired by sparse signal recovery in the field of compressive sampling. Two theoretical results are given to analyze the correctness of our approach. First, we provide a necessary and sufficient condition such that the state and fault signals are correctly estimated. The result presents a fundamental limitation of the algorithm, which shows how many faulty nodes are allowed to ensure a correct estimation. Second, we analyze how the estimation error grows over time by showing that the upper bound of the estimation error depends on the previous state estimate and the number of faulty nodes. An illustrative example is given to validate the effectiveness of the proposed approach.

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The problem of controlling multi-agent systems arises in many practical applications, such as vehicle platooning, formation control of autonomous vehicles and satellites, cooperative control of robots, power networks, to name a few [1]. In multi-agent systems, designing an automatic framework of detecting anomaly or faults has attracted much attention in recent years, see, e.g., [2]. The motivation is twofold. First, since a multi-agent system consists of many interactions among subsystems, only a few anomalous behaviors will provide a significant impact on the overall system’s performance. For example, in vehicle platooning, anomalous behaviors such as sudden braking or acceleration of a leading vehicle will affect behaviors of the following vehicles, which may cause traffic accidents or traffic jam. Second, due to the existence of many interactions over the communication network, a multi-agent system may be vulnerable to cyber attacks. For example, actuators of some nodes may be hacked by attackers over communication network, so that they can operate the controllers to enforce some nodes to be anomalous. Therefore, detecting and estimating faults in multi-agent system at an early stage is necessary to maintain safe and reliable real-time operations.

So far, various formulations and approaches have been proposed to detect and estimate faults in multi-agent systems, see, e.g., [3]–[13]. Early works focus on designing detection schemes in a centralized manner, in which all nodes should communicate with a central unit for detecting faulty signals, see, e.g., [3], [4]. In recent years, there has been a growing attention in designing decentralized or distributed fault detection and estimation schemes, see, e.g., [5]–[13]. For example, [5] and [6] proposed Unknown Input Observers (UIO) for detecting faults in a decentralized and distributed manner, respectively. In [7], a distributed fault estimation scheme was proposed by using $H_\infty$ optimization, which involves sensitivity of faults and robustness of disturbances. In [13], a consensus-based decentralized observer is designed for fault detection. Moreover, a distributed fault detection scheme based on UIO for multi-agent Linear Parameter Varying (LPV) systems is proposed in [12].

In this paper, we are interested in developing a distributed fault estimation strategy for multi-agent systems. In particular, we consider the situation where each node is able to measure relative state information with respect to its neighbors. Some approaches have been already proposed for this problem setup, see, e.g., [8]–[11], where the references include centralized, decentralized, and distributed schemes. For example, in [10] a coordinate transformation is introduced to extract the observable subspace, and a sliding mode decentralized observer is designed to estimate faulty signals. In [11], a distributed fault detection scheme is proposed by employing Linear Matrix Inequalities (LMIs) on the sensitivity of residuals and robustness against system noise. In [9], a fault detection scheme is developed by introducing a set-valued observer, which is applied to two subsystems that are decomposed by left-coprime factorization. In addition, a UIO-based event-triggered communication protocol was proposed in [8], where each node monitors the neighboring nodes if they are subject to faults.

The contribution of this paper is to present a novel distributed fault estimation scheme for multi-agent systems based on relative state measurements. The estimator is different from previous works in [8]–[11], and draws inspirations from compressive sampling [14]. The estimator can handle the case when multiple faults arise. Thus, the approach is advantageous over [8]–[10] where neither systematic estimation scheme for multiple faults nor theoretical analysis are given. Moreover, we provide a quantitative analysis of how many faulty nodes can be tolerated to provide a correct estimation. While [11] gives a sufficient condition for designing a suitable estimator for multiple faults, our result may be more specific and intuitive, giving us a necessary and sufficient condition when the estimator provides correct estimations.

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Specifically, the contribution of this paper is as follows:

1) We provide a fault-and-state estimator for multi-agent systems based on an $\ell_1$-norm optimization problem, which is inspired by sparse signal recovery in the field of compressive sampling [14]. The optimization problem is formulated as a Basis Pursuit [15], in which several numerical solvers can be employed to solve the problem efficiently.

2) We provide two quantitative analysis for the correctness of the estimator. First, we provide a more detailed analysis (attacked sensors) and the correctness of the estimation. Both provide a connection between the number of faulty nodes and the correctness of the estimation, which is shown by analyzing the null-space property of the measurement matrix. Second, we analyze how the upper bound of the estimation error grows over time from the initial estimation error of states. In particular, we show that the estimation error grows over time depending on the number of faulty nodes and the estimation error at the previous time step.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. In Section II, we present some preliminaries on graph theory and the $\ell_1$-norm optimization problem. In Section III, the problem formulation and approach are given. In Section IV, we provide analysis of the estimator. In Section V, we provide analysis of the estimator in the presence of estimation errors at previous time. In Section VI, a distributed implementation to solve the estimation problem is given. In Section VII, an illustrative example shows the effectiveness of the proposed approach. Conclusions are given in Section VIII.

Notation: Let $\mathbb{R}$, $\mathbb{R}_+$, $\mathbb{N}$, $\mathbb{N}_+$ be the set of reals, positive reals, non-negative integers, and positive integers, respectively. Given $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, denote by $x^{(i)}$ the $i$-th component of $x$. Given $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, let $\|x\|$ be the Euclidean norm of $x$. Moreover, let $\|x\|_1$ be the $\ell_1$-norm of $x$, i.e., $\|x\|_1 = |x^{(1)}| + |x^{(2)}| + \cdots + |x^{(n)}|$. Given a matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, we denote by $A^{(i,j)}$ the $(i,j)$-component of $A$. Given $M \in \mathbb{N}_+$, denote by $I_M \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times M}$ a $M$-dimensional vector whose components are 1. Given a set $T$, denote by $|T|$ the cardinality of $T$. For given $T \subseteq \{1, \ldots, n\}$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $x$ is called $T$-sparse if all components indexed by the complement of $T$ is 0, i.e., $x^{(i)} = 0$, $\forall i \in \{1, \ldots, n\} \setminus T$. Given $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $T \subseteq \{1, \ldots, n\}$, denote by $x_T \in \mathbb{R}^{|T|}$ a vector from $x$ by extracting all components indexed by $T$. Given $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, denote by rank($A$) the rank of $A$. Moreover, denote by ker($A$) the null space of $A$, i.e., ker($A$) = \{ $x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax = 0$ \}.

II. Preliminaries

A. Graph theory

Let $G = (V, E)$ denote a directed graph, where $V = \{1, 2, \ldots, M\}$ is the set of nodes and $E = \{e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_N\} \subseteq V \times V$ is the set of edges. The graph is strongly connected if for every pair of nodes there exists a path between them. The graph is weakly connected if for every pair of nodes, when removing all orientations in the graph, there exists a path between them. For a given $i \in V$, let $N_i \subseteq V$ be the set of neighboring nodes of $i$, i.e., $N_i = \{ j \in V : e = (i, j) \in E \}$. The incidence matrix $D = D(G)$ is the $\{0, \pm 1\}$ matrix, where $D^{(i,j)} = 1$ if node $i$ is the head of the edge $e_j$, $D^{(i,j)} = -1$ if node $i$ is the tail of the edge $e_j$, and $D^{(i,i)} = 0$ otherwise. For a given $G = (V, E)$ with $M$ number of nodes, it is shown that rank($D$) = $M - 1$ if $G$ is weakly connected. The null-space of the incidence matrix is given by ker($D^T$) = $\gamma I_M$, where $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ (see, e.g., Chapter 2 in [21]).
B. The Null-Space Property and ℓ_1-norm optimization

In what follows, we provide the notion of Null-Space Property (NSP) and its useful result for the ℓ_1-norm optimization problem.

**Definition 1 (The Null-Space Property).** For given \( A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \) and \( T \subseteq \{1,2,\ldots,n\} \), \( A \) is said to satisfy the Null-Space Property (NSP) for \( T \) (or \( T\)-NSP for short), if for every \( v \in \ker(A)\setminus\{0\} \), it holds that

\[
\|v_T\|_1 < \|v_{T^c}\|_1,
\]

where \( T^c = \{1,\ldots,n\} \setminus T \).

The NSP is a key property to check whether the sparse signal can be reconstructed based on the ℓ_1-norm optimization problem:

**Theorem 1 (ℓ_1-reconstruction theorem).** For given \( A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \) and \( T \subseteq \{1,\ldots,n\} \), every \( T \)-sparse vector \( x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n \) is a unique solution to the following optimization problem:

\[
\min_x \|x\|_1 \quad \text{s.t.,} \quad Ax_0 = Ax,
\]

if and only if \( A \) satisfies \( T\)-NSP.

The above theorem indicates that every \( T \)-sparse vector can be reconstructed by solving the ℓ_1-norm optimization problem in (2), if and only if the matrix \( A \) satisfies \( T\)-NSP. The proof of Theorem 1 follows the same line as [22] and is omitted in this paper.

III. Problem Formulation

A. Dynamics

We consider a network of \( M \) inter-connected nodes, which is modeled by a graph \( G = (V,E) \), where \( V = \{1,2,\ldots,M\} \) is the set of nodes and \( E \subseteq V \times V \) is the set of edges. Here, each edge \( e = \{i,j\} \in E \) indicates the sensing and communication capabilities of node \( i \) with respect to \( j \). More specifically, if \( \{i,j\} \in V \), node \( i \) is able to measure the relative state information with respect to \( j \), as well as to transmit it to \( j \). We assume that \( G \) is weakly connected. Moreover, we assume that there exists one leader and \( M-1 \) followers; without loss of generality, the node labeled with \( 1 \in V \) indicates the leader and the others are the followers. The dynamics for node \( i \in V \) is described by the following discrete-time system:

\[
x_i(k) = A_ix_i(k-1) + B_iu_i(k-1) + f_i(k), \quad (3)
\]

for \( k \in \mathbb{N} \), where \( x_i \in \mathbb{R}^n \) is the state, \( u_i \in \mathbb{R}^m \) is the control input, and \( f_i \in \mathbb{R}^n \) is the signal indicating the occurrence of faults, i.e., \( f_i(k) \neq 0 \) when node \( i \) is subject to a fault at \( k \), and \( f_i(k) = 0 \) otherwise. Here, we do not assume any statistical properties of the faulty signals, and these can be viewed as system faults on the dynamics in (3), or actuator faults caused by physical effects or cyber attacks over the communication network. Note that the state and input dimensions are \( n \) and \( m \) for all nodes. We assume that the control input is known to node \( i \) for all \( k \in \mathbb{N} \). Let \( \mathcal{I}_k \subseteq \{1,\ldots,M\} \cup \emptyset \) be the unknown set of nodes that are subject to faults at \( k \in \mathbb{N} \), i.e.,

\[
\mathcal{I}_k = \{i \in \{1,\ldots,M\} : f_i(k) \neq 0 \}.
\]

Note that the set \( \mathcal{I}_k \) can be time-varying, i.e., the set of faulty nodes is possibly changing over time.

The output equation depends on whether the node is the leader or one of the followers. For the followers, each node is able to measure the relative state information from its neighbors by using on-board sensors, i.e., for all \( i \in V \setminus \{1\} \),

\[
y_{ij}(k) = x_i(k) - x_j(k), \quad j \in \mathcal{N}_i
\]

for \( k \in \mathbb{N} \), where \( y_{ij}(k), j \in \mathcal{N}_i \) is the output measurement. The set of outputs collected at node \( i \) can be expressed as

\[
y_i(k) = C_ix(k),
\]

where \( y_i(k) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_{\mathcal{N}_i}} \) is the vector collecting the measurement outputs for all \( j \in \mathcal{N}_i \), \( C_i \) is the matrix defined through (5), and \( x(k) = [x_1(k)^T \ x_2(k)^T \ \ldots \ x_{M}(k)^T]^T \).

Regarding the measurement outputs for the leader, we consider the following two cases. First, not only can the leader measure the relative state information from its neighbors but also its own state information, i.e.,

\[
y_{1j}(k) = x_1(k) - x_j(k), \quad j \in \mathcal{N}_1, \quad (7)
\]

\[
y_{11}(k) = x_1(k), \quad (8)
\]

where \( y_{1j}(k), j \in \mathcal{N}_1 \) and \( y_{11}(k) \) are the output measurements. If the leader is able to obtain both (7) and (8), we say that the leader is in active mode. Second, when the leader can only measure the relative state info from its neighbors, i.e.,

\[
y_{1j}(k) = x_1(k) - x_j(k), \quad j \in \mathcal{N}_1, \quad (9)
\]

then we say that the leader is in non-active mode. In practice, the leader’s mode indicated above changes over time depending on physical environments. For example, if the leader is in the outdoor environment that can utilize GPS to locate the state, the measurement in (8) is available and thus the leader is in active mode. On the other hand, if the leader enters an indoor environment in which it cannot utilize GPS due to signal loss caused by the presence of walls in the building (e.g., inside the tunnel, underground, etc.), the measurement in (8) is not available and the leader is in non-active mode. To indicate whether the leader is active or non-active, let \( a_1(k) \in \{0,1\} \) be given by

\[
a_1(k) = \begin{cases} 
0, & \text{if the leader is in nonactive mode.} \\
1, & \text{if the leader is in active mode.}
\end{cases}
\]

We further assume the following.

**Assumption 1.** The leader is in active mode at the initial time, i.e., \( a_1(0) = 1 \). Moreover, there is no fault at \( k = 0 \), i.e., \( \mathcal{I}_0 = \emptyset \).

Note that the leader can either be in active or non-active mode for all \( k \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\} \). As we will see in the analysis of Section IV, the assumption of being in an active mode at \( k = 0 \) leads to the correct fault and state estimation for all the time steps afterwards. As with (6), the set of outputs for the leader can be expressed as

\[
y_1(k) = C_{10}x(k), \quad \text{if } a_1(k) = 0, \quad (10)
\]

\[
y_1(k) = C_{11}x(k), \quad \text{if } a_1(k) = 1, \quad (11)
\]
where $C_{10}$ is the matrix obtained by collecting all measurements from (9), and $C_{11}$ is the matrix obtained from (7) and (8).

Based on the above, the overall dynamics for all nodes can be expressed as

$$x(k) = Ax(k - 1) + Bu(k - 1) + f(k),$$

for $k \in \mathbb{N}$, where

$$x(k) = [x_1(k)^T \ x_2(k)^T \ldots x_M(k)^T]^T,$$

$$u(k) = [u_1(k)^T \ u_2(k)^T \ldots u_M(k)^T]^T,$$

$$f(k) = [f_1(k)^T \ f_2(k)^T \ldots f_M(k)^T]^T,$$

and $A, B$ are the matrices with appropriate dimensions. The measurement output is given by

$$y(k) = \begin{cases} C_0 x(k), & \text{if } a_1(k) = 0 \\ C_1 x(k), & \text{if } a_1(k) = 1, \end{cases}$$

where $y(k) = [y_1(k)^T \ y_2(k)^T \ldots y_M(k)^T]^T$ and

$$C_0 = \begin{bmatrix} C_{10} \\ C_2 \\ \vdots \\ C_M \end{bmatrix}, \quad C_1 = \begin{bmatrix} C_{11} \\ C_2 \\ \vdots \\ C_M \end{bmatrix}.$$ (18)

Note that the pair $(A, C_0)$ is un-observable when all nodes are identical (i.e., $A_1 = A_2 = \cdots = A_M$), see e.g., [8]–[10], and such case is included in the above system when the leader is in non-active mode. Note also, that the pair $(A, C_1)$ is observable with the left-invertible matrix $C_1$ (i.e., $C_1$ has a trivial kernel and rank($C_1$) = $n_M$), which is due to the fact that the leader can measure its own state when it is in active mode (see (8)).

**(Example):** Suppose that $\mathcal{V} = \{1, 2, 3\}$ and $\{1, 2\}, \{2, 3\} \in \mathcal{E}$, and the dynamics of node $i$ is scalar and given by $x_i(k+1) = x_i(k) + f_i(k)$, $\forall i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$. Then, we have $A = I_3$, $B = 0$ and

$$C_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad C_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$ (19)

**B. State and fault estimation using $\ell_1$-norm optimization**

For each $k \in \mathbb{N}$, we aim at estimating the state $x(k)$ and the fault $f(k)$, based on the current output measurement $y(k)$. We start by formulating a centralized solution, which estimates them by employing all output measurements as in (16) or (17). A distributed strategy will be formulated later in this paper. Let $\hat{x}(k), \hat{f}(k), k \in \mathbb{N}$ be the state and the fault signals that are estimated at $k$, respectively. In order to obtain these estimates, we solve the following optimization problem:

$$\hat{x}(k) = \arg \min_x \|x - A\hat{x}(k - 1) - Bu(k - 1)\|_1 \quad \text{s.t. } y(k) = Cx,$$ (20)

where $C = C_0$ if $a_1(k) = 0$ and $C = C_1$ if $a_1(k) = 1$. Without loss of generality, we set $\hat{x}(k - 1) = 0$ for $k = 0$. The estimation for $\hat{f}(k)$ is then computed as

$$\hat{f}(k) = \hat{x}(k) - A\hat{x}(k - 1) - Bu(k - 1).$$ (21)

In general, the term $A\hat{x}(k - 1) + Bu(k - 1)$ is called apriori estimate for $k$. Thus, the optimization problem in (20) aims at finding the state that is the closest to the apriori estimate, subject to the constraint on the output measurement $y(k)$. Letting $z = x - A\hat{x}(k - 1) - Bu(k - 1)$, the problem in (20) leads to

$$\min \|z\|_1, \text{ subject to } y(k) = Cz,$$

which is indeed a well-known Basis Pursuit (BP) [15]. Hence, various numerical solvers can be applied to obtain the solution, both in a centralized manner [23], and distributed manner [16] (see also Section VI for the distributed formulation).

The optimization problem in (20) is indeed relevant to the existing estimation methodologies. To see this, consider the following weighted $\ell_2$-norm optimization problem:

$$\min_x \|x - A\hat{x}(k - 1) - Bu(k - 1)\|_{V,P}^2 + \|y(k) - Cx\|_{P^{-1}}^2,$$ (22)

where $V, P$ are the positive definite matrices. Then, the solution to the above optimization problem is given by

$$\hat{x}(k) = \hat{x}^-(k - 1) + APCT(V + CPC)^{-1}(y(k) - C\hat{x}^-(k - 1)),$$

where $\hat{x}^-(k - 1) = A\hat{x}(k - 1) + Bu(k - 1)$, which is indeed the (steady state) Kalman filter update. Thus, the optimization problem in (20) is, roughly speaking, a modified version of the Kalman filter by utilizing the $\ell_1$-norm in the objective function. The utilization of the $\ell_1$-norm is motivated by the fact that it has the potential to provide a better estimation accuracy of states than the Kalman filter ($\ell_2$-norm optimization), regardless of the effect of the fault signals. This can be indeed illustrated by the following example.

**(Example):** Suppose that $\mathcal{V} = \{1, 2, 3\}$ and $\{1, 2\}, \{2, 3\} \in \mathcal{E}$, and the dynamics of node $i$ is scalar and given by $x_i(k+1) = x_i(k) + f_i(k)$, $\forall i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$. As with the example in Section III-A, we have $A = I_3$, $B = 0$, and $C_0, C_1$ are given by (19), and the measurement output is given by (16) and (17). Assume that $a_1(k) = 1$, $\forall k \in [0, 19]$ and $a_1(k) = 0$, $\forall k \in [20, 40]$. The initial states are $x_0 = [2; 4; 6] \in \mathbb{R}^3$ and the evolution of the states are illustrated in Fig. 1 (blue solid lines). As shown in the figure, it is assumed that the fault occurs at $k = 30$ for $x_1(k)$ with $f_1(k) = -3$.

The estimation results by applying (20) and the Kalman filter ($\ell_2$-norm optimization) are also illustrated in Fig. 1 (left figure). During the Kalman filter implementation, we simply use (22) with the parameters given by $P = 0.0001I_3$ and $V = 0.0001I_3$ (if $C = C_1$), $V = 0.0001I_2$ (if $C = C_0$). While both approaches provide somewhat good estimates for a while, it is shown that the $\ell_1$-norm optimization approach dramatically overcomes the Kalman filter when the fault occurs at $k = 30$. Intuitively, this is due to the fact that the proposed approach utilizes the $\ell_1$-norm objective function; if $\hat{x}(k - 1) \approx x(k - 1)$, which may hold in this example since the system is observable for a while, we then have $x(k) - A\hat{x}(k - 1) - Bu(k - 1) \approx f(k)$, and solving (20) may lead to a good estimator as $f(k)$ is
sparse with only the first component taking non-zero values.

Although the $\ell_1$-norm optimization approach becomes a good estimator in the above example, it leads to a failure when more nodes are faulty. To illustrate this, the right figure of Fig.1 shows the result when both $x_1$ and $x_2$ are faulty concurrently at $k = 30$. Clearly, the $\ell_1$-optimization approach fails to reconstruct states and faults, which may imply that the estimation performance depends on the number of faulty nodes. Additionally, since $\hat{x}(k-1)$ is utilized for the estimator in (20), the estimation accuracy may also depend on the estimation error at the previous time; if these errors are too large, the estimation accuracy may be worse. Motivated by the above observations, in this paper we aim to provide answers to the following questions.

- How many faulty nodes can be tolerated to provide correct estimation?
- How does the estimation error at $k-1$ affect the estimation error at $k$?

Remark 1 (On the extension to the case when measurement noise is present). Suppose that measurement noise is present and we have $y(k) = Cx(k) + w(k)$ ($C = C_0$ if the leader is non-active, and $C = C_1$ if the leader is active), where $w(k)$ represents measurement noise and is assumed to be norm-bounded as $\|w(k)\| \leq w_{\text{max}}, \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ for a given $w_{\text{max}} \in \mathbb{R}_+$. In this case, it is possible to modify the estimator as follows:

$$\hat{x}(k) = \arg \min_x \|x - Ax(k-1) - Bu(k-1)\|_1$$

s.t. $\|y(k) - Cx\| \leq w_{\text{max}}$. \hfill (23)

In this paper, we focus on providing a detailed theoretical analysis for the estimator of (20), rather than of (23). However, in order to investigate the applicability of (23), we also illustrate the corresponding estimation performance through a numerical simulation. For details, see Section VII. \hfill \Box

IV. ANALYSIS OF THE ESTIMATOR

In this section we provide a quantitative analysis of the estimator as the answer to the first question considered in the previous section. Recall the optimization problem (20):

$$\min_x \|x - Ax(k-1) - Bu(k-1)\|_1 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad y(k) = Cx, \hfill (24)$$

for $k \in \mathbb{N}$, where $C = C_0$ if $a_1(k) = 0$ and $C = C_1$ if $a_1(k) = 1$. Suppose that Assumption 1 holds ($a_1(k) = 1$, $I_0 = \emptyset$), and consider the unknown sets of faulty nodes $I_k \subseteq \{1, \ldots, M\} \cup \emptyset$, for $k \in \mathbb{N}\setminus\{0\}$, which means that $f_i(k) \neq 0$, $\forall i \in I_k$ and $f_i(k) = 0$ otherwise. Let $F_{I_k} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{nM}$ be given by

$$F_{I_k} = \{f(k) \in \mathbb{R}^{nM} : f_i(k) \neq 0, \forall i \in I_k \text{ and } f_i(k) = 0, \forall i \notin I_k\}. \hfill (25)$$

That is, $F_{I_k}$ is the domain of all $f(k)$ when the set of faulty nodes is given by $I_k$. Then, we can say that the estimator is correct if the estimator in (24) yields the estimation that is identical to the actual one, i.e., for all $k \in \mathbb{N}\setminus\{0\}$, it follows that $\hat{x}(k) = x(k)$, $\hat{f}(k) = f(k), \forall f(k) \in F_{I_k}, \forall u(k) \in \mathbb{R}^{mM}$. The following theorem presents a necessary and sufficient condition for this as the main result of this section:

Theorem 2. Consider the estimator in (24), and suppose that Assumption 1 holds. Then, the following statements are equivalent:

(a) $|I_k| < M/2$, $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}\setminus\{0\}$.
(b) $x(k) = x(k), f(k) = f(k), \forall f(k) \in F_{I_k}, \forall u(k-1) \in \mathbb{R}^{mM}, \forall a_1(k) \in \{1, 0\}, \forall k \notin \mathbb{N}\setminus\{0\}$. \hfill \Box

For the proof, see the Appendix A. In essence, Theorem 2 indicates that state and fault signals are correctly estimated for all $k \in \mathbb{N}\setminus\{0\}$ regardless of the values of $f(k)$, control inputs $u(k-1)$ and the leader’s mode $a_1(k)$, if and only if the number of faulty nodes is less than half the total number of nodes for all $k \in \mathbb{N}\setminus\{0\}$. Indeed, this fundamental limitation is related to the ones presented in [17]–[19], where they showed that the number of attacks on sensors that can be tolerated to provide a correct estimation cannot exceed half the total number of sensors.

V. ANALYSIS OF ESTIMATOR IN THE PRESENCE OF ESTIMATION ERRORS AT PREVIOUS TIME

In the previous section, we provide a necessary and sufficient condition such that the estimator provides correct estimations. In essence, correct estimations for $k \in \mathbb{N}\setminus\{0\}$ are ensured if and only if the estimation error at $k-1$ is absent, i.e., $x(k-1) = \hat{x}(k-1)$ (see Lemma 2 in Appendix A). However, estimation errors at $k-1$ should arise due to, e.g., numerical errors of solving (20), imperfect knowledge of the initial state, the presence of system noise, and so on. In this section, therefore, we analyze how the estimation error at $k-1$ affects the estimation error at $k$ as the answer to the second question considered in Section III-B. Moreover, we will also illustrate how the upper bound of the estimation error grows over time from the initial estimation error. The main result of this section is given as follows:

Theorem 3. For a given $k \in \mathbb{N}\setminus\{0\}$ and $d_{\text{max}} \in \mathbb{R}_+$, suppose that $\|x(k-1) - x(k-1)\|_1 \leq d_{\text{max}}$ holds, and let $I_k \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ be any set of faulty nodes with $|I_k| < M/2$. Then, for every $f(k) \in F_{I_k}, u(k) \in \mathbb{R}^{mM}$ and $a_1(k) \in \{0, 1\}$, it holds that

$$\|f(k) - \hat{f}(k)\|_1 \leq \frac{2(M - |I_k|)}{M - 2|I_k|} \eta d_{\text{max}}, \hfill (26)$$

where $\eta$ is a numerical simulation. For details, see Section VII.
where $\eta = \sum_{i=1}^{n_M} \sum_{j=1}^{n_M} |A(i,j)|$. \hfill \Box

For the proof, see the Appendix B. Theorem 3 states that, if the number of faulty nodes is smaller than half the total number of nodes, the estimation error of faults is bounded at most proportional to the estimation error of states occurred at the previous time. Moreover, since $\frac{2M-|I_k|}{M-2|I_k|} < \frac{2(M-|I_k|)}{M-2|I_k|}$ for any $I_k$, $\bar{I}_k$ with $|\bar{I}_k| < |I_k| < M/2$, the estimation error may be larger as the number of faulty nodes becomes larger.

Based on Theorem 3, we can obtain how the estimation error of states grows over time depending on whether the leader is active or non-active. To see this, suppose that $||x(0) - \hat{x}(0)||_1 \leq d(0)$, where $d(0) \in \mathbb{R}_+$ represents the upper bound of the estimation error for the initial time. Such estimation error may arise due to that: (i) the leader is in non-active mode at $k = 0$ (i.e., Assumption 1 does not hold) and the initial state is unknown, but we know that the estimation error is bounded as $||x(0) - \hat{x}(0)||_1 \leq d(0)$; (ii) the leader is in active mode at $k = 0$ (i.e., Assumption 1 holds), but some numerical errors arise in solving (20). Moreover, suppose that $|I_k| < M/2$. If the leader is non-active at $k = 1$, it then follows that

$$
||x(1) - \hat{x}(1)||_1 \leq ||A(x(0) - \hat{x}(0))||_1 + ||f(1) - \hat{f}(1)||_1 \leq \frac{3M-4|I_k|}{M-2|I_k|} \eta d(0),
$$

(27)

where we used $||A(x(0) - \hat{x}(0))||_1 \leq \eta d(0)$ and $||f(1) - \hat{f}(1)||_1 \leq \frac{2M-|I_k|}{M-2|I_k|} \eta d(0)$. On the other hand, if the leader is active at $k = 1$, it follows that $C = C_1$ has a trivial kernel (see also Section III after (18)) and the solution of $x$ satisfying $y(k) = Cx$ is uniquely determined. Although this implies that $\hat{x}(1) = x(1)$ by solving (20), we consider here a more practical situation that $||x(1) - \hat{x}(1)||_1 \leq \bar{d}$, where $\bar{d} \in \mathbb{R}_+$ represents the upper bound of the numerical error in solving (20). Hence, by applying the above for $k = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$, we obtain $||x(k) - \hat{x}(k)||_1 \leq d(k)$, where $d(k) \in \mathbb{R}_+$, $k \in \mathbb{N}$ are recursively given by

$$
d(k) = \begin{cases} 
3M-4|I_k| \quad & \text{if } a(k) = 0, \\
\bar{d} \quad & \text{if } a(k) = 1,
\end{cases}
$$

(28)

(29)

for all $k \in \mathbb{N}\setminus\{0\}$, where we assume that $|I_k| < M/2$, $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}\setminus\{0\}$. The above relation implies that, the upper bound of the estimation error is reset to $\bar{d}$ if the leader gets into the active mode, while on the other hand the error may diverge as long as the leader is in non-active mode.

**Remark 2** (On the effect of system noise). The analysis can be extended to the case when (bounded) system noise is added to the system. To illustrate this, suppose that the dynamics is given by $\dot{x}(k) = Ax(k-1) + Bu(k-1) + v(k-1) + f(k)$, where $v$ is the system noise and is assumed to be bounded as $\|v(k)\|_1 \leq v_{\text{max}}, \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ for a given $v_{\text{max}} > 0$. Then, (27) becomes $\|x(1) - \hat{x}(1)\|_1 \leq \|A(x(0) - \hat{x}(0))\|_1 + \|f(1) - \hat{f}(1)\|_1 + \|v(1)\|_1 \leq \frac{3M-4|I_k|}{M-2|I_k|} \eta d(0) + v_{\text{max}}$. Hence, the corresponding $d(k)$ is given by replacing the right hand side of (28) with $\frac{3M-4|I_k|}{M-2|I_k|} \eta d(k-1) + v_{\text{max}}$. \hfill \Box

VI. DISTRIBUTED IMPLEMENTATION

In this section we provide an algorithm that yields the solution to (20) in a distributed manner, which means that each node is able to estimate states and faults for all nodes by coordinating only with its neighbors. The approach follows the distributed basis pursuit (DBP) algorithm [16], which is a solver for $\ell_1$-norm optimization problem based on the alternating direction method of multipliers (ADMM). In this section, we provide an overview of the methodology presented in [16] and apply to our fault and state estimation problem.

Assume that the network graph $G = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$ is connected, bidirectional and bipartite: $\{i, j\} \in \mathcal{E}$ implies $\{j, i\} \in \mathcal{E}$ and the vertices can be decomposed into two independent sets $\mathcal{M}_1$, $\mathcal{M}_2$, i.e., every edge in $\mathcal{E}$ connects a vertex in $\mathcal{M}_1$ (or $\mathcal{M}_2$) to a vertex in $\mathcal{M}_2$ (or $\mathcal{M}_1$). In addition, assume that the control law for node $i$ is based on the relative state information from its neighbors, and all nodes share the same control law, i.e.,

$$
u_i(k) = \rho r_{\mathcal{N}_i}(k), \quad \forall i \in \{1, \ldots, M\},
$$

(30)

where $r_{\mathcal{N}_i}(k) = \{x_j(k) - x_i(k) : j \in \mathcal{N}_i\}$ and $\rho$ denotes the control law. The control law that collects all nodes is denoted as $u(k) = \kappa(x(k))$, where $\kappa = [\rho^T, \rho^T, \ldots, \rho^T]$. The following assumption is further required:

**Assumption 2.** The matrix $A$ is known to all nodes. \hfill \Box

Recall that $y(k)$ and $C_0, C_1$ can be partitioned by rows as

$$
C_q = \begin{bmatrix} C_{1q} \\ C_2 \\ \vdots \\ C_M \end{bmatrix}, \quad y(k) = \begin{bmatrix} y_1(k) \\ y_2(k) \\ \vdots \\ y_M(k) \end{bmatrix},
$$

(31)

for $q \in \{0, 1\}$, where $y_i, i \in \{1, \ldots, M\}$ is the output measurements that are available to node $i$. To employ the approach presented in [16] for the row partition case, let $\chi_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n_M}, i \in \{1, \ldots, M\}$ be the decision variable that will be optimized by node $i$. Roughly speaking, $\chi_i$ represents the estimated state of $x(k)$ obtained by node $i$. The optimization problem in (20) is then reformulated as follows:

$$
\min \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^{M} \|\hat{x}_i(k-1) - A\hat{x}_i(k-1) - B\nu_{\chi_i}(k-1)\|_1
$$

subject to:

$$
y_1(k) = C_{1q}\chi_1, \quad y_i(k) = C_i\chi_i, \quad \forall i \in \{2, \ldots, M\}
$$

$$
\chi_i = \chi_j, \quad \forall \{i, j\} \in \mathcal{E},
$$

(32)

where $q = 0$ (resp. $q = 1$) if $a_1(k) = 0$ (resp. $a_1(k) = 1$), and $\hat{x}_1(k-1) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_M}$ is the estimated state obtained by node $i$ at $k-1$. Let $\chi_i(k) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_M}, i \in \{1, \ldots, M\}$ be the solution to the optimization problem in (32). From the connectivity of the graph and the constraint in (32), global consistency for the optimal solution is satisfied, i.e., $\hat{x}_1(k) = \hat{x}_2(k) = \cdots = \hat{x}_M(k)$. Using the independent sets $\mathcal{M}_1$, $\mathcal{M}_2$, the optimization
problem in (32) can be rewritten as
\[
\begin{align*}
\min & \quad \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i \in M_1} \| \chi_i - A \hat{\chi}_i(k-1) - B \kappa(\hat{\chi}_i(k-1)) \|_1 \\
+ & \quad \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i \in M_2} \| \chi_i - A \hat{\chi}_i(k-1) - B \kappa(\hat{\chi}_i(k-1)) \|_1 \\
\text{subject to} : & \quad y_i(k) = C_{i} \chi_i, \quad \forall i \in \{2, \ldots, M\}, \\
& \quad (E_1^T \otimes I_{nM}) \hat{\chi}_1 + (E_2^T \otimes I_{nM}) \hat{\chi}_2 = 0, \quad (33)
\end{align*}
\]
where \( \hat{\chi}_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{nM|M_1|} \) and \( \hat{\chi}_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{nM|M_2|} \) are the vectors collecting \( \chi_i \) for all \( i \in M_1 \) and \( i \in M_2 \), respectively, \( I_{nM} \) denotes the \( nM \times nM \) identity matrix, \( \otimes \) denotes the Kronecker product, and \( E_1, E_2 \) are the matrices such that \( E = [E_1^T, E_2^T]^T \) is the incidence matrix of the graph \( G \). The structure of the optimization problem in (33) is now suited to apply the ADMM algorithm in a distributed manner; by defining the augmented Lagrangian \( L(\hat{\chi}_1, \hat{\chi}_2, \lambda) \), it can be verified that minimizing \( L \) with respect to \( \hat{\chi}_1 \) and \( \hat{\chi}_2 \) can be executed parallelly among the nodes \( i \in M_1 \) and \( i \in M_2 \), respectively, and the dual variables can be also updated parallelly for all nodes, see [16] for a detailed derivation. The overall distributed algorithm is shown in Algorithm 1. In the algorithm, the variable \( \chi_i \) is updated according to (34), where \( \nu_i > 0 \) is the \( i \)-th diagonal element of \( E_1 E_1^T \) and \( \zeta > 0 \) is a constant parameter for the quadratic penalty added in the objective function to define the augmented Lagrangian. By Assumption 2, the updates in (34) can be executed in parallel for all nodes in \( M_1 \). Once all updates in \( i \in M_1 \) are done, these are transmitted to its neighbors. Similarly, the updates for all nodes in \( M_2 \) are executed in parallel and are transmitted to their neighbors. Afterwards, the variables \( \mu_i \) relating to the dual variables are updated in parallel for all nodes in \( i \in \mathcal{V} \). The above procedure is iterated until the number of iterations reaches a prescribed threshold \( L_{\text{max}} \), and obtain the estimates of states and faults that are denoted as \( \hat{\chi}_i(k) \) and \( \hat{\zeta}_i(k) \), respectively.

Based on the above algorithm, the following convergence property is satisfied:

**Lemma 1.** For a given \( k \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\} \) and \( \tilde{\chi} \in \mathbb{R}^{nM} \), let \( \hat{\chi}(k) \) be the solution to (20) with \( \hat{\chi}(k-1) = \tilde{\chi} \) and let \( \hat{\chi}_i(k), i \in \{1, \ldots, M\} \) be the estimated states by applying Algorithm 1 at \( k \) with \( \hat{\chi}_i(k-1) = \tilde{\chi}, \forall i \in \{1, \ldots, M\} \). Then, it follows that \( \hat{\chi}_i(k) = \hat{\chi}_i(k), \forall i \in \{1, \ldots, M\} \) as \( L_{\text{max}} \to \infty \).

Roughly speaking, Lemma 1 shows that the state estimate at \( k \) obtained by applying Algorithm 1 converges to a solution to (20). The result follows exactly as before [16] and is omitted in this paper. Recalling that \( \hat{\chi}(k-1) = 0 \) for \( k = 0 \) (see Section III-B), we have \( \hat{\chi}(k-1) = \hat{\chi}_i(k-1), \forall i \in \{1, \ldots, M\} \) for \( k = 0 \). Thus, the following is immediate by applying Lemma 1 for all \( k \in \mathbb{N} \):

**Theorem 4.** Suppose that Algorithm 1 is implemented for all \( k \). Then, it follows that \( \hat{\chi}(k) = \hat{\chi}_i(k), \forall i \in \{1, \ldots, M\}, \forall k \in \mathbb{N} \) as \( L_{\text{max}} \to \infty \).

**Remark 3.** By extending Algorithm 1, it is possible to incorporate attack (fault) detection and isolation strategies in several ways. For example, one may set a certain threshold \( \varepsilon > 0 \), and agent \( i \) estimates the neighboring agent \( j \) (\( j \in \mathcal{N}_i \)) to be faulty if \( \| (\hat{\chi}_j(k)) \| > \varepsilon \), where \( F_j = \{ (j-1)n+1, (j-1)n+2, \ldots, jn \} \) (i.e., \( \hat{\chi}_j(k) \) represents the estimation of \( f_j(k) \) computed by agent \( i \)). Once the fault has been detected, agent \( i \) removes the connection to agent \( j \) in order to isolate it from the neighbors.

**VII. ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE**

In this section we provide an illustrative example to validate our estimation scheme. We consider a multi-vehicle system with 9 vehicles (nodes), which moves in two-dimensional plane. Let \( p_i = [p_{x_i}; p_{y_i}] \in \mathbb{R}^2 \), \( v_i = [v_{x_i}; v_{y_i}] \in \mathbb{R}^2 \), \( i \in \{1, \ldots, 9\} \) be the position and the velocity of vehicle \( i \), respectively. The dynamics of vehicle \( i \) is assumed to be a double-integrator:

\[
\dot{\chi}_i = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \chi_i + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} u_i + f_i, 
\]

where \( \chi_i = [p_i; v_i] \in \mathbb{R}^4 \) and \( u_i = [u_{x_i}; u_{y_i}] \in \mathbb{R}^2 \) is the control input, and \( f_i \in \mathbb{R}^4 \) is the fault signal. We discretize the system in (36) under a zero-order hold with 0.05s sampling time interval to obtain \( x_t(k) = A_x \chi_t(k-1) + B_{x} u_t(k-1) + f_t(k) \), where \( A_x \) and \( B_x \) are the appropriate matrices. We assume that only velocity states are subject to faults, i.e.,

**Algorithm 1: Distributed implementation.**

1. Set \( k = 0 \) and \( \hat{\chi}_i(k-1) = 0, \forall i \in \{1, \ldots, M\} \);
2. for each \( k \in \mathbb{N} \) do
3. \( \hat{\chi}_i(k) = \hat{\chi}_i(0) = 0, \forall i \in \{1, \ldots, M\} \) and \( L = 1; \)
4. while \( L < L_{\text{max}} \) do
5. for all \( i \in \mathcal{M}_1 \) do
6. Set \( \nu_i(k) = \mu_i(k) - \zeta \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_i} \chi_j(k) \)
7. solve the following problem:
8. \[
\begin{align*}
\min & \quad \frac{1}{M} \| \chi_i(k) \| \| + (\nu_i(k) - \zeta \chi_i(k))^T \chi_i + \frac{\mu_i(k)}{2} \| \chi_i(k) \| \| \\
\text{s.t.} & \quad y_i(k) = C_i \chi_i(k), \quad \forall i \in \{1, \ldots, M\}, \quad (34)
\end{align*}
\]
9. where \( \hat{\chi}_i(k) = \hat{\chi}_i(k-1) - B \kappa(\hat{\chi}_i(k-1)) \) and \( \hat{\chi}_i(k) = \hat{\chi}_i(k-1) - B \kappa(\hat{\chi}_i(k-1)) \);
10. end
11. for all \( i \in \mathcal{M}_2 \) do
12. Set \( \mu_i(k+1) = \mu_i(k) + \zeta \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_i} (\chi_j(k+1) - \chi_j(k)) \)
13. end
14. end
15. Set \( L := L + 1; \)
16. end
17. for all \( i \in \{1, \ldots, M\} \) do
18. end
\[ f_i(k) = [0 \ 0 \ f_{x_i} \ f_{y_i}]^T. \] Since we have \( \dot{v}_{x_i} = u_{x_i} + f_{x_i} \) and \( \dot{v}_{y_i} = u_{y_i} + f_{y_i} \), one can also see that this situation is the case when actuators are subject to faults by physical faults or by malicious attackers.

The network graph \( \mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E}) \) indicating communication and sensing capacities among the vehicles is shown in Fig. 2. We assume that there exist two environments: outdoor and indoor environment. In the outdoor environment, the leader is able to communicate with GPS satellites to obtain the state information \( x_1 \), which allows the leader to be in active mode. In the indoor environment, the leader is not able to utilize the GPS due to signal loss by presence of walls in the building, which is thus forced to be in non-active mode. The leader initially starts in the outdoor environment to ensure Assumption 1 and it enters the indoor environment afterwards. More specifically, we assume that active/non-active mode is given by

\[ a_1(k) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } k \in [100, 300], \\ 1, & \text{otherwise}. \end{cases} \]

Note that for the overall system derived in (12), the pair \( (A, C_1) \) is observable, while \( (A, C_0) \) is not observable. This means that the observability is lost while the leader is non-active during \( k \in [100, 300] \).

The control law for the leader is given by \( u_{x_1} = -v_{x_1} + 1 \), \( u_{y_1} = 0 \), so that it moves along the \( x \)-axis with a constant velocity \( v_{x_1} = 1 \). All the other vehicles aim to follow the leader by interacting with their neighbors. Specifically, the control law for the followers are given by

\[ \begin{align*}
    u_{x_i} &= \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_i} -c_1(p_{x_j} - p_{x_i} - d_{x_{ij}}), \\
    u_{y_i} &= \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_i} -c_2(p_{y_j} - p_{y_i} + d_{y_{ij}}),
\end{align*} \]

where \( c_1, c_2 > 0 \) are given constant gains and \( [d_{x_{ij}}; d_{y_{ij}}] \) is the desired distance vector from \( i \) to \( j \). Fig. 3 illustrates fault signals that are injected to the vehicles and the actual trajectories of \( p_i \). As shown in the figure, it is assumed that the vehicle 2, 4, 6 and 9 are subject to faults with different shapes while the leader is the non-active mode. As a consequence, the resulting trajectories provide somewhat faulty behaviors as shown in Fig. 3.

Fig. 4 illustrates the estimated states and faults by the leader (i.e., \( \chi_1(k) \)) by applying Algorithm 1. As shown in the figure, state and fault signals are appropriately estimated by applying the proposed approach. This is due to the fact that the number of faulty vehicles is given by \( 4 < 9/2 \), which satisfies the condition to guarantee correct estimation from Theorem 2. For comparisons, we illustrate in Fig. 5 the estimated trajectories by applying the \( \ell_2 \)-norm optimization. While implementing the \( \ell_2 \)-norm optimization, we utilize the update in (22) and the fault signals are estimated according to (21). From the figure, the estimation error diverges while the leader is non-active. The main reason for this is that the observability is lost when the leader is non-active, and the Kalman filter becomes vulnerable to the fault signals. Thus, the result shows that the
The proposed approach is more resilient against faulty signals than the Kalman filter.

While the estimated states in Fig.4 seem to exactly match the actual ones, the estimation error actually increases due to the numerical errors of solving the optimization problem. To see this, we illustrate in Fig.6(a) the sequence of estimation error $\|x(k) - \hat{x}(k)\|_2$ for $k \in [50, 350]$. As shown in the figure, the error becomes larger as time evolves while the leader is in non-active mode, and it becomes much smaller as soon as it becomes active again at $k = 301$. Indeed, this corresponds to the observation described in Section V; the upper bound of the error grows if the leader is non-active, while it is reset to an arbitrary small value when it becomes active. To see how the number of faulty nodes affect the estimation error, we illustrate in Fig.6(b) the cumulative estimation error of states computed as $\sum_{k=101}^{300} \|\hat{x}_1(k) - x(k)\|_2$ with respect to the number of faulty vehicles $M_f \in \{1, \ldots, 6\}$. For each $M_f \in \{1, \ldots, 6\}$, the set of faulty vehicles are selected as $\mathcal{I}_k = \{1, \ldots, M_f\}$ for all $k \in [100, 300]$; and $f_{x,i}(k), i \in \{1, \ldots, M_f\}$ is assumed to be a random noise occurring with $f_{x,i}(k) \in [-10, 10]$. From the figure, it is shown that the estimation error dramatically increases when the number of anomalous vehicles is larger than 4, which indeed violates the condition of $|\mathcal{I}_k| < M/2$ derived in Theorem 2. Moreover, one can see from the enlarged view in the figure that the estimation error becomes larger even while $|\mathcal{I}_k| < M/2$. As is described in the observation in Section V, this is potentially because the upper bound of the estimation error becomes larger as $|\mathcal{I}_k|$ becomes larger.

Recall in Remark 1 that we can potentially take measurement noise into account by solving (23). To analyze this, suppose that we have $y(k) = Cx(k) + w(k), k \in \mathbb{N}$, where $w(k)$ represents measurement noise that is uniformly chosen satisfying $\|w(k)\| \leq w_{\text{max}}$ for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Fig.7 illustrates the estimated states by solving (23) with $w_{\text{max}} = 0.05$ (left) and the sequence of the estimation error $\|x(k) - \hat{x}(k)\|_2$ for $k \in [50, 350]$ with $w_{\text{max}} = 0.01, 0.05, 0.1$ (right). The figure shows some robustness against measurement noise; although we did not provide any theoretical analysis, the estimation error remains small if measurement noise is small enough. On the other hand, the figure demonstrates some practical limitations of our approach, since the estimation error grows over time when the leader is non-active, and the error becomes larger as $w_{\text{max}}$ becomes larger. Hence, it is worth analyzing how the estimation error grows over time when measurement noise is present, and it is indeed one of the topics to be investigated in our future research.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we investigated a distributed state-and-fault estimation algorithm for multi-agent systems. The estimator employs an $\ell_1$-norm optimization problem, which is based on the signal recovery in compressive sampling. We then provided two quantitative analysis that characterize correctness of the proposed estimator. The results provide a fundamental limitation on the number of faulty nodes that can be tolerated to provide correct estimation, as well as how the estimation error is bounded and affected by the previous estimation error. Finally, a numerical example of multi-vehicle systems illustrated the effectiveness of the proposed approach.

REFERENCES

In order to provide the proof of Theorem 2, we resort the following lemma:

**Lemma 2.** For a given $k \in \mathbb{N}\setminus\{0\}$ suppose that $\hat{x}(k-1) = x(k-1)$ holds. Then, the following statements are equivalent:

(a) $|\mathcal{T}_k| < M/2$.

(b) $\hat{x}(k) = x(k)$, $\hat{f}(k) = f(k)$, $\forall f(k) \in \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{T}_k}$, $\forall u(k-1) \in \mathbb{R}^{mM}$, $\forall \alpha_1(k) \in \{1, 0\}$.

Lemma 2 indicates that if there is no estimation error at $k-1$, a correct estimation is given at $k$ if and only if $|\mathcal{T}_k| < M/2$. Let us provide the proof of Lemma 2. To this end, it is required to take several steps to modify the optimization problem in (24). Since $x(k-1) - \hat{x}(k-1) = 0$, we have $x(k) = A\hat{x}(k-1) + Bu(k-1) + f(k)$ and so $\gamma(k) = C(A\hat{x}(k-1) + Bu(k-1) + f(k)).$ Thus, the optimization problem becomes

\[
\min \| x - A\hat{x}(k-1) - Bu(k-1) \|_1, \quad \text{s.t., } C(A\hat{x}(k-1) + f(k) - x) = 0.
\]

Letting $z = x - A\hat{x}(k-1) - Bu(k-1)$ be the new decision variable to obtain

\[
\min_z \| z \|_1, \quad \text{s.t., } Cf(k) = Cz,
\]

where $C = C_0$ if $a_1(k) = 0$ and $C = C_1$ if $a_1(k) = 1$. Let $\tilde{z} = \tilde{z}(k)$ be the solution to (39). Since $z = x - A\hat{x}(k-1) - Bu(k-1)$ and $f(k)$ is given by (21), we have $\tilde{z}(k) = \tilde{f}(k)$. Let $z = [z_1^T, z_2^T, \ldots, z_M^T]^T$, where $z_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $i \in \{1, \ldots, M\}$ represents the variable for node $i$. In the following, we rearrange the vectors $z, f(k)$ and the matrix $C$ as follows. Let $\mathcal{T}_i \subset \{1, \ldots, nM\}$, $i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$ be given by $\mathcal{T}_i = \{i, i + n, i + 2n, \ldots, i + (M - 1)n\}$, and rearrange $z$ as $z_p = [z_{p_1}^T, z_{p_2}^T, \ldots, z_{p_M}^T]^T$, where $z_{p_1} = z_{1i}$, $z_{p_2} = z_{2i}$, $\ldots$, $z_{p_M} = z_{3i}$.

In order to provide the proof of Theorem 2, we resort the following lemma:

**Lemma 2.** For a given $k \in \mathbb{N}\setminus\{0\}$ suppose that $\hat{x}(k-1) = x(k-1)$ holds. Then, the following statements are equivalent:

(a) $|\mathcal{T}_k| < M/2$.

(b) $\hat{x}(k) = x(k)$, $\hat{f}(k) = f(k)$, $\forall f(k) \in \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{T}_k}$, $\forall u(k-1) \in \mathbb{R}^{mM}$, $\forall \alpha_1(k) \in \{1, 0\}$.

Lemma 2 indicates that if there is no estimation error at $k-1$, a correct estimation is given at $k$ if and only if $|\mathcal{T}_k| < M/2$. Let us provide the proof of Lemma 2. To this end, it is required to take several steps to modify the optimization problem in (24). Since $x(k-1) - \hat{x}(k-1) = 0$, we have $x(k) = A\hat{x}(k-1) + Bu(k-1) + f(k)$ and so $\gamma(k) = C(A\hat{x}(k-1) + Bu(k-1) + f(k)).$ Thus, the optimization problem becomes

\[
\min \| x - A\hat{x}(k-1) - Bu(k-1) \|_1, \quad \text{s.t., } C(A\hat{x}(k-1) + f(k) - x) = 0.
\]

Letting $z = x - A\hat{x}(k-1) - Bu(k-1)$ be the new decision variable to obtain

\[
\min_z \| z \|_1, \quad \text{s.t., } Cf(k) = Cz,
\]

where $C = C_0$ if $a_1(k) = 0$ and $C = C_1$ if $a_1(k) = 1$. Let $\tilde{z} = \tilde{z}(k)$ be the solution to (39). Since $z = x - A\hat{x}(k-1) - Bu(k-1)$ and $f(k)$ is given by (21), we have $\tilde{z}(k) = \tilde{f}(k)$. Let $z = [z_1^T, z_2^T, \ldots, z_M^T]^T$, where $z_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $i \in \{1, \ldots, M\}$ represents the variable for node $i$. In the following, we rearrange the vectors $z, f(k)$ and the matrix $C$ as follows. Let $\mathcal{T}_i \subset \{1, \ldots, nM\}$, $i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$ be given by $\mathcal{T}_i = \{i, i + n, i + 2n, \ldots, i + (M - 1)n\}$, and rearrange $z$ as $z_p = [z_{p_1}^T, z_{p_2}^T, \ldots, z_{p_M}^T]^T$, where $z_{p_1} = z_{11}$, $z_{p_2} = z_{31}$, $\ldots$, $z_{p_M} = z_{32}$. Roughly speaking, $z_{pi}$ represents a vector collecting the $i$-th component of all the nodes. Similarly, rearrange $f(k)$ as $f_p = [f_{p_1}^T, f_{p_2}^T, \ldots, f_{p_M}^T]^T$, where $f_{pi} = f_{\mathcal{T}_i}, i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$. Note that due to the rearrangement of $f(k)$, $f_i(k) \neq 0$ implies that $(f_p)_{\mathcal{T}_i} \neq 0$, where $\mathcal{T}_i = \{i, i + M, i + 2M, \ldots, i + (n - 1)M\}$. For example, if $f = [f_1; f_2; f_3]$, then $f_p = [f_{p_1}; f_{p_2}; f_{p_3}]$ where $f_{p_1} = [f_1; f_2; f_3]$ and $f_{p_2} \neq 0$ implies that $(f_p)_{\mathcal{T}_1} \neq 0$, where $\mathcal{T}_1 = \{i, i + M\} = \{1, 4\}$. Thus, letting $\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{T}_k}$ be given by

\[
\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{T}_k} = \{f_p(k) \in \mathbb{R}^{nM} : (f_p(k))_{\mathcal{T}_i} \neq 0, \forall i \in \mathcal{T}_k \text{ and } (f_p(k))_{\mathcal{T}_i} \neq 0, \forall i \notin \mathcal{T}_k\},
\]

it follows that $f(k) \in \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{T}_k} \iff f_p(k) \in \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{T}_k}$. Note that $f_p(k) \in \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{T}_k}$ implies that $(f_p(k))_{\mathcal{T}_i}$ is $T$-sparse, where $T = \cup_{i \in \mathcal{T}_k} \mathcal{T}_i$. Moreover, by rearranging the columns of $C$ according to the rearrangement for $z$ as well as suitably rearranging the rows, one can always construct the matrix $C_{\rho_0}$ for the active mode ($a_1(k) = 1$) and $C_{\rho_1}$ for the non-active mode ($a_1(k) = 0$) as

\[
C_{\rho_0} = \begin{bmatrix}
D_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\
0 & D_1 & \cdots & 0 \\
\vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
0 & 0 & \cdots & D_1
\end{bmatrix},
\]

\[
C_{\rho_1} = \begin{bmatrix}
D_2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\
0 & D_2 & \cdots & 0 \\
\vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
0 & 0 & \cdots & D_2
\end{bmatrix}.
\]
where $D_1 = D^T$ and $D_2 = [e, D]^T$ with $D$ being the incidence matrix of the graph $\mathcal{G}$ and $e = [1, 0, 0, \ldots, 0]^T \in \mathbb{R}^M$. For example, suppose that $C_0$, $C_1$ are given by

$$C_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad C_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix},$$

which implies that $\{1, 2\} \in \mathcal{E}$ and the incidence matrix is given by $D = [1, -1]^T$. By rearranging the columns of the above matrices according to the one for $z$, we obtain

$$C'_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad C'_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix},$$

By exchanging the second and the third rows of $C'_1$, we obtain

$$C'_{p0} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad C'_{p1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix},$$

which can be checked to be of the form (41) and (42), respectively. Based on the above rearrangement, the optimization problem becomes

$$\min_{z_p} \|z_p\|_1 \quad \text{s.t.,} \quad C_{pF_p}(k) = C_p z_p, \quad (43)$$

where $C_p = C_{p0}$ if $a_1(k) = 0$ and $C_p = C_{p1}$ if $a_1(k) = 1$. Let $\hat{f}_p(k)$ be the optimal solution of $z_p$ to (43). Note that the problem is invariant under the above rearrangements. That is, letting $\hat{z}(k) = f(k)$ and $\hat{f}_p(k) = [\hat{f}_p(k)^1, \hat{f}_p(k)^2, \ldots, \hat{f}_p(k)^{mM}]^T$ to be the solutions to (39) and (43), respectively, it follows that $\hat{f}_p(k), \hat{f}_p(k), \forall i \in \{1, \ldots, M\}$, i.e., the optimal solutions to (39) and (43) are equivalent under the above rearrangements. Thus, we obtain

$$f(k) = \hat{f}(k), \forall f(k) \in \mathcal{F}_k \iff f_p(k) = \hat{f}_p(k), \forall f_p(k) \in \bar{\mathcal{F}}_k. \quad (44)$$

Based on the above notations, the proof of Lemma 2 is provided as follows.

(Proof of Lemma 2): (a) $\Rightarrow$ (b) : Suppose that $|\mathcal{I}_k| < M/2$ holds. For the active mode case $a_1(k) = 1$, we have $C_p = C_{p1}$ and the graph is weakly connected, it is shown from (42) that rank($C_p$) = $nM$ and ker($C_p$) = 0. This means that $z_p$ satisfying the constraint $C_p(f_p(k) - z_p) = 0$ is a single point and is given by $z_p = \hat{f}_p(k)$, which shows that the optimization problem in (43) yields $\hat{f}_p(k) = f_p(k)$. This implies that we have $\hat{f}(k) = f(k), \forall f(k) \in \mathcal{F}_k, \forall u(k-1) \in \mathbb{R}^{mM}$. Moreover, since $f(k) = \hat{f}(k)$, it follows that

$$\hat{x}(k) = Ax(k-1) + Bu(k-1) + \hat{f}(k) = x(k), \quad (45)$$

which means that the state $x(k)$ is also correctly estimated. Thus, for the active mode case, the state and fault signals are correctly estimated by solving (20). Let us now consider the non-active mode case $C_p = C_{p0}$. Let $\bar{T}_i = \{i, i + M, i + 2M, \ldots, i + (n-1)M\}, i \in \{1, \ldots, M\}$ and $\bar{T} = \cup_{i \in \mathcal{I}_k} \bar{T}_i$. Since $C_p = C_{p0}$ is given by (41) and the graph is weakly connected, we obtain

$$\ker(C_p) = \gamma_1 1_M^T, \gamma_2 1_M^T, \ldots, \gamma_n 1_M^T, \quad (46)$$

where $\gamma_i \in \mathbb{R}, i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$ and we have used the fact that ker($D^T$) = $\gamma_1 1_M^T$ with $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ (see Section II-A). Thus, it follows that $\|v_\bar{T}_i\|_1 = \sum_{j=1}^n |\gamma_j|$ for any $v \in \ker(C_p)$. Thus, we obtain

$$\|v_\bar{T}_i\|_1 = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}_k} \|v\|_1 = |\mathcal{I}_k| \left( \sum_{j=1}^n |\gamma_j| \right), \quad (47)$$

$$\|v_\bar{T}_i\|_1 = (M - |\mathcal{I}_k|) \left( \sum_{j=1}^n |\gamma_j| \right), \quad (48)$$

where $\bar{T} = \{1, 2, \ldots, nM\} \bar{T}$. Since $|\mathcal{I}_k| < M/2$, it follows that $\|v_p\|_1 < \|v_\bar{T}_i\|_1, \forall v \in \ker(C_p) \setminus \{0\}$, i.e., $C_p$ satisfies $\bar{T}$-NSP. Since $f_p(k) \in \bar{\mathcal{F}}_k$ implies that $f_p(k)$ is $\bar{T}$-sparse, it follows from Theorem 1 that $f_p(k) = \hat{f}_p(k), \forall f_p(k) \in \bar{\mathcal{F}}_k$. This implies that $\hat{f}(k) = f(k), \forall f(k) \in \mathcal{F}_k, \forall u(k-1) \in \mathbb{R}^{mM}. From (45), it then follows that $\hat{x}(k) = x(k). Hence, (a) $\Rightarrow$ (b) holds.

(b) $\Rightarrow$ (a) : Suppose that (b) holds. To prove by contradiction, suppose that $|\mathcal{I}_k| \geq M/2$ and consider the non-active mode case $a_1(k) = 0$. Since $|\mathcal{I}_k| \geq M/2$, it follows from (47) and (48) that $\|v_p\|_1 < \|v_\bar{T}_i\|_1, \forall v \in \ker(C_p) \setminus \{0\}$, i.e., $C_p$ does not satisfy $\bar{T}$-NSP. Thus, it follows from Theorem 1 that there exists $f_p(k) \in \bar{\mathcal{F}}_k$ such that $f_p(k) \neq \hat{f}_p(k)$, which means that $\hat{f}(k) \neq f(k)$ and the optimization problem in (20) does not provide a correct estimation. Instead, this contradicts to the statement in (b) that $\hat{f}(k) = f(k), \forall f(k) \in \mathcal{F}_k$. Hence, (b) $\Rightarrow$ (a) holds.

(Proof of Theorem 2): By Assumption 1, the leader is the active mode at $k = 0$ ($C = C_1$) and thus rank($C_p$) = rank($C$) = $nM$ at $k = 0$. This implies that the optimization problem in (20) yields $\hat{x}(0) = x(0)$, since $C = C_1$ has a trivial kernel and the solution of $x$ satisfying $y(0) = Cx$ is uniquely determined. To provide the proof, suppose that (a) holds, i.e., $|\mathcal{I}_k| < M/2$ for all $k \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$. Since $\hat{x}(0) = x(0)$, it follows from Lemma 2 that $\hat{x}(1) = x(1), \hat{f}(1) = f(1), \forall f(1) \in \mathbb{R}_F^M, \forall u(0) \in \mathbb{R}^{mM}$. Since $\hat{x}(1) = x(1)$, it then follows that $\hat{x}(2) = x(2), \hat{f}(2) = f(2), \forall f(2) \in \mathbb{R}_F^M, \forall u(1) \in \mathbb{R}^{mM}$. Similarly, it follows recursively by applying Lemma 2 that $\hat{x}(k) = x(k), \hat{f}(k) = f(k), \forall f(k) \in \mathcal{F}_k, \forall u(k-1) \in \mathbb{R}^{mM}$. Hence, (a) $\Rightarrow$ (b) holds. Conversely, suppose that (b) holds. Since $\hat{x}(0) = x(0)$, it follows from Lemma 2 that $|\mathcal{I}_k| < M/2$. Similarly, it follows recursively by applying Lemma 2 that $|\mathcal{I}_k| < M/2, \forall k \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$. Hence, (b) $\Rightarrow$ (a) holds.

APPENDIX B

PROOF OF THEOREM 3

Similarly to the proof of Lemma 2 and Theorem 2, it is required to take several steps to modify the optimization
problem in (24). Since \( \|x(k-1) - \hat{x}(k-1)\|_1 \leq d_{\text{max}} \), \( x(k-1) \) is expressed as \( x(k-1) = \hat{x}(k-1) + d \), where \( \|d\|_1 \leq d_{\text{max}} \). Thus we obtain \( y(k) = C(A\hat{x}(k-1) + Ad + Bu(k-1) + f(k)) \) and (24) becomes

\[
\min_{z} \|z\|_1 \quad \text{s.t.}, \quad Cz = C(f(k) - d),
\]

(49)

where we let \( z = x - A\hat{x}(k-1) - Bu(k-1) \) and \( d = Ad \). Thus, (49) differs from (39) in the sense that the term \( d \) arises from the estimation error at \( k - 1 \) is added in the constraint. Since \( \eta = \sum_{i=1}^{\mathcal{M}} \sum_{j=1}^{\mathcal{N}} |A^{(ij)}| \), it follows that \( \|d\|_1 = \|Ad\|_1 \leq \eta d_{\text{max}} \). By rearranging the vectors \( z, f(k), d \) and the matrix \( C \) as with the procedure presented in Appendix B, the problem becomes min \( \|z\|_1 \) s.t. \( C_p z_p = C_p(f_p(k) - d_p) \), where \( d_p = [d_{p1}^T, d_{p2}^T, \ldots, d_{pn}^T]^T \) with \( d_{pi} = d_{Ti} \), \( i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, n\} \). Here, \( C_p = C_{p0} \) if \( a_1(k) = 0 \) and \( C_p = C_{p1} \) if \( a_1(k) = 1 \). It follows that \( \|d_p\|_1 \leq \eta d_{\text{max}} \) and

\[
\|f(k) - \hat{f}(k)\|_1 \leq \epsilon, \quad \forall f(k) \in \mathcal{F}_k
\]

for a given \( \epsilon > 0 \). Now, let \( \hat{f}_p(k) \) be the optimal solution of \( z_p \). For the active mode case, we have \( C_p = C_{p1} \) and it follows that \( \text{rank}(C_p) = n_M \) and \( \kappa(C_p) = 0 \). Thus, we have \( \hat{f}_p(k) = f_p(k) - d_p \) and \( \|f_p(k) - \hat{f}_p(k)\|_1 \leq \eta d_{\text{max}} \), which means that \( \|f(k) - \hat{f}(k)\|_1 \leq \eta d_{\text{max}} \). Since \( \eta d_{\text{max}} \leq \frac{2}{M - |I_k|} \eta d_{\text{max}} \), we obtain (26). Consider now the nonactive mode case, i.e., \( C_p = C_{p0} \). Since \( f_p(k) \) is the optimal solution, it follows that \( \|f_p(k)\|_1 \leq \|f(k)\|_1 \). Since \( C_p f_p(k) = C_p(f_p(k) - d_p) \), there exists \( v \in \ker(C_p) \) such that \( \hat{f}_p(k) = f_p(k) - d_p + v \). Thus, it follows that

\[
\|f_p\|_1 \geq \|f_p - d_p + v\|_1
\]

\[
= \sum_{i \in \mathcal{T}_k} |f_p^{(i)} - d_p^{(i)} + (v^{(i)})_1| + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{T}_c} |f_p^{(i)} - d_p^{(i)} + (v^{(i)})_1|
\]

\[
\geq \sum_{i \in \mathcal{T}_k} \left( |f_p^{(i)} - d_p^{(i)} - |v^{(i)}_1| \right) + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{T}_c} \left( |v^{(i)}_1| - |f_p^{(i)} - d_p^{(i)}| \right)
\]

where the time index \( k \) for \( f_p \) is omitted for brevity, and \( \mathcal{T} = \bigcup_{i \in \mathcal{T}_k} \mathcal{T}_i \) with \( \mathcal{T}_i = \{i, i + M, i + 2M, \ldots, i + (n - 1)M\} \), \( i \in \{1, \ldots, M\} \). For the third inequality in the above, we used the triangle inequality \( (|a| + |b|) \geq |a - b| \). Thus, it follows that \( \|f_p\|_1 \geq (\|f_p\|_1 - \|d_p\|_1 - \|v^{(i)}_1\|_1 + \|v^{(i)}_1\|_1) \), where we used \( f_p^{(i)} = 0 \), \( \forall i \in \mathcal{T}_c \) as \( f_p \in \mathcal{F}_k \). Moreover, it follows from (48) that \( \|v^{(i)}_1\|_1 = \frac{M - |I_k|}{M - 2|I_k|} \|v^{(i)}_1\|_1 \). By plugging this into the above inequality, we obtain

\[
\|v^{(i)}_1\|_1 \leq \frac{M - |I_k|}{M - 2|I_k|} \|f_p\|_1 - \|f_p - (d_p)\|_1 + \|d_p\|_1)
\]

(51)

Since we have \( \|f_p\|_1 = \|f_p\|_1 + \|f_p - (d_p)\|_1 = \|f_p\|_1 \) and by using the triangle inequality, we obtain

\[
\|v^{(i)}_1\|_1 \leq \frac{M - |I_k|}{M - 2|I_k|} \|f_p\|_1 + \|d_p\|_1 + \|d_p\|_1)
\]

\[
\leq \frac{M - |I_k|}{M - 2|I_k|} \eta d_{\text{max}}.
\]

Therefore, it follows that

\[
\|\hat{f}_p(k) - f_p(k)\|_1 \leq \frac{M - |I_k|}{M - 2|I_k|} \|v^{(i)}_1\|_1 + \|d_p\|_1 + \|d_p\|_1)
\]

\[
= \frac{2|I_k|}{M - 2|I_k|} \eta d_{\text{max}},
\]

(52)

which implies that (26) holds.