

**SIVANAGA SURYA VAMSI POPURI**

**ASU ID: 1217319207**

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**MULTIVARIABLE CONTROL DESIGN OF A CAR-LIKE  
ROBOT USING DIFFERENTIAL DRIVE DYNAMICS**

*Project report for the course EEE588 – Design of  
Multivariable Control System*

**Under the guidance of Dr Armando Rodriguez**

## OVERVIEW

- The goal of this project is to understand what is going on in the process of designing Multiple Input-Multiple Output Controllers (MIMO Controllers), in the process of controlling a car-like robot using differential drive techniques.
- More Specifically, the Controllers being used here are the  $H_{\infty}$ , LQG/LTRO and the LQG.
- The process of designing the controllers, the various constraints taken into consideration, and the results obtained for various scenarios are illustrated in detail.
- All simulations were done using MATLAB.

# CONTENTS INSIDE

## *Robot model analysis*

- State space representation
- Transfer function from the state-space
- Plant model analysis and limitations

## *Controller Design Procedure*

- Control Objective
- Poles of the Closed Loop System for all three controllers (LQR, LQG/LTRO and  $H_{\infty}$ )
- Frequency domain and time-domain analysis of the closed loop system

## *References and resources*

## The Robot's Model

The model of the robot has been hugely inspired by the differential dynamics as mentioned in [1]. However, the robot being taken into consideration here is a car like robot, which is controlled using the differential drive model.

The assumptions made here are that controls are given only to the rear wheel i.e. the front wheels can rotate, but no motor control given there.

This implies that the center of gravity of the robot is not very close to the line that joins the rear wheels, unlike the differential drive robot, in which the center of gravity is at the mid-point of the line joining the left and right rear wheels.

From [1], the mathematical model can be expressed as follows:

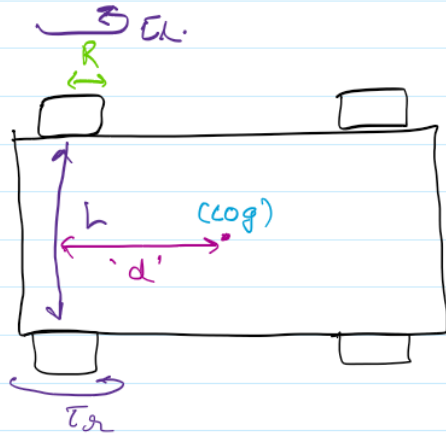
*Kinematic Model (without considering the Wheel Motor Dynamics)*

The nominal model is non-linear:

$$\left[ m + \frac{2I\omega}{R^2} \right] \dot{V} - m_c d\omega^2 = \frac{1}{R} (\tau_R + \tau_L)$$

$$\left[ I + \frac{2L^2}{R^2} I\omega \right] \dot{\omega} + m_c d\omega V = \frac{L}{R} (\tau_R - \tau_L),$$

where  $m$  = mass of Robot + wheels, (kg)  
 $I_w$  = wheel + motor inertia (kg m<sup>2</sup>)  
 $R$  = wheel Radius (gear) (m)  
 $L$  = dist b/w both gear wheels (m)  
 $d$  = dist mid point of 'L' to Cog. (m)  
 $T_L$  &  $T_R$  = left & right wheel Torques.



## Actuator Dynamics:

$$e_a (\text{both wheels}) = L a \frac{d\omega}{dt} + R a \dot{\omega} + e_b.$$

$$e_b = k_g k_f \omega_{r,l}$$

$$T (\text{both wheels}) = k_t k_g \omega_{r,l}$$

$$I_w \ddot{\omega}_{r,l} + \beta \dot{\omega} = \frac{T}{k_g^2}.$$

→  $k_g$  = motor gear ratio.

$k_t$  = Torque constant (mNm/A)

$\beta$  = speed damping const (dNm/s)

$k_b$  = back EMF Constant (mV/rad/s)

## NOMINAL PLANT INPUT AND OUTPUTS

The input controls are the left and right rear wheel torques (**Newton-Meters**).

The outputs are the robot's linear and angular velocity about the center of gravity (**in m/s and rad/s respectively**).

### Issues with the System

The system's nominal model is non-linear by default. This is dependent on the term 'd' in the equation.

Also, the value of 'd' determines the stability of the system. If  $d \geq 0$ , the system is stable. Unstable for  $d < 0$  [1] and [2]. (Will be analyzed.)

NOTE THAT IF  $d = 0$ , THE SYSTEM BECOMES FIRST ORDER, AND THE ROBOT GETS APPROXIMATED TO A DIFFERENTIAL DRIVE ROBOT, WHICH IS NOT OUR FOCUS IN THE PROJECT.

### LINEARIZED MODEL

Linearization is done using the concept of equilibrium, Taylor Expansion and Jacobian Matrices. The process of deriving the linear model is shown below [3].

Lineariz<sup>m</sup>:

$$\left[ m + \frac{2 I_w}{R^2} \right] \dot{v} - m c d \omega^2 = \frac{1}{R} (\tau_R + \tau_L)$$
$$\left[ I + \frac{2 L^2 I_w}{R^2} \right] \dot{\omega} + m c d v \omega = \frac{L}{R} (\tau_R - \tau_L),$$

(I = total inertia)

let  $\frac{1}{m + \frac{2 I_w}{R^2}} = p_1$        $\frac{1}{I + \frac{2 L^2 I_w}{R^2}} = p_2$

$$\Rightarrow \dot{v} = p_1 (m c d \omega^2) + \frac{p_1}{R} (\tau_R + \tau_L)$$
$$\dot{\omega} = p_2 (m c d v \omega) + \frac{p_2 L}{R} (\tau_R - \tau_L)$$

now, taking derivative:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \delta \dot{v} \\ \delta \dot{\omega} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial \dot{v}}{\partial v} & \frac{\partial \dot{v}}{\partial \omega} \\ \frac{\partial \dot{\omega}}{\partial v} & \frac{\partial \dot{\omega}}{\partial \omega} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \delta v \\ \delta \omega \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial \dot{v}}{\partial \tau_r} & \frac{\partial \dot{v}}{\partial \tau_l} \\ \frac{\partial \dot{\omega}}{\partial \tau_r} & \frac{\partial \dot{\omega}}{\partial \tau_l} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \delta \tau_r \\ \delta \tau_l \end{bmatrix}$$

on applying the eq<sup>n</sup>s, we get:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \delta \dot{v} \\ \delta \dot{\omega} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2p_1 m_c d\omega \\ 2p_2 m_c d\omega & 2p_2 m_c dv \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \delta v \\ \delta \omega \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} p_1/R & p_1/R \\ p_2 L/R & -p_2 L/R \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \delta \tau_r \\ \delta \tau_l \end{bmatrix}$$

↙ Linearized model. ↘

A B

now,  $y_1 = v, \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v \\ \omega \end{bmatrix}$

$\downarrow$   
C

& ,  $D = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Equilibrium points can be chosen as desired by the designing party.

Therefore, as can be seen, this is a **TITO system**.

Note: The above information refers to the NOMINAL PLANT.

## *DYNAMIC MODEL OF THE ACTUAL ROBOT PLANT (CONSIDERING THE ACTUATOR DYNAMICS)*

Taking into account the work of [1] and [2], it can be seen that a stable, observable state-space representation of the actual plant of the robot considering the actuator dynamics is given as follows.

$$A_s = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{-2\beta k_g^2}{mR^2 + I_w} & 2p_1 m_c \omega_0 d^2 & \frac{k_t k_g}{L_a R M_0} & \frac{k_t k_g}{L_a R M_0} \\ -p_2 m_c \omega_0 d & p_2 (-m_c v_{od} - \frac{d^2 k_g^2}{2R^2}) & \frac{p_2 k_t k_g d}{2L_a R} & -\frac{p_2 k_t k_g d}{2L_a R} \\ -\frac{k_B k_g}{R} & -\frac{k_B k_g d}{2R} & -\frac{R_a}{L_a} & 0 \\ -\frac{k_B k_g}{R} & \frac{k_B k_g d}{2R} & 0 & -\frac{R_a}{L_a} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$B_s = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{state vector } x = \begin{bmatrix} V \\ \omega \\ i_{aR} \\ i_{aL} \end{bmatrix}$$

The stability, controllability and observability of the above system will be analyzed in MATLAB.



## *CHOOSING THE PARAMETER VALUES FOR THE PLANT*

The parameters have been chosen in a hypothetical manner!

The robot's physical properties (Such as mass, wheel radius, etc.) were decided based on the documentation provided by the Turtlebot 3 Robot's official website [6].

The robot's electrical properties and Inertial parameters were chosen based on the robots used at the METS lab at the Arizona State University [2], [5].

The following lists out the parameters used and their values along with the units.

Physical Parameters (Based on Turtlebot 3 Waffle).

$M = 1.8 \text{ kg}$  (Overall mass)

$L = 1.53 \text{ m}$  (Distance between rear wheels)

$R = 0.15 \text{ m}$  (Wheel Radius)

$M_c = 1.6 \text{ kg}$  (Mass without motors and rear wheels)

$d = 0.5$  (Note that analysis will be done for different values of  $d$ .)

Electrical and Inertial Parameters (Based on METS Robots)

$I_w = 0.0728 \text{ kg m}^2$  (Wheel + Motor Inertia)

$I = 0.0979 \text{ kg m}^2$  (Total Inertia)

$L_a = 2.3 \text{ mH}$  (Armature Inductance)

$R_a = 13.7 \text{ ohms}$  (Armature Resistance)

$K_b = 9.5 \text{ mV / rad / sec}$  (Back EMF Constant)

$K_t = 9.5 \text{ mNm / A}$  (Torque Constant)

$K_g = 9.68$  (Motor-Wheel Gear Ratio)

$\beta = 3.29 \text{ kg m}^2 \text{ / sec}$  (Speed Damping Constant)

Equilibrium velocities (linear and angular)

$V_0 = 0.5 \text{ rad / sec}$

$W_0 = 0.5 \text{ rad / sec}$

## *THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY*

We know that the robot being considered here is a car-like robot, but a differential model is being used for the sake of analysis. A differential drive model has been implemented once for a car-like robot for a navigation purpose in [8] (Which was my undergraduate final year project!).

***The parameter that decides the nature of the robot is the distance 'd'.***

WHY?

Because 'd' tells us whether the robot's physical structure resembles a differential drive or a car-like four-wheel robot.

If  $d = 0$ , it's approximately a differential drive robot.

If  $d > 0$ , it's approximately a car-like robot.

**This study focuses on changing the value of d for  $d = 0.5$ , and 1 visualize the frequency and step response plots for various controllers taken into account.**

*Also, the case when  $d < 0$  is also investigated, which theoretically is supposed to imply instability.*

All simulations and Setups were done on MATLAB, and the next few sections discuss the results and validations obtained from this study.

## RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The results are displayed as follows. The Sensitivity, Complementary Sensitivity, Singular Values, Freq response, step response and control input response are all given for the following cases:

Case 1:  $d = 0.5$  (LQR,  $H_{\infty}$ , LQG/LTRO)

Case 2:  $d = 1$  (LQR,  $H_{\infty}$ , LQG/LTRO)

Case 3:  $d = -0.5$  (LQR,  $H_{\infty}$ , LQG/LTRO)

So, embrace yourself for some stuff!

### **Case 1: $d = 0.5$ (in meters)**

Nominal Plant:

```
Plant =

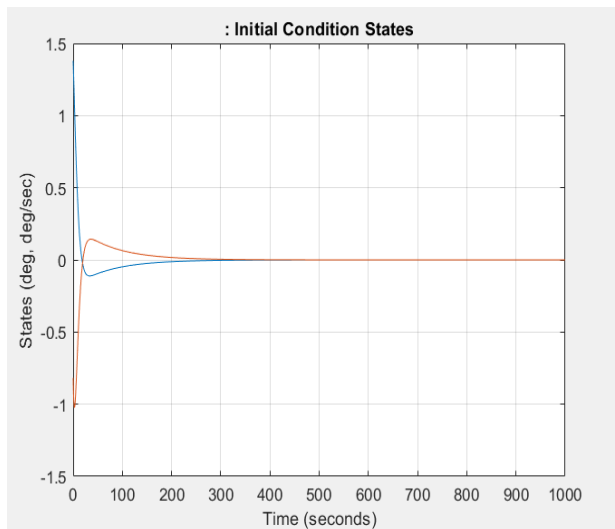
From input 1 to output...
          321.99 (s+0.004514) (s+0.462)
1:  -----
    (s+0.01355) (s+5957) (s^2 + 0.3538s + 0.03419)

          360.7 (s+0.004514) (s-0.3158)
2:  -----
    (s+0.01355) (s+5957) (s^2 + 0.3538s + 0.03419)

From input 2 to output...
          321.99 (s+0.004514) (s+0.2455)
1:  -----
    (s+0.01355) (s+5957) (s^2 + 0.3538s + 0.03419)

          -360.7 (s+0.3158) (s+0.004514)
2:  -----
    (s+0.01355) (s+5957) (s^2 + 0.3538s + 0.03419)
```

**The system is Controllable and Observable. (Full Rank)**



→ Initial Conditions

## Eigen values:

`eig_val =`

`1.0e+03 *`

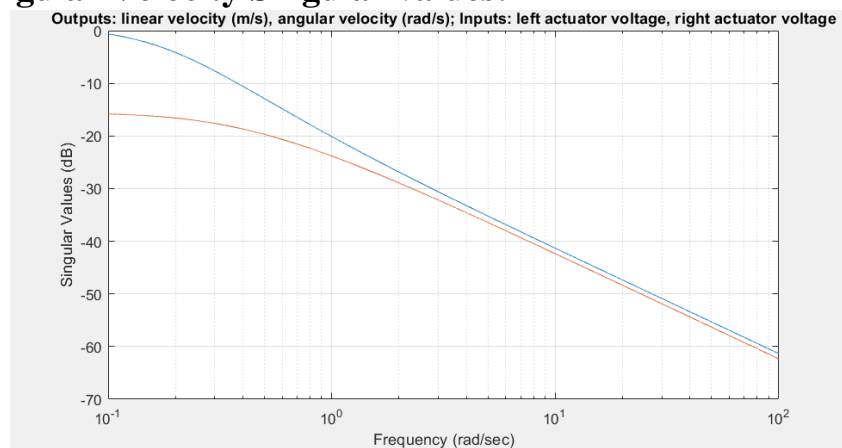
Columns 1 through 5

-0.0002 + 0.0001i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i
0.0000 + 0.0000i	-0.0002 - 0.0001i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i
0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	-0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i
0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	-0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i
0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	-5.9565 + 0.0000i
0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i

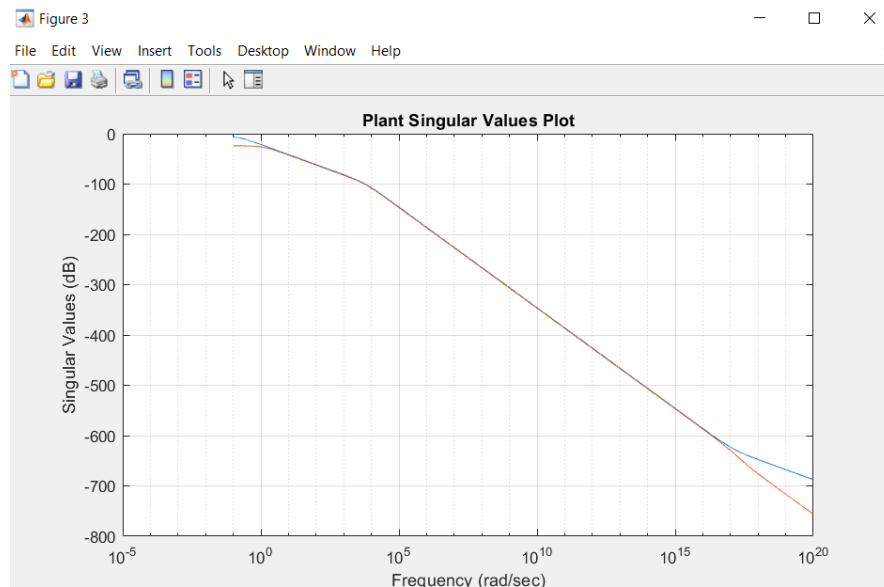
Column 6

0.0000 + 0.0000i
0.0000 + 0.0000i
0.0000 + 0.0000i
0.0000 + 0.0000i
0.0000 + 0.0000i
-5.9565 + 0.0000i

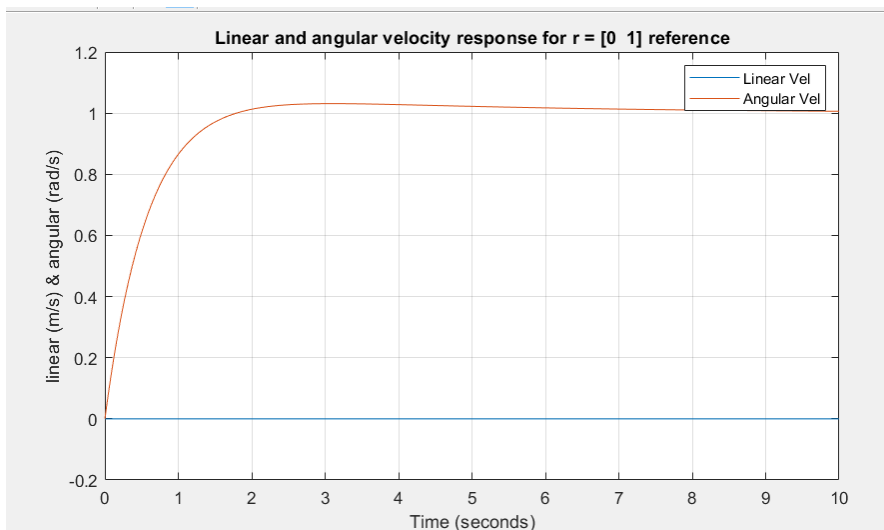
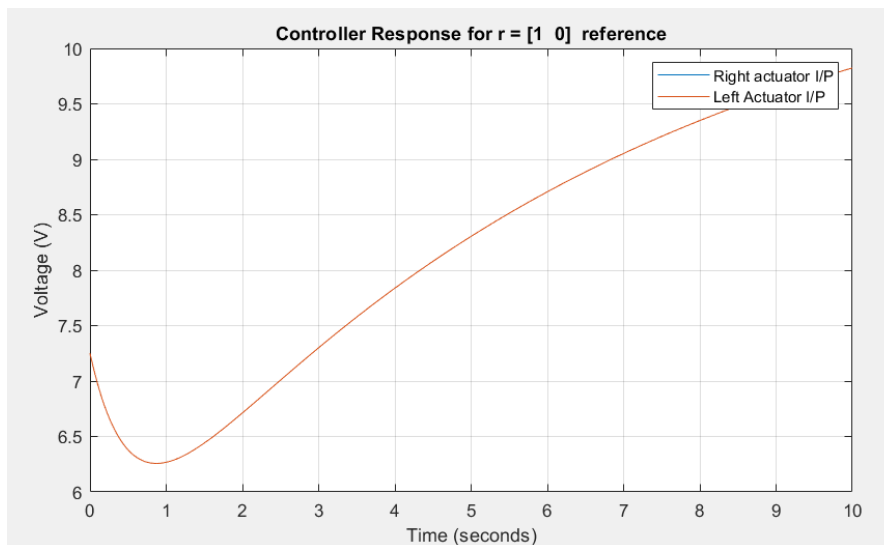
## Linear and Angular Velocity Singular values:

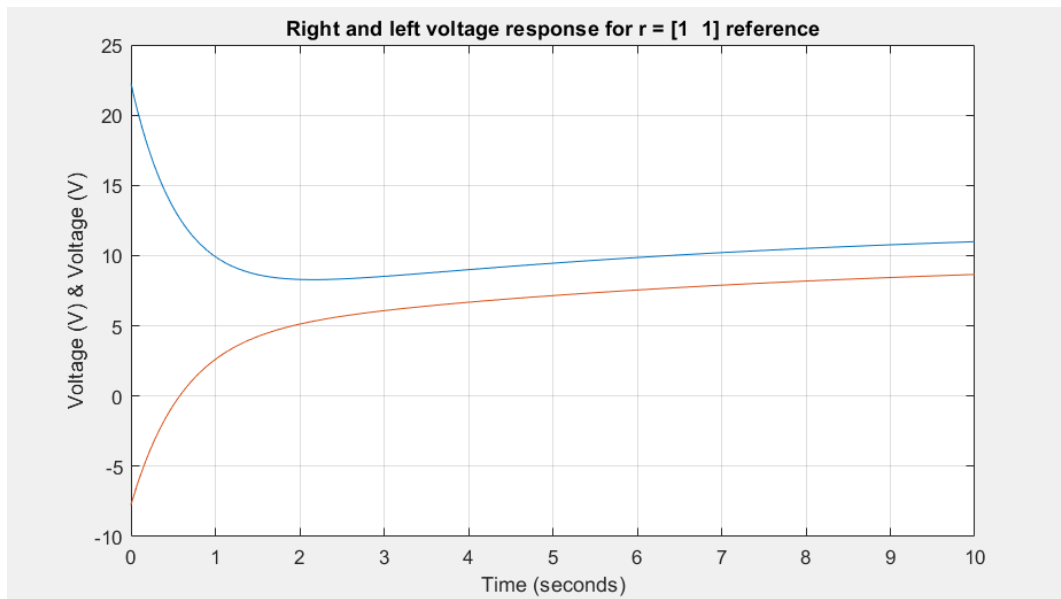
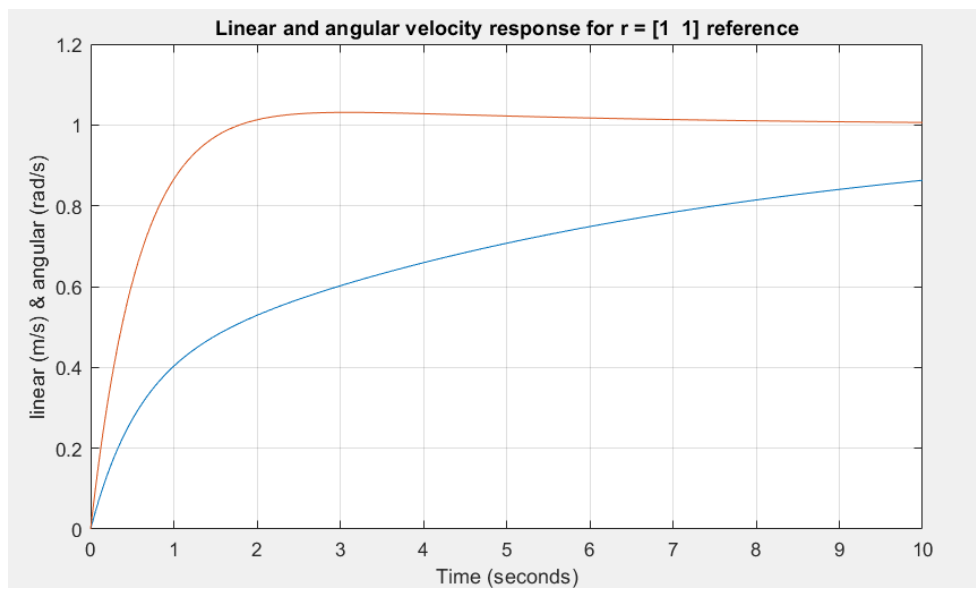
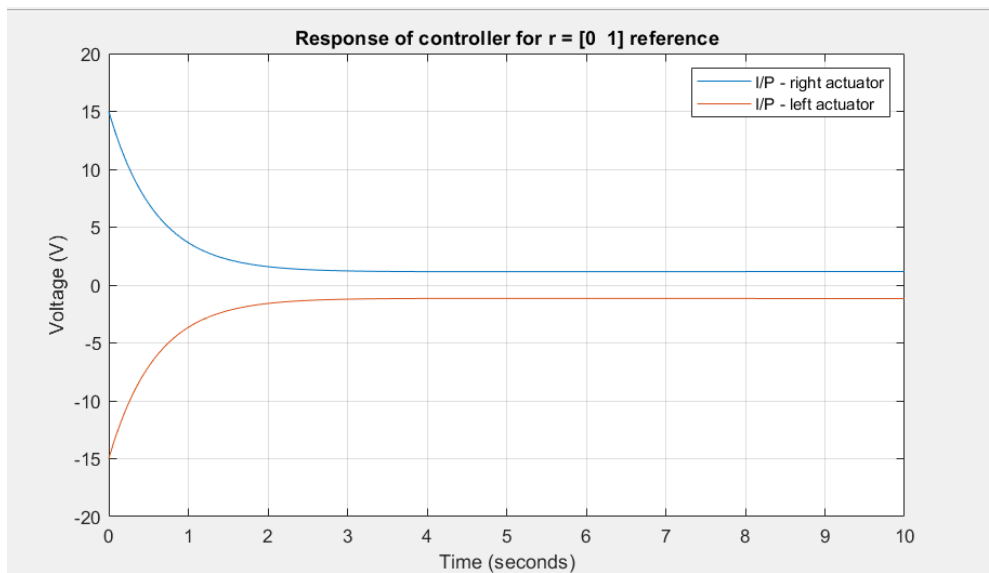


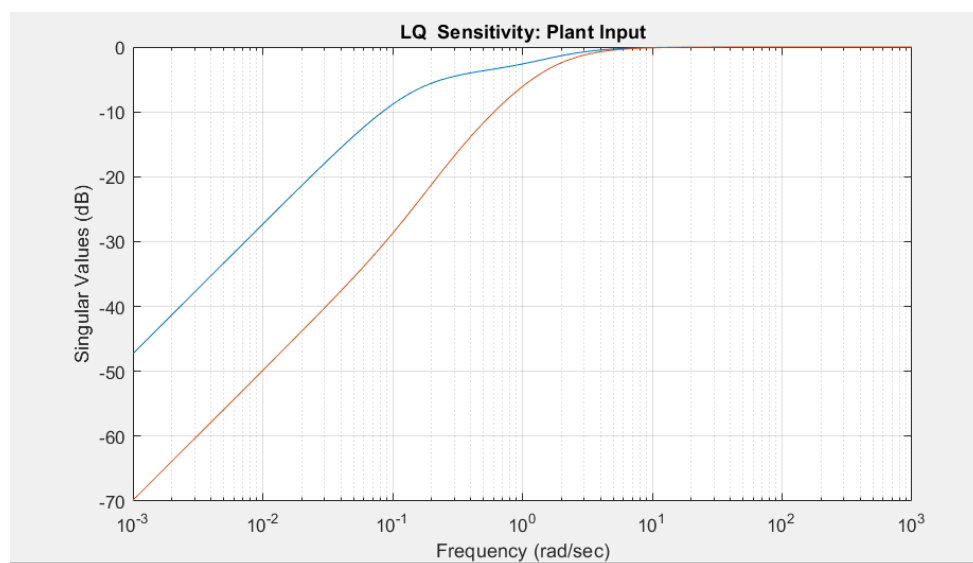
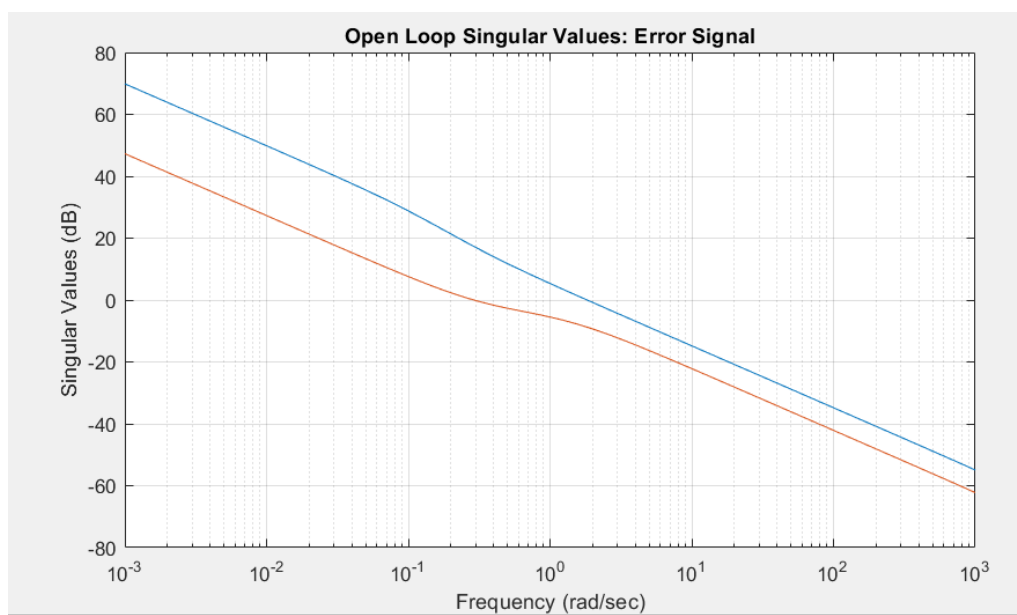
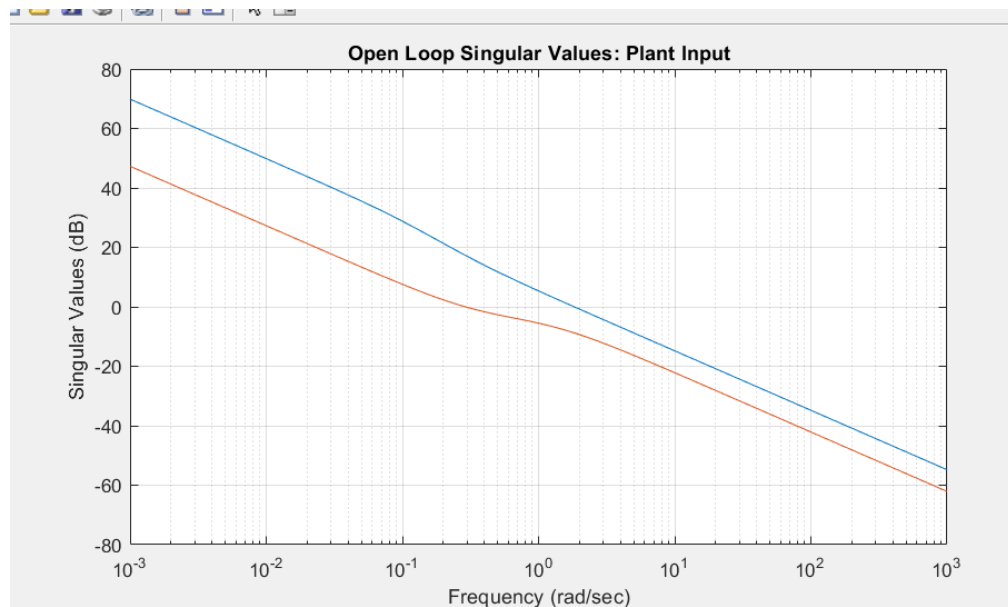
# Plant Singular Values

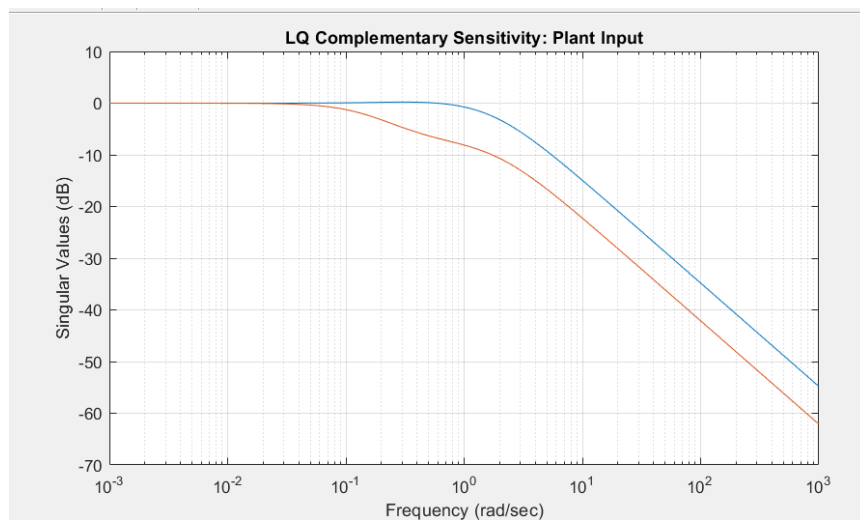
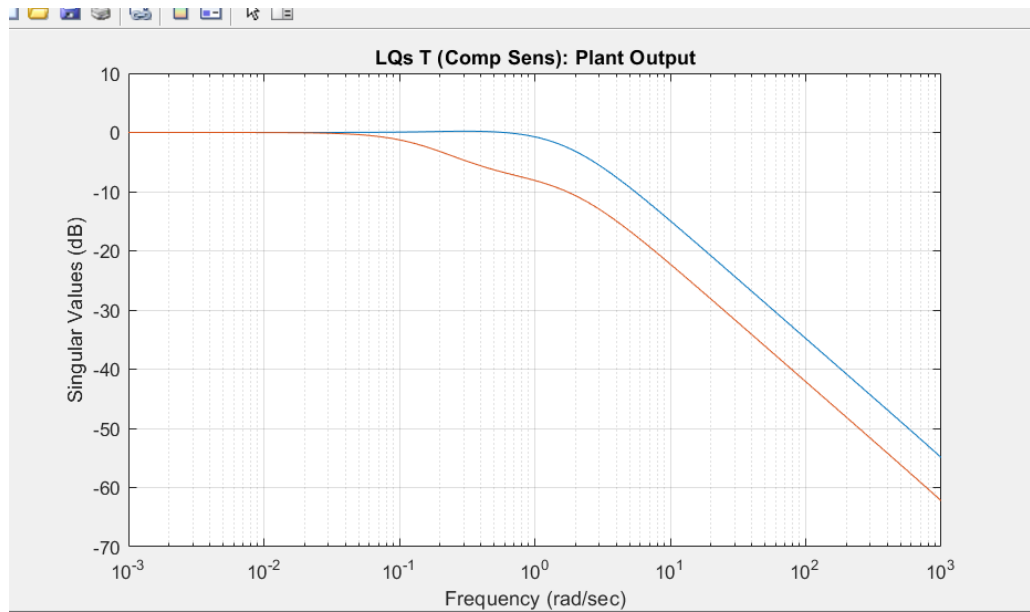
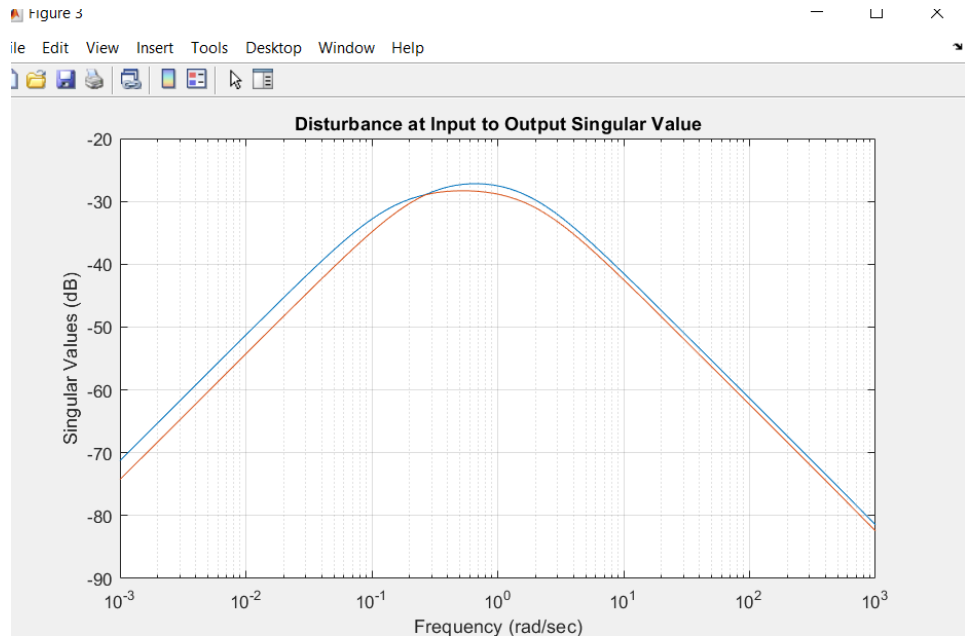


## LQR CONTROLLER:



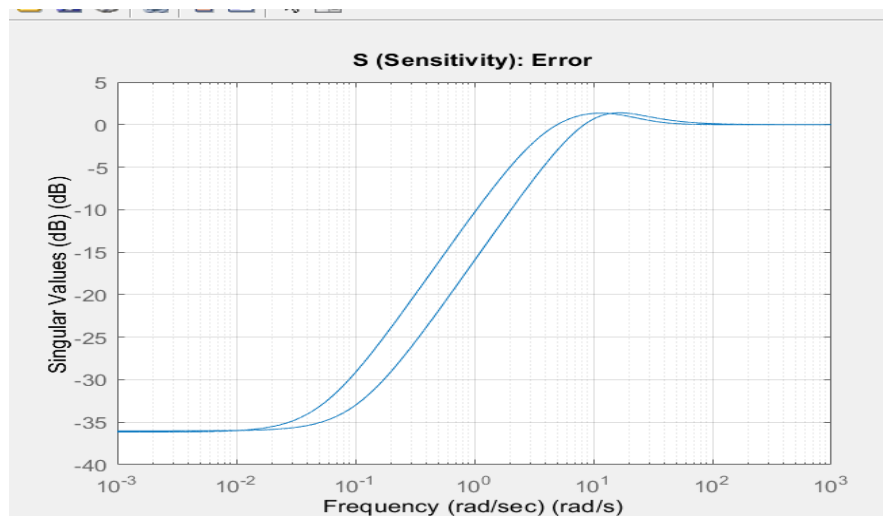
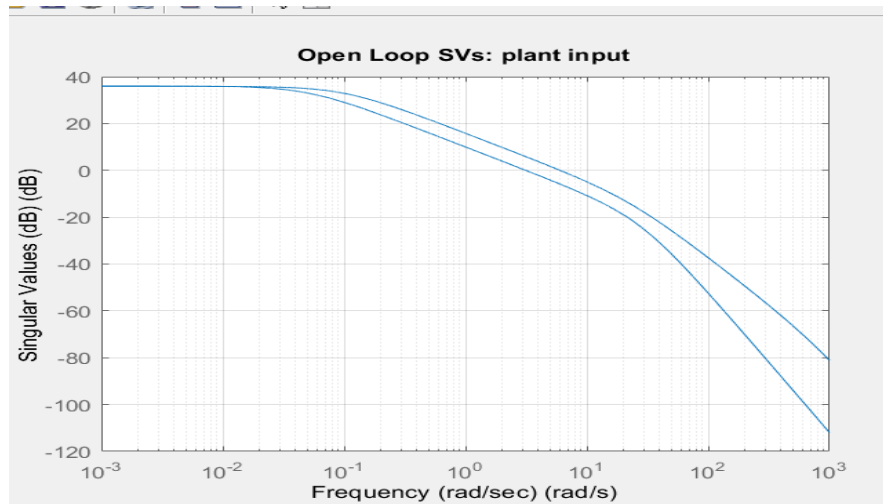
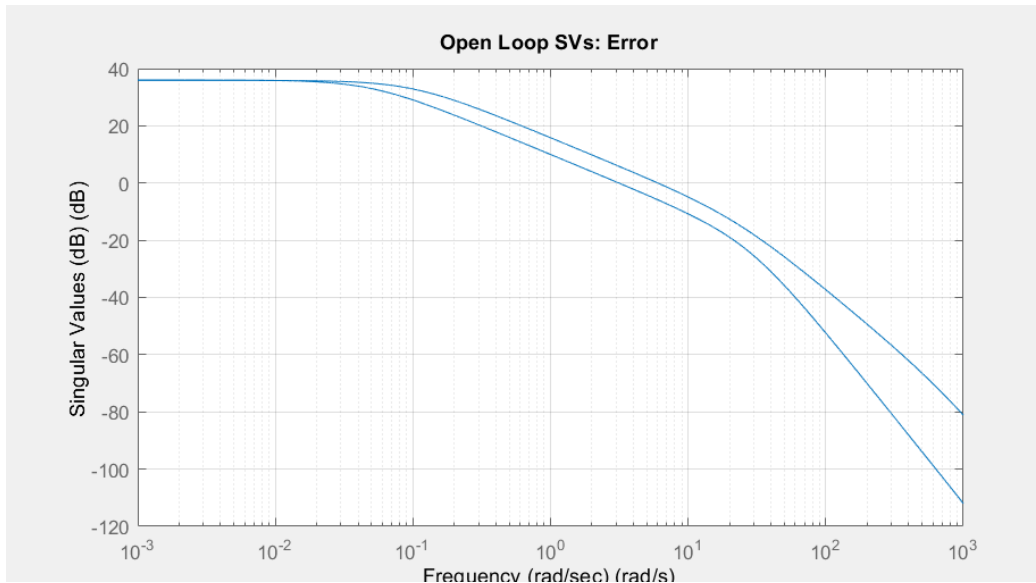


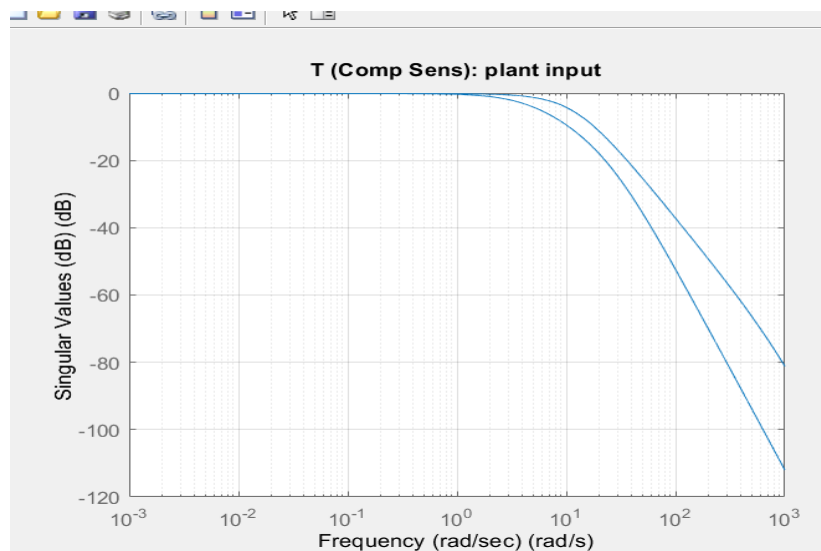
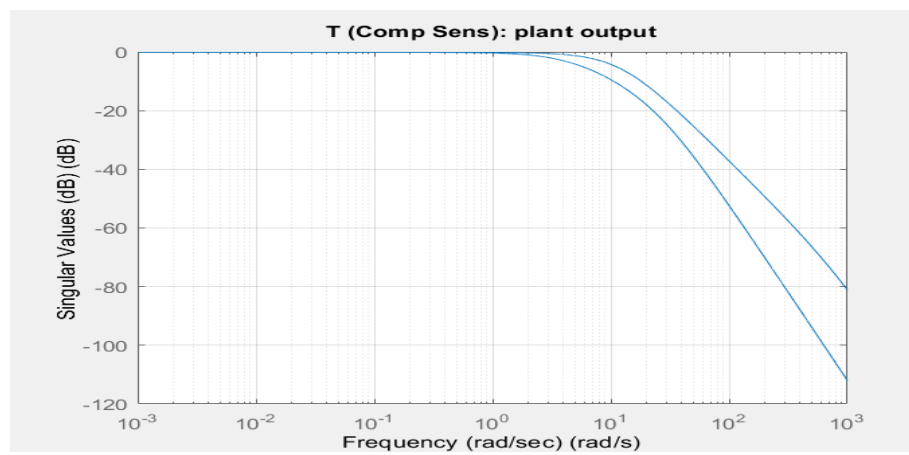
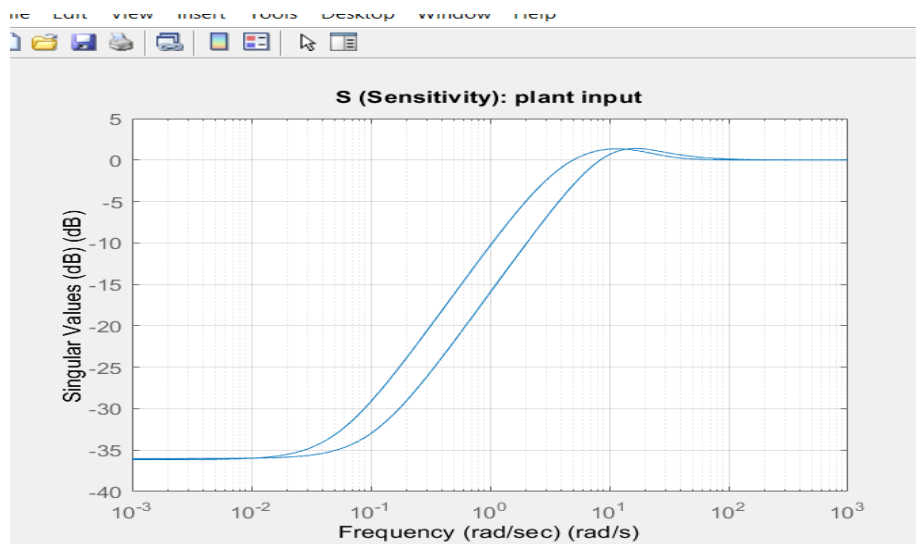


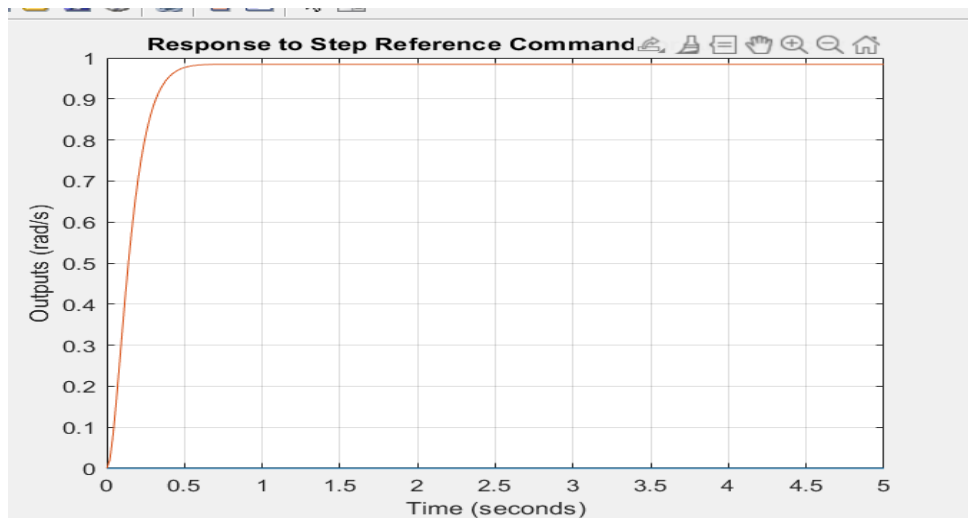
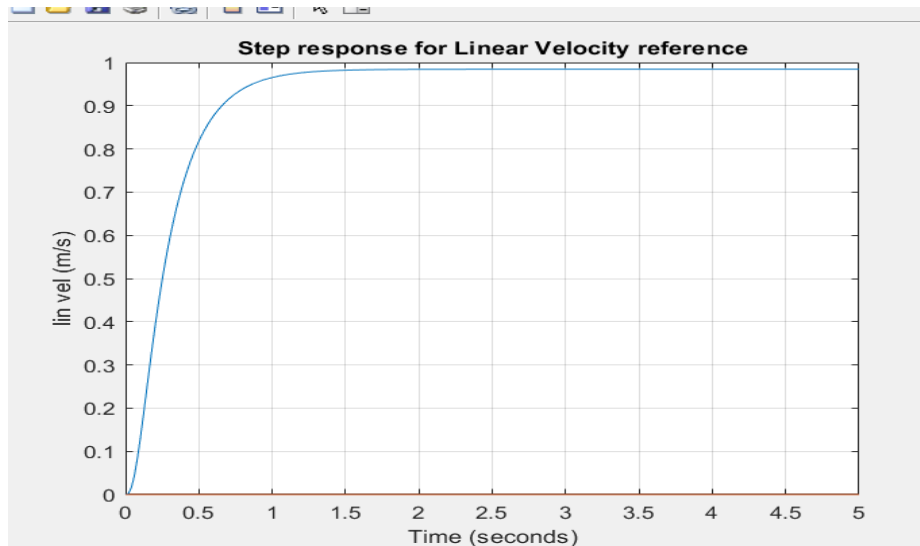




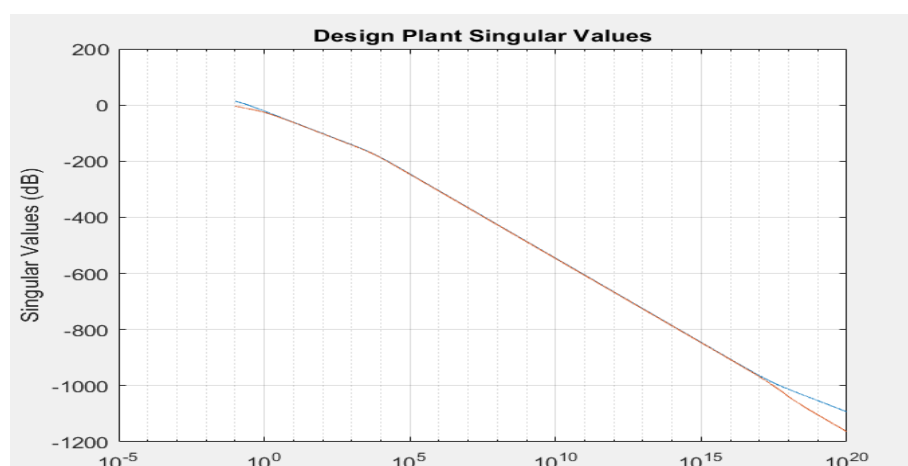
## *H*<sub>∞</sub> Controller

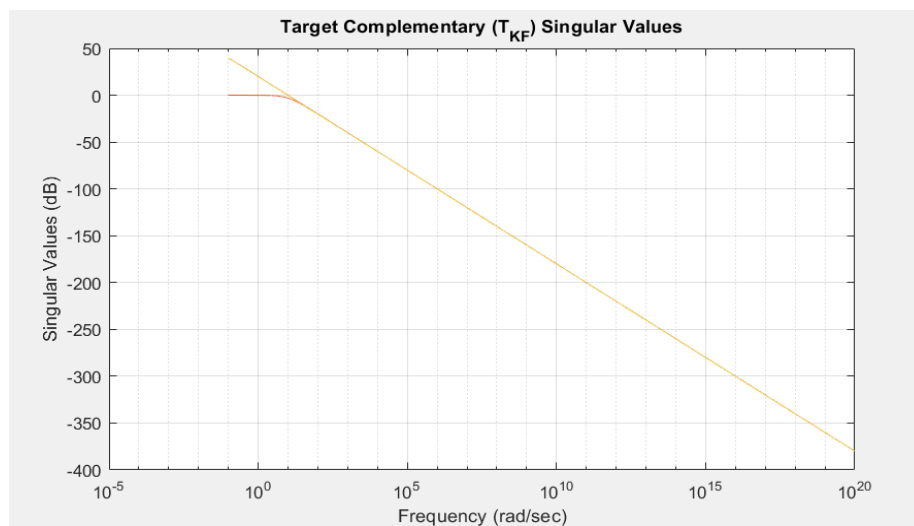
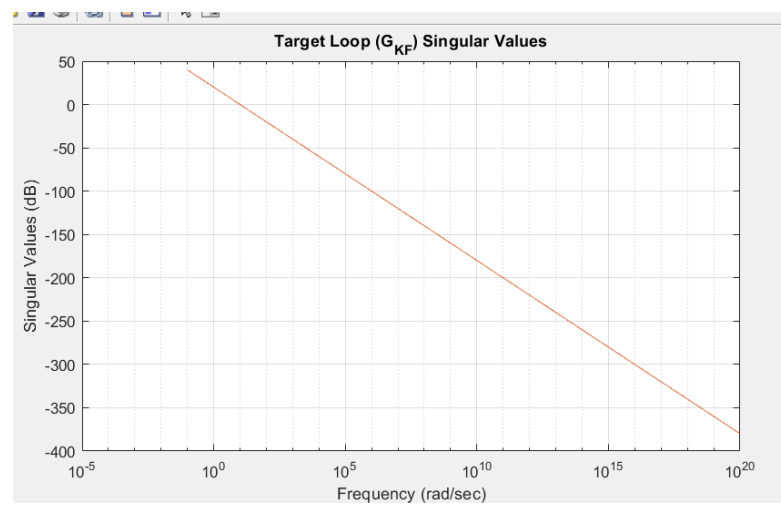
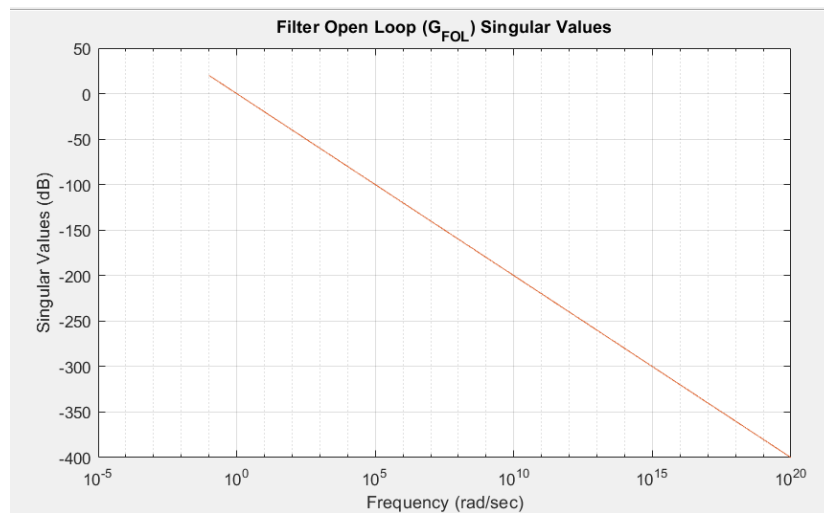


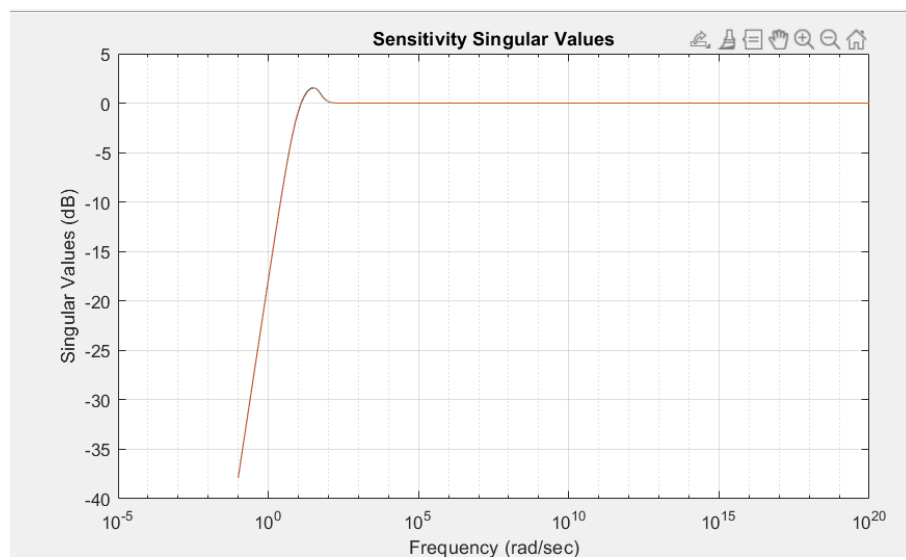
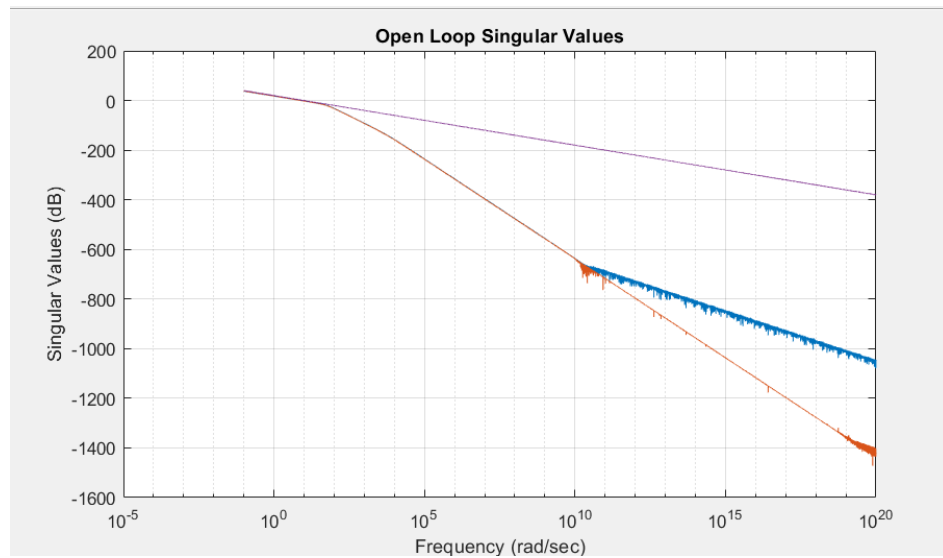
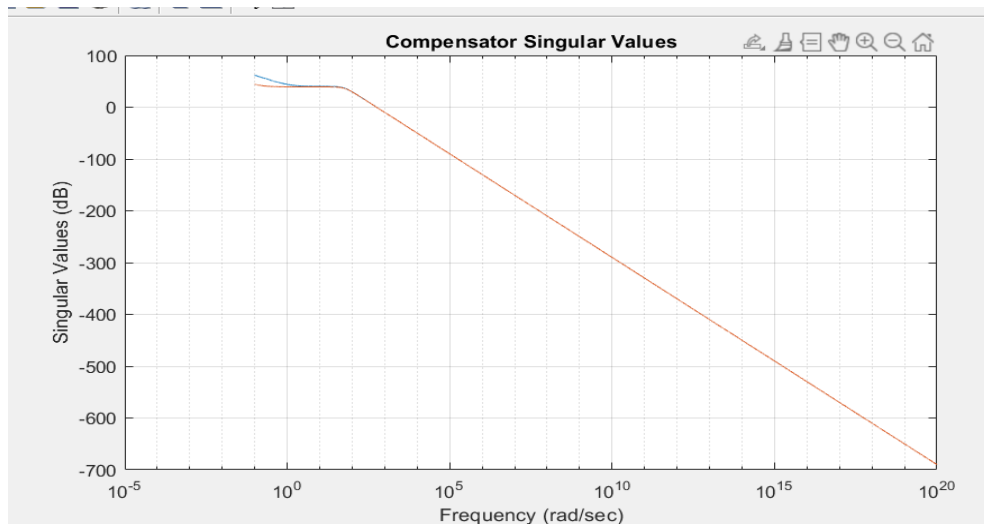




## ***LQG / LTRO CONTROLLER***







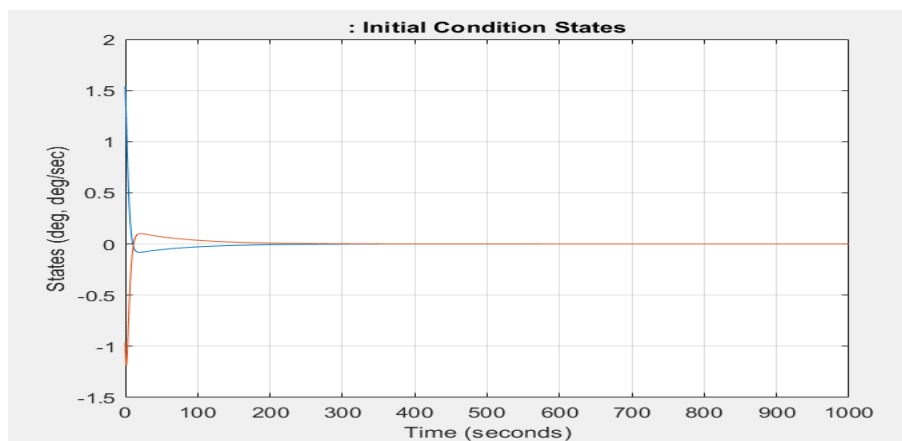
## Case 2: d = 1 (in meters)

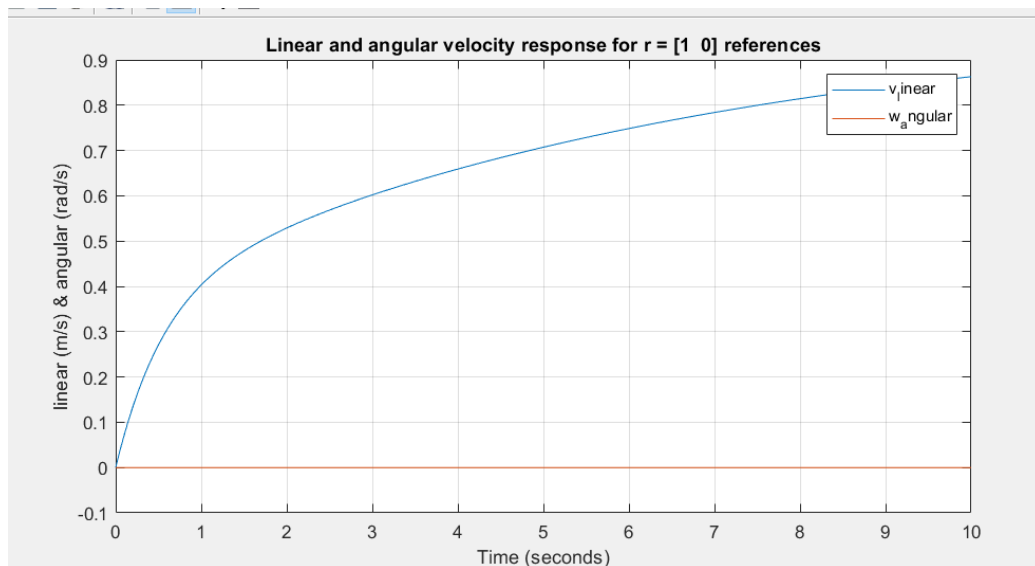
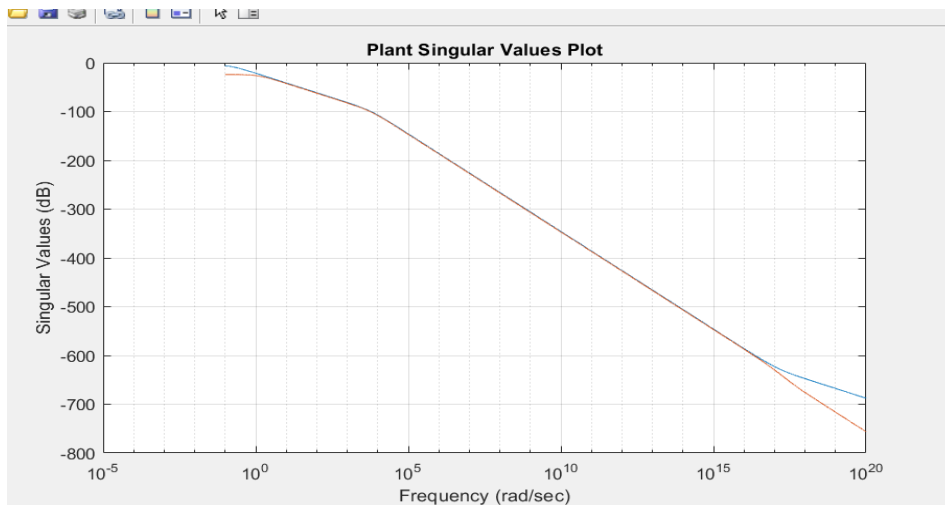
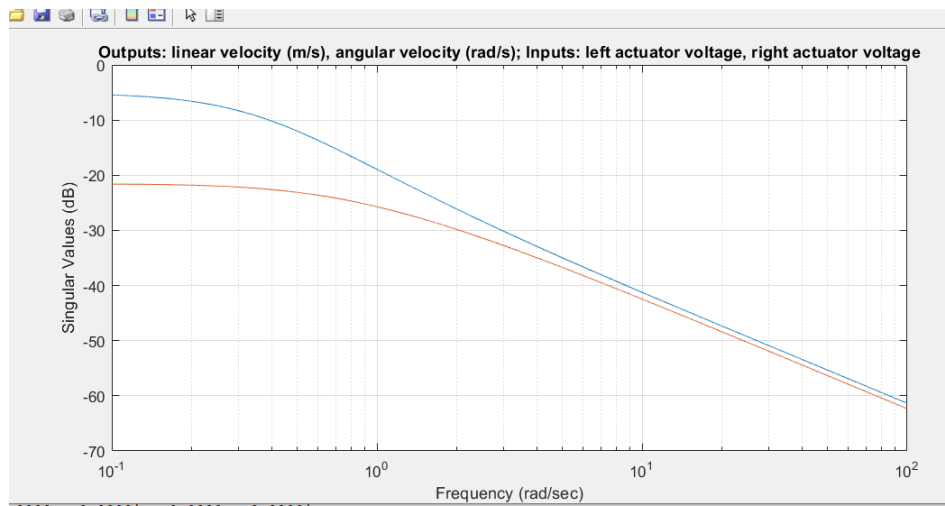
### Nominal Plant

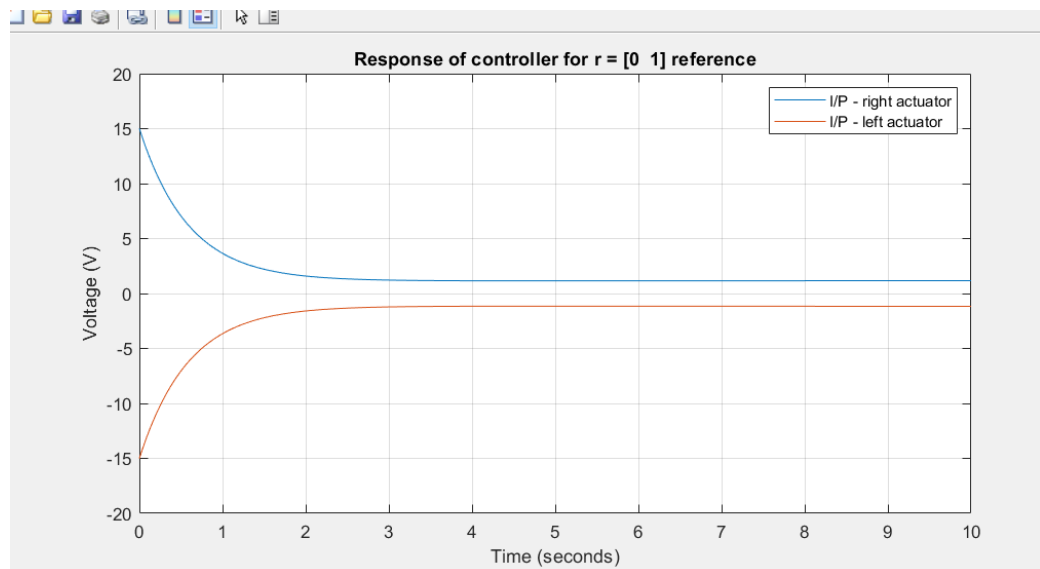
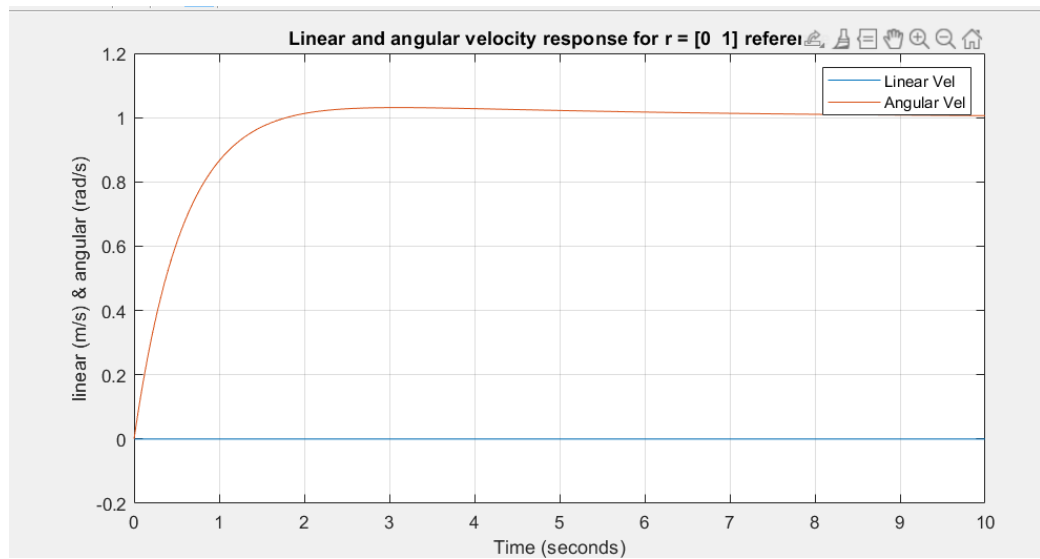
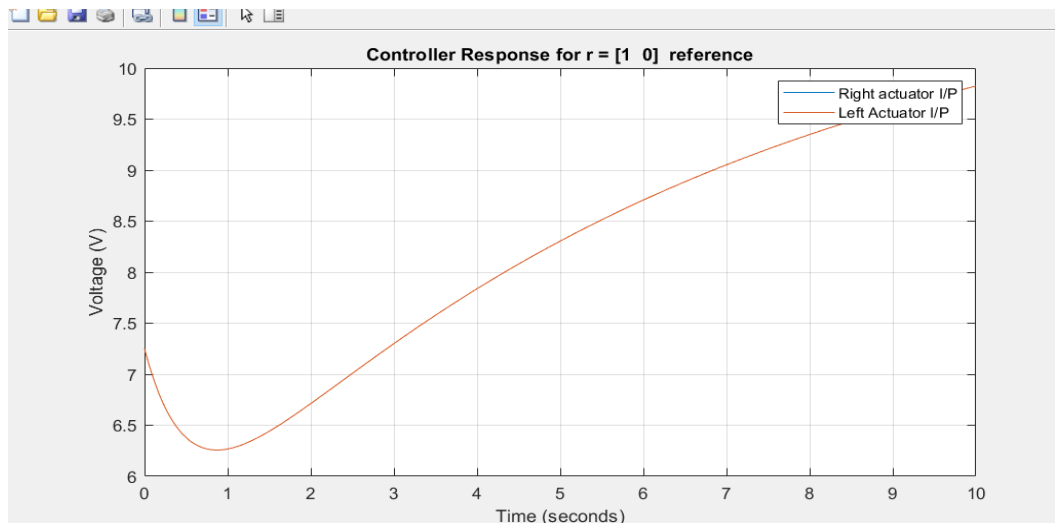
```
lant =  
  
From input 1 to output...  
      321.99 (s+0.004514) (s+0.9241)  
1:  -----  
      (s+0.01355) (s+5957) (s^2 + 0.7076s + 0.1368)  
  
      360.7 (s+0.004514) (s-0.6316)  
2:  -----  
      (s+0.01355) (s+5957) (s^2 + 0.7076s + 0.1368)  
  
From input 2 to output...  
      321.99 (s+0.491) (s+0.004514)  
1:  -----  
      (s+0.01355) (s+5957) (s^2 + 0.7076s + 0.1368)  
  
      -360.7 (s+0.6316) (s+0.004514)  
2:  -----  
      (s+0.01355) (s+5957) (s^2 + 0.7076s + 0.1368)  
  
ontinuous-time zero/pole/gain model.
```

### Eigen Values:

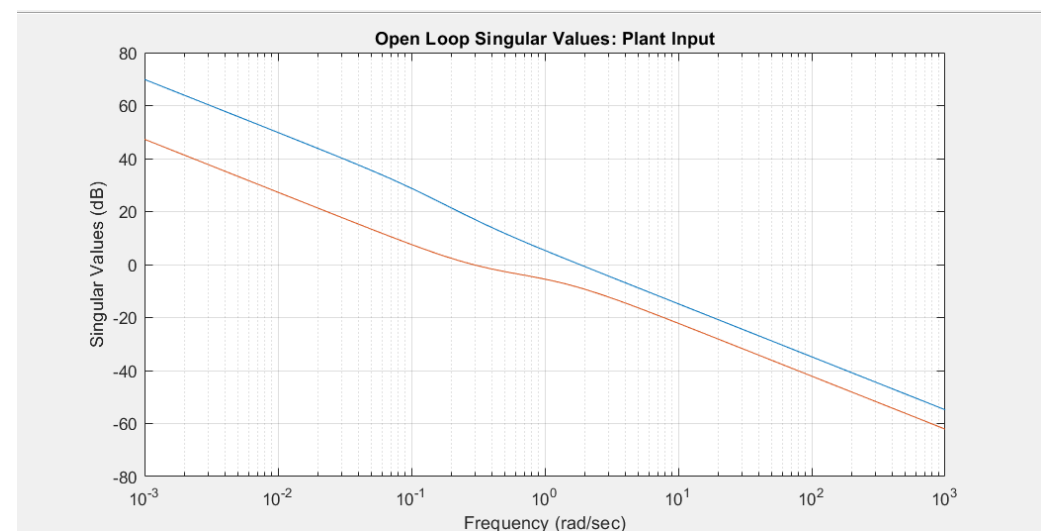
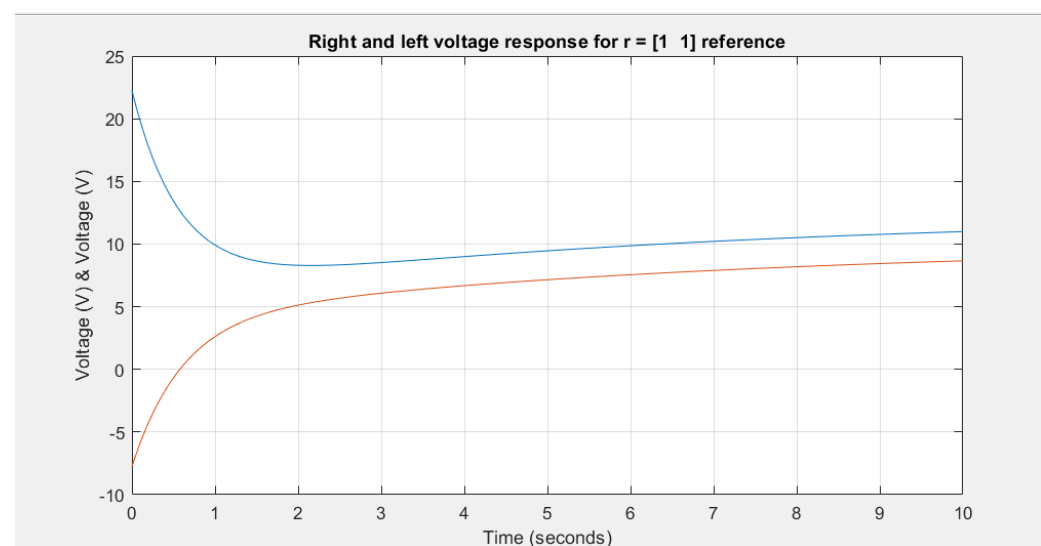
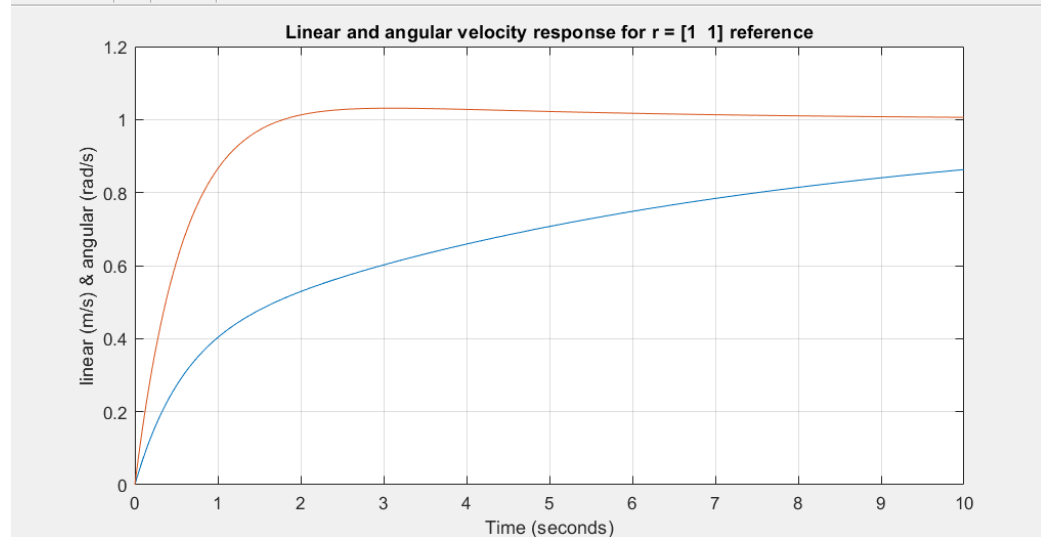
```
eig_val =  
  
1.0e+03 *  
  
Columns 1 through 5  
  
-0.0004 + 0.0000i    0.0000 + 0.0000i    0.0000 + 0.0000i    0.0000 + 0.0000i    0.0000 + 0.0000i  
0.0000 + 0.0000i   -0.0004 - 0.0001i    0.0000 + 0.0000i    0.0000 + 0.0000i    0.0000 + 0.0000i  
0.0000 + 0.0000i    0.0000 + 0.0000i   -0.0000 + 0.0000i    0.0000 + 0.0000i    0.0000 + 0.0000i  
0.0000 + 0.0000i    0.0000 + 0.0000i    0.0000 + 0.0000i   -0.0000 + 0.0000i    0.0000 + 0.0000i  
0.0000 + 0.0000i    0.0000 + 0.0000i    0.0000 + 0.0000i    0.0000 + 0.0000i   -5.9565 + 0.0000i  
0.0000 + 0.0000i    0.0000 + 0.0000i    0.0000 + 0.0000i    0.0000 + 0.0000i    0.0000 + 0.0000i  
  
Column 6  
  
0.0000 + 0.0000i  
0.0000 + 0.0000i  
0.0000 + 0.0000i  
0.0000 + 0.0000i  
0.0000 + 0.0000i  
-5.9565 + 0.0000i
```

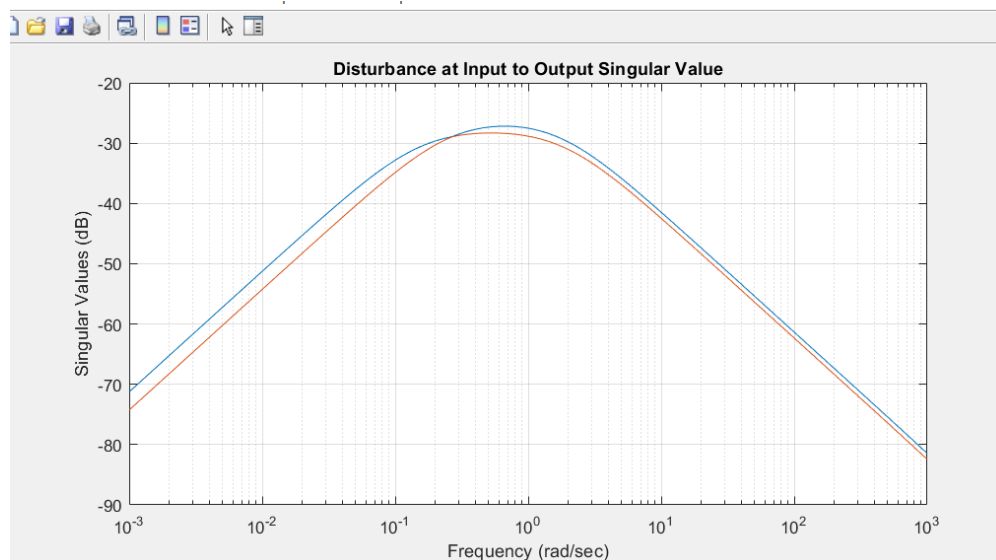
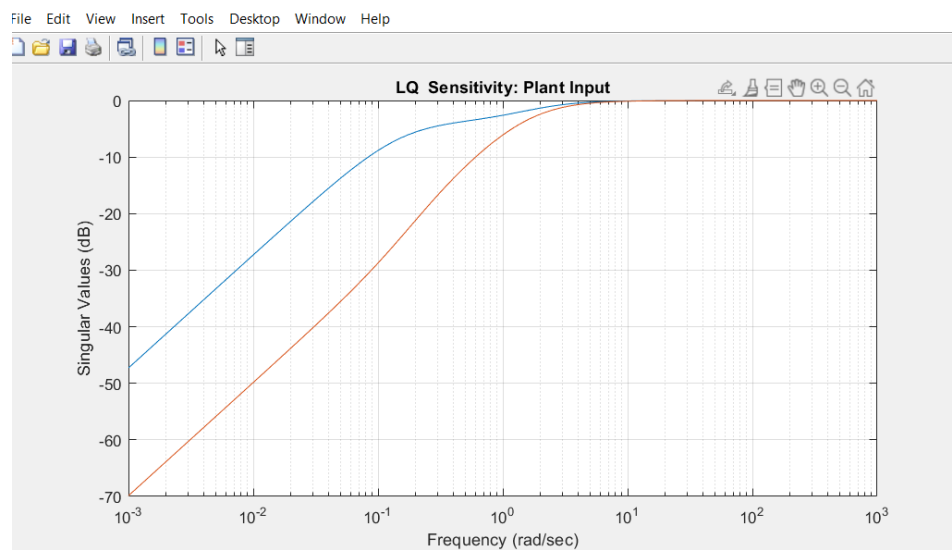
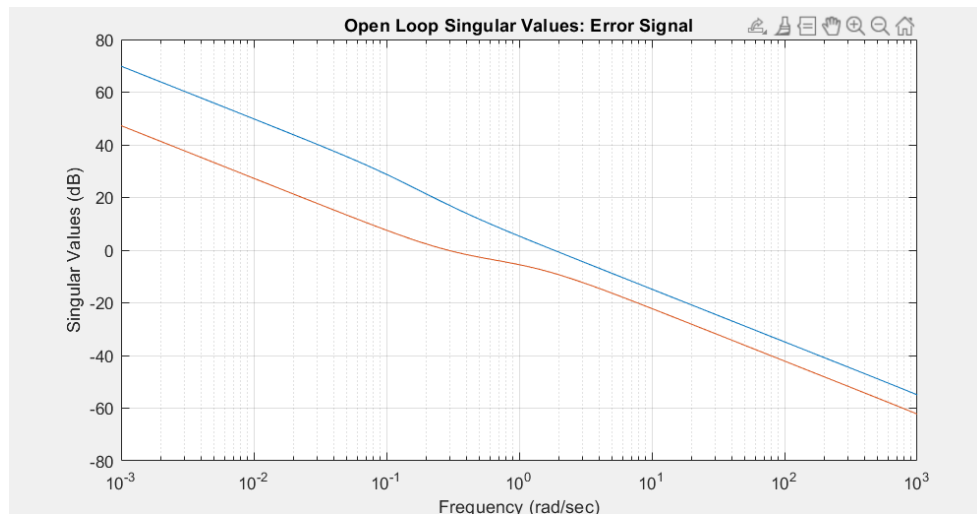


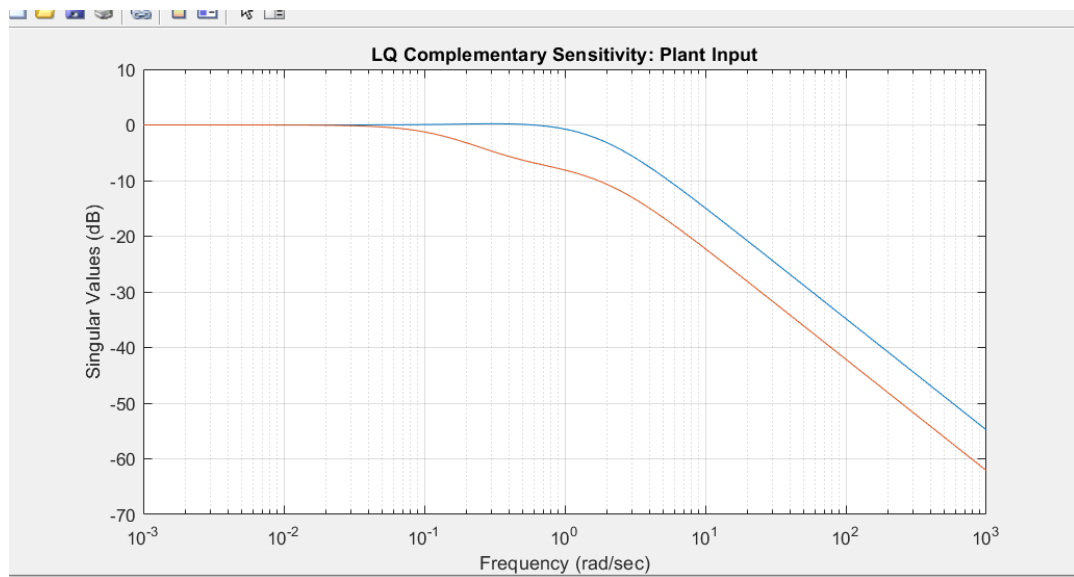
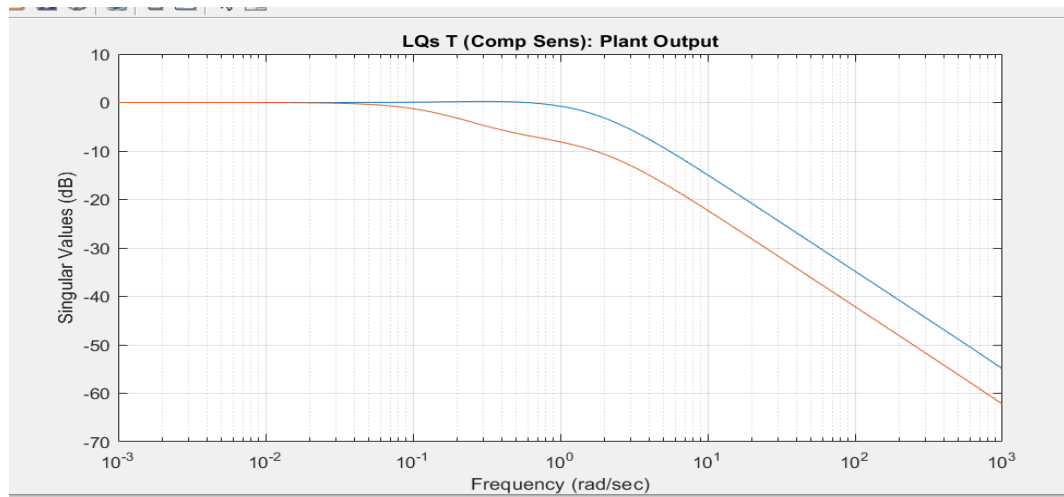




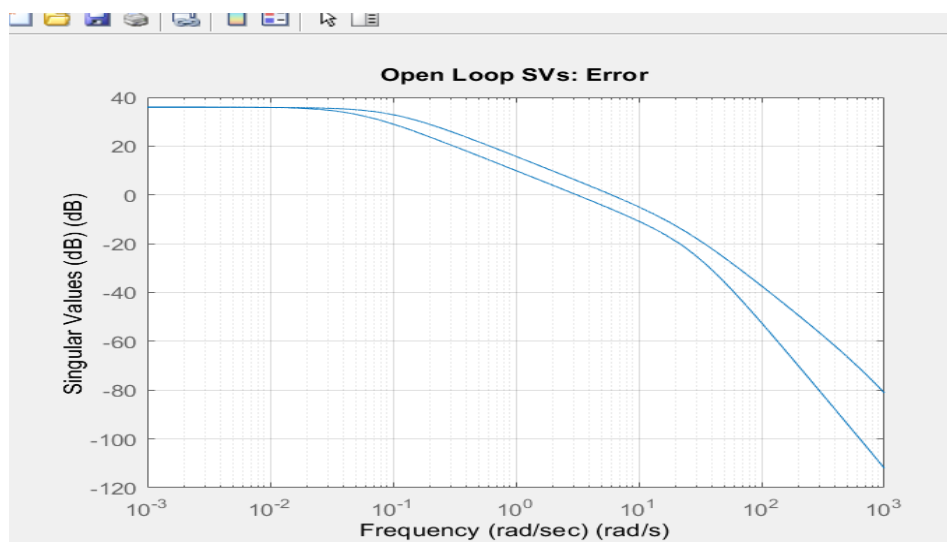


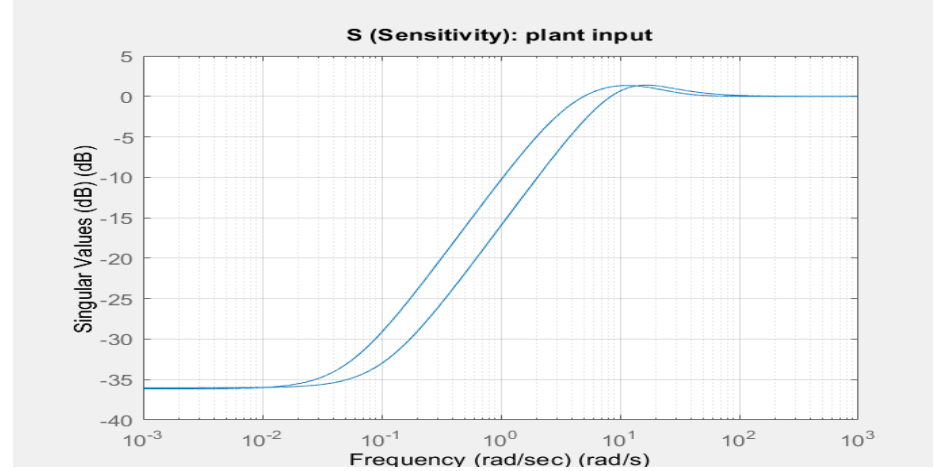
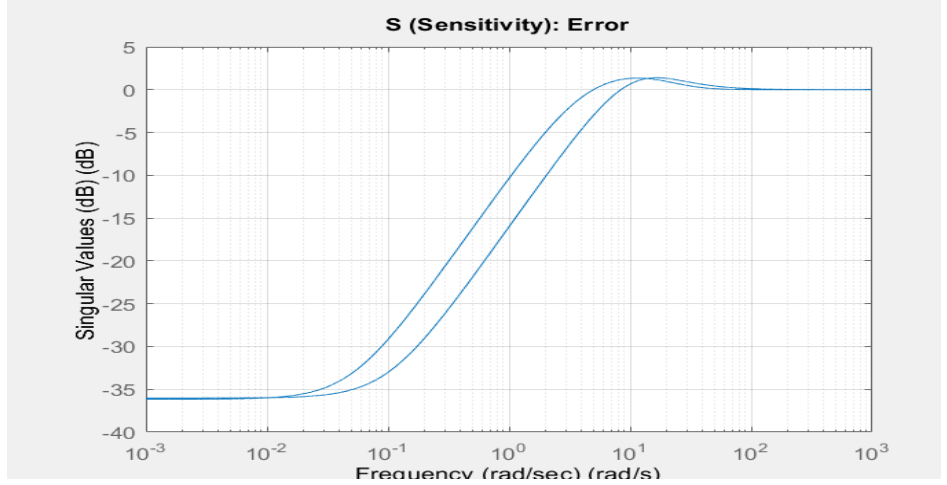
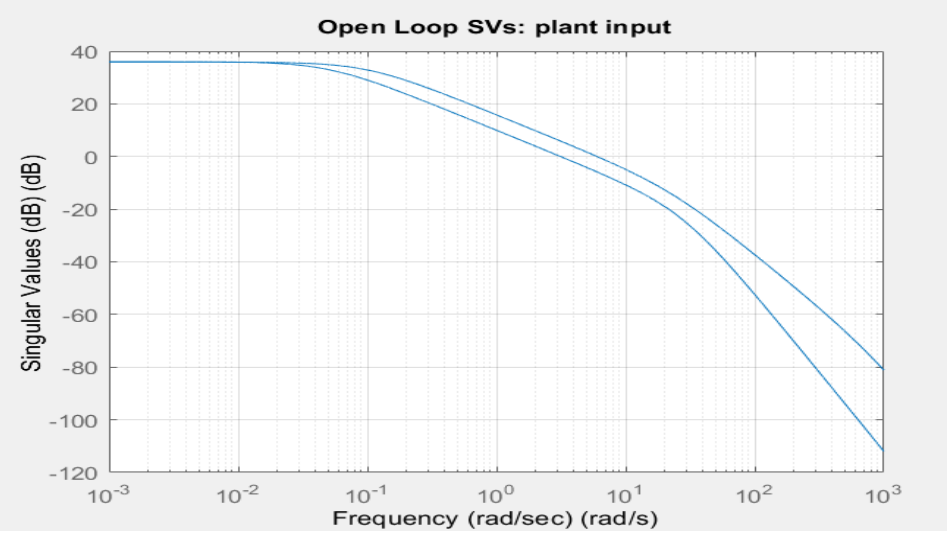


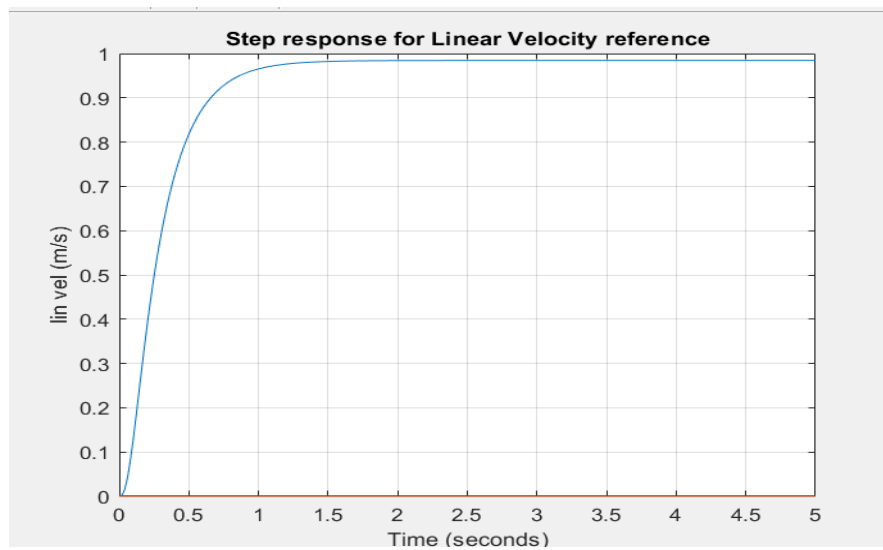
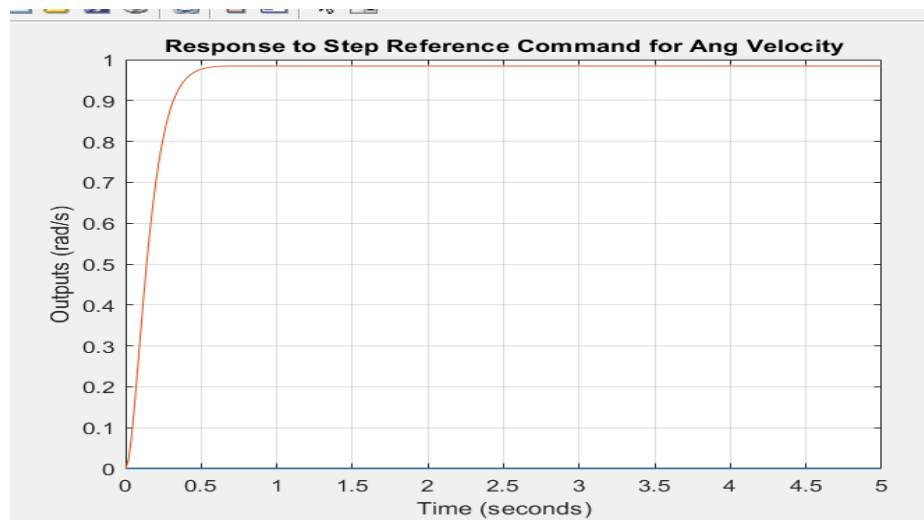
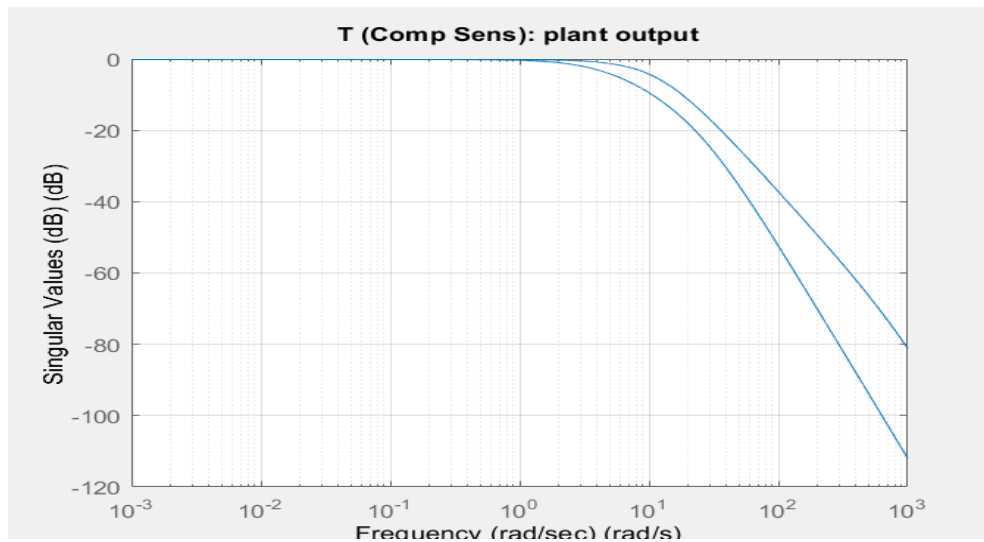




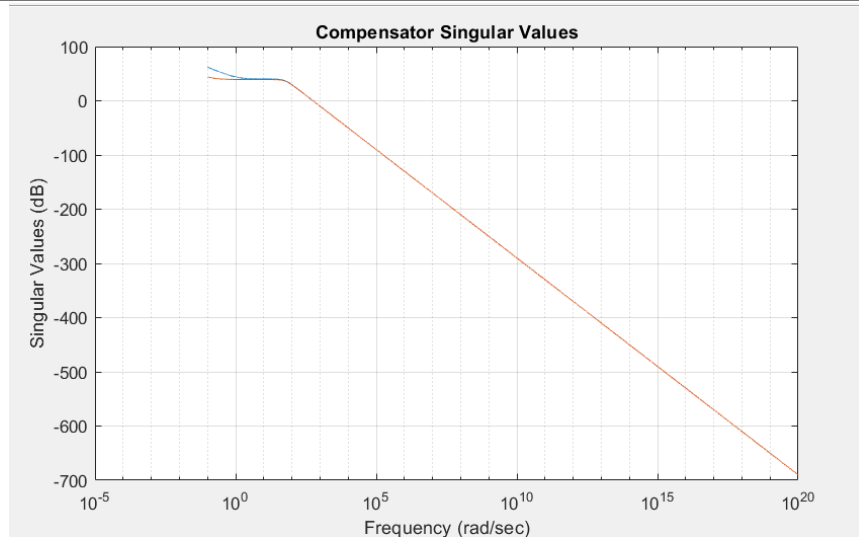
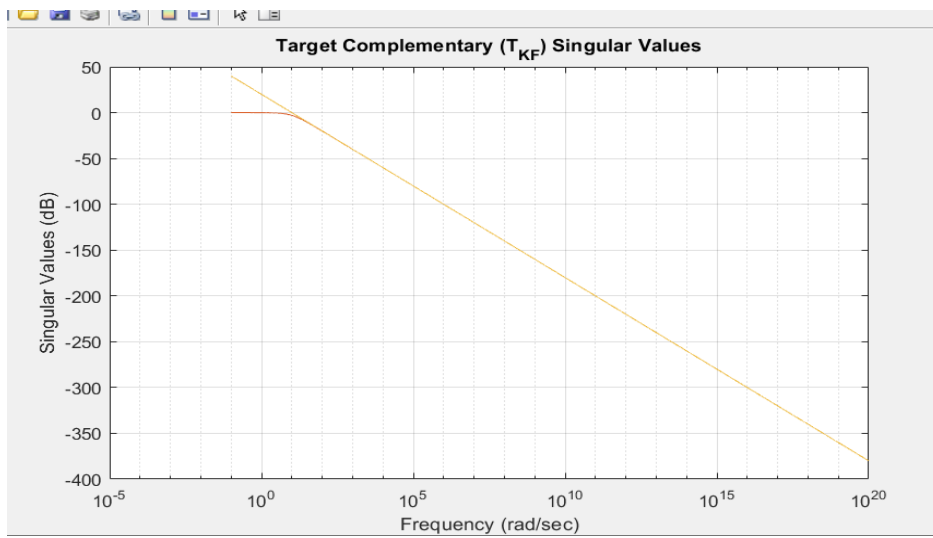
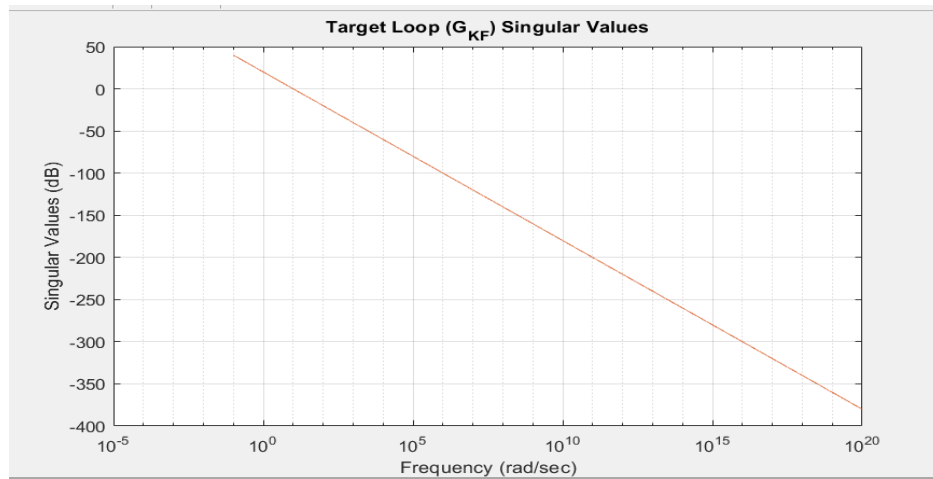
## ***H INFINITY CONTROLLER***

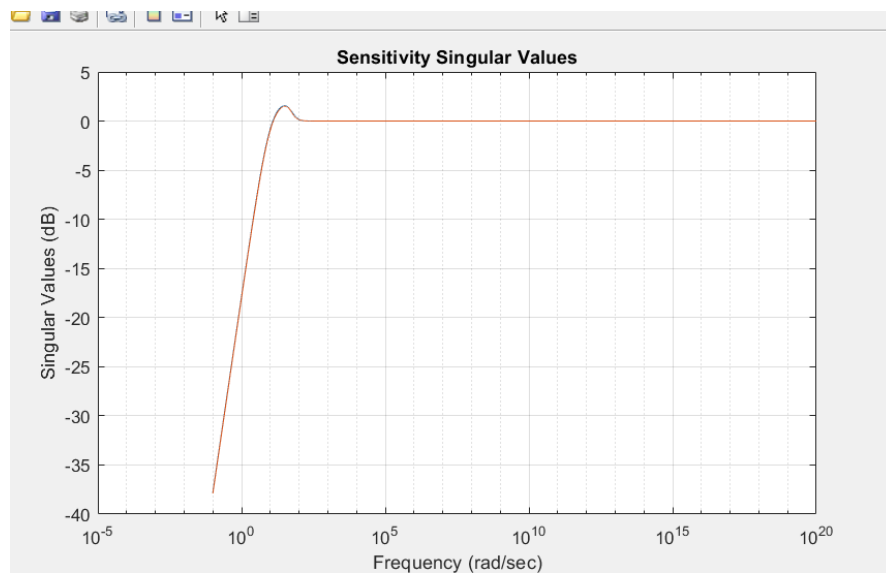
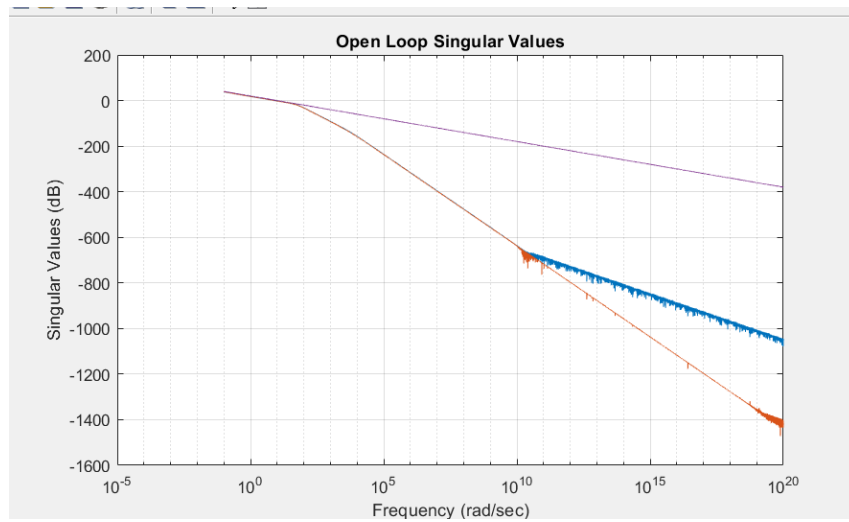






## ***LQG / LTRO Controller***





### Case 3: $d = -0.5$ (in meters) – THE UNSTABLE CASE

#### Nominal Plant

```
Plant =

From input 1 to output...
      321.99 (s+0.004514) (s-0.462)
1:  -----
   (s+0.01355) (s+5957) (s^2 - 0.3538s + 0.03419)

      360.7 (s+0.004514) (s+0.3158)
2:  -----
   (s+0.01355) (s+5957) (s^2 - 0.3538s + 0.03419)

From input 2 to output...
      321.99 (s+0.004514) (s-0.2455)
1:  -----
   (s+0.01355) (s+5957) (s^2 - 0.3538s + 0.03419)

      -360.7 (s-0.3158) (s+0.004514)
2:  -----
   (s+0.01355) (s+5957) (s^2 - 0.3538s + 0.03419)

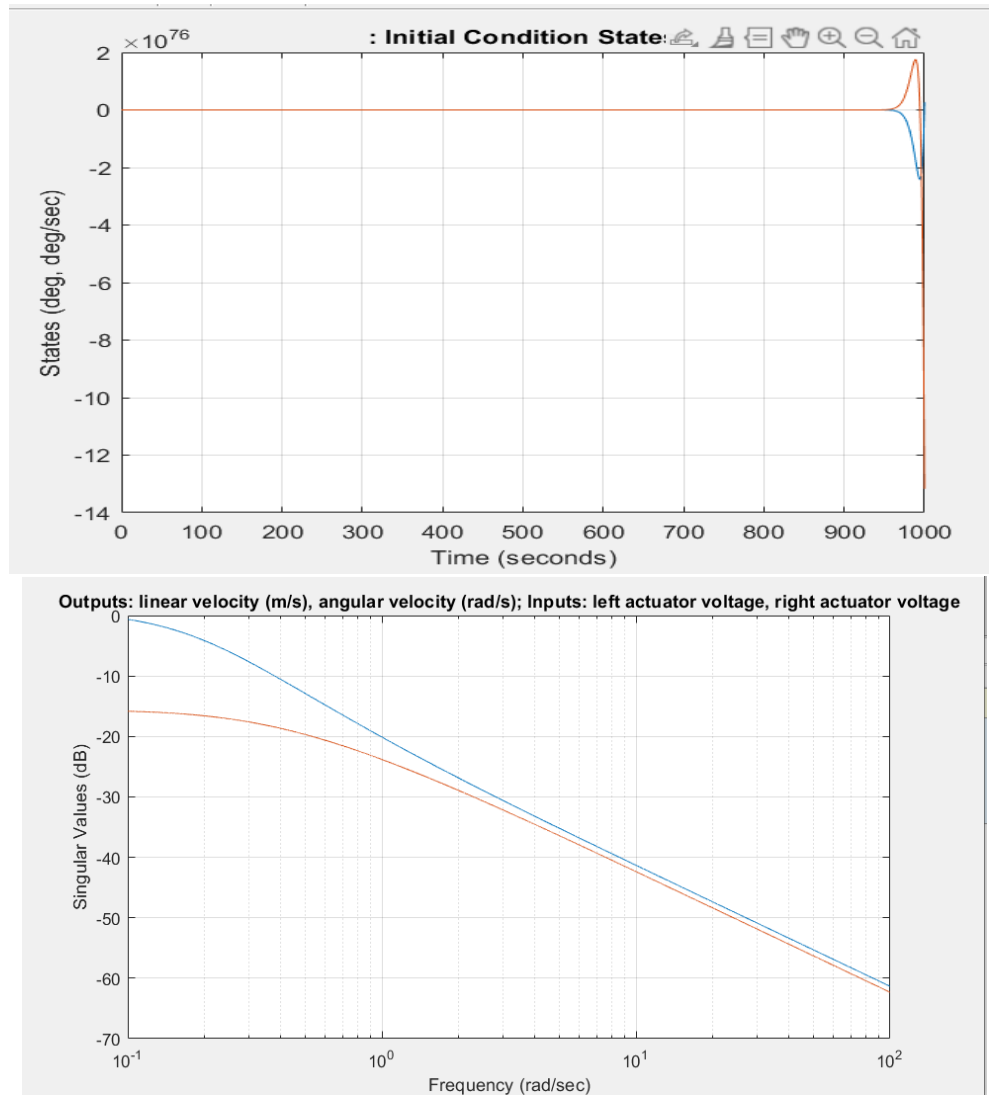
Continuous-time zero/pole/gain model.
```

## Eigen Values (Normal Modes)

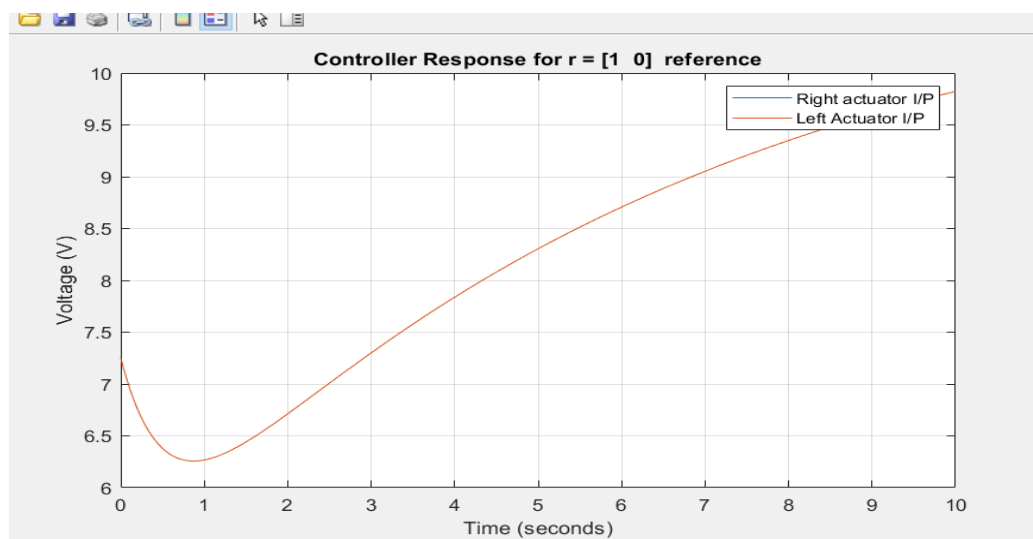
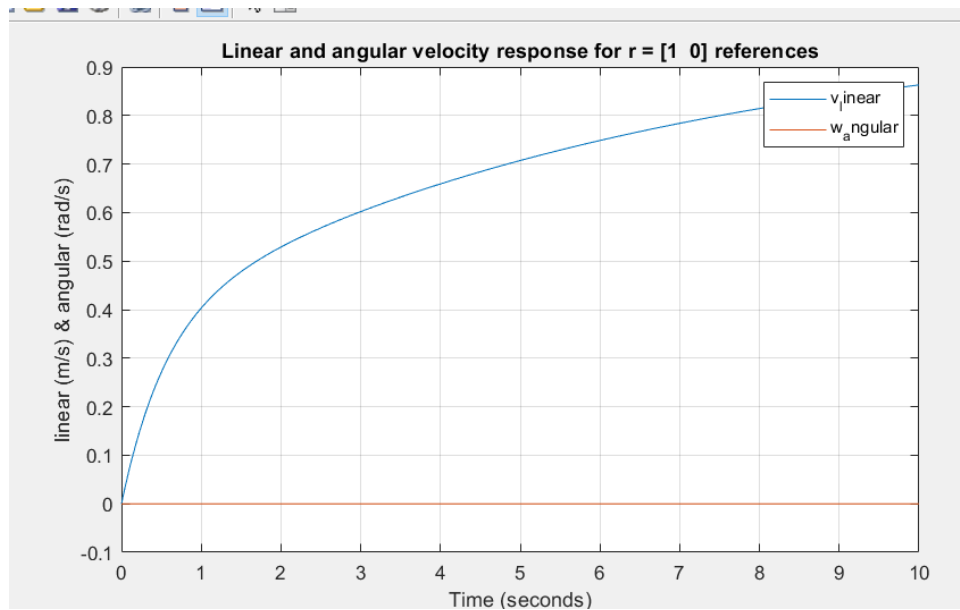
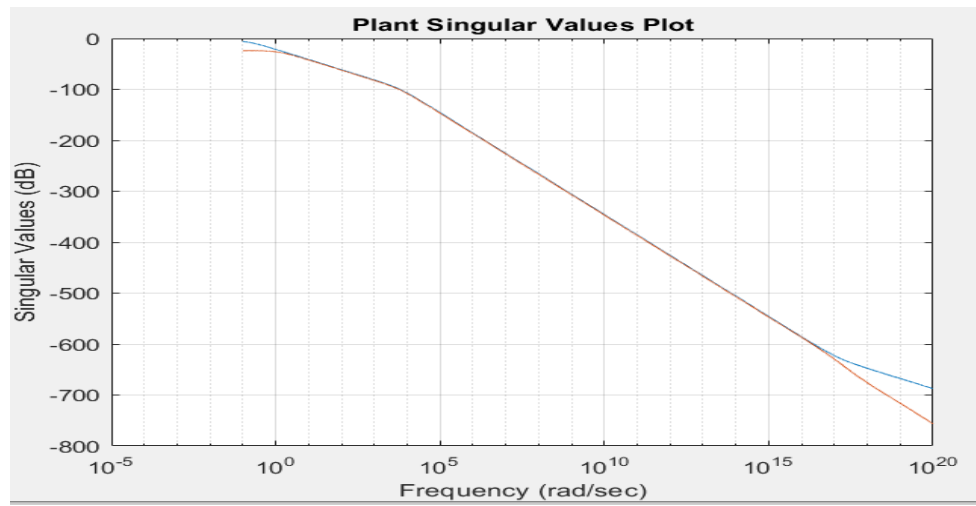
eig\_val =

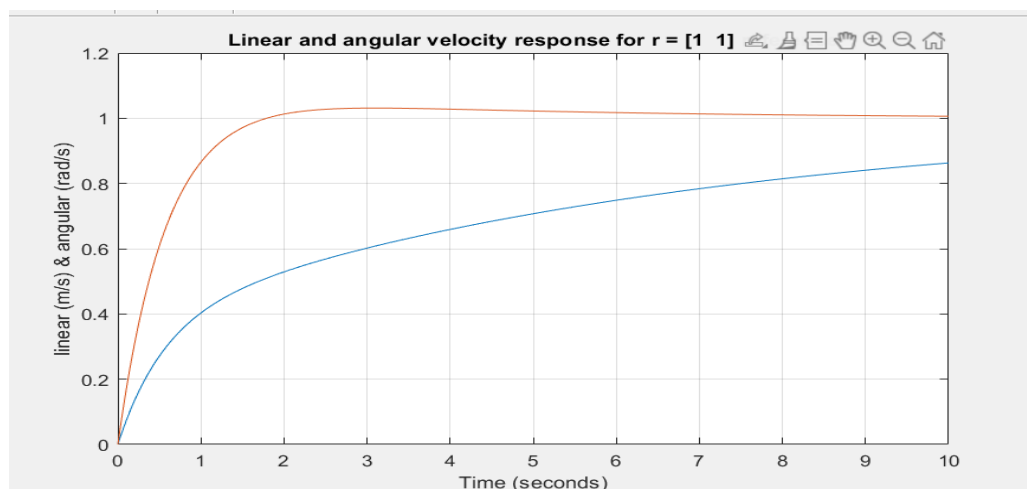
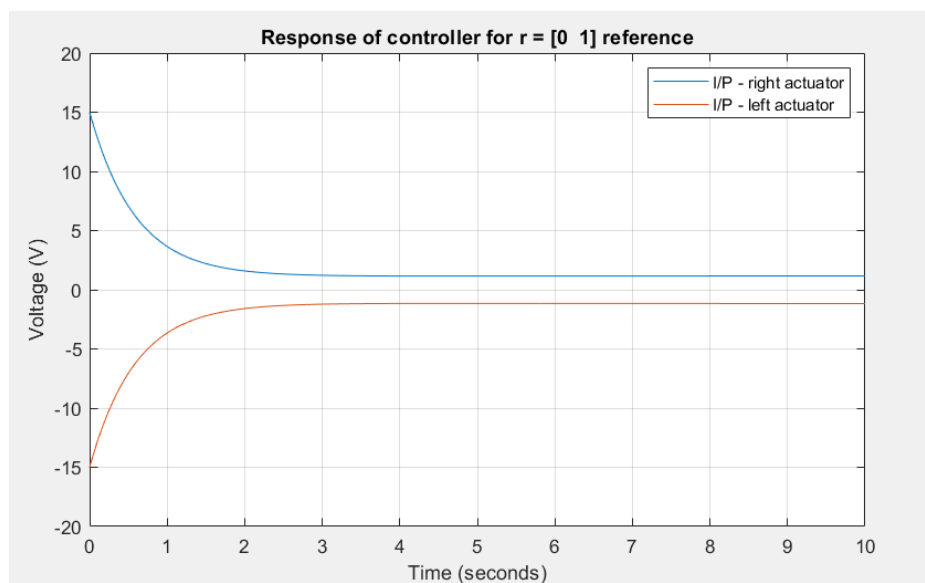
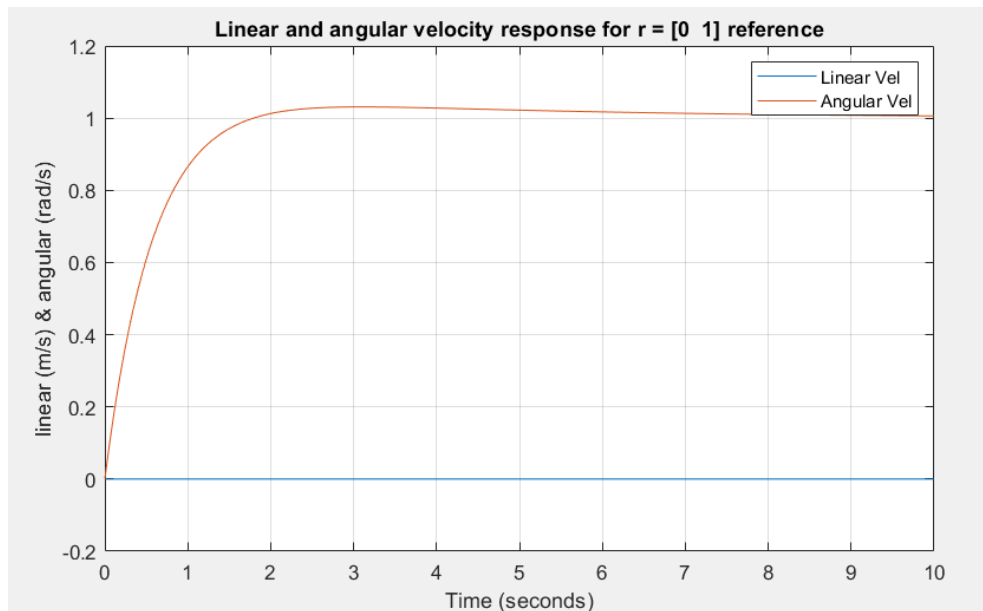
1.0e+03 \*

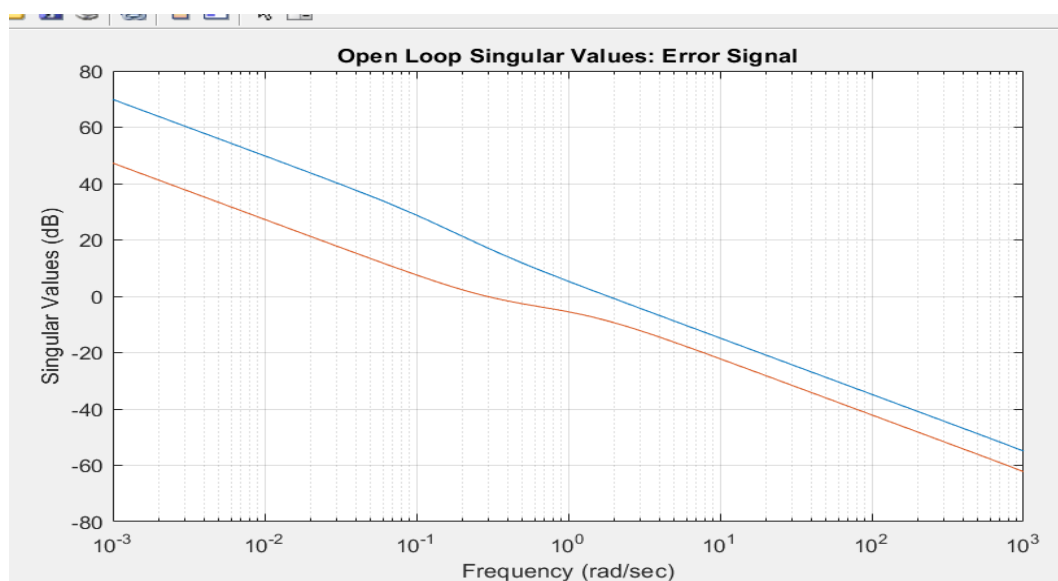
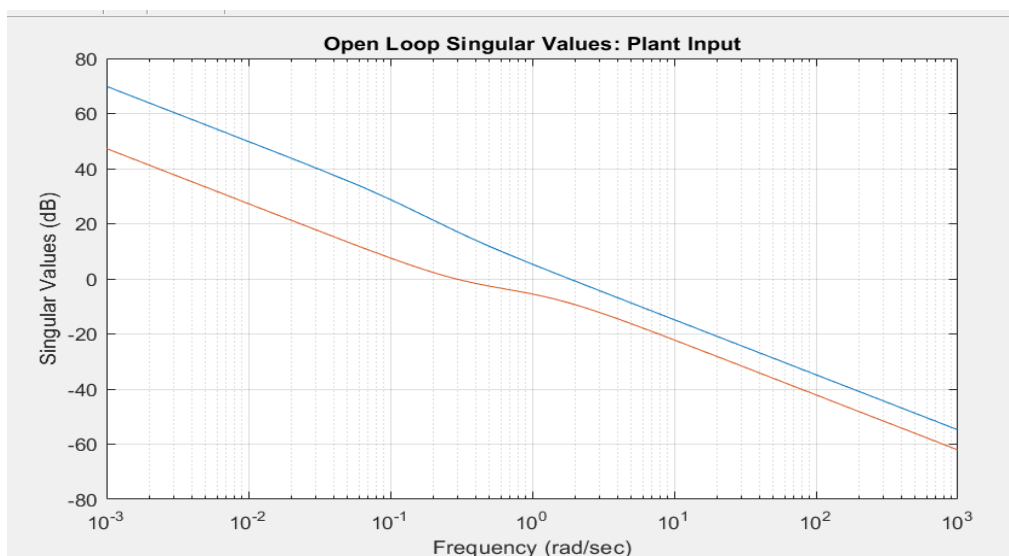
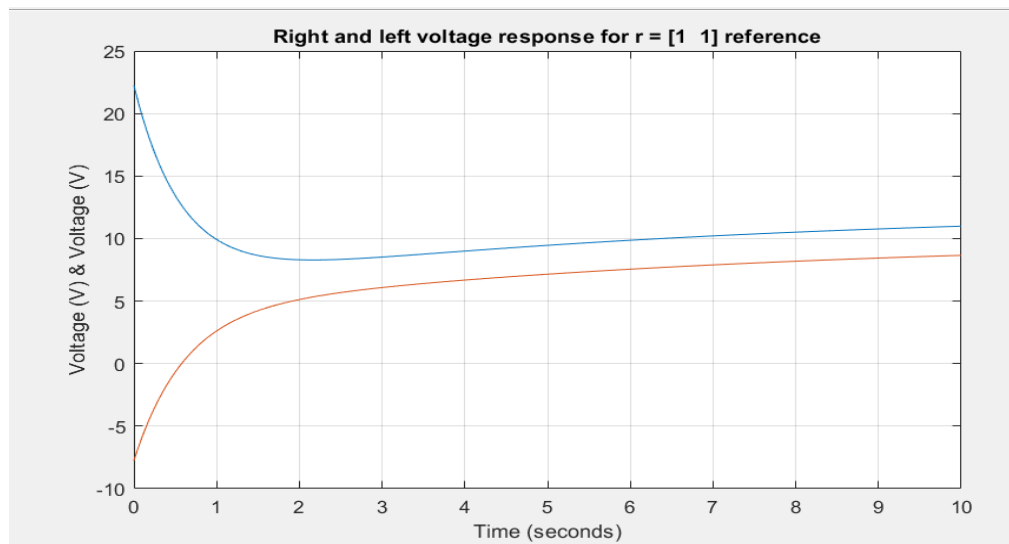
0.0002 + 0.0001i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i
0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0002 - 0.0001i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i
0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	-0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i
0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	-0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i
0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	-5.9565 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i
0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	0.0000 + 0.0000i	-5.9565 + 0.0000i

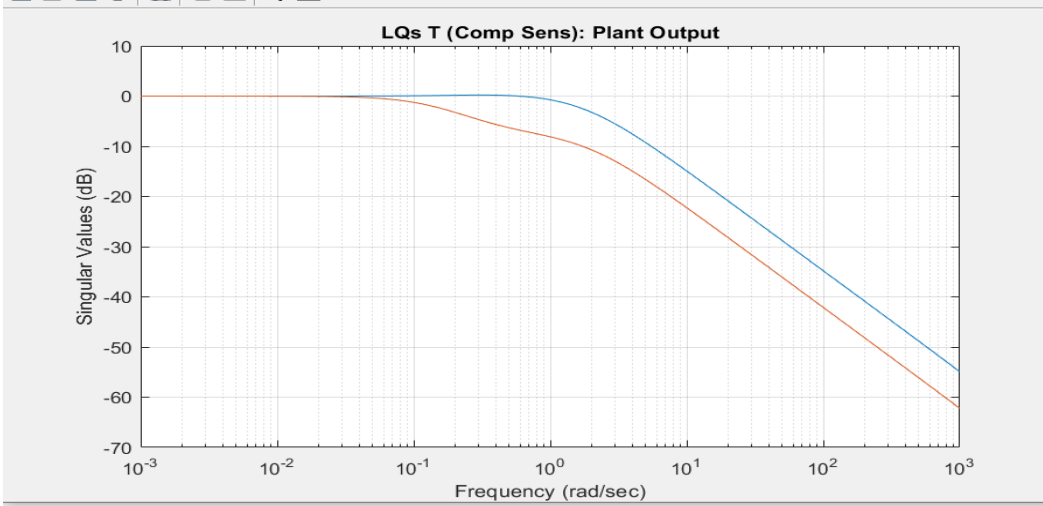
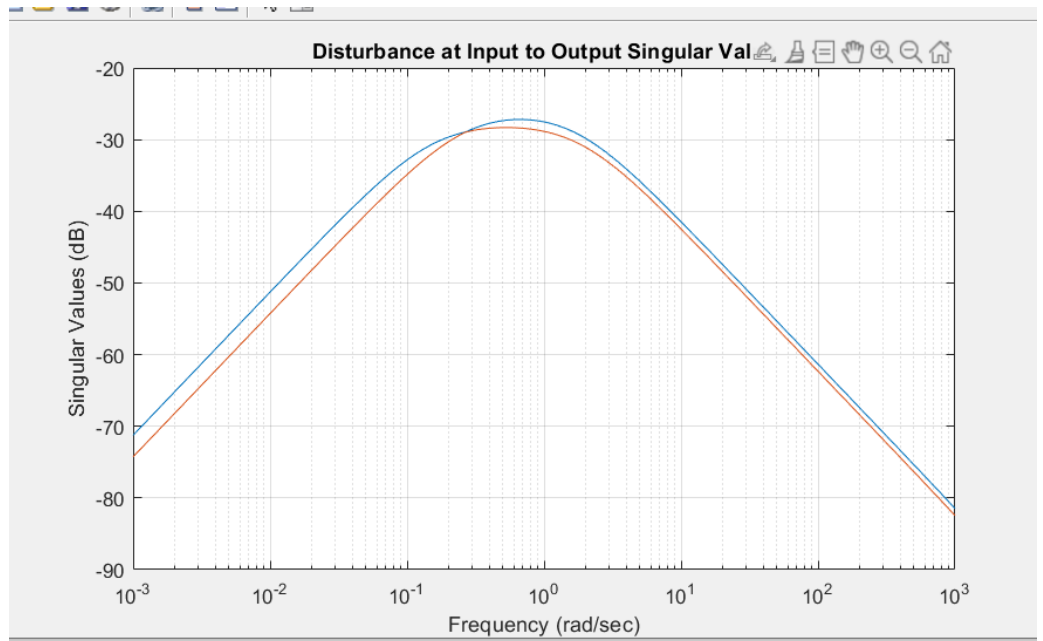
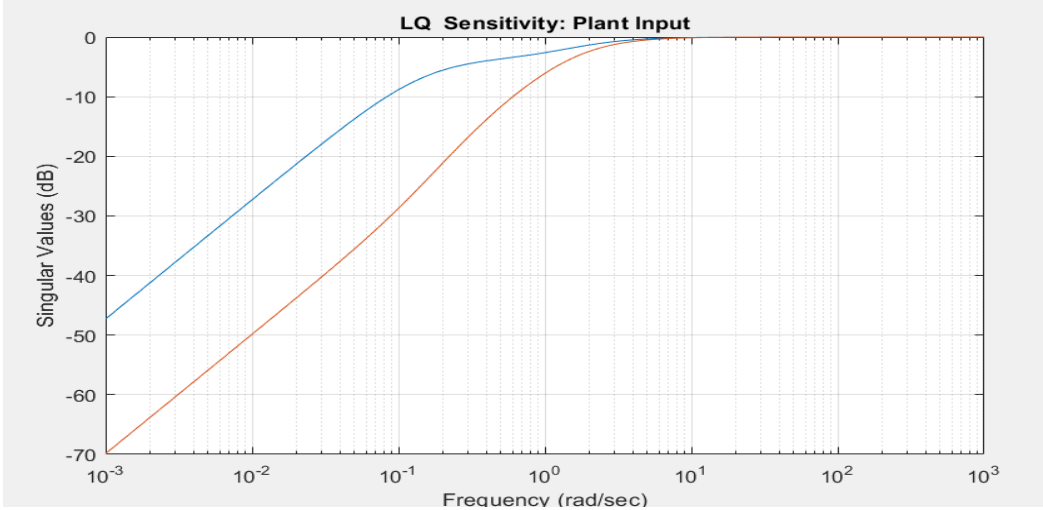


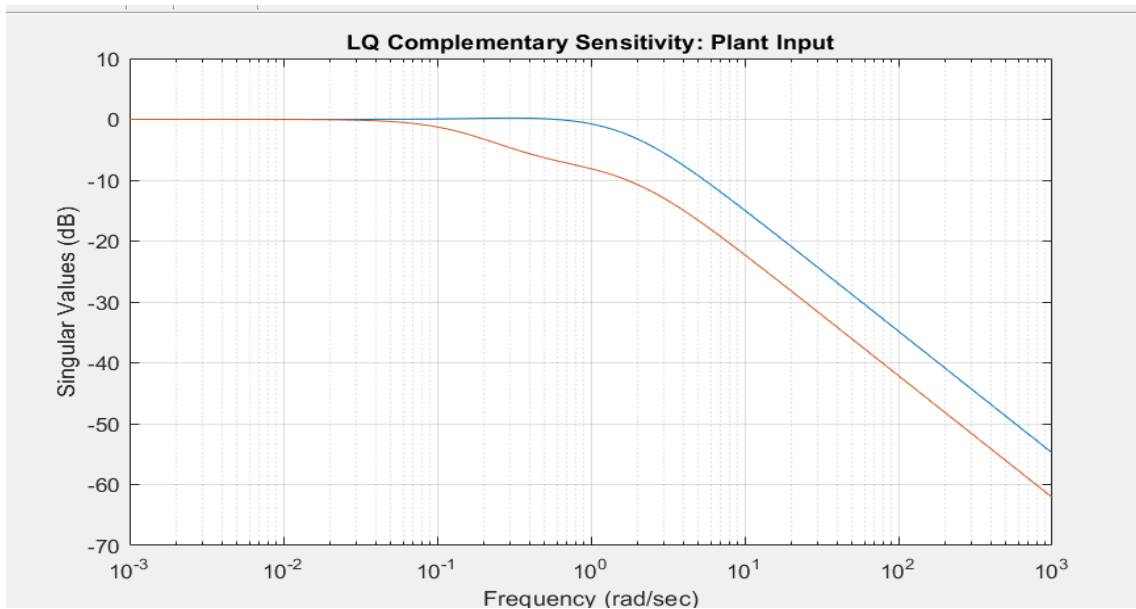




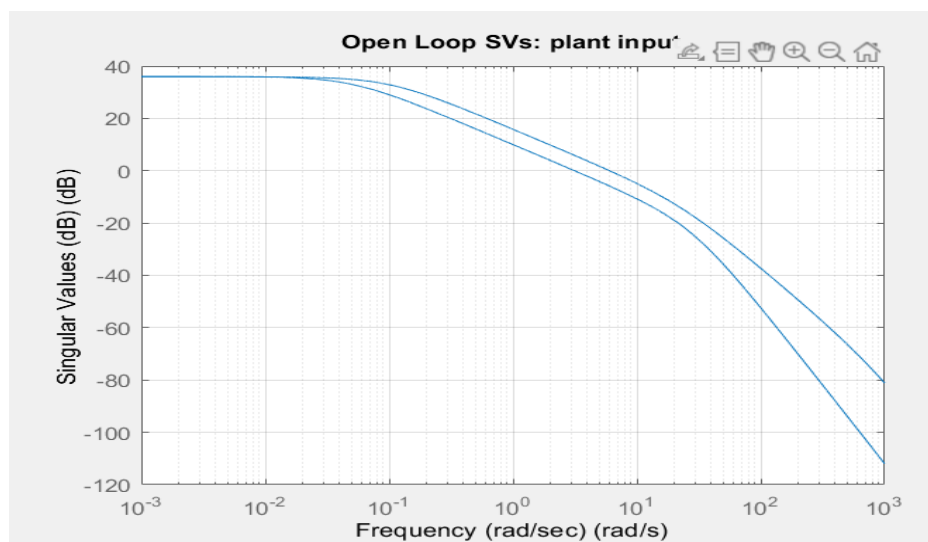
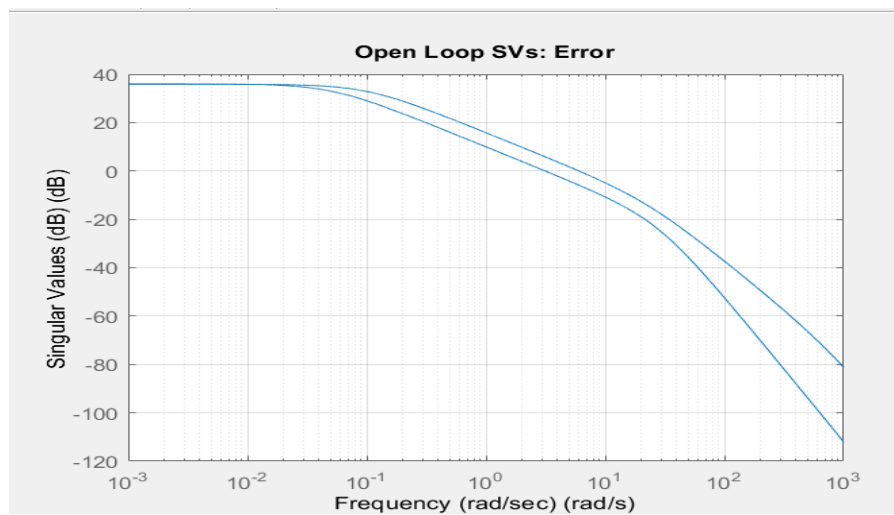


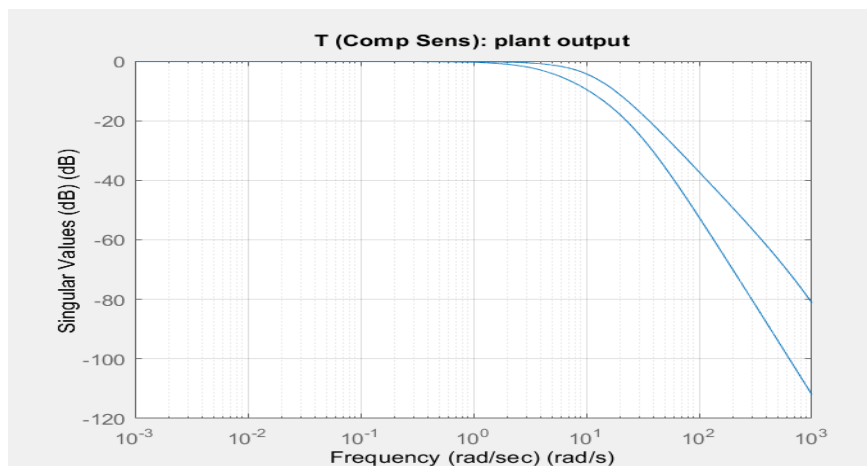
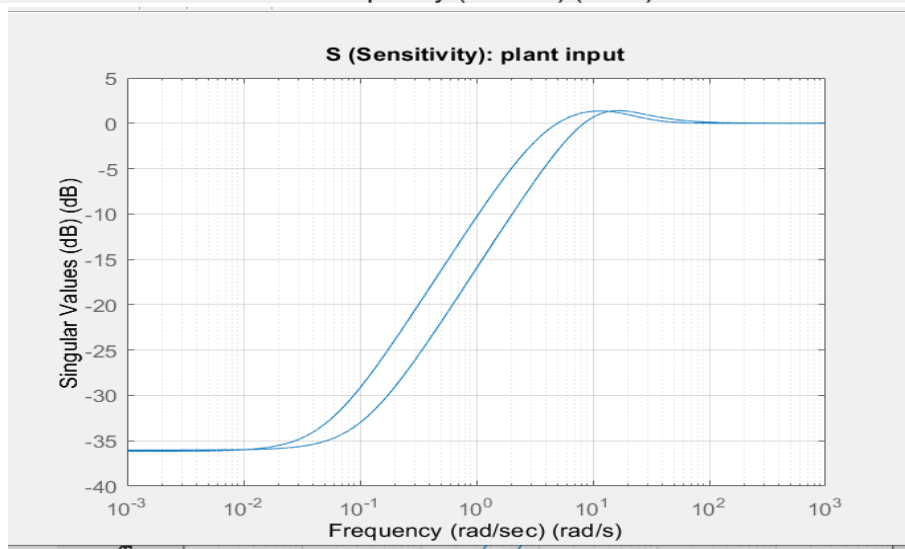
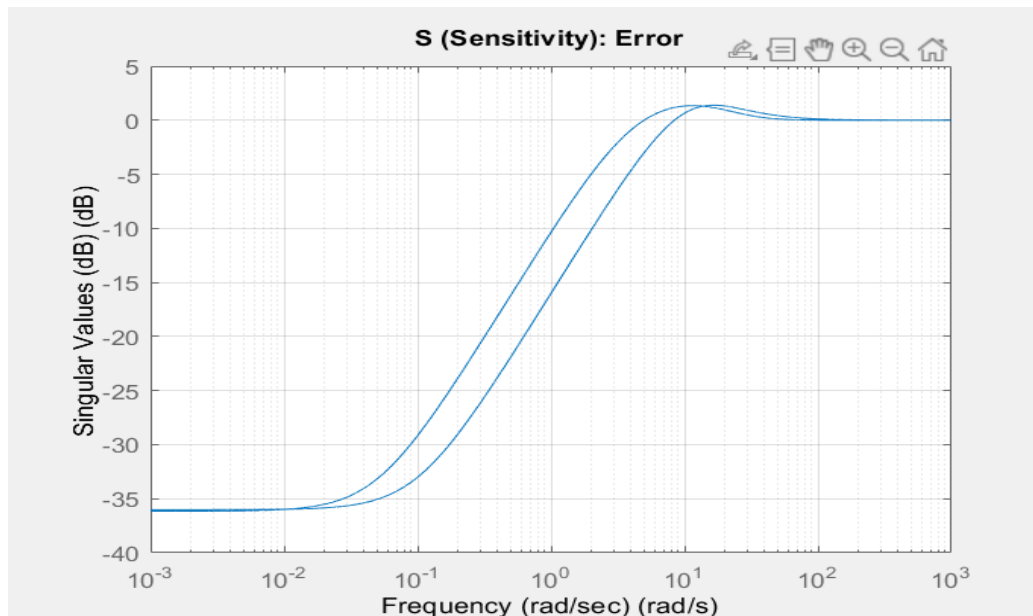


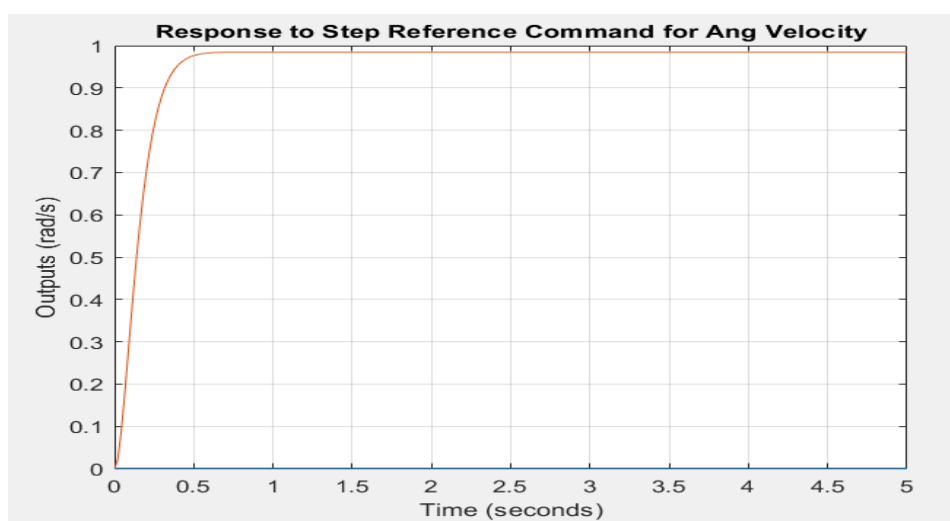
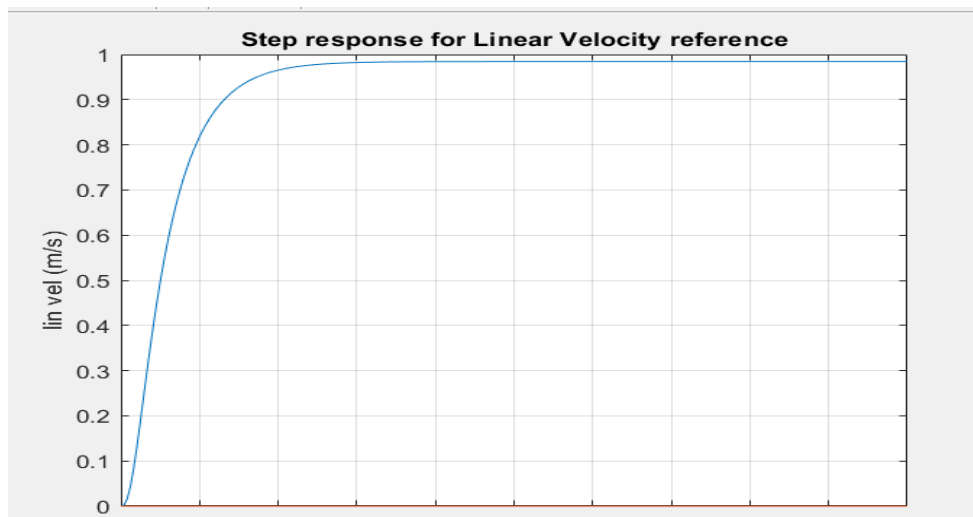
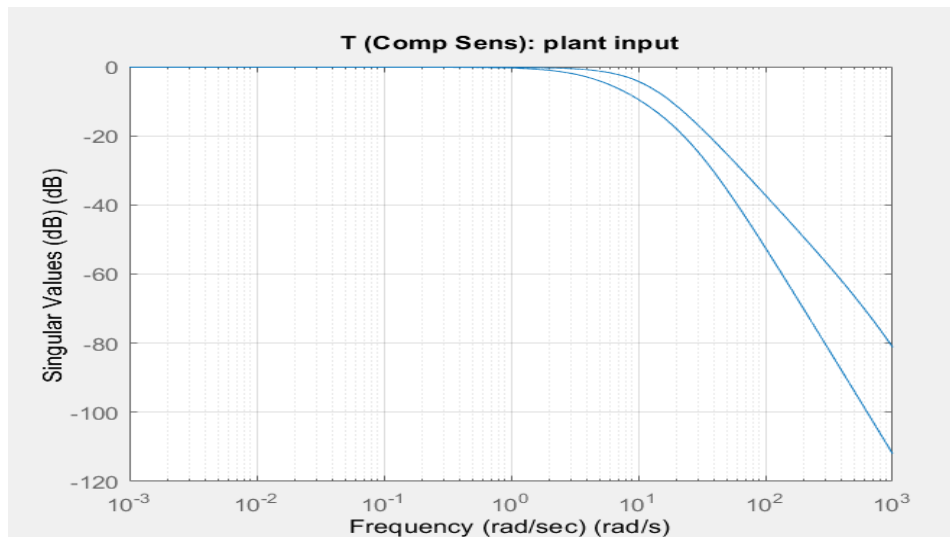




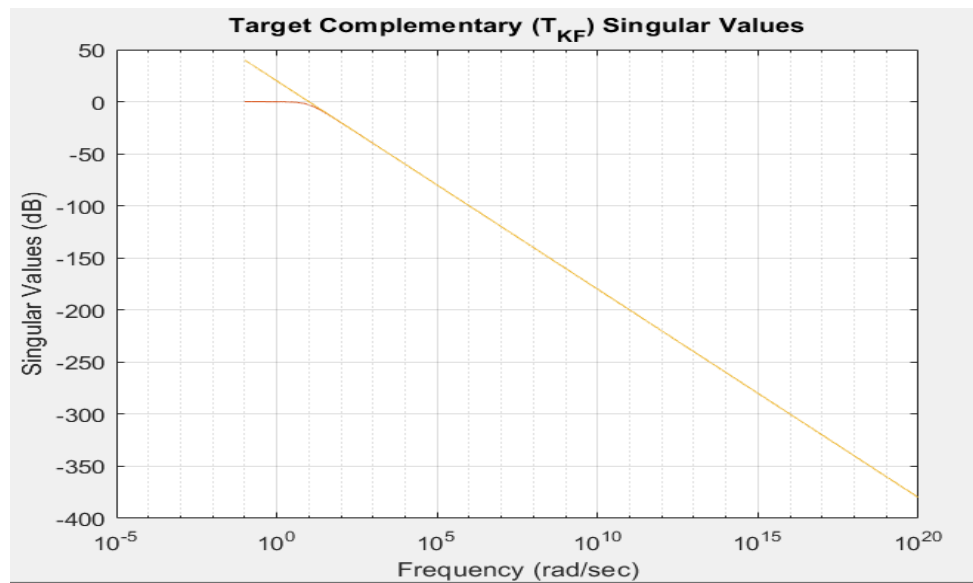
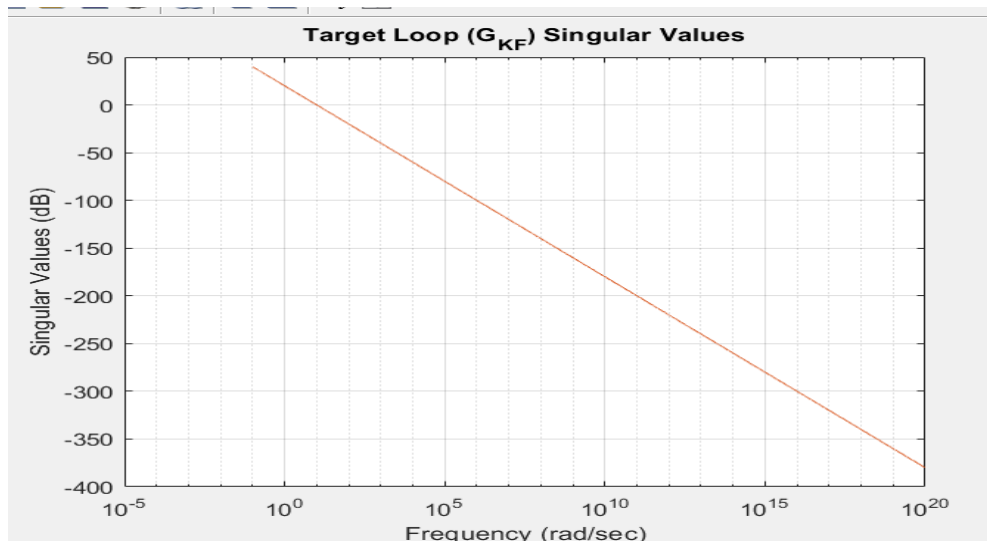
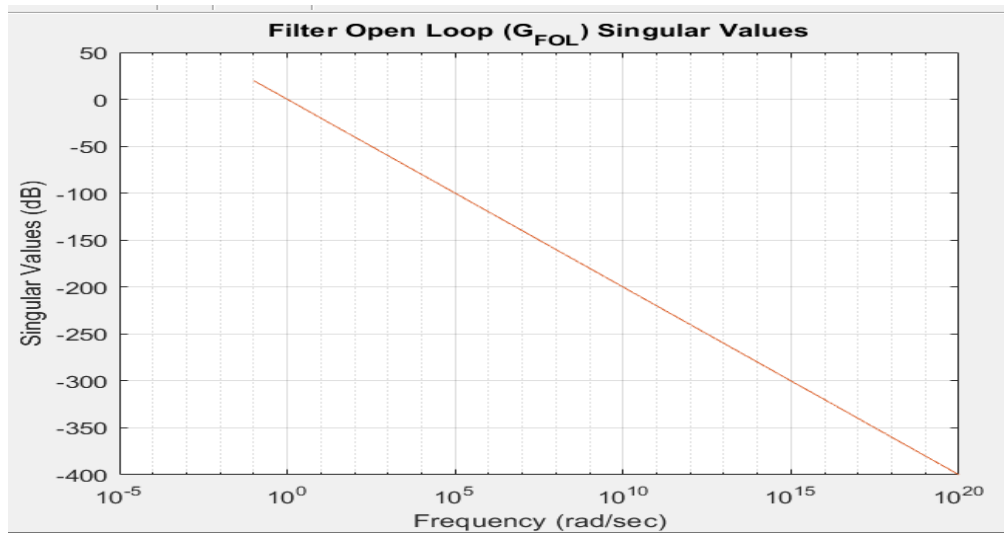
## *H Infinity Controller*



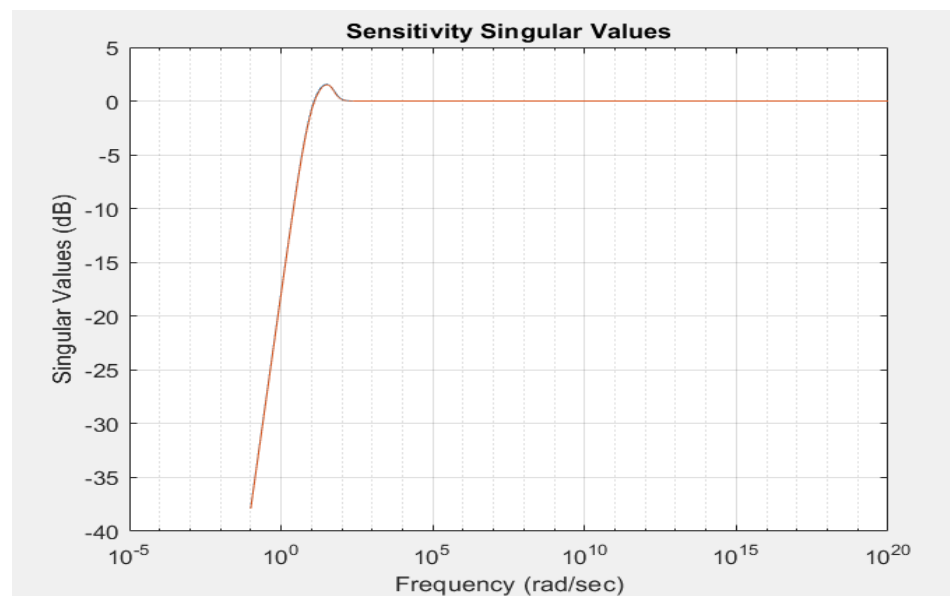
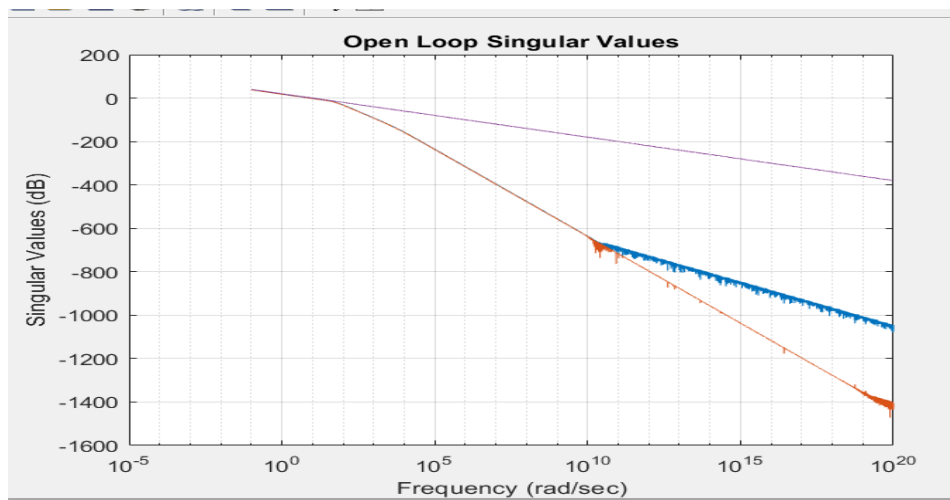
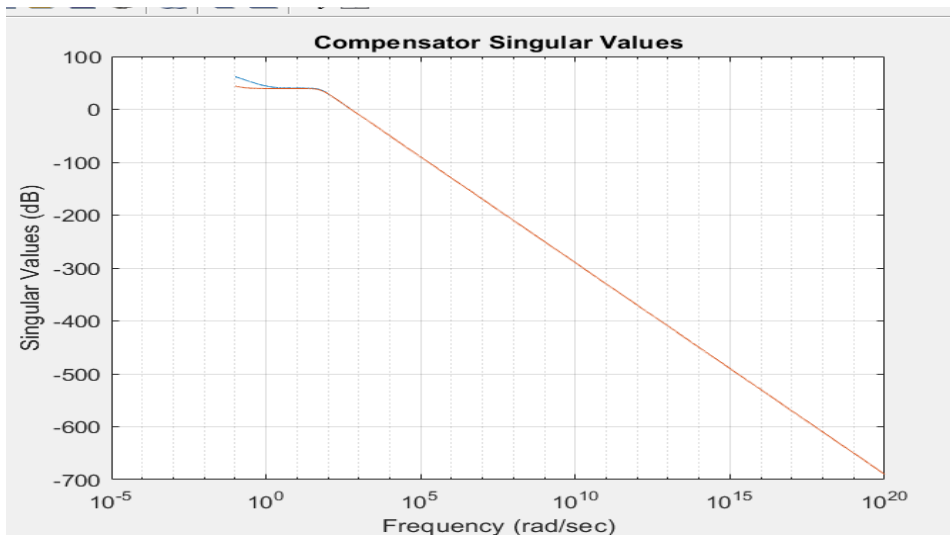




## *LQG / LTRO Controller*







## **OBSERVATIONS and INFERENCES**

1. Three cases of the robot's center of gravity were analyzed for the task of velocity and orientation control.
2. If  $d > 0$ , the nominal plant was stable, whereas if  $d < 0$  the nominal plant was unstable (had RHP poles, shown by the eigen values).
3. The controllers were able to stabilize the plant (after considering the dynamic characteristics), despite the instabilities in the plant itself.

## **CONSTRAINTS**

1. The velocity of the robot was restricted to around 1 m/s due to voltage limits as given in [2]
2. The system was non-linear, and had to be linearized about an equilibrium point for easy design of the three controllers.

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