

Lecture 21

Twist and Super-twist controllers

21.1 Problem formulation

Both controllers considered in this lecture have been suggested and analyzed by A. Levant in 90-es (see references in [4] and [5]). Consider again the dynamic system

$$\dot{x} = a(t, x) + b(t, x) u \quad (21.1)$$

where $a : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ and $b : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}$ are all argument continuous vector and matrix, respectively, and $u \in \mathbb{R}^r$ is a control action. Let $\sigma = \sigma(x) \in \mathbb{R}$ be the only measurable output (*sliding variable*) which is assumed to be twice differentiable on x fulfilling the conditions

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \sigma_x^\top b \equiv 0, \\ a^\top \sigma_{xx} b + \sigma_x^\top a_x b \neq 0. \end{array} \right\} \quad (21.2)$$

Here and below we omit the time argument dependence for simplicity. Calculating total second derivative of σ , and selecting

$$u = u(\sigma, \dot{\sigma}),$$

we get

$$\begin{aligned}\ddot{\sigma} &= \frac{d}{dt} [\sigma_x^\top (a + bu)] = \frac{d}{dt} \left[\sigma_x^\top a + \underbrace{(\sigma_x^\top b)u}_0 \right] = \\ &= \frac{d}{dt} [\sigma_x^\top a] = \sigma_x^\top \dot{a} + [\sigma_{xx}^\top a + \sigma_x^\top a_x]^\top \dot{x} = \\ &= \sigma_x^\top \dot{a} + [\sigma_{xx}^\top a + \sigma_x^\top a_x]^\top (a + bu),\end{aligned}$$

or, in the short form

$$\boxed{\ddot{\sigma} = h(t, x) + g(t, x)u} \quad (21.3)$$

where

$$\left. \begin{aligned} h(t, x) &= \ddot{\sigma} |_{u=0} = \sigma_x^\top \dot{a} + [\sigma_{xx}^\top a + \sigma_x^\top a_x]^\top a \\ g(t, x) &= [\sigma_{xx}^\top a + \sigma_x^\top a_x]^\top b. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (21.4)$$

The problem, which we are interested in, is as follows. Below we will suppose that the inequalities

$$\left. \begin{aligned} |h(t, x)| &\leq C, \\ 0 < K_m &\leq \|g(t, x)\| \leq K_M \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (21.5)$$

hold globally.

Problem 21.1 *The task is to make the output σ vanish in finite time $t_{reach} < \infty$ and to keep $\sigma = 0$ for all $t \geq t_{reach}$, namely, to fulfill*

$$\sigma = \dot{\sigma} = 0. \quad (21.6)$$

The condition $\dot{\sigma} = 0$ for all $t \geq t_{reach}$ means exactly that, starting from that time, $\ddot{\sigma} = 0$ implying

$$\boxed{\sigma = \dot{\sigma} = \ddot{\sigma} = 0.} \quad (21.7)$$

Definition 21.1 *If the property (21.7) holds we referred to this situation as the **Second Order Sliding Mode (SOSM)**.*

Consider now two most popular control laws providing SOSM for the system (21.1).

21.2 Twist controller

21.2.1 Lyapunov function analysis

Consider now the scalar case with $n = r = 1$. Let the controller is designed as

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} u = -r_1 \text{sign}(\sigma) - r_2 \text{sign}(\dot{\sigma}), \\ r_1 > 0, r_2 > 0. \end{array} \right\} \quad (21.8)$$

Then the differential equation (21.3) for the sliding variable σ becomes

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \ddot{\sigma} = h(t, x) + g(t, x)u = \\ h(t, x) - g(t, x)[r_1 \text{sign}(\sigma) + r_2 \text{sign}(\dot{\sigma})] \end{array} \right\} \quad (21.9)$$

Represent this dynamic in the standard form, using only the first derivative values of the new variables $z_1 := \sigma$, $z_2 := \dot{\sigma}$:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \dot{z}_1 = z_2, \\ \dot{z}_2 = h - g[r_1 \text{sign}(z_1) + r_2 \text{sign}(z_2)] \end{array} \right\} \quad (21.10)$$

Consider an arbitrary absolute continuous function $V(z_1, z_2)$ and its full-time derivative

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V} &= \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_1} \dot{z}_1 + \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \dot{z}_2 = \\ &= \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_1} z_2 + \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} (h - g[r_1 \text{sign}(z_1) + r_2 \text{sign}(z_2)]). \end{aligned} \quad (21.11)$$

Using bounds (21.5) in (21.11) we get

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \dot{V} \leq \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_1} z_2 + C \left| \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \right| - \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} g[r_1 \text{sign}(z_1) + r_2 \text{sign}(z_2)] = \\ \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_1} z_2 + C \left| \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \right| - \left| \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \right| \text{sign} \left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \right) g[r_1 \text{sign}(z_1) + r_2 \text{sign}(z_2)] = \\ \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_1} z_2 + C \left| \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \right| - \left| \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \right| \left(g r_1 \text{sign} \left(z_1 \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \right) + g r_2 \text{sign} \left(z_2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \right) \right) \leq \\ \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_1} z_2 + C \left| \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \right| - \left| \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \right| \left(g_1 r_1 \text{sign} \left(z_1 \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \right) + g_2 r_2 \text{sign} \left(z_2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \right) \right) \end{array} \right\} \quad (21.12)$$

where

$$g_1 = \begin{cases} K_m & \text{if } \text{sign} \left(z_1 \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \right) < 0 \\ k_m & \text{if } \text{sign} \left(z_1 \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \right) > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } z_1 \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} = 0 \end{cases}, \quad g_2 = \begin{cases} K_m & \text{if } \text{sign} \left(z_2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \right) < 0 \\ k_m & \text{if } \text{sign} \left(z_2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \right) > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } z_2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} = 0 \end{cases}. \quad (21.13)$$

Finally, we get

$$\dot{V} \leq \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_1} z_2 + \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \text{sign} \left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \right) \left[C - \left(g_1 r_1 \text{sign} \left(z_1 \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \right) + g_2 r_2 \text{sign} \left(z_2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \right) \right) \right]$$

or, equivalently,

$$\dot{V} \leq \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_1} z_2 + \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \gamma, \quad (21.14)$$

where

$$\gamma = \text{sign} \left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \right) C - g_1 r_1 \text{sign} (z_1) - g_2 r_2 \text{sign} (z_2) \quad (21.15)$$

If $V = V(z_1, z_2)$ satisfies the following partial differential equations

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial V}{\partial z_1} z_2 + \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \gamma = -qV^\rho, \quad \rho \in (0, 1), q > 0,} \quad (21.16)$$

then by (21.14) it follows

$$\dot{V} \leq -qV^\rho, \quad (21.17)$$

or

$$\frac{dV}{V^\rho} \leq -qdt \Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{1-\rho} d(V^{1-\rho}) \leq -qdt,$$

implying the finite-time convergence, i.e.

$$0 \leq V(z_1, z_2)^{1-\rho} \leq V(z_1(0), z_2(0))^{1-\rho} - q(1-\rho)t,$$

so that $V(z_1(t), z_2(t)) = 0$ for any

$$\boxed{t \geq t_{reach} = \frac{V(z_1(0), z_2(0))^{1-\rho}}{q(1-\rho)}}. \quad (21.18)$$

21.2.2 Method of Characteristics for the Lyapunov function design

To find the function $V(z_1, z_2)$ as a solution of (21.16) let us use the following result.

Lemma 21.1 *If an absolutely continuous positive definite function $V(z_1, z_2)$ satisfies the following systems of ODE*

$$\frac{dz_1}{z_2} = \frac{dz_2}{\gamma} = \frac{dV}{-qV^\rho} \quad (21.19)$$

for $z_1^2 + z_2^2 > 0$, then the same function is a solution of (21.16).

Proof. For $z_1^2 + z_2^2 > 0$ from (21.19) we have

$$dz_1 = -z_2 \frac{dV}{qV^\rho}, \quad dz_2 = -\gamma \frac{dV}{qV^\rho},$$

and therefore

$$\begin{aligned} dV &= \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_1} dz_1 + \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} dz_2 = \\ &= -z_2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_1} \frac{dV}{qV^\rho} - \gamma \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \frac{dV}{qV^\rho} = \\ &= \left(-z_2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_1} \frac{1}{qV^\rho} - \gamma \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \frac{1}{qV^\rho} \right) dV, \end{aligned}$$

implying

$$-z_2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_1} \frac{1}{qV^\rho} - \gamma \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_2} \frac{1}{qV^\rho} = 1,$$

which coincides with (21.16). ■

Solving the system (21.19) of ODE, rewritten as

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{dz_1}{z_2} &= \frac{dz_2}{\gamma}, \quad \frac{dV}{dz_1} = -q \frac{V^\rho}{z_2}, \\ \frac{dV}{dz_2} &= -q \frac{V^\rho}{\gamma}, \quad \frac{dz_1}{z_2} = \frac{dz_2}{\gamma}, \end{aligned} \right\}$$

we obtain the system of two 1-st integrals ("characteristics"), maintaining the constant values on the trajectories of the system:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} dz_1 &= \frac{z_2 dz_2}{\gamma}, \\ z_1 - z_1(0) &= \frac{\gamma^{-1}}{2} [z_2^2 - z_2^2(0)], \end{aligned} \right\}$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned}
\frac{dV}{V^\rho} &= -q \frac{dz_1}{z_2} = -q \frac{dz_1}{\pm \sqrt{\frac{2}{\gamma}} [z_1 - z_1(0)] + z_2^2(0)}, \\
&\Downarrow \\
V(z_1, z_2)^{1-\rho} - V(z_1(0), z_2(0))^{1-\rho} &= \\
\mp q \int \frac{dz_1}{\sqrt{\frac{2}{\gamma}} [z_1 - z_1(0)] + z_2^2(0)} &:= \psi(z_1), \\
&\Downarrow \\
\varphi_1(z_1, z_2, V) := V(z_1, z_2)^{1-\rho} - \psi(z_1) &= \\
V(z_1(0), z_2(0))^{1-\rho} = \text{const}_1, &
\end{aligned} \right\}$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned}
\frac{dV}{V^\rho} &= -q \frac{dz_2}{\gamma}, \\
&\Downarrow \\
V(z_1, z_2)^{1-\rho} - V(z_1(0), z_2(0))^{1-\rho} &= -q \frac{1-\rho}{\gamma} [z_2(t) - z_2(0)] \\
&\Downarrow \\
\varphi_2(z_1, z_2, V) := V^{1-\rho} + q \frac{1-\rho}{\gamma} z_2 &= \text{const}_2 = \\
V(z_1(0), z_2(0))^{1-\rho} + q \frac{1-\rho}{\gamma} z_2(0) &
\end{aligned} \right\}$$

represented as

$$\left. \begin{aligned}
\varphi_1(z_1, z_2, V) &= c_1 = \text{const}_1, \\
\varphi_2(z_1, z_2, V) &= c_2 = \text{const}_2.
\end{aligned} \right\}$$

Since any function of constants is a constant for any function Φ , we have

$$\Phi(\varphi_1(z_1, z_2, V), \varphi_2(z_1, z_2, V)) = c = \text{const}. \quad (21.20)$$

Solving this algebraic equation with respect to the variable V we obtain

$$V = V(z_1, z_2, c).$$

The function Φ and the constant c should be selected in such a way that the function $V(z_1, z_2, c)$ would be absolutely continuous and positive definite. So, there exists a lot of functions satisfying (21.20). One of possible selections is given in the theorem below.

Theorem 21.1 (Polyakov-Poznyak [12]) *The Lyapunov function V for the twist controller (21.8), which is a solution of the ODE system (21.19),*

is as follows

$$V(z_1, z_2) = \begin{cases} \frac{k}{4} \left(\frac{z_2}{\gamma} \text{sign}(z_1) + k_0 \sqrt{|z_1| + \frac{z_2^2}{2\gamma}} \right)^2 & \text{if } z_1 z_2 \neq 0 \\ \frac{\bar{k}}{4} z_2^2 & \text{if } z_1 = 0 \\ \frac{1}{4} |z_1| & \text{if } z_2 = 0 \end{cases} \quad (21.21)$$

where

$$k_0 > 0, k = \frac{1}{k_0},$$

and \bar{k} satisfies the inequalities

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2(K_m(r_1 + r_2) - C)}} < \bar{k} < \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(k_m r_1 - r_2 + C)}}. \quad (21.22)$$

(all constants are defined in [12]).

Notice that the Lyapunov function (21.21) has a non-quadratic form expression.

21.3 Super-Twist controller

21.3.1 Lyapunov function analysis

Let us consider the controller designed as

$$\left. \begin{aligned} u &= -\alpha \sqrt{|\sigma|} \text{sign}(\sigma) - \beta \int_{\tau=0}^t \text{sign}(\sigma) d\tau, \\ \alpha &> 0, \beta > 0. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (21.23)$$

Remark 21.1 In fact, the control (21.23) is a continuous control.

Then the dynamics (21.3) of the sliding variable σ becomes

$$\ddot{\sigma} = h - g \left[\alpha \sqrt{|\sigma|} \text{sign}(\sigma) + \beta \int_{\tau=0}^t \text{sign}(\sigma) d\tau \right], \quad (21.24)$$

where h and g are as in (21.4). Introduce new variables

$$\left. \begin{aligned} z_1 &= \dot{\sigma} + \alpha \int_{\tau=0}^t g \sqrt{|\sigma|} \text{sign}(\sigma) d\tau, \\ z_2 &= \int_{\tau=0}^t [h - g\beta \text{sign}(z_1)] d\tau. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (21.25)$$

for which the following dynamics holds

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \dot{z}_1 &= z_2 - g\alpha \sqrt{|z_1|} \text{sign}(z_1), \\ \dot{z}_2 &= h - g\beta \text{sign}(z_1). \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (21.26)$$

It is possible to apply the Method of Characteristic to this systems of ODE and analogously obtain the corresponding Lyapunov function (see [13]). But for the simple partial case when $g \equiv 1$ and assuming

$$|h| \leq L,$$

it is possible to check directly that the function (see [11])

$$V_{OAC_h}(z_1, z_2) = 2\beta |z_1| + \frac{1}{2} (z_2)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left[z_2 - \alpha \sqrt{|z_1|} \text{sign}(z_1) \right]^2$$

satisfies the differential inequality (21.17)

$$\dot{V}_{OAC_h} \leq -qV_{OAC_h}^\rho$$

with

$$\rho = \frac{1}{2}, \quad q = \sqrt{2\beta} \min \left\{ \frac{2(\alpha\beta - L - L\alpha)}{3\alpha^2 + 4\beta}, \frac{\alpha - 4L}{1 + \alpha} \right\} > 0.$$

This means that we have a finite time convergence in variables z_1, z_2 implying the same effect in variables σ and $\dot{\sigma}$ with

$$t_{reach} = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{1}{\beta}} \left(4\beta + \frac{\alpha^2}{2} \right)}{\min \left\{ \frac{2(\alpha\beta - L - L\alpha)}{3\alpha^2 + 4\beta}, \frac{\alpha - 4L}{1 + \alpha} \right\}} |\dot{\sigma}(0)|.$$

21.4 Super-Twist observer and differentiator

21.4.1 Super-twist observer

Consider again a "mechanical" model given in the form

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \dot{x}_1 &= x_2, \\ \dot{x}_2 &= f(x_1, x_2, t, u) + \xi(x_1, x_2, t, u), \\ x_1 &\in \mathbb{R}^n, \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (21.27)$$

where $f(x_1, x_2, t, u)$ is a known part of the model and $\xi(x_1, x_2, t, u)$ is uncertain part. Here we suppose that

$$y = x_1$$

is available on-line and x_2 should be estimated. Design the observer as

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \hat{x}_1 &= \hat{x}_2 - v_1, \\ \frac{d}{dt} \hat{x}_2 &= f(x_1, \hat{x}_2, t, u) - v_2, \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (21.28)$$

where the **correctors** v_1 and v_2 are as follows

$$\left. \begin{aligned} v_1 &= \alpha \|x_1 - \hat{x}_1\|^{1/2} \text{SIGN}(\hat{x}_1 - x_1), \\ v_2 &= \beta \text{SIGN}(\hat{x}_1 - x_1). \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (21.29)$$

So, the estate estimation error

$$e(t) := \hat{x}(t) - x(t) \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$$

satisfies

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \dot{e}_1 &= e_2 - \alpha \|x_1 - \hat{x}_1\|^{1/2} \text{SIGN}(e_1), \\ \dot{e}_2 &= F - \beta \text{SIGN}(\hat{x}_1 - x_1), \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (21.30)$$

where

$$F = f(x_1, \hat{x}_2, t, u) - f(x_1, x_2, t, u) - \xi(x_1, x_2, t, u).$$

Supposing

$$\|F\| \leq F^+ < \infty,$$

we obtain the same scheme as in (21.26)

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \hat{x}_1 &= \hat{x}_2 - \alpha \|x_1 - \hat{x}_1\|^{1/2} \text{SIGN}(\hat{x}_1 - x_1), \\ \frac{d}{dt} \hat{x}_2 &= f(x_1, \hat{x}_2, t, u) - \beta \text{SIGN}(\hat{x}_1 - x_1), \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (21.31)$$

providing the finite-time convergence of e to zero.

21.4.2 Super-twist differentiator

The problem consists in estimating the first derivative of a signal $\phi(t)$ based on its noisy measurement

$$y(t) = \phi(t) + \eta(t).$$

Only two assumptions will be made:

- the second derivative $\ddot{\phi}(t)$ of the base signal $\phi(t)$ is uniformly bounded by a known constant L , i.e.,

$$|\ddot{\phi}(t)| \leq L,$$

- the measurement noise $\eta(t)$ is uniformly bounded by δ , i.e.

$$|\eta(t)| \leq \delta.$$

Setting

$$x_1(t) := \phi(t), \quad x_2(t) := \dot{\phi}(t),$$

the problem is transformed into the design of an observer for the system

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \dot{x}_1(t) &= x_2(t), \\ \dot{x}_2(t) &= \ddot{\phi}(t), \\ y(t) &= \phi(t) + \eta(t), \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (21.32)$$

based on the measured output $y(t)$ only. The signal $\ddot{\phi}(t)$ is unknown and should be considered as a perturbation. Designing the state estimates $(\hat{x}_1(t), \hat{x}_2(t))$ using the super-twist observer (21.28) we may conclude that

$\hat{x}_2(t)$ may be considered as an estimate of $\dot{\phi}(t)$. In our case we deal with the model (21.27) where the known part $f = 0$ and the uncertain part is $\xi = \ddot{\phi}$. By (21.28) with the low-pass filter application we have

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \hat{x}_1(t) &= \hat{x}_2(t) - \alpha \|\phi(t) - \hat{x}_1(t)\|^{1/2} \text{SIGN}(\hat{x}_1(t) - y(t)), \\ \frac{d}{dt} \hat{x}_2(t) &= -\beta \text{SIGN}(\hat{x}_1(t) - y(t)), \quad |\dot{\phi}(t)| \leq \beta, \\ \text{and low-pass filter: } \mu \dot{v}(t) + v(t) &= \hat{x}_2(t), \quad \mu = 0.01, \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (21.33)$$

so that

$$\boxed{v(t) \simeq \dot{\phi}(t).}$$

21.5 Exercises

Exercise 21.1 Compare the Twist and Super-twist controllers for the system

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \dot{x} &= a(t, x) + b(t, x)u \\ x &\in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad u \in \mathbb{R}^r, \\ a : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n &\rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, \quad b : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}, \\ n &= 2, \quad r = 1, \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (21.34)$$

where u is a control action. Let

$$a(t, x) = 0.1 \sin(2t) \ln(1 + |x|), \quad b = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$\sigma = \sigma(x) = x_1$$

be the only measurable output (sliding variable) which is assumed to be twice differentiable on x fulfilling the conditions

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \sigma_x^\top b &\equiv 0, \\ a^\top \sigma_{xx} b + \sigma_x^\top a_x b &\neq 0, \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (\text{cond twist-SUPerTwist})$$

taking Twist control as

$$u = -r_1 \text{sign}(z_1) + r_2 \text{sign}(z_2), \quad r_1, r_2 > 0$$

and Super-Twist control as

$$u = -\alpha \int_{\tau=0}^t \sqrt{|\sigma|} \text{sign}(\sigma) d\tau - \beta \text{sign}(\sigma).$$

Exercise 21.2 Calculate numerically the derivative of the function

$$\phi(t) = \frac{a_0 + a_1 t}{b_0 + b_1 t} \arctan t, \quad t \geq 0,$$

for the simulation take

$$a_1 = -2, \quad b_0 = 3, \quad b_1 = 0.1,$$

using the Super-twist differentiator (21.33) without noise $\eta(t)$ in measurements ($\eta(t) = 0$).

Exercise 21.3 For the system

$$\ddot{x} + f(x, \dot{x}, t) + \xi(x, t) = u,$$

$$\begin{aligned} x &\in \mathbb{R}^2, \quad \|\xi(x, t)\| \leq \xi^+ \\ u &: \quad \mu \dot{u} + u = e^{-0.02t}, \quad \mu = 0.1 \end{aligned}$$

with bounded trajectories, estimate \dot{x} using ST- observer. Take

$$f(x, \dot{x}, t) = a_0 \dot{x} + a_1 x$$

with $a_0 = 0.1$ and $a_1 = 4$.