

DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH BANDWIDTH TORQUE SENSOR FOR CONTROL
OF HIGH PERFORMANCE MANIPULATORS

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Abstract

In advanced manufacturing environments, the current state-of-the-art in robotic manipulators focuses primarily on improving the performance of position-based control through advanced vision systems and improved motor-amplifier technology. The fundamental issue of actuator position control has been left to motor amplifier designers to incorporate steady improvements on sensor and commutation methods. However, in all robotic control efforts, control of the link torque is paramount and it is here where design efforts should be applied to develop a new actuator position control scheme.

The ARTISAN manipulator, a high-performance torque-controlled, eleven degree-of-freedom manipulator and mini-manipulator system under construction at Stanford University, attempts to address the issue of fine actuator control by incorporating in its design a link torque control loop. By applying a fast link torque loop to the actuator, position control of the end effector is improved. The ARTISAN manipulator requires a high-performance, high bandwidth torque sensor in order for the link torque control loop to be successful.

This thesis focuses on the development of the high-bandwidth torque sensor. It covers the design of the sensor, transducer and converter selection, and compensation design. In addition, the physical components of the ARTISAN

wrist joint are identified, and together with the new torque sensor, are simulated using SIMULINK. Finally, a control algorithm is designed and simulated to demonstrate the improved performance versus the open loop system. Future direction and recommendations for continued efforts are also presented.

For my Dad, "the Lazy Lion"

"It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes up short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly; so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

- Theodore Roosevelt

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Table of Contents

Abstract.....	iii
Acknowledgements.....	vii
Table of Contents	xi
List of Tables	xiii
List of Figures	xiv
1 Introduction	1
1.1 ARTISAN manipulator	2
1.2 Prior Research.....	3
1.3 Objective of Thesis	3
1.4 Organization of Thesis.....	4
2 Background	5
2.1 ARTISAN Joint Torque Loop Design	5
2.2 Motor and Amplifier	7
2.2.1 Motor and Amplifier System Equations	9
2.3 Transmission System	10
2.2.1 Evoloid Gearing.....	11
2.2.1 Transmission System Equation.....	11
2.4 Summary	11
3 Torque Sensor	13
3.1 Measurement Methods.....	13
3.1.1 Open Loop or Indirect Methods.....	13
3.1.2 Feedback or Direct Methods	14
3.2 Mechanical Sensor	14

3.2.1	Mechanical Sensor System Equation.....	16
3.2.2	Fixed versus Free Configuration	17
3.3	Sensor Electronics.....	19
3.3.1	Requirements for Ideal Transducer	19
3.3.2	Transducer Selection	20
3.3.3	Converter Selection.....	21
3.3.4	Converter System Equation	21
3.3.4.1	Simplified System Equation	22
3.3.4.2	Enhanced System Equation.....	23
3.4	Summary of System Equations	24
4	Control Problem and Design	25
4.1	Torque Loop Performance Characteristics	25
4.1.1	Time Domain Specifications.....	27
4.2	Physical Torque Loop System	28
4.3	AD2S93 Converter Control Design.....	29
4.4	Torque Loop Controller Design	30
4.5	Summary	30
5	Identification and Results.....	31
5.1	Identification of Components	31
5.1.1	Motor and Amplifier	31
5.1.2	Mechanical Sensor.....	32
5.1.3	Sensor Electronics	34
5.1.4	Complete Open Loop System	36
5.2	Controller Design.....	38
5.2.1	Simulation	42
5.3	Summary	43
6	Conclusions and Recommendations.....	45
6.1	Conclusions.....	45
6.2	Recommendations for Future Work.....	46
6.2.1	Modifications to Existing Closed Loop System.....	46
6.2.1.1	New Excitation Source.....	46
6.2.1.2	Properly Tuned LVDTs	47
6.2.1.3	Modify or Replace the Current Amplifier	47
6.2.1.4	DSP Controller.....	47
6.2.2	Future Sensor and Control Recommendations	48
6.2.2.1	DSP Representation of AD2S93 Functionality.....	48
6.2.2.2	Develop Frequency-Based Messaging Scheme	48
A	Operation of LVDT.....	49

B Derivation of AD2S93 Component Values	51
C AD2S93 Explained	55
C.1 General Overview	56
C.2 AC Ratio Bridge	57
C.3 Bandpass Filter	58
C.4 Phase Sensitive Demodulator.....	60
C.4.1 Problems with the Phase Sensitive Demodulator	61
C.5 Voltage Controlled Oscillator and Digital Counter	63
C.6 Loop Compensator	64
5.2.1 Analog Devices Solution	65
5.2.1 ARTISAN Solution.....	67
C.7 Combining the System Equations.....	69
D Laboratory Values	70
Bibliography	71

List of Tables

2-1	Loop Component Characteristics	6
2-2	Motor Components.....	10
2-3	Summary of System Equations	12
3-1	Mechanical Sensor Values.....	18
3-2	Transducer Comparison.....	20
3-3	Comparison of Converter Technologies.....	21
3-4	Summary of System Equations	24
4-1	Desired Loop Bandwidth Requirements.....	27
4-2	Desired Torque Loop Characteristics.....	28
4-3	Candidates for AD2S93 Compensator	29
6-1	Final Time Domain Characteristics	45
B-1	System Component Definitions.....	52

List of Figures

1-1	Wrist Joint of ARTISAN manipulator	2
2-1	Generalized Joint Torque Loop	6
2-2	Generalized Joint Torque Loop	7
2-3	Six-Step Commutation Excitation of Stator Windings.....	8
2-4	BDA3 Amplifier and RBE Motor	10
2-5	Generalized Joint Torque Loop	10
3-1	Generalized Joint Torque Loop	14
3-2	Six Spoke Sensor.....	15
3-3	System Diagram of Mechanical Sensor	16
3-4	Generalized Joint Torque Loop	19
3-5	Functional Diagram of AD2S93.....	22
3-6	Simplified Block Diagram for AD2S93.....	23
4-1	Successive Loops for ARTISAN Manipulator	26
4-2	Example Control System.....	26
4-3	Physical Torque Loop System.....	28
4-4	AD2S93 System Approximation	29
5-1	Motor and Amplifier Poles and Zero.....	32
5-2	System Setup for Mechanical Sensor Identification	33
5-3	Mechanical Sensor Poles.....	34
5-4	Experimental and Theoretical Step Responses of AD2S93	35
5-5	Dominant Poles of Sensor Electronics	35
5-6	Complete Pole/Zero Map of Open Loop System.....	36
5-7	Bode Plot of Complete Open Loop System.....	37

5-8	Bode Plot of Normalized Open Loop System	37
5-9	Symmetric Root Locus with Desired Region in White	39
5-10	Rise Time with respect to Weighting Factor	40
5-11	Overshoot with respect to Weighting Factor	40
5-12	Control Effort with respect to Weighting Factor	40
5-13	Step Response of Closed Loop System.....	42
5-14	Bode Plot of Open Loop System with Compensation.....	43
5-15	Open and Closed Loop Step Responses	44
5-16	Closed Loop Frequency Response with Corner Frequency Labeled	44
6-1	Magnification of AD2S99 Output Flaw	46
6-2	Potential Frequency Based Scheme	48
A-1	Structure of LVDT windings	49
A-2	Cutaway View of LVDT windings	49
A-3	Potential Frequency Based Scheme	50
B-1	Simplified Block Diagram of AD2S93	51
C-1	Subsystem Diagram of AD2S93.....	55
C-2	Input/Output Characteristic of AD2S93	56
C-3	Estimated Structure for AC Ratio Bridge.....	57
C-4	Bandpass Filter	58
C-5	Functional Depiction of Phase Sensitive Demodulator.....	60
C-6	Problem with Tracking Constant Position.....	61
C-7	Description of Switching Capacitors in PSD.....	62
C-8	Demonstration of Faulty Zero Crossing Detector	62
C-9	AD2S93 VCO and Digital Counter	63
C-10	Loop Compensator with Potential Components	65
C-11	Analog Devices Suggested Loop Compensator.....	65
C-12	Step Response of AD2S93 Compensator.....	66
C-13	ARTISAN Low Pass Filter Compensator.....	68
C-14	Step Responses of Analog Devices Compensator (dashed) and ARTISAN Compensator (solid)	68