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Particle swarm optimization based PID controller tuning for level control of two tank system

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ABSTRACT: Automatic control plays a vital role in industrial operation. In process industries, in order to have an improved and stable control system, we need a robust tuning method. In this paper Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) based algorithm is proposed for the optimization of a PID controller for level control process. A two tank system is considered. Initially a PID controller is designed using an Internal Model Control (IMC). The results are compared with the PSO based controller setting. The performance of the controller is compared and analyzed by time domain specification. In order to validate the robustness of PID controller, disturbance is imposed. The system is simulated using MATLAB. The results show that the proposed method provides better controller performance.

1. INTRODUCTION

PID controllers are broadly utilized as a part of process control framework. The tuning of PID controller is very important to have a optimum control. The most common methods are Ziegler-Nicols method and Cohen-Coon methods [1]. In physical system the parameters of the system changes as the operation conditions fluctuates. Usually most of the controllers are optimized for one operating condition. Therefore the controller shows poor performance when it is made to operate at different operating condition.

So the controllers should be retuned regularly [8]. Thus many new tuning methods were proposed to achieve better performance. To avoid the retuning of PID controller, a Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) based robust method is used. PSO uses swarm intelligence. The method got motivation by observing the social interaction, behaviours of animals seen among birds and fishes [3].

2. SYSTEM MODELLING

Consider a non-interacting two tank system as shown in figure 1. Let h_1 and A_1 be the height band area of the tank 1. Let h_2 and A_2 be the height band area of tank 2. Let R_1 and R_2 be the resistance of the flow valves and Q_{in} , Q_1 and Q_o be the flow rates in ft^2/min . Here we consider the density of the liquid to be constant [10]. Therefore by mass balance equation:

Tank 1

$$A_1 \frac{dh_1}{dt} = Q_{in} - Q_1 \quad (1)$$

$$= Q_{in} - \frac{h_1}{R_1} \quad (2)$$

By taking Laplace transform we get,

$$A_1 s H_1(s) = Q_{in}(s) - \frac{H_1(s)}{R_1} \quad (3)$$



$$\frac{H1(s)}{Qin(s)} = \frac{R1}{\tau1s+1} \quad (4)$$

Where $\tau1 = A_1R_1$

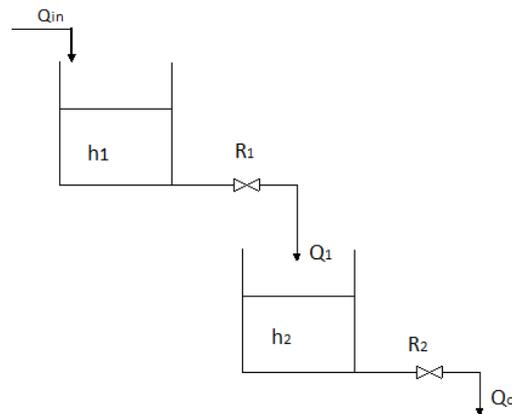


Figure 1. A two tank system

Similarly for tank 2

$$\frac{H2(s)}{H1(s)} = \frac{R2}{R1(\tau2s+1)} \quad (5)$$

Where ; $\tau2 = A_2R_2$

Therefore the transfer function of the system is obtained by multiplying equation 4 and 5. The final transfer function is

$$\frac{H2(s)}{Qin(s)} = \frac{R2}{(\tau1s+1)(\tau2s+1)} \quad (6)$$

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Internal Model Control (IMC)

IMC gives a controller with a single tuning parameter, the IMC filter coefficient (λ). IMC is a technique, which is used for various controller tuning and designs. IMC is used to design a controller that satisfies basic demands [8]. Thus IMC is widely used in industries where there is need of single-loop adjusts. IMC system is used to track the set point and reject disturbance. The IMC-based PID controller can solve more industrial automation processes. IMC PID controller algorithm is found to be simple and it also gives a better solution in process that has large time delay [9].

The PID parameters are found by using the following equations

$$K_p = \frac{\tau1 + \tau2}{k_p} \quad (7)$$

$$T_i = \tau1 + \tau2 \quad (8)$$

$$T_d = \frac{\tau1\tau2}{\lambda(\tau1 + \tau2)} \quad (9)$$

3.1.1 Selection of Filter Time Constant (λ). Here the controller is designed by taking values λ as 0.5, 1 and 3. It is found that the system shows better performance better time domain specification when λ is 1. So we take the value of λ as 1 [9].

3.2 Optimization Using Particle Swarm Algorithm

PSO algorithm is based on (SI) swarm intelligence. The method got motivation by observing the social interaction, behaviours of animals seen among birds, fishes etc. PSO follows the method that is found in fishes, where they find food by competing and the cooperating among themselves [3]. The swarm has individuals which are called particles in which each particle represents various possible set of the parameters that are unknown which should get optimized. A 'swarm' is usually initialized by a population of random solutions [8]. In this system, particles fly around in a multi-dimensional search space. It keeps on adjusting its position with respect to its own experience and also by considering the experience of its neighboring particle. The goal of each particle is to search a solution very efficiently to achieve this [10]. The particles swarm among themselves and moves to the best function which is

called fitting function. Then it converges to a single min or max solution. A function is already defined and that function is used to analyse the performance of that particle. The accuracy of the controller that is tuned depends on model's accuracy. So the system model is important. The only objective of this work is to use the proposed PSO to attain the optimal parameter values of a PID controller that is used in a two tank process[14].

Here we initialize a system with a population that has random solutions. They are called particles. And a random velocity is assigned to each of them. PSO depends on the information that get exchanged between swarms (particles) [9]. Each swarm adapts its path to its best fitness function that has been achieved till that moment. This value is referred as pbest. Moreover swarms adjust its path accordingly by considering the best previous position that was achieved by its neighboring member. It is referred as gbest. In the search space the particles moves with a velocity which is adaptive in nature [8].

A function is used to analyze the performance of swarm; so that we can find whether it has attained the best solution. This function is called fitness function [11]. As the swarming takes place, each particle tries to attain its best function and by the end, particles shows stagnating trend. Through this process each particle gets optimized.

Consider D as the dimension of search space.

Where $X_i = [x_{i1}, x_{i2}, \dots, x_{id}]^T$ which represents the present position i^{th} particle.

Then, $X_{ipbest} = [x_{i1pbest}, x_{i2pbest}, \dots, x_{idpbest}]^T$ represents best position that it visited[14].

$X_{gbest} = [x_{1pbest}, x_{2pbest}, \dots, x_{idpbest}]^T$ represents gbest, the best position that has been achieved by the particle in the population.

$V_i = [v_{i1}, v_{i2}, \dots, v_{id}]^T$ refers to the velocity of i^{th} particle.

$V_{i \max} = [v_{i1 \max}, v_{i2 \max}, \dots, v_{id \max}]^T$ represent the upper bound velocity of the particle that is used to move from one step to next step [8].

$$V_{id} = W * V_{id} + c_1 * r_1 * (X_{id \text{ pbest}} - X_{id}) + c_2 * r_2 * (X_{gbest} - X_{id}) \quad (10)$$

$$V_{id} = V_{d \max} \quad \text{if } V_{id} > V_{d \max} \quad (11)$$

$$V_{id} = -V_{d \max} \quad \text{if } V_{id} < -V_{d \max} \quad (12)$$

$$X_{id} = X_{id} + V_{id} \quad (13)$$

Where;

c_1 and c_2 are constants; that is used to represent the cognitive and social parameter.

r_1 and r_2 are random numbers in the range [0,1]

w is the inertia weight to balance the ability of the search[5].

The fitness function is given by;

$$F = (1 - e^{-\beta})(M_p + E_{ss}) + (e^{-\beta})(T_s - T_r) \quad (14)$$

M_p : Peak Overshoot

T_s : Settling Time

T_r : Rise Time

β : Scaling Factor(here I is taken as 1)

The parameters for PSO should be selected as it decides how much able is the algorithm, so that we get optimal value [7].

Here; The size of population = 100; Number of iterations=100;

$c_1=1.2$; $c_2=1.2$; $r_1=1$; $r_2=1$

Algorithm

Step i: Start

Step ii: Initialize the particles with a random place and velocity

Step iii: Evaluate the fitness function

Step iv: If the present value is more than pbest,
then goto → step v
else

to step viii.

Step v: Then Pbest is equal to present fitness value

Step vi: If the present fitness value is more than Gbest
then goto → step vii
else

to step viii

Step vii: Then Gbest is equal to the present value of fitness function

Step viii: Update the position & velocity values of the particles

Step ix: Exit if it meets end criteria
else

to step iii.

4. RESULTS

The system is modelled and implemented in simulink. PID controller is designed using IMC and PSO algorithm. When a disturbance is introduced to the system it is found that the system having PID controller designed using PSO algorithm shows better performance compared to that of IMC technique. When IMC is used the system takes 91.44 seconds to settle whereas when PSO algorithm is used the system takes 63.9 seconds to settle that is, when disturbance is introduced system with PSO algorithm settles fast. Thus it is found that PSO algorithm shows better disturbance rejection than IMC technique.

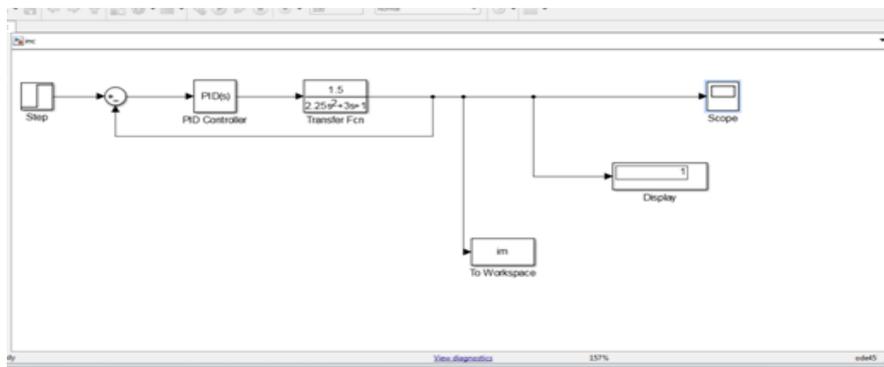


Figure 2. Simulink representation of the system

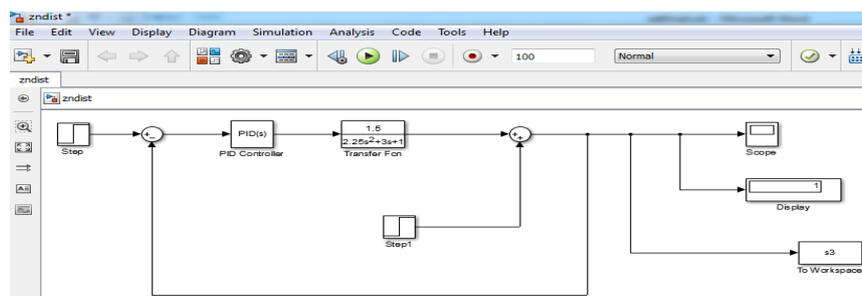


Figure 3. Simulink representation of the system with disturbance

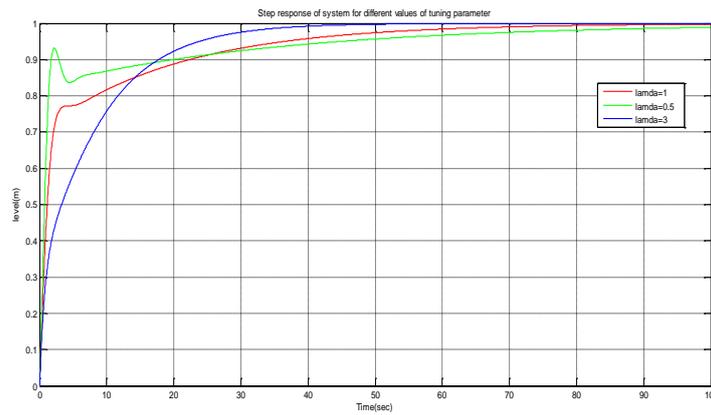


Figure 4. Step response of the system for different filter time constant (λ)

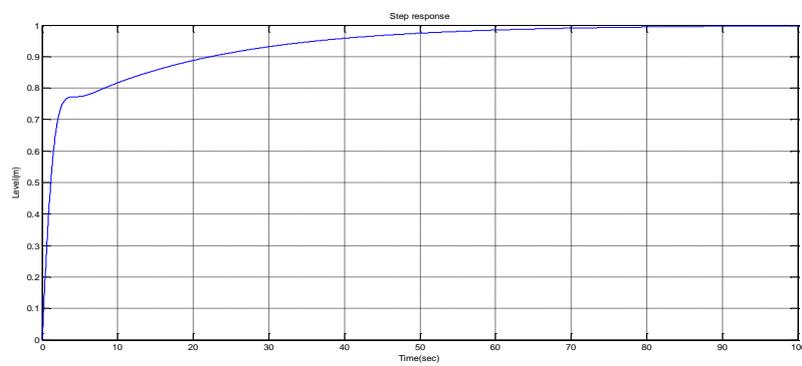


Figure 5. Step response of the system using IMC

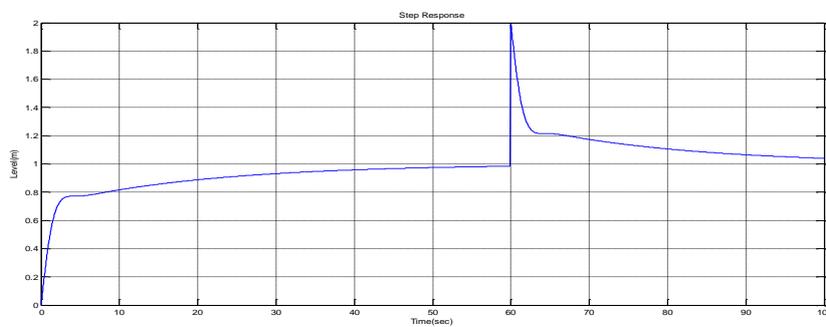


Figure 6. Step response of the system using IMC with disturbance

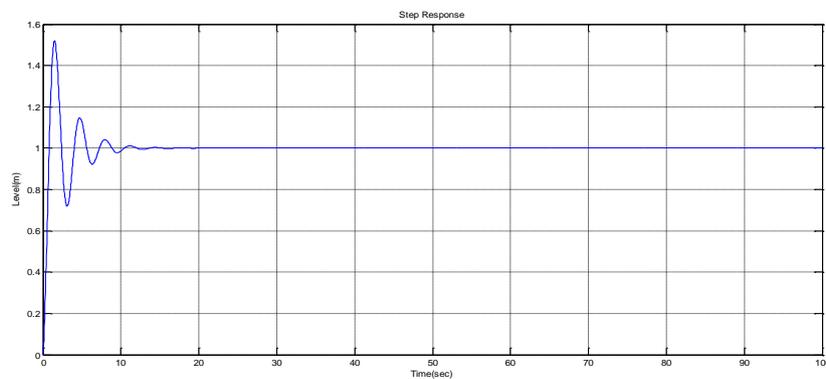


Figure 7. Step Response of the system using PSO algorithm

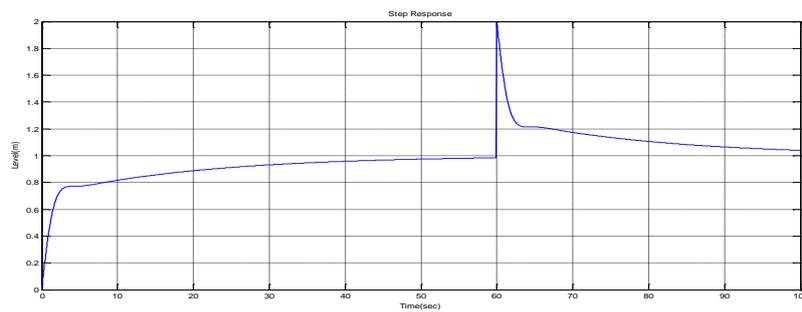


Figure 8. Step Response of the system using PSO algorithm with disturbance

4.1 Performance Comparison of the System:

Time domain specifications like rise time, settling time, peak overshoot is used to compare the performance of the system. Settling time and rise time is less for PSO based system. The IMC based tuning technique exhibits more overshoot.

Table 1. Comparison of time domain specification of the system without disturbance

TIME DOMAIN SPECIFICATION	IMC	PSO
Rise Time(sec)	21.7486	0.5783
Settling Time(sec)	53.0165	9.7825
Overshoot	0	51.9313
Peak Time(sec)	100	1.4706

Table 2. Shows the Comparison of time domain specification of the system with disturbance

TIME DOMAIN SPECIFICATION	IMC	PSO
Rise Time(sec)	31.1691	0.6583
Settling Time(sec)	91.4469	63.9942
Overshoot	90.8296	0
Peak Time(sec)	60.0000	60.0000

5. CONCLUSION

The effect of λ in tuning a controller has been analyzed. The controller is tuned using IMC and PSO. The result is compared by taking the time domain specification. It is found that the system having the controller that is designed using PSO technique is more robust and shows better disturbance rejection compared to the other technique.

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