System description

The system is composed by:

* A DC direct drive brushed motor
* Three carts
* Three springs
* A damper
* Several weights
* Three encoders for the position
* An encoder for the motor
* A PoliArd board

The mechanism consists of up to three mass carriages interconnected by bi-directional springs. The mass carriage suspension is an anti-friction ball bearing type with approximately ± 3 cm of available travel. The linear drive is comprised of a gear rack suspended on an anti-friction carriage and pinion coupled to the motor shaft. Optical encoders measure the mass carriage positions.

Three springs can be attached between the carts or between the first cart and the base plate. A damper can be implemented in various position and finally the mass of all the carts can be adjusted using the weights provided (500 ± 5 g each).

The encoder type is CP-850-4000-ECP: it is an optical incremental digital rotary shaft encoder. The number 4000 indicates the line counter (i.e the number of equally spaced radial lines per 360 mechanical degrees on the incremental encoder code disk). A low power light source is used to generate two 90 degrees out of phase sinusoidal signals on the detectors as the moving plate rotates with respect to the stationary plate. The moving plate rotates by means of an iron string wound up in it and then attached to the cart. The position is measured by calculating the angular displacement of the disk.

The motor encoder is used to transmit both voltage and current to the Arduino board.

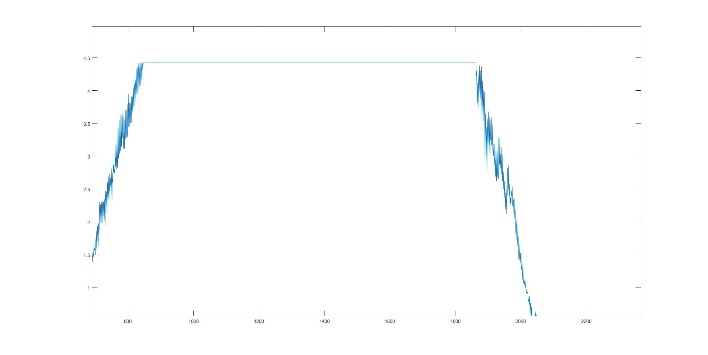
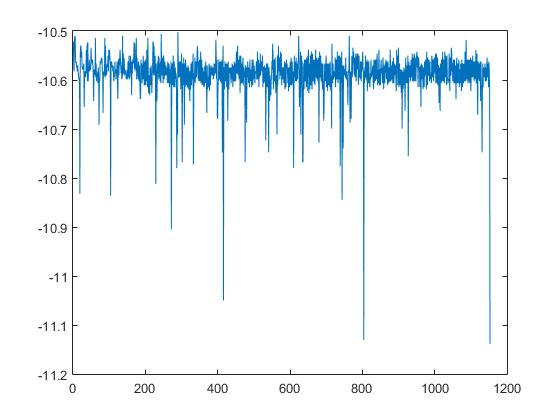
The 24 Volt DC motor has a case diameter of 63 mm and 194 Watts of output power. It has a nominal speed of 3700 rpm and a nominal Torque of mN/m. The DC motor has nominally a resistance of 0.7 Ω and an inductance of 1.05 mH.

The poliArd board mounts an Arduino Due board. The board has a 24 V power supply and it’s capable of measuring up to 5 A current. It has two motor drivers and four encoder interfaces. The board is programmable and the control strategy can be implemented using Matlab 2015a. To power on the board the user has to flip the first lever from the left. The other two levers can be programmed freely.

Issues

-Motor saturation

From simple test it’s easy to see that measured current saturates. What can be observed is that even though the current reaches a maximum value, the cart continues to move so this means that the sensor is not able to measure above a given current. In particular, we can see from Figures (specificare numero!!!) that the sensor saturates to 4,42 A and to -10 A. (!!! Prendere i valori da saturazione.m)



In any case the Arduino Due cannot measure more than 5A current as the datasheet specifies so from this point onward we will limit all test currents to 5A in both directions. Even in this way a difference remains between positive and negative measured current.

-Encoder signal

Another problem is the one of the signal given by the encoders. This signal is a voltage impulse given to the Arduino. Unfortunately, the measure showed by Poliscope is not in centimetres so we had to convert it. The idea was to give a reference signal in an open loop configuration. Once the transient is passed we measured both Poliscope value and the real displacement of the car. The Tables (!!!numero) show the values of the various measurements. The final column shows the ratio between the Poliscope value and the displacement. This ratio has a mean value of 560(!!! facciamolo bene) so is the value we used to convert all the measurements for our experiments from now on.

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| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **High stifness spring** | | | | | Input (Volt) | Poliscope | Length (cm) | Ratio | | 1,5 | -120 | -0,2 | 600 | | 2 | -233 | -0,4 | 582,5 | | 2,5 | -266 | -0,5 | 532 | | 3,5 | -430 | -0,8 | 537,5 | | 4 | -500 | -0,9 | 555,5555556 | | 4,5 | -550 | -1 | 550 | | 5,4 | -650 | -1,2 | 541,6666667 | | 7,2 | -1030 | -1,8 | 572,2222222 | | 9 | -1350 | -2,4 | 562,5 | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Medium stifness spring** | | | | | Input (Volt) | Poliscope | Lenght (cm) | Ratio | | 1 | -60 | -0,1 | 600 | | 1,5 | -310 | -0,55 | 563,63636 | | 2 | -530 | -1 | 530 | | 2,5 | -680 | -1,2 | 566,66667 | | 3 | -880 | -1,55 | 567,74194 | | 3,5 | -990 | -1,8 | 550 | | 4 | -1170 | -2,1 | 557,14286 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Low stifness spring** | | | | | Input (Volt) | Poliscope | Lenght (cm) | Ratio | | 1,5 | -510 | -0,9 | 566,667 | | 2 | -900 | -1,6 | 562,5 | | 2,5 | -1050 | -1,9 | 552,632 | | 3 | -1335 | -2,4 | 556,25 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

System protection

To avoid undesired behaviour of the system, a Simulink protection of the system has been designed. The system monitors current, voltage and displacement and if they overshoot a given value an alert is triggered that switches off the system to prevent any damage.

Moreover, Arduino Due doesn’t behave very well when the reference signal starts at the same time of its power on. For this reason, the system has been designed in order to start the signal only after 3 seconds the user pushed the lever number 2. The third lever instead it’s used to change from a reference signal to the potentiometer of the board.