Adaptive Fixed-Time Non-singular Terminal Sliding Mode Attitude Stabilization Control for Rigid Spacecraft with Actuator Faults

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Abstract: Fixed-time convergence control strategies based on adaptive Non-Singular Terminal Sliding Mode are proposed for rigid spacecraft attitude stabilization subject to actuator faults. A novel fixed-time sliding mode surface is used. Then, a fixed-time controller with adaptive law is derived to guarantee that the closed-loop system is stable in the sense of the fixed-time concept. Finally, the Lyapunov stability analysis shows that the controller has a good fault-tolerant performance on actuator faults. Numerical simulation verified the good performance of the controller in the attitude stabilization control.

Key words: Adaptive non-singular terminal sliding mode, attitude stabilization, fixed-time control, rigid spacecraft.

1. Introduction

As space technology improves, space flight missions have higher control requirements [1]-[5]. Ref. [6] proposed a novel sliding-mode control laws to stabilize a class of uncertain on-linear systems. Because the sign function often used in the sliding-mode control which can cause chattering of control input, in order to reduce the influence of the sign function, the saturation function is used to take its place in proposed controllers. Ref. [7] investigates the distributed finite-time consensus problem of second-order multi-agent systems (MAS) in the presence of bounded disturbances. Ref. [8] proposed an adaptive non-homogeneous higher order sliding mode control (HOSMC) method for a class of uncertain nonlinear systems, the proposed HOSMC algorithm provide fast convergence rate by using non-homogeneous finite time stabilization when exist a large initial tracking error. In [9], the authors aim at the longitudinal model of an air-breathing vehicle under system uncertainties and actuator failures.

In term of spacecraft attitude control, the finite-time sliding mode using the terminal sliding mode has been proven the efficacy to address the attitude control related issues. In [10], the authors proposed a passive fault-tolerant control by using the finite-time sliding mode control. To tolerate the possible faults of actuator and also to improve the fault tolerant capability, the author [11] proposed an adaptive sliding mode control methodology in the framework of global sliding mode control. With application of this scheme, severe actuator faults can be tolerated, and the attitude tracking error is governed to be asymptotically stable. The attitude tracking maneuver is accomplished in finite-time, the objective of fast slewing maneuvers is thus realized.
Inspired by [12], on the basis of [13], this paper introduces the fixed-time non-singular terminal sliding mode (FNTSM) control law, it designs a fixed-time fault-tolerant attitude tracking controller based on the parameter adaptive method. The main contributions of this paper are stated as follows:

To achieve FTC for a spacecraft’s attitude stabilization, a novel FNTSM control law is designed in the sense of the fixed-time concept, which is robust against external disturbances under actuator faults.

2. Spacecraft’s Attitude Models

A rigid spacecraft’s attitude kinematics and dynamics equations are modeled as follows [14]-[16]:

\[
\begin{align*}
\dot{q}_0 &= -0.5q^Tw \\
\dot{q} &= 0.5(q^T + q_0 J_q)w \\
J\dot{w} &= -w^TJw + Du(t) + d(t)
\end{align*}
\]

where the vector \( q = [q_1, q_2, q_3]^T \) and the scalar \( q_0 \) satisfy the constraint: \( q_0^2 + q^Tq = 1 \). \( J \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3} \), \( w \in \mathbb{R}^3 \), \( u \in \mathbb{R}^N \), \( d \in \mathbb{R}^3 \). \( D \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N} \) and \( N \) are the parameters of spacecraft. For the specific meaning, please refer to [16]. Define \( p^* \) as:

\[
p^* = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -p_1 & p_2 \\ p_3 & 0 & -p_1 \\ -p_2 & p_1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}
\]

Assumption 1: The control input satisfy \( u(t) \leq u_{\max} \), where \( u_{\max} \) is the maximum output torque.

According to [12]-[13], we have:

\[
u(t) = E(t)u_\iota(t) + \bar{\alpha}_\iota(t)
\]

where \( u_\iota(t) = [u_{\iota 1}, \cdots, u_{\iota N}]^T \) is command control torque; \( E(t) = \text{diag}(E_{\iota 1}(t), \cdots, E_{\iota N}(t)) \), which satisfies \( 0 \leq E_{\iota}(t) \leq 1 \); \( \bar{\alpha}_\iota(t) = [\bar{\alpha}_{\iota 1}, \cdots, \bar{\alpha}_{\iota N}]^T \) is drift torque.

With (3), the rigid spacecraft’s attitude kinetic equation can be further written as:

\[
J\dot{w} = -w^TJw + Du(t) + d(t)
\]

\[
= -w^TJw + D(E(t)u_\iota(t) + \bar{\alpha}_\iota(t)) + d(t)
\]

\[
= -w^TJw + Du_\iota(t) + D(E(t) - I_{N \times N})u_\iota(t) + D\bar{\alpha}_\iota(t) + d(t)
\]

\[
= -w^TJw + Du_\iota(t) + D\bar{\alpha}_\iota(t)
\]

where

\[
\bar{\alpha}_\iota(t) = D(E(t) - I_{N \times N})u_\iota(t) + d(t)
\]

Assumption 2: external unknown disturbances \( \bar{d}(t) \) satisfies \( \|\bar{d}(t)\| \leq b\left( 1 + \|w\| + \|w\|^2 + \|w\|^\eta + \|w\|^\gamma \right) \), where \( b > 0 \); \( 1 < \eta < 2 \) is the parameter to be designed.

Remark 1: According to Assumption 4.3 in [11], the control law of spacecraft satisfy \( \|u(t)\| \leq b_1 \left( 1 + \|w\| + \|w\|^\gamma + \|w\|^\gamma \right) \), the external disturbances satisfy \( \|d(t)\| \leq b_2(1 + \|w\|) \), so, formula (5) satisfies the following equation: \( \|\bar{d}(t)\| \leq b\left( 1 + \|w\| + \|w\|^2 + \|w\|^\eta + \|w\|^\gamma \right) \).

3. Designing the Fault Tolerant Controller Law

The control law design is carried out in this section. The control objectives are:
\[ \lim_{t \to \infty} q_v = 1, \lim_{t \to \infty} q_e = 0, \lim_{t \to \infty} w = 0 \]  

### 3.1. Control Design

**Step 1: Designing the sliding mode surface**

In this paper, a sliding mode surface is selected as follows [17]:

\[
S = w + S_{au}
\]

where \( S \in \mathbb{R}^3 \) is the sliding mode surface, \( S_{au} = [S_{au1}, S_{au2}, S_{au3}]^T \) is given by [17]:

\[
S_{au} = \begin{cases} 
  l_1 q_e + l_2 \text{sign}(q_v) q_v^2 & \text{if } |q_v| \leq \varepsilon \\
  \alpha \text{sign}(q_v) q_v^2 + \beta \text{sign}(q_v) q_v^4 & \text{otherwise}
\end{cases}
\]

where \( S = w + \alpha \text{sign}(q_v) q_v^2 + \beta \text{sign}(q_v) q_v^4 \). \( \alpha, \beta, g_1, g_2 \) are positive constants, satisfying \( 0.5 < g_1 = f_1 / f_2 < 1 \), \( g_2 = f_3 / f_4 > 1 \), \( l_1 = 0.5 \alpha \varepsilon^{g_1 - 1} + 0.5 \beta \varepsilon^{g_2 - 1} \), \( l_2 = 0.5 \alpha \varepsilon^{g_2 - 2} + 0.5 \beta \varepsilon^{g_1 - 2} \), \( f_1 < f_2, f_1 > f_4 \) are positive odd numbers. \( \varepsilon \) is a small positive constant, for instance \( \varepsilon = 0.001 \).

**Remark 2:** Because of \( g_1 \in (0.5, 1) \), \( g_2 > 1 \), if \( \varepsilon = 0.001 \), \( l_2 \) is much bigger than \( l_1 \). Therefore, when \( |q_v| \leq \varepsilon \), \( l_2 \text{sign}(q_v) q_v^2 \) has the same magnitude as \( l_1 q_e \), so it is guaranteed that \( l_2 \text{sign}(q_v) q_v^2 \) takes effect to drive quaternion converging fast to sliding mode. Furthermore, the choice of \( l_1 \) and \( l_2 \) can ensure the function \( S_{au} \) and its time derivative continuity. When \( |q_v| > \varepsilon \), \( S_{au} = \alpha \text{sign}(q_v) q_v^2 + \beta \text{sign}(q_v) q_v^4 \), it is guaranteed that sliding surface \( S \) and \( \bar{S} \) have the same form. Meanwhile, the fixed-time non-singular sliding mode surface reaches zero, \( q_v \) and \( w \) will approach zero along the surface (7).

**Remark 3:** The surface in [18] has 10 parameters need to design, the surface (7) only has 4 parameters need to design. Compare with the surface in [18], the sliding surface has fewer parameters, so, in actual use of (7) to design control law, the sliding surface (7) is more concise.

According to (7):

\[
J\dot{S} = J\dot{w} + \frac{J}{2} F \left( q_0 I_3 + q_v^c \right) w
\]

where

\[
F = \begin{cases} 
  l_1 I_3 + 2l_2 \text{diag}(\text{sign}(q_v)) q_v & \text{if } S \neq 0, |q_v| < \varepsilon \\
  \alpha g_1 \text{diag}(\text{sign}(q_v)) q_v^{g_1 - 1} + \beta g_2 \text{diag}(\text{sign}(q_v)) q_v^{g_2 - 1} & \text{otherwise}
\end{cases}
\]

**Remark 4:** Because of \( g_1 \in (0.5, 1) \), \( g_2 > 1 \), so \( g_1 - 1 = (f_1 - f_2) / f_2 \), \( f_1, f_2 \) are positive odd number, so \( f_1 - f_2 \) is an even number. So, we can get, when \( q_v < 0 \), \( q_v^{g_1 - 1} \) is a rational number. Similarly, \( q_v^{g_2 - 1} \) is also a rational number when \( q_v < 0 \). So \( F \) will not be singular for any \( q_v \). Substitutes (4) into (9), there is:

\[
J\dot{S} = -w^T Jw + Du_*(t) + \tilde{d}(t) + \frac{J}{2} F \left( q_0 I_3 + q_v^c \right) w
\]

The approximation law is designed as follows:
\[ J\dot{S} = -K_1\text{sig}^\gamma(S) - K_2\text{sig}^\gamma(S) \]  
(12)

where \( K_i = \text{diag}(K_{i1}, K_{i2}, K_{i3})(i = 1, 2) \) is a diagonal matrix and \( K_{ij} > 0 (j = 1, 2, 3) \). For \( x \in \mathbb{R}^3 \), \( \text{sig}^\alpha(x) = [\text{sign}(x_1), \text{sign}(x_2), \text{sign}(x_3)]^T \). Here, \( \gamma = \gamma_1 / \gamma_2 \in (0, 1) \), \( \lambda = \lambda_1 / \lambda_2 > 1 \), \( \gamma_1 < \gamma_2 \), \( \lambda_1 > \lambda_2 \) are positive odd numbers.

Step 2: Designing the control law

Assumption 3: In order to design control law, we give the following assumption, where \( c_1 \geq 0 \) and \( c_2 \geq 0 \):

\[ \|w^T Jw\| \leq c_1 \|w\|^2 \]  
(13)

\[ \left\| J \left( q_0 I_3 + q^* \right) w \right\| \leq c_2 \|w\| \]  
(14)

Remark 5: Because of \( \|q_0 I_3 + q^*\| = 1 \) from Eq.(14), \( |F| \leq c_{21} \) is satisfied, equations \( \left\| J \left( q_0 I_3 + q^* \right) w \right\| \leq \frac{\lambda_2}{2} c_{21} \leq c_{22} \) and \( \left\| J \left( q_0 I_3 + q^* \right) w \right\| \leq \frac{\lambda_2}{2} c_{21} \leq c_{22} \) are also satisfied.

Remark 6: Through (13), if the inertia \( J \) of the spacecraft is disturbed, the influence caused by the uncertainties of that can be eliminated by self-adaptation of parameter \( c_1 \).

Lemma 1: Consider the nonlinear system [17]:

\[ \dot{x}(t) = f(x(t)), x(0) = 0, f(0) = 0, x \in \mathbb{R}^n \]  
(15)

Suppose that there is a Lyapunov function \( V(x) \), and scalars \( \alpha, \beta, p, q \in \mathbb{R}^+ \), \( p < 1, q > 1 \), such that

\[ \dot{V}(x) + \alpha V^p(x) + \beta V^q(x) \leq 0 \]  
(16)

Then, the trajectory of this system is practical fixed-time stable, which means the convergence time is independent of the initial state, and the convergence time is given as:

\[ T \leq \frac{1}{\alpha(1 - p)} + \frac{1}{\beta(q - 1)} \]  
(17)

Theorem 1: According to the previous derivation, the control law designed as follows:

\[ u_c(t) = D^\gamma \left( -K_1\text{sig}^\gamma(S) - K_2\text{sig}^\gamma(S) - \frac{S}{\|S\| + \varepsilon} \left( \hat{c}_1 \|w\|^2 + \hat{c}_2 \|w\| + \hat{b} \varphi \right) \right) \]  
(18)

where \( D^\gamma = D^T (DD^T)^{-1} \), \( \hat{c}_1, \hat{c}_2 \) and \( \hat{b} \) are adaptive parameters, \( \varphi = 1 + \|w\| + \|w\|^2 + \|w\|^2 - \eta + \|w\|^p \), \( \varepsilon \) is a small positive constant. The \( \hat{c}_1, \hat{c}_2, \hat{b} \) are selected as follows:

\[ \dot{\hat{c}}_1 = \mu_1 \|S\| \|w\|^2 \]  
(19)

\[ \dot{\hat{c}}_2 = \mu_2 \|S\| \|w\| \]  
(20)

\[ \dot{\hat{b}} = \mu_3 \|S\| \varphi \]  
(21)
where $\mu_i, i = 1, 2, 3$ are design parameters.

Step 3: Proving the stability
Proof: In this section, select the following Lyapunov function:

$$V_i = \frac{1}{2} S^T J S + \frac{1}{2\mu_1} \ddot{c}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2\mu_2} \ddot{c}_2^2 + \frac{1}{2\mu_3} \ddot{b}^2$$

(22)

where $\dddot{c}_1 = \dot{c}_1 - \ddot{c}_1, \dddot{c}_2 = \dot{c}_2 - \ddot{c}_2, \dddot{b} = b - \ddot{b}$.

According to reference [18], the derivative of $V_i$ is as follows (For proof details, please refer to [18]):

$$V_i \leq \delta S^T (K_1 \text{sign}(S) - K_2 \text{sign}^2(S))$$

$$\leq -\min(K_{ii}) \left( \frac{2}{\lambda_{\max}(J)} \right)^{(1+\gamma)/2} \left( \frac{1}{2} S^T J S \right)^{(1+\gamma)/2} -$$

$$\min(K_{ii}) \left( \frac{2}{\lambda_{\max}(J)} \right)^{(1+\gamma)/2} \left( \frac{1}{2} S^T J S \right)^{(1+\gamma)/2} \leq 0$$

(23)

$$V_i \leq -\left( \frac{2}{\lambda_{\max}(J)} \right)^{(1+\gamma)/2} \left( \min(K_{ii}) - \left( \frac{L_1}{V_i} \right)^{(1+\gamma)/2} \right) V_i^{(1+\gamma)/2} -$$

$$\left( \frac{2}{\lambda_{\max}(J)} \right)^{(1+\gamma)/2} \left( \min(K_{ii}) - \left( \frac{L_1}{V_i} \right)^{(1+\gamma)/2} \right) V_i^{(1+\gamma)/2}$$

(24)

where $L_1 = \frac{1}{2\mu_1} \dddot{c}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2\mu_2} \dddot{c}_2^2 + \frac{1}{2\mu_3} \dddot{b}^2$. And $L_2 < 1, \left( \frac{L_1}{V_i} \right)^{(1+\gamma)/2} < 1 \left( \frac{L_1}{V_i} \right)^{(1+\gamma)/2} < 1$ according to $L_1 < V_i$. If $\min(K_{ii}) \geq 1, \min(K_{ii}) \geq 1$. Expression (24) is simplified into $\dot{V}(x) + \alpha V^p(x) + \beta V^q(x)$; So we can get:

$$t_1 \leq \frac{1}{\chi_1(1-p)} + \frac{1}{\chi_1(q-1)}$$

where $\chi_1 = \delta \left( \frac{2}{\lambda_{\max}(J)} \right)^{(1+\gamma)/2} \left( \min(K_{ii}) - \left( \frac{L_1}{V_i} \right)^{(1+\gamma)/2} \right)$ and $\chi_2 = \delta \left( \frac{2}{\lambda_{\max}(J)} \right)^{(1+\gamma)/2} \left( \min(K_{ii}) - \left( \frac{L_1}{V_i} \right)^{(1+\gamma)/2} \right)$,

$$p = \frac{\gamma + 1}{2} < 1, \quad q = \frac{\lambda + 1}{2} > 1.$$

Theorem 2: When the spacecraft attitude reach the sliding mode $S = 0$, the attitude errors will converge to zero in a fixed-time.

Proof: Select the following Lyapunov function:

$$V_2 = 0.5 \left( q_v^T \dot{q}_v + (1 - q_0)^2 \right)$$

(25)

Based on $q_v^T q_v = 0$, then

$$\dot{V}_2 = q_v^T \dot{q}_v - (1 - q_0) \dot{q}_0$$

$$= 0.5 q_v^T (q_v I_3 + q_v^* w) + 0.5 q_v^T (1 - q_0) w$$

$$= 0.5 q_v^T q_v^w + 0.5 q_v^T (1 - q_0) w + 0.5 q_v^T q_v^w$$

$$= 0.5 q_v^T w$$

$$= -0.5 \alpha q_v^T \text{sign}(q_v) + 0.5 \beta q_v^T \text{sign}(q_v)$$

(26)
So, we obtain \( \lim_{t \to \infty} q_0 = 1 \) because \((1 - q_0)^2 \leq (1 - q_0)(1 + q_0) = q^T q_v \), therefore:

\[
V_2 \leq q^T q_v
\]  

(27)

According to (27), formula (26) can be transformed into:

\[
\dot{V}_2 + \chi_1 \dot{V}_2^{(t_2+y)/2} + \chi_2 \dot{V}_2^{(t_2+y)/2} \leq 0
\]

(28)

where \( \chi_1 = 0.5 \alpha \), \( \chi_2 = 0.5 \beta \). Let \( t_2 \) be the reaching time, then \( t_2 \leq \frac{2}{\chi_1 (1 - g_1)} + \frac{2}{\chi_2 (g_2 - 1)} \).

4. Simulation Results Analysis

In this paper, the parameters of spacecraft are selected as follows (Table 1):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>parameter</th>
<th>value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nominal moment of inertial</td>
<td>( J = \text{diag}[6;7;9] \text{ kg}\cdot\text{m}^2 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( Q(0) )</td>
<td>( Q(0) = [0.854, 0.475, 0.095, 0.19,]^T )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \omega(0) / (\text{rad}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}) )</td>
<td>( \omega(0) = [-0.25, 0.5, -0.15]^T \text{ rad/s} )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( d(t) )</td>
<td>( d(t) = [w^2 + 0.005][0.1 \sin(0.1 t), 0.2 \sin(0.2 t), 0.3 \sin(0.3 t)]^T \text{ N}\cdot\text{m} )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The actuator effective decline faults are:

\[
E_i = \begin{cases} 
1 & t \leq 5 \\
0.5 + 0.1 \sin(0.5 t + \pi i / 3) & t > 5 
\end{cases}
\]

(29)

The actuator drift faults are:

\[
\pi_{ci} = \begin{cases} 
0 & t \leq 15 \\
0.1 + 0.05 \sin(0.5 t \pi) & t > 15 
\end{cases}
\]

(30)

The control torque distribution matrix is:

\[
D = \begin{bmatrix} 
1 & 0 & 0 & 1/\sqrt{3} \\
0 & 1 & 0 & 1/\sqrt{3} \\
0 & 0 & 1 & 1/\sqrt{3} 
\end{bmatrix}
\]

(31)

The parameters of the FNTSM control law (18) and the sliding mode (7) are selected as follows: \( K_1 = 0.5 \text{diag}[1,1,1] \), \( K_1 = 0.3 \text{diag}[1,1,1] \), \( \gamma = 5/7 \), \( \lambda = 9/5 \), \( \eta = 1.9 \), \( \mu_1 = 0.8 \), \( \mu_2 = 0.4 \), \( c_{10} = 0.01 \), \( c_{20} = 0.01 \), \( h_0 = 0.01 \), \( \alpha = 0.54 \), \( \beta = 0.73 \), \( g_1 = 25/27 \), \( g_2 = 19/5 \), \( \varepsilon = 0.01 \). The max controlling torque is \( u_{\text{max}} = 2.0 \text{Nm} \).

Fig. 1 depicts the attitude quaternion. From Fig. 1, we can see that the spacecraft attitude can quickly stability in a short time. As can be seen from Fig. 1, the spacecraft attitude from the initial state to the process of achieving attitude stability, the change of spacecraft attitude is very stable without attitude fluctuations.
Fig. 2 gives the response curves of angular velocity. From Fig. 2, it can be seen that in the course of attitude stabilization, the attitude angular velocity curve changes steadily, and the attitude angular velocity stabilization can be achieved quickly.
Fig. 3 shows the control torque curve. It can be seen from the figure that the system does not saturate during the entire control process. In addition, the fluctuation frequency is relatively low and the curve changes very smoothly. Therefore, the control law designed in this paper has superior control performance.

Fig. 4 gives the response curves of sliding mode surface. From Fig. 4, we can see that the FNTSM control law can quickly reach the sliding mode surface.

Fig. 5 gives the estimated curves of uncertainty parameters. It is shows that the adaptive parameters designed in this paper can achieve stability in a relatively short time.

Fig. 6 gives the change curves of Euler angles. From Fig. 6, we can see that the attitude angle of the spacecraft can be stabilized from the initial state.

5. Conclusion

Fixed-time convergence control strategies based on adaptive Non-Singular Terminal Sliding Mode are proposed for rigid spacecraft attitude stabilization subject to actuator faults. Consider the actuator faults affecting the spacecraft, the adaptive FNTSM law we proposed can guarantee both the error quaternion and the angular velocity error convergence in finite time.

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References


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