The Validity Range of LSDP Robust Controller by Exploiting the Gap Metric Theory

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Abstract—This paper attempts to define the validity domain of LSDP (Loop Shaping Design Procedure) controller system, by determining the suitable uncertainty region, so that linear system be stable. Indeed the LSDP controller cannot provide stability for any perturbed system. For this, we will use the gap metric tool that is introduced into the control literature for studying robustness properties of feedback systems with uncertainty. A 2nd order electric linear system example is given to define the validity domain of LSDP controller and effectiveness gap metric.

Keywords—LSDP, Gap metric, Robust Control.

I. INTRODUCTION

The goal of feedback is to use the principle of feedback to make the output of a dynamic process follow a desired reference accurately in spite of the external disturbances and any uncertainty in the dynamics of the process. Before the design of a feedback controller can begin, a mathematical model of the system to be controlled has to be constructed. In many cases, the modeling of complex systems is difficult, expensive and time consuming. It is impossible that mathematical model can exactly represent the behaviors of a physical system. The differences or errors between mathematical models and the physical system are generally called uncertainty. There are different methods to model the uncertainty region. Here we use additive perturbations to the nominal plant coprime factors [16]. This representation of uncertainty has no restriction on the number of right half plane poles and is capable of representing a wider class of systems. Also coprime factorizations are widely used in H∞ optimal control theory.

The LSDP approach was firstly developed by McFarlane and Glover [13] and has been used successfully in many practical applications [1], [8], [10]. This approach is a simple and efficient robust multi-input multi-output (MIMO) controller synthesis technique that produces a controller that guarantees robust stability against normalized coprime factor uncertainty. The idea of the LSDP design is firstly to use well known loop shaping principles to introduce performance and robustness trade-offs and then, to allow the robustness optimization process to guarantee closed-loop stability.

In this paper, we determine the validity range of a robust controller determined by the LSDP approach deal with parametric uncertainty of a shaped SISO linear model G_{sh}(s).

Indeed, for a linear model and a stabilizing controller, the stability robustness is defined as a radius of the controller as the smallest distance to a perturbation of the model which may cause the closed-loop system to become instable. Several distance notions for linear systems have been proposed, of which the so-called gap metric [17]. Then a simple and qualitative condition to verify if the LSDP controller stabilizes a perturbed model G_{sh,\Delta}(s) is to check whether the gap between G_{sh}(s), G_{sh,\Delta}(s) is less than the stability margin. It should be clear that a perturbed model at a distance is greater than the stability margin, will be destabilized by the LSDP controller that stabilizes the linear shaped model G_{sh}(s) with a stability margin equal to the gap between the two systems.

The paper is organized as follows. The LSDP approach is introduced in Section II, the gap metric theory is described in section III. Section IV presents the validity domain of LSDP controller and the effectiveness gap metric on a second-order electrical linear system.

II. LOOP-SHAPING DESIGN PROCEDURE (LSDP)

A. Principle

The method based heavily on the loop-shaping procedure of McFarlane and Glover [12], [13] that appears in some works [5], [6], [11]. The LSDP can be divided into three distinct steps as follow:

1) Loop Shaping

Using a pre-compensator V_1(s) and/or a post-compensator V_2(s), the singular values of the nominal plant are shaped to give a desired open-loop shape. The nominal plant G(s) and shaping functions V_1(s), V_2(s) are combined to form the shaped plant, G_{sh}(s) = V_1(s) G(s) V_2(s), as shown in Fig. 1. Weight selection is very important for the design. Typically, weight V_1(s) and V_2(s) are selected such as the open loop of the shaped plant has the following conflict properties: to achieve a good performance tracking, good disturbance rejection, large open loop gain (normally at low frequency range) is required. To achieve a good robust stability and sensor noise rejection, small open loop gain (normally at high frequency range) is required.
The robust controller $K_{\infty,\text{opt}}$ can be solved by MATLAB® with function ‘coprimeuenc’ of the Robust Control toolbox. Additionally it computes the corresponding maximum robustness margin $\epsilon_{\text{max}}$ from:

$$
\epsilon_{\text{max}} = (1 + \rho(XZ))^{1/2}
$$

where $\rho$ denotes the spectral radius.

III. GAP METRIC THEORY

Before the gap metric was introduced in [17] to study the robustness of feedback systems subject to modeling uncertainty, several authors developed computational tools notably in [2]–[4], [18] for a fairly general class of infinite-dimensional systems. In [2], the authors show that the feedback optimization in the gap metric is equivalent to feedback optimization with respect to normalized factor perturbations. El-Sakkary [15] shows that the gap metric is better suited to measure the distance between two linear systems than a metric based on norms. Gap metric denoted by $\delta(G, G_{\Delta})$ introduces the notion of “distance” between two nominal system model $G$ and a perturbed model $G_{\Delta}$ as the “gap” between their graphs. The calculation of the gap metric begins with two finite dimensional linear systems with the same number of inputs and outputs that left normalized coprime factorizations are given by:

$$
G_{\Delta} = M^{-1} \hat{N}, G_{\Delta,\Delta} = (M + \Delta M)\hat{N} + \Delta \hat{N})
$$

$M$ and $\hat{N}$ ($\in \text{RH}_{\infty}$) denote the left factors of the nominal system model $G$, $\Delta M$ and $\Delta \hat{N}$ ($\in \text{RH}_{\infty}$) model the uncertainty of right coprime factors of $G$ with $\|\Delta M\|_{\infty} < \epsilon$. It can be shown that the gap metric can be computed using the projection operators or the coprime factorizations [15]:

$$
\delta(G, G_{\Delta}) = \sup \left\{ \inf_{\Delta M, \Delta \hat{N}} \left[ \left\| \begin{bmatrix} M + \Delta M \\ \hat{N} + \Delta \hat{N} \end{bmatrix} \right\| \frac{G}{\hat{N}} \right] \right\} = \inf_{\Delta M, \Delta \hat{N}} \left[ \left\| \begin{bmatrix} M + \Delta M \\ \hat{N} + \Delta \hat{N} \end{bmatrix} \right\| \frac{G}{\hat{N}} \right]
$$

The gap metric can be calculated to any desired accuracy by using MATLAB® Robust Control Toolbox and the command ‘gap metric’. The connection between the gap metric theory and LSDP approach of section 2 is due to Georgiou and Smith [2]. The following theorem [2] gives necessary and sufficient conditions for the gap between $G_{\Delta,\Delta}$ and $G_{\Delta,\Delta}$ on the one hand and, on the other hand, the extent that a controller $K_{\infty,\text{opt}}$ stabilizes a right coprime factor perturbed plant $G_{\Delta,\Delta}$ given that it robustly stabilizes a nominal plant $G_{\Delta,\Delta}$.

**Theorem 1** [2]. Consider a shaped model $G_{\Delta,\Delta}$ with a left and normalized coprime factorization $G_{\Delta,\Delta} = M^{-1} \hat{N}$ and a controller $K_{\infty,\text{opt}}$ that stabilizes it. Take a real number $\epsilon_{\text{max}}$ so that $0 \leq \epsilon_{\text{max}} \leq 1$. Then, these two statements are equivalent:

a. The closed loop pair $[G_{\Delta,\Delta}, K_{\infty,\text{opt}}]$ is stable for every uncertain model $G_{\Delta,\Delta}$ with $G_{\Delta,\Delta} = (M + \Delta M)\hat{N} + \Delta \hat{N})$ where $\Delta M$ and $\Delta \hat{N}$ ($\in \text{RH}_{\infty}$) and $\left\| \begin{bmatrix} \Delta M \\ \Delta \hat{N} \end{bmatrix} \right\| < \epsilon_{\text{max}}$.

b. The closed loop pair $[G_{\Delta,\Delta}, K_{\infty,\text{opt}}]$ is stable for every model $G_{\Delta,\Delta}$ for which $\delta(G_{\Delta,\Delta}, K_{\infty,\text{opt}}) < \epsilon_{\text{max}}$. 


IV. SIMULATION EXAMPLE: 2ND ORDER ELECTRIC LINEAR SYSTEM

We consider a 2nd order linear electrical system represented by the following electric circuit:

![Second order electric linear system circuit](image)

With \( R_1 = R = R_2 = 68 \, \text{K} \Omega \), \( C_1 = 10 \, \text{nF} \) and \( C' \) a variable capacity. The system is defined by the following transfer function:

\[
G(s) = \frac{R_2}{R \, R_1 R_2 C_1 C' \, s^2 + R \, R_1 C_1 \, s + R_2} \tag{7}
\]

or yet canonical form:

\[
G(s) = \frac{k \, w_0^2}{s^2 + 2 \, m \, w_0 \, s + w_0^2} \tag{8}
\]

as:

- \( K \) the static gain:
  \[
k = 1 \tag{9}
\]
- \( w_0 \) the natural frequency
  \[
w_0 = \sqrt{\frac{1}{R \, R_1 C_1 C'}} \tag{10}
\]
- \( m \) the damping ratio
  \[
m = \frac{1}{2 \, R_2} \sqrt{\frac{R \, R_1 C_1}{C'}} \tag{11}
\]

For the nominal representation \( G(s) \) we set:

\[
C' = C_0' = 0.033 \, 10^{-8} \, \text{F} \tag{12}
\]

and \( G(s) \) can be written as:

\[
G(s) = \frac{68000}{(s + 1522.6) \, (s + 43041)} \tag{13}
\]

For the weighted representation \( G_w(s) \) we choose the weighting functions \( V_1(s) \) and \( V_2(s) \) as:

\[
V_1(s) = \frac{3}{s + 0.01} \quad V_2(s) = 1 \tag{14}
\]

The filter can increase the gain in low frequencies and reduce the gain at high frequencies. As a result, \( G_w(s) \) is written:

\[
G_w(s) = \frac{2.04 \times 10^3}{1.038 \times 10^{-3} \, s^3 + 46.24 \, s^2 + 68 \, 10^3 \, s + 680} \tag{15}
\]

From (15) the transfer matrix \( G_w(s) \) is defined by the following state-space matrix \( A_{sh}, B_{sh}, C_{sh} \) and \( D_{sh} \):

\[
A_{sh} = \begin{bmatrix} -4.4563 & -0.8 \, 0.001 \\ 0.8192 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad B_{sh} = \begin{bmatrix} 64 \end{bmatrix} \tag{16}
\]

\[
C_{sh} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 46.8737 \end{bmatrix} \quad D_{sh} = 0 \tag{17}
\]

By applying the \( H_\infty \) loop shaping method, the robustness margin \( \varepsilon_{max} \) is founded at 0.7006 from (4). This value indicates that the selected weighting function is compatible with the robust stability requirement. Based on the conventional technique presented in Section II, the conventional \( H_\infty \) loop shaping controller is synthesized as:

\[
K_{\infty,\text{opt}}(s) = \frac{151.2 \, s + 6.74 \, 10^6 \, s + 9.911 \, 10^9}{s^2 + 4.472 \, 10^7 \, s + 7.242 \, 10^7 \, s + 1.016 \, 10^{10}} \tag{18}
\]

We represent the bode diagrams of \( G(s) \) and \( G_w(s) \) in Fig. 4:

![Bode diagrams](image)
To test the performance of the $K_{\infty, opt}$ robust controller to guarantee the robust stabilization of shaped closed loop system $G_{sh}(s)$ over parametric uncertainties, we propose to disturb the nominal model $G(s)$ by varying the capacitance value $C'_c$. This variation results from an added parametric uncertainty to the value of $C'_c$ as:

$$C'(\Delta_c) = C'_0 + \Delta_c / C'_0 = 0.033 \times 10^{-8} \text{ F and } \Delta_c > 0$$

(19)

As a result, from (4) we get the uncertain system $G_{\Delta c}(s)$:

$$G_{\Delta c}(s) = \frac{k w^2_{0,\Delta c}}{s^2 + 2 m_{\Delta c}} w_{0,\Delta c} s + w^2_{0,\Delta c}. \quad \text{(20)}$$

with:

$$w_{0,\Delta c} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{R R_1 C_1 (C'_0 + \Delta_c)}} \quad \text{(21)}$$

$$m_{\Delta c} = \frac{1}{2 R_2} \sqrt{\frac{R R_1 C_1}{(C'_0 + \Delta_c)}} \quad \text{(22)}$$

Also we obtain the following uncertain shaped representation $G_{sh,\Delta c}(s)$ as:

$$G_{sh,\Delta c}(s) = V_1(s) G_{\Delta c}(s) V_2(s) \quad \text{(23)}$$

In order to test the stability margin $G_{sh,\Delta c}(s)$ in terms of the parametric uncertainty $\Delta_c$, we represent in Figs. 5 and 6 the evolution of the corresponding gain and phase margins (Mg, Mφ). From these figures, we see that the uncertain shaped model becomes unstable for $\Delta_c \geq 0.4902 \times 10^3$ F since $M_\phi (G_{sh,\Delta c}) \leq -0.036^\circ$ and $Mg (G_{sh,\Delta c}) \equiv 0$ dB. It is interesting therefore to determine the range variation of the uncertainty parameter $\Delta_c$ in which the robust controller $K_{\infty, opt}$ guarantees the robust stabilization of uncertain shaped system $G_{sh,\Delta c}(s)$. In this case, using the gap metric theory we propose to quantify from (6) the distance between the shaped system $G_{sh}$ and the uncertain shaped system $G_{sh,\Delta c}$ relative to the maximum stability margin $\epsilon_{\text{max}}$. This is illustrated in Fig. 8 plotting the variation of the gap metric $\delta g (G_{sh}, G_{sh,\Delta c})$ as functions of $\Delta_c$ as $\delta g (G_{sh}, G_{sh,\Delta c}) \leq \epsilon_{\text{max}}$.

From Fig. 8, it may be observed that the limit value $\delta g (G_{sh}, G_{sh,\Delta c}) = \epsilon_{\text{max}}$ is surpassed at $\Delta_c = 0.498 \times 10^3$ F. This value is above $\Delta_c = 0.4902 \times 10^5$ F that characterizes the instability of uncertain shaped system $G_{sh,\Delta c}$. In Table I, we summarize for three values $\Delta_c$, $\Delta_c = 4.6775 \times 10^0$ F, $\Delta_c = 10^0$ F and $\Delta_c = 0.494 \times 10^5$ F performance for corrected system by open loop robust controller $K_{\infty, opt}$ in terms of:

- Gap metric $\delta g (G_{sh}, G_{sh,\Delta c})$
- Phase margin $M_\phi (K_{\infty, opt} G_{sh,\Delta c})$
- Gain margin $Mg (K_{\infty, opt} G_{sh,\Delta c})$

We propose to compare the closed loop performance $K_{\infty, opt}$ with respect to the following classical PID control
where \( N = 3632.7536 \), \( K_c = 1.8417 \), \( K_i = 8.2761 \) and \( K_d = -0.0003 \). In Figs. 9-20 are shown the reference, the output and the input signals using the robust controller \( K_{\text{robust}} \) and the classical PID control considering \( \Delta_c = 4.6775 \times 10^{-9} \text{ F} \), \( \Delta_c = 10^{-9} \text{ F} \) and \( \Delta_c = 0.494 \times 10^{-5} \text{ F} \). In addition, it is proposed to test the performance of the robust controller \( K_{\text{robust}} \) for \( \Delta_c \) change over time as \( 0 \leq \Delta_c(t) \leq 2 \times 10^{-5} \text{ F} \). This variation is defined by (25) and shown in Fig. 21. So, we track in Figs. 22 and 23 the input and output signals evolution respectively in the presence of the controller \( K_{\text{robust}} \).

\[ \Delta_c(t) = 10^{-5} \left( 1 + \sin(0.15 \pi t) \cos(0.6 \pi t) \right) \quad (25) \]

![Fig. 9 Evolution of the output signal \( y(t) \) and reference \( r(t) \) for \( \Delta_c = 4.6775 \times 10^{-9} \text{ F} \)](image1)

![Fig. 10 Evolution of input signal \( u(t) \) for \( \Delta_c = 4.6775 \times 10^{-9} \text{ F} \)](image2)

![Table 1: Robust Controller Performance](image3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( \Delta_c ) (( \text{F} ))</th>
<th>4.6775 ( \times 10^{-9} )</th>
<th>10^{-9} \text{ F}</th>
<th>0.494 ( \times 10^{-5} ) \text{ F}</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( C(\Delta_c) )</td>
<td>5.0075 ( \times 10^{5} ) \text{ F}</td>
<td>10^{5} \text{ F}</td>
<td>0.494 ( \times 10^{3} ) \text{ F}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gap metric ( \delta G(\Delta_c, G_{\Delta_c,c}) )</td>
<td>9.7559 ( \times 10^{-1} )</td>
<td>0.199</td>
<td>0.7003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase margin ( \Phi (K_{\text{robust}}, G_{\Delta_c,c}) )</td>
<td>89°</td>
<td>89°</td>
<td>89°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain margin ( M_G(K_{\text{robust}}, G_{\Delta_c,c}) )</td>
<td>54 dB</td>
<td>18.4 dB</td>
<td>1.41 dB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Fig. 11 Evolution of the output signal \( y(t) \) and reference \( r(t) \) for \( \Delta_c = 10^{-9} \text{ F} \)](image4)

![Fig. 12 Evolution of input signal \( u(t) \) and reference \( r(t) \) for \( \Delta_c = 10^{-9} \text{ F} \)](image5)

![Fig. 13 Evolution of output signal \( y(t) \) and reference \( r(t) \) for \( \Delta_c = 0.494 \times 10^{-5} \text{ F} \)](image6)

![Fig. 14 Evolution of input signal \( u(t) \) for \( \Delta_c = 0.494 \times 10^{-5} \text{ F} \)](image7)

\[ C(s) = K_p + \frac{K_i}{s} + K_d \frac{s}{(N^s + 1)} \quad (24) \]
PID Controller for $\Delta_c = 4.6775 \times 10^{-9}$ F

Fig. 15 Evolution of the output signal $y(t)$ and reference $r(t)$ for $\Delta_c = 4.6775 \times 10^{-9}$ F

PID Controller for $\Delta_c = 10^{-6}$ F

Fig. 16 Evolution of the input signal $u(t)$ for $\Delta_c = 4.6775 \times 10^{-9}$ F

Fig. 17 Evolution of the input signal $u(t)$ for $\Delta_c = 10^{-6}$ F

PID Controller for $\Delta_c = 0.494 \times 10^{-5}$ F

Fig. 19 Evolution of the output signal $y(t)$ for $\Delta_c = 0.494 \times 10^{-5}$ F

Fig. 20 Evolution of the input signal $u(t)$ for $\Delta_c = 0.494 \times 10^{-5}$ F

Fig. 21 Evolution of $\Delta_c(t)$

Fig. 22 Evolution of the input signal $u(t)$ for $1.6941 \times 10^{-21} \leq \Delta_c \leq 2 \times 10^{-5}$ F
The simulation and experimental results showed that the robustness and efficiency of the robust controller $K_{\text{opt}}$ was gained when compared with the classical PID control. Indeed in Figs. 15-20 shown performance of PID controller present oscillations that are amplified as and as we increase the value of the parameter uncertainty $\Delta_c$. This is explained by the reduction of the damping coefficient $m_{ac}$ increasing $\Delta_c$ because uncertain system $G_{ac}(s)$ becomes increasingly oscillating and approaching instability. Indeed, from (22) the value of $m_{ac}$ changes from 0.7066 for $\Delta_c = 4.6775 \times 10^9 \text{ F}$ to 0.05 for $\Delta_c = 10^9 \text{ F}$ and then to 0.0225 for $\Delta_c = 0.494 \times 10^5 \text{ F}$. However the performance and robustness of LSDP controller is significantly more authoritative than classical PID control system design. Indeed, we see from Figs. 11 and 12 are small oscillations, and from Figs. 10, 12 and 14, the input signal shows no saturation.

From Table I, the $K_{\text{opt}}$ robust controller stabilizes $G_{bd,ac}(s)$ near the zone of instability characterized for $\Delta_c \geq 0.4902 \times 10^5 \text{ F}$. Indeed, for $\Delta_c = 0.494 \times 10^{-5} \text{ F}$ and from Table I, we get through the corrector $K_{\text{opt}}$ margin phase $M_{\Phi}(K_{\text{opt}} G_{bd,ac}) = 89^\circ$ and margin gain $M_{g}(K_{\text{opt}} G_{bd,ac}) = 1.41 \text{ dB}$. In addition, we note that these performances stability are immediately taking into account the gap metric theory. Indeed, when the shaped system $G_{bd}(s)$ is unstable, we have in Fig. 8 for $\Delta_c = 0.494 \times 10^{-5} \text{ F}$ a gap metric $\delta_g(G_{bd}, G_{bd,ac}) = \epsilon_{max}$. That is to say from the result b of Theorem 1, the $K_{\text{opt}}$ robust controller stabilizes the $K_{\text{opt}}$ uncertain system checking $\delta_g(G_{bd}, G_{bd,ac}) \leq \epsilon_{max}$.

V. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we have shown that for a linear system, the validity of the LSDP approach to maintain the desired robustness depends on uncertainty domain as well defined. The latter is obtained by calculating the gap metric between the nominal linear system and the corresponding perturbed system, depending on the robust margin calculated by LSDP approach. Indeed, a simple and qualitative condition to verify if the LSDP controller stabilizes a perturbed model is to check whether the gap between the two systems is less than the stability margin. Finally, we have shown the robustness and efficiency of the LSDP robust controller is gained when compared with the classical PID controller.

REFERENCES