DESIGN OF MODEL PREDICTIVE CONTROLLER BASED MULTI OBJECTIVE PSO AND TS MODELLING APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

The performance of the predictive control scheme is related to the efficiency and cost of systems to be manipulated. However, it is intricate to express the dynamic nature of real process which is characterized by strong constraints and nonlinear terms. In this context, the present paper presents a constrained predictive control of nonlinear MIMO system. The proposed method combines the philosophies of T–S fuzzy modelling approach and a modified Dynamic Neighborhood PSO algorithm. The intelligent algorithms Particle Swam Optimization is applied to provide the control actions by solving constrained multi-objective optimization problems. At the modelling stage, T-S Fuzzy modelling technique is employed to predict the state evolutions of nonlinear process. Multivariable multi-objective predictive control of Quadruple-Tank Process based on the proposed strategy is carried out. The acquired results confirm the merit of the proposed method to deal with the control problems of nonlinear MIMO system. Furthermore, simulation tests are conducted to compare the performance of the proposed method and the multivariable predictive control with a single objective. The simulation results indicate that a multi-objective predictive strategy yields a better performance than a single objective.

Keywords: Model Predictive Control, Multi-objective Optimization, T-S fuzzy approach, Dynamic Neighborhood PSO algorithm.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the last two decades, Model Predictive Control (MPC) strategy has been widely used in the area of controlling complex industrial processes [1-3], due to its capability to manage a lot of different problems such as hard nonlinearity [1], complex and strong constrained variables, large delay time and undertrained variables [2]. Nowadays, new MPC techniques have been invented for the purpose of handling a large kind of control problems [2]. In order to control a multivariable system, some works are interested in Distributed Model Predictive Control (DMPC) [4][5]. To apply this method, it is necessary to eliminate the interactions between the different variables; then the Multivariable Inputs Multivariable Outputs (MIMO) process can be treated as a set of decoupled Single Input Single Output (SISO) and a number of separated MPC for the control of different subsystem are designed. However, this method is impractical with real processes, which are strongly coupled. It is evident that DMPC technique has a simpler structure but its performance is unextended to be generally method to control nonlinear MIMO system. Due to the complexity and nonlinearity of MIMO systems, Volterra Models have been successfully applied to design multivariable MPC [5]. In this context, Laabidi, et al. [6] have formulated a nonlinear MPC based on multi-criteria optimization of nonlinear process represented by several Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) where every ANNs possesses its own validity domain. The control action is computed by minimizing a set of performance criterion by employing the Genetic Algorithm (GA). On the other hand, in order to determine the Multivariable MPC parameters, multi-objective optimization problems are solved using the weighted sum method (WSM) and the Genetic Algorithm (GA). Some work [6, 7], to solve multi-objective optimization problems, have applied the WSM method, which transforms a set of objective functions into a single objective function. The single objective function of WSM is obtained by the sum of the weighted summation. This method requires the determination of an adequate value of the weights, but there is no exact technique to tune the weighting factors. Despite the fact that WSM makes the task of optimization easier, the solution is calculated in favor of some criteria or one against the others which decreases the performances of MPC technique [8]. According to this idea, the
quadratic criterion of MPC can be seen as a weighted sum of two terms [9, 10]. The first term is the quadratic sum of the errors between the predicted outputs and the sequence of the set points a long finite prediction horizon \((Hp)\). The second term corresponds to the future increments of the control actions over a suitable control horizon \((Hc)\). In the present work, the cost function of MPC is divided into constrained separated objective functions. Consequently, the sequence control is given by minimizing simultaneously the two separated objective functions in order to avoid the tuning of the weighting factors. However, this strategy of control requires an effective multi-objective optimization solver. In the context of multi-objective optimization problems, various research have proposed multi-objective methods based on Pareto-dominance which have been carried out in the past two decades. Furthermore, real processes have some strong constrains and nonlinearity which make the solving of the optimization problems even more difficult [1, 2]. To solve this kind of problem, the heuristic tuning approaches such as Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) algorithms [2], which can optimize an objective function in the presence of equality and inequality constraints, are considered. Thanks to the ability and success of PSO algorithm to deal with a single optimization problem, various studies have proposed different extensions of the PSO technique for solving multi-objective optimization problems [11]. Nowadays, there are various proposals of Multi-objective PSO which has been applied in multiple fields such as communication systems [12], machine control [2] and robot control [13]. Regarding the fact that such complexity of constrains can vary greatly from one process to another, certain processes have specific constrains. Under this condition, the design of the control actions must respect constraints on control and its rates or increments [5, 6].

Accounting for these considerations, the control laws of proposed MPC strategy are established by solving a constrained multi-objective problem which has two objective functions. To solve the objective functions, a new modified Dynamic Neighborhood PSO algorithm has been developed. Furthermore, the proposed PSO algorithm has been designed to respect some constraints with different priorities. At the modelling stage, T-S Fuzzy approach has been applied to predict the outputs.

The organization of the paper is as follows. Section 2 is devoted to formulate the problem. The proposed Dynamic Neighborhood PSO algorithm is presented in Section 3. Section 4 illustrates the T-S modelling approach. In Section 5, simulation tests and their results demonstrate the merit of the proposed MPC scheme. Finally, concluding remarks are presented by Section 6.

2. PROBLEM FORMULATION

2.1 Description of Nonlinear MIMO System

During the last decades, multivariable system problems are still the subject of research studies [14], especially those dealing with nonlinear process. One of the main problems in nonlinear MIMO system is nonlinear couplings between the multiple inputs [15]. Owing to the difficult representation and control of nonlinear MIMO process, many remarkable methods have been developed, feedback linearization approach [16], Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) [6, 7], models based on the Volterra theory [5] and T-S fuzzy systems [17]. Taking into consideration the fact that such form of nonlinearity can vary differently from system to another, there are some classes of nonlinear systems [18]. However, the use of modeling advanced techniques makes difficulties and handicaps the tuning of the control actions in MPC because the quadratic criterion becomes a nonlinear optimization problem [4, 5]. In addition, the design of multivariable predictive controllers requires the specification of synthesis parameters (prediction horizons, control horizons and cost weighting factors) and closed loop performances (overshoots, rise, and settling time…). In this paper, we restrict our interest to the class of nonlinear MIMO process which is characterized by the following nonlinear state representation:

\[
\begin{align*}
\dot{X}(t) &= f(X(t)) + B(X(t))U(t) \\
Y(t) &= g(X(t)) + D(t)U(t)
\end{align*}
\]

Where \(X \in \mathbb{R}^n\) denotes the sate vector, \(Y\) is the \(p\)-dimensional output vector, \(U \in \mathbb{R}^m\) represents the input vector. \(f(X(t)), B(X(t)), g(X(t))\) and \(D(t)\) are nonlinear vectors with appropriate dimensions [19].

2.2 The Predictive Control Law

Predictive Control strategy is an effective control technique developed by Clarke, et al. [9]. The basic idea of MPC is to minimize a cost function in order to reach the outputs of the system to set points. The cost function is composed by two terms [9]. The MPC cost function is given by the following expression:
In addition to multi-objective optimization problems proposed in this work, the optimal solutions obtained must take into consideration constraints on the control and its increments. In this current study, the proposed MPC method has been developed to control the nonlinear MIMO system such as the Quadruple-Tank process in which the actuators are DC motor-pumps. In general, the controlling of DC motors suggests some constraints on the control actions and their increments. Since, the respecting of the constraints on the controlling rate limits the peak current consumption and prolongs the life of motor and also helps prevent hard stress from being placed on the gear head of the system.

In attempt to overcome the above-mentioned problems of multi-objective optimization, computation of constrained variables and nonlinearity, the present work develops a multivariable MPC scheme for controlling a nonlinear MIMO system which incorporates the philosophy of T-S fuzzy modeling approach and a modified Dynamic Neighborhood PSO algorithm.

3. PROPOSED PSO ALGORITHM

The success of the PSO to deal with single optimization problem and its relative simplicity to use one operator for searching new solutions have motivated researchers to extend this solver for multi-objective optimization problems [11].

In recent years, the T-S fuzzy modeling approach has become one of the successful techniques which are used in all fields of control theory [19, 21]. In Dynamic Neighborhood PSO [22], the lexicographic ordering method is used in order to rank the objective functions based on their importance level. Then, the set of solutions are obtained by minimizing only one objective at a time, starting with the most important one and continuing the optimization procedure respecting the order of importance of the objectives. Compared to the traditional PSO, the Dynamic Neighborhood PSO starts the optimization by calculating distances \( D_i \) of each particle from other particles in the fitness of the first objective. Based on the distances \( D_i \), for each particle, the search procedure of the Dynamic Neighborhood PSO finds the m nearest neighbors. The neighborhood size of the algorithm is defined by the value of m. The best particle \( P_{ibest} \) is determined among m neighbor in terms of the fitness of the second objective function. The updates of the global best \( P_{gbest} \) are established according to the Pareto concept. In the

\[
J_{MPC} = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{H_{Cj}} (y_{Cj}(k+j) - \hat{y}_j(k+j/k))^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=0}^{H_{Cj}-1} (\Delta u_i(k+j))^2
\]

In this study, the proposed MPC method has been developed to control the nonlinear MIMO system such as the Quadruple-Tank process in which the actuators are DC motor-pumps. In general, the controlling of DC motors suggests some constraints on the control actions and their increments. Since, the respecting of the constraints on the controlling rate limits the peak current consumption and prolongs the life of motor and also helps prevent hard stress from being placed on the gear head of the system.

The aforementioned explanation demonstrates that the tuning MPC parameters are still an open field of research [2, 6, 8, 20].

Moreover, the control of real process is characterized by the presence of some constraints, which limit the range of state variables and the control actions and their increments. Generally, the constraints can be formulated as follows:

\[
\begin{align*}
\hat{u}_{i_{\min}} & \leq u_i(k+j) \leq \hat{u}_{i_{\max}} \\
\Delta \hat{u}_{i_{\min}} & \leq \Delta u_i(k+j) \leq \Delta \hat{u}_{i_{\max}} \\
y_{i_{\min}} & \leq y_h(k+j) \leq y_{i_{\max}} \\
\forall i \in [1, m], \forall h \in [1, p]
\end{align*}
\]

With the purpose of preventing the aggressive control, eliminating the online computational burden of weighting factors and assuring a robust MPC method for nonlinear MIMO system, the future inputs are determined by minimizing simultaneously the two separated objective functions equations (4) and (5).

\[
J_{MPC1} = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{H_{Cj}} (y_{Cj}(k+j) - \hat{y}_j(k+j/k))^2 \quad (4)
\]

\[
J_{MPC2} = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=0}^{H_{Cj}-1} (\Delta u_i(k+j))^2 \quad (5)
\]
subsequent iterations the generating of new velocities of the particles are realized by equation (9). The original concept of the DNPSO needs to be modified to find the solutions of the multi-objective optimization problems expressed in equations (4) and (5) which respect the constraints defined by equation (3). In the current work, compared to the standard DNPSO [22] there are some modifications in the algorithmic proposal presented in this paper: the addition of three new procedures and the creation of the new parameter \( \Delta P^t \) to measure the increment of particle at each iteration.

\[
\Delta P^t_i = \sum_{j=1}^{t} V_i(j) \quad (6)
\]

The first new procedure is used to initialize and calculate the dynamic limit \( \Delta u_{min}(k) \) and \( \Delta u_{max}(k) \) of the increment of controls taking into account the constraints on the controls and its increments which \( k \) represents the last step time. The second procedure has been added to repair the infeasible increments \( \Delta P^t_i \) and to place them in feasible area defined by \( \Delta u_{min}(k) \) and \( \Delta u_{max}(k) \). This second procedure can be presented as follow:

\[
\Delta P_{\text{feasible}}^t = \max\left\{ \min\left\{ \Delta u_{min}(k) \right\}, \Delta P^t_i \right\} \quad (7)
\]

The third procedure intervenes with the updating step of the particle by the following expression:

\[
P_i(t+1) = \max\left\{ \min\left\{ V_i(t+1) + P_i(t) \right\}, u(k) + \Delta P_{\text{feasible}}^t \right\} \quad (8)
\]

\[
V_i(t+1) = V_i(t) + c_1 r_i (P_{gbest}(t) - P_i(t)) + c_2 r_i (P_{pbest}(t) - P_i(t)) \quad (9)
\]

With \( c_1 \) and \( c_2 \) are positive constants, which define the learning factors of the velocity. The parameters \( r_1 \) and \( r_2 \) are random values disturbed in the interval from 0 to 1. The inertia weight \( w \) has been used in order to ameliorate the convergence of the algorithm.

Algorithm 1: the modified Dynamic Neighborhood PSO algorithm

Step 1: For each particle do

Step 1A: Initialize the position

Step 1B: Initialize the velocity

Step 1C: Initialize \( \Delta u_{min}(k) \) and \( \Delta u_{max}(k) \)

Step 2: For each iteration \( t \) do

Step 2A: Calculate the distances \( D_i \) of each particle from other particles in the fitness values of the first objective

Step 2B: For each particle, find the \( m \) neighbors based on \( D_i \)

Step 2C: For each particle, update the value of \( P_{gbest} \) among \( m \) neighbors in the fitness values of the second objective

Step 2D: Update the value of \( P_{pbest} \)

Step 2E: Update the velocity \( V_i(t+1) \) of each particle

Step 2F: Update the increment \( \Delta P^t_i \) of each particle

Step 2G: Calculate \( \Delta P_{\text{feasible}}^t \) of each particle

Step 2H: Update the position \( P_i(t+1) \) of each particle according to Pareto concept

Step 2J: Increment \( t \) and return to Step 2 while maximum iteration or suitable is not attained

4. T-S FUZZY MODELLING APPROACH

The performance of predictive control is dependent on the efficiency of the method used to forecast the behaviors of the process [1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10]. However, it is difficult to achieve optimal predictive control because real systems have strong and complex nonlinearity [2, 5]. The current work has aimed at solving the nonlinear problems of MIMO system by using T-S fuzzy modeling approach.

4.1 Discrete T-S fuzzy System

The T-S fuzzy modeling approach is described by fuzzy rules which represent the linear relationships between input and output variables of the process [19, 23]. Generally, fuzzy rules of Continuous T-S fuzzy System (CFS) are written as follow:

Rule \( R^i \): \( z_i(t) = F^n_i \) and \( z_m(t) = F^n_m \)

THEN \[
\begin{align*}
\dot{X}(t) &= A_i X(t) + B_i U(t) \\
\dot{Y}(t) &= C_i X(t)
\end{align*}
\]

According to CSF, the fuzzy IF-THEN rules of Discrete T-S fuzzy System DFS have the following form:

Rule \( R^i \): \( z_i(t) = F^n_i \) and \( z_m(t) = F^n_m \)

THEN \[
\begin{align*}
X(k+1) &= A_i X(k) + B_i U(k) \\
Y(k) &= C_i X(k)
\end{align*}
\]
In this work, the convex Polytopic transformation method is applied to determine the T-S fuzzy models. This approach is interested in the nonlinear state equation presented in equation (1), which contains nonlinear bounded coefficients $f_i(t, X, U)$ over $[a b]$. The proposed method allows presenting $f_i(t, X, U)$ by the following relation:

$$f_i(t, X, U) = F^i(t, X, U) \cdot a + F^2(t, X, U) \cdot b$$  \hspace{1cm} (17)

Where $F^i(t, X, U)$ are two functions such as:

$$F^i(t, X, U) : [a, b] \rightarrow \{0,1\}, j \in \{1,2\}$$  \hspace{1cm} (18)

$$F^i(t, X, U) + F^2(t, X, U) = 1$$  \hspace{1cm} (19)

With $\alpha$ and $\beta$ are two scalars.

Afterwards, the construction of T-S fuzzy models of $f_i(t, X, U)$ is established based on two fuzzy rules, which are presented as follows:

- $R^1$: IF $X$ is $F^1$ THEN $f_i(t, X, U) = \alpha$
- $R^2$: IF $X$ is $F^2$ THEN $f_i(t, X, U) = \beta$

In the current study, the above method has been adopted to determine the T-S fuzzy models of the Quadruple-Tank Process.

5. SIMULATION EXAMPLE

In order to evaluate performances of the proposed method, we consider the Quadruple-Tank Process [24], which is represented by a nonlinear MIMO state equation (20).

5.1 Description of The Quadruple Tank process

The evaluation of the proposed MPC strategy is better conducted through the control of the Quadruple-Tank process to its high nonlinear MIMO state equation. Figure 1 shows the flowchart of the considered system. In the current study, the main object is to adjust levels in the lower two tanks by controlling the voltages applied to two their respectively pumps. The mathematical model of Quadruple-Tank process (20) employed in the current work has been developed by Johansson Johansson [24].

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{dy_1}{dt} &= -\frac{a_1}{c_{s_1}} \sqrt{2gy_1} + \frac{a_2}{c_{s_1}} \sqrt{2gy_2} + \frac{\gamma k_f}{c_{s_1}} u_1 \\
\frac{dy_2}{dt} &= -\frac{a_2}{c_{s_2}} \sqrt{2gy_2} + \frac{a_4}{c_{s_2}} \sqrt{2gy_4} + \frac{\gamma k_f}{c_{s_2}} u_1 \\
\frac{dy_3}{dt} &= -\frac{a_3}{c_{s_3}} \sqrt{2gy_3} + \frac{a_4}{c_{s_3}} (1 - \gamma y_3) v_2 \\
\frac{dy_4}{dt} &= -\frac{a_4}{c_{s_4}} \sqrt{2gy_4} + \frac{a_4}{c_{s_4}} (1 - \gamma y_4) v_1 
\end{align*}
\]  \hspace{1cm} (20)
The input vector is $U = [u_1, u_2]^T$, with $u_1$ and $u_2$ are respectively the voltages applied to pump 1 and pump 2. The controlled output vector $Y = [y_1, y_2]^T$ is composed of levels in lower tanks 1 and 2. The state vector is $X = [y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4]^T$, with $y_i$ the water level of tank $i$. The values of $C_i$ represent the cross-section area of $i$-th Tank and $a_i$ corresponds to the cross-section area of the outlet hole [25].

The parameters $\gamma_1$ and $\gamma_2$ are constant values determined by how the valves are set prior to an experiment. The constant $g$ is the acceleration of gravity. The DFS of the Quadruple-Tank Process are obtained after the construction of Continuous T-S Fuzzy System (CFS). The CFS of the Quadruple-Tank process is established in two steps. Firstly, the nonlinearity terms of equation (20) have been transformed into nonlinear bounded functions by substituting the square root functions $\sqrt{y_i}$ with $\frac{1}{\sqrt{y_i}}$. Secondly, the convex Polytopic transformation is applied to obtain the CFS of the Quadruple-Tank process which is characterized by 16 fuzzy rules. Then, the DFS of the Quadruple-Tank Process are obtained by discretization of CFS using zero-order hold with sample time $Ts$ equal to 1 S.

5.2 Application of the proposed method to control the Quadruple-Tank process

The main goal of this section is to evaluate the Multivariable Multi-Objective MPC strategy to control the levels $y_1$ and $y_2$ of the Quadruple-Tank process. The new constrained Dynamic Neighborhood PSO algorithm developed in Section 3 is used to provide the controls by minimizing equations (4) and (5) with $Hp = 5$ and $Hc = 2$ and taking into account equation (3). A first test of set point tracking can be seen in Figure 2, in which the maximum value of the iteration number for the modified DNPSO searching is set at 20 and the population size at 5. The values of $\Deltaumin$ and $\Deltaumax$ represent the constraints for increments of $u_1$ and $u_2$ and they are set to equal -10V and 10V. The constraints on the controls are set at 0V and 20V.

The simulation results shown in Figures 2 and 3 illustrate that the tracking errors, despite of the variation of the set points, are always reduced with smooth control actions. This is thanks to the ability of the modified Dynamic Neighborhood PSO to minimize two objective functions while respecting the fixed values of the constraints. Furthermore, the results of the first test are quantitatively evaluated by calculating the Mean Relative Error (MRE) of the two output levels $y_1$ and $y_2$. The MRE are calculated by equation (21).
The MRE values of levels $y_1$ and $y_2$ are respectively 0.0424 and 0.0421 for a step times set at 300. The obtained values of the standard deviation (SD) of the errors outputs $y_1$ and $y_2$ are respectively 0.1291 and 0.0998. Taking into consideration the values of MRE and SD and the responses illustrated at Figs 2 and 3, we can note that the proposed method is capable of controlling the nonlinear MIMO system and to lead to satisfactory outputs.

$$MRE_i = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{N_p} |y_{Ci}(k) - y_i(k)|}{N_p} \quad i \in \{1, 2\}$$ (21)

Figures 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and Table 1 illustrate the results of the comparison between the proposed method and MPC method based on a constrained PSO algorithm with a single optimization problem defined in equation (2) with $Hp = 5$ and $Hc = 2$.

The values of $\Delta u_{\text{min}}$ and $\Delta u_{\text{max}}$ are set to equal -16V and 16V. The constraints on the controls are taken at 0V and 20V. In order to avoid the effect of the randomness, the values of $r_1$ and $r_2$ are fixed respectively 0.1 and 0.95 for the proposed DNPSO and the PSO. Table 1 shows the MRE and the root mean square of the increments of the controls (RMSI) defined in equation (22).

$$\text{RMSI}_i = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{k=1}^{N_p} \Delta u_i(h)^2}{N_p}} \quad i \in \{1, 2\}$$ (22)

In first step, the method based on modified DNPSO has been compared to the method based on PSO with the weighting factors $\lambda_1=0.2$. In this case, the results of Figures 4, 5, 8 and Table 1 clearly indicate that the performance of two methods is very close in terms of MRE, but the performance of the method based on DNPSO is better in the term of RMSI. Then, the results shown in Figures 6, 7, 9 and Table 1 demonstrate that the performance of the method based on modified DNPSO has shown more intricate results than the one based on PSO with the weighting factors $\lambda_2=0.5$ in terms of MRE and very close in terms of RMSI.

The comparison results in term of RMSI show that the DNPSO algorithm lead to desired trajectory with small values of control increments compared to method based on PSO with fix values of the weighting factors.

This highlights the importance of the proposal method to prevent the aggressive control and to provide a progressive control law. The simulation results reported in Figure 3 illustrate the ability of the proposed method to respect of the imposed constraints.

Knowing that, the constraints on the increments provide the benefit of limiting of the peak current consumption of the motor. Additionally, this kind of constrains will prevent undue stress from being placed on the gear head of the process.
Therefore, the proposal method represents a compromise between the optimization of the sum quadratic of errors and the sequence of the control increments, despite sizeable computation time compared to the single objective optimization method based on PSO algorithm. However, the real-time performance of the method depends greatly on the speed of the proposed algorithm. So, it is important to improve the convergence time in order to apply the developed strategy to other classes of faster nonlinear systems. In this context, it is important to formulate stopping conditions allowing the algorithm to find optimal solutions while respecting the sampling period. In other words it is necessary to improve the performance of the algorithm in terms of convergence and speed.

6. CONCLUSION

This paper has described a new kind of Multivariable Multi-Objective Predictive Control using a modified Dynamic Neighborhood PSO algorithm and the T-S fuzzy modeling approach. This strategy has been applied to control the Quadruple-Tank process.

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<th>Table 1: Comparison Results.</th>
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<td><strong>DNPSO method</strong></td>
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<td>$MRE_1$</td>
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<td>$RMSI_2$</td>
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<td>Computation time (s)</td>
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The developed algorithm is used to find the optimal control actions by minimizing constrained multi-objective optimization problems. The T-S fuzzy modeling technique has been employed to develop the DFS of the system which are used to predict the outputs. The obtained results have shown that the T-S fuzzy model and modified Dynamic Neighborhood PSO are very highly effective in the tuned controller of nonlinear MIMO system. The satisfactory tracking results with small values of MRE demonstrate the proof of capability of the proposed algorithm. Furthermore, as compared to optimization based on the simple PSO the proposed method provides progressive control without aggressive rate. The obtained results encourage a further development of the proposed method to ameliorate the computation time which can be a real challenge in the field of optimization.
REFERENCES:


