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A Miniaturized Satellite Attitude Determination and Control System with Autonomous Calibration Capabilities

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Introduction

- ADACS designed for CubeSats
- CubeSats generally range in size from 1U to 3U (10x10x(10-30) cm)
 - Relatively cheap and easy to build
 - Highly capable due to miniaturized technology
- Require attitude control systems to properly orient science instruments and antennas







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Sensors and Actuators Trade Study

10 is most desirable, 1 is least desirable

Name	Cost	Complexity	Legacy	Accuracy	Totals
Magnetometer	8	8	10	6	32
Horizon Sensor	6	7	8	8	29
Sun Sensor	10	9	10	2	31
Star Tracker	1	3	5	10	19
Rate Gyros	10	8	8	5	31
Magnetorquers	10	6	10	5	31
3-axis Reaction Wheels	7	6	8	9	30
Gravity Boom	10	10	1	2	23
Aerodynamic Stabilization	10	10	2	5	27



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Sensors and Actuators

- Reaction Wheels (3)
- Magnetorquers (3)
- Magnetometer (3-axis)
- Rate gyros (3-axis)
- Position Sensitive Detectors (PSDs)











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Coordinate Frames

- Earth Fixed Inertial Frame Origin at Earth center, xaxis toward vernal equinox, z-axis through North Pole
- Orbital Frame Origin at satellite cm, x-axis aligned with velocity, z-axis toward Earth
- Satellite Body Frame Origin at satellite cm and moves with the satellite





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Coordinate Frame Transformation

• Direction Cosine Matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} r_{x2} \\ r_{y2} \\ r_{z2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} r_{x1} \\ r_{y1} \\ r_{z1} \end{bmatrix}$$

Quaternion

- Rotation vector (\vec{n}) plus rotation about vector (θ)

$$\begin{bmatrix} q_0 \\ q_1 \\ q_2 \\ q_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\frac{\theta}{2}) \\ n_x \sin(\frac{\theta}{2}) \\ n_y \sin(\frac{\theta}{2}) \\ n_z \sin(\frac{\theta}{2}) \end{bmatrix}$$



A quaternion, as devised by William Hamilton, can be used to transform one 3-D vector into another





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Attitude Vectors

- Sun vector in body frame from PSDs
- Magnetic field vector in body frame from magnetometer
- Magnetic field vector in orbital frame from IGRF model
- Sun vector in orbital frame from heliocentric orbit propagator
- Angular velocity vector (in body frame) from rate gyros



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Attitude Determination

- Defined as direction cosine matrix between body frame and orbital frame
- Triad algorithm gives DCM based on two vectors known in both frames $\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{R}_1 & \mathbf{R}_2 & (\mathbf{R}_1 \times \mathbf{R}_2) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{r}_1 & \mathbf{r}_2 & (\mathbf{r}_1 \times \mathbf{r}_2) \end{bmatrix}$
- DCM to quaternion conversion

$$q_0^{2} = \frac{tr(A) + 1}{4} = \frac{a_{11} + a_{22} + a_{33} + 1}{4}$$
$$q_1 = \frac{a_{32} - a_{23}}{4q_0}$$
$$q_2 = \frac{a_{13} - a_{31}}{4q_0}$$
$$q_3 = \frac{a_{21} - a_{12}}{4q_0}$$



Error Quaternion

- Relates current orientation to desired orientation

 Used in control algorithm
- Calculated based on measured and desired quaternions (q_m and q_d)

$$L_{d} = \begin{bmatrix} q_{0_{d}} & q_{1_{d}} & q_{2_{d}} & q_{3_{d}} \\ -q_{1_{d}} & q_{0_{d}} & q_{3_{d}} & -q_{2_{d}} \\ -q_{2_{d}} & -q_{3_{d}} & q_{0_{d}} & q_{1_{d}} \\ -q_{3_{d}} & q_{2_{d}} & -q_{1_{d}} & q_{0_{d}} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$q_{e} = L_{d}q_{m}$$



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Control Algorithm

- B-Dot de-tumble algorithm
 - Minimize angular velocity by torqueing opposite to direction of angular velocity vector
 - $\vec{\mu} = k\vec{B}$
 - $\vec{T} = \vec{\mu} \times \vec{B}$
- Inverse Dynamics PD Controller for steady state pointing
 - Proportional (error) and derivative terms
 - Analytical gain estimation from block diagram



 $\overline{\mu}_{tot} = k$

 ω



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Inverse Dynamics PD Controller

- Takes satellite dynamics into account
 - Ensures stability in all conditions
- PD law determines desired angular accelerations
- Equations of motion used to calculate required torques
- Gains independent of inertia properties

$$\begin{bmatrix} \alpha_x \\ \alpha_y \\ \alpha_z \end{bmatrix} = k_p \begin{bmatrix} q_{e1} \\ q_{e2} \\ q_{e3} \end{bmatrix} + k_d \begin{bmatrix} \omega_x \\ \omega_y \\ \omega_z \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\sum M = \frac{dH}{dt} = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} T_x \\ T_y \\ T_z \end{bmatrix}_m = I_w \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \\ \alpha_3 \end{bmatrix}_w = \begin{pmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_{22} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I_{33} \end{bmatrix}_{sc} \begin{bmatrix} \omega_x \\ \omega_y \\ \omega_z \end{bmatrix}_{sc} + I_w \begin{bmatrix} \omega_1 \\ \omega_2 \\ \omega_3 \end{bmatrix}_w \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} \omega_x \\ \omega_y \\ \omega_z \end{bmatrix}_{sc} - \begin{bmatrix} I_{xx} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_{yy} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I_{zz} \end{bmatrix}_{sc} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_x \\ \alpha_y \\ \alpha_z \end{bmatrix}_{sc}$$



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Drawbacks of Direct Linear PD Controller

• Torques calculated directly from controller

$$\begin{bmatrix} T_x \\ T_y \\ T_z \end{bmatrix}_m = \begin{bmatrix} k_{px}q_{e1} \\ k_{py}q_{e2} \\ k_{pz}q_{e3} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} k_{dx}\omega_x \\ k_{dy}\omega_y \\ k_{dz}\omega_z \end{bmatrix}$$

- Controller does not take wheel angular momentum into account
 - Can result in instability
- Controller gains dependent on satellite inertia properties
- Separate gain value needed for each parameter



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Instability of Direct PD Control when Angular Momentum is Large





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Inverse Dynamics PD Controller Performance

- Desired angular accelerations achieved perfectly
- Performance independent of initial conditions and system inertia properties
- System exhibits a stable oscillatory equilibrium
 - Frequency and amplitude of oscillations decreases as system becomes more overdamped
 - Adding integral term does not mitigate oscillations
 - More work needed to determine exact cause for oscillations



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Results $\overline{\omega_0} = (0, 0, 0)$



Critically Damped Case ($K_p=1, k_d=-1.4$)



Underdamped Case ($K_p=1, k_d=-.5$)



Overdamped Case ($K_p=1, k_d=-4$)



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Simulations with Kp = 1 and Kd = -4





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Simulations with $\overline{\omega_0} = (.5, .1, .7)$



 $K_p = 1$ $k_d = -8$

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K_p = 1k_d = -20
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Minimizing Oscillations

• Damping ratio
$$\zeta = \left| \frac{k_d}{2\sqrt{k_p}} \right|$$

- Increase both k_d and k_p such that system is heavily overdamped
 - High damping minimizes oscillations
 - High k_p means system will get to desired orientation rapidly



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Simulations with $K_p = 200$



 $K_d = -20 \text{ and } \overline{\boldsymbol{\omega}_0} = (\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})$

 K_d = -500 and $\overrightarrow{\omega_0}$ = (.5, .1, .7)



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Simulations with Different Gains and $\overline{\omega_0} = (.5, .1, .7)$





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Active Momentum Dumping

W

 Magnetorquers constantly work to reduce wheel angular momentum (H_w)

$$V_{H_{w}} = I_{w} \begin{bmatrix} \omega_{1} \\ \omega_{2} \\ \omega_{3} \end{bmatrix}$$
$$V_{\mu_{id}} = k * \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{W} & \mathbf{V} \\ H_{w} \times B \end{pmatrix}$$
$$V_{\mu_{id}} = k * \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{W} & \mathbf{V} \\ H_{w} \times B \end{pmatrix}$$
$$V_{T} = \mu_{id} \times B = k * \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{W} & \mathbf{V} \\ H_{w} \times B \end{pmatrix} \times B$$





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Autonomous In-Flight Calibration

Estimate moments of inertia and angular velocity based on kinematic response

$$\sum M = \frac{dH}{dt} + \frac{\mathbf{U}}{\omega_{sc}} \times H$$

- Calibrate to correct bias error in rate gyros.

$$I_{s}\alpha_{s} = -I_{w}\alpha_{w}$$

$$\omega_{x} = \frac{I_{w}\omega_{y}\omega_{1} - I_{w}\omega_{3} - I_{zz}\omega_{z}}{(I_{yy} - I_{xx})\omega_{y} + I_{w}\omega_{3}}$$

$$\omega_{z} = \frac{I_{w}\omega_{x}\omega_{3} + I_{w}\omega_{2} - I_{yy}\omega_{y}}{(I_{xx} - I_{zz})\omega_{x} + I_{w}\omega_{1}}$$

$$\omega_{y} = \frac{I_{w}\omega_{z}\omega_{2} - I_{w}\omega_{1} - I_{xx}\omega_{x}}{(I_{zz} - I_{yy})\omega_{z} + I_{w}\omega_{3}}$$



Estimated Cost

- Four Positions Sensitive Detectors \$1000 total
- Three Magnetorquers \$100 total
- Three Reaction Wheels \$300 total
- Electronic Speed Controller \$50
- Magnetometer \$100
- Rate gyros \$100
- Microcontroller and PCB \$200
- Total \$1850



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Questions?

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