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University of Colorado**

Basilisk Technical Memorandum

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MRP STEERING ADCS CONTROL MODULE

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Scope/Contents

This module uses the MRP Steering control logic to determine the ADCS control torque vector L_r .

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Draft	Initial Documentation Draft	H. Schaub
1.0	Updated the sign definition of L_r	H. Schaub
1.1	Small updates after code review	H. Schaub

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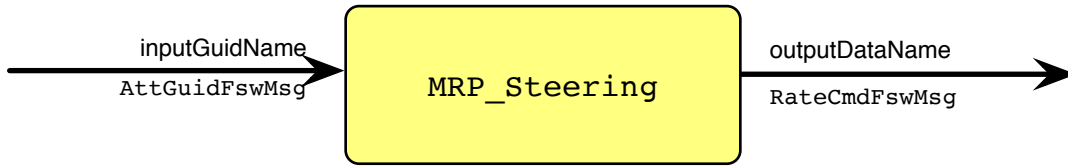


Fig. 1: MRP_Steering() Module I/O Illustration

1 Module Overview

The module input and output messages are illustrated in Figure 1. The intend of this module is to implement an MRP steering law where the control output is a vector of commanded body rates. To use this module it is required to use a separate rate tracking servo control module as well.

2 Steering Law Goals

This technical note develops a new MRP based steering law that drives a body frame $\mathcal{B} : \{\hat{\mathbf{b}}_1, \hat{\mathbf{b}}_2, \hat{\mathbf{b}}_3\}$ towards a time varying reference frame $\mathcal{R} : \{\hat{\mathbf{r}}_1, \hat{\mathbf{r}}_2, \hat{\mathbf{r}}_3\}$. The inertial frame is given by $\mathcal{N} : \{\hat{\mathbf{n}}_1, \hat{\mathbf{n}}_2, \hat{\mathbf{n}}_3\}$. The RW coordinate frame is given by $\mathcal{W} : \{\hat{\mathbf{g}}_{s_i}, \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{t_i}, \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{g_i}\}$. Using MRPs, the overall control goal is

$$\sigma_{\mathcal{B}/\mathcal{R}} \rightarrow 0 \quad (1)$$

The reference frame orientation $\sigma_{\mathcal{R}/\mathcal{N}}$, angular velocity $\omega_{\mathcal{R}/\mathcal{N}}$ and inertial angular acceleration $\dot{\omega}_{\mathcal{R}/\mathcal{N}}$ are assumed to be known.

The rotational equations of motion of a rigid spacecraft with N Reaction Wheels (RWs) attached are given by¹

$$[I_{RW}]\dot{\omega} = -[\tilde{\omega}]([I_{RW}]\omega + [G_s]\mathbf{h}_s) - [G_s]\mathbf{u}_s + \mathbf{L} \quad (2)$$

where the inertia tensor $[I_{RW}]$ is defined as

$$[I_{RW}] = [I_s] + \sum_{i=1}^N (J_{t_i}\hat{\mathbf{g}}_{t_i}\hat{\mathbf{g}}_{t_i}^T + J_{g_i}\hat{\mathbf{g}}_{g_i}\hat{\mathbf{g}}_{g_i}^T) \quad (3)$$

The spacecraft inertial without the N RWs is $[I_s]$, while J_{s_i} , J_{t_i} and J_{g_i} are the RW inertias about the body fixed RW axis \hat{g}_{s_i} (RW spin axis), \hat{g}_{t_i} and \hat{g}_{g_i} . The $3 \times N$ projection matrix $[G_s]$ is then defined as

$$[G_s] = [\dots {}^B\hat{g}_{s_i} \dots] \quad (4)$$

The RW inertial angular momentum vector \mathbf{h}_s is defined as

$$\mathbf{h}_{s_i} = J_{s_i}(\omega_{s_i} + \Omega_i) \quad (5)$$

Here Ω_i is the i^{th} RW spin relative to the spacecraft, and the body angular velocity is written in terms of body and RW frame components as

$$\boldsymbol{\omega} = \omega_1 \hat{\mathbf{b}}_1 + \omega_2 \hat{\mathbf{b}}_2 + \omega_3 \hat{\mathbf{b}}_3 = \omega_{s_i} \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{s_i} + \omega_{t_i} \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{t_i} + \omega_{g_i} \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{g_i} \quad (6)$$

3 MRP Steering Law

3.1 Steering Law Stability Requirement

As is commonly done in robotic applications where the steering laws are of the form $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{u}$, this section derives a kinematic based attitude steering law. Let us consider the simple Lyapunov candidate function^{1,2}

$$V(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R}) = 2 \ln \left(1 + \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R}^T \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R} \right) \quad (7)$$

in terms of the MRP attitude tracking error $\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R}$. Using the MRP differential kinematic equations

$$\dot{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}_{B/R} = \frac{1}{4} [B(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R})] {}^B\boldsymbol{\omega}_{B/R} = \frac{1}{4} \left[(1 - \sigma_{B/R}^2) [I_{3 \times 3} + 2[\tilde{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}_{B/R}] + 2\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R}^T] \right] {}^B\boldsymbol{\omega}_{B/R} \quad (8)$$

where $\sigma_{B/R}^2 = \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R}^T \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R}$, the time derivative of V is

$$\dot{V} = \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R}^T ({}^B\boldsymbol{\omega}_{B/R}) \quad (9)$$

To create a kinematic steering law, let B^* be the desired body orientation, and $\boldsymbol{\omega}_{B^*/R}$ be the desired angular velocity vector of this body orientation relative to the reference frame \mathcal{R} . The steering law requires an algorithm for the desired body rates $\boldsymbol{\omega}_{B^*/R}$ relative to the reference frame make \dot{V} in Eq. (9) negative definite. For this purpose, let us select

$${}^B\boldsymbol{\omega}_{B^*/R} = -\mathbf{f}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R}) \quad (10)$$

where $\mathbf{f}(\boldsymbol{\sigma})$ is an even function such that

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma}^T \mathbf{f}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) > 0 \quad (11)$$

The Lyapunov rate simplifies to the negative definite expression:

$$\dot{V} = -\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R}^T \mathbf{f}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R}) < 0 \quad (12)$$

3.2 Saturated MRP Steering Law

A very simple example would be to set

$$\mathbf{f}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R}) = K_1 \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R} \quad (13)$$

where $K_1 > 0$. This yields a kinematic control where the desired body rates are proportional to the MRP attitude error measure. If the rate should saturate, then $\mathbf{f}()$ could be defined as

$$\mathbf{f}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R}) = \begin{cases} K_1 \sigma_i & \text{if } |K_1 \sigma_i| \leq \omega_{\max} \\ \omega_{\max} \text{sgn}(\sigma_i) & \text{if } |K_1 \sigma_i| > \omega_{\max} \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

where

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R} = (\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3)^T$$

A smoothly saturating function is given by

$$\mathbf{f}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R}) = \arctan \left(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R} \frac{K_1 \pi}{2\omega_{\max}} \right) \frac{2\omega_{\max}}{\pi} \quad (15)$$

where

$$\mathbf{f}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R}) = \begin{pmatrix} f(\sigma_1) \\ f(\sigma_2) \\ f(\sigma_3) \end{pmatrix} \quad (16)$$

Here as $\sigma_i \rightarrow \infty$ then the function f smoothly converges to the maximum speed rate $\pm\omega_{\max}$. For small $|\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R}|$, this function linearizes to

$$\mathbf{f}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R}) \approx K_1 \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R} + \text{H.O.T} \quad (17)$$

If the MRP shadow set parameters are used to avoid the MRP singularity at 360° , then $|\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B/R}|$ is upper limited by 1. To control how rapidly the rate commands approach the ω_{\max} limit, Eq. (15) is modified to include a cubic term:

$$f(\sigma_i) = \arctan \left((K_1 \sigma_i + K_3 \sigma_i^3) \frac{\pi}{2\omega_{\max}} \right) \frac{2\omega_{\max}}{\pi} \quad (18)$$

The order of the polynomial must be odd to keep $\mathbf{f}()$ an even function. A nice feature of Eq. (18) is that the control rate is saturated individually about each axis. If the smoothing component is removed to reduce this to a bang-band rate control, then this would yield a Lyapunov optimal control which minimizes \dot{V} subject to the allowable rate constraint ω_{\max} .

Figure 2 illustrates how the parameters ω_{\max} , K_1 and K_3 impact the steering law behavior. The maximum steering law rate commands are easily set through the ω_{\max} parameters. The gain K_1 controls the linear stiffness when the attitude errors have become small, while K_3 controls how rapidly the steering law approaches the speed command limit.

The required velocity servo loop design is aided by knowing the body-frame derivative of ${}^B \boldsymbol{\omega}_{B^*/R}$ to implement a feed-forward components. Using the $\mathbf{f}()$ function definition in Eq. (16), this requires the time derivatives of $f(\sigma_i)$.

$$\frac{{}^B d({}^B \boldsymbol{\omega}_{B^*/R})}{dt} = \boldsymbol{\omega}'_{B^*/R} = - \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B^*/R}} \dot{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}_{B^*/R} = - \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \sigma_1} \dot{\sigma}_1 \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial \sigma_2} \dot{\sigma}_2 \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial \sigma_3} \dot{\sigma}_3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (19)$$

where

$$\dot{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}_{B^*/R} = \begin{pmatrix} \dot{\sigma}_1 \\ \dot{\sigma}_2 \\ \dot{\sigma}_3 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{4} [B(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{B^*/R})] {}^B \boldsymbol{\omega}_{B^*/R} \quad (20)$$

Using the general $f()$ definition in Eq. (18), its sensitivity with respect to σ_i is

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial \sigma_i} = \frac{(K_1 + 3K_3 \sigma_i^2)}{1 + (K_1 \sigma_i + K_3 \sigma_i^3)^2 \left(\frac{\pi}{2\omega_{\max}} \right)^2} \quad (21)$$

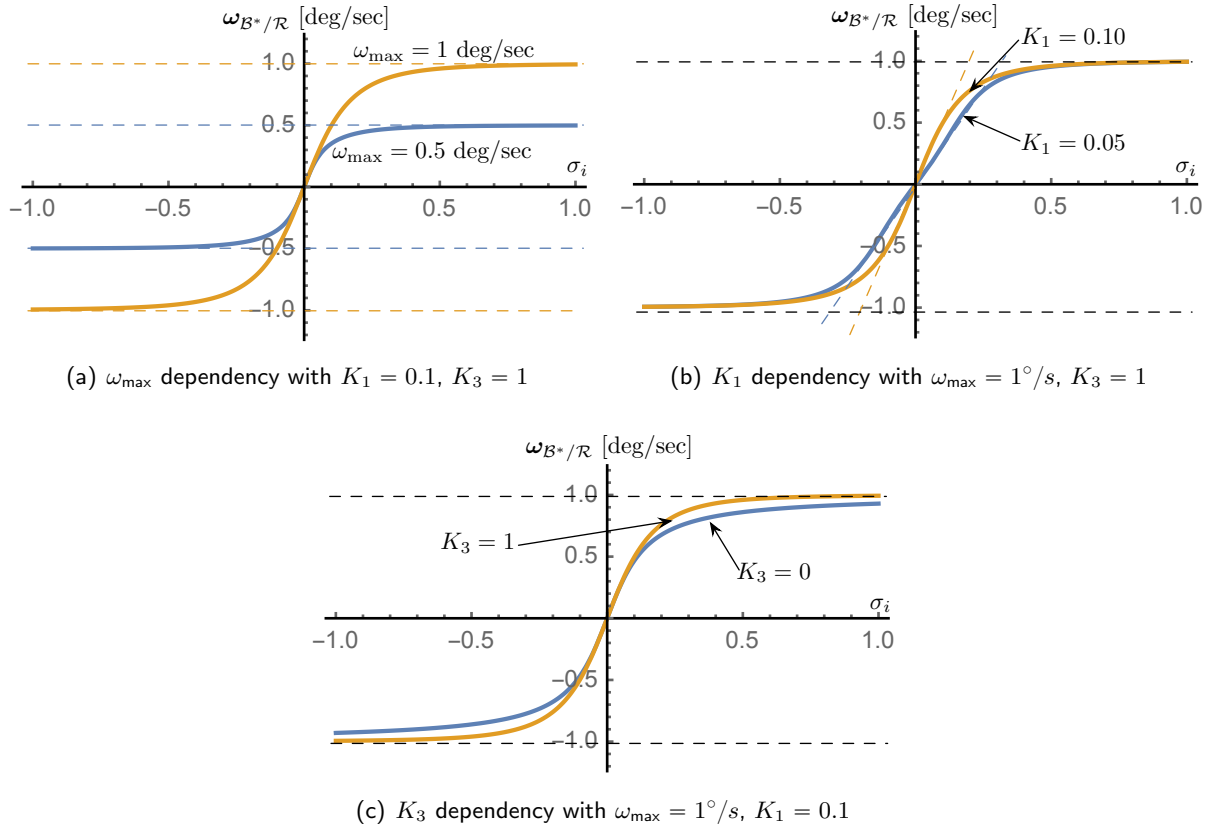


Fig. 2: Illustrations of MRP Steering Parameters Influence.

4 Angular Velocity Servo Sub-System

To implement the kinematic steering control, a servo sub-system must be included which will produce the required torques to make the actual body rates track the desired body rates. The following development is an illustration of such a servo control module, such as the `rateServoFullNonlinear` module. However, other body rate tracking control modules could be used as well.

The angular velocity tracking error vector is defined as

$$\delta\omega = \omega_{B/B^*} = \omega_{B/N} - \omega_{B^*/N} \quad (22)$$

where the B^* frame is the desired body frame from the kinematic steering law. Note that

$$\omega_{B^*/N} = \omega_{B^*/R} + \omega_{R/N} \quad (23)$$

where $\omega_{R/N}$ is obtained from the attitude navigation solution, and $\omega_{B^*/R}$ is the kinematic steering rate command. To create a rate-servo system that is robust to unmodeld torque biases, the state z is defined as:

$$z = \int_{t_0}^{t_f} {}^B\delta\omega \, dt \quad (24)$$

The rate servo Lyapunov function is defined as

$$V_\omega(\delta\omega, z) = \frac{1}{2}\delta\omega^T [I_{RW}] \delta\omega + \frac{1}{2}z^T [K_I] z \quad (25)$$

where the vector $\delta\omega$ and tensor $[I_{RW}]$ are assumed to be given in body frame components, $[K_i]$ is a symmetric positive definite matrix. The time derivative of this Lyapunov function is

$$\dot{V}_\omega = \delta\omega^T ([I_{RW}]\delta\omega' + [K_I]z) \quad (26)$$

Using the identities $\omega'_{B/N} = \dot{\omega}_{B/N}$ and $\omega'_{R/N} = \dot{\omega}_{R/N} - \omega_{B/N} \times \omega_{R/N}$,¹ the body frame derivative of $\delta\omega$ is

$$\delta\omega' = \dot{\omega}_{B/N} - \omega'_{B^*/R} - \dot{\omega}_{R/N} + \omega_{B/N} \times \omega_{R/N} \quad (27)$$

Substituting Eqs. (2) and (27) into the \dot{V}_ω expression in Eq. (26) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_\omega = \delta\omega^T \left(-[\tilde{\omega}_{B/N}] ([I_{RW}]\omega_{B/N} + [G_s]h_s) - [G_s]u_s + L + [K_I]z \right. \\ \left. - [I_{RW}](\omega'_{B^*/R} + \dot{\omega}_{R/N} - \omega_{B/N} \times \omega_{R/N}) \right) \quad (28) \end{aligned}$$

Let $[P]^T = [P] >$ be a symmetric positive definite rate feedback gain matrix. The servo rate feedback control is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} [G_s]u_s = [P]\delta\omega + [K_I]z - [\tilde{\omega}_{B^*/N}] ([I_{RW}]\omega_{B/N} + [G_s]h_s) \\ - [I_{RW}](\omega'_{B^*/R} + \dot{\omega}_{R/N} - \omega_{B/N} \times \omega_{R/N}) + L \quad (29) \end{aligned}$$

Defining the right-hand-side as L_r , this is rewritten in compact form as

$$[G_s]u_s = -L_r \quad (30)$$

The array of RW motor torques can be solved with the typical minimum norm inverse

$$u_s = [G_s]^T ([G_s][G_s]^T)^{-1} (-L_r) \quad (31)$$

To analyze the stability of this rate servo control, the $[G_s]u_s$ expression in Eq. (29) is substituted into the Lyapunov rate expression in Eq. (28).

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_\omega = \delta\omega^T \left(-[P]\delta\omega - [\tilde{\omega}_{B/N}] ([I_{RW}]\omega_{B/N} + [G_s]h_s) + [\tilde{\omega}_{B^*/N}] ([I_{RW}]\omega_{B/N} + [G_s]h_s) \right) \\ = \delta\omega^T \left(-[P]\delta\omega - [\tilde{\delta\omega}] ([I_{RW}]\omega_{B/N} + [G_s]h_s) \right) \\ = -\delta\omega^T [P]\delta\omega < 0 \quad (32) \end{aligned}$$

Thus, in the absence of unmodeled torques, the servo control in Eq. (29) is asymptotically stabilizing in rate tracking error $\delta\omega$.

Next, the servo robustness to unmodeled external torques is investigated. Let us assume that the external torque vector L in Eq. (2) only approximates the true external torque, and the unmodeled component is given by ΔL . Substituting the true equations of motion and the same servo control in Eq. (29) into the Lyapunov rate expression in Eq. (26) leads to

$$\dot{V}_\omega = -\delta\omega^T [P]\delta\omega - \delta\omega^T \Delta L \quad (33)$$

This \dot{V}_ω is no longer negative definite due to the underdetermined sign of the $\delta\omega^T \Delta L$ components. Equating the Lyapunov rates in Eqs. (26) and (33) yields the following servo closed loop dynamics:

$$[I_{RW}]\delta\omega' + [P]\delta\omega + [K_I]z = \Delta L \quad (34)$$

Assuming that ΔL is either constant as seen by the body frame, or at least varies slowly, then taking a body-frame time derivative of Eq. (34) is

$$[I_{RW}]\delta\omega'' + [P]\delta\omega' + [K_I]\delta\omega = \Delta L' \approx 0 \quad (35)$$

As $[I_{RW}]$, $[P]$ and $[K_I]$ are all symmetric positive definite matrices, these linear differential equations are stable, and $\delta\omega \rightarrow 0$ given that assumption that $\Delta L' \approx 0$.

5 Testing

Two tests are provided with this module. The first is a unit test that compares the computed $\omega_{B^*/\mathcal{R}}$ and $\omega'_{B^*/\mathcal{R}}$ to truth values computed in the python unit test. The second is an integrated test of this module with `rateServoFullNonlin` as well, comparing the desired torques computed L_r with truth values computed in the test. Both tests check a set of gains $K1, K3$ and ω_{\max} on a rigid body with no external torques, and with a fixed input reference attitude message. The torque requested by the controller is evaluated against python computed torques at 0s, 0.5s, 1s, 1.5s and 2s to within a tolerance of 10^{-12} for the integrated test.

- The test is run for a case with $K1 = 0$ or 0.15
- The gain $K3$ is set to 0 or 1
- The saturation rate ω_{\max} is set to 1.5 degrees/second or 0.001 degree/second

All permutations of these test cases are expected to pass. The rate servo module `rateServoFullNonlin` has dedicated unit tests to check various parameters required there, including integral gain on/off, presence of external torques and other variables.

6 User's guide

The following variables are required for this module:

- The gains $K1, K3$
- The value of ω_{\max}

This module returns the values of $\omega_{B^*/\mathcal{R}}$ and $\omega'_{B^*/\mathcal{R}}$, which are used in the rate servo-level controller to compute required torques.

The control update period Δt is evaluated automatically.

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