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A Review of Anti-Swing Control for Cranes

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ABSTRACT

Crane systems play a critical role in industrial operations, enabling the precise movement of heavy loads. However, the inherent complexities, such as pendulum-like swinging and dynamic instability, present significant challenges in their control. This paper provides a review of control strategies employed in crane systems, with a focus on achieving stability, safety, and precision. A feed-forward control strategies such as input shaping are discussed in term of the effectiveness in minimizing the payload swing. Other control approaches are explored for their ability to handle nonlinearities and disturbances. The review emphasizes the need for robust, adaptive control mechanisms that can solve the addressed issues.

Keywords: *Open loop; input shaping; crane systems; control strategies; review*

1. Introduction

There are many types of cranes such as overhead cranes, tower cranes, gantry cranes and many more which are mainly used for lifting heavy objects and moving them from one place to another [1]. Crane systems play a critical role in various industrial applications, from construction to manufacturing, where precise and efficient load handling is essential.

Crane is frequently run by an experienced operator. Basically, it is expected for humans operating cranes to occasionally make mistakes. Inexperienced crane handlers are a common cause of accidents at construction sites [2]. For instance, the crane operator was moving the payload too quickly, which caused the payload to swing. Besides, the crane operators accelerated crane operation to increase productivity or output where many hazardous circumstances might arise when the crane is operated at a faster pace such as extreme payload swings might hit individuals and other objects.

Moreover, in crane systems, there are times when the crane system experiences internal or external disturbances. External disturbances are caused by environmental factors that are beyond the control of the crane operator but affect the crane's motion such as wind and ground vibrations [3]. While internal disturbances arise from the dynamic behavior of the crane system itself [4], often caused by mechanical and operational limitations such as friction and non-zero initial conditions. In crane systems, disturbances can negatively impact performance, leading to issues like load

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oscillation, reduced positioning accuracy, and inefficiency. Therefore, understanding the types of disturbances is essential for developing effective control strategies.

There are three types of crane control strategies which are open loop control, closed loop control, and the combination of these techniques or in other word hybrid [5]. In open loop control design, there are several methods such as input shaping and filters. However, traditional control methods often struggle to mitigate oscillations effectively due to parameter uncertainties and disturbances.

This literature review aims to explore the evolution of crane control strategies, with a particular focus on adaptive input shaping techniques. Adaptive input shaping has emerged as a promising approach to enhance the control of crane systems. By predicting the system's response to input commands, this technique reduces oscillations by shaping the input in such a way that undesired vibrations are minimized. The review will also examine the theoretical foundations, key developments, and real-world applications of this method, providing insights into its effectiveness in crane system control.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Input Shaping Control Strategies

Input shaping is a simple strategy that can be used for reducing oscillation in a system. Input shaping, which involves configuring the impulses' amplitudes and temporal locations, requires a priori knowledge of system parameters such as natural frequency and damping ratio [6]. Development of an input shaping control technique can eliminate the oscillations in a flexible system [7].

There are many types of input shaping such as the Zero Vibration (ZV), Zero Vibration Derivative (ZVD), Zero Vibration Derivative Derivative (ZVDD), Unity Magnitude Zero Vibration (UMZV) and many more. The difference between these types of input shaper are the impulse amplitudes and the time parameters of the input shaping. ZV input shaper is the simplest input shaping technique [8] where it generates a series of impulses that are applied to the system in a way that cancels out the oscillations caused by system dynamics.

Singer and Seering adds an extra impulse to the sequence used in the ZV shaper, became ZVD shaper thereby increasing the system's tolerance to parameter uncertainties while maintaining zero residual vibration [8]. Then, additional derivatives were formed to get more and more robust input shaping design, such as Zero Vibration and two derivatives (ZVDD) [9,10]. However, obtaining more robustness leads to an increase in shaper duration or rise time [11].

To achieve robustness with fast rise time, adaptive input shaping was developed. For robustness, various identification methods were proposed to identify the frequency and damping ratio in real time subjected to the changes in system parameters. However, adaptation was a computational burden in real-time [11]. Then, UMZV shaper has negative impulses which produce a shorter shaper duration than ZV shaper [12]. In fact, UMZV resembles the finite actuated oscillatory system which is suitable for cranes that employ finite actuation states.

While ZV, ZVD, ZVDD and UMZV input shapers are effective at reducing oscillations in dynamic systems, they have inherent limitations that can make them less effective for the time-variant systems. Adaptive input shaping offers several advantages in addressing these issues. The adaptive input shaping was proposed in S. Grazioso *et al.*, [7] using the simplest input shaping namely Zero Vibration Input Adaptive Shaping (ZV-IPS). The method involves training an artificial neural network (ANN) to generate closed-form expressions, enabling real-time estimation of the amplitudes and temporal positions of the impulses. ANN is the term used to describe a computer model assumption of the biological brain. ANN is trained in the learning phase, typically offline until it has mastered its

tasks through weight adaptation, then the recall phase is utilized to complete the evaluation or deployment phase. Several adaptive input shapers have been proposed and designed for real-time crane states subjected to payload hoisting [13-15], payload mass variations [13] and wind disturbances [15,16].

2.2 Other Control Strategies

There are several algorithms that can be used for real-time implementation in crane control systems such as fuzzy logic [17–21]. Furthermore, optimization is crucial in crane control systems to achieve precise, efficient, and safe operations while minimizing unwanted effects like load sway, energy consumption, and operational delays. The complexities inherent in crane systems such as varying payloads, flexible cables, and external disturbances require finely tuned control strategies to maximize performance. There are also several methods to optimize designed controllers that can adapt uncertainties or varying system parameters.

The particle swarm optimization (PSO) approach is used to optimize controller parameters [22-25]. PSO is an algorithm capable of optimizing a non-linear and multidimensional problem, and it generally achieves decent results with little parameterization. Research outcomes demonstrate that PSO-based approaches can effectively optimize crane motion trajectories, minimize energy consumption, and enhance system efficiency. However, challenges such as the selection of appropriate parameters, convergence speed, and robustness to uncertainties remain areas of ongoing investigation.

Recently, another optimization tool, namely genetic algorithms (GA) is used in [26-29]. GA is one of the popular population-based metaheuristic algorithms. J.H. Holland suggested GA in 1992 [30], taking inspiration from the evolutionary process in biology. Like the Darwinian concept of natural selection, GA aims to determine effectiveness by comparing different variables. The optimization tools using GA is efficient and easier to use as it is a computerized tool.

3. Conclusions

The control of crane systems presents significant challenges due to inherent oscillatory dynamics, external disturbances, and system uncertainties such as varying payloads and environmental factors. Traditional control methods of input shaping have proven effective in reducing oscillations but often suffer from limitations related to robustness, adaptability, and response time. Adaptive input shaping offers a more advanced solution by incorporating real-time feedback, allowing for dynamic adjustment of input commands based on current system conditions. This enhances performance in terms of precision, response speed, and robustness to disturbances and parameter changes.

This review highlights the advantages of adaptive input shaping over traditional methods, including improved adaptability to system variations, reduced sensitivity to modelling errors, and faster system responses. It also shows how adaptive input shaping can address the complexities of crane dynamics in real-time, making it an effective strategy for optimizing crane control in industrial applications. In conclusion, adaptive input shaping is a promising approach for achieving efficient, precise, and safe crane operations, particularly in environments where high-speed performance and adaptability to uncertainties are critical.

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