

Trajectory Tracking of Quadrotor Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Using Neural Network Based Adaptive Sliding Mode Control

Musa Daud^{1,2,3}, Dr.-Ing Jackson G.Njiri^{1,2}, Dr.Chala M.Abdissa^{1,2}

¹Pan African University Institute for Basic Science Technology and Innovation, Mechatronic Department, Nairobi, Kenya, ²Jommo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Mechatronic Department, Nairobi, Kenya, ³Mbeya University of Science and Technology, Mechanical & Industrial Engineering Department, Mbeya, Tanzania.

Background

1. Introduction

Quadrotors: popular unmanned aerial vehicles

Applications:

- ❖ Surveillance,
- ❖ Delivery,
- ❖ Mapping,
- ❖ Pest control, Crop Monitoring
- ❖ Trajectory tracking critical for performance and safety.

2. Problem statement

A: Quadrotor control design is very difficult due to:

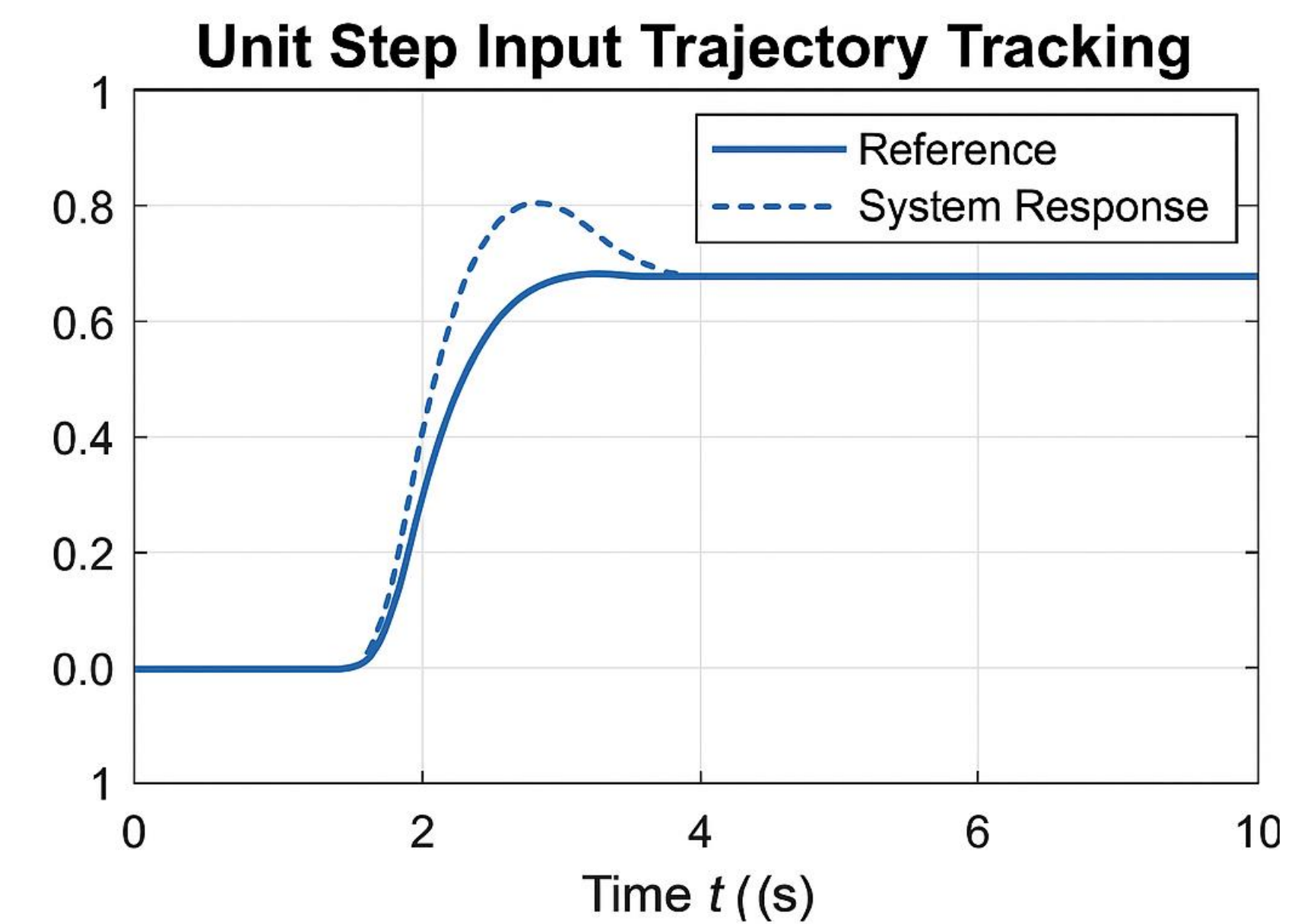
- ❖ Nonlinear & Highly coupled dynamics
- ❖ Under actuation
- ❖ Parametric uncertainties
- ❖ Disturbances

B: Despite linear, optimal and robust controllers such as PID, LQR, MPC and SMC there exist:

- ❖ Limited robustness, Adaptation and Chattering effects respectively

C: However to tackle these challenges its better to design:

- ❖ An adaptive, intelligent control strategies that are robust (NN-ASMC)



K. Ogata, *Modern Control Engineering*, 5th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ, USA: Prentice Hall, 2010, pp. 168–170.

Fig. 1 Unit Step Input Trajectory Tracking

Current Work

1. Objectives

Main objective:

- ❖ To develop a Neural Network-based Adaptive Sliding Mode Control (NN-ASMC) strategy for a quadrotor Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) that enhances trajectory tracking accuracy and robustness against external disturbances and model uncertainties.

Specific Objectives

- To develop a dynamic mathematical model of quadrotor taking into account disturbances.
- To develop an Adaptive Sliding Mode Control (ASMC) based on adaptive sliding surface using neural network.
- To evaluate performance of designed controller by doing simulations and experiments.

2. Methodology

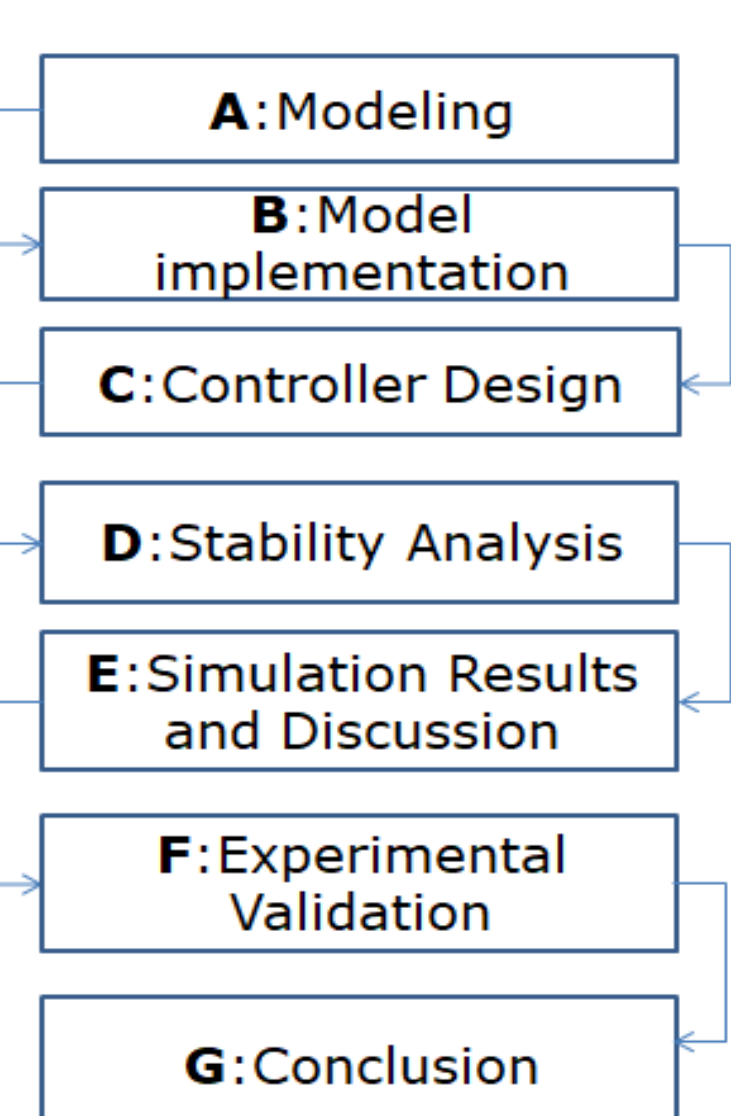


Fig. 2 Methodology block diagram

2.A: Mathematical Model: Zhang et al. (2019)

$$\ddot{\phi} = a_1 \dot{\theta} \dot{\psi} + a_2 \dot{\theta} \Omega_m + U_2 b_1 + \delta_\phi(t) \quad (1)$$

$$\ddot{\theta} = a_3 \dot{\phi} \dot{\psi} + a_4 \dot{\phi} \Omega_m + U_3 b_2 + \delta_\theta(t) \quad (2)$$

$$\ddot{\psi} = a_5 \dot{\phi} \dot{\theta} + U_4 b_3 + \delta_\psi(t) \quad (3)$$

$$\ddot{Z} = -g + \frac{\cos(\phi) \cos(\theta)}{m} U_1 + \delta_z(t) \quad (4)$$

$$\ddot{X} = \frac{(\cos(\theta) \sin(\phi) \cos(\psi) + \sin(\phi) \sin(\psi)) U_1}{m} \quad (5)$$

$$\ddot{Y} = \frac{(\cos(\phi) \sin(\theta) \cos(\psi) - \sin(\phi) \sin(\psi)) U_1}{m} \quad (6)$$

2. Methodology

2.C1: Sliding surface design

$$e_j = j_d - \dot{j} \quad (7)$$

$$S_j = \dot{e}_j + \lambda_j e_j \quad (8)$$

2.C2: Reaching law

$$\dot{S}_j = -\varepsilon_j \tanh(S_j) \quad (9)$$

2.C3: Control law

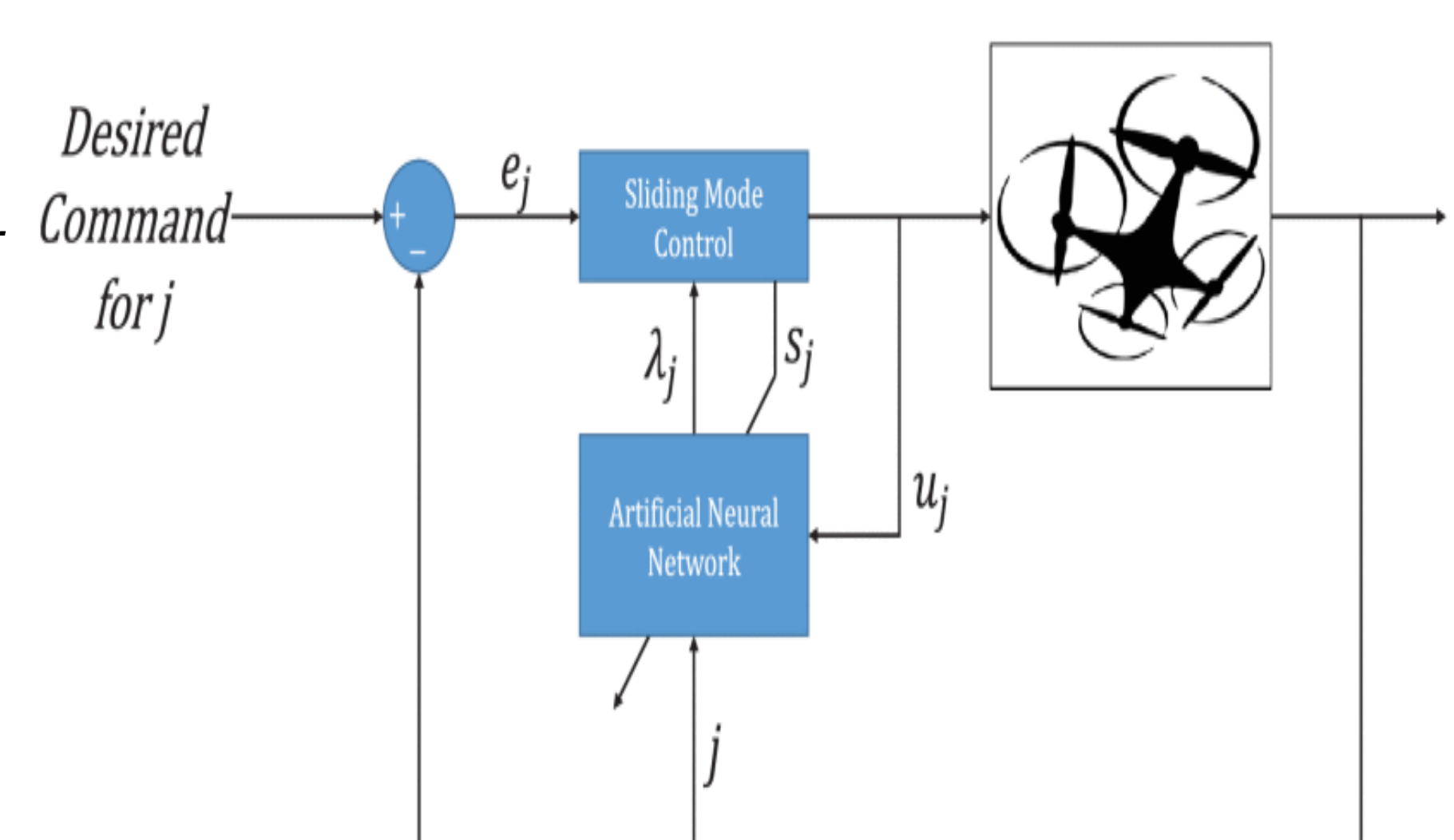
$$u = \frac{1}{B} (\dot{S}_j + \dot{\lambda}_j(x_j) - Ax) \quad (10)$$

2.D1: Stability proof-Lyapunov

$$V_j = \frac{S_j^2}{2} \quad (11)$$

$$\dot{V}_j = S_j \dot{S}_j = -S_j \varepsilon_j \tanh(S_j) \quad (12)$$

Fig. 3 Neural Network Adaptive Sliding Mode Controller: Fatemi et al. (2025)



Expectations

- ❖ A mathematical model that incorporates disturbances will be obtained.
- ❖ An adaptive Sliding Mode Control capable of rejecting disturbances and model uncertainties for proper tracking will be obtained.
- ❖ Performance evaluation of designed controller will be achieved via experiments.

References & Acknowledgment.

- J. Zhang, Z. Ren, C. Deng, and B. Wen, "Adaptive fuzzy global sliding mode control for trajectory tracking of quadrotor uavs," *Nonlinear Dynamics*, vol. 97, pp. 609–627, 2019.
- Fatemi, M. M., & Akbarimajid, A. (2025). Adaptive sliding mode control for quadrotor UAVs under disturbances using multi-layer perceptron. *IEEE Access*.



Contact:

daud.musa@students.jkuat.ac.ke