Spacecraft Attitude Control
Space System Design, MAE 342, Princeton University
Robert Stengel

- More on Rotation Matrices
  - Direction cosine matrix
  - Quaternions
- Yo-yo De-Spin
- Continuously Variable Torque Controllers
- On/Off-Torque Controllers

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http://www.princeton.edu/~stengel/MAE342.html

Attitude Control System

![Diagram of Attitude Control System]
UARS Attitude Control System

Spacecraft Attitude Control Inputs

- **On-Board Sensors**
  - Inertial Measurements
    - Accelerometers
    - Angle sensors
    - Angular-rate sensors
  - Optical Sensors
    - Star sensors
    - Sun sensors
    - Horizon sensors
- **Off-Board Observations**
  - Ground-Based Tracking
    - Radar
    - Navigation beacons (VOR/DME, LORAN, ...)
  - Spaced-Based Tracking
    - GPS, GLONASS, ...
Potential Accuracies of External Attitude Measurements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference object</th>
<th>Potential accuracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stars</td>
<td>1 arc second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>1 arc minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth (horizon)</td>
<td>6 arc minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF beacon</td>
<td>1 arc minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnetometer</td>
<td>30 arc minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narstar Global Positioning System (GPS)</td>
<td>6 arc minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: This table gives only a guideline. The GPS estimate depends upon the ‘baseline’ used (see text).

Spacecraft Attitude Control Outputs

- **Continuous Control Torques**
  - Control Moment/Reaction Wheel Gyros
  - Magnetic Torquers
  - Solar Panels

- **Pulsed Control Torques**
  - Reaction Control Thrusters (RCS)

- **One-Shot Devices**
  - RCS Spin-up
  - Yo-Yo De-Spin
Spacecraft Attitude Disturbances

- **External Torques**
  - Solar radiation pressure
  - Gravity gradient
  - Magnetic fields
  - Aerodynamics
  - Can be put to good use if related to attitude control objectives

- **Vehicle-Based Torques**
  - Mass movement
  - Elasticity
  - Out-gassing

More on Rotation
Matrices and Quaternions
Direction Cosine Matrix

- Cosines of angles between each \( I \) axis and each \( B \) axis
- Projections of vector components in one frame on the other

\[
H^B_I = \begin{bmatrix}
\cos \delta_{11} & \cos \delta_{21} & \cos \delta_{31} \\
\cos \delta_{12} & \cos \delta_{22} & \cos \delta_{32} \\
\cos \delta_{13} & \cos \delta_{23} & \cos \delta_{33}
\end{bmatrix}
\]

\[r_B = H^B_I r_I\]

Euler’s Rotation Formula

Angular orientation of one axis system, \( B \), with respect to another, \( I \)

Vector transformation

\[
r_B = H^B_I r_I
\]

\[
= \left( a^T r_I \right) a + \left[ r_I - \left( a^T r_I \right) a \right] \cos \phi + \sin \phi \left( r_I \times a \right)
\]

\[
= \cos \phi r_I + \left( 1 - \cos \phi \right) \left( a^T r_I \right) a - \sin \phi \left( a \times r_I \right)
\]
Euler’s Formula

\[ \mathbf{r}_B = \mathbf{H}_I^B \mathbf{r}_I = \cos \phi \mathbf{r}_I + (1 - \cos \phi)(\mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{r}_I)\mathbf{a} - \sin \phi(\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{r}_I) \]

Identity

\[ (\mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{r}_I)\mathbf{a} = (\mathbf{a}\mathbf{a}^T)\mathbf{r}_I \]

Rotation matrix

\[ \mathbf{H}_I^B = \cos \phi \mathbf{I}_3 + (1 - \cos \phi)\mathbf{a}\mathbf{a}^T - \sin \phi \mathbf{a} \]

Quaternion Derived from Euler Rotation Angle and Orientation

Quatntion vector

4 parameters based on Euler’s formula

\[ \mathbf{q} = \begin{bmatrix} q_1 \\ q_2 \\ q_3 \\ q_4 \end{bmatrix} \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_x \\ \mathbf{a}_y \\ \mathbf{a}_z \\ q_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sin(\phi/2) \\ \mathbf{a} \\ \cos(\phi/2) \end{bmatrix} \]

- Not singular at \( \theta = \pm 90^\circ \)
- 4-parameter representation of 3 parameters; hence, a constraint must be satisfied

\[ \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{q} = q_1^2 + q_2^2 + q_3^2 + q_4^2 = \sin^2(\phi/2) + \cos^2(\phi/2) = 1 \]
Rotation Matrix Expressed with Quaternion

From Euler’s formula

\[
\mathbf{H}^B_I = \left[ q_4^2 - (a_\phi^T a_\phi) \right] \mathbf{I}_3 + 2a_\phi a_\phi^T - 2q_4 \tilde{a}_\phi
\]

Rotation matrix from quaternion

\[
\mathbf{H}^B_I = \begin{bmatrix}
q_1^2 - q_2^2 - q_3^2 + q_4^2 & 2(q_1q_2 + q_3q_4) & 2(q_1q_3 - q_2q_4) \\
2(q_1q_2 - q_3q_4) & -q_1^2 + q_2^2 - q_3^2 + q_4^2 & 2(q_2q_3 + q_1q_4) \\
2(q_1q_3 + q_2q_4) & 2(q_2q_3 - q_1q_4) & -q_1^2 - q_2^2 + q_3^2 + q_4^2
\end{bmatrix}
\]

Quaternion Expressed from Elements of Rotation Matrix

Assuming that \(q_4 \neq 0\)

\[
q_4 = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 + h_{11} + h_{22} + h_{33}}
\]

\[
a_\phi = \begin{bmatrix}
q_1 \\
q_2 \\
q_3
\end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{4q_4} \begin{bmatrix}
h_{23} - h_{32} \\
h_{31} - h_{13} \\
h_{12} - h_{21}
\end{bmatrix}
\]

Pisacane, 2005
Successive Rotations Expressed by Products of Quaternions and Rotation Matrices

Rotation from Frame A to Frame C through Intermediate Frame B

Matrix Multiplication Rule

$$H_A(q_A) = H_B(q_B) H_A(q_A)$$

Quaternion Multiplication Rule

$$q_A = [a, q_4]^T = q_B q_A$$

$$q_B = \left( q_4^C a^B_{\phi A} + q_4^B a^C_{\phi B} - (\bar{a}_\phi)^C a^B_{\phi A} \right)(q_4^C q_4^B - (a^C_{\phi B})^T a^B_{\phi A})$$

Quaternion Vector Kinematics

ODE is linear in both $q$ and $\omega_B$

$$\dot{q} = \frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} a_\phi \\ q_4 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} q_4 \omega_B - \tilde{\omega}_B a_\phi \\ -\omega_B^T a_\phi \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{q}_1 \\ \dot{q}_2 \\ \dot{q}_3 \\ \dot{q}_4 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \omega_z & -\omega_y & \omega_x \\ -\omega_z & 0 & \omega_x & \omega_y \\ \omega_y & -\omega_x & 0 & \omega_z \\ -\omega_x & -\omega_y & -\omega_z & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} q_1 \\ q_2 \\ q_3 \\ q_4 \end{bmatrix}$$
Propagate Quaternion Vector

\[
\frac{d\mathbf{q}(t)}{dt} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} q_1(t) \\ q_2(t) \\ q_3(t) \\ q_4(t) \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \omega_3(t) & -\omega_2(t) & \omega_1(t) \\ -\omega_3(t) & 0 & \omega_1(t) & -\omega_2(t) \\ \omega_2(t) & -\omega_1(t) & 0 & \omega_3(t) \\ -\omega_1(t) & \omega_3(t) & -\omega_2(t) & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} q_1(t) \\ q_2(t) \\ q_3(t) \\ q_4(t) \end{bmatrix}
\]

Digital integration to compute \( \mathbf{q}(t_k) \)

\[
\mathbf{q}_{\text{int}}(t_k) = \mathbf{q}(t_{k-1}) + \int_{t_{k-1}}^{t_k} \frac{d\mathbf{q}(\tau)}{dt} d\tau
\]

Normalize \( \mathbf{q}(t_k) \) to enforce constraint

\[
\mathbf{q}(t_k) = \mathbf{q}_{\text{int}}(t_k) / \sqrt{\mathbf{q}_{\text{int}}^T(t_k) \mathbf{q}_{\text{int}}(t_k)}
\]

Quaternion Interface with Euler Angles

- Quaternion and its kinematics unaffected by Euler angle convention
- Definition of \( \mathbf{H}_{IB} \) makes the connection
- Specify Euler angle convention (e.g., 1-2-3 or 3-1-3) ; for (1-2-3),

\[
\mathbf{H}_{IB} = \begin{bmatrix} h_{11} & h_{12} & h_{13} \\ h_{21} & h_{22} & h_{23} \\ h_{31} & h_{32} & h_{33} \end{bmatrix}
\]

- Apply equations on earlier slide to find \( \mathbf{q}(0) \)
- Perform trigonometric inversions as indicated to generate \( [\Phi(t_k), \theta(t_k), \Psi(t_k)] \) from \( \mathbf{q}(t_k) \)
Yo-Yo De-Spin

Mars Odyssey Launch Phases

- Booster Separation
- Stage 2 Separation
- Stage 2 Ignition
- Heat Shield Separation
- Stage 3 Spinup
- Yo-Yo De-Spin
Yo-Yo De-spin

- Satellite is initially spinning at $\omega_z$ rad/s
- Angular momentum and rotational energy of satellite plus expendable masses are conserved
- Masses are released, moment of inertia increases, and angular velocity of satellite decreases
- With proper cord length (independent of initial spin rate), satellite is de-spun to zero angular velocity

Angular momentum

$$h_z = \mathbb{I}_{zz} \omega_z + mR^2 \left[ \omega_z \phi + \phi^2 \left( \omega_z + \phi \right) \right]$$

Rotational energy

$$T = \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{I}_{zz} \omega_z^2 + \frac{1}{2} mR^2 \left[ \omega_z^2 + \phi^2 \left( \omega_z + \phi \right)^2 \right]$$

Simultaneous solution for final angular rate

$$\omega_{\text{final}} = \omega_{\text{initial}} \left( \frac{cR^2 - I^2}{cR^2 + I^2} \right) = 0 \quad \text{if} \quad l = R \sqrt{c}$$

Spaceloft 7 Sounding Rocket De-Spin
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ZqbjQ9ASc8
Continuously Variable Torque Controllers

Overview of Control

Single- or multi-axis interpretation
Single-Axis “Classical” Control of Non-Spinning Spacecraft

Pitching motion (about the y axis) is to be controlled

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
\dot{p}(t) \\
\dot{q}(t) \\
\dot{r}(t)
\end{bmatrix}
= \begin{bmatrix}
\frac{M_x(t)}{I_{xx}} \\
\frac{M_y(t)}{I_{yy}} \\
\frac{M_z(t)}{I_{zz}}
\end{bmatrix}
- \begin{bmatrix}
\left(\frac{I_{zz}}{I_{yy}} - \frac{I_{yy}}{I_{zz}}\right)q(t)r(t)/I_{xx} \\
\left(\frac{I_{xx}}{I_{zz}} - \frac{I_{zz}}{I_{xx}}\right)p(t)r(t)/I_{yy} \\
\left(\frac{I_{yy}}{I_{xx}} - \frac{I_{xx}}{I_{yy}}\right)p(t)q(t)/I_{zz}
\end{bmatrix}
\]

- For motion about the y axis only, this reduces to

\[
\dot{q}(t) = \frac{M_y(t)}{I_{yy}}
\]

- Pitch angle equation

\[
\dot{\theta}(t) = q(t)
\]

Single-Axis Angular Rate Control of Non-Spinning Spacecraft

- Small angle and angular rate perturbations
- Linear actuator, e.g.,
  – Momentum wheel
- Linear measurement, e.g.,
  – Angular rate gyro

\[
\text{Simplified Control Law (C = Control Gain)}
\]

\[
e(t) = q_c(t) - q(t)
\]

\[
u(t) = C \cdot e(t)
\]
Angular Rate Control

\[ q(t) = \frac{g_A}{I_{yy}} \int_0^t u(t) \, dt = \frac{Cg_A}{I_{yy}} \int_0^t e(t) \, dt = \frac{Cg_A}{I_{yy}} \int_0^t [q_c - q(t)] \, dt \]

- \( I_{yy} \): moment of inertia
- \( q(t) \): angular rate
- \( q_c(t) \): desired angular rate
- \( g_A \): actuator gain
- \( g_A u(t) \): control torque

Step Response of Angular Rate Controller

Step input:

\[ q_c(t) = \begin{cases} 
0, & t < 0 \\
1, & t \geq 0 
\end{cases} \]

\[ q(t) = q_c \left[ 1 - e^{-\frac{Cg_A}{I_{yy}} t} \right] = q_c \left[ 1 - e^{\lambda t} \right] = q_c \left[ 1 - e^{-\tau t} \right] \]

- where
  - \( \lambda = -\frac{Cg_A}{I_{yy}} \): eigenvalue or root of the system (rad/s)
  - \( \tau = \frac{I_{yy}}{Cg_A} \): time constant of the response (s)
Angle Control of the Spacecraft

- Small angle and angular rate perturbations
- Linear actuator, e.g.,
  - Momentum wheel
- Linear measurement, e.g.,
  - Earth horizon sensor

\[ e(t) = \theta_c(t) - \theta(t) \]
\[ u(t) = C e(t) \]

Angle Control Law \((C = \text{Control Gain})\)

Model of Dynamics and Angle Control

- 2\(^{\text{nd}}\)-order ordinary differential equation

\[ \frac{d^2 \theta(t)}{dt^2} = \ddot{\theta}(t) = \frac{C g_A}{I_{yy}} [\theta_c - \theta(t)] \]

- Output angle, \(\theta(t)\), as a function of time

\[ \theta(t) = \frac{g_A}{I_{yy}} \int_0^t \int_0^t u(t) dt \ dt = \frac{C g_A}{I_{yy}} \int_0^t \int_0^t e(t) dt \ dt = \frac{C g_A}{I_{yy}} \int_0^t \int_0^t [\theta_c - \theta(t)] dt \ dt \]
Rewrite 2nd-Order Model as Two 1st-Order Equations

\[ \dot{\theta}(t) = q(t) \]
\[ \dot{q}(t) = \frac{Cg_A}{I_{yy}} \left[ \theta_c - \theta(t) \right] \]

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
\dot{\theta}(t) \\
\dot{q}(t)
\end{bmatrix} =
\begin{bmatrix}
0 & 1 \\
0 & 0
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
\theta(t) \\
q(t)
\end{bmatrix} +
\begin{bmatrix}
0 \\
\frac{g_A}{I_{yy}}
\end{bmatrix} C \left[ \theta_c(t) - \theta(t) \right]
\]

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
\dot{\theta}(t) \\
\dot{q}(t)
\end{bmatrix} =
\begin{bmatrix}
0 & 1 \\
-Cg_A / I_{yy} & 0
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
\theta(t) \\
q(t)
\end{bmatrix} +
\begin{bmatrix}
0 \\
Cg_A / I_{yy}
\end{bmatrix} \theta_c
\]

Simulation of Step Response with Angle Feedback

Objective is to control angle to 1 rad, but solution oscillates about the target

\[ Cg_A / I_{yy} = 1, 0.5, \text{ and } 0.25 \]
What Went Wrong?

- No damping!
- Solution: Add rate feedback

Control law with rate feedback

\[ u(t) = c_1 [\theta_c(t) - \theta(t)] - c_2 q(t) \]

Closed-loop dynamic equation

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
\dot{\theta}(t) \\
\dot{q}(t)
\end{bmatrix} =
\begin{bmatrix}
0 & 1 \\
-c_1 g_A / I_{yy} & -c_2 g_A / I_{yy}
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
\theta(t) \\
q(t)
\end{bmatrix} +
\begin{bmatrix}
0 \\
c_1 g_A / I_{yy}
\end{bmatrix} \theta_c
\]

Step Response with Angle and Rate Feedback

- \( c_1 g_A / I_{yy} = 1 \)
- \( c_2 g_A / I_{yy} = 0, 1.414, 2.828 \)
2nd-Order Dynamics

Oscillation and damping are induced by linear feedback control

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
\dot{\theta}(t) \\
\dot{q}(t)
\end{bmatrix}
= \begin{bmatrix}
0 & 1 \\
-c_1 g_A / I_{yy} & -c_2 g_A / I_{yy}
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
\theta(t) \\
q(t)
\end{bmatrix}
+ \begin{bmatrix}
0 \\
c_1 g_A / I_{yy}
\end{bmatrix}\theta_c
\]

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
\dot{\theta}(t) \\
\dot{q}(t)
\end{bmatrix}
= \begin{bmatrix}
0 & 1 \\
-\omega_n^2 & -2\zeta \omega_n
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
\theta(t) \\
q(t)
\end{bmatrix}
+ \begin{bmatrix}
0 \\
\omega_n^2
\end{bmatrix}\theta_c
\]

Natural frequency and damping ratio

\[
\omega_n = \sqrt{c_1 g_A / I_{yy}}
\]

\[
\zeta = \left( c_2 g_A / I_{yy} \right) / 2\omega_n = c_2 / 2\sqrt{c_1 g_A I_{yy}}
\]

Effect of Damping on Eigenvalues, Damping Ratio, and Natural Frequency

- \(c_1 g_A / I_{yy} = 1\)
- \(c_2 g_A / I_{yy} = 0, 1.414, 2.828\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eigenvalues</th>
<th>Damping Ratio, Natural Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(\lambda_1, \lambda_2 = 0 + 1.0000i)</td>
<td>(\zeta = 0) (\omega_n = (\text{rad/s}))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(0 - 1.0000i)</td>
<td>(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(-0.7070 + 0.7072i)</td>
<td>0.707 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(-0.7070 - 0.7072i)</td>
<td>(Overdamped)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(-0.4143)</td>
<td>(-2.4137)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Control System Design to Adjust Roots

Choose control gains to satisfy desirable eigenvalue range

Control System Design to Adjust Transient Response

Choose control gains to satisfy step response criteria
Control System Design to Adjust Frequency Response

Choose control gains to satisfy frequency response criteria

Laplace Transform of the State Vector

Neglecting the initial condition

\[ x(s) = \frac{\text{Adj}(sI - F)}{\Delta(s)} G u(s) \]

Applied to the closed-loop system

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
\Delta \theta(s) \\
\Delta q(s)
\end{bmatrix}
= \begin{bmatrix}
c_1 g_A / \| y \|_y \\
sc_1 g_A / \| y \|_y
\end{bmatrix}
\Delta u(s)
= \frac{\begin{bmatrix}
c_1 g_A / \| y \|_y \\
sc_1 g_A / \| y \|_y
\end{bmatrix} \Delta u(s)}{(s)^2 + \left(c_2 g_A / \| y \|_y\right)(s) + c_1 g_A / \| y \|_y}
\]
**Frequency Response of the System**

\[ \sigma = j\omega \]

**Angle Frequency Response**

\[ \frac{\Delta \theta(j\omega)}{\Delta u(j\omega)} = \frac{\omega_n^2}{(j\omega)^2 + 2\zeta\omega_n(j\omega) + \omega_n^2} \]

**Rate Frequency Response**

\[ \frac{\Delta q(j\omega)}{\Delta u(j\omega)} = \frac{(j\omega)\omega_n^2}{(j\omega)^2 + 2\zeta\omega_n(j\omega) + \omega_n^2} \]

- Bode plot
  - 20 \log(\text{Amplitude Ratio}) [\text{dB}] vs. \log \omega
  - Phase angle (deg) vs. \log \omega

**Proportional-Integral-Derivative (PID) Controller**

\[ e(t) = \theta_C(t) - \theta(t) \]

\[ u(t) = c_i \int e(t) \, dt + c_p e(t) + c_D \frac{de(t)}{dt} \]
Proportional-Integral-Derivative (PID) Controller

Control Law Transfer Function:

\[ e(s) = \theta_c(s) - \theta(s) \]

\[ u(s) = c_p e(s) + c_i \frac{e(s)}{s} + c_D s e(s) \]

\[ \frac{u(s)}{e(s)} = \frac{c_i + c_p s + c_D s^2}{s} \]

Differentiator produces rate term for damping
Integrator compensates for persistent (bias) disturbance

Proportional-Integral-Derivative (PID) Controller

Forward-Loop Angle Transfer Function:

\[ \frac{\theta(s)}{e(s)} = \left[ \frac{c_i + c_p s + c_D s^2}{s} \right] \frac{g_A}{I_{yy} s^2} \]
Closed-Loop Spacecraft Control
Transfer Function w/PID Control

Closed-Loop Angle Transfer Function:

\[
\frac{\theta(s)}{e(s)} = \frac{\theta(s)}{e(s)} = \frac{c_I + c_P s + c_D s^2}{c_I + c_P s + c_D s^2 + g_A / I_{yy} s^3}
\]

Closed-Loop Frequency Response w/PID Control

\[
\frac{\theta(s)}{\theta_c(s)} = \frac{c_I + c_P s + c_D s^2}{c_I + c_P s + c_D s^2 + g_A / I_{yy} s^3}
\]

Let \( s = j\omega \). As \( \omega \to 0 \)

\[
\frac{\theta(j\omega)}{\theta_c(j\omega)} \to \frac{c_I}{c_I} = 1
\]

Steady-state output = desired steady-state input

As \( \omega \to \infty \)

\[
\frac{\theta(j\omega)}{\theta_c(j\omega)} \to \frac{-c_D \omega^2}{-j I_{yy} \omega^2} g_A = \frac{c_D}{j I_{yy} \omega} g_A = -\frac{j c_D}{I_{yy} \omega} g_A
\]

High-frequency response “rolls off” and lags input

AR \( \to \frac{c_D}{I_{yy} \omega} g_A \); \( \phi \to -90 \text{ deg} \)
State ("Phase")-Plane Plots

Cross-plot of angle (or displacement) against rate
Time not shown explicitly in phase-plane plot

Effect of Damping Ratio on State-Plane Plots

Damping ratio = 0.1  Damping ratio = 0.3  Damping ratio = −0.1 (Unstable)
On/Off-Torque Controllers

Single-Axis State History with Constant Thrust

What if the control torque can only be turned ON or OFF?

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
\dot{\theta}(t) \\
\dot{q}(t)
\end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \theta(t) \\ q(t) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ g_A / I_{yy} \end{bmatrix} u(t)
\]

\[u(t) = +1, \, 0, \, \text{or} \, -1\]

What is the time evolution of the state while a thruster is on \([u(t) = 1]\)?

\[q(t) = \left(\frac{g_A}{I_{yy}}\right) t + q(0)\]

\[\theta(t) = \left(\frac{g_A}{I_{yy}}\right) t^2 / 2 + q(0) t + \theta(0)\]

Neglecting initial conditions, what does the phase-plane plot look like?
Constant-Thrust (Acceleration) Trajectories

For $u = 1$, Acceleration = $gA/I_yy$

For $u = -1$, Acceleration = $-gA/I_yy$

Thrusting away from the origin

Thrusting to the origin

With zero thrust, what does the phase-plane plot look like?

Phase Plane Plot with Zero Thrust

How can you use this information to design an on-off control law?
Switching-Curve Control Law for On-Off Thrusters

- Origin (i.e., zero rate and attitude error) can be reached from any point in the state space
- Control logic:
  - Thrust in one direction until switching curve is reached
  - Then reverse thrust
  - Switch thrust off when errors are zero

Switching-Curve Control with Coasting Zone

- Coasting Zone
- OFF and ON
Apollo Lunar Module Control

- 16 reaction control thrusters
  - Control about 3 axes
  - Redundancy of thrusters
- LM Digital Autopilot

Apollo Lunar Module
Phase-Plane Control Logic

- Coast zones conserve RCS propellant by limiting angular rate
- With no coast zone, thrusters would chatter on and off at origin, wasting propellant
- State limit cycles about target attitude
- Switching curve shapes modified to provide robustness against modeling errors
  - RCS thrust level
  - Moment of inertia
Apollo Lunar Module Phase-Plane Control Law

Switching logic implemented in the Apollo Guidance & Control Computer
More efficient than a linear control law for on-off actuators

Typical Phase-Plane Trajectory

- With angle error, RCS turned on until reaching OFF switching curve
- Phase point drifts until reaching ON switching curve
- RCS turned off when rate is 0-
- Limit cycle maintained with minimum-impulse RCS firings
  - Amplitude = ±1 deg (coarse), ±0.1 deg (fine)
Multi-Axis Spacecraft Control

Asymmetry Introduces Dynamic Coupling, Complicating Control

Next Time:
Sensors and Actuators
GOES Attitude Control Sub-System