

Trajectory tracking control for underactuated unmanned surface vehicles with dynamic uncertainties

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Abstract: The trajectory tracking control problem for underactuated unmanned surface vehicles (USV) was addressed, and the control system took account of the uncertain influences induced by model perturbation, external disturbance, etc. By introducing the reference, trajectory was generated by a virtual USV, and the error equation of trajectory tracking for USV was obtained, which transformed the tracking problem of underactuated USV into the stabilization problem of the trajectory tracking error equation. A backstepping adaptive sliding mode controller was proposed based on backstepping technology and method of dynamic slide model control. By means of theoretical analysis, it is proved that the proposed controller ensures that the solutions of closed loop system have the ultimate boundedness property. Simulation results are presented to illustrate the effectiveness of the proposed controller.

Key words: trajectory tracking; underactuated; unmanned surface vehicle (USV); backstepping; dynamic sliding mode control

1 Introduction

Over the past decade, the control problem of underactuated unmanned surface vehicle (USV) has attracted a great deal of attentions [1–5]. The major solutions of tracking problem for underactuated USV are the methods of Lyapunov's direct method, backstepping technique, sliding mode control, feedback linearization, robust control, switching control, etc. [4]. Some scholars used the method of feedback linearization [6], but the inversion of dynamical equation must meet a strict limited condition while its application has been so limited that it cannot ensure the stability of zero dynamics. On the contrary, the Lyapunov's direct method does not have limitations of the above methods [7–8]. This method is used to realize the trajectory tracking. However, these methods do not take account of the strong nonlinearity or even the uncertainties coming from the movement of vehicles. REPOULIAS and PAPADOPOULOS [9] discussed the trajectory planning and tracking problems for underactuated AUV, and developed a trajectory-tracking controller by application of integral backstepping technique. Furthermore, the above-mentioned works have ignored the impact of the second damping force and the uncertainties of the model.

The problem of combined trajectory-tracking and

path-following for underactuated USV with parametric modeling uncertainty was addressed [10]. By combining control law of adaptive switching with the control law based on nonlinear Lyapunov's direct method, this work solved the global convergence problem about the system position error. Simulations validated the effectiveness of the proposed controller. On the basis of the previous studies, REYHANOGLU and BOMMER [11] proposed a trajectory tracking controller by constructing the switching feedback controller and making use of backstepping technique, which ensured the global stability of the system. This controller has an advantage of avoiding the singularity problem that may arise in the process of coordinate transformation made by USV second-order kinetic equation.

Aiming at the difficulty of the trajectory tracking for underactuated USV, a trajectory tracking controller was developed by using sliding mode control theory in Ref. [12]. The twin-propeller was used for a small USV to carry on an tank experiment, and the result showed that the USV could track a straight line and circular trajectory. For avoiding the restrictions that conventional sliding mode controller only tracks the initial state on the desired trajectory, SOLTAN et al [13] proposed a trajectory tracking controller based on the sliding mode control and ordinary differential equations (ODE)method. Simulation results showed that the underactuated USV at

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different initial states was able to track the desired trajectory. However, these methods only solve the position tracking problem because the orientation of USV is uncontrolled under them proposed controller. LIAO et al [4] proposed a trajectory tracking controller via backstepping technique and Lyapunov’s direct method, and system have the ultimate boundedness property. However, none of these papers take account of the system dynamic uncertainties.

Considering the trajectory tracking problem for underactuated USV with uncertain influences and the limitations of the above thesis. The trajectory tracking error equation of underactuated USV was obtained based on Ref. [4]. Aiming at the control problem of this error equation, a backstepping adaptive dynamic sliding mode controller was developed by combining backstepping technique and dynamic sliding mode control method. Proposed controller guarantees that trajectory tracking errors are ultimately bounded via Lyapunov analysis. Moreover, contrastive simulation results show that the proposed controller have good control performance and robustness.

2 Problem formulation

The motion model of a class of underactuated USV is shown in Fig. 1. Clearly, the only control inputs of the vehicle are the thrust force F_u and yaw torque T_r . Considering the impact of the nonlinear damping in mathematical model is included to cover the applications from low speed to high speed. Thus, the mathematical model of an underactuated USV moving in a horizontal plane is described as [4, 13]

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x} = u \cos \psi - v \sin \psi \\ \dot{y} = u \sin \psi + v \cos \psi \\ \dot{\psi} = r \\ \dot{u} = \frac{m_{22}}{m_{11}} v r - \frac{X_u}{m_{11}} u - \frac{X_{|u|u}}{m_{11}} |u| u + \frac{F_u}{m_{11}} + \frac{d_u}{m_{11}} \\ \dot{v} = -\frac{m_{11}}{m_{22}} u r - \frac{Y_v}{m_{22}} v - \frac{Y_{|v|v}}{m_{22}} |v| v + \frac{d_v}{m_{22}} \\ \dot{r} = \frac{m_{11} - m_{22}}{m_{33}} u v - \frac{N_r}{m_{33}} r - \frac{N_{|r|r}}{m_{33}} |r| r + \frac{T_r}{m_{33}} + \frac{d_r}{m_{33}} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where x , y and ψ denote the position and orientation of USV in the earth-fixed frame ($\{E\}$ -frame); and u , v and r are the surge, sway and yaw velocities in the body-fixed frame ($\{B\}$ -frame), respectively. The parameters m_{11} , m_{22} and m_{33} are given by vehicle inertial mass and additional mass effects; $X_u, Y_v, N_r, X_{|u|u}, Y_{|v|v}$ and $N_{|r|r}$ denote the linear and nonlinear hydrodynamic dampings, respectively. The unknown parameters d_u , d_v and d_r denote respectively the surge, sway and yaw external

disturbances caused by model perturbation, measuring noise, marine environmental disturbance, which satisfy the bounded and slow conditions: $|d_u| \leq \bar{d}_u, |d_v| \leq \bar{d}_v, |d_r| \leq \bar{d}_r$ and $\dot{d}_u = 0, \dot{d}_v = 0, \dot{d}_r = 0$.

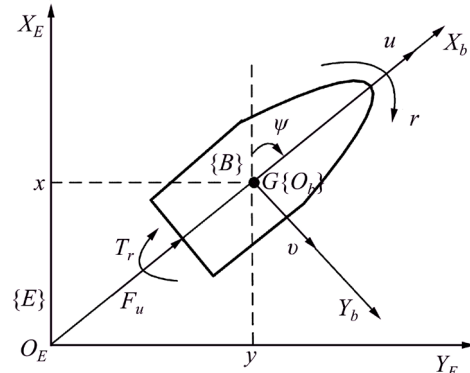


Fig. 1 Planar motion model of underactuated USV

Generally, in order to deal with the trajectory tracking control problems, the trajectory tracking control law was proposed to drive the vehicle sail along the pre-specified feasible trajectory. This trajectory specifies the expectational position and orientation of the vehicle in every moment, and it has to meet the dynamic equations of the vehicle. REPOULIAS and PAPADOPOULOS [9] developed a trajectory planning method via the dynamic equation of underactuated AUV, which can also be applied to the USV. This method can provide the reference speed in body-fixed frame based on underactuated USV nominal kinetic equation. Moreover, if the mathematical model of USV motion does not have any uncertainty or its uncertainty is small, this planning approach will be very effective. However, if the mathematical model has large uncertainties, the reference speed and heading angle via the nominal kinetic equation are different from those of the real USV dynamics equation, then this planning approach will be invalid [4]. Based on the above methods, in order to simplify the reference kinetic equation, a simplified planning method is developed by neglecting the influence of the sway velocity [15]. However, if the curvature of reference trajectory is truly large, sway velocity should not be ignored. Therefore, this planning method cannot be applied to the trajectory tracking problems with large curvature.

LIAO et al [4] proposed a planning method combines the advantage of the above two methods. Namely, for desired trajectory (x_d, y_d, ψ_d) , the surge and yaw reference velocities u_d, r_d are given by the kinematic equations, which avoid the uncertain influences of the kinetic equation. However, the sway velocity v_d is given based on virtual USV, which considers the impact of the USV dynamics. Motivated by Refs. [4, 8], the reference trajectory is generated by a virtual USV as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_d = u_d \cos \psi_d - v_d \sin \psi_d \\ \dot{y}_d = u_d \sin \psi_d + v_d \cos \psi_d \\ \dot{\psi}_d = r_d \\ \dot{v}_d = -\frac{m_{11}}{m_{22}} u_d r_d - \frac{Y_v}{m_{22}} v_d - \frac{Y_{|v|v}}{m_{22}} |v_d| v_d \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where all variables of Eq. (2) have the same meaning as in Eq. (1). Moreover, considering the following assumptions [8]:

Assumption 1: The reference velocities u_d, r_d are bounded and differentiable with bounded derivatives $\dot{u}_d, \ddot{u}_d, \dot{r}_d, \ddot{r}_d$.

Assumption 2: The reference velocities u_d, r_d meet one of the following conditions:

C1. $\int_{t_0}^t r_d^2(\tau) d\tau \geq \sigma_r (t - t_0), \sigma_r > 0, \forall 0 \leq t_0 \leq t < +\infty$

C2. $|u_d(t)| \geq \sigma_u > 0$ and $\int_0^{+\infty} |r_d(\tau)| d\tau \geq \mu_1, 0 \leq \mu_1 < +\infty$

Condition C1 denotes the tracking problem of circular path. Condition C2 covers the tracking problem of straight-line or way-point. The position and orientation errors are defined as $x-x_d, y-y_d, \psi-\psi_d$ in the $\{E\}$ -frame, we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_e \\ y_e \\ \psi_e \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\psi) & \sin(\psi) & 0 \\ -\sin(\psi) & \cos(\psi) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x - x_d \\ y - y_d \\ \psi - \psi_d \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

Apparently, the convergence of (x_e, y_e, ψ_e) to the zero can ensure convergence of $x-x_d, y-y_d, \psi-\psi_d$. The velocity tracking errors are defined as $u_e = u - u_d, v_e = v - v_d, r_e = r - r_d$ in the $\{B\}$ -frame. Differentiating both sides of Eq. (3) along solutions of Eqs. (1) and (2), and substituting Eqs. (1) and (2) into it. Then, the trajectory tracking error equation of underactuated USV is obtained as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_e = u_e - u_d(\cos \psi_e - 1) - v_d \sin \psi_e + y_e(r_e + r_d) \\ \dot{y}_e = v_e - v_d(\cos \psi_e - 1) + u_d \sin \psi_e - x_e(r_e + r_d) \\ \dot{\psi}_e = r_e \\ \dot{u}_e = \frac{m_{22}}{m_{11}} v_r - \frac{X_u}{m_{11}} u - \frac{X_{|u|u}}{m_{11}} |u| u - \dot{u}_d + \frac{F_u}{m_{11}} + \frac{d_u}{m_{11}} \\ \dot{v}_e = -\frac{m_{11}}{m_{22}} u_e r_d - \frac{m_{11}}{m_{22}} (u_e + u_d) r_e - \frac{Y_v}{m_{22}} v_e \\ \quad - \frac{Y_{|v|v}}{m_{22}} (|v| v - |v_d| v_d) + \frac{d_v}{m_{22}} \\ \dot{r}_e = \frac{m_{11} - m_{22}}{m_{33}} u v - \frac{N_r}{m_{33}} r - \frac{N_{|r|r}}{m_{33}} |r| r - \dot{r}_d + \frac{T_r}{m_{33}} + \frac{d_r}{m_{33}} \\ y_1 = x_e \\ y_2 = y_e \\ y_3 = \psi_e \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

It is obvious that the tacking problem of underactuated USV is equivalent to stabilizing Eq. (4), which is an uncertain nonlinear system with dual-input and three-output. Therefore, the control objective is formally expressed as: designing a control law $u=(F_u, T_r)$ to ensure that the system tracking error $x=(x_e, y_e, \psi_e, u_e, v_e, r_e)$ can converge to an arbitrarily small neighborhood near zero.

3 Controller design

The sliding mode control method has been widely used in nonlinear control systems, but it inevitably contains the ‘‘chattering’’ problem. However, the ‘‘chattering’’ cannot be eliminated since it means the loss of the robustness from the variable structure control to the model perturbation and external disturbance. Therefore, the ‘‘chattering’’ can only be weakened to a certain extent for the sliding mode control. As an effective way to eliminate chattering, dynamical sliding mode control (DSMC) is applied to nonlinear systems such as the robots, arms, nuclear power systems, etc. [16–18].

In recent years, some researchers have already applied backstepping technique to the control problem of underactuated marine launch systems [19–20]. By the introduction of intermediate controller, backstepping makes the controller design procedural and systematical. It is a very effective method for sliding mode control for non-matching uncertainties and non-minimum phase systems.

Therefore, for the controller design problem of the Eq. (4), a backstepping adaptive dynamical sliding mode controller (BADSMC) is proposed based on backstepping technique with adaptive technology and DSMC. The proposed controller has good robustness and adaptive capacity by combining the advantages of backstepping and DSMC.

3.1 Backstepping adaptive dynamic sliding mode controller design

The controller design consists of four steps as follows.

Step 1: Stabilizing subsystem (x_e, y_e)

Considering the subsystem (x_e, y_e) , select the virtual control inputs as (u_e, v_e) . Define Lyapunov function as

$$V_1 = (x_e^2 + y_e^2) / 2 \quad (5)$$

Differentiating V_1 along the solutions of Eq. (4) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_1 = & [u_e - u_d(\cos \psi_e - 1) - v_d \sin \psi_e] \cdot x_e + \\ & [v_e - v_d(\cos \psi_e - 1) + u_d \sin \psi_e] \cdot y_e \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

The desired control inputs (u_{ed}, v_{ed}) are selected

as

$$\begin{cases} u_{ed} = u_d(\cos\psi_e - 1) + v_d \sin\psi_e - k_1 x_e \\ v_{ed} = v_d(\cos\psi_e - 1) - u_d \sin\psi_e - k_2 y_e \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

where k_1 and k_2 are positive constants. Substituting Eq. (7) into Eq. (6) yields

$$\dot{V}_1 = -k_1 x_e^2 - k_2 y_e^2 \leq 0 \quad (8)$$

However, (u_{ed}, v_{ed}) are not the actual control inputs. Thus, the error variables are define as

$$\begin{cases} \tilde{u}_e = u_e - u_{ed} \\ \tilde{v}_e = v_e - v_{ed} \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

Substituting $u_e = \tilde{u}_e + u_{ed}, v_e = \tilde{v}_e + v_{ed}$ into Eq. (6) yields

$$\dot{V}_1 = -k_1 x_e^2 - k_2 y_e^2 + \tilde{u}_e x_e + \tilde{v}_e y_e \quad (10)$$

Next, the subsystem \tilde{u}_e is discussed.

Step 2: Stabilizing subsystem \tilde{u}_e

The Lyapunov function is defined as

$$V_2 = V_1 + \tilde{u}_e^2 / 2 + (d_u - \hat{d}_u)^2 / (2m_{11}) \quad (11)$$

where \hat{d}_u is the estimation value of the uncertain impact d_u .

Differentiating \tilde{u}_e along the solution of Eq. (9) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\tilde{u}}_e &= \dot{u}_e - \dot{u}_{ed} \\ &= \frac{m_{22}}{m_{11}} v r - \frac{X_u}{m_{11}} u - \frac{X_{|u|}}{m_{11}} |u| u + \frac{F_u}{m_{11}} + \frac{d_u}{m_{11}} - \dot{u}_d \cos\psi_e + \\ &\quad u_d \sin\psi_e r_e - \dot{v}_d \sin\psi_e - v_d \cos\psi_e r_e + k_1 \dot{x}_e \\ &= P_u + \frac{F_u}{m_{11}} + \frac{d_u}{m_{11}} \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

where $P_u = \frac{m_{22}}{m_{11}} v r - \frac{X_u}{m_{11}} u - \frac{X_{|u|}}{m_{11}} |u| u - \dot{u}_d \cos\psi_e + u_d \sin\psi_e r_e - \dot{v}_d \sin\psi_e - v_d \cos\psi_e r_e + k_1 \dot{x}_e$.

Differentiating V_2 along the solutions of Eqs. (4) and (9) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_2 &= \dot{V}_1 + \tilde{u}_e \dot{\tilde{u}}_e - \frac{\hat{d}_u (d_u - d_u)}{m_{11}} \\ &= -k_1 x_e^2 - k_2 y_e^2 + \tilde{u}_e x_e + \tilde{v}_e y_e + \tilde{u}_e \dot{\tilde{u}}_e - \frac{\hat{d}_u (d_u - d_u)}{m_{11}} \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

The switching function is selected as

$$S_u = P_u + F_u / m_{11} + \hat{d}_u / m_{11} + k_3 \tilde{u}_e + x_e \quad (14)$$

where k_3 is a positive constant. Substituting Eq. (14) into Eq. (12) yields

$$\dot{\tilde{u}}_e = S_u - k_3 \tilde{u}_e + (d_u - \hat{d}_u) / m_{11} - x_e \quad (15)$$

Substituting Eq. (15) into Eq. (13) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_2 &= -k_1 x_e^2 - k_2 y_e^2 - k_3 \tilde{u}_e^2 + \tilde{v}_e y_e + \tilde{u}_e S_u + \\ &\quad (\tilde{u}_e - \hat{d}_u)(d_u - d_u) / m_{11} \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

We let $\gamma_u = \dot{F}_u / m_{11}$, and make a time derivation of S_u , then we obtain

$$\dot{S}_u = \dot{P}_u + \gamma_u + \hat{d}_u / m_{11} + k_3 (P_u + F_u / m_{11} + d_u / m_{11}) + \dot{x}_e \quad (17)$$

The Lyapunov function is defined as

$$V_3 = V_2 + S_u^2 / 2 \quad (18)$$

Differentiating V_3 along the solutions of Eqs. (4) and (14) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_3 &= \dot{V}_2 + S_u \dot{S}_u \\ &= -k_1 x_e^2 - k_2 y_e^2 - k_3 \tilde{u}_e^2 + \tilde{v}_e y_e + \tilde{u}_e S_u + \\ &\quad (\tilde{u}_e - \hat{d}_u)(d_u - d_u) / m_{11} + S_u \cdot \\ &\quad \left[\dot{P}_u + \gamma_u + \frac{\hat{d}_u}{m_{11}} + k_3 \left(P_u + \frac{F_u}{m_{11}} + \frac{d_u}{m_{11}} \right) + \dot{x}_e \right] \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

The following dynamical sliding mode control law γ_u is designed

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_u &= -\tilde{u}_e - \dot{P}_u - \frac{\hat{d}_u}{m_{11}} - k_3 \left(P_u + \frac{F_u}{m_{11}} + \frac{d_u}{m_{11}} \right) - \dot{x}_e - \\ &\quad w_u S_u - k_u \operatorname{sgn}(S_u) \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

where w_u and k_u are positive constants. Substituting Eq. (20) into Eq. (19) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_3 &= -k_1 x_e^2 - k_2 y_e^2 - k_3 \tilde{u}_e^2 - w_u S_u^2 - k_u |S_u| + \tilde{v}_e y_e + \\ &\quad (\tilde{u}_e + k_3 S_u - \hat{d}_u)(d_u - d_u) / m_{11} \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

By choosing the adaptive law of uncertainty term d_u as

$$\dot{\hat{d}}_u = \tilde{u}_e + k_3 S_u \quad (22)$$

Substituting Eq. (22) into Eq. (21) yields

$$\dot{V}_3 = -k_1 x_e^2 - k_2 y_e^2 - k_3 \tilde{u}_e^2 - w_u S_u^2 - k_u |S_u| + \tilde{v}_e y_e \quad (23)$$

Step 3: Stabilizing subsystem (\tilde{v}_e, ψ_e)

Considering the subsystem (\tilde{v}_e, ψ_e) , the virtual control input is defined as r_e . Define Lyapunov function as

$$V_4 = V_3 + (\tilde{v}_e^2 + \psi_e^2) / 2 \quad (24)$$

Differentiating \tilde{v}_e along the solution of Eq. (9) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\tilde{v}}_e &= \dot{v}_e - \dot{v}_{ed} \\ &= \frac{d_v}{m_{22}} - \frac{m_{11}}{m_{22}} u_e r_d - \frac{m_{11}}{m_{22}} (u_e + u_d) r_e - \frac{Y_v}{m_{22}} v_e - \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{Y_{|v|v}}{m_{22}}(|v|v - |v_d|v_d) - \dot{v}_d \cos \psi_e + v_d \sin \psi_e r_e + \dot{v}_d + \dot{u}_d \sin \psi_e + u_d \cos \psi_e r_e + k_2 \dot{y}_e \quad (25)$$

Differentiating V_4 along the solutions of Eqs. (4) and (9) yields

$$\dot{V}_4 = \dot{V}_3 + \tilde{v}_e \dot{\tilde{v}}_e + \psi_e \dot{\psi}_e = -k_1 x_e^2 - k_2 y_e^2 - k_3 \tilde{u}_e^2 - w_u S_u^2 - k_u |S_u| + r_e \cdot (\psi_e + \tilde{v}_e P_{vr}) + \delta \quad (26)$$

where in order to facilitate the expression of subsequent controller design, we define

$$P_{vr} = [v_d \sin \psi_e + u_d \cos \psi_e - m_{11}(u_e + u_d) / m_{22}],$$

$$\delta = \tilde{v}_e \left[y_e - \frac{m_{11}}{m_{22}} u_e r_d - \frac{Y_v}{m_{22}} v_e - \frac{Y_{|v|v}}{m_{22}} (|v|v - |v_d|v_d) - \dot{v}_d \cos \psi_e + \frac{d_v}{m_{22}} + \dot{v}_d + \dot{u}_d \sin \psi_e + k_2 \dot{y}_e \right]$$

By choosing the desired control input as

$$r_{ed} = -k_4 (\psi_e + \tilde{v}_e P_{vr}) \quad (27)$$

where k_4 is a positive constant. Substituting Eq. (27) into Eq. (26) yields

$$\dot{V}_4 = -k_1 x_e^2 - k_2 y_e^2 - k_3 \tilde{u}_e^2 - w_u S_u^2 - k_u |S_u| - k_4 \psi_e^2 - k_4 P_{vr}^2 \tilde{v}_e^2 - 2k_4 P_{vr} \psi_e \tilde{v}_e + \delta = P_{\dot{V}_4} - 2k_4 P_{vr} \psi_e \tilde{v}_e + \delta \quad (28)$$

where $P_{\dot{V}_4} = -k_1 x_e^2 - k_2 y_e^2 - k_3 \tilde{u}_e^2 - w_u S_u^2 - k_u |S_u| - k_4 (\psi_e^2 + P_{vr}^2 \tilde{v}_e^2)$.

However, r_{ed} is not the actual control input. Then, the error variable is define as

$$\tilde{r}_e = r_e - r_{ed} \quad (29)$$

Substituting $r_e = \tilde{r}_e + r_{ed}$ into Eq. (26) yields

$$\dot{V}_4 = P_{\dot{V}_4} - 2k_4 P_{vr} \psi_e \tilde{v}_e + \tilde{r}_e \cdot (\psi_e + P_{vr} \tilde{v}_e) + \delta \quad (30)$$

Step 4: Stabilizing subsystem \tilde{r}_e .

Differentiating \tilde{r}_e along the solution of Eq. (29) yields

$$\dot{\tilde{r}}_e = \dot{r}_e - \dot{r}_{ed}$$

$$= \frac{m_{11} - m_{22}}{m_{33}} uv - \frac{N_r}{m_{33}} r - \frac{N_{|r|r}}{m_{33}} |r|r - \dot{r}_d - \dot{r}_{ed} + \frac{T_r}{m_{33}} + \frac{d_r}{m_{33}}$$

$$= P_r + \frac{T_r}{m_{33}} + \frac{d_r}{m_{33}} \quad (31)$$

where $P_r = \frac{m_{11} - m_{22}}{m_{33}} uv - \frac{N_r}{m_{33}} r - \frac{N_{|r|r}}{m_{33}} |r|r - \dot{r}_d - \dot{r}_{ed}$.

The switching function is selected as

$$S_r = P_r + T_r / m_{33} + \hat{d}_r / m_{33} + k_5 \tilde{r}_e + \psi_e + P_{vr} \tilde{v}_e \quad (32)$$

where k_5 is a positive constant. Substituting Eq. (32) into Eq. (31) yields

$$\dot{\tilde{r}}_e = S_r - k_5 \tilde{r}_e + (d_r - \hat{d}_r) / m_{33} - (\psi_e + P_{vr} \tilde{v}_e) \quad (33)$$

Lyapunov function is defined as

$$V_5 = V_4 + r_e^2 / 2 + (d_r - \hat{d}_r)^2 / (2m_{33}) \quad (34)$$

Differentiating V_5 along the solutions of Eqs. (4) and (29) yields

$$\dot{V}_5 = \dot{V}_4 + \tilde{r}_e \dot{\tilde{r}}_e - \hat{d}_r (d_r - d_r) / m_{33}$$

$$= P_{\dot{V}_4} - k_5 \tilde{r}_e^2 + \tilde{r}_e S_r + (\tilde{r}_e - \hat{d}_r) (d_r - d_r) / m_{33} - 2k_4 P_{vr} \psi_e \tilde{v}_e + \delta \quad (35)$$

We define $\gamma_r = \dot{T}_r / m_{33}$, and make a time derivation of S_r , then we obtain

$$\dot{S}_r = \dot{P}_r + \gamma_r + \hat{d}_r / m_{33} + k_5 (P_r + T_r / m_{33} + d_r / m_{33}) + (r_e + \dot{P}_{vr} \tilde{v}_e + P_{vr} \dot{\tilde{v}}_e) \quad (36)$$

Lyapunov function is defined as

$$V_6 = V_5 + S_r^2 / 2 \quad (37)$$

Differentiating V_6 along the solutions of Eqs. (4) and (32), and substituting Eq. (33) into it yields

$$\dot{V}_6 = \dot{V}_5 + S_r \dot{S}_r$$

$$= P_{\dot{V}_4} - k_5 \tilde{r}_e^2 + \tilde{r}_e S_r + (\tilde{r}_e - \hat{d}_r) (d_r - d_r) / m_{33} + S_r \dot{S}_r - 2k_4 P_{vr} \psi_e \tilde{v}_e + \delta \quad (38)$$

The following dynamical sliding mode control law γ_r is designed

$$\gamma_r = -\tilde{r}_e - \dot{P}_r - \hat{d}_r / m_{33} - k_5 (P_r + T_r / m_{33} + d_r / m_{33}) - (r_e + \dot{P}_{vr} \tilde{v}_e + P_{vr} \dot{\tilde{v}}_e) - w_r S_r - k_r \operatorname{sgn}(S_r) \quad (39)$$

where w_r, k_r are positive constants. Substituting Eq. (39) into Eq. (38) yields

$$\dot{V}_6 = P_{\dot{V}_4} - k_5 \tilde{r}_e^2 - w_r S_r^2 - k_r |S_r| - 2k_4 P_{vr} \psi_e \tilde{v}_e + \delta + (\tilde{r}_e + k_5 S_r - \hat{d}_r) (d_r - d_r) / m_{33} \quad (40)$$

By choosing the adaptive law of uncertainty term d_r as

$$\dot{\hat{d}}_r = \tilde{r}_e + k_5 S_r \quad (41)$$

Substituting Eq. (41) into Eq. (40) yields

$$\dot{V}_6 = P_{\dot{V}_4} - k_5 \tilde{r}_e^2 - w_r S_r^2 - k_r |S_r| - 2k_4 P_{vr} \psi_e \tilde{v}_e + \delta$$

$$= -k_1 x_e^2 - k_2 y_e^2 - k_3 \tilde{u}_e^2 - k_4 \psi_e^2 - k_4 P_{vr}^2 \tilde{v}_e^2 - k_5 \tilde{r}_e^2 - w_u S_u^2 - k_u |S_u| - w_r S_r^2 - k_r |S_r| - 2k_4 P_{vr} \psi_e \tilde{v}_e + \delta \quad (42)$$

The stability analysis of control system is presented

as follows.

3.2 Stability analysis

Considering the worst conditions, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_6 \leq & (-k_1 x_e^2 - k_2 y_e^2 - k_3 \tilde{u}_e^2 - k_4 \psi_e^2 - k_4 P_{vr}^2 \tilde{v}_e^2 - k_5 \tilde{r}_e^2 - \\ & 2k_4 P_{vr} \psi_e \tilde{v}_e + \delta) \leq (-k_1 x_e^2 - k_2 y_e^2 - k_3 \tilde{u}_e^2 - k_4 \psi_e^2 - \\ & k_4 |P_{vr}^2|^{\max} \tilde{v}_e^2 - k_5 \tilde{r}_e^2 + k_2 |r_e + r_d|^{\max} |x_e \tilde{v}_e| + y_e \tilde{v}_e + \\ & 2k_4 |P_{vr}|^{\max} |\psi_e \tilde{v}_e| + \rho |\tilde{v}_e|) \end{aligned} \quad (43)$$

where $|\bullet|^{\max} = \max(|\bullet|)$, and ρ is the expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} \rho = & \frac{m_{11}}{m_{22}} |u_e r_d|^{\max} + \frac{Y_v}{m_{22}} |v_e|^{\max} + \frac{Y_{|v|v}}{m_{22}} |v|v - \\ & |v_d|v_d|^{\max} + \frac{|d_v|^{\max}}{m_{22}} + 2|\dot{v}_d|^{\max} + |\dot{u}_d|^{\max} + \\ & k_2 |v_e|^{\max} + 2k_2 |v_d|^{\max} + k_2 |u_d|^{\max} \end{aligned} \quad (44)$$

In order to deal with the uncertain variables of positive and negative symbols in Eq. (43), the Young's inequality is used for algebraic processing. The worst cases caused by these uncertain variables are considered in the process. By the Young's inequality, we obtain

$$\begin{cases} k_2 |r_e + r_d|^{\max} |x_e \tilde{v}_e| \leq k_2 |r_e + r_d|^{\max} (x_e^2 / \varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_1 \tilde{v}_e^2) / 2 \\ y_e \tilde{v}_e \leq (y_e^2 / \varepsilon_2 + \varepsilon_2 \tilde{v}_e^2) / 2 \\ 2k_4 |P_{vr}|^{\max} |\psi_e \tilde{v}_e| \leq k_4 |P_{vr}|^{\max} (\psi_e^2 / \varepsilon_3 + \varepsilon_3 \tilde{v}_e^2) \end{cases} \quad (45)$$

where $\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3$ are positive constants.

According to the above analysis, Eq. (43) is refreshed to be

$$\dot{V}_6 \leq -\bar{k}_1 x_e^2 - \bar{k}_2 y_e^2 - k_3 \tilde{u}_e^2 - \bar{k}_4 \psi_e^2 - k_5 \tilde{r}_e^2 - \bar{k}_6 \tilde{v}_e^2 + \rho |\tilde{v}_e| \quad (46)$$

where the expressions of $\bar{k}_1, \bar{k}_2, \bar{k}_4$ and \bar{k}_6 are

$$\begin{cases} \bar{k}_1 = k_1 - k_2 |r_e + r_d|^{\max} / (2\varepsilon_1) \\ \bar{k}_2 = k_2 - 1 / (2\varepsilon_2) \\ \bar{k}_4 = k_4 - k_4 |P_{vr}|^{\max} / \varepsilon_3 \\ \bar{k}_6 = k_4 |P_{vr}^2|^{\max} - k_2 |r_e + r_d|^{\max} \varepsilon_1 / 2 - \varepsilon_2 / 2 - \\ k_4 |P_{vr}|^{\max} \varepsilon_3 \end{cases} \quad (47)$$

It is obvious that if the right positive parameters $k_1, k_2, k_4, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2$ and ε_3 are chosen, then $\bar{k}_1, \bar{k}_2, \bar{k}_4$ and \bar{k}_6 are assured positive constants. The system state variables of Eq. (4) are expressed as $\mathbf{x} = [x_e, y_e, \psi_e, u_e, v_e, r_e]^T$.

Selecting $\lambda = \min(\bar{k}_1, \bar{k}_2, k_3, \bar{k}_4, k_5, \bar{k}_6)$ and $0 < \theta < 1$, Eq. (46) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}_6 \leq & -\lambda(1-\theta) \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 - \lambda\theta \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 + \rho \|\mathbf{x}\| \leq -\lambda(1-\theta) \|\mathbf{x}\|^2, \\ \forall \|\mathbf{x}\| > & \rho / (\lambda\theta) \end{aligned} \quad (48)$$

According to the Lemma 9.2 in Ref. [21], it is proved that there exists a certain limited time τ , the system state of Eq. (4) satisfies

$$\|\mathbf{x}(t)\| \leq \rho / (\lambda\theta), \forall t \geq t_0 + \tau \quad (49)$$

In the function of control laws Eqs. (20), (39) and adaptive laws Eqs. (22), (41), the trajectory tracking errors $\mathbf{x} = [x_e, y_e, \psi_e, u_e, v_e, r_e]^T$ will have global convergence by remaining in a limited region around zero, the size of which can arbitrarily be diminished by increasing the control gain $(\bar{k}_1, \bar{k}_2, k_3, \bar{k}_4, k_5, \bar{k}_6)$. Therefore, the trajectory tracking problem for underactuated USV with uncertain impacts has already been solved.

Theorem 1: Selecting the suitably positive parameters $(k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4, k_5, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3)$ to assure that $(\bar{k}_1, \bar{k}_2, \bar{k}_4, \bar{k}_6)$ are positive constants, and choose positive parameters (w_u, k_u, w_r, k_r) , the solutions of closed-loop control system defined by Eq. (4) are ultimate boundedness in function of control laws Eqs. (20) and (39) and adaptive laws Eqs. (22) and (41).

Theorem 1 is already proved by the controller design and analysis of stability above.

4 Numerical simulations

Simulation results are present to verify the effectiveness of our proposed method. The following nominal model parameters of an USV are selected [20]

$$m_{11}^0 = 25.8 \text{ kg}, m_{22}^0 = 33.8 \text{ kg}, m_{33}^0 = 2.76 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m}^2,$$

$$X_u^0 = 12 \text{ kg/s}, Y_v^0 = 17 \text{ kg/s}, N_r^0 = 0.5 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m}^2/\text{s},$$

$$X_{|u|u}^0 = 2.5 \text{ kg/m}, Y_{|v|v}^0 = 4.5 \text{ kg/m}, N_{|r|r}^0 = 0.1 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m}^2.$$

4.1 Trajectory tracking of nominal model

The condition C1 in Assumption 2 is discussed. The reference trajectory is made by the virtual USV with the initial conditions as: $x_d(0) = y_d(0) = \psi_d(0) = v_d(0) = 0$, and the desired speeds are choose as: $u_d=1 \text{ m/s}, r_d=10 \text{ }^\circ/\text{s}$. Therefore, the reference trajectory is a circular trajectory. Initial system states are selected as: $x(0) = 2 \text{ m}, y(0) = -2 \text{ m}, \psi(0) = 45^\circ, u(0) = 0.5 \text{ m/s}, v(0) = 0, r(0) = 0$, and considering propeller saturation constraint conditions: $-30 \text{ N} \leq F_u \leq 30 \text{ N}, -2 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m} \leq T_r \leq 2 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}$. The parameters of the proposed BADSMC are selected as $k_1=0.5, k_2=0.4, k_3=0.3, k_4=0.2, k_5=1, w_u=10, w_r=2, k_u=0.01, k_r=0.01$.

According to the nominal model, by setting the uncertain impacts: $d_u = d_v = d_r = 0$, the simulation test is done. The simulation results are shown in Figs. 2–4.

For the USV sailing in the wide water, the straight-line tracking is often used. Because the straight-line tracking is a simple form of the curve trajectory tracking, the proposed method can be apparently applied therein.

As space is limited, it will not be discussed here.

Figure 2 shows that the BADSMC drives the USV fast track on the desired circular trajectory, hence, the task of trajectory tracking is completed with good dynamic performance. Figures 3 and 4 show that the system states converge rapidly, smoothly without overshoot in the function of BADSMC. The control outputs have not the “chattering” phenomenon, which avoids harmful mechanical wear and is easy to implement in engineering.

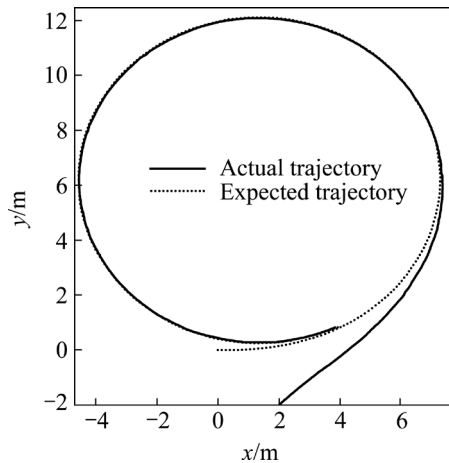


Fig. 2 Motion trajectory of USV under nominal model

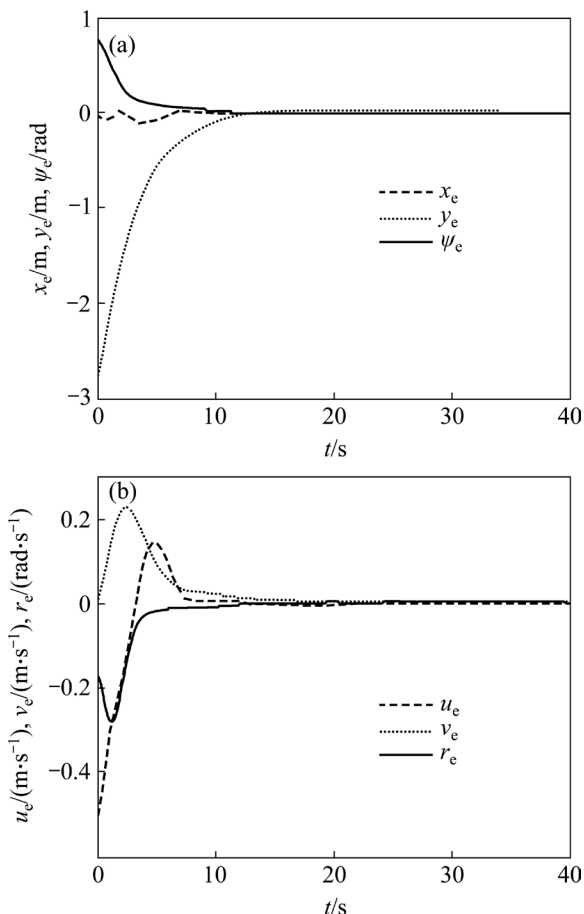


Fig. 3 Response curves of system state variables under nominal model: (a) For {E}-frame; (b) For {B}-frame

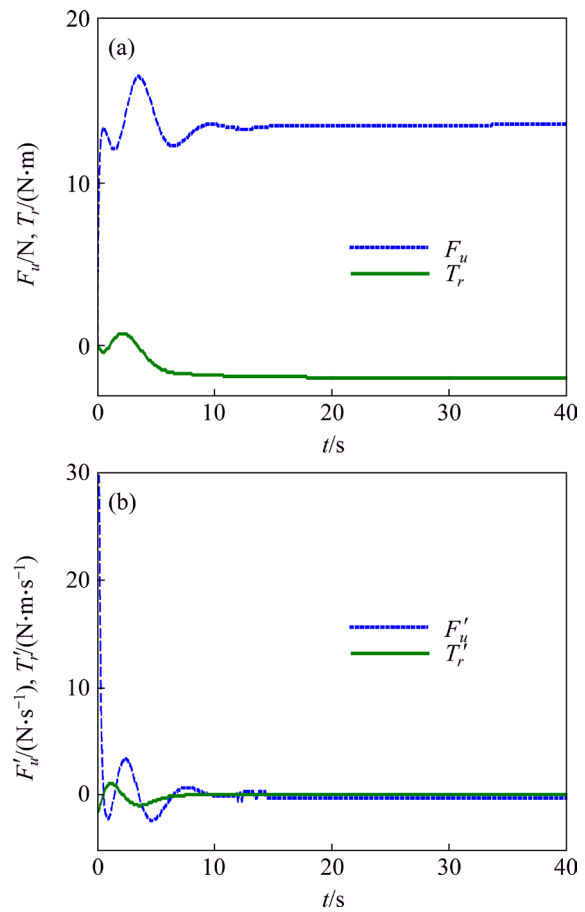


Fig. 4 Response curves of control force (a) and torque (b) under nominal model

4.2 Trajectory tracking under dynamic influences

This section, the trajectory tracking problem with dynamic uncertainties is discussed in order to validate the control performance and robustness of our proposed method. Assuming the actual model has a parameter perturbation not more than 20%, without the loss of generality, an extreme situation is selected in the simulation, and the following model parameters of actual USV are given

$$\begin{aligned}
 m_{11} &= 1.2m_{11}^0, & m_{22} &= 0.8m_{22}^0, & m_{33} &= 0.8m_{33}^0, \\
 X_u &= 0.8X_u^0, & Y_v &= 1.2Y_v^0, & N_r &= 1.2N_r^0, \\
 X_{|u|u} &= 0.9X_{|u|u}^0, & Y_{|v|v} &= 1.1Y_{|v|v}^0, & N_{|r|r} &= 1.1N_{|r|r}^0.
 \end{aligned}$$

From the anterior simulation results under nominal model, the maximum of surge, sway and yaw accelerations are obtained as: $\dot{u}_{\max} = 0.2 \text{ m/s}^2$, $\dot{v}_{\max} = 0.08 \text{ m/s}^2$, $\dot{r}_{\max} = 6 \text{ (}^\circ\text{)/s}^2$. Hence, setting external disturbance force with the same level of $\dot{u}_{\max}, \dot{v}_{\max}, \dot{r}_{\max}$ as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 d_u &= 0.1 \cdot m_{22}^0 [\sin(10 \text{rand}(1,1))], \\
 d_v &= 0.1 \cdot m_{22}^0 [\sin(10 \text{rand}(1,1))], \\
 d_r &= 1.0 \cdot m_{33}^0 [\sin(10 \text{rand}(1,1))].
 \end{aligned}$$

The simulation test was done under the above uncertain influences. Simulation results are shown in Figs. 5–7.

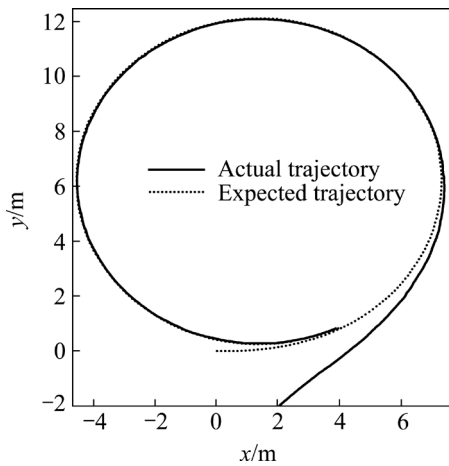


Fig. 5 Motion trajectory of USV under dynamic influences

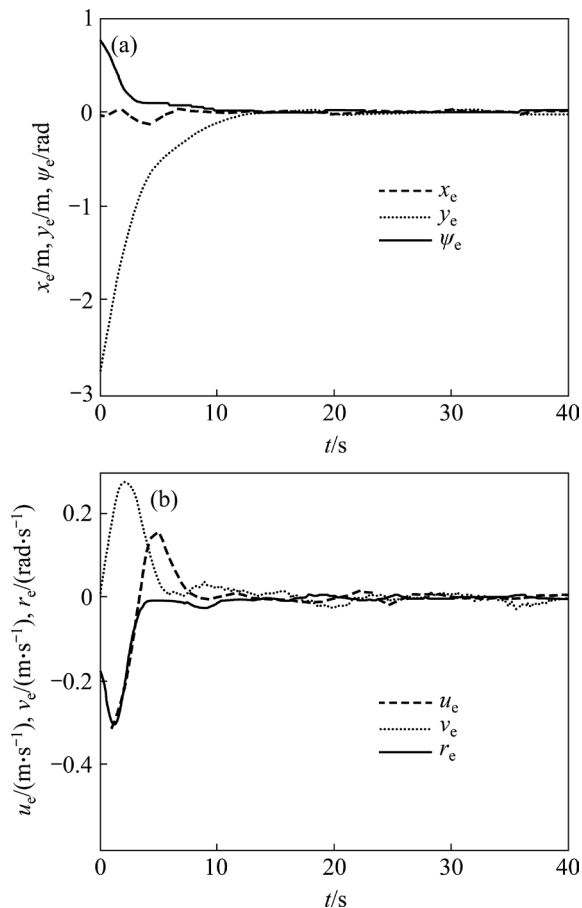


Fig. 6 Response curves of system state variables under dynamic influences: (a) For $\{E\}$ -frame; (b) For $\{B\}$ -frame

Figures 5 and 6 show that the BADSMC can similarly drive the trajectory tracking errors quickly converge to zero. Therefore, it is obvious that the USV with dynamic influences can track the desired trajectory. Figure 7 shows that the oscillation of control force (torque) is very small, which profited from the control

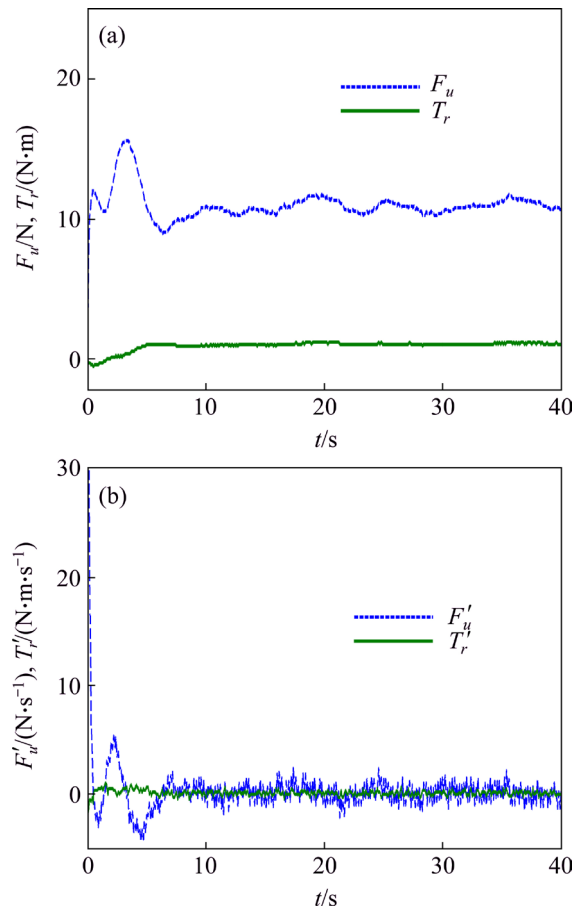


Fig. 7 Response curves of control force and torque under dynamic influences

derivative information output of the DSMC method, instead of directly output control itself, then integral control becomes smoother. Moreover, the output of system states is smooth with no chattering, which keep the same control performance with the nominal model. It is obvious that the proposed BADSMC is not sensitive to the uncertain impacts, thereby with strong robustness.

5 Conclusions

1) The reference trajectory is generated by the virtual USV to obtain the trajectory tracking error equation, which transform the tracking problem of underactuated USV into the stabilizing problem of trajectory tracking error equation. Moreover, this equation is an uncertain nonlinear system with dual-input and three-output.

2) A backstepping adaptive dynamical sliding mode controller (BADSMC) is proposed by combining backstepping with DSMC method and the adaptive technique. Moreover, theoretical analysis shows that the solutions of closed loop system are ultimate boundedness in the function of proposed controller.

3) Simulation results show that the BADSMC is not

sensitive to the uncertainties, and with good adaptive and robustness performance.

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