

# Adaptive Piecewise Linear Controller for Servo Mechanical Control Systems

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## ABSTRACT

In this paper, an adaptive piecewise linear control scheme is proposed for improving the performance and response time of servo mechanical control systems. It is a gain stabilized control technique. No large phase lead compensations or pole zero cancellations are needed for performance improvement. Large gain is used for large tracking error to get fast response. Small gain is used between large and small tracking error for good performance. Large gain is used again for small tracking error to cope with disturbance. It gives an almost command independent response. It can speed up the rise time while keeping robustness unchanged. The proposed control scheme is applied to a servo system with large time lag and a complicated electro-hydraulic velocity/position servo system. Time responses show that the proposed method gives significant improvements for response time and performance.

**Keywords:** Piecewise Linear Controller; Nonlinear Controller; Adaptive Gain; Servo System

## 1. Introduction

This template Gain and phase stabilized are two conventional design methods for feedback control systems. They can be analyzed and designed in gain-phase plots to get wanted gain margin (GM) and phase margin (PM) or gain crossover frequency ( $\omega_{cg}$ ) and phase crossover frequency ( $\omega_{cp}$ ) [1,2]. The gain crossover frequency is closely related to the system bandwidth (or rise time). The phase margin is closely related to performance (or peak overshoot). In general, fast response time and good performance can not be obtained simultaneously for some feedback control systems. For example, the altitude control system of the airframe with altitude and altitude rate feedbacks needs large altitude loop gain for fast response time and low altitude loop gain for good robustness. It is in conflict with another. A simple and effective way to solve this problem and better results for those of linear controllers is generally expected. This is the motivation of this paper. Variable structure control is a switching control method for feedback control systems [3-7]. It gives good performance and robustness for coping with system uncertainty. But it suffered from chattering problem and state measurements. In this paper, a fast response system and a good performance system are

selected for switching. An adaptive switching algorithm is used. There is no discontinuous connection between two systems. Therefore, there is no chattering problem. Gain scheduling has been used successfully to control nonlinear systems for many decades and in many different applications, such as autopilots and chemical processes [8-10]. It consisted of many linear controllers for operating points to cope with large parameter variations. This concept will be expanded for response time and performance. Operating points are replaced by fast response and good performance conditions and interpolation for gain evaluation is replaced by an adaptive switching point. It is determined by the filtered command tracking errors. Nonlinear controllers syntheses using inverse describing function for use with hard nonlinear system have been developed for several researchers [11-14]. They are complicated but effective for nonlinear systems. In this paper, a simple three segments piecewise linear controller is proposed. It is easy to analyse and design. Furthermore, it gives an almost reference input independent response.

The proposed control scheme is applied to a servo system with large transportation lag and a complicated electro-hydraulic velocity/position servo system. Time responses show that the proposed method gives signifi-

cant improvements for response time and performance.

## 2. The Adaptive Piecewise Linear Controller

### 2.1. Piecewise Linear Nonlinearity

Figure 1(a) shows piecewise linear description of the symmetrical nonlinearity. Piecewise linear segments  $y_{i(+)} / y_{i(-)}$  are in the form of

$$y_{1(+)} = K_1 x \tag{1}$$

$$y_{i(+)} = K_i x + \sum_{j=2}^i (K_{j-1} - K_j) D_{j-1}; \quad i > 1 \tag{2}$$

$$y_{1(-)} = K_1 x \tag{3}$$

$$y_{i(-)} = K_i x + \sum_{j=2}^i (K_{j-1} - K_j) D_{j-1}; \quad i > 1 \tag{4}$$

Now, the problem is to determine the values of switch points  $D_i$  and gains  $K_i$  between  $D_i$  and  $D_{i+1}$  for the wanted responses time and performance. For illustrating purpose, two switching points  $+D_1, -D_1$  and two gains  $K_1, K_2$  will be used to illustrate the advantage of the proposed piecewise linear controller; *i.e.*, three segments are discussed. In this work, switching points  $+D_1$  and  $-D_1$  are not fixed and will be determined by the absolute value of the command tracking error of feedback control systems. The control configuration of the industry process using the piecewise linear nonlinearity and PID controller is shown in Figure 1(b). The finding of  $D_1$  will be discussed in the next subsection.

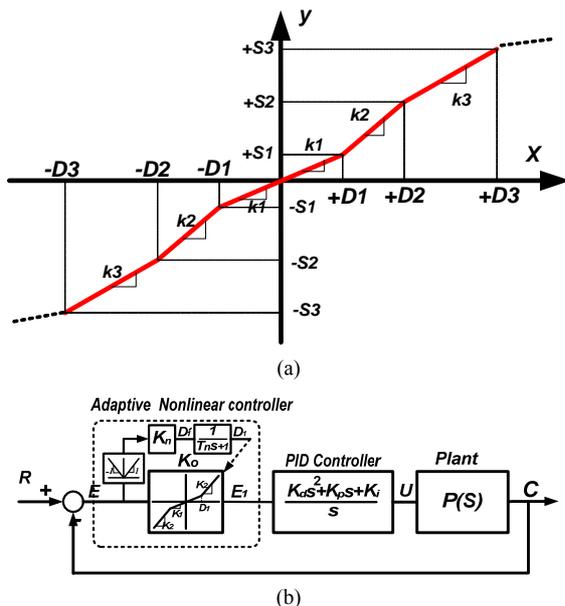


Figure 1. (a) Piecewise linear description of an adaptive gain; (b) Control configuration of the industry process using PID controller.

### 2.2. Gain Adapting Using the Piecewise Linear Nonlinearity

The loop gain of the closed-loop system can be adapted by the piecewise linear linearity. Considers a second order numerical example described by

$$G(s) = \frac{1}{s(s+2)} \tag{5}$$

It is closed with a loop gain  $K$ . Then the closed-loop transfer function is

$$T(s) = \frac{K}{s^2 + 2s + K} \tag{6}$$

Poles locations and natural frequency ( $\omega_n$ ) for two loop gains ( $K_1, K_2$ ) are given below:

$$K_1 = 0.500; \text{poles} : -0.2929, -1.7071;$$

$$K_2 = 10.00; \text{poles} : -1.0 \pm j3.0; \omega_n = 3.1623;$$

They are an over-damped and an under-damped systems. Time responses are shown in Figure 2 for  $K = K_1$  (small-dot-line) and  $K = K_2$  (large-dot-line) in which  $R$  represents the reference input and  $C$  represents the plant output.

The strategy for gain switching is (1) large gain ( $K_2$ ) for large tracking error to get fast response and (2) small gain ( $K_1$ ) for small tracking error ( $E$ ) to get good performance. It is a variable structure system and can be achieved by selecting a proper switching point  $D_1$  of the piecewise linear controller shown in Figure 1(a). For example, the optimal switching point  $D_1$  is selected as 0.525 for  $R = 1$  to get both fast response and good performance. Large gain ( $K_2$ ) is used for  $|E| > D_1$  and small gain ( $K_1$ ) is used for  $|E| \leq D_1$ . Step response is shown in Figure 2 (solid-line) also for  $R = 1$ . It shows that adaptive gain can give a good result for fast response and good performance.

However, it is not true for  $R$  is equal to 5, 10 and 50, respectively. Those step responses are shown in Figure 3. Naturally, another switching point  $D_1$  for  $R = 5, 10$  and

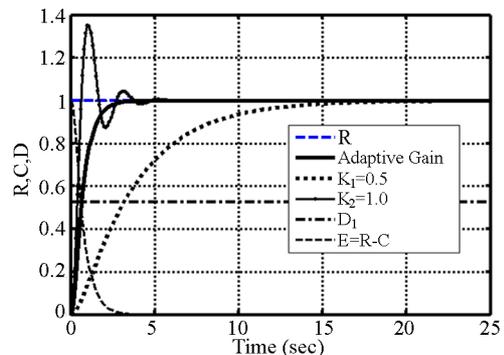


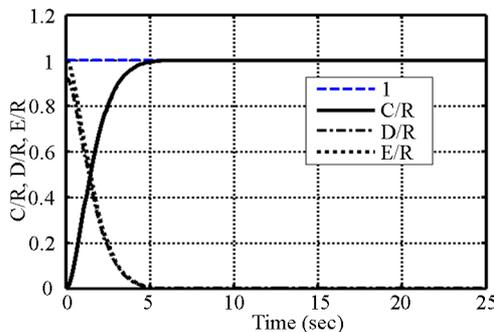
Figure 2. Time responses for  $K_1 = 0.5, K_2 = 10$  and adaptive gain of the illustrating example.

50 can be selected for getting good performance. They are 2.625, 5.250 and 26.250 for  $R = 5, 10$  and  $50$ , respectively. They are true for step responses from zeros to 5, 10 and 50 only. Another possible way for the switching point can be dependent on the tracking error ( $E$ ). A possible switching rule for  $D_1$  is found as  $D_1 = 0.925|E|$  for good performance. **Figure 3** shows time responses for  $R = 1, 5, 10$  and  $50$ , respectively. It can be seen that the switching rule gives an input command ( $R$ ) independent results. However, they are slower than results shown in **Figures 2** and **4**.

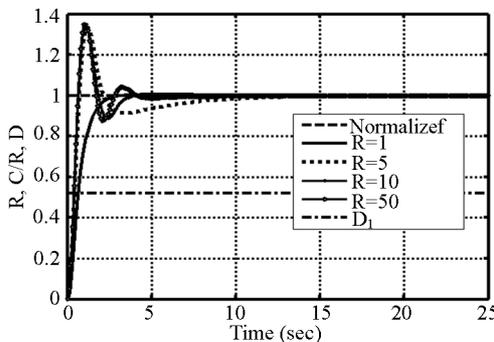
One possible way to speed up the time response is enlarging the large gain phase in the beginning. A low-pass filter  $D(s) = K_n/(T_n s + 1)$  for the absolute tracking error ( $E$ ) to get  $D_1$  is used. **Figure 5** shows faster response is get for  $K_n = 1.0445$  and  $T_n = 1/\omega_n$ . The switching point  $D_1$  is shaped for speed up the responses while keeping performance unchanged. **Figure 6** shows input independent responses for  $R = 1, 5, 10$  and  $50$ . Note that the natural frequency ( $\omega_n$ ) for  $K = K_2$  is used to find  $T_n$ . Therefore, it is needed to find  $K_n$  only.

The design procedures for the proposed method using the adaptive piecewise linear controller can be deduced as:

**Step 1:** Selecting two loop gains for fast response and good performance, respectively.



**Figure 3.** Time responses for  $R = 1, 5, 10, 50$  using  $D_1 = 0.925|E|$  of the illustrating example.



**Figure 4.** Time responses for  $R = 1, 5, 10, 50$  using  $D_1 = 0.525$  of the illustrating example.

In general, high loop gain ( $K = K_2$ ) for fast responses and low gain ( $K = K_1$ ) for good performance. The rise time ( $T_c$ ) of the system using high gain meets the design specification. The peak overshoot of the system with low gain meet the design specification.

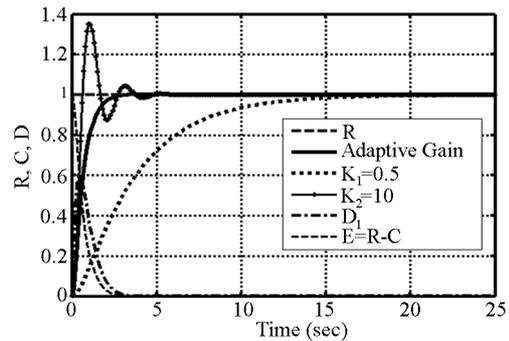
**Step 2:** determining parameters of low-pass filter  $D(s) = K_n/(T_n s + 1)$  to find the optimal switching point  $D_1$ . The natural frequency ( $\omega_n$ ) for the high gain system ( $K = K_2$ ) is used to find  $T_n$ . The natural frequency ( $\omega_n$ ) is close related to the rise time. Another parameter  $T_n$  can be found by the optimization method using performance index formulated by integration of the absolute error (IAE) and integration of the square error (ISE) or on-line parameterized method [15,16]. The iteration rule for finding  $K_n$  is formulated as

$$G_n(kT + T) = G_n(kT) \times \left\{ \alpha [Mpc/Mps]^j + (1 - \alpha) \right\}; \tag{7}$$

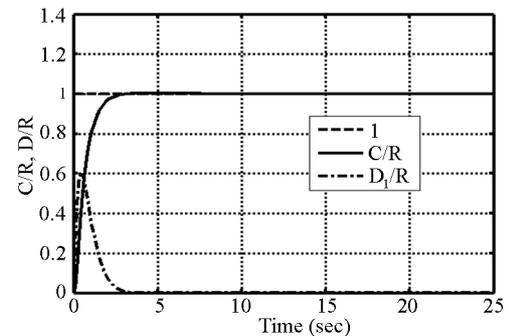
$$K_n = G_n(kT + T) \tag{8}$$

where  $Mps$  is the specification of the Peak point;  $Mpc$  is the peak point found using  $K_n = G_n(kT)$ ;  $T$  is simulation period of one step response; and  $k$  is the  $k^{th}$  step responses.

The proposed control scheme will be applied to a servo system with large transportation lag and a compli-



**Figure 5.** Time responses for  $R = 1$  using  $D(s) = K_n/(T_n s + 1)$  of the illustrating example.



**Figure 6.** Time responses for  $R = 1, 5, 10$  and  $50$  of the illustrating example.

cated electro-hydraulic velocity/position servo system.

### 3. Numerical Example

**Example 1:** Consider a stable plant has the transfer function [16,17]

$$G(s) = \frac{e^{-s}}{(s+1)^2} \tag{9}$$

It is a second order dynamic plus a pure time delay (SOPDT). In this example, a PID controller with parameters

$$K_p = 1.1953; K_i = 0.5942; K_d = 0.7338;$$

is designed first. And then low gain  $K_1 = 0.50$  is selected and high gain  $K_2 = 2.587$  is selected for the system is just in the sustaining oscillating condition. The oscillation frequency is  $\omega_n = 1.5708$  rad/s. Time responses using low gain ( $K_1 = 0.5$ ) and high gain ( $K_2 = 2.587$ ) are shown in **Figure 7**. They show an over-damped system and a zero-damped system. Now, applying the proposed control scheme to the system using  $K_1 = 0.5000; K_2 = 2.587; K_n = 1.1385; T_n = 0.6366;$

The  $K_n$  is found by following on-line computing rule:

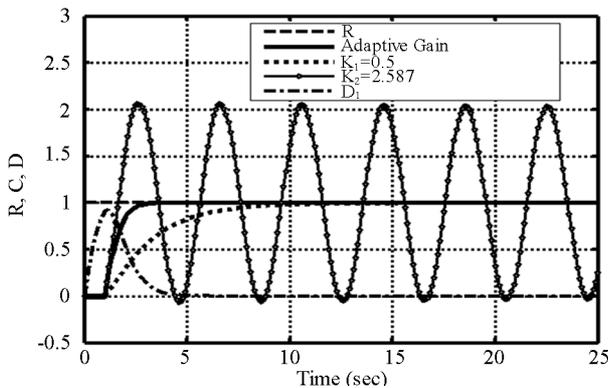
$$G_n(kT+T) = G_n(kT) \times \left\{ 0.9 [Mpc/Mps]^2 + 0.1 \right\}; \tag{10}$$

$$K_n = G_n(kT+T) \tag{11}$$

with  $G_n(0) = 0.5$ ,  $T = 25$  seconds and  $Mps = 1.001$ . The found  $G_n(kT)$  are

$$G_n(0) = 0.5; G_n(T) = 1.0794; G_n(2T) = 1.1365; \\ G_n(3T) = 1.1385; G_n(4T) = 1.1385; \dots$$

$G_n(kT)$  is converged to be 1.1385 within three period simulations. The time response is shown in **Figure 7** also. It can be seen that the proposed method can give fast response and good performance simultaneously. It is



**Figure 7.** Step responses for constant gains ( $K = 0.5$  &  $2.587$ ) and adaptive gain with  $D_1$  of Example 1.

the combination of over-damped and zero-damped systems with  $D_1$ . Zero-damped system is used for fast responses and over-damped system is used for good performance. Naturally, it is input command ( $R$ ) independent also.

Simulation results of the proposed method and four other methods are presented for comparisons. They are Ziegler-Nichols method [18,19] for finding PI and PID compensators, Tan *et al.* [20,21] for finding PID compensator and Majhi [17] for finding PI compensator. Parameters of five found compensators are given below:

1) *Proposed Method:*

$$K_p = 1.1953; K_i = 0.5942; K_d = 0.7338; \\ K_1 = 0.5000; K_2 = 2.587; K_n = 1.1385; T_n = 0.6366;$$

2) *ZN(PI):*  $K_p = 1.240$  and  $K_i = 0.251$ .

3) *ZN(PID):*

$$K_p = 1.6367, K_i = 0.4187 \text{ and } K_d = 0.5972.$$

4) *Tan's (PID):*

$$K_p = 0.620, K_i = 0.5636 \text{ and } K_d = 0.1705.$$

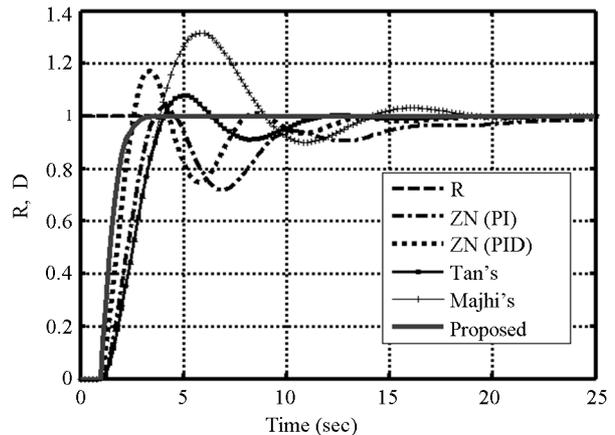
5) *Majhi's (PI):*  $K_p = 0.864$  and  $K_i = 0.3653$ .

Time responses are shown in **Figure 8**. Gain/phase margins, phase/gain crossover frequencies, Integral of the Square Error (ISE), and Integral of the Absolute Error (IAE) are given in **Table 1**. From **Table 1** and **Figure 8**, one can see that the proposed method gives faster response, better performance, and better robustness than those of other methods presented. Note that the proposed method can provide a simple way to improved the system that has been controlled.

**Example 2:** Consider an electro-hydraulic velocity/position servo control system [22] shown in **Figure 9**. The relation between the servo spool position  $X_v$  and the input voltage  $u$  is in the form of

$$\frac{X_v}{u} = G_v(s) = \frac{K_v}{s^2/\omega_v^2 + 2\xi_v s/\omega_v + 1} \tag{12}$$

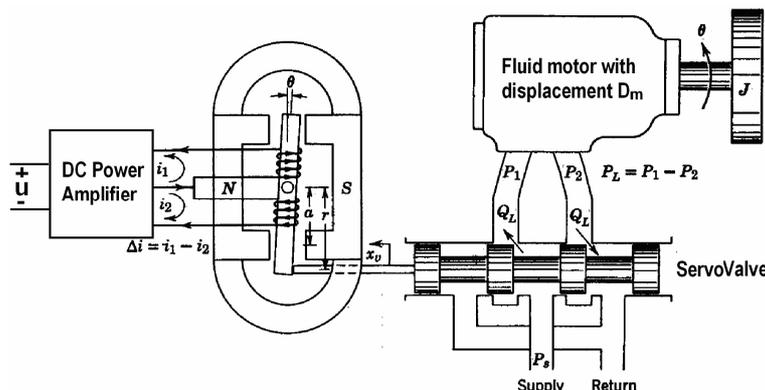
where  $K_v$  is the valve gain,  $\xi_v$  is the damping ratio of the servo valve and  $\omega_v$  is the natural frequency of the



**Figure 8.** Comparisons with other methods for Example 1.

**Table 1. The gain/phase margins, phase/gain crossover frequencies, ISE and IAE of Example 1 using different methods.**

Method	GM	$\omega_{crp}$ (rad/s)	PM (deg)	$\omega_{crg}$ (rad/s)	ISE	IAE
Proposed	3.941	1.653	78.45	0.322	1.359	1.687
ZN (PI)	1.986	1.214	72.96	0.572	2.268	4.011
ZN (PID)	1.830	1.459	56.25	0.792	1.770	2.876
Tan's (PID)	2.418	0.929	38.30	0.488	2.247	3.073
Majhi's (PI)	2.381	1.099	65.58	0.441	2.465	4.066

**Figure 9. Block diagram of the electro-hydraulic system.**

servo valve. In general, Equation (12) can be approximated by  $X_v = K_v u$  for large  $\omega_v$ . The relation between the valve displacement  $X_v$  and the load flow rate  $Q_L$  is governed by the well-known orifice law [22]

$$Q_L = X_v K_j \sqrt{P_s - \text{sign}(X_v) P_L} = X_v K_s \quad (13)$$

where  $K_j$  is a constant for specific hydraulic motor;  $P_s$  is the supply pressure;  $P_L$  is the load pressure and;  $K_s$  is the valve flow gain which varies at different operating points. The following continuity property of the servo valve and motor chamber yields

$$Q_L = D_m \omega + C_{tp} P_L + (V_t - 4\beta_o) \dot{P}_L; \quad (14)$$

where  $D_m$  is the volumetric displacement;  $C_{tp}$  is the total leakage coefficient;  $V_t$  is the total volume of the oil;  $\beta_o$  is the bulk modulus of the oil; and  $\omega$  is the velocity of the motor shaft. The torque balance equation for the motor is in the form of

$$D_m P_L = J \dot{\omega} + B_m \omega + T_L; \quad (15)$$

where  $B_m$  is the viscous damping coefficient and  $T_L$  is the external load disturbance which is assumed to be dependent upon the velocity of the shaft. The mathematical model of the considered system is shown in **Figure 10**. System parameters are given below:

$$K_s = 2.3 \times 10^{-7} \sqrt{P_s - \text{sign}(X_v) P_L} \text{ m}^2/\text{s};$$

$$P_s = 1.4 \times 10^7 \text{ N}_t/\text{m}^2; \quad K_v = 0.5 \text{ m/v};$$

$$\beta_o = 3.5 \times 10^7 \text{ N}_t/\text{m}^2; \quad V_t = 3.3 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^3/\text{rad};$$

$$C_{tp} = 2.3 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}/\text{N}_t; \quad D_m = 1.6 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^3/\text{rad};$$

$$J = 5.8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ Kg} \cdot \text{m} \cdot \text{s}^2; \quad B_m = 0.864 \text{ Kg} \cdot \text{m} \cdot \text{s}/\text{rad};$$

$$\xi_v = 0.4; \quad \omega_v = 628 \text{ rad/s}.$$

The control configuration for velocity and position servo control of the considered system is shown in **Figure 11**, in which inner loop and outer loop adaptive nonlinear controllers are included.

Design results of the velocity control loop are discussed below:

### 1) Inner loop PI controller

The PI controller is first found by the optimization toolbox of MATLAB for minimized the integration of absolute errors (IAE), integration of square errors (ISE) and zero peak overshoot. Parameters of the PI controller are  $K_p = 1.127 \times 10^{-3}$  and  $K_i = 3.9632$ . Time responses of the controlled system using the found PI controller are shown in **Figure 12**.

### 2) Parameters of inner loop adaptive nonlinear controller

Low gain ( $K_1 = 1$ ) and high gain ( $K_2 = 9.223$ ) are selected. The low gain case is the optimized result and the high gain case is the controlled system in the sustaining condition ( $\omega_n = 312.71 \text{ rad/s}$ ). The  $\omega_n = 312.71 \text{ rad/s}$  gives  $T_n = 0.003182$ .  $K_n = 2.2889$  is found by Equations (8) and (9) using  $M_{ps} = 1.001$ .

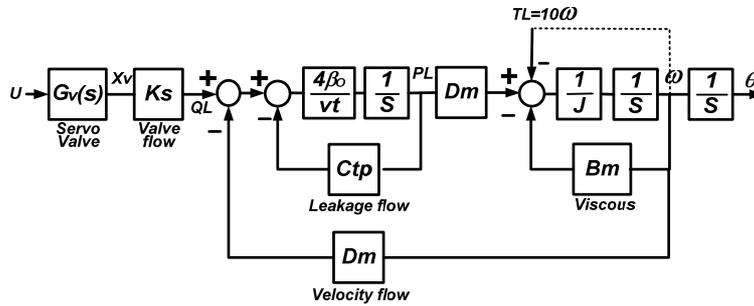


Figure 10. Mathematic model of the electro-hydraulic system.

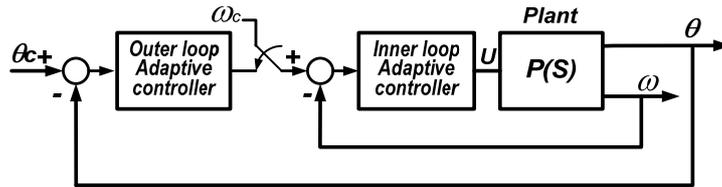


Figure 11. Control configuration of velocity and position servo control system.

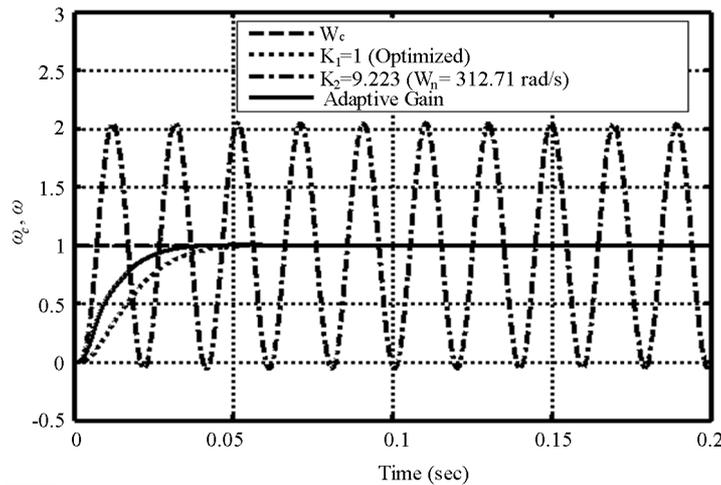


Figure 12. Time responses of velocity control system for low gain ( $K_1 = 1$ ) and high gain ( $K_2 = 9.223$ ) and adaptive gain.

Time responses for low gain, high gain and adaptive gain are shown in **Figure 12**. Rise times of the optimization method and the proposed method are 0.0202 sec and 0.0124 sec; respectively. It shows the proposed method can give faster response than that of controlled by the optimized method. The Gain gain/phase margins, phase/gain crossover frequencies, and rise times are given also in **Table 2**. It gives controlled system using two methods have same robustness while **Figure 12** shows the proposed method gives faster response.

Design results of the position control loop are discussed below:

**1) Outer loop PI controller**

The PI controller are first found by the optimizations toolbox of MATLAB for minimized the integration of absolute errors (IAE), integration of square errors(ISE) and zero peak overshoot. Parameters of the PI controller

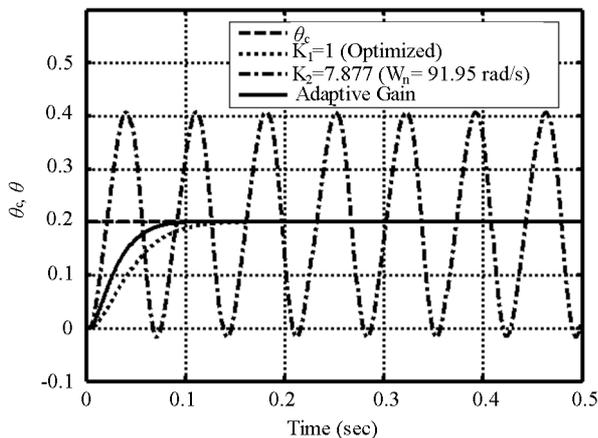
are  $K_p = 18.506$  and  $K_i = 0.3666$ . Time responses of the controlled system using the found PI controller are shown in **Figure 13**.

**2) Parameters of outer adaptive nonlinear controller**

Low gain ( $K_1 = 1$ ) and high gain ( $K_2 = 7.877$ ) are selected. The low gain case is the optimized result and the high gain case is the controlled system in the sustaining condition ( $\omega_n = 91.95$  rad/s). The  $\omega_n = 91.95$  rad/s gives  $T_n = 0.0010875$ .  $K_n = 13.5$  is found by Equations (8) and (9) using  $M_{ps} = 1.001$ . Time responses for low gain, high gain, and adaptive gain are shown in **Figure 13**. Rise times of the optimization method and the proposed method are 0.0513 sec and 0.0334 sec; respectively. It shows the proposed method can give faster response than that of controlled by the optimized method. The Gain gain/phase margins, pha-

**Table 2. Gain/phase margins, phase/gain crossover frequencies and rise times.**

Method	GM	$\omega_p$ (Hz)	PM (deg.)	$\omega_{cs}$ (Hz)	Rise Time (sec)
Optimization	9.05	50.03	69.35	8.13	0.0202
Adaptive Gain	9.19	49.73	69.35	8.13	0.0124

**Figure 13. Time responses of position control system for  $K_1 = 1$ ,  $K_2 = 7.877$  and adaptive gain.****Table 3. Gain/phase margins, phase/gain crossover frequencies and rise times.**

Method	GM	$\omega_p$ (Hz)	PM (deg.)	$\omega_{cs}$ (Hz)	Rise Time (sec)
Optimization	8.35	47.19	52.14	8.91	0.0513
Adaptive Gain	8.39	47.22	51.09	8.71	0.0334

se/gain crossover frequencies and rise times are given also in **Table 3**. It gives controlled system using two methods have same robustness while **Figure 13** shows the proposed method gives faster response.

#### 4. Conclusions

The proposed adaptive piecewise linear controller has been shown that provided controlled systems are reference input independent and both good performance and fast response were obtained simultaneously. Three segments piecewise linear controller provided a switching algorithm for low gain and high systems; *i.e.*, low gain for performance and high gain for response time. The switching points were dependent on the command tracking errors. There are zero-damped ones used in Example 1 and 2 to get fast responses in large tracking error phases.

Two servo control system examples were designed and comparisons were made with famous on-line computing and control methods and optimization method. They have

illustrated better performance and fast response of the proposed method than those of other mentioned methods.

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