

# Robust $H_\infty$ Control for Satellite Attitude Control System with Uncertainties and Additive Perturbation

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**Abstract.** This paper proposed a robust non-fragile  $H_\infty$  control method for satellite attitude control system with uncertainties and subject to external disturbances, gyro drifts and controller perturbation. First, the model of satellite attitude system is established and converted into a state space form with uncertainties. Sufficient condition for the existence of state feedback robust non-fragile  $H_\infty$  controller in terms of additive perturbation is given based on linear matrix inequalities (LMIs). When a feasible solution of LMIs is obtained, the controller gain can be known under the condition of certain given values. Then, the theorem of mixed  $H_2/H_\infty$  is given to compare with the method proposed in this paper. The simulation results of non-fragile  $H_\infty$  control and mixed  $H_2/H_\infty$  based on closed-loop satellite attitude control system are presented to demonstrate the effectiveness and performance of the proposed control method.

**Keywords:** Satellite attitude control system; Parameter uncertainties; Additive perturbation;  $H_\infty$  control.

## 1. Introduction

Many uncertain factors such as external disturbance torques, gyro drifts and controller perturbations may result in damage and affect the satellite performance during its on-orbit service. Satellite attitude control system becomes more and more sophisticated due to the increasing requirements for high functionality and performance. In the bad space environment, the complex system inevitably confronts different types of disturbance. Methods centered on robust  $H_\infty$  control have attracted considerable attention during the past few years. Robust non-fragile control has been widely applied in neutral dynamic systems<sup>[1]</sup>, stochastic nonlinear time-delay systems<sup>[2]</sup>, active magnetic bearing system<sup>[3]</sup> and so on.

The robust  $H_\infty$  controller can guarantee that the closed-loop system still satisfies certain  $H_\infty$  performance when bounded parameter uncertainties exist<sup>[4,5]</sup>. Nevertheless, the performance of robustness also relies on precise realization of controller. The controller parameters could accrue some variations due to some disturbances. The traditional feedback control methods are sensitive to the small variations<sup>[6]</sup>. It has shown that even a very small perturbation on controller parameters may lead to the degradation of performance or destabilize the closed-loop system. Sensitivity analysis of  $H_\infty$  quadratic stability problem for continuous-time system was performed to show that proper method can lead to tight perturbation bounds<sup>[7]</sup>. Thus, it is necessary to design a controller that is robust against its own parameters variations which is called non-fragile controller. This problem has been widely investigated by many researchers, who have applied control theory to non-fragile control problem with different requirements. For example, a non-fragile controller was designed by solving a pair of indefinite algebraic Riccati equations for a known linear time-invariant system in [8]. A non-fragile procedure was introduced in [9] to study the problem of synchronization of neural networks with time-varying delay. However, due to the complicated satellite attitude control system, the parameter uncertainties have not

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been all taken into consideration in the existing studies. Moreover, they have less relation with satellite attitude control problems in the above literatures.

The main contribution of this paper is to propose the robust non-fragile  $H_\infty$  control method for a class of satellite attitude control systems with parameter uncertainties and subject to external disturbance torques, gyro drifts, controller perturbations,  $H_\infty$  performance constraint and quadratic stability. Based on the Lyapunov theory, sufficient conditions for the existence of robust non-fragile state feedback controller are given based on linear matrix inequalities (LMIs). Then, the robust non-fragile  $H_\infty$  state feedback controller can be regarded as a convex optimization problem subject to LMI constraints. Once the controller is obtained, the satellite attitude maneuver and stability can be accomplished. The simulation results based on satellite attitude control system are presented to demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed control method.

## 2. Satellite Attitude Dynamics

Consider a rigid-body satellite in a circular orbit, the three coordinate frames for satellite attitude dynamics modeling include the local vertical and local horizontal reference frame (LVLH) with its origin at the center of mass of the satellite, a satellite centered satellite fixed reference frame (SCSF) and an earth centered inertial reference frame (ECI).

In the inertial coordinate system, the attitude dynamics of a satellite can be described as

$$I_b \dot{\omega} + \omega \times (I_b \omega) = T_c + T_g + T_d \quad (1)$$

Choose

$$I_b = \text{diag}(I_x, I_y, I_z)$$

And let

$$T_c = \begin{bmatrix} T_{cx} \\ T_{cy} \\ T_{cz} \end{bmatrix}, T_g = \begin{bmatrix} T_{gx} \\ T_{gy} \\ T_{gz} \end{bmatrix}, T_d = \begin{bmatrix} T_{dx} \\ T_{dy} \\ T_{dz} \end{bmatrix}$$

Then, equation (1) can be converted into

$$\begin{cases} I_x \dot{\omega}_x + (I_z - I_y) \omega_y \omega_z = T_{cx} + T_{gx} + T_{dx} \\ I_y \dot{\omega}_y + (I_x - I_z) \omega_z \omega_x = T_{cy} + T_{gy} + T_{dy} \\ I_z \dot{\omega}_z + (I_y - I_x) \omega_x \omega_y = T_{cz} + T_{gz} + T_{dz} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

To describe the orientation of SCSF with respect to LVLH, in terms of three Euler angles  $\varphi$ ,  $\theta$  and  $\psi$ , which are roll, pitch and yaw attitude angles respectively, a typical sequence of three successive body-axis rotations is yaw→pitch→roll.

Under small angle approximation, we can get

$$\begin{cases} I_x \ddot{\varphi} + \omega_0^2 (I_y - I_z) \varphi + (I_y - I_z - I_x) \omega_0 \dot{\psi} = T_{cx} + T_{gx} + T_{dx} \\ I_x \ddot{\theta} = T_{cy} + T_{gy} + T_{dy} \\ I_z \ddot{\psi} + \omega_0^2 (I_y - I_x) \psi + (I_x + I_z - I_y) \omega_0 \dot{\varphi} = T_{cz} + T_{gz} + T_{dz} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

As is known,  $T_g$  is easily shown as

$$T_g = \begin{bmatrix} T_{gx} \\ T_{gy} \\ T_{gz} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -3\omega_0^2(I_y - I_z)\varphi \\ -3\omega_0^2(I_x - I_z)\theta \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

Then, the final attitude dynamic equation can be obtained

$$\begin{cases} I_x \ddot{\varphi} + 4(I_y - I_z)\omega_0^2\varphi + (I_y - I_z - I_x)\omega_0\dot{\psi} = T_{cx} + T_{dx} \\ I_y \ddot{\theta} + 3\omega_0^2(I_x - I_z)\theta = T_{cy} + T_{dy} \\ I_z \ddot{\psi} + (I_y - I_x)\omega_0^2\psi + (I_x + I_z - I_y)\omega_0\dot{\varphi} = T_{cz} + T_{dz} \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

Choosing state variable as

$$x = [\varphi \quad \theta \quad \psi \quad \dot{\varphi} \quad \dot{\theta} \quad \dot{\psi}]^T, y = [\varphi \quad \theta \quad \psi \quad \omega_x \quad \omega_y \quad \omega_z]^T$$

The satellite attitude control system model with gyro drift can be obtained as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}(t) = (A + \Delta A)x(t) + B_1u(t) + B_2w(t) \\ y(t) = C_1x(t) + D_1d(t) + D_2 \\ z(t) = C_2x(t) \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

where  $x(t)$  is the vector of state variables,  $u(t)$  is the vector of control inputs,  $w(t)$  is the vector of disturbance inputs,  $d(t)$  is the vector of gyro drift,  $y(t)$  and  $z(t)$  are the measurable output and controlled output,  $\Delta A(t)$  is the parameter uncertainty which is the form of (7), others are system coefficient matrices of appropriate dimensions.

$$\Delta A(t) = M_1 F_1(t) N_1, F_1(t)^T F_1(t) \leq I, \forall t \quad (7)$$

where  $M_1$  and  $N_1$  are known constant real matrices of appropriate dimension,  $F_1(t)$  is an unknown matrix function with Lebesgue measurable elements.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -4\omega_0^2 I_x^{-1}(I_y - I_z) & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\omega_0 I_x^{-1}(I_y - I_x - I_z) \\ 0 & -3\omega_0^2 I_y^{-1}(I_x - I_z) & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\omega_0^2 I_z^{-1}(I_y - I_x) & \omega_0 I_z^{-1}(I_y - I_x - I_z) & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$B_1 = B_2 = D_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0_{3 \times 3} & \text{diag}(I_x^{-1}, I_y^{-1}, I_z^{-1}) \end{bmatrix}, \quad u = \begin{bmatrix} T_{cx} & T_{cy} & T_{cz} \end{bmatrix}^T, \quad w = \begin{bmatrix} T_{dx} & T_{dy} & T_{dz} \end{bmatrix}^T,$$

$$D_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0_{1 \times 4} & -\omega_0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad C_1 = \begin{bmatrix} I_{3 \times 3} & 0_{3 \times 3} \\ B & I_{3 \times 3} \end{bmatrix}, \quad C_2 = \begin{bmatrix} I_{6 \times 6} \end{bmatrix}.$$

### 3. The Design of Controller

Design a state feedback robust non-fragile  $H_\infty$  controller

$$u(t) = (K + \Delta K)x(t) \quad (8)$$

$\Delta K$  means controller gain perturbation, here only considers additive perturbation, so

$$\Delta K = M_2 F_2(t) N_2, F_2(t)^T F_2(t) \leq I \quad (9)$$

Substituting (8) into (6) yields the following closed-loop system:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}(t) = (A + \Delta A + B_1 K + B_1 \Delta K)x + B_2 w(t) \\ z(t) = C_2 x(t) \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

For all uncertainties  $\Delta A(t)$  and  $\Delta K$ , the following two conditions are satisfied.

- (1) Closed-loop system (10) is quadratically stable.
- (2) For a given  $\gamma > 0$ ,  $z(t)$  satisfies  $H_\infty$  performance constraint.

**Definition 1** If there is a symmetric positive definite matrix  $P > 0$  and a positive constant  $\alpha$ , for arbitrary uncertainty, the time derivative of Lyapunov function  $V(x, t)$  satisfies

$$\dot{V}(x, t) \leq -\alpha \|x(t)\|_2^2 \quad (11)$$

Then, system (10) ( $w(t) = 0$ ) is quadratically stable.

**Definition 2** For a given  $\gamma > 0$ , if the controlled output  $z(t)$  satisfies (11), then, we can say  $z(t)$  satisfies  $H_\infty$  performance constraint.

$$\|z(t)\|_2^2 < \gamma^2 \|w(t)\|_2^2 \quad (12)$$

**Lemma 1** Let  $H, E \in R^{m \times n}$ ,  $F(t) \in S^m$ , and  $F(t)$  satisfies  $F(t)^T F(t) \leq I$ , then for a scalar  $\xi > 0$ ,

$$HF(t)E + E^T F(t)^T H^T \leq \xi^{-1} H H^T + \xi E^T E \quad (13)$$

**Lemma 2** (Schur complement lemma) Let the partitioned matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{12}^T & A_{22} \end{bmatrix} \quad (14)$$

be symmetric. Then

$$A < 0 \Leftrightarrow A_{11} < 0, A_{22} - A_{12}^T A_{11}^{-1} A_{12} < 0 \Leftrightarrow A_{22} < 0, A_{11} - A_{12} A_{22}^{-1} A_{12}^T < 0 \quad (15)$$

or

$$A > 0 \Leftrightarrow A_{11} > 0, A_{22} - A_{12}^T A_{11}^{-1} A_{12} > 0 \Leftrightarrow A_{22} > 0, A_{11} - A_{12} A_{22}^{-1} A_{12}^T > 0 \quad (16)$$

**Theorem1** When controller gain perturbation is the form of (9), for given  $\xi_1 > 0$ ,  $\xi_2 > 0$  and  $\gamma > 0$ , uncertain system (10) is quadratically stable under the condition of robust non-fragile  $H_\infty$  controller (8), and  $z(t)$  satisfies  $H_\infty$  performance constraint if there exists a symmetric positive definite matrix  $X$  and a matrix  $W$ , such that the following LMI holds:

$$\begin{bmatrix} AX + B_1 W + X A^T + W^T B_1^T & M_1 & X N_1^T & B_1 M_2 & X N_2^T & X C_2^T & B_2 \\ M_1^T & -\xi_1^{-1} I & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ N_1 X & 0 & -\xi_1 I & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ (B_1 M_2)^T & 0 & 0 & -\xi_2^{-1} I & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ N_2 X & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\xi_2 I & 0 & 0 \\ C_2 X & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -I & 0 \\ B_2^T & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\gamma^2 I \end{bmatrix} < 0 \quad (17)$$

Furthermore, if LMI (17) has a feasible solution, the state feedback controller  $K = W X^{-1}$ .

**Proof** Define Lyapunov function

$$V(x(t)) = x(t)^T P x(t)$$

Where  $P = X^{-1}$ .

Then



**Theorem 2<sup>[10]</sup>**. The performance of  $H_2$  and  $H_\infty$  are both satisfied if and only if there exist  $W$ , two symmetric matrices  $Z$  and  $X$  such that

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} AX + B_1W + (AX + B_1W)^T + B_2B_2^T < 0 \\ \begin{bmatrix} -Z & C_2X \\ (C_2X)^T & -X \end{bmatrix} < 0 \\ \text{trace}(Z) < \rho \\ \begin{bmatrix} AX + B_1W + (AX + B_1W)^T & B_2 & (C_1X + D_1W)^T \\ B_2^T & -\gamma_\infty I & D_2^T \\ C_1X + D_1W & D_2 & -\gamma_\infty I \end{bmatrix} < 0 \end{array} \right. \quad (19)$$

By minimizing  $c_\infty \gamma_\infty + c_2 \rho$ , where  $\rho = \gamma_2^2$ , the state feedback gain matrix can be constructed as  $K=WX^{-1}$ .

#### 4. Numerical Results

In this section, non-fragile  $H_\infty$  control approach and mixed  $H_2/H_\infty$  method are illustrated with simulations on a satellite attitude control system with uncertainties to demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed method.

The inertia parameters are assumed as  $I_x = 200kg \cdot m^2, I_y = 200kg \cdot m^2, I_z = 30kg \cdot m^2$ , the orbit height is 300km. Attitude angles and angular velocities are measured with star sensors and gyros. The constant value of gyro drift<sup>[11]</sup> can be assumed as  $d(t)=6 \times [10^{-5} \ 10^{-5} \ 10^{-5}]^T$ .

Choose the initial state as

$$x(0) = [0.07 \ 0.06 \ 0.05 \ 0.012 \ 0.010 \ 0.008]^T$$

Where, the unit of angle is rad and the unit of angular velocity is rad/s. The expected state is zero. The disturbances are white noise modeled as

$$w = \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 \cos(10^5 \omega t) \\ 0.5 \cos(10^5 \omega t + \pi / 4) \\ 0.5 \cos(10^5 \omega t + \pi / 3) \end{bmatrix} N \cdot m$$

Meanwhile, choose

$$M_1 = [0.8 \ 1.1 \ 1.3 \ 1.5 \ 1.6 \ 1.8]^T, N_1 = [-0.1 \ -0.2 \ -0.3 \ -0.4 \ -0.2 \ 1],$$

$$M_2 = [0.01 \ 0.01 \ 0.01]^T, N_2 = [0.1 \ 0.01 \ 0.1 \ 0.01 \ 0.1 \ 0.01],$$

$$\xi_1 = 0.1, \xi_2 = 0.1, \gamma = 0.1, F_1(t) = 0.5 \sin(\omega_0 t), F_2(t) = 0.5 \sin(\omega_0 t + \pi / 4),$$

With **Theorem1** we can attain the corresponding state feedback gain as follow

$$K = \begin{bmatrix} -6403.48 & -2918.61 & -18241.85 & -6377.88 & -997.95 & 3162.98 \\ 2936.43 & -12946.14 & -30455.17 & -1002.68 & -5872.17 & 1278.85 \\ 581.26 & -842.72 & -6355.15 & 525.36 & 169.28 & -2270.24 \end{bmatrix}$$

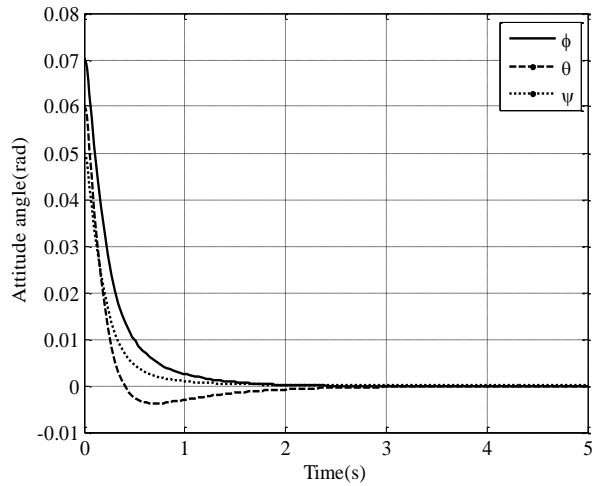


FIG. 1 Attitude angle

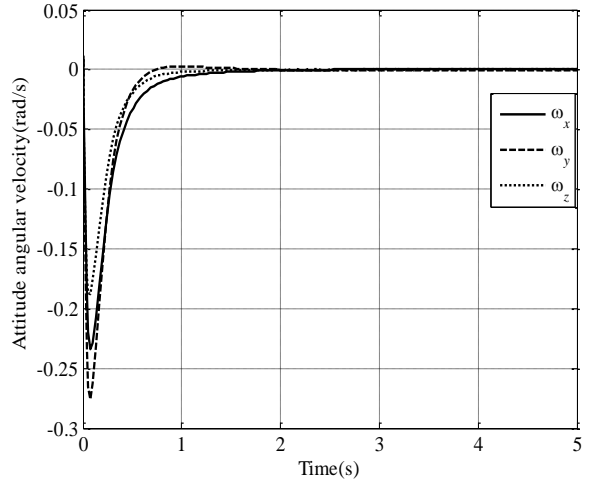


FIG. 2 Angular velocity

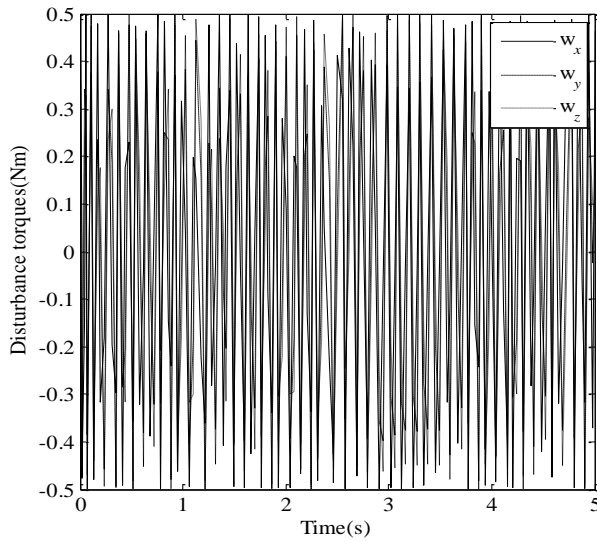


FIG. 3 Disturbance torques of white noise

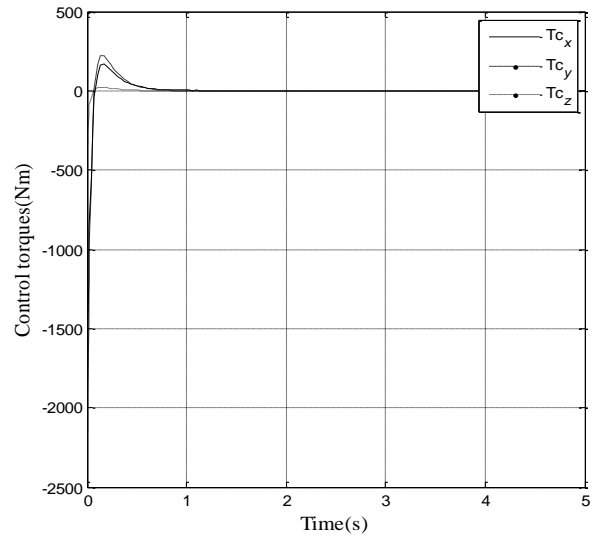


FIG. 4 Control torques

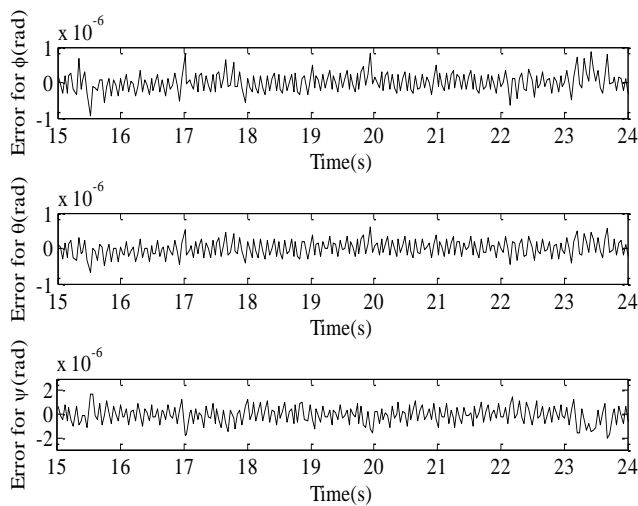


FIG. 5 Error for attitude angle

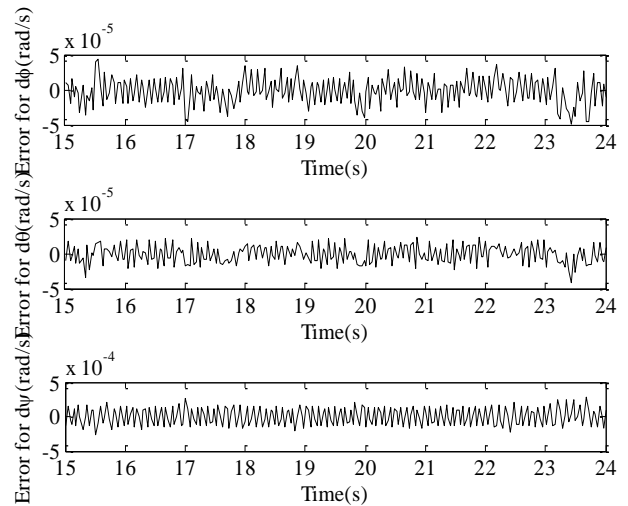


FIG. 6 Error for attitude angle changing rate

FIG. 1-FIG. 6 show the simulation results with the non-fragile  $H_\infty$  controller under the condition of additive perturbation with **Theorem1**. FIG. 1 and FIG. 2 show the measurable output of attitude angles and angular velocity, respectively, from which we can see that the attitude control system can

achieve a steady state within approximately 3s with quick response. FIG. 3 shows the external disturbance torques of white noise. When simulation is conducted, the amplitude of the noise is assumed bigger than actual value to show the strength of the proposed method. FIG. 4 shows the control torques of the actuator without considering the maximal control input. FIG. 5 and FIG. 6 show the error for attitude angle and its changing rate when the satellite attitude system is of a steady state chosen between 15s and 24s here. The absolute errors are all at  $10^{-4}$  or even  $10^{-6}$  orders of magnitude which are so small as to satisfy the required accuracy.

To demonstrate the good performance of the proposed method in this paper, a mixed  $H_2/H_\infty$  control method in [10] is used for simulation, the results can be seen as follows.

With **Theorem2** we can attain the corresponding state feedback gain as follow

$$K = \begin{bmatrix} -0.0330 & 0 & 6.0048e-14 & -4.7079 & 0 & -0.0347 \\ 0 & -0.0333 & 0 & 0 & -4.7079 & 0 \\ 2.3068e-13 & 0 & -0.0862 & 0.0347 & 0 & -2.9019 \end{bmatrix}$$

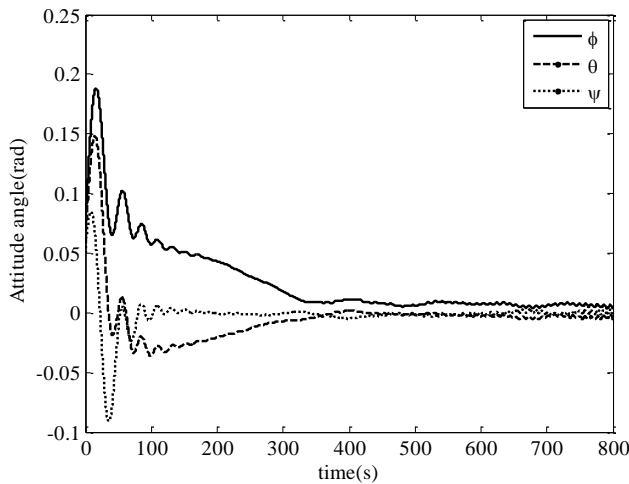


FIG.7 Attitude angle with mixed method

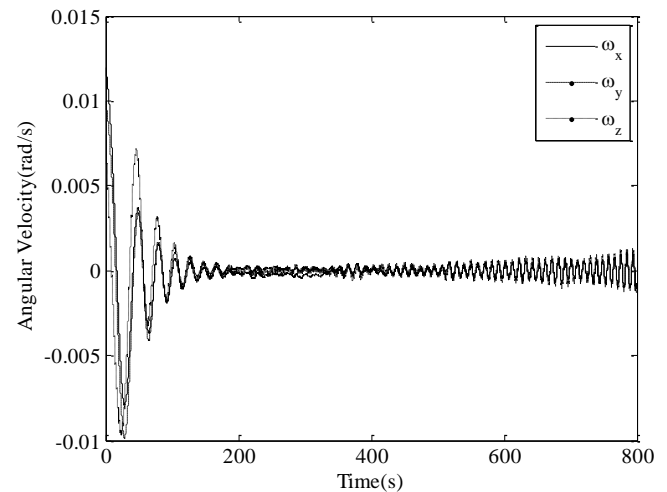


FIG.8 Angular velocity with mixed method

The attitude angle and angular velocity with mixed  $H_2/H_\infty$  method can be seen in FIG.7 and FIG.8. Obviously, with uncertainties and other disturbances, the satellite attitude control system can have a better robustness with the method in this paper. Furthermore, the system can response much more quickly can have much less error with the robust non-fragile  $H_\infty$  control method.

## 5. Conclusion

This paper proposes a new robust non-fragile  $H_\infty$  controller design method for satellite attitude control system with parameter uncertainties and external disturbances. The design of the controller is subject to the constraints of  $H_\infty$  performance and quadratic stability. By using LMI techniques resulting from Lyapunov theory, the satellite attitude control problem is transformed into a convex optimization problem with LMI constraints. Compared with the results of mixed  $H_2/H_\infty$  method, the proposed method on uncertain satellite attitude control system has better practicability and effectiveness. Further research in terms of multiplicative perturbation is under way.

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