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Quadrotor Control Design under Time and State Constraints: Implicit Lyapunov Function Approach

Siyuan Wang, Andrey Polyakov, Gang Zheng

Abstract— The problem of a state feedback design for control of a quadrotor system under state and time constraints is studied. Convex embedding approach and Implicit Lyapunov function are employed to design a finite-time controller. The feedback gain is solved by a system of LMIs(Linear Matrix Inequalities). Theoretical results are supported with numerical simulation.

I. INTRODUCTION

Control of quadrotor is an interesting problem that is important for many aeronautical applications. Both linear and nonlinear algorithms are developed for this purpose. For example, algorithms based on PID [1] and LQR design [2], as well as H_{∞} [3] technique can be classified as linear. The linear design usually uses a system model linearized around an equilibrium point while non-linear terms are omitted. Formally, this means that the linear control is local and an additional robustness analysis is required. As an advance of the linear approach one can be mentioned the simplicity of tuning of control parameters based on Linear Matrix Inequalities (LMIs), which is supported now by MATLAB and many other computational software. In order to have a better performance (e.g. fast maneuvers of the quadrotor), nonlinear controller could be a better solution. A gain scheduling [4] is the simplest way to construct a nonlinear (in fact, a piece-wise linear/switched) control law. The design of a nonlinear controller of quadrotor can be based on feedback linearization [3], backstepping approach [5], [6], sliding mode methodology [7], [8], adaptation [9], [10], and MPC-based (model predictive control) techniques [11], [12].

In practice, the movement of quadrotor is subjected to certain restrictions, e.g. power constraints, computation constraints, state constraints, time constraints and so on. For example, each kind of quadrotor has a limit payload implying that the battery and processing unit cannot be as large as possible. This restricts the endurance time and the computation capacity of the quadrotor. Obviously, simpler controller consumes less energy and responds faster than a complex one. Exceeding some limits of computational power may imply a degradation of control precision. In [13] the authors give estimates showing that a quadrotor controlled by linear PID consumes 5% less energy than the same quadrotor with a complex (backstepping) controller.

Control of the quadrotor under state constrains is a difficult problem even in some particular cases (see e.g. [14]). In order to satisfy the input, output or state constraints, the control methods such as backstepping [15] or nested saturation [16], [17] could be applied. For linear algorithms an LMI-based schemes can be proposed in order to fulfill state constraints.

Restrictions to transient times (i.e. time constraints) may appear, for example, for the trajectory tracking [18] or the formation control of quadrotors [19] for safety reasons and collision avoidance. Finite-time stabilization [20], is the simplest to fulfill this type of constraints. This paper is devoted to finite-time stabilization of the quadrotor under the state constraints.

The paper is organized as follows: the main notations and definitions are given in the next section. Section III presents the problem statement. Model decomposition and its local convex embedding are considered in Section IV. Section V designs a controller which allows some time and state constraints to be fulfilled. Section VI and VII present the simulation results and conclusions respectively.

II. PRELIMINARIES

A. Notations

Throughout this paper the following notation will be used:

- \mathbb{R} is the set of real numbers, $\mathbb{R}_+ = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : x > 0\}.$
- $\|\cdot\|$ is the Euclidian norm in \mathbb{R}^n
- $diag\{\lambda_i\}_{i=1}^n$ is the diagonal matrix with elements λ_i
- $P > 0 (< 0, \ge 0, \le 0)$ for $P \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ means that P is symmetric and positive(negative) definite(semidefinite).
- $\lambda_{min}(P)$ and $\lambda_{max}(P)$ represent the minimal and maximal eigenvalue of symmetric matrix $P = P^T$ respectively.
- For P ≥ 0 the square root of P is a matrix M = P^{1/2}/₂ such that M² = P.
- A continuous function σ : ℝ₊ → ℝ₊ belongs to the class K if it is monotone increasing and σ(h) → 0⁺ as h → 0⁺.

B. Definitions

Consider the system of form

$$\dot{x} = f(t, x), \quad x(0) = x_0$$
 (1)

where $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is the state vector, $f : \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^n$ is a nonlinear vector field.

Definition 2.1: ([21][22][23]) The origin of system is said to be globally finite-time stable if:

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- Finite-time attractivity: there exists a locally bounded function ℑ: ℝⁿ\{0} → ℝ₊, such that for all x₀ ∈ ℝⁿ\{0}, any solution x(t, x₀) of system is defined at least on [0, ℑ(x₀)) and lim_{t→ℑ(x₀)} x(t, x₀) = 0
- 2) Lyapunov stability: $\exists \delta \in \mathcal{K}$ such that $|| x(t, x_0)) || \le \delta(|| x_0 ||)$ for all $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n, t \in \mathbb{R}_+$

The function \mathfrak{T} is called the settling time function of system.

Theorem 2.1: [21] If there exists a continuous function

$$Q: \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$$
$$(V, x) \to Q(V, x)$$

satisfying the conditions

- C1) Q is continuously differentiable outside the origin;
- C2) for any $x \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$ there exists $V \in \mathbb{R}_+$ such that

$$Q(V, x) = 0$$

C3) let $\Omega = \{(V, x) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^n : Q(V, x) = 0\}$ and

$$\lim_{\substack{x \to 0, (V,x) \in \Omega}} V = 0^+, \lim_{\substack{V \to 0^+, (V,x) \in \Omega}} \| x \| = 0,$$
$$\lim_{\|x\| \to \infty, (V,x) \in \Omega} V = +\infty$$

C4) $\frac{\partial Q(V,x)}{\partial V} < 0$ for all $V \in \mathbb{R}_+$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$; C5) There exist c > 0 and $0 < \mu \le 1$ such that

$$\sup_{t \in \mathbb{R}_+} \frac{\partial Q(V, x)}{\partial x} f(t, x) \le c V^{1-\mu} \frac{\partial Q(V, x)}{\partial V}$$

for all
$$(V, x) \in \Omega$$

then the origin of the system is globally uniformly finite-time stable and $\mathfrak{T}(x_0) \leq \frac{V_0^{\mu}}{c\mu}$, where Q(V, x) = 0.

III. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The dynamic model of quadrotor is well established in the literature (see, e.g. [24], [25]). Since the hub forces and moments are very small compared to actuator moments and forces, they are negligible in the considered model [26].

Two different coordinate systems are used in the system model: the initial and body coordinate systems, denoted by *i* and *b* respectively (see Fig.1). The position and the attitude in initial frame of quadrotor are given by (x, y, z)and (ϕ, θ, ψ) (roll-pitch-yaw) respectively.



Fig. 1. Quadrotor Coordinate System

The total thrust F of quadrotor in body frame is provided by four thrusts f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4 of propeller, $F = f_1 + f_2 + f_3 + f_4$ f_4 . The thrust of each propeller is $f_i = k\omega_i^2$, where k is the thrust coefficient and ω_i is the rotation speed of propeller. The force in the inertial frame is given by $R(\phi\theta\psi)F$, where

$$R(\phi,\theta,\psi) = \begin{bmatrix} C_{\theta}C_{\psi} & -S_{\phi}S_{\theta}C_{\psi} + C_{\phi}S_{\psi} & -C_{\phi}S_{\theta}C_{\psi} - S_{\phi}S_{\psi}\\ -C_{\theta}S_{\psi} & S_{\phi}S_{\theta}S_{\psi} + C_{\phi}C_{\psi} & C_{\phi}S_{\theta}S_{\psi} - S_{\phi}C_{\psi}\\ S_{\theta} & S_{\phi}C_{\theta} & C_{\phi}C_{\theta} \end{bmatrix}$$
(2)

with the notations $C_{\theta} = \cos \theta$, $S_{\theta} = \sin \theta$, etc.

In order to obtain the dynamics equation, the following Newton-Euler equations can be applied:

$$\begin{bmatrix} mI_{3\times3} & 0\\ 0 & J \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \ddot{\xi}\\ \dot{\omega} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \omega \times m\dot{\xi}\\ \omega \times J\omega \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} R(\phi,\theta,\psi)F\\ \tau \end{bmatrix}$$
(3)

Thus we have

$$m\ddot{\xi} + \begin{bmatrix} 0\\0\\mg \end{bmatrix} = R(\phi, \theta, \psi)F \tag{4}$$

$$J\dot{\omega} + \omega \times J\omega = \tau \tag{5}$$

where $\ddot{\xi} = \begin{bmatrix} \ddot{x} & \ddot{y} & \ddot{z} \end{bmatrix}^T$, $\omega = L_i^B \dot{\Theta}$, J is the initia matrix, τ is the rotation torque with

$$\begin{split} \dot{\Theta} &= \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\phi} \\ \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{\psi} \end{bmatrix}, \quad L_i^B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -\sin\theta \\ 0 & \cos\phi & \sin\phi\cos\theta \\ 0 & -\sin\phi & \cos\phi\cos\theta \end{bmatrix} \\ \tau &= \begin{bmatrix} \tau_{\phi} \\ \tau_{\theta} \\ \tau_{\psi} \end{bmatrix}, \quad J = \begin{bmatrix} I_{xx} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_{yy} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I_{zz} \end{bmatrix} \end{split}$$

m the total mass of quadrotor and (I_{xx}, I_{yy}, I_{zz}) moment of inertia with respect to the axes. The inputs of system are

$$[u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4] := [F, \tau_{\phi}, \tau_{\theta}, \tau_{\psi}]$$

where

$$F = k(\omega_1^2 + \omega_2^2 + \omega_3^2 + \omega_4^2)$$

$$\tau_{\phi} = \frac{L_{roll}}{2} k(\omega_1^2 - \omega_3^2)$$

$$\tau_{\theta} = \frac{L_{pitch}}{2} k(\omega_2^2 - \omega_4^2)$$

$$\tau_{\psi} = c(-\omega_1^2 + \omega_2^2 - \omega_3^2 + \omega_4^2)$$
(6)

with L_{roll} is the roll motor to motor distance, L_{pitch} is the pitch motor to motor distance, c is drag coefficient and k is thrust coefficient.

Then the equations of motion in the initial coordinates [24] can be derived from (4), (5) as follows

$$m\ddot{x} = (\cos\phi\sin\theta\cos\psi + \sin\phi\sin\psi)u_1$$

$$m\ddot{y} = (\cos\phi\sin\theta\sin\psi - \sin\phi\cos\psi)u_1$$

$$m\ddot{z} = \bar{u}_1$$

$$I_{xx}\ddot{\phi} = \bar{u}_2$$

$$I_{yy}\ddot{\theta} = \bar{u}_3$$

$$I_{zz}\ddot{\psi} = \bar{u}_4$$
(7)

where

$$\bar{u} = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{u}_2 \\ \bar{u}_3 \\ \bar{u}_1 \\ \bar{u}_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & \frac{I_{xx} \sin \phi \tan \theta}{I_{yy}} & \frac{I_{xx} \cos \phi \tan \theta}{I_{yz}} \\ 0 & 0 & \cos \phi & \frac{-I_{yy} \sin \phi}{I_{zz}} \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{I_{zz} \sin \phi \sec \theta}{I_{yy}} & \cos \phi \sec \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \cos \phi \cos \theta - mg \\ u_2 - r_1 \\ u_3 - r_2 \\ u_4 - r_3 \end{bmatrix}$$
(8)

and

$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} r_1 \\ r_2 \\ r_3 \end{pmatrix} = J \left(\frac{\partial L_i^B}{\partial \phi} \dot{\phi} + \frac{\partial L_i^B}{\partial \theta} \dot{\theta} \right) \dot{\Theta} + L_i^B \dot{\Theta} \times (J L_i^B \dot{\Theta})$$
(9)

The quadrotor model (7) has six coordinates $(x, y, z, \phi, \theta, \psi)$ and only four independent inputs. Therefore the quadrotor is an under-actuated system.

Our goal is to design a controller that stabilizes the quadrotor system under the time constraint

$$\lim_{t \to \mathfrak{T}(\sigma_0)} \sigma(t) = 0, \quad \mathfrak{T}(x_0) \le \mathfrak{T}_{max}$$
(10)

and the state constraints:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2 &\leq \epsilon_{1,2}^2, \\
\sigma_3^2 + \sigma_4^2 &\leq \epsilon_{3,4}^2, \\
|\sigma_i| &\leq \epsilon_i, \quad i = 5, ..., 12
\end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

where

$$\sigma = (x, y, \dot{x}, \dot{y}, \phi, \theta, z, \psi, \dot{\phi}, \dot{\theta}, \dot{z}, \dot{\psi})^T$$

is the system state, \mathfrak{T} is the settling time function, \mathfrak{T}_{\max} is the time constraint, σ_0 is the initial state of system satisfying the space constraint and the positive constants

$$0 < \epsilon_{1,2}, \epsilon_{3,4}, \epsilon_7, \epsilon_8, \epsilon_9, \epsilon_{10}, \epsilon_{11}, \epsilon_{12} < +\infty$$
$$0 < \epsilon_5, \epsilon_6 < \frac{\pi}{2} \text{ such that } \cos(\epsilon_5)\cos(\epsilon_6) \ge \frac{1}{2}$$
(12)

define the space constraints.

IV. System Transformation and Convex Embedding

For the considered state vector σ the system model can be represented in the form

$$\dot{\sigma} = \bar{A}\sigma + B\bar{u},$$

where

Let us introduce the new variable $\zeta = T\sigma$ where T is the orthogonal matrix depending on ψ as follows

$$T = T(\psi) := \begin{pmatrix} R^{-1} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & R^{-1} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & I & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & I & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & I \end{pmatrix}$$
(14)

Thus the system can be rewritten in the form

$$\dot{\zeta} = (A+D)\zeta + B\bar{u}, \quad \zeta(0) = \zeta_0 := T(\psi(0))\sigma_0$$
 (15)

where

Let e_i with $1 \le i \le 12$ be the identity vector from \mathbb{R}^{12} . Lemma 4.1: Let $\Delta \in [0, 1]$, the vector

$$\epsilon = (\epsilon_{1,2}, \epsilon_{3,4}, \epsilon_5, \epsilon_6, \epsilon_7, \epsilon_8, \epsilon_9, \epsilon_{10}, \epsilon_{11}, \epsilon_{12}) \in \mathbb{R}^{10}_+$$

satisfies (12) and

where

$$G_{1} = G_{3} = G_{5} = G_{7} = \epsilon_{12} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$G_{2} = G_{4} = G_{6} = G_{8} = -\epsilon_{12} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$E_{1} = E_{2} = g(1 + \Delta) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$E_{3} = E_{4} = g \begin{pmatrix} (1 + \Delta) & 0 \\ 0 & (1 - \Delta)\sin(\epsilon_{6})\cos(\epsilon_{5}) \\ \epsilon_{6} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$E_{5} = E_{6} = g \begin{pmatrix} \frac{(1 - \Delta)\sin(\epsilon_{5})}{\epsilon_{5}} & 0 \\ 0 & (1 + \Delta) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$E_{7} = E_{8} = g(1 - \Delta) \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\sin(\epsilon_{5})}{\epsilon_{5}} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{\sin(\epsilon_{6})\cos(\epsilon_{5})}{\epsilon_{6}} \end{pmatrix}$$

Then for any $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{12}$ satisfying (11), for any $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ and for any $u_1 \in mg[1 - \Delta, 1 + \Delta]$ there exist $\alpha_i \ge 0$:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{8} \alpha_i = 1 \quad \textit{ and } \quad \sum_{i=1}^{8} \alpha_i A_i = A + \lambda D$$

The latter lemma proves possibility of application of the so-called convex embedding approach(see e.g. [27]) for control design.

V. CONTROLLER DESIGN WITH TIME AND STATE CONSTRAINT

Introduce the implicit Lyapunov function candidate [21]

$$Q(V,\zeta) := \zeta^T D_r(V^{-1}) P D_r(V^{-1}) \zeta - 1$$
 (18)

where $V \in \mathbb{R}_+$, $\zeta \in \mathbb{R}^{12}$, $P \in \mathbb{R}^{12 \times 12}$ is a symmetric positive definite matrix P > 0 and $D_r(\lambda) \in \mathbb{R}^{12 \times 12}$ is a dilation matrix of the form

$$D_{r}(\lambda) = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda^{4}I & 0 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & \lambda^{3}I & \cdots & 0\\ 0 & 0 & \lambda^{2} \begin{pmatrix} I & 0\\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix} & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda \begin{pmatrix} I & 0\\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}_{+}$$
(19)

Denote

$$H := \begin{pmatrix} 4I & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3I & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2I & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2I & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & I & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & I \end{pmatrix}$$

Theorem 5.1: If for some

$$\Delta \in \left[\frac{1}{\cos(\epsilon_5)\cos(\epsilon_6)} - 1, 1\right]$$

the tuple

$$(X, Y, \gamma) \in \mathbb{R}^{12 \times 12} \times \mathbb{R}^{4 \times 12} \times \mathbb{R}_+$$

satisfies the system of LMIs

$$\begin{cases} A_{i}X + XA_{i}^{T} + BY + Y^{T}B^{T} + \gamma(XH + HX) \leq 0 \\ XH + HX > 0, \begin{pmatrix} X & Xe_{j} \\ e_{j}^{\top}X & \epsilon_{j}^{2} \end{pmatrix} \geq 0, \quad X > 0, \\ \begin{pmatrix} X & X \begin{pmatrix} I \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} I \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}^{T} X & \epsilon_{1,2}^{2}I \end{pmatrix} \geq 0, \quad 1 \leq i \leq 8 \\ 0, \quad 5 \leq j \leq 12 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} X & X \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} I \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ = 0, \begin{pmatrix} X & Y^{T} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} I \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} I \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ = 0, \begin{pmatrix} X & Y^{T} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ \downarrow T \\ \tau = mg \Big(\cos(\epsilon_{5}) \cos(\epsilon_{6})(1 + \Delta) - 1 \Big) \end{cases}$$

$$(20)$$

then for any initial condition $\zeta(0) = \zeta_0$ satisfying

$$\zeta_0^T P \zeta_0 \le 1, \qquad P = X^{-1}$$

the controller of the form

$$\bar{u} = KD_r(V^{-1})\zeta, \qquad K = YX^{-1}$$
 (21)
 $V \in \mathbb{R}_+ : \zeta^T D_r(V^{-1})PD_r(V^{-1})\zeta = 1,$

stabilizes the closed-loop system (15) in a finite time

$$T(\zeta_0) \le \frac{V(\sigma_0)}{\gamma} \le \frac{1}{\gamma}.$$

Moreover, the control \bar{u} is globally bounded

$$\|\bar{u}\|^{2} \leq \lambda_{max} (P^{-\frac{1}{2}} K^{T} K P^{-\frac{1}{2}})$$

TABLE I Quadrotor Model Parameters

Parameter	Description	Value	Units
g	Gravity	9.8	m/s^2
m	Mass	1.07	kg
L_{roll}	Roll motor distance	0.2136	m
L_{pitch}	Pitch motor distance	0.1758	m
I_{xx}	Roll Inertia	6.85×10^{-3}	kgm^2
I_{yy}	Pitch Inertia	6.62×10^{-3}	kgm^2
I_{zz}	Yaw Inertia	1.29×10^{-2}	kgm^2
k	Thrust Coefficient	1.93×10^{-8}	$\frac{N}{RPM^2}$
с	Drag Coefficient	0.26×10^{-9}	$\frac{Nm}{RPM^2}$

and the state constraints (11) are fulfilled for all $t \ge 0$ provided that $\zeta_0^T P \zeta_0 \le 1$.

It is worth stressing that if some states are not constraint, the corresponding LMIs simply disappear for (20).

The parameter γ introduced in (20) is for tuning of the settling time. This time can be minimized by means of solving the semi-definite programming problem

$$\gamma \to \gamma_{\rm max}$$

subject to (20).

VI. SIMULATION RESULTS

The parameters applied in the simulation is listed in table I.

Suppose that the state constraints are given as

$$|\dot{\psi}| \le 1, \ |\phi| \le \frac{\pi}{5}, \ |\theta| \le \frac{\pi}{5}$$

Solving LMIs (20) gives the following gain matrix

K =

 $\sigma_0^T P \sigma_0 = 0.958 < 1.$ Fig.2 and Fig.3 depict that position and attitude converge to original position in finite time, which means that it converges to zero less than 4s. The simulation results show that the system converge to zero at around 3s for this initial condition. Since the full state of the system is considered together in the controller design, the position and attitude state converge together in the simulation. The constraint of $\dot{\psi}$ are satisfied and confirmed by Fig.4. In the Fig.5, it is clear to see the property of finite-time stability.

The simulation results show that the controller is robust and able to stabilize the quadrotor to the original position under the state and time constrains.



Fig. 2. Quadrotor position x, y, z



Fig. 3. Quadrotor attitude ϕ, θ, ψ



Fig. 4. Angle velocity $\dot{\psi}$



Fig. 5. Log of the norm of vector $v = [x, y, \phi, \theta, z, \psi]$

VII. CONCLUSION

In this paper the problem of finite-time stabilization of quadrotor under state constraints is studied. A control design scheme based on Implicit Lyapunov function method is proposed. Convex embedding technique is utilized for construction of LMI required for tuning of feedback gains. Control performance is confirmed by numerical simulations.

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