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SÁNCHEZ-PEÑ

ROBUST SYSTEMS THEORY AND APPLICATIONS

RICARDO S. SÁNCHEZ-PEÑA MARIO SZNAIER

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ROBUST SYSTEMS THEORY AND APPLICATIONS

Ricardo S. Sánchez-Peña Mario Sznaier



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To our parents Lolita and Miguel, Rebeca and Marcos

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CONTENTS

1	Intr	oduction	1
	1.1	General Control Problem / 1	
		1.1.1 Experimental Phase / 2	
		1.1.2 Simulation Phase / 3	
		1.1.3 Theoretical Phase / 5	
	1.2	Why Feedback? / 11	
	1.3	Feedback Loop Trade-off / 14	
	1.4	Objectives of an Applied Theory / 17	
	1.5	Objectives of This Book / 19	
		1.5.1 General Remarks / 19	
		1.5.2 Scope / 19	
		1.5.3 How to Use This Book / 21	
2	CIC	O Systems	23
2		•	
		Introduction / 23	
		Well Posedness / 24	
		Nominal Internal Stability / 26	
	2.4	Robust Stability / 29	
		2.4.1 Phase and Gain Margins / 29	
		2.4.2 Global Dynamic Uncertainty / 32	
	2.5	,	
		2.5.1 Known Disturbance/Noise/Reference / 42	
		2.5.2 Bounded Disturbances at the Output / 44	
		2.5.3 Other Performance Criteria / 47	
	2.6	Robust Performance / 50	
	2.7	Extension to MIMO Systems / 55	
	2.8	Problems / 57	
			vii

5.5.1 The LQR Case: Kalman's Inequality / 143

Viii	ii CONTENTS		CONTENTS	ix
3	Stabilization 3	61	5.5.2 Some Consequences of Kalman's Inequality / 145	
	3.1 Introduction / 61	,	5.5.3 Stability Margins of Optimal \mathcal{H}_2 Controllers / 146	
	3.2 Well Posedness and Internal Stability / 63		5.6 Related Problems / 149	
	3.2.1 Well Posedness / 63		5.7 Problems / 152	
	3.2.2 Internal Stability / 64	•		
	3.3 Open-Loop Stable Plants / 65		6 \mathcal{H}_{∞} Control	157
	3.4 The General Case / 68		6.1 Introduction / 157	
	3.4.1 Special Problems / 69		6.2 The Standard \mathcal{H}_{∞} Problem / 158	
	3.4.2 The Output Feedback Case / 75		6.2.1 Background: Hankel and Mixed Hankel-Toeplitz	
	3.5 Controller Structure and Separation Principle / 78		Operators / 161	
	3.6 Closed-Loop Mappings / 79		6.2.2 Proof of Theorem 6.1 / 176	
	3.7 A Coprime Factorization Approach / 80		6.3 Relaxing Some of the Assumptions / 179	
	3.7.1 Coprime Factorizations / 80		6.4 LMI Approach to \mathcal{H}_{∞} Control / 180	
	3.8 LFTs and Stability / 88		6.4.1 Characterization of All Output Feedback \mathcal{H}_{∞}	
	3.9 Problems / 90		Controllers / 183	
			6.4.2 Connections with the DGKF Results / 188	
4	Loop Shaping	93	6.5 Limiting Behavior / 192	
	4.1 Introduction / 93		6.6 The Youla Parametrization Approach / 193	
	4.2 Nominal Performance / 97		6.7 Problems / 203	
	4.3 Robust Stability / 98			007
	4.4 Nominal Performance and Robust Stability / 99		7 Structured Uncertainty	207
	4.5 Robust Performance / 100		7.1 Introduction / 207	
	4.5.1 Sensor Uncertainty / 101		7.1.1 Stability Margin / 210	
	4.5.2 Actuator Uncertainty / 102		7.2 Structured Dynamic Uncertainty / 215	
	4.6 Design Procedure / 105		7.2.1 Computation / 215	
	4.7 Examples / 109		7.2.2 Analysis and Design / 219	
	4.7.1 Permanent Magnet Stepper Motor / 109		7.3 Parametric Uncertainty / 223	
	4.7.2 Loop Shaping $Q(s) / 119$		7.3.1 Introduction / 223	
	4.8 Related Design Procedures / 123		7.3.2 Research Directions / 225	
	4.9 Problems / 125		7.3.3 Kharitonov's Theorem / 230	
_			7.3.4 Mapping Theorem / 233	
5	\mathcal{H}_2 Optimal Control	127	7.4 Mixed Type Uncertainty / 237	
	5.1 Introduction / 127		7.4.1 Introduction / 237	
	5.2 The Classical Linear Quadratic Regulator Problem / 128		7.4.2 Mixed μ / 239	
	5.3 The Standard \mathcal{H}_2 Problem / 133		7.5 Problems / 242	
	5.4 Relaxing Some of the Assumptions / 141			
	5.5 Closed-Loop Properties / 142		8 \mathcal{L}^1 Control	245

8.1 Introduction / 245

v	\sim	ON	TE	N I T	re
		C)IV		N	J

CONTENTS	хi

8.2.1 Robust Stability Under LTV Perturbations / 250 10.2.2 Consistency / 326 8.2.2 Stability Under Time Invariant Perturbations / 253 10.2.3 Identification Error / 328 10.2.4 Convergence / 334 10.2.5 Validation / 338 10.2.5 Validation / 339 10.3.1 Preliminaries / 340 10.3.1 Preliminaries / 340 10.3.1 Preliminaries / 340 10.3.2 Sampling Procedure / 342 10.3.3 Consistency / 344 10.3.4 Identification Procedures / 346 10.3.2 Sampling Procedure / 342 10.3.3 Consistency / 344 10.3.4 Identification Procedures / 346 10.3.4 Identification Procedures / 346 10.3.4 Identification Procedures / 346 10.3.4 Identification / 361 Identification / 361 Identification / 361 Identification / 362 10.3.5 Identification / 362 Identification Procedures / 366 Identifica		8.2	Robust Stability Revisited / 247				10.2.1 Input Data / 325	
8.2.2 Stability Under Time Invariant Perturbations 253			8.2.1 Robust Stability Under LTV Perturbations / 250				•	
8.3 A Solution to the SISO 6' Control Problem / 254 8.3.1 Properties of the Solution / 262 8.3.2 The MIMO Case / 266 8.4 Approximate Solutions / 267 8.4.1 An Upper Bound of the 6' Norm / 268 8.4.2 The Norm / 269 8.4.3 Full State Feedback / 273 8.4.4 All Output Feedback Controllers for Optimal *Norm Problems / 276 8.5 The Continuous Time Case / 282 8.5.1 Solution Via Duality / 282 8.5.2 Rational Approximations to the Optimal £ Controller / 285 8.6 Problems / 288 8.7 Problems / 288 8.8 Problems / 288 8.9 Problems / 288 8.9 Introduction / 293 9.1 Introduction / 293 9.2 Geometry of State Space Realizations / 295 9.2.1 Controllacy Components / 297 9.2 Introduction / 301 9.3 Introduction / 310 9.4 Introduction / 310 9.4 Model Reduction / 310 9.4 Balanced Realizations / 312 9.4 Balanced Realizations / 312 9.4 Balanced Truncation / 314 9.5 Algorithms / 318 9.5 Algorithms / 318 9.5 Algorithms / 318 9.5 Algorithms / 318 9.6 Problems / 321 10 Robust Identification 10 Robust Identification 10 Robust Identification 11 Introduction / 320 11.1 Introduction / 320 11.1 Introduction / 321 11.1 Introduction / 321 11.1 Introduction / 321 11.1 Controller Design / 397 11.1.1 Introduction / 321 11.1 Controller Design / 397 11.1.2 Results / 400 11.1.3 Results / 400 11.1.1 Introduction / 321 11.1 Controller Design / 397 11.1.2 Results / 405 11.1 Introduction / 321 11.1 Controller Design / 397 11.1.2 Results / 405 11.1 Controller Design / 397 11.1.2 Results / 405			8.2.2 Stability Under Time Invariant Perturbations / 253				•	
8.3.1 Properties of the Solution 762 10.2.5 Validation 7.38		8.3	A Solution to the SISO ℓ^1 Control Problem / 254				•	
8.3.2. The MMMC Case 266			8.3.1 Properties of the Solution / 262				- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Section Approximate Solutions 267			8.3.2 The MIMO Case / 266			10.3	·	
8.4.1 An Upper Bound of the \$\ell \text{ Norm } / 268 8.4.2 The a Norm / 269 8.4.3 Full State Feedback / 273 8.4.4 All Output Feedback Controllers for Optimal 4-Norm Problems / 276 8.5.5 The Continuous Time Case / 282 8.5.1 Solution Via Duality / 282 8.5.2 Rational Approximations to the Optimal \$\mathcal{L}_1\$ Controller / 285 8.6 Problems / 286 Problems / 286 Problems / 286 Problems / 287 Introduction / 293 9.1 Introduction / 293 9.2 Geometry of State-Space Realizations / 295 9.2.1 Controller 285 9.2.2 Principal Components / 297 9.3 Hanket Singular Values / 304 9.3.1 Continuous Systems / 304 9.4.1 Introduction / 310 9.4.2 Hanket Operator Reduction / 310 9.4.3 Balanced Realizations / 312 9.4.4 Balanced Truncation / 312 9.5 Algorithms / 318 9.5.1 Approximation Error / 319 9.6 Problems / 321 10 Robust Identification / 323 10 Introduction / 323 11 Introduction / 320 12 Controller Design / 2 and 3		8.4						
8.4.2 The x Norm / 269 8.4.3 Full State Feedback / 273 8.4.4 All Output Feedback Controllers for Optimal *-Norm Problems / 276 8.5.5 The Continuous Time Case / 282 8.5.1 Solution Via Duality / 282 8.5.2 Rational Approximations to the Optimal L ₁ Controller / 285 8.6 Problems / 288 9.1 Introduction / 293 9.1 Introduction / 293 9.2 Geometry of State-Space Realizations / 295 9.2.1 Controllable/Unobservable Spaces / 295 9.2.2 Principal Components / 297 9.3 Hankel Singular Values / 304 9.3.1 Continuous Systems / 306 9.4 Model Reduction / 310 9.4.1 Introduction / 310 9.4.2 Hankel Operator Reduction / 310 9.4.3 Balanced Realizations / 312 9.5 Algorithms / 318 9.5.1 Approximation Error / 319 9.6 Problems / 321 10.3 Horosult Introduction / 323 10.5 Robust Identification 323 10.6 Singular Values / 204 10.4 Time-Domain Identification 736 10.4.1 Preliminaries / 362 10.4.2 Identification Procedures / 366 10.4.1 Preliminaries / 362 10.4.2 Identification Procedures / 366 10.4.1 Preliminaries / 362 10.4.2 Identification Procedures / 366 10.4.1 Preliminaries / 362 10.4.2 Identification Procedures / 366 10.4.1 Preliminaries / 362 10.4.2 Identification Procedures / 366 10.4.1 Preliminaries / 362 10.4.2 Identification Procedures / 366 10.4.1 Preliminaries / 362 10.4.2 Identification Procedures / 366 10.4.1 Preliminaries / 362 10.4.2 Identification / 372 10.5.5 Ununiformly Spaced Experimental Points / 37 10.5.5 Verifficate Procedures / 372 10.5.5 Verifficate Procedures / 373 10.5.5 Verifficate Procedures / 373 10.5.5 Verifficate Procedures / 374 10.5.5 Verifficate Procedures / 375 10.5.6 Vinced Time-Dumber / 373 10.5.5 Verifficate Procedures / 375 10.5.7 Vinced Time-Dumber / 375 10.5.7 Vinced Time-Dumber / 375							•	
8.4.3 Full State Feedback 273 10.3.4 Identification Procedures 346 8.4.4 All Output Feedback Controllers for Optimal +-Norm Problems 276 10.4.1 Preliminaries 362 8.5.5 The Continuous Time Case 282 10.4.2 Identification 761 8.5.7 Rational Approximations to the Optimal \$\mathcal{L}_1\$ Controller 285 Rational Approximation 293 10.5.2 Nonuniformity Spaced Experimental Points 372 10.5.2 Nonuniformity Spaced Experimental Points 373 10.5.5 Model Reduction 373 10.5.5 Mixed Time/Frequency Experiments 374 10.5.5 Mixed Time/Frequency Experiments 374 10.5.6 Mixed Time/Frequency Experiments 374 10.5.6 Mixed Time/Frequency Experiments 374 10.5.7 Mixed Parametric/Nonparametric Models 375 10.5.7 Mixed Parametric/Nonparametric Models 375 10.5.7 Rational Procedures 385 11.1.1 Rational Procedures 386 11.1.1 Rational Procedures 3								
10.4.1 Preliminaries 362								
8.5 The Continuous Time Case 282 10.4.1 Preliminaries 3.92 3.64 3.10 3.11 3.10 3.11 3.1			8.4.4 All Output Feedback Controllers for Optimal *-Norr	n		10.4	·	
8.5.1 Solution Via Duality 282 8.5.2 Rational Approximations to the Optimal \(\mu_1 \) Controller 285 288 10.5.1 Unstable Systems 372 10.5.1 Unstable Systems 372 10.5.2 Nonuniformly Spaced Experimental Points 373 10.5.3 Model Reduction 373 10.5.4 Continuous Time Plants 373 10.5.5 Sample Complexity 373 10.5.6 Mixed Time/Frequency Experiments 374 10.5.7 Mixed Parametric/Nonparametric Models 374 10.5.7 Mixed Parametric/Nonparametric Models 375		0.5	,				10.4.1 Preliminaries / 362	
8.5.2 Rational Approximations to the Optimal \$\mathcal{L}_1\$ Controller \ / 285		0.5					10.4.2 Identification Procedures / 366	
Solution Space S						10.5	Further Research Topics / 372	
10.5.2 Nonuntormity spaced Experimental Points 5.5			6.3.2 Rational Approximations to the Optimal \mathcal{L}_1				10.5.1 Unstable Systems / 372	
10.5.3 Model Reduction 373 10.5.4 Continuous Time Plants 373 10.5.5 Sample Complexity 373 10.5.6 Mixed Time/Erequency Experiments 374 10.5.7 Mixed Parametric Models 374 10.5.8 Mixed Time/Frequency Experiments 374 10.5.9 Mixed Time/Frequency Experiments 374 10.5.7 Mixed Parametric/Nonparametric Models 374 10.5.8 Mixed Time/Frequency Experiments 374 10.5.9 Mixed Parametric/Nonparametric Models 375 10.5.7 Mixed Parametric/Nonparametric Models 475 10.5.7 Mixed Parametric/		8.6					10.5.2 Nonuniformly Spaced Experimental Points / 372	
1		0.0	Troolens / 200				10.5.3 Model Reduction / 373	
9.1 Introduction / 293 9.2 Geometry of State-Space Realizations / 295 9.2.1 Controllable/Unobservable Spaces / 295 9.2.2 Principal Components / 297 9.3 Hankel Singular Values / 304 9.3.1 Continuous Systems / 304 9.3.2 Discrete Systems / 306 9.4 Model Reduction / 310 9.4.1 Introduction / 310 9.4.2 Hankel Operator Reduction / 310 9.4.3 Balanced Realizations / 312 9.4.4 Balanced Truncation / 314 9.5 Algorithms / 318 9.5.1 Approximation Error / 319 9.6 Problems / 321 10 Robust Identification 10.1 Introduction / 323 10.5.6 Mixed Time/Frequency Experiments / 374 10.5.7 Mixed Parametric/Nonparametric Models / 37. 10.5.6 Mixed Time/Frequency Experiments / 374 10.5.7 Mixed Time/Frequency Experiments / 374 11.1 Introduction / 327 11.1.1 Introduction / 377 11.1.2 Linear Model / 378 11.1.2 Controller Design for a D ₂ O Plant / 389 11.1.2 Robustness Analysis / 383 11.1.2 Robustness Analysis / 391 11.2 Robustness Analysis / 391 11.2 Robustness Analysis / 391 11.3 X-29 Parametric Analysis / 405 11.3 Robustness Analysis / 377 11.4 Robustness Analysis / 383 11.1 Robustness Analysis / 383 11.1 Sample Composite of Analysis / 3	٥	Mo	dal Ordan Baduskian				10.5.4 Continuous Time Plants / 373	
9.2 Geometry of State-Space Realizations / 295 9.2.1 Controllable/Unobservable Spaces / 295 9.2.2 Principal Components / 297 9.3 Hankel Singular Values / 304 9.3.1 Continuous Systems / 304 9.3.2 Discrete Systems / 306 9.4 Model Reduction / 310 9.4.1 Introduction / 310 9.4.2 Hankel Operator Reduction / 310 9.4.3 Balanced Realizations / 312 9.4.4 Balanced Truncation / 314 9.5 Algorithms / 318 9.5.1 Approximation Error / 319 9.6 Problems / 321 10 Robust Identification 10.1 Introduction / 323 10.2 General Satur / 234	7	IVIO	dei Order Reduction	293			10.5.5 Sample Complexity / 373	
9.2.1 Controllable/Unobservable Spaces / 295 9.2.2 Principal Components / 297 9.3 Hankel Singular Values / 304 9.3.1 Continuous Systems / 304 9.3.2 Discrete Systems / 306 9.4 Model Reduction / 310 9.4.1 Introduction / 310 9.4.2 Hankel Operator Reduction / 310 9.4.3 Balanced Realizations / 312 9.4.4 Balanced Truncation / 314 9.5 Algorithms / 318 9.5.1 Approximation Error / 319 9.6 Problems / 321 10 Robust Identification 10.1 Introduction / 323 10.1 Introduction / 323 11.1 SAC-C Attitude Control Analysis / 377 11.1.1 Introduction / 377 11.1.2 Linear Model / 378 11.1.3 Design Constraints / 381 11.1.4 Robustness Analysis / 383 11.1.5 Simulations / 385 11.2 Controller Design for a D ₂ O Plant / 389 11.2.1 Model of the Plant / 389 11.2.2 Robustness Analysis / 391 11.2.3 Controller Design / 397 11.3 X-29 Parametric Analysis / 400 11.3.1 Linear Model / 400 11.3.2 Results / 405 11.3.2 Results / 405			,				10.5.6 Mixed Time/Frequency Experiments / 374	
9.2.2 Principal Components / 297 9.3 Hankel Singular Values / 304 9.3.1 Continuous Systems / 304 9.3.2 Discrete Systems / 306 9.4 Model Reduction / 310 9.4.1 Introduction / 310 9.4.2 Hankel Operator Reduction / 310 9.4.3 Balanced Realizations / 312 9.4.4 Balanced Truncation / 314 9.5 Algorithms / 318 9.5.1 Approximation Error / 319 9.6 Problems / 321 10.1 Introduction / 323 10.2 General Setum / 324 11.1 SAC-C Attitude Control Analysis / 377 11.1.1 Introduction / 377 11.1.2 Linear Model / 378 11.1.3 Design Constraints / 381 11.1.4 Robustness Analysis / 383 11.1.5 Simulations / 385 11.2 Controller Design for a D ₂ O Plant / 389 11.2.1 Model of the Plant / 389 11.2.2 Robustness Analysis / 391 11.3 X-29 Parametric Analysis / 400 11.3.1 Linear Model / 400 11.3.2 Results / 405 11.3.2 Results / 405 11.4 Control of a DC-to-DC Resonant Converter / 407		9.2					10.5.7 Mixed Parametric/Nonparametric Models / 374	
9.3 Hankel Singular Values / 304 9.3.1 Continuous Systems / 304 9.3.2 Discrete Systems / 306 9.4 Model Reduction / 310 9.4.1 Introduction / 310 9.4.2 Hankel Operator Reduction / 310 9.4.3 Balanced Realizations / 312 9.4.4 Balanced Truncation / 314 9.5 Algorithms / 318 9.5.1 Approximation Error / 319 9.6 Problems / 321 10.1 Introduction / 323 10.2 General Setum / 323 10.3 Linear Model / 400 11.3 AC-C Attitude Control Analysis / 377 11.1.1 Introduction / 377 11.1.2 Linear Model / 378 11.1.2 Linear Model / 378 11.1.3 Design Constraints / 381 11.1.5 Simulations / 385 11.1.5 Simulations / 385 11.2 Controller Design for a D ₂ O Plant / 389 11.2.1 Model of the Plant / 389 11.2.2 Robustness Analysis / 391 11.2.3 Controller Design / 397 11.3 X-29 Parametric Analysis / 400 11.3.1 Linear Model / 400 11.3.2 Results / 405 11.4 Control of a DC-to-DC Resonant Converter / 407			9.2.1 Controllable/Unobservable Spaces / 295					
9.3.1 Continuous Systems / 304 9.3.2 Discrete Systems / 306 9.4 Model Reduction / 310 9.4.1 Introduction / 310 9.4.2 Hankel Operator Reduction / 310 9.4.3 Balanced Realizations / 312 9.4.4 Balanced Truncation / 314 9.5 Algorithms / 318 9.5.1 Approximation Error / 319 9.6 Problems / 321 10.1 Introduction / 323 10.2 General Seture / 234 11.1 SAC-C Attitude Control Analysis / 377 11.1.1 Introduction / 377 11.1.2 Linear Model / 378 11.1.2 Linear Model / 378 11.1.3 Design Constraints / 381 11.1.5 Simulations / 385 11.1.5 Simulations / 385 11.2 Controller Design for a D ₂ O Plant / 389 11.2.1 Model of the Plant / 389 11.2.2 Robustness Analysis / 391 11.3 X-29 Parametric Analysis / 400 11.3 Linear Model / 400 11.3.1 Linear Model / 400 11.3.2 Results / 405 11.4 Control of a DC-to-DC Resonant Converter / 407					. 11	Appl	lication Examples	377
9.3.2 Discrete Systems / 306 9.4 Model Reduction / 310 9.4.1 Introduction / 310 9.4.2 Hankel Operator Reduction / 310 9.4.3 Balanced Realizations / 312 9.4.4 Balanced Truncation / 314 9.5 Algorithms / 318 9.5.1 Approximation Error / 319 9.6 Problems / 321 10.1 Introduction / 323 10.2 Control of a DC-to-DC Resonant Converter / 407		9.3			,			
9.4 Model Reduction / 310 9.4.1 Introduction / 310 9.4.2 Hankel Operator Reduction / 310 9.4.3 Balanced Realizations / 312 9.4.4 Balanced Truncation / 314 9.5 Algorithms / 318 9.5.1 Approximation Error / 319 9.6 Problems / 321 10 Robust Identification 10.1 Introduction / 323 10.2 Centroller Joseph Stytes / 324 11.3 Linear Model / 378 11.1.4 Robustness Analysis / 383 11.1.5 Simulations / 385 11.1.5 Simulations / 385 11.1.1 Model of the Plant / 389 11.1.2 Robustness Analysis / 391 11.1.2 Robustness Analysis / 391 11.1.3 X-29 Parametric Analysis / 400 11.1.3 Results / 405 11.3 Results / 405 11.4 Control of a DC-to-DC Resonant Converter / 407			- ,			11.1		
9.4.1 Introduction / 310 9.4.2 Hankel Operator Reduction / 310 9.4.3 Balanced Realizations / 312 9.4.4 Balanced Truncation / 314 9.5 Algorithms / 318 9.5.1 Approximation Error / 319 9.6 Problems / 321 10 Robust Identification 10.1 Introduction / 323 10.2 General Seture / 324		0.4	- ,				•	
9.4.2 Hankel Operator Reduction / 310 9.4.3 Balanced Realizations / 312 9.4.4 Balanced Truncation / 314 9.5 Algorithms / 318 9.5.1 Approximation Error / 319 9.6 Problems / 321 10 Robust Identification 10.1 Introduction / 323 10.2 General Sature / 324		9.4	,				•	
9.4.3 Balanced Realizations / 312 9.4.4 Balanced Truncation / 314 9.5 Algorithms / 318 9.5 Approximation Error / 319 9.6 Problems / 321 10.1 Introduction / 323 10.2 General Setum / 324 11.1.5 Simulations / 385 11.2 Controller Design for a D ₂ O Plant / 389 11.2.1 Model of the Plant / 389 11.2.2 Robustness Analysis / 391 11.3 X-29 Parametric Analysis / 400 11.3.1 Linear Model / 400 11.3.2 Results / 405 11.4 Control of a DC-to-DC Resonant Converter / 407			•				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
9.4.4 Balanced Truncation / 314 9.5 Algorithms / 318 9.5.1 Approximation Error / 319 9.6 Problems / 321 10.1 Introduction / 323 10.2 General Sature / 324 11.2 Controller Design for a D ₂ O Plant / 389 11.2.1 Model of the Plant / 389 11.2.2 Robustness Analysis / 391 11.2.3 Controller Design / 397 11.3 X-29 Parametric Analysis / 400 11.3.1 Linear Model / 400 11.3.2 Results / 405 11.4 Control of a DC-to-DC Resonant Converter / 407					4 -		- '	
9.5 Algorithms / 318 9.5.1 Approximation Error / 319 9.6 Problems / 321 10 Robust Identification 10.1 Introduction / 323 10.2 General Setum / 324 11.2.1 Model of the Plant / 389 11.2.2 Robustness Analysis / 391 11.2.3 Controller Design / 397 11.3 X-29 Parametric Analysis / 400 11.3.1 Linear Model / 400 11.3.2 Results / 405 11.4 Control of a DC-to-DC Resonant Converter / 407						11.2	•	
9.5.1 Approximation Error / 319 9.6 Problems / 321 11.2.2 Robustness Analysis / 391 11.2.3 Controller Design / 397 11.3 X-29 Parametric Analysis / 400 10.1 Introduction / 323 10.1 Introduction / 323 10.2 General Setum / 324		0.5				11.2		
9.6 Problems / 321 11.2.3 Controller Design / 397 11.3 X-29 Parametric Analysis / 400 10 Robust Identification 11.3.1 Linear Model / 400 11.3.2 Results / 405 11.4 Control of a DC-to-DC Resonant Converter / 407		9.5	-		• •		•	
11.3 X-29 Parametric Analysis / 400 10 Robust Identification 11.3.1 Linear Model / 400 11.3.2 Results / 405 11.4 Control of a DC-to-DC Resonant Converter / 407		0.6	•				· ,	
10 Robust Identification 10.1 Introduction / 323 10.2 General Setum / 324 10.3 General Setum / 324		9.6	Problems / 321			11.2	<u> </u>	
10.1 Introduction / 323 10.2 General Setum / 324 10.3 General Setum / 324						11.5	• •	
10.1 Introduction / 323 10.2 General Setum / 324	10	Rob	ust Identification	323			·	
10.2 General Setum / 224		10.1	Introduction / 323			11 4	·	
11.4.1 Infloduction / 407			·		i	11.4		
			• ,				11.4.1 Infloduction / 407	

		11.4.2 The Conventional Parallel Resonant Converter 11.4.3 Small Signal Model / 409 11.4.4 Control Objectives / 410 11.4.5 Analysis of the Plant / 411 11.4.6 Control Design / 414 11.4.7 Controller Synthesis / 420	/ 407
		11.4.8 Simulation Results / 421	
Bi	bliog	ıraphy	427
A	Ma	thematical Background	445
	A.1	Algebraic Structures / 445 A.1.1 Field / 445 A.1.2 Linear Vector Space / 446 A.1.3 Metric, Norm, and Inner Products / 447	443
	A.2	Function Spaces / 449 A.2.1 Introduction / 449 A.2.2 Banach and Hilbert Spaces / 449 A.2.3 Operator and Signal Spaces / 450 A.2.4 Isomorphism / 452 A.2.5 Induced Norms / 453 A.2.6 Some Important Induced System Norms / 455	
	A.4	Duality and Dual Spaces / 457 A.3.1 The Dual Space / 457 A.3.2 Minimum Norm Problems / 458 Singular Values / 460 A.4.1 Definition / 460 A.4.2 Properties and Applications / 461	
3	Syst	em Computations	465
	B.1 B.2 B.3 B.4 B.5 B.6 B.7 B.8	8 1 100	

CONTENTS

1	dex	407
С	Riccati Equations	481
	B.12 Problems / 479	
	B.11.3 ℓ^1 Norm Computation / 476	
	B.11.2 \mathcal{H}_{∞} Norm Computation / 476	
	B.11.1 \mathcal{H}_2 Norm Computation / 475	
	B.11 Norm Computations / 475	
	B.10 Linear Fractional Transformations / 470	
	B.9 Inverse / 469	

CONTENTS

xiii

PREFACE

Robustness against disturbances and model uncertainty is at the heart of control practice. Indeed, in the (completely unrealistic) case where both all external disturbances and a model of the system to be controlled are exactly known, there is no need for feedback: Optimal performance can be achieved with an open loop controller.

The main ingredients of present day robust control theory were already present in the classical work of Bode and in many popular frequency domain-based design techniques. With the advent of state-space methods in the mid 1960s the issue of robustness took a backseat to other topics, but was never completely abandoned by the control community, especially control practitioners. Interest in robust control rose again in the late 1970s where it was shown that many popular control methods (including optimal LQR control and controller design based on the cascade of an observer and state feedback) led to closed-loop systems very sensitive to model perturbations. Moreover, widely accepted "ad-hoc" recipes for "improving robustness," such as using artificially large noise levels in the design, had precisely the opposite effect.

Robust control has undergone extensive developments in the past two decades, leading to powerful formalisms, such as \mathcal{H}_{∞} , μ -synthesis/analysis and, more recently, ℓ^1 optimal control, that, coupled with newly developed control-oriented identification techniques, have been successfully applied to challenging practical problems. A salient feature of the framework is that it is oriented towards applications and thus is based on "practical," realistic assumptions.

There are many excellent books that cover specialized topics $(\mathcal{H}_2, \mathcal{H}_\infty, \ell^1)$, parametric uncertainty, linear matrix inequalities) with others scattered in the technical journals. Our intention in writing this book is to provide a self-contained overview of robust control that illustrates all the issues involved, ranging from the transformation of experimental signals from the physical plant to a set of models (robust identification), to the synthesis of a controller for that set of models (robust control). The purpose of the book is twofold: to serve as a textbook for courses at the Master's/beginning Ph.D. level and as a reference for control practitioners. It assumes that the reader has a background in classical and state–space control methods. In order to keep the

text size at a manageable level, in some cases only basic results are covered, and the reader is referred to more specialized literature for further coverage.

In all cases we have strived to link the theory with practical applications. To this end, in addition to the examples covered throughout the book, the last chapter contains several worked out application problems that stress specific practical issues: nonlinearities, unknown time delays, infinite dimensional plants, actuator and sensor limitations. They are all extracted from our practical experience in different engineering fields. Furthermore, due to the fact that most of the problems to be solved by the theory presented here are computer-intensive, we stress the algorithmic and computational aspect of the solution along with the mathematical theory.

We (and our graduate students) have tried to eliminate obvious mistakes. However, as anyone who has tried knows, it is virtually impossible to make a "perfect" book. We encourage readers to send corrections, comments and general feedback to either one of the authors. Finally, as attested by the list of more than 300 references, we have tried to give credit where it is due. However, owing to the sheer volume of literature published on robust control, we may have inadvertently failed to do so on occasion. We apologize in advance to readers or authors who may feel that this is the case, and we encourage them to send us comments.

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