CSD Labs Report
Control of a Rolling Mill

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Contents

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Description of the plant

The goal of this project is to control the rolling of a metallic strip using a rolling mill. The plant is composed of two DC motor driven single rolls which unwind and wind up the sheet of metal. Between those two, the strip passes through a pair of rolls driven by a third DC motor, in order to have its thickness reduced and made uniform.

The actuators of the plant are the three DC motors, which are controlled through their armature current. The speed of those motors are measured using three velocity sensors. There are also two traction sensors to measure the tension in the strip left and right of the middle pair of rolls. Finally, a thickness sensor measures the thickness of the metallic strip after it has been rolled.

The first requirement is to control the traction of the metallic strip. When this is achieved, a more advanced requirement is to control the thickness of the metallic strip.

1.2 Broad design of the controller

The plant will be controlled using a numerical controller implemented in matlab. To set this up, eight ADC and two DAC ports are available, along with second order Butterworth filters with various τ and an analog computer.

Intuitively, we know that the traction of the strip between two rolls will probably mostly depend on the difference of speed between the rolls. Similarly, we also know that the thickness reduction at the middle pair of rolls will probably mostly depend on the difference between the traction of

the strip that is fed into the pair of rolls and the traction of the sheet that is pulled out of it. Knowing this, we propose to control this process using a cascade controller.

First, we control the speed of the DC motors using the current as input. Then, we control the traction of the metallic strip using the speed of the motors as input. Finally, we control the thickness of the metallic sheet using the tractions of the strips as input.

Moreover, since we know that the traction will depend on a *difference* of speeds, we also propose to simplify this scheme by modulating the speed of only one motor during the operation. One motor will be designated as "master": it will be controlled with a constant reference with the only goal of spinning at the setpoint speed as steadily as possible. The other will be designated as "slave": its reference will vary during operation in order to control the traction of the strip and it should have adequate transient response properties.

1.3 Structure of this report

First, in chapter 2, we describe the experimental setup which was used throughout this project. This report will then follow the chronological order of the work that was done during the labs. We used a bottom up approach where the inner loops are first implemented in order to then design the outer loops.

As stated before, to simplify the controller, only one motor – the slave – is controlled with a dynamic reference while the other – the master – is kept at a speed which should be as steady as possible. In chapter 3, the dynamics of the master motor are identified and a controller is designed to achieve zero steady state error and perturbation rejection. Then, in chapter 4 , the dynamics of the slave motor are identified and a controller is designed to achieve reasonably fast reference tracking.

reference

In chapter 5, the relation between both motors' speeds and the traction of the metallic strip is modelled and identified, and a controller is designed to stabilize the system and reduce the steady state error.

Finally, ...

What comes next?

Chapter 2

Description of the Experimental Setup

2.1 General Wiring

The setup is wired as described in figure 2.1. We use the maximum recom-

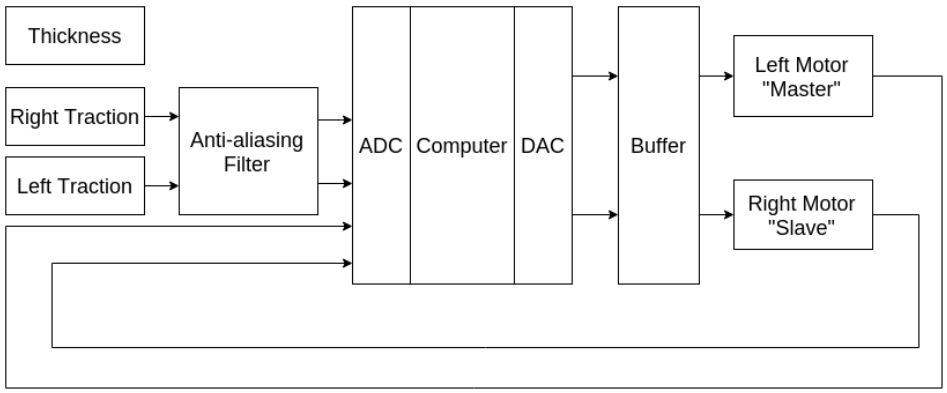

Figure 2.1: Wiring for the control of the rolling mill

mended sampling frequency $f_s = 100\,\text{Hz}$, which is a common value for the control of a DC motor.

2.1.1 Anti-aliasing filtering

To be perfectly rigorous, we should filter every input before sampling it. However, we only have a limited amount of single signal, second order But-

terworth filters at our disposition, each with a different f_c. With the chosen f_s, those constraints on the available f_c, and the fact that second order Butterworth filters have a large transition band, only two of the available f_c values seem actually useful:

- $f_c = 40\,\text{Hz}$, which provides 37.1 % attenuation at 50 Hz and 62.9 % rejection at 100 Hz.
- $f_c = 20\,\text{Hz}$, which provides 62.9 % attenuation at 50 Hz and 80.4 % rejection at 100 Hz.

The other available filters either do not actually prevent aliasing, or have a too high passband attenuation. Even the two most adequate filters have a non ideal passband gain, and thus introduce a significant delay in the feedback loop. For this reason we choose not to use them in the inner loop, which should be fast, but rather in the outer loop. This is why only the two traction measurements are filtered in figure 2.1.

Chapter 3

Control of the Master Motor

This chapter describes all the steps that were taken in the design of a controller for the master motor of the rolling mill plant. Along the way all the design choices will be explained and substantiated.

3.1 Master motor

The master motor is the one that pulls the strip and winds it up on a spool. The left motor was chosen as master since its RPM at working current is higher than the right motor. This is necessary since when the strip is compressed to reduce its thickness it extends. The speed of the winding motor needs to be higher than the feeding motor. Figure 3.1 shows a plot of the motor characteristics and table 3.1 shows the currents for different operating points.

Armature current [A]	Angular velocity [RPM]
5.4	530.7
5.7	649.8

Table 3.1: Operating points of the left motor

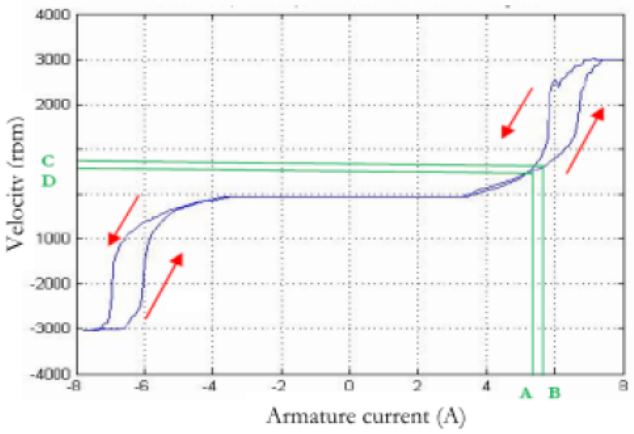

Figure 3.1: Rotational Velocity of the Left motor in function of the Current

3.2 Identifying the transfer function

The transfer function of the left motor was identified using matlab. To do this, velocity was sampled for a step input. Since the motor works around a given operating region, it was started from the lower setpoint current and an the step increased the current to the higher setpoint. The transient from stopped to the operating is not very interesting. The behaviour of the change in velocity was used to calculate a transfer function using the least squares method.

Figure 3.2 shows the sampled data points and the curve that corresponds to the transfer function of the left motor (equation 3.1).

$$G(s) = \frac{5.398}{3.642S + 1} \tag{3.1}$$

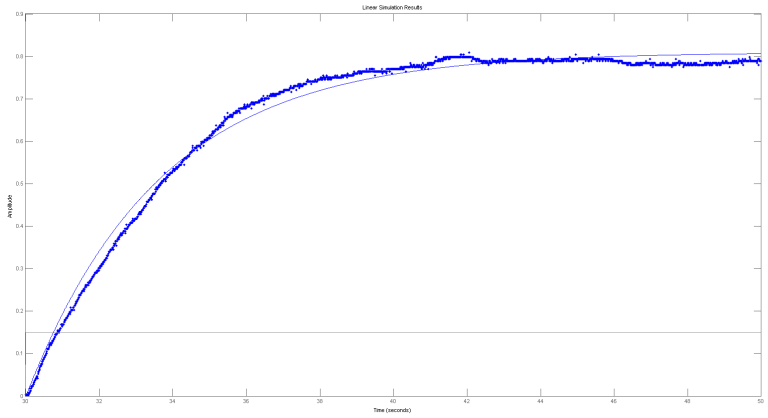

Figure 3.2: Sampled data with the fitted curve from the calculated transfer function

3.3 Controller design

This controller needs to be able to keep the master velocity stable and constant. A PI controller has been chosen to control this motor.

To design this PI controller the root locus method has been used. The zero of the PI controller was used to cancel the pole of the transfer function of the left motor. This was done as follows:

The transfer function for the left motor was transformed to make the pole location visible.

$$G(s) = \frac{5.398}{3.642S + 1} \tag{3.2}$$

$$= \frac{1.482}{s + 0.274}$$

The same was done for the PI controller so that the zero location becomes easily visible.

$$C(s) = K_p + \frac{K_i}{s} \tag{3.3}$$

$$= K_p \left(\frac{s + \frac{K_i}{K_p}}{s} \right)$$

To use the zero to compensate the pole of the left motor the nominator of the controller $C(s)$ needs to be the same of the denominator of the left motor $G(s)$. This means that $\frac{K_i}{K_p} = 0.294$

Using these previous equations K_p can be chosen using the root locus tool from matlab. The total system, without K_p equates to:

$$Sys(s) = \frac{1.482}{s + 0.274} \cdot \frac{s + 0.274}{s} \tag{3.4}$$

$$= \frac{1.482}{s} \tag{3.5}$$

Entering this system in the matlab root locus tool provides us with the root locus plot seen on figure 3.3. The gain can be chosen arbitrarily, but larger than 0.

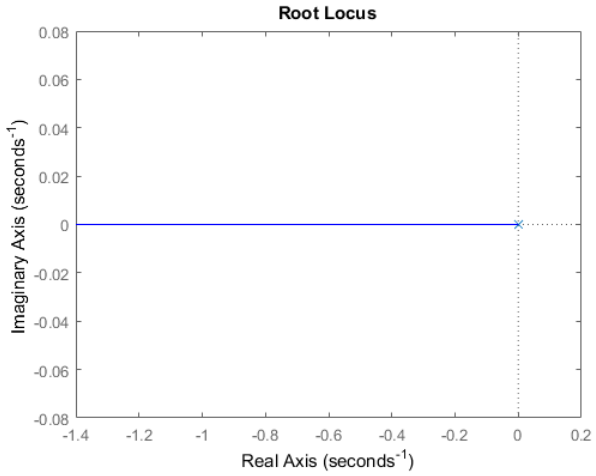

Figure 3.3: Root locus plot for the left motor with a PI controller

Several different values were used in simulation in simulink (figure 3.4, figure 3.5 and figure 3.6)

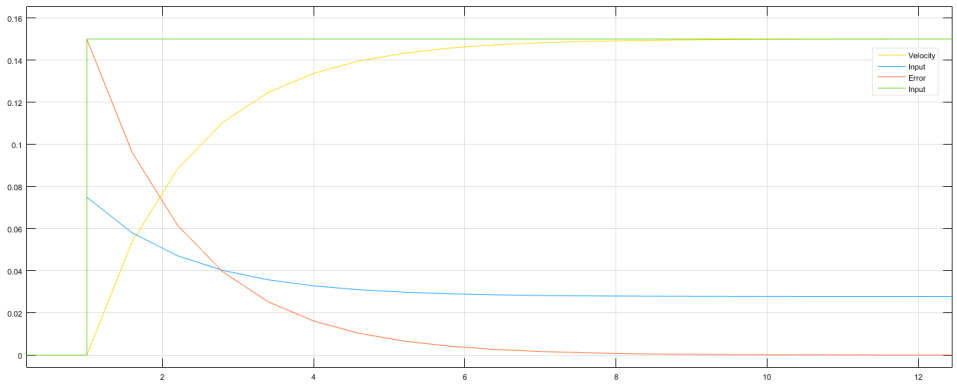

Figure 3.4: Simulink simulation of the left motor behaviour for $K_p = 0.5$

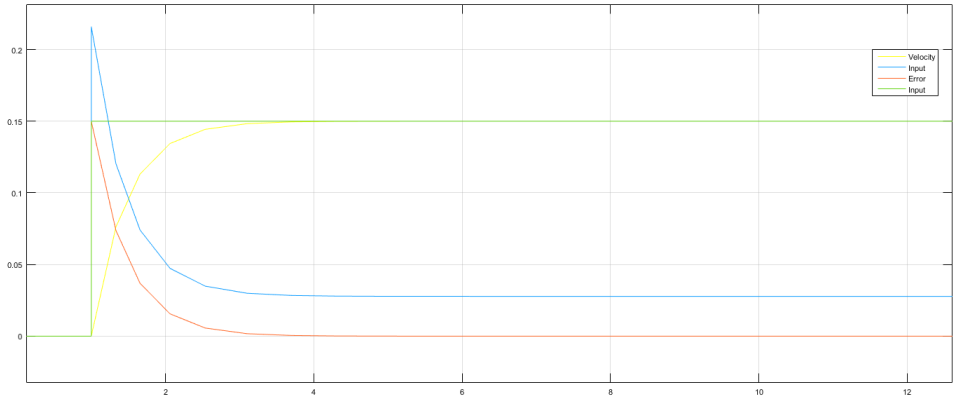

Figure 3.5: Simulink simulation of the left motor behaviour for $K_p = 1.44$

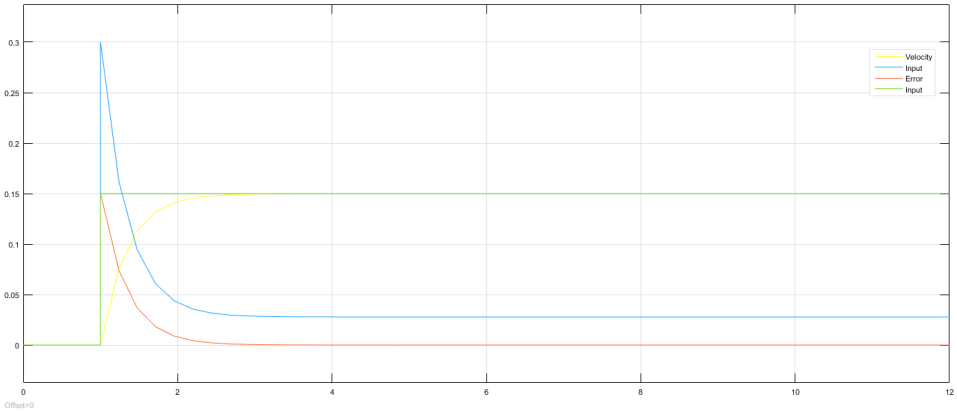

Figure 3.6: Simulink simulation of the left motor behaviour for $K_p = 2$

Using the previous equations and calculated values, a discrete time PI controller could be implemented in matlab using the DAQ system.

The controller was tested in practice for different values of the K_p (see figure 3.7, figure 3.8 and figure 3.9). Based on these measurements $K_p = 1.44$ was chosen. $K_p = 0.5$ has a quite long settling time with a larger overshoot than $K_p = 1.44$. Since $\frac{K_i}{K_p} = 0.294$, $K_i = 0.3954$. In none of the simulations is there overshoot present while all of the practical experiments do. This is because the transfer function of the motor was reduced to a first order system while in practice it behaves as a non linear system of higher order.

3.4 Conclusions

For the controller of the whole plant cascade control was chosen with a grey box approach. The left motor was designated as the master motor. So first this motor was identified using the step response around the operating point.

After the system had been identified a controller could be devised to control the velocity of the motor. A PI controller was chosen to keep the velocity stable and to reject disturbances. The PI controller was designed to cancel the pole of the transfer function of the motor. Multiple values of the feedback gain were simulated and tested in practice. Finally $K_p = 1.44$ was chosen to be used in the final plant controller.

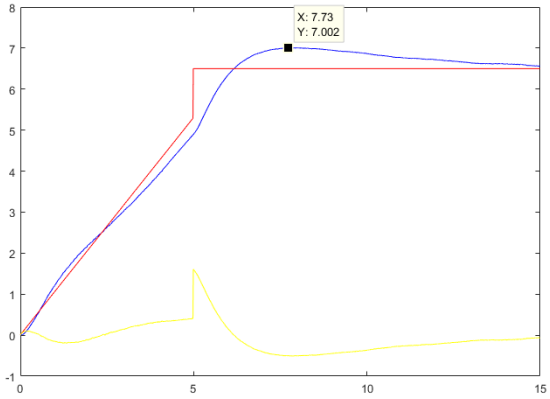

Figure 3.7: Response of the left motor behaviour for $K_p = 0.5$ to the red curve as input.

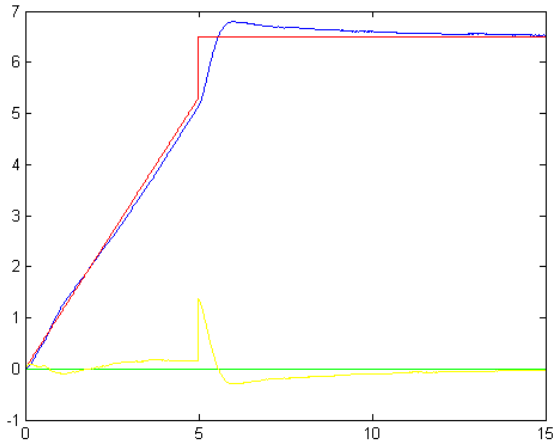

Figure 3.8: Response of the left motor behaviour for $K_p = 1.44$ to the red curve as input.

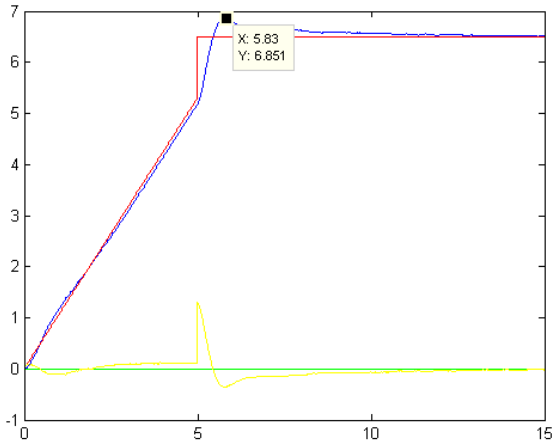

Figure 3.9: Response of the left motor behaviour for $K_p = 2$ to the red curve as input.

Chapter 4

Control of the Slave Motor

In this chapter the properties of the design of the controller for the slave motor will be explained. The process is analogous to the master motor, first the motor is identified around the operating point, then a controller is designed which is then simulated and tested in practice.

4.1 Slave motor

Now that the master motor has a controller to keep the speed constant the slave motor can be controlled. The slave motor feeds the metal strip to the master motor. The right motor will be the slave. The speed of the feeding motor has to be lower than the winding motor. Figure 4.1 shows a plot of the motor characteristics and table 4.1 shows the currents for different operating points.

Armature current [A]	Angular velocity [RPM]
5.4	244
5.7	370

Table 4.1: Operating points of the right motor

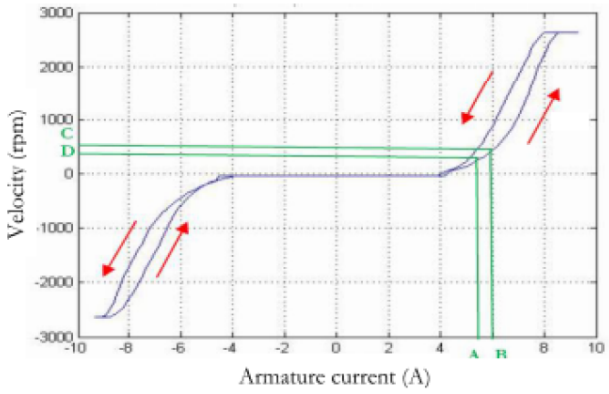

Figure 4.1: Rotational Velocity of the Right motor in function of the Current

4.2 Identifying the transfer function

The transfer function was identified the same way the master motor was done: stepping from one operating point to another and measuring the step response. Using the least squares method a best fitting curve (figure 4.2) to the sampled data points was generated with a corresponding first order transfer function (equation 4.1).

$$G(s) = \frac{7.128}{6.0665S + 1} \tag{4.1}$$

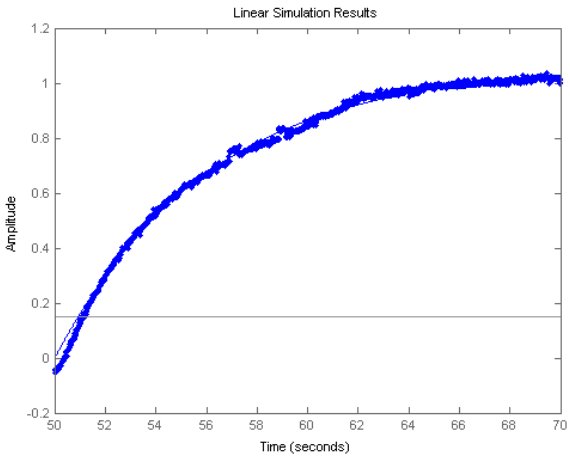

Figure 4.2: Sampled data with the fitted curve from the calculated transfer function

4.3 Controller Design

The controller for this motor needs to be fast enough to be able to keep the tension of the strip constant despite disturbances. To do this a proportional controller with gain K was chosen. Figure 4.3 shows a root locus plot for the right motor. The gain can again be chosen arbitrarily.K was chosen based on a couple simulations (figures 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6) and practical experiments for different gains (figures 4.7, 4.8 and 4.9). None of the simulations have overshoot while some of the practical experiments do (depending on K). This is because the transfer function of the motor was reduced to a first order system while in practice it probably as a non-linear system.

A gain of $K = 3$ was used since using a higher gain has the risk of putting current output of the controller in saturation. Saturation will occur is a too large step is applied to the input of the controller, but in practice it should not occur. The system is started up using a ramp instead of using a step, but this will be explained in a later chapter.

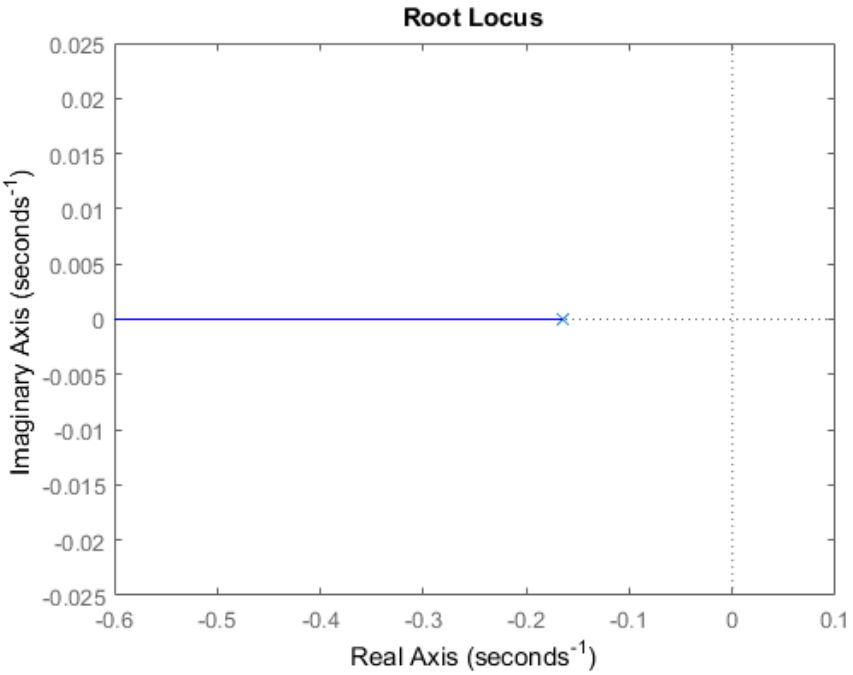

Figure 4.3: Root locus plot for the right motor

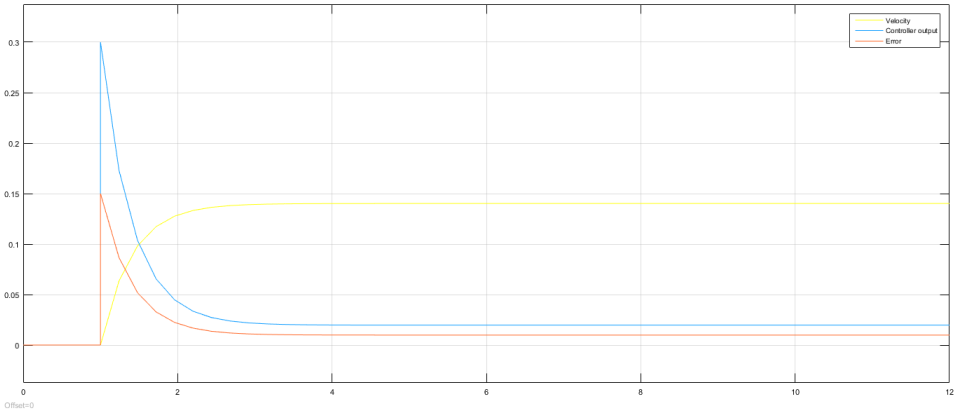

Figure 4.4: Simulink simulation of the right motor behaviour for $K = 2$

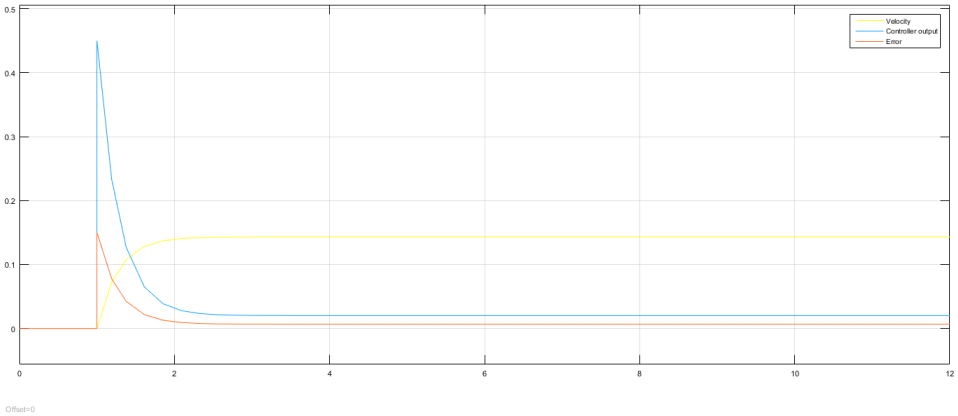

Figure 4.5: Simulink simulation of the right motor behaviour for $K = 3$

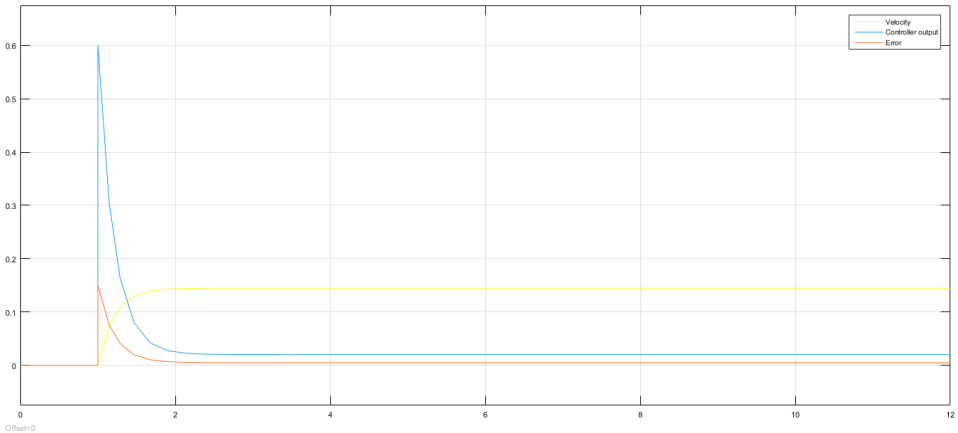

Figure 4.6: Simulink simulation of the right motor behaviour for $K = 4$

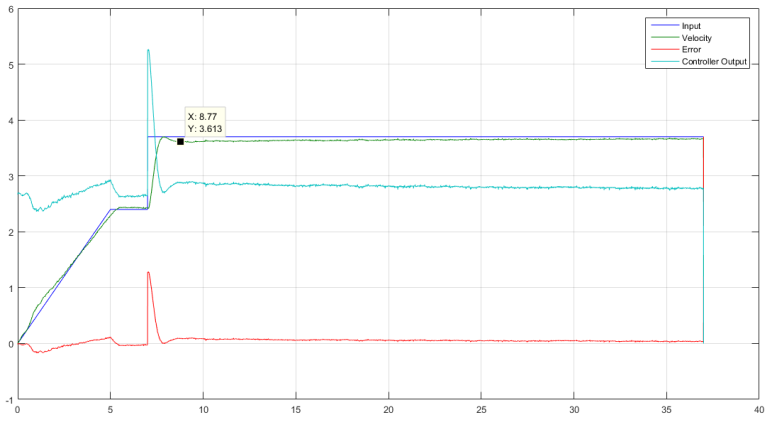

Figure 4.7: Response of the left motor behaviour for $K = 2$ to the blue curve as input.

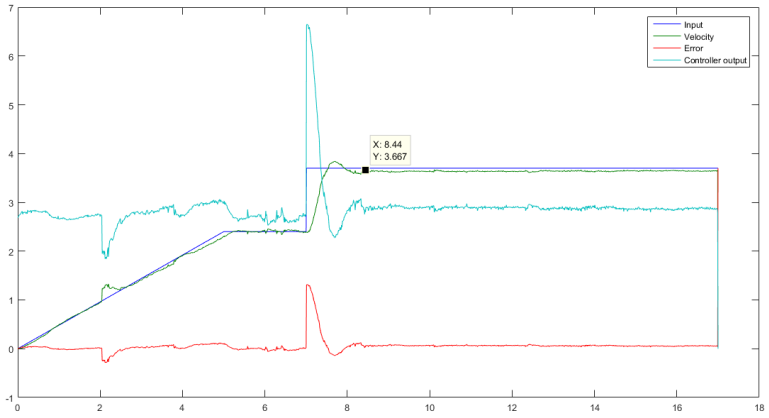

Figure 4.8: Response of the left motor behaviour for $K = 3$ to the blue curve as input.

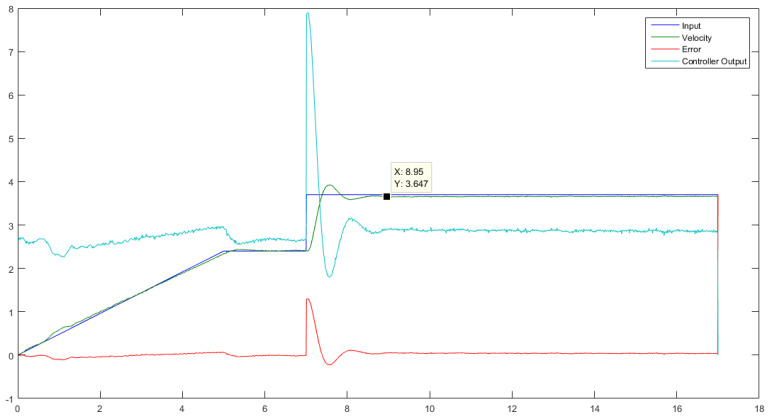

Figure 4.9: Response of the left motor behaviour for $K = 4$ to the blue curve as input.

Chapter 5

Modelling and Control of the Traction

5.1 Modelling of the Traction of the Metallic Strip

As we said in the introduction, we know from a physical intuition that the traction in the metallic strip depends mainly on the difference of speed between the rolls, rather than on each of the speeds individually. For this reason, we only have to determine $G(p)$ as described in figure 5.3, where ω_i is the speed of a motor, and t is the traction of the metallic strip.

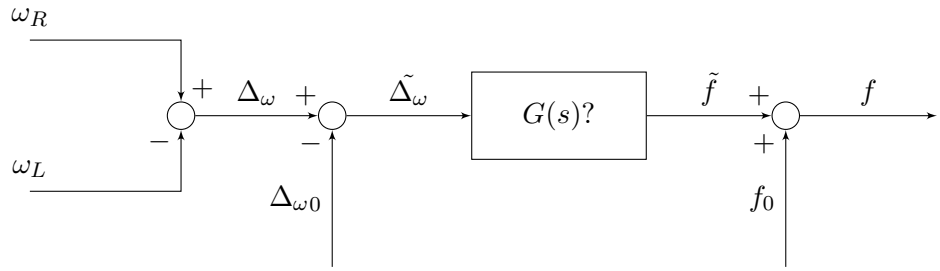

Figure 5.1: Simple gray-box model of the traction of the metallic strip

Furthermore, we also know that $G(s)$ should contain a close-to-perfect integrator. Indeed, if we increase Δ_ω slightly from the setpoint $\Delta_{\omega 0}$, we expect the tension in the metallic strip to rise indefinitely until breakage. This is also confirmed by the experience: we observe that the system's response to a real world pulse is really close to a step, as showed in figure 5.2.

Finally, we also see that a second order numerical approximation of the

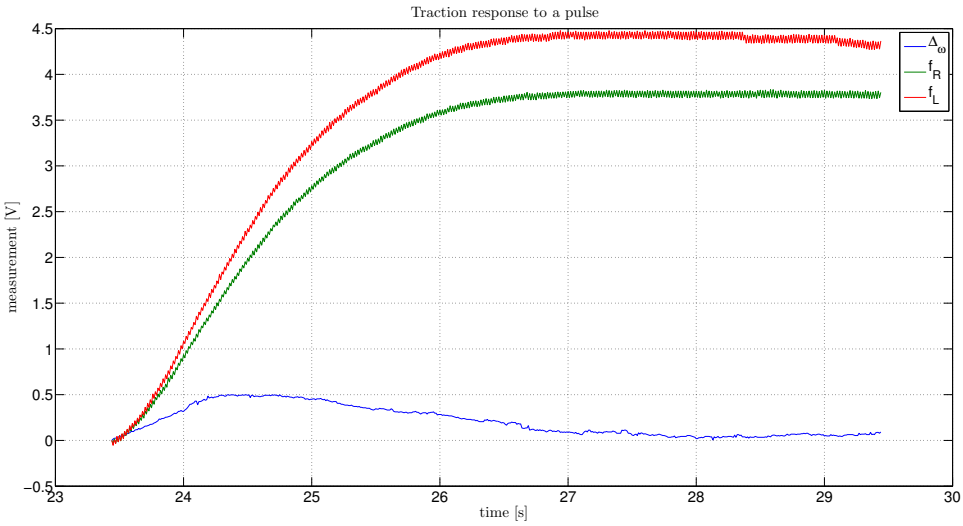

Figure 5.2: Traction response to a real world pulse

dynamics always yields a pole that is very close to zero. However this leads the rest of the optimisation problem to be badly conditioned. This means that the second pole is not reliably placed, and that the final result does not fit the real response accurately. Moreover, a system with zero very far from the origin takes a really long time to simulate with simulink.

To solve this, we refine our gray-box approximation by introducing an integrator in the system, computing its response to $\tilde{\Delta_\omega}(t)$ and trying to determine the rest of the dynamics based on this new input and the observed response, as shown in figure 5.3, where $\frac{1}{s}H(s) = G(s)$. In the figure, we also utilized the fact that only ω_L is supposed to contribute to $\tilde{\Delta_\omega}$, since the master velocity is chosen steady. $\tilde{\omega_R}$ is thus considered as a disturbance.

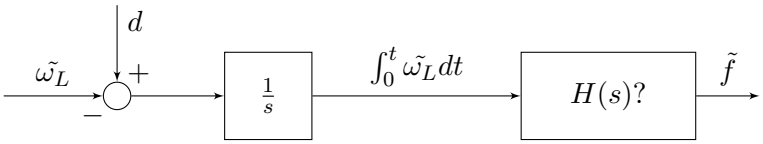

Figure 5.3: Gray-box model of the traction of the metallic strip

Fitting a simple first order transfer function to $H(s)$ is not easy because the dynamics between $\frac{\tilde{\Omega_L}}{s}$ and $F_R(s)$ is very fast, as shown in figure 5.4. This leads to very large poles which are not well approximated and difficult to simulate, as we experienced already.

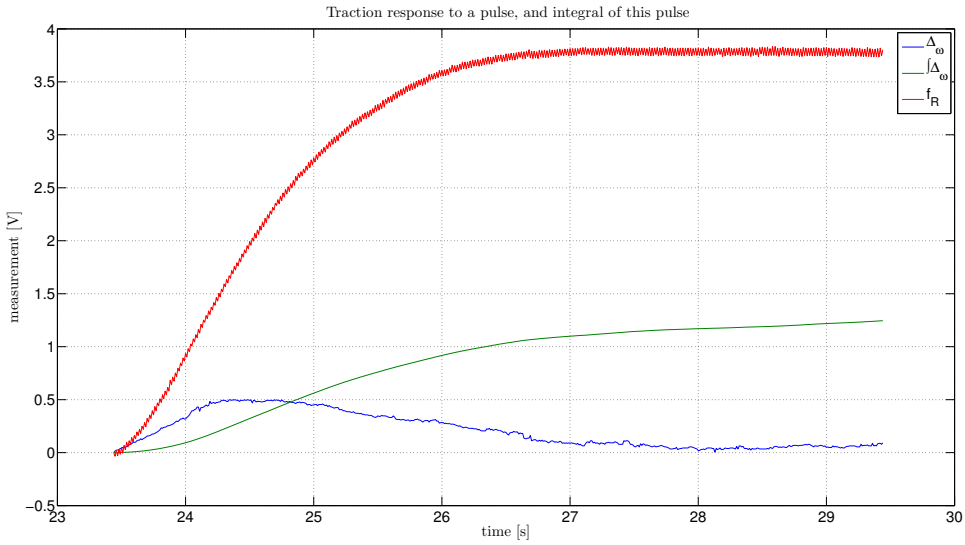

Figure 5.4: Right traction response to a pulse and output of the intermediate integrator

To solve this, we tried to fit $H(s)$ with a transfer function of the form $K\frac{s-z_0}{s-p_0}$, because the introduction of a zero speeds up a step response, which would bring p_0 reasonably closer to the origin. The result is shown in figure 5.5, where we see that the following transfer function seems to fit the experience very well.

$$H(s) = 13.096\frac{s+0.9221}{s(s+4.063)}$$

5.2 Control of the Traction

5.2.1 Simple P Controller

Since there already is an integrator in the system, and since we do not have specifications on the transient response, we first tried to control the traction with a simple P controller, which should provide asymptotic stability and zero steady-state error. Figure 5.6 shows the root locus of the traction for this controller, with the approximation that the inner slave speed loop is fast enough to be considered perfectly transparent. The root locus shows that $k_P > 0$ can be theoretically chosen as high as desired while keeping the closed-loop poles on the real axis.

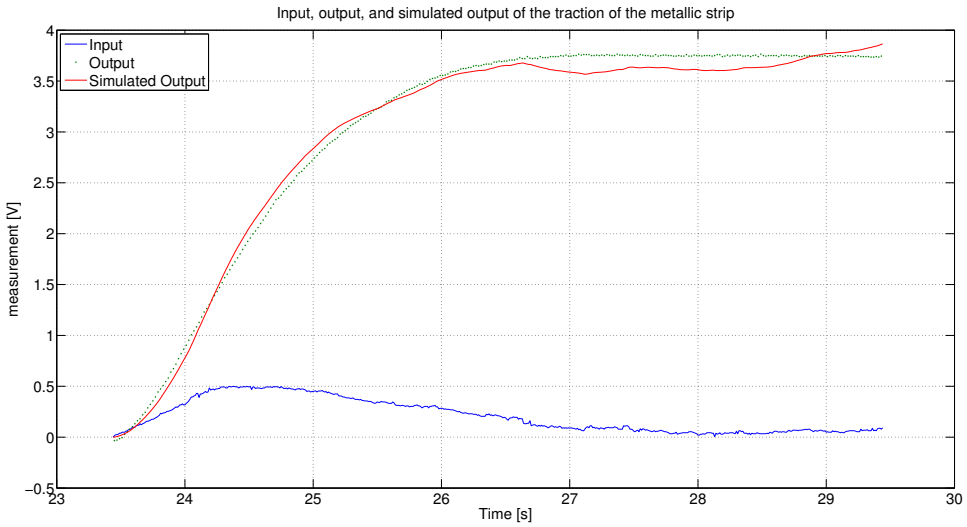

Figure 5.5: Input, output, and simulated output of the traction of the metallic strip

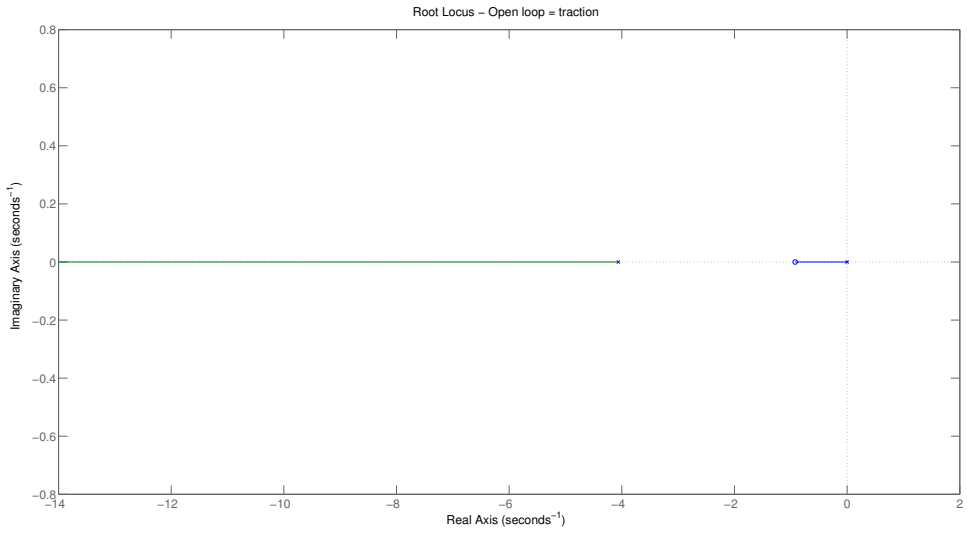

Figure 5.6: Root locus of the traction

Figure 5.7 shows the closed-loop traction response to a constant reference,

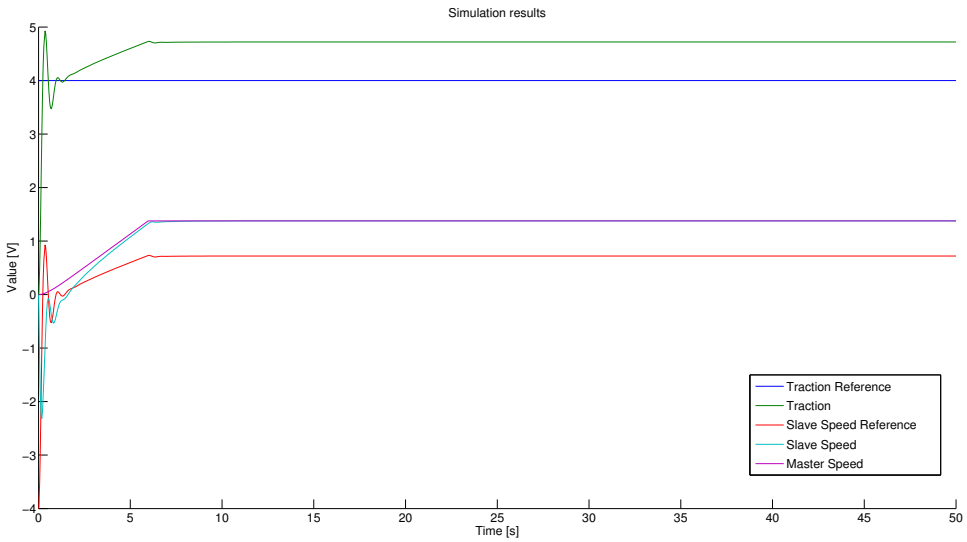

Figure 5.7: Simulation of the rolling mill operation with a P controller on the traction

with an arbitrary gain of 1, as simulated by simulink. First, we observe that the closed-loop poles are not real, which is due to non linearities and higher order effects. More importantly, we see that the steady-state error is not cancelled.

Comparing the measured traction and the master speed, we observe that the initial ramp on the master motor is not compensated. In steady state, the master speed also creates an offset on the traction. This is because the right velocity is actually a disturbance, as was shown in figure 5.3. This disturbance is not rejected because the integrator is in the plant, and not in the controller.

To achieve perturbation rejection, an integrator should be added to the controller. However, this is not a good solution as is, because the open loop would then contain two integrators. This would greatly reduce the phase margin and thus make the closed loop system nearly unstable and slow its response down.

5.2.2 Second Loop: PI Controller

Rather then adding an integrator to the existing controller, we can add a second external loop with a PI, as shown in figure 5.8 ,to achieve perturbation

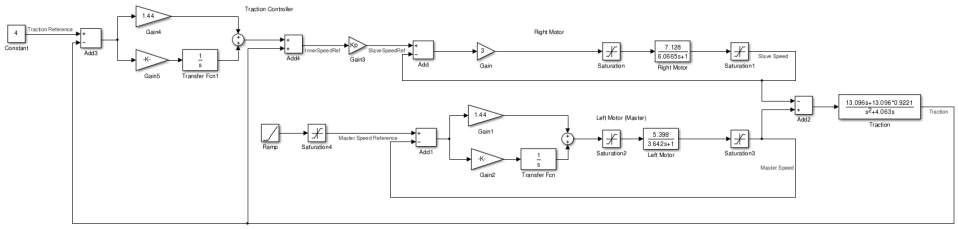

Figure 5.8: Final controller architecture

rejection while preserving the phase margin. In this section, the reasoning behind this second loop will be explained. In the following

Appendix A

Controller code

```
%controller.m
function [time, reference, output, input, innerTractionRefArray, rSpeedRefArray] = controller()

  %%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
  %Control System Design Lab: Overall Controller Loop
  %%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
  %%
  %%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
  %Setup
  %%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

  T_S = 0.01;%Set the sampling time.


  function [nSamples, time, reference, output, input] = referenceGenerator()
    %REF(1,:) = traction
    %REF(2,:) = master speed

    %traction
    EXP_LENGTH = 50;%sec
    TRACTION_REF = 3;
    TRAC_SETUP_TIME = 8;

    tracRamp = 0:T_S*TRACTION_REF/TRAC_SETUP_TIME:TRACTION_REF;
    reference(1,:) = [tracRamp TRACTION_REF*ones(1, EXP_LENGTH/T_S - length(tracRamp))];

    %master
    SETUP_TIME = 8;%seconds
    SETUP_POINT = 2;%V Left Motor

    ramp = 0:T_S*SETUP_POINT/SETUP_TIME:SETUP_POINT;
    rampLength = length(ramp);

    reference(2,:) = [ramp ones(1,length(reference(1,:))-rampLength)*SETUP_POINT];

    nSamples = length(reference);
    time=0:T_S:(nSamples-1)*T_S;
```

```
  output = zeros(2, nSamples);
  input = zeros(8, nSamples);
end


[nSamples, time, reference, output, input] = referenceGenerator();
%precompute the reference and generate arrays of according size
innerTractionRefArray = zeros(1,nSamples);
rSpeedRefArray = zeros(1,nSamples);

%%
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
%Controllers
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

function current = lmController(speedRef, measuredSpeed)
  if speedRef < 0
    FRICTION_COMPENSATOR  = -2.7;
  else
    FRICTION_COMPENSATOR  = 2.7;
  end
  KP = 2;
  KI = KP/3.642;

  persistent errorIntegral;
  if isempty(errorIntegral)
    errorIntegral = 0;
  end

  error = speedRef - measuredSpeed;
  errorIntegral = errorIntegral + error*T_S;

  current = FRICTION_COMPENSATOR + KP*error + KI*errorIntegral;
end

function current = rmController(speedRef, measuredSpeed)
  if speedRef < 0
    FRICTION_COMPENSATOR  = -2.1;
  else
    FRICTION_COMPENSATOR  = 2.1;
  end
  KP = 3;

  error = speedRef - measuredSpeed;
  current = FRICTION_COMPENSATOR + KP*error;
end

function speedRef = innerLoopSpeed(traction, innerTractionRef)
  K = -0.123;
  speedRef = K*(innerTractionRef-traction);
end

function innerTractionRef = outerLoopTraction(traction, tractionRef)
  persistent errorIntegral;
  if isempty(errorIntegral)
    errorIntegral = 0;
```

```
    end
    K = 2;
    ZERO = 1.9;
    KI = ZERO*K;
    error = tractionRef - traction;
    errorIntegral = errorIntegral + error*T_S;
    innerTractionRef = K*(error) + KI*errorIntegral;
  end

  %%
  %%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
  %Main Loop
  %%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

  i=1;
  while i < nSamples
    tic %Begins the first strike of the clock.
    [input(1,i), input(2,i), input(3,i), input(4,i), input(5,i), ...
      input(6,i), input(7,i), input(8,i)]  = anain; %Acquisition of the measurements.

    rmVelocity = input(5,i); %saving the inputs in a variable for ease of working
    lmVelocity = input(4,i);
    lTraction = input(3,i);
    rTraction = input(2,i);

    if(lTraction > 6 || rTraction > 6) % safety measures if traction is to high
      lmCurrent = 0;
      rmCurrent = 0;
      i = nSamples + 1;
    else
      lmCurrent = lmController(reference(2,i), lmVelocity);

      %Cascade loops
      innerTractionRef = outerLoopTraction(rTraction, reference(1,i));
      rSpeedRef = innerLoopSpeed(rTraction, innerTractionRef);
      rmCurrent = rmController(rSpeedRef, rmVelocity);
      innerTractionRefArray(i) = innerTractionRef;
      rSpeedRefArray(i) = rSpeedRef;
    end

    output(2,i) = rmCurrent;
    output(1,i) = lmCurrent;
    anaout(lmCurrent, rmCurrent);

    if toc > T_S
      disp('Sampling time too small');%Test if the sampling time is too small.
    else
      while toc <= T_S
        %Does nothing until the second strike of the clock reaches the sampling time set.
      end
    end
    i=i+1;
  end
end
```

```
%main.m
openinout;
[time, reference, output, input, innerTractionRef, rSpeedRef] = controller();
anaout(0,0);
closeinout;
%%
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
%Plots
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
figure %Open a new window for plot.
plot(time,reference(1,:), time, input(2,:), time,...
  input(4,:), time, input(5,:), time, rSpeedRef); %Plot the experiment (input and output).
legend('traction reference','traction','master speed',...
  'slave speed', 'slave speed reference');
title('Reference and output values')
xlabel('Time [s]');ylabel('Measurement [V]');

figure;
plot(time, output(1,:), time, output(2,:));
legend('Master motor current', 'Slave motor current');
title('Actuators input')
xlabel('Time [s]');ylabel('Value [V]');
```