Fusion of Tire Lateral Force Estimation and Sliding Mode Control for Torque Vectoring

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**ABSTRACT−**

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nomenclature

*Vx* : longitudinal velocity, m/s

*Vy* : lateral velocity, m/s

γ : yaw rate, rad/s

*ax* : longitudinal acceleration, m/s2

*ay* : lateral acceleration, m/s2

*δ* : steering angle, rad

*Td* : wheel driving torque, N·m

*Tb* : wheel braking torque, N·m

*r* : effective radius of tire, m

*m* : vehicle mass, kg

*Iz* : moment of inertia about z axis, kg·m2

*lF* : distance from front axle to the center of gravity, m

*lR* : distance from rear axle to the center of gravity, m

*L* : wheel base length, m

*t* : half of track width, m

*h* : height from ground to the center of gravity, m

*Cα* : cornering stiffness, N/rad

*σ* : relaxation length, m

*μ* : road friction coefficient

*α* : slip angle

*Fx* : longitudinal force between road and tire, N

*Fy* : lateral force between road and tire, N

: tunable values in adaptive switching gain

*wt* : weight that update switching gain

|  |
| --- |
| subscripts  *FL, FR, RL, RR*: front left, front right, rear left, rear right |
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1. INTRODUCTION

Formula Student (FS) is a competion where university students design, build, and small-scale high-performance racing cars. These vehicles can be designed whitin the frameword of competition regulations. Therefor, 4 In-Wheel motor electric vehicles which are not commonly found in the market can be employed. In racing, the vehicle’s aceelaration, handling, and endurances are very important. Especially achieving stable conering at high speeds is crucial.

To enhance handling performance in 4 In-wheel drive systems, it is effective to control each motor individually for optimal torque distribution (Shino et al; 2001). This system, known as Torque-Vectioring(TV) system, requiring the design of a yaw moment controller. Various control strategies can be employed for this purpose. However, for FS vehicle applications, we have two key considerations: robustness and low computational power. The driving environment is subject to various disturbances, and due to some aspects of driving dynamics cannot be fully sensed in real time, this parts remains uncertainty. Even under these conditions, the control system must act robustly. Addittionaly, FS vehicles,because of student team, may be limited in their ability to use high-performance micorocontrollers. Considering these conditions a Sliding Mode Controller(SMC) is utilized in this study.



Figure 1. Representation of a four-wheel vehicle model.

Depending on which order of the sliding surface being controlled, it referred to as First-Order Sliding Mode (FOSM) and Second Order Sliding Mode (SOSM). FOSM is simple to design and requires low computational power, but it can cause chattering problems, where the input value oscillates that can cause critical problem in the system. On the other hand, SOSM effectively mitigates chattering issues and is therefore commonly applied in TV systems (Liang *et al*., 2020). However, FS vehicles are constrained by limited computational resources. Additionally, FOSM, when combined with methods to reduce chattering, provides sufficient performance for TV (de Carvalho Pinheiro *et al*, 2023). Due to switching term that used for robustness making chattering problem. One of the mitigate chattering methods is using apatively change switching gain during the system operation, as knoaw Adaptive Sliding Mode Control(ASMC)(Back *et al*., 2016). Therefor, if adaptively changed switch term as uncertainties estimation. By adjusting the switching term based on uncertainty estimation, chattering can be prevented when uncertainties are low.

Accurate estimation of lateral tire forces and their application to the controller can further enhance performance. Lateral tire forces, resulting from the interaction between the tire and the road surface, are influenced by various factors such as slip angle, road conditions, vertical load on the tire, and the tire’s cornering stiffness. Given the complexity of these interactions, precise modeling techniques are necessary for reliable force estimation. Dugoff’s tire model is commonly used due to its simplicity in combining both lateral and longitudinal tire forces based on slip angle and slip ratio. However, a key limitation is the assumption that cornering stiffness remains constant, which can lead to inaccuracies in lateral force estimation, especially at higher slip angles where the tire’s behavior deviates from the model’s assumptions.

To address this issue, this study introduces an Adaptive Extended Kalman Filter (AEKF) for lateral force estimation, coupled with an offline optimization approach to adjust cornering stiffness, making it more responsive to changing conditions. This optimization allows the cornering stiffness to better reflect the tire’s behavior under different slip angles, thereby enhancing the overall accuracy of lateral force estimation.

This paper proposes a TV system using ASMC that adjusts the switching gain based on uncertainty estimated by AEKF. Experiments were conducted using the virtual environment simulator CarMaker. The structure of the AEKF is introduced in Section 2. Section 3 describes the design of the ASMC. The experiments and results for AEKF and ASMC are presented in Section 4. Finally, Section 5 discusses the conclusions.

2. ESTIMATION OF LATERAL TIRE FORCE

In this section, we describe the lateral force estimation process using an Adaptive Extended Kalman Filter (AEKF) and introduce an offline optimization approach for modifying cornering stiffness. Lateral forces are influenced by various factors, including slip angle, road conditions, vertical load on the tire, and tire’s cornering stiffness. The estimation process consists of three main parts: (1) the vehicle lateral dynamics model under the three degrees of freedom (3-DoF), (2) vertical force calculation, and (3) a brief explanation of Dugoff’s tire model, which is widely used for its simplicity. However, Dugoff’s tire model assumes that cornering stiffness as a constant value, this can lead to inaccurate results in overall estimation as the slip angle increases.

To address this, an offline optimization approach is utilized to modify cornering stiffness, allowing it to more accurately represent the changing conditions as the slip angle increases. This is achieved through an axle distribution-based lateral force calculation method. The detailed full-wheel vehicle model is illustrated in Figure 1, and the equations of vehicle dynamics are formulated as follows (Doumiati *et al.*, 2011; Lee *et al*., 2018):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (1) |
|  | (2) |
|  | (3) |

where  are the longitudinal velocity, lateral velocity, yaw rate, front left wheel steering angle, front right wheel steering angle, vehicle mass, moment of inertia about yaw axis, distance from front axle to the center of gravity (CG), distance from rear axle to the CG, half of track width and aerodynamic drag resistance, respectively. Tire forces,  and  (*i* denotes the axle position) represent the longitudinal and lateral forces with the subscript .

Lateral forces on the tire generated by the interaction with the road surface are primarily due to the presence of a slip angle. Therefore, calculating the slip angle is critical for determining lateral tire forces; this can be calculated as described in Eq. (4).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (4) |

where  denotes the front left wheel steering angle and front right wheel steering angle.

2.1. Vertical tire force calculation

The vertical tire force plays a crucial role in accurately estimating lateral forces. It is essential to account for  through that consider load transfer and acceleration, as these are directly influenced during the vehicle’s dynamic behavior such as cornering, accelerating, and braking.

The couplings between pitch and roll dynamics are neglected in this study, assuming that these have a minimal effect on the overall vertical force calculation. The vertical forces can be simplified and calculated using the approach outlined in Eq. (5) (Doumiati *et al.*, 2011).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (5) |

where are the vehicle mass, gravitational acceleration, distance from ground to CG, half of track width, wheelbase length, longitudinal acceleration and lateral acceleration, respectively.

2.2. Dugoff’s tire model

To represent tire forces, Dugoff’s tire model combines both lateral and longitudinal tire forces. It calculates these forces based on the slip ratio of longitudinal forces and the slip angle for lateral forces. By neglecting longitudinal slip ratio, simplified Dugoff’s tire model for lateral force is described in Eq. (6).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (6) |

where represent the cornering stiffness of each axle, and  is the tire-road friction coefficient, assumed to be 1.0 for a high-friction road surface. (Dugoff *et al*., 1970). Meanwhile, the lateral force is generated with a time lag relative to change in slip angle, it causes transient response of the tire. The lateral tire force dynamics is first order and represented as follows (Guenther *et al*., 1990, Heydinger *et al*., 1991):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (7) |

Here, denotes the relaxation length, which is assumed to be constant value of 0.1m in this study.

2.3 Axle distribution based-lateral force

As mentioned before, the Dugoff’s tire model assumes that the lateral tire force is proportional to slip angle. However, this assumption is valid within a limited small range of slip angle. As slip angle increases, the behavior of the tire becomes nonlinear and no longer increases

proportionally with the slip angle, instead, it approaches a saturation points where additional increases in slip angle yield diminishing in lateral force. Thus, predicting the lateral tire force using linear models becomes less accurate.

On the other hand, an alternative approach is proposed for estimating lateral tire force without relying on tire modeling and filtering methods (Li *et al*., 2019). Instead, they predict the lateral tire force directly by focusing on the distribution of vertical load across the tires relative to the total load on certain axle. The equations of the axle distribution based lateral force calculation is described in Eq. (8).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (8) |
|  | (9) |

Here,represents the lateral tire force,  and  are the total lateral forces on the front and rear axles, respectively.

2.4. Optimization for modifying cornering stiffness

According to T. D. Gillespie, load transfer affects cornering stiffness, and this relationship can be presented by a second-order polynomial with respect to vertical force. Previous studies have also explored this relationship between cornering stiffness and vertical force (Doumiati *et al*., 2011; Jeong *et al*., 2022). The second-order polynomial equation is adjusted by adding a bias termin this study as described in Eq. (10), where represents the initial cornering stiffness when side slip angle is small. While the axle distribution-based method does not fully capture the nonlinear relationship between lateral force and slip angle, it remains effective for modifying the cornering stiffness and reflecting nonlinear changes as the slip angle increases.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (10) |
|  | (11) |

To further refine cornering stiffness, an optimization problem is then formulated aimed at reflecting the effect of vertical load, as defined in Eq. (12). This involves minimizing the sum of squared error between Eq. (8) and Eq. (11).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (12) |

The Levenberg Marquardt method is utilized for this optimization task and the optimal values for the coefficients and as -0.006 and 3.501, respectively.

2.5. Adaptive extended kalman filter

To estimate the lateral force in state-space model, the AEKF is employed to dynamically adjust the process noise (Akhlaghi *et al*., 2017). Unlike the process noise, which is adjusted dynamically to reflect changes in the system state transitions, the measurement noise is kept constant and remain relatively stable under normal operating conditions. The AEKF utilizes 8-dimensional state vector , 5-dimensional input control vector , and 5-dimenstional measurement vector  as follows:

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|  | (13) |
|  | (14) |

 is excluded from the state vector and used as an input control vector calculated by Eq. (14). It is determined by using the wheel driving torque, wheel braking torque, and the effective radius of the tire denoted as,, respectively. The priori state  of AEKF is calculated by integrating over discrete time deviation  as described in Eq. (15) ~ (16).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (15) |
|  | (16) |

The measurement model is described in Eq.(17) ~ (18)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (17) |
|  | (18) |

where denotes the white gaussian measurement noise and is represented as a nonlinear function of The entire estimation process during discrete time deviationis formulated in Eq. (16).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (20) |

Here, are the state covariance matrix, system noise covariance, and measurement noise covariance. are the Jacobian matrices of the nonlinear function of Compared to conventional EKF process, AEKF adaptively adjust the system noise covariance matrix , by balancing the weight  between the  and the innovation  term.

3. Torque-vectoring

3.1. Sliding Mode Controller Design

In this study, to ensure robustness, an Adaptive Sliding Mode Control (ASMC) approach is utilized for the yaw moment controller. To mitigate the chattering problem, an adaptive switching gain is employed. Several techniques exist to further reduce chattering, including adding a low-pass filter or replacing the signum function with a saturation function. While adding a low-pass filter can reduce chattering, it negatively impacts the controller’s performance (de Carvalho Pinheiro et al., 2023). Therefore, in this study, the signum function is employed alongside the adaptive switching gain to mitigate chattering.

There are several techniques to reduce chattering, including adding a low pass filter, replacing the signum function with a saturation function, and using adaptive control gain. while adding low pass filter can reduce chattering, it negatively impacts to controller’s performance. In this paper, the signum function, and adaptive control gain are employed to mitigate chattering.

To establish SMC for torque vectoring, the sliding surface is designed for the vehicle’s yaw rate to track the desired yaw rate. it is expressed as follows:

|  |  |
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|  | (21) |

The process of setting the control input involves following two steps. First, establish the equivalent control, which ensures  under the assumption of no disturbances and can be determined by imposing .

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (22) |

Derivation of yaw rate is defined in Eq. (3). This equation can be partitioned into two components: one is , which consist of , as described in the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (23) |

And the other is , which consists of , as described in the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (24) |

Using above equations, eq.(24) can be substituted as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (25) |

where  is added to represent disturbances. The term, which can be controlled using braking and acceleration, is treated as a control input.  is associated with lateral forces that are difficult to achieve. for getting equivalent control input, neglecting and , the equivalent control input defined Eq. (26) (Liang *et al*., 2020; de Carvalho Pinheiro *et al*., 2023; Zhang *et al*., 2020; Goggia et al., 2014).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (26) |

Originally, signum function is incorporated into the control input as a switching term. However, to reduce the chattering phenomenon, the signum function can be replaced by a saturation function (Truong *et al*., 2013). Consequently, control input is defined as follows:

|  |  |
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|  | (27) |

where is the control gain for sliding mode control. To ensure the sliding surface converges in finite time, Lyapunov functions are used. According to Eq. (28). control gain must be over the .

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (28) |

This paper employs an adaptively adjusted switching gain, which is modified based on the results of the AEKF and the sliding surface. The AEKF results utilized to set the reference value to account for the uncertainties. However, due to the continuous oscillations observed in the AEKF output, there is a risk of using AEKF directly. To address this, the AEKF results are used as indicators that identify intervals where uncertainty is located. The corresponding equation is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (29) |

where is reference value that defines the intervals, is the estimation of using AEKF  is bias term for extra disturbances.

the method of adjusting switching gain based on the states of sliding variable effectively addressed chattering phenomena near the sliding manifold (Back *et al*., 2016). To prevent setting the excessive switching gain, a weight that reflects switching gain. this weight is managed according to the following rules

1. If the sliding variable is smaller than in the previous step. It is assumed sliding gain is appropriate. The weight is not update
2. To prevent divergence, if the sliding variable reaches a predefined maximum value, the weight is not updated.
3. If the sliding variable is larger than in the previous step, it indicates the need for a higher gain, prompting an increase in the update step.
4. If the sliding variable’s sign has changed compared to the previous step, it suggests system convergence. The weight is updated to smaller
5. If there is a change in , it is regarded as a change in the environment. To handle this condition, the weight of switching gain is reset to 1.

Following these rules, the weight update can express as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (30) |

where  is weight,  is tunable variable that determines the amount of change in each step. Consequently, switching gain is Eq.(31)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (31) |

3.2. Torque Distribution

In Section 3.1, the desired momentum is generated using FOSM. To achieve this momentum, the vehicle utilizes both steering and torque distribution. The ratio of torque distribution can be calculated by optimization-based control-allocation to achieve a specific purpose (De Novovellis *et al*., 2013) or by distributing it equally. While applying optimization-based control-allocation can enhance the vehicle’s performance, this paper distributes torque equally to avoid the additional computational resources. However, the force generated by drivetrain is constrained. Therefore, if the part of more power distribution exceeded its maximum power. It cannot maintain its speed. Due to this constraint, in that case, the excess value is redistributed to the other motor.

4. Experiment and Results

The overall process of lateral force estimation, offline cornering stiffness optimization, and torque-vectoring as illustrated in Figure 2, was tested using the CarMaker simulation environment. The tests were conducted on a Formula Student car model, equipped with virtual GNSS/IMU sensor that had Gaussian noise added to simulate real-world sensor inaccuracies, providing a more realistic evaluation of the proposed method’s performance. Three distinct scenarios were employed to assess its effectiveness in estimating lateral forces and toque vectoring. The two test scenarios include:

1. Sinus steer test: this is commonly used to assess the response of a vehicle to rapidly varying steering angles. The specific conditions involved driving the vehicle at a constant speed of 40km/h, with a sinusoidal steering input ranging from  to  over a 5-second period
2. Steady steer test: this test represents a steady-state cornering condition. The vehicle maintained a speed of 45km/h while driving on a circular track with a road curvature 45 meters.

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5. CONCLUSION

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REFERENCES

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