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Output feedback control for a class of nonlinear systems with actuator degradation and sensor noise

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ABSTRACT

This paper investigates the output feedback control problem of a class of nonlinear systems with sensor noise and actuator degradation. Firstly, by using the descriptor observer approach, the origin system is transformed into a descriptor system. On the basis of the descriptor system, a novel Proportional Derivative (PD) observer is developed to asymptotically estimate sensor noise and system state simultaneously. Then, by designing an adaptive law to estimate the effectiveness of actuator, an adaptive observer-based controller is constructed to ensure that system state can be regulated to the origin asymptotically. Finally, the design scheme is applied to address a flexible joint robot link problem.

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1. Introduction

Various malfunction or imperfect behavior always occur in the realistic control system. This kind of phenomenon can be derived from the unexpected variations in external surroundings and sudden changes in signals, which are categorized as sensor noise or actuator fault. When sensor noise occurs in measurement channel or actuator fault occurs in input channel, they will cause serious degradation of the system performance, and may even render the control system unstable. Hence, the research in this field is challenging and attracts many interest.

Since sensor noise is non-vanishing with respect to system state and usually unknown, the design of observer and controller is unable to use the exact value of system output. To reduce or even eliminate the effect of sensor noise on the system performance, many design schemes were developed. In [1], the authors proposed a measurement feedback controller for a class of feedforward nonlinear systems. The controller was coupled with a low-pass filter to attenuate the effect of sensor noise and rendered the system state ultimately bounded. Compared with [1], the condition of sensor noise in [2] was not limited to deterministic

periodic signals and allowed to be a random signal having nonzero-mean. By introducing a notion of virtual state and using high-gain observer technique, the authors proposed a scaled output feedback controller for a class of feedforward system to render that all the system states and output remained to be bounded in the presence of sensor noise. Meanwhile, based on the high-gain observer technique, discrete high-gain observer [3], linear switched high-gain observer [4], nonlinear high-gain observer [5] and adaptive high-gain observer [6] were designed respectively for a class of nonlinear systems in the presence of sensor noise to ensure that the estimated error was ultimately bounded. In [7,8], the author further considered a more general nonlinear systems whose nonlinear terms are not limited to the Lipschitz condition. A traditional full-order nonlinear observer is developed to guarantee a desired performance.

There exist some drawbacks in the design schemes of [1–8], that is, the effect of sensor noise on the system performance is only reduced not eliminated and sensor noise cannot be reconstructed. Besides, actuator fault is not considered. To overcome the aforementioned main drawbacks, by introducing an augmented vector to construct an augmented system, the work of [9] proposed a novel observer design scheme coupled with two observers: (i) a high-gain sliding mode observer aims to get the exact estimates of both the auxiliary outputs and their derivatives in a finite time; (ii) an adaptive robust sliding mode observer aims to asymptotically estimate system state and reconstruct actuator

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fault and sensor noise for a class of nonlinear systems simultaneously. The work of [10] modified the observer design scheme in [9] to avoid using the information of time derivatives of the auxiliary outputs. While in [11,12], by decoupling the origin systems and designing two sliding mode full-order observers for two decoupled subsystems, respectively, system state, sensor noise and actuator fault can be estimated simultaneously. Although the effect of sensor noise and actuator fault on the system performance is eliminated, the complexity of calculation and the dimension of system are increased for the sake of two observers proposed in [9–12]. To further simplify the design procedure, the work of [15–20] developed a novel descriptor sliding mode approach to exactly estimate system state, actuator fault and sensor noise simultaneously, which is inspired by the descriptor observer approach in [13,14]. Based on the estimated state, an observer-based fault-tolerant controller was constructed to stabilize the resulting fault system. Recently, by employing backstepping technique, [21] proposes a novel adaptive backstepping-based fault-tolerant control method which can tolerate three additive (bias, drift and loss of accuracy) and one multiplicative (degradation) sensor faults for a class of MIMO uncertain nonlinear systems. While in [22], a particular fault detection sliding mode observer is designed for the augmented system formed by the nonlinear system with ‘observer unmatched’ uncertainties and incipient sensor faults. By using Linear Matrix Inequalities (LMI) and line filter techniques, the generated residuals are guaranteed to be robust to uncertainties and that sliding motion is not destroyed by faults.

From the point of system model of fault control system, actuator fault can be categorized into ‘additive actuator fault’ and ‘multiplicative actuator fault’. Additive actuator fault is added into the control input channel, which can be viewed as a matched disturbance. The actuator fault considered in the aforementioned papers is all limited to additive actuator fault. Multiplicative actuator fault leads to sudden changes in control parameters or gains of system model. Actuator degradation is involved in the multiplicative actuator fault. It is well-known that actuator degradation in actual physical systems is usually inevitable and often yields performance degradation or even instability. It is more difficult to be dealt with because the actuator degradation is dependent on control input, instead of viewed as an independent disturbance. In the past decades, various reliable control methodologies have been proposed to address the control problem of different systems with actuator fault, see [23–28] and the references therein. Recently, [29] addresses a fault detection problem of switched systems with servo inputs and sensor stuck faults. By designing a switching law and its associated fault detection filters, the arbitrarily small sensor stuck faults, including outage faults can be detected in finite-frequency domain. The levels of sensitivity and robustness are measured in terms of the finite-frequency H_∞ index and L_2 -gain. In [30], sector condition method and weighting fault signal approach are employed to deal with a fault detection problem for a class of uncertain nonlinear Markovian jump stochastic systems with mode-dependent time delays and sensor saturation. Cai et al. [31] address a new model-based fault detection, estimation, and prediction scheme for linear distributed parameter systems with both multiplicative actuator and sensor faults. The design scheme can be concluded as: an observer is proposed by using the PDE representation and the detection residual is generated by taking the difference between the observer and the physical system outputs; a fault is detected by comparing the residual to a predefined threshold.

Compared with the aforementioned results, this paper aims to address the problem of nonlinear systems with actuator degradation and sensor noise. Firstly, the model of actuator degradation is presented. Then, by using the descriptor observer approach, the

original system is transformed into a descriptor system, on the basis of which a novel PD observer is developed with an adaptive law estimating the effectiveness of actuators. Finally, by using LMI technique, an adaptive observer-based controller with appropriate choices of design parameters is constructed to render that system state and sensor noise are asymptotically estimated simultaneously and system state is regulated to the origin asymptotically. The main contributions of this paper can be concluded as follows: (i) a novel PD observer approach is presented to reconstruct system state and sensor noise simultaneously with an adaptive law estimating the effectiveness of actuators; (ii) compared to the aforementioned observers based on the sliding mode technique, the design procedure is simple and avoids discussing the reachability of sliding mode surface; (iii) the proposed adaptive observer-based controller is effective for any nonlinear systems satisfying the Lipschitz condition, instead of limiting to triangular structure systems.

Notations: Throughout the paper, $\|\cdot\|$ and $|\cdot|$ denote, respectively, the Euclidean norm and 1-norm of a vector. Given a symmetric matrix X , $X > 0$ denotes that X is a positive definite matrix. X^T denotes its transpose, X^{-1} denotes its inverse, $\text{Trace}(X)$ denotes its trace, $\lambda(X)$ denotes its eigenvalue, $\text{rank}[X]$ denotes its rank. $\text{Re}[\cdot]$ denotes the real part of a complex number. $\text{sign}(\cdot)$ denotes its sign. $\text{Proj}[a, b]\{c\}$ denotes the projection operator whose role is projecting c to the interval $[a, b]$.

2. Problem formulation

Consider a class of nonlinear systems in the presence of sensor noise described as follows

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}(t) &= Ax(t) + Bu(t) + g(x(t)), \\ y(t) &= Cx(t) + f_s(t),\end{aligned}\quad (1)$$

where $x(t) \in R^n$ is the state vector, $u(t) \in R^m$ is the control input, $y(t) \in R^p$ is the measurement output. $A \in R^{n \times n}$, $B \in R^{n \times m}$ and $C \in R^{p \times n}$ are known constant real matrices. $g(x(t)) \in R^n$ is a continuous nonlinear vector function satisfying the Lipschitz condition. $f_s(t) \in R^p$ is the unknown sensor noise vector.

In realistic control system, the actuator degradation is usually inevitable. Inspired by [27,32], the actuator degradation is described as

$$u^F(t) = \rho u(t), \quad \rho = \text{diag}(\rho_1, \dots, \rho_m), \quad (2)$$

where ρ_k , $k = 1, \dots, m$, is an unknown constant satisfying $0 \leq \underline{\rho}_k \leq \rho_k \leq \bar{\rho}_k \leq 1$. $\underline{\rho}_k$ and $\bar{\rho}_k$ are the known lower and upper bounds of ρ_k , respectively. Thus the system dynamic of (1) with actuator degradation and sensor noise is modeled as

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}(t) &= Ax(t) + B\rho u(t) + g(x(t)), \\ y(t) &= Cx(t) + f_s(t).\end{aligned}\quad (3)$$

The objective of this paper is to propose a novel observer design scheme against sensor noise and actuator degradation such that sensor noise and system state can be globally estimated simultaneously. Moreover, an adaptive observer-based controller is constructed to ensure that system state can be regulated to the origin asymptotically.

In what follows, some important assumptions and a lemma are provided which play key roles for the design scheme. The time variable t will be omitted for the sake of simplicity.

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