

# Design of Robust Fractional-Order PID Controller for DC Motor Using the Adjustable Performance Weights

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**Abstract:** This paper deals with the robust series and parallel fractional-order PID synthesis controllers with the automatic selection of the adjustable performance weights, which are given in the weighted-mixed sensitivity problem. The significant contribution of the paper is to achieve the good trade-off between nominal performances and robust stability for DC motor regardless its nonlinear dynamic behavior, the unstructured model uncertainties and the effect of the sensor noises on the feedback control system. The main goal is formulated as the weighted-mixed sensitivity problem with unknown adjustable performance weight. This problem is then solved using an adequate optimization algorithm and its optimal solution leads to determine simultaneously the robust fractional PID controller, which is proposed by the series and the parallel fractional structures. As well as, the obtained optimal solution determines the corresponding adjustable performance weight. The proposed control technique is applied on DC motor where its dynamic behavior is modeled by unstructured multiplicative model uncertainty. The obtained performances are compared in frequency- and time-domains with those given by both integer controllers such classical PID and  $H_\infty$  controllers.

**Key words:** Fractional-order PID controller FO-PID, Robust Stability RS, Nominal Performance NP, Min-Max Optimization Problem.

## 1. Introduction

Recently, one of the most desired aspects in DC control motor is to achieve a good trade-off between RS and NP of the feedback control system [1–2]. Due to inaccurate modeling, component aging of mechanical part of DC motor, sensor noises, exterior conditions, and others, all proposed DC motor models unavoidably incorporate uncertainties and external disturbances.

In control engineering, the controller synthesis using the integer PID controller-structures is still widely recognized as one of the simplest yet most effective control strategies in industry [3–5].

However, the obtained  $H_\infty$  performances analysis does not guarantees both RS and NP, and optimal trade-off between them. Hence this trade-off should be enhanced when DC motor is subjected to parametric uncertainties and measurement noises.

To avoid this problem, Matrix Inequality LMI based  $H_\infty$  control techniques or Algebraic Riccati equations AREs are usually preferred over other methods [6-7], due to its computational simplicity and efficiency. The controller parameters are designed from solving the weighted-mixed sensitivity problem where all the above mentioned effects are presented using some weights in the weighted-mixed sensitivity problem. The obtained robust controller ensures good robustness properties. However, a significant shortcoming of these techniques leads to high-order controller. Its implementation leads to high cost, difficult commissioning, poor reliability, and potential problems in maintenance.

Recently, many researches have done  $H_\infty$  control analysis of uncertain systems using fractional controller-structures, from which the controller parameters are optimized by an adequate optimization tool.

It may be noted that the fractional order carried-out on the Laplace operator is approximated by an equivalent integer transfer function, which contains the infinite poles and zeros [8]. Therefore, various advanced control design methods benefit to this property. Its controller is designed with the less number of the unknown parameters [8-9]. It can also satisfy a high level of the imposed  $H_\infty$  specifications where the model parameters change in wide range.

It is further noticed that the FO-PID

controllers have been applied by researchers in different fields of engineering and industries around the world, such as in motion control of *DC* motor [9–10], automatic voltage regulator [11–12], aerospace designing control system [13], weapon system[14], wind energy system [15], nuclear reactor [16], hydropower turbine [17], and most of the above mentioned research results show that the *FO-PID* controller has a better performance and robustness than a conventional one. Although it is so, the parameter optimization of *FO-PID* controller is still an important and challenge issue until now.

In this paper, the robust *FO-PID* controller is proposed using both structures series and parallel. The objective is to optimize the controller parameters from solving the weighted-mixed problem, in which the adjustable performance weight is derived. The control strategy is applied on *DC* motor to validate the efficiency of the proposed idea.

## 2. On the Fractional Calculus

Fractional calculus is a generalization of integration and differentiation of the non-integer order operator  ${}_a D_t^\gamma$ , where  $a$  and  $t$  denote the limits of the operation [18]. The continuous integro-differential operator of order  $\gamma$  is defined in the following way

$${}_a D_t^\gamma = \begin{cases} d^\gamma/dt^\gamma & : \gamma > 0 \\ 1 & : \gamma = 0 \\ \int_a^t (d\tau)^{-\gamma} & : \gamma < 0 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

So that the Riemann – Liouville definition is given as

$${}_a D_t^\gamma f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(n-\gamma)} \frac{d^n}{dt^n} \int_a^t \frac{f(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^{\gamma-n+1}} d\tau \quad (2)$$

According to (2),  $n$  denotes the integer part of  $\gamma$  where  $n-1 < \gamma < n$  and  $\Gamma(\cdot)$  is the Euler's gamma function that given by  $\Gamma(n) = \int_0^{+\infty} t^{n-1} e^{-t} dt$ , where  $\Gamma(n+1) = n!$ . The Laplace transforms of the *RL* fractional derivative/integral (2) under zero initial conditions for order  $\gamma$  is given by

$$L({}_0 D_t^{\pm\gamma} f(t)) = \int_0^{+\infty} e^{-st} {}_0 D_t^{\pm\gamma} f(t) dt = s^{\pm\gamma} F(s) \quad (3)$$

Noticing that, the implementation *FO-PID* controller needs to approximate its fractional part of powers  $\gamma$  by the usual integer transfer functions with a similar behavior. The method is based on approximating  $s^\gamma$  in a specified frequency range  $\omega = [\omega_h, \omega_b]$  and of integer order  $N$  by a rational transfer function obtained in the following manner [19]

$$s^\gamma = C \prod_{k=-N}^{k=N} \frac{s + \omega'_k}{s + \omega_k} \quad (4)$$

From (4) the zeros, poles and gain are respectively defined as

$$\omega'_k = \omega_b \left[ \frac{\omega_h}{\omega_b} \right]^{\frac{k+N+\frac{1}{2}(1-\gamma)}{2N+1}} \quad (5)$$

$$\omega_k = \omega_b \left[ \frac{\omega_h}{\omega_b} \right]^{\frac{k+N+\frac{1}{2}(1+\gamma)}{2N+1}} \quad (6)$$

$$C = \left[ \frac{\omega_h}{\omega_b} \right]^{\frac{\gamma}{2}} \prod_{k=-N}^N \left[ \frac{\omega_k}{\omega'_k} \right] \quad (7)$$

In some fractional controller-structure, due to the commutative property of the fractional operator  $s^\alpha$  and order  $\alpha \geq 1$ , it can be approximated by  $s^\alpha = s^{n+\gamma}$  where  $n = \alpha - \gamma$  is the integer part of  $\alpha$  and  $s^\alpha$  is approximated according to equation (4).

## 3. Robust Parallel/Series FO-PID Design Controller

Some feedback control systems implement a *FO-PID* controller function on serial form, while others use the parallel form. The aim of this paper is to observe differences between them for the *DC* motor, and to see the performances of each one in time and frequency domains.

### 3.1. Robust Parallel FO-PID Controller

The Robust parallel *FO-PID* controller called also *PFO-PID* is the general case of the classical parallel integer one. In time domain, the differential equation is defined by [20-21]

$$u(t) = K_p * e(t) + K_i * {}_0 D_t^{-\lambda} e(t) + K_d * {}_0 D_t^{+\mu} e(t) \quad (8)$$

Where  $e(t)$  and  $u(t)$  are respectively, the set-

error and the control signal. The transfer function of robust *PFO-PID* controller is therefore given through the following Laplace transform [20]

$$K(s, \underline{x}) = K_p + K_i s^{-\lambda} + K_d s^\mu \quad (9)$$

According to (9), the controller parameters are given by the design vector  $\underline{x} = [K_p, K_i, K_d, \lambda, \mu]$  where its derivative part is usually replaced by the term  $\frac{K_d s^\mu}{1 + \tau s}$  in order to attenuate the noise amplification effect. We get

$$K(s, \underline{x}) = K_p + K_i s^{-\lambda} + \frac{K_d s^\mu}{1 + \tau s} \quad (10)$$

So, there are six parameters to be tune, which are given by the design vector

$$\underline{x} = [K_p, K_i, K_d, \tau, \lambda, \mu]^T.$$

### 3.2. Robust Series FO-PID Controller

The Robust series *FO-PID* controller called also *SFO-PID* becomes the general form the classical series integer *PID* controller. The differential equation is therefore given in time domain by [22], [23]

$$u(t) = K_p * e(t) + K_p K_i * {}_0 D_t^{-\lambda} e(t) + K_p K_d * {}_0 D_t^{+\mu} e(t) + K_p K_i K_d * {}_0 D_t^{+\mu-\lambda} e(t) \quad (11)$$

From (11) the transfer function is defined by (12), in which the pre-filter  $\frac{1}{1 + \tau s}$  can be

included for the same previous reason, yields also

$$K(s, \underline{x}) = K_p \cdot (1 + K_i s^{-\lambda}) \cdot \left(1 + \frac{K_d s^\mu}{1 + \tau s}\right) \quad (12)$$

where the weighted-mixed sensitivity problem is solved using the same previous vector.

## 4. Weighted-Mixed Sensitivity Formulation Problem

Let consider the feedback control system shown in Figure 1

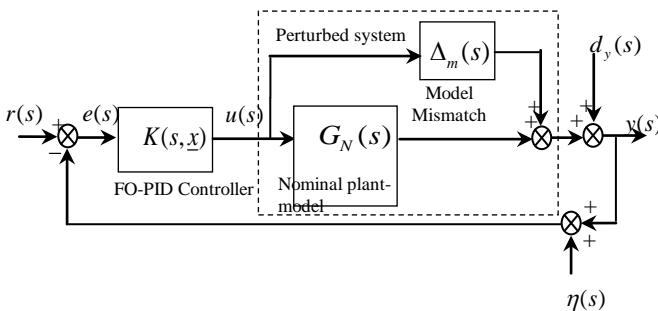


Figure1. Block diagram of the feedback control system

where  $d_y(s)$  and  $\eta(s)$  denote respectively, the load disturbance and the noise-measurements. Moreover,  $r(s)$  and  $y(s)$  are respectively, the set-point reference and the process output of the feedback control system.

Suppose that the nominal plant transfer function is  $G_N(s)$  and consider the perturbed plant transfer function of the form  $G_p(s) = [1 + \Delta_m(s)]G_N(s)$ . Here,  $\Delta_m(s)$  is the normalized uncertainty that is assumed to satisfy

$$\|\Delta_m(s)\|_\infty \triangleq \max_{\omega \in \mathbb{R}^+} \{\sigma_{\max}[\Delta_m(j\omega)]\} \leq 1 \quad (13)$$

where  $\sigma_{\max}[\Delta_m(j\omega)]$  is the maximal singular value of  $\Delta_m(s)$  at the frequency point  $\omega$  and  $\omega \in [\omega_{\min}, \omega_{\max}]$ .

In robust control theory the trade-off between *RS* and *NP* depends heavily by satisfying two following conditions, which are:

### 4.1. RS Condition

The robust *FO-PID* controller should guarantee the *RS* that means the closed-loop system must remain stable in presence of all possible uncertainties. In order to secure the suitable *RS*, the complementary sensitivity transfer function  $T(s, \underline{x})$  has been used. Based upon the small gain theorem the *RS* condition for an uncertain system subject to the unstructured multiplicative uncertainty is defined by [24][20]

$$RS: \|W_T(j\omega)T(j\omega, \underline{x})\|_\infty \leq 1 \Rightarrow \|T(j\omega, \underline{x})\|_\infty \leq \frac{1}{\|W_T(j\omega)\|_\infty},$$

for  $\omega \in [\omega_{\min}, \omega_{\max}]$  (14)

where  $T(s, \underline{x}) = G_N(s)K(s, \underline{x})[I + G_N(s)K(s, \underline{x})]^{-1}$  denotes the sensitivity function, which defines the transfer function from both inputs  $\eta(s)$  and  $r(s)$  to the output  $y(s)$ . Moreover  $W_T(j\omega)$  presents any stable transfer function that majorates all possible uncertainties and satisfies the following condition

$$\sigma_{\max}[\Delta_m(j\omega)] = \sigma_{\max}[(G_p(j\omega) - G_N(j\omega))G_N^{-1}(j\omega)] \ll \sigma_{\max}[W_T(j\omega)] \quad (15)$$

In the next section,  $W_T(s)$  will be assumed as the following fixed transfer function

$$W_T(s) = \frac{k_T (s + z_1)(s + z_2)}{(s + s_1)(s + s_2)} \quad (16)$$

where its parameters are chosen similar to that given in [21].

### 4.2. NP Condition

During the design procedure, relatively fast

responses, small overshoots and robustness against the model uncertainties can be assumed as suitable performances. Consequently, acquiring the *NP* is a crucial factor that should be fulfilled by optimization. To ensure this goal, the sensitivity transfer function  $S(s, \underline{x})$ , has been used.

Noticing that, the sufficient small singular values  $S(s, \underline{x})$  in specific frequency ranges can satisfy precise performance characteristics. Moreover, all these characteristics can be obtained by selecting the performance weight  $W_s(s)$ , which is used to shape the sensitivity function as follow [24], [20]

$$NP: \|W_s(j\omega)S(j\omega, \underline{x})\|_\infty \leq 1 \Rightarrow \|S(j\omega, \underline{x})\|_\infty \leq \frac{1}{\|W_s(j\omega)\|_\infty}, \text{ for } \omega \in [\omega_{\min}, \omega_{\max}] \quad (17)$$

Where  $S(s) = [I + G_N(s)K(s, \underline{x})]^{-1}$  denotes the sensitivity function, which defines the transfer function from both inputs  $d_y(s)$  and  $r(s)$  to the output  $e(s)$ . In this paper the performance weight  $W_s$  will be assumed as the adjustable transfer function that defined in (18). Its parameters are jointly optimized to those of the desired controller using some rules given that described later [25]. We get

$$W_s(s) = \frac{\omega_b + s/M_s}{\varepsilon_s \omega_b + s} \quad (18)$$

Where  $\omega_b$  is the minimum bandwidth, which presents the straight-line approximation of  $W_s(s)$  crosses the unity (i.e.  $0_{db}$ ),  $M_s$  is the minimum peak, which limits  $\|S(s, \underline{x})\|_\infty$  and  $\varepsilon_s$  is the steady-state error, which is fixed to the less value. In this paper the good trade-off between *NP* and *RS* is constrained by the good selecting of the performance weight (18), in which the parameters  $M_s$  and  $\omega_b$  are given by optimization. So that these parameters are chosen according to the following rules.

*i.* - Typically, the adjustable parameter  $M_s$  is chosen to be sufficiently small. So that the pole of  $1/W_s$  is at least two decades above its zero. In general, it is required to have  $M_s \gg \varepsilon_s$ .

*ii.* - When the control objective is to improve the *NP* margin, the general rule is to flat the curve of  $\sigma_{\max}[S(j\omega, \underline{x})]$  as much as possible in high frequency. This goal is achieved by increasing  $\omega_b$ . However, increasing this frequency more than necessary deteriorates the *RS* condition in high-frequency range.

Now, in the *S/T* mixed sensitivity problem, both conditions (14) and (17) are combined and equation (18) is used to determine the following optimization problem[25]

$$\min_{\underline{x} \in \mathcal{X}} \left\| \frac{W_s(s, \underline{x})S(s, \underline{x})}{W_T(s)T(s, \underline{x})} \right\|_\infty \Leftrightarrow \min_{\underline{x} \in \mathcal{X}} \left( \max_{\omega} \sigma_{\max} \left[ \frac{W_s(s, \underline{x})S(j\omega, \underline{x})}{W_T(s)T(j\omega, \underline{x})} \right] \right) \quad (19)$$

where  $\begin{cases} \omega \in [\omega_{\min}, \omega_{\max}] \\ \mathcal{X}: \underline{x} \in [x_{\min}, x_{\max}] \end{cases}$

Its solution is given using the *fminimax* function of the Matlab software, in which the new design parameter vector is defined by  $\underline{x} = [K_p, K_i, K_d, \tau, \lambda, \mu, M_s, \omega_b]^T$ .

## 5. Simulation Results and Discussions

### 5.1. DC Motor Model

The *DC* machines are characterized by their simplicities and flexibilities. By means of various combinations of the shunt, series and the separately excited field windings, they can be designed to display a wide variety of volt-ampere or speed-torque characteristics for both dynamic and steady-state operation. The systems of *DC* machines have been frequently used in many applications requiring a wide range of motor speeds and a precise output motor control. The diagram of typical *DC* motor is shown by Figure 2. We get

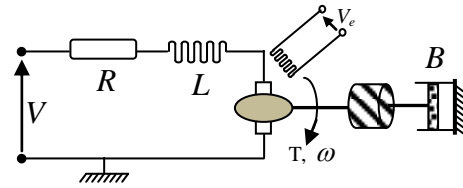


Figure.2. Schematic diagram of the *DC* Motor

A well-known linear model of *DC* motor for the speed control system is shown by Figure 3

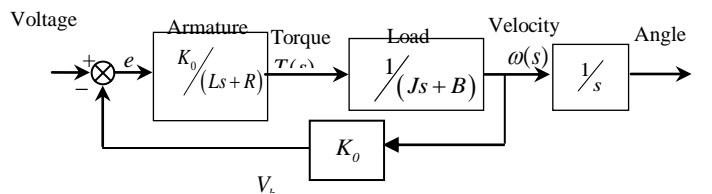


Figure3. Bloc Diagram of *DC* Motor

According to Figure 3, the plant-model from the input voltage,  $V(s)$  to the output velocity  $\omega(s)$  is given by

$$\frac{\omega(s)}{V(s)} = \frac{K_0}{(Ls+R)(Js+B)+K_0^2} \quad (20)$$

Thus, the nominal plant-model from the angle  $\theta(s)$  to the voltage  $V(s)$  is defined as

$$G_N(s) = \frac{\theta(s)}{V(s)} = \frac{1}{s} \left[ \frac{K_0}{(Ls+R)(Js+B)+K_0^2} \right] \quad (21)$$

The nominal values of DC motor are summarized by Table1. We get

**Table1: DC Motor parameters**

Motor Parameters	Value	Unity
$J$	0.02	$kg.m^2/s^2$
$B$	0.2	$N.m.s/rad$
$K_0$	0.1	$N.m/A$
$R$	2	$ohm$
$L$	0.5	$H$

For the weighted-mixed sensitivity formulation problem, the frequency range  $[\omega_{\min}, \omega_{\max}] = [10^{-4}, 10^{+4}]$  is used where the same fixed robustness weight of [21] is chosen. We get

$$W_T(s) = \frac{0.2619(s+17.38)(s+4.187)}{(s+21.26)(s+5.018)} \quad (22)$$

In the next section, the adjustable weighting function  $W_S(s, \underline{x})$  is defined by

$$W_S(s) = \frac{\omega_B + \frac{s}{M_s}}{10^{-4} \omega_B + s}, \quad \text{where} \quad 1 \leq M_s \leq 1.5 \text{ and} \\ 60 \leq \omega_B \leq 100.$$

For the FO-PID synthesis controller step, the lower and upper bounds that limit the design controller vector

$$\text{are chosen as } \begin{cases} 1 \leq K_p, K_i, K_d \leq 300 \\ 10^{-6} \leq \tau \leq 10^{-2} \\ 10^{-4} \leq \lambda, \mu \leq 1 \end{cases}, \text{ where the}$$

fminimax function is initialized by the lower bound vector  $x_0 = [1, 1, 1, 10^{-6}, 10^{-4}, 10^{-4}, 1, 60]^T$ .

The obtained solution of (19) yields also the following transfer functions

a) **PFO-PID:**

$$W_{S_p}(s, \underline{x}^*) = \frac{70.2270 + \frac{s}{1.001229}}{70.2270 \times 10^{-4} + s}, \\ K(s, \underline{x}^*) = 196.785 + 24.919s^{-0.9631} + \frac{110.857s^{0.9931}}{1 + 0.00032s}$$

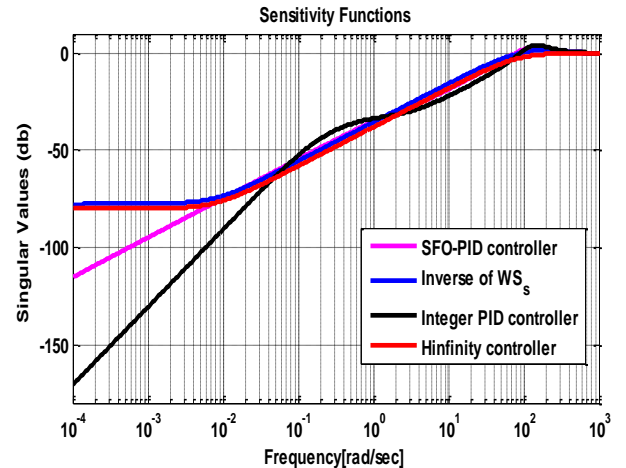
b) **SFO-PID:**

$$W_{S_s}(s, \underline{x}^*) = \frac{80.8870 + \frac{s}{1.02386}}{80.8870 \times 10^{-4} + s},$$

$$K(s, \underline{x}^*) = 200.026 \left( 1 + 12.1843s^{-0.103} \right) \cdot \left( 1 + \frac{0.5667s^{0.994}}{1 + 0.00851s} \right)$$

The obtained performances by the PFO-PID controller are compared with those given by the conventional integer  $H_\infty$  controller. Its transfer function is given by the *Hinflmi* function of the *Matlab* environment which solves the weighted-mixed sensitivity problem based upon both weights  $W_{S_p}(s, \underline{x}^*)$  and  $W_T(s)$ . Nevertheless, the performances of the SFO-PID controller are compared with those given by the conventional integer  $H_\infty$  controller, in which both weights  $W_{S_s}(s, \underline{x}^*)$  and  $W_T(s)$  are used in the optimization problem. Finally, the obtained performances of previous controllers are compared with those given by the conventional integer PID controller, which its transfer function is given by  $K(s) = 124.358 + 14.338s^{-1} + \frac{178.877s}{1 + 0.001s}$ .

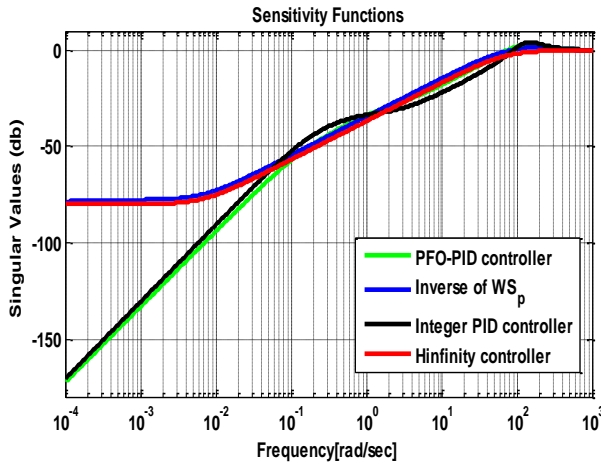
Figure 4 compares the singular values plots of SFO-PID, conventional integer PID and conventional  $H_\infty$  controllers in frequency domain. However, Figure 5 compares the singular values plots of PFO-PID, conventional integer PID and conventional  $H_\infty$  controllers. We can obtain



**Figure4.** Nominal performance properties given by SFO-PID, integer PID and  $H_\infty$  controllers

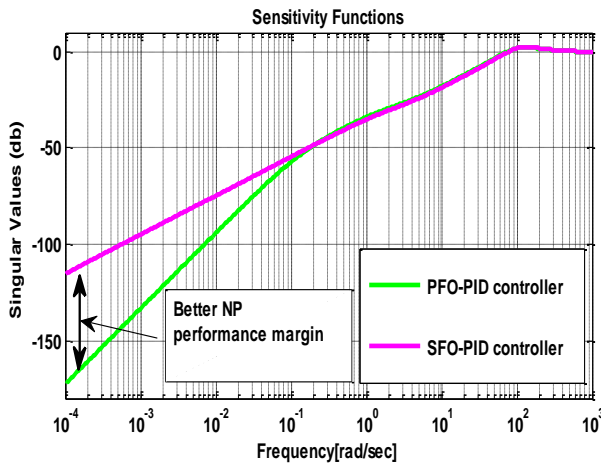
According to figure 4, it can be seen that maximal singular values plot given by the integer PID controller exceed the upper bounds,  $1/\sigma_{\max}[W_{S_s}(j\omega, \underline{x}^*)]$  at some frequencies except, in frequency range  $\omega \in [0.07, 1.33]$  radians/seconds. This can be explained in the time domain by higher sensitivity to sensor noises. Noticing

that the better  $NP$  margin is given when the maximum singular values plot of the sensitivity function are small as much as possible at low-frequency range. So that, the robust  $SFO$ - $PID$  controller ensures the better margin than the  $H_\infty$  controller. Furthermore, in low frequency range when  $\omega \leq 0.005$  radians/seconds, the curve of  $\sigma_{\max}[S(j\omega, x^*)]$  is below  $-80$  dB, which means that the load disturbances are attenuated more than 10000 times at plant output.



**Figure.5.** Nominal performance properties given by  $PFO$ - $PID$ , integer  $PID$  and  $H_\infty$  controllers

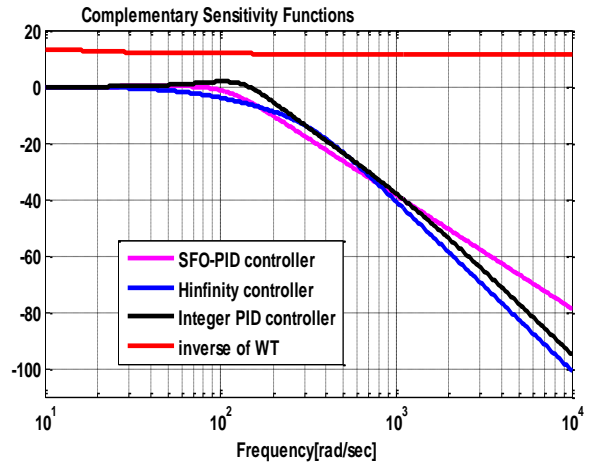
According to figure 5, the robust  $PFO$ - $PID$  controller ensures the better  $NP$  margin than the one given by  $H_\infty$  controller; integer  $PID$  controller and also the robust  $SFO$ - $PID$  controller (see figure 6).



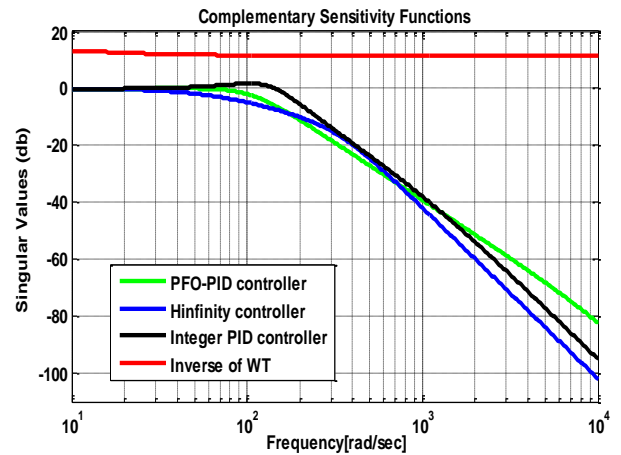
**Figure.6.** Nominal performance properties:  $PFO$ - $PID$  vs  $SFO$ - $PID$

For the  $RS$  case, figure 7 compares the singular values plots of  $SFO$ - $PID$ , conventional integer  $PID$  and conventional  $H_\infty$  controllers in frequency domain. However, Figure 8 compares the singular values plots

of  $PFO$ - $PID$ , conventional integer  $PID$  and conventional  $H_\infty$  controllers. We get

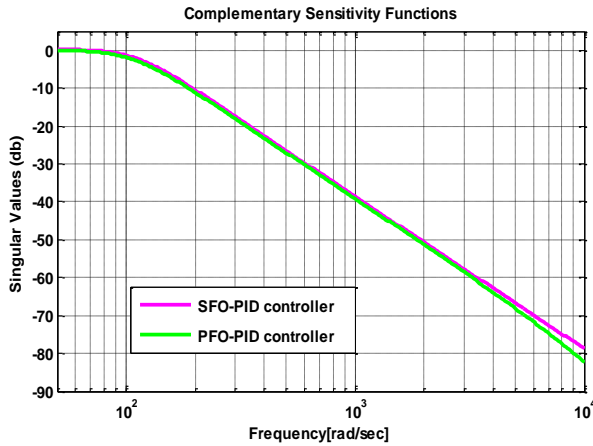


**Figure.7.** Robust stability properties given by  $SFO$ - $PID$ , integer  $PID$  and  $H_\infty$  controllers



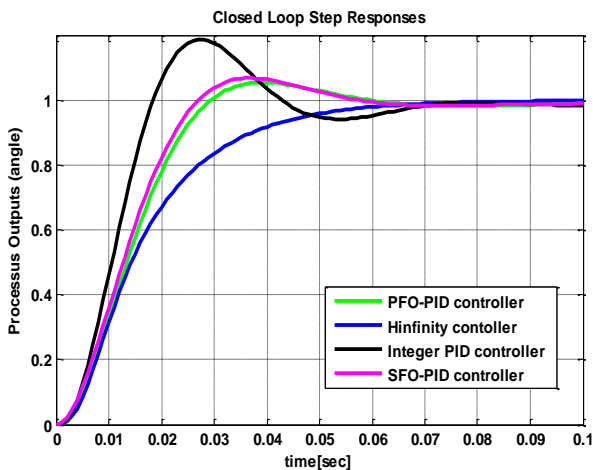
**Figure.8.** Robust stability properties given by  $PFO$ - $PID$ , integer  $PID$  and  $H_\infty$  controllers

According to figures 7 and 8, it can be seen that the better  $RS$  margin is given when the maximum singular values of complementary sensitivity matrix are small as much as possible at high frequency range. So that, the  $H_\infty$  ensures the better  $NP$  margin compared with those given by integer  $PID$ ,  $PFO$ - $PID$  and  $SFO$ - $PID$  controllers.



**Figure.9.** Robust stability properties: *PFO-PID* vs *SFO-PID* controllers

According to figure 9, it is easy to see that the singular values plot, which is given by the *PFO-PID* controller is reduced at frequencies beyond the system bandwidth in order to secure robustness at high frequency range. Furthermore, for frequencies above  $\omega = 3200$  radians/seconds, this plot is below  $-60$  dB in which the sensor noises are suppressed more than 1000 time at the plant output. Consequently, the *PFO-PID* controller provides the better *RS* margin compared with the one given by the *SFO-PID* controller. To confirm the above results in time domain, the set-point reference that assumed a unit-step is used. Therefore, figure 10 shows the obtained tracking dynamic of the closed-loop system given by the  $H_\infty$ , integer *PID*, robust *PFO-PID* and robust *SFO-PID* controllers. So that, the better tracking properties are ensured by the robust *PFO-PID* controller, which are characterized by the fast settling time with the reasonable overtaking.



**Figure.10.** Tracking dynamic of the closed-loop system given by the  $H_\infty$ , integer *PID*, robust *PFO-PID* and robust *SFO-PID* controllers

## 6. Conclusion

In this paper, comparisons between two fractional controller-structures have been presented for *DC* speed control motor. The design controllers have been achieved using the series and parallel fractional order *PID* configurations. Each controller has been designed with the automatic selection of corresponding performance weight. The parameters of both controller and weight have been determined from solving the weighted-mixed sensitivity problem by the *fminimax* function of the *Matlab* software. The obtained simulation results have been compared with those given by two conventional controllers. The obtained simulation results show the notable improvement that the proposed control strategy. However, it is also clear that further improvements in weighted-mixed sensitivity formulation step will require introducing the fractional weights to enhance the controller performances for the wide variation of the model parameters.

## Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the Pervasive Artificial Intelligence PAI group of the informatics department of Fribourg – Switzerland- for its valuable suggestions and comments which helped us to improve this paper. Special thanks to the prof. Béat Hirsbrunner and the Dr. Michèle Courant.

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