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**An internal model principle is necessary and sufficient for linear output synchronization.**

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Summary: Output synchronization of a network of heterogeneous linear state-space models under time-varying and directed interconnection structures is investigated. It is shown that, assuming stabilizability and detectability of the individual systems and imposing very mild connectedness assumptions on the interconnection structure, an internal model requirement is necessary and sufficient for synchronizability of the network to polynomially bounded trajectories. The resulting dynamic feedback couplings can be interpreted as a generalization of existing methods for identical linear systems.

**MSC:**

[93A14](#) Decentralized systems

[93C05](#) Linear systems in control theory

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synchronization; consensus; internal model principle; multi-agent systems; weak couplings

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