Methods in the Stability and Control of Periodically-Forced Aerospace Vehicles

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Georgia Tech

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Introduction

BackgroundMotivationObjectives

Methodology

Problem DefinitionNumerical Methods

Results

Flapping-Wing MAVHelicopterFlapping-Tail Airplane

Conclusions

Broader ImplicationsFuture Directions



Background

- Periodically-forced systems exist across multiple engineering disciplines
 Biological flyers (insects, birds, fish)
 Rotorcraft
 Spacecraft
 Wind turbines
- Dynamics represented by Non-Linear Time-Periodic Systems (NLTP)
- Stability analysis is challenging
 Equilibrum represented by periodic orbit
- Two main approaches to stability analysis
 - 1. Averaging methods
 - 2. Floquet theory





Rotorcraft



Wind Turbine



Background

Averaging methods

- Stability analysis
 - Transform NLTP system into a Non-Linear Time-Invariant (NLTI) system
 - 2. Linearize about equilibrium point to yield Linear Time-Invariant (LTI) system
 - 3. Assess stability with spectral analysis
- Avoid direct calculation of periodic orbit



Background

Floquet theory

- Need to solve for periodic orbit (i.e. trimming)
 Time marching (stable systems)
 Autopilot trim
 Periodic shooting
 Harmonic balance
- 2. Linearize about periodic orbit to yield Linear Time-Periodic (LTP) system
- 3. Transform system into equivalent LTI system (Floquet Decomposition)
- 4. Assess stability with spectral analysis



Motivation

Averaging methods

- Need time scale separation between forcing frequency and vehicle dynamics
- Not suitable for all systems
 Birds, large-scale insects
 Helicopters
- Cannot deal with non-smooth dynamics

Floquet theory

- Need for state transition matrices
 Computationally intensive
 Numerically sensitive
- Trimming methods
 - □ Time marching → stable systems
 □ Autopilot trim → prior knowledge of dynamics
 □ Periodic shooting → cannot solve for HHC input
 □ Harmonic balance → state transition matrices



Flapping Frequency for Several Biological Flyers



Motivation

Harmonic Decomposition

- First proposed for rotorcraft applications [Prasad et al. 2009]
- Used for approximating LTP systems with higher-order LTI models
- Does not rely on state transition matrices
- Numerically robust
- Could be used as alternative to Floquet Decomposition



Objectives

- Develop an alternative approach to stability analysis, and control design of periodically-forced aerospace vehicles:

 Does not rely on state transition matrices
 Numerically robust
 Based on harmonic decomposition
 Can be used to compute the harmonic control inputs that attenuate arbitrary state harmonics
- 2. Demonstrate the approach on several periodically-forced aerospace vehicles
 - □Flapping-wing Micro Aerial Vehicle (MAV)
 - □Helicopter
 - □Flapping-tail concept airplane



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Problem Definition

Consider NLTP system

 $\dot{\boldsymbol{x}} = \boldsymbol{f}(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{u}, t)$

where

 $\Box x(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ state vector}$ $\Box u(t) \in \mathbb{R}^m \text{ control vector}$

- Nonlinear dynamics f is T-periodic in t such that f(x, u, t) = f(x, u, t + T)
- Let $x^*(t)$ and $u^*(t)$ represent a periodic solution of the system such that $x^*(t) = x^*(t + T)$ $u^*(t) = u^*(t + T)$
- Then, balance problem is stated as follows: determine $x^*(t)$ and $u^*(t)$ such that $\dot{x}^* = f(x^*, u^*, t)$





Step 1

- Assume fundamental period T is known
- Fundamental period related to forcing frequency via $T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega}$
- Iterative algorithm
 - □Need for initial guess
 - Candidate solution is refined at each iteration
 - □Stopped when convergence criteria is met
- Choose initial guess $x_0^*(t), u_0^*(t)$



Step 2

 Iteration begins with decomposing candidate periodic solution in finite number of harmonics

$$\boldsymbol{x}_{k}^{*} = \boldsymbol{x}_{k_{0}}^{*} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} \boldsymbol{x}_{k_{1c}}^{*} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi i t}{T}\right) + \boldsymbol{x}_{k_{1s}}^{*} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi i t}{T}\right)$$
$$\boldsymbol{u}_{k}^{*} = \boldsymbol{u}_{k_{0}}^{*} + \sum_{j=1}^{M} \boldsymbol{u}_{k_{1c}}^{*} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi j t}{T}\right) + \boldsymbol{u}_{k_{1s}}^{*} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi j t}{T}\right)$$

 Re-write candidate solution in terms of Fourier coeffs.

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{X}_{k}^{*^{T}} &= \left[\mathbf{x}_{k_{0}}^{*} \mathbf{x}_{k_{1c}}^{*} \mathbf{x}_{k_{1s}}^{*} \dots \mathbf{x}_{k_{Nc}}^{*} \mathbf{x}_{k_{Ns}}^{*}\right] \\
\mathbf{U}_{k}^{*^{T}} &= \left[\mathbf{u}_{k_{0}}^{*} \mathbf{u}_{k_{1c}}^{*} \mathbf{u}_{k_{1s}}^{*} \dots \mathbf{u}_{k_{Mc}}^{*} \mathbf{u}_{k_{Ms}}^{*}\right]
\end{aligned}$$

Form vector of unknowns at iteration k

$$\boldsymbol{\Theta}_{k}^{T} = \left[\boldsymbol{X}_{k}^{*^{T}} \boldsymbol{U}_{k}^{*^{T}}\right] \in \mathbb{R}^{n(2N+1)+m(2M+1)}$$



Step 2a

- Calculate state derivative vector x^{*}_k(t) along candidate periodic solution
- Decompose into N harmonics

 $\dot{\boldsymbol{x}}_{k}^{*} = \dot{\boldsymbol{x}}_{k_{0}}^{*} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} \dot{\boldsymbol{x}}_{k_{1c}}^{*} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi i t}{T}\right) + \dot{\boldsymbol{x}}_{k_{1s}}^{*} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi i t}{T}\right)$



Step 3

Define error vector based on integral relations

$$\boldsymbol{e}_{k}^{T} = \boldsymbol{W} \left[(\dot{\boldsymbol{x}}_{k}^{*})^{T} \left(\dot{\boldsymbol{x}}_{k_{1c}}^{*} - \frac{2\pi i}{T} \boldsymbol{x}_{k_{1s}}^{*} \right)^{T} \left(\dot{\boldsymbol{x}}_{k_{1s}}^{*} + \frac{2\pi i}{T} \boldsymbol{x}_{k_{1c}}^{*} \right)^{T} \right]$$

where $\square e_k^T \in \mathbb{R}^{n(2N+1)}$ $\square W \in \mathbb{R}^{n(2N+1) \times n(2N+1)}$ diagonal scaling matrix

- If $||e_k||_{\infty}$ is less than arbitrary tolerance, then solution is found
- If not, algorithm proceeds



Step 4

 NLTP system linearized about candidate periodic orbit to yield LTP system

 $\Delta \dot{x} = F_k(t)\Delta x + G_k(t)\Delta u$

where

$$\Box F_k(t) = \frac{\partial f(x,u,t)}{\partial x} |_{x_k^*, u_k^*}$$
$$\Box G_k(t) = \frac{\partial f(x,u,t)}{\partial u} |_{x_k^*, u_k^*}$$



Step 5

 Approximate LTP system with higherorder LTI model via harmonic decomposition

 $\Delta \dot{X} = A_k \Delta X + B_k \Delta U$

where

 $\Box \Delta X^{T} = \begin{bmatrix} \Delta x_{0}^{T} \ \Delta x_{1c}^{T} \ \Delta x_{1s}^{T} \dots \Delta x_{Nc}^{T} \ \Delta x_{Ns}^{T} \end{bmatrix}$ $\Box \Delta U^{T} = \begin{bmatrix} \Delta u_{0}^{T} \ \Delta u_{1c}^{T} \ \Delta u_{1s}^{T} \dots \Delta u_{Mc}^{T} \ \Delta u_{Ms}^{T} \end{bmatrix}$ $\Box A_{k} \in \mathbb{R}^{n(2N+1) \times n(2N+1)}$ $\Box B_{k} \in \mathbb{R}^{n(2N+1) \times m(2M+1)}$



Step 6

 Define the Jacobian matrix of the harmonic balancing algorithm at iteration k

$$\boldsymbol{J}_k = [\boldsymbol{A}_k \; \boldsymbol{B}_k]$$

where

 $\Box J_k \in \mathbb{R}^{n(2N+1) \times [n(2N+1)+m(2M+1)]}$

 Underdetermined problem with no unique solution

 $\Box n(2N + 1) + m(2M + 1)$ unknowns $\Box n(2N + 1)$ constraints

• Need to specify m(2M + 1) trim conditions



Step 6 (cont'd)

- Can assume control input harmonics higher than 0th to be zero for typical aerospace vehicles
- This corresponds to imposing 2Mm conditions
- Remaining m conditions specified by fixing position (x, y, z) and heading (ψ)
 □Vehicles typically employ 4 control inputs
 □ Dynamics invariant wrt position and heading
- Newton-Rhapson used for update $\Theta_{k+1} = \Theta_k - J_k^{-1} e_k$



Step 7





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Vertical Dynamics Model [Hassan et al. 2016]

- Flapping-wing MAV representative of a hawk moth
- NLTP vertical dynamics

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{z} \\ \dot{\phi} \\ \dot{w} \\ \ddot{\phi} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} w \\ \dot{\phi} \\ g - k_{d_1} |\dot{\phi}|w - k_L \dot{\phi}^2 \\ -k_{d_2} |\dot{\phi}|\phi - k_{d_3} w \dot{\phi} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \frac{1}{I_F} \cos(\omega t) \end{bmatrix} U$$

- 4 states + 1 control input □States: $\mathbf{x}^T = \{z \ \phi \ w \ \dot{\phi}\} \ (n = 2)$ □Controls: $\mathbf{u} = U \ (m = 1)$
- Forcing frequency $\omega = 165 \text{ rad/s}$



Schematic diagram of a FWMAV



Trim Solution

- Objective: find periodic trim in hover
- Harmonics retained \Box Up to 2nd state harmonic (N = 2)
 - $\Box 0^{\text{th}}$ control harmonic (M = 0)
- 21 unknowns vs. 20 constraints → set 0th harmonic of vertical position to zero
- Initial guess far from periodic orbit results in increasing number of iterations
- Computation time: 0.51 sec/iteration
- Higher-order LTI overlaps NLTP response to control input doublet



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Doublet response: NLTP vs LTI



Longitudinal Dynamics Model [Taha 2014]

- Flapping-wing MAV representative of a hawk moth
- NLTP longitudinal dynamics

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{z} \\ \dot{u} \\ \dot{w} \\ \dot{q} \\ \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} u\cos\theta + w\sin\theta \\ -u\sin\theta + w\cos\theta \\ -qw - g\sin\theta \\ qu + g\cos\theta \\ 0 \\ q \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ X(x, u, t)/m \\ Y(x, u, t)/m \\ M(x, u, t)/I_y \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- 6 states + 2 control inputs \Box States: $\mathbf{x}^T = \{x \ z \ u \ w \ q \ \theta\}$ \Box Controls: $\mathbf{u}^T = \{\Phi \ \alpha_m\}$
- Forcing frequency $\omega = 165 \text{ rad/s}$





Trim Solution

- Objective: find periodic trim in hover
- Harmonics retained
 Up to 4th state harmonic (N = 4)
 Oth control harmonic (M = 0)
- 54 unknowns vs. 52 constraints → 0th harmonic of long. and vertical position set to zero
- Higher-order LTI overlaps NLTP response to control input doublet



Periodic Trim Solution





Trim Solution

- Objective: find periodic trim in hover
- Harmonics retained
 Up to 4th state harmonic (N = 4)
 Oth control harmonic (M = 0)
- 54 unknowns vs. 52 constraints →0th harmonic of long. and vertical position set to zero
- Higher-order LTI overlaps NLTP response to control input doublet



Doublet response: NLTP vs LTI



Spectral Analysis

- Higher-order LTI model is residualized to yield a 4-state model
- Low-frequency eigenvalues match those of the higher-order LTI
- Can clearly see hovering cubic
- Averaged dynamics indicate instability...
- ... but dynamics are stable!
- System gains pitch stiffness as result of high-frequency, high-amplitude forcing





Pitch

Simulation Model

- Utility helicopter representative of UH-60
- julia implementation of GenHel
- Rigid flap + lead-lag
- Dynamic inflow model
 3-state Pitt-Peters (main rotor)
 1-state Bailey (tail rotor)
- Nonlinear aerodynamics
 Airframe
 Rotor blades
- 32 states + 4 control inputs □Fuselage: $\mathbf{x}_{F}^{T} = \{u \ v \ w \ p \ q \ r \ \phi \ \theta \ \psi \ x \ y \ z\}$ □Rotor: $\mathbf{x}_{R}^{T} = \{\boldsymbol{\beta}_{MBC}^{T} \ \dot{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{MBC}^{T} \ \boldsymbol{\zeta}_{MBC}^{T} \ \dot{\boldsymbol{\zeta}}_{MBC}^{T} \ \boldsymbol{\lambda}_{MBC}^{T} \ \boldsymbol{\lambda}_{0T}\}$ □Controls: $\mathbf{u}^{T} = \{\delta_{lat} \ \delta_{lon} \ \delta_{col} \ \delta_{ped}\}$





Trim Solution

- Objective: find periodic trim at 120 kts
- Harmonics retained
 Up to 4th state harmonic (N = 4)
 - $\Box 0^{\text{th}}$ control harmonic (M = 0)
- 288 unknowns vs. 284 constraints → set 0th harmonic of position and heading to zero
- Good agreement with flight test data
- Robust performance to poor initial guess
- Computation time: 40 sec/iteration







Trim Solution

- Objective: find periodic trim at 120 kts
- Harmonics retained
 Up to 4th state harmonic (N = 4)
 Oth control harmonic (M = 0)
- 288 unknowns vs. 284 constraints → set 0th harmonic of position and heading to zero
- Good agreement with flight test data
- Robust performance to poor initial guess
- Computation time: 40 sec/iteration



Vertical acceleration over one rotor revolution: numerical solution vs. JUH-60A RASCAL flight data



Trim Solution

- Objective: find periodic trim at 120 kts
- Harmonics retained
 Up to 4th state harmonic (N = 4)
 Oth control harmonic (M = 0)
- 288 unknowns vs. 284 constraints → set 0th harmonic of position and heading to zero
- Good agreement with flight test data
- Robust performance to poor initial guess
- Computation time: 40 sec/iteration





Trim Solution

- Objective: find higher-harmonic control (HHC) input to eliminate vibrations at CG at 120 kts
- Harmonics retained
 Up to 4th state harmonic (N = 4)
 Up to 4th control harmonic (M = 4)
- 324 unknowns vs. 288 constraints → all position and heading harmonics set to zero
- HHC input shows 4/rev behavior as expected



HHC input to eliminate vibrations at CG



Flapping-Tail Airplane

Simulation Model

- Flapping-tail concept airplane representative of a Boeing 737-800
- Horizontail tail subjected to oscillatory motion □Pitching $\alpha(t) = A_{\alpha} \sin(\omega t + \phi_{\alpha})$ □Plunging $h(t) = A_h \sin(\omega t + \phi_h)$ □Flapping $\delta(t) = A_{\delta} \sin(\omega t + \phi_{\delta})$
- Longitudinal dynamics

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{u} \\ \dot{w} \\ \dot{q} \\ \dot{q} \\ \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{x} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -qw - g\sin\theta \\ qu + g\cos\theta \\ 0 \\ q \\ u\cos\theta + w\sin\theta \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} X(x,t)/m \\ Y(x,t)/m \\ M(x,t)/I_y \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

• 5 states + 0 control inputs States: $x^T = \{u \ w \ q \ \theta \ x\}$



Flapping-Tail Airplane

Trim Solution

- Objective: find periodic trim at 780 ft/s
- Harmonics retained
 Up to 2nd state harmonic (N = 2)
- 25 unknowns vs. 25 constraints \rightarrow OK!
- Vibration level prediction
 Flapping tail plane: 0.5 g
 Typical airliners: 0.01 g
 Helicopters: 0.05 0.1 g

Not Comfortable





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Conclusions

- 1. Developed a numerical method for determining the periodic state and control solutions of nonlinear time-periodic systems
 - Harmonic balance revisitation that employs high-order LTI models of the vehicle dynamics
 - □Based on harmonic decomposition
 - Does not rely on state transition matrices
 - Simultaneously solves for the approximate higher-order LTI dynamics
 - Can be used to compute the high-harmonic control inputs that attenuate arbitrary state harmonics

2. Algorithm applications

- Development of advanced flight control laws that attenuate certain state harmonics
- Prediction of loads and vibrations



Broader Implications





Linear Time-Invariant Models of Rotorcraft Flight Dynamics, Vibrations, and Acoustics





Courtesy of K. S. Brentner

Linear Time-Invariant Models of Rotorcraft Flight Dynamics, Vibrations, and Acoustics



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Linear Time-Invariant Models of Rotorcraft Flight Dynamics, Vibrations, and Acoustics

Objectives

- Include vibration and aeroacoustic as output of NLTP dynamics
- Derive high-order LTI models for use in vibrations and acoustic predictions
- Drastically abate computation time
- Develop noise-abating control laws based on LTI system theory → powerful
- Noise on urban areas (UAM)
- Cabin noise

Funding Agencies / Interactions

- VLRCOE (NASA): coordinated task with K.S.
 Brentner and J.F. Horn
- E. Grennwood (PSU)
- FAA Center of Excellence (ASCENT)
- SBIR/STTR (ART, CDI, Craft Tech)



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Stability and Control of Flapping-Wing Flight

Objectives

- Extend proposed method to more complex FWMAV models including unsteady aerodynamics states
- Assess stability of wide spectrum of bio flyers, especially those with small time scale separation
- Compare with averaging methods
- Perform control design based on highorder LTI systems that accounts for higher harmonics

Funding Agencies / Interactions

- ONR (Marc Steinberg)
- NSF DCSD
- H. Taha (UCI)





Linear Time-Invariant Approximations of Spacecraft Formation Dynamics

Problem

- Relative dynamics of spacecraft in elliptical orbits is time-periodic
- Could approximate with high-order LTI systems
- Forcing freq. changes within one periodic orbit (true anomaly time derivative)

Objectives

- Extend harmonic decomposition to systems with periodically-varying forcing frequencies
- Perform control design based ofn highorder LTI systems

Interactions

P. Singla, R. Melton (PSU) M. Lovera (PoliMi)



Spacecraft Formation Flying





Thank you

Questions?

