Ch8: Position Control

Amin Fakhari, Fall 2022

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Robot Controllers

A robot controller generates the required torques/forces τ to perform a desired task $(\theta_d(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ in } \underline{\text{joint space}} \text{ or } x_d(t) \in \mathbb{R}^m \text{ or } T_d(t) \in SE(3) \text{ in } \underline{\text{task space}}) \text{ while satisfying}$ given transient and steady-state requirements.

- Joint Space Control: Independent Joint Control and Model-Dependent Joint Control
- Task Space Control

Depending on the task and the robot environment, there are different feedback control

strategies including

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- Position Control (regulation or set-point control)
- Motion Control (tracking control)
- Force Control
- Hybrid Motion–Force Control
- Impedance Control

when moving in free space

when making

* A fundamental constraint imposed by the mechanics:

We cannot independently control the motion and force in the same direction.



Examples of Desired Tasks

Pick and place

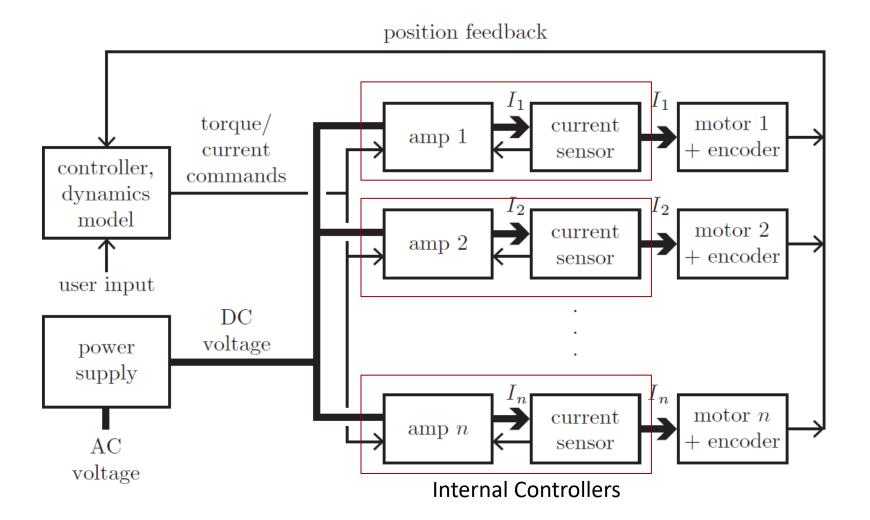
- Spray painting or laser cutting
- Folding laundry
- Polishing with a polishing wheel
- Back massage
- Erasing a whiteboard
- Shaking hands with a human
- Inserting a peg in a hole
- Acting as a haptic display

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A Typical Robot Driven by DC Electric Motors



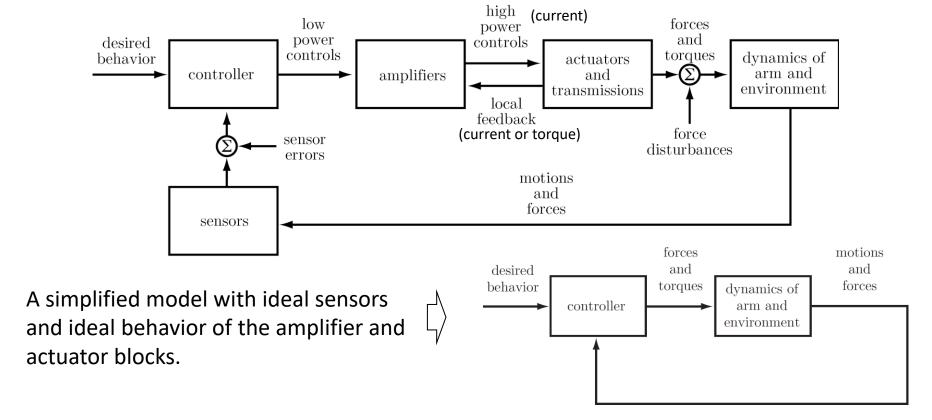
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A Typical Robot Control System

Feedback control (or closed-loop control) uses position, velocity, and/or force sensors to measure the actual behavior of the robot, compares it with the desired behavior, and modulates the control signals sent to the actuators.

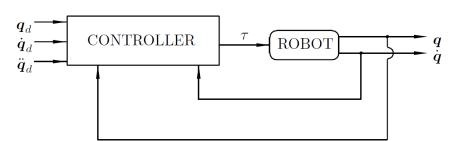


Closed-loop Dynamic Equation

Consider the dynamic model of an n-DOF open-chain manipulator with no friction at the joints and no external force at the end-effector.

$$\tau = M(q)\ddot{q} + C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + g(q) \qquad \text{or} \qquad \frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} q \\ \dot{q} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{q} \\ M(q)^{-1} [\tau - C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} - g(q)] \end{bmatrix}$$
(state-space form)

In general, a position/motion Control Law (Controller) with desired joint position $q_d(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$, velocity $\dot{q}_d(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$, and acceleration $\ddot{q}_d(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ can be expressed as a nonlinear function τ_c as $\tau = \tau_c(q, \dot{q}, q_d, \dot{q}_d, \ddot{q}_d, M(q), C(q, \dot{q}), g(q))$



Note: For practical purposes, it is desirable that the controller τ_c does not depend on the joint acceleration \ddot{q} since computing or measuring acceleration is usually highly sensitive to noise.

Closed-loop Dynamic Equation (cont.)

Thus, the **closed-loop dynamic equation** is derived as

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$$M(q)\ddot{q} + C(q,\dot{q})\dot{q} + g(q) = \tau_c(q,\dot{q},q_d,\dot{q}_d,\ddot{q}_d,M(q),C(q,\dot{q}),g(q))$$

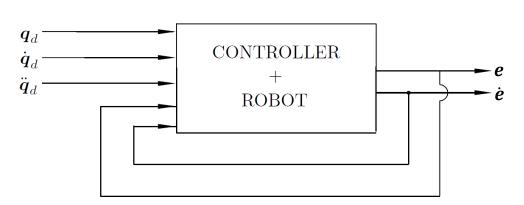
or in the state-space form as

$$\frac{d}{dt}\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{q}_d - \mathbf{q} \\ \dot{\mathbf{q}}_d - \dot{\mathbf{q}} \end{bmatrix} = f(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}, \mathbf{q}_d, \dot{\mathbf{q}}_d, \mathbf{q}_d, \mathbf{q}_d, \mathbf{q}_d, \mathbf{q}_d, \mathbf{q}_d, \mathbf{q}_d)$$

$$egin{aligned} oldsymbol{e} &= oldsymbol{q}_d - oldsymbol{q} \in \mathbb{R}^n, \ oldsymbol{\dot{e}} &= oldsymbol{\dot{q}}_d - oldsymbol{\dot{q}} \in \mathbb{R}^n, \ & ext{and by replacing } oldsymbol{q} ext{ with } \ oldsymbol{q}_d(t) - oldsymbol{e} ext{ and } oldsymbol{\dot{q}} ext{ with } \ oldsymbol{\dot{q}}_d(t) - oldsymbol{\dot{e}} ext{ in } oldsymbol{f} ext{:} \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{e} \\ \dot{\boldsymbol{e}} \end{bmatrix} = \tilde{\boldsymbol{f}}(t, \boldsymbol{e}, \dot{\boldsymbol{e}})$$

In general, a nonautonomous nonlinear ODE when $q_d = q_d(t)$.

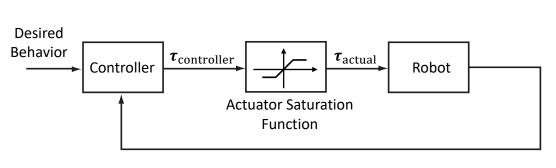


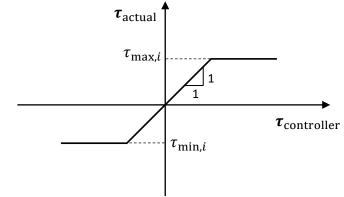
Actuator Saturation

In some controllers, choosing large values for the control parameters causes a large (initial) control torque which is beyond the robot actuators capacity which are limited by maximum and minimum allowable values $\tau_{\rm max}$, $\tau_{\rm min}$. Therefore, the control parameters should be chosen properly.

To consider the actuator saturation limits in the simulation, we add a saturation function as follows:

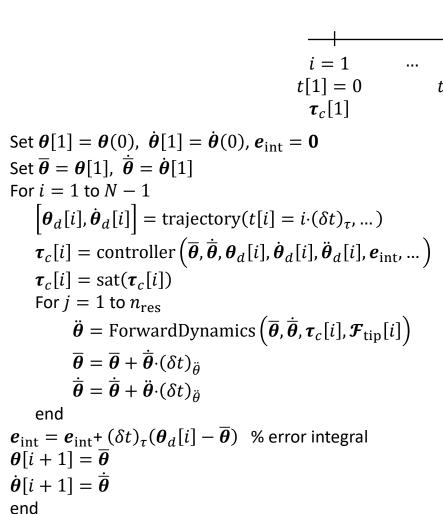
$$\tau_{\text{actual}} = \text{sat}(\tau_{\text{controller}})$$





 $(\delta t)_{\tau}$: timestep that τ_c is given

Pseudocode for Controllers



```
i = N
t[i] = i \cdot (\delta t)_{\tau}
                            t[i+1]
                                                                         t[N] = t_f = N \cdot (\delta t)_{\tau}
        \boldsymbol{\tau}_{c}[i]
                                                                                        \tau_{c}[N]
                       (\delta t)_{\ddot{\theta}} = (\delta t)_{\tau}/n_{\rm res}: timestep
                       for motion simulation and
                       computing \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}.
                       n_{\rm res}: Integration resolution.
                                                                               (\delta t)_{\tau}, (\delta t)_{\ddot{\theta}} \in \mathbb{R}^+
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Position Control Objective

Given a desired <u>constant</u> joint position (set-point reference) $q_d \in \mathbb{R}^n$, we wish to find joint torques/forces $\tau \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that the joint position $q(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ tend to q_d accurately:

$$\lim_{t\to\infty} \boldsymbol{q}(t) = \boldsymbol{q}_d \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad \lim_{t\to\infty} \boldsymbol{e}(t) = \boldsymbol{0} \qquad \qquad \boldsymbol{e}(t) = \boldsymbol{q}_d - \boldsymbol{q}(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$$
 position error

The most common position controllers:

- PD Control (or P Control Plus Velocity Feedback)
- PD Control with Gravity Compensation
- PD Control with Desired Gravity Compensation
- PID Control

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PD Control

(or P Control Plus Velocity Feedback)

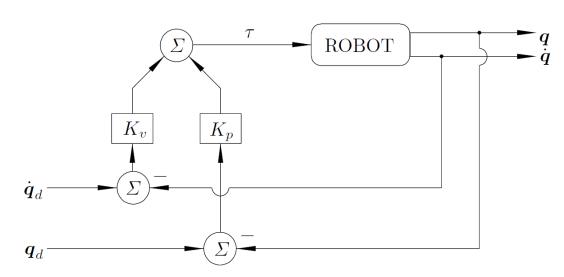
The PD (Proportional Derivative) control law is given by

$$au = K_p e + K_v \dot{e}$$
 Since $q_d = \text{constant}$ $\tau = K_p e - K_v \dot{q}$ $e = q_d - q$

 K_p , $K_v \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ are symmetric positive definite matrices. If $K_p = \text{diag}\{K_{p,i}\}$, $K_v = \text{diag}\{K_{v,i}\}$, the controller is called PD Independent Joint Control.

This controller is the simplest (linear) controller that may be used to control robot

manipulators.



PD Control

The closed-loop dynamic equation is derived as

$$M(q)\ddot{q} + C(q,\dot{q})\dot{q} + g(q) = K_p e - K_v \dot{q}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}\begin{bmatrix} e \\ \dot{q} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\dot{q} \\ M(q)^{-1} \left(K_p e - K_v \dot{q} - C(q, \dot{q}) \dot{q} - g(q) \right) \end{bmatrix} = f(e, \dot{q}) \qquad q = q_d - e$$

The system is **autonomous** because q_d is constant.

Note: In general, this system may have several equilibrium points, and the origin $(e, \dot{q}) = 0 \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$ is not necessarily an equilibrium point.

$$f(e,\dot{q})=0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \dot{q}=0, \qquad K_p e - g(q_d-e)=0$$

Note: If the manipulator model does not include the gravitational torques term g(q) (e.g., those which move only on the horizontal plane), then the only equilibrium is the origin $(e, \dot{q}) = \mathbf{0} \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$.

PD Control (when g(q) = 0)

To study the stability of the equilibrium we can use Lyapunov's direct method and LaSalle's Theorem to show asymptotic stability of the origin $(e, \dot{q}) = 0$.

Consider a Lyapunov function candidate as
$$V(\boldsymbol{e}, \dot{\boldsymbol{q}}) = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\boldsymbol{q}}^T \boldsymbol{M}(\boldsymbol{q}) \dot{\boldsymbol{q}} + \frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{e}^T \boldsymbol{K}_p \boldsymbol{e} > 0$$
 (PD)

$$\dot{V}(\boldsymbol{e},\dot{\boldsymbol{q}}) = \dot{\boldsymbol{q}}^T \boldsymbol{M}(\boldsymbol{q}) \ddot{\boldsymbol{q}} + \frac{1}{2} \dot{\boldsymbol{q}}^T \dot{\boldsymbol{M}}(\boldsymbol{q}) \dot{\boldsymbol{q}} + \boldsymbol{e}^T \boldsymbol{K}_p \dot{\boldsymbol{e}} \qquad \text{Kinetic energy of the arm}$$

$$\boldsymbol{M}(\boldsymbol{q}) \ddot{\boldsymbol{q}} = \boldsymbol{K}_p \boldsymbol{e} - \boldsymbol{K}_v \dot{\boldsymbol{q}} - \boldsymbol{C}(\boldsymbol{q},\dot{\boldsymbol{q}}) \dot{\boldsymbol{q}}, \quad \boldsymbol{e} = -\dot{\boldsymbol{q}} \quad (*)$$

$$\dot{\boldsymbol{q}}^T \left[\frac{1}{2} \dot{\boldsymbol{M}} - \boldsymbol{C} \right] \dot{\boldsymbol{q}} = \boldsymbol{0} \quad \text{(Property of dynamic model)}$$

$$\dot{V}(\boldsymbol{e},\dot{\boldsymbol{q}}) = -\dot{\boldsymbol{q}}^T \boldsymbol{K}_v \dot{\boldsymbol{q}} \leq 0 \quad \text{(NSD)}$$

Equilibrium Point Theorem

The origin $(e, \dot{q}) = 0$ is (globally) stable and the solutions e(t)and $\dot{q}(t)$ are bounded.



PD Control (when q(q) = 0)

Now, we use LaSalle (invariant set) theorem to analyze the global asymptotic stability of the origin.

$$R = \{(\boldsymbol{e}, \dot{\boldsymbol{q}}) \in \mathbb{R}^{2n} : \dot{V}(\boldsymbol{e}, \dot{\boldsymbol{q}}) = 0\}$$

 $(e, \dot{q}) = 0$ is the largest invariant set in R

 \Rightarrow The origin $(e, \dot{q}) = 0$ is globally asymptotically stable for any initial condition $q(0), \dot{q}(0) \in \mathbb{R}^n$:

$$\lim_{t\to\infty} \boldsymbol{e}(t) = \mathbf{0} \qquad \lim_{t\to\infty} \dot{\boldsymbol{q}}(t) = \mathbf{0}$$

 \Rightarrow Thus, the control objective is achieved.

Note: Friction at the joints may also affect the position error.



PD Control (when $g(q) \neq 0$)

The study of unicity of the equilibrium and boundedness of solutions for a control system under PD control when $g(q) \neq 0$ is somewhat more complex than when g(q) = 0.

For robots with only revolute joints, we can prove that

- By choosing K_p sufficiently large, e.g., $\lambda_{\min}(K_p) > n \cdot \left(\max_{i \mid i \mid a} \left| \frac{\partial g_i(q)}{\partial q_i} \right| \right)$, then the closedloop equation has a unique equilibrium (but not necessarily at origin).
- For any $K_p=K_p^T>0$, $K_v=K_v^T>0$, it is guaranteed that ${\pmb e}(t)$ and ${\dot {\pmb q}}(t)$ are bounded for all initial conditions. Moreover, $\lim_{t \to \infty} \dot{\boldsymbol{q}}(t) = \boldsymbol{0}$ (it does not guarantee $\lim_{t \to \infty} \boldsymbol{q}(t) = \boldsymbol{q}_d$ or even $\lim_{t\to\infty} q(t) = \text{constant}$).
- The error bound decreases, as $K_{v,i}$ become larger (in case $K_v = \text{diag}\{K_{v,i}\}$), however, large $K_{v,i}$ can saturate the robot actuators.
 - ⇒ Thus, the control objective cannot be achieved using PD control unless the desired position q_d is such that $q(q_d) = 0$ (i.e., the origin $(e, \dot{q}) = 0$ is an equilibrium).

Note: Friction at the joints may also affect the position error.

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PD Control with Gravity Compensation



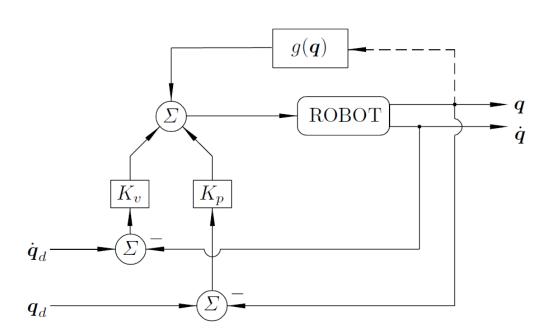
PD Control with Gravity Compensation

The PD control law with gravity compensation is given by

$$\tau = K_p e + K_v \dot{e} + g(q)$$
 Since $q_d = \text{constant}$ $\dot{q}_d = 0$
$$\tau = K_p e - K_v \dot{q} + g(q)$$

 K_p , $K_v \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ are symmetric positive definite matrices.

$$e = q_d - q$$



PD Control with Gravity Compensation

The closed-loop dynamic equation is derived as

$$M(q)\ddot{q} + C(q,\dot{q})\dot{q} + g(q) = K_p e - K_v \dot{q} + g(q)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{e} \\ \dot{\mathbf{q}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\dot{\mathbf{q}} \\ \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})^{-1} (\mathbf{K}_p \mathbf{e} - \mathbf{K}_v \dot{\mathbf{q}} - \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \end{bmatrix} = f(\mathbf{e}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \qquad \mathbf{q} = \mathbf{q}_d - \mathbf{e}$$

The system is **autonomous**, and the origin $(e, \dot{q}) = 0 \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$ is the only equilibrium point.

Note: Using the same proof given for PD Control when g(q) = 0, we can show that the origin $(e, \dot{q}) = 0$ is globally asymptotically stable for any initial condition $q(0), \dot{q}(0) \in \mathbb{R}^n$:

$$\lim_{t\to\infty} \boldsymbol{e}(t) = \mathbf{0} \qquad \lim_{t\to\infty} \dot{\boldsymbol{q}}(t) = \mathbf{0}$$

⇒ Thus, the position control objective is achieved.

Note: Friction at the joints may also affect the position error.

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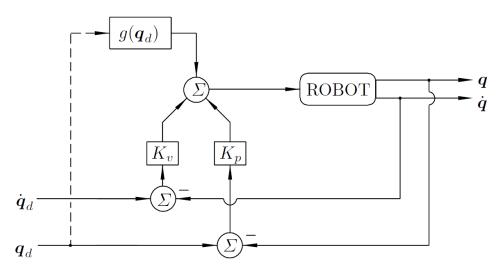
PD Control with Desired Gravity Compensation

Implementation of the PD control with gravity compensation requires **on-line** computation of g(q). However, since the elements of g(q) involve trigonometric functions of q, its real time computation take a longer time than the computation of the 'PD-part' of the control law, especially in high sampling frequency applications. A solution is using **PD Control with Desired Gravity Compensation** which requires only **off-line** computation of $g(q_d)$:

$$\tau = K_p e + K_v \dot{e} + g(q_d) \qquad \qquad e = q_d - q$$

 K_p , $K_v \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ are symmetric positive definite matrices.

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PD Control with Desired Gravity Compensation

The closed-loop dynamic equation is derived as

$$M(q)\ddot{q} + C(q,\dot{q})\dot{q} + g(q) = K_p e - K_v \dot{q} + g(q_d)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}\begin{bmatrix} e \\ \dot{q} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\dot{q} \\ M(q)^{-1} \left(K_p e - K_v \dot{q} - C(q, \dot{q}) \dot{q} - g(q) + g(q_d) \right) \end{bmatrix} = f(e, \dot{q})$$

$$q = q_d - e$$

The system is **autonomous** (since q_d is constant), and in general, may have multiple equilibria which the origin $(e, \dot{q}) = \mathbf{0} \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$ is always one of them:

$$f(e,\dot{q})=0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \dot{q}=0, \qquad K_p e - g(q_d-e) + g(q_d)=0$$

PD Control with Desired Gravity Compensation

For robots with only revolute joints, we can prove that

- For any $K_p = K_p^T > 0$, $K_v = K_v^T > 0$, it is guaranteed that e(t) and $\dot{q}(t)$ are bounded for all initial conditions. Moreover, $\lim_{t \to \infty} \dot{\boldsymbol{q}}(t) = \boldsymbol{0}$ (it does not guarantee $\lim_{t \to \infty} \boldsymbol{q}(t) = \boldsymbol{q}_d$ or even $\lim_{t\to\infty} q(t) = \text{constant}$).
- By choosing K_p sufficiently large, e.g., $\lambda_{\min}(K_p) > n \cdot \left(\max_{i,i,a} \left| \frac{\partial g_i(q)}{\partial q_i} \right| \right)$, then the closedloop equation has a unique equilibrium at origin $(e, \dot{q}) = 0$ and it is globally asymptotically stable.

$$\lim_{t\to\infty} \boldsymbol{e}(t) = \mathbf{0} \qquad \lim_{t\to\infty} \dot{\boldsymbol{q}}(t) = \mathbf{0}$$

Thus, the position control objective is achieved.

Note: Friction at the joints may also affect the position error.

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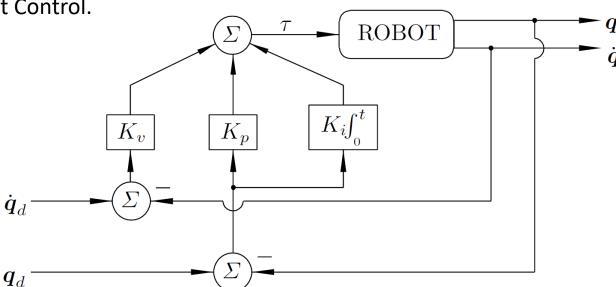
PID Control

The PID (Proportional Integral Derivative) control law is given by

$$\boldsymbol{\tau} = \boldsymbol{K}_{p}\boldsymbol{e} + \boldsymbol{K}_{v}\dot{\boldsymbol{e}} + \boldsymbol{K}_{i}\int_{0}^{t}\boldsymbol{e}(\tau)d\tau \qquad \qquad \boldsymbol{e} = \boldsymbol{q}_{d} - \boldsymbol{q}$$

 K_p , K_v , $K_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ (position, velocity, and integral gains) are symmetric positive definite matrices. If $K_p = \text{diag}\{K_{p,i}\}$, $K_v = \text{diag}\{K_{v,i}\}$, $K_i = \text{diag}\{K_{i,i}\}$, the controller is called PID

Independent Joint Control.





PID Control

The closed-loop dynamic equation is derived as

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$$M(q)\ddot{q} + C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + g(q) = K_p e + K_v \dot{e} + K_i \int_0^{\tau} e(\tau) d\tau$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} M(q)\ddot{q} + C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + g(q) = K_p e + K_v \dot{e} + K_i \xi \\ \dot{\xi} = e \end{cases}$$

$$q = q_d - e$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\xi} \\ \boldsymbol{e} \\ \dot{\boldsymbol{q}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{e} \\ -\dot{\boldsymbol{q}} \\ \boldsymbol{M}(\boldsymbol{q})^{-1} \left(\boldsymbol{K}_{p} \boldsymbol{e} - \boldsymbol{K}_{v} \dot{\boldsymbol{q}} + \boldsymbol{K}_{i} \boldsymbol{\xi} - \boldsymbol{C}(\boldsymbol{q}, \dot{\boldsymbol{q}}) \dot{\boldsymbol{q}} - \boldsymbol{g}(\boldsymbol{q}) \right) \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{equilibrium}} \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{K}_{i}^{-1} \boldsymbol{g}(\boldsymbol{q}_{d}) \\ \boldsymbol{0} \\ \boldsymbol{0} \end{bmatrix}$$

Translating this equilibrium point to the origin via a suitable change of variable:

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$$z = \xi - K_i^{-1} g(q_d)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{z} \\ \mathbf{e} \\ \dot{\mathbf{q}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{e} \\ -\dot{\mathbf{q}} \\ \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{q})^{-1} \left(\mathbf{K}_{p} \mathbf{e} - \mathbf{K}_{v} \dot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{K}_{i} \mathbf{z} + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}_{d}) - \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) \dot{\mathbf{q}} - \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) \right) \end{bmatrix}$$

The system is **autonomous**, and its unique equilibrium is the origin $(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{e}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) = \mathbf{0} \in \mathbb{R}^{3n}.$

PID Control: Tuning Method

For robots with only revolute joints, we can prove that the symmetric positive definite matrices K_p , K_i , K_v which satisfy the following relations can only guarantee achievement of the position control objective by making the origin $(z, e, \dot{q}) = 0$ locally asymptotically stable (i.e., if e(t), $\dot{q}(t)$ are "sufficiently small", $\lim_{t\to\infty} e(t) = 0$).

$$\lambda_{\max}\{K_i\} \ge \lambda_{\min}\{K_i\} > 0$$

$$\lambda_{\max}\{K_p\} \ge \lambda_{\min}\{K_p\} > n \cdot \left(\max_{i,j,q} \left| \frac{\partial g_i(q)}{\partial q_j} \right| \right)$$

$$\lambda_{\max}\{K_v\} \ge \lambda_{\min}\{K_v\} > \frac{\lambda_{\max}\{K_i\}}{\lambda_{\min}\{K_p\} - k_g} \cdot \frac{\lambda_{\max}^2(M(q))}{\lambda_{\min}(M(q))}$$

Note: A system with K_p , K_i , K_v parameters which satisfy these relations does not necessarily achieve a proper settling time. It is possible to find a set of the symmetric PD matrices K_p , K_i , K_v which achieve a small settling time, while violating these relations.