

LMI based anti-swing adaptive controller for uncertain overhead cranes

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ABSTRACT

This paper proposes an adaptive anti-sway controller for uncertain overhead cranes. The state-space model of the 2D overhead crane with the system parameter uncertainties is shown firstly. Next, the adaptive controller which can adapt with the system uncertainties and input disturbances is established. The proposed controller has ability to move the trolley to the destination in short time and with small oscillation of the load despite the effect of the uncertainties and disturbances. Moreover, the controller has simple structure so it is easy to execute. Also, the stability of the closed-loop system is analytically proven. The proposed algorithm is verified by using Matlab/Simulink simulation tool. The simulation results show that the presented controller gives better performances (i.e., fast transient response, no ripple, and low swing angle) than the state feedback controller when there exist system parameter variations as well as input disturbances.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The overhead cranes which are widely used for transporting heavy loads are one of the most popular underactuated mechanical systems in that the number of the actuators is less than the degree of freedom. The deficiency of actuator for sway dynamics presents a coupling effect between the load sway motion and the trolley traveling motion. The transient swing of payload may cause a safety hazard to employees, transferred goods and surrounding objects. In addition, the lack of actuator makes the control design of the underactuated system much more difficult than the full actuated systems. For this reason, designing the controller for the overhead crane system which can move the trolley to the destination as fast as possible with acceptable swing angle attracts the consideration of many researchers.

Nowadays, there have been various control methods that can guarantee the good performance for the overhead crane systems both in open loop and closed loop. In the class of open loop control, the swing of payload is abolished by some approaches such as input shaping [1-4], trajectory planning [5, 6]. However, in general, the open-loop control system can not guarantee the good performance in the case of system uncertainties and external disturbances. Therefore, many closed-loop control techniques are applied to the overhead crane system to improve the performance such as nonlinear feedback [7-11], partial feedback linearization [12, 13], fuzzy logic control [14-17], sliding mode control [18-21] and so on.

It is widely recognized that adaptive control method has the advantage of handing with uncertain systems. In the field of overhead crane control, the adaptive control technique is also considered by some researchers. In [22] the fuzzy logic controller is used to keep the system stable and an adaptive algorithm is provided to tune the free parameters. The given strategy is simple but robust to the variation of the system parameters (wire length and payload weight) as well as external disturbances. However, the stability of overall system is not presented. In [23], a fuzzy sliding-mode control is designed for the antisway trajectory

tracking of the nominal plant. Then, a fuzzy uncertainty observer is used to cope with system uncertainties as well as actuator nonlinearities. This observer is incorporated with the fuzzy sliding-mode control law for the development of the adaptive fuzzy sliding-mode controller. This scheme guarantees asymptotic stability and robust performance but it is quite complicated. An adaptive sliding-mode antisway control of uncertain overhead cranes with high-speed hosting motion is shown in [24]. In this scheme, the asymptotic stability of the sway dynamic is achieved by the sliding-mode controller, the system uncertainties is coped by a fuzzy observer. This algorithm gives the robust antisway performance to overhead cranes regardless of hosting velocity and system uncertainties. The stability of the system, however, is proven in analysis and simulation only.

This paper proposed an antisway adaptive controller for overhead cranes. In particular, the model of the overhead crane is built in the form of state-space at first. Then, the adaptive controller with feedforward and feedback components is introduced. This controller has the ability to drive the trolley to the target with high speed and low swing angle. Also, the proposed controller can remove the effect of the parametric uncertainties as well as the input disturbances. Moreover, the structure of the controller is not complicate and this leads to simplify in the execution. The stability of the overall system is guaranteed by the Lyapunov theory. Finally, the simulation is executed by Matlab/Simulink for both proposed adaptive controller and conventional state feedback controller. The simulation results indicate that the suggested controller gives the good performance, i.e., fast response, no steady state error, no payload swing angle even under the condition of system uncertainties. The main contribution of this research work can be cited as the following:

- The proposed controller can drive the trolley to the target with fast responses and almost no swing angle.
- The scheme works well under the effect of rope length, variation load mass, the external disturbances.
- In comparison with the existing works which solve the same problems of the overhead crane systems, the presented controller has simple structure and the stability is proven via Lyapunov theory by using the Linear Matrix Inequality.

2. SYSTEM MODEL AND LMI BASED ADAPTIVE CONTROLLER DESIGN

Figure 1 describes the block diagram of an overhead crane. The trolley moves along the horizontal axis (Ox-axis) with its load which is hung at the end of the rope.

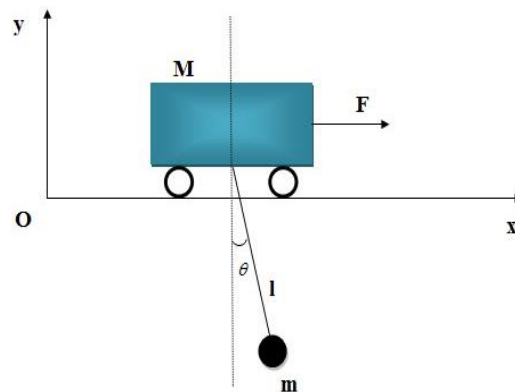


Figure 1. Block diagram of an overhead crane system

The motion equation of the overhead crane is given as the following [25]:

$$\begin{cases} (M + m)\ddot{x} + ml\ddot{\theta} \cos \theta - ml\dot{\theta}^2 \sin \theta = u \\ l\ddot{\theta} + g \sin \theta + \ddot{x} \cos \theta = 0 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where

M : trolley mass [kg]

m : payload mass [kg]

l : cable length [m]

x : trolley position [m]

g : gravity acceleration [m/s^2]

θ : payload swing angle [deg]

u : control input corresponding to control force exerted on the trolley [N]

The model (1) can be rewritten as:

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{x} = \frac{mg \sin \theta \cos \theta + ml\dot{\theta}^2 \sin \theta}{M + m \sin^2 \theta} + \frac{1}{M + m \sin^2 \theta} u \\ \ddot{\theta} = -\frac{(M+m)g \sin \theta + ml\dot{\theta}^2 \sin \theta \cos \theta}{(M + m \sin^2 \theta)l} - \frac{\cos \theta}{(M + m \sin^2 \theta)l} u \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

It should be noted that since the sway angle is small, i.e. it is desired to be zero, then $\cos \theta \approx 1$, $\sin \theta \approx \theta$, and $\theta^2 \approx 0$. The model (2) can be simplified as:

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{x} = \frac{mg\theta + ml\dot{\theta}^2\theta}{M} + \frac{1}{M} u \\ \ddot{\theta} = -\frac{(M+m)g\theta + ml\dot{\theta}^2\theta}{Ml} - \frac{1}{Ml} u \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

Defining the state variables:

$$X = [x_1 \quad x_2 \quad x_3 \quad x_4]^T = [x - x_d \quad \dot{x} - \dot{x}_d \quad \theta - \theta_d \quad \dot{\theta} - \dot{\theta}_d]^T$$

where x_d and θ_d are the desired values of x and θ , respectively.

With this definition and by using the fact that the x_d and θ_d do not change suddenly in a short sampling interval, the system model (3) can be rewritten as:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = x_2 \\ \dot{x}_2 = k_1 x_3 + k_2 x_3 x_4^2 + k_3 u \\ \dot{x}_3 = x_4 \\ \dot{x}_4 = k_4 x_3 + k_5 x_3 x_4^2 + k_6 u \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

where $k_1 = \frac{mg}{M}$, $k_2 = \frac{ml}{M}$, $k_3 = \frac{1}{M}$, $k_4 = -\frac{(M+m)g}{Ml}$, $k_5 = -\frac{m}{M}$, $k_6 = -\frac{1}{Ml}$

The control input u can be separated into two parts, u_1 and u_2 , where u_1 is the feedback control component which stabilizes the error dynamics of the system and u_2 is the nonlinearity compensating control component given as

$$u_2 = -x_3 x_4^2 \quad (5)$$

In considering the system parameter uncertainties, the model (4) becomes:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = x_2 \\ \dot{x}_2 = (k_1 + \Delta k_1)x_3 + (k_2 + \Delta k_2)x_3 x_4^2 + (k_3 + \Delta k_3)(u_1 + u_2) \\ \dot{x}_3 = x_4 \\ \dot{x}_4 = (k_4 + \Delta k_4)x_3 + (k_5 + \Delta k_5)x_3 x_4^2 + (k_6 + \Delta k_6)(u_1 + u_2) \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

where Δk_i ($i = 1$ to 6) are the uncertainties of k_i . It does not lose the generation with the assumption that Δk_3 and Δk_6 are not only the uncertainties of k_3 and k_6 but also include the input disturbances and error in the feedforward channel represented by δ . With this assumption, the model (6) becomes:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = x_2 \\ \dot{x}_2 = (k_1 + \Delta k_1)x_3 + k_3 u_1 + k_3 \delta (u_1 + x_3 x_4^2) \\ \dot{x}_3 = x_4 \\ \dot{x}_4 = (k_4 + \Delta k_4)x_3 + k_6 u_1 + k_6 \delta (u_1 + x_3 x_4^2) \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

The model (7) can be rewritten in the state-space form as

$$\dot{x} = (A + \Delta A)x + B[u_1 + \delta f(x, u)] \quad (8)$$

where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & k_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & k_4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \Delta A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \Delta k_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \Delta k_4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$B = [0 \quad k_3 \quad 0 \quad k_5]^T, f(x, u) = u_1 + x_3 x_4^2$$

In which ΔA component expresses the uncertainties of the system parameters parameters. Assume that there exists a positive definite matrix $P \in R^{4 \times 4}$ satisfying the following inequality

$$(A + \Delta A)^T P + P(A + \Delta A) + Q - 2PBR^{-1}B^T P < 0 \quad (9)$$

where $Q \in R^{4 \times 4}$, and $R \in R^{2 \times 2}$ are positive definite matrices. Assume the controller K is given by:

$$K = R^{-1}B^T P \quad (10)$$

and the adaptive law

$$\dot{\delta}_{es} = \gamma f(x, u)x^T PB, \quad \gamma > 0 \quad (11)$$

where δ_{es} is the estimated value of δ .

Consider the following theorem:

Theorem: Assume that the LMI condition (9) is feasible for some P and the controller gain K is given by (10), the adaptive law is given by (11). Then the controller u_1 can make the error dynamics x converge to zero.

$$u_1 = -Kx - \delta_{es}f(x, u) \quad (12)$$

Proof: Let us choose the Lyapunov function as

$$V = x^T P x + \delta_e^2 \gamma^{-1} \quad (13)$$

where $\delta_e = \delta_{es} - \delta$. Its time derivative along the error dynamics (11) is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V} &= 2x^T P \dot{x} + 2\delta_e \dot{\delta}_e \gamma^{-1} \\ &= 2x^T P[(A + \Delta A)x + Bu + B\delta f(x, u)] + 2\delta_e \gamma^{-1}(\dot{\delta}_{es} - \dot{\delta}) \\ &= 2x^T P[(A + \Delta A)x + B(-Kx - \delta_{es}f(x, u)) + B\delta f(x, u)] + 2\delta_e \gamma^{-1} \dot{\delta}_{es} \\ &= 2x^T P[(A + \Delta A) - BK]x - 2x^T PB\delta_{es}f(x, u) + 2x^T PB\delta f(x, u) + 2\delta_{es} \gamma^{-1} \dot{\delta}_{es} \\ &= 2x^T P[(A + \Delta A) - BK]x - 2x^T PB\delta_{es}f(x, u) + 2\delta_{es}f(x, u)x^T PB \\ &= 2x^T P[(A + \Delta A) - BK]x \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

The LMI condition (9) implies that

$$\dot{V} < -x^T Q x \leq 0 \quad (15)$$

Then, by integrating both sides of (15), the following equation is derived

$$\int_0^\infty x(\tau)^T Q x(\tau) d\tau = -\int_0^\infty \dot{V}(\tau) d\tau = V(0) - V(\infty) < \infty \quad (16)$$

This implies $x \in L_2 \cap L_\infty, \delta \in L_\infty$. Combining the previous results and using Barbalat's lemma, x converges to zero as time goes to infinity, that is,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = 0 \quad (17)$$

Remark 1: The equation of ΔA can be rewritten as the following form:

$$\Delta A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \Delta k_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \Delta k_4 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = EF\Delta k_1 + GF\Delta k_4 \tag{18}$$

where

$$E = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, F = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}^T, G = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

The inequality (9) is rewritten as

$$A^T P + PA - 2PBR^{-1}B^T P + Q + \Delta A^T P + P\Delta A < 0 \tag{19}$$

The above inequality (19) is satisfied if the following inequality holds for some positive ρ

$$A^T P + PA + Q - 2PBR^{-1}B^T P + \rho PEE^T P + \frac{1}{\rho} F^T F \Delta k_1^2 + \rho PGG^T P + \frac{1}{\rho} F^T F \Delta k_4^2 < 0 \tag{20}$$

where the following inequality is used

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta A^T P + P\Delta A &= \Delta k_1 F^T E^T P + \Delta k_1 PEF + \Delta k_4 F^T G^T P + \Delta k_4 PGF \\ &\leq \rho PEE^T P + \frac{1}{\rho} F^T F \Delta k_1^2 + \rho PGG^T P + \frac{1}{\rho} F^T F \Delta k_4^2 \end{aligned}$$

Assume that $|\Delta k_1| \leq \zeta$ and $|\Delta k_4| \leq \zeta$ for some known positive constant ζ , then inequality (20) is satisfied if the following Riccati-like inequality has a positive definite solution matrix $P \in R^{4 \times 4}$:

$$A^T P + PA + Q - 2PBR^{-1}B^T P + \rho PEE^T P + \rho PGG^T P + \frac{2}{\rho} \zeta^2 F^T F < 0 \tag{21}$$

Remark 2: By using the Schur complement formula, it can be shown that the Riccati-like inequality (21) is equivalent to the following linear matrix inequality (LMI)

$$X > 0, \begin{bmatrix} AX + XA^T - 2BR^{-1}B^T + \rho EE^T + \rho GG^T & X & \zeta XF^T \\ X & -Q^{-1} & 0 \\ \zeta FX & 0 & -\frac{\rho}{2} I \end{bmatrix} < 0 \tag{22}$$

Thus, by solving the above simple LMI and setting $P=X^{-1}$, we can easily obtain the positive definite solution matrix P of (21).

3. CONTROL STRATEGY VERIFICATION

In order to validate the effectiveness of the proposed adaptive antiswing controller, the simulation and experiment are executed in Matlab/Simulink environment and laboratory sized overhead crane test-bed, respectively. Let consider the overhead crane with the nominal parameters are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Nominal parameters of an overhead crane system

Items	Values
Trolley mass (M)	25 (kg)
Payload mass (m)	8 (kg)
Cable length (l)	1.2 (m)
Gravity acceleration (g)	9.81 (m/s ²)

Based on the nominal parameters given in Table 1, the system model (4) can be rewritten as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = x_2 \\ \dot{x}_2 = 2.45x_3 + 0.25x_3x_4^2 + 0.05u \\ \dot{x}_3 = x_4 \\ \dot{x}_4 = -12.26x_3 - 0.25x_3x_4^2 - 0.05u \end{cases} \quad (23)$$

The state-space model (11) with system uncertainties becomes

$$\dot{x} = (A + \Delta A)x + B[u_1 + \delta f(x, u)] \quad (24)$$

$$\text{where } A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2.45 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -12.26 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0.05 \\ 0 \\ -0.25 \end{bmatrix}$$

By solving (22) with $\zeta = 0.5k_5$, $Q = 2I$, and $R = 5e-3I$, the controller gain is obtained as:

$$K = [93.98 \quad 106.71 \quad -331.14 \quad 3.17] \quad (25)$$

which leads to the following controller

$$u_1 = -Kx - \delta_{es}f(x, u) \quad (26)$$

where $f(x, u) = u_1 + x_3x_4^2$, $\delta_{es} = \gamma f(x, u)x^T PB$ and $\gamma = 0.05$. The overall controller:

$$u = u_1 + u_2 \quad (27)$$

where u_2 is shown in (5).

In order to verify the effectiveness of the adaptation component, the performances of the proposed controller are compared with the performances of the conventional state feedback controller via simulation and experimental results. The equations of the conventional state feedback controller are given by:

$$\begin{cases} u = u_1 + u_2 \\ u_1 = -K_f x \\ u_2 = -x_3x_4^2 \end{cases} \quad (28)$$

where K is calculated from nominal matrix A and B :

$$K_f = [1.4 \quad 1461.5 \quad -1461.3 \quad 290.6] \quad (29)$$

In the paper, the simulations are carried out under three cases as follow:

Case 1: The system parameters are nominal, i.e., $M = 25\text{kg}$, $m = 8\text{kg}$, and $l = 1.2\text{m}$.

Case 2: The system parameters are of 150% variation, i.e., $M = 37\text{kg}$, $m = 12\text{kg}$, and $l = 1.8\text{m}$.

Case 3: The system parameters are nominal, i.e., $M = 25\text{kg}$, $m = 8\text{kg}$, $l = 1.2\text{m}$, and the input disturbance is $10\sin(10t)$.

In each case, the responses of the proposed algorithm is compared with the results of the state feedback controller. The simulation results for the above three cases are shown in Figure 2-4. In each figure, from top to bottom are the waveforms of the trolley position and payload swing angle, respectively. It can be seen from Figure 2 that, when the system parameters are nominal, the responses of the proposed scheme and the state feedback controller are not so much different. the settling time of the system with adaptive controller is about 3sec, the tracking error is almost zero, and the maximum payload swing angle is 0.15deg (after 3sec, the swing angle is cancelled). Meanwhile, the state feedback controller has the settling time about 5sec with no steady state error and 0.15deg of payload swing angle.

In the Figure 3, the system parameters are of 150% variation but the results of the proposed system are nearly unchanged, i.e. the transient time is less than 4sec, the maximum swing angle is smaller than 0.15deg and it is kept almost zero at the steady state. For the state feedback controller, the response of the position is little oscillation with the longer settling time, about 6sec, swing angle is still small (0.2deg) but it is underdamped oscillations.

Figure 4 illustrates the responses of the proposed adaptive controller and state feedback controller in the presence of the input disturbance. It can be seen that, with the adaptive controller, the trolley reaches the destination after 3sec and the payload swing angle is removed after the transient time. However, in the case of the state feedback controller, the settling time is 5sec and the swing in the both position and payload angle is not cancelled although the trolley arrives its target.

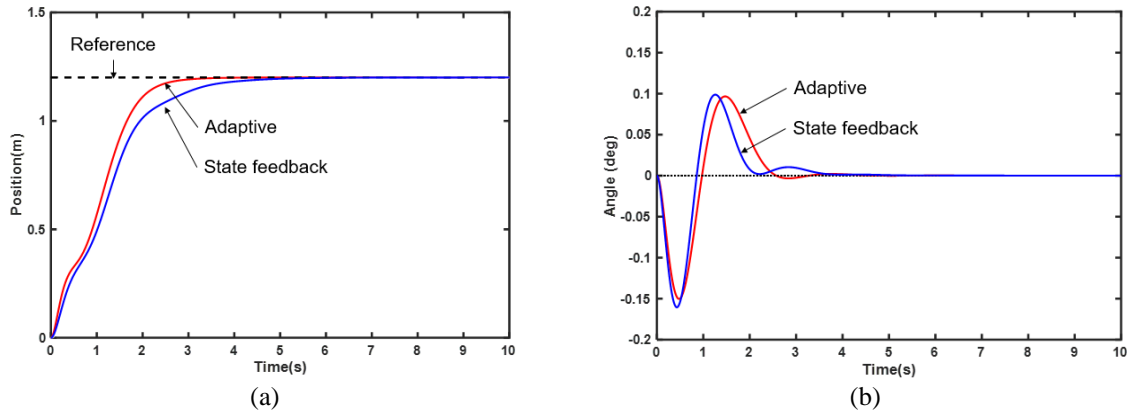


Figure 2. Simulation results of the proposed adaptive controller and state feedback controller with nominal system parameters, (a) trolley position, (b) payload swing angle

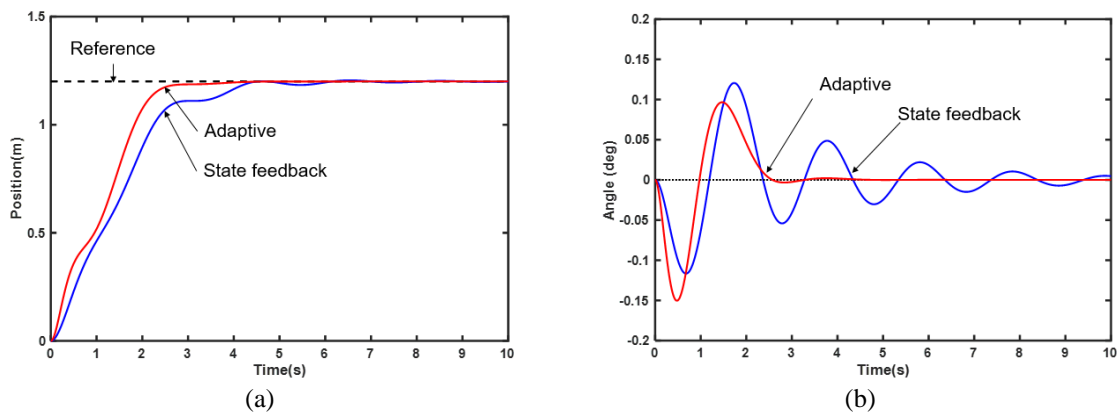


Figure 3. Simulation results of the proposed adaptive controller and state feedback controller with 150% variation of system parameters, (a) trolley position, (b) payload swing angle

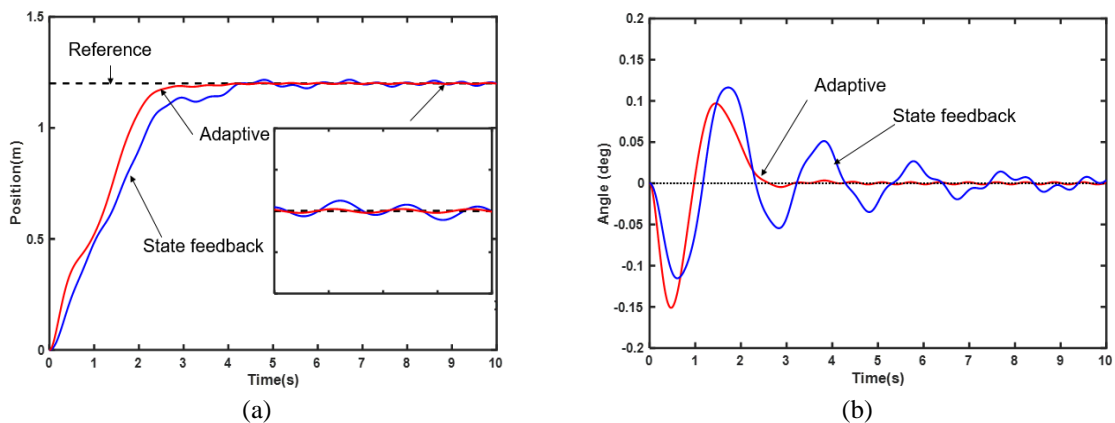


Figure 4. Simulation results of the proposed adaptive controller and state feedback controller with presence of the input disturbance, (a) trolley position, (b) payload swing angle

The numerical analysis for above results is depicted in the Table 2. From the above simulation results, it is obvious that, the proposed adaptive controller and the corresponding state feedback controller keep the trolley stable at the destination. However, as the trolley mass, payload mass, and the cable length are changed or the input disturbance is sinusoidal, the suggested controller gives the performance with no redundant swing after the trolley comes to rest. Meanwhile, under the control of the state feedback scheme, the payload keeps swinging even though the trolley reaches the standstill condition.

Table 2. Position and angle responses of the proposed and state feedback controllers in three cases

	Case 1		Case 2		Case 3	
	Position	Angle	Position	Angle	Position	Angle
Proposed	$T_s = 3s$ No ripple	$T_s = 3s$ No ripple Max. -0.15°	$T_s = 3s$ No ripple	$T_s = 3s$, No ripple Max. -0.15°	$T_s = 3s$ No ripple	$T_s = 3s$ No ripple Max. -0.15°
State Feedback	$T_s = 5s$ No ripple	$4s$ No ripple Max. -0.15°	$T_s = 5s$ Little ripple	$T_s > 10s$ Ripple Max. -0.13°	$T_s = 5s$ Ripple	$T_s > 10s$, Ripple Max. -0.12°

T_s is the settling time

4. CONCLUSION

A simple but efficient antisway adaptive controller has been presented for the overhead crane system. This simple controller not only removes the oscillation of the payload but it is also robust to the system uncertainties. Also, the linear matrix inequalities (LMI) with feasible performance constraints have been used to design the controller gains. The stability of the overall system was guaranteed by the Lyapunov theory. Finally, the simulation and was executed by Matlab/Simulink for both proposed adaptive controller and the state feedback controller. The simulation results indicate that the suggested controller gives the good performance, i.e., fast response, no steady state error, no payload swing angle even under the condition of system uncertainties.

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