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Hankel Iterative Learning Control for residual vibration suppression with MIMO flexible structure experiments

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Abstract—In this paper, we consider residual vibration suppression in flexible structures performing a point-to-point motion, based on Hankel ILC. Initially, design freedom in Hankel ILC is discussed, including different choices for the actuation time window and the observation time window. Subsequently, a three input three output flexible beam is presented as an experimental setup for Hankel ILC. The different practical and theoretical issues related to implementation of Hankel ILC on the setup are discussed extensively. Thereby, versatility in the choice for the time windows is shown to be essential for a successful implementation. Experimental results illustrate the capability of Hankel ILC to suppress the residual vibrations in the flexible beam.

I. INTRODUCTION

In this paper, we address the issue of residual vibration suppression of multi input multi output (MIMO) flexible structures performing a point-to-point motion. The challenge in residual vibration suppression is to find a command signal actuating the system during the point-to-point motion, resulting in the system to be at rest after arrival at the desired position.

In existing literature, input shaping techniques are proposed to handle these residual vibrations, e.g., [1–3]. Recently though, an alternative technique for residual vibration suppression is presented based on Iterative Learning Control (ILC), [4–6]. ILC is a control strategy used to iteratively improve the performance of a repeated batch process by updating the command signal from one experiment (trial) to the next. This command signal is updated using measurement data from previous trials, i.e., by learning from previous trials. Treatment of different topics in ILC can be found in, e.g., [7–10].

Originally, ILC is used to let a system follow a given reference, e.g., [11–13]. In [4–6] however, actuation and observation time windows are introduced to separate the actuation and observation time intervals, thereby making ILC capable of handling residual vibrations in systems performing point-to-point motions. Due to the choice of non-overlapping adjacent time windows, ILC applied to point-to-point problems is referred to as Hankel ILC. In [4–6], different Hankel ILC control strategies are derived and different alternatives for the time windows are presented. What is missing in [4–6] though, are extensive experimental results of Hankel ILC to support the theory.

The contribution of this paper is threefold. First of all, we will illustrate the concept of Hankel ILC on a relatively complex MIMO flexible structure and show, by means of experiments, that residual vibrations after a point-to-point motion can indeed be suppressed. Second, we will show the consequence of applying different actuation and observation time windows on the attainable performance of ILC. And third, we will demonstrate that Hankel ILC incorporates the possibility to manipulate the command signal form.

The outline of this paper is as follows. In Section II, the applied ILC notations are introduced, together with theoretical results of Hankel ILC. In Section III, the flexible beam setup is introduced and modified to be suitable for ILC. Subsequently, in Section IV, the results of ILC and Hankel ILC on the flexible beam are presented. This paper ends with concluding remarks in Section V.

II. HANKEL ILC

In subsection II-A, the different signals and systems present in (Hankel) ILC are presented. This is followed by a brief discussion on actuation and observation time windows in subsection II-B. Finally, in subsection II-C two Hankel ILC control strategies are presented.

A. Iterative Learning Control

The ILC control problem in this paper is studied in the lifted setting, [13–15]. In this setting, the behavior of a discrete-time linear time invariant (LTI) system J during a trial is represented by its convolution matrix. This matrix contains the systems impulse response data $H(t)$ for time $t = 0, 1, \dots, N - 1$, with N the total number of samples in a trial:

$$J = \begin{bmatrix} H(0) & & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \\ H(N-1) & \dots & H(0) \end{bmatrix}. \quad (1)$$

For MIMO systems, the impulse response $H(t)$ contains the impulse response from each input to each output. Given a system with q_i inputs and q_o outputs, $H(t)$ is represented by

$$H(t) = \begin{bmatrix} H^{11}(t) & \dots & H^{1q_i}(t) \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ H^{q_o 1}(t) & \dots & H^{q_o q_i}(t) \end{bmatrix}, \quad (2)$$

- can be used to manipulate the signal form of the command signal \tilde{f}_k , using Y .

The Hankel ILC controllers studied in this paper use L_L and X_1 as given in (12) and (14) respectively. The difference between the controllers is found in the expression for Y .

The first L_R controller uses an analytical expression for Y derived from the optimization problem $\min \tilde{f}_\infty^T W \tilde{f}_\infty$. Here, \tilde{f}_∞ equals \tilde{f}_k for $k \rightarrow \infty$ and $W \in \mathbb{R}^{m_{qi} \times m_{qi}}$ is a weighting matrix penalizing the entries in \tilde{f}_∞ . The resulting L_R controller is given by [4], [6]:

$$L_R = (I_{m_{qi}} - V_2(V_2^T W V_2)^{-1} V_2^T W) X_1. \quad (15)$$

The second L_R controller focusses on minimizing the maximum command signal amplitude during the actuation time interval $f_{k+1,act}$:

$$\begin{aligned} f_{k+1} &= W_i \tilde{f}_{k+1}, \quad f_{k+1,act} = W_{act} f_{k+1} \\ W_{act} &= \begin{bmatrix} 0_{m_{qi} \times (m_1-1)q_i} & I_{m_{qi}} & 0_{m_{qi} \times (N-m_2)q_i} \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

With $f_{k+1,act} = W_{act} W_i (X_1 u_{k+1} + V_2 V_2^T Y u_{k+1})$, the corresponding optimization problem equals [6]:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\theta_{k+1}} & |W_{act} W_i (X_1 u_{k+1} + V_2 V_2^T \theta_{k+1})|, \quad \text{subject to} \\ & |f_{k+1,act}(t+1) - f_{k+1,act}(t)| \leq \Delta_f, \quad \forall t \in [1, m], \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

with $\theta_{k+1} = Y u_{k+1} \in \mathbb{R}^{m_{qi} \times 1}$, and $\Delta_f > 0$ an additional rate bound on f_{k+1} in time domain.

The command signal for trial $k+1$ is now given by:

$$f_{k+1} = W_i (X_1 u_{k+1} + V_2 V_2^T \theta_{k+1,opt}), \quad (18)$$

where $\theta_{k+1,opt}$ is the minimizing solution of (17).

III. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

The experimental setup used for Hankel ILC is presented in Fig. 3. The steel beam (500mm \times 20mm \times 2mm) is fixed to the environment by five leaf springs, which remove four degrees of freedom (DOF). The two remaining DOFs consist of a translation in x direction and rotation around φ .

The system is actuated by three current driven Lorentz' voice coil actuators. Two actuators are required to control the two DOFs, while the third actuator can be used to suppress flexible modes in the beam. The input of an actuator is provided by an amplifier (voltage-to-current converter) with an input voltage approximately proportional to the output

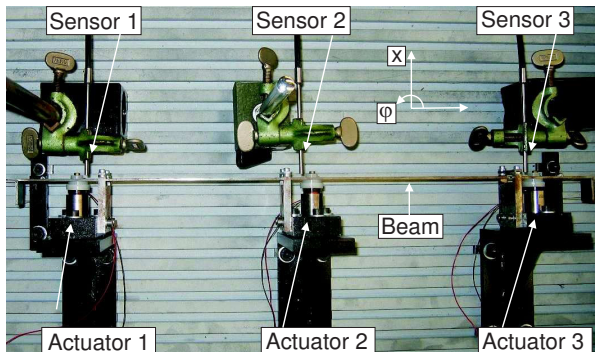


Fig. 3. The flexible beam setup.

current. The input of the amplifier is limited to [-2.5, 2.5] volt.

The position of the beam is measured with fiberoptic sensors. These sensors perform non-contact measurements of the displacement of the beam by transmitting light and measuring the intensity of the reflected light. In our range of operation, the displacement-to-intensity ratio is approximately constant. The experimentally determined noise level, i.e., standard deviation of the measured output, is approximately 0.35 μm .

For control implementation on the flexible beam, we use a rapid prototyping environment. It consists of real-time hardware which is connected to the amplifiers and sensors, in combination with Matlab Simulink. In this paper, the experiments are performed with a sample time T_s of 1 ms.

For ILC to be implementable on the experimental setup, the ILC control problem and setup should satisfy the following conditions [7].

- A trial has a fixed and finite time span.
- The reference signal r is known over the complete trial time interval.
- Repetition of initial time domain state for each trial, i.e., $x_k(0) = x_0$.
- Invariance of the system dynamics is ensured throughout all trials.

The reference signal applied to the system is given in Fig. 2, thereby we satisfy the first two conditions. To meet the third condition, we have developed a homing procedure which brings the system within 0.4 μm of the desired initial position.

The fourth condition has provided more difficulties. When repeatedly applying a pulse with an amplitude of 1 volt to the three actuators (20 trials with a trial length of 1 second), the three measured outputs vary much more than 0.4 μm , Table I second column. Without knowing the exact source for the non-repetitiveness of the outputs, spectral analysis of the outputs reveals that the non-repetitiveness is dominated by the low frequent rigid body frequencies.

TABLE I
REPETITIVENESS OF THE SYSTEMS DYNAMICS, (STANDARD DEVIATION IN [μm]).

noise	open loop	closed loop	closed loop with integrator
0.35	3.53	0.95	0.85

To improve the repetitiveness of our system, we introduce feedback control into the time domain loop. With the variances in the outputs dominated by the two rigid body frequencies, we use time domain feedback control to control these two rigid body modes. The output y^1 and y^3 are first transformed to the rigid body coordinates $y^{1,rb}$ (translations) and $y^{2,rb}$ (rotation), using matrix T_y . Matrix T_y is determined based on the geometry of the system, resulting in (19).

$$T_y = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (19)$$

The ILC controllers are calculated with the SVD of $J \leftarrow JW_{int}$. The error and command signal results during trial 30 are shown in Fig. 7. Now, the command signal is capable of generating the constant output. Note that, although the reference signal is constant for $t \in [0.081, 0.4]$ s, the command signal during that time interval is not constant.

B. Hankel ILC

For Hankel ILC, we define an actuation time interval with $m_1 = 50$ and $m_2 = 81$, giving $m = 32$, and the observation time interval by $n_1 = 82$ and $n_2 = 400$, giving $n = 319$. The residual vibrations to be suppressed are shown in Fig. 8(a). These vibrations are dominated by a resonance of 5.5Hz (translation mode), however, errors e^1 and e^2 also show higher frequency resonances.

The time weighted system J_H for Hankel ILC equals $J_H = W_o J W_i$, with W_o from (9) and W_i from (20). Based on the singular values of J_H , Fig. 8(b), three Hankel ILC controllers are designed with $p = 12$, $\gamma = 0.5$, and $\beta = 1$.

The first controller is based on (12) and (15) without any additional weighting, i.e., with $W = I_{mq_i}$. The error signals as function of trial and time are presented in Fig. 9. As expected, the residual vibrations during the observation time interval are suppressed, while the error outside the interval is not compensated for.

The second controller is also based on (12) and (15), however, with a W which minimizes the converged command signal during the actuation time interval: $\min f_{\infty,act}^T W f_{\infty,act}$. Using (16), matrix W is given by:

$$W := W_i^T W_{act}^T \text{diag}(I_{q_i}, \dots, 1.5I_{q_i}) W_{act} W_i. \quad (21)$$

The diagonal matrix in (21) is used to penalize the command signal amplitudes linearly, with gain 1 for $f_{\infty,act}(1)$ up to gain 1.5 for $f_{\infty,act}(m)$. Note that in general design of W is based on the designers insight into the problem at hand.

The error results obtained with this second controller are shown in Fig. 10. Though the error e_{30} is slightly larger than e_{30} of Fig. 9, this Hankel ILC controlled system is still very capable of suppressing the residual vibrations.

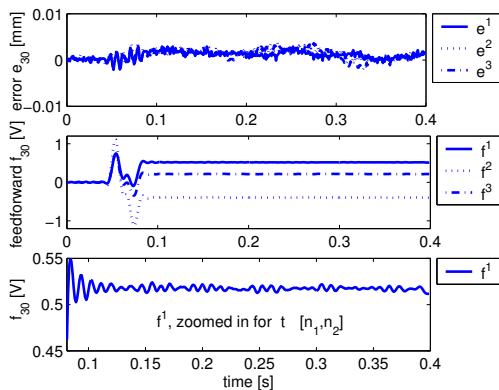


Fig. 7. Standard ILC with additional integrators. Top: Error signal during trial $k = 30$. Center: Command signal during trial $k = 30$. Bottom: Command signal during trial $k = 30$, zoomed in.

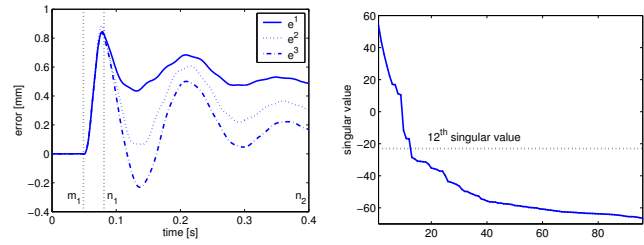


Fig. 8. (a) Residual vibration for the three outputs corresponds to the error signals during $t \in [n_1, n_2]$. (b) Singular values of J_H .

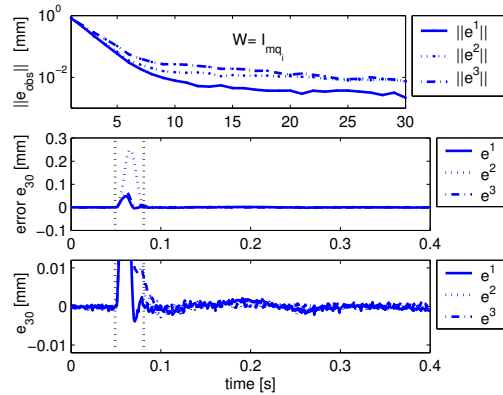


Fig. 9. Hankel ILC with $W = I_{mq_i}$. Top: Maximum absolute error as function of the trial. Center: Error signal during trial $k = 30$. Bottom: Error signal during trial $k = 30$, zoomed in.

Finally, the third controller is based on (12), (14), (17), and (18), with $\Delta_f = 1$ volt. The error signals corresponding to this controller are given in Fig. 11. The error is again slightly larger than e_{30} of Fig. 9, but still most of the residual vibrations are removed.

Based on the error results, it looks like all three controllers behave approximately equal. This is to be expected, since all three controllers have similar L_L and X_1 . The difference between the controllers is related to Y , and hence to the command signal forms applied to the system to obtain the above error signals, Fig. 12. The differences in error can

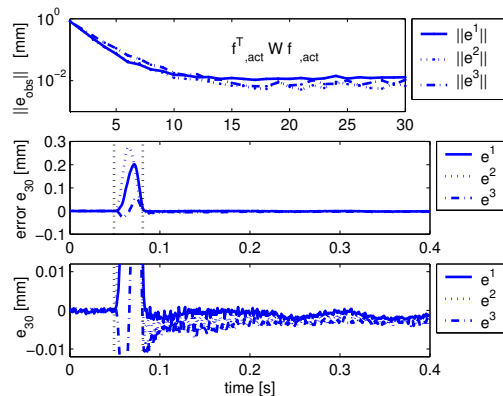


Fig. 10. Hankel ILC with W of (21). Top: Maximum absolute error as function of the trial. Center: Error signal during trial $k = 30$. Bottom: Error signal during trial $k = 30$, zoomed in.

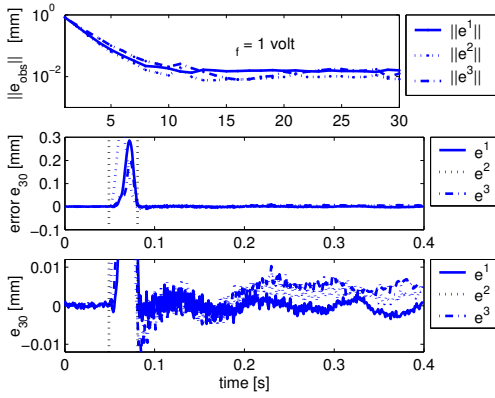


Fig. 11. Hankel ILC with minimized Maximum command signal amplitude. Top: Maximum absolute error as function of the trial. Center: Error signal during trial $k = 30$. Bottom: Error signal during trial $k = 30$, zoomed in.

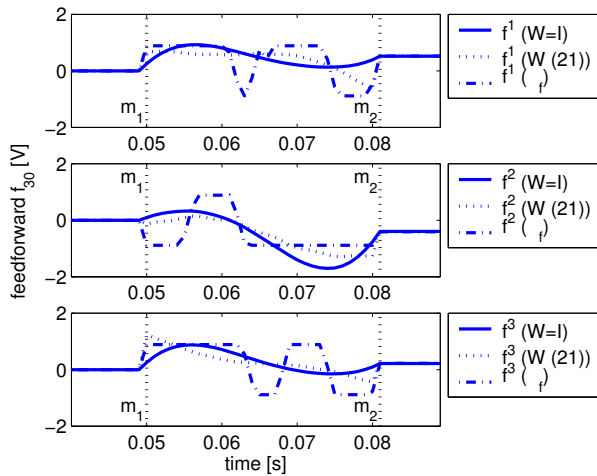


Fig. 12. Command signal f^i , $i = 1, 2, 3$, for the three Hankel ILC controllers.

be explained by looking at the smoothness of the different command signals. While the first controller generates relative smooth signals, the command signals of the second and third controller are relatively non-smooth. This non-smoothness causes the excitation of higher frequencies in the system which can not be completely compensated for with $p = 12$. The result: relatively high frequent error signals during the observation time interval.

Clearly, the signal form of the different command signals differ during the actuation time interval. After $t = m_2$ though, all three command signals are constant and approximately equal (compare with standard ILC, Fig. 7). Furthermore, when comparing the maximum amplitude of the command signals from the first controller with the second controller, a reduction in maximum signal amplitude of 25% is achieved. The maximum amplitude of the command signals of the third controller is even 48% smaller than that of the first controller.

V. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we studied residual vibration suppression on a MIMO flexible structure performing a point-to-point

motion, based on Hankel ILC. After extensively discussing the different design steps, we experimentally showed that Hankel ILC is capable of suppressing residual vibrations in a relatively complex MIMO flexible structure. The versatility in choice of the actuation and observation time windows turned out to be essential for the successful implementation of Hankel ILC on this flexible structure. Next to vibration suppression results, our experimental results also demonstrated the possibilities of Hankel ILC to manipulate the command signal form.

APPENDIX

The Singular Value Decomposition of $J_H \in \mathbb{R}^{nq_o \times mq_i}$, with $\text{rank}(J_H) = p$, is given by

$$J_H = U\Sigma V^T$$

$$J_H = [U_1 \ U_2] \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \Sigma_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_1^T \\ V_2^T \end{bmatrix} = U_1 \Sigma_1 V_1^T$$

$$\begin{aligned} U_1 &\in \mathbb{R}^{nq_o \times p}, & U_2 &\in \mathbb{R}^{nq_o \times nq_o - p}, \\ V_1 &\in \mathbb{R}^{mq_i \times p}, & V_2 &\in \mathbb{R}^{mq_i \times mq_i - p}, \\ \Sigma_1 &\in \mathbb{R}^{p \times p}, & \Sigma_2 &= 0_{nq_o - p \times mq_i - p}. \end{aligned}$$

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