



Elimination of Hard-Nonlinearities Destructive Effects in Control Systems Using Approximate Techniques

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ABSTRACT: Many of the physical phenomena, such as friction, backlash, drag, etc., which appear in mechanical systems are inherently nonlinear and have destructive effects on the control system behavior. Generally, they are modeled by hard nonlinearities. In this paper, two different methods are proposed to cope with the effects of hard nonlinearities which exist in various models of friction. Simple inverted pendulum on a cart (SIPC) is considered as a test bed system, as well. In the first technique, a nonlinear optimal controller based on the approximate solution of Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman (HJB) partial differential equation (PDE) is designed for the system and finally, an adaptive anti disturbance technique is proposed to eliminate the friction destructive effects. In the second one, three continuous functions are used to approximate hard nonlinearities when they are integrated into the system model. These techniques are compared with each other using simulations and their effectiveness is shown.

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1- Introduction

Hard nonlinearities are functions which, commonly, appear in some physical phenomena models. These functions because of their discontinuity properties have malicious effects on the behavior of a control system [1], [2]. One of these phenomena is friction which is highly nonlinear and during the past decades has attracted the attention of many researchers. There are two main problems in dealing with friction, modeling, and compensation.

To acquire a mathematical model of friction, great efforts have been made and some well-known models have been proposed. This phenomenon has different dynamic and static inherent properties and the proposed models based on their capabilities to cover these properties fall into two main groups, namely dynamic and static [3-8]. There are some useful surveys on the friction models which can be found in [26], [27], and [28]. These models have some mathematical properties which can be found in [29] and [30].

In the modeling of a mechanical systems, to avoid complexity, some physical phenomena are not considered while in practice they have undesired effects on the system behavior. The prevailing undesired effects in the presence of friction on a control system are the emergence of limit cycles, instability, and steady-state error [8]. The problem of existing limited cycles due to friction was investigated in [31] and [32]. Hence, researchers in the control theory field put this subject into their perspective and proposed some compensation techniques to neutralize friction force or cancel its effects [8-17] and [33-36].

The common approach proposed in the papers has two-layer

structure, i.e., in the first layer a simple modern controller is designed for the system without friction to achieve the desired behavior and in the second, a friction compensator is applied to the overall system. In [3], a PID controller was designed for a mass as the first layer without considering friction, and then a friction observer was proposed to neutralize friction force. The artificial neural networks and fuzzy approach have been used to compensate friction in double inverted pendulum [36]. Another approach is the identification of friction parameters and using them to reconstruct friction models. In [13], some parameters of LuGre model, as a well-known dynamic model, were identified by an off-line technique based on the linearized model, in which meeting conditions that force the system to remain in a linear domain is not easy. The authors of [10], used a number of experiments to identify parameters of LuGre model using off-line techniques. They divided the parameters into different groups.

In this paper, at first, a two-layer technique which comprises a nonlinear optimal controller and an adaptive friction compensator is proposed. The nonlinear controller is designed based on the approximate solution of HJB PDE using power series expansion. The proposed compensation technique works based on adaptive anti-disturbance (AAD) approach using Gradient algorithm and is applied to the system to cancel the generated limit cycles in the presence of friction. As the second method, friction model is integrated into the system and then a controller is designed and, consequently, the compensator is removed. Unfortunately, because of the existence of hard nonlinearities in friction models, the design of controllers is not simple; hence, three approximate functions are proposed to be used instead of discontinuous hard nonlinearities.

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The rest of this paper is organized as it follows. In section 2 a brief overview of three main friction dynamic and static models is given. The nonlinear optimal controller design procedure and adaptive anti-disturbance technique are presented in section 3. In section 4, the problem of designing linear and nonlinear controllers for the augmented system with a friction based on approximate functions are investigated. Finally, conclusions are drawn in section 5.

2- Dynamic and Static Models of Friction

Intrinsic behaviors of friction are divided into dynamic and static categories. Pre-sliding displacement, hysteresis (friction lag), varying break away force, stick-slip motion, a smooth transient from static to kinetic friction, and stribek effect are some of these significant properties. To cope with friction undesirable effects, it is necessary to model friction phenomenon that embodies all these known properties as much as possible. Classic, Exponential, Dahl, Seven Parametric Armstrong, Generalized Maxwell Slip, Elastoplastic, and LuGre models are some of the well-known models. For more details, see [3-8].

Experiments and observation of Leonardo Da Vinci, G. Amonton, C. A. Coulomb, and O. Reynolds lead to the first static model which is given by (Da Vinci model):

$$F = F_c \text{sign}(v) + F_v v. \tag{1}$$

The second well-known static model called exponential model is described as it follows:

$$F = \left(F_c + (F_s - F_c) e^{-\left(\frac{v}{v_s}\right)^2} \right) \text{sign}(v) + F_v v, \tag{2}$$

where v and F are the relative velocity and friction force between two rubbing objects, respectively. Other parameters have been described in Table I. Admittedly, the exponential model can be considered as a comprehensive static model which covers all static behaviors of friction.

There are different dynamic models [8]. A significant one that covers most of the properties of friction is the following single-state LuGre model:

$$F = \sigma_0 z + \sigma_1 \dot{z} + \sigma_2 \dot{x}, \tag{3}$$

where

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = v - \frac{|v|}{g(v)} z, \tag{4}$$

and

$$g(v) = \frac{1}{\sigma_0} \left(F_c + (F_s - F_c) e^{-\left(\frac{v}{v_s}\right)^2} \right). \tag{5}$$

Description of parameters and their values considered in the rest of this paper are listed in Table 1. These three mentioned models have been used frequently in numerous papers as reference models which authors test their proposed compensation technique based on them.

3- Two Layer Technique: Nonlinear Optimal Controller and Adaptive Compensation

Dynamic programming problem leads to a PDE which is known as HJB and, generally, even for simple nonlinear systems does not have an exact solution. There are many papers with various proposed techniques which solve HJB

Table 1. Friction Models Parameters Description

Symbol	Quantity	value
F_v and σ_2	viscous friction coefficient related to lubricated surfaces	3 N-s/m
F_c	coulomb friction coefficient	0431 N
F_s	static friction coefficient	0.844 N
v_s	Stribek velocity	0.105 m/s
σ_0	stiffness coefficient	121 N/m
σ_1	damping coefficient	70 N-s/m

PDE approximately [18-23]. In this paper, the proposed nonlinear optimal controller (NOC) is designed by an approximate solution of HJB PDE using Taylor series expansion (TSE).

3- 1- Nonlinear Optimal Controller Design

The state space equation governs the SIPC system and the values of its parameters have been given in [16]. This system has 2 degrees of freedom (DOF) which are cart and pendulum angular positions. The optimization problem, here, refers to minimization of the system's energy consumption and the infinite horizon cost function is presented as it follows,

$$J = \int_0^{\infty} (x^T Q x + u^T R u) dt. \tag{6}$$

Approximate solution of HJB PDE based on TSE exists if the optimal problem is nice [20]. The HJB PDEs for the general nonlinear system, $\dot{x} = f(x, u)$, are given by [20]

$$V_x(x) f(x, u) \Big|_{u=u^*} + x^T Q x + u^T R u \Big|_{u=u^*} = 0, \tag{7}$$

$$V_x(x) f_u(x, u) \Big|_{u=u^*} + 2 u^T R \Big|_{u=u^*} = 0. \tag{8}$$

To solve the (7) and (8) approximately, it is supposed that the TSE of $f(x, u)$, $V(x)$, and u^* (as optimal signal control) are as it follows,

$$f(x, u) = Ax + Bu + f^{(2)}(x, u) + f^{(3)}(x, u) + \dots, \tag{9}$$

$$V(x) = x^T P x + V^{(3)}(x) + V^{(4)}(x) + \dots, \tag{10}$$

$$u^*(x) = Kx + K^{(2)}(x) + K^{(3)}(x) + \dots \tag{11}$$

where symbol $(.)^{(i)}$ denotes a term with degree i . Our main goal is to find the terms $K^{(i)}(x)$ for $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$. By inserting (9), (10), and (11) in (7) and (8) and separating terms with an identical degree, the unknown terms $K^{(i)}(x)$ and $V^{(i)}(x)$ can be calculated and the nonlinear optimal controller is designed [21], [22], [24]. In the design procedure, we need to adopt an approximation technique which is given by

$$V^{(i)}(x) \mapsto V_x^{(i)}(x) (A + BK) x. \tag{12}$$

Since $f^{(i)}(x, u)$ for $i = 2, 4, 6, \dots$ are zero, the terms $K^{(i)}(x)$ for $i = 2, 4, 6, \dots$ are equal to zero, as well. The performance of NOC in comparison with the linear optimal regulator (LQR) is assessed in four aspects: energy of error signal, performance in the presence of friction, domain of attraction, and robust analysis. Fig. 1 shows the comparison between linear and nonlinear control and the energy of error signal. It is obvious that the closed-loop system with NOC has better response characteristics than that of LQR. The performances of the linear and nonlinear controller in presence of friction are shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3. The nonlinear controller can cope with static models of friction without compensation

loop while the linear one is incapable of doing this. The NOC has more robustness to uncertainty in the mass of cart and pendulum than that of the linear controller [24]. In terms of domain of attraction, there is no significant difference and using higher terms in optimal control signal does not necessarily guarantee larger domain of attraction [20]. It is necessary to mention that changing Q and R does not have any significant effect on the performance of the LQR controller [10], [16].

3- 2- Adaptive Anti-Disturbance Technique for Friction Compensation

The designed nonlinear optimal controller is capable of coping with applied friction based on classical and exponential models in some special conditions. The importance of designed controller is the elimination of friction effects for two significant models without using compensator while there are many papers that use linear controller and compensator to eliminate friction effects.

In the case of LuGre model, as it is shown in Fig. 3(c), there is a sinusoid fluctuations around the origin with unknown amplitude, frequency, and phase. In fact, it is supposed that there exists a disturbance sinusoid signal which is added to the system and our aim is constructing a spurious signal with the same amplitude (negative sign), frequency, and phase as a disturbance signal which is added to the main signal. Hence, the spurious and original disturbance signal neutralize each other and the desired behavior is reproduced [16].

The specified disturbance signal is presented as it follows:

$$d = \sum_{j=1}^n A_j \sin(\omega_j t + \varphi_j) \tag{13}$$

where A_j , ω_j , and φ_j are unknown amplitude, frequency, and phase, respectively. With some mathematical manipulation, the relation (13) can be rewritten as [16], [24]:

$$d = \sum_{j=1}^n (\alpha_{j1} \sin(\omega_j t) + \alpha_{j2} \cos(\omega_j t)) \tag{14}$$

where

$$\alpha_{j1} = A_j \cos(\varphi_j) \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha_{j2} = A_j \sin(\varphi_j). \tag{15}$$

In (15), the parameters α_{j1} and α_{j2} are unknown. By obtaining these parameters, A_j and φ_j are estimated by the

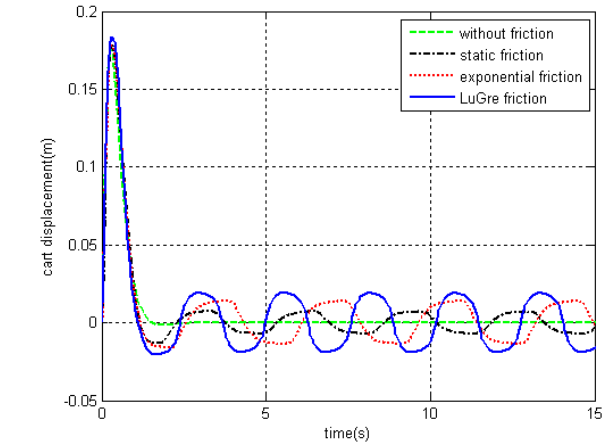


Fig. 2. Cart position with initial condition $x_0^T = [0 \ 0.2325 \ 0 \ 0]$ in the presence of friction as disturbance signal under a linear controller.

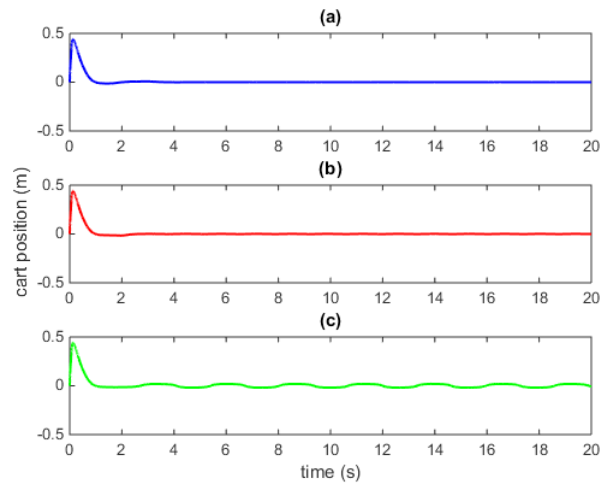


Fig. 3. Cart position with initial condition $x_0^T = [0 \ 0.4235 \ 0 \ 0]$ in the presence of friction as disturbance signal under a nonlinear controller; (a) Da Vinci model, (b) Exponential model, (c) LuGre model.

following relations.

$$A_j = \sqrt{\alpha_{j1}^2 + \alpha_{j2}^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi_j = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{\alpha_{j2}}{\alpha_{j1}} \right) \tag{16}$$

The presented format for disturbance signal in (14) is SPM; hence, with the use of gradient algorithm (GA) the unknown parameters α_j and ω_j can be estimated [25]. We can rewrite (14) in the following SPM structure.

$$z = \theta^T \psi \tag{17}$$

where z is considered as the estimation of disturbance signal d and θ^T is a row vector whose elements consist of the unknowns parameters α_{j1} and α_{j2} for $j=1, \dots, n$. The terms $\cos(\varphi_j)$ and $\sin(\varphi_j)$ for $j=1, \dots, n$ are elements of the vector ψ . To use GA, the vector ψ should be known. The unknown frequencies, i.e. ω_j , can be estimated using Fourier transformation of disturbance signal and segregation dominant Frequencies [16]. Hence, by inserting the frequencies in vector ψ , the elements of the unknown vector θ are estimated using the following adaptation law,

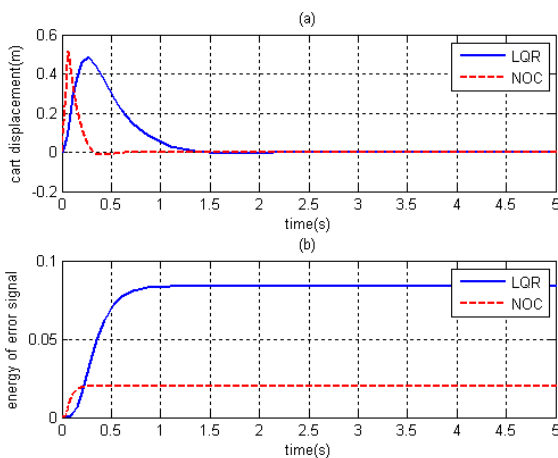


Fig. 1. Comparison between linear and nonlinear optimal controller in the closed loop system with the initial condition $x_0^T = [0 \ 0.5232 \ 0 \ 0]$; (a) cart position, (b) energy of error signal between desired position and cart position.

$$\dot{\theta} = \Gamma \varepsilon \varphi \tag{18}$$

where $\Gamma = \Gamma^T > 0$ is the adaptation gain and ε is the normalized error between estimated and real disturbance signal [25].

Comparison between spurious and original disturbance signal is shown in Fig. 4. Also, the modified cart position after applying friction compensator is plotted in Fig. 5. To obtain the dominant frequencies, we need to conduct an offline experiment without any special conditions, while in some papers, satisfying some special conditions or conducting more than one experiment is necessary [13], [10].

4- Nonlinear Controller Design for Augmented System with Friction

All the presented friction models have hard nonlinear terms. In this section, friction model is integrated into the system model and, then, a nonlinear optimal controller is designed for the overall system. In optimal controller design procedure for the system $\dot{x} = f(x)$, at least, the function $f(x)$ should belong to the set C^1 . Unfortunately, the sign function in (1) and (2) and absolute value function in (4) are not differentiable and cannot be linearized. Therefore, three continuous functions are presented to approximate the hard nonlinear terms.

4- 1- Sigmoid Function

The SIPC system has an equilibrium point in the origin and the sign function in (1) and (2) is not differentiable at this point. Hence, by substituting the following function for sign function, we can approximate it.

$$\text{sign}(x) \approx \frac{1 - e^{-ax}}{1 + e^{-ax}} \tag{19}$$

where $a \in (0, \infty)$ is an arbitrary parameter and for $a \rightarrow \infty$ we would have a better approximate for the sign function. Now, linearization of the augmented system around the origin can be done and the optimal control problem based on cost function (6) would be nice which makes it possible to design a linear and nonlinear optimal controller for the augmented system. Fig. 6(a) shows the cart position in the closed loop system based on the approximation given in (19).

4- 2- Delta Dirac

The Delta Dirac function is presented as it follows,

$$\delta_a(x) = \frac{1}{a\sqrt{\pi}} e^{-\left(\frac{x}{a}\right)^2} \tag{20}$$

where the parameter a is an arbitrary positive number and as $a \rightarrow 0$, the function $\delta_a(x)$ converges into the behavior of an impulse function. Substituting the Delta Dirac function for the first derivation of sign function makes it possible to design linear and nonlinear optimal controller. The cart position is shown in Fig. 6(b). In the next part, a continuous function is proposed to approximate the absolute value function in LuGre dynamic model.

4- 3- Absolute Value Approximate Function

The absolute value function presented in the state space equation governing LuGre friction model is not differentiable at the origin. Instead of this function, the following approximation is presented

$$|x| \approx \sqrt{x^2 + \varepsilon} \tag{21}$$

Where parameter ε can have an arbitrarily value on interval $(0, \infty)$. For $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ the approximate function converges to

the original function. As shown in Fig. 7, in this case, using a nonlinear optimal controller contributes into reduction of the amplitude of fluctuations and its frequency significantly. The proposed approximation functions have a significant advantage that is their differentiability around the origin. In the first and second cases, the domain of attraction of closed loop system is compared by simulations. Using sigmoid function leads to the larger domain of attraction, but considering the characteristics of the response, they are similar. In the third case, the amplitude of fluctuations has decreased to 0.008(m) which for the closed loop system without friction compensator is about 0.08 and from the domain of attraction outlook, they are the same. In addition to the mentioned points, there is no need to use state observer and this is another property of the proposed approximation.

5- Conclusion

Friction is a nonlinear phenomenon and when is modeled comprises the hard-nonlinearities. It has destructive effects on closed loop behavior of the system. The problem of friction compensation was addressed in this paper. Two techniques are proposed. The first presented technique, which is a two-layer approach, consists of a nonlinear optimal controller based

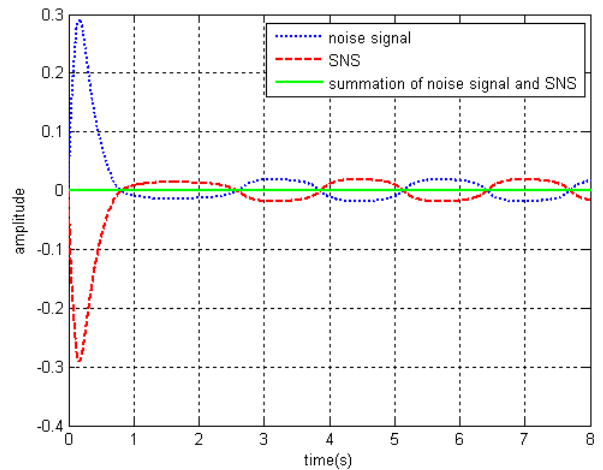


Fig. 4. Comparison between original and spurious disturbance signal.

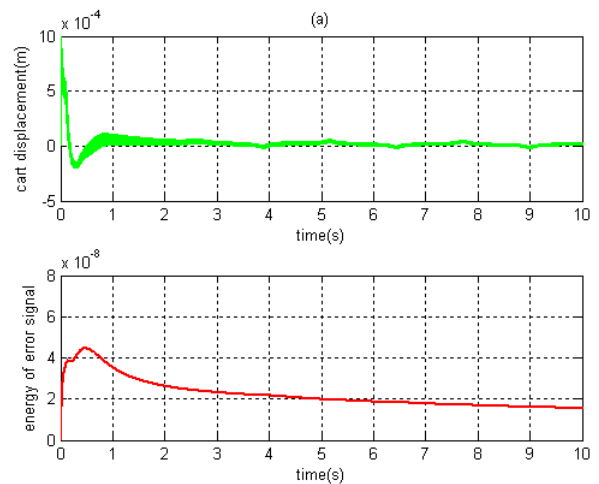


Fig. 5. (a) Cart position using friction compensation technique with initial condition $x_0^T = [0 \ 0.3488 \ 0 \ 0]$, (b) energy of error signal.

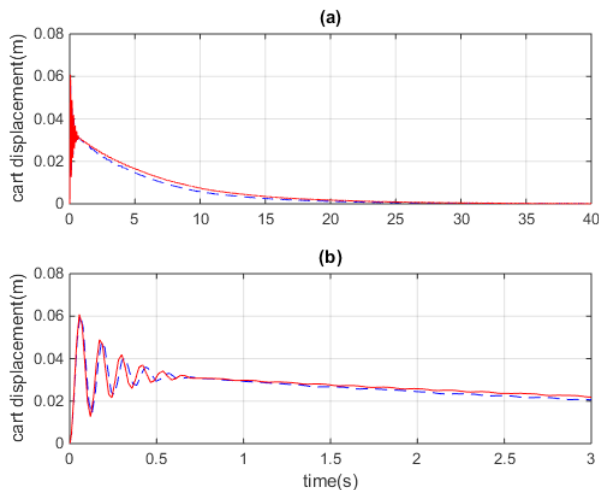


Fig. 6. Cart position with initial condition $x_0^T=[0 \ 0.08 \ 0 \ 0]$ in closed loop with the optimal controller for the augmented system with classic friction (Red: nonlinear controller, blue: Linear controller) (a) Sigmoid function, (b) Delta Dirac function.

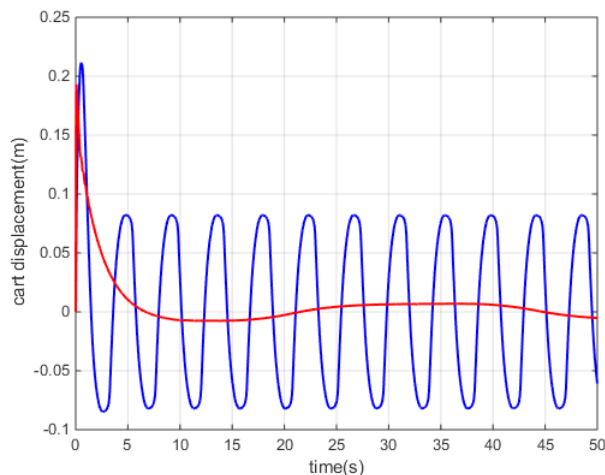


Fig. 7. Cart position response to initial condition $x_0^T=[0 \ 0.27 \ 0 \ 0]$ in closed loop with optimal controller for the augmented system with dynamic friction. The blue one is related to the closed loop system without friction compensator and the red one is related to the closed loop augmented system.

on the approximate solution of HJB PDE and an adaptive online friction compensator. The utilized nonlinear controller rather than the simple linear ones which has been used in other papers as a control layer has more advantages in terms of the domain of attraction and robustness. In the second method, friction model was integrated into the system model and a nonlinear optimal controller is designed for the overall system. Because of the non-differentiability property of hard nonlinearities terms in friction models, we were unable to design linear or nonlinear controllers that work based on the linearized system. Therefore, some approximate functions were proposed to approximate discontinuous functions and made it possible to design linear and nonlinear controllers such as LQR and nonlinear optimal one (based on HJB PDE). It was shown by simulations that these approximations are effective even in the absence of friction compensator.

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