Laboration 1: PID-controls

Sensors and Sensing

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November 22, 2015

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1 Theory and motivation

Control algorithms are important to create predictable, safe, and reliable operation in robotics applications. Two important algorithms/controllers for this purpose is the *PID-controller* and the *mimimum jerk trajectory*.

1.1 PID controller

PID in the name PID-controller is short for *P*roportional-*Integral*-*Derivative*-controller. As this implies, the controlling signal is based on a proportion of the current value, the previous values, and the rate of change of the observed value. The mathemathical formulation of this can be seen in (1).

Let:

$e(t)$	be some error measurement between current state and preferred state
K_p, K_i, K_d	be the respective weights for the proportional, integral and derivate terms
$u(t)$	be the output signal at time t

Then:

$$u(t) = K_\mathrm{p} \cdot e(t) + K_\mathrm{i} \cdot \int_0^t e(\tau) \cdot \mathrm{d}\tau + K_\mathrm{d} \cdot \frac{\mathrm{d}e(t)}{\mathrm{d}t} \tag{1}$$

1.2 Minimum jerk

The minimum jerk equation is an important part of creating smooth control. When a rotating actuator such as a motor starts, both the rotor and the stator will be at rest. The momentum generated by the motor can therefore cause movement in either part. As this can create an unwanted jerk while the rotor accelerates, it is important to accelerate slowly so that the stator remains at rest in relation to the reference frame. This can be achieved by the *minimum jerk equation* shown in (2).

Let:

x_i, x_f	be the initial and final states
t, T	be the elapsed time since the action started, and the preferred total time for the action
$x(t)$	be the estimated state at time t

Then:

$$x(t) = x_\mathrm{i} + (x_\mathrm{f} - x_\mathrm{i}) \cdot \left[10\left(\frac{t}{T}\right)^3 - 15\left(\frac{t}{T}\right)^4 + 6\left(\frac{t}{T}\right)^6\right] \tag{2}$$

The T parameter has to be estimated. If T is much larger than the actual time that is needed for the trajectory, the velocity will be very low, and if T is too low $x(t)$ will approach infinity unless $\frac{t}{T}$ is clamped to $[0, 1]$. However, this solution is not optimal. Instead, we choose to calculate the optimal time T_opt as follows.

For finding out the optimal time T_opt, we substitute:

$$\tau := \frac{t}{T} \tag{3}$$

$$(2) \Rightarrow x(\tau) = x_\mathrm{i} + (x_\mathrm{f} - x_\mathrm{i}) \cdot \left(10\tau^3 - 15\tau^4 + 6\tau^6\right) \tag{4}$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}x(\tau)}{\mathrm{d}\tau} = (x_\mathrm{f} - x_\mathrm{i}) \cdot (30\tau^2 - 60\tau^3 + 36\tau^5) \tag{5}$$

(5) reaches its' maximum at $\tau = 0.5$ (proof trivial) with the value:

$$\left.\frac{\mathrm{d}x(\tau)}{\mathrm{d}\tau}\right|_{\tau=0.5} = \frac{15}{18} \cdot (x_\mathrm{f} - x_\mathrm{i}) \tag{6}$$

In order to make this term dependent on T, we must resubstitute:

$$(3) \Rightarrow \dot{\tau} = \frac{1}{T} \tag{7}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathrm{d}\tau = \mathrm{d}t \cdot \frac{1}{T} \tag{8}$$

$$(5), (8) \Rightarrow \left.\frac{\mathrm{d}x(\tau)}{\mathrm{d}t}\right|_{\tau=0.5} = \frac{15}{18} \cdot \frac{x_\mathrm{f} - x_\mathrm{i}}{T} \tag{9}$$

Now, if we state an optimal maximum velocity v_opt for the minimum jerk equation, we can calculate the optimal time T_opt for this velocity:

$$\Rightarrow \left.\frac{\mathrm{d}x(\tau)}{\mathrm{d}t}\right|_{\tau=0.5} = v_\mathrm{opt} \tag{10}$$

$$(9) \Rightarrow T_\mathrm{opt} = \frac{15}{18} \cdot \frac{x_\mathrm{f} - x_\mathrm{i}}{v_\mathrm{opt}} \tag{11}$$

2 Implementation

The purpose of this exercise is to implement a PID-controller using the minimum jerk trajectory, and use this implementation for both a *set-position* mode of operation, as well as a *set-velocity* mode of operation. An important part of this exercise is the tuning of the PID-parameters for either mode of operation.

2.1 Hardware and environment

The laboration is performed using an *Arduino Due* microcontroller, with the *Arduino Motor Shield R3*. These are programmed using Serial-over-USB; with the dedicated IDE. The version of the IDE used is 1.6.5. The exercise also includes usage of the *Robot Operating System* [ROS], and the *Indigo* version was used.

The motor used is the *Micro Motors RHE158 75:1 12V DC*, connected to the motor shield. As the USB-bus cannot supply enough power to drive the motor, an external 12V power adapter was used.

2.2 Position controller

The first part of the position is the callback for setting a target position. This code is shown in listing 1. The code updates the mode of operation, and sets the start and end position for the movement. The integral term of the controller is also set to zero. Tests were made without setting it to zero, but this caused unreliable behaviour in some situations, such as when the target position was moved closer to the current position.

As can be seen on line TODO, the derivative from section **??** on page ?? is used to calculate the end time point. This ensures that we reach the maximum speed at $\frac{t}{T} = 0.5$. While this is suboptimal for long trajectories, it makes sure that T is realistic for shorter paths. If long trajectories will be the normal mode of operation; an approach with splines should be used instead.

Listing 1: `Set Position Callback`

```
298 void setPosCallback(const arduino_pkg::SetPosition::Request &req, arduino_pkg
        ::SetPosition::Response &res) {
299     mc1->active_ = true;
300     mc1->rf_ = req.encoder;
301     mc1->ri_ = enc1->p_;
302     mc1->r_ = enc1->p_;
303
304     mc1->ti_ = micros();
305
306
307     mc1->T_ = micros() + (abs(req.encoder - enc1->p_))/V_MAX*(15.0/8.0)*1e6;
308
309     res.success = true;
310
311 }
```

The position controller is implemented to setup the parameters for PID and MJE. The code for this can be see in listing 2. The minimum jerk function is called with start-time, current time, and end-time, as well as start and end position. The output of this equation is then used to calculate the momentary error, as well as its derivative. These are then given to the PID-controller.

Listing 2: `Position Controller`

```
225 void positionControl(ControlStates* c_s, EncoderStates* e_s, MotorShieldPins*
        m_pins, PIDParameters* pid_p)
226 {
227     //TODO:
228     // -update the setpoint using minimum Jerk DONE
229     // -calculate position error DONE
230     // -calculate derivative of the position error DONE
231     // -update the control states for the next iteration DONE
232
233     // -compute control using pid() DONE
234
235     double setPoint = minimumJerk(c_s->ti_, (double)t_new, c_s->T_, c_s->ri_,
        c_s->rf_);
236
237     c_s->r_ = setPoint;
238     double e = (c_s->r_ - e_s->p_); // USED
239
240     double de = (c_s->e_ - e) / dT;
241
242
243     c_s->e_ = e;
244     c_s->de_ = de;
245
246     double ut = pid(e, de, pid_p);
247
248     c_s->u_ = ut;
249
250
251
252 }
```

2.3 Velocity controller

As with the position controller, an important part of the velocity controller is the callback for setting the target velocity. This code is shown in listing 3. The only difference to the position callback is the T parameter. This was tested to see the minimum acceptable time to go from full forward speed to full reverse speed, and 3 seconds seemed to be a reasonable value. As the difference in speed is 560 ticks per second; this therefore becomes $\left\lceil \frac{3}{560} \right\rceil_4 = 0.006$.

Listing 3: `Set Velocity Callback`

```
342 void initMotor(MotorShieldPins* pins)
343 {
344     pinMode(pins->DIR_,OUTPUT);
345     pinMode(pins->BRK_,OUTPUT);
346     pinMode(pins->PWM_,OUTPUT);
347     pinMode(pins->CUR_,INPUT);
348
349     digitalWrite(pins->DIR_,HIGH);
350     digitalWrite(pins->BRK_,LOW);
351 }
352
353 ////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////
354 ////////////////////// MAIN LOOP ///////////////////////////////
355 ////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////
```

The velocity controller is also very similar to the position controller, as can be seen in listing 4 on the following page. As before, the minimum jerk function is called with start-time, current time, and end-time. However, the last two parameters are replaced by start and end velocity.

As can be seen on line TODO the momentary velocity is smoothed using a sliding integral, and normalized to seconds. The reason for this is that the maximum speed of the motor is 235 ticks per second, while the program operates at 1 kHz. The general rule therefore is that no encoder ticks will happen during one program cycle, therefore causing the momentary speed to be measured as 0. After this, the velocity controller continues as the position controller

Listing 4: `Velocity Controller`

```
263 }
264 //------------------------------------------------------------------------
265 float minimumJerk(float t0, float t, float T, float q0, float qf)
266 {
267     //TODO: calculate minimumJerk set point
268     double tbyT = min((t-t0)/(T-t0),1);
269     return (q0 + (qf - q0) * (10.0 * pow(tbyT,3.0) - 15.0 * pow(tbyT,4.0) +
        6.0 * pow(tbyT,5.0)));
270 }
271 //------------------------------------------------------------------------
272 float pid(float e, float de, PIDParameters* p)
273 {
274     //TODO:
275     // -update the integral term
276     // -compute the control value
277     // -clamp the control value and if necessary back-calculate the integral
        term (to avoid windup)
278     // -return control value
279     p->I_ += e*dT;
280     double ut =  p->Kp_*e + p->Ki_ * p->I_ + p->Kd_ * de;
281     ut = min(max(p->u_min_, ut), p->u_max_);
282     return ut;
```

2.4 PID-controller, minimum jerk and actuation

The PID-controller used before matches the equation shown earlier in (1) on page 1. The implementation is shown in listing 5.

Listing 5: `PID-implementation`

```
292     state.current = analogRead(motor1->CUR_);
293     state.pwm = analogRead(motor1->PWM_);
294     state.encoder = enc1->p_;
295 }
296
297 ////////////////////ROS Services ////////////////////////////////////
298 void setPosCallback(const arduino_pkg::SetPosition::Request &req, arduino_pkg
        ::SetPosition::Response &res) {
299     mc1->active_ = true;
300     mc1->rf_ = req.encoder;
301     mc1->ri_ = enc1->p_;
302     mc1->r_ = enc1->p_;
303
304     mc1->ti_ = micros();
```

The mimimum jerk equation is also implemented as shown earlier in (2) on page 2. The only difference is that the fraction $\frac{t}{T}$ is clamped to $[0, 1]$. Though this should not be needed with the guarantees made by the calculations of T, it was put in as a safeguard. Otherwise, a delayed controller can potentially accumulate an infinite error can lose control. The code for this can be seen in listing 6 on the following page.

Listing 6: Mimimum jerk implementation

```
285
286 #if ROS_SUPPORT
287 //-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
288 void updateState() {
289
290     state.brake = digitalRead(motor1->BRK_);
```

Lastly, the actuation function is what actually transforms the control value into a PWM output. The function receives the output from the PID-controller, and clamps it to the allowed range as well as setting the direction of the motor. The code for this can be seen in listing 7.

Listing 7: Actuator implementation

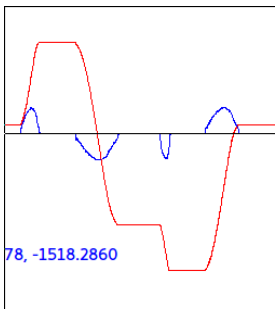
```
222 }
223
224 //-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
225 void positionControl(ControlStates* c_s, EncoderStates* e_s, MotorShieldPins*
        m_pins, PIDParameters* pid_p)
226 {
227     //TODO:
228     // -update the setpoint using minimum Jerk DONE
229     // -calculate position error DONE
230     // -calculate derivative of the position error DONE
231     // -update the control states for the next iteration DONE
```

3 Verification and results

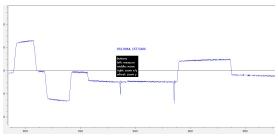
3.1 PID-tuning

The tuning of the PID-controller was done in three steps. First, the k_p term was found with which reasonable behaviour was seen. Then, the k_i term was estimated to be on the order of 1×10^{-6}, based on $dT = 1000$. This follows from the definition of the integral. When a good value was found, the derivative term was increased and was estimated to be on the order of magnitude 1. This follows from the definition of the derivative term and the timestep. Lastly, several tests were ran with the final configuration to make sure that no erroneous behaviour was occuring.

After testing, the values $k_p = 60$, $k_i = 1 \times 10^{-6}$, and $k_d = 2$ was found to provide the best performance. These parameters were found to provide good results for both velocity and position control. Plots of the behaviours can be seen in figs. 1a and **??** on page ??.



(a) Plot of position=bla bla bla



(b) Plot of velocity = bla bla bla.

Figure 2: Plots of controller behaviour for some target values. Asymptote lines added for clarity.

3.2 Results